



June 2013

## Random Thoughts

Submitted by Gwen Randolph

- Cruise nights are in full swing in our area. Every night there is more than one cruise location to choose from, which makes for a fun week. We have a new cruise at a local restaurant in our town this year so Tuesday has become a "I don't cook night".....unless it rains.
- Check out the fun NEFA Member Louis Dias has with a Fiero. Louis raced in the Spectator Drags event at Seekonk Speedway on Sunday over the Memorial Day weekend and took 2nd place with his roller cam block 3.4L engine (w/ Fiero heads) and 6 speed. Here's the view from the first car he beat, a 2005 Mustang Cobra. This is NOT the Fiero he has for sale.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2sv1PLjfAMg>

Here's more of Lou Dias' Memorial Day Racing.  
Round 1 @ 2:58

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OA0m-O8YLc0>

I'm at 1:36 for round 2

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L0vyI7jPZG0>

Round 3: @ 2:19

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ensd9pPXtjo>

Round 4, 5 and 6

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kGULd4xUOTs>

- **I've been working with a company in FL who does embroidered shirts. Phil has one of their shirts from the FL Fiero Weekend show this year & they are really nice. Ray already sent out an email with the link**

<http://tcpromos.com/shop/private-store>.

**After working with the company there are more color choices offered. Just click on the color option link to see the additional colors. If you want a club shirt, please go ahead & order. They are great shirts to advertise our club. I've already ordered club shirts & 30<sup>th</sup> Fiero Anniversary shirts for Phil & I.**

Continued on Page 5

## TOOL TIME *Chapter 5*

By Jerry Antunes

This month let's look at brake tools. We all know that the Fiero's four-wheel disc brakes were rated very high when the car first hit the showroom floors in 1984.

First let me say this, it is always important to bleed the brake system from time to time. If you notice the brake fluid in the master cylinder getting black, that's an indication of two things. One is that the fluid is getting dirty, "DUH". The other is that there may be some break down of the rubber parts of the system. In either case you should bleed the system. Don't forget, sometimes the system also picks up some moisture. This is also a good time to inspect the whole system.

One of the things on a Fiero that *DOES* rust are the brake lines. So you may have to change a section. Yes, you can do the complete system by buying a complete line kit that will give you all the lines in either soft steel or stainless steel & they will be pre-bent.

If there is just one section that needs attention, you can buy a piece of brake line from your local parts store. Chances are that it won't be the right length so you will have to cut it & re-flare the end. Remember that brake lines require a "double flare."

You can't use the same flare tool that you use for fuel lines. You have to use a Double Flaring Tool. If you don't have one you may be able to borrow one from that same parts store. Maybe they will even cut & flare it for you. Just remember, measure twice – cut once.

Continued on Page 2



Tool Time.....continued from Page 1

Now once you get that new line on or have replaced all of the lines, you need to bleed the system. If you have a helper there is no problem. If you don't there is a very nice tool that will help you & make life a lot easier.

There is a company called Motive Products that makes a real nice unit that only requires one person to operate & makes the job a breeze. The one that I bought has adapters to cover all different types of master cylinders. All you have to do is put the correct adapter on the master cylinder, fill the tank with fresh brake fluid, pump up the pressure to about 12-15 lbs., & start the standard bleeding procedure. This is a real handy tool that's easy to use.

If you don't have either of these options available to you, you can use a combination brake bleeder/ vacuum tester. It is very inexpensive & is dual purpose. Use it to bleed your brakes or it can be used to check anything that is operated by vacuum.



Brake Bleeder & Vacuum Tester



Brake Bleeder Kit



Flare Tool Kit

**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](mailto:pran@cox.net). Here is a picture of Tom Derr's beautiful 86 GT. Now it's your turn to send in a picture.**



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

## **Classifieds**

**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](mailto: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](mailto:pran@cox.net).**

## ***NEFA Happenings - 2013***

**June 26 – July 1, 2013 - 30<sup>th</sup> 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. 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. A wonderful show to attend in a great location. Check out their website: <http://autosoftheworld.us/>

**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 – 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Putnam, CT Main Street Cruise.** Rain date 8/18. 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 29, 2013 – 30<sup>th</sup> Annual All Pontiac & Oakland Fall Car Show – Wallingford, CT.** Rain date October 6. Sponsored by the Nutmeg Chapter P.O.C.I. & Barberino Nissan.

**September 2013 – Fort Adams Car Show – Fort Adams State Park, Newport, RI.** Fantastic location overlooking Newport Harbor. **DATE TBA.**

**October 2013 – NEFA's Annual Leaf Peeper Tour.** Route & 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! turnout at the 2012 show. Pass the word. Let's have even more Fieros on the show field for the 2014 show. Great location! Raising money for two great charities is the icing on the cake. Mark your calendars .

## Power Antenna Installation

Submitted by Ray Paulk

One thing I wanted to add to my '88 Fiero GT was a power antenna. I've got two reasons.

1. I try to keep my car covered & the power antenna makes sure that it's never in the way of the cover.
2. It's neat & elegant.

I used to unscrew the original antenna to put the cover on, but usually forgot to screw it back in when I uncovered the car & started driving off resulting in me stopping & running back for the antenna. My antenna was purchased from Crutchfield mail order. Power antennas are not in their current catalogs, but they still fill orders by the part number. The Crutchfield ID is as follows:

Item No.	Description	Unit Price
PW22	Metra AntennaWorks	\$49.99

The antenna is made by ANTENNAWORKS Division, c/o Metra Electronics, Holly Hill, FL 32117-2699. I have also seen the same antenna sold in an auto parts store under the "Rally" name so this antenna should be easy enough to find. To install the antenna I first removed the fender, which also required removing the right rocker panel. Anyone who does this should be aware that you've got to drill out several special aluminum pop-rivets. These rivets are special in that they spread into four "wings" in the back when pulled up. The important note is **don't bother trying to get replacements** because even Pontiac has no idea what they are & so far, no one else seems to either. For reattachment I used 1/4-20 x 3/4" long stainless steel bolts with nuts and washers. The only place you can't use a nut is on the three places down into the doorstep of the rocker panel. Here, the outside two places have a second hole which can be drilled and use a sheet metal screw. On the center hole I used a plastic insert & sheet metal screw. This last point didn't work out too well, just barely good enough. The goal for my installation was always to make it look like original equipment. Therefore I wanted the new power antenna to come up through the same grommet that the old one did. Unfortunately, there's just no room for any kind of power antenna in the same location as the original antenna. A new hole through the fender is mandatory where there's room enough below for the antenna motor & shaft housing. Moving the location back a few inches gives you plenty of room.

As for mounting, the new antenna still mounts to the sub panels of the car, fully independent of the fender. After removing the old antenna mount, I made a plate from 1/8" aluminum, which used the original three mounting holes & cantilevered out with a new hole to mount the new antenna. I carefully located the new position such that the new antenna would be as close to the center of the car as possible. I drilled a 1/4" hole exactly plumb - with the car level - through the new plate & the lip seam of the inner body panels. I then used a hole saw to cut a tight clearance hole in the body panel seam for the shaft housing of the antenna to pass through. I used a step drill to cut a mounting hole through my new plate I installed. I had to "play" with the mounting spacers to get the tip of the retracted antenna to be just below the underside of the fender. The bottom of the antenna is stabilized by an "L" bracket which attaches to the antenna by two screws & attached to the inner fender panel by a couple of sheet metal screws. The "slop" in the screw holes gave me enough latitude to adjust the attitude of the antenna to look right on the car.

As for the new hole through the fender, I started with a small hole & set the fender in place. I then expanded the hole such that it was centered on the antenna & the right size for the grommet. As for the grommet, it's a bit small for the largest part of the power antenna, especially with the angle of the fender. I cured this with a grinding bit on my Dremel tool, cutting the grommet to give just enough clearance.

Continued on Page 5

Lastly, I tackled the power connections. In addition to the normal antenna lead, which is just about long enough - a couple of inches longer would have been nice - there are two power leads; one which is hot all the time and one that is switched by the radio. With both hot, the antenna goes up. When the radio switches off, the antenna goes down. There's a 3rd wire, which is ground & can be connected to any body screw. The hot wire is no problem. I connected the switched wire to the radio lead that turns on the sub woofer amplifier. This is a pink wire at pin "E" on the connector that plugs into the radio.

To solve the problem of the old hole in the fender, I unfortunately had to resort to an auto body shop to plug it and repaint the fender. For me anyway, bodywork is something that's best done by someone who does it all the time.

After a couple of months of use, I started having problems. The antenna would always go up, but sometimes it wouldn't retract. The problem was with the relay that controls the up & down actions. This problem caused me to rethink the installation. Perhaps I had contributed to the problem in some way. To start with, I called Crutchfield who faithfully stood by the product & replaced it. Actually, I bought a new one & got credit when I returned the old one. I went back to the drawing board & came up with another plan. Consider that the antenna is normally installed through a fender. The domed shape nut that normally secures the antenna above the fender, along with the fender itself, shields the power mechanism from the weather. In my first installation there was little protection from rain or snow that comes through the fender hole or down the antenna. This moisture may have contributed to the first failure.

In the second installation I took a sheet of plastic wrap, cut a small hole through it, reinforced with tape, & secured it under the top nut. This plastic wrap acted as my "fender" or water shield for the mechanism below. To enhance the job & have the plastic wrap hold its shape, I formed the plastic & sprayed it with undercoating. There's no way any water is going to get to the power mechanism now. Once you put the fender back on, it looks great & I've had no problem since.

Continued from Page 1.....Random Thoughts

- **July 14 is the club picnic at Phil & Gwen's house in Coventry. Please mark your calendars. A flier will go out later this month.**

- Phil & I and a few NEFA members are heading off to the 30<sup>th</sup> Fiero Anniversary show. The 20<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup> shows were both very well attended & lots of fun. It's always nice to see people you know through the Fiero hobby from all over the US & other countries that you only see at these anniversary shows. Pictures will be published in the July eNewsletter.

**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>

**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](mailto:Ray@RaytheRealtor.com) if you have any questions.

Ray Paulk, NEFA President and Membership Director

