



The Winding Roads of Wisconsin

story by Joe Morgan
photos by Josh Herrell

Your enjoyment and participation in the 2018 POCI Convention could actually benefit from some unusual geologic events that happened here nearly 800,000 years ago.

Wait a minute... What does Geology have to do with our Pontiacs, Oaklands and GMC Trucks? Read on, and maybe you'll actually share in some of our excitement!

Our next POCI annual gathering will be held June 24-28 at the Chula Vista Resort, situated on the bluffs overlooking the beautiful Wisconsin River in Wisconsin Dells, WI.

You see, all those thousands of years ago, huge glaciers apparently

reached down from Canada into North America. Before eventually melting and retreating northward, they covered over half of the area we now call Wisconsin. The areas where the glaciers rested tended to be flattened and are today relatively smooth. While this may be ideal for present-day agriculture, it certainly doesn't make for very interesting scenery or terrain, nor does it equate to fun driving conditions.

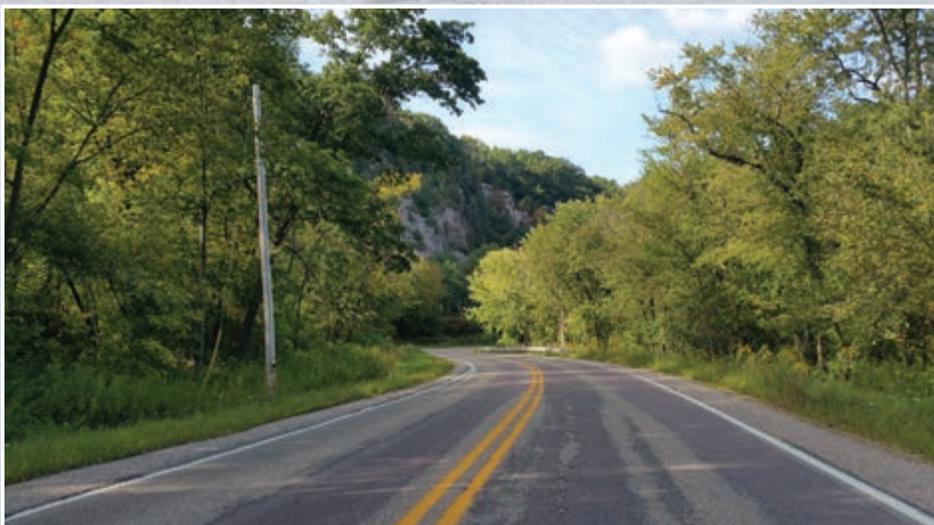
Fortunately for us, at the edge of the area where the glaciers originally made their furthest advances south, they left behind a fascinating region known as the "Driftless Area." Wisconsin Dells happens to sit right in this zone, and

the associated unique topographic conditions that are the results of those ancient glaciers will today be a great thing for everyone who comes to the 46th Annual POCI International Convention!

Scenic Roads

The rolling terrain and bluffs along the Wisconsin River and its many tributaries brings us an amazing variety of scenery that seems to be constantly changing. One minute you are driving along on the edge of the Driftless Area surrounded by farm fields filled with

-ATTENTION-
**THE HOST HOTEL
CHULA VISTA RESORT
IS ALREADY BOOKED.
A BLOCK OF 50 ROOMS
HAS OPENED AT
AMERICINN A CHULA VISTA
OWNED FACILITY.
AMERICINNELLS.COM
BLOCK CODE - POCI 2018
866-899-4444
\$139.00**



knee-high corn and other crops.

Up ahead, you might see a high, tree-covered bluff, and the road quickly leads you towards it. Suddenly you are down-shifting to climb the steep, winding pavement and, in the blink of an eye, you now find yourself cruising through a thick, lush forest. Once you reach the highest elevations, a valley opens up ahead, and you can see for miles and miles.

The valley ahead was cut by streams and creeks that flow towards the Wisconsin River, and their shores are filled with picturesque farms and pastures that have been around for several generations.

A Natural Roller Coaster

The roads may run straight for a bit, but they certainly don't stay flat. In many cases you drop hundreds of feet down into a valley before climbing up another long, winding road up to the top of the next line of bluffs.

It's easy to find yourself wanting to repeat that fun roller coaster of a ride several times over while a big grin covers your face!

Many of the roads do spend some time in the valleys, and they follow the meandering streams and creeks as they wind lazily along. Once again, they all make for great, spirited driving because they involve elevation changes, turns, and all the things that highlight why it is so fun to drive a Pontiac of any era.

Drivers here will certainly want to pay close attention to the road while passengers may instead find themselves taking in the beauty that surrounds us. But let's face it, even before the era of "We Build Excitement," Pontiac has always been about *driving* and *enjoying* your ride!

Road Warriors Cruise

Fans of the Road Warrior Cruise will be happy to know that their event will return for the 2018 POCI Convention. We are currently finalizing a fun route which will provide all Road Warriors with a memorable drive to a destination filled with amazing views and great lunchtime fare. Watch for specific details in future updates (and much later inside your convention activity packet).



Weekday Driving Tours

In addition, we are offering something that likely hasn't been offered at previous conventions. We will be offering Driving Tours on Monday and Tuesday of the convention!

There will be a number of these driving tours offered each day. They will be limited to 20 total cars per tour, and your tour leader will guide you through various parts of the fascinating Driftless Area. The tours will stop at various local restaurants, breweries, wineries, cheese factories, and other points of interest throughout central and southwest Wisconsin. We are offering these tours early in the week so that anyone who enjoys driving their Pontiac can actively participate yet still have time to get their ride looking sharp for Wednesday's Points-Judged show or Thursday's Popular Vote show.

Track Time

Tuesday's Driving Tours will end with a special treat. With the cooperation of Dells Raceway Park — a nearby 1/3-mile banked asphalt track — we will be offering "Hot Laps" on the track. There won't be a pace car to limit your lead-footed intentions, nor will there be any other cars on track at the same time to worry about. You won't be required to wear a helmet or special clothing either.

During our Hot Laps, drivers will take turns enjoying an enthusiastic spin around the paved banked stock car track in their Pontiac, Oakland or GMC Truck. You will only be limited by your vehicle's capability and your own ambition and abilities.

We understand that not everyone will want to take advantage of this fun option, but even those who prefer to simply watch the action will certainly enjoy the sights and sounds of fellow club members roaring around the track. The concrete walls have a way of making *any* high-performance Pontiac engine sound just a little bit sweeter!

The members of the God's Country Pontiac Association and Badger State Chapter POCI will be providing Driving Tour leaders who look forward to leading you along these spirited roads — all of which make touring our home state so very special.

There will be many additional fun activities planned for our gathering in Wisconsin, so keep your eyes peeled for those announcements in upcoming editions of *Smoke Signals*. Pre-register now and plan to be a part of it all! **JSN**

