Wheels: *Robert P writes by e-mail: "I have a 1968 Pontiac Firebird that has been completely gone through. It has the original two piston disc brakes. The car was finished about five years ago. The brakes were fine for several years. After setting for 2-3 months when I drove it the rear brakes were not working. When I checked there is very little pressure getting to the rear brake cylinders. When I open the bleeders, I get no pressure. I get just a dribble of fluid. I had the master cylinder rebuilt. The rebuilder said that he saw nothing wrong with it. The front calipers were rebuilt with new stainless inserts, the brake lines are new stainless. I am using silicone dot 5 fluid. A knowledgeable friend thought I should replace the rubber brake line at the differential, which I did, still no pressure. About the only thing that hasn't been redone is the equalizer valve. It looked fine when it was installed and as I said the car had very good brakes for several years. I am not familiar with these valves. Is there a procedure for checking them and resetting them? Any thoughts you might have or information would certainly be appreciated. I audited several of your classes at Sinclair in the 1990s I certainly enjoyed yours and other classes I took. Thanking you in advance for any help you can provide".*

Halderman: Thanks for writing. While the valves can fail, most of the time, the problem is due to air in the valve or in the system. It is very difficult to get the air out. If you have time, try this:

1. Fill the master cylinder
2. Open all of the bleeder valves or just the rear if you think the front is OK
3. Allow gravity to purge the air from the system. This could take several hours or several days.
4. Keep an eye on the fluid level and keep full or almost full. When the fluid level has dropped, close the bleeders and check the rear brakes.

Using DOT 5 fluid is making it harder to bleed as this fluid traps air.
If this does not work, try injecting brake fluid from the wheel cylinder upward toward the master cylinder using a reverse injection pump (check on line). Let men know what is happening and I will try to talk you through it. Nice hearing from a former student.