

OCTOBER-NOVEMBER 2024 NEWSLETTER

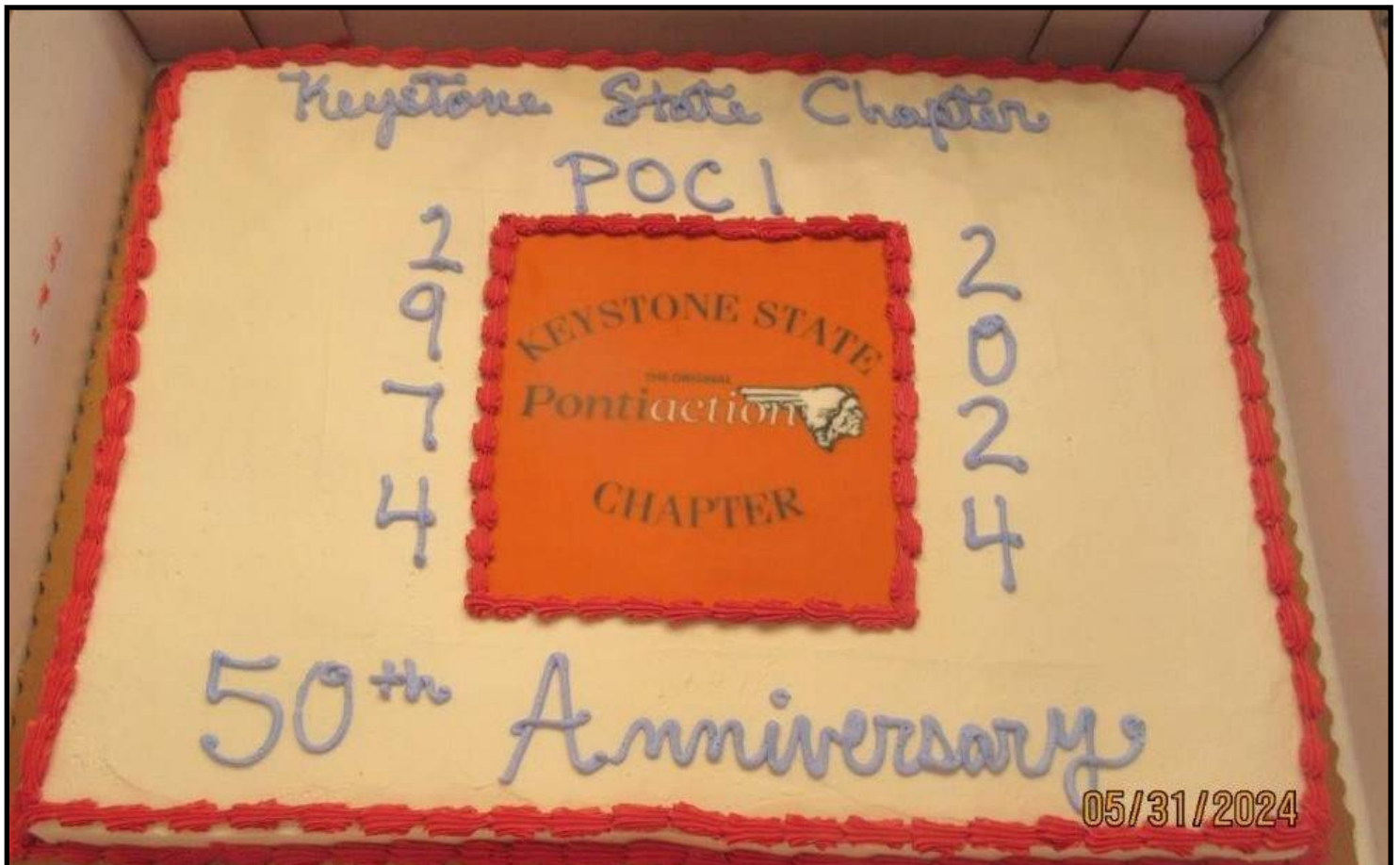
The Original *Pontiaction* Chapter...

The **Keystone State Chapter** **Pontiac Oakland Club International**



Founded September 9, 1974; LONGEST CONTINUOUSLY OPERATING CHAPTER

CELEBRATING 50 YEARS



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From the Chief

Hello, Fellow Members,

By the time you read this message we will have completed our annual Fall GM Show. We are hoping for good weather and a overflowing number of participates with every example of GM vehicles.

We continue to celebrate our Keystone State Chapter's 50th year associated with POCI with special gifts, member recognition and the wonderful sheet cakes provided by Ralph Keller.

We still have a number of events this car season to continue celebrating the important milestone of our 50th Anniversary. Please keep up with our web site or messages from our team on the date and times of this celebratory year.

Unfortunately, as we continue to move forward. I would like to take some time and space to mention that earlier this year our club lost a fellow member and a board member Steve Martinez. Steve had not been with the club for lots of years like some of our members, but in his time with us he served on the board and particpate and helped with many events. Steve "Thank You" and you will not be forgotten.

We have our Junk Yard Tour in November, the Pontiac Exhibit at America on Wheels Museum in Allentown, PA (more on this in the next newsletter). Remember our terrific annual Christmas Party in early December. This party will culminate our 50th celebration with special awards, recognitions, year in review and door prizes and, of course, wonderful food (More info this later).

So come out this fall and have some fun with your fellow car enthusiasts because when you come right down to it, it is the fellowship that makes all this worthwhile.

See ya down the road.

Tom Wright

135 MEMBERS STRONG!

Welcome Back

Cindy Simoson 68 Firebird
Randy Curson 69 TransAm

New Members

Kevin Troy 71 LeMans
Robt. Kissinger 79 TA + 3 others
Rick Petrow 62 Catalina
Craig Rothdeutsch 04 GTO

2024 UPCOMING EVENTS

GET EVENT INFO AND PRE-REGISTER AT THE CLUB WEBSITE—
www.ksepoci.org

October 19, Saturday: To Scranton to visit Steamtown national historical site
(details in this issue)

November 29, Friday: Black Friday Junk Yard Tour, (details in this issue)

December 7, Saturday; Christmas Party, **NEW LOCATION**, 12:30-4

Jan. 25, 2025, **Sat.**: Membership Meeting, Bird-In-Hand Fire House; 11am start



KSC AWARDS AT DURYEA DAYS

| | |
|------------------|----------------------|
| Bill McIntosh | Best Post War |
| Hank Hallowell | Museum Top 30 Choice |
| AJ & Carol Koszi | Museum Top 30 Choice |
| George Hirm | Best Motorcycle |

The Forgotten 56

By Dick Stover

Many of you are familiar with my two tone green '48 Pontiac 2-door that I have had since 1973, but probably not the '56 Chieftain 870 4-door (2719D) I had in the mid-70's. I bought it when we lived in Douglassville, PA as a daily driver. It was dark green, 316 V-8 2barrel, Hydramatic, pretty bare bones except it had a radio. It was in decent shape, no rot. I gave it some regular maintenance TLC, belts, hoses, tune up, tires, and off we went.

I commuted daily from Douglassville (between Reading and Pottstown) to Devon, near King of Prussia, literally "over the river and through the woods" to avoid massive traffic tie ups. This was before Hy 422 was finished from Douglassville to KofP. Eventually I had a car pooling arrangement with a neighbor, so I only drove 3 days a week—we each drove ourselves on Fridays.

One Saturday I had it sitting in the driveway of our house and had been doing some maintenance on the car—I think I had just refilled the radiator, but had not put the radiator cap back on. I had put the hood down to the first latch point intending to come back and finish up. Jackie had said she need to run some errands and I said she could take the 56 when I was finished so I could flip over and work on our other car, an indestructible 69 Rambler American. I went in the house and when I came back out the car was gone, no radiator cap, Jackie and 2 kids on board. I grabbed the cap and chased Jackie down in the Rambler, popped the hood, put the cap on and sent her on her way.

The other more memorable adventure was our camping trip to Rickett's Glen State Park along the New York border to meet up with old neighbors from when we lived outside of Rochester, NY. The Rambler was too small, so, you guessed it, load up the 56, complete with roof rack (the old kind that had suction cups and straps hooked over the drip rails, remember those? See picture).; 2 kids minimally secured in the back seat. Tent, poles, and sleeping bags were on the roof rack, cooler between the kids, cook box, and clothes in that nice square trunk—off we went. Needless to say, we got some really strange looks when we pulled into the campground.



Needless to say, we got some really strange looks when we pulled into the campground.

We had a great reunion with our old friends. On the way out of the park area there was a mile long hill (down) to a T intersection. Those 56 drum brakes did NOT like that hill even with pumping the brakes to breath them. I barely got the car stopped at the T. Yup, on the other side of the T was a nice stand of sizeable trees. Cheated disaster again!



Some where around 1977 the Rambler succumbed to Rochester and Douglassville winters and road salt. Failed inspection for unibody "frame" rot. Sold it to a truck repair mechanic. Next came the 77 Ventura, and for a brief time we were a 3 Pontiac family. Before the move to Langhorne we said good bye to the 56, good and faithful servant.

N O R W A L K 2024

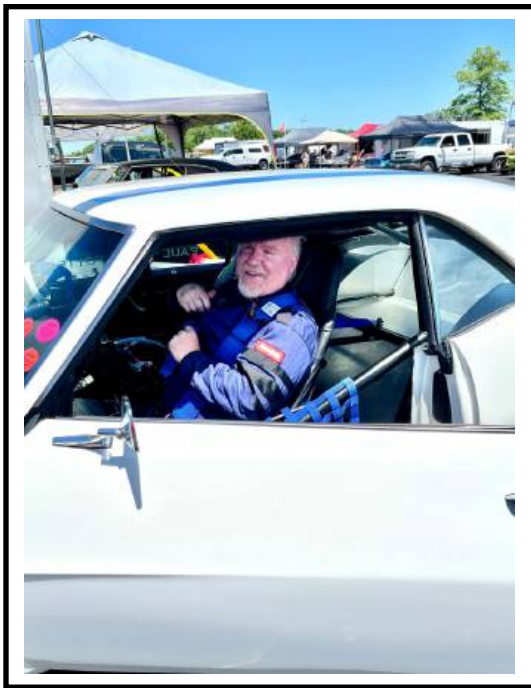
by Karen Britton

Have you ever been to Ames Performance Pontiac Nationals in Norwalk Ohio? This year was my 1st year. Tim, my husband had been there years ago with the late Frank Kemp, but even he was amazed to see how much the show has grown.

Our plans were to leave Thursday morning, July 18th. As we prepared on Tuesday to leave, we had a severe thunderstorm go through our area that took down trees, leaving us with no power. For a while it looked like we would have to cancel our plans in order to babysit our generator as the electric company estimated our power restoration at 11PM on Thursday. As our plans were to leave Thursday morning, we were very disappointed when we had received this call. But then, 8 hours later another phone call came in saying a new estimated restoration time was Wednesday evening. After this roller coaster ride, we were able to get back on schedule and leave Thursday morning as planned.

When we arrived in Norwalk we of course had to take a drive past Summit Motorsports Park. I was totally amazed at the size of the pit area and of all the racers that had already arrived and set up for the weekend. On the other side of the track many flea market vendors were also busy setting up.

Anxious to get into the flea market, we arrived by 8AM on Friday when the gates opened. There were over 300 vendor spaces all catering to Pontiac! There was anything from fully rebuilt engines, literature, memorabilia, down to the smallest molding clips. Tim was able to find a window crank assembly for his 31 Pontiac, but most vendors catered to mid-50's and newer, being heavier on the performance side of



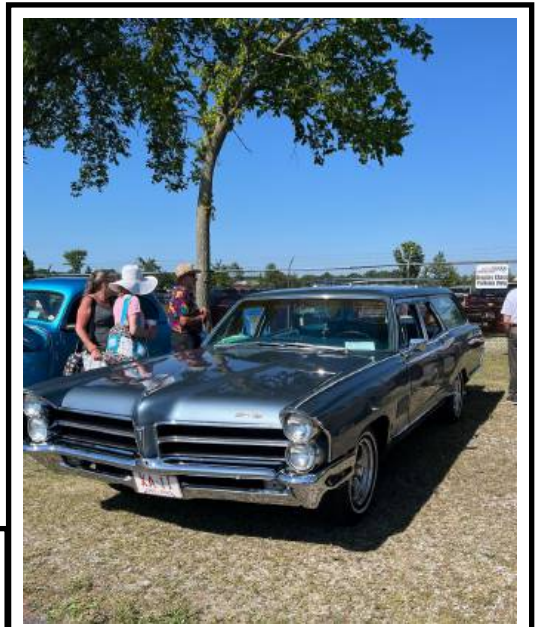
Pontiac. We stopped along the way to talk to long time KSC friends George Richardson, Tyrone Mount and Keith Vrabec. As we spent the better part of the day in the flea market, we could hear the racing going on as well.

We later walked over to the pit side of the track. Wow, there was a whole other city with 100s of trailers and Pontiac racers. As we were making our way through the pit area, we started looking for our friend, Paul Spotts who was racing his 69 Trans Am. The weather was perfect and 17,000 steps later we decided to go back to the hotel. Tomorrow would be another day.

Saturday morning, car show day and more racing. We again arrived as the gates opened at 8am. We walked through the gate with Dimitrie Toth who was representing the Pontiac Transportation Museum for the weekend. It was fun catching up with him.

Continued on next page

Getting hundreds of show cars in place was a little hectic for the spectators on foot, so we decided to take a second run through the flea market. When most of the cars were in place, we turned our attention to the show cars. Ralph Keller, KSC founder, was showing his 1972 Grand Prix. There were so many awesome cars I am glad I was not judging. We watched racing for a little from the grandstands in the afternoon and took a few overhead pictures of the grounds.



At 2pm we met most of our chapter members that attended

The event for a group picture. We had another great weather day on Saturday and walked another 15,000 steps before we said goodbye for this year, hoping to make the trip again next year.



Chapter members in attendance were Rick and Bev Hediger, Ralph Keller, AJ and Carol Koszi, Jack Otis, Paul Spotts, and my husband Tim and myself.

Sunday we left for home, but there was more racing and awards handed out.

Norwalk 2024 take two



What does Summit Motor Speedway, Velvet Ice Cream, Drag Racing, the Largest Pontiac flea Market you could imagine and Rows and Rows of PONTIACS? Let me spell it out for you: Ames Performance Pontiac National, Norwalk, OH 2024. (no car count as of yet! update to follow). There were not many early Pontiacs or Oaklands, BUT, from the 40's and up: every year, model, color, and engine variety imaginable. Stock Modified (mild to wild) and of course- JUNK. (look closely at the engine) YES! It was driven here, as is, over 3000 miles, to Norwalk.



We met Arnie Beswick. Of course we had to take advantage of the photo op! Arnie is the one without the grin on his face. 😊



If you enjoy the noise, smell, wheelies, and the close competition of drag racing, this is the Pontiac Drag Racing Mecca. There were a few orphans (Chevy's, Ford's, Dodge's and Plymouth's), But Pontiac's Ruled! A few other perks that were included with the show package were a very pleasant surprise. A BBQ, with the usual picnic menu, door prizes drawings, and a t-shirt slingshot launch. Guess who caught one! To end the day, we had access to the John Force luxury suites, atop of the grandstand, with a special view of the entire length of the drag strip- from the Christmas tree to the timing light. Super way to end the 90 degree heat, but NO rain.

OK, time for the Grand Prix Report. NO, unfortunately our '62 (the Mistress), did not make the trip. 90+ degree heat played a dirty trick on Her fuel supply: VAPOR LOCK. Fourtimes in 2 weeks. Much too stressful. She now has an electric fuel pump (removed the mechanical one, need one?). There were more GP's there than no-shows at the POCI convention. There were at least 35 parked in the allotted GP Section. This is a low estimate because after the section was full and more GP's were coming in, they were told to park where ever there was a space (which was not an easy thing to find). Hopefully, the 2025 early POCI convention in Louisville, KY will not conflict with the Ames Nationals in Norwalk. Only NASCAR will determine that, it is their call to schedule.

A J Koszi 8/7/2024

CONVENTION UPDATE

By Tom Wright

I wanted to take this time and space in the chapter newsletter to review the POCI Convention that was held in mid-July in the Springfield/Bentonville area of Arkansas. Fortunately, we had real summer weather with 4 dry, hot days. The Arkansas River Chapter did what it seems like all chapters associated with POCI do and that includes planning, hard work, great volunteers and then executing a wonderful convention.

The Arkansas River Chapter did a great job overcoming a couple of minor hurdles. The same date and time of Norwalk Pontiac Nationals took away some attendees. The other challenge was the location itself, though a beautiful part of the country it has its issues in getting their easily. In spite of both challenges, the show went off very well and was a great time with a nice choice of the hotel/convention center facility.

The convention's welcoming night party was a real hoot with food and games all provided courtesy of Ames Performance. The host hotel provided some nice meeting rooms for chapter and small group meetings. There were plenty of restaurants in the area for lunch and dinner on days that there were no convention functions. The two banquets provided very good food, and our own Keystone Chapter was a big part of the event with several awards and mentions of our 50th anniversary year.

There was to be a speaker on the 50th anniversary of Pontiac's Fiero, but unfortunately the gentleman had gotten sick and had to cancel. The good news was that Tim Dye filled in and gave some interesting remarks and stories regarding Fiero's, and then he went right into his own talk on the opening of the new Pontiac Transportation Museum located in Michigan. Kudos to a great two-hour discussion from Tim Dye. John Kraman from Mecum Auctions also gave an interesting talk on both the history and inner-workings of Mecum Auctions.

The car shows were not the largest of any convention, but very well represented with a nice mix of all models of Pontiacs in both points judge and popular vote. It was nice to see lots of cars from the 50's through the 2000's. The convention provided some very nice tours through the Ozark Mountains and Forest with a stop at a real backwoods lunch stop.

All in all, the convention was in keeping with the many conventions I have attended--well run, great fellowship, and some nice cars. Hope you are all planning to attend the 2025 convention in Louisville, KY. Plan early because the host hotel fills up quickly.



JUNK YARD TOUR
Friday, November 29th

We are going to Klinger's Auto Parts and Recycling; 107 Birds Hill Rd.; Pine Grove, Pa.
I-78 West, Exit 13/Hy 501/Bethel



Our breakfast stop will be at 8am at the Blue Mountain Family Restaurant. 24 Roadside Dr.
Shartlesville, Pa. 19554 I-78 West, Exit 23/Mountain Rd.



CONTACT Stephan Liebert if you are attending at
ligoatpar@verizon.net OR 267-247-6903

CHRISTMAS PARTY

KSC-POCI 50th Anniversary Christmas Party
PLEASE NOTE TIME AND LOCATION CHANGES
December 7, 2024, 11:30-4:00 pm.

ARRIVE BY 11:30, BUFFET STARTS AT 12 NOON

The KSC-POCI 2024 Christmas Party will be held in PARADISE this year. That's Paradise, PA at the historic **Revere Tavern** located at **3063 Lincoln Highway East (Rt. 30), Paradise, PA 17562**. This historic, 1740 stone tavern was once owned by President James Buchanan. George Washington is reported to have slept there while traveling from Philadelphia to York. As part of a summer job Jim Martin helped his brother mow the yard!. We will enjoy a buffet meal prepared by the Bird-in-Hand Restaurant **Pricing: \$20ea.**

Contact Jim at jamesamartin@comcast.net or 717-940-0529 **OR**
register & pay on the website WWW.KSCPOCI.ORG

DEADLINE TO REGISTER is DECEMBER 2nd



Hallowell Tour September 21st

By Karen Britton

On Saturday September 21st, the Keystone State Chapter went to Huntingdon Valley. The day was set up by our host Hank Hallowell. 20 of us started the day at Hank's home with a story of how the Hallowell family started in our area and how the property has evolved over the years. Hank then guided us through his "car barn" that he built to house some of his car collection and memorabilia from auto related signs, license plates, and dealer promotional models to some childhood trinkets.

Our host then catered us to lunch by his pool where we had some time to catch up with fellow Pontiac friends. The weather was perfect for our outdoor gathering.

From here, Hank led us to the Glencairn Museum. The Glencairn Museum was built in Bryn Athyn by Raymond Pitcairn (1885-1966) in a style based on medieval Romanesque architecture. The museum was once the home of the Pitcairns and now houses all the art and medieval objects that the Pitcairns collected, The museum is set up in galleries that explore the religious beliefs and practices of a variety of cultures and time periods. Our tour guide Jim, started us off with a 15 minute introductory film and then led us through the 45,000 sq. ft. museum, once the home of the Pitcairns. We first visited the "great room" which was like our modern day living room but this room had 27' ceilings with tall stained glass windows and one whole wall made of 1/2" mosaic tiles. Our photos can not do this place justice.

As we were led through the museum, there was artwork, statues, and capitals, some built right into the cement walls. The "Egyptian Room" housed many small artifacts and one exceptional object was an Old Kingdom "spirit" door from the tomb of a priest of King Khufu which stood about 2' wide and 5' high.

Another prized possession is found in the Medieval collection. Here we were shown the Two-Foot Tall 16th -Century Hymnal from Spain, the only one in the United States. The pages were made out of cow-hide.

Yet another collection was the Classical collection which consisted over five hundred objects. The most spectacular piece is an almost life-sized marble statue of Minerva Victoria, which dates back to the 2nd century AD.

Our tour guide also led us to the tower for views as far away as the Philadelphia skyline.

Nearby on the grounds there are 2 other historical sights the Bryn Athyn Cathedral and the other is the Cairnwood Estate. The Cairnwood Estate and Bryn Athyn Cathedral were both built by Industrialist John Pitcairn (1841-1916) who provided funding for the project, and his son Raymond (1885-1966) oversaw the design and construction of this unique Gothic and Romanesque-style complex. You may remember John Pitcairn as a cofounder of Pittsburgh Plate Glass Company in 1883.



[Click Here to see
all the photos](#)

By Ralph Keller



SCRANTON—STEAM TOWN FALL TOUR—OCTOBER 19TH

For our final tour of the 2024 KSC 50th anniversary year, we will be heading to Scranton, PA. to visit the National historical railroad site.

LUNCH: We will start the day with lunch at the Radisson Lackawanna station hotel, located at 700 Lackawanna Ave, Scranton, PA 18503 We will have lunch at NOON, then proceed to the nearby Steamtown complex. This hotel was the offices and Scranton train station for the Lackawanna railroad.

We need to know how many are attending for lunch reservations, please contact Ralph Keller at 570-326-9237 or rjkeller203@gmail.com >>>>>BY FRIDAY OCT. 11th<<<<<

Also note they will only provide one guest check per table, so please bring some extra cash to help settle the bill.

STEAMTOWN: After lunch we will go the short distance to the Steamtown National Historic site, just behind the hotel. You can go through the outdoor displays, plus the indoor museum and displays. Train rides are offered at various times as well.



Steamtown NHS occupies about 40 acres of the Scranton railroad yard of the former Delaware, Lackawanna and Western Railroad, one of the earliest rail lines in northeastern Pennsylvania. At the heart of the park is the large collection of standard-gauge steam locomotives and freight and passenger cars that New England seafood processor F. Nelson Blount assembled in the 1950s and 1960s. In 1984, 17 years after Blount's untimely death, the Steamtown

Foundation or the Preservation of Steam and Railroad Americana, Inc., brought the collection to Scranton, where it occupied the former DL&W yard. When Steamtown National Historic Site was created, the yard and the collection became part of the National Park System.

The Steamtown Collection consists of locomotives, freight cars, passenger cars, and maintenance-of-way equipment from several historic railroads. The locomotives range in size from a tiny industrial switcher engine built in 1937 by the H.K. Porter Company for the Bullard Company, to a huge Union Pacific "Big Boy" built in 1941 by the American Locomotive Company (Alco). The oldest locomotive is a freight engine built by American



Locomotive Company in 1903 for the Chicago Union Transfer Railway Co. *Steamtown National Historic Site Rail Museum, 350 Cliff St., Scranton, PA 18503.* For more details, including directions, log onto their website: nps.gov

ALTERNATIVE TOUR: Also on site is the electric city trolley museum, with a very nice museum, and which also offers a great trolley ride. Check details on: ectma.org

Hey all, do you know a business that might want to help the club with a sponsorship? Print out this letter and give it to the owner/manager.



Keystone State Chapter, POCI
2314 Fonthill Ct.
Langhorne PA 19047
215-499-8530
rtstover@gmail.com

April 6, 2024

The Keystone State Chapter POCI is celebrating our 50th anniversary of preserving Pontiacs, Oaklands and GMC's for future generations to enjoy. We are currently 123 members strong with members located in PA, MD, NJ, DE, and NY.

We have exciting news! We're looking for sponsors to help fund our newsletter. And in return for sponsorship, we're offering multiple advertising opportunities throughout the 2024 season.

Would you consider sponsoring our club and donating \$ 25.00 to help us to meet our goal?

We're so grateful for what our sponsors just like you have helped us accomplish over the years. From funding our car shows to helping with our newsletters and so much more, we're immensely thankful to our past, present, and future sponsors.

To demonstrate of our gratitude, the Keystone State Chapter POCI would like to offer you a business card ad in our bi-monthly newsletters for 2024 plus a display board which will prominently display your card at all events, in recognition of your gift.

We hope you're able to contribute and thank you for the consideration.

To make a contribution, simply include your gift with this letter and business card and mail to Keystone State Chapter POCI, 2314 Fonthill Ct., Langhorne PA 19047 or hand deliver to our representative.

Many thanks in advance for your sponsorship! Go Keystone State Chapter POCI!

Sincerely,

Tom Wright, President


P. S. We'd like to invite you to our car shows this year. GM on Display -June 2nd at Macungie Memorial Park. All GM Car Show - Sept 29th at Padre Pio Shrine, Barto PA

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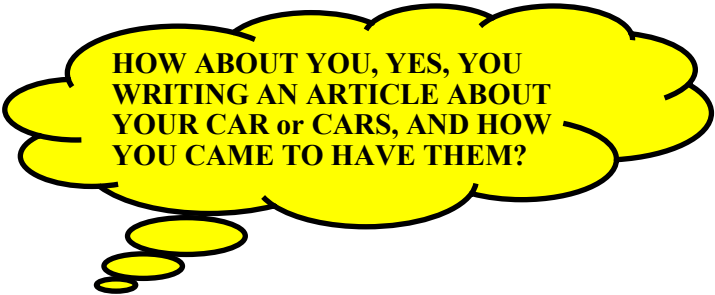
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NEWSLETTER ARTICLE DEADLINE
-December-January: November 15th
-February-March 2025: January 15th
-April-May 2025: March 15th

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1974-2024
Congratulations Keystone State Chapter,
the oldest, continuous Chapter in POCI
Just think: 50 years!

Also, in addition our club store has been restocked with some new goodies. We will be selling a KSC - 1974 hat pin (a little different from the 50th anniversary gift pin). We also now have blue long sleeve t-shirts and red short sleeve t-shirts with the vintage print on the front. These are really nice quality and sure to be a best seller as they were years ago.

And new this year - we can now accept credit cards for payment for all merchandise on site or over the phone!

Keystone State Chapter Membership Information
For general information, contact Karen Britton at kscmembership@gmail.com

For Pontiac-Oakland Club International information go to www.poci.org or email: pociworldhq@aol.com

Annual POCI dues are \$45.00 and includes a high quality color monthly magazine.

Annual Chapter dues are \$20.00 payable in **January. It is recommended that you be a member of the P.O.C.I. along with being a member of the Keystone State Chapter.**

Pay on line at www.kscpoci.org or
Send dues payable to KSC-POCI, c/o Sandra Kemp;
1603 S. Main St.; Bechtelsville, PA 19505

2024 and 2025 Officers and Directors:

President: Tom Wright
Vice President: Sandy Kemp
Treasurer: Richard Stover
Secretary: Karen Britton
Director: Ken Fernsler
Director: Bill McIntosh
Director: Jim Martin
Director: vacant
Director: Stephan Leibert
Co-Activities Director: Ralph Keller
Co-Activities Director: George Burbage
Newsletter Editor: Richard Stover
Chapter Historian: Ralph Keller
Promotional Sales: George & Amy Burbage
Display Board: Ken Fernsler

Check out our web site: www.kscpoci.org