



The Modifier

Street Rod & Modified Chapter
Pontiac – Oakland Club International

Nov./Dec. 2013

2013 –It’s a Wrap!



Cool Mild Custom GMC Short Bed Pickup – Lou Calasibetta photo



The Modifier

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

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President's Message - Lou Calasibetta, Chapter President

The 2013 car season is almost over. Wow, it really went by fast. Now that it is part of getting old. Our chapter had a wonderful season, some nice newsletters (thanks Alan) and a great turnout at the modified display at Dayton, Ohio. Not bad for a chapter that meets only once a year at the national POCI Convention.

How many of you members receive the Goodguys magazine? Goodguys is one of the largest rod and custom organizations in the world. This past year, the magazine was full of some cool Pontiacs and GMC trucks. The reason I mention this is that the magazine picks many Pontiacs for finalists in their "Muscle Car of the Year" award. It is wonderful to see other organizations beside POCI giving them recognition.

This is the last and quickest letter for the 2013 year. I hope you all have a wonderful holiday, and enjoy Christmas and New Year. Be careful and do not drive and drink. The Modified Chapter needs all of you back in 2014. We have to get ready for the Kansas convention next year. It is always a great car experience for each of us. I know that POCI is doing its best to make this a great one.

In closing, I want to thank all of you for the support of our chapter in 2013. Together we will make 2014 a super year for the Modified Chapter.

All the best,
Lou

2013 Miscellaneous Pontiac/GMC Sightings – Lou Calasibetta

Here are some photos that Lou sent along of modified Pontiacs and GMCs he's spotted over the past year at shows (and in his own driveway in the case of the '41). I especially like the mild custom GMC pickup on the cover and rear view shown here. It is very tastefully done and it's unusual to see a GMC. Thanks, Lou. – Ed.



Cont'd on next page

Editorial – Living in the Past - Alan Mayes, Editor

I'm sure that you are all as aware of this as I am, but old car people seem to be collectors and fans of everything old. It's no wonder, especially these days, as many modern products have become throwaways with a short projected lifespan and no way to repair or rebuild. When I was a kid, we were on a first name basis with our TV repairman. He came out once a year or more to repair our old black & white 1952 Motorola. As recently as the 1980s, I bought used TVs that our local appliance sales shop had taken in trade and refurbished. They worked like new and cost half as much.

Anyway, I've always had local and POCI friends that were collectors of old things like I am, but in my job with *O/Skool Rodz* and *Car Kulture DeLuxe*, my friends have a more nationwide and even semi-global reach, and I find that whether in Oregon, Texas, France, or New Zealand, we're all alike. We like the old stuff. Some of the things have personal connections while others we collect just because they are cool (remember Charlie's neon signs article in the June 2013 *Modifier*?). Here are a few pictures of my own collection. I'd like to see some of yours, too.

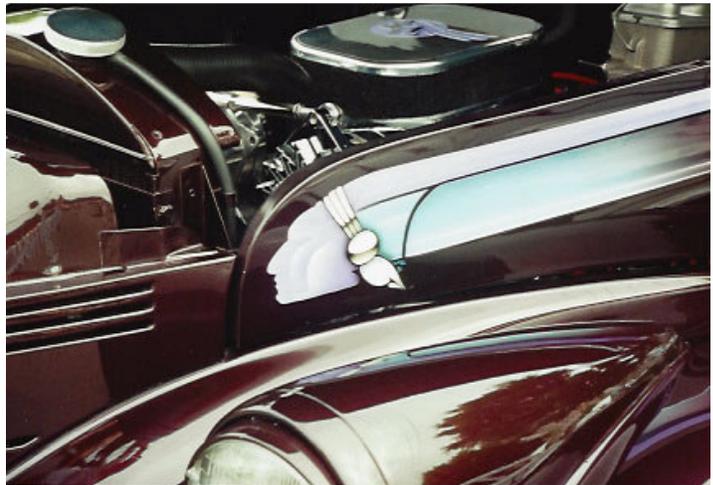


Above: Structo truck ('51 Xmas gift) & '46 Crosley sign. Below: '40 Hawthorne & 1900 Montrose bikes. Bottom: '60s desk, '50s office couch, '58 Philco Predicta TV.



Convention Flashbacks – 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. This batch is from the 1993 & 1999 Conventions.



Member's Car: Doug Rydel – 1965 GTO

I somehow misplaced this article and pics from two years ago! Sorry, Dennis & Doug, but here it is. – Alan

Dad and I (Dennis and Doug Rydel) are finishing up my 1965 GTO convertible. The story behind the car: Dad has always had Pontiacs and especially GTOs since they first came out in the '60. Fast forward to 1995. Dad put out the word that he wanted a 1965 GTO convertible and we were looking in Hemmings and the local paper (this was before the internet was really big, or we found out about it). A friend told us about one in the local paper, only 7 miles from our house in another suburb of Cleveland, Ohio. Apparently the guy wanted too much money for the car and everyone in the local Pontiac circles around Cleveland looked at this car and passed. He told us we should go look at this car, so we did.

There wasn't much there - frame, body with interior, no front clip (I mean nothing but the frame horns and front suspension), no chrome, door handles, taillights, bumpers, shifter at all, only two sets of tri-power and a supposedly rebuilt motor, no trans (was a 4-speed car), no PHS docs, clear title. The only thing it had going for it was no rust whatsoever; floor pans were original and you could eat off them. Asking \$8k (lotta money back then for that). Story we were told from the guy is the car was bought originally here in Cleveland at Grabski Pontiac, raced a few years, mildly wrecked (drivers front fender and door, nothing major), bought by another Pontiac restoration guy and sat during the '70s and '80s in a heated garage while the guy was gathering parts to restore, and then sold to the guy that we were talking to. Meantime, the restoration guy (his friend at the time that stored the car for 20 years) unfortunately died, leaving this guy we were talking to with the car, etc. The guy had no idea how to restore a car, so he was selling it.



OK, we were able to negotiate a fair price but without knowing exactly about the parts, or what was there, etc. We did know we had the cleanest body I have ever seen on a GTO with absolutely no rust, so Dad took a flyer, made him an offer around Thanksgiving, and didn't hear back from him until one day after Christmas. We got the phone call to come buy it if we wanted it before he put it in *Hemmings Motor News*.

So we got our money, paid him, and - what a surprise - he pulled parts out from the neighbors, his house, and everywhere else. We actually got 6 truckloads of parts. Amazing, a once in a lifetime! We [later] got PHS docs. Car is originally a GTO with optional 4-speed, whitewall tires and upgraded radio. Thats it, and Iris Mist color-wise, which is kinda rare but not to our liking.

So, got the car home and it sat 'til 5 years ago, when I sandblasted the body down to bare metal. Dad and I proceeded to do the bodywork (since he has been custom painting for 50 years; me for 20 years), painted the floorboards with POR 15 (pics below) the underneath with flat black, and finally got jet black paint (big surprise, that's the only color Dad wants on his cars, which means, as you know, waaayyy too much block sanding).



True modifiers that we are (nothing is stock), we are putting a 1970 455 in it, Super T-10 tranny, aluminum heavy duty radiator, added power brakes and steering. I eliminated the side mirrors and radio antenna, adding Cragar SS mags, dual master cylinder with disc brake conversion, so basically a restomod.

But the best part is for all my hours of block sanding and time I have in the car making it straight for my dad as a labor of love ('cause he taught me how to build and paint cars and is always helping me with my rides). My dad did the best thing any dad could do for his son. I have always wanted a GTO since I was a kid but could never afford one. He actually made me cry when he said that he was giving the car to me. That's right; giving me what I consider the baddest muscle car on the planet, a GTO convertible! Incredible; I absolutely love my dad. He is truly a great father, my best friend, awesome car painter and builder (my partner), and simply the best dad in the whole world!

That is my story. I would appreciate if you would publish this in "The Modifier." We are proud members and I enjoy you guys and the other members, the magazine, and what it stands for.

Doug Rydel

P.S. Excuse the Ford Racing sign. It was a joke done by my buddy.

Member's Car: Bob Childers – 1938 Pontiac

Bob Childers sent these pics in some time ago and I misplaced them (recurring theme). Sorry for the delay. His note with the first one read "This is our '38 on a camping trip someplace. You have no idea how many people could not understand us taking an old car that far. Go figure!" Yeah, go figure. On the second one, Bob said he parked by the Bentley because the cars were the same color. I think he did it to make the Bentley owner jealous!



Bob sent a later message telling me that he and his wife had just returned from a 1000 mile trip: "Just wanted to let you know my wife Jean and I just returned from about a thousand mile tour of Wisconsin in our '38 Pontiac. Averaged just shy of 19 MPG. No central destination, just roaming around. Sorry, no photos since I broke my camera when I bounced it off some guy's nose. He thought it was great fun to have his kids using my fenders as a small slide. I told him to stop and he laughed. He stopped laughing after that."

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

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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 alanpoci@gmail.com