

Goats Cruisin' the 'Burgh

Newsletter of the Greater Pittsburgh GTO Car Club

April 2015

The Greater Pittsburgh GTO Car Club is an official chapter of the GTO Association of America (GTOAA).

The Greater Pittsburgh GTO Car Club is for any GTO enthusiast interested in the enjoyment, restoration, and preservation of the Pontiac GTO.

All members of the Greater Pittsburgh GTO Car Club must be members of the GTO Association of America (GTOAA).



Editor's Corner

By Mike Louttit

I hope by now you have noticed that the format of the newsletter has changed. I took over the newsletter in August of 2013. So, 21 issues were produced in the same format. It was time for a change. I hope that you like the changes.

First, please note that I kept the Black and Gold! We can't have a Pittsburgh newsletter without the Black and Gold! The only real change is that the format does away with the columns and goes back to a full page format. I will continue to play with the format over time. Correct, I need a life.

This is, by far, our largest issue. Maybe a sign of things to come?? In this issue, Ken Kasper wrote the *Officer's Corner*, I wrote an article about the club trip to the Gary Cave Open House, Jim Longo wrote an article about the convention survey results, and Frank Thompson wrote *My GTO Story*.

Speaking of *My GTO Story*, I came up with the idea to get people involved in submitting articles to the newsletter. Everyone likes telling the story of their GTO. I also thought that everyone would enjoy reading each other's stories. I thought this would be easy. But, unfortunately, after only 5 issues, I have no more stories. So, unless I get more stories, this will be the end of *My GTO Story*. If you are interested in submitting your story for a future issue, please send your story and pictures to newsletter@greaterpghgto.com.

I hope that you enjoy the newsletter. If you have any comments or suggestions, please send them to newsletter@greaterpghgto.com.

Officer's Corner

By Ken Kasper

In our area, the Irwin cruise is the first official cruise of the season. This year it was April 25th. OK, everyone raise your hand if you expected to see snow that morning. The grass was covered, my truck was covered. No way did I think I would not go to a cruise because of snow. Well I did end up going. In the afternoon, it was a little chilly but it turned out to be a nice day. A light turn out for GTO's. Only three showed up, but at least I got the car out and blew off the dust.

Officers

President

John Owoc

412-373-0325

president@greaterpghgto.com

Vice-President

Ron Sklenar

412-678-8402

vice.president@greaterpghgto.com

Treasurer

Ken Kasper

724-515-7629

treasurer@greaterpghgto.com

Secretary

Cheryl Kasper

724-515-7629

secretary@greaterpghgto.com

On Saturday, May 2 was the Gary Cave event in Sabillasville MD. It was a nice 3 1/2 hour drive. Beautiful weather for this event. To try and describe what you saw down there or to see pictures (Mike took a lot) doesn't do it justice. It's mind boggling to see the amount of parts this guy has. Engines, I must have seen at least 20 along one wall. Any part you can think of, he had it there and probably more than one. I wanted to get a set of original trim rings for my rally I wheels. I must have seen 30 - 40 NOS boxes on one shelf. And the cars. Two floors in this building. On the bottom he had 16 cars in various stages of repair. All with parts piled on top of the cars. The second floor had about 40 cars. Some restored, some unrestored originals. A 71 judge convertible (1 of 17) and other rare cars.

Die cast cars, promo cars still in boxes on the shelf gathering dust. Model car kits in the rafters of the building. Toys, games, all GTO and Pontiac related. Frank and Ron were in die cast heaven. Then you go outside, he has his own junk yard. Must have been 15 - 20 cars just rusting away in the field by his house.

It was a mind-blowing experience. If you didn't go this year, when he has it again in two years try to make it. It's something you won't soon forget.

Don't forget about the Shriner's cruise August 16th. We'll need volunteers for parking cars, registration and voter tabulation. Hope to see you all there.

Meeting Minutes

By Cheryl Kasper

Minutes from April 21, 2015 meeting held at Perkin's Restaurant in Cranberry

24 members were in attendance.

John welcomed everyone to meeting.

Cheryl has completed the GTOAA surveys for 2015.

Officers meeting was held on Sunday, April 19. Purpose of this meeting was to develop a 5 and 10 year plan for our club's future. Maintaining membership and club activities were discussed for long-range plans. Jim Longo, Mike Louttit and Chris Sklenar have volunteered as non-officer members for this committee.



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

Treasurer's Report—Ken Kasper

Ken read Treasurer's report. Motion to accept Treasurer's report, Ron Sklenar, seconded by John Odrey. Treasurer's report approved as read.

Pat Gallagher won \$11.50 in 50/50 raffle.

Vice President's Report - Ron Sklenar

Ron reminded everyone about the Gary Cave Pontiac event on May 2. He spoke about the officers meeting where it was decided to purchase business cards with the club web site on them and also a place to put who referred a new member to the club. That person would get credit for 6 months free membership with the GTOAA. Motion to purchase 1000 business cards by Frank Thompson, seconded by John DeCoursey. Motion passed. It was also decided to start a club store. Chris will set this up.

Committee reports:

2015 family picnic - Sunday, September 13 at White Oak Park

Shriner cruise - Saturday, August 16, rain date 8/23

Jim and Pete are getting lists together for cruises in the east. Brian said Wexford car cruises start on May 22.

Kennywood Days - July 3 and July 4. One spot left for July 3. If interested, let Cheryl know.

Still looking for someone to chair activities committee. Let Cheryl know if interested.

If anyone has anything they want changed in bylaws, let Jim Longo know by August and it can be voted on in September.

Christmas party - December 5 at Banquet's Unlimited in North Huntingdon. Chris put \$200 down payment on party.

Continued on next page

Old Business:

Mike still needs more "My GTO Stories" for newsletter.

At the present time, our club has 62 members on the roster.

Mike is adding events and dates on our club calendar on the web site.

Next meeting May 19.

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



Help Wanted

Club member Randy Reece is looking for information about doing a frame off restoration of a 1965 GTO. If anyone can help with information, please call Randy at 724-864-7544. Thank you.

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT

Because of a scheduling error by Perkins Restaurant in Cranberry, we are not able to have the private room at that location for our monthly meeting in May.

We have been able to acquire a private room at the Kings Restaurant located off the PA Turnpike at the Allegheny Valley/Harmarville Exit (Old Exit # 5, New Exit # 48).

The Kings is located somewhat behind the McDonalds, (turn right exiting the Turnpike toll booths). The address is 5 Alpha Drive East, Pittsburgh, PA 15238

Our meeting will be held on Tuesday May 19th at 7:00 pm as usual, and if you wish to join us for dinner we will meet at 6:00 pm.

Gary Cave Open House

By Mike Louttit

On May 2, 2015, Gary Cave held an open house plus car cruise at his garage in Sabillasville, MD. It was said that this is a “must see” for GTO enthusiasts. As most of you know, I am not able to attend many meetings or events. But, lucky for me, I was able to attend this one.

But here comes the hard part. I have no idea how, in words and pictures, to describe what I saw. This is one of those things in life that you have to experience for yourself. Words and pictures will not do it justice. But I will give it my best shot. I will do the best that I can to describe what I saw. I created collages of the pictures that I took. It was far too difficult to only choose a few pictures. I have many more pictures if anyone wants to see them.

It was originally planned for the club to travel together. Unfortunately, the rental van fell through at the last minute. So, club members got together in smaller groups and made the three hour drive. John Owoc, Ken Kasper, Jim Mastroianni, Pete Muro and I left John’s house about 5:45 a.m. We stopped for breakfast in Breezewood and were joined by Ron, Chris, and Gary Sklenar and Wendy, a friend of theirs. After a nice breakfast we all hit the road for the remainder of the trip. We arrived at Gary Cave’s about 10:00 a.m.

I must break the trip into six pieces to try to find a way to describe all that we saw.

Piece number 1: The Cruise. When we turned into the driveway, we drove through the car cruise to get to the parking lot. What a great start to the day. There were GTOs of course. But there were also other Pontiacs and even some non-Pontiacs. See the pictures in collage number 1.

Piece number 2: Memorabilia. To paraphrase a comment I heard while I was there, someone said, “Where most people would be happy with one of a lot of these things, he has 15!” It’s true. All around us were posters, models, Matchbox, Hot Wheels, and so on. Gary’s office is filled with things that are displayed for people to enjoy. But the first and second floors of the building have shelves full of items that are not displayed but are part of Gary’s impressive collection. See the pictures in collage number 2.

Piece number 3: Parts. Two words. OH MY! Two more words. Organized chaos. The two floors of the garage had shelves and shelves of engines, transmissions, radiators, seats, dashes, body panels, trim pieces, steering columns, grilles, everything you would ever need to replace on a GTO. Nothing is for sale. All of these parts might make it onto a Gary Cave restored GTO some day! People just walked around shaking their heads. See the pictures in collage number 3.

Piece number 4: Floor 1 cars. The cars on the first floor need some love. Most are covered in parts and memorabilia waiting to be put away. Think of them like the exercise equipment you have at home that you use to hang clothes. Convertible tops are ripped, interiors are shot, the bodies need work. But these cars are out of the weather and just waiting their turn. Gary has plans for them! Each car is marked with information on what it originally was (color, engine, options, etc.). Notice the 1970 Orbit Orange Ram Air IV 4 speed Judge sitting outside? On it, Gary wrote “Next project to be done.” See the pictures in collage

number 4.

Piece number 5: Floor 2 cars. The cars on the second floor are nicer than the cars on the first floor. For the most part, these are not newly restored cars. They are older restorations or survivor cars. They are in very nice to great shape. These cars would be great starting points for restorations or great cars to be left alone. They show very well as they are! See the pictures in collage number 5.

Piece number 6: Restorations. Part of the first floor is the restoration area. Three cars were undergoing restorations there. The quality of the work is amazing. See the pictures in collage number 6.

I am so happy that I went on that trip. I saw something that I will probably never see again in my lifetime. What an incredible collection of GTOs, GTO memorabilia, and GTO parts. I am writing this four days after we returned and I still can't believe what I saw.

If you have a chance to go to Gary's next Open House, I highly encourage you to go.

One final note. I sent Gary an email thanking him for his hospitality and asking for permission to post pictures of his collection. He wanted me to pass along that he enjoyed having everyone at his place and he is amazed how his Pontiac brothers present themselves. He said that everyone was so nice and respectful while at his place.













Our GTOAA Convention Attendance Survey

What You Said

By Jim Longo

We surveyed our membership to see whether our members are planning to attend the 2015 GTOAA National Convention in Indiana this July. Although members who completed the survey could see the results at the time of completion, we wanted to share the results with everyone.

Forty-one of 62 members completed the survey. Several people at the April monthly meeting had indicated that they didn't get the email with the link, or they had somehow missed it. Sometimes junk or spam filters could be the culprit, and they don't always perform reliably, so it's a good idea to check them occasionally. Of the members responding, 10 are planning to attend, another 7 weren't sure, and 24 are not planning to attend. Members appear to be planning to arrive throughout the week, but most are planning to head back home on Sunday, July 12th.

It appears that 7 to 10 members are planning to take their GTOs, most by trailering, although a couple will be driven to the Convention. Those who aren't taking their GTOs generally seem not to be doing so because of the distance – concerns with the length of the drive, or potentially having a mechanical issue on that long of a trip.

There was about a 50/50 interest in traveling to the Convention with other members in a caravan of some type, depending on when people were leaving. Most people are planning to stay at the host hotel, the Clarion, but a few other hotels were also listed. Most of the members who aren't attending listed scheduling conflicts as the reason, and a few indicated that they weren't interested in the location, the distance was an issue, and/or they didn't want to attend without their GTOs.

If you're interested in getting more specific information on arrangements for the Convention, please email me at jlongo2517@netscape.net. If you want to update your earlier responses to the survey, just follow the link, take the survey again, and we can remove your earlier responses. The survey can be found at https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1Yqrly5rXEUDr1UlaOvyGwL_XfMBuer3iO3o2b03MQXI/viewform?c=0&w=1

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. Club members who have seen the book have given it positive reviews. If you are interested in ordering a copy of the book through the club, please contact Ken Kasper at 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 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.

WEEKLY CLUB CRUISES

**EVERY FRIDAY NIGHT
WEXFORD STARLIGHT CRUISE
WEXFORD, PA
NOTE: 8/14 IS PONTIAC NIGHT!**

**EVERY SATURDAY NIGHT
NORWIN HILLS SHOPPING CENTER
IRWIN, PA**

May 2, 2015
Gary Cave Open House and Pontiac Cruise-in
Sabillasville, MD
9:00 AM – 4:00 PM

May 19, 2015
General Membership Meeting
King's Restaurant, Harmarville, 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
Time TBD

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
Time TBD

September 13, 2015
Club Picnic
Maple Grove
White Oak Park
Time TBD

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
Time TBD

December 15, 2015
General Membership Meeting
Perkins Restaurant, Cranberry, PA
6:00 PM Dinner/7:00 PM Meeting



**Help
Wanted**

We are looking for club tech advisors and meeting speakers. Tech advisors can specialize in certain year(s) of GTOs or in some function related to our hobby (general mechanics, bodywork, etc.). If you are interested in becoming a tech advisor or a speaker at one of our meetings, please contact any of the officers listed on the front of this newsletter. Thank you.



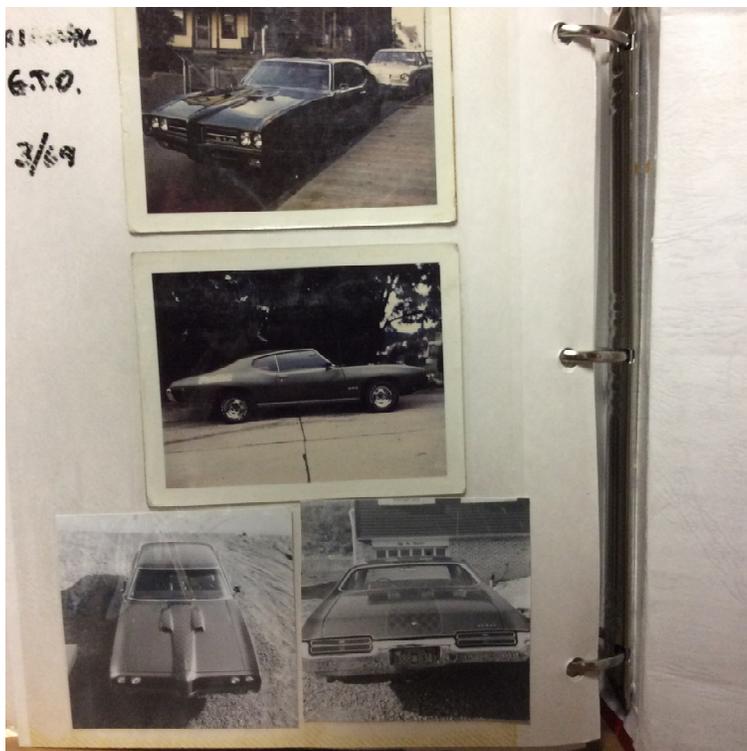
FOR SALE: 1970 Hood – Excellent condition - \$400. Email John Owoc at je70goat@verizon.net.

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 Frank Thompson

I'll start my story back in the early 60's. I had two brothers who were both into cars, so naturally, so was I. Fast forward to late 1968, Noreen and I got married and had three daughters. I took over the payments of my brother's 1964 1/2 Mustang and after driving it a few months I decided to trade it in. So I visited Wright Pontiac in West View, Pa and looked at a new 1969 Judge. After some debate I settled on a 1969 GTO hardtop with a 400 Ram Air III engine, Verdoro Green, with black interior. It had a 355 rear gear, a bench seat with four on the floor wide ratio transmission.



Soon after buying the car I headed straight to the 2 local drag strips, Pittsburgh International Dragway and Keystone Raceway Park. I raced every weekend I could for the next 4 or 5 years. I did really well. I took runner-up eliminator at Keystone with a run of 13.78 seconds at 101.35 mph and later set the PID strip record for my class at 14.02 seconds at 100.44 mph. Along the way I also won 40 or 50 trophies. I was also part of a group who started the Tri-State GTO Club (long gone). We had about 10 or 20 members at different times.

Fast forward to early 1990, Noreen and I were at a cruise at The Grove in Castle Shannon on Route 88 and we decided to look for another GTO. A couple weeks later my oldest daughter came home and said "Dad I found you a GTO". She had bought me a Matchbox 1/64 1970 Matchbox Judge. Then not to be outdone one of my other daughters bought me an Ertl 1/18 Verdoro Green 1969 Judge. That started me thinking, (which always gets me in trouble), maybe I'll collect these little GTOs. How many can there be 20 or 30? Well now I have over 1,400 of them and with all my other toys and Pontiac stuff over 1,500 items. You guessed it I started thinking again. Maybe I'll try for a Guinness World Record. I have sent them pictures and newspaper articles to London, England and now I'm waiting to hear from them with crossed fingers.

Now it's 1998 and Noreen and I went to Chili's cruise in Monroeville and in West Mifflin and found a 1969 Matador Red hardtop with a 400 cu. in. 350 hp. engine with 355 rear gears and a close ratio 4speed Black interior with bucket seats. This time we talked to the owner that summer and in September we finalized the deal. We had our new GTO. To say that I was happy would be an understatement.

Noreen and I have enjoyed all the cruises and joining the GTOAA and our GTO Club, and we have made a lot of new friends. Because of this car we are now living the happily ever after, driving into the sunset

That's my GTO story and I'm 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

Referred By _____
Name GTOAA Number (of referring person)

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
vice.president@greaterpghgto.com

Ken Kasper
Treasurer
724-515-7629
treasurer@greaterpghgto.com

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

www.greaterpghgto.com

www.facebook.com/greaterpghgto

www.twitter.com/greaterpghgto

36th Annual

GTOAA **NATIONAL CONVENTION**



COLUMBUS, INDIANA

JULY 7-11 2015

unexpected.unforgettable.

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 Pulskamp
812-212-6280

Convention Co-chair:
Paul Freese
812-614-3332

www.gtoaa.org

SPONSORS:



The GTOAA Introduces our: **REFER A FRIEND** program

Would you like to receive a FREE year's membership to the GTOAA?
Here's all you do:

Refer a friend to join the GTOAA and receive a FREE 6 month extension to your existing GTOAA membership. Refer 2 friends receive a FREE YEAR extension to your existing GTOAA membership. Thats it!!

Simply have your friend write your name on the Referred By line on the GTOAA electronic or downloadable application and submit.

With the holiday season approaching, a GTOAA membership would make an ideal gift!

Not a GTOAA member? Check us out: www.gtoaa.org

** Free membership is limited to two referrals (1 year free membership per individual per year). Referred member, if renewing, must have been an inactive GTOAA member for a minimum of one year.





*Colhussy Chevy 'Nostalgia Racing Night' at
Pittsburgh's Pennsylvania Motor Speedway.
Saturday August 8th.*

CRUISE IN SHOW 'N' SHINE

Your members are invited to join the PENNSYLVANIA VINTAGE DIRT MODIFIEDS at PITTSBURGH'S PENNSYLVANIA MOTOR SPEEDWAY on Saturday August 8 for a Cruise In and Show'n'Shine from 4pm till the flag goes up at 7pm. Cars will be displayed behind the Grandstand and the driver of each car on display will be admitted for FREE plus there will be TROPHIES awarded for the Best Street Car and best Vintage Race Car.

Then from 7pm, grab a seat on the bleachers and relive the golden era of Dirt Track racing as the Coupes, Coaches and Compacts of the COLHUSSY CHEVY Vintage Dirt Modified's bring back the look and racing of the 70's and 80's on the monster half mile in 'FULL ON' racing action. Plus, there's a full supporting program including DEIHL Super Late Models and the Penn Ohio Pro Stock Series.

Mark AUGUST 8th down for 'Nostalgia Racing Night' at P.P.M.S.



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 Car Club. It is sent to all members via email and current and past newsletters are available on our web site for anyone to view. The term for all advertising is one year.

- \$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.

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 Car Club Information

The Greater Pittsburgh GTO Car 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 Car 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.

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.