

# THE BIRD FEED



## Western Michigan Firebird Club

*"Keeping the Dream Alive"*

Established 2009

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

March 2010

### **The Inside Track**

**Scott van Tamelen, WMFC President**

Hello Everyone, I hope this newsletter finds you doing well and surviving the winter blues. It was a quiet month for the club, although we did receive our T-shirts and should be getting the club decals this week too. We hope to get those distributed to members by the time you read this. I'd also like to welcome our newest member, Nathan Poppema.....Welkom Nathan!!

Last month I received feedback from a few members that I should've included some pictures of the Buick Riviera Pace Car I was gaga over. So here they are, not everybody's cup of tea I know, but the amount of technology put into that car for 1983 is simply amazing. Only 3 Rivi's were ever made with that drive-train, and none were offered for sale to the public. Neither would the twin turbo set-up make it into a production vehicle, but the same basic technology is what lead to the Buick Turbo V6 dominating '80s performance. My '89 Turbo Trans Am is a direct beneficiary of this car's technology.



February has always been one of my favorite months with the Daytona 500, and the Chicago Auto Show taking place it's a sign spring is just around the corner. I must admit I don't watch Nascar as often as I use to, but the Daytona 500 is still one race I don't miss. This year's race was a little time intensive, 7hrs long, due to a pothole. One hour into the delay all I could think was "dang, they need a few Michigan Road Commission employees down there....they're pros at filling potholes."

Being an Earnhardt fan, the end of the race had me sitting on the edge of the couch yelling "GO, GO, GO", but unfortunately Dale JR wasn't able to take the lead. His ability to come all the way up from 10<sup>th</sup> to 2<sup>nd</sup> in the last two laps of the race did remind of his father though....dang I miss watching Dale SR drive.

Probably the biggest disappoint with the Daytona 500 was this year's Pace Car, the Ford Mustang. Nothing against the new Mustang, but much like Dale SR's driving style, I also miss the days when Pontiac was the "Official Car of Nascar". Do you guys realize that a Pontiac Firebird/Trans Am has paced the Daytona 500 no less than 16 times? Not to mention the numerous other Pontiacs that would end up serving as the Daytona Pace Car. It had always been one of my other favorite things about the race..."What would this year's Pace Car look like."

With Daytona over I started to look for a way to cure some more of my winter blues. So I took the family to the Chicago Auto Show last week. We drove to Michigan City, Indiana, and from there hopped the South Shore Line train to Chicago. If you've never done this before I suggest giving it a try, least once, it's a great way to travel to Chicago. My wife didn't have to hear me complain about the "big city" drivers and I didn't have to try to make believe I knew how to get around downtown without getting lost.

The Auto Show was good, although it was kind a strange not being able to droll over the latest

Pontiac concepts. To compensate for that, though, there was a good display of tuner Camaros on hand. Some looked good, others left me thinking ??? But overall it was nice to see the huge amount of attention the Camaro was receiving by show goers. It will always leave me wondering "what could've been" had things gone differently for GM, Pontiac, and the Firebird.....



Anyways enough going on about how things use to be/could've been.....

Let's talk about the fun the upcoming months hold. At our last meeting I spoke about wanting the club meetings to be "event focused", by that I mean, I don't want our monthly meetings to be of the "sit down" type where we drone over the little things. Those type of meeting a fine when there's 6 inches of snow on the ground, but come this spring I want us to focus on enjoying our cars together. I want the club to be fun, with fun monthly meetings where we cruise to the beach, a drive-in eatery, a local cruise-in night, a drag strip, or a car show. Our first opportunity for such a meeting is going to be the GVSU Car Show. See their website ([www.gvsucarshow.com](http://www.gvsucarshow.com)) for more details or contact our very own Derek Dyke at [webmaster@wmfirebird.com](mailto:webmaster@wmfirebird.com). Hope to see you there!!

### **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 held on Monday May 3, 2010. We will be attending this event together as a group. The time is yet to be determined. We'll discuss meeting up somewhere for this event at our next club meeting. 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.

### **MiFbody Meet & Greet**

The MiFbody Meet & greet will be held on Saturday June 5, 2010. We will be holding a brief informal club meeting at this event. Those of us from West MI will be meeting at the M6 and 68<sup>th</sup> Street McDonalds around 8:00am and will be leaving at 8:15am sharp to head to Ionia, where we will meet up with the rest of the caravan at 9:00am. The Meet & Greet will be held at Bakers of Milford. Located at 2205 S Milford Rd, Milford, MI. Hope you can make this fun event.



## *Upcoming Events*

### WMFC Monthly Meetings:

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

Monday May 3, 2010 Ball Park Car Show and meeting, time TBD

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

Monday May 3, 2010 Burn Survivor Car Show at Ball Park, time TBD

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/>

### 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)

### Cruise-Ins:

(Seasonal) Friday & Saturday nights Dawg Dogs in Grandville, MI. Just south of 28<sup>th</sup> 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.

### Meetings:

The WMFC holds meetings on the first Monday of the month. 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)  
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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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