

2018 Convention Preview — by Joe Morgan

Being a Pontiac fan in Wisconsin isn't a hobby for those who are weak of will or impatient.

We are lucky to have an annual transition through four distinct seasons of weather, but some of these seasons aren't too "friendly" towards Pontiacs. The winter solstice may not begin until December 21, but winter has usually visited us at least a couple of times up to seven or eight weeks before that.

Those early snowfalls often bring out our biggest dreaded enemy, SALT! Salt has been the death of way too many Pontiacs over the decades, so most Pontiac fans here are now careful to protect their beloved cars from its evil ravages.

Spring is supposed to arrive around mid-March but, for many years, it seems as though Mother Nature never got the memo; there are times when we still see snow past that date. And, whenever we do see snow, we see that nasty salt again (or even worse, the brine and other harsh chemicals that our roads get treated with these days). This stuff helps to make our roads a bit safer, but its effect on vehicles is unspeakable.

These weather patterns aren't all bad, though. They help to paint the rolling landscape of Wisconsin in a variety of colors throughout the driving seasons. The scenery here during spring, summer, and fall is truly amazing! As long as the salt is off the roads, plenty of Wisconsin Pontiac fans get their cars out and enjoy them in whatever way possible.

There are shows, cruises, races and many other great ways to enjoy your Pontiac, Oakland or GMC Truck. We may only have between six or seven good months each year to exercise our Pontiacs within this picturesque backdrop, but POCI fans in Wisconsin certainly make the most of it.

Starting around mid-May and continuing through late-September, there are numerous car shows and automotive happenings nearly every weekend within a short drive. Count on a number of beautiful cars from all eras being in attendance. We are frequently amazed



at some of the rare and beautiful cars that suddenly appear when the weather turns nice.

This weather background has helped to shape the hobby for the co-hosting clubs of the 2018 POCI Convention. The Badger State Chapter POCI and God's Country Pontiac Association are looking forward to welcoming all like-minded enthusiasts to join us for the first-ever POCI convention to be held in our state.

The Badger State Chapter POCI was formed in 1980 by Jack Hughes and former *Smoke Signals* editor Larry Kummer. Being together now for nearly 40 years, this chapter has managed to bring together a diverse group of people who each share an enthusiasm and love

for the hobby. The highlights of their yearly events include a Spring Dust Off Gathering which is held at the home of Chapter President Todd Zimmerman. They also host a popular Pontiac show in Oshkosh, WI each June.



Chula Vista Resort

Their membership has a strong representation of classic Pontiacs, with an energetic resurgence of modern Pontiacs, too! With a roster of nearly 100 families, members reside mainly in the eastern part of our state around Milwaukee and the Fox River Valley.

God's Country Pontiac Association was founded in the Spring of 1993 with a group of eight members and their cars — which all happened to be GTOs. The group started out as a GTO group, and they had their first gathering at the home of Jeff Bruch in Baraboo, WI. They jumped right in and held their first show that fall in Sauk City, WI.

As the years progressed, membership was opened to all Pontiacs, and the shows are now held in September in Waunakee, WI. In addition to their annual show, members of the club also do a summer picnic and cruise, and attend other shows as a group.

The club includes a nice blend of GTOs, Firebirds and an assortment of other Pontiacs to add some character. The membership of this club is centered around Madison, WI, but members hail from all around South Central Wisconsin.

The two clubs have many similarities, and several of the members have known each other for many years. Both clubs look forward to welcoming you to share what we love so much about our great state.

If you have never visited Wisconsin

before, then you're in for a real treat! The event is being held in Wisconsin Dells, which makes it somewhat centrally located in our state. It is located right along a major interstate, so getting there from anywhere in the country will be convenient.

"The Dells" is a unique part of our state that was carved by glaciers and later shaped by the Wisconsin River. It is a destination for many visitors from around the world each year.

We plan to offer several fun options to keep you busy during the convention, and our proximity to all the entertainment and activities of the Wisconsin Dells means that there will be something fun for everyone!

We are offering something that can only be described as "Pure Americana" on Monday night. When was the last time that you attended a drive-in movie? On Monday evening we will cruise from our convention's headquarters at the Chula Vista Resort to the Big Sky Drive-In Theatre about five miles away. Just try to imagine the sight of a drive-in theatre brimming with so many Pontiacs, Oaklands and GMC Trucks!

Big Sky boasts two full-sized outdoor screens, and features a double feature of first-run movies. There are two different movies offered each night



on each screen, so you can pick the two that appeal most to you. Unlike in the old days when we suffered through grainy pictures and poor sound quality, Big Sky features new digital equipment and stereo sound. They offer a concession stand with a variety of food and snacks including their featured Mama-burger and homemade Sloppy Joes. This will offer everyone a fun way to take their Pontiac to the movies!

We have many other fun items planned for attendees, so watch this space for updates in the coming months. Mark your calendars for Sunday, June 24 through Thursday, June 28, joining the Badger State Chapter POCI and God's Country Pontiac Association for the 46th Annual POCI International Convention at Chula Vista Resort in Wisconsin Dells, WI. We look forward to seeing you there! **IN**

