

Important Last-Minute Updates

story by Joe Morgan



Well, folks, the months and years of planning and preparation are about to pay off!

Members of Badger State Chapter POCI and God's Country Pontiac Association are looking forward to welcoming you to our beautiful state in just a matter of weeks. Chula Vista Resort in the Wisconsin Dells is going to be *the* place to be for all Pontiac, Oakland and GMC Truck fans, June 24-28, 2018, during the 46th Annual POCI International Convention! We look forward to seeing you there along with many enthusiasts from our extended Pontiac family.

We are extremely pleased with our pre-registration statistics thus far. The sheer numbers of attendees and cars expected are impressive, and this convention should be equal in size — *if not bigger than* — many conventions of the past.

By the time you read this update, you should have already completed and returned your Activity Guide Sign-Up Sheet. However, if you have not yet registered or completed your sheet, please contact the POCI Club Office immediately to learn if you can still participate in all the great activities that are planned. Also, check out the POCI website for the published schedules and details.

Here are all the latest updates to assist in making your participation as enjoyable as possible.



Early Arrivals and Trailer Parking

First off, we have learned that a number of attendees with trucks and trailers are planning to arrive early. That is great, as these folks will soon learn that there are many things to do within the region, and an early arrival will allow them to take advantage of these offerings. Please be advised though that many areas at the host hotel which are reserved specifically for our group will not become fully available for us until the afternoon and evening of Sunday, June 24, 2018; the co-hosting clubs cannot begin our setup until Noon on that day.

If you are arriving before that time, we ask for your patience. If you [are] staying at Chula Vista Resort, staff will help guide you as to where to temporarily park your truck and trailer. If you are *not* staying at Chula Vista Resort, then we ask that you please not bring your truck and trailer to the convention site until after 3:00pm on Sunday. We

intend to fill our off-site paved trailer parking area first in order to maximize the use of our reserved areas. (This site is located about one-half mile south of Chula Vista Resort on River Road at the dome parking lot.) We will have a shuttle van available to help people get between this off-site parking and the convention grounds themselves. Once we have filled the off-site parking, we will direct all remaining trucks and trailers to the onsite unpaved trailer parking area.

Road Tour Etiquette

We also want to give some guidance to folks who will be joining us for any of the Driving Road Tours scheduled for Monday and Tuesday. Please plan to line up for your Driving Road Tour approximately 20-30 minutes prior to your departure time. *Make sure that you have filled your gas tank prior to arrival!* This is absolutely critical. Some of the driving tours are lengthy, and some of the more thirsty cars may need every ounce of gas to complete the tours! Please also ensure that all passengers in your car are together, remaining with your car until the Driving Tour departs. We recommend that everyone take care of restroom breaks prior to lining up.

Nearly all of the tours have numerous stops that will allow “comfort breaks” along the way. Each of the Driving Road Tours will depart from the Chula Vista archway on Chula Vista Drive near the indoor water park building. There will be a Driver's Meeting at the Tech Inspection Tents, held 10-15 minutes before each tour leaves. We ask that all drivers attend this meeting and then return to their cars immediately afterwards. It is not necessary for your passengers to attend such meetings.

Each of the Driving Road Tours will leave precisely at its designated time. This is critical because we have reservations and arrangements made with locations en route that must be adhered

to. The Driving Road Tours cannot wait for you if you're delayed, so please be on time! If you arrive late, you will be provided with a route map; it will then be your responsibility to catch up with your group.

Specific Driving Tour Updates

We do need to announce some modifications to specific Driving Road Tours. Driving Tour #1 (Monday) has a change of venue. We were originally scheduled to go to Driftless Brewery and have lunch at Riverside Resort Restaurant. However, the brewery recently got funding for a major expansion, so they are now closed for remodeling. There aren't many other breweries that are otherwise open on Mondays for tours, but we have made satisfactory arrangements with Potosi Brewery and Winery. This tour will now stop there for both a tour *and* lunch. Of course, you will still enjoy the planned visits to the Ringbrothers facility and Ken's Klassics.

Driving Tour #4 (Monday) also has an update. Major road construction will prevent us from having lunch at Jeff's Rivers Edge Restaurant. Instead, the tour will take you to Good Old Days Restaurant — a great alternative without the road construction hassles.

Drive-In Movie Alert

We are thrilled that demand for our Monday evening Drive-In Movie Night has been outstanding. Over 140 Pontiacs, Oaklands and GMC Trucks plan to make the short trip to Big Sky Drive-In that night. Please note that the theater does not accept payment by credit or debit card for entry nor at the concession stand. Plan accordingly, and please have CASH available!

The convoy for this event will depart at 7:00pm from the Chula Vista archway. Please plan to line-up 10-15 minutes

prior to departure so we can get everyone prepared for the caravan. Chula Vista staff, security, and co-host club volunteers will be there to get things rolling. Please stay with your car, and follow instructions so that we can get everyone to the destination safely.

Upon arrival at the theater, you will need to decide which pair of movies you wish to view. Once you choose one of the two screens, you will not be able to switch, so please choose carefully! The actual movies playing that night have not yet been announced, but the titles will appear on the drive-in's website about a week prior to the event.

Duck Tour News

We are very pleased to see that over 200 people plan to take advantage of the Original Wisconsin Ducks tours on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday. Please remember that these tours depart each day at both 10:00am and 2:00pm. Each tour lasts about two hours.

Those of you who have signed-up early have already indicated your preference for a tour date and time. We politely request that you stick with that date and time because we must request the proper number of Ducks to transport our attendees based upon those reservations. We will do our best to accommodate any changes or adjustments, but we cannot make any promises due to limited seating on each Duck.

Motor Coach Tour Reminders

We also request that any attendees who have signed-up for Motor Coach Tours arrive at least 15 minutes prior to your designated departure time. The Harley-Davidson Tour departs on Monday and Tuesday at 9:00am. The Circus World Museum/Ringling Mansion Tour departs on Monday and Tuesday at 9:30am. Lastly, the Shopping & Antiques Tour departs on Monday and Tuesday at 10:00am. It is important that the Motor Coaches leave on time to keep our schedule, so please arrive promptly!

Guest Speakers in the Ballroom

We have some great speakers lined up this year. We are certain that you'll enjoy Don Meyer, Tim Dye, and Alex Beloff III, as announced in last month's update. Each of these interesting presentations will be held in the Grand Ballroom.

Parking Details and Shuttles

We do have some special requests to help us use our limited space wisely at this convention. For truck and trailer parking (as mentioned above), please follow the instructions and requests of the volunteers who will be parking you. We want to make sure that everyone will be able to get in and out of the designated areas, and that you will be able to get your vehicles out of the trailers safely. However, we likely will not be able to accommodate extra space around your rig. We apologize in advance, but we have to use our reserved space as efficiently as possible. We have guaranteed parking for all pre-registered trucks and trailers, all Points-Judged vehicles, all Popular Vote vehicles, and for all Road Warrior entries.

In addition, if you are staying at Chula Vista Resort and have a vehicle not listed above, you will have a spot as a "resort guest." However, if you are staying off-site and have a vehicle that is not entered in our shows, parking will be extremely limited. We ask that, whenever possible, attendees staying off-site with non-show vehicles should car pool or share rides. We will try to accommodate attendees the best we can, and we will have the POCI Shuttle to help, but parking for this last group might end up being a distance away from the show area. Again, we apologize in advance for any inconvenience.

Hot Laps and Road Warriors

Once again, we must remind everyone that the Tuesday afternoon

Dells Raceway Park Hot Laps are now limited ONLY to those who are participating in the Tuesday Driving Road Tours. Demand for this activity far exceeded our allotted time. If you really want to do the Hot Laps, you may still be able to sign-up for a Tuesday Driving Road Tour (if there are any remaining openings). Again, please contact the POCI Club Office to inquire as to availability.

Our Wednesday Road Warrior Cruise has grown into something *very special!* Demand has been so great that we have added a second afternoon cruise. The first 80 cars which signed-up will still depart as planned at 10:30am. However, the second batch of 80 cars will now depart at 1:00pm. This creates a unique opportunity, as sometime between 1:00-2:00pm, the two groups will pass one another, going in opposite directions. I encourage participants who have a "Go-Pro"-type camera or camcorder to have them ready, as this "passing" should make for an awesome sight!

The second group will be having lunch at Portofino Restaurant while following the same path (but in the opposite direction) as the first group. You should find something in your Registration Packet that tells you which group you're assigned to. Again, please plan to arrive at least 15-20 minutes prior to your departure time, along with a full tank of gas and all of your passengers nearby. We need to efficiently launch two groups of 80 cars, so your cooperation and promptness will be greatly appreciated!

Safe Travels

Our last request is for everyone attending to have safe travels! Please bring your Pontiac, Oakland or GMC Truck — or at least your enthusiasm for them — and be prepared to have a great time. The members of God's Country Pontiac Association and Badger State Chapter look forward to welcoming an ever-growing circle of POCI friends and family members to Wisconsin! **SM**

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