

# Valley of the Goats

Newsletter of Cactus GTOs Inc. • Phoenix, Arizona

[www.cactusgto.com](http://www.cactusgto.com)

February 2007

## Letter from the Editor

Special thanks to Thom Mohr for putting together our club newsletter this month.

I spent only one day at the Kruse automobile auction this year, but it was a real treat at 4 pm when the last car rolled up on the blue line. As a group of drivers, it had been a good day. No irate car owners, very few breakdowns, cars relatively easy to find (thanks to the set-up crew), and polite auctioneers who worked with us for a change. Thom Mohr talks more about the experience elsewhere in this issue. Don't forget the thank you party on Feb. 11 at the Campbell's (a tour of Dave's collection is worth the price (none) of admission!)

Of interest: here are the Pontiacs that were consigned to go up on the block during the auction (final bidding prices were not available at presstime). We'll have prices for these, and what sold at Barrett-Jackson and Russo Steele at the thank you party. See what YOUR car is worth!

— Mark Neumann

1965 Pontiac GTO  
1967 Pontiac Firebird Convertible  
1967 Pontiac GTO Hardtop Coupe  
1967 Pontiac GTO Two Door Hardtop  
1967 Pontiac Lemans Convertible  
1969 Pontiac Firebird Two Door Hardtop  
1969 Pontiac Firebird  
1969 Pontiac Grand Prix Model J Two Door Hardtop  
1969 Pontiac GTO Two Door Coupe  
1970 Pontiac Grand Prix Two Door Hardtop  
1972 Pontiac LeMans  
1979 Pontiac Trans Am T-Tops

**The '07 GTO Club Calendar and more Is available at the Cactus GTO Club Store.** Thanks to Store Manager, Scott Svenheim, we have quite a nice selection of Items with the Cactus GTO logo....

**Here are some of the Items available at**

<http://www.cactusgto.com/store.php>



See the full range of Items online..... You can order online or take advantage of quantity discounts - let Store Manager Scott Svenheim or Treasurer, Elly Mohr know If you want to order.

## **From the Driver's Seat...** February 2007

*Welcome back to Jim and Karen Zeivel – all Cactus GTO Club members are so very glad to see you back again!!*

The 2007 Kruse Collector Car auction is now history..... making the.... 18<sup>th</sup> (?).... Maybe one of our members has a more accurate count of the years, but I guess it's safe to say that we've been doing this a long time! Several people have commented that this year's auction was the best in their memory and I have to agree. Perhaps it was a combination of the weather and the new venue at the Arizona State Fairgrounds or some other factors. Perhaps our months long negotiations and contract helped as well, but whatever the reasons we enjoyed very cordial relations with Kruse and far fewer problems than I can ever recall. I hope that everyone had fun!

Thanks to all of you (and your friends, relatives and co-workers) who helped. By my count, we had 34 club members involved (about 43% of our membership) and I was delighted and amazed at how everyone just pitched in, figured out what needed to be done and took care of things. Sometimes with all of us running in different directions it seems that chaos reigns, but you all pitched in and did a wonderful job. **Thank you one and all** – and thank you for bringing in extra help and getting them “up to speed” so quickly – their help was invaluable. Please let them know how much they are appreciated.

We will soon be into spring when our Valley of the Sun has about 20 things going on every weekend and we can all get our cars out again. We will be trying a couple of new things this year in the hope of increasing member interest and participation. I'll relinquish the rest of my space to acknowledge Matt Luster and his fine '69 later in the newsletter..... I invite your comments and questions [thomohr@globalcrossing.net](mailto:thomohr@globalcrossing.net) or 480-991-6106

— Thom Mohr

### **Upcoming Events**

#### **February**

**Sunday 11th** **Kruse party** at Dave & Brooke Campbell's house  
962 N. gila Verde Lane Mesa 85207 480-354-4624

**NOTE:** Julio G's show has been POSTPONED 'til fall

**Sunday 25th** **Arizona Automobile Hobbist Council Show** (meet for breakfast?)

#### **March – April**

**Saturday March 31<sup>st</sup> & Sunday April 1<sup>st</sup>**  
**Pontiac Heaven Drags & More** – see Discount Coupon  
on last page of this newsletter

#### **April**

**Sunday 15th** **BOP Show** - To show our support support of the Renegades show, Cactus GTO's is once again offering to refund the entry fee for one car in the BOP show for paid up club members. Request a refund at the April meeting or by e-mail to the Treasurer.

**Saturday 21<sup>st</sup>** **Adopt-A-Highway** cleanup & Tortilla Flats cruise (or picnic?)

#### **May**

**Friday-Sun 4th-6<sup>th</sup>** **Route 66 Fun Run** we have not done a “long haul” overnight event in a long time. This might be a chance to run the “mother road” with a wide variety of car enthusiasts. **Who will organize and lead?**

## News Notes

### **Getting closer to emissions test-free driving**

It appears that sometime around March 1<sup>st</sup> to May 1st is the target date for the state Department of Environmental Quality to establish the long-awaited emissions exemption for older vehicles registered in the Grand Canyon state. The new policy has been fought for by the Arizona Automobile Hobbyist Council ([www.azautohobbyist.com](http://www.azautohobbyist.com)) and other car clubs for several years now. Although the state passed legislation almost two years ago to set the exemption into place, the federal Environmental Protection Agency had to approve changes to the state air quality plan before allowing the new policy to be enacted. This EPA approval was given in December and a 30 day period for public comment followed. The public comment period ended January 29, 2007. All that remains is for Arizona to finalize the implementation details.

The emissions exemption for vehicles 25 years and older is contingent on the vehicle being covered by collector car insurance. You will need proof of this type of insurance to show the state Division of Motor Vehicles to receive the exemption.

More details are forthcoming. Arizona Automobile Hobbyist Council Board member and Cactus GTO member Dan Huskisson has been keeping on top of the implementation plans. Below is a press release from the federal EPA on the forthcoming policy and an excerpt from the Federal Register. This exemption will also include all motorcycles in Pima County, although those registered in Phoenix will still need to be emissions tested.

### **EPA proposes to remove collectible cars from Phoenix, Tucson smog program**

SAN FRANCISCO – The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency today proposed to remove collectible vehicles from the Phoenix vehicle emissions inspection program, and collectible vehicles and motorcycles from the Tucson vehicle emissions inspection program. The exemptions will become effective after a 30-day public comment period and publication of a final rule. The Arizona Department of Environmental Quality studied the effect of exempting motorcycles, collectible vehicles, and vehicles 25 model years old and older from the current emission-testing program, and showed that these exemptions would not interfere with meeting health-based standards for ozone and carbon monoxide. There are approximately 3,800 collectible vehicles in Maricopa County and about 1,400 collectible vehicles and 6,240 motorcycles in Pima County. Arizona's state and local agencies run a number of innovative programs that have reduced ozone and carbon monoxide pollution, including a nationally recognized vehicle emissions inspection program, a cleaner burning gasoline program, pollution reduction measures for commercial and industrial sources, and wood-burning restrictions.

For more information: <http://www.epa.gov/region09/air/az/vei/index.html>

#### **Excerpts From [Federal Register: December 28, 2006 (Volume 71, Number 249)]**

[Proposed Rules] [Page 78115-78123]

From the Federal Register Online via GPO Access [[wais.access.gpo.gov](http://wais.access.gpo.gov)] [DOCID:fr28de06-22]

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

40 CFR Part 52 [EPA-R09-OAR-2005-AZ-0009; FRL-8262-5]

SUMMARY: EPA is proposing to approve two revisions to the Arizona State Implementation Plan submitted by the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality. These revisions consist of changes...that would exempt collectible vehicles in the Phoenix metropolitan area, and collectible vehicles and motorcycles in the Tucson metropolitan area, from emissions testing requirements; an updated performance standard evaluation for the vehicle emissions inspection program in the Phoenix area; and new contingency measures. EPA is proposing approval of these two state implementation plan revisions because they meet all applicable requirements ... [and] would not interfere with attainment or maintenance of the national ambient air quality standards.... The intended effect is to exempt these vehicle categories from the emissions testing requirements of the State's vehicle emissions inspection programs as approved for the Phoenix and Tucson areas.

**DATES: Written comments must be received at the address below on or before January 29, 2007.**

## **Cactus GTO News**

As some of you already know, Cactus GTO Club member Matt Luster has received quite a bit of well deserved attention in High Performance Pontiac lately and I thought other club members would like to know more about Matt and his car. Actually, this story involves two of our club members: Matt and Steve Barcek whose Pontiac Heaven Drags & More event at Speedworld provided the venue for the story. The full print article appears in the February '07 issue of HPP. What follows here are portions of the website information about the Shootout (with permission from HPP). For more see:

[http://www.highperformancepontiac.com/shootout/hppp\\_0702\\_pavement\\_pounders\\_motorplex/](http://www.highperformancepontiac.com/shootout/hppp_0702_pavement_pounders_motorplex/)

### **Pontiac Pavement Pounders Shootout - Pontiac Heaven/Speedworld Motorplex Edition**

By Thomas A. DeMauro

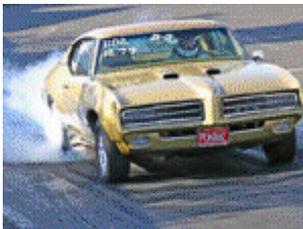
Photography: Thomas A. DeMauro *High Performance Pontiac Magazine*, February 2007

On April 1, 2006, HPP once again returned to Speedworld Motorplex just outside Phoenix, Arizona, to attend Pontiac Heaven Drags & More. As an added bonus, we hosted an HPP shootout featuring four potent street/strip Pontiacs from the Southwest and West Coast:



Matthew Luster came in from Mesa, Arizona, about 50 miles away, with his 455, Turbo 400, 4.11-geared '69 GTO. Matt is looking for solid 12s out of his purpose-built street/strip combo.

Matt's relationship with his GTO go all the way back to December 12, 1986, when he found it on a musclecar-consignment lot. "I was looking at a '67 GTO, but when I saw this '69, it was love at first sight," Matthew explains. "It was an all-original, numbers-matching GTO and remained that way until 1994. I also purchased a '68 GTO four-speed car in 1990 that I was setting up for drag racing, but then I was diagnosed with bone cancer, so I was forced to sell the '68. Soon thereafter, I decided to pull and store the original drivetrain from the '69 and build one for drag racing." The mechanical designer/ASE master mechanic has been racing the '69 ever since.... the great memories are many.... "Cruising Central Avenue in Phoenix in the '80s, my first 12.5 pass, and of course, the day I purchased it....I've owned it for so long, I can't imagine selling the GTO. It's part of the family. In the next few years, I want to put this drivetrain in a Tempest or a Ventura and restore the Goat."



"My posi unit seemed to be slipping all day [see photos], it needs to be repaired or rebuilt .... Considering the posi problem, my 60-foot times were not all that bad. They are usually 1.82." On this day, the best 60-foot was a 1.85 on the third pass. Adjusting tire pressures and launch rpm to compensate for the posi.



Matthew's best pass was his second, posting a 12.78 at 107 mph . "The car did slow down in the afternoon... Nevertheless, I thought the shootout was a neat experience."

Despite the failing posi, Matt still managed to runner-up in Bracket 3 of the Pontiac Heaven Drags & More VIII program. The GTO has since been fitted with a Detroit Locker differential.

Special thanks to Steve Barcak for hosting Pontiac Heaven Drags & More and for helping HPP round up this year's participants, and thanks again to Steve and the staff of Speedworld Motorplex for letting HPP have the run of the place during the Pontiac Heaven event.

# Cactus GTOs - Monthly Meeting Minutes – January 16, 2007

Meeting brought to order by Pres. Thom Mohr – at Denny's, 7:05 pm

24 members in attendance – **Returning members** – Jim and Karen Zeivel after a long absence recovering from a motorcycle accident. It was good to see you!

**NOTICE: This was a special 2007 Kruse Auction organizational meeting and as such took place at a date other than the usual last Wednesday of the month. This meeting will take the place of the usual monthly meeting.** Due to the purpose of the meeting, some usual meeting agenda items were omitted: Treasurer's report, Secretary's report, 50/50 raffle

## Review of Kruse Contract:

Excerpts of the contract between Kruse International and Cactus GTO's were reviewed.

1. Cactus GTO member responsibilities regarding layout, parking, staging, presentation and post-auction placement of vehicles.
2. Although stated in the contract that Cactus GTO's will not assume responsibility for the mechanical functioning of sale vehicles, it was decided that a jump box will be made available for use on the staging and auction lines only. It was decided that the Club would purchase a second jump box – ACTION ITEM for the President.
3. There was some discussion around the issue of Kruse allowing cars to run out of order. The conclusion is there is not much that can be done about this by the Kruse representatives working with us.  
*Thom will review the contract regarding a single point of contact should this situation arise.*
4. The parking and sales areas are still being defined so no details could be shared with the members present as far as the specific areas to park sale cars, the staging area nor the auction site.
5. Thom and other officers will be meeting with Kruse and the AZ State Fairgrounds personnel in the next days and will forward information as it becomes available by email.  
*The Monday 1/22/07 volunteers will probably not be needed; will confirm by email.*
6. Thom had prepared assignment sheets for each day and line (red, blue) which were handed out and reviewed. Should anyone have a conflict with the assignments, other arrangements can be made.
7. A list of Driver's Responsibilities was provided and reviewed. Special attention should be given to ensure the vehicle you are about to drive has a firm brake pedal and proper functioning ignition switch. This is especially important should a vehicle be equipped with a hydraulic clutch that might bleed down.
8. Event "VIP" passes were provided to the members. Each pass is good for all 3 days of the auction. It remains to be determined if the pass will also be used to waive any parking fees - Kruse and AZ State Fairgrounds need to come to an agreement on the details of how we get into the fairgrounds.
9. Entrance gate and GTO club member parking areas will be communicated by email.
10. There will be an organizational meeting each morning at 9:00 to discuss the days activity and share any information or lessons learned.
11. Coffee and doughnuts will be available as well as sandwiches, chips, pop and bottled water.  
*We could use some extra coolers and ice (especially on Sunday).*

The meeting adjourned at 8:10 pm.

- Tony D'Angelo

**KEEP OUR CLUB ON THE RIGHT TRACK!!** Yearly dues are needed to keep club activities on track. Your \$12 annually helps the Cactus GTO club fund this newsletter, cover our donations to charity, and pay for special events. IT'S YOUR CLUB - HELP SUPPORT IT! Go to our website at [www.cactusgto.com](http://www.cactusgto.com) to download a membership form.

## **Your Cactus GTO Club Officers - 2007**

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

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

Treasurer: Elly Mohr • mylle1@juno.com • 480.991.6106

Secretary: Tony D'Angelo • dangeloinaz@aol.com • 623.465.5846

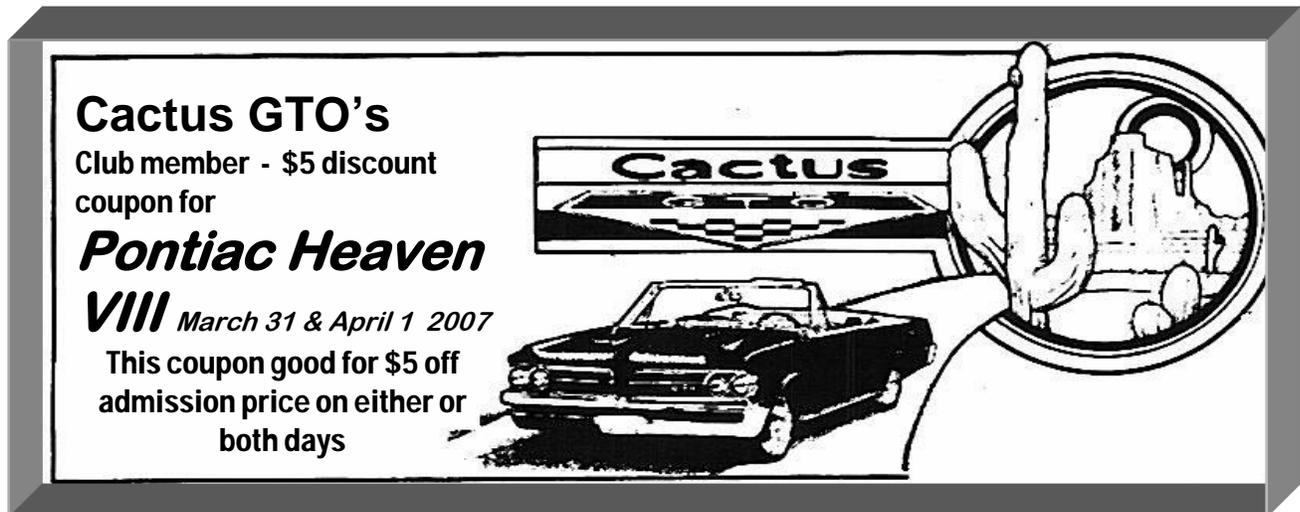
### Board of Directors

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

Technical Advisors Gordie Cowan (602.867.4328) • Carl Sikes (480.981.7612)

Cactus GTO Webmaster ([www.cactusgto.com](http://www.cactusgto.com)): Scott Svenheim

Cactus GTO Store manager (<http://www.cactusgto.com/store.php>): Scott Svenheim



**Cactus GTO's**  
Club member - \$5 discount  
coupon for  
***Pontiac Heaven***  
***VIII*** *March 31 & April 1 2007*  
This coupon good for \$5 off  
admission price on either or  
both days