

Don't miss Pontiac Night at the Pavilions
All the details at www.cactusgto.com

Valley of the Goats

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

September-October 2007



Letter from the Editor

Wow...I think we had almost forgotten what it felt like to have cool desert nights again. Our days remain in the low to upper 90s, but the nights are great for taking out your favorite Poncho for an evening drive. As people east of the Mississippi are enjoying the fall foliage, thoughts of a cold rainy winter are not that far behind. Here, our winters mean time to dust off the Great One and take it for a spin.

And we have our fall foliage, too. Between October and November, it's a great time to grab your Goat, a picnic lunch, and your favorite significant other, and head for the Rim country or Flagstaff for some fresh air and fall leaf collecting.

Remember about Pontiac Nights at the Pavilions. It is a great way to meet fellow GTOers and catch up on projects. Two big car shows coming up, too: on October 13, the KOOL Radio/Ft. McDowell car show & cruise, at Ft. McDowell casino, and the Classics on the Plaza car show at Westgate City Center in Glendale.

Your Board of Directors will be meeting in October to plan out the '08 schedule. Give them your ideas, lead a breakfast cruise – it's your club, too.

— *Mark Neumann*



From the Driver's Seat...

It's good to be back home again after our summer away from the Farenheit Valley. I know that several of you have also recently returned home from summer trips and I hope that you all had a safe and enjoyable journey. As for those of you not able to get away for a while, I hope you at least were able to make a break to the high country or enjoy some other respite.

It always strikes me as funny how nice it is to be enjoying the 80 degree temperatures and all the green hills where Elly and I (allegedly) grew up and rediscover the many nice things about that part of the country. We took so much of it for granted when we lived there, of course. Besides yours truly playing John Deere tractor mechanic, we attended several car shows and even participated in one as passengers, thanks to one of Elly's brothers. The

show & cruise event featured a cruise around a local NASCAR track for the show cars and we had the opportunity to represent Cactus GTO's, riding along in a nice '67 GTO convertible. The track announcer gave us a nice introduction to the race fans as President & Treasurer of Cactus GTO's – all the way from Phoenix, Arizona. Unfortunately, "hot laps" on the banked oval were not permitted ☹

The pace of car show and circle track racing was pretty frantic "back east" as they tried to get all their activities in before winter is upon them once again. We attended as many county fairs, car shows and races as we could work in among all the family activities, but we found a real shortage of Pontiacs and GTO's back in western New York.

By the time we return home to Phoenix, we have been away so long that everything back here looks sort of fresh and new again, and that's really neat. As their hectic summer events schedule is winding down back east, we are just beginning our autumn madness here in the desert as every weekend is filled with more things going on than we can hope to do. Pontiac Night at the Pavilions has started again now that nights have cooled a bit and we have received notice of several car shows in October and November. The first Sunday of December is the Toys for Tots cruise to Wickenburg; then comes the Barrett-Jackson and Russo-Steele auctions and our big event – the Kruse Collector Car Auction. I hope to see many of you enjoying your cool cars in our cool evenings at the Pavilions and I'd really like to see the club make a strong showing on the Toys for Tots cruise this year. It has been several years now since we have had a big Cactus GTO turnout for this event.

We will be starting our annual negotiations with Kruse soon and we will need some on-site leadership help this year. We had a tremendous turnout for help at the event last year and I hope that you will all mark January 24th – 27th on your calendars and participate in this big club fundraiser. If you can spare some time in the 3-4 days prior to the auction itself, we can always use help getting everything set up. Please let me know if you can help with leadership at Kruse or in any other club activities.

I invite your comments and questions thomohr@cox.net or 480-991-6106

*Thom Mohr
Club President*

Pontiac in the News

• What can we expect from Pontiac at the Phoenix International New Car Show in November? The excitement of the G6 and Solstice has pretty much worn off, even with the new GXP model. A Torrent GXP has been released. The new G8, featured in our last newsletter, might be there. They are talking about a late '08 entry into the U.S. market for this Australian-made four-door. Rumor has it that a 6-speed will be available. Nothing on the return of the GTO, however. The '04-'06 machines were best known for the road courses and their ability to "drift" down a straightaway.

2008 Pontiac G8



Legislative News

From the SEMA Action Network

California emissions testing bill dead for the year

In a major victory for enthusiasts in California, the Senate Appropriations Committee rejected SAN-opposed legislation (AB 616) that threatened to require annual smog-check inspections for vehicles 15 years old and older. After having been previously approved by the full California Assembly and the Senate Transportation Committee, the bill is dead for the year.

“Car clubs and individual hobbyists across the state loudly and forcefully objected to passage of this bill,” said SEMA Vice President of Government Affairs Steve McDonald. “Ultimately, the lawmakers in Sacramento heard their message.”

Through thousands of phone calls and e-mails, SAN members were able to convince committee members that these vehicles constitute a small portion of the overall vehicle population and are a poor source from which to look for emissions reduction.

In correspondence to his constituents, Senator Dave Cox expressed his opposition to the bill, “I have not yet seen any evidence that 15-year-old vehicles pollute our air substantially more than 14-year-old vehicles. Declaring all vehicles 15 years or older are guilty of being gross polluters without any empirical data is backwards and does not reflect the spirit of the law.”

Of additional concern to the enthusiast community were provisions in the bill that would have required that funds generated through the additional inspection fees be deposited into an account that could be used to scrap older cars. “We are especially indebted to those legislators who opposed the bill because it would have placed an undue burden upon car owners simply because their vehicle is older than an arbitrary date set in law,” McDonald added.

For the Record...

Cactus GTO Monthly Meeting Minutes

August 27, 2007

Meeting brought to order by Vice Pres. Bill McCoy – at Denny's, 7:00 pm

17 members in attendance

New member: David Martin – welcome!

Treasurer's report – N/A

Secretary's report – Tony D'Angelo

Up to the minute news -

GTO Nationals report – Jim Zievel

The Nationals this year was held in Columbus Ohio. Jim represented Cactus GTO's at the chapter president's meeting.

There was a separate class of trophies this year for the '04-'06 GTO's as well as talk of these vehicles seceding from the Association which seemed to be supported by the GTOAA. One consequence of this will be a loss of members at the chapter level jeopardizing those chapter standings regarding affiliation with the GTOAA.

It was confirmed that no 2004 – 2006 GTO's were sold in Canada due to certification issues.

Chapter affiliation will remain at 40%. The annual published GTOAA roster will be discontinued, however, a roster will be maintained on the website. Dues will increase to \$35 next year due to the increase in postage cost.

It was recommended that each chapter contact the GTOAA regarding insurance coverage for each club sponsored event.

Auto Hobbyist Council Update – Dan Husskinson

The first council meeting after the summer break will take place on Monday September 10 at Sanderson Ford, 7:30 pm. There will be a tour of the museum.

AAHC is assisting with the 1st annual Classics on the Plaza car show, Saturday October 20 at Westgate City Center in Glendale to benefit "Packages from Home".

Guest Speaker – Dan Johnson of DJ's Rod Shop Restorations

Dan has started restoring Bill McCoy's 1965 GTO coupe. The car is apart and the paint has been stripped. It is in overall good condition with the exception of the driver's side quarter panel. Due to a poor replacement sometime in the past, a new quarter panel is needed. One was found at Steve Barchak's but turned out to have rust damage. (*Finder's fee is offered!*)

Dan is starting a restoration business at his home and is currently building a garage. In addition to Bill's car he has several others working.

Activities –

Bill McCoy reported a good turn-out at the July 21 bowling event. An informal meeting was convened at the event taking the place of the formal July meeting.

Dan Husskinson attended the Prescott Auto & Antique Engine show; there was a large showing in spite of the rain and wet conditions.

Upcoming Activities -

September 8 – Pontiac night at the Pavilions

September 10 – AAHC meeting

September 30 – Jim Wanger's Pontiac Pizazz! book signing at Ricky & Ronnie's Cruise-In Diner in Torrance CA. See www.geetotiger.com/Pizazz.htm for more details.

October 6, 7 – Kingman Air & Car show, Kingman airport

October 13 – KOOL Radio/Ft. McDowell car show & cruise

October 21 – Classics on the Plaza car show at Westgate

November 9 – Friday Mesa Memories on Main Street

November ? - Adopt-A-Highway; coordinate with Dave Campbell on date

Other potential events:

Julio G's show, Dinner cruise to Mining Camp, Pinnacle Peak Steak House, 83rd Ave cruises, someplace new... any ideas?

Kruse Auction – January 24 through 27, 2008 at the Arizona State Fairgrounds (from the website).

The September club meeting will be held on Wednesday the 26th at Denny's.

Charities -

Bob Paris has found some Habitat opportunities for the club but they most need help weekdays.

Three charity organization nominations were received: ChildHelp, Salvation Army and Season of Sharing. Bob/Matt Madonna will collect all recommendations and prepare a voting ballot for the September meeting. In the meantime the Board still has the action to determine a donation amount and number of charities to support for this year.

50/50 – N/A

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm.

NOTE: The July monthly meeting was held at the Cosmic Bowling event and no minutes were published.

Your Cactus GTO Club Officers - 2007

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