

THE BIRD FEED



Western Michigan Firebird Club

"Keeping the Dream Alive"

Established 2009

www.wmfirebird.com

June 2010

The Inside Track

Scott van Tamelen, WMFC President

Wow, what a nice stretch of weather we've been having again. Hope you've been able to get the cars out and enjoy them. I know Cat had her TA out for the Bandit Run, and a few others had a great time at the Burn Survivor Show a couple of weeks ago. The Burn Survivor Show had just over 600 cars and they raised over \$13K. That's awesome!!!!!! If you haven't figured it out yet, I'm big into these type of "benefit shows". I think it's a great way to give back, and break the stereotype that "car people" are just tire screeching maniacs up to no good.

Make sure you're checking our website www.wmfirebird.com for the most up to date schedule of events. We've finalized details on a couple events, changed details on a couple others and added another. So, make sure you're checking back to the website often.

One of the items I'm working on is to get a group photo of our cars in front of a local Pontiac dealer before all Pontiac signage is taken down. The first set of dates I proposed didn't allow for a good turn out, so we'll be trying to coordinate

this again at a little later date when more of us can attend.

The other big thing we have coming up is the MiFbody.com Meet & Greet on June 5th. Again, check out our website for details on where club members will be meeting up before heading to Ionia for the caravan with the WMCC (Western Michigan Camaro Club) members.

In this newsletter you will also find some pics from the Burn Survivor Show and Cat's adventure on the Bandit Run. Enjoy!!



Photo of WMFC TAs at the Burn Survivor Show.

Upcoming Events

5th Annual Michigan F-body Association's Meet & Greet

Saturday June 5, 2010 will be the MI F-body Meet & Greet in Milford, MI. Members from the WMFC will be meeting at the M6 and 68th St McDonalds at 8:00am and leaving sharply at 8:15am to head to Ionia where they will meet up with the WMCC to caravan together to Milford. The event runs from 8:00am-4:00pm. Feel free to come and go at anytime during the day. But the caravan to the event is something you'll want to do with the group! There is expected to be over 300 cars, several sponsors and food on site. Come out and enjoy a day that promises to be complete excitement for any car lover!!

*** Our monthly meetings this summer are going to be “event focused”, meaning that we'll be incorporating club meetings into some of the events listed on the upcoming events page. No need for a sit down meeting when we can be out enjoying our cars instead!!

WMFC Annual 4th of July Parade

Club members will be participating in the Grandville Fourth of July Parade together. Afterward, we'll celebrate the 4th with a “bring a dish to pass” style picnic. Dave and Judy have graciously agreed to hold the picnic at their home. Location and times will be determined at a later date, stay tuned! This will also serve as our meeting for the month of July. Hope to see you out there to help celebrate with a BANG!!!



The Bandit Run 2010: An article by Cat Browne

For those of you who know what the Bandit Run is...you should be on the edge of your seats waiting to hear about this year's Run. For those of you who have never heard of the Bandit Run... well, let me explain. The Bandit Run is a Firebird lovers dream cruise. It was started four years ago by two guys who loved the Smokey and the Bandit movie. They both had Trans Ams and wanted to drive the route of the movie. They threw it out there for anyone else to go, too. And now they do it every year and call it the Bandit Run. The Run is a week long roadtrip where dozens and dozens of Firebirds, Trans Ams, Firehawks and Formulas travel the roadways.

This was my second year doing the Run and it did not disappoint! The route we drive changes every year. And this year they called it the Bandit Beach Run because we traveled down into Florida. This was the furthest south the Run had ever gone. The stops we made this year were so much different than last year, but oh so beautiful and exciting!

The Run has always ended in Georgia at the Year one facilities (Year One is a major sponsor of the Bandit Run). But this year we were going to start there. It was Saturday morning and there were plenty of events on the agenda. As a part of the group, you can choose to do as little or as much as you want to. It's all very laid-back. For instance, they had a movie tour planned for 8:30am. This is where you follow Tyler, the tour guide, in your own car as he takes you to several different sights where the Smokey and the Bandit movie was filmed. It's a very exciting and cool experience to go on. I did the movie tour last year, so I opted out of it this time. Instead I headed over to Summit Racing where the Ban One Car Show was being held. Ban One is a typical car show. Park your car...walk around checking out all the other cars...talk to different owners. It was nice to meet some new people, but I couldn't wait to get rolling!!

Sunday morning came early and we had a group meeting at 8:00am. This is where they let us know the events of the day and where to meet up that night. By 8:30am we were all lined up. What a sight...70 plus cars ready to hit the road. Once out, everyone starts to drop into their own little groups. I was apart of a great group of 6 cars driven by wonderful people. We all got along great and had the same driving style....FAST! We all had 4th gens that seemed to make it to our destinations a bit quicker than most of the 2nd gens (he,he,he,he). We were on our way to Tifton, GA. In Tifton, the town had put together a car show, parade and a big party set up for the Bandit Run participants. All the small towns along the way really go out of their way for the Runners.

Monday morning found us leaving the wonderful town of Tifton, GA and heading south to Daytona Beach, FL. On our way to Daytona, the whole group stopped in Ocala, FL to tour the Don Garlits museum of Drag Racing. I had never heard of Don Garlit but was very impressed with the cars and the concepts that I saw in his museum. He was a true pioneer in Drag Racing. The drive to Daytona took us off the "usual" route that most people would take. We really got to see the rural yet beautiful side of Florida.



Hotel parking lot in Daytona Beach, FL

Daytona was a 2 night stay, which turned out to be a great idea from the Bandit Run organizers. It gave the drivers extra time to mingle at lunch, dinner, the pool and the parking lot. A lot of “socializing” was done that night in the parking lot. Out of 70+ cars in the lot that night...one Gold TA got toilet papered. Hmmm, how did that happen??

Tuesday was our second day in Daytona and was a free day to do any sight seeing around town on your own. My group decided to go out to the Daytona 500 Race track and get some good shots of the cars by the sign. They turned out really nice! Then that night we had another car show to go to. This time at the local Hooters. I wasn't too crazy about going to Hooters, but it turned out to be a great time! The parking lot was full of Trans Ams, the locals all came out to gush over our cars and the Hooters staff went out of their way to help us. The whole experience was overwhelming. And yes...I did leave there with a Hooters tank top!!



Daytona International Speedway!!!

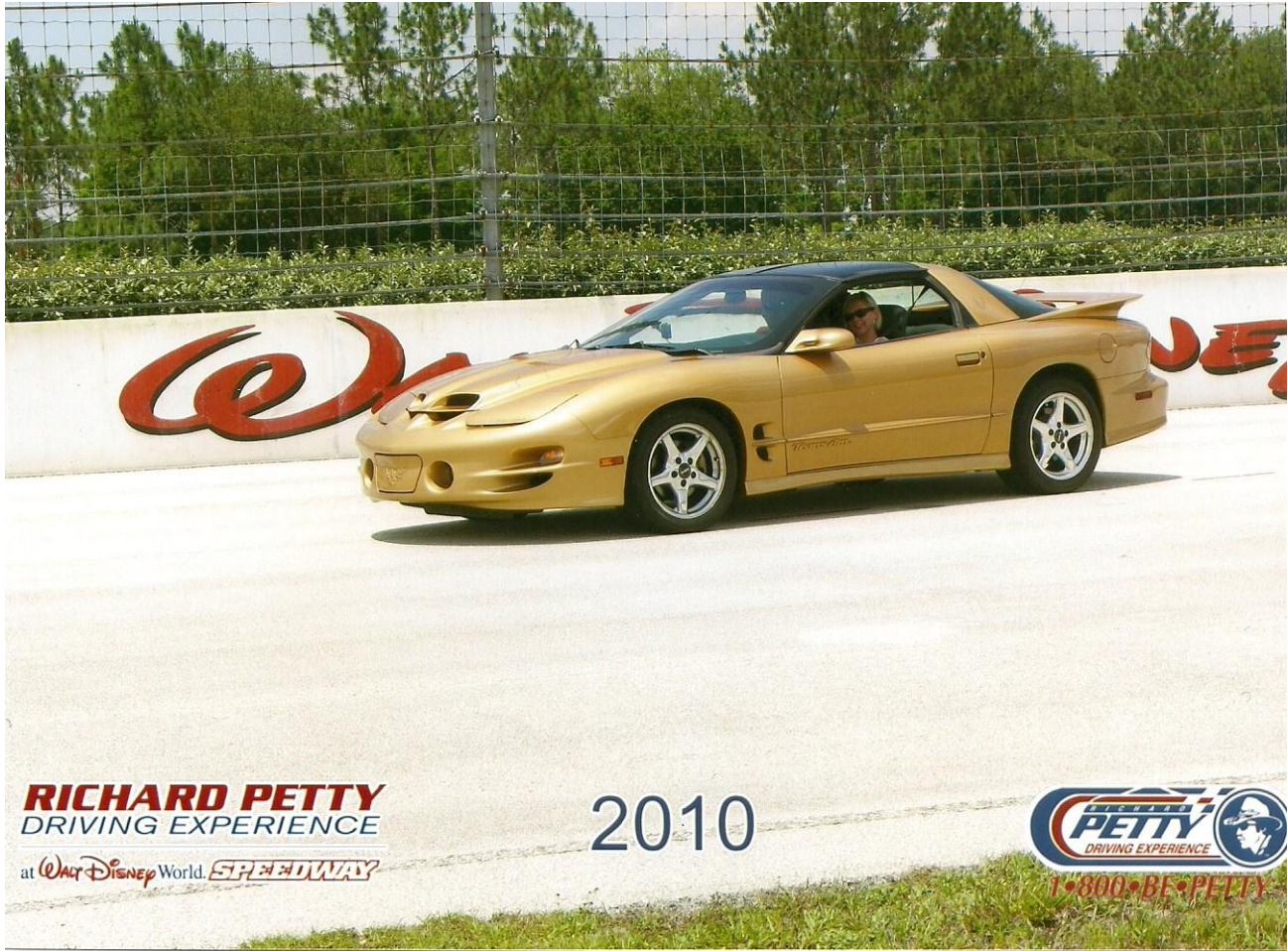
Early Wednesday morning we said good-bye to Daytona and set off for Jupiter, FL. This is the home town of Burt Reynolds and his museum. I have to remind myself that this whole Bandit Run was started because of the Smokey and the Bandit movie and most of the drivers would love to be Burt Reynolds!! So, this was a BIG deal. Once again, the town of Jupiter threw a big party

in honor of the Bandit Run. We all had special parking privileges outside of the Burt Reynolds museum. There was a live band, food booths and even a live auction! It was flattering to see the 100's of locals who came out to see all the Trans Ams and all the media coverage that was there, too. Yes, Jupiter really knew how to treat the Runners.



The group around Burt Reynolds' Trans Am in Jupiter, FL

Thursday morning we all left Jupiter on our way to Orlando, FL. The hotel stop in Orlando was at Walt Disney World. This had mixed reviews among the runners. Orlando was the last stop on the Run and the organizers thought that people would want to spend the weekend at Disney World. The only problem with that...98% of the runners didn't bring their kids!! Oh, well...I found it to be a lot of fun. The best part was driving on the Walt Disney World Speedway. Yeah, there's a track at Disney World!! This was my first time on a race track and it was thrilling! They do have a pace car and they do want you to stay in line. But I got out on the track late, so my group was a good half a lap ahead of me. They were going around 55-60mph. But Goldie and I had the opportunity to drive 75-80mph to catch up. It doesn't sound very fast, but those corners come up pretty quickly!! I loved it.



So, now the official Bandit Run was over. I still had 2 nights booked at Disney. I did spend one night with all the runners...talking about the run, the good times, the mishaps, all the events along the way. It was a good night, yet bittersweet. For most of the runners were going back home in the morning. We all said our good-byes and promised to keep in touch...and we will, this is a tight group. This was an experience I will treasure forever. And you can bet I'll be on the Run again next year!!



BANDIT RUN 2010



More Upcoming Events

WMFC Official Events:

Saturday June 5, 2010 MiFbody Meet and Greet, 2205 S Milford Rd, Milford, Mi. Baker's of Milford.

Saturday July 5, 2010 WMFC Annual 4th of July Parade and picnic. Grandville, MI. Picnic to follow at Dave and Judy's house in Hudsonville.

Sunday July 11, 2010 Grand Haven Car Show, Grand Haven, MI, time TBD

Friday-Sunday August 27-29 Trans Am Nationals, Dayton, OH <http://www.78.com/nats/>

Saturday Sept 18, 2010 F-Body's at the Barns, 11am-4pm, Gilmore Car Museum, Hickory Corners, MI

Other Automotive Events:

Friday & Saturday June 18 & 19, 2010 Firebird Gathering in Dundee, MI www.78ta.com/dundee.php

Friday & Saturday June 18 & 19, 2020 7th Annual Central Lake Car Show www.joelshooks.com

Saturday June 26, 2010 Alamo's Classics in the Park. 8326 W DE Ave, Kalamazoo, MI 49009

Saturday July 31, 2010 Take Hart Car Show. Hart, MI <http://www.takeittohartcarshow.com/index.html>

Cruise-Ins:

(Seasonal) Friday & Saturday nights at Dawg Dogs in Grandville, MI Just south of 28th St on Wilson Ave



The Western Michigan Firebird Club is dedicated to the preservation and enjoyment of the classic Pontiac Firebird through a passionate interest in keeping the Dream Alive.

WMFC Officers:

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Check out our latest events and activities on our website www.wmfirebird.com.



Congratulations!!!

A big congrats goes out to our club member Derek Dyke on his engagement to Mindy Kiel.
Best Wishes!!!

Sponsor of the Month



Congrats to CC Performance Parts, LLC for being our June sponsor of the month!!

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