



April 2013

Random Thoughts

Submitted by Gwen Randolph

● **It's Spring!** Winter is already a distant memory. Let's get out there and enjoy our Fieros whether it's cruise nights, car shows or just getting together with other Fiero enthusiasts. **First club activity....Tech Session at Bob Aceto's house. NEFA will supply refreshments. See more information on the NEFA Happenings 2013 on Page 4.**

● Phil & I and some other NEFA members spent time in FL in March at the Florida Fiero Weekend. A great time and fun activities are always on the agenda. Check out the group picture on page 7. Bill & Trish Wysocki on the left in the picture didn't have a Fiero at the show, but came over for the day. Greg & Turid Murad are in the middle and Phil is on the right. I've also included a couple of other pictures from the show.

● Andy Virzi, NEFA Treasurer, has brought back his Reverend's Review column. Andy always has great tips on products. Check out Page 2.

Continued on Page 7



Upgrading your Wheels and Tires

Submitted by Jerry Antunes

One of the first things any car enthusiast does to their car is to put some new wheels & tires on it. It's the best and most cost effective way to not only make your ride look better, but it's the number one way to personalize your car, truck or SUV.

Today there are so many sources for custom wheels and almost any kind of tire that you can imagine. There's chrome, black, gray (argent), Aluminum, Polished Aluminum, or even painted and polished. And sizes? There are plenty of those too. Everything you want from 14" to 26". The most important questions are what size do you want and what size will fit on your vehicle? Then you have to think about being sure the new set-up will clear all suspension parts and that your speedometer will read correctly. In some cases you can recalibrate the speedometer or maybe just change the speedometer gear in the transmission.

You can up-size or plus size. When you up-size you move to larger wheels, but keep the tire diameter the same as the stock wheel & tire combination. That will give you a nicer look with the larger wheels and better handling by having a shorter sidewall. Now I'm

Continued on Page 2

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

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

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

Mail your check, made payable to:

New England Fiero Association

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

Upgrading your Wheels and Tires...continued from page 1

sure your question is, how do I know what combination should I use? It's really not that difficult to figure out. In fact there is a simple formula and if you're comfortable with using a spreadsheet you can do what I did and set up a *test sheet*. That way you can use it to determine just how close you can come to the original size without having to re-compute every time you want to try a different size. It worked great for me when I went from the stock 215/60R14" to 215/45R x 17". The tire patch is the same, the sidewall is 1-1/4" smaller, for less flex in turns, the overall tire diameter is within a half inch of the original and the speedometer reading is within one mph.

To calculate a standard wheel/tire on a Fiero SE, 215/60X14.

Sidewall height $215 \times .60 / 25.4 = 5.08$ *Overall tire diameter* $5.08" \times 2 + 14" = 24.16"$

With these simple formulas you can determine what size wheel/tire combination you can use.

Items to Measure or Verify

The Offset - The distance from its hub-mounting surface to the centerline of the wheel. If the offset of the wheel is not correct for the car, the handling can be adversely affected. When the width of the wheel changes, the offset also changes numerically. If the offset were to stay the same while you added width, the additional width would be split evenly between the inside and outside. For most cars, this won't work correctly.

Backspacing - Is the distance from the hub mounting surface to the inside lip of the wheel (measured in inches). The back spacing on the Fiero's 14" & 15" Alloy wheels is 5.1875".

Bolt Pattern - There are approximately 17 different 4- to 5-lug bolt lug patterns. Fiero is 5x100.

Load Capacity - The wheel must have enough load capacity when compared to the gross axle weight rating of the vehicle.

Centerbore - The wheel must, in most cases, fit the hub of the vehicle precisely, either as a direct fit or with the use of a centering ring.

Suspension Components - The wheel must clear and not interfere with any of the suspension components and their operation on the vehicle.

Continued on Page 5

Reverends Review

Submitted by Andrew 'The Reverend' Virzi

In the course of operating Andrew's auto body and Fiero works I sometimes encounter problem situations. Here is one problem I encountered last year when I was working on a complete rehab & repaint of a 1971 Mustang coupe. It was well worn with some rust & a purple paint job that the owner despised. Viper red was the owner's color of choice. In addition to the purple color there were black adhesive 'hockey stick' graphics decals along the sides of the car that I had to remove. Removing them wasn't a complicated job & just involved a sharp razor blade & a heat gun. Once the decals were at the right temperature they peeled off nicely. However, what was left behind was the adhesive glue. What product could I use to remove the adhesive? Once again to my rescue was SEM corp. I've always used their products in the past & this time was no exception. SEM's 38374 SEM solve wax & grease remover was the solution. Simply it is a non-aggressive cleaner for wax & grease removal, but also is totally effective in removing adhesives of all types without damaging the painted surface. It's amazing stuff dissolving the adhesive & allowing it to be removed very easily & is better than any other product I've used.

Have an old bumper sticker you would like removed? Heat & peel it, then hit it with 38374 & you'll never know it was ever there. A quart of 38374 isn't cheap at about \$12 a quart, but as with most of SEM's products, it's well worth the price.



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=WZbYLaI2B5Uv=Fl22ngXKFaw>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?>

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:



Andy's Fiero Works
Body repair, painting & reconditioning
Making your plastic.....Fantastic
Milford, NH 603-672-8036 Fieroworks@comcast.net

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.



Help us by sending pictures of your Fiero for publication in the NEFA eNews and the new "Member's Rides" section of the NEFA website. Send pictures to Gwen @ pran@cox.net. Here is a picture Greg Murad's Fiero on March 23 during the Florida Fiero Weekend show at the Spring Turkey Rod Run show 2013 held at the Speedway in Daytona. Now it's your turn to send in a picture.

NEFA Happenings - 2013

April 27, 2013 – NEFA Tech Session – Bob Aceto's house, 8 Cooper Avenue, Wallingford, CT. Sure to be interesting and informative. Meet at 11:00 a.m. NEFA will supply refreshments. Later we'll cruise over to a nearby eatery after the tech session. Let Gwen know if you are planning to attend at pran@cox.net.

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.

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

Fieroisms

If your Fiero runs well, you must be in heaven!



Upgrading your Wheels and Tires.....continued from page 2

Wheel Width - All tire sizes are assigned specific rim widths upon which they are measured (measuring rim), as well as can often be mounted on slightly narrower or wider wheels (rim width range). Therefore, it is important to note that actual tire section width will depend on the wheel width the tire is mounted on. The Fiero Alloy wheel width is 7 inches.

For proper installation of your new wheels/tires make certain that you torque the lug nuts. If the wheels instruction sheet does not indicate what the correct torque figure is, you should look in the owner's manual or repair manual for your vehicle. Also make sure that the lug nuts that came with your new wheels are deep enough to take in as much thread as possible. Some aftermarket wheels are thicker than others.

It's also important to re-torque your lug nuts after the first 100 miles of driving on your new wheels. Initially, the lug nut seats of the new wheels will slightly compress and loosen up under the lug nuts as you drive on them. After this break-in period is over and you re-torque the wheels, it should not be required again. However, whenever you remove & replace four wheels, you should ALWAYS re-torque them. If the wheels are not properly torqued the lug nuts may loosen up and cause serious vibrations, and in many cases, cause damage to the wheels & lug nuts, which could result in damage to your car.

New Tires

Every tire's load capacity, durability, traction and handling is dependent on using the right air pressure for the application. Since both too little and too much air pressure can affect some of the tires' performance, maintaining the "right" air pressure is important.

The air pressure (psi) listed on the tire's sidewall tells you the maximum cold inflation pressure that specific a tire is rated to hold. However, the tire's maximum pressure is not necessarily the correct **pressure for every vehicle or application. Most times the vehicle manufacturer's recommend an air pressure that is less than the tire's maximum pressure.**

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Upgrading your Wheels and Tires.....continued

When checking and adjusting tire air pressure, the correct air pressure may be what is provided by the vehicle manufacturer, not the maximum pressure listed on the tire's sidewall. The vehicle manufacturer's air pressure recommendation is usually on the tire information lable on the driver's door, and in the vehicle owner's manual. Did you ever think your new tires would need a break-in period? Some people say that to be sure that new tires deliver their best performance, you should break them in. It goes like this; your old tires probably had very little tread left when you replaced them. Actually because of the low tread depth, they responded more quickly. So don't be surprised if your new tires are a little slower to respond. Their new, full depth treads may cause a little more tread squirm until they wear down a bit. So if you are a bit of an aggressive driver, Be careful whenever you decide to push your new tires a little hard, every tire may need a break-in period of about 500 miles for best performance.

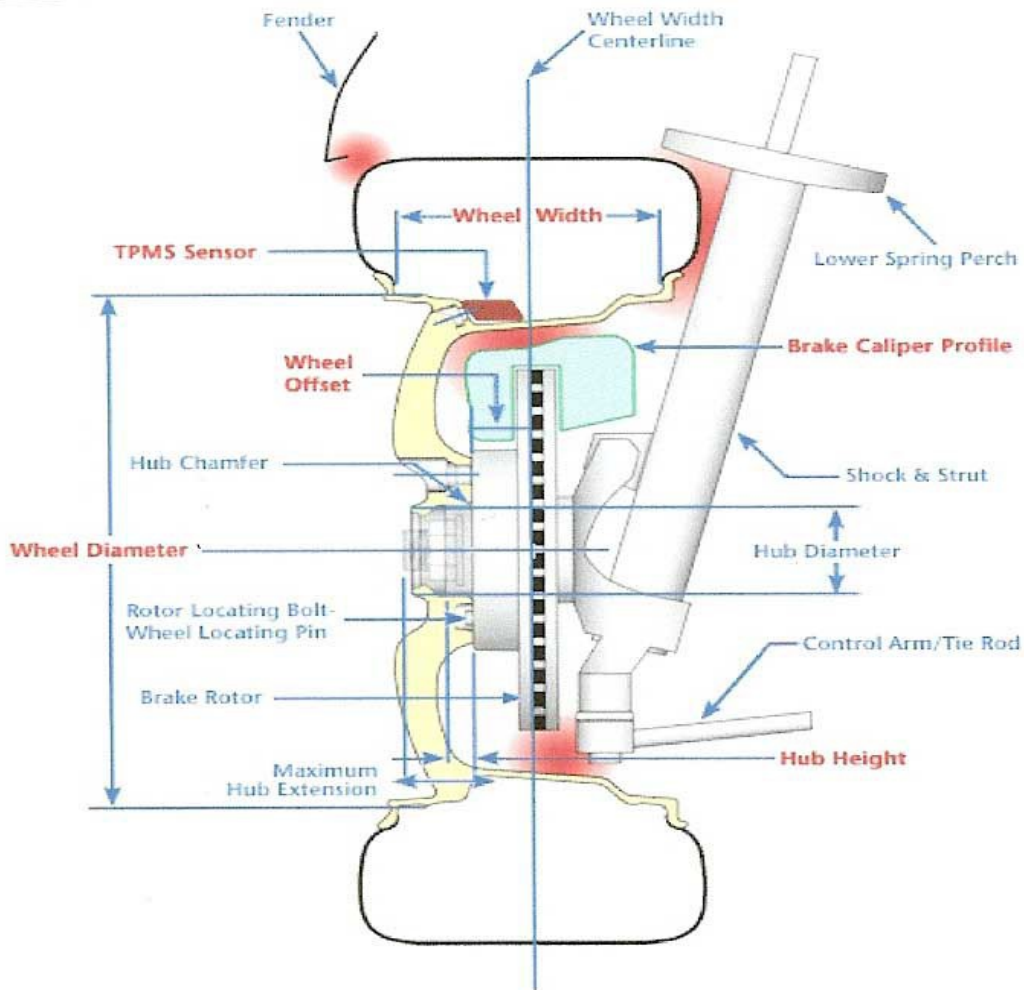
There is so much that can be said on this topic, it all cannot be covered here. Therefore, I suggest that those who are serious, go online to a major wheel & tire distributor who is knowledgeable in this area. Tirerack.com has a lot of information on line. Town Fair Tire has some information on line but they have a chart in their stores that will show which wheel/tire combinations will fit your car.

Continued on page 6

Tech Tips *We are always looking for tech tips or stories that can be shared with other Fiero owners. Send your tech tips and stories to Gwen at pran@cox.net*

Tire Width	Aspect Ratio	Wheel Diameter	Tire Dia	Tire Dia. Diff.	Tire Width	Sidewall Height	Sidewall Diff
215	.60	14	24.16	0.000	8.465	5.08	0.000
215	.55	16	25.31	1.154	8.465	4.66	-0.423
215	.50	16	24.46	0.307	8.465	4.23	-0.846
205	.55	16	24.88	0.720	8.071	4.44	-0.640
205	.50	16	24.07	-0.087	8.071	4.04	-1.043
225	.55	16	25.74	1.587	8.858	4.87	-0.207
225	.50	16	24.86	0.701	8.858	4.43	-0.650
215	.55	16	25.31	1.154	8.465	4.66	-0.423
205	.50	17	25.07	0.913	8.071	4.04	-1.043
215	.50	17	25.46	1.307	8.465	4.23	-0.846
215	.45	17	24.62	0.461	8.465	3.81	-1.270
225	.55	15	24.74	0.587	8.858	4.87	-0.207
215	.55	15	24.31	0.154	8.465	4.66	0.226
			0.00	-24.157	0.000	0.00	-4.429

5.1875 Back space 7" Rim width



Random Thoughts.....continued from page 1

- While in FL a few of us were talking about the speech that Hulki Aldikatcti, who we all call the father of the Fiero, and Donald "Parki" Parkinson, who was head of Strategic Planning for Pontiac during the Fiero years, gave at the 20th Fiero anniversary show. We all decided it was time to print a link to the speech now that the 30th anniversary show is coming up soon. If you are a new NEFA member and have never read this article or a long time member and just want to refresh your memory, check out the article as printed in the February 2004 Fiero Pride newsletter.

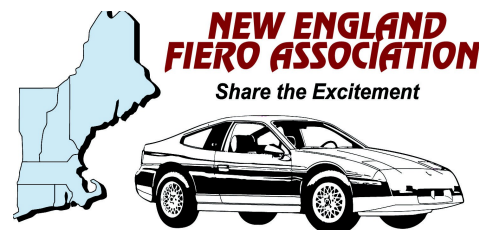
<http://www.fieropride.com/newsletters/2004-02.pdf>
Jeff Ramburg, a MAFOA and NEFA member at the time, kindly recorded the speech that evening and sent it on to me to include in the newsletter. Hulki and Parki covered all the tidbits of getting the Fiero to the sales floor and dispelled or reaffirmed things we had all heard about the Fiero over the years.

- From Roger Coulson - In the Pain & Gain Trailer referenced in the February issue of Fiero Pride, look closely at 1:26 where the 1988 Red Fiero Formula first appears. The left rear wheel has the "space saver spare" installed. At 1:44 where the 1988 Red Fiero Formula with T-tops appears again, they show only the right side. Roger wonders just how awful it drives with the space saver spare on the left rear with two really big guys in it...

- Check out the website for the Fiero 30th anniversary show in June.
<http://www.fiero30th.com/> Even if you aren't planning on attending, check out the sections on Fiero history and pictures from the 20th & 25th anniversary shows. If you attended either show see if you can spot your Fiero – I did. Also, don't miss the Trivia section where you can test your Fiero knowledge. New questions show up each time you click the link.

- Received an email from the local organizer of the 2014 Pontiac Celebration show in RI while Phil & I were in FL. Rick and the Committee want to use a Fiero as part of the 2014 Celebration logo. It will be on the right hand side of the logo. Don't know about you, but I think that's a great honor. Yes, it's an all Pontiac show, but it's not often that a Fiero is honored in this way. We need to get the message out and support this show next year. The proceeds benefit two children's charities.

- Here are the shots from Daytona. Not everyone at the show decided to have their picture taken on the track so this is just a few of the Fieros at the show. From the right side, my medium red metallic T-top is 3rd and Greg Murad's red Fiero is 7th.



Check out the newly updated NEFA website

<http://www.fieropride.com>

Be sure to check out the new "Member's Rides" section and if you don't see your Fiero please send a picture of your pride and joy Fiero to Gwen at: pran@cox.net.