

Activities and Diversions... Something for Everyone!

story by Joe Morgan

FOR several months now, members of the Badger State Chapter POCI and God's Country Pontiac Association have been meeting regularly to prepare for POCI's next big annual convention at the Chula Vista Resort in Wisconsin Dells, Wisconsin, June 24-28, 2018.

Because we feel that Wisconsin Dells offers such an amazing variety of activities and entertainment for you and your family, numerous volunteers from both clubs have stepped forward to promote our common goal of making your visit here both memorable and enjoyable.

We have heard many comments from attendees of previous POCI conventions how they love to bring along their entire family each year. It has also come to our attention that sometimes not all of those family members are "Pontiac nuts" or even "car nuts" for that matter. Perhaps time spent at our convention might help "cure" some of those lost souls but, even if they can't be healed, there will be plenty of diversions available nearby to keep 'em all busy. For the rest of us,

there will be lots of Pontiac/Oakland/GMC Truck activities to keep us happy and occupied while they're off doing their own thing!

Anyone who has previously visited The Dells with their families will already know why this destination is so popular. For those of you who haven't yet been here, we'd like to give you a taste of what to expect.

"The Dells" cover two main cities, Wisconsin Dells and Lake Delton. The populations of these two cities may not be very large — only about 5,500 residents combined as of the 2010 census — but you'd be hard-pressed to believe this if you've passed through this area during our main tourist season. It has grown significantly from its humble beginnings.



The area referred to as Wisconsin Dells since 1931 was originally founded in 1857 as Kilbourn City, WI. The natural scenic beauty of the Wisconsin River began to draw tourists as early as 1856 when tour boat operators offered folks a chance to get away from the hectic, big city life in the Upper Midwest. Remarkable sandstone formations and amazing

views were a magnet for the many folks who wanted to enjoy the sights while experiencing peaceful tranquility.

The area first began to boom when a rail line was built in 1857. As more and more visitors arrived by train, more and more hotels, restaurants, and entertainment venues sprang to life.

In 1908, the Kilbourn Dam was built, effectively separating the area into the Upper Dells and the Lower Dells. By 1928, popularity in the area had grown such that a small airport was constructed, bringing people to the area even more efficiently — and from further distances! By 1952, attractions like the Wonder Spot and Tommy Bartlett's Thrill Show continued to pique the interest of seasonal visitors.

By the 1970s, the area became a major destination for those reveling in the newest national craze: outdoor water parks! Noah's Ark Waterpark opened here in 1979 and is now the eighth-most visited water park in the United States. This trend continued, bringing even more outdoor attractions such as amusement parks, go-kart tracks and miniature golf courses!

Wisconsin's climate, though, meant that many of these businesses would go into hibernation during the school year. That all began to change in 1994 when the area's first indoor water park was developed. Since then, five main major resorts in the area — including our very own host location, the Chula Vista Re-



sort — have come to offer both indoor and outdoor water parks.

Although our “peak season” is still between Independence Day and Labor Day, we now consider Wisconsin Dells to be a year-round destination for visitors from all over the world. We are fortunate to have scheduled our convention during a unique time when all the best attractions and seasonal businesses are indeed open, but just prior to the boom of peak season.

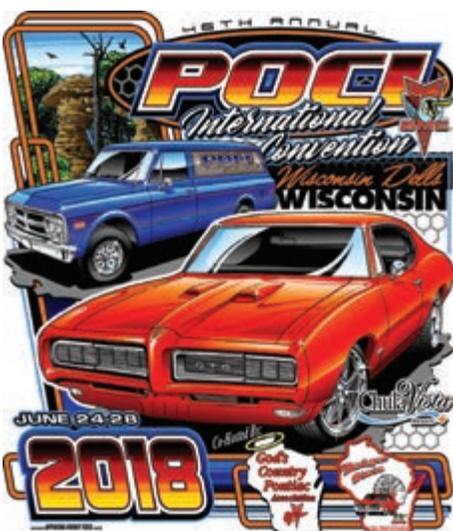
Besides the boat tours, water parks, amusement parks and go-karts already mentioned, Wisconsin Dells offers many other worthwhile attractions. For those who love to shop, the nearby Tanger Outlet Center offers dozens of brand-name shopping options. The Ho-Chunk Gaming Wisconsin Dells is sure to interest those who love the thrill of games of chance. The area also includes countless restaurants, taverns and brew pubs plus numerous wineries to please your palette.

Several attendees at POCI's recent 2017 convention in Fort Worth also wondered what kind of weather they might expect during a visit to the Wisconsin Dells. Please remember that although we have put in an order for absolutely beautiful weather for the entire convention, we have no control over that...

Sorry! We can, however, share with you some encouraging statistics that might provide a general indication.

According to AccuWeather, the Wisconsin Dells area in late June typically experiences high temperatures in the low 80s, with low temperatures in the upper 50s. Last year, we were a bit cooler than average for high temperatures, seeing highs in the upper-60s to lower-70s. We hope that these ideal conditions will afford us plenty of comfortable time outdoors so that we may enjoy all the beautiful Pontiacs, Oaklands and GMC Trucks that are certain to be found at the 2018 POCI Convention.

Once again, members of God's Country Pontiac Association and Badger State Chapter POCI look forward to welcoming you to the Chula Vista Resort in Wisconsin Dells, WI from June 24-28, 2018. Be sure to take advantage of early pre-registration and book your stay now. A complete list of local hotel facilities can be found online at www.poci.org. **JN**



To help you plan your travels both before and after the convention, be sure to visit the the Convention and Visitors Bureau website at www.wisdells.com