

THE

Lone Star Chapter is pleased to welcome all POCI members to North Texas for a unique and exciting convention experience in July 2017. It will truly be a convention filled with many "firsts," including the first POCI convention in North Texas and the first-ever to be held at a NASCAR race track!

Yes, guys and gals, you will be able to display your classic Pontiac, Oakland or GMC Truck at the historic Texas Motor Speedway in North Ft. Worth and even pilot it around their high-speed, 23-degree banked turns on the thrilling 1.5 mile oval. Just be sure to keep up with the pace car! The prestigious NASCAR garages will house the Points-Judged cars, and the eighth-mile drag races will be held in a dedicated area right down Pit Row!

The Lone Star Chapter is prepared to show you a super time in the Dallas-Ft. Worth Metroplex. Our chapter was founded in 1978, when Firebirds and Trans Ams ruled both the sales charts and the streets around the USA.

2017 will mark the 50th anniversary of our fabulous Firebirds and the legendary 1967 GTOs, so of course we'll be giving special attention to everyone's favorite 1967 models.

North Texas has so much fun and entertainment to offer that you'll be challenged to fit it all in! Let's start with Arlington, right on I-30 & Highway 360. Choose from Six Flags over Texas or the giant Hurricane Harbor Water Park. How about a tour of AT&T Stadium, the NFL's largest indoor stadium and the home of Super Bowl XLV?

Prefer Major League Baseball instead? Take in a Texas Rangers game at the beautiful and convenient Globe Life Park. And, don't forget to see GM's impressive Arlington plant which, between 1968 and 1972, produced tens of thousands of Tempest, LeMans and GTOs but today proudly cranks out full-size GMC sport utilities in vast quantities.

For the history buffs, we recommend Downtown Dallas and the West End district, or explore the Amon Carter Museum complex in Ft. Worth.

There will be plenty of outstanding restaurants to choose from, including many which feature that famous Texas Bar-B-Que we've all come to love. Bring your boots as well, because you will definitely want to spend some time at the Ft. Worth Stockyards and kick up your heels at Billy Bob's Dance Hall doin' your Texas Two Step!

The Lone Star Chapter is very proud to host POCI's 45th and we are convinced you will thoroughly enjoy our special part of the Southwest. There will be many opportunities to make unforgettable memories with your POCI friends and family.

Looking forward to seeing you and your Pontiacs, Oaklands and GMC Trucks next July! **JN**



The Great American Speedway



the old saying goes, “*Everything is bigger in Texas.*” The huge Texas Motor Speedway in north Ft. Worth is living proof of that adage. The first time you see this massive NASCAR facility, you will stare in amazement. Texas Motor Speedway (TMS) became part of the motorsports landscape in April 1997 and the venue has made an indelible impression over the course of the past 20 racing seasons. The biggest names in stock car and IndyCar racing have done battle here, and millions of fans have seen thrilling side-by-side duels accompanied by numerous fantastic finishes.

It all began in 1995 when owner Bruton Smith decided to construct a super speedway in north Texas, adding a valuable stop to the NASCAR circuit. The ideal location chosen was at the intersection of Interstate 35W and Texas Highway 114. Ground was broken on April 11, 1995 by none other than Texas racing legends Bobby & Terry Labonte of Corpus Christi, assisted by a young Jeff Gordon! Talk about good karma — Terry won the Texas 500 Spring race in 1999 and Jeff Gordon won it in 2009! This was the beginning of a rich tradition over the past two decades which has paid big dividends to race fans. POCI is thrilled to be able to utilize such an elite facility for our 45th convention in July 2017.

When there is mention of the “Big Four” prestigious motorsports venues, Texas Motor Speedway has certainly taken its place alongside Daytona, Indianapolis, and Charlotte Motor Speedway. A triumph at TMS is accompanied by an air of distinction and

accomplishment for both drivers and teams. Plus, the Victory Lane celebration with cowboy hats, pistols, and the driver’s name being engraved on the Wall of Champions is unparalleled. We can all remember Dale Earnhart Junior’s first NASCAR Sprint Cup Victory, embracing his proud dad in an emotion-filled, tears-of-joy-moment. It happened right here at TMS on April 2, 2000 in front of 223,000 cheering fans. Jeff Burton, two-time winner at TMS, said it best when he explained the significance of winning a race here: “Texas Motor Speedway is the shining example of how a speedway *should* be run. From start to finish, TMS does every-





thing *first class*. The Victory Lane celebration is unlike any other in our sport. It is an honor for me to be the first repeat Sprint Cup winner at TMS.”

Texas Motor Speedway, with its huge seating capacity and infield, is among the largest sports stadiums in America. The enormity of this Ft. Worth venue is best illustrated by the fact that four AT&T Stadiums — which is the 100,000 seat home of the Dallas Cowboys — could fit inside TMS. The facility also has many amenities that were rare when it was built. The track has 144 luxury suites for maximum viewing pleasure and comfort. Anchoring the south end of the track are two impressive structures: the Lone Star Tower with its exclusive condos and office space; and then next you see the exclusive members-only Speedway Club that features fine dining, a spa and health club, and is capped off by an expansive ballroom with a perfect view of turns 1 and 2. As a result of all these race fan benefits, TMS has become a design model for other speedways to emulate. No wonder that a prominent Ft. Worth sports writer gave it the tag “*The Great American Speedway!*” in a big news story after the 2000 season.

Now for a few track stats for you dedicated racing enthusiasts. Texas Motor Speedway showcases a 1.5-mile oval with 24-degree banking in the turns. The straightaways have 5-degree banking on the 2,250-foot frontstretch and the 1,330-foot backstretch. Track width is 58 feet at a

minimum. The four turns have a 750-foot radius, and pit road can accommodate 45 stalls. During July, pit road is converted to an eighth-mile drag track so muscle car owners can test their skills in TMS’s Friday Night Open Drags events. TMS caters to stock car, truck, and open-wheel racing. NASCAR has a Spring and Fall Sprint Cup race here, plus the track hosts the Xfinity Series and Camping World Truck Series. IndyCar comes to TMS every June for some very exciting 220+ mph wheel-to-wheel competition. Remember when *Big Tex* himself, A.J. Foyt, tussled with Arie Luyendyk in Victory Lane after the 1997 race? Fans loved that action and the beauty of night-time racing under the track’s

high-tech, innovative lighting system. And you will love taking your prized Pontiac out on the track for a unique experience parading around those high-banked turns with the TMS pace car leading the way!

One of the newest and most popular features at TMS is the “Big Hoss” high-definition TV screen on the east side of the track. It is the world’s largest TV, measuring 218 feet wide by 94.6 feet tall. The screen’s surface area is 20,633 square feet, which is the equivalent of half an acre! The support beams for the frame had to be anchored 42 feet underground given that the TV’s total weight is 108 tons. Those heavy-duty beams allow the TV to withstand a 140 mph wind. The total height of the TV structure is as high as a 12-story building. Fans will tell you the view is fabulous from anywhere in the stands!

There are 4.8 million pixels in the screen and they can show 281 trillion colors. A separate TV control room coordinates the 19 track cameras to capture video on all points of the big oval. Summer nights bring drive-in type movies to Big Hoss, and *Smokey and the Bandit* has been one of the favorites. Be sure and bring your popcorn!

Texas Motor Speedway is a world-class, state-of-the-art motorsports facility rich in tradition and appeal. Several convention events will be handled on the TMS property including our secured trailer parking. Don’t miss this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to join POCI for an unforgettable 2017 convention experience! **JN**

