



March 2013

Random Thoughts

Submitted by Gwen Randolph

- Is it me or did February just fly by? Spring will be here March 20. Hopefully Mother Nature is taking note and won't drop more snow on us after that. We can hope anyway.
- Phil's Formula is still buried in snow from the Blizzard. Fortunately we have had little snow since and recently the temperatures have been high enough for melting. The problem is not that the Formula is buried, but where the Formula is buried and that we need to get my T-top out of its cozy zippered garage for our trip to the FL Fiero Weekend in a couple of weeks and we have to move the Formula first because it's in the way of said zippered garage.
- Andrew Virzi, NEFA Treasurer sent this link to me. It's a fun 1950's car test. See how you do. The average score is 73%. Some of those pesky models from the 50's just might just get you :)
<http://www.americantorque.com/game/car-show-50s/>

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Let There Be Light

Adding Engine Illumination Lights to Your Fiero

Submitted by Ray Paulk

After years of admiration, I finally bought my own Fiero, a super '88 GT with T-Tops. Naturally it draws attention and I have to show it off. One problem I quickly discovered is how dark the engine compartment is at night. The only light is the one in the trunk. You can't see the engine.....its totally black. I feel that an engine compartment light is mandatory for potential road problems and emergency repairs. My solution was to add a new light in the trunk lid and have it turn on with the existing trunk light.

Because the trunk lid covers both the carpeted trunk cavity and the engine compartment, I wanted a light with a finished quality and a proportionally correct look. I didn't want to just mount a bare bulb under the lid. I wanted something with a lens. The light also had to be bright enough to be useful.

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Just a reminder!

Time to renew your Membership for 2013!

Family membership is \$10.00 by check or \$10.65 by Paypal at

<http://fieropride.com/indexnefa.php>.

Mail your check, made payable to:

New England Fiero Association to:

Ray Paulk, 19 Bens Way, Hopedale, MA 01747

Contact Ray at: Ray@RaytheRealtor.com if you have any questions. Ray Paulk, NEFA President and Membership Director

The NEFA eNews is the official newsletter of the New England Fiero Association.

All past issues can be viewed on the NEFA website. <http://fieropride.com/nefa>

Let There Be Light.....continued from page 1

I tried several different fixtures and a variety of bulbs, but nothing was quite right. Nice lens fixtures were too dim and larger bulbs were too hot, which softened or melted the lens. To get ideas I started checking out cars in parking lots, trying to subtly look at dome and other courtesy lights.

I finally found one that looked pretty good. It's made by Hella KG.....(770) 631-7500.....and used in pairs in the trunk lid "lip" of a 1991 Saab 900 4-door sedan to illuminate the rear license plate and trunk. I found that they are a custom size for Saab and can be purchased from Saab dealers for about \$18 each or, as I got mine, from a parts yard at \$10 for two. The Saab part number is: 8567753.

I used both lamps in the trunk lid latch brace near the end of the lid.....one at each side. I figured this would give me good cross illumination. Since the trunk light (ground) switch is mounted with the trunk latch, I directly connected the ground from the new lights to the **white** wire from the switch. I then ran an **orange** wire out of the lid with the other wires through a separate, single plug connector spliced to the **orange** wire in the harness going towards the trunk light on the driver's side of the car.

Since the new lamp holders are recessed, I was able to cut away part of the recessed side of the lens to let heat escape. This allowed me to change from a 3.0 candlepower lamp to Wagner #11004 lamps (9.55 candlepower). The light now is super (almost too good) and the lenses run pretty cool. Best of all, you can now see the engine really good at anytime day or night.

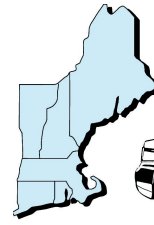
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- From Ray Paulk – Hey guys - hope you like this video. You got to see it to believe it.....

[1949 Mercury Dwarf Car Video](http://www.varietyside.com/about2.html)

<http://www.varietyside.com/about2.html>

- Finally, with spring just around the corner, it's time to finish any Fiero projects you've been dealing with during the winter and get ready to cruise. Warm, get out and drive your Fiero weather is coming soon. Yeah!



**NEW ENGLAND
FIERO ASSOCIATION**

Share the Excitement



Check out the newly
updated NEFA website

<http://www.fieropride.com>

Our dedicated webmaster has recently tweaked, pasted, added new, and combined portions of the old website into NEFA's new and improved website. He was also so very patient when Gwen made suggestions :)

Be sure to check out the new "Member's Rides" section that was Brian's idea and if your Fiero is not pictured, please send a picture of your pride and joy Fiero to Gwen at: pran@cox.net.

Enjoy the newly updated, colorful NEFA website. A big thank you goes out to Brian for all his hard work!

Thought I'd bring back some oldies.....

Fieroisms

- That strange noise you heard in the engine bay will disappear the moment you drive into the mechanic's shop.
- Fieros are distant relatives to rabbits. They multiply overnight right in your driveway.

Advertise your sale items.....Fieros or Fiero related. Send your sale item information to Gwen at pran@cox.net. The NEFA eNews goes out to a wide audience.

Classifieds

Fieros:

87GT - 4.9 5-speed car for sale. If you were at the annual meeting in November this icar was there. Asking \$6000. Has Allante intake, Bosch Design 3 injectors, RCC suspension & bump-steer correction kit. All power options, sunroof & subwoofer. Cruise was disconnected since it interfered with Allante intake. A/C needs recharge. Needs new rear struts. Lots of new parts including recent paint job. Gets about 25mpg highway. You can contact Lou Dias at: loudfiero@gmail.com. Check out the car on his Facebook page or the Youtube links below.

https://www.facebook.com/loudias?ref=tn_tnmn#!/photo.php?v=3763725899296&set=vb.1461082870&type=3&theater

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WZbYLaI2B5U>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Fl22ngXKFaw>

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Fiero Toys and Collectibles: Are you interested in Fiero collectibles? Ray Paulk, **Fiero Toy Box**, as over 500 unique Fiero toys in his personal collection and tons of toys in inventory, but don't expect cut rate prices as most Fiero toys are rare and hard to find. If you are interested you can contact Ray at Ray@RaytheRealtor.com

Repair/Painting:



This is a company owned and operated by Andrew Virzi, NEFA's Treasurer.

Do you have something Fiero related to sell or have a Fiero related service you want to advertise? This is the place. Send your contact information to Gwen at: pran@cox.net.

NEFA Happenings - 2013

March 23 & 24, 2013 – Florida Fiero Weekend - At the Daytona International Speedway. Sponsored by the Florida Fiero Council, which includes all Florida Fiero clubs. Check out <http://floridafieros.org/daytona2013/> for all information you need to attend. A not to miss, fun show. But more than just a show, it's a great vacation with Fiero friends....and you get away from the cold and snow. Phil & I look forward to this show every year.

March 30, 2013 – New York International Auto Show -Jacob Javits Center, New York City, NY. Tickets are \$15.00. For those wishing to travel by train as a group from New Haven/Union Station, the total cost will be \$30.00. That includes the train ride from New Haven, the shuttle ride from Grand Central Station to the show and the complete return trip back to New Haven. Jerry needs to know how many are coming as soon as possible so that he can arrange for a shuttle that will accommodate everyone. Email Jerry at: tunesgma@yahoo.com if you are interested. They had a great time last year.

April 2013 – possible tech session. Information to come if we can nail this down.

May 19, 2013 – 29th Annual All Pontiac and Oakland Spring Car Show - Wallingford, CT - Sponsored by the Nutmeg Chapter P.O.C.I. and Barberino Nissan at PNA Park 171 North Planes Highway Wallingford, CT. Rain date June 2, 2013. For more info contact Mike O'Neill at (203) 266-7089, e-mail chrisonell73@charter.net or website www.nutmegchapterpoci.com.

June 2013 - 21st Annual Buick, Pontiac, GMC Auto Show – Merrimack, NH. No date as of yet, but it's usually the 2nd Sunday according to the person I talked to. We'll keep you posted.

June 26 – July 1, 2013 - 30th Fiero Anniversary show – Sponsored by the Midwest Fiero clubs. Mark your calendars. Check out <http://www.fiero.nl/forum/Forum1/HTML/088485.html> on Pennock's Forum. This should give you all the information you need. I know some of the NEFA member are attending.

July 14, 2013 - picnic and pool party at Phil & Gwen Randolph's in Coventry, RI. More information to follow. Mark your calendars.

July 28, 2013 – Autos of the World Car Show – Warwick, RI. Hundreds of cars of all makes attend this show. More information to come.

August 3, 2013 – NEFA Annual Swap Meet. Once again we'll hold the swap meet at The Fiero Store in Manchester, CT. Make up your lists of things you want to buy, sell or swap. More information to come.

August 11, 2013 – 8th Annual Putnam, CT Main Street Cruise. Join the fun! A wonderful day checking out hundreds of autos that park on the streets. Restaurants, antique shows & burnout pits. Shouldn't miss this one. There's a good chance you'll see someone you know.

September 2013 – 30th Annual All Pontiac & Oakland Fall Car Show. No date as yet on their website. It's usually the 4th Sunday. We'll keep you posted.

September 2013 – Fort Adams Car Show – Fort Adams State Park, Newport, RI. Fantastic location overlooking Newport Harbor. No date at this point.

October 2013 – NEFA's Annual Leaf Peeper Tour. Route and date will coincide with the changing of the foliage. A wonderful day cruising in the fall with other car enthusiasts. Always a fun event.

November 10, 2013 – NEFA Holiday Party and Annual Meeting. More information to come.

September 19-21, 2014 – Pontiac Celebration show weekend. Warwick, RI. Great show! Great weekend! Great location! And giving to two great charities is the icing on the cake. Mark your calendars. We had a good turnout at the 2012 show so let's pass the word & have even more Fieros on the show field for the 2014 show.

Fiero Mystery Engines

Submitted by Jerry Antunes

When I got my first Fiero I really didn't know much about the car except that it was usually the base for most of the kit cars. I decided that my challenge was to learn as much about the car as I could so I read everything I could get my hands on.

In 2008 I went to the Fiero 25th Anniversary event in Pontiac, MI, and after seeing all the prototypes that were on display I found that there was also a lot of history to learn.

I had read that the Fiero engine compartment was designed to hold a V-8 engine. I also read that at some point a V-8 engine was actually installed in a pre-production Fiero. According to Fiero folklore, there was also a special aluminum V-6 turbo engine installed in two Fieros and the 1.8L overhead cam, turbocharged I-4's from the Pontiac Sunbird were tested in some Fieros.

It made sense to me that a small V-8 or a lightweight engine would give the Fiero that perfect power to weight ratio and balance that it needed to compete on a sports car level so I did some research and asked some knowledgeable people what they knew about these *Mystery Engines*. Fred Bartemeyer and Floyd J Dobson were especially helpful.

The answers go like this: In the early years, around 1982, Pontiac Motorsports was developing what was at that time an experimental 4.0L V-8 engine for racing. At the same time the Fiero Engineering guys were working on the strength of the Fiero's space frame so the 4.0L, V-8 engine found its way into the Fiero chassis for joint

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testing. They took the car to the test track one day and were working the little two seater pretty hard. As luck would have it, for Fiero lovers, the Chevrolet people were also there running the Corvette through its paces for the automotive press. Well, a little rivalry got started on the track. The result was the press and Chevy Management got to see the Fiero outperforming the Corvette. As you can imagine, the Chevrolet people really didn't like that much at all. The word is that corporate had the 4.0L Fiero destroyed before the engine got cold.

In regards to the Aluminum engine, there were 250 aluminum block 2.9 L V-6 Prototype engines with Turbos built and installed in just about every Pontiac of that era, the Fiero being one of them. The Fiero suspension was fine tuned and taken to the Milford Proving Ground Ride and Handling Course where it out-accelerated the Corvette. According to the powers that be at GM, the car was just too fast for the general public. Could that really be? Let's see..... The engine was said to make 220hp and the car weighed 2500 lbs. That would give it a power to weight ratio of 11.36 lbs. per horsepower. The 1984 Corvette weights in at about 3300 lbs. with 205hp. That gives it 16.10 lbs. per horsepower. Yeah, sounds dangerous to me too! They also felt that the automobile insurance companies would have a problem with it. REALLY?

Bottom line was that that project was cancelled. It was another nail in the coffin of the Fiero. It seems that when there is something good, to GM Corporate it's actually bad. Or maybe that's only when the Corvette is getting spanked.

I'm just say'n...

Help us by sending pictures of your Fiero for publication in the NEFA eNews and for show-casing on the new "Member's Rides" section of the NEFA website. Send pictures to Gwen @ pran@cox.net. Here is a picture Gwen's T-top in the FL Keys in 2007 during the Space Coast Fiero's fall weekend event. Now it's your turn to send in a picture.

