

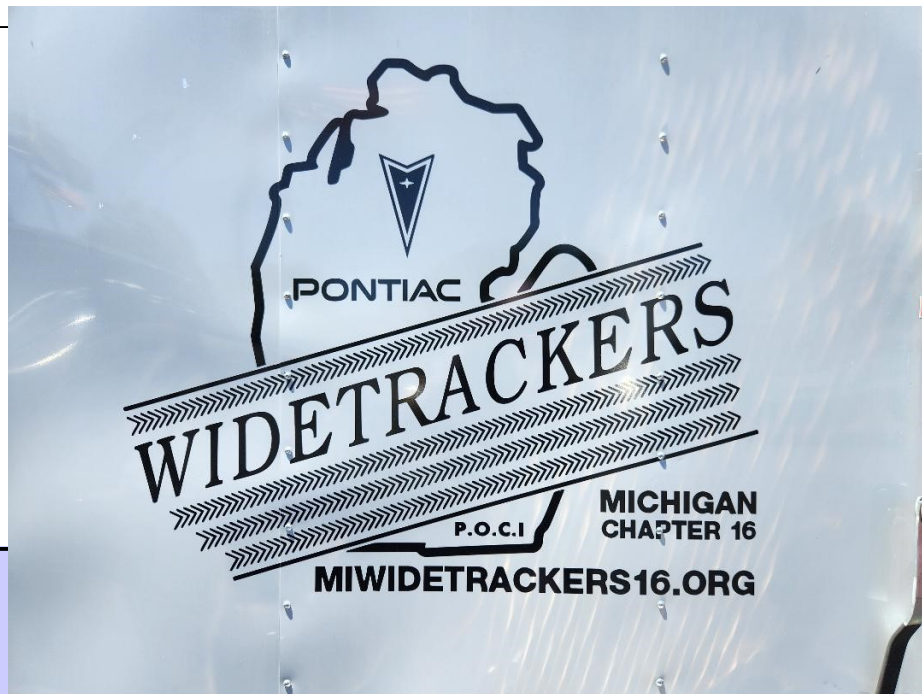


THE TRACKER

MAY 2026 JUN



37th Annual Spring Dust Off



PRESIDENT'S COLUMN P.2)

MEET THE BATES P. 5)

2026 DUST OFF P. 12



MICHIGAN WIDETRACKERS
CHAPTER 16 OF POCI
WWW.MIWIDETRACKERS16.ORG

Hello Widetrackers,

I hope the summer is treating you all well and you are getting out and driving those marvelous Pontiacs.

I also want to apologize for the missing issue of the Tracker since we have been focused on the Spring Dust Off and the POCI convention and time has slipped away from us.

The Dust Off went well even though attendance was slightly off. There were a lot of member participation and everything went smooth. We had a lot of cars we hadn't seen before and many favorites that came back again.

The Dust Off committee did a great job again this year and continue to host one of the best shows around.

I do want to take time to thank all the members who gave their time to assist with the POCI convention.

We were involved with registration, hospitality, swap meet, technical inspection, the Pontiac parade, pushing cars in and out of the Oakland Expo center, and multiple other tasks. I have to say we did a fantastic job!

All the volunteers worked so hard and despite all the communication issues and other ciaos, the convention participants all had a great time and did nothing but compliment all who volunteered. Every comment I received was nothing but positive. Nobody steps up as well as the Michigan Widetrackers.

One thing I need to stress this year is we need to all be on a membership push. Since we are all not getting any younger, we need to try to get more Pontiac enthusiasts signed up. We have a lot to offer and I would like to see us add more car related activities for our members to participate in and enjoy all that the Widetrackers have to offer.

PRESIDENTS COLUMN

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We have a really enjoyable club so it is a shame not to share it with more Pontiac people out there. Please try to keep a membership form or two with you and talk to other Pontiac owners and tell them about us. We will be working on a lot of other things for the future this year so we are open to suggestions for anything to aid us in getting new members and other ideas or events you may think will help.

**Respectfully,
Tim Mays - President**



MEET THE BATES**Meet the Bates – New Members
from Down Under**

By: Dennis Carol

Before the POCI convention even began, POCI convention coordinator, Larry Crider had asked me if I was willing to make an airport run or two for folks coming to the convention from outside the country. Something inside me stupidly said yes. Larry told me that I would be picking up a few Australian members. Interesting. Okay. As time got closer to the convention, I was given an email contact, a woman named Lisa Bates. I was given their flight number and arrival time (10:00 pm on Monday, June 21st – ugh). So much for getting home and in bed early.

I met Lisa and her husband, Wayne, in the baggage claim area. A third member of their party had contracted pneumonia shortly after arriving in the United States, and had to be

MEET THE BATES

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hospitalized to clear it up and was no longer coming to the convention. So I just had to take Wayne and Lisa to the host hotel, the Centerpoint Marriot.



I found out that Wayne and Lisa are not Australians, they are New Zealanders (e.g. Kiwis). They live on New Zealand's north island, in Kineith Tokoroa, South Waiketo. They have two adult daughters and one grandson.

MEET THE BATES

They own four Pontiacs: a '61 Ventura, a '70 Trans Am, a '70 GTO, and a '61 Bonneville. They are members of Pontiacsdownunder.com.

Over the course of the convention, I became their host and friend. They enjoyed shopping in Frankenmuth with the bus trip there. Lisa showed me all of her purchases. We went to dinner at the Long Horn Steakhouse in Auburn Hills one night. I drove them to the Treasury for the free hors d'oeuvres, cash bar and cash ice cream bar. Later I took them on a beer and wine run to a nearby CVS so they didn't have to pay high hotel prices for drinks! At one point, they took an Uber to a nearby FedEx. They had bought so much stuff since arriving in the states that they no longer had enough luggage space for everything they had bought so they shipped a lot of things back ahead of them.

MEET THE BATES

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You don't want to know how much it cost them to send this stuff home. Let's just say that overseas shipping is insanely expensive.

One of the highlights of the trip for them was when I invited them to ride with me in the 100th anniversary parade. Wayne had given me several Pontiacs Down Under gifts; a hat, a flag, stickers, etc. I decided to bring my flag poles to the parade. I flew the USA 250 and Pontiacs Down Under flags.



Steve Fantes and Lisa waiting for the parade to start

MEET THE BATES



Joe Landmesser and Wayne waiting for the parade to start

On Saturday, towards the end of the convention's car show, Wayne and Lisa joined the Widetrackers! Larry Marsh was kind enough to run home between the car show and the awards ceremony and bring back their membership T-shirts. I gave the shirts to them right after the awards ceremony. As fate would have it, I am very active on a Pontiac forum known as ForeverPontiac.com.

MEET THE BATES

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Another active person on that forum is also from the north island of New Zealand. He lives in Taupo NZ. Wayne and Lisa live 40 minutes from Taupo. They have never met before but they have mutual friends. I am hoping that they can meet up in the near future.

Sunday morning, I took Wayne and Lisa back to Metro airport. They were wearing their Widetrackers shirts! They were renting a car and heading to Niagara Falls, New York City to see Central Park, and then heading to Nashville before returning home to New Zealand. They landed safely in Auckland on July13, 2026. I plan to keep in touch with them. Hopefully we will get reports of Pontiac activities down under in the near future.

MEET THE BATES

One of Lisa's purchases while at Bronner's.



Some of the SWAG that Lisa and Wayne left me with. Wow!



Widetrackers at the POCI Convention - including Wayne and Lisa.

2026 DUST OFF

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Story by Dennis Carol

This year's Dust Off was nearly perfect. The weather was ideal, it was not too cold and not very hot, just great short sleeve shirt weather. We had 93 cars and owners who came to play with us at Golling Buick-GMC. The day didn't end well for Dennis Carol and Chuck and Clarice Humphrey. Both experienced mechanical failures and needed tow trucks by the end of the day. Still everyone had a great time and we are excited for next year's show.



2026 DUST OFF



2026 DUST OFF

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2026 DUST OFF



2026 DUST OFF

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2026 DUST OFF



2026 DUST OFF

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**Another great
car – a LaSalle
– Cadillac's
companion car
marquee.**

2026 DUST OFF



OLD AGE JOKES

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OLD AGE JOKES



2026 DUST OFF

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While this was a Pontiac-Oakland-GMC-Buick-Oldsmobile show, the show's most unique car was clearly the 1938 REO Flying Cloud. REO stands for Ransom E. Olds, the same man that founded Oldsmobile in 1897. Olds left Oldsmobile in 1905 and created the REO Motor Car Company, or later abbreviated simply as REO. REO made both cars and trucks early on, but by the end of the depression, they had switched to solely truck production. Most people know of either the REO Speedwagon truck or the 1980s rock band of the same name. REO was never a GM product, but it definitely is a first cousin.

2026 DUST OFF



FOR SALE

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FOR SALE

1965 Tri Power. Professionally rebuilt carburetor. Ready to bolt on. Comes with manifolds, gas lines, and intake. **\$1850**

Call Ken Orlowski (586) 243-5398

FOR SALE:

1979 301 engine \$250 OBO

Contact Arnold at 248-330-0209

Parts Wanted:

1969 Pontiac Grand Prix door panels manual windows, A/C setup from condenser to evaporator.

Bill Gupton

810-338-4196

wmgupton@gmail.com

For Sale:

Tri-Power Intake with important extended thermostat housing (casting # 9778818). Date F295. Includes core carbs (3 carbs, not right tri-power carbs). \$275.00. Can email pictures.

1968 GP 400 engine, 350 H.P. Stamped XH. Block Casting # 9790071. Date K167. #16 heads. Turns free, never apart. I know the history of this engine. \$700.00. Can email pictures.

**Contact Bill Meiers — Widetracker since 1982. Hale, MI
989-728-4243**

For Sale

1933 Straight 8 engines including transmissions and one high compression head.

Robert_patchett@sbcglobal.net

810-721-8282 home 317-498-6126 cell

FOR SALE**FOR SALE:**

'67 GTO Ring and Pinion Carrier AXLE to AXLE 390 gear ratio, number matching '67 GTO.

Came out of my '69 GTO. Not positive traction. Guaranteed. \$300.00.

Call Ken Vanniman (810) 664-2576 Lapeer

FOR SALE:

1968/1969 GTO parts. Some chrome, cylinder heads, air conditioning parts (no condenser), convertible interior parts, quarter extension chrome, etc.

Also 1st and 2nd generation Firebird parts. Call for details.

Call Don Smith 248-709-6857

Do you have something you would like to sell?

Whole cars, parts, memorabilia? Making extra room in the shop for a winter project? No matter how big or small the item, all Widetracker members are allowed to advertise for free in the tracker.

Simply e-mail the tracker at:

- 1. Floor jack with set of 4 stands. \$65.00**
- 2. Trailer with tandem axles, 10' x 4', Michelin tires with matching spare. Wheels from 2002 Grand Marquis. \$1,200**

Contact Bill Coombe

WANTED: 1998 Pontiac Trans Am--side skirts green color preferred but any color is fine.

Contact Alex Azarovitz at 248-953-2585

FOR SALE**For Sale:**

Front fenders for full size 1963 Pontiac. No rust. \$600

Indian head Radiator cap for late 20's model Pontiac. \$400

Thank you

Judy Vader

62GP Red with pearl metal flake clear coat 2019. 1974 400 with 1967 casting code 143 heads. Rebuilt by Rat Tech Engine Service 2024. Rebuilt auto trans 2023. Edelbrock intake and carb. Hi-Torque mini starter. Aluminum radiator. 8 Lug wheels relined 2014. New bucket seats, padded dash headliner. Other improvements, some extra parts. Tom Shubert 810 922 9621 red62gptom@gmail.com. \$37,500

**PRICE REDUCED
TO \$34,900.00!**



WIDETRACKER ADMINISTRATION

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For those who don't know her, this is the lovely lady who takes care of all things paperwork for us! (We love you, Clarice!)

Anyone needing membership packets, contact Clarice Humphrey at (248)245-5401 or email clarice.humphrey@yahoo.com.

Reminder: Send Clarice your POCI number if you have one and it's not listed on the Membership Roster. Thanks!



TRACKER DISCLAIMER

The Tracker is a bi-monthly publication of the Michigan Widetrackers Chapter 16 of Pontiac Oakland Club International (POCI). The articles, editorials and information contained in *The Tracker* come from a variety of sources and represent the views and opinions of the individual authors and are not necessarily those of the Widetrackers or any of its officers. While we attempt to print material that is accurate, we do not assume any responsibility for errors, omissions, inaccuracies or contrary interpretation of the subject matter herein.

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT FROM THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

Starting with calendar year 2020, *The Tracker* will be delivered **BY EMAIL ONLY.**

If your email information is incomplete, please send your information to Clarice at: CLARICE.HUMPHREY@YAHOO.COM

Special requests for a paper copy of *The Tracker* will be considered by the Board of Directors in hardship cases, on a case by case basis.

Hardship requests must be sent to the President, Tim Mays, in writing at: TMAYS247@GMAIL.COM

CLUB MERCHANDISE FOR SALE

Before you know it, Christmas will be here! Why not celebrate with some Widetracker apparel? The club can help you out! Just see Robin to place your order. Or, you can always bring in your own items to get the club logo put on them. You can have your items nicely embroidered, or silkscreened. It's a great way to show your Pontiac love, advertise the club and bring in new members!

Contact Robyn Marsh

(810) 348-4619

horsesitter1@yahoo.com

NAMETAGS!



Are you new? Do people keep asking you who you are? Do you need a nametag? New or replacement magnetic backed nametags can be ordered from Bill Coombe for a nominal cost of \$11. ***We order the week before the monthly meeting, and you can either pick yours up there, or ask a friend to grab it for you if you can't attend in person. Sorry, but we don't send them through the post.*** (We'd hate to see them damaged!!)

See him at the meetings, or contact him by phone at 586-443-6005 or via email at: bcmkx2017@gmail.com

A PSA From POCI

Help us KEEP THE PONTIAC LEGACY ALIVE!

If you are not yet a member of POCI and would like to check out our monthly magazine, *Smoke Signals*, please email or call the club office and we'll mail you a free copy and an application form to join up.

POCI is the largest Pontiac club in the world! Our monthly magazine has great articles, you will get access to our technical advisors and the best classified ads (on-line and in our magazine) for Pontiac, Oakland and GMC vehicles and parts for sale and wanted.

See more details on our website www.poci.org. Call 877-368-3454 or email pociworldhq@aol.com (say: Free Smoke Signals please! and include your name and mailing address).

Paul Bergstrom

POCI Club Office Manager



CLUB EVENTS

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Second Sat-
urday of
Each Month

**WIDETRACKER'S CLUB
MEETING**
5:30pm
**(Contact an officer to confirm
dates)**

Golling Buick GMC,
Lake Orion, MI

Golling Super Show: 09/19/2026. At Golling Buick GMC in Lake Orion, Michigan. 8:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. Please attend if you can make this event.

Stalhs Orphan Car Show will be held on September 19th, 2026 from 8:00 to 5:00 p.m

Motor City POCI 12th Annual Summer Roundup: Saturday September 26th, 2026. At Bakers of Milford. 2025 S. Milford Road in Milford, MI. 8:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. Please come out and support this event.

Michigan Central Train Station: Dan Kane is looking at Saturday, October 3rd, 2026 for our tour. The tour is 1 hour long. Cost is \$20.00 per person. More to follow shortly.

Widetrackers Fall Color Tour: Will be held on October 24th, 2026. Tim Mays is looking for volunteers to help organize the event.

CLUB CONTACTS

Michigan Widetrackers New Officers for 2024/2025

President

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Director

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POCI16Tracker@gmail.com

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Tracker Editor

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POCI16Tracker@gmail.com

Nametags

Bill Coombe
586-293-0662
bcgrandmarquis@gmail.com



These great folks
make our club run!
Thank them when
you see them.

www.miwidetrackers16.org



MICHIGAN WIDETRACKERS



CHAPTER #16 of POCI

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Primary Member: _____ Birth Date: _____
 Spouse/Associate Member: _____ Birth Date: _____
 Address: _____ Phone: _____ Cell: _____
 City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____ Email: _____
 Children: _____

MICHIGAN WIDETRACKERS MEMBERSHIP - www.miwidetrackers16.org

Dues are \$20.00 per year due each May 1st. (If joining for the first time, dues will be pro-rated at \$1.70 per month)

Please complete and return this application along with payment made out to "Michigan Widetrackers":

MICHIGAN WIDETRACKERS

4993 E. Harvard Ave

Clarkston, MI 48348

Attn: Membership

INDICATE: NEW MEMBER or RENEWAL; CASH or CHECK (Check # _____) Amount Enclosed: \$ _____

Signature: _____ Date Paid: _____

New Member (ONE) Shirt, Available sizes: S / M / L / XL / 2XL / 3XL Shirt Size: _____

Please provide your Classic or Collector Vehicle information (if needed, use the other side):

YEAR **MAKE** **MODEL** **COLOR**

*Michigan Widetrackers Chapter #16 of POCI encourages POCI membership for all club members.

Please visit their website (www.poci.org) to review "Why Join POCI?"

PONTIAC OAKLAND CLUB INTERNATIONAL MEMBERSHIP - www.poci.org

"Why Join POCI?" POCI's full-color, monthly magazine **"Smoke Signals"**, which is devoted to Pontiac, Oakland, and GMC vehicles and their owner; access the newly updated website www.poci.org for a wealth of information; the **POCI Technical Advisor Program**; the **POCI Library**, a massive collection of Pontiac, Oakland and GMC literature and the **Annual POCI Convention** which rotates annually to various locations in the USA attracting members and cars from all over the world.

The POCI Membership application is available online; please visit their website (www.poci.org). Annual USA Membership: \$45.00; Canadian \$74; includes two free Associate Memberships (except E-memberships), including mailing our SMOKE SIGNALS monthly magazine.

Electronic membership (e-membership): \$25.00 per year (USA funds).

Payment may be made online with Credit Card or Pay Pal or make a Check or Money Order payable to "POCI".

Mail to: POCI World HQ, PO Box 68, Maple Plain, MN 55359 USA along with the POCI application.

For our records, please notify our Membership Coordinator when you receive your POCI#.

POCI #: _____ POCI# Renewal Date: _____



Dave Todd, Editor
Business Name
P.O. Box 601
Oxford, MI 48371



In God We Trust