



February 2015

Goats Cruisin' The 'Burgh

Newsletter of the Greater Pittsburgh GTO Club

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Editor's Corner

I am so encouraged by how our club members are stepping up. We needed new officers. People stepped up. We needed people to lead committees. People stepped up. We needed people to write bylaws. People stepped up. I started a new column in the newsletter for people to share their GTO stories and I asked people to send in their stories. People stepped up. This club is getting involved!

In this issue, Ken Kasper, our new Treasurer, introduces himself to the club. Most people already know Ken but I am sure some do not. Also in this issue, Gary Sklenar tells his GTO story. It sounds like Gary and Ron had a lot of fun times growing up. And I am sure there are many more stories in addition to the ones that Gary told (some probably not fit to print!). Thank you Gary for sending in your story.

Please keep talking to the club officers about ways that you can help the club. Please also keep sending in those GTO stories. Send your story to newsletter@greaterpghgto.com. I will include one in every issue.

Even though it is snowing fairly hard as I write this, it is February so spring is just around the corner! If you have GTO winter projects that are not done, time is running out! We'll have the cars out again soon!

Mike

Officer's Corner

Let me introduce myself. I'm Ken Kasper, your new Treasurer. First I want to thank Alan for the great job he did the last few years. Also thanks to Joe and Bonnie.

A little about me. I always loved the '57 Belair. That was my dream car, but what I was looking to buy was a 70 Chevelle SS. We went to a cruise in Turtle Creek, and I fell in love with a 67 GTO which is the first car I can remember liking in my early teens. And contrary to what Cheryl wrote in her article a few issues ago, I, not we, bought my GTO in May, 2000.

I went to a cruise at Nigro's in McKeesport and met Jimmy Mastroianni and Johnny O and they told me they were restarting the club. I've been a member ever since. It's a great way to meet other GTO enthusiasts. You'll meet some of the nicest people who are more

than willing to help you with any problems you're having. This isn't just locally. If you belong to the GTOAA, which you have to now, there are people from across the country who will help you out. I made a post on a Pontiac forum and a guy from Ohio answered my post. Six months later, I got a letter in the mail with pictures of an engine compartment to show me about what I asked in the post. We've become good friends since. All you have to do is participate, get involved and come to our meetings and functions. You'll meet a lot of great people.

I usually go to a few local shows like Norwin Hills on Saturday nights and any club sponsored shows. I try to make the Nationals when they are within a days drive. Now that I've retired, I hope to make many more.

Looking forward to meeting all of our members. I hope many more will get involved in our activities.

Ken Kasper
Treasurer

Meeting Minutes

Minutes for January 15th, 2015 meeting located at the Shriner's Facility taken by Ken Kasper

20 Members were in attendance

John welcomed everyone to the meeting

Ken read minutes from previous meeting in my absence. Motion to accept minutes by Johnny O and seconded by Gary Sklenar. Minutes were approved as read.

** There is a thank you from Independence Fund as an attachment to the minutes.

Ken read Treasurer's report.

Motion to accept Treasurer's report by Gary Sklenar and seconded by Brian George.

Ron Sklenar made a suggestion that everyone write a small story on their own GTO to put in the newsletter to get everyone involved.

2015 Picnic is on Sunday, September 13 at White Oak Park

Joe said everyone seemed to enjoy Christmas party. Food and venue were both good.

Shriner Cruise scheduled for August 16, 2015 (rain date August 23). Denis and Ken on committee and looking for another person since Doug Sappington is working out of town. Committee will make list of needs and wants to give to Shriners.

Cruises for 2015 will be worked on by Brian, Jimmy and Pete.

Kennywood Day - Joe Barber spoke with person from Kennywood. We can have 8 cars for Friday, July 3rd and 6 cars for Saturday, July 4th. Sign-up sheet at meeting.

Bylaw committee chairperson, Jim Longo, explained that changes in bylaws will be made twice a year. Any ideas for a change, let Jim or Cheryl know.

GTOAA Status - our club has 61 members at the present time. As members were letting me know they would not be joining our club again this year, Mike removed their e-mails address so they will not receive anything else about the club.

Beth has received check from Extended Stay from Nationals and will send to Ken.

Mike is adding events and dates to our club calendar on the website as they come in.

Winner of 50/50 - John Mitchell - \$13.00

Next meeting, February 17th at Denis Galterio's home for LST 325 Presentation.

Motion to adjourn meeting by Bonnie, seconded by Karen.

February Birthdays

Todd Brown - 2/5
Marianne Brown - 2/8
Cheryl Kasper - 2/22
Ken Kasper - 2/24
Erin Shusteric - 2/27
Cindy Mastroianni - 2/28

February Anniversaries

John and Lana Vansovich - 2/8
Rob and Lurleen Lohr - 2/14

Submitted,

Cheryl Kasper

GTO Book

Our club has the opportunity to purchase the book *Pontiac GTO 50 Years The Original Muscle Car* at a significant discount. If we combine our orders through the club, we can get copies of the book for 50% off. The original price is \$50. Through the club, we can get copies for \$25 plus tax. A copy of the book will be available at meetings for you to review. Club members who have seen the book have given it positive reviews. A picture of the book cover is attached to this newsletter. If you are interested in ordering a copy of the book through the club at a 50% discount, please contact Ken Kasper at treasurer@greaterpghgto.com and tell him how many copies you would like.

Car of the Month



Club Schedule

Always check the calendar on our web site for the latest information about our schedule.

February 17, 2015
General Membership Meeting
Denis Galterio's home
1611 Ashwood Court
Pittsburgh, PA 15237

March 17, 2015
General Membership Meeting
Perkins Restaurant, Cranberry, PA
6:00 PM Dinner/7:00 PM Meeting

April 21, 2015
General Membership Meeting
Perkins Restaurant, Cranberry, PA

6:00 PM Dinner/7:00 PM Meeting

May 19, 2015

General Membership Meeting
Perkins Restaurant, Cranberry, PA
6:00 PM Dinner/7:00 PM Meeting

June 16, 2015

General Membership Meeting
Perkins Restaurant, Cranberry, PA
6:00 PM Dinner/7:00 PM Meeting

July 7-11, 2015

GTOAA Nationals
Columbus, IN

July 21, 2015

General Membership Meeting
Perkins Restaurant, Cranberry, PA
6:00 PM Dinner/7:00 PM Meeting

July 21-25, 2015

POCI Nationals
Louisville, KY

July 31 – August 2, 2015

Ames Pontiac Nationals
Norwalk, OH

August 16, 2015

Shriner's Car Cruise
Harmarville, PA

August 18, 2015

General Membership Meeting
Perkins Restaurant, Cranberry, PA
6:00 PM Dinner/7:00 PM Meeting

August 23, 2015

Shriner's Car Cruise Rain Date
Harmarville, PA

September 13, 2015 Picnic

Maple Grove
White Oak Park

September 15, 2015

General Membership Meeting
Perkins Restaurant, Cranberry, PA
6:00 PM Dinner/7:00 PM Meeting

October 20, 2015

General Membership Meeting

Perkins Restaurant, Cranberry, PA

6:00 PM Dinner/7:00 PM Meeting

November 17, 2015

General Membership Meeting
Perkins Restaurant, Cranberry, PA
6:00 PM Dinner/7:00 PM Meeting

December 15, 2015

General Membership Meeting
Perkins Restaurant, Cranberry, PA
6:00 PM Dinner/7:00 PM Meeting

Classified Ads

FOR SALE: 1970 Hood – Excellent condition - \$400.
Email John Owoc at je70goat@verizon.net.

Send any items for sale or wanted to newsletter@greaterpghgto.com. Advertisements are free for club members but please limit the advertisements to GTO related items. The officers reserve the right to refuse any advertisement for any reason. Submissions are due by the 15th of the month to be included in the next issue.

My GTO Story

By Gary Sklenar

What got me interested in Pontiacs and especially GTOs was my father who always drove Pontiacs starting in 1964 with a new 1964 Pontiac Tempest as our 4 door family car. Then in 1968 he traded it in for a used 1966 Pontiac Grand Prix. After he purchased the Grand Prix with its bucket seats, fender skirts and 8 lug wheels my older brother Ron and me were hooked on Pontiacs from then on. Especially growing up in the 60's when Pontiacs were one of the sharpest cars on the road.

One day in 1970 my brother bought his first car a triple black 1966 GTO hardtop with a 4 speed, factory semi metallic brakes, aluminum drums, red fender liners, 433 rear gears, no console or power options. This GTO was also deleted of any factory sound deadener or insulation and had no comfort options other than a factory tach and gauges built into the dash. My brother actually learned to drive a stick shift on this car with manual steering and brakes.

Well, being 14 years old at the time this was a big deal for me having an older brother with one of the baddest rides in town. It was the talk at school and at the local Eat n Park where him and his friends would hang out. The problem with all this was I was only 14 years old and he was 17 at the time and didn't want me going out cruisin with him at night with all his buddies because he said I was too young to hang out with them.

My advantage in this situation was I always saved my money from doing odd jobs or gifts from birthdays where as my brother always spent his money on his car or going out with his friends looking for girls. One lucky day I will never forget was when he was broke and had no money for gas he asked me to loan him a couple of bucks for gas, but guess what I did not bring a bank. I told him my terms which were if he would take me out cruising the Eat n Parks with him that I would be willing to pay for the gas which was Sunoco 260 the good stuff back then with over 100 octane. You probably guessed what happened next. He didn't want to sit home and look at the goat sitting in the driveway so I ended up going out with him riding shotgun in the baddest car in town. He did refuse to take me to the local Eat n Park in North Versailles where him and all his buddies hung out. But he did agree to take me down to Christy park Eat n Park in McKeesport where he wasn't so well known and it was an experience I never forgot.

In those days when you cruised into an Eat n Park they were filled with high performance machines that were just waiting for a street race. All you had to do was cruise thru the park a few times with your parking lights on and headlights off and they knew you were looking for a challenge on the street of course. So that's what my brother did even though I wasn't aware that my brother had become a very good street racer by this time and had many wins under his belt already. When we rolled thru Christy Park a kid with a beautiful black 429 Boss mustang came out behind us revving his engine and blinking his headlights at us. My brother was like Joe cool looking in his rear view mirror and nodding to the kid in the Boss 429 Ok let's go. As we drove up past Renzie Park towards 5th Avenue in East McKeesport my brother told me that whatever happens I better not tell our Dad that he was drag racing at night ever or I would never to be allowed to ride in his GTO again.

Once we got up to a stretch on 5th avenue the Boss 429 pulled next to my brother on my side and with the windows down my brother yelled over will go on 3 meaning I would count yelling out the window 1,2, 3. When I yelled 3 both cars roared and jumped to life. I watched my brother's reaction as he power shifted the 4 speed trans and shifted without using the clutch pedal. For me this was as good as it gets. I watched the Boss 429 fall behind my brother's GTO as we spanked him good but it wasn't enough for the owner of the Boss Mustang who couldn't accept losing and wanted a rematch on route 30 heading out towards our Eat n Park in East McKeesport. My brother was happy to oblige him and spanked that Boss Mustang a second time and by this time the Boss 429 was boiling over and over heating. He was pretty much finished and wanted no more parts of that black GTO and accepted his defeat like many others did before him. His car had a great reputation in our area for being one of the fastest cars on the street. Some would say it was just a freak.

After all this I knew that if I saved my money that someday I would be able to own my own 1966 GTO. When I turned 16 I got a job pumping gas at a local service station and saved my money and bought my first GTO. It was a 1966 389 4 speed with tri power that needed some body work which my brother fixed for me at the time. This GTO wasn't as nice or as quick as the black beast that my brother had owned but at least it was mine and that's the one I will never forget. I've owned many nice cars including other GTOs, Firebirds, Corvettes and others I probably forgot. I now currently own a 1965 GTO hardtop and 2 2005 GTOs. The 2005's are the newest cars I have recently purchased. I am also half owner of a 1966 GTO convertible with my brother. I would say that GTO blood runs in my veins. That's my story and I am sticking to it.





MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

GREATER PITTSBURGH GTO CAR CLUB

c/o Cheryl Kasper
1230 Craig Drive
North Huntingdon, PA 15642

Member	_____		
	Last Name	First Name	Birth Date
Spouse	_____		
	Last Name	First Name	Birth Date Anniversary Date
Address	_____		
	Street	City	State Zip
Phone	_____		
	Home	Cell	
Email Address	_____		
GTO Year(s)/ Body Style(s)	_____		
GTOAA Number (see below)	_____		_____
	Membership Number		Exp. Date
Signature	_____		Date _____

The Greater Pittsburgh GTO Car Club is a chapter of the GTO Association of America (GTOAA). All members of the Greater Pittsburgh GTO Car Club must be members of the GTOAA. We will collect dues for both organizations. Greater Pittsburgh GTO Car Club dues are \$10 per calendar year. GTOAA dues are \$35 per year for US residents.

If you are not a GTOAA member, leave the GTOAA membership information above blank. You will receive a new membership from the GTOAA. If you are already a GTOAA member, please include your GTOAA membership information above. Your GTOAA membership will be extended by one year.

If you prefer to receive the Club Newsletter and other communications through U.S. mail rather than through email and the Club website, you may do so for an additional cost of \$10 per year to cover printing and postage expenses. Please indicate your preference by checking below:

_____ Annual dues and GTOAA membership, \$45

_____ Annual dues and GTOAA membership, U.S. mail communication, \$55

Please make your check payable to the Greater Pittsburgh GTO Car Club and mail your check and this application to the address above.

John Owoc
President
412-373-0325
president@greaterpghgto.com

Ron Sklenar
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Cheryl Kasper
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36th Annual



COLUMBUS, INDIANA
JULY 7-11 2015

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HOSTS:



Host Hotel:

Clarion Hotel & Conference Center
2480 Jonathan Moore Pike
Columbus, IN 47201
812-372-1541

Convention Chairperson:
Bill Sanders
765-432-9333

Convention Co-chair:
Doug Puskamp
812-212-6280

Convention Co-chair:
Paul Freese
812-614-3332
www.gtoaa.org

SPONSORS:





6538 Collins Ave., Suite 187
Miami Beach, FL 33141
Luker@independencefund.org

12/14/14

Greater Pittsburgh GTO Car Club
136 Ridge Ave
Beaver Falls, PA 15010

Dear GTO Club Members,

On behalf of The Independence Fund, I wish to express my sincere thanks and appreciation for your recent donation deposited on December 12th, 2014 in the amount of \$2,500.00. No goods or services were exchanged. It is the support from generous donors like yourself that touches the entire team at our 100% volunteer initiative deeply and that has enabled us to help so many of our seriously injured comrades.

Your donation supports the restoration of independence through the Track Chair Initiative and will help provide an all-terrain wheelchair and trailer to a deserving veteran, re-opening a door to the world that a veteran thought was forever closed. Many of the veterans who apply to us for these wonderful machines have not been able to experience the beauty and freedom of the great outdoors for a number of years, so your kindness and generosity is made extra special by this fact.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me anytime at 434-409-0506.

Sincerely,

Steven D. Danyluk
Founder and President

Thank you so
much for your
continued support!
Best
Steve

P O N T I A C
GTO
50 YEARS

THE ORIGINAL MUSCLE CAR



DARWIN HOLMSTROM
PHOTOGRAPHY BY DAVID NEWHARDT



Website/Newsletter Content Needed

If you have pictures of a recent event (cruise, fun run, etc.) and you would like to share them, please describe the event and send the pictures to webmaster@greaterpghgto.com or newsletter@greaterpghgto.com. Submissions are due by the 15th of the month to be included in the next issue.

Advertising Information

Goats Cruisin' The 'Burgh is a monthly newsletter for the Greater Pittsburgh GTO Club. It is sent to all members via email and current and past newsletters are available on our web site for anyone to view.

\$100 – Full page advertisement in our newsletter, your logo on our website main page, and a link to your website from the logo.

\$50 – ½ page advertisement in our newsletter, your logo on our website main page, and a link to your website from the logo.

\$25 – Business card advertisement in our newsletter, your logo on our website main page, and a link to your website from the logo.

The term for all advertising is one year.

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.

Greater Pittsburgh GTO Club Information

The Greater Pittsburgh GTO Club was formed in 1998 and is an official chapter of the GTO Association of America. Beginning 1/1/2015, we are a 100% GTOAA membership club which means every member of our club must also be a member of the GTOAA.

The club welcomes any GTO enthusiast interested in the enjoyment, restoration, and preservation of the Pontiac GTO. Ownership of a GTO is not required.

Along with our beloved GTOs (old and new), our club members and their families love to get together at the various club functions and events held throughout the

year. Typical events include cruises, shows, picnics, parties, and more. The excitement that the GTO brings is a wonderful experience and is only further enhanced by being a member of the Greater Pittsburgh GTO Club.

We communicate through this newsletter, *Goats Cruisin' The 'Burgh*, our website, Facebook, and Twitter.

Club meetings are the third Tuesday of every month at Perkin's Restaurant in Cranberry, PA. Dinner starts at 6:00 and the meeting starts at 7:00.

Membership dues are \$45.00 per year and must be paid by 12/15 of the previous year. The \$45 includes the \$10 dues for our club and the \$35 dues for the GTOAA.

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Address Change?

Has your address, phone, or email recently changed? Please notify Cheryl Kasper at secretary@greaterpghgto.com. This will help us keep you informed about the club. Thank you.