

JUNE-JULY 2023 NEWSLETTER

The Original *Pontiacion* Chapter...
The Keystone State Chapter
Pontiac Oakland Club International



Founded 1975; LONGEST CONTINUOUSLY OPERATING CHAPTER



2023 GM on DISPLAY



IN THIS ISSUE:

- GM on Display
- April and May Tours
- Calendar of Events

- Two day tour reminder
- Part 2 of Petroliana - *oil cans*
- Other shows for your consideration



From the Chief

I'm sitting here this evening writing the President's message and reveling in this past weekend's GM on Display Car Show. It is the first show of the year sponsored by our club and I can say, in my opinion, it was a huge success. See Rosemary and Don Haley's article in this newsletter. In reflecting on the success of the 44th annual GM on Display

I cannot fail to mention the exciting start to the club's 2023. It started with our annual club meeting in February attended by 50+ club members. We discussed several and solved issues and planned the year. Those plans started out in April with a tour of Bill's Old Bike Museum, which was much more than bikes. In May there was an enjoyable tour of the Pennsylvania Railroad Museum in Strasburg, Pa. followed up with an amazing lunch at a local Amish Smorgasbord. See articles in this newsletter.

All this led to our just completed GM on Display Car Show. The balance of the year will be full of additional club activities. After the National POCI convention in Murfreesboro, TN (let me know if you are attending) then look forward to a trip to Knobels Amusement Park, another great club tour/museum, a two-day club bus trip, a couple of car shows Das Awkscht Fescht and the clubs fall show, junk yard tour, and Christmas Party. All of these will be detailed in the upcoming newsletters and email announcements. **Do not forget our Fall Meet on October 1st.**

Enjoy the summer and represent the Keystone State Chapter at your local car shows, have fun, stay safe this season and drive those cars.

See ya down the road! Tom

Welcome New Members

John Giampietro

James Hall

Donald Heimbach

Michael Lease



Two Day Bus Trip - PLEASE REPLY IF YOU INTEND TO PARTICIPATE!!!

Our 2 day bus trip is scheduled for October 14 & 15 to Hershey PA and Baltimore Aquarium and Fort McHenry. The full details and sign up form can be found in our last newsletter or I can email you a copy. We had such a great time last year talking cars and making new friends. It seems like a long way in the future but preparations take time. We are not requiring anyone to put a deposit on the trip this early but, we need to make sure we have enough interest to put all the work and deposits on the line. We will need to make a call by August, if we don't have enough seats filled, we may need to change our plans.

If you are interested in joining us, we are asking you to please contact Karen Britton no later than July 30th by phone (267-374-2799) or by email at britton231@comcast.net



If you missed the details in the last newsletter, here are a few of the highlights we are planning on doing. We will have 2 pick up locations this year, one in Boyertown and the other a little further west in Hershey. Our first stop will be at the AACA Museum on Saturday morning. If you are an AACA member, the museum entrance is free. After lunch we will get a private tour of the AACA Library and then onto the "Behind the scene tour" of the museum. Hank Hallowell and Don Barlup will be helping us with our afternoon tours.

Our hotel for the evening is the Holiday Inn Express in New Cumberland. You will need to call them and setup your own reservation. Ask for Stacy when you call and use "Pontiac Club" to receive the special room rates. October is a busy travel month so you will want to reserve your room early.



On Sunday, the bus will drive us to Baltimore. No worrying where to park, the bus will drop us off right at the National Aquarium in the Inner Harbor. You can find many restaurants in the Inner Harbor for lunch before the bus picks us up. For our final stop the bus will take us just outside of the city to Fort McHenry. The defense of the fort in 1814 inspired Francis Scott Key to write the words that became the U.S. National Anthem. We will watch an inspiring movie and then walk on our self guided tour of the fort right along the Patapsco River.

This year's deposit of \$95 will be used to pay towards the clubs cost of prepaid tickets to the aquarium, AACA "Behind the scene" tour, drivers room and a portion of the bus. You will not find a better deal for a bus trip. The Chapter is not running this for a profit. We are not making money on any tickets. We are doing it for the fellowship, so please consider joining us for a weekend of cars and fun!

APRIL TOUR TO BILL'S OLD BIKE BARN

Our first outing of the season was held on Saturday, April 15th. We had a group of 13 members attend this memorable visit to Bill's Old Bike Barn, near Berwick, Pa. The museum name would suggest it is a motorcycle museum, and it is that, but also much more. This eclectic and diverse assembly of collectibles is both astonishing and overwhelming. The owner has been a long time Harley-Davidson dealer and repair facility, and had started to collect Harley related memorabilia since he opened his dealership many years ago. It soon became clear that the collection was overtaking his limited space. He also started to receive notice from the Harley Company that they did not approve of his display and use of some of their licensed advertising in his dealership. Hence, the obvious solution was to open a museum on the hill behind his dealership. And that he did, but again it soon filled to overflowing, so he started to process of constructing numerous additions to the building.

Link to all the photos: <https://photos.app.goo.gl/WvMuVn8ju2Q3QJ8e9>

While the original focus was motorcycles and related collectibles, he soon started to collect just about anything imaginable. What evolved is a unique and interesting collection that is neatly displayed in an orderly and logical fashion, using a format of many small storefronts within the building. Things such as photography, electronics, telephones, dental equipment, hairstyling equipment, military equipment, and too many other things to mention are on display. Even an airplane hangs on the ceiling, and there is a Rolls-Royce pickup truck in the building. The owner brought items back from excursions overseas as well. Bill, who is into his 80's now, was there and several members got to engage in some very interesting conversation with him.

After our museum tour, we adjourned to a nearby restaurant for some good food and fellowship. A few items of club business, as well as future endeavors were discussed prior to our departure.

Thanks to all who came, Ralph Keller



MAY TOUR TO THE PENNSYLVANIA RAILROAD MUSEUM

On Saturday, May 13, a total of 14 Keystone State Chapter members and guests visited the Pennsylvania State Railroad Museum located in Strassburg. This large museum is state of the art, and contains many unique engines, train cars, and related railroad memorabilia. A few of the exhibits are accessible for guests to enter and enjoy, including a boxcar outfitted to train RR employees on the operation of various mechanical equipment in use at that time.

The Pennsylvania Railroad was the standard railroad of the world in the early 1900's. A number of engines and pieces were unique to the Penney and had been designed and built by and for them exclusively, such as the Raymond Loewy designed GG-1 electric locomotives that were designed during the art deco era. Loewy was a highly successful industrial designer during that era and influenced many products. In another display, a steam engine has a pit underneath it so that visitors can actually walk under the locomotive to see the bottom.



Three unique engines, a Shay, a Climax and a Heisler are also on display. These were used on logging railroads to bring the harvested timber to market. They have many special features that allow them to make sharp curves on the track, and with all wheels being driven on the locomotive and tender, will allow them to go up much steeper grades than standard locomotives. Operating units can be seen at Cass, WV, where they are still in use for tourists to enjoy. Unfortunately, due to inclement weather, visitors were not permitted to walk around the outdoor displays for safety reasons. While all equipment inside the building is fully restored, the exhibits outdoors are awaiting some TLC to bring them back to their former glory.

A rare treat was the Norfolk and Western class J-1 steam locomotive which was on loan to the museum. A functional turntable outdoors allows engines to be selected from multiple tracks to be put on the main line. There are displays of what a passenger station, ticket office, and such would look like. They have several model train displays, with one being interactive allowing the guests to run the trains.

After our interesting visit, we adjourned to Miller's Smorgasbord restaurant, for an all you can eat Pennsylvania Dutch treat. We enjoyed great food and good fellowship.

By RALPH KELLER



Use this link to see all the photos:

<https://photos.app.goo.gl/ybxhF9rLqiRn7WuD8>

2023 UPCOMING EVENTS

**GET EVENT INFO AND PRE-REGISTER AT THE CLUB WEBSITE—
www.kscpoci.org**

Jan. 29, Sunday: Board and Planning meeting; Bird-In-Hand Fire House; 12:30 start. Food Provided.

April 15, Saturday: Bill's Old Bike Barn, Bloomsburg; see page 8 or website for details

June 4, Sunday: 44th GM on Display; Macungie Memorial Park, Macungie, PA;

June 26-July 1, National Convention (51st) – Murfreesboro, TN; www.poci.org

July 22, Saturday: Knoebels, details coming.

August 6, Sunday: Club Day at Das Awkscht Fescht; **Pre-registration only by July 1, get form for Sunday at: www.awkscht.com**

Oct. 1, Sunday: ALL GM show, PADRE PIO SHRINE, Bally, PA

Oct. 14 &15: Fall Tour in October

November 24, Friday: Black Friday Junk Yard Tour, see website for details.

December 2, Saturday; Christmas Party, Bird-In-Hand Restaurant, 12:30-4

January (late) 2024, Sunday: Board & Planning Meeting, Bird-In-Hand Fire House; 12:30 start

CHECK OUT OUR NEW POLO SHIRTS ON THE WEBSITE: www.kscpoci.org





44th Annual General Motors on Display



Cadillac



LaSalle

Picture this: June 4, 2023 and the 44th GM on Display hosted by the Keystone State Chapter of POCI. What a beautiful sunny but cool day to hold a car show. Success is judged not by the amount of vehicles or the flea market vendors but rather by the support of the club members who have stepped up and made this show magical. We couldn't have asked for a better weather day and all the support to make this show the success it was. Many thanks to all who worked in registration, the show field, DJ Kayla and door prizes donations.. It does take a village and we as a club truly stepped up to the challenge.

The show field was filled with 138 show cars, 2 cars in the car corral and 6 vendor spots. What more could we have asked for this beautiful day to celebrate our club and the amazing collection of vehicles. Looking forward to **June 2, 2024** for the 45th Annual GM on Display. Mark your calendars and Save the Date.

Thank you from Don & Rosemary



Use this link to see all the GM on Display photos: <https://photos.app.goo.gl/V8kp4EJg3qMVonhB7>
Or copy into your browser.

Petroliana Collecting – Part 2

Oil Cans

By Bill McIntosh

Collecting petroliana deals with accruing items related to vintage gas station and service garages (including dealerships). Three major segments of the hobby are (1) gas pumps, (2) oil cans, and (3) signs. In the first part of this series (Oct/Nov 2022 *Pontiaction*), I tried to give a comprehensive overview of gas pumps. This article is devoted to the subject of oil cans.

Early History of Oil Transport and Retail Dispensing

If you ever wondered why oil production is measured in barrels, it is really quite simple. When oil was discovered and pumped out of the ground at Edwin Drake's first well in western Pennsylvania, the early oil men used wooden barrels to store their treasure. After all, the wooden barrel was used to store and transport most other liquids. Nevertheless, wooden barrels proved to be less than ideal as they were subject to leaking, breaking and spilling the contents. And while no one complained about a little beer spilling, crude oil was a huge mess.



As the demand for both gas and oil grew rapidly in the first decade of the 20th century, the introduction of steel barrels and tanks thankfully became common practice for transporting.

In these early days, the concept of the stand-alone gas station had not come into being. Gas and oil were sold from the street-front porch of general and hardware stores. Soon, oil was kept by these merchants in what today are known as lubesters. Quite simply, lubesters were above-ground metal storage tanks with an external pump. When one needed oil to top off or refill a customer's sump, you put any suitable container under the discharge pipe and cranked away until you had the right amount of oil. It was then put into the car's sump via a funnel or similar device.

In my collection, I have two lubesters. One is generic, as is seen most often. Pictured here is the second one, which is branded as TEXACO with the original porcelain sign on the front. Particularly unusual is the chrome-plated pump mechanism with the letters "TEXACO" debossed into the shaft of pump. To my knowledge, this lubester is both original and rare.

Continued on next page



As a precursor to the oil can, companies began manufacturing and distributing glass jars specifically used to install oil into automobile sumps. The glass jar had many advantages -- accurate measure (jars were generally one quart), product visibility, and, with a “funnel-like” top, ease of filling the crankcase. Soon wire racks were used to hold six or more quarts (like milk bottles), and the proprietor could fill multiple jars ahead of each day’s sales.

While glass jars were a great improvement over what came before, they had two major disadvantages: they could break easily and the proprietor had to keep refilling the bottles from his lubester.

The One Quart Oil Can

Sometime in the 1930s the one quart oil can was invented, and American oil companies adopted them very quickly. These cans were branded by thousands of independent and incorporated companies throughout the country. Initially, one quart cans started out being manufactured by soldering the seams. Later came the ubiquitous crimped edge seam cans that lasted for many decades. The largest producer of one quart cans from the 1930s to the 1950s was American Can Company, also known as CanCo. Late in the life of the one quart can, can manufacturers and oil companies introduced the composite can; it had highly specialized cardboard sides and a metal top and bottom. For collectors, these cans may prove problematic as full quarts have a tendency to leak over time.

What is both amazing and fascinating about quart can collecting is the huge number of different cans that were produced. Along with the numerous brands, the graphics were equally varied and included depictions of airplanes, race cars, motorcycles, boats, animals, and many, many others. Each can in its own way represented an advertisement for the brand of oil while frequently extolling the benefits of using that brand in your motor. One quart cans became useful in and of themselves for promoting sales. They were displayed most frequently either in pyramid stacks in the gas station window or on racks mounted between gas pumps on the center island.

My Collection of Oil Cans

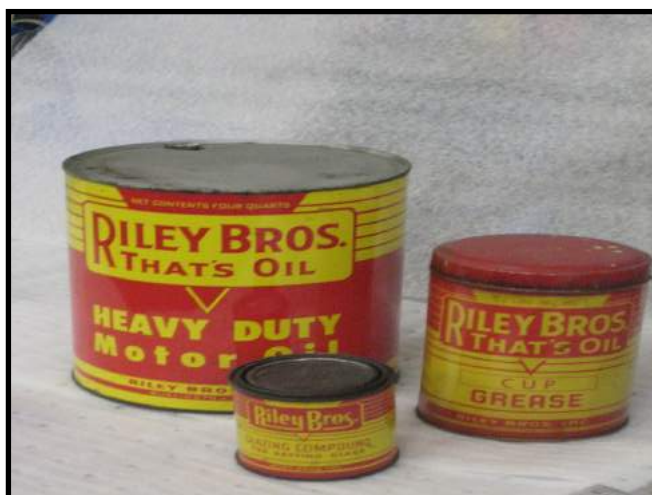
By most standards, my collection of oil cans is modest; it totals approximately 150 cans with many displaying the TEXACO brand. Seriously devoted collectors with both the interest and resources have collections ranging from hundreds to thousands of cans. Tim Dye, the editor of *Smoke Signals* and curator of the two Pontiac museums, is rumored to have many hundreds of oil cans. I understand his collection can be seen at the Pontiac Museum in Pontiac, IL.

Pictured here on a 25-foot long shelf at one end of my garage are about 100 (of 150) cans in my collection. This includes quart cans, a number of other cans of varying sizes (but not quarts), and a small sub-collection of grease cans. What can I say? Anything is fair game in the Petroliana collecting hobby!

Continued on next page



Probably the most unusual quart cans in my collection include: Falcon Motor Oil – Dependable and Tenacious; Empire State Motor Oil – 100% Pure; and Pennstate – Champion of Motor Oils – 100% Pure Pennsylvania Oil. I should mention that many, many companies and distributors made a big deal about their oils coming from Pennsylvania, particularly in the early years. Oil from Texas, Oklahoma, or California was considered inferior, despite the refining process that took care of impurities from non-Pennsylvania crude oil. In any case, there was quite a cachet associated with the oil coming from the original discovery source in western Pennsylvania. The company that likely made the most of this feature was Quaker State Motor Oil.



One of my favorite treasures is a trio of cans from the Riley Oil Company. They came up with a simple but effective motto: “That’s Oil.” The austerity of their design and the unpretentious motto always appealed to me. Note that only the four quart can is for oil while the other two are grease and window calking putty. If you are wondering about this last one, remember that putty is oil- or petroleum-based, so it’s not a big stretch.

Continued on next page



A few of the most unusually sized cans in my collection are shown in this photo. Compared to the standard quart-sized TEXACO can, you can see that the other three are somewhat larger. These cans are from my homeland, Canada. Prior to moving to the metric system, Canada used the English Imperial System of measure. In this system, a gallon contained five (yes, five) US quarts. Five US quarts were the equivalent of four Imperial quarts. Therefore, any quart oil cans manufactured for and distributed in Canada had 1 1/4 US quarts. Many cans for products sold both in the US and Canada would have English on one side and French on the other. Remember, Canada is a bilingual country.



This photo shows a variety of sizes of oil cans other than quarts. Some of the most popular sizes of oil cans were both four- and five-quart sizes as they represented a complete oil change in a can. Another very popular size was the two gallon in this picture the Capital Motor Oil can. The nice part of the two gallon size is that it offered a wonderfully large space for graphics and copy. Did you see on the Purity Oil can the built-in pouring spout? What will they think of next?

Lastly, shown below is a “pride of my collection” item. This is a “SELLOIL Display Service Cabinet” that would normally be placed between two gas pumps on the gas station’s island. It served to both display the oil brand being promoted by the station as well as a handy way to fill a customer’s crankcase without going back and forth from island to station. I have stocked both sides with all TEXACO brand oil cans -- a total of 56 cans!

Once a can of oil has been used, the can is then inserted upside-down in the internal of the cabinet. Then, any oil that did not come out of the can will drip into a recovery pan at the bottom of the cabinet. By taking out all the oil cans on one side, the bottom part of the cabinet face can be removed to retrieve the recovery pan and the oil within. Did you see the “punch and pour” spout sitting on top of the two top middle cans?

Stay tuned for Part 3 of this series: *Signs*.



Editor:
Richard Stover
2314 Fonthill Ct.
Langhorne, PA 19047
kscpociinfo@gmail.com

OTHER SHOWS TO CONSIDER

June 18, Saturday (Sunday also) Golden Age Air Museum, Bethel, PA (off I-78); Bi-planes, Bands, & Cruise In, Free admission for Classic Cars. <https://www.goldenageair.org/> Low key chance to show off our cars and enjoy a great museum and vintage planes coming and going.

July 9, Sunday: 42nd annual New Holland, PA Car Show. 400 E. Jackson St., New Holland (Community Park). Should be a large show. **You must pre-register by 12:00 NOON on Saturday July 8, 2023 to be a show participant.** See www.kscpoci.org under OTHER EVENTS for the flyer

Sept. 9, Saturday, Mt. Gretna (PA) Community Volunteer Fire Co. car show, 11am-4pm, \$15 pre-register with your name, email, & car info to the Fire Company at P.O. Box 177, Mt. Gretna, PA 17064 or \$20 day of show; food provided. More info? Email: 1sm1425j@aol.com See www.kscpoci.org under OTHER EVENTS for the flyer

Sept.10, Sunday: 9-3, ALL GM "Fiberglass & Steel" show at Macungie Memorial Park. Check the website: <http://www.allentowncorvetteclub.org/z23-fibglassteal-9010.pdf>

Sept. 24, Sunday: 10-3, 22nd annual (ALL MAKES) show at Star Buick & GMC
Check the website: www.gtopa.org

Oct. 21st Saturday: The 12th annual Flemington Speedway Historical Society Car Show, Hunterdon County (NJ) Fair Grounds, 1207 NJ-179, Lambertville, NJ 08530 (between Lambertville and Flemington on NJ-179). 600+ of everything you could think of on wheels. Low key chance to show off our cars and enjoy cars, trucks, and race cars, plus flea market.

Keystone State Chapter Membership Information

For general information, contact Karen Britton at kscmembership@gmail.com

For Pontiac-Oakland Club International information go to www.poci.org or email: pociworldhq@aol.com

Annual POCI dues are \$45.00 and includes a high quality color monthly magazine.

Annual Chapter dues are \$20.00 payable in **January.
It is recommended that you be a member of the P.O.C.I.
along with being a member of the
Keystone State Chapter.**

Pay on line at www.kscpoci.org or
Send dues payable to KSC-POCI, c/o Sandra Kemp;
1603 S. Main St.; Bechtelsville, PA 19505

2023 and 2024 Officers and Directors:

President: Tom Wright
Vice President: Sandy Kemp

Treasurer: Richard Stover
Secretary: Karen Britton
Director: Ken Fernsler
Director: Bill McIntosh
Director: Jim Martin
Director: Steven Martinez
Co-Activities Director: Ralph Keller
Co-Activities Director: George Burbage
Newsletter Editor: Richard Stover
Chapter Historian: Ralph Keller
Promotional Sales: George & Amy Burbage
Display Board: Marlin Guigley

Check out our web site: www.kscpoci.org