



**April 2015**

# Goats Cruisin' The 'Burgh

Newsletter of the Greater Pittsburgh GTO Club

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## Editor's Corner

Spring is here! Spring is here! Spring is here! Can anything else that I write be more exciting than that? I doubt it. After a long, cold winter, we finally made it.

So far this year I have had my car out twice. Well, not out on the road. But I did take it out of the garage twice and let it run for a while on the driveway. I usually wait for the first few spring storms to wash away all of the salt and anti-skid material from the roads before I take the car out. Hopefully I will be doing that soon. It is raining as I write this.

Well, club members, here comes our test. We have been talking for months about becoming a much more active club. Winter is over. Spring is here. People have stepped up to organize cruises and social events. It is time to see a lot of GTOs at local car cruises and a lot of people at the functions throughout the year. Yes, I know, scheduling is tough. But please attend what you can. Yes, this is a car club, but it's also a social club. I have spent wonderful summer nights at local car cruises with just a few club members. Can you imagine what a cruise would be like with 10-15 GTOs? Imagine the fun! Imagine the attraction of the crowd to a LINE of GTOs!

See the website calendar for the latest schedules. We plan to have club cruises at the bigger cruises in all areas of the city. I hope to see a lot of you soon at some cruises!

In this issue, the Officer's Corner was written by Ron Sklenar and My GTO Story was written by Denis Galterio. I am still accepting stories for future issues. Send your story and picture(s) to [newsletter@greaterpghgto.com](mailto:newsletter@greaterpghgto.com).

Mike

## Officer's Corner

Well I don't know how everyone feels about this but let me tell you I am glad spring has finally

arrived and April is here. April for me is probably my favorite month of the year because we live in the northeast and I for one hate winter. As far as I'm concerned winter could never be far enough away. Being a diehard car person April is as good as it gets for me. April is the beginning of my favorite time of year. Car season! This is the time of year that we bring our cars out of hibernation from their deep winter sleep and get our cars cleaned up, serviced and safety checked for all the great car cruises and car shows that go on all summer long.

For me this has been a very rough long winter not only because of the cold crappy weather but because I've had some health issues that had me in and out of the hospital and visiting doctors' offices every other week. I cannot wait to get this all behind me so I can go back to enjoying my car hobby with my friends and club members.

I'm looking forward to our first club event of the year which will take place May 2<sup>nd</sup> in Sabillisville, Maryland at the Gary Cave open house car show and swap meet. This will be a great event to start the car show season with. For those of you that never heard of Gary Cave he has the largest all GTO car collection east of the Mississippi. The collection is housed in a large two floor building that is packed top to bottom with some of the rarest and unique GTOs you will ever see. The walls are covered in GTO parts, accessories, collectibles, and even vintage GTO toys. If you are a true GTO diehard lover like me you won't want to miss this event to start the year right. If you decide to bring your GTO to the event there will be a GTO car show that will be non-judged and also an all GTO swap meet so if you have extra parts left from a restoration that you did you can sell them here to other GTO enthusiasts at no charge and no vending fees. Also on Gary Cave's property he has his own private GTO junk yard. You heard that right he has a fenced in area where he keeps many GTO parts cars just for use on his restoration projects. Trust me when I tell you that you won't want to miss this opportunity to see all this in one place. I'm hoping we can get a good size group from our club to go down together and socialize and spend time together at this event.

Also I know many of our members attend many car shows and car cruises throughout the summer months and I would like to remind each of you that attend these events that if you see someone come in with a GTO that you don't know or never seen that it could be a perfect opportunity to approach them and ask them if they are a member of the GTOAA. And if they answer no to try to convince them of the benefits of joining GTOAA and also becoming a member of our club. It would be good for our club and also beneficial to you to refer a person to join the GTOAA because you will receive a six month extension of your own membership and if you find two people to join you will receive a one year extended membership free and free is good.

Well hopefully I will see many of you April 21<sup>st</sup> at our next meeting and until then get those GTOs ready to roll for spring!

Ron Sklenar

## Meeting Minutes

Minutes from March 17, 2015 meeting held at Perkin's Restaurant in Cranberry

20 members were in attendance

John welcomed everyone to meeting and introduced new member Dean Medberry.

Cheryl read minutes from previous meeting. Motion to accept minutes by Gary Sklenar and seconded by Frank Thompson. Minutes approved as read.

Ken read Treasurer's report. Motion to accept Treasurer's report Gary Sklenar, seconded by Steve Busalacchi. Treasurer's report approved as read.

There was no Vice-President report in Ron's absence.

We now have 62 members in our club. All dues have been sent in to GTOAA.

Cheryl reminded everyone 2015 family picnic is Sunday, September 13th at White Oak Park.

Shriner cruise is 8/16/15. Denis Galterio not at meeting to discuss cruise.

Jim Mastroianni, Pete Muro and Brian George will be heading up cruises for the new season. Jimmy said downtown Irwin cruise is April 25.

Kennywood days are July 3 and July 4. There is one spot left for July 3rd if someone is interested and hasn't been placed on list already, please contact Cheryl. Joe Barber may be able to get additional spots if needed.

2015 Christmas party is on December 5th at Banquet's Unlimited. Chris Sklenar is chairperson.

John Bacha will get information on USX car show usually in August.

Mike Louttit is still accepting suggestions to what activities your family likes to do that we could incorporate into a club function.

John asked everyone to consider submitting a "Your GTO Story" for our future newsletters. Please e-mail Mike at [newsletter@greaterpghgto.com](mailto:newsletter@greaterpghgto.com) with your story and any pictures.

Cheryl passed out 2015 rosters to members attending. Anyone who wants a copy and can't make the meeting, please e-mail Cheryl and she can e-mail the roster to you.

Alan filed post card for 2014 not for profit taxes.

Jim Longo read the proposed by-law changes. Gary Sklenar made a motion to accept, seconded by Karen Owoc. Motion passed to accept changes. By-laws are on chapter website as updated.

Motion to pay \$200 down payment for December 5th Christmas party made by John Odrey, seconded by Ken Kasper. Motion passed. Ken will write check to Chris Sklenar to take to Banquet's Unlimited.

Ken to order GTO Book 50 Years for anyone interested. Will be ordering book on March 18th. Cost \$26.50.

John is going to check on renting a van for anyone interested in going to the Gary Cave Pontiac event on May 2.

Next meeting will be April 21st at Perkins in Cranberry.

Motion to adjourn meeting made by Pete Muro, seconded by Gary Sklenar. Meeting adjourned.

Minutes taken by Cheryl Kasper

### **April Birthdays**

Kirk McFarland - April 2

Sam Depe - April 8

Anita Louttit - April 9

Heather Taylor - April 10

Joe Barber - April 16

Eric Vicker - April 19

### **April Anniversaries**

John & Joanne Caligiure

## **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 over 50% off. The original price is \$55. 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, please contact Ken Kasper at [treasurer@greaterpghgto.com](mailto:treasurer@greaterpghgto.com) and tell him how many copies you would like.

The first batch of books has been received. If you ordered one, please see Ken at a membership meeting to get your book or contact him at [treasurer@greaterpghgto.com](mailto:treasurer@greaterpghgto.com) to make other arrangements.

## **Car of the Month**



## **Club Schedule**

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

April 21, 2015

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

April 25, 2015

Downtown Irwin Cruise

May 2, 2015

Gary Cave Open House and Pontiac Cruise-in  
Sabillasville, MD  
9:00 AM – 2:00 PM

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 3-4, 2015

Kennywood Park

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

Club 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 5, 2015

Club Christmas Party

Banquets Unlimited, North Huntingdon, PA

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](mailto:je70goat@verizon.net).

Send any items for sale or wanted to [newsletter@greaterpghgto.com](mailto: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 15<sup>th</sup> of the month to be included in the next issue.

# My GTO Story

By Denis Galterio

## The First Time I Saw a GTO

It was probably sometime in 1965, in the small parking lot on our way into St. Joseph's Church in Coraopolis. I was a few steps behind my parents, on our way into the church after driving 4 blocks in the family's 1958 Plymouth. Not being too interested in spending an hour inside the church, my eyes were faced downward to the asphalt parking lot. Then, something I never saw before – 2 shiny tubes, protruding under the right rear side of a car. Looking up from there, G – T – O. It meant nothing to me. Soon after paying attention when radio stations played "Little GTO", I was motivated to learn about GTO's until obsessively, I wanted one. I sat in the GTO's McDougal Pontiac kept in their Showroom. I was undefeated in many street races inside that 5 car showroom. I Dreamed of Genie in large part because Barbara Eden and her "Master" drove GTO's. Any car magazine with a GTO became mine. Over the years from time to time I would see that "first" car, Blue with Black Vinyl Top. I remember asking the owner three or four times if he wanted to sell the car and the answer was always the same – "no", in a nice way with a smile, of course. It's a good thing the answer was "no" because I did not have the money to buy it. My Dad would have become a problem, as well.

After graduation from college in 1973, I wanted a car, a GTO. A friend told me someone named Al was selling a 1965 GTO. I found the house and the car was in the driveway of Al's home on Neville Island. It was the Blue 1965 GTO. Al, the original owner, wanted \$500, a good price for a 30,000 mile car. I offered him \$400. He was a bit perturbed. His little girl kept playing with her toys next to us in the living room, overlooking the Ohio River. Saving me from myself, he very quickly said "I know you've always wanted the car. I'll sell it to you for \$400." I knew he really wanted me to have the car when he paid the Notary, Sales Tax and title/tag fees. That was September 15, 1973. With an unspent \$100 in my pocket I was able to soon and painlessly replace the battery, purchasing a K-Mart Lifetime Battery for \$16.00. I also replaced the right tailpipe. The left was already replaced with one exiting under the bumper. The shiny tubes were gone but the splitter housing along with the tailpipe went into K Mart's Moon Township scrap pile. The stack of receipts from the several free battery replacements rests in my files. There was always a debate when I arrived with a dead battery: what is "normal use"? They wanted me to bring the car in to test the regulator. I refused. This went on until Delco Tar Tops became available again. I scrapped the great, great, great etc. Grandchild of the original lifetime battery just a few months ago. During the first year, the car was driven regularly, with 10,000 miles. Since then and for the next 40 years, another total of 6,000 miles are on the odometer. Al passed away only a couple of years after selling the car. About 15 years ago I drove it to my parent's home in Coraopolis. A new neighbor came to see the car with her husband. She told him it looked familiar but not as she remembered it. I had added Rally Wheels, Redlines and Console. The Splitters were back. When I asked her if her Father was Al, she broke down in tears. It was Al's little girl, 25 years later. I wish I had not thrown away the broken, corroded child's Mickey Mouse watch I found under the rear seat not long after I bought the car. She would have liked to have it.

The car was frame-off restored about 11 years ago. So much for the initial \$400 purchase price. Someday and hopefully not too soon, my Son will be able to say just like his Dad, "I own the first GTO I ever saw"!





**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  
Vice-President  
412-678-8402  
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Ken Kasper  
Treasurer  
724-515-7629  
treasurer@greaterpghgto.com

Cheryl Kasper  
Secretary  
724-515-7629  
secretary@greaterpghgto.com

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**Convention Co-chair:**  
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## 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](mailto:webmaster@greaterpghgto.com) or [newsletter@greaterpghgto.com](mailto:newsletter@greaterpghgto.com). Submissions are due by the 15<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:secretary@greaterpghgto.com). This will help us keep you informed about the club. Thank you.