

FLAMED

UP

IT'S NOT ABOUT WHEN
YOU FINISH, BUT HOW YOU
FINISH

STORY & PHOTOS BY BETO MENDOZA



Growing up in Sacramento, there's plenty to learn. Aside from being the capital of the gold rush, and the city by which Shakey's and Tower Records were both founded in, it's a city rich with cultural history, and part of that history includes lowriding.

While it's not nearly as famous as Los Angeles for its lowriding scene, it still has a strong presence and our

next featured guest can attest to that. Sükie was first exposed to lowriders by a neighbor who happened to own a box Chevy. His neighbor would always have lowrider friends working on their cars and once he saw them hitting switches and three-wheeling it was game over as he became hooked. From that point on he knew he'd one day soon partake in the

lifestyle and after years of saving he was finally able to make that dream come to fruition.

With his money right and his ambition high, he went on the hunt for a '63 hardtop and soon scored a deal. With the car in tow, he was already planning its rebirth and once he got it home, he began tearing it down. With the car apart, he was ready to



CAR MODEL

1963 IMPALA CONVERTIBLE BY CHEVROLET

1963 CHEVROLET IMPALA CONVERTIBLE

NICKNAME

Bangin' on Wax

OWNER

Sukie Saelee

CITY/STATE

Redding, CA

BODY/PAINT

Wallace Pardo in Yuma took care of all the chroming and Pitra Poeng did the bodywork and laying out the Axalta red paint

ENGINE

350 engine with Corvette TPI, chrome finned valve covers, Street and Performance water pump/starter/pulleys, electric fan, aluminum radiator, HEI distributor, NGK wires, Hedman Husler headers, dual glasspacks that were installed by Vilo S. and Chris F.

SUSPENSION

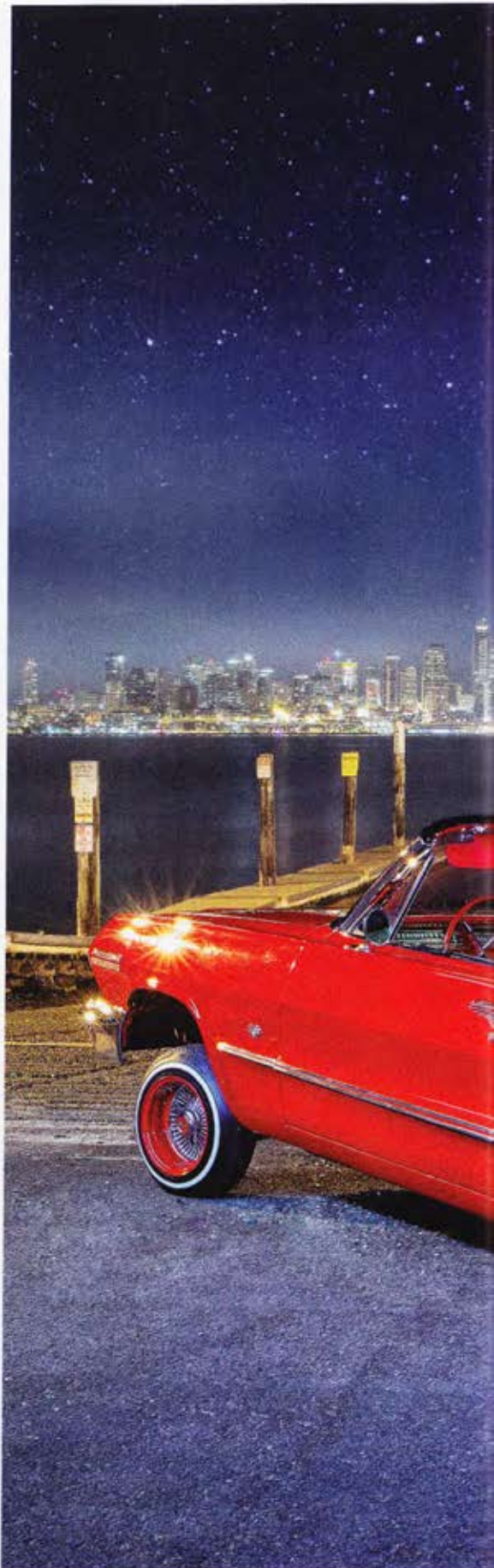
CPP brake booster and master cylinder with a shortened rearend. Rick "Topo" V. fully wrapped the frame and Keo Sanh installed the double-chrome pump setup with three-square dumps and six Accumax, hardlines, and four batteries.

INTERIOR

Central Valley Upholstery installed the red vinyl interior with the hardtop cloth inserts

WHEELS/TIRES

13x7 Dayton's with Premium Sportway 5.20s



execute his plans but soon realized he had limited resources where he now lived (in Redding, California).

As a result, he decided to sell it and get himself a more manageable project. After four months of shopping around, he found this '63 convertible over in Santa Cruz. After striking a deal over the phone, he drove five hours to pick it up. It was a driving project that needed a lot

of work but not even in his wildest dreams did he ever think he'd get himself into a ragtop.

Still with limited resources, Sukie decided to reach out to his friend Keo Sanh and the guys from RTR (Real Time Resto) in Seattle. RTR is made up of guys from Eazy Duz It and their friends who build cars in their spare time and they decided to take it in. They began the process

by shaving the firewall and dropping in an all-chrome 350 engine with a TPL. They then laid a solid Axalta red paint and installed two chrome Red's pumps. Central Family Upholstery then stitched together a red vinyl and cloth interior.

Now with his dream a reality, Sukie is enjoying cruising his rag with his family, all thanks to the RTR boys.

