WESTERN WASHINGTON FIREBIRDS

Official Club Newsletter

NOVEMBER 2026

Co-Presidents: Jeff & Karen Driscoll (206-349-1282) Vice President: Jim Paradiso (206-930-3234)
Secretary/Treasurer Web Guy: Neil Warren (740-816-6957)

Website: www.wwfirebirds.com Facebook: Western Washington Firebirds All Pontiac Show & Shine Firebird & Camaro show

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Hello Fellow Firebird Enthusiasts,

Welcome to November. Hard to believe but 2026 is quickly coming to a close. The Holidays are right around the corner and for many of us, the Brids are starting to nest for the winter. This November is the country's mid-term elections, and of course every November is the club's month for club officer nominations. All the club officer positions or open. So if anyone in the club would like to put in for a position, this is the time to do so. We take nominations all month, them hold the election in December and new officers take over in January. If you want to enter your name for a position, just email any of you current officers and we will compile a ballot for Decembers Club meeting and Christmas party. With that being said, if there are no nominations, we will keep things the same. We have provide you all with club officer titles and responsibilities. I will break them down later in this newsletter. The club meeting will be Saturday November 14th 5pm at the Burien Round Table Pizza. More details later in this newsletter. So, with that **HAPPY THANKSGIVING EERYONE!** And let's keep those Fabulous Firebirds Flying!

November Club Event

Club Meeting Saturday November 14th 5pm-8pm

We will hold our November Club Meeting Saturday November 14th 5pm-8pm at the Burien Round Table Pizza located at 15730 1st Ave S Burien WA 98148. We have a lot of info to go over at this meeting, so please plan on attending. First up is club officer nominations. The following is the Club Officers and their duties descriptions. We combined the Secretary and Treasurer because their duties go hand in hand. So check them out and if you cannot make the meeting, you can always text or call your current officers.

I. DUTIES OF OFFICERS AND REPRESENTATIVES

A. The **President** shall preside at all general and board meetings. He or she shall form committees and appoint members, as he or she may deem appropriate. The President will support officers and representatives in completing the goals of WWF. In addition, the President shall be responsible for:

1. providing an agenda for meetings;
2. maintaining contact with other clubs;
3. reviewing and signing or approving all correspondence or documents bearing the name or seal of the club, other than those named as specific duties of the Vice President and Secretary or Treasurer.
4. authorizing by signature any expenditure in excess of two hundred dollars of club funds made by Secretary-Treasurer or any officer or Representative.
5. providing a "President's Page" to the monthly club newsletter and to the web page on a regular basis.
6. renewing club insurance annually.

The President shall not have the right to vote at a meeting except:

1. in the event of a tie,
2. on a motion to amend the constitution or by-laws,
3. at an election of officers.

The President shall have the right, after consultation with the Board of Directors, to veto or hold in suspension, any motion, amendment, or issue that he or she deems, if passed, will result in the diminishment of membership, or financially, or legally jeopardize the future solvency of the club.

B. The **Vice-President** shall perform the duties of the President in the latter's absence. The Vice-President will help the President support officers and representatives in completing the goals of WWF. The Vice-President shall also:

1. edit and publish the club newsletter;
2. focus on communication inside and outside of WWF;
3. perform any other duties the President may deem necessary.

C. The **Secretary** shall:

1. take and keep minutes of all meetings;
2. receive all membership applications;
3. maintain the master membership list, and mailing lists;
4. send out renewal notices, membership cards, and applications;
5. route mail;

D. The **Treasurer** shall:

1. collect and disburse all funds of WWF;
2. purchase all Association supplies such as stationary, postage, jackets and T-shirts, etc.;

3. file all information and budget requests of all officers and representatives, including those of the Secretary-Treasurer, marked as approved or disapproved, including reason for disapproval;

4. prepare an annual budget for approval by the membership or Board of Directors;

5. render a financial report to the members in the association publication;

7. file the necessary tax statements as required by law for the year he or she is in office.

E. The **Webmaster,** under direction of the President and Vice President, shall:

1. maintain the club website, making updates and additions or deletions as needed;

2. solicit pictures and stories from members for the Member's rides pages;

3. respond to visitors e-mail;

4. provide in reasonable time for publication in the newsletter a monthly report on website and informing members of points of club interest on the Internet.

F. The **Car Show Coordinator** shall prepare an annual proposal for the presentation of a regional WWF sponsored car show for consideration, advisement, and approval by the Board of Directors and members. Upon approval, the Car Show Coordinator shall:

1. oversee the procurement of merchant assistance;

2. secure a suitable location;

3. seek responsible persons and assign duties associated with preparation and presentation of the event;

4. submit equipment, supplies, rental, and advertising budgets for approval by Board of Directors prior to any expenditure;

5. keep detailed records and reports and provide them to the Secretary-Treasurer not less than 10 days prior to monthly meeting;

6. provide, in reasonable time for publication in the newsletter and on the website, regular reports on the progress throughout the year, and final report on the event.

We are also going to discuss in detail the upcoming Bad Santa Toy Drive, times for meet up and locations. Karen is working on the flyer and will have copies for hand out at the meeting. We will also go over The 2026 Club Christmas Party/Meeting on Saturday December 12th. So, a lot to go over. See You Saturday November 14th At The Burien Round Table Pizza.

What We Did In October

Saturday October 10th we had our club meeting at the Issaquah IHOP. The teendance was down, but October meetings usually are. Those who attended were Karen and I, Jim & Judy Paradiso, Brian Sargent, Don & Karen Mc Laughlin, Andrew Custer, Jon Vollstedt, Thomas Renz, John Barceanas, Mike Flynn. We went over what we discussed in the September meeting. Went over again that we voted to hold both shows again in 2027, and at The Burgermaster location. Dates are Sunday June 6th and Sunday August 8th 2027. We discussed the club online store was open October 2nd-October 31st., and distribution will be at the club Christmas Party.We discussed the $500 club donation to the Bad Sant Toy Drive. And we discussed the Western

Washington Firebirds were the leaders for Team Binford for this years Bad Santa, with our charity being Santa's Castle at JBLM. The date is December 6th. Karen and Diane Tappero are the lead folks for this awesome event and our goal is to fill the van and the clubs trailer. We discussed the Trunk or Trear event . And we discussed the clubs $500 donation to Northwest Harvest as well. We discussed the Club Christmas party, which will be a short meeting and then party at The Tappero's home Saturday December 12th at 5pm. We went over the finances with Neil's treasurers report. $9,323 in checking and $1001.49 in savings for a total of $10,324.64. Club expenses were License tabs for the trailer, $150 for sponsorship thank you plaques. And $83.75 for shipping the plaques. And $351.00 for club insurance. We asked for more club members ride pics for the website. And club membership rosters will be emailed by request. Contact Neil Warren if you would like to receive a membership roster. We ended the meeting and set the November meeting date and place and time. Then left the floor open for discussion, A very good meeting.

Saturday October 24th was the Trunk or Treat event at Binfords Field Of Dreams in Kent. Weather was perfect. Partly sunny and no rain or wind. We got there for set up at 11am. Karen and I, Andrew Custer and his family, Melissa Yang, Aaron Potter and his wife and family, and Joyce and Scott Pinney set up some awesome displays. We were ready for the hords of kiddos all dressed up in great costumes. Live music and food trucks and a coffee truck made this a perfect event! Pictures were posted on Facebook.

Your Upcoming 2026 Club Events. Please Mark Your Calendars

Saturday November 14th Club Meeting at The Burien Round Table Pizza

Sunday December 6th Bad Santa Toy Drive meeting at Binfords and cruising up to Pacific Raceways in Kent WA

Saturday December12th Club Christmas Party and meeting at the Tappero's in Auburn WA

(Western Washington Firebird club sponsored events. Things may change, but as of now this is your officiallist And, these will also be posted in more detail on club website and Facebook group.)

Other Events of Interest Non Club Sponsored:

Please contact me if you hear of any shows or cruises you find out about, so I can add them to these lists. For a complete list of all car related events in the northwest, please visit:www.cruzinmag.com/calendar.html or www.good-guys.com or www.nwcareventscalendar.com

Local Cruise-In Spots

Here is the cruise-in list. If you know of any, please let me know so we can get it on this list, thanks!

We will also be supporting Wilkeson and Carbonado, who just had the rug pulled out from them when the state shut down a 100 year old bridge that brought folks into their towns. They are hosting a cruise In/Show on the last Sunday of the month. 1pm to 5pm all year long rain/snow or shine

Saturday Mornings 9am-12pm Federal Way Cars & Coffee 201 Browns Point BLVD, Tacoma WA 98422
Cruiz'n Cole Enumclaw WA first Friday of each month. Dates are May 1st, June 5th, July 3rd, August 7th, September 4th
Cruise Puyallup Dates Are: April 25th, May 9th, June 6th, July 11th, August 8th, October 10th, November28th, December 12th
Binford's Field of Dreams Every Friday Evening 4pm-10pm. First Binford's May 8th Live music, food trucks and An Awesome Way To End A Crazy Work Week! Kent WA
First Saturday of every month is Caffeine &Gasoline @ Griot's Garage 8am to 10am.
Starting May3rd Every Friday Night 4pm-8pm Covington Wal Mart.
Thrashers Corner on Friday Nights
Saturday evenings Marysville DQ
Clearview McDonalds Saturday nights 4pm-8pm Starting in mid to late May.
Sunday mornings at the Lake Stevens Les Schwabis Cars and Coffee
Friday Night Cruise In Every Friday 2pm-9pm Cruise to The Village 3509 72nd St E Tacoma
First Saturday of every month is Caffeine &Gasoline @ Griot's Garage 8am to 10am.
Starting May 10th Friday Nights 4pm-8pm Covington Wal Mart.
Clearview McDonalds Saturday nights 4pm-8pm Starting in mid to late May.
Friday's At Dairy Queen At Thrashers Corner 3-6pm
Friday Nights Binford Metals in Kent Starts at 5pm
Starting Late April- October
Saturday's Farmboy Drive-In Olympia 3pm-8pm
Starting May 25th through September
Saturday's Sunrise-Village Puyallup5pm till Dusk
June 7th – August 30
Wednesday's Newport Hills Bellevue 3pm-6pm
May-September
Cruie-In At The Drags Pacific Raceways Kent WA $20 entry fee.
Cruise To The Village Open every Friday 4pm-7pm Starts April 17th 3509 East 72nd Tacoma WA98443

More will be added as soon as I know more details on other cruise-in locations. If you know of any, please text me at 206-349-1282. Just need the place, day of cruise-in, and time. Thanks!

Membership Information

MEMBERSHIP DUES:

Membership Dues are $30 U.S. per year and are renewed each year in January. Just go to the club's website, www.wwfirebirds and follow the links to renew and we use Paypal so it's quick, super easy and safe. Note: Each person on the membership list (spouses included) may receive the newsletter by email. Let us know if you would like this option.

And make sure you give us their e mail address.

Welcome to our newest Club Members!

No New Menbers

CAR SHOWS

2027 8th Firebird & Camaro Show (June 6th @ Issaquah Burgermaster)

2027 24th All Pontiac Show & Shine (Sunday August 8th) at Burgermaster

WEBSITE

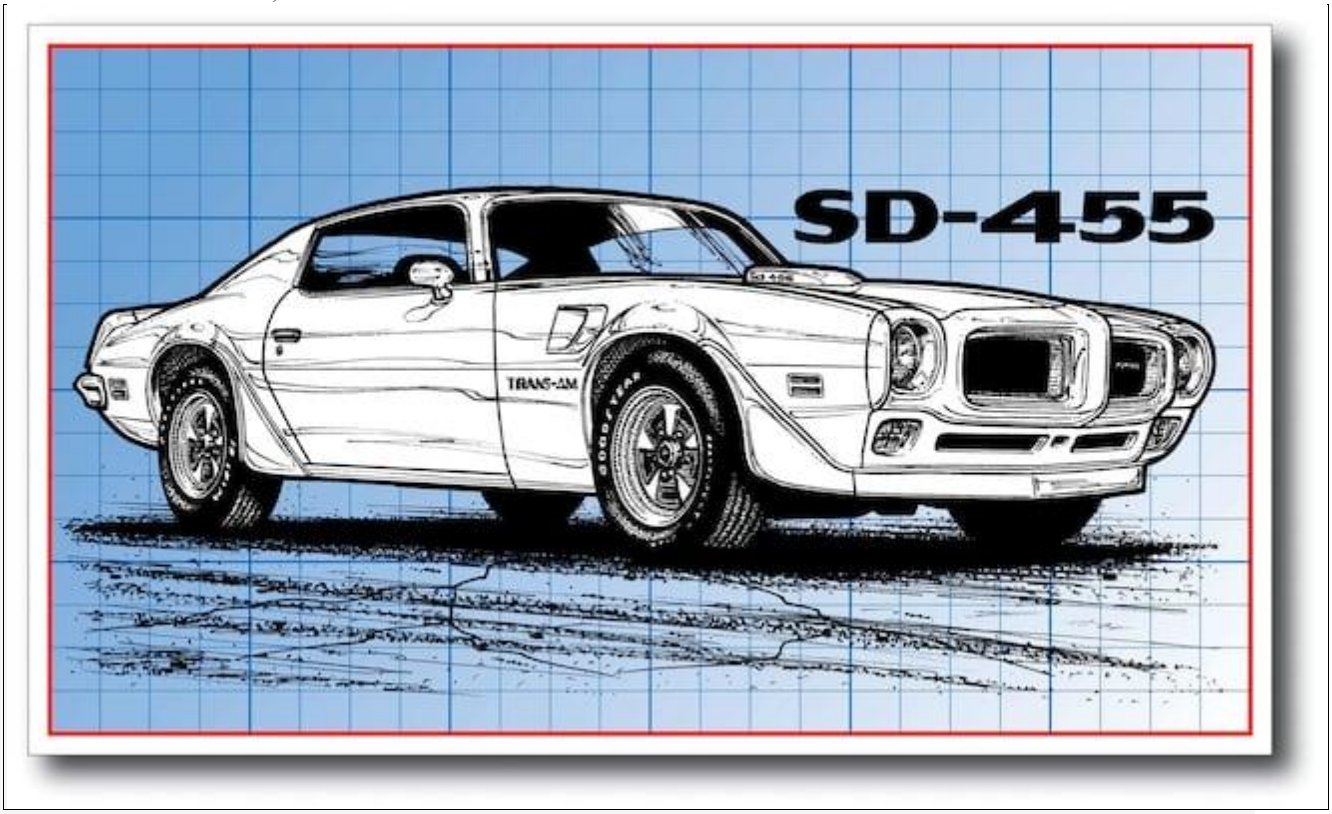
Be sure to check out the club website. It has been completely revamped, thanks to Neil Warren. It is way easier to navigate and it works awesome on phones or laptops. For tech articles, links to other clubs and nearly all things Pontiac related in addition to all of the great pictures and articles of Member's Rides. Contact Neil Warren and he will give you all the info you need to give him so he can upload your pics. And please include a short write up about you and your car.

The Members Rides web pages will continue to grow, but we need you all to send Neil pictures so he can get them on the website. We have plenty of room for lots more! This is your chance to show the world your own Firebird! Send or e-mail pictures of your car, with a little of what you would like everyone to know about it, and we will add them to the rest. If you have your own web page featuring your car, send us your URL. We will link to it from the Members' Rides page. For pictures and descriptions of many of our members' cars, check out the club website at: www.wwfirebirds.com

TECH

The 1973 Super Duty 455 Trans Am And Formula Firebird

Written by The Author on June 9, 2014
Scott Teeters - writer;



The Muscle-Car Era's Last Hurrah

The muscle-car era was a wild time for Detroit car makers. There was a lot of variation in performance levels, as not all muscle cars were created equal. Some were very well thought out, and others were badge-and-stripes presentations with a little exhaust rumble. A few muscle cars had tuned-in staff, that is designers and engineers with a passion for performance. The Firebird had its share of them.
The unofficial short story has it that after model-year ’70, the muscle-car party was over due to insurance rates, new exhaust emission controls, and safety regulations. Most manufacturers quickly watered down or dropped their muscle cars.

Passion can be a powerful force, and despite all odds, the Firebird line managed to survive. As I mentioned in last month's department, towards the end of '72, the F-Body line came perilously close to being axed. This makes the '73 and '74 Super Duty 455 Trans am and Formula Firebirds all the more amazing.

The pony-car market hit its high point at 1968 with an 11-percent market share. By 1971, its market share had fallen to just 3.9 percent. Then in the spring of 1972, the United Auto Workers initiated a strike at the F-Body assembly plant in Norwood, Ohio, and it lasted nearly six months. Production of '72 Firebirds fell from 53,127 units in 1971 to 29,951. To add insult to injury, approximately 1,100 unfinished Firebirds were scrapped because they could not meet the new-for-'73 bumper and interior materials flammability standards set by the feds. It all came together to create the perfect justification for killing the F-body lines.

Here's where the passion in Pontiac saved the line. It was no secret that the Norwood strike was dragging on, so it wasn't a surprise when the automobile magazines began to speculate the F-Body's future. One magazine even published a mock obituary. Regardless, it was a serious topic inside GM. Were it not for the lobbying efforts of Pontiac Assistant Chief Engineer Bill Collins and Chevrolet Director of Engineering Alex Mair (later to become Pontiac general manager), the F-Body line would have surely ended with the '72 models. Mair, with Collins' support, argued that Pontiac had developed a very strong, although not high, volume of loyal Firebird followers. Also, customers wanted cars with precision handling and good looks at a reasonable price. Perhaps it was Mair's and Collins' grounded, engineering approach, but they convinced the decision makers within GM that keeping the F-Body line was the right thing to do.

So with the Firebird line saved by a feather, what did Pontiac's engineers and designers serve up for the '73 Firebird line? A muscle-car legend. It was as if Pontiac didn't know the muscle-car era was over. There were two new Firebird options that stunned Pontiac fans—the large hood bird and the Super Duty 455 engine. The hood graphic treatment was designed by Bill Porter as a way to integrate the non-functional, reverse hoodscoop design proposed by Collins and Special Projects Engineer Herb Adams. As chief designer for the new Firebird, Porter argued that for the scoop to work properly (facing forward), the hood would have to be molded in fiberglass, which would increase cost. He also felt the scoop interrupted the front-end center nose theme, which was supposed to flow straight back to the windshield without interruptions. The double-scoop design eventually used on the Formula was originally designed for the Trans Am. While the design worked better, the reverse scoop was much more entertaining and quieter.

There was also the challenge of how to apply such a large decal. First, 3M had to come up with decal material large enough, and then procedures had to be created to apply the decal onto the hood. While still on the shelf, Pontiac designer John Schinella worked with designer Bill Davis to refine the hood bird. When they came up with the look they wanted, Schinella had the art painted on the hood of his personal Trans Am and took it to the streets of Detroit. The response was instantly positive, but management wasn't convinced. The designers wanted the graphic to be standard on the Trans Am. Then Pontiac General Manager Jim McDonald said, "Let's make the graphic an option. We've got nothing to lose." The Screaming Chicken became the Trans Am's new signature feature.

But it was the Super Duty 455 option that was over the top. Adams was developing 303 Pontiac engines for SCCA racing and 366 engines for NASCAR. Management asked why he and his team were working on racing engines when Pontiac wasn't involved in racing, and then suggested they apply what they had learned to create something potent for the street. So team engineers Tom Nell and Jeff Young went right to work on what would become the Super Duty 455.

Pontiac engineers took the biggest-cubed engine available and added everything they could within the limitations of mass production. What the Chrysler Hemi was to Mopar, the Super Duty 455 would be to Pontiac—a stout engine that could be easily converted to racing. The team started with a four-bolt main block (the standard 455 had a two-bolt main block) with reinforced bulkheads and beefier camshaft and lifter bosses. Due to GM's low-compression mandate, 8.25:1-compression forged pistons and rods were used. The crankshaft was cast-iron, but nitride heat-treated and with greater oil clearances. An 80-psi oil pump and a baffled oil pan kept everything lubed, and the block was set up with a plug for a racing dry-sump oil system. These guys were very serious.

The heads had a similar design as the '69 Ram Air IV units, with big, round exhaust ports, and larger intake valves with 45-degree seat angles instead of the regular 30 degrees. The cast-iron exhaust manifolds were designed like headers and were only for the Super Duty 455. The camshaft profile used the same duration as Ram Air IV—308/320 degrees, but with 0.470-inch lift for the intake and exhaust. Rocker ratio remained at 1.5:1

The published rating of 310 hp at 4,000 rpm was somewhat misleading. Remember, these were the early days of net power ratings, and the engine could easily rev to 6,000 rpm. That much power from an engine with only 8.25:1 compression is mighty impressive. The objective of the Super Duty 455 was to provide a strong foundation upon which buyers could build Firebird racecars. Running high 13s in the quarter-mile out of the box, the Super Duty 455 could have easily run with the 454 Chevys and Hemi Mopars of '70.

But performance has never been cheap. The Super Duty 455 option listed for $675. (In comparison, an LS4 454 Corvette engine was only $250.) To take the edge off a little, the Super Duty 455 could be ordered on the less expensive Formula Firebird. The Formula Firebird cost $3,276 and the Trans-Am cost $4,204. Buyers who wanted a Trans Am, the Super Duty 455, and few other goodies were looking at $5,000. While the Formula didn't have the bling of the Trans Am, the car used the same Y99 handling package as the Trans Am, and all the standard Firebird options were available.

Not everyone was thrilled with the Super Duty 455. Management aside, the biggest obstacle was the assembly plant. Adams said there was very little cooperation in the engine plant—their attitude was "ho-hum."

The car magazines did a great job of stoking the enthusiasts, and in short order, there were approximately 600 orders for the Super Duty 455. The plan was to have enough parts to build at least 1,000 engines, but mysteriously 400 sets of Super Duty 455 parts were pilfered! Yes, stolen! Or possibly disposed of. Remember, these were the days of bad blood between labor and management. Consequentially, dealers were charging as much as a $1,000 premium on the engine. For the company, the Super Duty 455 was somewhat of a headache, as it was a low-volume option and didn't make much money

for all the trouble. A total of 295 were built in ’73, and 1,001 in ’74. That was it.
While the ’73 Super Duty 455 option didn’t save the Firebird, per se, ’73 was a pivotal year for the Firebird. The screaming chicken hood-decal option provided Pontiac with a signature graphic for its new flagship performance car. Designers and engineers proved passion for performance can save a car line.

MEMBER’S UPDATES

Bill Rosen has written a book and he would like you all to check it out. It’s a very cool book. Lot’s of great information in there!

You may already know this, but in case you don't I wanted to tell you that I wrote a book that was released this past Sunday. It's definitely a car book, just not Pontiac or Firebird specific. It's called *Bill's Guide: Buying and Selling Used Cars*. It's doing well on Amazon with 5-star reviews. Currently #1 in Automotive Buyers Guides. See the screen shot from today.
Would you mind following the link for Amazon below and take a look at the summary and reviews of the book? I'm wondering if it's something that might interest the club. Maybe I could share about the book for a few minutes at some future meeting, why I wrote it and its purpose. It is super practical for anyone who ever buys or sells a used car, Firebird or otherwise. Let me know what you think.

Amazon link: https://a.co/d/0B27WFO

Bill Rosen
1969 Firebird 400 4 speed convertible (restoration under way)

Please contact me, Jeff Driscoll, on any new updates to you or your Firebird or any new purchases or anything exciting you would like to share with the club in the newsletter.

WANT ADS

CLUB MEMBER ADS

Want ads are open to members and will run for four months unless updated or canceled. Please update your ad on a monthly basis. All ads with *4 will not run the next month, unless resubmitted. (The number after the * shows how many months the ad has run without a change.) Please send all Parts for Sale & Cars for Sale, and Wanted ads to me at a70frmula400@aol.com or text me at 206-349-1282 so I can get them in the newsletter.

Free second Gen Parts. I have 3 bins of parts from a 1979 Trans Am. Nothing to major but all factory parts. So come on down and pick them up. Taking up too much space. Call or text Jeff Driscoll. 206-349-1282

For Sale:
Russ Nobel has some parts for sale. Here is what he has: Jeff, I have parts that I took off my 1967 Firebird 400 engine:
Alternator
Fuel Pump
Power Steering Pump
Edelbrock Water Pump
A/C compressor and mounting brackets and hardware
Billet pulleys for crankshaft with A/C and waterpump
I also have an OEM fan and an electric fan.
I really don't know how much to ask for them. I'm not looking to get retail or top dollar, I just don't want to give them away. I'm cleaning out my garage, so I need them gone fairly soon.
Russ Nobel

This is from Member Jerry Swenson:
*2
Hi there. I'm one of your invisible members in the south sound. I have a question. We have a real nice '69 Firebird, but it's going to be completely reincarnated over the winter. That means I'm going to turn it into a real nice pro-touring car. All of the running gear and front clip and rear suspension is going to be replaced. I'm going to have a pile of good parts looking for a home at ridiculous (cheap) prices. The original 350 runs great. I'm curious if someone in the club might want a killer deal on stuff. It's a running and driving car today, so they can see that it works before I tear it apart. If you know someone, please keep us in mind. I'm in Olympia and visits to my shop are always welcome.
Thanks much,
Jerry Swenson
360-250-8004
JERRYANDHELEN@gmail.com

Non-Member Ads

If you see something for sale that seems like a great deal, but maybe you don't need it, text me and I will get it listed in here.

Member Owned/ Recommended

If you own a business and want to add your contact information, I will put it here.

Racing Automatic Transmissions
13435 ½ Greenwood Avenue North, Seattle, WA 98133 Ed Roark, **(206) 579-6160** E-mail: ed@racingautotrans.com

Perpetual Balance, Your Engine Balancing Specialists!
19012 61st Ave NE #3, Arlington, WA. 98223, Ph. **360-435-1701**, www.perpetualbalance.com

Blood Enterprises A High Performance Automotive Shop
They are a High-Performance Automotive Shop Specializing In Engine Building, Dyno Tuning And Race Car Preparation. 3670 C St NE Auburn WA 98002 (**253-939-4121**)
www.bloodenterprises.com

Fenders & Fins
A highly regarded auto body shop in Woodenville Washington. Specializing in classic car restoration, collision repair, and custom work. Fendersandfins.com **425-806-8206**

PARTS SUPPLIERS

Performance Years Pontiac
2880 Bergey Road, Unit O, Hatfield, PA, 19440
(215) 712-7400, FAX (215) 712-9968

Classic Industries
Up to 10% discount on parts. Huntington Beach, CA (800) 854-1280
Website: www.classicinduestries.com

Year One Inc
Up to 10% discount on parts.
Website: www.yearone.com

Firebird Central

For All Your Firebird parts needs!
Website: www.firebirdcentral.com
Phone: 1-800-990-1969

Ames Performance

Nation's Largest Supplier of Classic Pontiac Parts1-800-421-2637 www.amesperf.com

Second Gen Graveyard

Excellent Supplier of new and used parts for your 2nd Generation Firebird. On Facebook Second Gen Graveyard and online www.secondgengraveyard.com 925-518-2569

Pontiac Window Sticker Reproductions

By Mike Noun

www.MusclecarFilms.com/PontiacWondowSticker or Contactmnoun@yahoo.com

WAGS KLASSIC ELECTONICS

On Facebook or WagsKlassics@gmail.com

402-677-5182

Kevin Wagner Is One & Only Delco Doctor!

Butler Performance

For over 4 decade, Butler Performance has established itself as the world's leading authority on high-performance Pontiac V8 engines. Call them for all your Pontiac engine needs and questions.

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