



THE TRACKER

MAR

APR

2023



IS YOUR CAR READY?



PRESIDENT'S COLUMN (P.2)

1964 PONTIAC CATALINA CONVERTIBLE
(P.3)

NEW DUST OFF FLIER (P.11)



MICHIGAN WIDETRACKERS
CHAPTER 16 OF POCI
WWW.MIWIDETRACKERS16.ORG

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PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Hello fellow Widetrackers,

I hope those who have fled for warmer weather have enjoyed the time away from the cold and have returned recharged and ready to go for the 2023 show/cruising season.

With that being said, I am encouraging our members to come join us with the Annual Spring Dust Off. Since we are going to be at a new venue (GOLLING GMC Buick) we will need all the help we can get to pull off what I think will be a large show. Since I have been a member, we have had a great group of volunteers who given their time to help make these shows the success they have been. I want to make sure that we can provide the same enjoyable experience that we have come to be known for at our new venue.

Even if you can only assist with parking cars or working at the club table or helping out with registration. All help is greatly appreciated.

At the very least, please bring those beautiful Pontiacs out for others to enjoy and wear your Widetracker clothing so all will see the awesome members that we have.

As the car show season will soon start to get under way, remember to wear your Widetracker gear to all the shows you attend. If we wish to grow our membership, we need to be seen out there.

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CAR OF THE WEEK: 1964 PONTIAC CATALINA CONVERTIBLE

Special thanks to our friends at OldCars for allowing us to reprint this article. The address of the original story is at the bottom of the last page. Ed.

Jon Morrison probably had a few more obstacles than most guys when he decided he wanted to buy and restore a hobby car more than 30 years ago. For starters, he had six kids (and another kid on the way, eventually), a busy full-time job, and no real place to do a restoration.



Oh, and he had never restored a car, either.

Somehow, all that didn't scare off the resident of Deerfield, Wis. It took him a while, but he did just fine rescuing his beautiful 1964 Pontiac Catalina convertible.

"We had a one-car garage under our house on the east end of Madison," recalls Morrison. "So I'd get into that garage and work on it whenever I could. We had six kids then and by time I got it done we had our seventh kid! I'd come home, have dinner and get the kids through the evening, and go downstairs and stay under the car, under the hood, until 2 or 3 o'clock in the morning in the summertime. I did that for years."

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CAR OF THE WEEK: 1964 PONTIAC CATALINA CONVERTIBLE

What Morrison did have on his side in those days, however, was that he knew Pontiacs, and he was in the car business. Both of those factors worked to his benefit as he tackled his first restoration.

"Pontiac's in my blood. I had to have a Pontiac. I put the word out, and I was in the business. I was a parts manager at a Pontiac/GMC dealer for many years," he says. "You just get to know people and get to know how to do things, and if you can't you ask questions and you can get answers. Having an outlet on New Old Stock parts, being in the business, I could get a lot of stuff that was still available at other dealerships around the country."



It was his connections in the local car scene that helped

Morrison find the convertible in the first place.

"There was a guy that heard my cry on the north side of Madison... He got this car as collateral from a buddy of his. His buddy wanted 500 bucks, so he gave this guy the car and the title. He put it in a barn in DeForest [Wis.] and a year and a half went by and the guy never gave him his money back. So, I had the word out, and I heard I could buy this car for \$500. He said 'I just want my money back and you can have the car. I was going to crush it into a tiny cube and then send a picture to the guy.'"

Morrison says he was looking for a true "fixer-upper" at the time — a car that he could rebuild almost from the ground up. The ragtop Catalina proved to be just the ticket, after he figured out how to get it home.

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CAR OF THE WEEK: 1964 PONTIAC CATALINA CONVERTIBLE

"Luckily, the guy had a tow truck," Morrison remembered. "It had no brakes, no brake lines, no fuel tank; the tank was all full of holes in the trunk. It still had a gas bottle under the hood. The engine ran well, the transmission ran well, and the interior wasn't all chopped up. It was in as good a shape as it could be in. Even though it was rusted and had holes in it, it was pretty solid and all matching. It had the Roto Hydromatic transmission, and that was cool. Everything was there, it just needed to be redone."



"We had to tow it to my house and had to put a tire down to stop it when we rolled it into the driveway! Then I pushed it into my garage and that was the start of everything."

The Pontiac nameplate was first unveiled in 1951 and originally was applied only to hardtop body styles, but eventually became the moniker for the company's popular lineup of base-level offerings. In 1959, the Catalina became its own line of the entry-level base models.

In the early 1960s, the Catalina established itself as a fixture of Pontiac menu, holding its own behind the top two sellers in the full-sized market, the Chevrolet Impala and Ford's Galaxie 500, and ahead of other competitors like the Mercury Monterey, Dodge Custom 800 and the Chrysler Newport. Within GM's own ranks, the Catalina generally upstaged models such as the Chevrolet Biscayne and the Buick LeSabre when it came to popularity in showrooms.

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CAR OF THE WEEK: 1964 PONTIAC CATALINA CONVERTIBLE



For 1964, the Catalinas joined the other Pontiac models in receiving new grilles and tail light designs. The lineup included a four-door sedan and four-door hardtop, two-door sedan and

hardtop, two-door convertible, and six- and nine-passenger station wagons, all affordably priced between \$2,806 and \$3,311. The four-door sedan was the least-expensive and, not surprisingly, the best seller with 84,457 assemblies.

Propulsion came from the 389-cid V-8 that was rated at 235 hp with a manual transmission or 267 hp with the HydraMatic. All drank through two-barrel Rochester carburetors and were offered with a generous menu of options, including air conditioning, power brakes and seats, luggage carriers, tachometers, and Ventura trim on the hardtops and convertible. A four-speed manual transmission was also optional, as was Tri-Power, which bumped the output to an estimated 330 hp. For the go-fast crowd, there was also a Tri-Power 421 V-8 that came in 350- and 370-hp versions.

The '64 Catalinas were about an inch longer than the '63s. Trim identification features seen on Catalinas included three-quarter length side moldings running from the front wheel opening back, Catalina front fender scripts and series medallions on the rear fender.

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CAR OF THE WEEK: 1964 PONTIAC CATALINA CONVERTIBLE

The convertibles carried a base price of \$3,181 and weighed in at 3,825 lbs. Model year production was reported at 18,693 units. In all, Pontiac built 715,261 cars for the model year, which was good for a solid third-place showing behind Chevrolet and Ford. Catalinas soldiered on and remained a stalwart on GM sales charts through the decade, thanks to the public's belief that the cars were a great bang-for-your-buck choice with styling that aged well and plenty of gusto under the hood.

For Morrison, the '64 Catalina ragtop turned out to be the ideal project car. He was a Pontiac loyalist to begin with, and the model's popularity and longevity meant there were ample parts around to restore a car. And Morrison new how to get them.

"I would suspect probably two or three years went by with me just putzing with it in the summer time," he says. "Then our dealership had a bodyshop and this guy named El from our bodyshop took it on for five summers. I'd take it over there on Thursday nights, and he'd replace any metal that needed to be redone. Of course, Pontiacs rusted around the wheel openings and fender doglegs and stuff. But he replaced whatever it needed, fixed the floor pans, reinforced the rockers ... He had the vision to take it back to factory. We had the same vision."

The pair decided to go with the same red paint color the car was born with and keep the black interior.

"It was red and black originally, but the car was so faded out and had a purple fender on it," Morrison said. "We actually took the deck lid and used that to get an exact match on the paint. We painted it in 2000, and it's looked this way

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CAR OF THE WEEK: 1964 PONTIAC CATALINA CONVERTIBLE

for the past 21 [plus] years."

Aside from the paint and bodywork, and the convertible top, Morrison tackled most of the restoration himself. Among the tasks were re-doing the seat trim, dash pad and door panels. He was pleased to find a fresh set of eight-lug wheels in town, and found items like a gas tank, bumpers and grille parts from Vintage Auto in Mountain Home, Idaho.

Morrison added that he never pulled the engine. The original 389 has yet to get a full rebuild, even after 130,000 miles.

"It's always run well," he says. "[A rebuild] is something that could be done in the future. We'll see. I actually drove it when we were restoring it [laughs]. People thought I was crazy, but I had to get in it."

"It really is a smooth-running car. It has still got the Roto Hydra-Matic transmission in it, which is nice. A lot of people pull those out and put 350s in them. You can't squeak the tires, but it is sure smooth going down the road, and it's got plenty of pep for a two-barrel. There's no A/C. It's got power brakes, power steering, manual windows and door locks. It's got the black interior with the bench seat. I didn't have seat belts originally, but we put them in so we can haul kids in the back seat!"

Ironically, having so many kids actually wound up helping Morrison with the car. He ended up with more than a few helpful presents from his brood over the years when they were looking for Christmas, birthday and Father's Day ideas.

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CAR OF THE WEEK: 1964 PONTIAC CATALINA CONVERTIBLE

"The fun thing about this thing is over the years when my wife's parents were still alive, my mother-in-law would say, 'OK, give me the list,' and they'd get me whatever parts I needed for the car. The parts were my gifts. And then my kids have chipped in and helped me out. 'Dad, what kind of parts do you want for your car? We'll pay for it.'"

At this point, Morrison has had the car so long and it has provided so many good memories that he can't envision ever selling it. Fittingly, he figures it will wind up with one of his kids.



To see the original story, and read other great OldCars content, visit: tinyurl.com/28apbd8f

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CAR OF THE WEEK: 1964 PONTIAC CATALINA CONVERTIBLE

"This one is too close to the family to [ever sell]. It's been with us too long," he says. "I suppose some day when I die maybe the kids will fight over it."



2023 DUST OFF



New Location



New Location

Michigan Widetrackers

Chapter # 16 of the P. O. C. I.

ANNUAL SPRING DUST-OFF

Golling Buick GMC, 1491 Lapeer Road, Lake Orion, MI 48360

Saturday – June 10th, 2023

Pontiac – Oakland – GMC – Buick – Oldsmobile

Vehicles of all Ages

Featuring:

Award Plaques for Top 30 Vehicles and Best of Show Trophy

\$25 Driver Ticket prize every half hour

Swap Area, Vendor Displays, Car Corral, Food Available, (NO RAIN DATE)

Dash Plaques - Door Prizes – 50/50 Raffle – Chinese Raffle "Good Stuff"

Registration – Admission

Pre-Registered Vehicles: \$15
 Pre-Registered Vendor / Swap Space: \$20
 Day of Show Vehicle Registration: \$20
 Day of Show Vendor / Swap Space: \$30
 Car Corral: \$10
 Spectator Admission: \$4
 Jr. Cruisers (15 Years and Under): Free

Schedule of Events

Registration..... 8:00am - 12:00pm
 Vendor & Exhibit Setup 8:00am
 Spectator Gate Open 9:00am
 Voting Ends 1:00pm
 50/50 Drawing 2:15pm
 Other Raffle(s) Drawing(s) 2:20pm
 Awards Presentation 2:30pm

SHOW CONTACT: Dan Kane / 248-396-6848 / dandan13@comcast.net

VENDOR CONTACT: Jim Larson / 248-877-1963 / larson1026@comcast.net

Pre-Registration Ends JUNE 5th, 2023

Show Updates @ www.miwidetrackers16.org

Vehicle Year: _____ Make: Pontiac / Oakland / GMC/ Buick/ Oldsmobile (circle one) Model: _____

Name: _____ Phone: _____ Email: _____

Swap Space(s) _____, # Corral Vehicle(s) _____ ** AMOUNT ENCLOSED: \$ _____

I accept and assume full liability for any loss to me and /or my property.

I release the sponsors and their agents from such loss or injury and agree to provide my own insurance.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Make Checks Payable To: MICHIGAN WIDETRACKERS Mail Form/ Check To: Clarice Humphrey, 4993 E. Harvard Ave., Clarkston, MI 48348

2023 DUST OFF


**New
Location**

Golling**Buick GMC**www.gollingbuick-gmc.com

248-693-5900

Sellers**Buick GMC**www.sellersgm.com

248-478-8000

Addison Tree and Outdoor**Services**www.addisontree@gmail.com

248-830-1080

1st Car Show of the Tri – Pontiac Car Shows

Michigan Widetrackers Annual Spring Dust-Off,
 Motor City POCI Summer Roundup,
 Sellers Buick GMC Indian Summer Car Show
 (Prizes awarded for attendance)

Charities Supported by Show Proceeds

Oxford/Orion FISH Pantry
 The Refuge - Lapeer
 Gleaners Food Bank
 Grace Centers of Hope
 Forgotten Harvest
 Light House Emergency Services - Clarkston
 Stone Soup Food Pantry
 Orion Veterans Memorial
 Easter Seals
 Lake Orion Police Association
 Stahls Automotive Foundation
 Lake Orion Lighted Parade

Participant Judged Show

Widetrackers Members not eligible to vote...

CHECK YOUR CALENDAR

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.

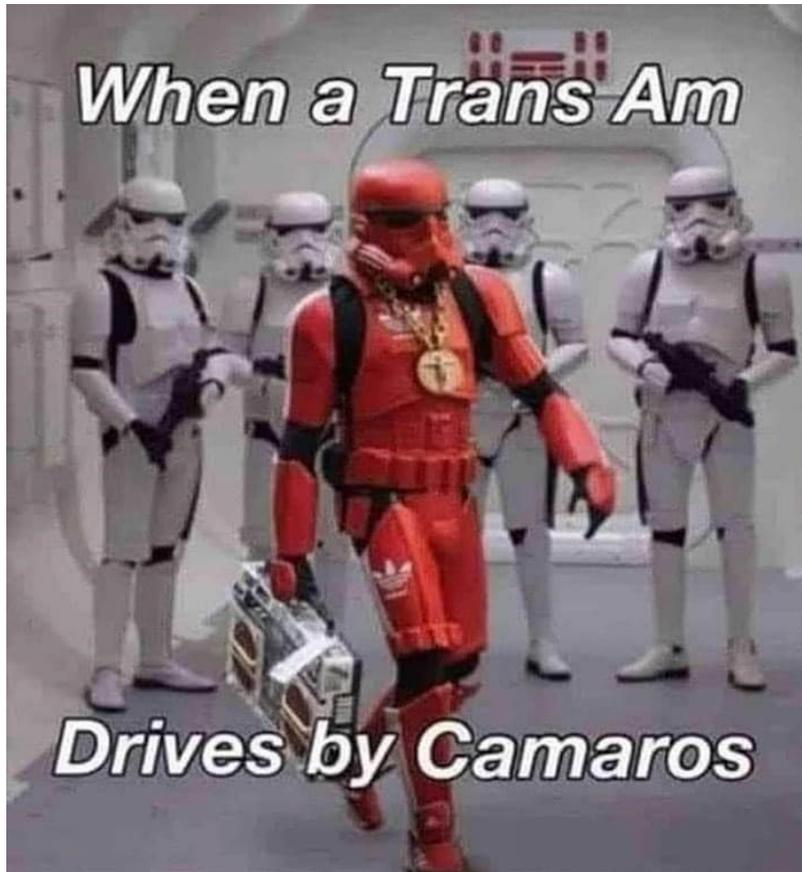
Call Don Smith 248-709-6857

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

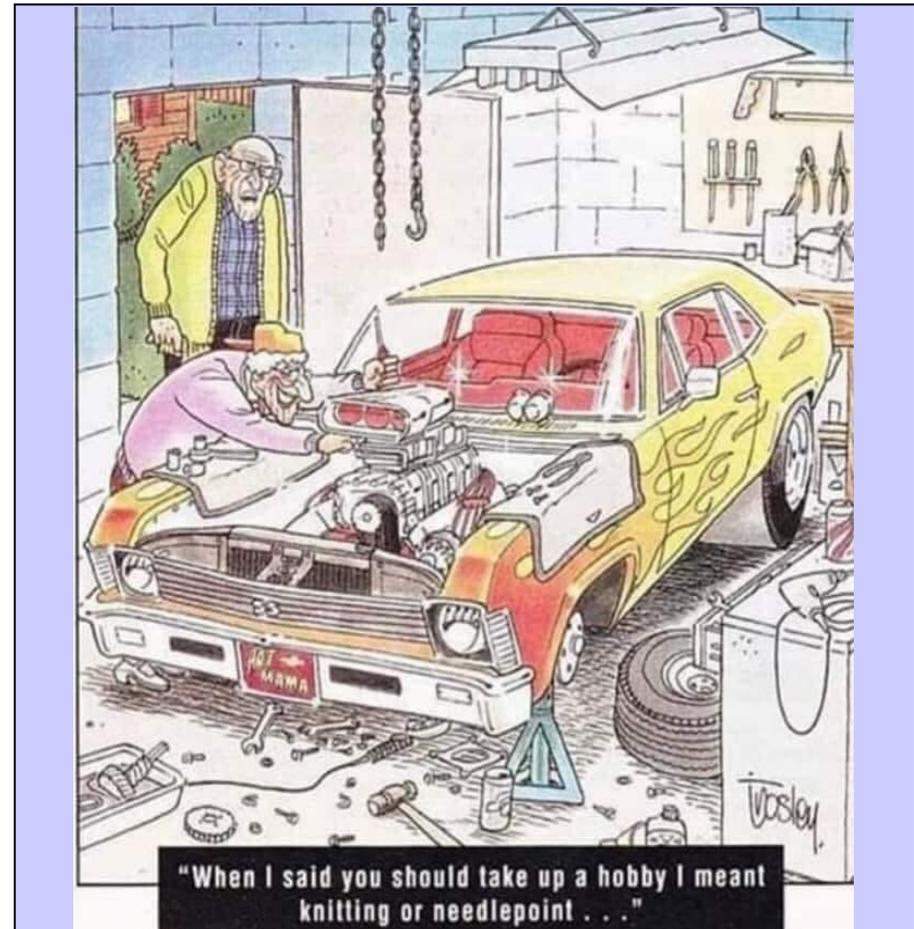
Trans Am Style



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.

MISC. ITEMS



Porsche is replacing gasoline with air and water

tinyurl.com/murp52ek

Fuel For Thought: Are Emerging Scientific Technologies the Future of the Internal-Combustion Engine?

<https://tinyurl.com/52vpcnvw>

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

(CONTINUED)

I hope some of you were able to attend the Detroit Autorama this year, There were tons of wonderful cars however only a small number of Pontiacs. Those that were there were absolutely gorgeous. I had the opportunity to speak with a lot of them while passing out flyers for the dust off. I am hoping they will show up so others can enjoy them as much as I did.

I also got to speak with the volunteers from the Pontiac Transportation Museum as well. What an awesome group who are out there spreading the Pontiac automotive history. They work very hard for what they believe in and I believe our membership does the same with our club.



Let's all have a safe and enjoyable year and may the Widetrackers do well at the shows this season.

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: ARNOLDG99@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!

- | | | |
|---------------------|---|---|
| Apr. 8 | WIDETRACKER'S CLUB MEETING
5:30pm | Golling Buick GMC,
Lake Orion, MI |
| Apr. 15 | LID No Prep Points Race #1
Noon—6pm | Lapeer International
Dragway (LID) 2691
Roods Lake Rd, Lapeer,
MI |
| Apr. 16 | MONROE AUTO SWAP MEET AND CAR SHOW | Monroe County Fair-
grounds 3775 S Custer
Road, Monroe, MI |
| BEFORE MAY 1 | Reminder: Michigan Wide-trackers Membership Renewal is the end of April. Membership has been increase this year to \$20.00, which is due on or before May 1st. | Please make your check payable to "Michigan Widetrackers" and mail it to me at 4993 E. Harvard Ave. Clarkston, MI 48348 or bring cash or check to the April meeting. |
| May 6 | M1 Concourse Cars & Coffee
GM Brands Featured | M1 Concourse
Pontiac, MI |
| May 13 | WIDETRACKER'S CLUB MEETING
5:30pm | Golling Buick GMC,
Lake Orion, MI |

CLUB CONTACTS

Michigan Widetrackers New Officers for 2022

President

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

Secretary

Larry Marsh
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larrymarsh4@yahoo.com

Director

Arnold Boersma
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Director

Jerry Liske
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Treasurer

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248-396-6848
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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