

Issue #3 ~ Nov/Dec 2008



Tool & Die Magazine

Music, Motorsports & More

POWER HOUSE
HOT RODS
AND PERFORMANCE



T&D
HAPPENINGS

INTERVIEWS WITH:
SUBCAT STUDIOS
THROTLEROD
LEDYARD

THE ADVENTURES
OF BRUNO

FREE



“Cruising the Strip”

by Hop

When speaking of “chopper stuff” most people assume it is in reference to bikes. However, “chopped” is a description that also has a place in the custom car world. This brings us to our motorsports feature for issue #3 of **Tool & Die Magazine**. Located just a short distance North of Syracuse in Central Square, NY is a new custom car shop called **Power House Hot Rods & Performance**. Owners and expert custom car builders, Chuck and Mike, recently moved here from New Jersey to setup shop. The two have spent many years building and racing cars and it was this love and interest of the sport which inspired them to develop this hobby into a career. They have had many successful custom car builds in New Jersey and they are now eager to demonstrate their talents to the Greater Central New York area.

As I looked around the large spacious shop, impressed by the quality of cars in various stages of completion, my curiosity got the best of me. So I asked, “Why did you choose Central Square to open your business?” The response was surprising yet made perfect sense. Mike had built a house here in

the North Shore area about five years ago and when here they would see car shows and cruise - nights all over during the spring and summer. Yes, even with our limited warm - weather season, custom cars and custom car events are very popular in our area. They decided this would make a perfect place for a business such as theirs. OK, so I could buy into that reasoning, but, I thought, what about our long winter seasons, wouldn’t that be detrimental to having a successful custom car business? Of course I had to ask and

again was given a response that makes perfect sense: “Believe it or not we feel it’s just the opposite. We’ve found that most people want to enjoy their cars as much as they can during the summer, we’ve had plenty of projects this summer but they seemed to be on the smaller side. Now that the weather is changing we are getting very large builds that lay customer’s cars up for a longer period of time. But it’s perfect because they know they will get their car back before spring.”

Considering the short time that **Power House Hot Rods & Performance** has been open, they certainly have had some high - end custom cars to work on. Most of their clientele are locals, which was hard for them in the beginning without an established reputation in this area. Most people really want to see what kind of work a shop can do before they will trust you with their special projects. However, in just a short period of time that all changed. Once they got a few local jobs out on the street, people noticed, people talked, and business picked up fast. And they also still have some customers from New Jersey coming to them for builds and customizing.

At **Power House Hot Rods** they can do anything from a total stock restoration to full tube chassis race cars, and engine work from mild Street to full blown race drive - trains. They can handle



Photos by Tim Andrews

Powerhouse Hot Rods and Performance

anything in the performance industry that anyone's speed obsession makes them envision. These guys have a true passion for classic cars, whether it is a pro - street or custom hot rod that they build, they have an extraordinary enthusiasm for what they do. They have fun working on these cars which drives their dedication and commitment for what they do, and that is the most important part. Additionally they have a speed shop onsite which stocks hundreds of parts and that alone keeps them very busy. And if they don't have it there they can usually get it next day.

Some of their past projects include a 1967 Chevelle that they completed

customer the pleasure of driving his completed 1967 Chevelle home that night! They currently have a 1932 Ford Coupe that is receiving custom frame work and a stainless steel exhaust system. Their sister shop Jersey Muscle Cars in New Jersey did the bodywork and paint. Power House Hot Rods are now doing the final assembly so that this car will be on the road come spring-time. The guys have also started a 1969 El Camino SS that will be back - halved (this means the whole back section of the car is

cut away except for the outer skins to make room for a drag racing suspension and chassis), with custom floors and a funny car roll cage. It will have a completely new front frame from the firewall forward with tubular A - arms and rack and pinion steering. This car will be real trick when it is finished and will drive and handle like a new car. In fact they have

had many projects that involve taking a very old car, modifying and replacing chassis and suspension to make a classic vehicle that handles like a modern sports car. It's a science and an art rolled into one.

When the CNY weather allows the custom car season to begin, be sure to watch for Chuck and Mike at car



for a local customer. This customer had been working on it for ten years, he brought the car to *Power House Hot Rods* for a few things, and they ended up finishing the car for him in six days. It was done in time for their Friday night car show, which gave this

