

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE PCPV CHAPTER OF POCI
JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2017



2016 PROFESSIONAL CAR SOCIETY MEET



PCPV News
Jan./Feb. 2017
Volume 20 ~ Number 1

**The Newsletter of the Pontiac
Commercial and Professional
Vehicle Chapter of POCI**

The **PCPV News** is published six times a year by the Pontiac Commercial and Professional Vehicle Chapter of the Pontiac-Oakland Club International (POCI), a nonprofit organization.

The PCPV Chapter (chapter #79, founded in 1998), is dedicated to the preservation, restoration, education and enjoyment of commercial and professional Pontiac, Oakland and GMC vehicles, past and present. These include: limousines, taxi cabs, hearses, police and fire cars, ambulances, sedan deliveries, station wagons, trucks, vans and SUVs. Pontiac and GMC produced military items and other special interest items are also included.

Dues are \$20 per year (U.S. funds, \$25 outside of U.S.); \$12 for electronic membership. We recommend membership in the Pontiac-Oakland Club International also - see **www.poci.org**.

Send change of address notices and article submissions to the *PCPV News* editor.

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Deadlines for *PCPV News* articles/want ad submissions:

January/February issue: January 1st
March/April issue: March 1st
May/June issue: May 1st
July/August issue: July 1st
September/October issue: Sept. 1st
November/December issue: Nov. 1st



PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

Here it is February 2017... it doesn't seem like 17 years have passed since the start of the new century. Time sure flies and I still can't get one of my own cars finished. My '61 Ventura (see page 6) will shortly be undergoing a total re-do and hopefully it will finally be done. I've decided against the green color, so the interior will be redone also. As soon as the new motor is in and I get my other knee replaced, I'll be ready to work on it.



The '61 wagon keeps being pushed back. I finally found a tailgate in Arizona, but I can't afford it yet. So it's time to sell a few cars.

It's finally raining here in Northern California and, as usual, it's raining too much. The experts say the drought is over and it's only January, with three more months of expected rain to go.

I hope to attend the POCI Convention in Fort Worth, Texas this year. We are trying to rearrange schedules (it's hard being retired) so we can hopefully fit it in.



**PONTIAC-OAKLAND
CLUB INTERNATIONAL**

*Gary Minor,
PCPV President*

**HOW ABOUT SENDING IN SOME PHOTOS
OF YOUR PONTIAC FOR A PCPV NEWS FEATURE?
CONTACT THE EDITOR: pontiacpaulb@gmail.com**



Are we having fun with our Pontiac professional cars yet? I read many articles from Pontiac owners about how much fun they have taking their kids or grandkids for a ride in their GTO (or LeMans, or Catalina) convertible. Other Pontiac owners write about fun-filled vacation trips in an old Safari wagon, for example. But by their very nature, Pontiac professional cars were built as working vehicles, not as pleasure vehicles. They were not built for fun, and in many cases, sadness surrounds their usage.

That's why I'd like to recount my happiest moment in a Pontiac professional car. Six years ago my tenants approached me about the possibility to drive their granddaughter to her high school prom in my 1976 Catalina limo. I had watched Danielle grow up and although she was hampered by a learning disability which required special schooling, she was going to graduate with her regular senior class from Kingsway Regional High School. Her parents had little money, and they certainly couldn't afford to hire a professional limo service as many of Danielle's more affluent classmates had done. I jumped at this chance to drive the kids to the prom in my limo. I felt honored, thrilled, and excited – perhaps more than the kids.



On May 7, 2010, I drove Danielle and Greg to the high school for an assembly and photo shoot. After that, we drove to the catering hall where the prom was being held. There were several late-

model stretched Lincoln limos at the high school that evening. But you know what? Those tuxedoed drivers wanted to know all about my old Pontiac limo as we talked and waited for the kids to exit the high school. Several other parents had driven their kids in old classic cars, the most spectacular of which was a 1924 Rolls Royce. I figure the Rolls would be valued in the low six figures, versus my Catalina valued in the low four figures! You can't put a price on fun, however. I know my passengers had a great time and I did as well. That's what this old car hobby is all about.

Wayne Guy, PCPV Chapter VP



Looking Out The Back Door

Welcome to 2017! My local POCI chapter (MN Tomahawk Chapter) is celebrating 40 years of Pontiac Excitement. I think back to that first chapter information meeting in 1977. I was a senior in high school with a '50 Pontiac business coupe, a '63 GP and my '69 Judge convertible. It's been a fun ride as we go through life changes. I've made some great friends over the years through the local chapter, POCI and the PCPV Chapter, that's for sure.

What a bunch of cool Pontiac pro-cars and wagons featured this issue. I try to watch eBay and Craigslist to see what turns up and every now and then there are a few surprises. What about that '57 Transcontinental? Wow!

Until the next issue... let's all do our best to *keep the PCPV Legacy Alive!*



Paul Bergstrom,
PCPV News Editor

SPECIAL THANKS TO
GREGG MERKSAMER
FOR THE 2016 PCS MEET
ARTICLE AND PHOTOS!



2017 POCI Convention Fort Worth, Texas July 11-15

Online registration (\$65) is available on the POCI website (www.poci.org). The host hotel is the Dallas/Ft. Worth Marriott Hotel & Golf Club (866) 348-3984. Mention the "Pontiac National Convention" for the best room rate. Event updates are being published in the *Smoke Signals*. Call the POCI Club Office at (877) 368-3454 if you have any questions.

PCPV CHAPTER ANNUAL MEETING

Please note that we will have our annual chapter meeting at the POCI Convention in Fort Worth.

**Thursday, July 13th
4:00 - 4:30 p.m.
Braze Room
Marriott Host Hotel**

If you are attending the convention, we hope you'll stop by!

Are Your Dues Due?



DUES

PCPV CHAPTER DUES

For many of us, our annual dues came due in March. We are enclosing a renewal form for you to fill out and send payment to Terry Columbus, our treasurer. Our annual dues are \$20.00 (US) and \$25 (International), and \$12 for an electronic membership (view the newsletter on our website).

LeMans-Camino!



**VISIT THE
PCPV WEB SITE
PCPVCHAPTERPOCI.WORDPRESS.COM**



Pontiac-Oakland Club International - POCI

Published by Paul Bergstrom [?] · Just now ·



Do you like the unusual Pontiacs?

Sedan deliveries, hearse, ambulances, station wagons, police and fire cars? If so, then you need to check out POCI's Pontiac Commercial and Professional Vehicle chapter!



pcpvchapterpoci

Pontiac Professional & Commercial Vehicle Chapter of POCI

PCPVCHAPTERPOCI.WORDPRESS.COM

PONTIAC  **WE BUILD EXCITEMENT**

PCPV President's Ride

Gary and Mary Minor's 1961 Street Rod



Gary and Mary Minor reside in San Leandro, CA. They have owned this beautiful 1961 Oldsmobile Ventura for about five years. The front hood and fender end moldings are molded in from a 1960 Oldsmobile. The side trim has been shortened so it starts at the door back. The rear fender ends are molded in but slanted forward. The taillights are Frenched into the rear cove. All of the emblems have been removed and the car is laid out. The motor is a '64 389, but Gary is now building a '72 400 to go with overdrive transmission. The interior is green and white rolls and pleats. The paint is black with no clear. He is now re-doing the car, finally finishing the body work and with a gloss coat. All of the body work was done by Gary.





'57 TRANSCONTINENTAL FOR SALE



Craigslist ad states that this is 100% rust free with 12 factory options, 347 tri-power. Midnight Blue with White exterior. Pontiac Historic Services has only 7 registered (none w/tri-power). Asking \$45K US located 20 miles North of Blaine, WA in Canada.

More info: www.seattle.craigslist.org/see/cto/5955734925.html



PCS 2016 GETTYSBURG MEET



Ponchos were most-prominent at the Professional Car Society's 40th Anniversary International Meet in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, and not just because of the thunderstorms that swept away summer humidity almost-nightly during the August 15th-20th gathering at the Wyndham Gateway Center. The meet's Hackensack, N.J.-based co-host **Bill Marcy** got things properly started Wide Track-wise with a Superior-bodied 1968 Pontiac high-top ambulance whose extended wheelbase proportions were beautifully accentuated by Meridian Turquoise paintwork and non-standard fender skirts, while **Steve Lichtman's** white-over-red 1964 version turned its fair share of heads from the adjacent space after finishing its short northward trek across the Mason-Dixon line from Mount Airy, Maryland.



Blacksburg, Virginia mortician **Ken McCoy** and his wife **Vanessa** graced Gettysburg with two standard-wheelbase Superior Pontiac Consort hearse/ambulance combinations, a silver 1966 recently purchased from Florida PCS member William

Wright (featured in several PCS items previously printed in PCPV News) and a deep green '68 that proved most-photogenic in the presence of the Virginia Memorial depicting Robert E. Lee and his horse Traveller. **Jim Vowell** had to replace both front tires in Ohio to finish his trip from Romeo, Michigan in a 1965 Superior Pontiac Embassy Limousine, but everyone was glad he came after seeing how this 43,000-mile survivor was most-unusually equipped with a cot for use as an invalid coach. As the curbside center pillar isn't removable, Jim noted "loading and unloading is definitely a two-man job, and even though it's easier to put the patient in head-first he would end up gagging in the driver's lap."

PCS 2016 GETTYSBURG MEET

Jim Vowell's 1965 Superior Pontiac Embassy Limousine... not your usual limo ride!

Friends
Of The **Professional**
Car Society



Ken and Vanessa McCoy's 1968 Superior Pontiac Consort hearse/ambulance combination, next to Virginia Memorial depicting Robert E. Lee and his horse Traveller.



Learn more about the PCS at: www.professionalcarsociety.org

PCS 2016 GETTYSBURG MEET



Ed & Kandis Renstrom earned their latest Distance Award after driving 1,600 miles from Hot Springs, South Dakota in a 1975 Pontiac formal limousine created from a Catalina sedan by Armbruster/Stageway of Fort Smith, Arkansas, who took discernable care welding up and filling in the OEM rear door seams to lengthen the quarter panels. “It had just 17,800 miles on it when I bought it in Lewistown, Montana this past April,” Ed detailed, adding “the odometer rolled over 20,100 miles on the hotel doorstep” and its 455 CI V-8 averaged 11.5-15.5 mpg on the trip east depending on terrain and fuel quality.



This correspondent was especially thrilled to discover that Pontiac-Oakland Club President **Merle Green** had accepted a personal invite to travel down from Pepperell, Massachusetts with his wife Janice and his deep blue Armbruster/Stageway 1986 Pontiac Parisienne six-door, which practically cried out for a side-by-side photo op with **Wayne Guy’s** Safari-based 1986 Eagle Pontiac Americana tail-stretch hearse from Clarksboro, N.J.

Gregg D. Merksamer, Publicity Chair, Professional Car Society



WELCOME NEW MEMBER



Richard Blaskowski

Stevens Point, WI

Owens: 1950 Pontiac Sedan Delivery

Richard writes: *"I grew up on a little farm in Wisconsin. All my Dad had was 6-cylinder 3-speed 50's cars. I learned to drive when I was 12! I'll send more information later."*

Ron Scott

(new POCI member)

Pittsgrove, NJ

Owens:

1951 Pontiac Sedan Delivery

*(I'm recruiting him for the
PCPV Chapter! editor)*



'66 HEARSE FROM DOWN UNDER



**Introducing the
Southern Motors Hearse
on Pontiac and Holden**

Found on eBay:

Original brochure: Southern Motors, Melbourne. *"Introducing the Southern Motors Hearse on Pontiac and Holden"*-Southern Motors Pty Ltd-
On back page: Southern Motors is the oldest established GMH dealer in Melbourne.

The company was formed as a private concern in 1929, becoming a public company in June, 1955. It holds metropolitan franchises for Holden and Viva, and the sole metropolitan franchise for Pontiac. There are over 200 employees spread between the head office, spare parts and service division at North Melbourne, and the City, Carnegie, St Kilda and Moonee Ponds branches. In the highly competitive field of new and used car selling, Southern Motors is recognized as a GMH leader.



PLEASE VOTE! POCI BOD ELECTION

The POCI board of directors 2017 election ballots are included in the February SMOKE SIGNALS. The magazines were mailed from the printer on 1/31/17. Electronic members were emailed a ballot on 2/1/17.



HELP THE TOMAHAWK CHAPTER WIN A \$100 AWARD!

Two awards for the chapters with the highest number of voting members will be given out. One \$100 award to the chapter with greater than 50 members and another \$100 award to the chapter less than 50 members.

NEW TALLY PROCEDURE THIS YEAR: a report listing the POCI members who voted will be emailed to all chapter presidents in April. Each chapter will be responsible for reviewing the report and sending it back to POCI to validate the number of members from that chapter that voted. The chapter will have 30 days to respond back to POCI. The awards will be announced at the 2017 POCI Convention.

Please vote for directors in all divisions. Ballots must be postmarked by 3/31/17.

**Share your PCPV-related photos, stories and vintage ads with the us! Items can be scanned and returned.
Contact Paul B., editor.**

1972 BONNEVILLE HEARSE FOR SALE

CONTACT GATEWAY CLASSIC CARS MEMPHIS, IN (812) 294-1555

www.allcollectorcars.com/for-sale/1972-Pontiac-Bonneville-Hearse/2011155/



PONTIAC PRO-CAR AUCTION



Scottsdale 2017 Barrett-Jackson Auction: Lot #1456

AUCTION DESCRIPTION: The Superior Coach Corporation converted 15 1963 Bonneville chassis into ambulances for the Defense Department, and this car's Navy Data Plate shows that it was assigned to Bethesda Naval Hospital. Following President John F. Kennedy's assassination on November 22, 1963, ambulance 94-49196 met Air Force One at Andrews Air Force Base. It was used to transport President Kennedy's flag-draped casket, as well as members of the Kennedy family, from Andrews to Bethesda and later to the U.S. Capitol. Following the Naval service, the ambulance was mothballed and eventually sold as surplus. Its history after that is somewhat murky. A letter from the Surgeon General's office, obtained via the FOIA, links the Navy Registration number to this car's VIN number, but others believe the original car was destroyed at the request of the Kennedy family. More recently, it was used in the 2015 biopic "Jackie," starring Natalie Portman as Jacqueline Kennedy. Automatic transmission.

Status: Sold
Price: \$39,600



Source: www.barrett-jackson.com/Events/Event/Details/1963-PONTIAC-BONNEVILLE-JFK-AMBULANCE-202029

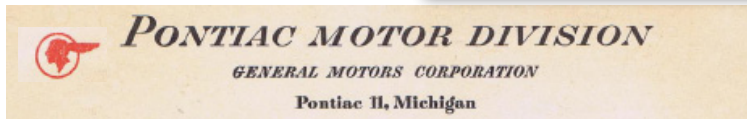
1960 BONNEVILLE "EL CAMINO"



This kool kustom showed up in my local Craigslist ads:

389 V8, Auto, Custom one of a kind!

More info, email: 7j2h2-5947178853@sale.craigslist.org
www.minneapolis.craigslist.org/csw/cto/5947178853.html



PCPV CHAPTER DUES

If your chapter dues are due, we have enclosed a renewal form for you to use. We hope you are able to continue supporting the PCPV Chapter!



PCPV Classified Ads

Parts For Sale

For sale: Retired shop manual vendor selling what I have left over. Almost 1,800 books 1970-2000. In good condition. Ideal money maker for young person. Also, Motors, Chilton, Mitchell repair 1970-1999. Mix or sell all for best offer. **Rodney Brockman**, 24862 Ridge, Elwood, IL 60421 (815) 478-3633

1955 Pontiac parts: complete under seat heater system, radiator; **1955 pontiac Star Chief 4-door sedan** (motor, trans out for rebuild) no rust, new interior \$3,800. **Mike Koch** (937) 572-8035 (OH)

Newsletter Contributions Wanted

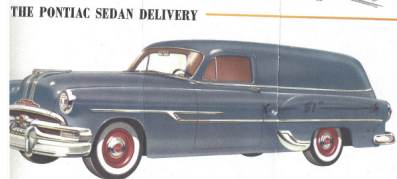
Send photos, stories, want ads, restoration tips, or just drop a note to say hello. Tell us what's happening on the Pontiac/Oakland/GMC scene in your area!

E-mail submissions to
pontiacpaulb@gmail.com



Parts Wanted

1949 Pontiac Sedan Delivery: I am looking for a set of 1951 Pontiac full size hubcaps with the chief in red. I have available a set of original '49 SD bucket seats, complete and nice. I also could use an exterior windshield sunvisor for my '49 SD. **Mike Theim**, yellowsidecar@hotmail.com or call 920-261-6724 (WI)



1953 Pontiac Sedan Delivery: battery tray and the stainless-steel trim 81" long for the driver's side only. Contact **Roger Bentley** (MD) email: airlinebuff2000@yahoo.com

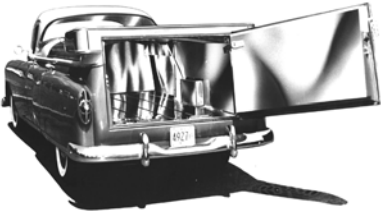


Send want ads to:
pontiacpaulb@gmail.com

1949 Pontiac parts wanted: Quarter Panel Stainless- Spears for 1949 Pontiac 2dr or sedan delivery, **Russell Cogar** 304-847-7542

1963 Pontiac: looking for a Perfect Circle cruise control setup (or whatever you've got). **Mike Leonard** (308) 391-3833

PONTIAC



Parts/Pontiacs Wanted

Canadian Pontiacs and GMCs: wanted light-duty GMC sales brochures 1937-1958 showing panel trucks and sedan deliveries; Canadian Pontiac brochures 1937 - 1962; 2003 Vibe manuals and dealer literature. Contact **John Preikschat**, Phone (306) 771-2929 email: bigjohn@sasktel.net (M)

1956 Pontiac 3-seat wagon: need 3rd seat for pattern. Have 4 wagons with no rear seats! Chevy will also work. **Perry Eaton** (530) 534-5510 (CA)

Literature/info wanted - for '66 Bonneville Superior Embassy limousine. Contact **Joe Sharpnack** (402) 789-3015 (NE)

1962 Superior Criterion Ambulance: 15" Deluxe wheel covers, '62-era Superior Coachworks assembly manuals or photos to help with restoration. **Matt Planning** (262) 646-3363 matthew@brewcityengineering.com (WI)

1938 Pontiac: "8" lower Grille Bar and crank cover in restored or restorable condition. **John Dornbush** 563-593-1032 (IL)

Wanted: any literature for the 1955-56-57 Pontiac Sedan Delivery. **Rodney Brockman**, 24862 Ridge Road, Elwood, IL 60421

Vehicles For Sale

1956 Pontiac Superior Hearse #7: rolling body \$2,000; **1964 Bonneville Ambulance**, rolling body, \$2,000. **Ken** at East West Auto Parts, Tulsa, OK (800) 447-2886



Restoration Tips

1926-1958 Pontiac parts: Free parts catalog available from California Pontiac Restoration. Contact **Richard Plastino**, (714) 245-9800 email rich@pontiacparts.net, mailing address: 820 Poinsettia Street, Santa Ana, CA 92701

PCPV News **Classified Ad Rates:** (for 6 issues)

\$200 full page
\$100 half page
\$50 quarter page
\$25 business card size

POCI New Membership Form:

Year _____ Style Name/Number _____ No. Cylinders _____

Year _____ Style Name/Number _____ No. Cylinders _____

Year _____ Style Name/Number _____ No. Cylinders _____

Owner: _____

Associate Member(s) _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP+4 _____

Country _____ Phone: () _____

Email: _____ Referred By (Name & Member#): _____

Pontiac Oakland GMC

Annual Membership

Worldwide E-Membership	\$25.00
U.S. (Includes 2 Associates)	\$39.00
Canada (Includes 2 Associates)	\$40.00
Foreign (Includes 2 Associates)	\$49.00
Associate Membership (All)	\$2.00/each

Bill My: Visa Mastercard
 Discover

Card Number: _____

Expiration: _____ Security Code: _____

Signature: _____

RECRUIT A NEW MEMBER!

PCPV Chapter Membership Form

___ NEW MEMBER ___ RENEWAL

POCI Membership # _____ (if applicable)

Annual Dues = \$20.00 Outside of U.S. = \$25.00

Electronic Membership = \$12.00 (newsletter received via email)

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE/PROV. _____

ZIP/POSTAL CODE: _____ PHONE: _____

email: _____

Vehicles owned: _____

Send check or money order made out to:
PCPV Chapter of POCI, c/o Terry Columbus
7516 Xerxes Avenue N.
Brooklyn Park, MN 55444



PCPV Chapter of POCI

c/o Paul Bergstrom, Editor
1165 County Road 83
Maple Plain, MN 55359



**PONTIAC COMMERCIAL AND
PROFESSIONAL VEHICLE CHAPTER**

PONTIAC-OAKLAND CLUB INTL.

