

WOMEN OF AMC - DOTTIE MACAULEY

by Casey McGowan



In each issue of *American Express*, we recognize a very important person who is a major contributor to our mostly male dominated hobby. I am speaking, of course, of our women who have supported OAMC and other AMC clubs in the past, and are now bringing forth their own great AMC cars.

This issue's feature owner is from Tewksbury, Massachusetts, and her name is Dottie MacCauley. I spoke with her at the Arthritis Foundation Show. This is her story of AMC ownership.

Dottie's first car was a 1971 Javelin SST, which she bought used between 1978 - 1980. Rust and a noisy engine prevented her from restoring the car, it was used as a "driver". She bought her present car, an Eagle SX-4 in 1981. It was a special order from the factory so she could get the gorgeous Oriental Red color she wanted with the rear spoiler, power antenna, and many other features the cars at the dealerships didn't have. Dottie used the Eagle for everyday driving for the first 10 years she owned the car. She discovered how great the Eagle was for getting around in the snow. However, after 10 years of use, she decided to slowly return the car to a condition that was actually better than when she bought it in 1981.

The SX-4 has had the best of care through the years. Dottie has filled two maintenance record books, changing the oil regularly, keeping it crystal clear. The Eagle still has its original engine - never needing to be rebuilt. The improvements on the Eagle began by adding louvers to the back glass and fog lights on the front. Later came tinted glass with custom etching. The scene is of an eagle flying over the mountains with a waterfall and moon in the background. This was an all day task for the artist. Each feather and tree on the scene is etched individually, a very tedious and impressive job.

Dottie then had the car pin striped medium blue with a lighter blue on the inside. The blue striping is highlighted with black. The mud flaps are detailed to match the pin striping. The car has a custom stainless steel exhaust system that branches out in the rear to form dual exhaust. The rims are American Racing from Summit Racing Supply and have an added spinner and cap. Another feature of the car is its stereo system. Dottie likes great music while she travels, and has installed a stereo that even rapper Snoop Dog would be proud of. It consists of a Pioneer 6 CD player and Amp with a base tube mounted in the rear of the car. The sound is better than most have at home, and won't wear out like stock stereo systems.

Dottie's first AMO Meet was St Louis in 1999, where I first saw her and her Eagle. She showed the car in Connecticut in 2000, and again in Kenosha in 2002. The Eagle always wins a Junior Gold at the Nationals. Dottie usually travels solo to events as many AMCCers drive a bit too fast for her liking. She likes to keep the Eagle in the 60 - 65 mph range so as to not be hard on the engine. She wants her Eagle to last.

Dottie has learned to do a lot of the work on the car herself. In addition to oil changes, she can also change the alternator and do other repairs. She leaves the body work to the pros.

As far as advice to other women thinking about owning their own AMC, Dottie wishes to pass along the advice her father gave her. The best way to learn how to do a task is to first have someone show you how it is done, then have them watch you do it, and finally do it by yourself and not be afraid to get in there and take it apart. If you mess up, someone else can always come along and fix it.

Dottie thinks it is a great idea for the women to get their own car. She says she is proud of her car and that is why "I have my initials on the door".



Dottie Wins at Lansing