The Modifier

Street Rod & Modified Chapter
Pontiac – Oakland Club International

Feb. 2010/Mar. 2010

Custom 1962 Pontiac Grand Prix
owned by Richard Zocchi (California)

Photographed at the 60th Sacramento Autorama in February 2010

The Modifier

Newsletter of the Street Rod & Modified Chapter
Pontiac – Oakland Club International

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Please send all *Modifier* materials – articles, photos, letters, classified ads, bribes, free 1961 Pontiac parts and memorabilia – to this address.

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Editorial – What's goin' on in your world?

By Alan Mayes

I knew what I was getting myself into when I took on the editing of *The Modifier* from our president, Lou Calasibetta. Fifteen years ago, I was the editor of the Indiana Street Rod Association's newsletter, *Speakin' of Street*, so I knew it would be like pulling teeth to get some of you guys to send in information, photos, and stories about your cars. But, Jeez, Louise, this is ridiculous!

In a chapter with a couple dozen members and who knows how many cars, I have only gotten new submissions from three people. Three! Don't any of you other guys own a digital camera? Can't you write down a couple of paragraphs about your projects and what you've been doing with them? The writing doesn't have to be perfect, if that's what you're worried about. I'm an editor by profession, so I can and will fix any grammatical errors. This is a *news*letter, so let's hear some news already!

Vote!

If you have not already done so, please vote for the POCI Board of Directors. The ballot was in the March issue of Smoke Signals and needs to be sent in by April 1, so hop to it. Only the Northeast Division is contested this time, so please read each candidate's profile and information and make a wise choice. Vote for the other uncontested positions, too, and show your support. Read all their profiles and learn a little bit about the people who represent you.

In a club the size of POCI, the Board of Directors carries an important and serious responsibility. The Board's decisions affect a club of 9000 faithful Pontiac, Oakland, and GMC hobbyists. A club of this size has to be run like a business because it is one. We want responsible people with good common sense and without personal agendas. Your directors work diligently to reach consensus on decisions and to try to serve the membership in as beneficial a manner as possible.

Register!

If you're planning to go to the Charleston POCI Convention in July, send in your registration as soon as you can. Getting the registrations in early helps the committee plan for events and crowd size. The prepaid fees give them some working capital for pre-convention expenses, too.

POCI member press

Though we're used to seeing POCI members' cars in *High Performance Pontiac* and *Pontiac Enthusiast* magazines, it's always cool to see them show up in other mags, too. I was happy to receive my May issue of *Hemming's Classic Car* the other day and see Jim Heidenway's '61 Catalina on the cover as well as in a fine article inside. There's also an article on Don Stumpff's '52 Chieftain sedan as well as a pretty red '63 LeMans convertible. Mini-profiles on several other Pontiacs, an editorial extolling the virtues of Pontiacs past and a great article on Pontiac engines round out an excellent salute to Pontiac and the men who made the brand great (in other words, no GM people from recent years).

The demise of Pontiac has had one positive effect – mainstream and hobby car magazines have started paying attention to Pontiacs and have run some decent articles lately, talking about the virtues of Pontiac and how they excelled in styling and performance, especially during the period of the mid-1950s through 1960s. It's a shame that visionless people like Roger Smith were allowed to rise to power and then deflate Pontiac to the point that its cars were mostly indistinguishable from any other GM division's. Bunkie Knudsen and John DeLorean must be spinning in their graves. All of their work turned out to be for naught; well, except for the wonderful cars from Pontiac's heyday that we are still privileged to enjoy!

President's Message

Lou Calasibetta – Chapter President

Hello, all of you members. So, how are you doing? It finally feels like spring is on the arrival here in the Garden State. IT's about time?! We had a cold and snowy winter, for sure. I am sure all of you are getting some cabin fever. Are you thinking of POCI yet or just getting your taxes ready to send to the government. That's a job *none* of us enjoy!

Speaking of enjoyment, how are you enjoying these newsletters? It really is a tough jib and it's the same thing every time we try to put one of these out: my President's Letter and many photos of Pontiacs that no one even knows the owners of and Alan doing his best to get something in the newsletter.

Folks, it is truthfully getting old, huh? So what can you do to help? Well, get a piece of paper and a pen out and write something. I think that all of you have gone to some kind of school so you can put some words to paper. It really would be a shame if this chapter ended. Some of us have worked ever so hard to get us to where we are. You know who you are. Other POCI members recognize the uniqueness and quality of our cars. Modified cars usually win big at the conventions. We must have something going for us.

All I can say is there might be a shakedown in July at this year's convention. We will have to wait to see what it is. 'Til then, keep the Pontiac going and I will see you at our one annual meeting – at the convention in West Virginia.

Sincerely,
Lou Calasibetta
President

Garage Scene

Here's an example of what I'm talking about regarding photos of your projects. This first photo, taken in the snowy outdoor lot, is the one that put me onto my '61 Ventura. It was a random shot taken at Bo Huff's Utah shop in December 2006 by an acquaintance at a motorcycle magazine I used to work for. Being a Pontiac guy, I zeroed in on the only Pontiac in the photo.

The second photo shows the car being worked on in its early stages – sanding, sanding, and then more sanding. No photos were taken by a professional photographer but they serve the purpose to let us see what's happening. We're all gearheads and we love to see stuff like this. – *Alan Mayes*

Kansas City World of Wheels

By Lou Calasibetta

I was invited to take the Golden Indian to the Fiftieth Kansas City World of Wheels this year. Well, I did go and I had a wonderful time there. I met some very cool people that thanked me for bringing the old show car there. Many of them remembered seeing it in their December 1963 *Rod & Custom* magazines that they had in study hall.

The car was not in competition, but just shown in the Custom Car Cavalcade area. I have to admit it – it's the smiles that count and the conversation that the '60 brings out that I like best.

As usual, I took photos that I do not see in New Jersey. I hope you will enjoy them. See, I try to send something in to Alan, even though I'm not a reporter. It just helps with your chapter newsletter to have some Pontiacs to look at. Enjoy the pictures.

For the record, I drove 2400 miles round trip through snow and ice – not a fun time! There were many accidents and rollovers on the highway, going both ways. I am very thankful that the car and I were both safe and sound. It really makes one give thanks when he arrives home to a warm and cozy home. Keep that in mind next time you pull your trailer. It could take three days to get to a show but it only takes three days for a burial, too.

Plan now to attend the 2010 POCI Convention in Charleston, WV.
Bring your modified Pontiac, Oakland, or GMC!

Interior Magic – Doug Corson's Idea for Interior Variety

By Alan Mayes

Some of you may have seen the interior on my '61 Ventura and scratched your heads, thinking you had thought the interior was black and white, but now it's all white (or vice versa). Your eyes aren't playing tricks on you. The interior is transformable. Doug Corson at Custom and Street Rod Interiors in Grand Junction, Colorado, came up with the idea and applied it to my car. All of the black upholstery sections in the interior are replaceable with white ones.

The black inserts use alternate pleats of matte and semi-matte vinyl. The white ones have alternate pleats of pearl and regular finishes. Other colors and patterns could be utilized as well.

I keep the inserts I'm not using in a plastic tub in the garage to keep them from getting dusty.

Street Rod & Modified Chapter
Information Sheet
Tell us about yourself and your cars

Please complete the following information and return it along with pictures of your car(s).
Send to Alan Mayes, 219 Lakewood Drive, Tullahoma, TN 37388 or e-mail to: alanmayes@lighttube.net

NAME_____ ADDRESS_____

CITY_____ STATE _____ ZIP_____

OCCUPATION_____

CAR MAKE_____ MODEL_____ YEAR_____

BODY STYLE_____ COLOR_____

ENGINE_____ ENGINE MODIFICATIONS_____

TRANSMISSION_____ REAR END_____

CARBURETION/INDUCTION_____

EXHAUST_____ INTERIOR_____

TYPE OF PAINT_____ BRAND OF PAINT_____

CHROME_____ WHEN DID YOU PURCHASE THE CAR?_____

BODY MODIFICATIONS_____

CHASSIS MODIFICATIONS_____

TIRES_____ WHEELS_____

DESCRIBE THE WORK DONE AND FUTURE PLANS FOR THE CAR_____

_____

_____

_____

TROPHYS AND AWARDS_____

DRIVEN DAILY_____ PLEASURE ONLY_____ TRAILERED or DRIVEN TO SHOWS?_____

OTHER CLUB AFFILIATIONS_____

OTHER HOBBY CARS OWNED_____

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION – POCI Street Rod/Modified Chapter

This chapter is for those interested in Modified Pontiac, Oakland & GMC vehicles.

Name_____ Spouse_____

Street_____

City_____ State_____ Zip_____

Phone # _____ Fax # _____ POCI Membership # _____

E-Mail Address _____

Pontiacs/Oaklands/GMCs owned & Modifications: _____

_____

PLEASE SEND A STORY AND PHOTOS OF YOUR VEHICLE FOR *THE MODIFIER* AND FOR THE CLUB SCRAPBOOK TO BE DISPLAYED AT THE INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION.

You must be a member in good standing of POCI to be eligible for chapter membership. IF YOU ARE NOT A POCI MEMBER, YOU MUST JOIN POCI FIRST. POCI dues are $35.00 per year for the U.S., $37.00 in Canada, $46.00 elsewhere. Associate members are $2.00 extra each. The Street Rod & Modified Chapter dues are $12.00 per year (June 1 through May 31) and are pro-rated for new members who join after January 1 to $6.00 for the remainder of the year. Chapter dues include bi-monthly issues of *The Modifier* newsletter.

Please return this form and a check payable to the Street Rod & Modified Chapter to:
Charlie Huntington, 78 Lynch Road, Newcastle, ME 04553

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