



# THE YANKEE NEWS

## AUGUST 2021



*THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF OF THE YANKEE CHAPTER POCI*

**IN THIS ISSUE:**

PRESIDENTS  
MESSAGE

CONVENTION  
COVERAGE

STEVE AMES  
TRIBUTE

TUCKS SHOW  
AUGUST 8

CAR OF THE  
MONTH

## ***Convention Edition!***



***Our 2021 POCI Convention was a tremendous success.***

# PRESIDENTS MESSAGE



Hello Yankee Chapter Members

I want to thank all involved in the 2021 49th Annual POCI convention "*Wicked fun in 21.*" I also want to thank all that said it couldn't be done. Well....."*WE DID IT!*" It was a complete success.

Thanks,  
Ron Senesi  
Yankee Chapter President

# VICE PRESIDENTS MESSAGE



***Holy Tri-Power Batman!*** What a show we had last month at Mohegan Sun. Lots of spectacular cars, meeting new friends and seeing old ones. What started off as an idea 3 years ago by Yankee Chapter President Ron Senesi became a memorable club event. Special thanks go to Convention Co-Chairs Ron Senesi, Merle Green and all the Committee Directors and Volunteers from the Yankee Chapter and our fellow car clubs throughout the northeast. We could not have done this without the mobilization of efforts by Art Barrett and the POCI Team. Job well done and a convention we can all be proud of. Lots of pictures from the convention have been added to our website. Check it out at: [www.yankeepoci.org](http://www.yankeepoci.org). Next up is the Tucks Trucks Show on August 8. See flyer on page 8 in this newsletter. Hope to see you there.

Regards,  
Andrew Epstein  
Vice President  
Newsletter Editor  
Digital Media Manager



# ***Looking Back at 2021 POCI Convention***

Merle Green, Co-Chairman

The 2021 POCI Convention is now in the history books. After nearly three years of planning and a very unhelpful year and a half Covid 19 pandemic, The Yankee Chapter along with the assistance of the Lil Rhody Chapter, the Nor-Easter Chapter, and the Pioneer Valley GTOAA chapter, hosted a very successful convention. Many thanks are due to all the volunteers who enthusiastically donated their time and talents to ensure that over a thousand POCI members and families had an enjoyable experience.

Upon arriving on Saturday afternoon, Mohegan Sun had already closed and cleared the Winter Parking Lot and three early arrivals had already parked in the lot. All our volunteers immediately began preparing for the beginning of the convention on Sunday. By Sunday afternoon Scott Scribner and his volunteers were ready to help participants navigate the registration process. Kim Green and Charlie and Cathy Egirious manned the welcome tent to send members in the right direction. Considering the size of Mohegan Sun and the distances involved the welcome tent was very successful. On Monday night Cruisin Bruce officially opened the convention by hosting welcome night.

Meanwhile Mike Green and Paul Bourbeau and their volunteers were laying out the convention center, the show field, and tech inspection. They did a magnificent job as they were able to get more than 200 beautiful Pontiacs, GMCs, and an Oakland into the convention center. This year we were able to charge admission to allow spectators into the convention center, while Cruisin Bruce again was the host for activities. The consensus of the spectators was that the cars were beautiful and well worth the admission price. In the background Steve Freitas, Lisa, and the Little Rhody folks set up the hospitality suite to feed all the volunteers lunch and keep them hydrated everyday of the convention.

No convention is complete without tours, seminars, and banquets. Bill & Linda Kelley, Bob & Paula Parker, and their volunteers planned and chaperoned three well received tours: Mystick Village shopping tour, the Submarine Museum and USS Nautilus, and the lighthouse tour. 150 people enjoyed the lighthouse tour. Julie Senesi and volunteers did a perfect job of assigning tables for the Chapter Night and Awards banquets. The meals were very good and Mohegan Sun added a nice touch to dessert with a sugar wafer that had the convention logo on it. All five seminars were well attended. Dick Smart discussed his electrical conversion kit for vacuum operated headlights and he gave away one of his kits to a lucky attendee. John Kraman from Mecum Auctions discussed the state of the hobby and behind the scenes at Mecum Auctions. Lyle Haley covered the problems he encountered putting a larger engine and Tremec transmission in his 1957 Pontiac. Tim Dye presented another informative seminar on Pontiac history. The last seminar was hosted by Jake Cryan about the trials and tribulations of a Concours restoration.

We did not forget the kids. There was a coloring contest and a model contest and also youth judging. Greg Corbin and volunteers put the successful youth judging program together on very short notice. All indications are that the convention was very successful. Mohegan Sun was so impressed that they want us to come back as soon as possible. Is the Yankee Chapter up for another challenge?

# 2021 POCI National Convention

For TONS more photos, please [CLICK HERE](#)







# ***Some Changes At The Top***

## **POCI National Elections Update**



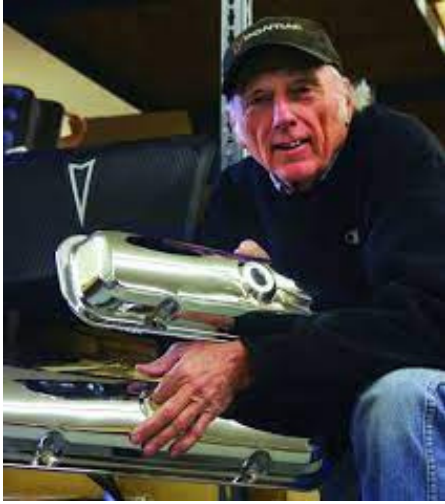
The Yankee Chapter would like to thank outgoing POCI President Larry Crider for his many years of dedicated service to our club. Larry has been an inspirational leader and has done an extraordinary job of steering the organization over the past 3 years. Many difficult and challenging decisions were made during his tenure. We are a better club for having Larry as our President and for that we are very grateful. Larry has been a long standing POCI member since 1984. He will continue his responsibilities as Director in the Southern region.



The Yankee Chapter welcomes incoming POCI President Ron Berglund. Ron is no stranger to POCI having held many leadership positions over the years. He was most recently POCI Vice President. Ron's goals for the upcoming years are to increase membership, promote POCI to the younger generations and increase POCI visibility on all social media platforms. He is setting up teams comprised of POCI members to assist with new programs. Good luck in your new role Ron! The Yankee Chapter is eager to assist you in your efforts.

[www.poci.org](http://www.poci.org)

# Steve Ames Tribute



A special tribute was made at our convention by former POCI and Yankee Chapter President Steve Peluso, to honor the memory of Steve Ames. Steve Ames passed away last December. He was an Innovator, Pioneer, Visionary and a just an overall nice guy. He will be greatly missed by the classic car community in general and Pontiac enthusiasts specifically. We were very honored to have Joan Ames in attendance at our convention. Below she is next to one of the foundations rare cars, a low mileage Catalina. Click on the links below to see Steve Peluso's presentation and the video tribute put together by the Yankee Chapter.

To watch Steve Peluso's Presentation, [CLICK HERE](#)

To watch the Steve Ames Video Tribute, [CLICK HERE](#)



*Ames Automotive Foundation*

To visit the Ames Automotive Foundation website, [CLICK HERE](#)



# People Are Talking.....

## *Here's what people are saying about the 2021 POCI Convention...*

To all the leaders and volunteers I feel this convention was as much a success as many before this. It was a pleasure being part of the behind scenes and a honor to close out my Presidency at this convention. From the first vision seen by Ron Senesi to the hard planners and workers for the past 3 years and the week of the convention. Way to many names to recognize but a pleasure working with everyone.

***-Larry Crider, President POCI***

"Wicked Fun in 21" is in the books! Everyone did an outstanding job coordinating and executing our plans. We overcame a great deal of adversity to make this happen and we received many compliments. The biggest compliment is Mohegan Sun wants to know when we can come back! Words can not express my appreciation for a job well done.

***-Merle Green, Convention Co-Chair and Past POCI President***

What a great time! I have attended at least 23 or 24 conventions over the last 30 years and this was one of the best! The venue was so incredibly pretty and the convention crew had everything under control. It was really obvious that every detail had been addressed and dealt with before the first car arrived! Everything was well organized and well planned. The banquet food was awesome! Meeting and seminar rooms were convenient. The Yankee Chapter did a great job!! Thank you and your Chapter for all of the hard work. Your efforts resulted in a GREAT and memorable convention.

***-Peggy Mullinax Cox, Secretary and Southern Regional Director POCI***

Awesome convention that was everything we'd hope for and more! Accommodating venue, great turnout, dedicated committee directors and volunteers. A convention we can all be very proud of.

***-Andy Epstein, Vice President Yankee Chapter***

It was a great convention and everyone pulled together to make it work.

***-Steve Peluso, President Emeritus POCI and Yankee Chapter***

What I am very proud about is that our clubs starting with my own Club, Pioneer Valley GTO, and sister Clubs, Yankee Chapter POCI, Little Rhody Chapter POCI, Nutmeg Chapter and many more people that helped in one way or another.... all came together to make it all happen. It was a pleasure working with all of you!!!

***-Paul Bourbeau, President Pioneer Valley GTO Association***

We were happy to participate on behalf of Steve and the tribute was so special to us. Thank you all so much!

It was a great show!

***-Joan Ames, Ames Automotive Foundation***

What a fantastic time! Anyone that lives in New England and didn't go, missed a great show full of Pontiacs.

***-Matt Morana, Board of Directors Yankee Chapter***

My wife Cathy and I spent our time volunteering out at the welcome tent and was great meeting everyone as they arrived. Was extra special for me receiving an original owner award for my 69 GTO convertible. Special thanks to Merle and Mike Green for all their hard work and to Ron Senesi for the foresight to bring the convention here.

***-Charlie Egrious, Club Member Yankee Chapter***

It was Awesome! Thank you to Everyone.

***-Jim Boyle, Owner Tucks Trucks GMC & Yankee Chapter Club Sponsor***

# Yankee Chapter Awards and Certificates

Below are the awards and recognition we received at the 2021 Convention



**See You In Catoosa!**

**Next Years Convention  
will be held in  
Catoosa Oklahoma  
July 12-16, 2022**

# [Join Us At Tucks Trucks On August 8!](#)

**244 Washington Street Hudson, MA**

**Click [HERE](#) for Directions**

**TUCK'S TRUCKS GMC**

**2021 Pontiac Oakland GMC Car Show**  
**Sunday August 8<sup>th</sup>**  
**10am - 2pm**  
Details at  
**tuckstrucksgmc.com**



## Newton/Needham Auto Mile

In response to our piece last month on the various dealerships located on Highland Ave in Newton and Needham, club member Bruce Muldoon recalls that Berejik Olds was originally located on Wexford Street just east of route 128. Over the bridge to Needham was Muzi Motors. Muzi started off as a Chrysler Plymouth store and then sold Fords in the 60's. Continuing down Highland Ave towards Needham Center was Cook AMC, Needham Ford, Salamone Studebaker, Feeley Chevrolet, and Richard (later Byron) Buick. Imagine all those dealerships within a few miles of each other.

Thanks for sharing Bruce.



# *Car Of The Month - August 2021*

This is Joe Sinko's untouched 1970 GTO Judge in Atoll Blue with Blue interior. A real deal Ram Air III engine with 4 speed transmission. Joe first tried to buy her in 1979.

28 years later his patience and persistence paid off when the very hesitant owner decided to sell. It was still wearing its bias ply tires and points were not changed in any way! This was one of the few early built Judges assembled in Canada. It was delivered to a dealer Waltham. She's always popular at car shows, especially because of the body style and striping. Joe plans to keep his Judge as is. Restoration and paint are not in its future, rather he wants to maintain the originality and patina of his classic Pontiac. We couldn't agree with him more.



# Upcoming Car Shows

(Click on flyer for more info and directions)

## The Leland Home



### Car Show

JOIN US FOR OUR ANNUAL  
CAR SHOW FEATURING:

**MUSIC**  
**RAFFLES**  
**REFRESHMENTS**

**SATURDAY,  
AUGUST 14  
10AM-2PM  
21 NEWTON ST. WALTHAM**

**REGISTRATION @  
9:30AM  
\$10 VEHICLE FEE**

RAIN DATE: SUNDAY AUG. 15



**Mass Cruisers** presents the return of **AutoFest**

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VALVE COVER RACING

**Sunday, August 22, 2021**  
8 am - 3 pm

Over 500 show vehicles are anticipated for display with over 100 vendor spaces available on 12 plus acres

PRE-REGISTRATION (must be received by August 16) **\$25** \$35 DAY OF SHOW

INCLUDES ENTRANCE FOR DRIVER AND ONE PASSENGER TO THE AUTO SHOW AND THE NEWPORT CAR MUSEUM

SPECTATOR ADMISSION begins at 9am: CAR SHOW: \$5 • CAR SHOW & MUSEUM: \$20 (2 and under free - Plenty of free spectator parking on the grounds)

See back side for pre-registration form.

masscruisers.com newportcarmuseum.org

**Weekend of  
Family Fun!**

Warwick,  
Rhode Island

**2021**

**Crowne Plaza  
Host Hotel**

Sept. 17-19,  
2021

# A PONTIAC CELEBRATION

## Returning- Bigger & Better

The Pontiac Celebration committee has been working hard to bring back our show for 2021- and everyone is invited! If you had previously booked your rooms for the 2020 event, the Crowne Plaza Host Hotel has automatically rebooked them for the new Sept. 17-19 dates. And, any registrations that were paid for 2020 are also still applicable.

The show format is still the same as our previous events. We will be making more detailed arrangement in the following months- stay tuned!

**CELEBRATING  
PONTIAC'S  
RICH HISTORY**

**PONTIACS  
with a  
Purpose**

# EASTERN REGIONAL MEET

For more Information: E-Mail: [frdigi@cox.net](mailto:frdigi@cox.net) / call 941-792-6279 or local (RI) 401-934-0663  
For Flyer and Registration Form Visit: [www.PontiacRegistry.com](http://www.PontiacRegistry.com)

## Look Who's In Smoke Signals



Past Yankee Chapter and POCI President Merle Green's sweet 1964 GTO graced Page 34 of last months Smoke Signals. Check it out! Great article by Mike Noun on ordering a GTO. Merle's GOAT is Grenadier Red with a *painted* Cameo Ivory roof. Under the hood you'll find a 389 plant with 4bbl carb. Transmission is a console shifted automatic. Other goodies include A/C, power steering and power brakes.

### Our Leadership Team Consists Of The Following Dedicated Members:

**President:** Ron Senesi (978) 503-8057  
**VP, Newsletter, Digital Media:** Andy Epstein (781) 956-1438  
**Treasurer:** Ann Marie Mandarano (617) 719-1720  
**Secretary:** Paul Bertrand (617) 699-0121

#### Board of Directors:

Mitch Gage (774) 696-6845  
Merle Green (978) 973-2148  
Dave Kantarges (617) 947-7322  
Don Parlee (781) 789-0319  
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Massachusetts Association of Auto Clubs



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