

New Guy in RMR, Basic Diagnostic Question For 944

Posted by Bishop415 - 23 Oct 2013 08:58

Hey guys,

I've been lurking on this and other 944 related sites for a few years now, anxiously awaiting an opportunity to get involved in 944 Spec. I spotted my chance and jumped a couple of weeks ago when a guy in the Denver suburbs posted a Craigslist ad for a running and driving 1987 944 for \$600.00. The car is in pretty rough shape cosmetically; the interior looks like a hobo has been living in it, and outside it's got six or seven coats of flaking rattle-can black over the factory maroon paint and a dented rear fender. The engine compartment is very clean and appears to be factory complete.

The p.o. said that his wife had been using the car as a daily driver and that it had been doing fine until it started blowing smoke on her way home from work. They parked it on the street and claim to have let it sit for several weeks before I came along to claim it. She told me that she saw smoke coming from the area between the rear of the engine and the passenger compartment. Also, they claim it has a recent timing chain and water pump.

The car fires right up on one turn, but I have only run it as much as was necessary to get it on a dolly and then into my garage for fear of doing unnecessary damage to the engine. I only saw it smoke from the tailpipe after it had been running for about three minutes, and I haven't seen any smoke from under the hood.

I'm excited to start tearing this thing apart, but I would really like to take it out for a drive before rendering it inoperable for several months so that I have some idea what I'm dealing with before I begin. What would you guys suggest I check first to remedy this engine trouble? My first inclination is that it's got a blown head gasket, but this is my first time dealing with a Porsche, so I'm looking for clues from the experts.

Thanks a lot for any help,

John Dillon

RMR 944 Spec Hopeful

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Re: New Guy in RMR, Basic Diagnostic Question For 944

Posted by dmdirks - 24 Oct 2013 05:55

Bishop415 wrote:

The smoke is coming from the exhaust manifold, around the area of the exhaust port for the #4 cylinder. It's taking a few minutes to appear because it's caused by fluid (not sure which kind yet) burning off of the surface of the manifold after it heats up.

Check the back of the cam tower. There is a small cover attached with three M6 bolts (the rear engine lift hook is attached to this cover also) that tends to cause a similar leak to what you are describing.

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Re: New Guy in RMR, Basic Diagnostic Question For 944

Posted by Bottoz - 24 Oct 2013 13:26

Hi John

We have our last event of the year this weekend at High Plains Raceway... if you have time on Saturday you could swing by and meet the group.

Also, check out nasarockymountain.com - that's our local NASA forum.

David Dirks is a fantastic local 944 Engine guru. He built my motor in 2009 and I've had zero issues with it.

Please send me an e-mail and we can talk... glad to have you as a Rocky Mountain 944 Spec soon to be racer!

bottoz at yahoo dot com

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Re: New Guy in RMR, Basic Diagnostic Question For 944

Posted by Bishop415 - 25 Oct 2013 18:41

Thanks for all the help, guys.

Dave, I do think that's where the leak is coming from, but I'm over the idea of trying to get it to stop smoking for five minutes so I can take it for a lap around the block. Time's a wastin', and this thing isn't going to turn itself into a race car while I stand around looking at it. I'll be in touch shortly once I get the engine out. I'm hoping to put this car on the track in the spring.

Tomorrow might be a little tough for me to get out to High Plains. I've got two little kids and this weekend is wall-to-wall with Halloween parties. I might see if I can sprint out there during naptime if I won't have missed everything by then. I'll check the NASA site for the schedule.

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Posted by ipartlinrust - 05 Oct 2014 20:27

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