



THE TRACKER

JAN

FEB

2023



SNOW MOUSTACHE



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THE FATE OF THE LAST TWO PONTIACS (P.6)

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**MICHIGAN WIDETRACKERS
CHAPTER 16 OF POCI
WWW.MIWIDETRACKERS16.ORG**

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Hello and Happy New Year to all my fellow Wide-trackers,

As your new president, I would like to give a huge Thank You to Arnold Boersma for his outstanding dedication to our wonderful club. He worked tirelessly to perform his duties to a high standard that I can only hope to duplicate. I am especially grateful that he and other senior members will be on the board of directors to continue to ensure that our club continues to run as smoothly in the future as it has in the past.

Moving forward I will do my best to continue with working toward more club events and to increase our membership. As Arnold has stated in the past, we have all these wonderful pieces of Pontiac history that need to be shared with younger generations so they can learn to love these time capsules as much as we do. So let's get them out and show them off this coming summer.

For those members that don't know me, here is a bit about myself. I am a lifelong Michigan resident. I have lived at my current home for the past 6 years and prior to that, my wife Lisa and I lived in the Upper Peninsula for ten years. We are both originally from the Lapeer area both graduating from opposing high schools. We have 2 boys who still reside in the U.P.

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SOMEDAY...

The following appeared in the Jan/Feb 2023 issue of Cruis'n Magazine. It is reprinted here with the permission of Jerry Dixey (author) and Mickey York of Cruis'n Media, and I thank them for their support. Ed.

When January comes around it is time to start thinking about what events you would like to do when the rod run season finally rolls around. I know that many folks have a regular schedule of events that they attend with other hot rod friends. Maybe you thought that someday you might like to try a new run or a new destination. There are plenty to choose from, and yes you might have to get out of your comfort zone to experience something new and different. Thinking about all of this has reminded me of a column that I wrote 10 years ago for NSRA's StreetScene magazine. I think that this story tells us that there is no time like the present. Here is a portion of that column from 2013: "Someday". . .

It is a word that I hear quite a bit as I travel around the country. Folks will come up to our Street Rodder Road Tour tent and say, "Someday, I want to go on one of the Road Tours. They sure sound like fun and someday I will go." I understand that folks have many other things going on in their lives and due to family situations, health concerns and financial constraints everyone cannot just take the summer off and hit the road. Many folks do make the time, save for their trip and spend a week on the road with us having the time of their life.

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John Young joined us on the Vintage Air Tour to Pigeon Forge. He had just acquired a cool 1955 Chevy he called "Peaches and Cream" because of its colors. John lived in Nevada and his lifelong friend Al Redmon lived in Missouri. They had both recently lost their wives. John had been battling cancer and had just finished successful chemo treatments. Al had some recent major back surgeries, but they decided to get back together and get in the '55 and head to San Antonio to participate in the Vintage Air Road Tour. They moved a little slower than some of the other participants due to their health, but they took part in all the activities. In the beginning, they apologized for not driving as fast as some of the group, but I quickly said that these Tours are not races. Enjoy them at your own pace. They got along fine. They caught up on the years they had spent apart and helped each other get things done all week. In Pigeon Forge, at the final driver's meeting, I presented John and Al with the Golden Shine Award. Through all their other challenges they had kept "Peaches and Cream" shining during the entire trip. It was a popular decision with everyone and John and Al were very pleased to receive the award.

After the Vintage Air Tour most folks headed home. Some of us headed to the NSRA Nationals North Plus in Kalamazoo. When I arrived in Kalamazoo, I received a call from another Vintage Air Tour participant.

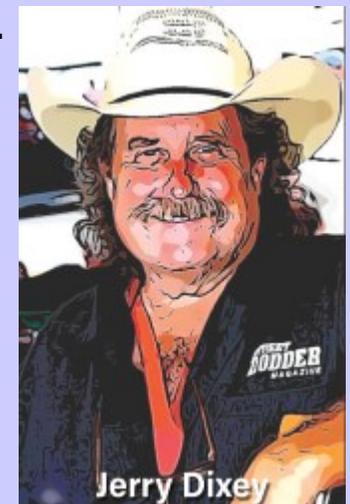
Continued on p.5

While driving the '55 Chevy home through Birmingham, Alabama John suffered a massive heart attack when he was behind the wheel. Al was able to get the car stopped with no injury to anyone else, but John had passed away. When I heard this tragic news I was speechless. We can control many of the "somedays" in our lives. There are a few that we cannot. Make the time and take the time, whether it is on a Road Tour or just a long weekend with friends or family. "Someday" you will be glad that you did.

Maybe your "someday" is the summer of 2023. We are all getting older and no one is assured of how many "somedays" you have coming. Talk to your significant other or your running buddies. Ask around and look on the internet for some options for this summer. It is time to start checking those "somedays" off your list.

Safe travels and I hope to see you on the road this summer.

-- Jerry Dixey



Continued on P.6

When Pontiac was created as part of the Companion Car Program for Oakland Motor Car company, it was placed (price wise) between Chevrolet and Oakland. Pontiac went on to become the only companion car to outlive it's creating division. In 2010, Pontiac ceased to exist because of GM's bankruptcy. This article outlines what happened to the last 2 Pontiac's GM produced in those dark times. Warning – it's not a happy ending.

In the dark days of GM's bankruptcy, there was no fanfare for Pontiac's demise. There was no cause for celebration really. Bankruptcy was not something to celebrate. The Last Pontiac was a G6 built at Orion Assembly, in Lake Orion Michigan. It carried a VIN of 1G2ZA5EB5A4166962 and was equipped with a 2.4L VVT DOHC four-cylinder engine. Sadly, this G6 was configured and destined to be a fleet vehicle, it was painted in Summit White and furnished with an Ebony interior. The car is believed to have been shipped to Hawaii as rental. Once it completed it's time as a fleet rental, it was sold to a private owner.

Unfortunately, the car had a short life. According to a thread on Reddit, the last mileage report to GM had on the car was around 60,000 miles. Then, two years later, on September 1st, 2015, it was allegedly totaled and received a salvage title. GM then voided all open warranties on the car, thus ending the G6's record. The G6 was when sent to a salvage auction where it was sold for \$450—less than 3% of its original MSRP.

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In February 2016, a year after it was reported as a loss, the G6 was exported to Mexico and never registered in the U.S. again.

Ironically, the second-to-last Pontiac built was also totaled, back in 2020 with around 67,000 miles on the odometer. It too was sold at auction, but for a heftier \$1,500. According to a poster on Reddit, this example was rebuilt and is still on the road somewhere in the state of Indiana. This G6 is perhaps the final rolling example to come off the lines from the brand that left in the U.S. in 2010. Godspeed, little Pontiac.

GM's shuttering of Pontiac was a huge blow to all the Pontiac faithful. For the automaker to end production with a "run of the mill" G6 is kind of a



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The Last G6 Runs Down the Assembly Line

THE FATE OF THE LAST TWO PONTIACS EVER BUILT

slap in the face for such a storied marque, even if it was due to GM's bailout-induced circumstances. Hell, GM gave Oldsmobile a better send-off with the Final 500 Edition of the Alero years earlier. But Pontiac? Pfft. Nothing. A boring, rental fleet-spec sedan. The more I think about it, the very last G6's ending is almost a bittersweet ode to the brand's overall sendoff: appropriate, yet sadly unfortunate.

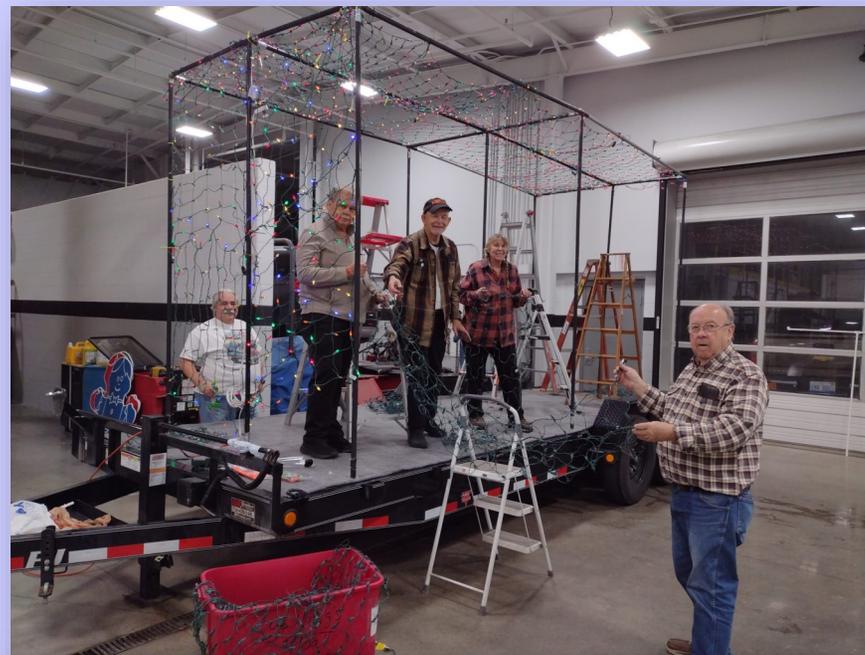
Most of the source material for this article came from Trey Hawkins (GM Authority.com – 10/14/22) and Rob Stumpf (thedrive.com – 10/17/22)



The Last Pontiac – Now Totaled

ORION LIGHTED CHRISTMAS PARADE 2022

The Widerackers once again built a beautiful lighted Christmas float in support of club sponsor Golling Buick GMC. You can see video of it at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cn4k4ZQy89Q> at about the 40:15 mark. Special thanks to those who put in the hard work to design and build the float.

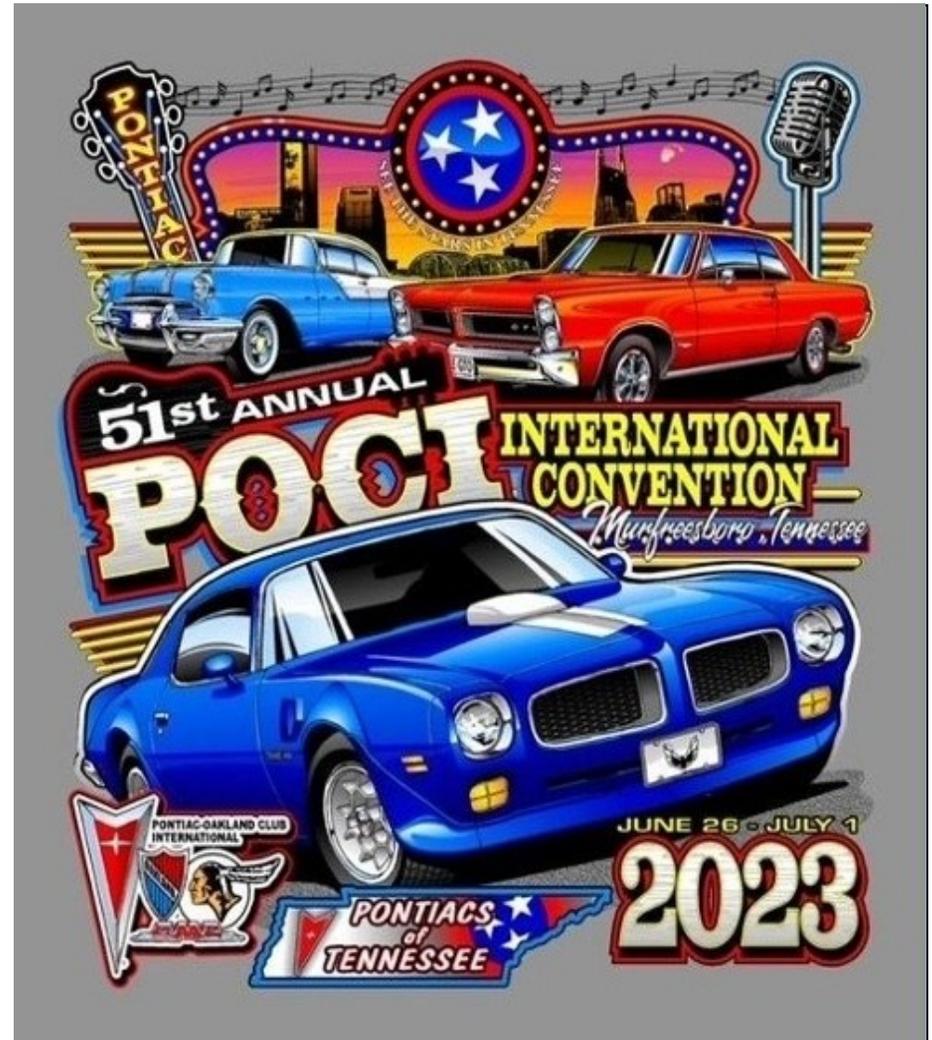


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ORION LIGHTED CHRISTMAS PARADE 2022



POCI 51ST ANNUAL CONVENTION



POCI's 2023 CONVENTION
June 26 - July 1, 2023
Embassy Suites
1200 Conference Center Blvd
Murfreesboro, TN
(615) 890-4464

RECRUITERS WANTED!

WIN A FIVE NIGHT STAY AT THE POCI CONVENTION 2023!



EVERY TIME YOU RECRUIT A NEW POCI MEMBER OR A TWO YEARS INACTIVE RE-UP, YOU WILL BE REWARDED WITH A CREDIT TO WIN

1ST PLACE - 5 NIGHT STAY AT THE HOST HOTEL, FREE CONVENTION REGISTRATION, AND TWO (2) TICKETS TO THE AWARDS BANQUET OR \$300 CLUB STORE GIFT CERTIFICATE

2ND PLACE - FREE CONVENTION REGISTRATION AND TWO (2) TICKETS TO THE AWARDS BANQUET OR \$200 CLUB STORE GIFT CERTIFICATE

3RD PLACE - \$100 GIFT CERTIFICATE FOR POCI CLUB STORE GIFT CERTIFICATE

LUCKY WINNER - ALL NON WINNERS ENTER A DRAWING FOR \$100 GIFT CERTIFICATE

Log on to poci.com for complete rules



For Sale

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 1965 326 \$450 OBO

Contact Arnold at 248-330-0209

1981 Bonneville Broughm Landau coupe. It has around 94 thousand miles. Has been garage kept. New tires. Headliner is dropping a little bit. Needs to be restretched. **Asking \$4500.** Runs really good. **Any questions, I can be reached at 810-656-2464 Chris Hodge**



For Sale

(Continued)

1933 Pontiac Parts Wanted

1 Radiator - 1 pair of front fender marker lamps - ANY rumble seat components - Thanks!

Joe Tonietto
Tel: 248.761.9942

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 EMAIL THE TRACKER AT POC16TRACKER@GMAIL.COM WITH THE DETAILS AND PHOTOS. THE AD WILL APPEAR IN THE NEXT AVAILABLE ISSUE.

For Sale

(Continued)

Parts Wanted:

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

Bill Gupton
 810-338-4196
 wmgupton@gmail.com



1964 PONTIAC CATALINA VENTURA

New A/C, all original upholstery except front seat bottom. Extra 8 lug wheels, original radio, trim pieces, paint codes, manuals, etc. are available.

Asking ~~\$14,900~~ \$10,900
 Contact Ernie Dacey
 (248) 887-6876 erniejoan-@comcast.net



MISC. ITEMS



\$1M 1970 Pontiac GTO Judge Ram Air IV Convertible Mecum Auctions Kissimmee

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JCUCnlZs9pU>

Tony Angelo brings a '74 Firebird "Street Freak" back to life with a 671 blown Butler 462!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PEgIyCxEPek>

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

(CONTINUED)

I am an employee at ColTer Precision where I am a service engineer as well as service coordinator. I perform service on CNC machines, and have done so for over 20 years. I have a 1971 Pontiac Lemans Sport that I purchased from my step father in the early 90's and have continued to work on it to make it what it is today. I enjoy showing off my hard work at car shows and cruises (when I can). Since I am still employed it does make some of these things more difficult.

Happily, that is where I met Arnold and Doug Blakley who convinced me to become a member of this wonderful club I have come to enjoy so much.



I encourage you all to come to our meetings where we get to share our friendship and of course great food. As it was stated to me, we are a food club with a car fixation.

Respectfully ,

Tim Mays

WIDETRACKER ADMINISTRATION

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)628-4280 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, Arnold Borsma, in writing at: ARNOLDGP99@AOL.COM

Club Products for Sale

It's a new year, and a new cruise season, so, why not consider 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 \$10. **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 586-293-0662 or via email at: bcgrandmarquis@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



EVENTS CALENDAR

See miwidetrackers16.org for more specific times and info!

- | | | |
|---------|--|--|
| Jan. 29 | 38th Annual Lima
GIANT Auto parts
swap meet | 2750 Harding Hwy 2750
Harding Hwy, Lima, OH |
| Feb. 10 | Chrome & Ice Winter
Car Show | Dort Federal Event Cen-
ter, Flint, MI |
| Feb. 11 | WIDETRACKER'S
CLUB MEETING

5:30pm | Golling Buick GMC,
Lake Orion, MI |
| Feb. 24 | 70th Annual Autorama | Huntington Place / Cobo
Center, Detroit, MI |
| Feb. 25 | Hot Rod & Racing Manu-
facturer & Industry Expo | Suburban Collection,
Novi, MI |
| Mar. 11 | WIDETRACKER'S
CLUB MEETING

5:30pm | Golling Buick GMC,
Lake Orion, MI |
| Mar. 25 | Hot Rod & Racing Manu-
facturer & Industry Expo | Suburban Collection
Showplace of Novi, MI |

As you can see, there are a TON of activities planned for the coming months! The club is always looking for new and exciting places to visit in addition to our favourite go-to's! If you've got an idea of somewhere we should see, pass your suggestions on to one of our officers—they'd

CLUB CONTACTS

Michigan Widetrackers New Officers for 2022

President

Tim Mays
248-836- 8646
tmays247@gmail.com

Secretary

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Director

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Director

Jerry Liske
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geraldiske@yahoo.com

Tracker Editor

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horsesitter1@yahoo.com

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donstates@att.net

Treasurer

Dan Kane
248-396-6848
dandan13@comcast.net

Director

Judy Vader
810-624-4058
jvader@centurytel.net

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248-628-4280
clarice.humphrey@yahoo.com

Webmaster

Dave Todd
248-628-2958
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

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

MICHIGAN WIDETRACKERS

PONTIAC OAKLAND CLUB INTERNATIONAL CHAPTER 16

Benefits of Membership:

Local, National & International contacts, *Smoke Signals*, POCI monthly magazine with tech restoration info & free Advertising. Tracker Newsletter published bimonthly with events & meetings.

Today's Date: _____

Primary Member: _____ Birth date: _____

Spouse/Associate Member: _____ Birth date: _____

Children: _____

Address: _____ Phone: _____

City, State, Zip: _____ E-mail: _____

THE MICHIGAN WIDETRACKERS ENCOURAGE ALL MEMBERS TO JOIN THE PONTIAC OAKLAND CLUB INTERNATIONAL (POCI). APPLICATIONS ARE AVAILABLE ONLINE AT POCI.ORG - POCI # _____

Signature: _____

Classic of Collector Car(s) Year Make Model #of Cylinders

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

Widetracker club dues are \$18.00 per year paid each May 1st. If joining for the first time, dues will be prorated at \$1.50 per month. Please pay by cash or check made out to:

MICHIGAN WIDETRACKERS.

Return this application and dues to:

MICHIGAN WIDETRACKERS CHAPTER 16 OF POCI

c/o Clarice Humphrey

4993 E Harvard Ave, Clarkston MI, 48348

New member _____ Renewal _____

Shirt size _____ Spouse Shirt Size _____

Payment: Cash _____ Check # _____

Contact the Widetrackers for a POCI application if needed

www.miwidetrackers16.org



Dave Todd, Editor
Michigan Widetrackers
P.O. Box 601
Oxford, MI 48371



In God We Trust