

# THE BIRD FEED



## Western Michigan Firebird Club

*"Keeping the Dream Alive"*

Established 2009

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

May 2010

### **The Inside Track**

**Scott van Tamelen, WMFC President**

Here it is the end of the month and the beginning to, what appears to be, an awesome summer for WMFC. We participated in our first car show by attending the GVSU Car Show. We had a good turnout with 7 members/potential members brining their cars out, some for the first time this season. It was a bit brisk, but it was good catching up with everybody again and seeing all our Firebirds together. I think Cat has some pictures she'll be sharing from this event.

I want to draw your attention to a couple of events we have scheduled for May (weather permitting). First we have the Mendon Dust-off Car Show on Sunday May 2<sup>nd</sup>. Second on the list is the McFadden Chrysler of South Haven Cruise-in on Wednesday May 5<sup>th</sup>. Thirdly we have the Burn Survivor Car Show at the Fifth Third Ball Park on Saturday May 15<sup>th</sup>. Make sure you check out the WMFC website for details on when and where we'll be meeting up to cruise to these events together. You can even participate in online discussions about the events by checking in at MiFbody.com and viewing the WMFC forum.

Let the car show season begin!!

I would also like to let everybody know that we have room in the newsletter for a "For Sale" section. If you have anything you'd like to sell and think that it would be of interest to other members, feel free to email Cat or myself with the details. This will be a free service to all members.

Until next month...be safe out there and enjoy those Firebirds every chance you get!!





## Kyle's Corner

**We are lucky enough to have the continuing article from Kyle on this engine project.....enjoy!!**

What beautiful weather we're having! I hope you are all out enjoying it and driving your cars.

The orange wire that I mentioned in the last newsletter was important, go figure! It was my PCM power, but I didn't realize it because I had pinned it out already in the PMC. So it was a simple swap of two wires on the C100 plug and we were good to go.

A lot has happened to me since I last wrote. I was let go from my job and things around my house have been turned upside down again! Looking on the brighter side of things...I have had a ton of time to work on the car! In losing my job, my sweet coil brackets that I was making are only half way machined. So I had to improvise and mount them to the valve covers in a way that I really didn't want to, but it doesn't look that bad. At the hardware store, I spent \$20 and had what I needed to mount my coils. Once I got that done, I put on the timing set with the supplied cam pick up, Timing Cover, bolted up the oil pan, attached Adapter plate for the Cam and Crank sensor in place of where the Opti was. Put on the Hub for the balancer then attached the intake and Valve Covers with the coils and put the fuel injectors in with the fuel rail.

A tip for installing the timing set and the Cam pick up: You have to make sure the Cam dowel doesn't protrude too far out to where the Cam Sensor can pick it up! You have to knock it into the Cam further or cut it off like I did. Also, the design of the Cam pick up doesn't allow you to put the timing set on and bolt it down like normal. You must put the Cam pick up on the top Timing Gear first. Then put the bolts in and attach it to the Cam using the bolts doing each one a little at time.

Note for installing the Hub and Crank Pick up: This is addressed in EFI's directions, but you must shorten the Hub by .095 to compensate for the Crank Pick Up that the Hub holds on. You must also buy a new Crank Key and modify it so it not only holds the lower Timing gear but also the Crank Pick Up.



## (Kyle's Corner Continued)



Look, no Opti...SCORE!

Mounted Intake, Injectors & Valve Coils  
Yes...the intake is Yellow!

PCM and Harness

I did have a problem with the EFI bracket, in that picture, and the water pump hitting. But with the help of my trusty grinder, we made it work.

At this point I ran the harness through the Fire Wall into the car and hooked up the C210, 220, 230 plugs and the AC plug. Then mounted the PCM in the stock location on the passenger fender. Then I attached the PCM plugs so I didn't pull the harness too far when I attached all the plugs. Now, at this point, I haven't put the cooling fans in or the water pump...for a reason. I actually climbed up on the car and stood on the front stabilizer bar and ran the harness. This kept me from having to lean over my fenders all the time, taking a chance on scratching them. I was in this position for about 4 hours as I got everything where I wanted it to be. Then I wrapped the harness in new Wire Loom, quite a tedious project. When I was happy with the way things looked, I put the water pump on, hooked up my cooling hoses and put my cooling fans in. I was able to shorten my LT1 plug wires and use them....SCORE!!

New CSR Electric water pump.



Much to my dismay, my radiator had a hole in it. So, \$130 later, I had a new one and was ready to see if everything I did worked or if I was going to pull it back out????

## (Kyle's Corner continued)

All put together...now what?? LOL



With my heart coming out of my chest, I hooked up the battery and climbed in the driver's seat. I turned the key.....Dash Light!! Well, that was going to work no matter what, but would she start??

Pushed in the clutch pedal and turned the key.....VRRRRRRROOOOOOMMMMMM! It runs!! Fired the first time, no hesitation. I was going nuts in my driveway as my car sat and idled in my garage!! If anyone was watching me, they had to think I was a crazy fool for jumping around in my driveway and thinking "Of course it runs, stupid!" LOL

I was so happy, all of this work had paid off! I made the dyno on April 6<sup>th</sup> and left with a heavy heart....my car didn't make near the power I was expecting at ALL! 329 RWHP 357TRQ out of 338, impossible! I'm only 40 HP over stock, what gives?? Well, I'll tell you....

When I got home I was bummed. I had an 02 that wasn't working so the car was tuned by AFR (Air Fuel Ratio) and then the 02's were disabled in the PCM. So, now the car is running like a carb. I was frustrated and didn't look at

the car for a few days while I thought and searched for answers. Talking to anyone that would listen. I called Comp Cams and talked to them. They were surprised that TJ was able to even tune the car at all because of the cam that I had in my car. Duration and lift wise the cam is considered tame until you look at the LAS (Lobe Separation Angle) that is at 108. What does this mean?? It means that my valves are BOTH staying open at the same time on the Compression stroke and Exhaust stroke causing the Exhaust to be able to get into the Intake causing Reversion. Kind of like 2 fronts coming together.

Comp did say that the power was low by almost 50HP by their calculations. And that there had to be something wrong and to check everything over good. Then get it back to TJ and have it tuned again. I was happy to hear that I should be up in power, which made me feel good about my motor!

I went ou the next day and started to check things. Everything looked good externally, so I started the car and heard something that I didn't before. A HUGE sucking noise...what gives??

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

I left it running and started looking all over the intake area for leaks...and I found it!! I had deleted my EVAP solenoid that had a 3/8ths vacuum line in it and when I ran my wires, I covered it and missed it. As soon as I put my finger over the hole, the motor changed it's whole attitude!! I am adding in the MAF (Mass Air Flow) also. That I should have done the first time. The car is scheduled to go back to Baker Eng on May 22<sup>nd</sup> at 3pm to have the tune up fixed and to have the O2's turned back on.

I hope this has been an informative article for you. If you have any questions, you can catch me on MiFbody.com. I go by Phantom 383. Or you can email me at [vicepresident@wmfirebird.com](mailto:vicepresident@wmfirebird.com)

Thread: <http://www.mifbody.com/vbulletin/showthread.php?34869-Phantom-s-LSI-Computer-Swap>

Thanks for reading my article. I'll get an update out in next months newsletter on how the dyno went!

## *Past Events*

Saturday April 17<sup>th</sup> was a grey, bitter cold day. But that didn't stop the WMFC from attending the GVSU Car Show. It was our club's first Car Show of the 2010 season. A bunch of us met outside of the GVSU Campus and drove in together. The Grand Valley State University Car Club hosted this annual event which had a great participant turn out. There were plenty of different car styles, makes, models and years to keep all of us walking around for awhile. I do have to say that the row of Firebirds that were parked at this show were not only impressive...we were down right intimidating! The WMFC looks forward to attending this Car Show again in the future.



# *Events to remember*

## **Mendon Dust-Off Car Show**

The Mendon Car Show will be held on Sunday May 2, 2010. Mendon is 1.5 hours South of Gr Rapids. We will be meeting at the Marathon Gas Station in Martin @7am. Take exit 55 off of US-131 South. The gas station is across the road from getting off the exit. From there we will travel to the Mendon High School where the show is held. \*\* Kyle has agreed to let anybody from Gr Rapids meet at his house at 6:30am and drive out all together to meet the rest of the group in Martin. Please let Kyle know if you'll be coming to his house. We will also have a short informal Club Meeting in Mendon.

## **McFadden Chrysler of South Haven**

The McFadden Chrysler of South Haven Cruise-In will be held on Wednesday May 5, 2010. We will be meeting at 5pm at the Shell Gas Station at exit 41 off of I-196 south. From there we will cruise to the show together.

We will be having a short informal Club Meeting at this show, also. Just in case you can't make the Mendon Show.

Please check out  
our website at  
[wmfirebird.com](http://wmfirebird.com)  
For all the latest  
event information.

## **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:

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 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)

### Cruise-Ins:

(Seasonal) Friday & Saturday nights at 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 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)  
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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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