

NEXT CLUB MEETING: WEDNESDAY, MARCH 29
2006 CACTUS GTO CALENDARS STILL AVAILABLE!
7:00 pm, Denny's Restaurant

Valley of the Goats

Newsletter of Cactus GTOs Inc. • Phoenix, Arizona
www.cactusgto.com

February-March 2006



Letter from the Editor

If you weren't with us at the breakfast cruise this weekend to one of our favorite spots - Tortilla Flats - you missed a great one. It was a nice mix of Goats - and the company was great, too. The ride up the Apache Trail is one of the most beautiful in the state. And, of course, there aren't that many places in the country where you can do this in March. The top down on Matt Madonna's '64 exemplified why we like to live here.

Special thanks to Carlie Gehle for her years of service to the club in maintaining our website. Carlie has taken on new responsibilities at her job, and needed to pass the baton. Club secretary Scott Svenheim has agreed to take on the task. Thank both Carlie and Scott for their volunteer work next time you see them.

We have a couple of special events coming up in April: Pontiac Heaven coming up April 1 and the B.O.P. show the following weekend. Don't forget Pontiac Night at the Pavilions on April 8. A Great Month for the Great One! Enjoy your car, whatever you do.

— *Mark Neumann*



From the Driver's Seat...

First off... Thanks again to all of you who worked so hard to make this year's Kruse Automobile Auction a success for our club. This year's auction will no doubt be the subject of considerable discussion over the next few months, I'm sure.

Thanks to Dave & Brooke Campbell for hosting a really great Kruse party. I think that I can speak for all who attended when I say that "a good time was had by all" —thank you Dave & Brooke!

Twenty-two of you have answered questions on a Kruse survey and have offered opinions on the auction. Your responses help your club officers get a better feel for where we, as a

club, stand when negotiating with Kruse. Results from the surveys were fairly positive - I'll provide more detail and data to any of you more analytical types who want it, but overall, the feelings seem to be that:

1. Most of us enjoy doing the auction and want to continue... 68% responded with 4 to 5 out of a possible 5. We seem to like it :)
2. Most of us think that the Kruse is worth the effort and 67% responded between 4 & 5. Most people cited a need for improvements though.
3. We seem to be neutral as to whether the benefits are worth the hassle, with 76% voting right in the middle at 3 out of 6.

So, overall I conclude that we want to keep doing the auction but need to negotiate a better situation with Kruse. When we begin communication with Kruse next month we will try to negotiate a contract with some assurances that we have an adequate number of golf carts, working radios, better control of sale-car parking and some means of avoiding "Friends of Kruse" running out of sequence. From the survey results, I don't think that I can negotiate from a position that we are willing to walk away if we don't get what we want, but we'll just try to get the best guarantees that we can ahead of time.

On another note - it's that time of the year again when the weather is wonderful here and there is just so much to do every weekend, such as the nice show we attended at Julio G's show on Feb 18th. Thanks from club member **Larry Crosby** and I for the great turnout Cactus GTOs had for the show. We had (by my count) a dozen Cactus GTO members there and our club took home a lot of trophy hardware. **Mark Gacy** took first and **Rich Rendino** took second place in the 1964-67 GTO category; **Bob and Sally Paris** took home first and second in the 1968-74 GTO class. Larry took a first in the 1960-64 class with his '61 Catalina. Congrats too all. **Dan Huskisson** will fill us in on the AZ Automobile Hobbyist Council (AAHC) show that was held on Feb. 26th. March and April are busy for us as well. We enjoyed a great Breakfast Cruise to Tortilla Flats on March 18th. Look for photos soon on our website photo gallery.

Also coming up - **Pontiac Heaven VIII** April 1st & 2nd. Contact club member Steve Barcak for info @ 480.899.7873. You can present the \$5.00 discount coupon found in this newsletter at the gate. Then there's the **Buick-Oldsmobile-Pontiac** show on April 9th. Register by 3/31 to get reduced registration fee - contact Dave at 480.948.1718 for more information. Cactus GTOs will once again refund the \$15 entry fee for one GTO entered in BOP, so long as you're a paid up 2006 member of Cactus GTOs (a not so subtle hint here that dues are due). Entry forms are located on www.cactusgto.com.

On a final note... please congratulate our new Board of Directors members **Murray Nevin, Dan Huskisson** and **Jim Zeivel**. We needed to replace Bill McCoy who cannot be both an officer and a Board member and we adding two more board members for a total of seven.

All for now...Sorry that I will be with you in spirit only at our next general meeting on March 29th at Denny's - time for me to get rid of this gimpy leg problem before it interferes any more with pushing on the go pedal! Bill McCoy will run the meeting.

— *Thom Mohr*

Pontiac in the News

• *The fall...and rise (we hope) of the GTO.* The future of the Pontiac GTO was speculated on and later clarified over the past month: yes, the second generation GTO will cease production this year. The third generation GTO, however, is expected to make a comeback - perhaps built on U.S. soil - as an '08 or '09 model. See the story below for more information.

GM planning next-gen GTO, vehicle likely to be built on same line as new Camaro

By GREG KABLE

March 2, 2006

The Pontiac GTO lives! It will be replaced in late 2008 by an all-new model underpinned by General Motors' latest rear-wheel-drive Zeta platform, with a strong likelihood of it being built on the same production line as the Chevrolet Camaro in North America.

That's the message from General Motors vice president for global product development, Bob Lutz, at this week's Geneva motor show.

The replacement for today's slowish-selling GTO was canceled last year when General Motors announced it was reorganizing its North American operations and was set to focus its efforts on creating a new line of sport/utility vehicles, pickups and crossovers.

But Lutz has told AutoWeek that reports of the rear-wheel-drive coupe's death were premature and the next-generation GTO's development program was only really placed on hold, and-after some internal reorganization to ensure profitability targets can be met-it is now back on.

"The reason we said it was canceled is because that way our people would put their pencils down," Lutz said. "In GM if you say something is deferred, then people keep working on it. We really needed to get that message through to everybody." GM's 74-year-old product guru said the program into which the GTO is incorporated was 'getting out of control' and running up costs that would have made it unworkable.

"It was my fault that it got out of control in the first place," he added. "It was going to be the world's greatest car and apparently cost nothing to make. So we've started over now. The program is back on and it's going full tilt."

Lutz confirmed that the GTO was "only ever off for two months, but that break has enabled us to get a more feasible program up." The program he points to is General Motors' Zeta rear-wheel-drive platform, which is being developed by Holden in Australia and set to underpin the new-generation Commodore due to be launched in August.

Besides Camaro and GTO, other models set to be based on the Zeta platform are upcoming replacements for the Chevrolet Impala and Monte Carlo, and a new car called the Buick Statesman, according to Lutz.

Contrary to rumors, however, Lutz said General Motors is not planning to revive the Pontiac Firebird. "No, that's not something we are planning. We are not going to do that car," he said.

When pushed on whether GM was thinking about bringing back the El Camino off the Zeta platform, Lutz beamed with enthusiasm. "The kids in the company, myself included,

would love to do another El Camino, but the grown-ups amongst us don't share that way of thinking," he said. "It would be fairly simple. We'd only have to put a Chevrolet face on the Holden Ute [a car-like pickup sold in Australia]. The building blocks are there."

Less sophisticated than the existing rear-wheel-drive Sigma platform found beneath the Cadillac STS and other high-end GM models, the Zeta architecture is said to be considerably cheaper to produce, owing to a simplified rear-suspension arrangement and other features.

Lutz suggests the individual character of GM models would not be compromised by basing them around one platform. "We have developed different dash-to-front-axle lengths for various models," he said. "It [the Zeta platform] is a really flexible platform."

Along with Australia and North America, Zeta-based rear-wheel-drive models are also being developed for sale in the Middle East and China. Details remain scarce, though GM's business case for the new GTO is rumored to be based around sales of between 15,000 and 20,000 per year in North America. After a promising start, today's model has failed to live up to initial estimates recording 13,569 sales in 2004 and just 11,590 in 2005.

Lutz confirmed that GM's Australian subsidiary, Holden, would play a leading role in the engineering of the GTO [where it is sold as the Monaro] and its sister car, the Camaro. "Holden is responsible for the large rear-drive architecture that these cars are based on. If it happens, Holden will do the development on the Camaro as well as the GTO," he told AutoWeek.

Despite being developed in Australia, however, there are strong indications the next GTO will be built in North America. "Whether the GTO will be built in Australia [as the current Pontiac GTO is] will largely depend on the [U.S. vs. Australian dollar] exchange rate at the time," said Lutz. He added, "With the current strength of the Australian dollar and the recent Free Trade Agreement between Australia and the U.S., it would be more feasible to build the GTO in North America. This raises the possibility of both the new-generation GTO and Camaro being imported to Australia in right-hand-drive guise.

Production of today's Pontiac GTO is planned to end in September, leaving GM with two years before the new Zeta-based model arrives in North American showrooms. As with the recently unveiled Chevrolet Camaro, it is expected to carry a more retro-inspired design with cues from earlier GTO models. Today's model started life as the Holden Monaro and was never envisaged to carry the GTO badge, leading to complaints from North American buyers that it lacks any visual connection with the original.

Legislative News

The following House and Senate bills dealing with automotive issues have been introduced into the 47th Legislature, 2nd Regular Session – as of 3/6/06

Go to www.azautohobbyist.com for more information.

HB2017-older motor vehicles; registration - second read 1/10/06

HB2053-removal of vehicle; terrorist threat - CMMA 1/10/06

HB2056-military support; special license plates - Senate second read 2/8/06

HB2099-cellular phones; use while driving - second read 1/12/06

HB2100-personalized veteran special plates - Caucus calendar 3/6/06

HB2152-emissions inspections; technical correction - third read 3/6/06

HB2208-license plates design - third read 3/6/06

HB2235-speed limits; primitive roads - second read 1/18/06

HB2245-photo enforcement; traffic complaints - second read 1/23/06

HB2356-aggravated DUI - second read 1/23/06

HB2384-motor vehicle broker and dealers - second read 1/25/06
HB2385-auto repair facilities - to finance 2/6/06
HB2386-selling vehicles; property owner's permission - Senate first read 2/14/06
HB2387-motor vehicle sale advertisements - third read 3/6/06
HB2388-motor vehicle dealers; background checks - Senate second read 2/22/06
HB2389-authorized third parties; dealer licensing - strike all
HB2411-photo enforcements; traffic offenses - failed 2/21/06 Transportation
HB2461-motor vehicle sales - second read 1/23/06
HB2556-motorcycle safety fund - third read 3/6/06
HB2576-child passenger restraints; booster seats - Caucus calendar 3/6/06
HB2590-ethanol E85; motor fuel - Senate second read 2/22/06
HB2614-disclosure of personal information; MVD - Senate second read 2/18/06
HB2642-transporting minor passengers in trucks - second read 2/2/06
HB2664-vehicle; maximum loads; forest products - second read 1/30/06
HB2691-engine braking; mufflers; noise levels - COW 3/6/06
HB2703-not citizenship; proof drivers license - second read 1/31/06
HB2706-vehicle license tax reduction - second read 1/31/06
HB2722-photo radar; state highway fund - Transportation 2/16/06
HB2747-vehicle restraint violations; enforcement - second read 2/6/06
HB2777-MVD wait times; inconvenience fee - Appropriations 2/22/06
HB2796-motorized electric; gas-powered bicycles - third read 3/6/06
SB1017-ADOT; special license plates report - House second read 2/16/06
SB1027-chop shops; vehicle theft - House first read 3/6/06
SB1028-motor vehicles; two plates - second read 1/10/06
SB1042-repeat DUI offenders; lower BAC - COW 3/2/06
SB1059-vehicle insurance; limitation on loss - COW 3/2/06
SB1001-yellow signal duration - Transportation 1/31/06
SB1146-photo radar; controlled access highway - House second read 3/1/06
SB1149-VLT exemption; seniors; income based - House second read 3/1/06
SB1150-VLT exemption for seniors - second read 1/17/06
SB1166-stopping vehicles on highway - House second read 3/1/06
SB1179-special license plates - House second read 2/21/06
SB1220-vehicle dealer regulations; exceptions - House second read 2/21/06
SB1242-traffic ticket enforcement assistance program - third read 3/6/06
SB1322-motor vehicle repair facilities - third read 3/1/06
SB1418-vehicle restraint violations; Transportation 2/14/06
SB1473-photo radar on freeways; citations - failed 2/14/06 transportation
SB1507-photo radar; prohibition; appropriation - failed 2/14/06 transportation
SB1508-regulation of off-highway vehicles - COW 3/7/06

One bill of particular interest...

HB 2777

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Arizona:

Section 1. Title 28, chapter 2, article 3, Arizona Revised Statutes,

Is amended by adding section 28-376, to read:

28-376. Wait times for motor vehicle division offices; Inconvenience fee to customer

“The motor vehicle division shall ensure that a customer does not wait more than thirty minutes before being served by an employee of the motor vehicle division. If a customer waits to be served for more than thirty minutes, the motor vehicle division shall pay the customer a five dollar inconvenience fee from the personal services line item of the motor vehicle Division's program budget. For each subsequent thirty minutes a customer waits, the motor vehicle division shall pay the customer an additional five dollar inconvenience fee from the personal services line item of the motor vehicle division's program budget.”

Proposal to restrict car hobby tabled in Pima County

A Pima County (Tucson) Planning & Zoning Ordinance that would have made it illegal to work on a personal vehicle unless it was inside a garage has been tabled after the Planning and Zoning Commission heard from hobbyists.

At a January 25th Commission meeting, six citizens/hobbyists challenged the proposed ordinance. The Commissioners were surprised by emails and mail received voicing opposition to the amendment along with those who spoke at the meeting.

The Commission has placed the proposed ordinance on hold for nine months and will form a Committee to study it. The committee will be chaired by Thomas Spendiarian, and will consist of four commissioners and four local citizens.

Help Protect the Hobby We Love...

The Arizona Automobile Hobbyist Council is a grass roots organization that helps to protect the classic car hobby from restrictive laws and regulations that stifle our rights. Its motto, "United We Drive, Divided We Park," emphasizes the need for all car clubs in the state to work as a unified voice to protect our hobby. Check out the AAHC website at www.azautohobbyist.com for updates on legislation and their monthly newsletter. The AAHC meets the first Monday of each month, 7:30 pm, at the Sanderson Ford truck dealership, 5300 W. Grand Avenue, Glendale.

Car Show Review

United We Drive, Divided We Park Car Show

The Arizona Auto Hobbyist Council

26 February 2006

The annual car show sponsored by the Arizona Automobile Hobbyist Council was held at the Sanderson Ford Truck lot on a cool but beautiful Sunday morning. It was a vast improvement over last years show, with more than twice as many cars and trucks participating due to the great weather we are having this year.

The last time I checked on the number of cars registered, there were 115 present. The Model "A" club had the largest club presence at the show, they won the Club Participation Trophy by the way, but the Desert Renegades were a close second place. Three of our club members displayed their cars for the show, including Murray Nevin with his 1966 GTO and Richard Rendino was showing his 1967 GTO convertible. Richard was also interviewed and videotaped by a crew from the Fun Network for a spot on their network car show.

A disc jockey was spinning all the oldies and was open for any requests. The Remember When Cruise van was busy serving cold sodas and hot dogs and brats for the event.

As usual, there is always a raffle drawing and many people went home with some very nice prizes, the lucky ones got to take home some Cactus GTO Club 2006 calendars too.

There a wide variety of cars and trucks to look over but a 1959 Ford Skyliner (completely restored) was busy demonstrating how that hardtop would disappear at the touch of a button (and about 6 miles of wiring and an assortment of switches and relays). Across from this Skyliner was another one in the reconstruction phase. His back seat was removed to show all the components that make it work. The signs the owner placed on the car warned people that

"This is a money pit, stand too close and it will suck your wallet dry". "If you touch this car, please use 120 grit sandpaper"

All in all, this was a very nice event to attend. There are no car classes for voting just vote for the ten best vehicles that strike your fancy.

See you there next year!

— Dan Huskisson

KEEP OUR CLUB ON THE RIGHT TRACK!!

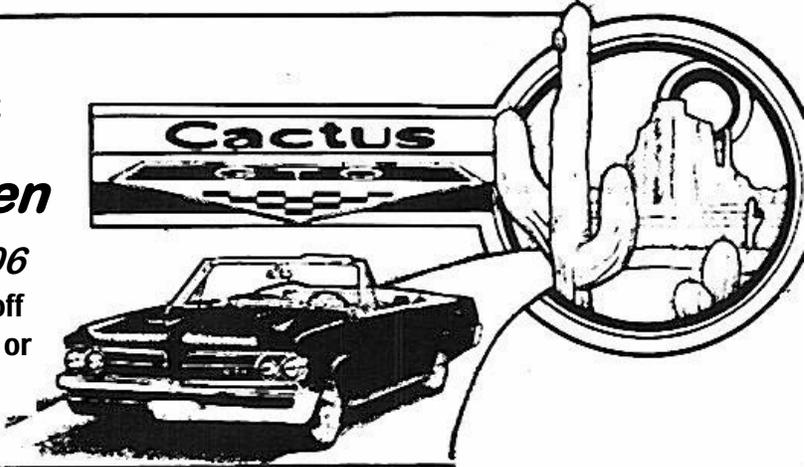
2006 yearly dues are needed to keep club activities on track. Your \$12 annually helps the Cactus GTO club fund this newsletter, cover our donations to charity, and pay for special events. **IT'S YOUR CLUB - HELP SUPPORT IT!** Go to our website at www.cactusgto.com to download a membership form.

MAKE PLANS TO ATTEND!

- **PONTIAC HEAVEN/MUSCLE CAR DRAGS AND MORE VIII**
APRIL 1-2
- **THE BUICK-OLDSMOBILE-PONTIAC SHOW**
APRIL 9

The Cactus GTO Club is offering a \$5 discount coupon for participation in Pontiac Heaven event, whether as general admission, a car show entry or drag racer. Clip the coupon below and bring it to the show! We are also offering once again to refund the entry fee for one car in the BOP show for paid up club members. Request a refund at the April meeting or send an e-mail to the Treasurer.

Cactus GTO's
Club member - \$5 discount
coupon for
Pontiac Heaven
VIII *April 1,2 2006*
This coupon good for \$5 off
admission price on either or
both days



Cactus GTO - Monthly Meeting Minutes - 02/22/06

Meeting called to order 7:15PM by Thom Mohr @ Denny's

Introduction of attendees - 21 members in attendance -

Treasurer's report - Elly

Checking - \$1,040.24

Savings - \$7,818.45

Membership News - None, Bob Paris - not in attendance

Secretary's report - Minutes - Scott Svenheim

Committee Reports -

Communications - Website update - Scott to take over for Carlie - Mailing newsletters to all members again. Suggestion made for newsletter articles on members personal GTO experiences.

Julio G's Car show - good showing, 12 members present

Activities -

March Tentative Activity - Tortilla Flats' cruise - March 18th - Thom will coordinate - send out info, meeting place discussed, Thom will get suggestions from Dave. S.

April 1-2nd - Pontiac Heaven/Drags - Steve to re-tag trophies not used from last year by Cactus GTOs - Categories/Classes, not decided.

April 9th - BOP show, Murray not available for details

May - Yarnell Cruise???

Other Business / Miscellaneous -

Request to send out Roster to membership via mail and email - missed. Thom will handle?

Bill McCoy - covering March & April meetings/event for Thom?

Steve B. spoke about Pontiac Heaven/Drags, handed out flyers. Coupon to go out in newsletter, \$5 off for members that attend.

2006 Club Dues DUE!!!

Kruse Recap by Thom - Signed contract with Kruse B4 next event!!!

Calendars - 150 left - Will donate leftovers to military overseas - Dave S. will coordinate with acquaintance that sends care-packages each month. Also, donate 5 to BOP, AZ

Hobbyist and Pontiac Heaven for free give-a-ways. Some to local dealers??

Next Board Meeting - 7 members, (current Board, Tom B., Bob P., Dave S., Mark N., elect three new tonight. Votes cast, Jim Z., and Dan H., and Murray N. elected to Board. Runners up, Kevin A.

Hobbyist Report - Dan H. - car show on Feb. 26th discussed. Also polished aluminum plates for club available. Thom will inquire club about interest. Ordered in bulk for club discount - \$22.50

Ideas for yearly budget and charities for giving.

Membership drive - Need efforts to get members to renew - GTOAA Chapter membership discussed.

Activity Chair/committee discussed - Thom asked for volunteers ??? Car show/photo shoot at Falcon Field suggested.

Bill McCoy reported on GTO being dropped by GM in 06 - Back in 08?

50/50 won by George B. Meeting adjourned - 9:00PM

—Scot Svenheim, Secretary

Your Cactus GTO Club Officers - 2006

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