

Valley of the Goats

Newsletter of Cactus GTOs Inc. • Phoenix, Arizona

www.cactusgto.com

October-November 2006



Letter from the Editor

If you were a no-show at the special Cactus GTO Club-hosted night with Pontiac marketing guru Jim Wangers, you missed a real treat. Jim spoke during our regular monthly meeting on Sept. 27 at the Doubletree Inn and Suites. He gave a special presentation on the “anatomy of the muscle car,” using photos to go back in time to discuss the origins of the muscle car. Jim also answered questions about old stories and new, namely, the fate of the GTO. Right now, it doesn’t appear the name will be revised anytime soon. The big excitement, he said, is a new Grand Prix (to be dubbed the G8) coming from Australian shores for 2008. Rear-drive, V-8 powered. Should be interesting.

Another fine time was at the KOOL-FM radio sponsored car show and cruise at the new Cardinals Stadium. While a bit unorganized (where do radio station owners get the expertise to run a car show?), the beautiful weather and a chance to roam through the new Stadium were worth it. Club member sightings included Pete Orlando, Dave Campbell, Mark Gacy, Rich and Ellen Rendino, Shari Stutz, Gordie Cowan, Bob Paris, Bill McCoy, and Tom and Ellie Mohr.

Thanks to Kevin and Diane for organizing a successful Fall Adopt-a-Highway Cleanup followed by a cruise to Tortilla Flats for lunch. As usual, Dave and Pam offered a suitable meeting place. We had a nice turnout, with about 9 club members attending.

Don’t forget to check out our revamped website at www.cactusgto.com. Webmaster Scott Swenheim has done a great job of bringing a new look to the site. Lots of good information!

— *Mark Neumann*

News Notes

Do you want to be part of the '07 virtual GTO Club Calendar?

Organizer Scott Swenheim needs photos of your favorite GTO...ASAP!

The clock is ticking away and Scott needs time to prepare the calendar.

We need digital photos only, please. Contact Scott if you have any questions.



From the Driver's Seat...

October 2006

SPECIAL NOTE: Keep Jim and Karen Zeivel in your prayers. The Cactus GTO Club members were involved in a serious motorcycle accident in early October in California. Both are recovering slowly in California hospitals..

I hope that all of you who attended our special September meeting with speaker Jim Wangers enjoyed his presentation as much as I did. For those of you who have not met Jim and heard him speak - you have missed a real treat. Hopefully you will be able to read his book "Glory Days" and get as much enjoyment from that as I have. Thanks to those members of the Desert Renegades who came to the meeting as well - it was nice to see so many Pontiac and GTO enthusiasts all together!

Our November meeting should also prove very interesting as well - the club invited Drew Alcazar, president and owner of Russo and Steele Collector Automobile Auctions, to be our guest speaker. Drew can tell us how the Russo & Steele auction began and how it has grown its share of the Phoenix collector car market. This meeting is a great way for Cactus GTO members to meet Drew and learn more about the Russo & Steele auction, so please plan on attending.

Although Elly and I have enjoyed our summer and early autumn travels, it's nice to be back home again. After our long trip "back east" and a quick couple of weeks back, we headed for Idaho and have just returned from visiting our youngest daughter and her family there. Her youngest son is making the transition from "rug rat" to "toddler" and is working hard to develop the skills he needs to cope with life standing on his own two feet. As I watched him, I thought about writing this message and a similarity between Cactus GTO's and our young grandson. It occurred to me that Cactus GTO's may very well be in a transition phase, too ... perhaps this is what happens when too many miles of pavement go by? ☺

The idea of the transition for our club came to me regarding planning for the Kruse auction this January. Cactus GTO's has had this annual club project for over 17 years now and is for the first time making a concerted effort to try to fix some of the many problems that we have had in working with Kruse. Your club's board and officers have spent a lot of time and effort to correspond with Kruse management and will have sent a formal contract agreement to Kruse by the time you read this. I guess the trigger (or "last straw") for all this activity was last year's on-again-off-again need for our services. This caused a lot of problems for us and is something we do not want to repeat.

Just how Kruse will receive our negotiating efforts is unknown and therein lies my analogy to the toddler. If Kruse reacts very negatively, we may also be learning to go it alone on our own two feet! While many of us would like to continue our long-standing

relationship with Kruse, it has been painfully clear for a long time that changes are needed. Those who have been on the forefront of working with Kruse and organizing things for the club are, frankly, getting “burned out” due to the many problems we have encountered with Kruse. A change is needed... one way or the other. Continued difficulty with event attendance, getting leadership volunteers within our club and changing interests of many club members also present challenges and seem to indicate that we are in a transitional period.

I invite your comments and questions... thomohr@globalcrossing.net or 480-991-6106

— *Thom Mohr*

MEET OUR MEMBERS

We often hear that one of the best things about the Cactus GTO's club is meeting other members and their families. There are some really nice folks and quite a few new members involved in our activities but never enough time to really get to know them. It was always popular when the newsletter featured a story about some member so we're thinking of doing it on a regular basis. There's a reason that each person joined and we'd like to know your story. Don't worry about the format, it can be a few lines or as much interesting information as you'd like to share. Just write and we'll put it in shape for the newsletter. We'll get your OK before we publish it. Here are some possible things that you could tell us:

1. Members of your family, wife, kids ages, interests.
 2. When/where you got interested in GTO's (or other cars)
 3. Describe your car(s) and other interesting cars you've had
 4. Is there something special you're looking for, a favorite? Why?
 5. Your occupation, other interests & hobbies
 6. What can you offer other club members? (skills, parts, tools, advice, "show & tell" a collection, a place for a club party, car storage space etc.)
 7. Your favorite club events
 8. Things you'd like to have the club do, ideas for future activities
 9. Are you looking for particular car, parts or help with something?
 10. Experiences that others may enjoy hearing about...you all have them!
- Stories about your childhood, places you've been, people you've met (especially with your car).

Just e-mail your info (don't forget to include your name) to Elly MYLLE1@juno.com or mail it to 5546 Shangri-la Scottsdale 85254 or bring it to the next meeting you attend.

Cactus GTOs - Monthly Meeting Minutes – 08/30/06

Vice Pres. Bill McCoy called the meeting to order 7:00 PM – Denny's

Thom and Elly still gone – Good news, Mark N's Fiero returned! Member Introductions – 16 members in attendance – New members/Guests – Patrick Agosta

Treasurer's Report: Bill – Checking = \$324.45 Savings = \$7846.21

Secretary Report: Scott Svenheim Past / Current & Future Events: August 5th Cruise - 15 for breakfast at Rock Springs, Few went on to the Prescott Antique show, good time had by all? August 19th Bowling night - Only five people attended. Thanks to Dan H. for setting this up. Murray and Dan tied for highest game of the evening with a 160. Bill polled the group on interest to do this again, even though turnout was small; everyone seemed to want to do it again. NO CRUISE - EVENT FOR SEPTEMBER September 9th – First Pontiac Night at the Pavilions for fall. Sept. 22-24th – Super Run in Henderson Nevada. Flyer in Newsletter, \$50 entry. September 27th (No Monthly Meeting) – Jim Wangers Event (Author of “Glory Days”) to attend and speak/give presentation. Bill passed out flyers on event. Also info on the website and in the newsletter. Will be held at the Double Tree Suites Hotel on 44th & Van Buren. We have rented a meeting room to hold 50-75. Murray mentioned that 10 Desert Renegades would attend; they are pitching in \$100 towards covering costs. Jim will give a presentation/DVD called the “The Anatomy of the Muscle Car”. October 21st KOOL Radio and Channel 3 car show at the NEW Cardinal's Stadium. Like to get as many club cars to participate as possible, make a good showing. More to come from Thom? \$30 entry, lots of goodies. 10-4 pm show, staging 6-9 am. Adopt-A-Hwy clean up October? – Need Kevin to set date, I will email him. Adopt-A-Hwy clean up. Kevin A. will head up. Suggested to combine with a Tortilla Flats Breakfast Cruise / Photo Shoot. October 14-21-28th? Casino AZ Car Show. Need more info... Other Biz – Email address lists need updating – Several folks mentioned not getting emails/updates. Notify Thom and Elly, updated, current roster needed as well. Dan Huskisson – News on EPA and emission bill and Auto Hobbyist club activities. Newly elected pres. Quit. Discussion on Auto Hobbyist newsletter, check out their website. Next meeting, Sept. 11th, 7:30 pm @ Sanderson Ford on Grand Ave. Mark Neumann – August Newsletter distribution – Mark handed out copies to those in attendance, the rest will be mailed. Also, on website to download. 2007 Club Calendar – Photos still needed for calendar - Get photos to Scott Svenheim ASAP. Do a photo shoot at the Oct. Clean up / Tortilla Flats Breakfast Cruise???? Bill McCoy – discussed other news from the

internet and events from the Web. Thom and Elly will be home soon. 50/50 won by – George
Newcomer \$10 - \$10 to server Meeting Adjourned – 8:45pm _

—*Scott Svenheim, Secretary*

Your Cactus GTO Club Officers – 2006

President: Thom Mohr • thomohr@globalcrossing.net • 480.991.6106

Vice President: Bill McCoy • mccoy@skymall.com • 480.777.9620

Treasurer: Elly Mohr • 480.991.6106

Secretary: Scott Svenheim • scottsvenheim@cox.net • 480.464.8422

Board of Directors

Jim Zeivel • Bob Paris • Dave Salerno • Mark Neumann • Tom Burton • Dan Huskisson

Technical Advisors

Gordie Cowan (602.867.4328) • Carl Sikes (480.981.7612)

Valley of the Goats

Editor: Mark Neumann • newsmark@cox.net • 602.653.5074

Printing/Mailing Team: Thom Mohr, Scott Svenheim

Cactus GTO Webmaster: Scott Svenheim

www.cactusgto.com