

NEXT MONTHLY MEETING JUNE 25 @ DENNY'S

Valley of the Goats

Newsletter of Cactus GTOs Inc. • Phoenix, Arizona

www.cactusgto.com

June/July 2008



From the Editor

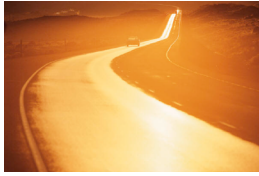
While we await the results from the two big Pontiac events we always count on in April—Pontiac Heaven X and the annual Buick-Oldsmobile-Pontiac car show put on by the POCI AZ chapter, the Desert Renegades—we'll share some auction results from our local favorite – Kruse International—and the crème de le crème, Barrett Jackson. Even the best-priced Pontiac, however, didn't beat the price of Robosaurus. Yes, the fire breathing, car-eating monster, which did a demo at B-J for potential buyers, went for a cool \$575,000. Junk cars, beware.

Steve Barcak's Pontiac Heaven gives us an opportunity to show off our racing heritage—dating back to the Gee-TO Tigers. The Buick-Olds-Pontiac show is one of our strongest turnouts all year, ranking up there with the Kruse auction.

As I write, this it is the last night for Pontiac night at the Pavilions until we resume again in September. Stay tuned to our website, www.cactusgto.com, and www.desertcruisers.com, for special events this summer.

Mark Neumann

Valley of the Goats editor



From the Driver's Seat...

Well, I hope that everyone got the chance to enjoy the prolonged spring season with their GTOs. It looks as though those days in the mid 80's are gone for now and the frenetic pace of car-oriented activities has slowed dramatically.

Cactus GTO officer elections were held during the May meeting and I have to admit that I am disappointed in the lack of response to the numerous requests for nominations. Bill McCoy and Tony D'Angelo have both agreed to continue with their present positions as V.P. and Secretary, and that is a good thing for Cactus GTO's, as they have both been doing a great job. Elly and I will remain as President and Treasurer, but I had hoped that we might have some interest in those positions.

Much of this hope originates from what seems (to me) to be a real lack of interest in many of the club's events over the past year or so. Monthly meeting attendance continues to be good and I truly do look forward to seeing each of you at the meetings. Turnout for Pontiac Heaven and B.O.P. have been great, too, but participation in our club's cruise events has been another story. It has been very difficult to get anyone to volunteer to organize and lead any cruises and when we do get an event together, we seem to have 3 – 5 cars show up and two of those are club officer's cars. I can recall when not all that long ago we would have 8 – 12 cars at Tortilla Flats, Yarnell, etc. In the past we have even had an overnight trip to Bisbee and now we have difficulty getting people to drive across town.... So, what has changed?

Some previous members have left the club and we have some new members as well, so perhaps there has been a shift in interests? Even among those of us who are long-term members, interests seem to have shifted as those in the workforce are working longer hours, leaving less time for their GTO's and us retirees become involved with grandchildren, travel or other activities. Then of course there are horses & Harleys, too ☺ Maybe it's a leadership issue? Maybe we are just not offering what club members want?

What do you think? What would you like Cactus GTO's to be? What kind of things would you be interested in doing as a club? What role(s) would you like to play in Cactus GTO's future? Please let me know what you think.

Thom Mohr

Cactus GTO Club president, 2008-09

News from Pontiac

- There has been a lot of excitement over the new series of cars derived from the Pontiac G8. Aside from the sport sedan that should be hitting our shores in the next month or so, Pontiac will also be importing a station wagon and an El Camino type pickup truck. The pickup will debut in 2010, with a base price of around \$30,000. The vehicles will be V-8 powered and rear-wheel drive. The V-8 will reportedly deliver 360 h.p., mated to a six-speed automatic with manual shift mode—the same transmission used in the Caddy STS-V and the Chevy Corvette. In a head-to-head road test between the G8 GT sedan and the Dodge Charge R/T, the Pontiac won. Motor Trend reviewers said the new G8 is “the high-adrenaline bod we’ve been waiting for—plus a romping V-8, Randy Moss moves, and amazing room at a mega-value sticker price.” Base price for the GT will be similar to the sport truck, \$30,000. Stay tuned at www.pontiac.com.

Still Time to Book that Flight!

29th Annual GTOAA International Meet

July 15-19

Saratoga Springs, NY

More information at www.gtoaa.org

2008 POCI Convention

July 8-12

Spearfish, South Dakota

More information at www.poci.org

News Of Interest...

- **Hobby survey shows what we like**

In September and October of 2007, Hagerty conducted its sixth annual survey of collector vehicle owners. Over 10,000 collector car owners participated in the survey, representing every class of collector vehicle, from antiques to tuners. The results offer a glimpse into the life of a car guy and the hobby in general:

3-Car Garage

On average, we own 2.9 collector vehicles. Postwar classics are the most common collector cars. 51.9 percent of us own a car in this category, while 38.5 percent of us own muscle cars.

Call us Car Guys

Nope, we're not "collectors" or "hobbyists." Over 40% of us consider ourselves a "car guy," followed by "enthusiast" at just over 19 percent.

We're Joiners:

Over 50% of us belong to one or more car clubs.

It's a Family Affair

Sixty-seven percent of us share our love of the hobby with a family member. In most cases, it's our husband or wife or son, with each category accounting for about 20 percent of responses.

Middle-Age Entry

The most common age of hobby newcomers is 46 to 55.

Memory Lane

Thirty-two percent of us own a car that was new at an important phase in our lives, with the high school and teen years accounting for close to 50 percent of these reference points.

One respondent summed it up by saying, "Back in high school we used to ride around in my buddy's Olds 442. Those were the times of our lives."

I'll Take Mine Stock, Please

Just over 40 percent of us believe classic and collector vehicles should be kept stock because preserving them protects their history and value.

"One hundred or two hundred years from now people will want to see, and will appreciate seeing, what a stock 1959 Cadillac actually looked like. I don't think they'd want to see a lowered version, painted purple, with flames, a carpeted dash and 22" wheels," said one respondent.

Buying and Selling

Over 64 percent of us have purchased a collector vehicle in the last five years. The top three models we've purchased most recently are the Corvette, the Mustang and the Camaro.

Direct purchases from other collector vehicle owners continues to be the most common means of purchasing a collector vehicle – over 50 percent of us purchased directly from a friend, family member or other private party. Regardless of the method we chose, the majority of us are satisfied with the overall purchase experience, including price, ease of transaction, condition of vehicle, availability of desired model, trustworthiness, etc.

While fewer of us (26.5 percent) have sold a car in the last five, our selling channels tend to mimic our purchasing channels.

Driving

On average, we drive our collector cars about 2.5 times per month. Most of our driving occurs in March through November.

When it comes to our regular-use vehicles, about one-third of us drive trucks. And, we tend to be loyal to our favorite brands – often our daily driver is the same make as our collector vehicle, with Chevrolet just edging out Ford as the most popular brand of regular-use vehicle.

Hands-On

We're a hands-on group when it comes to working on our cars. We spend an average of twelve hours per month on do-it-yourself projects. Tasks we've performed most often ourselves include: cleaning, polishing and waxing; changing or maintaining a battery; changing oil and/or oil filter; changing and filling fluids; replacing or installing lights; replacing spark plugs; adding parts; and performing tune-ups. When it comes to repairing body damage and replacing tires, we're more likely to turn to others for help.

Why do we do it? The majority of us report that enjoyment is the number one reason we choose to work on our cars ourselves.

On average, we've spent \$6,275 restoring, repairing, improving and/or maintaining our collector vehicles in the past year.

Our Concerns

Big Brother appears to be the biggest threat to the hobby – 37 percent of us are concerned about government regulations that could limit the usage and enjoyment of our cars. We're not too concerned about gas prices, but the effects of ethanol and reformulated oils on our cars are

definitely on our radar. We're also concerned about low hobby interest among younger generations.

Poor George, and Other Fun Facts

When choosing a favorite Beatle, car guys favor Paul with his smooth voice and pop sensibilities. John is next, followed by Ringo and George.

Over 67 percent of us are republicans. Also, generally speaking, we don't smoke, have tattoos, piercings or facial hair. We prefer denim over linen, Coke over Pepsi, coffee over tea, beer over wine, chocolate over vanilla and dogs over cats.

• New MVD Procedure for Collector Vehicles

Owners of collectable autos over 15 years old are now eligible to skip emission testing when registering their vehicles in Maricopa County. **The Arizona Automobile Hobbyist Council** has worked hard on providing information that collectable cars have very little effect on our air quality in Maricopa County and therefore not part of the problem.

The MVD is requiring the owner to provide proof that the vehicle is covered on a policy stating it is a collector vehicle. This means the owner must bring his full policy to the MVD or have his insurance agent submit proof directly to the MVD so the owner can register on-line. I have received calls from some of my clients stating that they have been turned away from the MVD because the policy did not specifically state the auto was a collectable car. On Friday I spoke with the MVD and they have sent out memos to all locations and clerks, however at this time the MVD is only recognizing HAGERTY and JC TAYLOR as the only acceptable insurance carriers.

What's it Worth?

I took a few minutes to scan some prices from two auctions Cactus GTOers are very familiar with: Kruse International, and their show in January at the Phoenix Fairgrounds, and the more prestigious Barrett-Jackson collector car auction, also in January. Here are some prices. Barrett Jackson cars are all no reserve, so all sold.

<u>Auction</u>	<u>Car</u>	<u>Price</u>	<u>Sell?</u>
Kruse-Scottsdale	1968 Firebird Conv.	\$41,250	Y
	1968 GTO Conv.	\$42,000	N
	1969 GTO HT	\$51,000	N
	1970 GTO Judge	\$17,250	Y
	1971 Ventura	\$10,700	Y
	1972 Ventura	\$10,100	Y
	1973 Firebird T/A	\$25,750	Y
	1974 Firebird T/A (S.D.)	\$55,000	N
Barrett-Jackson	1964 GTO Cpe.	\$80,000	
	1966 GTO Conv.	\$130,000	
	1965 GTO HT	\$45,000	
	1966 GTO Cpe.	\$39,500	
	1965 GTO Conv.	\$41,000	
	1965 GTO Conv.	\$67,000	
	1966 GTO Cpe.	\$32,000	
	1967 GTO Cpe.	\$48,000	

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For the Record...

Cactus GTO Monthly Meeting Minutes

April 30, 2008

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

Treasurer's report –

Money Market balance: \$8459.98
Checking account balance: \$445.75

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

Member introductions –

Carl Sikes won the 50/50 drawing at the Payson show!
Thom Mohr fixed the ignition problem on his '67 GTO – the points ground wire

was frayed and only attached by a strand!
Thom renewed the club's incorporation documents.

Events –

The Pontiac Heaven and BOP events were well attended with several members taking home trophies at each.

Upcoming Activities –

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

There are no events on the schedule for May through August – if anyone has any ideas or suggestions or want to volunteer to lead an event please notify Thom or Bill.

A couple of suggestions were:

- May – Sunday breakfast cruise to Tortilla Flats
- June – bowling (perhaps on the west side?)
- July – take the month off?

Thom asked if a member survey should be distributed seeking specific interests, as member turnout at events has been poor.

AAHC Update –

The AAHC is keeping watch on a bill being proposed for a tax on gas-guzzlers targeting large cars, trucks and SUV's. With the price of gas already high it sounds like just another way to raise taxes.

Nominations for Officer Elections are needed! Elections will be held at the May 28th meeting! Please contact any officer with your nomination!

50/50 raffle– N/A

The meeting adjourned at 8:00 pm.

Cactus GTO Monthly Meeting Minutes

May 28, 2008

Meeting brought to order by President Thom Mohr – at Denny's, 7:05 pm
21 members in attendance

New Members – Welcome!

Bob Miller – 2005 GTO

David Eberenz – 1968 GTO (David was actually present at the April meeting)

Guest Member – Mark Gogan – 1967 LeMans

Returning Member – Matt Madonna is recovering from rotator cuff surgery.

Treasurer's report –

Money Market balance: \$8460.88

Checking account balance: \$257.47

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

Member introductions –

Steve Groce is helping a friend build his Pontiac 400 engine.

Tim and June Smith retired their 2004 GTO from racing.

Bill McCoy received his 1965 GTO from the restorer and is happy with the bodywork and paint. Bill is chasing an electrical problem in the taillights and has some other reassembly to do.

Elections for Club Officers –

The current slate of officers has volunteered to remain for another year.

- President – Thom Mohr
- Vice President – Bill McCoy
- Treasurer – Elly Mohr
- Secretary – Tony D'Angelo

Upcoming Activities –

- May 31, 2008 – Memories on Main Street, Surprise AZ
- June 1, 2008 – Breakfast cruise to Bugles Restaurant
Contact Kevin Akbari 480-986-4475
- July 15 – 19, 2008 – GTOAA International Meet, Sarasota Springs NY
- July – Meet for pizza with the Desert Renegades
- Bowling night – **Need a volunteer to lead and organize!**
- Second Saturday night of each month – Pontiac night at the Pavilions, Scottsdale.
Starts again in September
- October 26, 2008 – Annual steak fry with the Desert Renegades

General Discussion –

Thom asked for feedback from the members present in regard to poor participation at recent club events and also for suggestions for types of activities.

Some of the reasons given for members not attending events were:

- Travel time for West, Northwest and North valley residents as majority of events are on the East side.
- Not knowing about an event
- Implication that GTO's must be taken and several members cars:
 - Aren't currently running/road worthy
 - Don't have A/C
 - Not fuel efficient for a longer cruise
- Other life interests compete for available time
- Lack of club spirit compared to years past

Ideas discussed to address some of the above concerns were:

- Direct the Board to take the lead on activities
 - Publish an annual calendar listing events so members can plan
 - Maybe publish 6 months at a time instead
- Try and plan events on the West, Northwest etc. valley
- Send postcard notification of events to those members without email
- Make events "GTO – optional" (except for shows of course)
- Incorporate more new-GTO members

Some ideas for events were:

- Bowling event in the summer as last year
- Attend the 83rd Avenue cruise
- Meet with the Desert Renegades for pizza in July
- Join the Renegades steak fry in October
- One month have the meeting on a Saturday and then cruise to the Pavilions
 - October or November
 - Meet at a park
- Pot luck gathering at a member's house
- "Technical" seminar at a member's house

Tim Smith mentioned that there is a "new" GTO club and they are meeting at the Pavilions on May 31st with a substantial turnout expected (30 plus cars). This is an informal club and does not hold meetings. Tim says that these people view themselves different from those of us with "classic" GTO's, but not in a bad sense.

Thom asked if the members were in favor of canceling the monthly meeting; agreement was to continue.

Pontiac News –

The new Pontiac G8 should be in dealers now.

The Australian Holden “Ute” will be sold by Pontiac as a 2010 model as yet to be named. The Ute is reminiscent of the Chevy El Camino.

50/50 raffle–

Jo Ann Newcomer won the first drawing for cash (\$15)

George Newcomer won the second drawing – Cactus GTO Club logo coffee mug

Steve Groce won the third drawing – “Piston” key chain

June Smith won the fourth drawing – Denny’s dinner gift certificate

The meeting adjourned at 8:40 pm.

Your Cactus GTO Club Leaders – 2008-2009

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