

# 35<sup>th</sup> Annual Fiero Car Show – East Peoria, IL

Every five years there is an Annual Fiero Car Show held somewhere in the U.S. Our club even hosted one of these grandiose gatherings in the early days of the history of this recurring event.

Most recently this honor and all the hard work necessary to host one of these four day events has been taken on by the Midwest Fiero Clubs out of the Chicago, Illinois area.



They did a grand job and seem to be the host of this event for the immediate future ... a well deserved accomplishment. They put on quite a show!

Our club participated in this event in substantial numbers as seen by the picture below:



# 35<sup>th</sup> Annual Fiero Car Show – East Peoria, IL

We started out with a caravan that met in Northville, MI and included about half of our participating members. The group travelled all day to arrive in East Peoria by late afternoon on Thursday August 9<sup>th</sup>, 2018. The rest of our crew traveled separately and we all met Thursday evening to compare trip notes. Here is our travel crew as we started in Michigan:



The extended weekend included a cruise around the Peoria, IL area and a trip to Pontiac, IL. Layne and I arrived too late and too tired for the local cruise and my judging education and Layne's volunteer responsibilities for registration made the trip to Pontiac IL a non starter.

Our Club did the Pontiac IL trip two years ago as part of our color tour and it was a great trip; I hope a lot of you made one of those journeys to Pontiac, IL it is a town to remember.

This was a big car show by almost any standards and was estimated to have well over 300 Pontiac Fieros in attendance. This show had attendees from all over the U.S. and Canada and we even met one guy from Germany! Meeting new people was a definite part of the fun.

I collected a series of photographs from our membership; they cover the spectrum in terms of activities. I hope this gives you a flavor of this great event.

Let's continue with some pictures of our members dining at the event and then pictures with their Fieros



## 35<sup>th</sup> Annual Fiero Car Show – East Peoria, IL



We are very good at drinking and dining ... and now for the pictures of our members and their cars:

## 35<sup>th</sup> Annual Fiero Car Show – East Peoria, IL



Ron and Beth won a popular vote award!



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Kristi won a model car award!



Vern and Dianne won a judged award – 1<sup>st</sup> in class!



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Floyd and Carol's Yellow 88 Formula ... but no Floyd and Carol?

Rumor has it, they were eating ice cream:



# 35<sup>th</sup> Annual Fiero Car Show – East Peoria, IL

So let's talk about how these lovely cars were categorized and judged. I volunteered to be a judge to try and understand the Midwest Fiero Clubs approach to this monumental effort.

After reading a rather lengthy explanation brief and attending a school for judges I think I can sort of explain their methodology? This was an education to say the least.

Each car was examined at the official event registration and assigned to one of 21 judged categories and 29 awarded categories. The judged categories were generally separated into three main groups : **(1) Judged Stock by model type** - the closer to "as delivered" the better; this class is pretty self explanatory; **(2) Judged Modified** but with stock engine & drive train; **(3) Judged Modified Plus** including engine swaps, drive train changes, brake and cooling changes and much more ... this latter group also includes all the previously mentioned body and interior mods explained in category (2); **The Special or Sponsor Designation Awards** exceeded the judged classes and are detailed later on in the results section.

**Judged Category (2): Modified** ranges from: mildly modified body and interior, to partially modified and then extremely modified ... at this point the engines are still stock but the bodies and interiors range from mild to wild.

**Judged Category (3): Modified Plus:** was a combination of body and interior modifications from category (2) plus engine swaps, drive train changes, reengineered suspensions and more.

This **Judged (3) engine swap** group was further subdivided by **(a)** engine changes that are relatively easy (i.e. minimal frame changes on GM 3.1, 3.4 V6s and Turbo charged or bored out original blocks etc.). **(b)** The next sub group included moderate frame modifications and swap engines that are of the V6 variety ... things like a supercharged 3800 GM V6. And **(c)** the last sub group of **Judged (3)** was the extreme Restomod group with V8s, highly modified frames & mechanicals, and over the top rebuilds that still sort of look like a Fiero but are now capable of competing, performance wise, with a lot of very expensive foreign and domestic sports cars.

Even with all this detail and pre thought you could still find yourself competing directly with some very different cars in terms of investment and preparation.

Let me give you a case in point. My car is basically a stock body 1985 Fiero GT with a V8 NorthStar engine swap and extensive drive train, brake, cooling, and suspension changes.

At registration it was determined that I belonged in the most modified mechanical, interior and body category "**Class Q Level 4 Modified**"... This turned out to not be a good thing?



# 35<sup>th</sup> Annual Fiero Car Show – East Peoria, IL

The net result of this **Class Q Level 4 Modified** placement is shown below:



My white car was in the same class as this beautiful metallic blue custom Archie Chop Top ... the Chop Top had a modern Corvette V8, modern 6 speed transmission, and a very modified everything else including chassis, body work and custom paint! Round numbers; his investment was probably several times mine. This metallic blue, showroom new competition, and the group of similarly classed rebuilds, were way beyond my car in terms of show presentation!

My car is a driver and most of the beauties in this class were true show cars with limited mileage and /or trailer queens. My situation in this classification is probably somewhat extreme, but a version of this sort of thing happens to almost all cars in other classifications as well.

I overheard one of my fellow judges talking about his precisely prepared showroom stock M4 Fiero that he built specifically for National Shows; he brings it to National Events it in a closed trailer. He mentioned his success ratio was high and I'm sure his story was accurate. The National Show circuit is a world unto itself.

I guess the best way to explain this is Hagerty **Class One** versus **Class Two** cars ... where a **Class One** is a showroom new car or very recent full restoration and **Class Two** is a previously restored car with some driving miles on it. Each street mile downgrades the car as a show car. In a national show, the Class Ones win every time in the judged categories.

I saw at least four cars in my class that were much nicer and better presented than my Cadillac NorthStar V8; there may have been more. These National Show Cars were certainly beautiful, professionally prepared, and had generally had very limited miles since their most recent restoration .

# 35<sup>th</sup> Annual Fiero Car Show – East Peoria, IL

I learned a valuable lesson: a true driver car, no matter how nice, has a hard time competing with a National Show Car in almost any category.

Most of our Michigan Fiero Club cars are driver cars with some miles on them. The only club car that won a judged award was the 1988 Fiero GT of Vern and Dianne Bailey (1<sup>st</sup> place in class). This is quite an accomplishment at a National Show!

Ron and Betty Moen placed 3<sup>rd</sup> in the popular vote class and Kristi Khan won a 1<sup>st</sup> place award for her Fiero model car. The white car on the lower right, needs to quit entering National Shows.

Congratulations to all our winners!



Vern and Dianne



Ron and Bette



Kristi



No award for this guy!



# 35<sup>th</sup> Annual Fiero Car Show – East Peoria, IL

Here are the results of the event awards ... Page 1 of 2:

## Recap & Results

### States and countries represented at this celebration:

**States:** Alabama, Arizona, Arkansas, Colorado, Connecticut, Georgia, Kansas, Kentucky, Maryland, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, New York, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Utah, Illinois, Wisconsin, Virginia, Texas, Iowa, Ohio, Michigan, Indiana, Florida, Rhode Island, North Carolina, Oklahoma, West Virginia

**Countries included:** Germany, Canada, and Puerto Rico

### Special Awards

**The Hulk Award** – Mike Kroyer, for his extensive desire to go above and beyond to continue supporting the Midwest Fiero Clubs and making the 35th Anniversary celebration the success that it was

**"The Fiero Most Likely to Get Pulled Over"** – as selected by East Peoria's Police Chief, Dick Ganschow: Tom Harding with an '86 GT, car #90

**"The Hottest Fiero on the Show Field"** – as selected by members of the East Peoria Fire Department (award presented by Assistant Chief, Garry Grugan) Dave Bagwell with the blue Chop-Top – car #7

### Distinguished Speaker Top Five Picks

#### John Callies' Top 5 Picks:

Corey Leppo – Red '85 GT custom – car #128  
Fred Bartemeyer – White, Red, Blue, '86 GT IMSA, car #16  
Kevin Lindeman – Black '85 GT, car #131  
Jennifer Goss – Blue '85 GT – car #78  
Paul Hosler – Yellow '87 IMSA – car #100

#### Gregg Peterson's Top 5 Picks:

Ray Dyreson – White '88 GT, car #56  
Fred Bartemeyer – White '84 SE, car #11  
Gary Watson – Medium Red Metallic '84 SE, car #216  
Therese Campbell – Red '88 GT, car #31  
Edwin Wendell – Gold '87 GT, car #220

### Other Awards

**Longest Distance Traveled to this event (Not in A Fiero)** – Carston Fuchs, traveled from Germany

**Longest Distance Driven in a Fiero to this event** – award sponsored by RediRad and presented by Matt Planning – Phil Randolph, travelled 1,400 miles from Rhode Island in his '88 Formula

**Hard Luck (presented by the Heartland Fiero Club)** – Larry Rohde who had to push his '86 SE Fiero uphill five times to get to the 35th Anniversary celebration

**Highest Mileage on show field** – 301,000 miles, A.C. Dobson, Jr.

**Lowest Mileage on show field** – 60 miles, Jeff Jones, 2+2 Prototype

**"Oldest" Fiero on show field (Lowest VIN for model year 1984 – stock classes only); VIN E, then last 5 digits** – Wayne Weckerle with a white '84 SE with 34,800 miles, car #217

**"Youngest" Fiero on show field (Highest VIN for model year 1988 – stock classes only); VIN J, then last 5 digits** – Jeff and Carol Wendt with a red '88 GT – one of the last 6 Fieros ever built with 67,800 miles, car #221

**Which one individual or family brought the most Fieros to the show?** Fred Bartemeyer, Jr. brought EIGHT Fieros to the 35th Anniversary celebration

**Kid's Choice Award for their favorite Fiero (ages 15 and under)** – Dan Thuerlauf – car #199, '88 GT

**Kid's Choice Award for their favorite go cart (ages 15 and under)** – Dan Thuerlauf, go cart #1, "Grumpy and Sneezy"

**AAA Choice Award** – as selected by Karen Pilgrim of AAA – Austin Stombres, car #253, '87 SE

**Fiero Quiz Winners** – Two runners up – Jeff Wendt and Marty LaGesse – Winner – Greg Cox

**New York Fiero Owners Club Award** – Corey Leppo

### John Paskvan's Top 5 Picks:

Paul Vargyas – Red '88 GT T-top V8, car #210  
Jeff Wendt – Red '88 GT, car #221  
Jeremy Janssen – Red '88 Coupe, car #108  
Gerald Goodwin – '86 GT Pearl White Knight, car #76  
William Cisma – Red '85 GT V8, car #40

### Ben Scheiwe's Top 5 Picks:

Marge York – Blue PPG Pace Car, car #231  
Dave Bagwell – Blue Chop-Top, car #7  
Jason Fawley – Gatorade Green V8, car #63  
Dan Thuerlauf – Yellow '88 GT, car #200  
Jimmy Buber – '84 Indy Pace Car, car #206



### Model Car Concours Results:

#### Junior Class - Modified Class

First Place – Kristina Kahn

#### Junior Class - Scratch Built

First Place – Chris Carlson

#### Senior Class - Stock Class

First Place – Charles Streetman

#### Senior Class - Modified Class

First Place – Onix Taveras

#### Senior Class - Diorama

First Place – Ken & Jeanne Nagel

#### Senior Class - Promotional Model/Collectible

First Place – Onix Tavaras

#### Senior Class - Scratch Built

First Place – Dave Bagwell

#### Kid's Choice Award for their Favorite

Model Car (ages 15 and under) – Dave Bagwell

## Judged Class Winners

### Class A – '84-'88 Coupe/Sport Coupe, '84-'85 SE

First Place - Kevin Berkheimer, car #20  
Second Place - Troy Smalley, car #190  
Third Place - Edward Huculak, car #102

### Class B – '86-'87 SE

First Place - Alex Bastien, car #19  
Second Place - Eric Meyer, car #144  
Third Place - Lee Meyer, car #145

### Class C – '87 GT

First Place - Fred Bartemeyer, car #17  
Second Place - Walter Kubiak, car #124  
Third Place - Edwin Wendell, car #220

### Class D – Level 1 Custom

First Place - Bailey LaVerne, car #8  
Second Place - Shane Parsons, car #163  
Third Place - Garry Kay, car #117

### Class E – Level 3 Modified (3800SC)

First Place - John Frenette, car #66  
Second Place (tie) - Curtis Kosley, car #122,  
Brian Sanburn, car #181  
Third Place - Chris Weeks, car #239

### Class F – '84 Indy Pace Car

First Place - Tim Cebulla, car #37  
Second Place - Robert Leppo, car #130  
Third Place (tie) - Jimmy Buber, car #206, Stephen Coomer, car #43

### Class G – '88 Formula

First Place (tie) - Ken Brown, car #27, Jon Revelle, car #177  
Second Place - Marty LeGessee, car #126  
Third Place - Dale Carlson, car #32

### Class H – '88 GT Low Mileage (60,000 or less)

First Place - Phillip Bjork, car #214  
Second Place - Jim Hallman, car #85  
Third Place - Dan Thuerlauf, car #203

### Class I – Level 2 Custom

First Place - Jeff Donnelly, car #54  
Second Place - Mike Kroyer, car #123  
Third Place (tie) - Michael Guittar, car #81, Brian Welch, car #219

### Class J – Level 3 Modified (Non-3800SC)

First Place - Gerald Goodwin, car #76  
Second Place - Kevin Lindeman, car #131  
Third Place - Corey Leppo, car #128

### Class K – '85 GT

First Place - Dan Thuerlauf, car #201  
Second Place - George Johnson, car #111  
Third Place - Fred Ploughman, car #169

### Class L – '86 GT

First Place - Mark Nicklaus, car #160  
Second Place - Steven Bachand, car #5  
Third Place - Bill Klicker, car #121

### Class M – '88 GT High Mileage (60,000 or more)

First Place - Jeffrey Wendt, car #221  
Second Place - Gregory Dauterman, car #50  
Third Place - Arthur Scarlett, car #183

### Class N – Level 3 Custom

First Place - Jennifer Goss, car #78  
Second Place - Rob Holtz, car #99  
Third Place - Tom Schmidt, car #185

### Class O – Level 4 Modified

First Place (tie) - Jason Fawley, car #63,  
Paul Vargyas, car #210  
Second Place - William Cisma, car #40  
Third Place - Alex Torres, car #76

No Roger to be found?



# 35<sup>th</sup> Annual Fiero Car Show – East Peoria, IL

... and Page 2 of 2:

## Class R - Work in Progress

First Place - Joe Welch, car #243  
Second Place (tie) - Luke Hanus, car #89,  
Mitchell Seemungal, car #187  
Third Place - Brandy Maas, car #133

## Class U - Factory Stock Showroom

First Place - Dan Thuerauf, car #199  
Second Place - Fred Bartemeyer, car #10  
Third Place - Larry Davis, car #51

## Class S - Kitcar & Rebody

First Place - Dave Bagwell, car #6

## Class V - Factory Assembled Fieros

First Place - Larry Winlaw, car #227  
Second Place - Drew Money, car #251

## Class T - Competition Fieros

First Place - Edward York, car #230

## Class X - Factory Experimental & Prototype Fieros

First Place - Fred Bartemeyer, car #16  
Second Place (tie) - Fred Bartemeyer, car #13,  
Marge York, car #231  
Third Place - Jeff Jones, car #112

## Popular Vote Class Winners

### Stock Class Winners (Classes A-I & U) - Popular Vote (Top 5, in no particular order)

1. Lee Meyer, car #146
2. Dan Thuerauf, car #203
3. Ron Moen, car #150
4. Edwin Wendell, car #220
5. Gary Farnsworth, car #62



### Custom/Modified Class Winners (Classes K-T, V & X) - Popular Vote (Top 5, in no particular order)

1. Nathaniel Williams, car #226
2. Dave Bagwell, car #7
3. Larry Winlaw, car #227
4. Rob Holtz, car #99
5. Jason Fawley, car #63

## Sponsors Award Choices

### Mr. Mike's Leathers Best Interior Awards

**Modified** - Cory Leppo, car #128  
**Custom** - David Henry, car #235

### Rodney Dickman's Best Craftsmanship Award

Gerry Goodwin, car #76  
**Poncho Perfection Editor's Choice Award**  
Marge York- Blue PPG Pace Car, car #231  
**Black Top Racing, our Presenting Sponsor, awards:**  
Show Off Your Lights Contest Winner - Adam Powell, car #170

### Best Of Show - Stock -

Gary Farnsworth - Red '88 GT, car #62

### Best Of Show - Non-Stock -

Dave Bagwell - Blue Chop Top, car #6

**Thank you everyone who attended, volunteered, and sponsored. We COULD NOT have done this without you. The Fiero Community is what keeps us going and you keep making the Anniversary Celebrations GREAT and FUN!**

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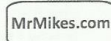
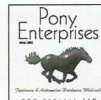


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Thank you to our show Sponsors:



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## 35<sup>th</sup> Annual Fiero Car Show – East Peoria, IL

I went through this lengthy judging explanation and personal education because we need to revamp our own Michigan Fiero Club Show categories. Our system needs to be fairer to participants, easier to judge, and easier to administrate. Some of the previous discussion is worth consideration, but a direct application is just too involved for our purposes. We will talk more about this subject at upcoming Board and General Meetings.

To give you a better flavor of this show, let's look at some more pictures:



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There was an inside show area for really special Fieros:





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And last but not least ... a night time view of the 35<sup>th</sup> Annual Show:



## 35<sup>th</sup> Annual Fiero Car Show – East Peoria, IL



If you have never been to a Fiero Anniversary Show, put it on your bucket list ... it is a spectacle worth seeing at least once and for many a periodic trip every five years.

The Hotel, event personnel, organization and execution at this event was truly superb!

Join us in 2023 and be part of the fun; rumor is: it will be at the same place!

*Roger Fagnani*