

[Pontiac] Car Show Season is here!

Valley of the Goats

Newsletter of Cactus GTOs Inc. • Phoenix, Arizona

www.cactusgto.com

Spring 2008



From the Editor

It has been an active spring so far for the Cactus GTO Club. After wrapping up a successful (but a bit soggy) Kruse auction and replenishing, we started preparing for the car show season.

Perhaps one of the most important was the Iraqi Veterans Project organized by the Bowtie Boys, the first Generation Camaro Club. The club undertook the project with support from Cactus GTO members, both in terms of labor and funding. The efforts culminated in a well-attended car show on March 1 and the awarding of a completed 1968 Camaro to Corporal Jarred Foster. The event received coverage from the major television networks. Hats off to Lance Baker and his group for getting the car done and the car show that followed.

And there is plenty more yet to do...car shows for Pontiac lovers coming up in April (BOP and Pontiac Heaven drags), our semi-annual Adopt-A-Highway clean-up (getting it ready for the summer season), and of course, getting a taste from our president and treasurer about driving among the Aussies.

Don't forget: Pontiac night at the Pavilions is every second Saturday through May!

**Dinner cruise to the Mining Camp restaurant
this Sunday!**



From the Driver's Seat...

With holiday and the 2008 Kruse auction are behind us, it's time for Cactus GTO's to get back to (what passes for) normal ☺ We got off to a good start with a great Kruse "Thank You" party at Dave & Brooke Campbell's house. I want to once again say THANK YOU to all of you who helped make our club's annual "big event" and the party a success. I hope that you all enjoyed yourself at the Kruse Thank You party and were pleased with your appreciation gift (if you didn't receive your Cactus GTO cooler, contact Elly or me. We'll get it to you.)

With warmer weather on the horizon, I know that many of you are probably looking forward to club events and getting back to working on your cars again. I know that I am! This is one of the two times during the year when there is so much going on while our weather is perfect for all sorts of activities. I'll try my best to keep everyone posted on things through the weekly e-mail "Prez's Message", but I fear that I will miss at least one event because there are so many.

Cactus GTO's is actively (and financially) involved in sponsoring a number of things around the valley and beyond. **Please do try to attend, participate and show your active support for these events....**

One organization that is important to us all is the Arizona Automobile Hobbyist Council (AAHC). The Cactus GTO Club is well represented on the Council with Board member Dan Huskinsson. The AAHC has worked hard to protect our hobby, and we can thank them for eliminating the threat of scrappage laws in Arizona and, most recently, an emissions exemption law for our hobby cars. It was good to hear that Pontiacs were out in force at their annual car show on February 24th. It's our way of showing how we appreciate all their efforts on our behalf.

Our twice a year Adopt-A-Highway cleanup will be coming up on Saturday April 12th and we really could use some more help out there. It is a wonderful chance to improve one of the loveliest stretches of road in our beautiful state. The work is not too hard and it's a great shared experience – please do plan on joining the crew.

Another great experience not to be missed is club member Steve Barcak's Pontiac Heaven event on Saturday April 5th – the 10th annual! This is such a neat combination of Show 'n Go that I think you will really enjoy it if you have not done so in the past. Muscle Car Heaven #6 is the following day, too. Congratulations to Steve for all his hard work and perseverance over these many years! This is a truly unique event and worthy of our support.

The B.O.P. show is back "on" again! Sunday April 13th is the big day and I am glad that the Renegades will be able to do this great charity event. Of course Cactus GTO's will be helping with some trophy and other support. Enter your GTO (or Lemans or....) and help them make it a great show.

Our website continues to provide us with information and inquiries from people all over the country. Some ask advice on various car problems; others use it to buy or sell a car or for looking for cars and parts. Thanks to webmaster Scott Svenheim for all his efforts to maintain

our really informative and high quality presence on the web. Let him know what you think of his efforts at webmaster@cactusgto.com

Finally, special thanks to club V.P. Bill McCoy for handling club business while we were “down under.”. Elly and I have some great stories to tell! ☺

A note from Denny's, our meeting place. If you take a drink from the side table please pay for it. Beverages are not included in the free use of the room.

News from Pontiac

- After months of anticipation, the Pontiac G8 has arrived...sort of. Cars available for sale are not expected until later this year, but driving impressions are starting to trickle in – most of them good. The GTP version will include an available 6 speed. If you want to win one, go to Pontiac.com. General Motors is giving away the very first one off the line. Free to enter.
- The G8 is coming to us from Down Under, but it is one of at least three new Ponchos that will make the overseas journey. GM has confirmed that the Holden division will be sending over its “Ute” as a Pontiac. The Ute is our version of the El Camino, discontinued by Chevrolet in 1985. Likewise, an Aussie-derived replacement for the Grand Prix is underway. No doubt, the GP name, on Pontiacs since the 1960s, will go the way of the Bonneville, which was retired in 2005.

The GTO Club Calendar

Don't miss these events with your favorite Pontiac!

- Second Saturday night of each month – Pontiac night at the Pavilions, Scottsdale.
- March 29 - JENNABEARS Foundation 1st Annual Car Show and Family Day, Peoria Sports Complex
- March 30 - Mining Camp dinner cruise, 4:00 PM in east Mesa. Contact Bill McCoy for details.
- April 5 - Pontiac Heaven X at Speedworld. The club will provide \$5 discount coupons good toward the entry fee (see coupon elsewhere in this issue). A \$10 rebate of drag or show entry fees are available to paid members upon request. Info at www.pontiacheaven.org or 480.899.7873 April 6 – Musclecar Heaven #5, Speedworld.
- April 12 - Adopt-a-highway; meet at Dave & Brooke Campbell's
- April 13 - BOP show, Rock-n-Roll McDonald's, Scottsdale Pavilions.
- July 15 – 19, 2008 – GTOAA International Meet, Sarasota Springs NY

For the Record...

Cactus GTO Monthly Meeting Minutes

February 27, 2008

Meeting brought to order by Vice President Bill McCoy – at Denny’s, 7:05 pm
17 members in attendance

Treasurer’s report – N/A

Secretary’s report – January meeting minutes were accepted as posted.

Member introductions –

Bill McCoy reported that his 1965 GTO coupe is getting closer to paint.
Dan Huskisson rebuilt his steering box to 14:1 ratio.
Tom Locke is parting out a 1972 Luxury LeMans if anyone is interested in any parts.
The latest issue of Car & Driver features the new Pontiac G8.

Events –

Kruse “Thank you” party held February 10 had a good turnout. Thanks to at Dave & Brooke Campbell for hosting again this year!

Kruse feedback:

- Thank you gifts – Cactus GTO Club logo 6-pack coolers – were handed out at the party.
 - The ‘manager for a day’ strategy seemed to work OK
 - General opinion on the food was it was better this year; more variety.
- AAHC show on February 24 – several Cactus GTO members attended. The Desert Renegades won the club attendance trophy.
NHRA Nationals at Firebird Raceway – no club members attended.

Project Iraqi Veteran - Car show and Special Presentation

Held on Sunday, March 1 at Falcon field. Several Cactus GTO Club members met for breakfast before attending this special event.

Our President Thom Mohr, who is also a member of the First Generation Camaro club, brought this Project to our attention some months ago. As a result, several members donated funds and/or contributed time and effort to help restore Corporal Jarred Foster’s 1968 Camaro. Cpl Foster is a member of the Camaro club who was wounded in the Iraq conflict and the club decided to restore his car for him. Over the last 6 months, the car was subject to a total ground-up restoration with the help of a local body shop, local and national auto parts suppliers and contributions from individuals from across the country and overseas. The work was done in secret, although unknowingly, he did perform work on some of the parts of his own car!

The show was billed as a recognition “show –n–shine” to honor veterans past and present with the proceeds benefiting the Commemorative Air Force. Approximately 120 cars and 150 people showed up.

The restored Camaro was parked in the hangar and covered. Anyone present who performed work on the car was asked to sign the cover. Before the presentation, members of the Cactus GTO and First Generation Camaro clubs were called to stand in front of the car, shielding it from view.

At 2:00 PM Cpl Foster arrived via military escort having been snatched from home under the false impression that he was to meet a Colonel to discuss discharge paperwork. For this faux meeting, he was required to be in uniform and even had to get a haircut!

Preceded by an honor guard, Cpl Foster entered the hangar to rousing applause. In an emotional moment, Lance Baker and John Bauler (co-Presidents of the First Generation Camaro Club) told Jarred of the work done in his honor and the car was unveiled.

Overwhelmed, but able to keep his composure, Jarred thanked everyone for their effort. He was then given the keys; started the car and was shown the engine, stereo system and other features of his new car.

Several media were present interviewing members of the Camaro and GTO clubs, and of course, Cpl Foster.

See link to the photo gallery on the website.

Upcoming Activities –

Second Saturday night of each month – Pontiac night at the Pavilions, Scottsdale.

March 15 - Mesa Memories on Main Street

March 29 - JENNABEARS Foundation 1st Annual Car Show and Family Day, Peoria Sports Complex

March 30 - Mining Camp dinner cruise, 4:00 PM in east Mesa. Details to follow.

April 5 - Pontiac Heaven X at Speedworld. The club will provide \$5 discount coupons good toward the entry fee.

April 6 – Musclicar Heaven #5

April 12 - Adopt-a-highway; meet at Dave & Brooke's.

April 13 - BOP show, Rock-n-Roll McDonald's, Scottsdale Pavilions.

The Desert Renegades will be asking for 4 volunteers to judge the GTO and Judge classes.

Cactus GTO club will reimburse each member the entry fee for 1 car.

July 15 – 19, 2008 – GTOAA International Meet, Sarasota Springs NY

GTOAA –

The board agreed to remain affiliated and will continue to reimburse 50% membership fee to club members. NOTE: dues have increased to \$35.

Board Update –

The board approved a \$300 donation to the Iraqi Veteran project (AAHC provided another \$110).

Mark Neumann, chairman, gave his views on how the board will function in overseeing the operation of the club. One change is the date and timing of elections. Board members will serve 1, 2 and 3 year terms in order to stagger replacement of members and officer elections will occur in May.

50/50 raffle–

Dan Huskinsson won the drawing; total kitty was \$14.

The meeting adjourned at 8:10 pm.

Your Cactus GTO Club Leaders – 2008

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\$5 off entry fee
Pontiac Heaven Drags No. 10
or Muscle Car Heaven Drags No. 6
Speedworld Drag Strip • April 5,6 2008

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