

The newsletter of the Motor City Chapter of Pontiac-Oakland Club International

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www.motorcitypoci.com

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Meetings held at

Bakers of Milford

www.bakersofmilford.com

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Kenny G's Message

Will this winter never end. Mother nature has been so cruel by giving us glimpses of sun and

a warm day here and there, but then blasting us with snow and cold weather the other days. I'm getting a serious case of "cabin fever" and can't wait for the warm weather and the "car season" to get here. At least this year, Linda and I aren't recuperating from surgeries like last year.

Keep a look out for messages from Tim Dye (usually forwarded by Ray or Doug) about needing volunteers for the 2026 national POCI convention being held in Pontiac at the Museum and M1 Concourse June 23-27th, 2026. It'll take an army of people from all three Michigan clubs, The Michigan Widetrackers, Motor City POCI and the Western Michigan chapter along with Museum folks and countless other volunteers to make it a success. The hope is that with this being the 100 year anniversary of the Pontiac brand and it being held in the hometown, that the attendance will be way up. Unfortunately, that also means we need lots of volunteers. Keep in mind that depending on the job, a lot of the work could be up front, early next year and/ or we'll need the majority of the people during the week of the convention.

Remember, the club is still looking for an activities coordinator to replace Mike after he stepped down.



Ramblings of an Irishman

Editor: Brian Dougherty

As Ken mentioned, I'm fed up with the cold weather. I never considered myself a "Snowbird" or Florida fan, but I might have to rethink that if future winters continue to be this cold.

Anyways, finally got my Grand Prix into a body shop from hitting the deer last fall. As you can imagine, the shop had to free up time to work on it and I had a lot of trouble sourcing a good hood. Surprisingly, I found one about 20 miles from my house through the Widetracker's. Hoping to get it done before summer!

The plan at this time is to open Phase 2 of the PTM in mid May. If you didn't see

the emails, we're looking for display cars for that day. Contact me or Al Houtman if you'd like to bring yours please. The Museum is doing a great lecture series called "The Wheels of Time" the first Thursday of each month and our very own member, Bruce Annett gave a wonderful lecture in March to a packed house. I've included some pictures of the event on the following page.

There are a lot of events planned at



the Museum this summer including Cars and Coffee's, watch parties, Drive In movies and events around Dream Cruise. Monitor the website or my newsletters for dates and times.

The Museum is also doing a membership drive at differing levels depending on your circumstances and I have the distinction of being member #1.

Remember, the museum is a great spot for events of any kind!



To the right, Bruce has begun his presentation that lasted about an hour. Below you see a capacity crowd. The auditorium is rated for a max of 99 people and every seat looks full.

Questions and answers period coordinated as well as the lectures by volunteer Rick David as seen to the right below..





The picture on the left shows The "guys" getting things set up and Bruce psyching himself up for the talk.

You're looking pretty dapper there Bruce!









Talk to Al Houtman if you want to show your car at the car café at 9 am please!

Treasurer's notes:

Total bank balance =

Ray Golota

Hope everyone is surviving the long winter and looking forward to warmer weather like me?

Special shout out to fellow member **Scott van Tamelen**.

Not only is he a member of our club, but he's a member of the widetrackers and the president of the West Michigan chapter, but he's also the **treasurer** of the national **POCI** and will be the **Great Lakes regional Director** of POCI. Starting June 1st.



Highlights—Financial- End of January 2025

Motor City POCI bank balance = \$9299.18

Chad Tough balance = \$30.67

\$9329.85

Our website,

www.motorcitypoci.com

At our holiday dinner in January, Phil Balmforth was the winner of the engraved brick paver at the PTM.

https://www.pontiactransportationmuseum.org/become-a-part-of-our-community/engraved-pavers/

For those of you that are not members of Pontiac-Oakland Club International (POCI) of which we are Chapter 91 within this Club, here is a link to join https://secure.poci.org/
POCI_Membership.cfm.

2025 Pontiac convention will be held on June 8 - 12, in Louisville, Kentucky.

https://www.poci.org/annual-convention

<u>2025 Summer Roundup will take place on Saturday, September 13th</u> at Bakers in Milford. Registration will open up in April.

2026 POCI convention will be held on June 21 - 28, in Pontiac, MI at M1 Concourse.

Ray

Treasurer - Motor City POCI

Editor: John Berzsenyi

We Say Farewell To Our Friend Ben Harrison

Dear Motor City POCI members,

I'm sad to report chapter member Ben Harrison passed away on November 5th at the age of 81. As many of you know, he influenced (or even single-handedly created the idea for) some of the great Pontiacs we all love.

Ben was very giving of his time to the Pontiac community, and to our chapter in particular. He loved to hear people share their enthusiasm for Pontiac's great cars, and it was clear to see that over the years his own enthusiasm had not diminished in the least. He was a living link to Pontiac's glorious past, a

friend, and a true gentleman. He will be missed.

Gains McDonald

Upper: Ben holding a steering wheel from one of the first Firebirds he drove. Right: Ben & John Schinella at the Pontiac Summer Roundup in 2014



Industry News::

- GM adds workers and volume for the full size trucks at Ft Wayne Assy the day
 after Trump announces increased tariffs heading the nation into fair trade
 agreements with other nations, This is about 50 years too late.
- Ford and Stellantis offer employee pricing to all customers—GM refuses at this time.
- GM opens new headquarters in Ecuador
- Cadillac expects EV sales to be 1/3 of overall sales in 2025
- Ford is advertising post-tariff pricing
- · Stellantis temporarily halts production at facilities in Mexico and Canada
- Jaguar Land Rover pauses shipments to US
- Buyers scurry to buy cars before the tariffs take effect causing some automakers to have record month sales
- Hyundai ramping up production in the US since they were already building new factories here
- Ferrari to pass on to customers any price increases
- BMW said they would absorb any cost increases on any cars made in Mexico for the time being
- Car repair to surge as inventory drops and tariffs take effect
- Cadillac receives final approval for a Formula One team
- Audi pauses US deliveries
- 2026 Hyundai Nexo is Hydrogen powered
- Virginia considers law to slap speed limiters on frequent speeder's cars
- The best selling nameplate in the auto industry and has sold over 50 million cars is the Toyota Corolla.

Member Happenings::

To the right is fellow member, Chris Fodell's chevy. Chris has quite a nice collection of classics and we're lucky to have him as a member.

Even though I started the segment with a Chevy, Pontiac's were well attended! I'm only able to show some of them.

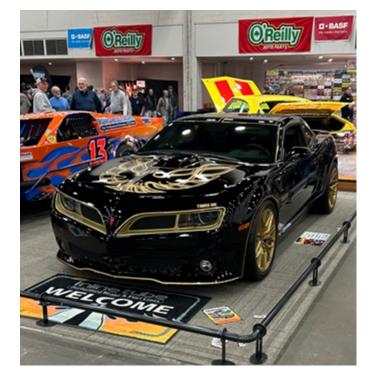


Autorama 2025



Here we show some different takes on the Trans Am nameplate. A beautiful original 69' along with a heavily modified early 70's and a modern Camaro conversion below in my favorite color combo.









Above we see the PTM booth at Autorama which I helped man over the weekend. Fellow volunteer Tony Karew had his beautiful Trans

Am on display next to it as shown in the upper right. The GTO to the right had an interesting take on the Judge theme by calling his car "The Prosecutor"





The wagon on the left is probably the most beautiful wagon I've ever seen. This was restored by Scott Tiemann of Super Car Specialties so I would expect no less. It's owned by a California family.



The 72' GTO on the left was a beautifully restored car in Verdero Green. I wasn't always a fan of the 71-72 redesign of the nose because I thought the 69-70 was perfect but it's grown on me. Below we have some great looking older GM trucks. A GMC to the left and a Chevy below. It seemed there wasn't as many restored trucks this year as previous years.







To the left is the only 74 Pontiac, Nova based, one there. I can't remember if it was a GTO or just a Ventura model? I think most people would agree that these did not sit well with Pontiac purist's at the time, but again, they've grown on some of us and today they are quite rare. There is a nice white 74' GTO at the PTM that I actually like today.

Interesting Stuff:

6 Cool Stunts Orchestrated by Automakers

Grace Jarvis
28 March 2025

If you ever worry that you are crazy (or that *we're* crazy, for that matter), take comfort in the fact that people who promote cars can be even loonier than those who buy, fix, and race them. It's in a promoter's job description to be provocative and surprising, whether that's <u>ramming a Jeep through a glass wall</u>, <u>putting a Mustang on the Empire State Building</u>, <u>backflipping a Mini in the Alps</u>, or making a car out of cake. (You're forgiven for assuming the last was the British. It was the Czechs—<u>Škoda</u>, to be precise.)

This is by no means an exhaustive list of the coolest stunts done to promote cars—it's simply some of the most daring and action-packed. (Hence why Lexus' famous champagne glass stunt, in which the LS400 was going 155 mph on a dynamometer, is an honorable mention.)

Which automotive stunt made your jaw drop IRL, as the kids say?

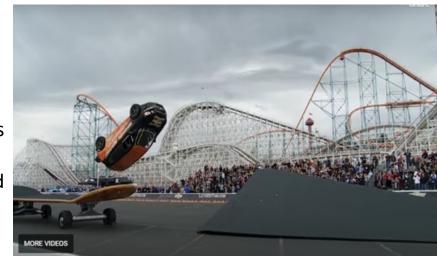
No, Not *That* Sonic. The Chevy!

"The fact that it even worked is pretty remarkable," says MTV-famous skateboarder Rob Dyrdek in this video, which must be the least exciting documentation of a stunt that, before the camer-



as rolled, they had never done successfully. The genesis of the trick was Chevrolet's desire to market the new, 2012 Sonic to millennials, who liked newfangled things like DC shoes, MTV, and skateboarding and had short attention spans. Dyrdek had experience

in stunt driving, actually; he worked with the late Ken Block in Gymkhana 2.1, driving a teeny tiny Subaru. The suited-up Dyrdek hit 43 mph in a stripped, caged Sonic that he then drove up a ramp, flew over the world's largest skateboard, rolled in the air, and landed rear-axle-first on an angled platform at Six Flags: Magic Mountain in December of 2011.



MGs (And Fiats) Go Parachuting

There is "lore" behind this particular stunt from 1972, which Brendan McAleer details in this <u>article</u>. The lore is this: In the '60s, Italian cars were notoriously fragile—or so everyone thought. (Not just then? Ouch.) Some bright person at Fiat decided that the best way to refute such a notion would be to put a person in a car, put the car on the plane, and drop car with driver out of the plane. After a nice parachute landing, they



would then drive the car away, demonstrating its strength.
And they ... did exactly that.

British Leyland Motor's U.S. advertising department did a throwback of sorts to that ad in 1972, desperate for a competitive edge in face of Japanese competition. (Unlike Italian

cars, British cars had never been accused of being delicate ... or wait. Nevermind.) Do yourself a favor, and, after watching the original Fiat stunt below, go back and read McAleer's article—in which he interviewed one of the men who made it happen. **Spoiler alert**:

A red MG *was* harmed in the making of the video below.



Hang ... Tight?

Hang *Tough*, that was it. Honda's hanging Passport stunt is the most recent one on this list, and it's the one that got us thinking about the best ones of years past. Long the family hauler in Honda's line of SUVs, the Passport has recently transformed from nondescript to not so bad indeed. This "glow up" has been accompanied by <u>a new emphasis on off-roadability</u>, and to emphasize the Passport's ruggedness, Honda enlisted a crane with a 140-foot boom. From that boom, it hung a Passport by its "exposed and easily accessible heavy-duty front recovery points"—those red hooks in the front bumper. From that Passport it hung another, and from that, yet one more. The hook on the highest SUV is holding 14,000 pounds.

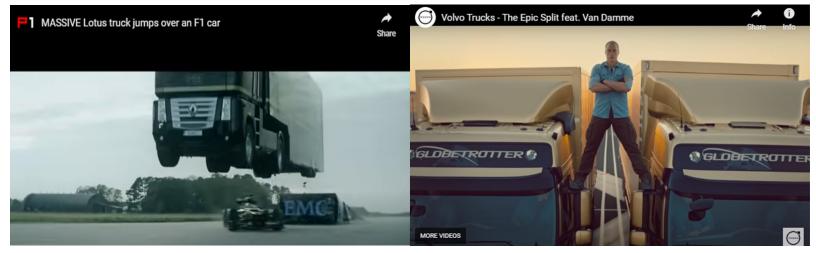


Semi Jumps Over F1 Car

If we hadn't included a stunt with a semi-trailer in it, something would have been missing. This one is a race transporter, evidently of Renault design, that served the Lotus F1 Team. In November of 2014, the Lotus team was looking for a way to promote its partnership with digital storage giant EMC (purchased a year later by Dell), something that would illustrate the competitive advantage that such a partnership would give it on track. Why not set a world record for jumping a semi?

The stunt would have been even more interesting if one of the team's drivers, Romain Grosjean or Pastor Maldonado, had been driving the F1 car, though that might have been a bit more risk than they were willing to take.

Spoiler alert: It all went well, everyone survived, and it looked awesome. The stunt itself is embedded above, but here's <u>a "how it's made" video</u> if you'd like to watch that after. (See Hagerty's website for the video!)



Semi jumps F1 car

The Split

If one semi makes for an awesome stunt, how about two—plus Jean-Claude Van Damme? The original plan was to shoot this commercial in multiple takes, but as the team practiced on the Spanish airstrip with a stunt person who wasn't the famous Belgian martial artist, and a special pair of brackets that mounted on the wing mirrors, they realized they could do it in one. The day of the shoot, they had two possible time slots with Van Damme: Sunrise and sunset. They got the shot—in the morning, on take one! "It was the shortest day I've had on camera," said the stunt coordinator in this YouTube interview.

Ski Jump!

All-wheel drive is everywhere in 2025, but in 1986, Audi's Quattro-equipped cars were still hard at work trying to make inroads into the U.S. market. The benefits of four driven wheels might not have been obvious to consumers back then, but when an unmodified Audi 100 CS scampered up the 37.5-degree slope of Finland's Pitkavouri ski jump,

it certainly helped set Audi apart from its mostly rear-wheel drive competition.

Honorable Mentions:

We couldn't end this list without mentioning some of our other favorites. "The Cog" is an absolute classic featuring a Rube Goldberg-style ma-



chine built of Honda Accord parts and a killer one-line script. And remember that one time <u>BMW used a motorcycle to pull a tablecloth off a giant, set table</u>? Last, but certainly not least, no one could forget the famous "champagne glass" commercial from Lexus, featuring the LS400.

Maintenance and Tech

What to Use to Clean up Oil Spills and Leaks

Kyle Smith 24 March 2025

"It's just marking its territory" or "It's sweating horsepower" are cute ways to acknowledge a fact of life many vintage car enthusiasts live with every day: Old cars leak. Over time, the seals and gaskets of cars often lose effectiveness. Before long, the small seepage from a nicked valve cover gasket can go from a drop to a puddle large enough that you could almost sell the spot next to your toolbox as lake frontage. Even if all you want to do is roll under and find out where the leak is, you've got to deal with the oil on the floor. There are many options, but some type of absorbent is the choice of professionals. Here's how a handful compared when tested against each other by the YouTube channel Project Farm.

Comparing how well an absorbent can make oil dry can be annoying for a regular person since most absorbents come packaged in large amounts that even the leakiest car would take a good while to go through. It would take quite some time to use multiple styles for <u>a real-world test</u>. Instead, Project Farm takes 16 common absorbents and <u>subjects them to a cadre of tests</u> designed to give some real-world perspective that might cut through marketing claims.

The test was simple: Weigh out an amount of absorbent, then saturate it with oil or coolant and weigh again to see how much oil was absorbed. This was also compared to each absorbent's price to get a ballpark of both effectiveness and value. In the end, there were clear front runners for both absorbent mats and granulated. For a put-down-and-sweep-up option, these tests favored Coco Cleaner Pro, which is made from coconut fibers. Meanwhile, Pig brand mats fared the best out of the mat tests.

These can be handy ways to clean up spills and though the products themselves are not hazardous, once they soak up common automotive fluids, they do need to be disposed of properly. Check your local guidelines for getting rid of oil-soaked absorbents, just as a person should for all oil-soaked rags or materials. Oil leaks might be inevitable for most cars, but oil stains and puddles on our floors and driveways do not have to be.

Funnies: This edition of the funnies brought to you by cartoon stock and the internet!

- What kind of spells do leprechauns use? Lucky charms.
- Why did the leprechaun go outside? To sit on his paddy-o.
- What did the leprechaun say when the video game ended? "Game clover!"
- What do you call a leprechaun with a sore throat? A streprechaun.
- How does a leprechaun work out? By pushing his luck.
- When does a leprechaun cross the road? When the light turns green.
- Who catches lepre-cons? Under-clover cops!
- Why shouldn't you borrow money from a leprechaun? Because they're always a little short.
- Why was the leprechaun sad on March 18? It Ain't Patrick's Day.
- Why did the leprechaun win the race? He took a shortcut.
- What do you call environmentally conscious leprechauns? Wee-cyclers.
- What do you call a leprechaun prank? A Saint Pat-trick.
- What do you get when two leprechauns have a conversation? A lot of small talk.
- Why do leprechauns hate running? They'd rather jig than jog.
- What do you call a leprechaun's vacation home? A lepre-condo.







- Why do so many leprechauns love to garden? Because they have green thumbs.
- How can you tell if a leprechaun likes your joke? He's Dublin over with laughter!
- Why did the leprechaun climb over the rainbow? To get to the other side.

What did the leprechaun say to the human on March 17? "Irish you a happy St. Patrick's Day!"

- What's a leprechaun's favorite fast-food order? A small fry.
- Did you hear about the band of leprechauns that performed on St. Patrick's Day? They shamrocked!
- What's a leprechaun's favorite game show? Wheel of Fortune!
- Why was the father leprechaun tearing up at his daughter's wedding? He was getting ready to walk her down the Emerald Isle.
- How old are leprechauns? So old that they can remember when rainbows were black and white.
- Why did the leprechaun stand on the potato? To keep from falling into the stew.
- Why are leprechauns hard to get along with? They are short-tempered.
- What do leprechauns barbecue on St. Patrick's Day? Short ribs.
- Why don't leprechauns play hide-and-seek? Because good luck finding one!
- Why do leprechauns prefer dollar bills to coins? Because they're green.
- How do leprechauns celebrate St. Patrick's Day? By holding a lepreconcert.
- How does a leprechaun end a conversation? "Irish you well!"
- Why did the leprechaun bring a ladder to the bar? Because he heard the drinks were on the house!
- Why did the leprechaun apply for a job as a chef? He wanted to make sure everything was Irish-stew-perb!
- What happens when a leprechaun falls into the Irish Sea? He gets wet.



The GMC "old Look" bus was the original "People Mover".

Even our friends the Russkies immortalized it on their stamps. All from the city of Pontiac!



	Overview
Manufacture	r Yellow Coach (1940–1943) GMC Truck and Bus (1944– 1969)
Production	1940-1969
Assembly	Pontiac West Assembly,
	Pontiac, Michigan
	Body and chassis
Class	Transit bus
	Powertrain
Engine	Detroit Diesel 4-71 or 6-71
Transmissio	n Hydraulic or Manual
	Dimensions
Length	25 ft (7.6 m), 28 ft (8.5 m), 30 ft (9.1 m), 33 ft (10 m), 35 ft (11 m), 37.75 ft (11.51 m), 40 ft (12 m), or 41.5 ft (12.6 m)
Width	96 in (2.44 m) or 102 in (2.59 m)
Height	113 in (2.87 m) (roofline)
	Chronology
Successor	GM New Look

Classified Ads Advertisements free to current members Email your ad to: brian.r.dougherty@live.com with a copy of the completed form below or mail to: Brian Dougherty at 10295 S. State Rd, Goodrich, MI, 48438 Your Name_ Phone # **EMAIL** First Name **Last Name** State ZIP Code Mailing Address_ City_ Street Address Cars For Sale Cars Wanted Type of Ad: Parts for Sale Parts Wanted Information Wanted Services offered Vendor Literature/Memorabilia For Sale ☐ Literature/Memorabilia Wanted

Classifieds:

Wanted:

Wheels stamped HB are original, so looking for HB steel wheels.

I'm told that wheels stamped HF will also work. Perhaps others will too.

Also need 14" x 6" steel wheels stamped G for 1967 GTO drum brake cars.

Tom Sidlik

586-665-4214

tws4@comcast.net

For Sale:

1968 Ram Air II Heads/Exhaust Manifolds, \$4500

1968 WS Block, \$450

1973-74 Super Duty Heads/Block, \$10,000

1967 HO/RA Exhaust Manifolds, \$400

62 Casting Rebuilt Heads, \$600

1965-79 Performer Intake, \$200

1961-64 Aluminum Intake, \$500,

1964 GTO Bumpers- good cores, \$600 pr.

1964-65 front inner wells, \$200 pr.

1962-65 GM Front Bucket Seats, \$400 pr.

1969 62 Casting Heads, Redone, New Valves, Springs, \$800 pr.

1962 4bolt 389 block, \$800; Much More,

Kevin Yash 248 470 4040

MOTOR CITY POCI

Pontiac Oakland Club International - Chapter 91

Dedicated to the Preservation, Restoration, and Enjoyment of Oakland, Pontiac & GMC Vehicles



Today's Date		
Primary Member	:	
Shirt size:	_	
Associate Membe	er:	
Address:		
Phone #		
City & State	Zip Co	ode
E-Mail:	<u>@</u>	
*POCI#	(Application attached)	
Signature:		
(Classic Cars Owned: Year, Make, and Model	1
1		
2		
Membership dues are \$2	0.00 per year (starting in 2024 it will be \$25.00	Dues are to be paid

Membership dues are \$20.00 per year (starting in 2024 it will be \$25.00). Dues are to be paid the first day of each January. Please pay membership by one of the following methods:

- cash or check at one of the monthly meetings
- by check made out to Motor City POCI and sent to the address below.

MOTOR CITY POCI 1595 Vanstone Dr. Commerce Twp, MI 48382 E-mail: raygolota@gmail.com

*****Please read back page*****

- *We encourage all members to join the Pontiac Oakland Club International (POCI). Applications are available on line at www.poci.org
- *Active Member (United States) An Active Member (United States) is afforded all the rights and privileges of full membership and receives Smoke Signals magazine via mail for a period of one year is \$45.00.



POCI'S 2025 Convention:

Online registration for the event is now available. Sign in to the website and use the "2025 Convention Registration" link on your dashboard page.

Please note: the convention registration fee is non-refundable. The registration fee includes member, spouse and children. Sign in as a member to access the link for the host hotel reservations.

Play Louisville, KY video

POCI Membership RENEWAL Form

Your subscription to Smoke Signals magazine and membership in the Pontiac-Oakland Club International may be due. If the renewal date on your mailing label (which is to the right of your membership number) is between Feb. 1, 2020 and Mar. 31, 2020, please complete this form and return it immediately with payment (photocopies are acceptable). We don't want you to miss a single issue of Smoke Signals or any other important information about POCI. s25.00..... Worldwide E-Membership: Web Site access & downloadable version of Smoke Signals (NO Smoke Signals magazine is mailed) S45.00 U.S. Membership (Includes 2 Associates) s74.00 (U.S. Funds) Canadian Membership (Includes 2 Associates) 7574.00 (U.S. Funds) Foreign Membership (Includes 2 Associates) ☐ 1 Year ☐ 2 Years ☐ 3 Years NAME: _____ POCI MEMBERSHIP NUMBER: ____ RENEW! Online: www.poci.org * (763) 479-2111 * Mail: POCI World HQ, PO Box 421, Long Lake, MN 55356 Please provide any UPDATES to your information below: ☐ Visa MasterCard Discover Credit Card Number: NAME: Expiration Date: ______ ADDRESS: _____ Security Code (Mandatory): _____ ASSOCIATES: _____ Name as it appears on card: ______ VEHICLES (additional): _____ VEHICLES (no longer owned): _____ Signature: Join POCI Now! NEW MEMBERSHIP Form Pontiac ☐ Oakland ☐ GMC ☐ STYLE NAME / NUMBER Number of CYLINDERS YEAR Annual Membership S25.00..... Worldwide E-Membership Number of CYLINDERS STYLE NAME / NUMBER YEAR s45.00 U.S. (Includes 2 Associates) 574.00... Canada (Includes 2 Associates) 74.00... Foreign (Includes 2 Associates) STYLE NAME / NUMBER Number of CYLINDERS YEAR ☐Mastercard ☐Discover □Visa NAME: Number____ ASSOCIATE MEMBER(s): Expiration _____ Security Code _____ ADDRESS: Signature ____ CITY / STATE / ZIP + 4: COUNTRY: _____ EMAIL ADDRESS:

Make checks payable to: POCI . Mail to: POCI World HQ, PO Box 421, Long Lake, MN 55356

PHONE: () _____REFERRED BY (Name & Member #): _____

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