

The Hoodscope

September 2003



www.gatewaygto.com

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Pontiac GTO. As a for of communication we publish a monthly newsletter called "The Hood Scoop". The purpose of this newsletter is to keep our members informed of all upcoming activities as well as providing interesting event coverage. The club meets every first Wednesday of the month at Culpeppers Restaurant St. Charles Mo. 3010 West Clay 636-916-3105

Membership dues are \$20.00 per year and all renewals are required to be paid by December 31st. You are allowed to have one associate member.

Club Sponsors



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The Hood Scoop is published as an informative news bulletin to keep our members up to date on past, present, and future events.

Gateway GTO Association Meetings

Are held monthly. Dates, times, and locations are listed in the **Upcoming Events** section of the newsletter.

Gateway GTO Association Photo Album

If you have photos of past events or if you take pictures of future events that you think would be good for our Photo Album, please put your name and date and a description of the event on the back and send them to the Photo Album Editor.

The Gateway GTO Association is an official chapter of the **GTO Association of America**

Gateway GTO Club Information

The Gateway GTO Association was initially formed in the summer of 1984 by a group of seven. They all had a common interest in the Original Muscle Car, the

Advertising Guidelines
Classified ads up to 50 words are free to members, add 10 cents per word for any ad over 50 words. Payment is due upon submission. (members need to update ads at 3 month intervals or ads will be dropped).
Classified ads up to 50 words for non-members are \$5.00 per issue. Advertising rates are: full page \$25.00, 1/2 page \$15.00, 1/4 page \$7.00 for three (3) months running time. Payment is due upon submission, discount of 10% for one year pre-paid. Acceptance is at the sole discretion of the editor. All ads should be submitted to Don Bright by the 10th of the month.

Gateway GTO Association Ads

FOR SALE

Air Compressor

Upright industrial duty 3 hp, 30 Gal. 2Cyl. V twin. 9 cfm. 26 amps on 115v, can be wired for 220 and 13 amps. 10" rubber rear tires for moving but very heavy. Approx. 24" X 24" X 60" tall. Excellent condition. Paid over \$1100.00. Asking \$600.00 OBO

Posi Track Rear-end

4:10 12 Bolt Posi rear-end \$1000.00 OBO
Contact Chris Simmons @ 636-456-3653

Aluminum Intake with crossover

P/N 488945 (1972 HO) \$500.00

Alternator PN 1100700

Distributor PN 1111148 (1970)

Ignition Coil PN 1115238 Delco Remy
New in box (NOS)

Contact Tony Bezzole @ 314-878-6892

Literature:

1964-1972 GTO Restoration Guides

New from club store \$15.00

Contact Chris Simmons @ 636-456-3653

GMP 1:18 Die-Cast GTO's -1970 Black Judge, 1970 Blue Judge, 1972 Red GTO, 1972 Gold GTO \$99 each.

Contact Harry Smelcer @ 636-230-6120
or email Harry71GTO@aol.com

Cars For Sale

1974 Trans Am, factory 455 auto
Was Admiralty Blue, deluxe blue & white interior. Car now 25th aniv. Silver. Usual T/A gear. Some rust in back part of car.
\$4,250.00

Contact John Johnson 573-581-8013 or
e-mail @ johnjohn@midamerica.net
Sept 2003

WANTED

1967 Right side molding

Must be in nice condition

Contact Cecil Morton @ 618-452-9553

Back issues of Pontiac Enthusiast, Muscle Car Review, and High Performance Pontiac Magazines

Contact Harry Smelcer @ 636-230-6120 or
E-Mail me at Harry71gto@aol.com

Frame for a 1967 Tempest, LeMans, or GTO

Contact Bill Craft @ 636-332-3422

Bumper Jack Adapter for 68 GTO P/N
9790394

Contact Roger Perriguet @ 636-629-4756
Or E-mail me at rwestp@yhti.net

Services Available

ABC DJ Productions

All types of occasions from weddings to retirement parties. Disc Jockey & Video.

Contact Mobile Marty Howard
@ 636-946-8641

Cee-Jay Auto Body

ASE & I-CAR Certified shop

2123 East 23rd Street

Granite City Il.

Contact Cecil Morton@618-452-9553

Card Services Inc.

#13 Hawks Nest Plaza

St. Charles Mo.

Contact Craig Glenn @ 636-946-9892

M.B.J. Machine

Pontiac engines from restoration to
race 30 years experience

Contact Jim Moran @ 618-797-1843

The 2004 GTO, a time for GTOAA opportunity or take a step backwards?

By: Jim Kiburz

In order to get things going with some written articles for our newsletter and get some points in the process, I thought I would start off with a lightning rod topic, the new 2004 GTO. What other issue right now is more debated, discussed and contested amongst GTO enthusiasts or for that matter car enthusiasts of all types? What other issue do people seem to have such strong opinions on? I cannot think of a better topic to write about right here and now, so here we go. Hopefully this will spur some other future articles from members with their opinions and thoughts on this topic!

I write this after having attended both POCI and GTO Natls, having had the opportunity to see the new 2004 GTO in person and up close. Prior to these events, like most of you, my only viewing of the car came from pictures over the internet, etc. I won't spend much time going into my personal thoughts about the car (I do like the car and know many in our club do too!), rather my article centers on the reintroduction and it's seemingly cold reception by the GTOAA membership (those attending nationals).

Who can argue the benefits of the following:

- 1) Pontiac/GM is bringing back the nameplate of one of the best American cars ever made and in most respectable fashion, V8 with 340HP, rear wheel drive and other performance traits making it The best performing GTO ever as well as one of the best performance American cars in the present day.

Yeah, I know, no hood scoop and they messed with the badges, but it is still an awesome car!

- 2) Bringing back this car and welcoming those who buy the car will significantly expand our hobby and interest to an array of new people including those who had GTOs in years past, those who always wanted one and never could afford one and even those who were too young and were not around back then but are impressed with the heritage of the car and what the new car has to offer. I think the most important element of all this is that it will bring a tremendous amount of newer, younger people into the fold. After all as we all grow older, who is going to want to continue to keep these great cars alive and well?

What inspired me to write something about this was the result of having attended the GTOAA Natls in Columbus. Here it was clearly evident that the masses attending the GTOAA meet did not seem to appreciate, support or desire to have one of these cars, nor did there seem to be any interest in giving anyone purchasing one of these fine cars the same

amount of hospitality and courtesy that owners of earlier GTOs have. Seems that there were similar sentiments some years ago and probably still some today for those who have '73 or '74 GTOs. While our club openly supports and appreciates GTOs of all types, I know there are clubs out there that to this day treat those club members a bit differently.

To start, one of the afternoon meeting sessions held at Natls. was on the new GTO. In this meeting, a gentleman from Pontiac/GM, who I believe was product manager or marketing manager for the new GTO spoke. In his opening remarks he commented on the beauty of all the GTOs present at Natls and stated his appreciation for all attending who continue to preserve and perpetuate the heritage of the GTO. You could truly sense that this man understood and appreciated the significance and prominence of the GTO and those in attendance. Bottom line this guy really enjoyed the old cars as I'm sure other Pontiac/GM top brass do. The spokesman went on to say that the car must stand on it's own merits today and that the new GTO was not intended or designed to be a retro car for PMD. In actuality he stated the car as it looks is probably a very close interpretation of what the car would have looked if production have never ceased in 1974. He explained that Retro cars while appealing to those who love and own the old ones, is not practical for a car maker wanting wide spread appeal and to attract buyers from all types of backgrounds. I would agree with this. Who can argue this when you look at the demise of the new T-Bird and the supposedly slowing sales on the new VW Beetle. After these remarks were made, the questions over lack of hood scoops, red lines, hood tachs, newer GTO emblem/badging, etc. began to flow. My perception of all of this is that members in the GTOAA feel slighted that members of the organization were not consulted with as to how and what the car should be. How reasonable is this? This new car is big business, it is not like a hobby for us. In order to be a successful car, the new GTO will have to have widespread popularity and appeal, much more so than the appeal value from an organization of 10,000 can offer. If you think Pontiac really gives a hoot about what present GTO owners think, you are mistaken. The future success of this newly reintroduced car hinges on the acceptance from the general population, not the GTOAA or it's membership.

At the awards banquet, which was also the end of the convention, Bill M., president of the GTOAA, tried to solicit a rousing show of support for the new GTO given that next year will be the 40th anniversary of the car. Bill asked for a show of hands and applause in the crowd of 200 or more for who would be willing to purchase one of the new GTOs. I think 3 people applauded including myself. How embarrassing for the GTOAA as an organization! In my opinion, the GTOAA is giving off differing messages as they ask for support via applause at a group dinner to show the membership's support of the new car while on the other hand they debate over a "special handling" of new GTO owners for display purposes only for upcoming conventions. Does not sound too welcoming in my opinion.

I know our club will openly accept and welcome those who decide to purchase one of the new cars and join our club. Hopefully the GTOAA and it's clubs across the country will do the same. It is the right thing to do and is what's best for the association.

What do you think? Write an article and forward to Don Bright for next month's issue.

A NOTE FROM THE PRES.

It was great to see everyone at the September meeting. We heard a short talk from a friend of Marty's on classic car appraisal, Thanks Marty for inviting him to speak. We had a full house and it was great to see everyone along with a few new faces. Don't forget, everyone is invited back next month and we can do it all over again. I want to thank everyone for coming out and for all the support you have shown the club. There was some good discussion on the subject of the GTOAA Nationals being held in St. Louis in 2005 or 2006, and some great points were brought up. I think most people there thought that with the support of the members this could be accomplished. There was a group there that agreed to work together to make an effort at really seeing if this can be done in St. Louis. If you didn't make it to the meeting you have a second chance, we have arranged to have a meeting with those people that are interested in hosting the GTOAA Nationals. This meeting will take place at Cullperes in St. Charles, on Sept. 17 at 7pm. If you want to help out or you just want to see what this is all about, you are welcome to come. If you want to grab a bit to eat and just sit in to hear what is being purposed, you are welcome. One thing I would like to say is that this club has a great membership, and if we want to do this, I think there would be no doubt this will be the best Nationals in a long time, say since 1994. Making the National's happen will take some effort, but I think it could be allot of fun and could be a great experience for us all.

Don't forget the GTO Club picnic is Sun. Sept. 21 at Vago park, Vago Park is located off Fee Fee Rd. Try to be there around 12 noon. Chef Chris and myself will try to have all the meat cooked and ready to go. If you could, please bring a covered dish. The club will provide the meat bread and soda. I hope to see everyone there. Please RSVP to me by Thursday so I can buy the meat. Thanks, Steve.

GGTOA Meeting Notes September 3, 2003

Members present - 25, GTOs present - 6. Carl Roedel gave a presentation on classic car appraisals. Any interested in having their car appraised can reach Carl at 314-821-4015. Steve Hedrick, Will Bowers, and Tom Oxler attended the Woodward Dream Cruise. The 2004 GTO Nationals will be held July 14-20th in Pontiac, Michigan. September 7th will be the last Steak N' Shake cruise for 2003. The GGTOA club picnic will be held on September 21st at Vago park. Please contact Steve Hedrick if you are attending as the club will provide meat and soft drinks. Everyone is asked to bring a covered dish. There will be a POCI, Fiero, Roadhouse, GGTOA cruise at Culpepper's (St. Charles) on October 18th from 6-10:00pm. JJ's will have cruises on September 13th and 27th. The Route 66 Auto festival will be held in Springfield, IL September 26-28. Route66fest.com. We have been approached to host either the 2005 or 2006 GTOAA Nationals. We would need 25 committed members to pull it off. An exploratory meeting is scheduled for September 17th at the St. Charles Culpeppers at 7:00pm. Anyone interested is strongly encouraged to attend this meeting.

50/50 winner was Darrell May.

Let's take advantage of the nice fall cruising weather!

Harry

Sept 2003

1st-Early Fall Car Show

3rd-Club meeting

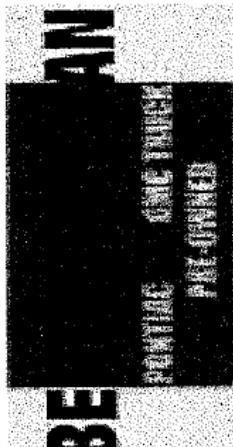
6th-Club cruise to Steak-n-Shake

21st-GTO Club Picnic at Vago Park in
Maryland Heights

26th-27th-28th-Route 66 show in Springfield Il.

As submitted by Steve in his handout in August 2003.

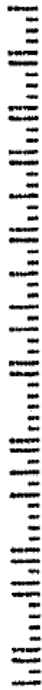
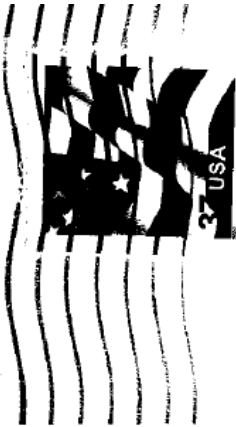
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