



**NFTAC**

AUGUST 2022

# EAGLE

North America's Official Club for all year Firebirds and Trans Ams including Formulas, GTAs and Conversions

Established in 1984

The Publication of the NATIONAL FIREBIRD AND TRANS AM CLUB

ON THE WEB:

[www.firebirdtaclub.com](http://www.firebirdtaclub.com) or

[www.firebirdtransamclub.com](http://www.firebirdtransamclub.com)



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firebirdandtransamclub

## **INSIDE:**

***1979 Bandit is a Movie Star***

***45th Anniversary of Smokey and the Bandit***

***and more!***

*'69 Firebird 400 of Scott Wilder from Grand Rapids, Michigan*

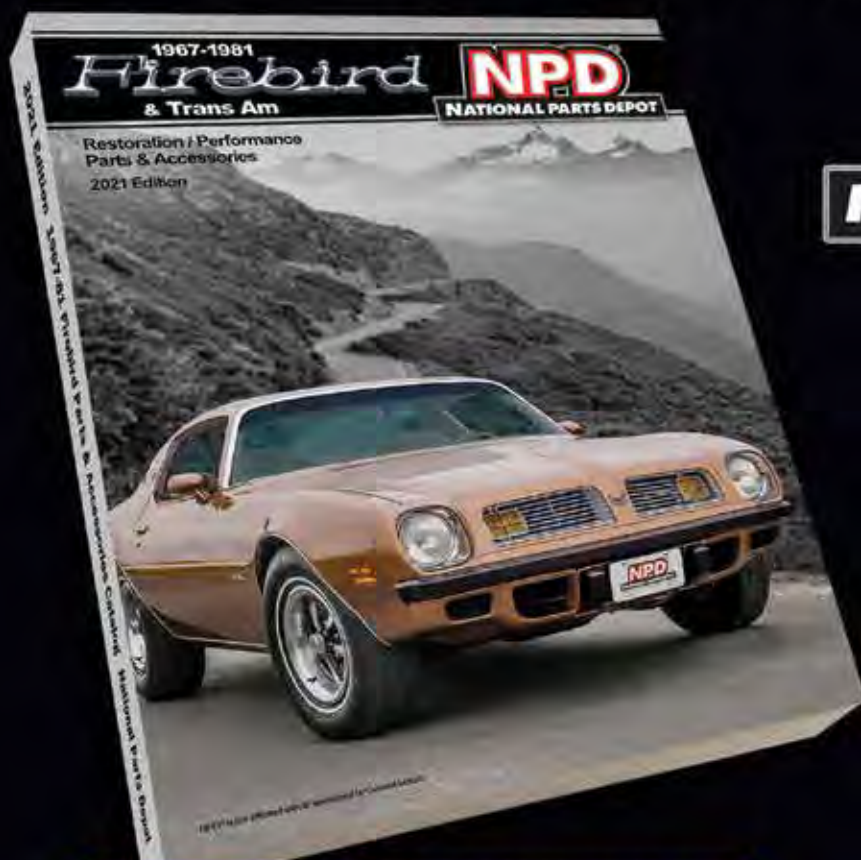




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## NATIONAL FIREBIRD and TRANS AM CLUB EAGLE

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The **National Firebird and Trans Am Club (NFTAC)** is North America's largest and oldest club for all year Firebirds and Trans Ams including the Formula, GTA and Conversions. The NFTAC was founded in Chicago in 1984 to serve the interests of all Firebird and Trans Am owners and has members throughout North America and the world. Member benefits include the *Eagle*, the *eEagle* (sent to email address), tech advice, member recommendations on service, body and parts, free classified ads, a tradition of service and much more!

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## FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

Frank Ochal

Thanks again to the many new members that have joined recently. **Thanks** to Scott Wilder, Ben Schwandt, Ron Cork, Grant Hill, Carlos Suarez, Ken & Darlene Szymczak and the other contributors to this issue!

Also many thanks to Todd Stahr, Eric Vicker and the others on their continuing technical help to our **members on our message board and Facebook Group** at [www.facebook.com/groups/firebirdclub](http://www.facebook.com/groups/firebirdclub).

All **Technical Sections** are now available on USB drive in addition to CD and printed versions. Technical Sections are topics, questions and answers published in the *Eagle* magazine. Available on CD or USB drive or in a printed version or an emailed pdf. Past issues of the **Eagle magazine** are now also available on USB drive in addition to CD and emailed pdf versions.

Special thanks to **Mark Neumann** who is now helping us with copy editing and proof reading the *EAGLE*. Look for another of his "Birds in Flight" columns which is now a regular feature in the *Eagle*.

All of the issues of the *Eagle* have been processed and mailed on time. Problems with the post office due to weather and absences due to the pandemic have caused some issues to be received late or not at all. Contact us and we will send replacement copies as long as supplies last.

The beautiful '69 Firebird 400 of Scott Wilder from Grand, Rapids, Michigan is on the **front cover of this issue of the Eagle**. Great color and background!

The **Firebird and Trans Am Calendar** for 2022 is looking pretty good with major shows every month. Check our website for the most up to date list. Send in your show details so that we can list it in the *Eagle* and on our website.

This issue's **letters section** contains a letter that is a request for a look

up for information on a car previously owned. The club does keep information on members that provide VIN numbers and can provide info if we can match up the VIN number.

The **New Products and Services Section** contains featured items from our advertisers and sponsors.

Thanks to Ben Schwandt and the great **pictures of his 3 Trans Ams**, a 1983, 2000 and a 2000 CETA.

**Mark Neumann's 'Birds in Flight'** column for this issue contains more on car auctions and the **45th anniversary of the movie "Smokey and the Bandit."**

**Another great story and photos**

*Continued on page 7*

### ARTICLES & PHOTOS

The NFTAC welcomes articles & photographs from members & will publish items that are of general interest to our members. We will pay for such in the form of credit toward renewal or regalia purchase. We would like articles on:

- upkeep & performance hints
- experiences with your car
- local event & club info
- photographs
- tech info & questions/answers

SEND TO:

NFTAC ARTICLES  
5433 N. ASHLAND AVE.,  
CHICAGO, IL 60640 U.S.A.  
or  
email: [info@firebirdtaclub.com](mailto:info@firebirdtaclub.com)

### ADVERTISING RATES & DEADLINES

| <u>TYPE</u>   | <u>AMOUNT PER ISSUE</u> |
|---|-------------------------|
| INSIDE COVERS (if available), 8 1/2" H x 11" V (can be bled)      | \$175.00                |
| FULL PAGE, 8 1/2" H x 11" V (can be bled)                         | 120.00                  |
| HALF PAGE, approx. 7 1/2" x 5" (horizontal or vertical)           | 80.00                   |
| QUARTER PAGE, approx. 3 3/4" x 5" (horizontal or vertical)        | 45.00                   |
| EIGHTH PAGE or less, approx. 3 3/4" x 2 1/2" (horiz. or vertical) | 25.00                   |
| Business card ad rate is \$25.00 per issue.                       |                         |

**above ad rates NOW apply to color or black & white ads**

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| <i>(see website for additional website advertising rates)</i> |  |

| <u>ISSUE</u> | <u>DEADLINE DATE</u> |
|--------------|----------------------|
| FEBRUARY     | DECEMBER 1           |
| MAY          | MARCH 1              |
| AUGUST       | JUNE 1               |
| NOVEMBER     | SEPTEMBER 1          |

Printed magazine advertisers will also be listed on the National Firebird and Trans Am Club website in the advertisers/links sections and on the club message board

Members also receive the April, July, October and the January eEagle by email. Ad rates are \$35 for each issue. Deadline is the 1st day of the month prior to the issue.

Classified ads are free to NFTAC members. For others, classified ads are \$15.00 per insertion for 50 words or less. Classified ads will appear on our website, the *Eagle*, in the eEagle, message board, on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter. Additional words are 50 cents each. *Ads include one color photo, Additional photos are \$10 each.*

Eagle display rates are based on camera-ready copy. Agency discounts will not be honored. A 10% discount is offered to NFTAC members. A 20% discount is offered on yearly (4 issues) contracts. Payment must accompany submissions. Art and typesetting extra. We accept Visa, MasterCard, American Express, Discover & PayPal ([info@firebirdtaclub.com](mailto:info@firebirdtaclub.com)).

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# FIREBIRD AND TRANS AM CALENDAR

(please check for changes before departing for event)

## AUGUST

- 7 All Pontiac Extravaganza, East Aurora, NY. For more info call Barb at 716-652-4951.
- 12-14 Ames Performance Pontiac Nationals, Norwalk, OH. andi@pontiacnationals.com, www.pontiacnationals.com.
- 12-14 31st Indian Uprising All Pontiac Weekend, Holiday Inn, Crystal Lake, IL. www.cruisintigers.com.
- 19-20 15th Annual All Pontiac Show, Amos Herr Park, Landisville, PA. svgtoshow@svgto.com or www.svgto.com.
- 26-28 37th Annual Trans Am Nationals, Fairborn, OH. Jerry Minor at 513-202-1212. www.tanationals.org.
- 28 42nd Annual All Pontiac Show, Islandia, NY. Gary at 917-208-7864 or www.gtoclubli.com.

## SEPTEMBER

- 17-18 Pontiac Uprising #33, Great Bend, KS. Mike at 316-655-1408.
- 17-18 Annual All Pontiac Cruise and Show, Pontiac, IL. Mark at mjmelrose@aol.com or www.gatewaygto.com.
- 17-18 Show Me Regional Car Show, Springfield, MO. go.poci54@gmail.com.
- 25 38th Annual All Pontiac Fall Car Show, Wallingford, CT. chrisonell73@charter.net, www.nutmegchapterpoci.com.
- Sept 30-Oct 2 9th Annual Pontiac Adventures, Wisconsin Dells, WI. www.PontiacAdventures.com.

## OCTOBER

- 6-8 F-Body Beach Bash, Myrtle Beach, SC. www.fbodybeachbash.com.
- 16 32nd BOPC Show. Richmond, VA. For more info call Mike at 804-328-1419.

*Please submit news of your event 3 months in advance*



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## LETTERS TO THE NFTAC

Dear NFTAC,

I am the original owner of a 1991 Firebird with approximately 80,000 miles on it. It has never been in an accident. It has small dings in the body. It has been garage kept for the last 17 years.

John Schaible  
Kissimmise, Florida

*Editor's Note: Welcome to the club. All Firebirds in any conditions are accepted.*

Dear NFTAC,

I owned Trans Am Town [www.transamtown.com](http://www.transamtown.com) and it's forum for 10 years and finally just put it up on Facebook to eliminate the site. I worked for Trans Am Specialties of Mentor, Ohio for two years with the Hitman, was a moderator on the Hitmans 78ta.com site for over a decade with specialties of 2nd Gens (70 to 81), 50th Anniversaries, but really enjoyed working on 1st and 3rd gens too. I can still decode VIN Numbers and cowl tag data really well. I've put on decals on a lot of SE's to even include the huge '79 TA hood birds that drape over the fenders, I can restore entire interiors of Trans Ams, I painted and restored GM original rims from the 70's to the turbos, the only thing I never did was paint an entire car.

I have many contacts in the Pontiac community such as Jim Matteson of PHS (I even have pictures having drinks with him to the Nationals), I had John Shinella sign my car (passenger side visor) who was the Chief Design Engineer and hood bird originator, Rick of TA Specialties Florida, Dave Hall from Restore a Muscle Car, Stephen Petro (Rev Motors), Mike Barefoot (TAC owner), Kevin Morgan (design artist), John DeLorean

(2nd Gen Graveyard), and Joe Richter (TurboTransAm.com) just to name a few. I have many of their personal cell numbers. However, I've just been lucky enough to be around the Pontiac Firebird community a while.

Michael Tyler  
Willoughby Hills, Ohio

*Editor's Note: Welcome to the club. We are impressed with your involvement with all things Trans Am and hope you will be able to share your expertise with our members on our Facebook group and our message board.*

Dear NFTAC

My name is Bruce Smith, I was the original owner of a 79 Trans Am, Unfortunately due to circumstances out of my control, I had to get rid of it in 1999. I have been trying to find it off and on for the last 15 yrs. Its been a few years since I have looked for it after being frustrated about the inability to search for 13 digit VIN numbers, so I thought I would try again, but got the same results. I am writing to your club to find out if you have any other resources to look up these older VIN's? I really first and foremost want to find out if the car is still around or if it has been crushed and If it is still around I would love to find out who owns it so I could try to maybe get it back. Thank you for your time, I will look forward to hearing back from you.

Bruce Smith

*Editor's Note: The National Firebird and Trans Am Club has VIN numbers from members who have given that to us. We can look in our database to see if the car was ever registered with us. If not, you will need to contact each individual state DMV that may have registered it.*

### Letters to the NFTAC

Letters should include the writer's full name, city and state. Send to:

NFTAC Letters  
5433 N. Ashland Ave.  
Chicago, IL 60640 USA  
email: [info@firebirdtaclub.com](mailto:info@firebirdtaclub.com)

## PHOTO QUALITY

We at the club office, love to run photos of members' cars. The problem is we do not get enough of them sent and when we do they are not high quality.

Remember what may look good on your computer screen may look terrible in print. Why? Because a computer monitor only requires 72 pixels per inch to show a high quality photo. To achieve the same look for the magazine, the photo must be 300 pixels per inch. This means start out using the camera with a setting of 3 megapixels or more.

Also choose a background that accentuates the vehicle. Do not use colors that clash with the paint. Remember vertical photos work better for front and back magazine covers.

Try to shoot the photo early in the morning or late in the day when the sun is low. Generally keep the sun at your back and shoot the lit side of the vehicle. Keep your shadow out of the photo. Shoot engines in the shade to avoid unwanted sunspots and shadows. Shoot interiors in the shade from the driver's side with the hood closed.

Photos that will be considered for the cover should be shot in portrait (vertical) mode rather than landscape (horizontal) mode.

Now write a story that includes why you wanted the car, how and where you found it, why you love it or anything else you think readers would find interesting. Then email it to us or save onto a CD or USB drive and mail it to us. Then sit back and watch for it to appear in the club magazine!



## EDITORS' DESK

Continued from page 4

is from Terry Hilbert regarding his 2000 Trans Am. Nice location for the photos.

The **Firebird and Trans Am Galley** contains photos of the 2000 Trans Am WS6 of Ron Clark, the '87 Formula of Grant Hill and the great photo of the the '79 Trans Am of Carlos Suarez. Great cars and great photos!

The **Meet the New Members** area continues to show new members joining all the time. Thanks for the support.

Our **Featured Car** this issue is the '79 Trans Am of Ken & Darlene Szymczak from Dunkirk, New York. It is great to have a movie star in the club. Great story with beautiful photos.

The **Technical Section** contains many good questions and answers including a question about a factory engine compartment clear coat. Thanks to our Facebook group for most of these items.

The **Swap Meet Classifieds** contain many good items including a newly listed 1997 Formula.

Our **back cover** contains more photos of the '69 Firebird 400 of Scott Wilder.

You can now find us on **Facebook** at [www.facebook.com/groups/firebirdclub](http://www.facebook.com/groups/firebirdclub) and **twitter** in the groups/clubs section. Our **Facebook group** now has over 16,000 members. We now have an **Instagram page** at [firebirdandtransclub.com](http://firebirdandtransclub.com).

We once again have all sizes of **polo/golf shirts** (L, XL & XXL) back in stock. They are available from the club store in this issue or online at the club's website.

Your **membership expiration date and your number can always be found on the label** on each issue of the printed *EAGLE* and other club mailings. You can always call, email or text us if you ever need a replacement card, your membership number or your expiration date.

We have expanded our list of **free**

**items** that members can receive with 3 year membership or renewal. You can now receive either a free t-shirt, a tech CD or USB flash drive (or emailed) or **past issues of the Eagle in pdf format on CD or USB flash drive (or emailed)**. We offer a **3 year membership or renewal rate for \$95 or \$125 for members outside the USA**. We also have a **3 year eMembership for \$65 which also includes the free items**. Save money and get a t-shirt or tech sections or past issues of the *Eagle*

We once again have all sizes of **polo/golf shirts** (L, XL & XXL) back in stock. They are available from the club store in this issue or online at the club's website.

Stay safe and have a great driving and show season!!

Frank

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Members can receive **the eEagle**, which is our email newsletter. This is in addition to the regular *Eagle* and is sent to members that have given us their email address. Members therefore can receive **eight publications per year**. Send us your email address if you have one. If you have not received an eEagle by this time it is because we **do not have an email address for you** or not the correct one. Please send us your updated email address so that we may send you the eEagle and also correspond with you quickly when necessary. Members without email addresses will not miss anything but may receive the information in a different format and at a later date because of printing and mailing considerations.

Our club message board can be accessed through the club website at [www.firebirdtaclub.com](http://www.firebirdtaclub.com) or directly at **board.firebirdtaclub.com**. We have a members only section of the message board. You can use the user ID and password on page 3 of each *Eagle* or you can get a personal id. To do so, register and then login to the message board and send a message to us. Club member access allows posting of items for sale and photos and access to the club Members Section. The club blog is located at **blog.firebirdtaclub.com** and members can login and upload photos to **photos.firebirdtaclub.com**.

Join us on **Facebook** at **National Firebird and Trans Am Club** and follow us on **Twitter** at **firebirdclub**.

The **Facebook group at firebird club** is especially good for getting immediate feedback on questions, local events and other concerns. Our **Facebook group** now has over 16,000 members.

We now have an **Instagram page** located at [firebirdandtransclub.com](http://firebirdandtransclub.com)!



# NFTAC CLUB STORE



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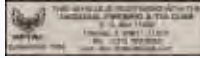
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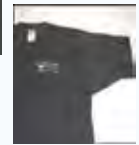
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In this section we highlight new products and services for Firebird and Trans Am owners. We hope you enjoy it and send in any information that you think should be included.

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website: [www.thepartsplaceinc.com](http://www.thepartsplaceinc.com)

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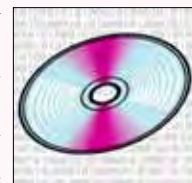
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All Technical Sections are now available on USB drive in addition to CD, email and printed versions. Technical Sections are topics, questions and answers published in the *EAGLE* magazine. They are indexed by category such as electrical, suspension, etc. for easy reference and accessibility. Available from the NFTAC by ordering on the website or by using the order form in each issue of the *Eagle* or on our website.



## 1983, 2000 AND 2002 CETA

My 1983 Trans Am is the car that got me started in my interest in Trans Ams. I grew up watching Knight Rider and ever since then I've wanted a Knight Rider style Trans Am. My dream came true in 2018 when I purchased mine sight unseen from a private seller in New York. It has 26,000 original miles and was the third gen Firebird forums November 2020 car of the month! I love the car and drive it as often as I can on the weekends and evenings when the weather is nice!

My 2000 Trans Am is the car I fell in love with in college but couldn't buy new due to being in college. I found this car in 2003 in Rugby, North Dakota in a classifieds ad in the local newspaper and the rest is history! I have always loved the ram air look on these cars and think it is the most aggressive looking muscle car that GM has produced. The car currently has 18,000 miles on it and is seldom driven except to car shows where it has won many awards over the years.

My 2002 Trans Am CETA is a car I have wanted since 2002 when it came out. I have always wanted a special edition Firebird and I remember like yesterday when there was a 2002 CETA just like mine in the showroom of my local Pontiac dealer blocks away from where I lived. I've been hooked since. I bought my car in June of 2021 and received it in July. I bought it sight unseen from the second owner in Florida. The original owner owned the Pontiac dealership in Indiana and ordered it new. The car currently has 3,900 miles on it and is rarely driven. I love the convertible and is so much fun to drive with the top down!

I first learned about your club on the Internet just randomly searching about Trans Ams. Happy to be a part of this awesome group! Thanks again !

Ben Schwandt

Moorhead, Minnesota





# TRANS AMs OF BEN SCHWANDT



*1983, 2000 and 2002 CETA  
Trans Ams of  
Ben Schwandt of Moorhead,  
Minnesota*





# 'BIRDS IN FLIGHT

By Mark E. Neumann

*Editor's Note: this is the eighth in a series of columns about interesting stories connected with Firebirds and Trans Ams.*

In my last column, we reviewed prices of Firebirds and Trans Ams at auctions held early in the year. The two auctions we featured – Mecum’s extremely large Kissimmee (Fla.) auction and Barrett-Jackson’s in Scottsdale (Ariz.) – are both held in January at opposite ends of the country. Those are followed by more B-J and Mecum auctions in Las Vegas, Glendale (Ariz.), Palm Beach and Amelia Island (Fla.), and Indianapolis (Mecum’s second largest). The summer brings on an auction in Monterey, plus the MAG auction at Hot August Nights in Reno.

If you want to track the value of your ‘Bird, auctions are a reliable source. Websites like ClassicCars.com and Hemmings, the Bible for classic car collectors, will give you asking prices; auctions will give you “sold” prices. What is my car worth today? Head to an auction site or check prices after the auction ends. Of note: Hemmings has also gone into the auction business, holding them online.

### **January sets the stage**

We saw some competitive prices for F-bodies at the Mecum and Barrett-Jackson auctions in January, including a 1973 Firebird Formula (400 ci, 4-speed) for \$66,000 (Ed. note: I had one of these in the mid-1990s in Navajo Orange and rare ram air induction. I sold it for about \$3,500.) A 1979 Trans Am 10th Anniversary car with the coveted 400 ci and 4-speed sold for \$62,700.

And, of course, the penultimate: a 1979 Pontiac Trans Am, unrestored with 38 miles (maybe the ride home from the dealership?), sold for \$118,250.

In my last column, we also highlighted a second, low-mileage 1979 Trans Am going up on the block at Mecum’s Glendale, Arizona auction on March 18. I was up front and close to this car, and watched it go through bidding on the Mecum stage. This car, a SE Black and Gold edition, had 145 miles and the desirable 400 ci, four speed combination.

The price? The bidding started at \$50,000 and went up quickly, eventually settling at \$145,000.

### **Checking in at mid-year**

Did we see any similar prices for F-Birds during the remainder of the year? Here are some prices for cars sold at Mecum’s Indianapolis auction in May.

This auction had \$126.5 million in total overall sales—an 18% increase over the past Indy auction record of \$107 million achieved at last year’s event.

#### Mecum – Indiana State Fairgrounds

|   |                                 |           |
|---|---------------------------------|-----------|
| 1999 Trans Am 30th Ann. Convertible           | 2,820 miles (1/535 made)        | \$51,700  |
| 1981 Trans Am Turbo SE                        | 3,830 miles                     | \$159,500 |
| 1969 Trans Am                                 | 1/520 Ram Air III cars/4 speed) | \$165,000 |
| 1978 Trans Am (only year for Martinique Blue) |                                 | \$44,000  |
| 1977 Trans Am (T-tops)                        |                                 | \$187,000 |
| 2002 Trans Am Collectors Edition              | 6,200 miles/6 speed/T-tops      | \$50,600  |
| 1997 Trans Am                                 | 9,881 miles (red)               | \$28,600  |

The message from collectors and auction houses is that prices are doing well for Pontiacs, particularly the low-mileage copies. Keep those T/As in good condition!

### **EAST BOUND AND DOWN: SMOKEY AND THE BANDIT HITS 45TH ANNIVERSARY**

It is hard to believe that 45 years have passed since Burt Reynolds, Jerry Reed, Sally Field and Jackie Gleason banded together to give us “Smokey and the Bandit.” When it was released in 1977 (I was 18 years old), no one expected it to do much in the box office. But it grossed \$126.7 million, right behind Star Wars that year.

The characters in Smokey and the Bandit II proved successful as well, but the third reprisal was not. Reynolds and





Field sat out while Jerry Reed became the new Bandit.

Reynolds had a knack for cashing in on props used in his previous movies (like selling the canoe used in the movie “Deliverance,” in which he starred). He took advantage of the Smokey and Bandit movie’s success by selling off Trans Ams he received through the movie and promoted Black and Gold Trans Ams built by Trans Am Depot. The company, which uses Camaros as a base for their modern Trans Am editions, sold 77 Bandit cars to match the year the movie was released. Reynolds appeared in advertisements for the car and signed the glove boxes of each model produced.

The characters in Smokey and the Bandit have been in their last high-speed pursuit; Gleason, who played Texas sheriff Buford T. Justice, died in 1987 of colon and liver cancer. Reed died in 2008 at age 71 due to complications from emphysema and the “Bandit” Burt Reynolds died in 2018 of a heart attack at the age of 82. Sally Field is now 75 years old.

The re-release of the movie in May and June at select theaters across the country coincided with the dates this year for the Bandit Run, a tour put on for Trans Am owners and their cars by Restore a Muscle Car.

This year the Bandit Run’s route followed that from the movie – Texarkana, Arkansas to Helen, Georgia. Over 160 Trans Am participated in the run. The event included behind-the-scenes photos from the filming of Smokey and the Bandit and stories from people who watched it being filmed and from actors who were in the movie.

After leaving Texarkana, the group drove to Vicksburg, MS and then to Destin, FL.

From Destin the group traveled to Helen, GA, where much of the filming of the movie took place. Stops included the ‘Kissing Bridge’ where Burt Reynolds and Sally Field had some romantic moments.

Some of the key lyrics from the movie’s theme song, written and sung by Jerry Reed:

*East bound and down, loaded up and truckin’,*

*We’re gonna do what they say can’t be done.*

*We’ve got a long way to go and a short time to get there.*

*I’m east bound, just watch ol’ “Bandit” run.*

We certainly did.



*About the author: Mark is the second owner of a Buccaneer Red 1974 Pontiac Trans-Am and serves on the copyediting team for the Eagle.*



## 2000 TRANS AM WS6 OF TERRY HILBERT

This is my 5th Firebird. My first being a 1970 which I purchased (used) while in college. In 1979 I purchased a new silver anniversary Trans Am which I kept for about 5 years. Later I had a 1990 and then 2001 Trans Am. Now that I'm retired, I purchased this white TA in July which I plan to keep for as long as I can get in and out of it! I have always loved the look and sound of the Trans Ams. My head still turns whenever I'd see one on the street. I decided it was time to purchase "one more." I found this one at a dealership in Wisconsin, but it spent most of its life in Florida, but ended up in the Chicago area.

Soooo.... The car came with a Kenwood Bluetooth conversion radio system in it. Luckily the previous owner kept the original radio/CD with the car, which I had re-installed. Unfortunately, The CD player does not work, and the display does not light up to show radio stations or the time on the clock. I am hoping someone in the club can help me locate a used WORKING radio to put in it. I have researched the parts stores that are sponsors of this club, however I have not found anyone that has such a unit. I have not yet tried researching local junk yards.

I look forward to reading the EAGLE and being a part of the club! Thank you!

Terry Hilbert  
Bettendorf, Iowa

**2000 Trans  
Am WS6  
of Terry  
Hilbert from  
Bettendorf,  
Iowa**







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*2000 Trans Am WS6 of Ron Cork*



*'87 Formula 350 of Grant Hill*





## AM GALLERY

see many more photos of  
members' cars in our Photo  
Gallery at:  
<http://photos.firebirdtaclub.com>

In each issue of the *EAGLE* we feature  
photographs of members' cars. If you  
would like you and/or your car to appear,  
please send a picture to us.

*'79 Trans Am of Carlos Suarez from Scarborough, Maine*





## MEET THE NEW MEMBERS!

This section highlights some of the new members that have joined the club since the last *EAGLE*. Welcome again to our new members. Recent members may appear in a subsequent issue.

Gordon Rice, Coupeville, Washington

Charles Singer, Sarasota, Florida  
*He has a 2002 yellow WS6 Collector's Edition Trans Am.*

Duane Gray, Olathe, Kansas  
*Duane has a '78 Trans Am.*

Lester J Anderson, Kankakee, Illinois  
*Lester has a 2002 red Trans Am WS6.*

Steven Watson, Wetumpka, Alabama

Bruce Foggy, Fair Oaks, California  
*Bruce has a '71 blue trans Am.*

Brett W. Nagel, Greeley, Iowa  
*Bret has a '77 red Firebird Formula.*

Robin Martirosian, Renton, Washington

Jerry Helm, Three Rivers, Michigan  
*Jerry has a '76 silver Trans Am.*

Carlos Suarez, Scarborough, Maine  
*Carlos has a '79 Mayan red Trans Am.*

James Taylor, Hayward, Wisconsin

Timothy Hoyt, Rockwell City, Iowa

Allen Majka, Redford, Michigan

John Burkly, New News, Virginia  
*John has a '69 white Trans Am. 1 of 15 3 speed manuals. Only 1 built at Van Nuys plant.*

Anthony Webster, Berea, Ohio  
*He has a 2000 blue-green Formula and was last a member almost 20 years ago, Welcome back!*

James Faline, Rapid City, South Dakota

Jeffrey J Mitchum, Mundelein, Illinois  
*Jeffrey has an '87 black Trans Am.*

Douglas Field, Minneapolis, Minnesota  
*Douglas has a 2002 pewter Trans Am.*

Mario Esposito, Worth, Illinois

Wesley Wright, Weatherford, Texas


Dennis Ferrell, Oro Valley, Arizona  
*Dennis has a '79 black Trans Am.*

Jack Schaible, Kissimmee, Florida.  
*Jack has a '91 white Firebird.*

Fr. Jerry Leake, Aurora, Illinois  
*Fr. Jerry has a '73 blue Formula SD 455.*


Helibert Hernandez, Kearney, New Jersey  
*He has a '94 green metallic Trans Am GT and a pewter 2002 Trans Am WS-6.*

GTO, Lemans, Cutlass, 442, Chevelle, Malibu, Skylark, GS, Regal, GN, Impala, Caprice  
Camaro, Firebird, Trans Am, Monte Carlo, El Camino & Nova



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# MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

This page contains a form that incorporates some of the many functions of the club. The form below can be used to renew your membership, register your car, change your address, send in member recommendations or join for the first time. The form can also be used to

do any combination of the above by checking the appropriate boxes. I hope you find it easy and convenient to use.

Thank you for all of the notes sent along with your renewals. They make renewing members easier and definitely more interesting.

Always check the back cover of

each Eagle magazine above your address to see when your membership is expiring. If you live outside the U.S.A., the address label is on the envelope.

This QR code allows you to access our club website directly by scanning it with the camera of your smart phone.



# MEMBERSHIP FORM

## NEW MEMBERSHIP - CAR REGISTRATION - RECOMMENDATIONS - RENEWAL - ADDRESS CHANGES

check box:

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ *Join or renew on our secured website at*  
 ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_ *www.firebirdtaclub.com or*  
 CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP CODE: \_\_\_\_\_ *www.firebirdtransamclub.com*  
 COUNTRY (if not USA): \_\_\_\_\_ PROVINCE (if CANADA): \_\_\_\_\_ POSTAL CODE: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ (if applicable) Member No.: \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Cell/Other Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ email: \_\_\_\_\_ (needed for eEagle and/or eMembership)

### OPTIONAL (1-5):

- 1) **CAR REGISTRATION:**

| Year   | Serial Number (VIN #) | Model | Color |
|--|-----------------------|-------|-------|
| Firebird or Trans Am No. 1: _____              | _____                 | _____ | _____ |
| other - (type of wheels, options, etc.): _____ | _____                 | _____ | _____ |
| Firebird or Trans Am No. 2: _____              | _____                 | _____ | _____ |
| other - (type of wheels, options, etc.): _____ | _____                 | _____ | _____ |
- 2) Areas of interest: \_\_\_\_\_
- 3) **MEMBER RECOMMENDATIONS:**  
 Service, body or parts shop recommendation - Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zipcode: \_\_\_\_\_  
 email: \_\_\_\_\_ website: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Type of business: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Person: \_\_\_\_\_
- 4) Picture and/or story about your car (sent by mail or email)
- 5) How you heard of NFTAC: \_\_\_\_\_

**Membership/renewal fee: \_\_\_\$35 for 1 yr, \_\_\_\$65 for 2 yrs, \_\_\_\$95 for 3 yrs with free t-shirt\* or past Eagles on CD/USB drive/emailed or tech CD/USB drive/emailed, circle choice. (Outside USA: \$45 for 1 year, \$85 for 2 years or \$125 for 3 years with free t-shirt\* or Eagles on CD/USB drive/emailed or tech CD/USB drive/emailed**  
 \_\_\_ 1 year eMembership-\$25, \_\_\_ 2 year eMembership-\$45, \_\_\_ 3 year eMembership-\$65 with free t-shirt\* or tech CD/USB drive/emailed, circle choice (eEagle & access to website Members Only section, no materials via regular mail)

Enclose a check or money order made payable to "National Firebird Club" if renewing or joining the club.

**OR CHARGE IT!** Visa/MasterCard/Amex/Discover #: \_\_\_\_\_ Exp date: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Check one: 1 year \_\_\_ or 2 years \_\_\_ or 3 years \_\_\_ Credit Card Security Code: \_\_\_\_\_  
 or call 773-769-7166 and leave credit card info

SEND TO: NATIONAL FIREBIRD and TRANS AM CLUB, 5433 N. ASHLAND AVE., CHICAGO, IL 60640 USA  
 or email: info@firebirdtaclub.com

\*NOTE: Free t-shirts are available in Large, Extra Large and Double Extra Large (Medium-white only) and the color is based on availability but usually white



## LOCAL CHAPTERS

of the **NATIONAL FIREBIRD and TRANS AM CLUB**,  
5433 N. ASHLAND AVE., CHICAGO, IL 60640 U.S.A. 773-769-7166

**Connecticut (Southeast Firebird Club)** - Mark Grillo, 41 Gardner, New London, 06320 (860) 442-2576  
**Connecticut (Charter Oak Firebird-TA Club)** - Brad Benoit, (203) 467-4482, charteroakbirds@yahoo.com, www.charteroakbirds.com  
**Florida (Emerald Coast Club)** - Joey Voss, 738 El Camino Dr., Cantonment, FL 32533, (850) 968-1363, mrtransamws6@netscape.net  
**Florida (Central Florida Firebirds)** - Jim Charlton, 444 Longwood Cir, Longwood, FL 32750, 407-754-6609, www.orlanndowntw.com  
**Mass. (Firebirds Forever Car Club)** - Butch Nordstrom, Box 704, Dracut, MA 01826, 978-821-6914, www.firebirdsforever.cc, butch.n@comcast.net  
**Michigan (1 Bad LS1 Racing - Detroit Metro)** - Ronnie Duke, 110 Trealout, Fenton, MI 48430, 810-714-3626  
**New York (Long Island FB & T/A Club)** - 16 Alley Pond Court, Dix Hills, NY 11746. customer@lifirebirds.com  
**New York (Firebird Nation of N.A.)** - 2 Eureka Dr. RR #4, Saratoga Spgs, NY 12866, 518-587-8215, tsmith24@earthlink.net  
**North Carolina (Carolina Classic Club)** - Bruce Nash, 4319 Olive Branch Rd., Wingate, NC 28174 (704) 233-4927, glenda1234@earthlink.net  
**North Carolina (Performance Pontiacs of Carolinas)** - 5005 Woodmark Dr., Greensboro, NC 27407, www.performancepontiacs.com  
**North Carolina (Tarheel Tigers Club)** - Steve Veatch, 3508 Layton Ridge Drive, Apex, NC 27539, tarheeltigers@bellsouth.net, www.tarheeltigers.com  
**Oklahoma (Heartland TA Club)** - Keith & Myla Miller, Box 532, Norman, OK 73070, (405) 361-0405, www.heartlandtransamclub.com  
**Pennsylvania (Eastern PA Firebird & TA Club)** - Jeffrey Dickson, Box 1478, Kingston, PA 18704. (570) 283-6321, jsd@epix.net  
**Pennsylvania (Western Penn. Chapter)** - Tim Gordon, 58 Grudevich Rd., Canonsburg, PA 15317 (724) 746-5358  
**South Dakota - (Rapid City)** - Roneal Saylor, 2941 Pioneer Drive, Rapid City, SD 57701. (605) 393-0993  
**Tennessee (Middle TN Firebird & T/A Club)** - John Davis, Box 1843, Smyrna, TN 37167, (615) 223-5335, johndavis@nortelnetworks.com  
**Tennessee (Memphis Chapter)** - Chris Schafer Millington, TN 38053, transamman25@hotmail.com  
**Texas (TA Club of Houston)** - Frank Johengen, Ph.: (713) 773-4370, www.tachrev.com, email: frank@tachrev.com.

## LOCAL CHAPTER INFO

Contact information for current local chapters are listed above. Join them if you are in the area. Remember

to check all of the Local Chapters listed in your area. If there isn't a local chapter in your area, please think about

starting one. Write us for guidelines to help you.

### NFTAC LOCAL CHAPTER REGISTRATION FORM

Send the information on this form if you wish to become a registered local chapter of the NFTAC

NAME OF ORGANIZATION: \_\_\_\_\_

AREA TO BE SERVED (be sure to check current local chapters): \_\_\_\_\_

ORGANIZERS NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

MAILING ADDRESS FOR LOCAL CHAPTER: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE NO: \_\_\_\_\_ Other (email, website): \_\_\_\_\_

Please list on separate sheet of paper: 1) approximate number of members expected; 2) club activities planned; 3) name of club paper; 4) chapter dues; 5) problems; 6) type of help from the national club wanted.

Requirements: 1) supply the NFTAC with current address and phone numbers; 2) NFTAC on mailing list to receive newsletter; 3) all members need not be but at least two officers must be members of NFTAC; 4) annual list of members submitted.

Benefits: 1) free publicity in *EAGLE* and on the CLUB MESSAGE BOARD by way of listing and articles; 2) affiliation with other clubs is permitted; 3) consideration for hosting national meets; 4) discounted membership if a substantial number of members join from a local chapter.

SEND TO: NFTAC, 5433 N. ASHLAND AVE., CHICAGO, IL 60640 U.S.A. or [info@firebirdtaclub.com](mailto:info@firebirdtaclub.com)





## FEATURED CAR

*This issue's featured car is the '79 Trans Am Bandit of Ken and Darlene Szymczak from Dunkirk, New York. Here is their story:*

From Featured Car in the August 2018 Eagle, Ken and Darlene Szymczak's 1979 Trans Am is now featured in a movie.

Of all lows experienced in 2020, one high is from Ken and Darlene Szymczak of Dunkirk, New York. Their 1979 black S.E. Trans Am is starring in a short movie being made in Buffalo, New York.

The movie is a short musical comedy that takes place in a well known Canadian amusement park called Crystal Beach and its famous wooden roller coaster and our '79 Trans Am.

The small time Buffalo produce contacted me about using our car in the movie. After going over the details of how the shooting would be done inside a television studio that has a large area with a green screen for shooting scenes. This way

the filming would not be done outside in traffic and nobody would be driving the car.

It was a fun day as I got to studio early in

the morning. It was great to see how they switched out our special New York license plates for Ontario, Canada "TA Jane" license plates. They also placed the four car wheels on rollers so as to move the car around. I met the actors and saw the cameras and all others involved in making the



### FEATURED CAR

To have your car considered for this section, send a photograph and history or story of the car to:

*NFTAC Featured Car*

*5433 N. Ashland Ave.*

*Chicago, IL 60640 U.S.A.*

*or email: [info@firebirdtaclub.com](mailto:info@firebirdtaclub.com)*



movie and hearing a song that is in the movie. The story is about how Trans Am Jane gets caught in the rain, t-tops off. The car has Honeycomb wheels and twin tip dual exhausts. How exciting it all was and I got to take a few photos without interfering with filming. We are hoping the movie will be done in a year or two.

Little did we know that when we ordered our Trans Am in November of 1978 that we would have such fond memories. From both of our children learning how to drive in it to winning trophies at car shows, to being featured in the Eagle and now being featured in a movie. Wow, what a great time it has been and who knows what is next. Hollywood - we are waiting.

Ken and Darlene Szymczak  
Dunkirk, New York



***'79 Trans Am Bandit of Ken and Darlene Szymczak from Dunkirk, New York***







# NFTAC TECHNICAL SERVICES

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## MECHANICAL REPAIR SHOPS, PARTS SUPPLIERS AND BODY SHOPS

The National Firebird and Trans Am Club maintains a list of member recommended mechanical repair shops, parts suppliers and body shops. For the location of such an establishment in your area write to us at: *NFTAC Recommendations, 5433 N. Ashland Ave., Chicago, IL 60640 U.S.A.* The complete list is also available on our website ([www.firebirdtaclub.com](http://www.firebirdtaclub.com)) in the “members only” area. Please note that the NFTAC assumes no liability or responsibility for the work of such shops and is merely passing on recommendations sent in by members. If you believe an establishment should be on our recommended list, inform us.

## TECHNICAL STAFF

The National Firebird and Trans Am Club Technical Staff is prepared to assist you with questions that you may have regarding mechanical repairs and other general information about Firebirds and Trans Ams. Please address all questions to the technical staff at the following addresses. Please give your membership number and use discretion when calling. Your question may be answered by mail and may also appear in the *EAGLE* if it is of general interest to our members. *Also be sure to see our message board on our website and Facebook group page for immediate help from fellow members.*

Jules Glogovscan  
9302 Livernois  
Houston, TX 77080

jghunter@nol.net  
performance modifications

Bill Baker  
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bkbaker@jtt.net

Eric Vicker  
P. O. Box 0033  
So. Park, PA 15129  
412-708-7886  
evicker@hotmail.com  
'69 to '76 model years

John Witzke, 5017 Providence Rd., Council Bluffs, IA 51503, 712-322-4697, email: [pontiacw72@yahoo.com](mailto:pontiacw72@yahoo.com)  
*specialty: '77 to '79 W72 400 performance package, website: [www.78ta.com](http://www.78ta.com)*

David Heath via email at [dmheat@pacbell.net](mailto:dmheat@pacbell.net)

Terry Golliday III, via email at [synegal9@aol.com](mailto:synegal9@aol.com)

Bill Simcox (specializing in 1st generation cars), Box 2173, Springfield, OH 44443, 330-540-2661, [Bill@SimcoxFire.com](mailto:Bill@SimcoxFire.com)

Bill Goforth (specializing in 2nd generation cars), via email at [tacentral7081@aol.com](mailto:tacentral7081@aol.com) or ph.: 770-887-9619

Joe Genara (3rd & 4th generation cars), ph. 203-457-9340, [charteroaknews@comcast.net](mailto:charteroaknews@comcast.net)

***and try our message board area on our website - [www.firebirdtaclub.com](http://www.firebirdtaclub.com) or [board.firebirdtaclub.com](http://board.firebirdtaclub.com)***

## NFTAC PARTS EXCHANGE

To help members to sell parts and members to acquire parts that other members may have, the NFTAC maintains spare parts lists sent in by members as part of the Parts Exchange. This is how it works:

### *Selling Parts:*

To sell parts, list on a page (legibly) the parts you are selling. List on this page your name, address and phone number on the page. Send this page to the NFTAC.

### *Looking for Parts:*

If you want parts, please contact us. You will receive copies of all parts lists received during the past year.

*Send to: NFTAC Parts Exchange, 5433 N. Ashland Ave., Chicago, IL 60640 U.S.A.* The complete list is also available on our website ([www.firebirdtaclub.com](http://www.firebirdtaclub.com)) in the “members only” area.





## TECHNICAL SECTION - QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Please note: Questions and answers are provided for information and advice purposes. No liability either expressed or implied is assumed by reliance on the information presented either by the writers or the NFTAC. Some or all of the below is from our message board at [board.firebirdtaclub.com](http://board.firebirdtaclub.com) and our Facebook page and group at National Firebird and Trans Am Club.

Also be sure to see our message board on our website and Facebook group page for immediate help from fellow members.

Q: I had a problem with my hatch latching because of this electro mechanism that has a broken contact. I am trying to locate another one but really don't know what it is. I need to get can get another one. Any help would be greatly appreciated.

Allen Majka

A: Check eBay or 3rd gen parts pages on Facebook. It's no longer made so you have to source one out from a junk yard car or off parts pages.

Tim Wilson

Q: I have an '88 Trans and looking to replace the foam for the bottom of the seat. All I can find is for the whole seat. Is there some place that sells only the foam for the bottom seat?

Terri Moore

A: So you mean just the bottom part of the seat, and not the top and bottom like this?



for faster responses to your tech questions go to our website message board at [board.firebirdtaclub.com](http://board.firebirdtaclub.com)

Try ThePartsPlaceInc.com at <https://www.thepartsplaceinc.com/product/1988/1988-pontiac-firebird-transam-front-bucket-seat-foam-standard-seat-upper-lower-for-one-seat-ea/58175>.

Frank Gore

Q: What would you pick, 3.23 or 3.42 rear axle ratio? 345hp/420tq 403 olds TH350 stock converter, currently has 2.41 axle. Occasional highway round trips of 60 miles, other than that usu-


ally cruising in town. We live out of town so always have a 4-mile highway drive to get into town. I was leaning towards the 3.42's but now having some second thoughts on it being too steep. No interstate driving..

Scott Turchin

A: Without an overdrive, I'd personally prefer a 3.23 or 2.93 and a slightly loose torque converter (something that stalls near but under 3000 rpm). The thing with an automatic is you can compensate for a taller final drive by

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## QUESTIONS & ANSWERS (CONTINUED)

running a higher stall and still get the same torque multiplication as a shorter final drive but retain sane highway RPMs, especially if you're running a lockup torque converter. A 3.42 or 3.73 would be best if you were running a 200-4R or a manual transmission.

Frank Gore

Q: I need a recommendation to replace the power antenna for my 1989 Turbo Trans Am. Any suggestions on a suitable replacement? GM Classic doesn't have any suggestions. Problem: original is 16 inches plus mast. I need close to same to avoid fender well issues. Thanks in advance.

Alan Darr

A: If the motor still works and it's just the cable that's bad, they can be rebuilt.

I know thirdgen.org has a long thread about them.

Anthony Walch

Q: Just wondering if anyone else out there has a 4th gen Firebird or Trans Am that came from the factory with the engine compartment clear coated. My 1996 Ram Air Trans Am delivered to me on December 22, 1995 had the engine compartment clear coated at the factory and I have never seen another one since.

Paul G. Scholl

A: It's considered rare. I have seen several over the years, especially at the Trans Am Nationals but they are few and far between.

Jeff Inwood

Q: I am once again looking for some help. I am replacing the bulbs in the tail lights and brake lights because they have never been changed and they were

getting dim. I believe the driver side is correct and the passenger is wrong  
From driver side to passenger side...

Running Light (1 filament)  
Brake and Indicator (2 filament)  
Brake and Indicator (2 filament)  
Reverse (LED)

License plate light in the middle bottom (LED)

Reverse (LED)  
Brake and Indicator (2 filament)  
Brake and Indicator (2 filament)  
Running Light (1 filament)

Can someone confirm that this is correct?

In the picture, the 2 farthest right lights on the passenger side should be flipped so don't mind that.

As you can see, with the lights on, the one next to the reverse light stays bright all the time. I'm not sure if it's the bulb or the wiring of the socket? Any help is greatly appreciated!

Kaeden Dré Stewart



A: Left to right it should be: 1156, 1157, 1157, 1156. Try flipping the bright one...you CAN install these backwards it seems.

A lot of times when you get that issue one of the bulbs has a filament that is grounding out. Before you go nuts, with the lights on pull each bulb individually to see the others change at all. But I'd definitely start with new bulbs and go from there. Cheap and easy.

Justin Sumuda

Q: The best remedy for cleaning the tail light lenses? Also thinking about bright LED reverse lights.

Kaeden Dré Stewart

A: Inside the lights or outside? If outside find a detailer in your area to clean and polish the lenses. If inside remove the globes and use an air blower off your air compressor and blow them out.

Paul Reichelt

Q: I have a 93 TA. When my lights are off, my right rear turn signal works properly. When my lights are on, one bulb goes off and the other blinks. Help?

Jill Anthony

A: Many grounds are located on the front fenders and radiator core support. Ideally, I would look at wiring diagrams and locations.

Jeff Goodwin

Q: Anyone ever use Dupli-Color Vinyl & Fabric dye? Thinking about trying it and seeing the best way to go about it.

Kaeden Dré Stewart

A: I used it on a set of top shades I found in a junk yard and got for \$10. Lightly misted the carpet and used a few light coats working it in with a soft brush. They turned out fine but they are not as soft since the fabric has paint in it. Not sure I would dye carpet with it. Definitely try a very small area or scrap piece first.

David Harris

### TECHNICAL INFORMATION

Send any technical information that other members could benefit from to:

NFTAC Technical Info  
5433 N. Ashland Ave.  
Chicago, IL 60640 U. S. A.

or email:  
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# SWAP MEET CLASSIFIEDS

## CARS FOR SALE



1967 Firebird 400 Convertible. \$31,000. Original blue interior in good condition, rear window is discolored. No rust (California car), minor dings. Runs, has been sitting for several years. Needs tune-up, fluids, brakes. Two speed auto. Contact Larry at email: [peltonconsulting@sbcglobal.net](mailto:peltonconsulting@sbcglobal.net). \*\*



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## SWAP MEET ADS

Swap meet ads are **free** to NFTAC members. Please limit swap meet ads to one per issue per member and to 50 words or less. Ads will appear once and must be resubmitted for each issue. *Ads also appear on our website, in the eEagle, on our Message Board, Facebook, Instagram and Twitter.*

*Ads include one color photo. Additional photos are \$10 each.* For others and for commercial suppliers the rate is \$15.00 for 50 words or less. Additional words are 50 cents each. Deadline dates are the same as for the other EAGLE items which are found elsewhere in this issue.

The NFTAC makes no claims, either stated or implied, concerning the quality, authenticity or availability of items offered and claims no responsibility for any transactions as a result of the swap meet ad. Send your swap meet ad to:

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(\*ad also appeared in the last issue, \*\* appeared in previous issues, # temporary)



## SWAP MEET CLASSIFIEDS (CONTINUED)



**1999 Pontiac Firebird Formula.** 5.7 V8, 6-speed manual transmission, 65K miles. Great condition. T-Top Convertible, Alloy Wheels, Gray leather interior, Power windows, Driver power seat, Original AM/FM Radio + CD Player, Premium Monsoon sound system. We owned the car for the past 20 years and have decided to sell it as we rarely drive it. VIN:

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### WANTED

**NONE IN THIS ISSUE**

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Pontiac - Oakland Museum.** The Pontiac-Oakland Museum is open and is home to many classic and antique Oakland and Pontiac cars, thousands of artifacts from dealer promotional items to signs, posters, and sales training aids, and an entire library filled with automotive-related print materials. The museum is located at 205 North Mill St., Pontiac, Illinois.

The NFTAC maintains spare parts lists from members. To receive a copy, contact us or go to our web page ([www.firebirdtaclub.com](http://www.firebirdtaclub.com)) "members only" section. To ADD your Parts, Send in a legible List.

Come see one of the world's greatest collections of Pontiac and Oakland automobile brand items. Open 7 days a week (except major holidays). For more information, call 815-842-2345 or [www.pontiacoaklandmuseum.org](http://www.pontiacoaklandmuseum.org). (in every issue)

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*This section lists suppliers offering discounts to NFTAC members. If you wish to be listed, send the type of discount & product supplied along with your address and phone number.*

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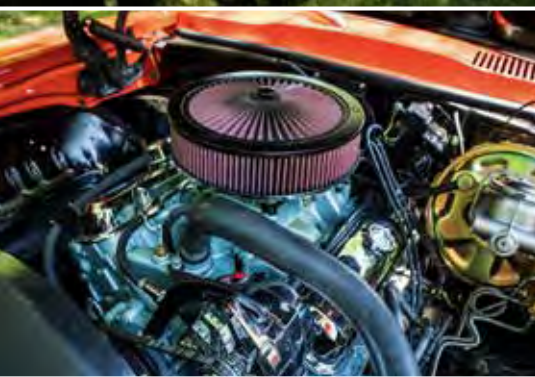
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