

GET YOUR HANDS DIRTY!

OUR SEMI-ANNUAL HIGHWAY CLEANUP IS THIS SATURDAY!

Call Dave or Brooke Campbell NOW to reserve your seat at the breakfast table
480-354-4624

Valley of the Goats

Newsletter of Cactus GTOs Inc. • Phoenix, Arizona

www.cactusgto.com

October/November 2008



From the Editor

With two “2nd Saturday” Pontiac Night at Pavilions under our belts (the next one is Nov. 8), our challenge is fending off the onslaught of those new, pricey Corvettes that clog the blacktop in front of us. Between our Goats and the Pontiacs of the Renegades, we should be able to hold off the Vette club. Make sure you are there next month to do your part.

Of particularly interest for me at the Sept. 13 opening night was the time I spent with the Desert Valley Goats, a club for the second generation GTOs. Talking with member Robert Godfrey, the group has over 50 Goats from the '04-06 era and they stay in touch via its web forum, AZDGforums.com. Like us, they love to drive their cars. I hope we can put together a few road trips together. And yeah, they like vintage Pontiac iron, too.

Don't forget our Desert Adopt-a-Highway Cleanup THIS SATURDAY, NOV. 1. We meet at Dave and Brooke Campbell's house for breakfast, and then head for that beautiful stretch of scenic road on the way to Tortilla Flat. If you haven't participated yet in this club outing, make this the first time. Get your hands dirty for a good cause – the environment.

Mark Neumann

Valley of the Goats editor



From the Driver's Seat...

I hope that everyone is taking the opportunity to enjoy our wonderful autumn weather by driving (or working on?) their GTOs as much as possible. I have been mostly in the “working on” category – although not always on the goat. I finally have had to admit that I have way too many projects and cannot get everything done by myself, so I have resorted to getting some help. This way I can get some more things off my automotive “To Do” list during this century!

While I have been making progress on my long project list, I have not been very involved in many of the automotive events and shows around town. I am especially sorry to have missed those events that some of you are involved with outside Cactus GTOs, as I would like to support your efforts if my time and energy permit. Hopefully many of you have been able to enjoy more of these than I have.

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! (Don't forget: Our November meeting has been moved to Nov. 20th because of Thanksgiving).

With the holiday season rapidly approaching we'll have several items of club business to attend to:

➤ We need to decide how much to give to charitable causes and to which ones? Board president Mark Neumann has volunteered to head up this effort, with input from the Board members.

➤ Getting ourselves organized for Kruse 2009, planned for Jan. 22-25 at the Arizona State Fairgrounds! Besides all the many of you who do the work and make this possible, we'll need:

1. A leader for each auction day – Jan 23, 24 & 25
2. Someone in charge of providing food for all of us.

Board member Charlie Miller has said he would do this.

3. Someone to keep track of who has volunteered to work and when.

Club Secretary Tony D'Angelo has agreed to do this again this year.

I'll handle the contract discussion(s) with Kruse and head up the lot setup on the days before the actual auction days.

As soon as we have details nailed down on the Christmas party, I'll let you know so that you can make plans to attend or help put it on.

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

Thom Mohr

Cactus GTO Club president, 2008-09

Automotive News

Will our next car be a Gener-Chrysl-ord?

The glum economy is taking its toll on big business (thank God we have tax payers to bail them out...). But it's also impacting car sales. General Motor's stock price has plunged in recent months; Chrysler's venture capital owners Cerberus is losing sleep over bloated inventories and is cutting car models to save money, and Ford's heavy emphasis on the SUVs in the past is now applying the hurt – not even the Escape Hybrid can save them at this point. So, instead of trying to beat each other...should they join?

The media reported on Oct. 12 that General Motors had started exploring a possible merger with Chrysler—but only after first proposing a similar deal with its other cross-town

rival, the Ford Motor Company. G.M. executives approached Ford about a possible merger in July, but Ford rejected the idea and ended the discussions last month, media sources said. After Ford decided to remain independent amid an increasingly difficult auto market, G.M. turned its attention to Chrysler. While a deal is not certain, people with knowledge of the talks described the chances of it happening as “50-50.”

Both G.M. and Chrysler are losing market share in the United States and burning through billions of dollars in cash while they scramble to revamp their unprofitable North American operations. But they may be running out of time. With auto sales at their lowest level in 15 years, both companies face the possibility of bankruptcy before their turnaround efforts take hold. “These are not normal times,” said David Cole, chairman of the Center for Automotive Research in Ann Arbor, Mich. in an interview with the Associated Press. “The biggest problem is cash and whether these companies will have enough to survive this downturn.”

For G.M., which lost \$15.5 billion in the second quarter of 2008 alone, the strategy for survival appears to center on pursuing a mega-merger.

Chrysler owner Cerberus is also talking with other automakers about a potential Chrysler deal, including Nissan Motor of Japan and Renault of France, people with knowledge of the situation said. Chrysler has struggled in the United States market since Cerberus acquired an 80.1 percent stake in the company for \$7.4 billion last year from its previous owner, the German automaker Daimler. Chrysler has cut thousands of jobs, slashed production and closed plants to try to balance the impact of a 25% drop in United States sales so far this year.

Pick Up a Broom !

Put on your Dirty Clothes!

Prepare to do Some Trash Talking!

Cactus GTO Club Semi-Annual Adopt-A-Highway Cleanup

When: **This Saturday, Nov. 1**

Where: meet at the Campbell's @ 8 am for Breakfast

962 N Gila Verde Lane, Mesa, AZ, 85207

dave@stlaz.com or call 480-354-4624

We provide the tools...you provide the elbow grease!

RSVP to Dave or Brooke Campbell TODAY!

Cactus GTO Club Calendar

Always check the club Web site for changes in dates @ www.cactusgto.com

NOVEMBER

Nov. 1

(THIS SATURDAY!) *Adapt-a-Highway Cleanup*

Info: Dave/Brooke Campbell@480-354-4624

Nov. 2

“Get out the Goat,” Southern California Gathering of the Goats event, Ricky and Ronnie’s Cruise-in Diner, Torrance, Calif. Info: www.4mypontiac.com

Nov. 8

Pontiac Night at the Pavilions

Nov. 9

Annual Steak Fry with the Desert Renegades - North Mountain park Pot luck style gathering. Renegades & Cactus GTO's pays for the steaks **Please RSVP to Thom Mohr by Nov 1st**

Nov. 20

Cactus GTO Club Meeting

DECEMBER

Dec. 7 or 14

Club holiday party

December 13

Pontiac Night at the Pavilions

2009

JANUARY

Jan. 14

Special Kruse Meeting

Jan. 23

Kruse Auction begins

FEBRUARY

Feb. 15

Kruse Thank-You Party

For the Record...

Cactus GTO Monthly Meeting Minutes

August 27, 2008

Meeting brought to order by Vice President Bill McCoy – at Denny's, 7:10 pm

7 members in attendance

Treasurer's report –

Money Market balance: \$8,363.05 Checking account balance: \$126.82

Secretary's report – July meeting minutes were accepted as read.

Member introductions –

Mark Delano announced that his shop (Network Alignment) can make their parking lot available for Cactus GTO club members to park during the next Memories on Main Street event in Mesa. The lot would be available after 5 pm.

Events

The club bowling event held on August 16 was attended by about 10 members and a good time was had by all.

Pontiac News

Bill McCoy gave an update of the GTOAA Nationals from the recent issue of The Legend.

Congratulations to Mark Neumann on earning the Cactus GTO Club a "Certificate of Chapter Newsletter Excellence" for which we headed the list!!

Bill also showed profile prints of the new Camaro compared to the 1999 GTO concept car showing many similarities. The G8 Sport Truck naming contest is over and the truck will be named the G8 ST (sport truck?)!

AAHC Update

Dan Huskisson announced that the next meeting of the Arizona Automobile Hobbyist Council will be on Monday September 8 at Sanderson Ford. Following the meeting, the Sanderson Ford museum will be opened for visiting.

Upcoming Activities –

September 13 – Pontiac night at the Pavilions returns

October 4 – Car & Bike show at Highlands Church to benefit the Free Wheelchair Mission. Early entry fee is \$20.

October 18 – Maricopa Motorsports Day at the First Baptist Church of Maricopa.

Preregister free online, show entries get a free lunch with drink.

November 1 – Adopt a Highway clean-up. Meet at Brooke and Dave Campbell's at 8 am for breakfast.

November 2 or 9 – Annual Steak Fry with the Desert Renegades

Details to follow.

November club monthly meeting will be moved up to the 19th due to the Thanksgiving holiday.

December club Christmas party – George Newcomer volunteered to host this year

50/50 raffle– N/A

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm.

Cactus GTO Monthly Meeting Minutes

September 24, 2008

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

17 members in attendance

Guest member – Susan Hunter

Returning member - George Newcomer. Good to see you up and around after surgery!

Treasurer's report –

Money Market balance: \$8,363.73 Checking account balance: \$126.82

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

Member introductions –

Several members are anxious to get working on projects but are waiting for the weather to cool! Thom and Elly are back from their annual sojourn back East. While in upstate New York, they worked at the 100-year celebration in Springville - assisted with vehicle check-in and organizing a parade by vehicle model year dating back to 1911.

Thom & Ellys' 1967 GTO spent the summer at "camp." What started out as a paint touch-up ended up as an 80% re-paint. Minor suspension work proceeded to new (lowered) springs, polyurethane bushings, front disk brakes and a quick-ratio steering box!

Bob Paris says that Cruise on Central is back on; details to follow.

Upcoming Activities –

Second Saturday of each month – Pontiac night at the Pavilions

October 4 – Car & Bike show at Highlands Church to benefit the Free Wheelchair Mission. Early entry fee is \$20.

October 5 – Pebble Creek car show to benefit the South West Crisis Center. Contact Charlie Miller and entry fee for GTO's is \$20

October 18 – Maricopa Motorsports Day at the First Baptist Church of Maricopa. Preregister free online, show entries get a free lunch with drink.

October 25 – 3rd annual KOOL FM Classic Car Show at the Community Church of Joy, 21000 N. 75th Ave from 9:00 to 3:00.

November 1 – Adopt a Highway clean-up. Meet at Brooke and Dave Campbell's at 7 am for breakfast. (later revised to 8 AM)

Volunteers are needed! Please watch for contact information!

November 9 – Annual Steak Fry with the Desert Renegades, North Mountain Park. Cactus GTO's will provide the steaks, members are asked to bring a dish to share. Contact Thom by November 1 if you want to attend.

November club monthly meeting will be moved up to the 20th due to the Thanksgiving holiday (note the date change).

December club Christmas party – George Newcomer volunteered to host this year

AAHC Update –

Next meeting October 6, 7:30 pm at Mel Martin's NEW Private Car Museum, 17641 N Black Canyon (east frontage road of I-17, North of Bell Rd).

Kruse News –

We should be contacted in late October for the 2009 auction, so some preliminary discussion took place.

- Leadership positions – Last year's auction worked well with different individuals taking the lead on each day. Thom Mohr has volunteered to not only serve as the contact for negotiations, but also lead pre-auction activity during the week marking the lot, setting up the tent etc. Tony D will be the contact when it comes time to sign-up. **We'll need volunteers to be "the boss" on auction days (Friday, Saturday and Sunday).**

- Food – Several options were discussed here:
 - Pre-made sandwiches like last year
 - Everyone provide their own food
 - The club provides each member a stipend for food
 - Get food vendor vouchers from Kruse
 - Contract with a local sandwich shop, Costco etc. for food

Elly did a calculation that showed we spend approximately \$450 on food which works out to about \$6.50 per person per day.

Charlie Miller volunteered to look into contracting; he will need the approximate number of workers per day (Tony D will review last year's worker list).

The Club will continue to provide coffee, donuts, soda, water and snacks.

- Additional responsibilities – Last year the Club took on more of the check-in activity; we probably won't ask for compensation next year, just need to make sure we have people to cover this.

**2009 Cactus GTO Club Calendar –
!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!CALL FOR PHOTOS !!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!
PLEASE SEND YOUR BEST HI-QUALITY PHOTOS
---DIGITAL ONLY---**

TO THOM OR SCOTT SVENHEIM

TO BE INCLUDED IN THE 2009 CACTUS GTO CLUB CALENDAR

**Not to leave out those of you with Project cars, send in photos of your
“work in progress” and we’ll see if we can’t put together a montage of GTO’s
“not ready for prime time”!**

50/50 raffle–

Bill McCoy won the first drawing for cash (\$11).

Pat Sykes won the second drawing – T-shirt.

June Smith won the third drawing – Cactus GTO Club mug.

Steve Groce won the fourth drawing – Car model

Ron Grossman won the fifth drawing – GTO logo license plate.

The meeting adjourned at 8:40 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

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