

Monthly Newsletter September '08

Newsletter No. 0009

What's in This Month

Topic: Trans Am Nationals Review !

Tip: Can you tackle your own Restoration?

Spotlight: Spotlight of the Month September 1973 Formula

Spotlight: Returning next Month

Classifieds



24th Annual Trans Am Nationals

Well, if you have never attended a Trans Am Nationals show, then you are missing quite a weekend. This year marked the 24th year of the Trans Am Nationals in Dayton, OH and was a wonderful weekend. There were over 420 Firebirds, Esprits, Formulas, and Trans Ams from 33 different States and even a few from Canada and overseas. The weekend was a hot one weather wise and only a few showers hit the show on the very last day during the awards presentations. Just about every year and color combinations were there to see. This was the last time the Nationals were being held at the Dayton Airport inn as it is set for demolition in January 2009. The 25th Annual Trans Am Nationals will be held at the Dayton Marriott Hotel located only about 15 minutes South of the Airport where it has resided for the last 24 years. For those of you who have not attended one of these shows in the past and you own a Firebird or Trans Am

from any year, I strongly suggest that you attend next year. There is nothing better than spending a weekend with 400+ other Pontiac "F" Body owners who share the same passion and excitement for the car as you do. With everything from 1967 Firebird Convertibles to 2002 Collector's Edition Trans Ams, there is something to see for everyone with any Generation Firebird. Everything from bone stock and original to highly modified drag race cars, there is something new and exciting to see. This event is the largest gathering of solely Firebirds out of any show in the US. But what is better than seeing all of these wonderful Firebirds out there.... Well of course it is the people that you meet. We had a group this year of 80+ members of the Forum here on 78ta.com as well as other members from TAC (Trans Am Country) who got together for a great weekend. I hope to meet more of you at the 2009 Trans Am Nationals next year.

Coming Next Month:
How to Sell your Trans Am.

Can you tackle your own Restoration?

We started talking last month about tackling some projects on your Trans Am. There are a lot of projects that you can do yourself with a little time and patience and some tools. If you have common sense, a digital camera (or even a Polaroid), some tools, and some space to do it, then just about anything can be done at your own house. The amount of money that can be saved from doing these things yourself can really add up over the long haul. And what is better than going to a show and having someone comment on your car and you can proudly say "I did it myself". The interior is one of the simplest areas of work that you can do yourself. Most of the time, all you need is a few screwdrivers and a socket set and you can do just about anything to your own interior.

Many of the mechanical features of your car you can also work on yourself. Items such as springs and shocks, brakes, electrical, and a lot of other small maintenance items can be performed at your home.

There are a lot of different books out there such as the Haynes and Chiltons manuals to help with some of the general items, but for more in depth items, I would pick up copies of the original Service Manuals from Pontiac. They are available in book form and also on CD in PDF format for easier viewing. There are also the Restoration Tips located on my website and the members on the Forum are an invaluable source of information. But don't be afraid of doing something yourself. Like the brakes for example. If you follow the Service Manuals and lay out all your new parts you can do it. When you are removing the old brake parts, take photos and take notes.... lay the old parts that you take off next to the new parts and match them up. Then, when installing the new parts, you have the service manual, your photos and notes to remember how everything goes back together. The Service manual will also give you all of the factory torque specifications to know how tight to make everything. In short, you can do it.



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Spotlight of the Month - 1973 Formula 455 of Mike Freeman

Well, here we are wrapping up after the Trans Am Nationals where we got to meet some good friends and see some cars in person that we only saw in photos in the past. One of the cars that stood out this year that I hadn't seen in the past was the 1973 Formula 455 4-Speed of kentuckyyeti. We have seen it in some photos.... seen it from a distance.... but this was the first chance I had to see the car in person. I have always liked the 1970-73 style Firebirds and Trans Ams and by seeing this car in person, I like them even more with the Formula hood. For those of you who have not had a chance to see his car, all I can say is.. "NICE". The Formula has the 455 Pontiac engine coupled with the 4-Speed make the term "Go-Fast" and understatement. Although I did not get a chance to drive the car (Maybe next year.. right Mike?), I have been told by other members how pleasurable the experience is. But as well all know.... it is not just about the cars, it is also about the owners. Mike has been a great member of this forum for a long time now. He has helped out countless members with not only information, but also with help locating parts as well. How many cars out there have "kentuckyyeti"

parts on them? It is kinda like the commercial for getting to the center of the Tootsie Roll Tootsie pops..... "The world may never know". He has always been a great help to everyone out there who have been needing parts and information. Mike always seems to have the open door policy and welcomes anyone to come down and take a look at what he has to offer. I have heard stories about the trips and the tours that Mike has offered. Mike has had alot of cars in the past and continues to help members out and be an integral part of this Forum. So, if any of you out there need help finding some parts, I would highly recommend looking him up. Check it out for yourself on my Forum.



Classifieds

1979 Y89 10th Anniversary Trans Am - 1979 Trans Am Olds 403 automatic; excellent shape; 28,000 Original miles. \$27,500 Email hitman@78ta.com



1974 Trans Am 455 4-Speed. Has a 1974 455 Service Replacement engine 4-Bolt main. BW Super T-10 w/Hurst Comp 4-speed, 3.08 rear end, White with blue decals, black interior, \$23,500. Email Mvsconst@aol.com



1973 - 81 Firebird/Trans Am Deluxe Chrome Seat Trim. Here is the replacement chrome trim for the deluxe seats back on 1973 to 1981 Firebird and Trans Am with the deluxe interior. Most places charge \$35, now you can purchase it for \$17. Please visit my store for more information. <http://store.78ta.com>



1975 - 1981 Technical Service Bulletins on CD - Now you can have all of the Technical Service Bulletins on CD. Many with over 800 pages of information and bulletins from Pontiac about the Firebird Trans Am. Great for information for any Trans Am. Only certain years available currently, but more to come. Visit store.78ta.com for more details.