

Monday, December 4, 2006

Welcome to Inner-Ninja.com

Welcome to my daily blog dedicated to my going ons and my Pontiac Solstice. This blog originally started as my Porsche 924 build blog, but I eventually sold it to get my first Pontiac Solstice, and now I'm on to my 2nd (Solstice GXP). The site is also growing to add images and posts from my friends about their cars as well.

Check out my gallery with plenty of pics of my 924, Solstice, Solstice GXP, my daily events, and my friends cars.

Posted by Brentil in Informative at 23:11

OMG!!!111111...

it just came in as I was about to leave for the night give PDI until noon
to come pick your newborn up!!!!!!
Ricardo

So excited!!!

Tomorrow morning is going to be such a long day till I get to go pick the car up after noon. I hope I can make it.

Posted by Brentil in Misc at 22:57

Thursday, May 20, 2010

My epic-nerdus is showing...

I == epic nerd. I've just got done running a suite of various benchmarks on my PHONE... I'm doing this in preparation for the soon to be released 2.1 Eclair for my phone and more importantly 2.2 Froyo for Android. The 2.2 release is showing a 2x~5x speed increase in applications on faster phones like the Droid and Nexus One, but my phone is a dinosaur in comparison. Linpack & Pi are both pure CPU calculation tests where SunSpider stresses CPU, Memory, and the web browser. I ran each test 3 times and averaged the results.

Posted by Brentil in Technology at 13:04

Sunday, April 11. 2010

Ahhhh zombies two blocks down (i.e. my Remington 700)

I can't believe I forgot to post about this! This is a rifle I inherited from my grandfather back last July that he didn't need anymore. He's had it for well over 15 years and had used it to hunt deer with in Vermont. This is a Remington 700 bolt action rifle that holds 4+1 rounds in the internal magazine firing the .270 Winchester round (12ga, 20ga, .270 Win, 9mm comparison). The lighter 130 grain rounds are meant for hunting deer, but the larger 150 grain (that you can buy at Wal-Mart in FL...) is meant for hunting MOOSE!!! This rifle is zeroed in for 200 yards and reliable out to 500 yards range wise, so you zombies in my neighbors garden two blocks down, beware!

So it's a 15 year old gun however and I'm not a big fan of "hunter" looking guns with wood stocks. I plan to upgrade various parts of it to turn it into more of a tactical sniper rifle. A new Knoxx Axiom recoil reduction pistol grip stock to replace the wood shoulder stock, a new 10 round detachable magazine to replace the 4 round interior magazine, front mount bi-pod (already attached), and a multi-magnification high powered powered scope. Should look and be rather pimp after that.

Posted by Brentil in Zombies at 15:19

Saturday, June 13. 2009

You can't catch me zombies!!! (i.e. my Corvette)

So in searching for a new 2010 Camaro online for my friend Sean I came across a 'used' 2008 Corvette Coupe with a whopping 120 miles on it. Called and got some details about it. This 'used' car was really a new 2008 that was sold at auction from a dealership that closed down and was bought by another dealership who then got the letter from GM saying they were not going to have their franchise renewed. So before I even walked in it was marked down \$16k and still had the new car smell in it. I came in with a monthly payment target I wanted which was the same as what I was paying on my Solstice GXP and we made it happen. So I traded in my Solstice GXP and drove off in a new 2008 Corvette Coupe. It has the Velocity Yellow I wanted, the upgraded slim spoke polished rims, and the upgraded Z06 bi-mode exhaust system. I didn't even realize it had the bi-mode exhaust until I got home and found the window sticker wedged in the trunk. The bi-mode exhaust has a normal path and a wide open path. When the engine is under 3500 RPM the wide open path is closed but when the engine reaches 3500 RPM it opens the wide open valve. It sounds awesome when the valves open. I went and got the windows tinted yesterday because that huge back glass just heats the car up like an oven.

Posted by Brentil in Corvette at 17:06

Sunday, May 17, 2009

Ahhhh zombies in our garden! (i.e. my carbine)

So I love shooting rifles since I've always been far more accurate with them and enjoy firing them more as well. I debated a larger caliber like the 223 or 308 but that meant going with a AR or AK style weapon which I've never been a big fan of their designs. So I decided to go with a 9mm since they cost a quarter of the cost of a AR-15 and the ammo is significantly cheaper (well when we're not in the middle of an ammo shortage it is...). The non-AR 9mm carbine market isn't all that large but I decided on the Kel-Tec SUB-2000 which actually uses Glock magazines so I can share between the carbine and the pistol and I only have to stock one type of ammo as well which is hard enough to do right now. It also folds in half allowing it to store in a compact 16" area which is the length of the barrel. Also thanks to the military spec Glock 18 there are official 33 round 9mm magazines I can use which helps put it on par with the AR/AK weapons. It doesn't have the range or penetration of a 223 round, but in my opinion that's what a nice full sized rifle is for.

Posted by Brentil in Zombies at 23:57

Ahhhh zombies in my kitchen! (i.e. my Glock)

As I mentioned before we were at the gun show about 2 months ago stimulating the economy with our tax return. I was looking to get a pistol or a 9mm carbine (larger than a pistol but smaller than a rifle) and ended up getting both. Worked out a pretty good deal buying all 3 at once (the JenCannon too). I was debating between the Glock 9mm (17 or 19) and the Springfield-Armory XD9. I really like the features of the XD9 over the Glock, but the Glock won out because of magazine compatibility with the carbine I ended up getting. I've always like the polymer Glock designs so I was still more than happy to go with the Glock 9m 19 I ended up getting. It comes with two 15 round magazines and I picked up two 17 round ones at the show. I also picked up 3 Glock official 33 round magazines mainly for the carbine but they of course work in the Glock as well as you can see from the 2nd picture below.

Posted by Brentil in Zombies at 22:54

The JenCannon, popping zombies heads! (i.e. Jen's .357 Magnum)

So we went to the gun show about 2 months ago looking to pick up some guns for me and Jen decided she wanted to get something herself as well. She ended up getting a Taurus Tracker 627 with a 4" barrel. This is a .357 Magnum 7 shot revolver she plans to shoot .38 Special rounds from. She wanted a large barrel revolver because the weight helps keep the gun from recoiling as much making a much more stable shooting platform for her being a 5' tall woman. Which is also where the name then comes from cause it's a huge gun in her tinny hands, viola the JenCannon. It makes a pretty big bang with the .357 rounds, but with the .38 it's a lot more female friendly. I got her a nice pink case for it she loves. She enjoys shooting it and has gotten pretty good with it, my mother shot it and enjoyed it as well.

Posted by Brentil in Zombies at 22:39

Wednesday, March 11, 2009

Solstice Projects

I haven't been racing all that much or doing many things modification wise to my car, but I've still stayed very active in the Solstice community. I've actually worked on two major projects in the last year that have consumed a good bit of my time. At the end of 2007 I started working with a group of other Solstice/Sky enthusiasts to create an organization to help aid in doing national meets and in aiding local groups. We spent several months doing teleconferences preparing the layout of the organization and structure. We finally went live at the start of 2008 with the North American Solstice-Sky Owners Association (NASSOA) and we've been slowly gaining membership ever since. I am currently the Communications Chair of the organization and I also setup and maintain our web presence. <http://www.NASSOA.org/> Near the end of last year as the economy tanked and GM fell flat on their nose another group of us realized GM was very likely to kill of our beloved car that had brought us all together. Working with several of my fellow SolsticeForum.com moderators we fleshed out and implemented Save The Kappa as a means to spread news and information to owners. We've begun a mail letter campaign of sending written letters to GM executives in order to plead our case and hopefully keep the car alive or at least extend its life some. I've done the entire web design for this particular project where with NASSOA we hired a graphic designer to do the skinning. <http://www.SaveTheKappa.org>

Posted by Brentil in Informative Solstice at 15:41

Tuesday, March 10, 2009

You are not welcome here zombies! (i.e. my shotgun)

I finally finished modifying my new shotgun the other night. I had gotten a Mossberg 500 12ga 8 shot about June last year primarily for home defense and secondly for Zombie defense. We don't have a hurricane/fallout plan/kit we have a Zombie preparedness one instead. :D I finished replacing the standard stock with the pistol grip stock made by Mossberg. I also added a 130 lumen LED flashlight. I had decided to get the larger capacity 8 shot instead of the normal 6 shot so it has the extended and apparently thicker magazine tube. This of course meant the weaver attachment to fit on the magazine tube was too small, so I modified it by bending it and getting some larger screws. It looks a little odd but it's secure. I picked up a 50 round bandolier and a 150 round dry box that's filled right now. I need to pick up another dry box to keep the filled bandolier in and some extra Hornady TAP rounds in. Trying to find a nicely sized 'hurricane' box to store various other items in as well. Large 15" chemical light sticks, MREs, misc survival items, etc.

Posted by Brentil in Zombies at 16:19

Thursday, February 26, 2009

First exam in 7 years

Well I just had my first class exam in 7 years. Was nervous as all hell the couple of days coming up to it but I finally calmed down the actual day of the exam. It's still very strange being back in school after 7 years, but I'm slowly getting back into things. Took some time but getting homework done was taking some effort to force myself to do it, and then studying for an exam was a new experience again. I think I did pretty well yesterday. There wasn't anything on it I didn't know and the only issue I had was time, but so did everyone else since no one finished in the allotted 1:15 timeframe we had. For being an exam with only 3 questions I completely filled 7 pages with hand written text, task charts, sequence diagrams, and class diagrams. I've gotten only A's so far on all of my work I've done and hoping this will be another one. I however am fearing my other class which I have the midterm for it next Wed. The material is a lot more complex memorization wise and topic wise. I've done well on all the homework so far, but that's when I've had two weeks to bang my head against it to get it done. The homework counts for 50% of the grade so I'm hoping to keep that as close to 100% as possible because I'm going to need it to compensate for these two exams I'm betting. . .

Posted by Brentil in UCF at 10:35

Tuesday, February 24, 2009

Venture brothers unite!

Ever since they've been together, Sokar and Sebastian have been BFFs. They hang out together, they play together, wrestle together, and even clean each other. It's not gay it's guy love!!!

Here they are wrestling.

Here they are cleaning each other. Sokar even falls asleep while getting groomed!

Here they are after a long wrestling match resting with each other. Here Sebastian is cleaning Sokar.

Posted by Brentil in Cats at 17:26

Sebastian, the interloper!

So my W was on the way back from a wedding when she decided to run into a curb and explode both tires on one side of the car. Way to go W. :P Well while she was waiting for a tow truck this cat decided to come up and get in the car it seems. I'm not sure how much of this is "got in the car" or "was shoved in the car" but either way he came home with her. Well at first I was like "hell no, we aren't taken in no more kitties!" so we went to take him to the SPCA but they only take pets that belong to you for more than 30 days. Doh! So I decided we'd get him fixed then let him go, well in that timeframe my mother decided she wanted him. Hurray! So she took him home and he was a total terror. Doh! So she brought him back but by then we had gotten attached to the little imp and so had Sokar. When he's around Sokar he stays busy and doesn't seem to be a terror at our house. The two of them are best of buds! Here's the little imp on the porch after he first came home. Hey wait that's Sokar's box!!! Sebastian just loves to get into EVERYTHING. . .

Posted by Brentil in Cats at 11:02

Monday, February 23, 2009

Sokar!!!

Well, Jen decided for her birthday this last year she wanted a new kitty. It had been several months since Christopher had passed away and who doesn't love kittens? Communist, duh. So we went to the local SPCA and spent a good hour molesting cats and kittens. In the end we came down to choosing between a super-hyper kitten name Voltron and an un-named 8-week old kitten. I felt the other one was just too hyper so the younger one won out and we adopted him. After his naughty bits were removed we came and picked him up and brought him home and named him Sokar. Here's his awesome cuteness the night we brought him home. He's been such a wonderful cute little kitten. He liked to suckle on your skin or clothes for about the first month. Here he is snoozing on the sofa with Pi. Sokar has been such a big helper!!! Here he is helping mom unpack the groceries from the store. This is one of the cutest things that Sokar does. He has a little box with some brown paper in it that he loves to curl up in and fall asleep.

Posted by Brentil in Cats at 15:37

The loss of a child

Our cats are our children. Back in August of 2008 one of our younger ones (Christopher) began to dramatically loose weight. We brought him in to discover he had terminal kidney failure. :(We ended up giving him fluid shots every other day for a while, he fussed about it but things seemed to get better for a while and he was happy again. However one day some of his ribs broke somehow, probably from the lack of nutrients in his bones. This put him back into a downward spiral of pain and general miserable life for him. At this point we finally decided to have him put to sleep. I was not expecting how sad and depressing this moment was going to be, it didn't help that he was so young at just having turned 4 years old in July. We miss you Chris!

Posted by Brentil in Cats at 14:13

Graduate School . . .

Well I started Graduate School at UCF this semester finally after hemming and hawing for the last 6 years. It took me 5 years to decide what masters program to do, and then another year to figure out how to properly get into the masters program. I should have started a long time ago, but I did not want to do Comp Engr as my major, but I couldn't figure out what else to do instead. The stupid thing is UCF pays for all my classes because I'm an employee, so I've been sitting on ass wasting time. So I'm working on a Computer Engineering Masters with a focus on Computer Networks and Computer Security. IF (big IF literally) I can maintain 2 classes per semester I should be able to get it done in about 3~4 years. Otherwise it could take 6~8 years to complete. So far these two initial graduate level classes are a lot harder than undergrad was, not really because of the subject matter, but because of the level of work they are constantly assigning us. For example the one class has us doing a project that is almost identical to our senior design project but we have 1 semester to do it in instead of 2. Of course having been out of school for 6 years now I've forgotten how to properly study so it's taken some time to get back into things. I have my first midterm in what has been 7 years now this Wed, which I'm not looking forward to at all. Both classes are open note open book which means they're going to be HARD. I don't think I'll do too bad on this one, the the midterm for the other class I'm pretty sure is going to rape me. My only hope for that class is that I've gotten 100% on every homework so far and those are 50% of our grades.

Posted by Brentil in UCF at 12:41

Thursday, February 19, 2009

I'm a lame blogger...

Yeah I know, I'm a super blog slacker... Mainly because I was using my blog space for car related stuff but I haven't been racing in a while. Going to try to start posting regularly again finally.

Posted by Brentil in Misc at 10:45

Monday, April 28, 2008

Painted rear fascia and exhaust

I needed to do some touch up on the under hood cover work I had done recently so I picked up some black high heat enamel since I also wanted to black out the inside of my exhaust tips. The GXP just makes them so black all the time, especially since I don't have a muffler to catch any of the soot in. So I painted the inside of the outlets black and then decided while I was at it to paint the lower rear fascia also. Took all weekend to do it starting Friday night but it was fun. It's really hard to make out the inside of the exhaust outlets because of the lighting and them being black.

Posted by Brentil in Informative Solstice at 13:26

Sunday, April 27, 2008

Quarter panel protectors

I had been wanting to get the 3M clear bra material for the quarter panels on my car for a while since I love to eat cones at Auto-X events and have gotten a couple a couple slight paint dings from them. They're like \$150 and then most places want like another \$100-\$200 to install them...

Saw a company making a magnetic cover, but they didn't exactly cover the areas I wanted to cover and were only in black. So I bought some yellow magnetic material

I pretty much took and covered the area with a ton of blue painters tape to the point I had made a large template out of it. I used that to then cut the magnetic sheet to size. Looks like it's going to fit pretty well and once I give the magnet a chance to mold itself to the car body should stick pretty well and protect me from those cones I seem to love so dearly.

Posted by Brentil in Informative Solstice at 13:17

Friday, April 18, 2008

Underhood Painting

Took and used some of the left over brake caliper enamel and painted the Solstice lettering on the underhood of my car. It's a heat shield that's a foam like weave material, and it just sucks the paint up like crazy. It took about 6 coats to get it to create enough of a base to paint on and then I put another 2~3 coats on top of that. I think it looks pretty good though. I also picked up some black enamel I'm going to use to paint the inside of my exhaust tips. The Direct Injection on engines causes them to burn in such a way they make a lot of soot, so my tailpipes are always black as is.

Posted by Brentil in Informative Solstice at 13:43

Wednesday, March 19, 2008

OMG Solstice Coupe is GOOooo!!!

I can't believe it's finally here! It looks way better than I ever expected. I can't wait till the 2010 MY version comes out!

Posted by Brentil in Informative Solstice at 17:30

Monday, February 18, 2008

Windrestrictor brake module

Well might have noticed I haven't posted in months. My host somehow nuked my database that drove my blog and image gallery so I spent a couple months rebuilding it. Finally got them up and working again so going to go through and back post some stuff and add new things.

Well I finally got the brake module installed for my Windrestrictor and I also got the LED changed from red to yellow. Long story short I got pulled over by a cop who made me disconnect it..

It's pretty cool. Lets me control the brightness of the LED light strip along the bottom, lets me turn it on and off, also lets me trigger it on when the brakes are pushed in.

Posted by Brentil in Technical at 17:15

Sunday, August 19, 2007

DeLand SCCA in August

OMG was it hot... I had a lot of fun though. Starting to feel like I really know what I'm doing now. We setup a contraption to allow us to bring out one of those folding gazebo/tents so we've got plenty of shade now as well when not racing.

Auto-X Gallery

Posted by Brentil in Racing at 14:58

Sunday, August 12, 2007

NC Super Speedway PCA Drivers Ed

Drove up to NC with Chris, Amy, and Issac to the PCA Drivers Ed event. Since my car doesn't have roll-bars I can't really drive so I volunteered. I got to go on the track during lunch at least though and Amy caught some pics while I was out. Was a lot of fun, got some slight footage of people driving.

NC Speedway Gallery

Posted by Brentil in Racing at 14:56

Sunday, August 5, 2007

National Kappa Day car cruise

So it's been 2 years since the first Solstice was delivered to a customer on Aug 5th, 2005 so I put together a Sunshine State Solmates car cruise in commemoration of the event. We had 11 Solstices and 13 Skys. We started at the Radison and had breakfast, drove to Ron Jons, then went to lunch, drove to Sebastian Inlet State Park, and finally worked our way back up towards Orlando.

I have to say Google Maps is the greatest EVAR!!! since they added the ability to drag routes to exactly where you want them to be.

LONG Google Linky

My full gallery of images can be found here;http://www.inner-ninja.com/gallery2/v/kappa/mysolsticegxp/2007_08_05+--+National+Kappa+Day/

Here we are coming down off the Intercoastal bridge towards Ron Jons.

The SSS group hanging out at Sebastian Inlet State Park.

One of the members took as we drove by, so here I am.

Posted by Brentil in Informative Solstice at 14:50

Wednesday, August 1, 2007

New windrestrictor!!!

So I got my new light up windrestrictor in that I won at the National Solstice meet. Had the SSS design and www.solsticeforum.com put on it. I've got the brake light module I just need to install it now.
Windrestrictor Image Gallery

Posted by Brentil in Informative Solstice at 14:39

Sunday, July 15, 2007

2nd National Solstice convention

Here's about ~450 images. Click the link before each image to go to it's gallery. We had about 170 cars and over 250 people in attendance. It was definitely an awesome event.

GM Tents - SSB Race Car, T2 Race Car, and Bondurant training car

MISC Cars around the event. W also took a ton of pics of the people in attendance and not just cars

Drive to Nashville from Orlando

EDAG

Registration

Skys

SOLO Performance - Awesome guys!!!

Supercharged 'Classic' Solstice

"Short" Wine Tour/Hanging Limb

Posted by Brentil in Informative Solstice at 13:49

Monkey's new Solstice arrives!!!

Monkey's Solstice arrived and he even went on his first car cruise too this last Sat.

Here you can find all the pics of Monkey's new Solstice arriving at our house.
<http://www.inner-ninja.com/gallery2/v/kappa/Monkeys+Solstice/Solstice+Arrives/>

Then the very next day Monkey came and joined us at our SSS breakfast meeting in Lake Mary. He finally got to drive his own Solstice instead of mine for once.

<http://www.inner-ninja.com/gallery2/v/kappa/Monkeys+Solstice/Car+Cruise/>

Posted by Brentil in Informative Solstice at 13:44

Tuesday, May 29, 2007

How did that get in my tire?

So I was driving down Alafaya near UCF when all of a sudden I heard a tink-tink POP-thud-thud-thud-thud. I was pretty damn sure I had just blown a sidewall and was getting the thud-thud as the tire revolved around and was hitting the blow area. I pulled into UCF and came to a stop in one of the roads. I get out expecting a blown sidewall like I said but the tire was at full pressure with no sidewall issues. I look under the fender well and spy the issue right away. A big ass fucking bolt, and not just a bolt, a bolt that's larger than 1/4" in diameter sticking out about 3/4" with a big ass nut on it too... The nut was what was keeping it at 3/4" sticking out and 1/2" of that was the nut itself. I couldn't fucking fathom how this huge bolt got in my tire, it wasn't even between the grooves, it was in the middle of a large flat area.

The damn thing was so large I couldn't drive the car. My car comes with a compressor and a fix-a-flat sealant kit but I couldn't even use that cause the bolt wouldn't come out. I ended up having to get Casey to bring me a jack and some tools so we could get the car up and get the bolt out. The fucker was over 2" long!!! I used a plug kit, but the problem with those is you're only supposed to plug items under 1/4" anything larger and you're FUBAR and have to replace the tire (which I have to do). The plug held well enough though to get full pressure in it and make it home at least... Now to deal with getting a new tire, which are fucking expensive for my size, like \$195 each and you're sure as hell not going to find them in stock at local stores.

Posted by Brentil in Misc at 10:39

Thursday, May 24, 2007

GXP FTW!!! HOOOOOooooo

Finally got my trailer all setup and rolling, so this last auto-x I went all out. Got there 7:45am and started changing my tires, it took about 45 minutes so I was done by 8:30am. Had to jack the front wheels independently of each other where the back end I can get all at once. I would need one of those über expensive long flat jacks to do the front at once. Yeah I'd rather save my money for a better impact wrench. I had gotten a 18v Black & Decker one that said it could do 400 ft-lbs, yeah right... It sure as hell can't undo my lug nuts which are torqued at 100 ft-lbs and it sure as hell wont re torque them to 100 ft-lbs.

Well all that matters is having the RT-615s on the car instead of the stock tires made a huge world of difference. No more rear end traction issues at launch or while racing. I really felt like I drove the car for the first time. I ended up taking 3rd place in A-Stock out of 8 cars which thrilled the hell out of me. I believe the two cars ahead of me were using better tires, I'll have to check next time I see their cars.

Posted by Brentil in Racing at 16:58

Wednesday, April 18, 2007

No seriously, Trailer HOOO!!!

Went and got the bearings repacked/regreased at Irish Mike's, bunch of great people. They also upgraded the spindles with Bearing Buddies. Awesome little device that that takes the place of the axle cap that puts pressure on an internal grease reservoir that ensures the system always has fresh good grease. It also adds a grease nipple to then take and re-add grease yourself instead of having to remove the entire system and repack it all every time. The trailer is now 100% GOOOO!!!

Posted by Brentil in Racing at 16:58

Thursday, April 5, 2007

Trailer HOOO!!!

The trailer is teh roxors!!!111!11 Finally took it out for the 2nd time ever. I had taken it out once before on the base Solstice before I sold it for a test run, but this is the first time I've had it all back together again since as you all know the design is different between the cars. Tried out various configurations for the tie downs and did various speed tests as well. I went out on 50 and got it up to 65mph. It stays nice and smooth, was very nice. Can't wait to take it to the next event!!!

Posted by Brentil in Racing at 15:33

Sunday, April 1, 2007

Hitch wiring + oops

Well I finally got around to wiring up the electrical system for the trailer lights. Not too difficult of a process, I'd have to say the hardest part was getting the little zip ties to wrap around using one hand under the car. The kit came with the 3 wire taps, the full 4-pin harness, one zip tie, one self tapping screw, grease, and even a wire tester. I've got a 4-pin mount on order to hold the end in place off the hitch so it's not dangling. I'm pretty much done now. I still want to get the bearings inspected and regreased at least. But I could probably do one event with the trailer as is with no issues.

And now for the oops... While I had the rear wheel cover off I decided to remove the brake caliper to try painting it. Well I've never removed a caliper or painted one for that matter so it was an all new experience. Well we pulled the emergency brake handle and as soon as we did it I thought "crap I bet that was a bad idea." Sure enough it was as it pushed out the brake piston/pads and from that point on wouldn't go back in (the brake piston that is). My car has an integrated e-brake control in with the normal brake piston. These types of devices have an auto tensioner built in as well so that as the brake pad wears down it auto incremented outwards to compensate for the smaller pad. Well when you pull the brake with no pad there it in essence thinks you have a pad that's worn down to nothing pretty much and increments all the way out and WONT go back in. Come to find out it takes a special tool to make it go back in. You have to apply pressure and rotate inwards at the same time which the tool lets you do. Well... well it was really a learning experience and now I have the tool and the know how to change brake pads on most cars.

Posted by Brentil in Technical at 15:24

Wednesday, March 28, 2007

SP-Street/Race exhaust installed!!!

The SP-Race exhaust had pretty much been planned as a stepping stone from the start to their SP-Street/Race kit. The stock exhaust weighs in at about 54 lbs, the Race at 22 lbs, and the Street/Race at 33 lbs. The S/R wasn't out at the time and they wanted me to evaluate their product and test it against the Curt hitch I have intended for towing items with the Base Solstice. The Race kit was only a single outlet with no tip where the S/R is twin outlet with tips on each side. So I finished the install up earlier today. I have to say the looks and sound of this kit are pure awesome. The Race kit was pretty high pitched and very loud, but the S/R really drops that high pitched sound and replaces it with a much bassier sound that doesn't get as loud or annoying. This one as well does not have any type of muffler or resonators, but from what I've heard so far with it installed it doesn't need them. However the Race version does offer slightly better performance and weight savings. It is the "Race" version so it does what it's mean to do, highest performance possible. The best part of the S/R kit is my Curt hitch works with it!!! Now to connect the wires for the trailer lights when I get home and I'm almost finally done with the trailer. I just need to get the bearings replaced and I'm good to go.

Posted by Brentil in Technical at 14:40

Thursday, March 22, 2007

New best 1/4 mile time!

Went to the 1/4 mile track with my buddy last night. Before I was consistently getting 14.6s 1/4 mile runs with my GXP. Last night I got a 14.1s run with my new exhaust as my new best time. Same as I've said before, the bogging down is gone completely so I get solid launches. I also can feel the engine pulling harder longer till the point that it stops building power and flattens off. Running to redline too feels more beneficial since the car is building so much more power now after the peak. Before I always had to catch up to my friend in his 2007 Mustang GT, now I start ahead of him and stay ahead of him.

Posted by Brentil in Racing at 17:32

Monday, March 5, 2007

Hood painting

I've been wanting to get graphics done on my car since I had the previous Solstice. Been working up ideas in Photoshop and bouncing ideas of my friend Micah. He's a Mustang fan and suggested something like the older Boss mustangs where they just had a big section of the hood made inot one massive stripe. So I worked it up in PS and thought it was cool. However I was kinda afraid to spend big \$\$\$ to get a giant decal made when I might not like it. Well I was watching Motorweek on TV and saw them talk about a product by Dupli-Color which is a removable paint. You spray it on and it can sit on your car for up to 3 days then you wash it off with soap and water. Spent some time looking but finally found it at Auto Zone. \$7.99 a bottle and it took 2 spray cans (15 oz each) to paint the entire area and do an extra coat to smooth the look out. I really like how the look came out and I think I'll get this made once I have some spare money. It only took me and Micah maybe 3 hours to do the entire process with masking off and spraying. Well worth the money to be able to prototype something for \$16 to ensure I'd like it.

Posted by Brentil in Technical at 00:25

Friday, March 2, 2007

Exhaust == GO!!!

Besides going to see Wicked yesterday I also had my new SOLO-Performance exhaust installed at Mike Norris Motorsports. Four hours and 8 dyno runs later we were done. I gained peak 16 HP to the wheels (about 20 HP to the flywheel) and 5 ft-lbs of torque at peak as well. However the biggest benefit is the max gains off peak. I gained around 25 HP & 25 ft-lbs at the end of the graph where the car started to greatly loose power with the stock exhaust. I've got a bunch of youtube videos of the before exhaust sound, working on the post sounds to have up soon.

Posted by Brentil in Technical at 16:21

Saturday, February 24, 2007

SSS meet again...

Well it was the 15th annual Wide Track Warriors all Pontiac car show on Feb 24th, 2007. Our SSS crew meet up beforehand around 8am and then drove in together. We ended up with a total of 11 cars for pretty much the entire day. Last year we had 10 total but only 9 at any given time. We were hoping for at least 15+ but that fell apart it seems. Still had a good time though.

Posted by Brentil in Car Shows at 16:13

Friday, February 23, 2007

Silverstar headlights

I installed Sylvania Silverstar bulbs in my GXP. They weren't too expensive and I had them in my ZX2 S/R and liked them there. Replacing the bulbs on the Solstice is such an easy task. You just twist the lights out and pop the new ones in, simplest setup I've ever used. They make a bulb higher rating wise than this for output, but they don't make it in the H13 my car uses. They're slightly brighter, but the main difference is the lights are a brighter white than the normal yellow haze the stock bulbs make. The digicam I used also recognized more noticeable areas on the screen with the new bulbs. It puts small green boxes around areas it recognizes as focus points. With the stock bulbs outside it never recognized any areas to focus on but with the new bulbs it picked up areas in the low and high beam tests to focus on.

Posted by Brentil in Technical at 00:03

Thursday, February 15, 2007

SP Race exhaust is here!!!

W00t, the SOLO-Performance Race exhaust arrived today!!!

No resonators or mufflers, this puppies going to be loud. Not as loud as most cars though since having a Turbocharger on the car in itself actually acts as a muffler for the sound waves. Working with Mike Norris Motorsports locally to do the pre & post dyno of my car along with the installation. The owner said he was wanting to try to get a magazine involved too which would be awesome. Hoping to get this done early next week. I'm also hoping this will finally let me use my hitch with my car.

Posted by Brentil in Technical at 15:45

More 1/4 mile runs

Went again and did some more 1/4 Mile runs. Micah made it this time too, so we went up against each other. My stock 2007 Solstice GXP vs his stock 2007 Mustang GT. I didn't launch the two runs I have recorded because I was trying to get DashHawk readings this time. The wheel hop I was getting on launch was causing the DashHawk to think I was aborting the run, so I had to run without a launch to get good readings. I was able to match/beat my times from the previous time I went where I was doing a proper launch, so I feel like I'm doing a bit better. Mine is the 1546/7546 numbers on the right of each slip.

I was pretty shocked that each time Micah's Mustang GT would leave the line before me and get a good cars length ahead of me. However once I reached 2nd gear and 3rd gear I'd catch him and pass him. Then I'd have to shift to 4th since I max out around 86 mph in 3rd gear. At that point my acceleration slowed down greatly and I stopped passing him and we'd start to equal out more. Can't wait to get some runs with my race wheels and new exhaust on soon.

Posted by Brentil in Racing at 14:04

Wednesday, January 31, 2007

Various things

Been fairly occupied recently. I've had family matters to tend to that have kept me busy.

Been talking with a company that's making new exhausts for the Solstice and Solstice GXP. SOLO-Performance Going to get their "Race" edition of their exhaust kit. 3" exhaust with a single outlet. My car has 2.5" dual exit right now with a muffler. This design uses no mufflers or resonators so it'll be louder for sure, and produce a good bit more power too. The best part of all is it'll let me use my hitch again finally meaning I can bring my race tires to the track with me finally.

Was at a Microsoft conference recently and saw a convertible hardtop MX-5 for the first time. Looks kinda odd in person.

Posted by Brentil in Informative Solstice at 17:58

Friday, January 12, 2007

DashHawk is installed!

Finally got my Dashhawk installed, I actually installed it right before I drove down to go do the 1/4 mile runs.

Posted by Brentil in Technical at 15:15

Thursday, January 11, 2007

First 1/4 mile run ever

I went out to the 1/4 mile track down the road from me last night and got 2 runs in. Since this was my first time ever doing this I sucked hardcore. Was super nervous the first run so I botched it, and the 2nd run went better but not as good as it could have been.

15.3 seconds on the first run, pegged the rev-limiter in 1st and 2nd
14.7 seconds on the second but I stupidly left traction control on

I decided to not stick around for the 3rd run. Would have put me there till like 11pm. There was easily over 200 cars running since I didn't realize it was the first open night of the season. Apparently Fri nights are a lot less crowded so you can get 4~6 runs in usually.

Please try not to laugh to hard at my poor numbers.

Posted by Brentil in Racing at 11:11

Wednesday, January 3, 2007

1000+ miles == oil change time + Mustange GT appearance

Well I finally rolled past 1000 miles the other day. Had to take another action shot of course when I hit 1111 miles.

I changed my oil out shortly after that (the next day of course) and changed out the filter too. This car comes stock with Mobile 1 synth stock which is damn nice. I had picked up a Purolator PureONE and some Bosch filters too. Took some comparison pics that can be found in that gallery by clicking the image below. I went with the PureONE this time, I'll try the Bosch next time.

I wanted to get a good 50+ miles on the car post filter and then it's time to make an appointment for a grudge match at the local track. Going to go go down and face off against my friend in his new 2007 Mustang GT. Our cars have comparable times, so we'll see how it goes. Speaking of his Mustang GT...

We installed a Shelby GT500 spoiler and mini-guards on his car right after I changed my oil. You can see some pics by clicking the image above. It's a pretty involved process and took a couple hours.

The next day I debadged the GM badges off the side of my car and added a turbo badge to the back. You can find some images in that gallery.

Posted by Brentil in Technical at 15:12

Friday, December 22, 2006

New misc pics

Nearly at 850 miles and enjoying every single one of them. Took a bunch of pics tonight of various things, and they're in my gallery now.

Posted by Brentil in Informative Solstice at 02:53

Sunday, December 10, 2006

500 miles!!!

So I've had the car 5 days and I hit 500 miles on the way home from Tampa today.

I took this pic merging onto 50 off of the 408 I couldn't let 500 miles go by undocumented. I took a couple action shots while driving down the 408 also, you can find those in my 2006.12.10 - 500 Miles gallery.

Now it's time to drop the hammer and see what my new baby can do.

Posted by Brentil in Driving at 18:22

Thursday, December 7, 2006

Subs taste better in other cities...

Did my inaugural "drive to Cocoa to go to firehouse and get a sub" drive last night.

Love me some Fire House subs, and I love to drive Solstices so last year I combined that into driving out to Cocoa (about 45 miles away on the east coast) to find the one Fire House restaurant in that entire area. Well last night I went out again to get me some more miles on my GXP (need 500 to finish the "break-in") and some more tasty subs.

I got Micah to go with me and Matt met us at the place so we hung out for a bit before driving home.

This Fire House was run by some of the laziest people ever. They place closes at 9pm on a weekday, so unlike most places that are open till closing time then the close down the dinning area and do cleanup, they were doing it then so they could leave at 9pm. Walk in at 8:10pm and ask if they're even open (the sign outside says open). We can order food but we can't eat in the dinning area? Fuckin stupid... So we went and ate on the back of Matt's truck while we talked.

Sub was tasty and the drive was fun. Got about 250 miles on the car now, working my way slowly to 500. Then I'll romp on it some more to get used to the power and handling of this car. At 1000 miles I'll change the oil. After that Micah and I are going to the Orlando Speedworld 1/4 track to do some runs against each other. Our cars have comparable numbers on paper (his 2007 Mustang GT is slightly faster) so we'll see who can out shift who.

Posted by Brentil in Informative Solstice at 09:49

Tuesday, December 5, 2006

GXP is GO!!!

My hotness has arrived!!!

Check out my gallery of pics from delivery (remembered to charge the battery this time).

Posted by Brentil in Informative Solstice at 23:27

Tuesday, November 21. 2006

3800 Produced!!!

OMG!!!

I was getting ready to leave work a little late, like 5:30pm to go get my hair cut. We had been having speratic internet access all day and Cisco had just come in to replace the management card on our main router. I had noticed internet had come back up as I was about to leave so I hit Send/Receive on Outlook for the hell of it. I saw an email come in with the title of "Congrats !!!!!" from the woman who had been doing code updates for some members. Well she was stopping doing updates since she was going on vacation and GM was removing the old system soon. Well apparently she was still checking my codes for me!

Well my car was made last Friday so there's hope it might get on a rail car soon. It would be awesome if that happened before Thanksgiving but I'm not betting on it. Hoping it'll arrive late Nov early Dec. With the invoice sent out I believe I can go do paperwork early before the car arrives.

4150 Original invoice 11/17/06
4000 Available to ship 11/17/06
3800 Produced 11/17/06

Vin #118755

Posted by Brentil in Informative at 07:56

Friday, November 17. 2006

3400 Broadcast...

Well I'm still at 3400 Broadcast for now...

I was really hoping to have been 3800 Produced by yesterday but that apparently hasn't happened yet. I know maybe 10 people who went 3400 on the same day as me, and as of yesterday afternoon 7 of those 10 have been built already. Hopefully my car is in build, just not complete yet. Apparently takes 8 hours of work to complete a car, but not all of that work is done across one day usually. If that's the case then it could be done today or tomorrow possibly. Which if that was true I could still possibly see my car by early Dec. If it had completed this week and shipped this week it could have been on a rail car by now and traveled over the weekend. However with Thanksgiving being next week now, even if my car ships tomorrow or early next week it's going to sit for a week waiting for the holiday to be over.

Posted by Brentil in Informative at 15:55

Thursday, November 9, 2006

3400 Broadcast!!!

So as I mentioned I thought I had gone 3400 Broadcast yesterday, but that was wrong...

I went 3400 Broadcast on the 4th!!!

The member who checks codes for a lot of other members also went 3400 the same day. Her car got built this morning which is great news. If they don't have tomorrow off it could get built tomorrow or Sat since they work weekends too. This is just so exciting.

Posted by Brentil in Informative at 22:09

Wednesday, November 8, 2006

Yadda yadda yadda

Not feeling so hot right now, feeling pretty nauseated actually. My jaw is killing me from subconsciously clenching it too which causes my entire face, mouth, and eyes to hurt too as well. If it wasn't backup day at work I would have left sick a while ago.

In the never ending experience that is getting a Solstice I've hopefully made more progress today. I went by Carl Black to try to get info about not my car but the 5 cars ahead of me. Try to figure out where they are so I can guesstimate my car too. Well I get there and they have a whopping TWELVE base Solstices on the lot, all of them marked up \$3000 of course... I was hopping one maybe two of the GXPs before me had been delivered already, but noooooo none of them have been delivered yet. Kinda had me bummed. I know a lot of places were starting to get cars now with the plant back online post shut-down for the water ingestion issue. On the hope that some cars had been possibly built I decided to contact Tina who works in the Georgia branch who had been helping me before to get updates on the cars in front of mine. I was just hoping to get an email back with something like "yeah one got built and we have another 2 at 3400 Broadcast (means they're queued up to be built)" at the best. Well Tina comes back and tells me she's looked at my car's status as of today and apparently my car is now 3400!!! I'll believe it when my forum friend updates codes tomorrow to see if it's true or not, but it's got me excited.

Posted by Brentil in Informative at 15:49

Monday, November 6, 2006

Jen rocks!!!

Jen got me tickets to the Music as a Weapon Tour!!!

Nonpoint, Flyleaf, Stone Sour, and Disturbed

This concert is so going to fucking rock.

Posted by Brentil in Old LJ Posts at 16:42

Halloween Party

We had our 2nd annual Jen's Birthday + Halloween party the weekend before last (Oct 28th). Had a good time with everyone over, and per the requirement everyone dressed up too. Micah and I did Dean & Hank Venture from the Venture Bros, Go Team Venture!!!

Bernie + Travis + Our images can be found here;
http://www.inner-ninja.com/gallery2/main.php?g2_itemId=10006

Posted by Brentil in Old LJ Posts at 16:26

Friday, October 20, 2006

Allocation!!!

So I finally got in touch with Tina via email directly. There was a slight mix up in communication the last time I talked to her. I thought she was telling me I would be allocated on the 12th of Oct, when in actuality what she meant is I was going into the allocation group starting the 12th. All that matters to me is I got allocated October 20 th!!! In the shock of all shocks there was actually a call at home waiting for me to tell me my car had been allocated too. He also said my build week was the week of Nov 6th, but I'm betting that's an incorrect date. Apparently the VOMs system is showing build dates for base Solstices and not GXPs, but a lot of dealerships are seeing the dates and thinking they apply to the GXP also. The plant had shut down GXP production for the 3 weeks prior to my car even being allocated and I know Carl Black had 6 cars in front of me still waiting to be built but were allocated. So I have to wait for those cars to get built then I can really anticipate mine. In reality I don't think I'll see my codes change till after Nov 20th which is a month after allocation. They're supposedly building extra GXPs to make up for the back-order due to the shutdown to fix the engine issue. Once built it could 10~20 days for the car to arrive. So mid to late Dec could be possible.

I finally got the last of my Warrant cancellation checks in, so now I've got all the money for the new car in my savings account making 4.40% interest while I wait. Might be kinda nice for the car not to come till Jan with Christmas coming up. Not having a car payment in Nov+Dec would be very helpful for that time of year.

Posted by Brentil in Informative at 00:00

Tuesday, October 17, 2006

Site progress

I've replaced the old website with my Solstice blog I've had for a while. I'm going to be doing some work over the next couple of days to update and integrate more functionality. The PHP-Nuke approach was just a little too complex.

Posted by Brentil in Informative at 12:40

Monday, October 16, 2006

Allocation?

So the last time I spoke to my contact for ordering my car I swear she told me my car would be allocated Oct 12th. Well that day came and went and my car still sat at code 2030, which told me I had not actually been allocated. So I played the get in touch with my rep game since she's not located in state it's pretty difficult to do. This time I got her direct email and got in touch with her. Come to find out my car got entered on the 12th and not allocated on the 12th. So according to her I'll be allocated this week. Not as soon as it could have been, but still better then being allocated sometime in Nov. Being allocated mid Oct still gives me hope of having it delivered before the end of this year.

I finally got the last of the paperwork to cancel the GMPP extended warranty as well. I'll have those mailed off soon and get my pro-rated refund for that service.

Definitely glad I was able to do this. Since the demand for this car was so high I was able to pretty much sell it for what I bought it for (without taxes though). Which that price was still lower then what they cost new now so pulse9000 still saved money buying my used car over a new one. GM has raised the base price \$2000 in the year its been out, plus any car on the lot locally has about a \$3000 mark-up. So a car I bought for \$23,300 would cost over \$28,000 in essence now. I've also rebuilt up GM card points, plus the warranty refund I'm actually going to be buying the GXP and paying about what I paid monthly now on my base car for it.

Posted by Brentil in Old LJ Posts at 20:40

Thursday, October 12, 2006

GXP advertisement

My mother was in NY, NY this last weekend on a trip for the heck of it. Across from where they were was a massive Solstice GXP advertisement of a Mean (yellow) Solstice GXP (what I'm getting). My allocation date is today, so by mid day I'll know if I actually got allocated or not when when of my Forum friends updates my codes for me. Hopping to hear 2000 or 2500, I'm not expecting 3000 but that would be freakin awesome.

Posted by Brentil in Old LJ Posts at 13:51

Tuesday, October 3, 2006

The Solstice is sold, long live the Solstice!!!

Well in a bitter sweet twist of fate I sold my Solstice recently. The oddity of it all is I sold it to someone I know who I didn't even know was looking to buy this type of car till they emailed me asking me about the Saturn Sky. Pulse9000 I jokingly mentioned my Solstice was for sale, and look where that got me. I ended up going lower price wise then I was originally wanting to, but the finalization of a sale was more important then the amount I reduced the price by. It's been a long hectic ride of DMV/HSBC idiocy trying to get this finalized though.

Pulse9000's bank of course doesn't take e-Titles so we couldn't just go to his bank and do this entire thing in about 2 hours, so I have to have the paper title to sell the car.

But wait, I don't have the paper title since I haven't paid the car off yet.

My lien holder tells me once I pay off the car the paper title will be in my hands in 5-10 days.

That means I have to pay the loan off to get the paper title. I still owed about \$11k on the car. I opted to go with one of my credit cards to pay it off since it would be the fastest route by many days.

Oh wait my bank doesn't permit CC payments... that means I have to do a Cash Advance into my bank account to do this then. That takes 4 days + a fee to do.

Ok the money is in my account, I call them off and get the Pay Off quote, make the payment, loan is paid off. Yippy.

Pulse9000 calls the DMV to see if we can get it faster, they tell him if we can get the title marked as "expedited" then we go to the DMV and for a fee have them print it up there directly.

I call the lien holder and now the story starts to change. They have a mandatory 10 day waiting period before they will even send off the e-Title to the DMV, which it will then take 5-10 days from there to get to me. I've talked to people at the lien holder several times (yeah, a call center in India) and the 3 people I talked to before all told me 5-10 days to get to me once it was paid off. I bitch them out, talk to a Supervisor and bitch them out. Fuckers...

I call back that Friday to check the status and this time I get a call center in the Latin America region. I'm told the paper Title was mailed to me on the 27th of Sept (the day I bitched them out) and was on it's way to me. I question the call center person because I thought it was supposed to be sent to the DMV then they would issue me a new title. According to this woman that was not the case.

Pulse9000 calls the DMV cause he's anxious as all hell to get the car. According to them they mailed out the re-issued title to me on the 29th of Sept and would be arriving shortly. Wait, the lien holder said they weren't sending it to the DMV, but straight to me? Fuckers...

So now we're waiting for the title to get to me and we can finally be done. We'll go to the bank, do paperwork, go to the DMV do paperwork, go to bank and they give me a phat check. That'll take like 2 hours, maybe...

Then I run my ass down to my bank and deposit said phat check, rush online and pay my CC off so I don't pay ridiculous CC charges...

Moral of this story, fuck HSBC and Banks that don't accept e-Titles. I also have another long story about why I'm #8 in line to get my hotness GXP instead of #3 like I was.

I was #3 in line at Carl Black (used to be McNamara) according to Tina, the ordering woman who orders all the cars for the 8 dealerships this mega-dealership owns. I ordered the car over the phone with her, she told me the price, said I was #3.

I wait a bit, keep an eye on the various things going on with ordering and car production, etc. Well I keep going in trying to get in touch with Tina, but no one can ever reach her...

It takes 2 months but I finally get the info I'm looking for. I mainly wanted to know when car #2 was getting allocated (since #1 was already allocated) so I had an idea when mine was going in.

Come to find out cars #1, 2, 3, 4, and 5 have been allocated. One would think I would be happy, but I wasn't. My car was now #6 in line and not allocated...

I thought this was due to the manual transmission being restricted since the other cars were all autos, so I was kinda peeved, but not overly. They promise to have Tina get in touch with me.

Tina calls and the first thing she tells me I was held up because of the SPOILER option. No it wasn't because of the manual transmission, it was because of a fucking \$250 option that can be added on later. I've been skipped over 3 times because of the spoiler??? At this point I bitched her out because she should have called me to verify my car and options prior to it going in and given me the option to remove the restricted item. But no...

So I tell her "Take it off, it's not a make it or brake it item for me, I can install it later." "Well today's Monday, and orders are locked for pickup by GM for Tuesday. The only way to remove the spoiler is to remove the order and put it

back in. We've got two more allocations going through tomorrow"

Dammit!!! GM recently raised the price \$1000 on the car, but if you ordered before August 28th you were Price Protected. Which my order was of course. Removing the order from the system puts a new order date on the order of the date it's re-entered. Meaning I lose my Price Protection and the car now costs me \$1000 more. Fuckers...

She tried to make it happen but it didn't, so that means I slipped 2 more spots to #8 now. At least my spoiler option is removed so it wont hold it up anymore and I have my Price Protection still. She calls me back a little later and tells me the new allocation report for Oct. Apparently Sept was pretty heavy up front for allocations seeing as how they got 6 allocations. Well guess what, no more allocations until Oct 12th now.

GM has halted the production of the GXP and RedLines now because of issues with the engine. They're not going to start producing them again till mid Oct apparently meaning my allocation slot might get moved farther back during this process...

All said and done I might get my car late Nov to late Dec now... it's better then not getting it at all till 2007 though.

Posted by Brentil in Old LJ Posts at 10:15

Tuesday, August 22, 2006

Bye bye Solstice...

Well my Solstice is up for sale now. I've got a GXP on order and I need to sell my base Solstice to pay for that. I think my price is pretty reasonable since there are still waiting lists to get a car if you're lucky for MSRP, or you can go to the dealerships in town and buy one off the lot new for at least \$3000 over sticker. The two local dealerships that have had them on the lot had the cars bumped up over \$30,000~\$31,000 (just insane). They even had the used cars bumped up as well into the \$28,000 range.

Here's the cars.com sales link. I'll also list it on autotrader.com after work today.
Cars.com Link

Posted by Brentil in Old LJ Posts at 10:51

Monday, July 24, 2006

Hitch == installed!!!

Well my car was at the dealership for 11 days... lots of little minor warranty things plus one big one. Had my entire rear diff replaced instead of having a 2nd seal put in. This should hopefully completely eliminate those pesky diff leak issues.

Well this weekend I spent about 3 hours doing it but I got my hitch installed on my Solstice now. I'll let the images I took do the speaking better than I.

Trailer Hitch Installation Gallery

Posted by Brentil in Technical at 14:39

Thursday, June 29, 2006

Some more progress

I took measurements of the trailers tire support area two nights ago. So I worked on brainstorming ideas to modify the trailer that did not involve using a welding device (since I don't have one...). I knew if I could raise the tires up another 2.5"~3" they would clear the spots they were having issues. I decided on trying to put some PVC pipes in the edges of the brackets where the tires rested on them to raise them up. Luckily Micah had a set of tubes in his truck used for holding items in place so he let me test those. Come to find out a 1 & 7/8" tube raised the tires about 2 inches due to the point the tires meet the tubes is more inward now the points they rest on raise along with the resting area. Picked up some 2.5" tubing with a 1/4" thickness, cut it and put it in place. Perfect fit with perfect clearance. I was going to use those round metal couplers that you screw to tighten but came across some 1/4" thick zip ties that have a 175 lbs tensile strength each so I got a pack of 10 and zipped those tubes in place. I'll have to do some testing once the hitch comes in but the tubes are rock solid right now.

w00t pictures in the Continue reading...

Here's an image of the hitch I'm getting. I just realized it's not going to work on the GXP though... I'll sell it once I get a GXP I guess and wait for a new one to come out.

<http://putfile.com/pic.php?pic=6/17520035692.jpg&s=f5>

Posted by Brentil in Old LJ Posts at 11:46

Sunday, June 25, 2006

The puzzle is slowly fitting together...

Ok, tires are on the rims and back home. I'm also another step closer beyond that too because etrailers.com now has a hitch for my car that's \$150, requires no drilling or welding and I can install/remove myself. If it wasn't for my parents, the W, and her parents helping me out with the money for my birthday I would have never been able to afford these now, so a big thank you to all of them!

But guess what, they don't fit in my track-day trailer... either I sell it and go a different route or I do some modifications. The trailer was designed to accommodate Porsche tires on 18" wheels. Well I assumed my 18" wheels would be slightly smaller or about the same since I have 4x245 where the Porsche is 2x225 & 2x265. Well I was about 1 centimeter off it seems so they don't sit just right and the tire bar that locks them in wont fit. So I'm debating making a set of bumpers to raise the wheels up then having the locking bar modified to fit or design another method. Either way I hope to have something in place by the next DeLand SCCA event, or someone to bring my tires for me at least. The other route might be an item like a Tire Tail which would be very simplistic, but I think it might violate the weight restrictions of the hitch. The tongue weight is 200 lbs which is the straight down force on the hitch, and my tires+wheels weigh 50.5 lbs each exactly.

Not sure if I had mentioned it or not, but I've still got the nail in my stock tire, so I have to replace it too still... those tires are on national back order for 4-5 weeks and cost \$216 each (!!!) from Discount Tire, about the same as Tirerack.com, but the dealership wanted fucking \$295 (!!!^2). I might buy a used one online to tide me over for now till I get a GXP or not.

Pictures in the Continue reading...

Posted by Brentil in Old LJ Posts at 22:50

Thursday, June 22, 2006

New sport shoes for the Solstice

Dropped my extra set of wheels off at the Discount Tire near where I live and work. My Falken Azenis RT-615s came in today so they're getting installed now. I was going to get the 'real deal' Hoosier A6's but changed my mind for a couple reasons. [A] Money (when isn't it), the Falken's are \$100 cheaper each and with various things going on right now having the extra money was needed [B] they'll last longer for various reasons they're not full R-compound so they're not as sticky but will last way longer I don't have my car setup for a race alignment so it would eat the Hoosiers up faster [C] it would be nice to have the R-compounds now but my skill level probably wouldn't make full use of them anyways. Now I just need another long list of crap and I'm ready to start my fun in auto-x on a more regular basis.

Battery powered impact wrench (or a large torque bar after looking at impact wrench prices)

Tire Totes - got

Jack insert - got

Car hitch - got

Tiretail (or use my current trailer) - going to use my current trailer

Posted by Brentil in Old LJ Posts at 15:00

Monday, June 19, 2006

Ford GT

Micah got me a pimp Mega Blocks Ford GT for my birthday. Took some pics while putting it together.

Pictures in the Continue reading... Here's me starting out with all the parts laid out on the table. The next two pics are me 50% done. The model is made up of about 600 parts and spans two instruction books. The next two are the model complete. Unfortunately as soon as you're done it's hard to see the two hours of work that went into building the model under the topmost coverings. This last pic is the parts left over once done. I was shocked how many were left over so I double checked and none of them were parts I had missed along the way.

Posted by Brentil in Old LJ Posts at 22:52

Saturn Sky

Was dropping the W off at work Thursday morning before bringing my parents to the airport and what do I see in the parking lot? A Saturn Sky. You could tell they're a Kappa Exhibitionist from the way they parked it. First spot way up front, backed into the space, not all the way in, top down, and a fresh coat of wax. I don't know anything about that, I've never done it myself...

Posted by Brentil in Old LJ Posts at 22:47

Thursday, June 8, 2006

GXP? 'Yes and No'

Well I was pretty sure my sales guy at the dealership I got the Solstice from had completely forgotten I had wanted a GXP and had asked to be put on the list. Well yesterday I went in to schedule a tire rotation (since I don't have enough jack stands yet to do all 4 at once) and a list of warranty work (broken door handle backing, paint cracked trunk hinge, worn drivers seat, sticking & rusted buttress pin, odd ABS modulation from front right tire). I was getting ready to leave and decided to see if he was there or not, and he actually turned out to be there. He showed me around the new building and as I was getting ready to leave asked me if I still wanted a GXP... So I told him "Yes and No." To which he replied "Well give me a call when you decide and we'll get an order placed." GXP adds the following items over the base car I have now

- 260HP & 260 ft-lbs 2.0L VVT Turbocharged SIDI ECOTEC (base is 177HP & 166 ft-lbs 2.4L VVT ECOTEC)
- Sportier front and rear fascias + rear lip spoiler
- Dual outlet exhaust
- StabiliTrack with Sport Mode (based off the Corvettes system)
- Sport Suspension (same as the Solstice Z0K Club Sport version)
- Summer only tires (base car is all-season)
- Most important, the color YELLOW

I looked online and various people are selling 10k mile Solstices for around \$25k~\$26k still due to rarity. If I got \$25,500, got \$1500 back on the extended warranty, and \$1000 in gm points subtract the \$12k I owe means I'd have about \$16,000 to put down on a car that will total like \$27k in options that makes it \$29k total (tax and such) or \$13k loan. Hey wait, that's what the original loan on my base model car was. Thing is do I want to start over on my loan again? Do I need a GXP? The wheels and trailer I have will work with the GXP, so no worries with that. My KappaShield will work with it. Main problem with racing is I'll get knocked out of C-Stock into A-Stock. That means I go from competing with Miatas, MX-5s, MR-2s, etc to BMW Z4s, S2000s, Porsche Boxsters, etc. Casey does it with his Z4 already, so maybe I can do it with a GXP? It's a lot to debate because it means I'll extend the loan term frame another year. It'll be a much nicer more powerful car though...

Posted by Brentil in Old LJ Posts at 16:50

Wednesday, June 7, 2006

SSS June 2006 Tour

Did the Solstice cruise all over Central Florida with the SSS (Sunshine State Solmates) group Saturday. It was an insane ammount of fun!!! SSS June 2006 Tour Gallery Tons of pics so far, I'll add more as I get them from other members.

Posted by Brentil in Old LJ Posts at 00:57

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SSS June 2006 Tour Gallery

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Posted by Brentil in SSS at 00:45

Friday, June 2, 2006

10,000!!!

Holy crap I hit 10,000 miles on my car on the trip down to tampa to visit my frined Sean. I haven't even had the car 8 months yet, so yeah I'm defintely going to go over the average 12k miles per year.

Going to go on a Solstice cruise tonight. Meeting up with 10~20 other Solstice owners in Cassleberry at Howel Branch and 436 for a car show, then we're going to drive around for a while. The tomorrow we're meeting at 8am at the lake Marry rest stop to drive South down i4 to a winery, I forget which one though. Then we're off to DeLand to pit stop prior to heading out to Daytona beach to get pics of all our cars on the beach.

Started seriously looking at race tires for my car. Of course I want R-Compounds, but the real question is Kuhmo 710's or Hoosier A6's??? The A6's are new and supposedly resolve a lot of the A5 issues, but they haven't been out long enough to know for sure. They're also \$20 more per tire at \$260 per tire then the Kuhmos. I've got the tire trailer for them already too, I just also need a hitch for my car. I'm betting that'll be another \$200~\$300 just for that...

Missed my last SCCA race event though. I had some stuff to get done that just took me way toooooo long since I procrastinated and those things were more important then racing so I had to get them done. I also was feeling like crap that day too. Slept in till 11:30am I think because I was so exhausted and feeling pretty crappy.

Posted by Brentil in Misc at 19:42

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Posted by Brentil in Old LJ Posts at 16:38

Monday, April 10, 2006

Kappa-Racing

I've started a new website dedicated to information sharing about racing your Kappa platform based car!

Kappa-Racing

The current list of Kappa platform based cars are as follows;

- Pontiac Solstice
- Pontiac Solstice GXP
- Saturn Sky
- Saturn Sky Redline
- Opel GT

I'm working on user galleries, user blogs, calendars, and various other portal items to offer

Posted by Brentil in Racing at 11:26

Wednesday, March 22, 2006

Pre-race pictures

Went to the Martin Sports Car Club [www.martinsportscarclub.com] Autocross event on Sunday the 19th. I had a blast and I definitely feel like I've improved a lot over the last two events after this one. It was unfortunate my friend Caey couldn't make it since it's always a blast to go hang out and race as a group.

Here's my pics from before I left for the event. These are pics of my new helmet, my new magnetic racing numbers, and showing that you really can pack a lot of crap in the Solstice trunk.

pre-Martin Auto-X images

Posted by Brentil in Racing at 00:41

Friday, March 17, 2006

Wheels are in!!!

I've got the wheels, the one damage wheel is all kinds of hella road rashed, hoping it's still safe to use for racing though. When I get a chance I'll have it looked at to ensure it's safe for driving. If not I can try to get it fixed or replace it eventually. I have to save the insane amount of money A series Hoosier race tires cost first anyways.

I plan on posting some images tonight if I remember too. Going downtown for an "excuse to get drunk holiday" party that's in downtown Orlando off of Orange Ave, so that might interfere with posting images and such.

I also got my new SNELL 2005 rated helmet in this week and I also got my magnetic racing numbers with my website logo on them in a while ago also. Looks like I'm all set to go racing again this weekend.

Posted by Brentil in Old LJ Posts at 08:36

Wheel pics!

Here's the pics of my wheels I took. 8" across doesn't sound that big till you see the naked metal. That's the track day trailer I'll use to take them to events once I finally get the tires on the wheels and a hitch for my car to trailer it up with. It needs to be repainted in places, the wiring is in definat need of replacement, and I'm betting it really needs to be greased and have the tires checked out. Those are all things that will happen eventually when I have money again. I just wanted to get the wheels now since they were so damn cheap.

Pics of my new wheels.

Posted by Brentil in Misc at 00:37

Thursday, March 16, 2006

A new set of wheels?

Found a guy in Jax willing to sell me his old polished aluminum wheels for \$400. If I'm willing to drive from orlando to Jax tonight they can be mine, if not they're going to someone else tomorrow. They're not 17.8 lbs light weight racing wheels seeing as how these weigh about 22lbs~23lbs and they're the lightest of all the wheels, but it's \$400 for the set of rims instead of \$489 PER RIM for racing wheels at the cheapest. Of course the tires I want to put on these wheels cost \$1000 for the set of 4 Hoosier DOT legal racing slicks, but I'll be saving up for those for a while. Going to have to borrow Jen's car to do the 4 hour trip by myself, not looking forward to that part. Everyone else is either working or out of state that would be willing to drive that far with me to keep my company.

Posted by Brentil in Misc at 14:02

New wheels?

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Posted by Brentil in Old LJ Posts at 13:56

Tuesday, March 7, 2006

ugggg

feel

...

like

...

shit

...

Not sure if I'm going to make it through the day or not.

Looking up deviled egg recipes between doing work to take a break between the crap I'm working on right now.

I did find a firehouse in Merritt Island the other night, took 30 minutes of searching but it was worth the drive in the end I guess.

Posted by Brentil in Old LJ Posts at 11:44

Sunday, March 5, 2006

Long distance FireHouse

I want firehouse subs, but I also want to go for a drive. Guess I'll drive out to Merritt Island then to find a firehouse, gives me a good 45 miles to drive I bet each way.

Posted by Brentil in Old LJ Posts at 18:07

Monday, February 27, 2006

SCCA Auto-X in DeLand

Went and officially joined the SCCA today at the SOLO II event in DeLand. Took some pics of the event. My friend and his brother stole the day for the Novice group by taking 1st and 2nd place. I on the other hand did pretty shitty.

A couple pics from the Auto-X

Posted by Brentil in Racing at 02:45

Sunday, February 26, 2006

6000K & WTW Car Show (Solful Seven)

Well I hit 6,000 miles on my way back from the Wide Track Warrior car show I attended in Old-Town Kissimmee. We had gotten a total of 8 Solstices together in a row by the end of the day. We had 7 of us together at 8am getting ready to ride down together to the car show. We dubbed our little group the Solful Seven.

We all had a blast and we'll definitely get together again for more cruises and socializing.

Here's the pre-show meet-up pictures.

Pictures of the Solful Seven +1 during the event.

Pictures of the other cars at the show.

Posted by Brentil in Car Shows at 01:00

Sunday, February 12, 2006

Martin Auto-X

Went out with my friends to my very first auto-x with my Solstice. I had a über blast!!!

Images from the auto-x

Posted by Brentil in Racing at 23:56

Monday, January 23, 2006

Mild & Wild Car Show

Today's [Gallery]

Entered the Mild & Wild car show with my friend over the weekend. Had a blast spending a solid 4 hours talking to people about my car.

Posted by Brentil in Car Shows at 15:50

Tuesday, January 17, 2006

4k and climbing.

I totally forgot to update I hit 4k miles around the end of December. Love this car more and more every day. Got my eye on a yellow Solstice GXP though. ;p

Posted by Brentil in Informative at 16:49

Monday, December 19, 2005

3k of joy.

Well I reached 3k miles on the 2 month anniversary of owning the car. A couple of slight issues have shown themselves, but one quick trip to the dealer should have them fixed.

Small bubble in the chrome plating on the door handle.

Roof buttresses are sticking. Driver side sticks all the time and the passenger side sticks very rarely but still does. It's easy enough to reach back and unstick though, but it shouldn't be sticking.

Discovered I have the slight rear-diff overflow several other members have mentioned. All this will take is a reseating of the rear differential overflow valve once the rear diff fluid levels normalize.

Posted by Brentil in Informative at 14:22

Monday, November 14, 2005

2000 miles and counting

Drove to Houston's in Winter Park last night and then to the Blue Martini by the Mall at Millenia since it was our Year 1 anniversary. On the way to get gas I hit 2000 miles. I've had the car less than a month now, 26 days as of last night. This car just makes me want to drive and drive and drive!!!

Posted by Brentil in Informative at 10:22

Here they are...

Well what went from "I'll have them up tonight" turned into a week later. I actually had the images up on my car blog on the 9th, but once again I forgot to post them here. Enjoy, because I know I do.

<http://solstice.inner-ninja.com/> (now this blog)

The Nov 9th and Sept 26th posts have images.

Posted by Brentil in Old LJ Posts at 10:20

Wednesday, November 9, 2005

Finally, images of my Solstice...

Here are the recent images I've taken. Unfortunately the camera battery was dead the day I went to pick the car up.

2005.11.01 - air intake

I took some images and photochopped some of them to show the extensiveness of the insanity that is the air intake system in my car. There are two baffles/resonators on the intake one at the end and one up front that are just massive. They're bigger than the intake itself pretty much.

2005.11.06 - Oil Change

Changed the oil at 1350 miles. The oil life indicator was at 87% oil life. GM suggest a 500 mile break-in period of various things to follow. Various other solsticeforum.com members have agreed switching the oil out at ~1000 miles for synthetic is the way to go.

2005.11.06 - pre car wash

Dirty car.

2005.11.06 - post car wash

Clean car.

Posted by Brentil in Technical at 17:05

Monday, November 7, 2005

Yeah, I know...

Yeah, I know I'm a rat bastard. I've had my car 3 weeks tomorrow and I haven't posted a single image yet. I took a ton of pics Sunday after I changed the oil out for mobile 1 Synthetic at 1350 miles. My goal for the evening is to post those fuckers!!!

Posted by Brentil in Old LJ Posts at 18:26

Saturday, October 29, 2005

Birthday/Halloween party

Jen's party was a blast. For the record my car definitely got the most action for the night of everyone here.

Also someone owes me some pictures. ;D

2005 Halloween

Posted by Brentil in Old LJ Posts at 03:03

Tuesday, October 18. 2005

Happy Happy, Joy Joy!!!

It finally happened. My car is at the dealership waiting for me to go pick it up. I don't think I can contain my glee any longer!!!

Posted by Brentil in Informative at 17:04

Happy Happy, Joy Joy!!!

It finally happened. My car is at the dealership waiting for me to go pick it up. I don't think I can contain my glee any longer!!!

Posted by Brentil in Old LJ Posts at 12:57

Monday, September 26, 2005

Finally sat in a Solstice!!!

Today's [Gallery]

I had seen them in person before but I had never gotten to sit in one. The dealer had a pre-production car on the dealer lot in the showroom area, VIN 100570. It was such a relief to find out I actually fit.

I got to sit in my first Solstice. I have to say all my fears are gone. Added some of my comments vs the MSM and Z3 since they're the only other modern Roadsters I've driven. This is NOT a knock on the MSM, it's a valid comparison for those who tried it and had various height based issues that stopped them from being able to drive one like me (because otherwise I would have bought the MSM).

I perfectly fit with the roof up!!! I had a good half inch above my hair (which I spike up) to the roof when sitting completely upright. I'm 5'10" but I have a short inseam so I sit like I'm over 6'. In the MSM the roof crushed my hair and rested on my skull even while slouching down. Headroom height was very comparable to the Z3.

Thanks to the tilt wheel I can see the gauges perfectly fine. I don't remember having a big issue with the Z3 or MSM with this, but the wheels on both of those did slightly cover the very tops of the gauges.

The AFBTSs block my line of site as much as the pillars in my wife's RSX. I'm used to having very minimal blind spots from my ZX2, it's just an issue of me becoming more accustomed to using side/rearview mirrors more than I'm used to. I've only driven the Z3 and MSM with the roof down, so no comments on those cars.

Side mirrors are small, but sufficient. Since I didn't drive the Solstice I didn't get to test them in traffic, but they're comparable to the MSM and Z3.

The rearview mirror is perfectly designed to encompass the entire rear window, which (the rear window) amazingly supplies a very nice rearward view. Comparable to Z3 mirror. In the MSM I sit so tall I had to put the rearview mirror in night-brightlight viewing mode because it doesn't tilt up high enough to even see out the back of the car.

The clutch ended up being better than my ZX2 S/R, and I already loved the clutch throw on the ZX2. It was much better than the older Z3 and I'd say on par with the MSM. I can definitely see this being very easy to blip on down shifts.

Shifter throw distance is nice, and gave very good gate feedback that let me know when I was in a gear. I had issues with the MSM being too smooth that I was very unsure if I had engaged it completely. The Z3 had good feedback, but not as good as the new Solstice (Z3 was an older 97).

The windshield height is high enough for me to look out of it without issues at all. I wouldn't complain if it was a bit taller though. The sun visors are very small and reverse fold flush with the surround, but if you're like me it's a major plus. The Z3 seemed to have more viewable space up and down since it's less angled, but the Solstice seems to have more left to right since it's more rounded and doesn't have little side windows. MSM is very much like the Z3 but when I sit in it completely upright I'm staring directly at the windshield surround. It's actually easier to see over the windshield than under at that point. When I slouch down in order to see enough to drive the sun visors then take up a good 1/3 of my vision.

With my build I sit high enough I can put my arm on the window. It's at a slight angle upwards, but still doable. However the only reason I did this is because it seems important to a lot of people. Personally my left arm is never in the window unless I'm stuck in rush hour traffic, which isn't very often. I've got cruise control on my Solstice but I don't plan on ever using it, so while driving there is absolutely no reason my left arm should ever be away from the steering wheel. MSM & Z3 have much lower doors so arm resting is very easy on them. However this is part of the reason I like the Solstice. All my larger friends who own the Z3 or Miata who sit in them look so out of place in this low down car with such low doors. Like they're in a Shriner car. I love how you look like you're down in the car, instead of riding on the car.

This car is HOT

Posted by Brentil in Misc at 23:42

Tuesday, September 13, 2005

She was born 6 days ago...

!!!MY CAR WAS MADE 6 DAYS AGO!!!

Date of Birth: Sept 8th, 2005
VIN sequence: 101068

Posted by Brentil in Old LJ Posts at 20:01

He was born 6 days ago...

!!!MY CAR WAS MADE 6 DAYS AGO!!!

Date of Birth: Sept 8th, 2005
VIN sequence: 101068

Posted by Brentil in Informative at 17:02

Blog Export: Brentil's BLOG, <http://www.inner-ninja.com/>

Thursday, September 1, 2005

Time to change

Well I sold the 924 a while back, so now I'm going to be moving and converting this blog into my Pontiac Solstice blog.

Posted by Brentil at 11:16

Wednesday, August 31, 2005

Well, that was damn fast...

Not many people interested in this, but there's a couple of you out there.

Was trying to sell my ZX2 S/R and Porsche 924. Well I ended up selling both of them within 6 days of each other. I'm definitely very relieved now. Kinda sad to see both go, but it's definitely for the better.

I did a rant a while back in an online car community I belong to on the subject of used cars.

There's one major negative down side of Employee Pricing being done by the 3 major car companies right now that's going to negatively impact anyone trying to sell their car or buy a new car. What one thing do almost all buyers of new cars do? They trade in their old cars. All three major car companies are posting records in various sectors of sales. Some brands are posting ALL TIME record sales since their creation years ago. Which has lead to all time record ammounts of trade in cars flooding the market. Now, since record numbers of people are buying new cars, that also means a significant decrease in used car buyers. I've talked to several dealers and been doing research on car sales lately and it's very noticable.

Since my Solstice is coming soon, maybe Sept or Oct (I hope), I've been looking into what to do with my current car. Well I've pretty much got 3 options to do with my car.

Trade it in when I get my Solstice. Sell it to CarMax (or some other type of dealer). Sell it 3rd party.

Choice

#3 of course gets you the most money but requires the most work. Choice #2 is the quickest but lowest value. Choice #1 will be near what choice #2 is but with some possible haggle room involved, but still not close to #3.

However now all three choices have been extremely impacted by this flood of used cars. According to KBB in the last 45 days my car has dropped \$1500 in trade-in value worth. The actual value offered to me by CarMax in those 45 days has actually dropped \$2000. Before they were offering KBB for the car, but now they're not even offering that.

According to KBB my car has dropped \$2200 in the last 45 days as well for 3rd party selling. So now it looks like I'd have to sell my car 3rd party just in order to maintain the ammount of value I was original expecting to get from bringing the car as a trade in. Well I put my car on autotrader.com two weeks ago and I'm going to try to sell it possibly 2 or more months before I actually get my Solstice just in order to try to make the most money. I can't imagine how much more down hill the used car market is going to keep going right now with the 3 main dealers still continueing their Employee Pricing sales ploys

trying to out do each other.

Posted by Brentil in Old LJ Posts at 00:18

Thursday, July 28, 2005

Cars for sale.

I'm selling my 2000 Ford ZX2 S/R and my 1978 Porsche 924.

If you're interested in more details drop a reply.

::EDIT::
SOLD!!!

Posted by Brentil in Old LJ Posts at 18:03

Saturday, May 7, 2005

Couple of new updates.

Today's [Gallery]

I finally decided to get back to work on the car this weekend. Been debating getting rid of it actually. I had gotten the car because I wanted something to work on, and I wasn't expecting to get a new car for over a year or two. Well that changed and in Oct I'll more than likely have my new Solstice. So I decided to clean the car, do some more repairs, put it back together, and see if I could fit it and another car in the garage at the same time.

Today's gallery has to do with some things I've decided to do. Since I really don't have or want to spend much money on it right now I've decided to do some basic fixes and lots of cleanup. The gallery shows the work I did on the front rims. It kinda looks like the rims haven't been rotated in, oh for ever!!! So the front rims are caked with brake dust and road rash on the inside where bits have pitted the inside of the aluminum rims. The rear rims were caked to the rotors too, got that all fixed though. I repaired the rear hatch seal. The seal's glue had been baked off over time, but the seal itself was still good. So I busted out the all weather super sealant, ripped up the rest of the seal, and redid it all. Now it should stay in place and create a complete seal when the rear hatch is down.

Well since I've decided to keep the car a little longer, but I don't want to spend money on it really I've decided to change my plan of work on it. Going to focus on the following now.

Clean the other two rims

Put the rust solvent/preventor on problem areas

Wash/Wax/Buff the car

Build a new alternator coolant pipe with a device to keep it out of the fan

Build a patch tube for the main intake pipe that broke

Re-cloth the seats (think I'll keep the checkerboard, but get different colors)

Posted by Brentil in Porsche at 18:11

Tuesday, April 5, 2005

Solstice Commercial

Got my hands on the high res version of the Solstice + G6 commercial they played during the Final Four this last weekend and during the final game too.

http://www.inner-ninja.com/gallery2/main.php?g2_itemId=2944

Posted by Brentil in Old LJ Posts at 09:51

Friday, April 1, 2005

HOTness!!!

Posted by Brentil in Old LJ Posts at 17:02

Blog Export: Brentil's BLOG, <http://www.inner-ninja.com/>

Tuesday, March 22, 2005

Pre-Order

Well I went and pre-ordered a Solstice the other night at a local dealer.

What's a Solstice? <http://www.pontiac.com/solstice/>

It's the American rediscovery of the British Roadster. You can find several images I took of the car at the OIAS back in 2004 on my site along with videos and various spec sheets and statistical comparisons I've put together; <http://solstice.inner-ninja.com/> (now this blog actually)

I've never been interested in a Pontiac before, and I'm still not overly thrilled by it, but at least it's still overall just a GM car. It's actually being produced in the Wilmington, Del plant that used to produce the Saturn L series of cars, but has been redone for Kappa Platform based cars (Pontiac Solstice, Saturn Sky, and Opel GT [Euro version of the Sky]). Being GM though that means there should be a good amount of GM Performance Parts and GM Accessories made available for it that carry GM official warranties when installed by a dealer.

I'm pretty excited about it, been saving up money for a while now. Tomorrow night more official information comes out from GM about the entire pre-order system, and hopefully more official car information as well.

Posted by Brentil in Old LJ Posts at 10:06

Tuesday, February 22, 2005

GranTurismo4 is out!!!

GranTurismo4 is out!!! Due to this stinky 8-5 job thing though I can't have my 700+ car lovin till later tonight. You can bet my ass is bookin down to the mall after work to get me my pre-order copy. über w00t. Don't expect to see me for a good month at least.

Posted by Brentil in Old LJ Posts at 08:52

Thursday, February 10, 2005

Slow work in progress...

Since the 1978 924 will never be a very powerful car without spending thousands on either creating a Turbocharger system for it, replacing the engine with a 924 Turbo engine, or lots of N/A work that really doesn't net much power I've been holding off spending any real money on the car for now. I've got a lot of other things to deal with right now money wise first. When I do though I'm going to rebuild the CIS, replace all the fuel lines, replace the oil pan gaskets, replace fuel injector seals, and possibly have the fuel injectors professionally inspected for spray pattern. If those are bad it's going to cost like \$75 to have them fixed or \$100 new.

Till then though I've decided to do some body work, and some mechanical work. Started trying to take the front quarter panel off. Damn sucker is stuck on good. Thought I had all the screws but apparently I missed some, plus the 27 years of being on the road has gunked it together. I'm going to keep trying.

I also made the attempt of removing the drivers door. There are 4 bolts holding it in place. Som genius decided bolts with a round head that requires a hex bit to remove should be made of aluminum, more then likely for weight savings. Bolts 1-3 came of extrmely simple. As soon as I popped them loose of the 27 year old paint that had been painted over them to the metal they came right off. But then bolt 4 stripped. The damn hex hole stripped. I put some leverage on it to pop it loose from the paint and the bit rounded the hew hole. It's now a perfectly smooth circle. Of course the door doesn't open enough to get a pair of vice grips on the oh so round bolt head to remove it that way. So I've got two options.

Hope there are internal bolts I can remove [without stripping of course] so I can get the door off then use vice grips to attempt to get the bolt of.

Drill into the bolt far enough to get a flat head bit in there and attempt to get it off.

I'm going to try taking the door apart first, since I was planning on doing that anyways.

Posted by Brentil in Porsche at 15:13

Wednesday, February 2, 2005

When I get a chance...

Was perusing Pulse9000's friends list and came across this
<http://www.livejournal.com/users/leave99foru/103729.html>
As with the person who I have linked, there are a lot of parts bolded.
If I decide to not be lazy I think I'll replicate it here. Be all nostalgic and shit.

Posted by Brentil in Old LJ Posts at 14:40

Tuesday, February 1, 2005

Random thoughts

w00t, gutters are going up today. Nix that, gutters are up as of now. Storm shutters were supposedly going up today too, but I'm not sure if that's happening or not now. My woman went home to get something during work hours, and apparently only the gutters have been done. Personally I'm hoping the storm shutters are going to be overkill, and this next hurricane season will be a push over compared to this last years storm season. If not at least I'll feel a lot safer knowing I can put these shutters up to keep the evil hurricanes out of my living room. They're pretty cool. They're corigated steel that bolt into anchor points that have been attached to the house. You put them up in foot high panels that are the length of the window they're covering. There's also one special panel per window that's made of lexan, which is transparent and rated for the same sustained winds as the steel is.

Eventually the HOA will get off their asses and approve our porch too we hope. That will get built sometime in the next month or two depending on the speed of paperwork. Which in general is pretty damn slow. The cats should be real happy to get to go play outside from time to time. It'll also be great for my woman to go smoke as well, without having to go through the garage, or threat of being rained on out back.

Supposedly only 27 days left till dealers officially get the final options and ordering information for the Pontiac Solstice (www.solsticeforum.com). I had wanted to pre-order one, but the way things are looking with getting the porch now it realistically wont happen. I haven't been able to save enough for a down payment large enough to make it feasible. Also been debating if I'd rather wait for the Forced Induction version of the Saturn Sky (www.skyroadster.com) or the normal Saturn Sky. The Solstice will be available around June, the Sky around Jan 2006, and more then likely the high output Sky RedLine will be the end of 2006. The Solstice is 177HP 2.4L ECOTEC VVT engine, the Sky gets a variant that supposedly only produces 170HP, and the rumors are the forced induction variants will produce near 230-250HP. Uggg, just seems so far away. Damn sports cars, having to be so expensive.

I'd love to have the Mitsubishi Lancer Evolution VIII (IX will arrive the end of this year though) but it only gets 18/25 MPG (the IX will supposedly get better MPG while at the same time increasing power from 276HP to at least 280HP with a much better power curve). The EVO VIII is a little pricey at \$30,000 base and the current fuel economy, but if the IX can increase it to at least 20 MPG City I'd definitely consider it again. I'd also love to have the Lotus Elise but it costs \$40,000. For being a sports car it's 25 MPG City and 27-30 MPG Highway ratings help out a lot. However it uses an extremely high strung Toyota/Yamaha 2ZZ-GE engine that requires you to stay revved above 5500 RPM pretty much all the time to get it's full power. It's the same engine as the Celica GT-S (and a couple other Toyotas that share it). The Solstice however produces 90% of its Torque at 2400 RPM thanks to the VVT implementation GM has done. Being from the ECOTEC line there will be a lot of third party manufacturers producing a shit ton of parts for this car more then likely. It'll take some time for them to adjust to the engine having VVT now though. I've also been slightly following the Mazda Miata redesign named the NC too. The new car is supposed to not gain much weight over the current NB design, but is supposed to gain a 2.0L engine that pushes 180HP compared to the current 1.8L making 142 HP and the Mazdaspeed Turbocharged 1.8L making only 178 HP. Handling is apparently improved, along with structural rigidity. However release time frame, pricing, and actual power values have not been officially announced by Mazda, so who knows yet. What I really want though is to save up over time, and end up in a Porsche Boxster S Coupe once Porsche actually makes it. That's \$50,000 for the current Boxster S Roadster. Lots and lots of pennies to save. But Porsche is doing me a favor by not having released the Coupe version yet. The Roadster just doesn't appeal to my tastes at all right now.

Posted by Brentil in Old LJ Posts at 16:32

Thursday, January 6, 2005

Vaccum and rough starting thoughts.

Been thinking about the engine running rough after I had replaced the vacuum lines and cleaned various parts.

The conclusion I've come to is the previous vacuum system was not really a vacuum system. What I mean by this is the piping was so old that it was leaking in so many places that the car was unable to maintain a higher state of pressure. So in essence the system is just pushing/pulling air through the system. I'm guessing this effected the fuel system in some manner that it was permitting more fuel through at lower revolutions. When the vacuum system was fixed however it caused either the airflow into the system to be decreased, or made the system start delivering less fuel.

Posted by Brentil in Porsche at 15:31

Tuesday, January 4, 2005

It runs, yippy!!!

Well, 'the next day' turned into 6 days. But when I got home from work I pulled the car out of the garage and started it up. Before I did the work the car would start kinda rough and stall if no gas was given at startup. Once it was started enough and warmed up a little it would idle ~1000 RPM.

After I put it all back together and moved it outside I tried starting it up. It would get up to ~500 RPM and then idle down slowly till it stalled. Got it to do this a couple times. Tried revving it up, and it does that just fine but then it drops back to ~500 RPM then stalls again. Seemed like it was starving for fuel at idle since I could keep it running fine with some pedal action. So I adjusted the idle screw some and got it to start up smooth and idle just fine at ~1000 RPM.

Then I ran out of gas Think I'll start working on the fuel system next then.

Replace the fuel lines from the dissy to the fuel injectors

Get some new injector o-rings

Rebuild the CIS

Remove the intake manifold (which requires removing the fuel injectors)

The engine leaks oil from the oil pan area it seems. Probably need to replace the pan gasket, and soem other seals in that area.

Posted by Brentil in Porsche at 23:09

Wednesday, December 29, 2004

Vacuum work is done!!!

Today's [GALLERY].

Finally finished off the vacuum hoses after I got some help from the guys at 924board.org. Apparently since the EGR emissions control system has been removed I ended up only needing about 1/5th of the small vacuum hose I got. Was kinda confused at first, thought I was doing something wrong. Nope, it was just because pretty much the entire vacuum system had been removed.

After I got that done I started putting the air intake system back together. Well the part I attempted to fix I mentioned previously didn't survive. The patch cement stayed in place and survived, but the plastic it was attached to crumbled to bits. I need to try and find Cold Seal Tape, or get an entirely new intake boot

Was going to move the car out of the garage and try starting it up, but my woman got home right as I was about to. I'll wait till tomorrow when I have daylight. Kinda afraid what might happen though when I turn it on. The fuel lines are very old and seem almost as rotten as the vacuum tubes. They might bust open, who knows. So I'll try starting it outside so I don't burn the house down.

Posted by Brentil in Porsche at 22:45

Friday, December 24, 2004

Back to work

Today's [GALLERY].

Well I decided to go back to work on the car some more. I unbolted the Throttle Body and banged it with a rubber mallet till it came off. The gasket was pretty much squished beyond flat, and the TB was stuck to it at the corners from heat. Cleaned the shit out of it too. Broke it down and cleaned it good.

I took and glued the connection tube off of the air intake boot back together. I've put a second coat of glue on so far, two more to go. Hoping it will stay together.

Finally figured out what [this] is. It's called a Vacuum Amplifier. Apparently it's very important according to the Haynes repair manual. So I was like, um why are all the lines to it cut then? Thanks to all the great posts on 924board.org I've come to find out, it's not really that important if you bypass it correctly, which it has been. It helps control emissions, so with it gone the car runs better, but with more pollution.

Started putting the new vacuum lines in place. Was kinda worried at first because I had about 4 feet of vacuum line left over after replacing all the lines I could find. Well with the Vacuum Amplifier removed, about 3/4 of the vacuum lines are removed from the system. And since the air condition unit has been removed too, that's another chunk of lines gone. I've got 8mm and 10mm lines left that I have no clue where they go. Asked the guy on 924board.org that listed the kit, hoping he'll be kind enough to help.

Posted by Brentil in Porsche at 02:37

Thursday, December 23, 2004

More cleaning

I spent more time today scrubbing greasy components. I've got most of the grease removed. Picked up some gloves and more scrubbers. The first one I bought was destroyed in about 30 seconds of scrubbing. The intake boots were so dirty it just caked onto the scrubber making it almost useless. Looked over the hose path some more, finding out what tubes need replacing. No images yet for today unless I work on it some more tonight.

Posted by Brentil in Porsche at 19:13

Wednesday, December 22, 2004

First broken part

Today's [GALLERY].

Well I broke my first part that I don't have a replacement for today. It wasn't really me breaking it, but more of it was broken already and moving it made it come apart. [IMAGE] It connects the air intake to an air flow regulator that attaches to a vacuum system to control fuel intake. I tried to find some Cold Lock Tape, but I was told Sky Craft was my best bet to find it. So I got some über mega bonding stuff that I'll use to fill in the holes after I super glue the piece back together. I got more engine cleaner today. This time I got a spray bottle of it. After I get the vacuum tubes in I'll block off all places liquid could get in and spray down the entire engine. I'll have to get the car out of the garage first though. I also got the Silicone based grease I need for the vacuum tubes. Once I determine all the pipes I need to replace I'll do this.

I made it to the Throttle Body. Yeah, I'm going to remove and degrease this too. It's got an aged layer of gunked caked on itself. If I knew where to find one cheap I'd get my hands on an Audi 1000 TB, supposedly it permits much better air flow than the stock 924 TB. I also need to double check that's the TB I need, several people on 924board.org have mentioned it.

Posted by Brentil in Porsche at 18:35

Sunday, December 19, 2004

Don't try this unless you like grease, lots of dirty grease.

Today's [GALLERY].

Ok, working on a car, especially a 26 year old car is messy. Really fucking messy. Here's a great [IMAGE 1] [IMAGE 2] of what I found inside the air intake tubing between the CIS and Throttle Body. For this to get into there it must have leaked in, or I'm in for a real surprise when I take the CIS apart. Completely removed the washer tank today [IMAGE]. Was amazingly very easy to do. 3 bolts come off and it slides right out the bottom of the car. Got lots of lovely black buildup dropping all over my face as I undid the bolts from underneath.

I continued breaking, I mean removing more vacuum tubes. Going to start measuring them once I get them all off, then cut tubing for them all. Going to have to go find some silicone based grease to put the tubes back on with.

I got the first rubber boot of the air intake piping off, along with the 2nd plastic piece. I've got one more rubber section to remove but it's mounted in another area I have to remove still. I'll get it tomorrow. The top of the CIS vacuum plate is kinda grimy looking. Not enough to explain the level of nastiness in the rest of the intake piping.

Posted by Brentil in Porsche at 18:07

Saturday, December 18, 2004

Work begins

Today's [GALLERY].

Started work today. Very daunting task in front of me. Where to begin? This is the first time I've ever worked on a car this much in depth. I've got my Haynes repair manual for the car, got a Haynes rust/body working book as well. I ordered some silicone based vacuum hose pieces. Found a kit listed on 924board.org, so I placed an order and it's in. Unfortunately the repair manual isn't 100% clear as to which line is a vacuum line, and what isn't. So I decided to start pulling the lines that I knew were vacuum lines. Low and behold they crumble to pieces in my hands. [IMAGE]The more I work on this car the more things I find I'm going to have to do. Looking forward to it. I removed the washer nozzles from the hood in order to get it ready to be removed once I get a 3rd person to help hold it while I un-bolt it. [IMAGE] Removed the broken light bulb from the hood as well. Wiring is there but the bulb appears to have been broken off in the socket. Going to have to read the manual to see what power rating and type goes there.

Washer pump doesn't seem to be firing. I have to hunt through all my stuff and find my voltmeter. Either I've got a dead pump, dead wiring, or dead fuse. Debating putting the entire washer system back in or not. The washer tank when full weighs about 10 lbs.

Posted by Brentil in Porsche at 17:53

Saturday, December 11. 2004

Welcome to my Porsche blog

I recently acquired a 1978 Porsche 924 from a friend who was upgrading to a newer Porsche 924S. This car is definitely not a power house with it's factory stock 115HP when it was new 26 years ago. I haven't really decided what direction I want to end up with this car, but for right now I want to stop the rust and get rid of it that's there on the car already along with working on making the engine run smooth. This is the first car I've ever tried to work on to this extent, so I'm sure to make a lot of mistakes along the way. Here's the initial pre-work image gallery of the car.

Pre-Work Gallery

The main purpose of this blog is going to be keeping track of my progress and work as I go along. I'm going to try to update every time I work on the car.

Below is a list of things I'm planning on working on soon...

- Replace vacuum hoses
- Degrease engine and other components
- Remove body panels to remove dents
- Remove body panels to remove/repair rust
- Strip aging carpet
- Remove front and rear seats to re-upholster them

Posted by Brentil in Porsche at 19:07

Tuesday, November 23, 2004

Porkchop!!!

I found this to be funny. The LJ dev team has a script that you can run when logged in and it tells you what server cluster your account is housed on.

Apparently I live on Porkchop

<http://www.livejournal.com/misc/whereami.bml>

::EDIT::

2006.10.30

Apparently I'm on Porterhouse now.

Posted by Brentil in Old LJ Posts at 16:42

w00t

I keep forgetting not everyone reads Jen's live journal that I know, so maybe I should post in mine too.

I got married two weekends ago (Nov 13th, so yes eventually one day we'll have a Friday the 13th anniversary). Pictures of said event can be found on Chris's blog site and on www.jenandleith.com which was our pre-wedding site, and now is our post-wedding site. Jen did an awesome job of getting everything planned at setup. I helped with some stuff, but 90% of it was all Jen. It went pretty smoothly, and in no time 8 hours of wedding prep/ceremony/reception had blown by. I really enjoyed it, and had a great time. But it's amassing how much of your own wedding you never see though. Jen and I had spent the last year preparing all kinds of things for the wedding and reception. Especially being the groom though I have to spend a good bit of the pre-wedding hiding out so I don't see my soon to be bride and her dress I've never seen. Like we got to the church and as soon as we arrived I hid in the room I was supposed to be in till I was to walk to the alter. Post ceremony I stood around getting pictures in the church so I didn't see anyone/anything till we walked out to the bubble/butterfly release.

To all you tree hugging hippie moon maidens on the wedding LJ lists, none of the butterflies or fish in our wedding arrived dead or even died. So all your doom saying was wasted hot air. Next time my woman posts she wants fish in an event, just shut the fuck up and keep your opinions to yourself if they're not productive but your own blatherings.

Then we had the cocktail hour, which the only reason I know existed is because we paid for it. We were doing pictures for that entire time frame. After that though was the reception, and I got to pretty much see everything we had setup for that. So that was a lot of fun. Our rehearsed dance went very good. There were two times we kinda faltered but we kept going. For my first ever choreographed routine I think I did pretty good. Apparently we made people cry with our dance routine. It was the most nervous part of the entire day for me. Because we had rehearsed it so much, and hired a dance instructor to create it for us to our first song. I had the fear of God in me that I was going to fuck up, and the day would be ruined. But I didn't, so it wasn't.

Also Jason did a great job of not "Ruining the Wedding" I should get a hat or shirt made for you that says something like "I didn't ruin Jen's wedding, so I don't have to jump off the balcony." It was a joke we had all day about what people could do. You could do whatever you wanted as long as Jen didn't say "insert_name, you ruined my wedding!!!"

My friend Stephen was my best man, and he did an excellent job, and we loved his toast at the reception. Katherine was Jen's matron of honor and since women have to do 10 times as much stuff as men do for a wedding she did a phenomenal job helping Jen. They both helped greatly. Kim also did a great job helping Jen with various things, and the crystal in the flowers she did looked gorgeous. John and Mike ended up doing tons of stuff that day that helped greatly. I had asked them to be ushers because I wanted them in the wedding, but didn't want them to have to be doing too much. Yeah, my fucking bad. Apparently usher is synonymous with "do-boy." They both did excellent jobs taking care of so many small details that helped everything work correctly. It was great to have everyone else who was in our wedding party there too.

Posted by Brentil in Old LJ Posts at 10:13

Blog Export: Brentil's BLOG, <http://www.inner-ninja.com/>

Monday, October 18, 2004

BIZAROOO!!!

Ok, this was bizaroo enough to share. I came across a LJ Quiz on one of my woman's friends. I was bored, and it was kinda interesting. Here's the description before I give my result.

InterestsRank

Welcome to the InterestsRank meme - what it does is look at a livejournal user's interests and classifies them according to how popular they are among other livejournal users. It then displays these in a way that lets you tell how "normal" (or not) someone is (for someone "normal" most interests will be on the left). The numbers in brackets tell you how many other ljers share that interest. If you have any comments/questions/suggestion feel free to post them to this livejournal entry.

Ok, now here's the results it gave me.

How common are brentil's interests	Universal	none	Popular	none	Common
none	Specialist	none	Unusual	none	Rare
none					none
Enter					

username:InterestRank was bought to you by imran and MemeLand.org

I have ABSOLUTELY NOTHING in common with ANYONE. :D I just found it very hilarious.

Posted by Brentil in Old LJ Posts at 16:18

Friday, October 15, 2004

Too many games, too little money, too little time

FUCKITY fuck fuck.

See, holiday season 2003 was supposed to be the fucking shiznit for games. If you actually think back to Christmas 2003 though there was a pretty shitty selection for happening games. DOOM][[got pushed to 2004 because Carmack was too busy trying to win the X-Prize with Armadillo Aeronautics. Half-Life 2 got pushed to the end of 2004 because some cock suckers stole the source code from Valve. City of Heroes got moved to mid/early 2004 due to a redesign of the system. Gran Turismo 4 was delayed due to new features being added (however the version coming out in Nov of this year will be LACKING online support, there will be a GT4 Online version released later). Halo2 got shuffled around and was rumored the end of 2003, but that never happened.

Of course there's Steel Battalion too, it came out a while ago, but it's really hard to justify a \$200 video game. It comes with a controller that's about 40" wide, has two separate flight yokes, and 46 function buttons. OH and foot pedals too. I want.

All these games are my personal top pics, there are some other game coming out but they mean nothing to me :) There is Forza Motorsports though, it comes out Feb 2005 and is meant to be a GT4 competitor. It looks stunning, and will have more visual customizations than Need for Speed: Underground.

Lots of games, so little money and so little time.

-Werd Up

Posted by Brentil in Old LJ Posts at 08:55

Tuesday, October 12. 2004

Costume Update 2

Well like most of humanity, I slacked off to much last night. I got about 1/4 of what I wanted to get done on my costume last night. Then when I finally started to get on a roll I realized I had no black thread. So that brought me to a skreatching halt. I could have worked on the hood part, but being a slacker that didn't happen. I need to at least finish the cape itself tonight, and start on the hood. I want to at least have all the fabric and interfacing cut out, and ready to go.

I'm going to loose a good part of tomorrow to going to After Hours to make sure they haven't fucked up everyone's tux info, and to make sure they've gotten everyones tux info too. If not I have to find out all the stores people went to and get this store to call all of those.

Posted by Brentil in Old LJ Posts at 16:57

Monday, October 11, 2004

Halloween costume musings

Halloween costume musings to follow...

Almost done with my cape for my Halloween costume. I've gotta sew the latches in place since they're only pinned right now. Then I have to do the hard parts I left for last. Which consist of doing a 360 degree lining around the neck that extends down about 6-10 inches in different places. This is not going to be easy since it's a cape, and falls down at different angles in different directions. Then the hardest part is going to be building the part that goes behind the head. It's a 180 half circle that sticks up a good 12-18 inches in various places. I have to figure out how to get the two layers of cloth around the interfacing without showing too much seam since I can't turn it inside out like normal due to there being the heavy layers of interfacing. I could always cut the interfacing to match the cloth pattern, sew it inside out, flip it, attempt to insert the interfacing, then iron it in place since it's heat based bonding. Might work... Then I just have to attach a semi circle of cloth to that, that will be easy. Actually I need to do that before the interfacing.

Then I move onto making the shirt. Nothing special, just a renesence esque shirt pattern I found with some slight modifications. Then I'll print an iron on transfer to it for the chest pattern.

Then orange gloves need to be found. I know you can get orange hunting gloves from Wal-Mart, but I don't know if they're appropriate.

Then and orange sash.

Then black pants and shoes.

The black wig with white wingtips I have from my Auron costume already.

Then I move onto Jen's costume since she's busy with the wedding.

Posted by Brentil in Old LJ Posts at 16:36

Friday, October 8, 2004

Martinifest

Went to Martinifest with Jen and Katherine last night. Was kinda cute cause they looked like they had coordinated clothing, but really hadn't. They both had short black skirts, vertically striped white shirts, and black strapped shoes on. Martinifest was at Wall Street Plaza which is a small street off of Orange right before you hit Central heading South. Slingapours, The Globe, Tiki Bar, and Monkey Bar are on that street. The rope it off and charge admission to get in, \$20 if you buy ahead of time, and \$25 at the door. There were 42 booths, each had a different Martini. It was local clubs/people who had created various Martini's and they entered themselves, and you voted on them if you wanted. So you get this cute little martini cup, and you pretty much can drink as much as you want. And this was premium alcohol too, they all had the good stuff because they wanted to win. I was pretty much chauffeur for the night, so I only had a couple Martini's. My favorite was the...

Watermelonini

Smirnoff Watermelon

Cranberry Juice

Sour Mix

I love me some watermelon, and this was one damn tasty Martini. I actually have the 'Martinifest 2004 Official Recipe Book' in front of me, it has the recipes for all the Martini's. Well Jen and Katherine got their drink on while I ran around and got them more drinks at the end. I had fun finding new things I thought they'd like. I didn't get \$25 worth of alcohol, BUT I sure as hell got \$25 worth of hotties. DdddAaaaMmmmNnnn were there hotties. Sure as hell more then \$25 worth of hotties. There was some definite MILF action going on too. My ass is going back to Martinifest next year. Because, damn. Just 100% damn.

-Werd Up

Posted by Brentil in Old LJ Posts at 15:09

Thursday, October 7, 2004

Bad mood

Ugg, isn't this fucking day over yet?

I'm not in a good mood, I'm falling asleep, and I just want to go home.

I really wish I could work whatever hours I want instead of forced 8-5. I really think I'd get a lot more done if I wanted to be here. Right now I'm grumpy and just don't want to work. If I could go home now that would be damn great. I'll work the extra 30 minutes tomorrow. Also I always feel bad coming to work 10-20 minutes late in the morning. My supervisor always makes fun of me (even though I get here before the boss and the other boss's son pretty much every day) for it. I hate feeling bad about being 15 fucking minutes late. I'm just not good at getting up at the morning on time. I can always hit a time around a +/-20 minute margin of error, but being consistent to exactly 8am every day, no.

Well just wasted another 5 minutes writing this journal entry. Get to play D&D (Eberron to be exact) this weekend. Looking forward to that. Besides that nothing else is going on as far as I know yet. There's wedding prep stuff of course. I also have to get my Halloween costume done. I'm making a Dr. Strange costume. I'm going to see how much I can do on my own and get Jen to help with the parts I get stuck on.

-Werd Up

Posted by Brentil in Old LJ Posts at 16:36

Tuesday, October 5, 2004

Ack, my heart... part 3

Well I finally got my results from all my über tests. Apparently I have a benign heart murmur. So as long as I don't develop any more symptoms I don't have to see the cardiologist for 4 more months. That'll be nice.

Posted by Brentil in Old LJ Posts at 18:10

Wednesday, September 22, 2004

Tech Update (09.22.2004)

Thought I might start doing a little tech info bits from time to time. I read lots of various web pages, might as well share the wealth.

Consoles

Your old PS2 is to fat, and old. Sony will be releasing the new 60% slimmer, 50% lighter, 75% less internal volume PS2 with built in network module for \$149 on November 1st, 2004 (Nov 3rd in Japan) [IGN article and images]
Official Nintendo DS release information revealed. November 21st, 2004 in America (week later in Japan) for \$149. PictoChat is built into the DS and it comes with the demo of Metroid Prime Hunters: First Hunt. The system is backwards compatible with all older GBA games. [www.shacknews.com]

Hardware

ATi lifted the NDA on their new mid-range line of graphics cards yesterday. The X700 series is designed to compete with nVidia's GeForce 6600 series. Various websites have benchmarks and reports. The X700 is \$149 and will compete with the GeForce 6600. The X700XT is \$199 and will compete with the GeForce 6600GT. A third card, the X700PRO will be around \$179 and has no direct nVidia competition.

Software

Tribes: Vengeance has gone GOLD, and will ship to stores Oct 6th. [Shacknews Article/Images]
DOOM][demo was released this weekend. Worth giving a try. The download can be found from various places. The Linux client and server are still under development.
SeMagic, multi-platform application for doing LJ posts/Management from your computer instead of having to use their website. Application provides an HTML editor and WYSIWYG editor for those not proficient in HTML. You can also download the spell checker components to your local machine too. [http://semagic.sourceforge.net/index.html]
The latest EverQuest: Platinum has been released for \$29 in stores, \$25 to download from Sony.. This version includes all expansions (that's like 8 or something ridiculous) except for the latest one that just came out last week. \$25 gets you a ton of stuff.

Cars

VW confirms they will build the mid-engine Concept R roadster. Designed to be a price cut Porsche Boxster competitor. [http://autoweek.com/news.cms?newsId=100879]

Posted by Brentil in Old LJ Posts at 11:34

Tuesday, September 21. 2004

Ack, my heart... part 2

Ok, so the 24 hour heart monitor is done. Ultrasound is done. Did my stress test yesterday, so that's done now too. As far as I know all my tests are done now. The Nurse Partitioner I talked to yesterday said the place that did the Ultrasound had determined I had "strengthening of the mitrovalve" which can cause symptoms on par with having "mitrovalve prolapses." However it is not mitrovalve prolapse, and is not fatal or harmful IF that's what I have. I talked to the Dr. right after the Nurse Practitioner, and he was all like "I didn't look at the results personally, so these results given by this company that does this are irrelevant." So now I get to wait two weeks while this über-Dr.-overlord waits for my results to get to him, and to go over them. Along with the 24 hour heart monitor. According to him, my stress test came out perfectly fine. That's good to hear at least.

Of course I haven't meat my deductible for my health insurance this fiscal year, so all these tests are going to be nice and expensive. But it's worth it to know I wont die from this particular issue.

Posted by Brentil in Old LJ Posts at 14:54

Thursday, September 16, 2004

Ack, my heart...

Well Ivan is off golden showering on some other poor schleps face besides ours. Of course I feel bad someones getting his anger, but I'm just fucking glad it's not us again. Now to just keep an eye on Jeanne, she's got this golden shower fetish Ivan had. And unless our new found friend, the Bermuda high pressure front is strong enough, she's going to record a video of us getting it in the face. And we've still got the rest of Sept, Oct, and Nov for these bad boys and girls to spawn.

I'm not really pissed about the hurricanes, just their effect on my body.

I hate flying. Flying bad. However recently I've been on no more then 6 different jets. This last trip was coming back from DragonCon in Atlanta, GA to Orlando. The Monday after Frances pissed all over the state. So the weather was bad, bumpy, an nerve wracking for me. From the moment we got over 5,000 feet we were in a sea of clouds till we dropped below 5,000 to arrive in Orlando. Not being able to see land un-nerves me as well.

We've had two hurricanes sitting on top of our lovely 2.5 month old house. One of those times while we were away from our new baby. Then Ivan threatened to come hurt her too, and now Jeanne too. So I'm worrying about the house all the time.

We're getting married not to far from now. I might not be doing everything, but when my woman gets stressed out about it, it stresses me out.

A very good friend of mine from high school's younger brother died about a week ago. I used to hang out with Ryan on occasion myself. He was pretty much my brothers age, and was in the same school/grade with my brother. So that was fairly depressing too.

So that's a lot of stress. Which is why I'm writing this post with a 24 hour heart monitor over my shoulder, and 5 probes attached to my chest doing a 24 hour EKG of my heart. It kinda pisses me off. I don't feel that stressed out, those who know me, know I don't ever seem very stressed out or emotional about most things. I don't think I'm stressed out, but apparently my heart does. Since it developed an irregular heart beat about two weeks ago. If it's the same thing my mother has it's not fatal. However I have to do a ton of tests to make sure there's not something else wrong with me. I had blood work done already. Today I had an ultrasound of my heart taken for over an hour, and then they put the heart monitor on me. I get to go back tomorrow to have it taken off. Then I get to do a stress test. I'm hoping I have what my mother has, but till my Dr. says so I'm stressing out about it. If I do have what she has it just means I'll have this heavy thud for a heart beat at times. There's medication to suppress it, and supposedly exercise helps suppress it too.

Werd up for now.

P.S.

Question: LJ has a spell checker built in, why the fuck don't people use it? The spelling ability, and sentence structuring skills of todays Americans is so horrendous. It makes me want to cry. Then run around with a pitch fork and poke all their eyes out so they can't find the internet anymore.

Posted by Brentil in Old LJ Posts at 15:20

Monday, August 30, 2004

Incoming post!!!

Dragon*Con hooo!!! w00t we're going to Dragon*Con this coming week. Of course, we now have hurricane FRANCES coming to rape us anally. We're supposed to get back Monday from Atlanta, which was when FRANCES was supposed to make FL land fall. But that was also when he was going 8mph, now he's up to 14mph and will probably make land fall around Sunday sometime now. At least the hurricane dropped from 145mph to 120mph at least. Who knows how much stronger it will get when it hits the Gulf Stream though. Hopefully like most hurricanes that hit the Gulf Stream though it'll turn more to the north. So who knows, CHARLEY wasn't originally supposed to anally rape us, but he did. At least south FL lubed him up for us people in central FL. If FRANCES hit's we'll have far less land for it to pass over before reaching us. So all I really have to say is FUCK YOU FRANCES!!!

However Dragon*Con should be fun. Going to try and get my a Galactus HeroClix. He is most bad ass. Bringing my Auron costume Jen and I made for last years Halloween party to wear sometime while there. They have a costume contest, I might try to enter.

Posted by Brentil in Old LJ Posts at 15:23

Friday, August 13, 2004

Bah now I'm just boring like the rest of you...

Look at this, 3 posts in a row. Posts with content too, not quizzes. I'm becoming a boring poster like everyone else

Well it's damn early in the morning. Feeling paranoid about something so it's keeping me up, probably all night. I worry about some things too much sometimes. That's why I'm so afraid of having children some day because I think I'll go out of my mind being paranoid about the child. I know I watched my dad do pretty much the same thing with me and my brother, and we were fairly good kids, never really in trouble. He still does it now too. I'm pretty sure I will too. In a way I like being paranoid because it keeps me thinking about scenarios that could happen before they happen so I can kinda be ready. But nights like tonight it just fucking sucks.

Been feeling kinda nostalgic lately. Installed some of my older video games on my PC and was playing them. Reminded me a lot of being in college. Which I know most people will agree (about their life too) was the best time of my life. Right now is pretty great too, but there's a lot more responsibility now, and devotion of time to meeting those responsibilities. I'm also partially staying up late tonight because I haven't in a very long time. It also leads into the next part too...

I don't have to work tomorrow (technically it's today now). So I feel like I can stay up later with no real repercussion, besides being tired. For those of you who don't know Hurricane Charley is coming to visit us tomorrow supposedly. He might veer off, he might not. He might die off, he might not. We're not really sure what's happening tomorrow besides it's going to rain a metric-shit-ton © of rain on our poor heads. <http://www.nhc.noaa.gov/> for information, click the Maps and charts, it updates at 5am, 11am, 5pm, 11pm. Woo-Hoo here comes some rain. It's great, the construction people for the house next door rushed around to put all the stuff laying around outside, PLUS the massive porta-john in the house being worked on so it wouldn't blow away. They fucking left 50+ bags of roofing shingles ON THE ROOF??? Yeah, those wont make some wonderful projectiles in 100+ MPH winds.

We've got a SuperHero LARP a friend is running at our house this weekend. They asked to have it here so we let them. Looking forward to it and not at the same time. I love super heroes, I hate interacting (let alone pretending to be someone else) with people I don't know. I have a hard time staying in character. Especially with some of the people I've played with. They feed you such lines of BS I just want to leave. Hopefully this will go better. I also played in a Star Wars LARP at DragonCon back in 2002. Talk about suck ass. At the very end we made the mistake of injecting logic into what we wanted to do, and attempted to ruin the ST's plot. It just fucking sucked. One of my favorite parts was one of the main rules was "Do not use any of the hotel service areas, or areas marked off limits. Doing so will get you removed from the game." Ok, that's cool. During part of the game we trapped some individuals the ST's didn't want trapped so he made us stand in place and count to some stupid number as we watched him open up a hotel service door and walk the group out of our hard earned grasp.

Drinking some Sobe right now. Friend of mine highly recommended them so I thought I'd give them a try finally. I have to say that the Grape Grog was damn tasty.

Time to go for now, don't want to post too much more, otherwise how can I make post #4.

Posted by Brentil in Old LJ Posts at 03:58

Wednesday, August 11, 2004

dude

Holy shit, two posts in a row WITHOUT a quiz or twenty between them!!! It's the seventh sign man.

Spent about 3.5 days in Vermont this last weekend. It was great to see my relatives up there again, and to get to see Vermont again. It's been seven years since I was there in the summer. I went up for Christmas my sophomore year of college, but everything looks so different under the winter sky and snow. It's been so long I had forgotten how red-neck my family is. And not your lame-o Florida poser red-neck your real life living on a farm 24/7 365 kind. We used to spend our summers there from the end of June to the beginning of August. It's a very beautiful and simple place. Apparently a Chinese food restaurants opened in the small town we used to live near, run by real Asian people to boot. Probably the only Asian people in the entire state, and the only Chinese food restaurant within a good 40 miles I bet. You'd have to go up into Canada or Burlington to find one. It's very odd too, it's the land of Subarus and Pontiac Aztecs. Since both are available in 4WD/AWD options to make life in the snow a lot easier. According to my grandfather though AWD is for pussies ;p This is also the man who lived through a circular saw embedding itself into his rib cage, so I'll take his word for it. The high temp the entire time we were there was 69F, and it reached 70F on the last day we were there for a bit, then the sun went behind some clouds and it got cold again. Was a very nice change to our 85+ mornings/evenings, and 90+ afternoons.

Posted by Brentil in Old LJ Posts at 13:29

Tuesday, August 3, 2004

post post post

My journal has been sitting stagnant for a very long time. I think I'll try to revive it some.

Been a lot going on. My woman and I are in our new house now. We've pretty much got it setup how we want it. Now it's a lot of painting (which my woman has actually almost finished all of that), more decorating, more buying of organizational related goods, etc. Dealing with the mortgage company and their uncanny ability to fuck shit up. Going to fly to Vermont this weekend to visit family. Should be a lot of fun. It's been a very long time since I've been to Vermont in the summer. Working on setting up some forums for all the RPGs/LARPs that are in progress/creation. I've found they make things a lot easier to deal with than email. It's too easy to fuck up email, and lose it, and lack of archival ability.

Been watching Stargate Atlantis recently. Not sure how much I like the show so far. It seems more like a show that's been running for a while than a new series. There's nothing overly interesting going on so far in the first 3 episodes, nothing to catch you and say "hey this is SG Atlantis, and we're different than normal SG for these really cool reasons." It's just more bumbling around with the SG, and mini bosses from show to show. The only thing that defines this as Atlantis is they're in Atlantis. It better pick up soon or I'll lose it.

Worked on my car recently. Come to discover it's PCM is designed for 91+ octane and I was feeding it crappy 87 octane. Was so nice of Ford to neglect to tell me this (the dealership put 87 octane in it when I bought it from them), and the manual says to use 87 as well. Apparently they never made a revision of the manual for the S/R edition of my ZX2 I have. Well now that I've reset the PCM, modded the air intake, and added a K&N filter my little ZX2 isn't as shitty as it was before. Yippy for less shitty.

off for now...

Posted by Brentil in Old LJ Posts at 09:01

Thursday, November 6, 2003

I rule

Look how bad ass I am in my Auron costume hehehe
Thanks to Jen I have an Auron costume of course.
Yeah, yeah, I know my arm is through the sleeve instead of inside the robe.
I had no desire to wear it like that for the entire party though so I just left it out.

Posted by Brentil in Old LJ Posts at 16:21

Thursday, January 30, 2003

PSU issues are over

Well CompUSA came to the rescue. BestBuy might be a bigger store with music and movies and such, but their computer department is not very choice compared to CompUSA. If I had the money I could go crazy in their computer parts sections, getting all kinds of mods and upgrades. Well CompUSA had my 430watt PSU but for \$99. They did however have a CompUSA brand 500watt for \$75. So I've got that, put it in my system, and by some bizare streak of luck nothing but the PSU had nuked itself when it went down.

I mainly just wanted the PSU to check to see if my system was good or not still. I've moved away from my computer as my daily life support system for some time now. A lot of that has to do with all my friends moving away. Since they're not local anymore we don't get online together as much and just play. Also work takes up a lot of the time I was playing before. It used to be so good playing from like 6pm till 6am and then going to sleep since I didn't have class till 4pm that day. Also women get in the way of gaming, damn girlfriends.

I've gotten myself entranced with FinalFantasy IX now. After playing FFX the graphics just aren't that good, but they used a lot of the character ideas from FFI and FFVI which happen to be my 2 favorite of the series. The story is going good so far, and it's fairly interesting.

BattleField 1942: Road to Rome expansion is coming out Feb 7th. I'm betting that will get me back into computer games once again. The BF1942 demo had captured my attention a while back, and I played the demo non stop for ever. That is till my woman got me the full version (women don't always hinder games I really haven't played it though since I got interested in MechAssaul Live and FF9, but Road to Rome is probably going to make me start playing again.

Posted by Brentil in Old LJ Posts at 11:14

Tuesday, January 28, 2003

damn PSU

Yeah I was right, it was the PSU. A couple capacitors had exploded. At least there was no chance of fire. Once the capacitors exploded it killed the power line, stopping all power from coming into the system. I just hope it killed it quick enough that the CPU's shutdown before the CPU fans stopped blowing, otherwise the chips would cook themselves. But mainly I hope the board didn't get nuked. Because 2 AthlonXP 1600+ chips cost less than one board.

Tried BestBuy but of course they didn't have any PSUs I wanted in stock. Guess I'll check out CompUSA after work and see what they have, and if they don't then I'll try another BestBuy. And if all else fails I'll get another one online.

Posted by Brentil in Old LJ Posts at 14:28

Monday, January 27, 2003

my computer is pronounced dead

I just got a phone call from my room mate at home. Apparently my computer decided it wanted to shoot orange sparks out the back of itself. It's fairly easy to guess what happened. The power supply was being over drawn by the components in my computer. I knew I was drawing a lot of power, but I didn't realise I was over-drawing power. The computer was also giving no signs of having trouble either till it puked forth flaming internal elements. Up until this it had been running on the current load of power for about 2-3 weeks maybe. Hopefully when it blew it didn't surge the system. Because the motherboard alone costs \$200 for the same dual CPU model. First I have to go home and figure out what's wrong with it. The fun part < after > I get it working again is going to be figuring out how to cut the power drain down far enough that this will never happen again. Part of the main power draw is the Ultra2 SCSI RAID controller with the pair of 10,000RPM scsi drives, I added another plain IDE hard drive in the last 2-3 weeks and I guess that just put it over the edge. It must have gotten warm enough in the house today that it just core dumped and melted down. Because it's been fairly cold the last couple of weeks also. Hmmm the same powersupply by itself costs \$78 from the place I usually get all my parts from. That's damn expensive.

Guess I won't be using my computer for a while, glad I just borrowed Final Fantasy IX from a friend, and I have plenty of other console games to keep my busy for now.

Posted by Brentil in Old LJ Posts at 15:58

the internet was pronounced dead

Warning, < rant >

There was a massive MS SQL 2000 worm infestation occurrence worldwide starting Friday afternoon/evening on Jan 24th, 2003. Microsoft released a patch for this vulnerability back in July of 2002 and then an updated patch sometime later in the year. And also SP3 for SQL 2000 was released early last week. The attacks from the worm on the machines it was able to infect were so wide spread and so large that a majority of the major Internet backbones went down. The Internet had cancer and it spread like wildfire.

I blame the IT staff of the world and the common user. I admit the patch that needs to be applied is a manual patch, meaning you have to put the files in place yourself and run a SQL script. BUT this does not validate the incompetence of all the system admin and IT morons across the world for not applying it.

But what if someone installed a server and I (IT moron) didn't know it was there?

Shut it!!! I don't want to hear your moronic drivel, you (IT moron) should know your network, and should know what's on it.

But it's a manual patch, they take so much time and I'm just too stupid to figure it out.

Shut it!!! I can do all the steps to get the patch in place by myself in

Posted by Brentil in Old LJ Posts at 14:28

Tuesday, January 21, 2003

AHHHH!!!

Dude, today was a messed up day. I get an IM at work from my supervisor saying to come see him about something he just sent me an email about. Turns out one of our machines was missing some really important files. I specifically remember putting them there and testing them too. And everyhting on the mahcine points to the files having been there till recently. I'm not sure what happened. All I know is I feel like I got in trouble for it. We went over everything again after that, to make sure I had done everything else right. And then I went over all the other machines we have here and rechecked those again. So I'm hoping this doesn't turn into a big deal. We fixed what was wrong and hopefully that's all that will need to be done.

Posted by Brentil in Old LJ Posts at 16:58

Monday, January 20, 2003

Stuff to do

Going off to Home Depot to get the stuff I need to make a little table. It's to optimize space. The computer is going to go above the sub-woofer, but I don't want it actually on top of it. Vibrations might kill another hard drive. This way I save space and protect the comp.

And here is j00b4k4 Pro Skater, this was a joke I made with some friends while drunk one night and decided to make the actual image.

Posted by Brentil in Old LJ Posts at 12:55

Tuesday, January 14, 2003

Various items

Ok, think I've got it.

I've gone with what livejournal calls "Generator" using a nice unobtrusive grey/black/white color scheme. The color scheme gives a fairly good contrast for the text while keeping the surrounding elements from drowning out the rest of the page. It also doesn't feel like it's burning my eyes like some of the other color schemes that seemed to have been designed by color blind tinkers (Wheel of Time reference). Reminds me of a penny-arcade. PA = 'The Funny', so I'll more than likely make reference to them whenever something reminds me of a comic. I always love a good excuse to delve into their archives to find a long forgotten comic

Rant: My room mate and I discovered PA about a couple months after they started publishing to the web, and that was a damn long time ago. They've been a very good spot for some extremely good humor over time. From time-to-time the humor dries up, but then it comes flooding back like a very big flooding thing. Web comics rule. I'm just amazed that a lot of them can make a living doing just that. In a way it's not too much of a surprise as you find all these prissy teenage girls that amazingly talk thousands of guys into forking over all kinds of money and stuff to them in return for the priveledge of reading their blog, seeing some pics of them, and/or speaking to them online. Fools are always soon parted with their money, sooner or later.

Work over yet? I think it's time to go home, but my clock doesn't agree with me. It seems to think I need to wait a bit longer before I go. I want to go home so I can get some MechAssault Live action in. If you're on Xbox Live at night and wanna play some games my Live ID is brentil. w0w what a big surprise, hehehe.

Posted by Brentil in Old LJ Posts at 16:53

Layout decisions

Trying to decide what I want my journal to look like. Took long enough to decide on my mood icon. The livejournal system just seems kinda clunky and counter-intuitive.

Now that I have that done, I'm working on the color/design layout of the journal itself. This process also seems really clunky. It also doesn't help that the server is running really slow. I'm not really going to complain about the server though because I have a free account so I'm just mooching bandwidth for free.

As I mentioned in my last post my woman (KawaiiJen) pestered me into posting here. I feel like I need to build up a level of comfort with this journal before I really feel free posting things here.

Posted by Brentil in Old LJ Posts at 16:06

My woman

Well here it is... my livejournal. You can thank KawaiiJen for it being here.

Posted by Brentil in Old LJ Posts at 15:10