

'63 Cat

Posted by OldInjun - 2013/10/10 16:01

In addition to 2+2's, I have always loved the styling of the '63 Pontiac's. The Catalina especially always brings back memories of Pontiac's last fling at drag racing competition with the fabled Swiss Cheese cars. So a week ago I fell prey to "auction fever" at Carlisle and purchased a "plain Jane" '63 Catalina coupe. As far as I can tell, someone went into a dealership and said, "I want the cheapest Big Car you sell - maybe just add an AM radio and a day/night mirror." Seriously, that's all it has. Economy 389, 3-speed manual column shift, no powers of any kind.

So I need to upgrade a few things. Sad to change an original drive train, but it is going to be a 421/455 multi-carbed monster with a 4-speed floor shift by the time I am finished. I've taken my 2+2 as far as I can go, performance-wise, without destroying its originality, and high 13-second runs aren't good enough. The '63 doesn't compare in value, so I can modify to my heart's (and wallet's) content.

http://www.pontiac2plus2registry.com/images/fbfiles/images/07_Catalina_10_5_13_073.JPG

http://www.pontiac2plus2registry.com/images/fbfiles/images/03_Catalina_10_5_13_069.JPG

http://www.pontiac2plus2registry.com/images/fbfiles/images/08_Catalina_10_5_13_074.JPG

http://www.pontiac2plus2registry.com/images/fbfiles/images/14_Catalina_10_5_13_080.JPG

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Re:'63 Cat

Posted by 421 HO - 2013/10/11 03:05

NICE 1 JACK.....IT LOOKS PRETTY WELL MAINTAINED & ORIGINAL. I CAN SEE THE MAKING OF A BEAUTIFUL SUPER DUTY CLONE THERE.....MY 1st SUGGESTION,.... WHACK A SET OF 8 LUGGERS ON.....HAPPY HOT RODDIN' CHEERS TODD.

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Re:'63 Cat

Posted by OldInjun - 2013/10/11 09:58

It is very original, except for a re-paint in the factory color and replacement upholstery. I can concentrate on the go-fast stuff.

The Cragar wheels are definitely headed for Ebay/Craigslist. I have extra 8-lugs in the garage (buried somewhere - my garage is disgustingly overstuffed) which will go on the car.

It's been a lot of extra work to have the 2+2 doing triple duty - cruising, concours judging & racing. With this car I can "retire" the 2+2 from the strip, except for an occasional blast to keep it limber.

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Re:'63 Cat

Posted by john - 2013/10/12 02:39

another great Pontiac, luv the red interior, lots of future fun!

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Re:'63 Cat Update

Posted by OldInjun - 2014/05/07 10:54

I spent a lot of time over the winter making plans to transform this nice original driver into a 1/4-mile racer, only to "change horses" and go in a different direction. Here's the long-story-short version: Shortly after buying the '63 I called longtime friend Mark Pickett to discuss my plans. Mark is one of the Pickett Brothers, of "Running Injun" Racing" fame. They had rebuilt the engine in my 2+2. When told of my purchase, Mark advised me that I should have bought the '63 Cat racer that they built for another friend/customer. I knew the car well and had always admired it. That car was actually the inspiration for my purchase and plans for the car I bought. They were almost identical in appearance, right down to the Marimba Red paint. I was not aware that the car Mark referred to was available for purchase. After I came up with a budget for modifying my Cat, I realized that the financially smart move was to buy the other car. Although I have a strong preference for manual shift cars - the other has an automatic - the car is basically turnkey, and "old school" shifting is not the best way to get down the 1/4-mile anyway. So I bit the bullet, sold the car pictured above at a local swap meet, and bought the race car, along with an open car trailer.

Here's a few shots of the new car:

<http://www.pontiac2plus2registry.com/images/fbfiles/images/146.JPG>

<http://www.pontiac2plus2registry.com/images/fbfiles/images/137.JPG>

<http://www.pontiac2plus2registry.com/images/fbfiles/images/144.JPG>

http://www.pontiac2plus2registry.com/images/fbfiles/images/Cecil_Co_6_11_11_Walt_Millers_Catalina.JPG

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Re:'63 Cat Update

Posted by 8lug - 2014/06/03 19:19

I have not checked in in a while,looks like you miss a lot when you don't kep up.BIG CAT looks like a winner.Still trying to work out plans for Norwalk,hope to get there again.

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Re:'63 Cat Update

Posted by OldInjun - 2014/06/04 09:45

Mike, I hope you make it to Norwalk. Hopefully this will be the largest gathering of 2+2's in recent memory. I hosted a 2+2 Reunion at the 2010 POCI Convention in Charlestown, WV, at which we gathered 6 2+2's. I have no doubt we will beat that number in August.

http://www.pontiac2plus2registry.com/images/fbfiles/images/POCI_Charlestown__2010_22_Reunion.jpg

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Re:'63 Cat Update

Posted by OldInjun - 2014/06/04 09:50

As for the '63 Cat, I had the transmission overhauled and the car is with the Pickett Brothers now being race prepped, as it has been sitting for a couple of years. I'll also be changing the graphics -more on that later.

I'll be traveling to Tennessee for an AACA Grand National Meet and then on to Wichita for POCl 2014 Convention over the next several weeks, so the first drag strip outing is on hold until July.

Any of you going to Wichita, please look me up. Always good to put a face with a name.

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Re:'63 Cat Update

Posted by RichC - 2014/06/23 09:38

Great looking car Jack. It was good to meet you in Wichita. I look forward to seeing you in Norwalk.

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Re:'63 Cat

Posted by Slgenge - 2014/10/06 22:42

If you ever decide to sell that race car Jack, please let me know. I been looking for something like this for years. Nothing like that up here in Canada. Thanks Shawn

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Re:'63 Cat

Posted by OldInjun - 2014/10/17 13:05

Race car update:

Very busy summer, traveling to Tennessee, Kansas, and Ohio for car shows/convention/2+2 Reunion. The '63 was on the back burner, but I am excited at the prospect of getting it on the strip for the first time tomorrow, at Cecil County Dragway, in Rising Sun, MD. I got my best time in the 2+2 at Englishtown, NJ, a few weeks ago - 13.87 @ 104mph - but the '63 should make it feel like I was dragging an anchor then.

Here is the '63 Cat in its new warpaint (had to make it mine):

http://www.pontiac2plus2registry.com/images/fbfiles/images/A_W_Golden_9_28_14_a.png

http://www.pontiac2plus2registry.com/images/fbfiles/images/7_18_14_165.JPG

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Re:'63 Cat

Posted by 8lug - 2014/10/17 15:44

Looks great Jack, burn up the track!

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Re:'63 Cat

Posted by OldInjun - 2014/10/20 16:46

Good weather at Cecil County on Saturday, but too many racers. Only got in 4 passes.
All went well, car ran strong. Best time 11.48@120mph.
Atco, NJ, in 3 weeks. Looking for low-11's or - dare I dream? - high 10's.

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Re:'63 Cat

Posted by OldInjun - 2014/12/20 12:01

Anyone interested in seeing the '63 Cat or '65 2+2 at the track can go to the Video Gallery at the top of the page for a link to a YouTube channel I set up. If you want to see new ones next season, you can subscribe to the channel - "Old injun Racing".

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