



**NFTAC**  
MAY 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



*2002 Trans Am WS6 Collector Edition of  
Charles Singer from Sarasota, Florida*



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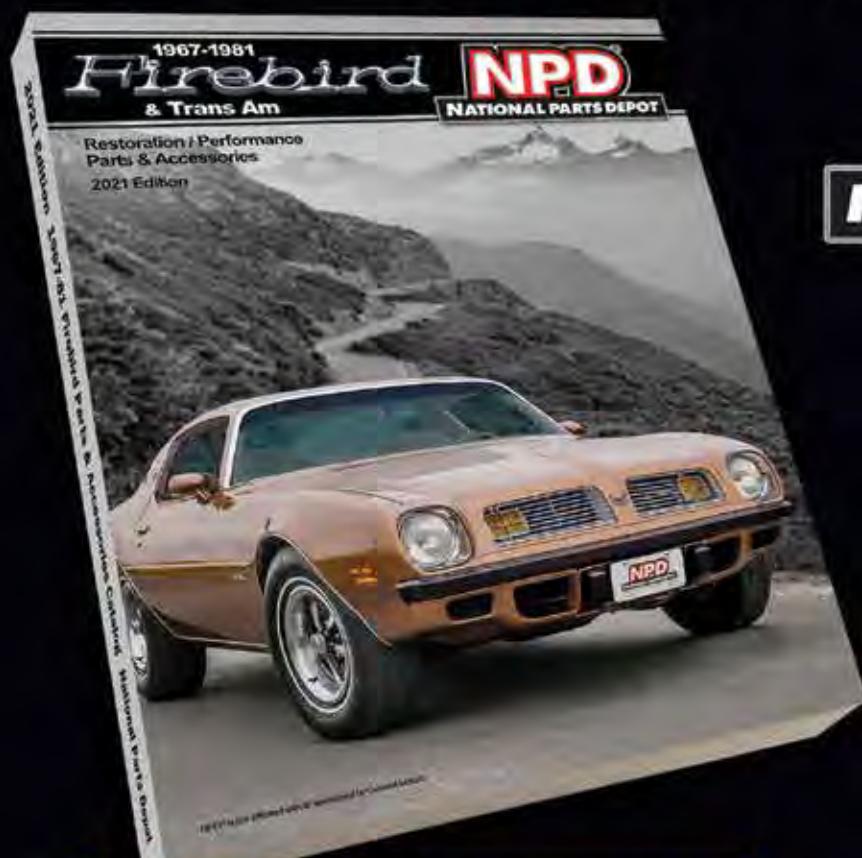
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# NATIONAL FIREBIRD and TRANS AM CLUB *Established 1984*



## 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

**T**hanks again to the many new members that have joined recently. **Thanks** to Perry Pegoraro, David Minato, Sean Schuessler, Gary Tesini, Hiram Ruiz, Steve Dague, Dave and Jodi Przybysz 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).

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 2002 Trans Am WS6 Collector Edition of Charles Singer is on the **front cover of this issue of the Eagle**. Beautiful car with an interesting background. Thanks Charles.

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 thanking us for contributing items to the All Pontiac Sh. Remember if you would like items for your event be sure to let us know far enough in advance so that we can get them to you.

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

Thanks to Perry Pegoraro for the story on the acquisition of the '74

### Trans Am.

Beautiful photos accompany the story of the '78 **Formula** of David Minato.

**Mark Neumann's 'Birds in Flight** column for this issue is regarding the major auction shows in the country. Great story and beautiful photos supplied by Mecum Auctions.

The **Firebird and Trans Am Gallery** contains photos of the '95 Firebird of Sean Schuessler, the '86 Trans Am of Gary Tesini and the '78 Trans Am of Hiram Ruiz. Great cars and great photos!

Our **Featured Car** this issue is the '88 **Trans Am GTA of Dave and Jodi Przybysz**. Nice story with

*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:

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5433 N. ASHLAND AVE.,  
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### 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

Website Ad (approx. 500 pixels by 75 pixels)	\$35 for 3 months, \$120 one year
Message Board sponsor (individual board)	\$35 for 3 months, \$120 one year
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<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)

## APRIL

29-30 23rd Annual Pontiac and GM Car Show, Clovis, CA. [www.pontiacsofcentralcalifornia.org](http://www.pontiacsofcentralcalifornia.org).

## MAY

7 32nd Annual All Pontiac Show, Tustin, CA. Bill at 714-931-6059 or [sccpoci@gmail.com](mailto:sccpoci@gmail.com), [www.sccpoci.com](http://www.sccpoci.com).  
15 Firebird and Trans Am Day at the Pontiac-Oakland Museum, Pontiac, IL. [kemp@midwestfirebirds.org](mailto:kemp@midwestfirebirds.org).  
19-22 St. Louis Firebird Fest, O'Fallon, IL. [www.firebirdfest.com](http://www.firebirdfest.com).  
22-28 Bandit Run '22. 45th Anniversary of Smokey & the Bandit movie. Follows original route. <https://banditrun.restoreamusclecar.com>.

## JUNE

2-5 21st Annual Pontiacs in Pigeon Forge, TN. [www.pontiacsinpigeonforge.com](http://www.pontiacsinpigeonforge.com).

## JULY

12-16 50th Annual POCI International Convention, Catoosa, OK. [www.poci.org](http://www.poci.org) or 763-479-2111.  
16 26th Annual All Pontiac Show, Griot's Garage Facility, Tacoma, WA. [www.pugetsoundpoci.com](http://www.pugetsoundpoci.com).

## AUGUST

12-14 Ames Performance Pontiac Nationals, Norwalk, OH. [andi@pontiacnationals.com](mailto:andi@pontiacnationals.com), [www.pontiacnationals.com](http://www.pontiacnationals.com).  
12-14 31st Indian Uprising All Pontiac Weekend, Holiday Inn, Crystal Lake, IL. [www.cruisintigers.com](http://www.cruisintigers.com).  
22 New Jersey 2022 Trans Am - All Pontiac Run, Metuchen, NJ. [bencar1960@outlook.com](mailto:bencar1960@outlook.com), [www.njtransamallpontiacrun.com](http://www.njtransamallpontiacrun.com).  
26-28 37th Annual Trans Am Nationals, Fairborn, OH. Jerry Minor at 513-202-1212. [www.tanationals.org](http://www.tanationals.org).

## 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](mailto:mjmelrose@aol.com) or [www.gatewayto.com](http://www.gatewayto.com).  
Sept 30-Oct 2 9th Annual Pontiac Adventures, Wisconsin Dells, WI. [www.PontiacAdventures.com](http://www.PontiacAdventures.com).

## SEPTEMBER 2023

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

22-24 A Pontiac Celebration - 2023, Crowne Plaza Hotel, Warwick, RI. Rick at 401-934-0663 or [frdigi@cox.net](mailto:frdigi@cox.net).



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## LETTERS TO THE NFTAC

Dear NFTAC,

I bought my '68 burgundy Firebird convertible in 1982. The engine ran, but the car wouldn't go. It was a Flintstone car with massive holes in the driver and passenger foot wells. The sheet metal was not dented or rusted with the exception of the hood and the trunk lid. The top, of course, was in tatters. I bought the car for \$350. I think the original AM/FM radio is worth more than that on eBay today.

I towed the car home and found that the reason the car didn't move was because the transmission repair shop that 'fixed' the ST300 2-speed transmission had only replaced one of the 3 bolts that connect the torque converter to the transmission flex plate. The remaining bolt sheared off hence the failure of the car to proceed. I bought many replacement parts (GM fenders, new top, etc., mostly from the Paddock in Indiana.)

A professional welder friend of mine welded in new floor pans. I paid for a really cheap paint job from a guy who was in school learning how to paint. Along came a marriage, two kids, family vacations, college expenses and the Firebird waited patiently in the corner of the garage to be restored properly. I am nearing retirement and am interested in seeing the car restored to its former self.

David Buice  
Sterling Heights, Michigan

Dear NFTAC,

I wanted to reach out and thank you again for being a sponsor of the 10th Annual All Pontiac Car Show at the Pontiac Museum in Pontiac, Illinois in September 2021.

The event was a great success, attracting a total of 172 Pontiacs. We were able to raise a grand total of \$4800 for the museum. As with all previous years, this amount reflects all of the proceeds that we took in for the event

plus a donation from Gateway GTO.

I also really appreciated the prizes that you provided for the event. We gave those out to Firebird and Trans Am owners during the awards ceremony.

With your help we were able to make the 2021 event a success. We are already working on the planning for the 2022 event look forward to your continued support.

Chris Winslow  
President  
Gateway GTO Association  
and NFTAC member #20-9535

*Editor's Note: We were pleased to sponsor and send some items to be used at the show. We are glad that they were appreciated. If you would like the National Firebird and Trans Am Club to send items that could be used for your show, send us an email or letter at least 3 months in advance with the event name and the address of where the items should be sent.*

Dear NFTAC,

I found my 1980 red Trans Am on the Next Door app. The owner had passed away and his sister had the car. Her son had been driving it and attempted some upgrades. He ran out of money, skill and time. He abandoned the project and left the car under a tarp in the backyard. That was about 3 years ago.



The interior is partially disas-

### 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)

sembled, the wiring has been worked on but poorly and the car has no battery. It has some body damage and needs painting. I couldn't get it to turn over, but with the wiring in such bad shape, I'm not surprised.

This is a total rescue for me. I am very mechanical and car savvy.

Brent Register  
Duluth, Georgia

Dear NFTAC,

I was about to swap drivetrain from my old car when someone side-swiped my new one (while parked)! That's when I learned that quarter panels, unlike fenders, must be cut off and welded on. So now I've got two cars and I need to fix one and make sure the other doesn't get crushed. But I will eventually let go of the rest of the hardtop, hopefully in a productive way that helps restore other cars.

So I went out looking for a Firebird club. And what did I find???

Martin "Styx" Coffey  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania



## EDITORS' DESK

Continued from page 4

beautiful photos.

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

The **Technical Section** contains many good questions and answers including one on a possible reason for **engine hesitation**. Thanks to our Facebook group for most of these items.

The **Swap Meet Classifieds** contain many good items including a 1999 Formula.

A full page flyer for **Firebird Fest '22** is included in this issue.

Our **back cover** contains the photo of the **'69 Trans Am clone** of Steve Daque. Nice color and background!

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](http://firebirdandtransclub).

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

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.



A result of the **full color Eagle magazine** is that we are now able to offer free classified ads to members that now **include one color photo and contain 50 words.**

Stay safe and have a great start to the driving and show season!!

Frank

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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](http://firebirdandtransclub)!



# NFTAC CLUB STORE



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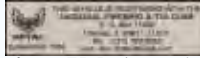
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## NEW PRODUCTS AND SERVICES

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.

*Current advertisers should send in product announcements.*

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website: www.thepartsplaceinc.com

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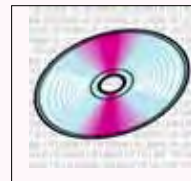
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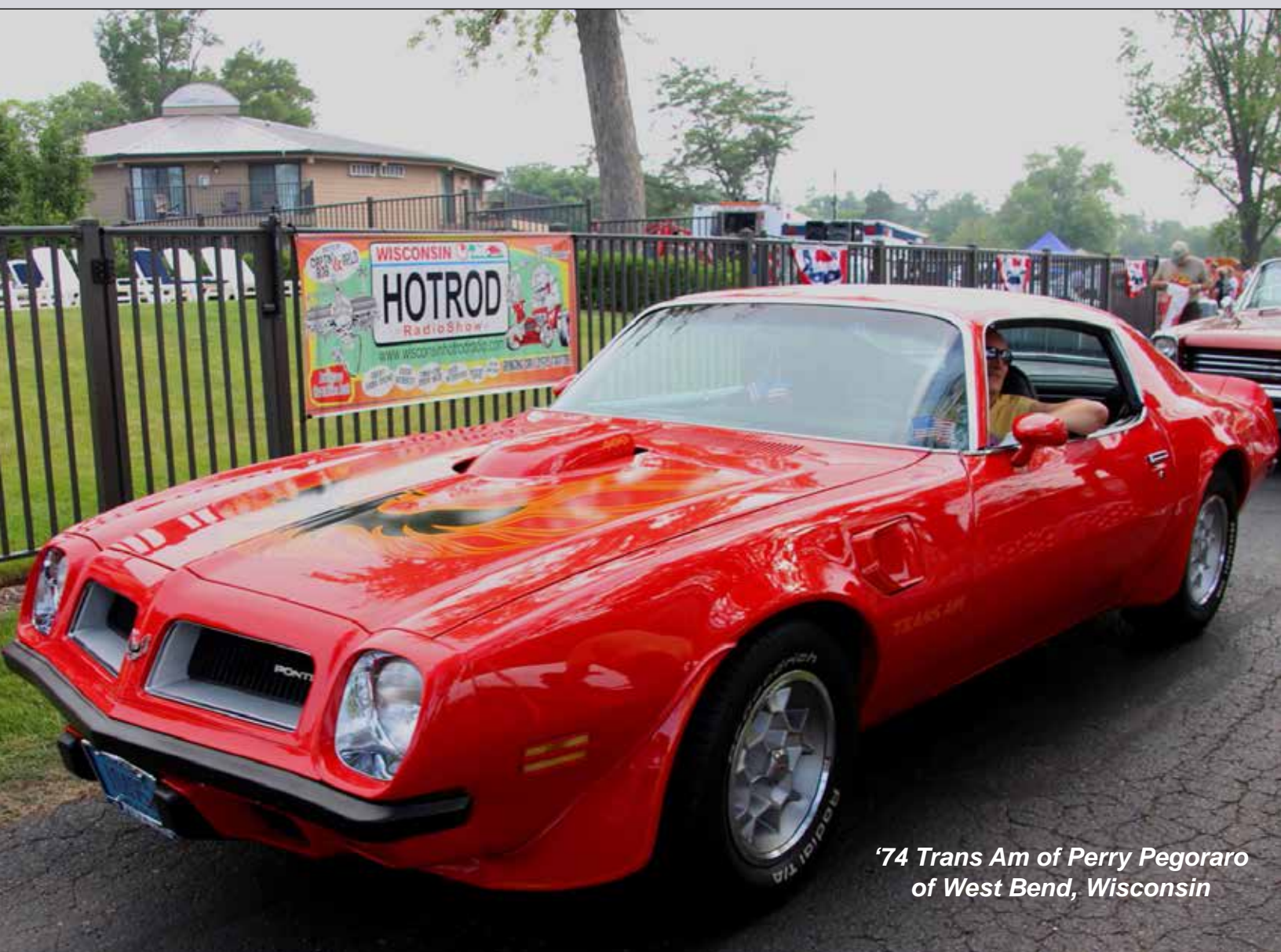


## '74 TRANS AM OF PERRY PEGORARO

I found this car in 1997 coming home from dropping my daughter off at college. I saw it at a Classic Car dealership. I stopped, it was raining, I gave it a quick look and went home. I thought about it for a week. I had purchased a 74 Trans Am brand new and kept it for ten years. This was the car I had when my wife and I met. Always regretted selling it. I went back the following Sunday and the car was gone. I called them the next day. Apparently the car had been there for two years and the owner just took it back. They said mostly kids wanted it and they did not have the money. They wanted \$8500.00.

I called the owner and went over to see and to drive the car. It had surface rust on the roof going back. The dealership had broken all the flares driving it up onto one of those raised racks for display. The owner was a large guy. He was linebacker big. He said he didn't want the car because it's too small for him. I asked him how much and his reply was \$7500.00. I countered with \$7000.00 and the deal was done.

I immediately began to restore things. Everything was loose. They said the A/C worked. Well I pulled it off to do some engine work and there wasn't an o-ring to be found on any of the lines. Later I also found out all the AC ductwork under the dash was missing. I had the car completely repainted as close to Buccaneer Red as we could find. I reinstalled all the decals. We joined a local car club and have been having a fantastic time with the car. Over the years it has accumulated over 200 awards, including five best in shows. Every year I think about modifying the car and I am about to retire so I will finally have the time. Keep the hobby alive for future generations.



*'74 Trans Am of Perry Pegoraro  
of West Bend, Wisconsin*

## '78 FORMULA OF DAVID MINATO

I saved up the down payment for this car during the summer of 1977. I ordered it in September of 1977 and took delivery in January of 1978. For some crazy reason, I traded in my Firebird in 1986 and bought a Honda CR-X. This was a dumb move. I tracked down the person who purchased my car and bought it back and I've had her back since the fall of 1986. I've had the transmission and engine rebuilt. I installed a new front end. She runs and looks great. My executor will take ownership once I die.



*'78 Formula of David Minato  
from Portland, Oregon*



# 'BIRDS IN FLIGHT

By Mark E. Neumann

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

Most of you who read this column bought your Firebird or Trans Am to drive and enjoy. We're not big fans of trailer queens. These pony cars were known for their good looks and great handling and beg for a twisty road. So, we oblige.

Nonetheless, we also like to know how the value of our cars are holding up in the classic car market. We all have heard the saying that "once you drive your (new) car off the dealership lot, it starts losing money." There are exceptions, of course, and that's what this month's column is about. With the stock market showing a lot of volatility lately, more people are investing in vintage sheet metal.

So I thought I would look at sales from car auctions on how our Firebirds and Trans Ams have fared since the start of the new year. Of course, there are other ways to track car value, such as going on websites like eBay, Bring A Trailer, ClassicCars.com, Hemmings, etc. But auction sales have some advantages.

1. You can see and touch the car, look under the hood, start it up
2. You can find out after the auction takes place what the car sold for
3. You usually get a good rundown of the car's features and accessories

Certainly, there are challenges to BUYING a car at auction, but that's material for another column.

## **GOOD PRICING SO FAR**

The year always starts with the country's two largest auctions: Mecum's 10-day, 1,500+ vehicle auction in Kissimmee, Florida, and the Barrett-Jackson Classic Car Auction in Scottsdale, Arizona. In my home state, in fact, Barrett was one of four classic car auctions that took place in January, all during the week.

Here are some sample sale prices from both auctions:

### **Mecum (Kissimmee, Fla.)**

Car	Details	Price
1973 Firebird Formula	400 ci, 4-speed	\$66,000
1968 Firebird Convertible	400 ci, auto	\$60,500
1976 Firebird Formula	400 ci, 4-speed	\$25,300
1969 Firebird Convertible	461 ci, auto	\$62,700
1987 Pontiac Firebird	2.8L, 5-speed	\$11,550
1979 Trans Am 10th Ann.	400 ci, 4-speed	\$62,700
2002 Trans Am Convertible	5.7L, 6-Speed	\$36,300
1981 Turbo Trans Am SE	4.9L, auto (only 3,830 miles)	\$104,500
1979 Pontiac Trans Am	Unrestored with 38 miles	\$118,250

Those last two Trans Ams, of course, got high dollars based on very low mileage (more on that later).

### **Barrett-Jackson (Scottsdale, AZ)**

1976 Trans Am	400 (stroked), auto	\$42,900
1967 Firebird Convrt.	326 ci, 4 speed	\$47,300
1977 Trans Am	6.6L, auto, T-tops	\$110,000
1989 Trans Am 20th Anniv Pace Car	3.8L turbo, auto.	\$82,500
1969 Firebird	Ram Air III	\$71,500
1977 Firebird Trans Am SE	(owned by Burt Reynolds)	\$495,000

Of course, celebrity status can increase the price quickly, as the '77 Trans Am from the Bandit demonstrated (the car was only a show vehicle, and not used in the movie).



But ultimately, low mileage is a major price mover. Here is one that went on sale at Mecum's auction in Glendale, Arizona on March 18. We'll share the final price in our next 'Birds of Flight' column, but here are the details:

1979 Trans Am

110 miles, 400 ci, 4 spd.

We'll see!

Mecum says "this exquisite example must rank as one of the lowest-mileage and most original of the 1,107 units produced" in 1979.

"Finished in its factory-applied Starlight Black with a Camel Tan Custom interior, this particular Y84 Trans Am SE came with the 400 T/A 6.6 V-8 and floor-shifted, close-ratio 4-speed, as well as power steering and power 4-wheel disc brakes, a tilt steering column, AM/FM stereo with dual rear speakers, power windows and door locks, Special Performance Package and a limited-slip differential."

And there are more auctions to come in 2022.



**Mecum  
Kissimmee  
2022: 1969  
Pontiac  
Firebird  
Convertible**



**Mecum  
Kissimmee  
2022: 1970  
Pontiac  
Trans Am  
Custom**

# BIRDS IN FLIGHT (CONTINUED)

*Photos Courtesy of Mecum Auctions, Inc.*



**Mecum Kissimmee 2022: 1975 Pontiac Trans Am**



**Mecum Kissimmee 2022: 1973 Pontiac Firebird Formula**



**Mecum Kissimmee 2022: 2002 Pontiac Trans Am Collector Edition Convertible**



*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.*



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*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.

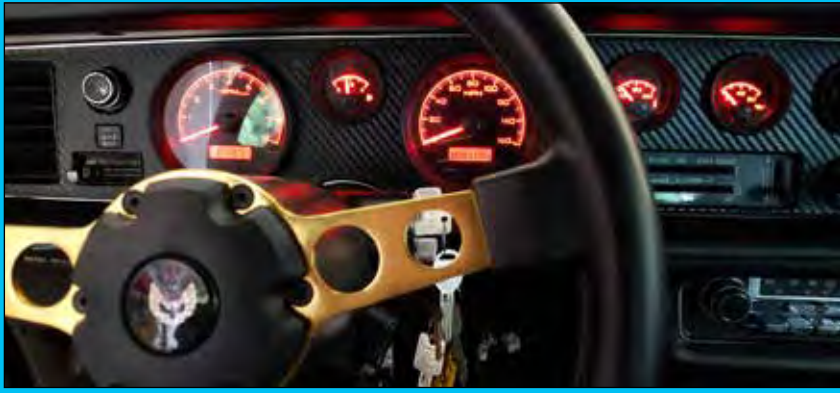
**'95 Firebird  
of Sean  
Schuessler  
of O'Fallon,  
Illinois**



**'86 Trans Am  
of Gary Tesini  
from Monson,  
Massachusetts.  
He bought the  
car last year  
from a party that  
had it garaged  
for about 18  
years**



# AM GALLERY



**1978 Trans Am of Hiram Ruiz from Wake Forest, North Carolina. The car started its life as a 403 ci-powered brown coupe. It now is black with the Bandit look. Car has an LS conversion with automatic transmission, Cam, headers, custom exhaust, Dakota Digital gauges, year one billet wheels and 4 wheel disc brakes and Vintage Air. The car currently is in a restoration shop being tubed, installing new interior, door panels, new dash, seat belts and carpet. These pictures of the car are just before it went into the shop.**



## FEATURED CAR

*This issue's featured car is the '88 Trans Am GTA of Dave and Jodi Przybysz of Beaver Falls, Pennsylvania. Here is their story:*

My wife, Jodi, and I have wanted our own collector car for years. Financially, it just never seemed to be the right time so we lived vicariously through my father, going to shows and car cruises in one of his classic or antique cars that he had restored.

Then one day, in the middle of a substantial home remodeling project, our contractor told us about this 1988

### 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)*

Pontiac Firebird Trans Am GTA.

He said it's been in his buddy's garage for years and he believed he would sell the car. We thought... "Wow! A true barn find!" Not really being in the position to purchase, we made arrangements to go see the car anyways.

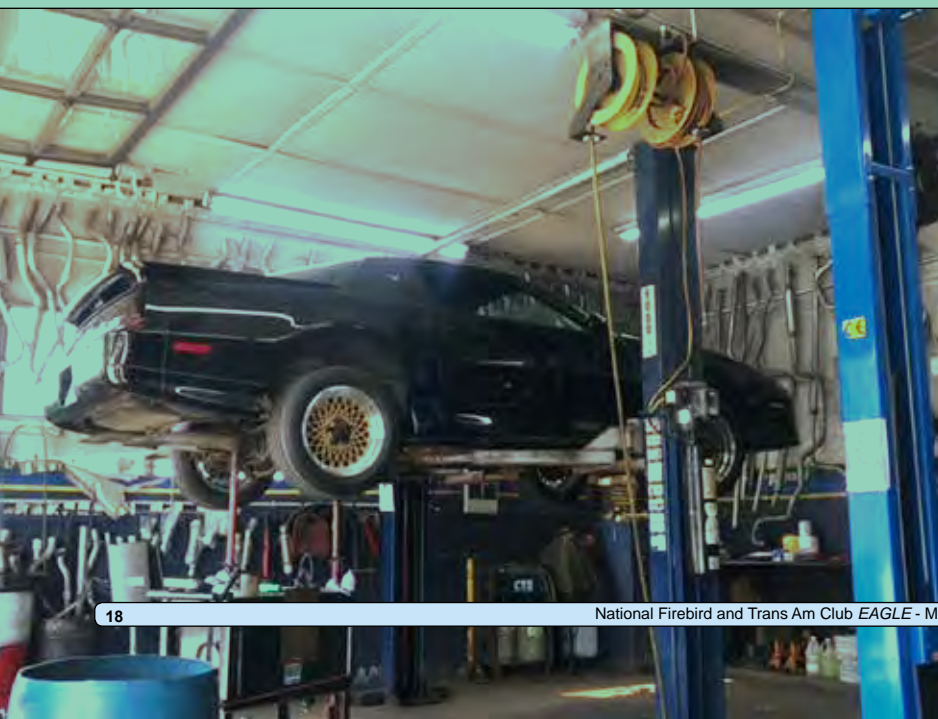
It was gorgeous and with only 12k miles on the odometer, it was something we knew we just couldn't pass up! The car was stored for 17 years, in a clean climate controlled garage (not really a barn find). It was sitting sideways in the back of the garage on wheel dollies. The owner just simply stopped driving it one day and began driving a different vehicle in their collection and so there it sat.

The stickers on the windshield indicated that the last time the car went through a Pennsylvania state inspection was 2003! A price was negotiated and arrangements were made to have a flat bed pick it up. We bought it without even knowing if it would run!

Thanks to our good friend, who is also a mechanic, all the proper maintenance and repairs were performed to get

her running again! We flushed the fuel and brake systems, replaced the fuel pump and injectors and all four tires were replaced. The air conditioning compressor was bad so we replaced it and upgraded the refrigerant. Finally we rebuilt the power antenna motor and then we fired her up. After 17 years she roared back to life!

The history of the car is kind of interesting. As I understand it, the car was purchased new in the Philadelphia area. At some point the car was stolen. It was eventually recovered although, I do not know in what time frame that this occurred. The GTA had sadly been partially disassembled. The radio and taillights were missing, there was a scratch down the passenger side, the windshield was missing



and the VIN tag had been removed.

The second owner had purchased the car at an insurance auction.

Oddly enough, because the major components of the car were still intact, the car retains a clean title with a reissued VIN. The taillights and radio were replaced, as were the windshield and the paint was repaired.

Today she sits in our garage. It goes out on nice days to car cruises or for drives in the country, sometimes just to go get ice cream and occasionally to work. Since We've owned it, it's never even seen the rain.

Now, she's not perfect. There are small details and imperfections that we will enjoy detailing as time goes by but, she is better than anything we ever dreamed that we would own!

Recent events in our lives have proved to us that there is never a right time and that life is too short. The timing, financially, was definitely not right for us to purchase this car but, it is a dream come true and a continuation of a family tradition...In fact...our Trans Am bares the Pennsylvania Antique license plate that was originally registered to my fa-





***'88 Trans Am GTA of David and Jodi Przybysz of Beaver Falls, Pennsylvania***



## MEET THE NEW MEMBERS!

**T**his 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.

Timothy Fleishour, Biltmore Lake, North Carolina

William R. White, Broad Brook, Connecticut - *He has a '99 navy blue Trans Am Firehawk.*

Dan Mill, Beaver, Pennsylvania

Phil Downs, San Rafael, California  
*Phil has an '83 white Trans Am 25th Anniversary.*

Michael Pruitt, Oak Grove, Louisiana

John Bily, Rowlett, Texas  
*John has a '69 red Firebird.*

Eric Decker, Jacksonville, Florida  
*Eric has a '78 red Trans Am.*

Gary Tesini, Monson, Massachusetts  
*Gary has an '86 black & gold Trans Am.*

Michael F. Haywood, Bronx, New York

James Craft Jr., Bethpage, Tennessee

George Powell, Fayetteville, North Carolina

Allen Kramer, Bluffton, South Carolina

Edward Ozogar, El Paso, Texas  
*He has a '79 gray Trans Am.*

John Russo, Glastonbury, Connecticut

Mike Ellison, Williamston, South Carolina

Robert Krug, Windsor, Ontario, Canada

Brent Register, Duluth, Georgia  
*He has a 1980 red Trans Am.*

David Buice, Sterling Heights, Michigan  
*David has a '68 burgundy Firebird 350 convertible.*

Jon Norris, Frederick, Maryland  
*Jon has an '80 black Trans Am, a '79 white Firebird convertible, a '91 GTA and a '68 Firebird coupe.*

Ryan Welch, Benecia, California

Greg Shuster, Monterey, California

David Janssen, Pontiac, Illinois

Martin Coffey, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania  
*Martin has a white and gold 2001 Firebird convertible and a 2002 silver Firebird hardtop.*

Michael Tyler, Willoughby Hills, Ohio  
*He has a LE SE 50th Anniversary Trans Am with Hurst Hatches (1 of 533).*

Gary Holmes, Edmond, Oklahoma  
*Gary has an '80 red turbo Formula.*

GTO, Lemans, Cutlass, 442, Chevelle, Malibu, Skylark, GS, Regal, GN, Impala, Caprice  
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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*  
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#### 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: \_\_\_\_\_

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\*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



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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.*

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*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)**

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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.

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## 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 need advice. I've got a 1988 Firebird 2.8 liter V6. Just got it last month. So it drove away from the owner, and was kind of hesitant. Then one day, it just wouldn't start. It gave me codes to replace a few things, and I did. I have installed new plus, wires, distributor cap and rotor. (I did not mess with the actual distributor, so I didn't change the timing).

I changed the throttle position sensor, the battery and the air filter. I did an oil change, and a transmission filter and fluid change. I changed the O2 sensor, installed a brand new fuel tank (rust inside), fuel pump, fuel pump relay, and fuel filter.

It keeps throwing code 54, which is fuel pump circuit, low voltage. The car cranks, starts, then almost immediately stops. I'm at a loss here people. I have changed the fuel tank sending unit, filter and relay. What am I missing? Any help or advice is appreciated!

Jon Granger

A: Rust particles from the fuel tank will get past the filter and build up in the fuel injectors and restrict the flow. Pull the fuel rail off the injectors and look inside the injectors. That was a problem I ran across. My tank was rusted also and had to replace it.

Also check the fuses and con-

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

nections..

Shawn Caldwell

Q: The speakers in my 1983 Firebird are blown. I am looking to replace them. Any recommendations on type and brand to go with?

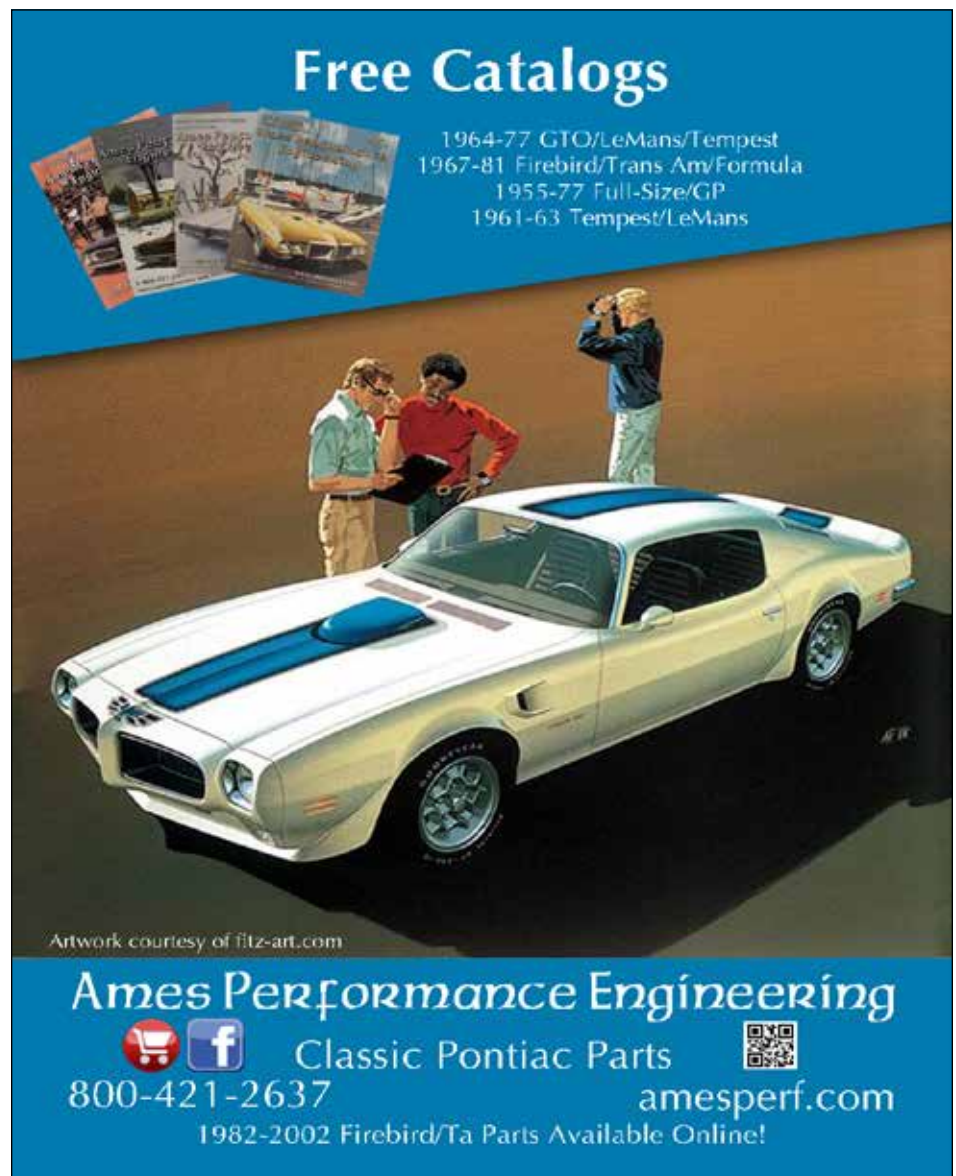
Ashley Nicole Green

A: I just put the Kicker KS Series 2 way car speakers in the backseat with their 4 x 6 twin in the front. I hooked

them all up to the Kicker Key 200.4 mini amp and stuck that under the passenger seat. Sounds phenomenal! They can take way more power than the Key 200.4 amp puts out. In my opinion I would get a much more powerful amp than the Kicker Key 200.4. You won't be disappointed.

The 6 x 9 comes with their own crossovers (plug 'n play) that you must use, otherwise the tweeter won't work and all you'll get is bass output.

Brian Daniel



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## QUESTIONS & ANSWERS (CONTINUED)

Q: This is my 1978 Firebird TA and I am restoring it. I'm getting to the point of actually putting it back together. These pictures are from when I started taking it apart. For the paint I've had several people tell me to strip the whole car and start with fresh primer. Others have told me to use the paint already on it as a primer since I am planning to keep it black.

There is a lot of rust and people have told me to only take paint off of the rust and clear surface rust and repair anything rusted all the way through then fresh primer that area. I am at a loss of what to do and really need opinions or even stories or anything you have done when painting a car.

Makayla Smith



A: Take her down to the bare metal. You should be able to do this in sections so you will not have too much of the car exposed to the elements.

Make a note of all areas of cancer, bad body work etc. This will give you

an idea of how much sheet metal will have to be replaced and you'll be able to see the areas where you need to do your body work.

You can treat the bare steel with Ospho rust remover, a chemical that will kill the rest of the rust that you can't remove and give you a temporary protective coating on bare steel. This chemical is a phosphoric acid and modern primers do not stick to it so you're going to have to really clean the surface really good with mineral spirits before you shoot it with an epoxy primer which is a sealer because it's non-porous.

If you don't have a way to shoot with a paint gun, Eastwood products makes an epoxy primer that you can apply with a foam roller.

Most if not all epoxy primers will give a time frame in which you can top coat it maybe around 7 days or so. Anytime you go beyond this 7 day window all you have to do is apply a reduced coat of epoxy primer after scuffing the existing primer that has been applied with Scotch Brite and it will reactivate it and you will have a new window in order to top coat it. You cannot apply modern paint and finishes on top of the lacquer base paint so you're going to have to remove all the old paint.

William George

Q: I am looking to replace my front struts for a 2001 V6 Firebird. What you all recommend? Thanks in advance.

Raul Mendoza Jr

A: Good aftermarket parts house stuff is fine for the V6 cars. They do not really beat on the front end as much as the V8 cars do. I have been told they actually are better balanced,

Todd Redwine

Q: I am looking at possibly purchasing an '87 GTA that needs engine

rebuild. I would prefer it to have WS6 Handling package. I have read good things about rear-disc brakes. Are rear disc brakes a sign that it is so equipped? If not, are there any clues without having a VIN? Thanks for your information!

Steve Hiatt

A: Not all GTA's have rear disc brakes. I have seen an '87 GTA L98 cars with rear drums, and my '91 L98 GTA had drums when I got it. It was a delete option of some sort where you could downgrade to drums and save some cash

Jason Russell

Q: I need help redoing a 1981 Trans Am and cannot find current paint codes for the gray dash, center console and front kick panels and the silver for the rear sail panels, front pillar post and headliner trim. I can find a code for the silver (102g) but paint stores cannot find a current code.

George Powell

A: Try Ames Performance at the interior paint section. Also The Parts Place in Dekalb, Illinois.

Firebird Central has all interior colors. They are aerosols made by SEM. I just touched up my '80 TA's interior last winter.

Keith Kinowski

### 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.

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**160 mph speedometer for my '82 Firebird.** There used to be a company that made reworked reproductions with a new face. I can't seem to locate one. If you have one or can tell me where to get one, please contact me. Roger at niri.tatan@gmail.com.\*\*

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filled with automotive-related print materials. The museum is located at 205 North Mill St., Pontiac, Illinois. 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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Charles Kennedy



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