

Jeep Weekend
by Jason Summerfield
August 5, 2017

Sorry for the long post, but I am sure many of you can relate.

I've had a leaky radiator in my TJ for almost a year now, but haven't really been all that motivated to fix it. After a club meeting I decided that I had probably better order a new one. So I took the plunge and got a really fancy all aluminum 3 core race radiator. It showed up promptly at my house (Thank you Amazon!) on Thursday afternoon.

I drove the jeep to work Friday, and on the way home the stock radiator blew its tank! How's that for timing? I towed it home, and swapped the radiator out. As I was putting in the last bolts a thought occurred to me, "why didn't I replace the water pump while I had the radiator out of the way? Oh well, it will be fine." I chemically flushed and drained the system. While putting the drain plug back in, I noticed it was stripped! Several days later I got a new plug from the manufacturer. Back in business! I had several gallons of G-05 antifreeze left over from another project, and filled the system. I started the engine and let it come to temperature. Everything looked fine. No visible leaks, and a nice steady temp reading. All of the sudden a strong steady stream started flowing out of the water pump! I knew should have changed that!!!!

Off to Amazon I go! Water pump added to basket! What else do I see? New 4 port injectors for \$55 a set! Well I'm not sure how I ever got the engine to run without those! Added to basket! Wow! they make awesome heat wrap for the fuel rail and injectors.....better buy that too!

Fast forward to this morning. I got to tear the cooling system apart again. The water pump went on easier than I expected. Then I tore the fuel rail off and swapped injectors, while at the same time heat wrapping them. Also, went smooth as silk. The engine fired right up, and ran better than it has in the last 40,000 miles or so. Success!

Now that I am feeling pretty good about my accomplishments, I decide that the tires I bought from [Willie Worthly](#) probably deserved a fresh alignment (I have noticed some death wobble lately). Off to Firestone I go! After about five minutes on the rack, I get the ominous "could you come back here and take a look at this". The track bar is toast! Funny thing is that it probably only has 20,000 miles on it or so.

Back to Amazon, a new style of track bar is on order. It's the kind that gets rid of the tie rod end connection to the frame. I then hear myself shout "Oooooooooo look at that new crossover steering system" that had popped up on my suggested buy list. Not today Amazon....not today!

It really is a never ending journey with our toys. I don't believe that I will ever be fully satisfied with my Jeep. I'm still waiting for that satisfaction I'm supposed to get by saying that I built it, not that I bought it.

To be continued.....