



The Modifier

Street Rod & Modified Chapter
Pontiac – Oakland Club International

Jan./Feb. 2014

Starbird's 50th - Tulsa



George Barris, “King of the Kustomizers” (L) with POCI member Larry Crider and a cool GMC Pickup from Darryl Starbird’s 50th Anniversary Show in Tulsa.
Read Larry’s Report & Check Darla Wilhite’s pictures inside.



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

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President's Message - Lou Calasibetta, Chapter President

So how are all of you members doing? It has been a real tough year all over the country, especially if you were a weather person. Almost all of the states have had issues: drought in California, ice in Georgia, and a lot of snow here in the East. Almost everyone that I talk to is totally fed up with Old Man Winter. It has been a snow plow winter for me here in the Garden State. I have had snow halfway up on my barn doors. Now it's an iceberg. I may not get into one 'til April.

This past weekend I attended the Autorama in Detroit, Michigan. I was invited to take a custom. I am so sorry to mention that I am taking my chopped 1951 Mercury there, not a Pontiac. The Golden Indian has been there twice and now it's time for a change. I wanted to take photos of Pontiacs there for this letter but did not had the time to do it. Alan needed a letter so here I am at it again. It has been tough to get new photos for him this season.

So, did you guys vote for the new directors of POCI? How many times have I mentioned that it's your club? So vote. No use to complain about the club if you do not get a person in from your district. It will be too late then so do not cry out after the ballots are counted. It is not like a tax return; the ballot is a very simple small paper to fill out. Get it done for our chapter and the parent club.

The 2014 POCI convention in Kansas is getting closer every day now. Are you ready for the event? There is always so much you can do to your Pontiac or GMC before the show. Do not take on something that will not get done before the convention. Plan ahead with the project and just get done what you can. We want to see your modified car there. The more the merrier!

I am thinking of not doing a breakfast cruise at the convention this year. What are your thoughts? On Thursday there are so many seminars to attend. I want to hear Darryl Starbird's story. I know him and he always has a great Midwest way about him that is very cool. It should be a good one for anyone that likes customs. Darryl is one of the world's best custom dudes. I want your thoughts about our meeting. Maybe we will just have it in the room assigned by the convention group this time.

We want to have fun and do as much as we can out there in Kansas so let us know how you feel about the chapter and how we are doing. Alan and the rest of us all try to make it as good as we can, but as usual we need your help and input.

Have a good one.

Lou

Editorial – First Pontiac (& Modified) - Alan Mayes, Editor



Every once in awhile, I get a little nostalgic for my first Pontiac, this 1966 Catalina convertible. My parents bought it new. When I was a senior in high school in 1968, I bought it dirt cheap from them. I immediately took it to Midas and had dual glass packs and bologna-sliced tips put on. Whitewalls were "old man tires" then so I first painted the whitewalls black. Then I saved up the coin to buy Goodyear redline Polyglas tires (G70-14) and 10-spoke Indy Drag Mags. I

was stylin', man! This is the car that I drove to college when I went to General Motors institute. Later, I traded it for the second 1969 GTO Judge to hit Russ Regenold Pontiac in Anderson, Indiana. They kept the first one on the showroom floor for two weeks. I wish I still had this and The Judge!

Darryl Starbird 50th Anniversary Tulsa Car Show - Larry Crider

The Starbird custom car shows have dominated the Southern part of the Midwest for many years. Once having his own point system and circuit that covered a 7-9 city venue, Darryl Starbird Custom Car Shows is now down to one city only: Tulsa, Oklahoma. The show has been in a couple different buildings in Tulsa but over the past 25 years, it has been hosted at the Expo Center at the Tulsa County Fairgrounds. We are fortunate to have a building of this size, constructed back in the early '60s for the oil equipment shows. The building alone covers 10 acres and is one of the largest in the country with no center structural posts to hamper display areas. It makes for a clean sweep from one end to the other.



Within the confines of the building, there is space to house 1000 show vehicles, all indoors from the unpredictable (but always cold) February weather. We have seen many different entertainments, too, from dirt racing, monster truck racing, bands and famous autograph sessions. A couple of my favorite personalities to meet over the years were Wolfman Jack and the original Crickets from the Buddy Holly group.

This year, Darryl was celebrating his 50th year in Tulsa and held back nothing to add to the excitement. Darryl brought out many of his personal creations from his museum along with others and presented the largest bubble top display ever held in the country. To some folks, these are wild and almost ugly creations, but to others they are true works of art, an impressive form of art that has captured from somebody's thoughts and ideas in an actual driving machine.



On hand to sign autographs all weekend were Candy Clark who played Debbie in the *American Graffiti* movie, Dennis Gage from *My Classic Car* and the world famous George Barris, best known for his creation of the 1966 Batmobile and other movie vehicles.

This year, everybody from everywhere was attempting to have his car accepted to be a part of this huge celebration. With this said, there were many Pontiacs on hand including 17 Pontiacs and a GMC truck from our local Indian Nations Pontiac Club (a POCI chapter).



Over the past few years, Darryl has had a grouping of cars called the “Fine Nine.” These are top show vehicles from around the country competing for a large cash prize payout. Competing in the group this year were a couple of Pontiacs. Extreme quality was evident as usual from most Fine Nine participants and well deserving to “Go for the Gold,” as Darryl states. We heard rumors this was the last Starbird show to be produced and Darryl was going out in style. But as the weekend progressed, officials come around stating Darryl had signed a 3-year contract so we know we are good for the next 2 years for more great shows. Included here are some photos supplied by Darla for your enjoyment. If you ever get the chance, I suggest putting this show on your calendar for future attendance.



I also want to remind you that we have gotten Darryl to make an appearance at the 2014 POCI Convention in Wichita for a seminar on Thursday afternoon. You will hear his life history of why and how he created his machines and the involvement of using some Pontiacs in his builds. California has George Barris; Oklahoma has the King of Bubble Tops, Darryl Starbird.

Thanks for the report and photos, Larry and Darla! - Editor

Wichita Bound for the 2014 POCI Convention?

If you're planning to attend the 2014 POCI Convention in Wichita, Kansas, be sure to get your hotel reservations made soon, and don't forget to send in your registration to the POCI Club Office.

Early registration helps the convention committee to make plans for the correct number of attending members.

As in past years, the Street Rod & Modified Chapter will have our annual chapter meeting during the convention, so please plan to be on hand and let's have a great showing of modified Pontiacs and GMCs in Wichita!

You can register for the convention online at www.poci.org or use the registration form in the *Smoke Signals* magazine. Hotel info is there, too.

Member's Car – Ernie Abariotes, Blair, Nebraska



1950 Pontiac Convertible, Pontiac 400 from 1973 LeMans, 1966 GTO Tri-Power; it's a driver!

Convention Flashbacks, Pt. 2 – Thomas Butenschon

Thomas Butenschon sent in some photos of modified cars from previous POCI Conventions. I'll use them from time to time as I have room. These are from the 2000 Convention.



Got a friend with a modified Pontiac, Oakland or GMC? Recruit that cool guy or gal with impeccable automotive taste to the POCI Street Rod & Modified Chapter. There's a membership application on the last page of this newsletter.

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: alanpoci@gmail.com

NAME _____ ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

E-MAIL ADDRESS _____ OCCUPATION _____

CAR MAKE _____ MODEL _____ YEAR _____ BODY STYLE _____

ENGINE _____ ENGINE MODIFICATIONS _____

TRANSMISSION _____ REAR END _____ CARB/INDUCTION _____ EXHAUST _____

INTERIOR _____ CHROME _____ COLOR _____

TYPE OF PAINT _____ BODY MODIFICATIONS _____

CHASSIS MODIFICATIONS _____

TIRES _____ WHEELS _____ OTHER WORK DONE AND FUTURE PLANS _____

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 # _____ Cell # _____ 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.

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. Street Rod & Modified Chapter dues are \$15.00 per year (July 1 through June 30), pro-rated for new members who join after January 1 to \$8.00 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:

Steve Cook, 16565 Lancaster Est. Dr., Grove, MO 63040

The Modifier
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Tullahoma, TN 37388

The SRM Website is BACK.

Check out <http://www.badgoat.net/SRM/index.html>. Send Charlie your photos & info.

IF YOU ARE RECEIVING THIS “MODIFIER” BY MAIL AND WOULD RATHER RECEIVE IT BY E-MAIL (or vice-versa),
LET US KNOW. Send a message to alanmayesosr@yahoo.com