

Monthly Newsletter January '09

Newsletter No. 0013

What's in This Month

Topic: 2008 Year in Review and What is coming for 2009

Tip: Upcoming Tips for 2009

Spotlight: Spotlight of the Month January 1978 Trans Am

Spotlight: 2009 Trans Am Calendar

Classifieds



2008 Year in Review What is coming in 2009

When looking back at the year 2008 it seemed to be a great year. There were a lot of new things going on in the Classic Car World and more specifically the Firebird Trans Am World. There were a lot of good Firebird shows to be had. The Trans Am Nationals in Dayton, OH, the Saratoga Lawn Show in NY, the Bandit Run to Atlanta, GA, and many more. For those of you who have not attended any of these shows you can check out my website for the upcoming shows with dates and times and registration information. So there was a fair amount of shows attended and a lot of new people met at those shows. Those gatherings are more than just a show, they are times to meet other Firebird owners that share the same passion for these cars as you do.

The website here got a new face-lift and really major redesign in 2008 to allow for easier navigation and the addition of more features. There were also some new sites that

popped onto the scene or got more attention in 2008. www.301garage.com is a website that has been around but has grown larger and better and is now attracting more than ever for those of you Turbo car owners.

Some of the larger distributors are now manufacturing more and more much needed parts for the Trans Am. Year One is bringing out new reproductions of the snowflake rims that look promising with a tentative release date of February 2009. With each year that goes by there seem to be more and more parts coming on the market for the restoration of the Pontiac Trans Am. Maybe someday soon we will see the reproduction dashes come out.....?

We have seen gas prices climb sky high.. and then drop back down again to a reasonable level. The US Economic Market has had it ups... but more downs than anything. Things started to get tough in 2008 and 2009 right now does not seem to be shaping up of a great Economic year either. But

we have a new President being sworn in this year for 2009 so maybe we have something to look forward to. Maybe the "Change" that was spoken of time and time again will come to pass in 2009. Only time will tell.

So what do we have to look forward to in 2009? Well, we do have more of the great shows that we had in 2008 continuing or returning in 2009. This year will be the 25th Annual Trans Am Nationals being held in Dayton OH. The location has been moved to the Dayton Marriott, but the grounds and everything about the show seems more promising than ever for their 25th year. For those of you who have not attended this show in the past... well 2009 is the year you need to set aside the time to make it to the largest Firebird show in the United States. The Firebird Gathering in Dundee Michigan will be making its return in 2009 and is a great venue and a nice relaxing weekend to look at cars and meet with friends. The Saratoga Firebird Lawn show will also continue in 2009 and again is a great show to attend and meet with fellow

Firebird Trans Am owners. So with all of the events in 2009..... I hope to meet you at one of them.

Also as part of this newsletter I will be taking a look at some of the new parts that are being released out there on the market. For example, I have obtained the new LED tail light kits for your Firebird or Trans Am that I will be doing a detailed review and installation topic that will cover everything you need to know about these new parts. I will also be taking a look at not only the new 15x8 Snowflakes from Year One, but also the new 17x9 Snowflakes from Year One.

So 2009 looks to be a promising year with new parts, new shows, and new friends. Hopefully the economy and gas prices will stay somewhat level and allow everyone to get out and have a good time at the shows and maybe get a few new parts to spruce up your Trans Am in the new year. Make sure if you have not already done so, to check out the Forum, it is a great place for questions and answers and to meet some new people online.

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Upcoming Tips for 2009

For 2008 I covered quite a few different projects that you can accomplish for your car. Tips from installing a new carpet, or putting on a new hood bird, how to replace your door panels and headliner and more. So what is coming down the pipe for 2009? Well I think for 2009 I will start covering the total care and maintenance of your Firebird or Trans Am. I will cover many of the basic things, but I will cover them in detail. Not only will I cover about how to change your oil... I will take that much deeper and let you know which are the best oils to use. Should you use Synthetic or Conventional Oil? I will cover these topics and take them in great detail and give you the plain and simple facts of what you need to know to keep your Trans Am running in top condition for the years to come. I will tackle many of the normal care and maintenance items such as oils and lubricants, plugs and wires, filters and gaskets and more. I will present all of the facts, all of the pros and cons, and all of the information that you need to know to make an educated decision for the proper care of your car to make sure it last for as many cars shows and events you want to tackle throughout the years.

I will also cover alot of the general care and items that

you can (and should) replace to keep your car performing in top condition. Things such as the bushings and suspension parts and what the differences are between rubber or polyurethane replacement parts. Items such as shocks and springs and which is correct for your car. I will cover many of these topics and let you know what the positives and negatives to each are so that you can properly decide which one you should or would like to use.

I will also try and cover some general care and maintenance items that should be done to your car and that will not break the bank to do. Something as simple as door weatherstrips that should be replaced and are less than \$50 to do both doors. Other simple, but sometimes overlooked, items for replacement like rubber bumpers and stops for your doors, trunk and hood. As well as covering some of the needed items for your car, I will also try and cover in the same stride some simple tasks and to do items like replacing some simple detail items like the spare tire decal on the trunk lid. The simple air cleaner and emissions decals under the hood. Again, items that cost next to nothing, but will greatly improve the appearance of the overall picture of your car.

So 2009 will be a great year for all you "do-it-yourselfers" out there who want the best care for their car and really

let you know and help you make an educated choice on what is right for you and your car. Also, with the change in the website that took place last year, I will also be adding more and more topics for restoration and tips to do yourself right in your own garage. Hopefully by the end of the year in 2009, I will have covered just about every inch of the car and also just about every part that can be replaced... I will have an article or tip on how to do it right.

Not only will I be covering those topics, I will also be covering some topics that will help you at shows and also maybe help you take some great shots of your car to have published in magazines.

So make sure you keep an eye out on the newsletters in 2009 because there will be alot coming down the pipe that will help you overall as a Trans Am or Firebird owner.



2009 Trans Am, Abstract, and Special Edition Trans Am Calendars

I want to thank all of the people who submitted their cars and photos for consideration in the 2009 Trans Am and the 2009 SE Trans Am Calendars. The sale of the Calendars has now ended and I have a few left for sale on my website. Make sure you start thinking about taking photos for the 2010 Calendar. I will be making notifications in the upcoming months as reminders to take photos and also how to submit them. So keep an eye out for that in upcoming newsletters. I will also be doing a full article about how to take nice photos of your car as well, not only for the calendar purposes, but also for your own personal collection. I will cover topics relating to background and filters, composition of photos and lighting situations to help you get the best possible chance to not only have your car featured in the Calendar, but maybe to also send some of those photo to some high profile magazines and maybe have your car published. So, thank you again for the photos and keep searching for that picture perfect spot for 2010 photos !



WWW.78TA.COM now has New Easier Links !

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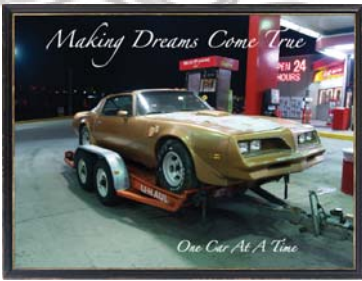
Spotlight of the Month - 1978 Trans Am of T/A Tommy

Well, here we are at the start of the New Year.... a Brand New Year... a time for starting fresh and new. What better way to kick off a new year than by Spotlighting a new member and also probably one of our youngest members and Trans Am owners here on the Forum. I wanted to Spotlight the 1978 Y88 Gold Special Edition of Tommy. Tommy is a Trans Am owner at the age of 14 and purchased this car from Ebay with a little help from friends. Here is a little information about his car and how he got it:

"Im 14 years old and I have been working the past 2 summers and winters mowing lawns and plowing people driveway. I was looking for a car and my dad saw this 1978 y88 gold edition on ebay. I instantly loved it. The car was located in Pittsburgh Pennsylvania. So it was a 7 hour drive there. My dad said we can make it a road trip just me and him. That was alot of fun. He called the guy and said well take it. We drove out to get it. Once we got there the car was better in person. My dad looked around the car checked the engine interior and frame. (I new from ebay it needed a full restoration). Everything on the car seemed soiled but the rear frame was rotted through. We loaded it up on the trailer I paid the guy 3,300 for it (the car

was originally 4,500 but the guy didn't know about the rear frame and he said that he reminded me of his son so that's why he gave me a better deal) and took it home. Right when we got home we started to tear it apart. So far we got the interior almost out and the rear taillight out and the wheels off and the car on jacks. my dad, Me my uncle and my two cousins are going to be at the Trans Am Nationals in Dayton Ohio this weekend coming up. So hopefully I can meet some of you."

Now why am I spotlighting Tommy's car.... well, there are a few reasons. First, Tommy has the passion, the drive, and the love of the Trans Am and in some ways more than many of us. He worked hard to get the Trans Am and has a long road ahead of him bringing this car back to life. The car does need alot of work, but he has the determination to get the job done. I mean his car already won a trophy at the Trans Am Nationals (as given to him by the Forum).



You can check out the full story on the Forum. Check it out for yourself on my Forum.

Classifieds

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Want to sell your car in the Monthly Newsletter here at 78ta.com? Send an email to Sales@78ta.com for more information. List your car for sale that reaches over 100,000 people each and every month.



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2009 Trans Am Calendar or Special Edition Calendar or "Abstract" Calendar. All will be an 11x17 full color 12-Month Calendar for the 2009 Year. The orders are now complete but you can still snag a few that are left over for the last minute shopping. Visit store.78ta.com for more details.

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Here is a brand new reproduction Hurst Hatch storage bag for your 1976 to 1978 Trans Am with the Hurst T-tops. These bags would be nice for any Y82 Special Edition Trans Am. This is a brand new reproduction storage bag for your Hurst T-top panels. It is made of heavy duty quilted vinyl to help keep the panels safe in your trunk. They have the same cotton separation for the panels to keep them apart from each other to prevent scratching and also have the "HH" Logo on the flap. This bag was patterned after an Original bag, so it has all of the exact same dimensions as the originals. These are extremely hard to find and expensive if you can find GM Originals. So if your Trans Am with the Hurst T-top roof is missing the original storage bag or your Original storage bag is in need of replacement, then this is the reproduction for you. Visit store.78ta.com for more details. \$159.00

