



47th Annual POCI Convention - July 16-21, 2019 Gettysburg, Pennsylvania

previews by Cary Schuck

In recent years, the number of Oaklands attending a POCI convention can be counted on the fingers of one hand. We are confident that the digits on both hands, and perhaps both feet, will not be enough to tally the Oakland automobiles expected on the field at Gettysburg in 2019!

Each of the two POCI chapters that will co-host next year's convention boast a number of Oakland owners amongst their ranks and we expect their cars to be in attendance. If you watched the promotional video in Wisconsin closely you may have even spotted a 1930 Oakland belonging to a member of the convention committee.

The artwork for the 2019 POCI Convention features three vehicles that will celebrate milestone anniversaries in 2019: a 1969 Firebird Trans Am, a 1949 GMC pickup, and a 1919 Oakland Touring Car that will reach the century mark! The Oakland that inspired that artwork is currently owned by POCI members and will

be part of a special display.

This particular car spent several months as a welcomed guest in our garage after Don Barlup displayed it at the 1988 POCI Convention. My wife and I both took advantage of Don's generous offer to drive the car, decided we wanted one of our own, and acquired the 1923 Oakland Touring Car that we saw for the first time at the 1980 convention. We look forward to taking our Oakland — now mechanically and cosmetically improved — back to Gettysburg next year.

Another significant Oakland that will return to Gettysburg is the 1929 Roadster that won "Best of Show" at the 1980 POCI

Convention. *Smoke Signals'* Tim Dye has located this car and plans to bring it to the show personally. We are working hard to make Oaklands an important part of the 2019 convention and extend a warm invitation to all Oakland owners, regardless of club affiliation, to join us for this special event.

Oaklands in Pennsylvania

Oaklands are popular in Pennsylvania, and the Keystone State Chapter has featured as many as eleven of these cars at one of our local meets. One beautiful 1929 Oakland Roadster was driven to nearly every meet — rain or shine — for years and won "Best of Show" consistently until the owner refused to accept any more awards.

Since 1964, the small eastern Pennsylvania town of Macungie has hosted an annual AACA show that has grown to become a three-day, thousand-car event. One day of "Das Awkscht Fescht" — the August Festival — is dedicated to individual car clubs and the Keystone State Chapter has participated there every year since 1976. To celebrate the 75th anniversary of Pontiac in 2001, the KSC sponsored a special display including Oaklands and informational material describing the relationship between the two marques.

In 2005, Das Awkscht Fescht established a separate class for Oaklands under the direction of the Oakland Owners Club, International. The OOCI was



founded in 1998 solely to meet the needs of Oakland owners; it is not affiliated in any way with POCI or its All American Oakland Chapter.

The OOCI brought 26 Oaklands to the field in 2007 to commemorate the 100th anniversary of that marque. Two years later, OOCI was the featured club and, despite rainy weather, displayed more than 20 Oaklands — including a half dozen from the Brass Era — under a large tent. The display was so popular the show organizers asked the club to return, and Oakland was again the featured car in 2016. This time the weather cooperated, and the 36 Oaklands in attendance ranged from a two-cylinder 1908 model to several of the last V8s from 1930 and 1931. Representing every era of production, the quality and variety of these Oaklands was nothing short of extraordinary!

The OOCI has clearly demonstrated that an independent club can effectively meet the needs of Oakland owners, some of whom have little interest in the broader spectrum of vehicles served by POCI. However, the Oakland owners who belong to both POCI and OOCI recognize that there are times when cordial relations and cooperation can work to the advantage of both clubs. The 2019 POCI Convention is one of those times, and your hosts are extending a special invitation to OOCI members to bring their spectacular cars to Gettysburg.

The Oakland Breakfast

The Oakland Breakfast outing is a continuing tradition that will take place on Thursday morning during the 2019 convention. Participants will leave the Gateway Gettysburg campus and travel about four-and-a-half miles through town to the Biggerstaff Catering facility on Seminary Ridge.

Named for the Lutheran Theological Seminary whose buildings still dominate the high ground west of town, the area was the scene of fierce fighting on the first day of the Battle of Gettysburg. Initially occupied by Union forces who used the cupola of the four-story seminary building as an observation post before retreat-



Shown here is the planning committee at the museum on Seminary Ridge - destination of the Oakland Breakfast run. They seem to be pondering something rather serious!

ing to a secondary defensive position, the ridge served as Confederate Army headquarters for the remaining two days of the battle. Throughout the battle and for some time afterward, the main building served as a field hospital where wounded from both north and south were treated.

Today this historic building houses an outstanding museum offering a different perspective on the battle and related issues. The museum will be open for tours after the Oakland Breakfast and is a recommended destination for all convention attendees who have free time during the week.

The "OK Corral"

POCI conventions are typically large shows with a multitude of classes scattered on a variety of show fields, and the 2019 Gettysburg gathering is expected to set new records for attendance. All Oaklands, however, whether registered for Points-Judging, Popular Vote consideration, or as non-judged "Road Warriors," will be grouped in one centrally located

display area.

Every Oakland will have a reserved spot in the "Oakland Corral" for the duration of the convention. It will be a show within a show where these unique vehicles can be enjoyed and appreciated by all attendees. It may even result in some new Oakland enthusiasts and future owners!

Remember, in 2019 the best address for Oakland is not California, but Gettysburg, Pennsylvania! **JSN**

2019 POCI Convention Overflow Hotels

Gettysburg Comfort Suites:
800-334-6912

Gettysburg Country Inn & Suites:
717-337-9518

Gettysburg Hampton Inn:
717-338-9121

Gettysburg Hilton Garden Inn:
717-334-2040