

**GET READY FOR THE KRUSE AUCTION!**

**Important meeting on Jan. 14 @ Denny's**

# Valley of the Goats

Newsletter of Cactus GTOs Inc. • Phoenix, Arizona

[www.cactusgto.com](http://www.cactusgto.com)

**December/January 2009**



From the Editor

## *Is Pontiac at the end of the line?*

An article in the Dec. 22 issue of *Autoweek* reported that Pontiac is thinking about canceling its plans to import the Holman Ute – the El Camino-like truck – to the U.S. in 2010. The tight reins from the government bailout are the reason. And it could get worse. According to the article, GM is reconsidering the move because Pontiac "might become a one-car company in the next three years." That one car might be a new G3 subcompact arriving next spring.

Think the 1980s era Lemans from Daewoo.



[Pontiac's last excitement? The G6 GXP... >](#)

Perhaps the writing was on the wall at this year's International Auto Show in Phoenix. At the Pontiac display, the only thing worth noting for 2009 was a coupe version of the Pontiac Solstice. It was pretty slick – think of the Ford Cobras from the mid-1960s, but on a smaller scale. Other than that, however, we saw only three models – the G6 GXP, the G8 (not yet in GXP form, but now available) and the gas miser G5. Not much new to look forward to for next year. In fact, other than the 2010 Camaro, GM is looking pretty dull.



The news of a slimmed down Pontiac Motor Division comes just three weeks after the motoring press gave rave reviews of the 2009 G8 GXP, calling it the most powerful Pontiac ever. "The best Pontiac in Pontiac history just got better," writer Mark Vaughn said in the Dec. 1 issue of *Autoweek*. The new GXP packs a 415 hp, 6.2 liter V8, delivering 0-60 mph in 4.6 seconds, and a quarter-mile top speed of 109 mph.

### ...and the new Solstice coupe

Pontiac says it will build 5,000 G8 GXPs in 2009. We'll see if it survives the company restructuring. If not, we could be sending it back to Australia. Forget "We Build Excitement." Forget "The Great One." Forget the idea of a GTO or Firebird comeback.

Jim Wangers...is this the end?

*Mark Neumann*  
*Valley of the Goats editor*



## From the Driver's Seat...

I hope that everyone had a very Merry Christmas and is looking forward to a wonderful New Year. I also hope that all of you who attended the club's Christmas party enjoyed yourself. While we had a great time, we did miss all of you who could not be there (for pictures from the party, visit our Web site, [cactusgto.com](http://cactusgto.com). Thanks to our Webmaster Scott Svenheim for posting those for us!).

Cactus GTO's has finished off 2008 by nominating and voting for the charitable causes we will support. In addition to our Adopt-A-Highway efforts, the Iraqi Vet Project earlier this year, we have donated Thanksgiving turkeys and canned goods to Phoenix Rescue Mission and sent \$150 checks to St. Vincent's and the 100 Club. I hope that you all feel as good about "giving back" to our community as I do. Thanks to all of you who lent helping hands, made nominations and voted. Many thanks to those of you who also brought donations to the club holiday party. Mark Neumann informs me that 10 boxes of canned goods, bottled water, blankets, and other

supplies were delivered to the Phoenix Rescue Mission for end-of-the year delivery to needy families.

As has happened for the past 20 years, Cactus GTO's will be starting off the new year with the Kruse collector car auction. This is our club's big fundraiser for the year and it enables us to have all the benefits we enjoy as members. If you possibly can, please help with our club's biggest and most important event. This event is what distinguishes our club and if you're part of Cactus GTO's, you need to be a part of this unique opportunity. **We will have an organizational meeting on Wednesday, January 14<sup>th</sup> at the usual Denny's at the usual 7:00 pm meeting time.**

Our club's annual event calendar is shaping up, but your input about what the club might do in 2009 would be most welcome. So far we have Kruse in January (20<sup>th</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup>), Kruse Party (Feb 15<sup>th</sup>), B.O.P show on March 29<sup>th</sup>, Pontiac & Muscle Car Heaven on April 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> and club officer elections at the May meeting. After being club President and Treasurer for 2 ½ years now, Elly and I feel that it's time to turn over leadership to others – please consider taking a leadership role in your club this coming year. Elly and I will be happy to talk to you about what the jobs entail, but these positions will be open in May '09.

*Thanks to all of you who take the time and make the effort to attend our club's monthly meetings. It is always so nice to see you there!*

One last thing before I sign off – **club dues are due! Please send you \$12 dues check to our Treasurer.** Cactus GTO's - Elly Mohr – 5546 E. Shangri-la Rd., Scottsdale, AZ 85254.

As always, please do let me know what Cactus GTO's can be doing to make our club a better place to be.

*Thom Mohr*

Cactus GTO Club president, 2008-09

## **Automotive News**

> According to the "Ultimate GTO" web site - cars in the GM Heritage Museum are up for sale. Many of the cars will appear at the Barrett-Jackson auction.

> Congress eying scrappage program...again

In an effort to put people back to work, Congress is considering dusting off a vehicle scrappage program that will allow energy companies to trade old cars for pollution credits. The Safety Equipment Manufacturers Association, or SEMA, tells us that the scrappage program is part of a large economic stimulus package to help create jobs and rebuild infrastructure. SEMA says the stimulus package is being prepared in the House, and Speaker Nancy Pelosi, who represent California, a state along with Arizona where hobbyists have long fought off scrappage legislation, wants to have the bill approved by Congress by Jan. 20 so that president-elect Barack Obama can sign it into law after his is inaugurated.

Hobbyists oppose scrappage bills because it destroys valuable parts and gives energy companies an opportunity to escape strict environmental laws.

To help stop the scrappage bill, call Pelosi's office at 202.225.0100 or send an electronic message to <http://speaker.house.gov/contact/> For more information, contact Brian at SEMA (briand@sema.org)

## Cactus GTO Club Calendar

### JANUARY

*Jan. 14* Special Kruse Meeting

*Jan. 15-18* Barrett-Jackson, Russo & Steele, Silver, RM, and Gooding auctions

*Jan. 23* Kruse Auction begins

### FEBRUARY

*Feb. 15* Kruse Thank-You Party

### MARCH

March 29<sup>th</sup> B.O.P show

### APRIL

*April 4<sup>th</sup> -5<sup>th</sup>* Pontiac & Muscle Car Heaven Drags & More

## 2009 Cactus GTO Club Calendar –

**!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!NOW AVAILABLE !!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!**

Our high-quality calendar from Café Press is printed on thick 100 lb cover weight paper.



- \* Each page measures 11" x 8.5"
- \* Measures 11" x 17" when hung on wall
- \* Full bleed dynamic color
- \* 100 lb cover weight high gloss paper, wire-o bound
- \* January 2009 - December 2009, 2010 preview, US holidays marked

We still have a few available at the discounted \$10 price.... Contact Thom at [thomohr@cox.net](mailto:thomohr@cox.net)  
After these are gone, Place your order at [www.cactusgto.com](http://www.cactusgto.com)

## **Dues are Due for 2009!!**

Club dues pay for the printing & mailing the newsletter, so ... Please clip  & fill out the renewal form on the last page of this newsletter and send you check, payable to "Cactus GTO's" for \$12 to our Treasurer:

Elly Mohr  
5546 E. Shangri-la Rd.  
Scottsdale, AZ 85254



Please do this NOW - having dues coming in over a period of several months really makes the Treasurer's job more difficult.

## **For the Record...**

### **Cactus GTO Club Monthly Meeting Minutes**

November 20, 2008

Meeting brought to order by President Thom Mohr – at Denny's, 7:10 pm  
15 members in attendance

Note this month's meeting was held a week early due to the Thanksgiving Day holiday.

#### **Treasurer's report –**

Money Market balance: \$7965.16  
Checking account balance: \$277.05

**Secretary's report** – October meeting minutes were accepted as posted.

#### **Member introductions –**

Tim & June Smith passed around photos of their new garage under construction.  
Jim Zeivel is chasing an electrical problem with his 1966 GTO.  
A fun time was had with the Desert Renegades at their annual Steak Fry. North Mountain Park is a beautiful venue.  
There was an exceptional turnout at the Pavilions last weekend; perhaps due to the Good Guys show that weekend?

#### **Upcoming Activities –**

Second Saturday of each month – Pontiac night at the Pavilions  
December 14 – Christmas party at Mark Neumann's, 14421 N 45<sup>th</sup> Street (near 44th Street and Acoma, btw Thunderbird and Greenway). The menu will be Italian and guests are asked to bring an appetizer or desert to share. Please RSVP Mark at [newsmark@cox.net](mailto:newsmark@cox.net).

December monthly meeting is cancelled – replaced by the Christmas party.  
**January 14 – Monthly meeting. Scheduled early this month to serve as our  
Kruse Organizational meeting.**

### **2009 Planning**

The current activity calendar is:  
January – Kruse Auction (Jan 20 – 25)  
February – Kruse party (Feb 15)  
March – B.O.P. Show (Mar 29)  
April – Pontiac Heaven (April 4, 5)  
May – Club officer elections  
June/July/August – Bowling(?)  
November – Steak Fry with the Desert Renegades  
December – Christmas Party

There was some discussion around the reasons that there has been poor attendance at club events and cruises with the general consensus being that due to home and family commitments, shorter cruises were more attractive. Some suggestions were offered (places to visit) as well as possibly teaming up with the “new” GTO club, as they seem to attract a large number of cars to their cruise events. Thom proposed that we could scale back on cruises and perhaps concentrate on making a strong showing at the Pontiac Heaven and BOP events. **As always if anyone has any suggestions or ideas for club events, please share these with Thom or any club officer.**

### **Charitable Giving –**

Mark Neumann and Thom & Elly Mohr purchased and delivered 16 frozen turkeys and more than 50 cans of fruit and vegetables to the Phoenix Rescue Mission on Sunday November 16. Thanks Mark, Thom and Elly for stepping up and donating your time in the name of Cactus GTO's.

**There is \$300 left in the budget so members are asked to nominate charitable causes for consideration by the board.** Voting will take place at the Christmas party.

### **Miscellaneous News and Discussion –**

Thom gave some club membership information:

There are currently 80 dues-paid families in the club. We gained 10 new members in the past 10 months but lost 11. Thom has some information regarding changed addresses and bad email addresses and will follow-up on those leads.

Bill McCoy gave an informative talk about John Sawruk, Pontiac engineer and official historian who recently passed after a long illness. Bill actually met John on a few occasions, and had the privilege of getting yelled at for asking the “wrong” question!

John Sawruk was an important figure in the automotive field for his engineering work and later for his role as historian for the Pontiac Motor Division of General Motors. He was well known to GTOAA members through the numerous technical articles he wrote for The Legend and many other magazines, and through the popular and informative seminars he conducted at our national and regional meets.

John began his career with GM in 1967 as an intern, and became an engineer in the Special Problems Laboratory in 1968. Among his many career highlights was his appointment as Supervisor of GM's Experimental Powertrain Group in 1978. In 1983, he was named official GM Historian for Pontiac. He ran Pontiac Motorsports and Specialty Vehicles in 1986, before returning to Advanced Vehicle Engineering. John retired as a GM Engineering Director in 2002.

With his vast knowledge of all things Pontiac and the enthusiasm he brought to the automotive hobby, John will be deeply missed.

Bill found a 1963 Tempest for sale on eBay; the seller obtained it from someone who had stored the car for years and recently passed away. It was advertised as having the suspension modified, a place for a hood scoop and “stuff” in the trunk for which there was no key. Photos were provided and the seller was quite surprised when the bidding reached \$240,000 for a car with no engine!

Turns out it is a Super Duty LeMans, one of six made in 1963 that collectors recognized as a famous race car that was thought to be missing.

The club has been approached by K&N to purchase air filters, filter cleaning kits and intake kits at a discount. **Contact Thom with your interests and he'll see what prices can be negotiated.**

#### **Kruse News –**

Thom has initiated contact with Kruse International for the January 2009 auction. The current schedule for the week is:

- Set-up the tent and mark the lot: Tuesday Jan 20 and Wednesday Jan 21
- Vehicle check-in: Wednesday Jan 21 and Thursday Jan 22; 9 AM – 6 PM.
- Auction:
  - Thursday Jan 22, 1 PM
    - Not sure we will need to support this
  - Friday Jan 23; 10 AM start
  - Saturday Jan 24; 10 AM start
  - Sunday Jan 25; 10 AM start
    - Number of auction lines (one or two) for these days has not been determined.
- Leadership positions
  - Volunteer coordinator: Tony D'Angelo
    - A sign-up sheet was passed around at the meeting
  - Contract negotiation and lot set-up: Thom Mohr
  - Tent, food & on-site liaison: Charlie Miller
  - Team leader volunteers are needed for:
    - Vehicle check-in
    - Friday Auction
    - Saturday Auction
    - Sunday Auction

The sign-up sheet will be available at the Christmas party

### **2009 Cactus GTO Club Calendar –**

Scott Svenheim is assembling the photos we all submitted and will have a proof for our review shortly.

**Thanks, Scott, for taking the time from your schedule to put this together!**

### **50/50 raffle–**

George Newcomer won the first drawing for cash (\$11).

Ron Grossman won the second drawing – GTO piston key chain.

Anthony Smith won the third drawing – Cactus GTO club logo coffee mug.

Jim Zeivel won the fourth drawing – Cactus GTO club logo 6-pack cooler.

The meeting adjourned at 8:55 pm.

## **Your Cactus GTO Club Leaders – 2008-2009**

**President:** Thom Mohr • thomohr@cox.net • 480.991.6106

**Vice President:** Bill McCoy • mccoy@skymall.com • 480.777.9620

**Treasurer:** Elly Mohr • mylle1@juno.com • 480.991.6106

**Secretary:** Tony DeAngelo • dangeloinaz@aol.com • 623.465.5846

**Board of Directors** -- Mark Neumann (Chairman) newsmark@cox.net 602.653.5074

Kevin Akbari • Dan Huskisson • Charlie Miller • Murray Nevin • Bob Paris • Jim Zeivel

### **Technical Advisors**

Jim Zeivel (602.375.0868) jazgto@yahoo.com • Carl Sikes (480.981.7612) cbsikes@cox.net

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## MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FORM

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**GTOAA Membership # and expiration date** \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_

**Street Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**City:** \_\_\_\_\_

**State:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Zip:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Home Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Email Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

### List GTO/Pontiac Ownership

Year	Model	Body	Eng/Trans	Other Info
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

**SEND COMPLETED APPLICATION WITH \$12 ANNUAL DUES TO:  
CACTUS GTO's 5546 E. Shangri-la Rd.; Scottsdale, AZ 85254**