

November 2020



Valley of the Goats



Cactus GTOs/Desert Renegades next meeting, Thursday, Nov. 19, 7 pm. The Gostyla's Monster Garage

This Goat is back to some (high speed) grazing again

In 2014, I sold my first 1970 GTO that I had purchased in 1978 and restored. I still regret that decision daily, but about 4 ½ years ago, I started looking for another project – obviously, another GTO as I had previously owned 8 of them since 1965.

I purchased a Pontiac 400 engine from Frank Gostyla in 2015 to install in a Pontiac Grand Prix I owned at the time. I determined that was not going to be a logical swap, so I sold the GP.

Frank asked me if I would be interested in purchasing the GTO where the motor had come from (it was a matching numbers car). The timing was perfect, so I purchased the car. The engine - Frank had overhauled it already - was ready to be reinstalled in the GTO. On January 9, 2016 we closed the deal. Frank installed the motor and drove it to my home in Desert Hills.

Over the next couple of years, I fiddled with the car, off and on, taking it apart. While it was mostly stock, it needed some attention. The prior owner to Frank was handicapped and had changed several items that had to be returned to original.



Being a California car (sold originally at a Pontiac dealership in Beaverton, Oregon), it was for the most part rust free. Exceptions included the typical lower rear of both front fenders and a minor amount on the hood. I had the rust items repaired during that time and was purchasing parts that I wanted to change or needed replacing to make it a nice driver. Finally, in early 2019 I got busy

About My Pontiac 1970 GTO

Owner: Mike Jewell
Desert Hills, AZ

Engine Specs:

Bored .30 over, Melling 60# Oil Pump, bearings .10000s under, Rods .20000s under, Pistons dished 9.5 to 1 compression ratio, ring gap .15000 under.

New water pump, crankshaft is stock (cleaned and polished), hardened valve seats, 3 Angle valve job, New stock rockers, push rods, lifters, Cam is new with 068 grind (HO Cam grind), Edelbrock Performer intake and New Edelbrock carburetor 650 CFM, Distributor new HEI, Hooker headers were on the engine 14" Rally II wheels to 15" Rally II wheels (powder coated).

Paint: Saffron Orange (originally gold)

Transmission: Turbo-400 (overhauled)

Suspension: new bushings, etc.

Disc brakes: (original to car)

AM/FM radio

Fitted with Nostalgic Air, B Cool radiator

Dakota digital instruments

Posi-traction (factory)

Member: Cactus GTO Club



(left) GTO during disassembly and repair work getting done.
(below left) final outcome vs. original (right)



putting it back together and ready for new paint. My son-in-law is the lead painter at Sands Chevrolet body shop in Glendale. I took it there in early 2020 to have it prepped and painted. We chose a Chevrolet color - Seraph Orange - and once done, it went back into the garage for reassembly. I, along with help from Cactus GTO friends Stan Ford, Denny Deal, James Einck and Roy Brotherhood, got it back together.

"But these projects are never finished; there is always something that needs attention or changing. The car goes like snot ..."

Of course, there were hiccups along the way to delay the progress. The wiring under the dash was a total mess along with many other items on the car that were incorrect and poorly installed by a California repair shop that specialized in, of all things, Japanese cars. They used metric bolts and nuts to screw everything back together. I changed all metric back to SAE.

Tim Blattner recommended that we strip the wiring and start over, which he did. He replaced the stock instruments and installed Dakota Digital Instruments (they fit perfectly, are beautiful and look almost stock). The gas tank leaked after I had restored and reinstalled it. I removed it again, repaired it and once again reinstalled it.

The rest of the year up through September was spent completing all the detail work, correcting other wiring, etc. that goes with a restoration of this kind.

I started test driving it locally to work out any major problems, of which there were few. However, when hot, the transmission (an automatic) hesitates frequently when shifting from 1st gear to 2nd gear.

After much driving and discussion with experts, we believe it is caused by low vacuum. The power brakes and tranny vacuum modulator (new) both work off the same vacuum outlet on the carb. I decided it was completed enough and ok to drive to our joint Cactus/Renegades meeting on Oct. 19 at the Martin Automobile Museum. Drove it on the freeway for the first time and it handles beautifully. I still have some interior work to do as the car sat too long not being used and the upholstery needs some TLC.

But these projects are never finished; there is always something that needs attention or changing. The car goes like snot as you can tell from the following engine specifications as completed by Frank Gostyla.

I am looking forward to driving it more as the A/C works great and I plan to go to car shows this winter.

- *Michael Jewell*

Great turnout at our Oct. 17 meeting

Great turnout on Oct. 17 for our first Desert Renegades/Cactus GTO Club meeting in 7 months. Special thanks to Mel Martin - who stopped in the meeting - and his classic car



museum for hosting us. We had over 50 people there and lots of great looking Pontiacs, including our 'adopted' car at the museum - a '67 Pontiac Firebird convertible. Afterward, some of us hit the car show at 67th Ave. and Bell. Great weather, great cruising. We are back!

Next meeting: Thursday, Nov. 19, 7 pm. Come socialize (with COVID precautions) at 6:30 at Frank Gostyla's Monster Garage (bring a chair). Meeting starts at 7 pm.

Upcoming Events

Nov. 19: Club Meeting, The Gostyla's Monster Garage, 11348 North Lane (off Shea and 112th Street, Scottsdale), 7 pm. Bring a chair. Club will supply drinks.

Nov. 20-22: Speedway Motors Southwest Nationals, Westworld.

The Cactus GTO Club will cover the cost for 3 swap spaces at this event. Bring your parts for sale on Thursday. Swap space #10-11-12. Contact Stan Ford for details at 480-662-0767.

Dec. 5: Car Clinic. Open to both clubs. Frank Gostyla's Monster Garage, 11348 North Lane (off Shea and 112th Street, Scottsdale) 10:00 am – 3:00 pm; lunch provided.

Dec. 6 or 7: Toyz for Totz, Cruise to Wickenburg Park. More details to come.

Dec. 16: Club Meeting, 7 pm. Location TBA.

2021

Jan. 22-24: MAG/Silver Classic Car Auction (Club event) We-Ko-Pa Resort and Conference Center (off Shea and Beeline Highway). More details at Nov. 19 meeting.

Jan. 30: After-Christmas Party, location TBA

Feb. 6: 2nd Annual Pontiac Cruise-In at Power & Hampton Rds. Cruise Night.

March 4-6: Midnight at the Oasis Car Show, Yuma. <https://www.midnightattheoasis.net/>

Weekly car shows

- Saturday nights: 67th Ave. and Bell (Mextecia)
- Saturday nights: 1445 S. Power Rd (Power and Hampton)
- Sunday mornings: (10 am – 2 pm) Phil's Filling Station, 16852 E Parkview Ave., Fountain Hills

Hemmings is looking for your favorite Pontiac stories

Hemming's *Classic Car* magazine is honoring the Pontiac division in an upcoming issue.

"Whether you own a 1926 Model 6640 Coupe, a 1960 Catalina, 1974 Ventura, or a 1985 Grand Prix, you can help us celebrate the marque in fine fashion by sharing your photos and stories of long-term Pontiac ownership," the publication says on its website. "Tell us about the epiphany that delivered you to a Pontiac dealership to buy yours off the lot, or place an order for one tailored to your new car desires.



What inspired you to seek out a perfect example on a used car lot to be your first set of wheels, or how long did you harbor dreams of owning a vintage Pontiac before you finally bought one? And most importantly, what have you done with it since? What adventures have you recorded?"

Send your stories and photos via email to mlitwin@hemmings.com, or to Hemmings Motor News, attn: Matthew Litwin, 222 Main Street, Bennington, VT 05201.

More information on the project is at www.cactusgto.com.



Officers and Board of Directors 2020-21

Co-Presidents: Bill McCoy, Frank Gostyla

Vice President/Secretary: Mark Neumann

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GTOAA Rep: Denny Deal

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Frank Gostyla, Bill McCoy, Thom Mohr, Jim Einck

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Webmaster: Scott Svenheim

www.cactusgto.com

Chapter member, GTO Association of America



Club Officers 2020-21

President: Tom Knecht

Secretary: Mary Sundberg

Treasurer: Murray Nevin

Club Activities: Paul Albinger, Jr.

www.pontiacclubofphoenix.org

Chapter member, Pontiac-Oakland Club International