

# THE BIRD FEED



## Western Michigan Firebird Club

*"Keeping the Dream Alive"*

Established 2009

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

April 2010

### The Inside Track

**Scott van Tamelen, WMFC President**

Wow, here we are upon another month already. If you would have told me that "time flies by" back when I was sitting in my high school algebra class, I would have suggested you seek mental help. But now that I'm older (notice I didn't add wiser to that statement), I'm beginning to understand the truth behind that saying.

It won't be much longer and we'll be enjoying our cars again. Take note of the list of activities we have planned both here and on the clubs website. By no means do I expect everyone to make **every** event listed. But if there is one happening in your area and you have time in your schedule, please make plans to join us. Our last indoor "sit down" meeting is planned for April 5, 2010. We'll be using this meeting to nail down the last remaining details of our summer "event focused" meetings. For those who would like to attend, the address for this meeting is 3270 Central Blvd, Hudsonville, MI. The meeting will begin at 7:00pm. Hope you can make it.

In an effort to not bore you guys to sleep listening to me rambling on, you're going to notice something new for this and upcoming newsletters. We're adding a Tech Section!! Kyle DenBoer, our very own WMFC Vice President, has agreed to share with us some "how to" articles on many projects he has going on. I'll let Cat explain more about that...

### *Opening Season*

Spring is here... Let's get those Birds out!

Tips for getting those birds out:

- 1) Check your fluids
- 2) Clean those Birds until they shine
- 3) Most importantly...DRIVE, DRIVE, DRIVE!! We only have 6-7 months to feed our passion.

# What's New?!

We are happy to announce a new article to The Birdfeed! The WMFC is lucky enough to have a Vice President who knows the ins and outs of the Pontiac Firebird. Kyle DenBoer will be doing an article from time to time on projects that he is working on. Not only are these articles interesting to read, we hope they will help you out with your cars, too. Here's Kyle's first article.....enjoy!



## Kyle's Corner

The last few weeks have been just BEAUTIFUL, making me wish my car was running. But in the next few months you will see what I've got going on.

Winter time is always a bummer because we have to put our cars away for about 6 months. But it's a catch 22 for me, because I have time to figure out what I'm going to do to my car next!

About 5 months ago I found a company called EFI Connection <http://www.eficonnection.com>. This company figured out a way to do away with the dreaded Optispark on the 92-97 Corvette's and 93-97 F-body's and bring in the LS1 god's single coil per cylinder as well as the brain, the LS1 computer.

The advantages of doing this are obvious, no Optispark, coil per cylinder as well as a 24bit computer that can transfer data better and be tuned with the newest software, as well as dependability and drivability.

My conversion started back in January acquiring the needed parts to convert my 93 TA with a 383 stoker into the car it should have been. The parts that are needed for my car were: 95+ engine harness for an M6, the 411 LS1 computer, DIY harness kit to convert the LS1 harness to the LS1 computer, 24x kit for the LT1, 96-97 timing cover and LS1 coils and pigtails that I already had.

I found a lot of my parts on eBay, but did have some luck on the other F-body sites as well. I found my 95 M6 harness and purchased it with excitement, knowing how hard the M6 harness is to find. But there was a glitch... They cut the Trans harness! I was OK with this because I would just transfer my Trans harness over when I got my harness out of my car.

Removing the pins from one harness and adding them into the LS1 PCM plugs was easy and no special tools were needed. You just pop the LT1 plug top off, hold back the pin retainer and push gently on the top of the pin until it comes out the bottom. Then you just find the right slot in the LS1 computer plug pin-out page and insert it in until it clicks!!

## (Kyle's Corner continued)

Pictures shown: 96 Lt1 timing covers and LS1 411 PCM, DIY harness kit, and 24x system



I used basic tools to do the harness work, like wire cutters, small screw drivers and I managed to get the 95 harness repined in about 8 hours! The car came home the third week in February to go under the knife. But not just for the PCM conversion. The 9" rear end needed some work and that was the first part to come out and get attention. Once that was completed, I started removing the LT1 engine harness.

I also had to remove the passenger kick panel and side trim to get at the plugs that connected the engine harness to the interior harness. Then the harness came right out. After I had this all done, I went and did some comparing of my 93 harness and the 95 harness that I had purchased for the conversion. Now I'm sure you're asking yourself, "Why don't you just use your harness out of your car??" 93 and 94 are bad years because they have shared grounds and power sources for more than one thing. The fuel injectors are also wired as a unit and you can't do that because the LS1 PCM has a slot for each injector. And to top that off, the PCM pins on the 93 are not the same as the LS1. So, I just needed a new harness to do this conversion.

Well, being a 93 car, I found some big differences! For one, my car was built in late August of 1993 and had some wire and plugs that are not in the schematic for the 93!! In 1995 GM added an extra plug on the passenger fender, a C105. My car, being a 1993, only has the C100. So, I had to figure out how to transfer the right wires into my plug and still have everything work right. About four hours later, I had it figured out! But, like I stated above, my car was built in late August 1993 and caught in the crossover to the 1994 model year.

In the black plug on my car that connected the engine harness to the interior (plug C210) I found that I had a third wire in it and it should have only two!! It was orange and I couldn't find this in ANY of my wiring diagrams. So, I had to dig deeper and started comparing harnesses from 94 and 95 and I found what I was looking for!! In 1994 they added 2 wires to that plug and one of them was that orange wire. They used that wire to feed the PCM with 12 volts. Well, the conversion pulls its power from other sources. So, according to the swap pin-outs, I don't need that wire. BUT I'm not getting rid of it...just in case!!

## **(Kyle's Corner continued)**

Pictures shown: 95 harness, completed 95 harness matted to the LS1 PCM and LT1 engine harness



My plans are to have this down to Baker Eng. for tuning by the end of March. If you would like to follow along with the original thread, you can go here:

<http://www.mifbody.com/vbulletin/showthread.php?34869-Phantom-s-LS1-computer-swap>

So, until next month....thanks for reading!!

Kyle  
VP WMFC  
Aka Phantom 383

# ***Events to remember***

## **GVSU Car Show**

The Grand Valley Car Club Spring Car Show will be on Saturday April 17, 2010. We will be meeting at 4271 Lake MI Drive 49401, directly across from the GVSU main entrance, at 1:00pm so we can drive in together as a group. The event runs from 2:00pm-6:00pm. This will be our first club event of the season. Let's make a good showing from the WMFC.

## **Burn Survivor Car Show**

The Burn Survivor Car Show will be at the 5/3 Ball Park in Grand Rapids on Saturday May 15, 2010. We will be attending this event together as a group. We'll be meeting at Dawg Dogs at 8:00am and we'll drive over from there. This is one of the events where we'd like to get as much club participation as possible, so that we can create a public awareness of the club.



## *Upcoming Events*

### WMFC Monthly Meetings:

Monday April 5, 2010 7pm 3270 Central Blvd, Hudsonville, MI 49426

Sunday May 2, 2010 Mendon Dust-Off Car Show \*or\* Wednesday May 5, 2010 McFadden Chrysler-Dodge-Jeep in South Haven. You can attend one or both events. Meeting info will be discussed at both. Times and meeting spots will be determined at the April meeting.

Monday June 5, 2010 2205 S Milford Rd, Milford, MI. Meet & Greet and Monthly meeting

Saturday July 3, 2010 Scott's house in Holland, meeting, party and fireworks, time TBD

Monday August 2, 2010 Time and place TBD

### WMFC Official Events:

Saturday April 17, 2010 GVSU Car Show 1pm 4271 Lake MI Drive, Allendale, MI 49401

Saturday May 15, 2010 Burn Survivor Benefit Car Show 9am-3pm 5/3 Ball Park Grand Rapids

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

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:

Saturday May 15, 2010 Ban One Car Show, Atlanta, GA

Monday May 31, 2020 Hamilton Memorial Day Parade, Hamilton, MI

Friday & Saturday June 18 & 19, 2010 Firebird Gathering in Dundee, MI [www.78ta.com/dundee.php](http://www.78ta.com/dundee.php)

Friday & Saturday June 18 & 19, 2020 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Central Lake Car Show [www.joelshooks.com](http://www.joelshooks.com)



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.

### Meetings:

The WMFC holds monthly meetings throughout the summer at different events. The times and locations may vary, so please see the upcoming events page or check out our website for specific times and locations. [www.wmfirebird.com](http://www.wmfirebird.com)

### WMFC Officers:

President: Scott vanTamelon [president@wmfirebird.com](mailto:president@wmfirebird.com)  
Vice President: Kyle Denboer [vicepresident@wmfirebird.com](mailto:vicepresident@wmfirebird.com)  
Treasure: Mike Keen [treasurer@wmfirebird.com](mailto:treasurer@wmfirebird.com)  
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Check out our latest events and activities on our website [www.wmfirebird.com](http://www.wmfirebird.com).

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