



**August 2014**

# Goats Cruisin' The 'Burgh

Newsletter of the Greater Pittsburgh GTO Club

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## Editor's Corner

We did it! We successfully hosted a GTOAA National Convention! I still believe that it was too big of a jump to make. What were you all thinking? 😊 A club should have to at least host or co-host a regional event before moving on to host a national event. We could have applied everything that we learned at the regional level to the event at the national level. Think of it as walk before you run. But, the group stepped up and we did it! Congratulations and thank you to everyone involved!

Many people made the convention work. Of course that is true. But the biggest reason that we did it was John Owoc. He is the one that guided this group that had no experience running an event to a group that pulled off a national event. While some might not have agreed with a decision or an approach here or there, nobody can debate the effort and the hours that John put in to lead our convention. Kudos to John for a job well done!

We also must recognize the contributions of the GTOAA. They were with us every step of the way. Without them, we could not have done this. It is that simple.

So, now what? Where do we go from here? Read my thoughts later in this newsletter.

Also in this newsletter we have the FINAL Convention Corner. We thought that June's article would be the last one but a final wrap up article made sense. Please read John's article.

We have been asking for members to write articles for the newsletter and I am happy to say that Tom Monzo has written an article on his thoughts about the convention and especially the Flight 93 trip. Please make sure you read Tom's article.

If you have any suggestions or comments about this newsletter, please send them to [newsletter@greaterpghgto.com](mailto:newsletter@greaterpghgto.com). Thanks for reading.

Mike Louttit

## Officer's Corner

Hi everyone. Hope you are having a good summer so far. I've been busy trying to get caught up with everything. Thanks to everyone who came to the show

and a big thanks to everyone who helped that week and for the last 3 to 4 years.

High Performance Pontiac magazine and 11 other magazines quit publishing. You might consider the only GTO magazine left is The Legend from the GTOAA.

I was planning a trip to 7 Springs in Sept but I met a guy at the Wexford starlight cruise. He is the owner of the castle cheese company in Portersville we can get a tour. He has a car collection of cars in 2 different warehouses of over 150 cars I will get a date in late September and a few other stops and dinner some where I will let you know soon. Bring your car if it rains we can go in other cars. Hope to see you at the picnic please make plans to make the club's activities. There is a lot of effort put into planning for them.

Thanks.

Joe

## Convention Corner

Welcome once again to this, "The Convention Corner" Column.

The GTOAA National Convention is about 1 month behind us as I am writing this. I would like to take this opportunity to extend my appreciation to all of you that helped in any way during the convention. Those of you who did help should know, without any doubt, that I along with everyone on the Steering Committee would NOT have been able to do this without YOUR participation. Some of you were only able to offer us a day while others were there EVERY Day. I "Thank You" for your help in either case. Your support made this a successful 35th GTOAA National Convention.

When the idea of holding this convention occurred to us almost 4 years ago, we were not sure of the amount of work, planning, and preparation that was necessary to hold this. However, with the dedication of the Steering Committee members and all of you that stepped up to help us, we were able to achieve, and I believe, exceed our goal of hosting a great convention.

Our goal, from the very beginning, was to showcase our great city of Pittsburgh, and hope our guests would offer comments to us like "We enjoyed coming to Pittsburgh", "We had a great time here", " You guys / girls were so well organized", "This is the Best Convention we ever attended", and finally last but not

least, "Thank You. We know your club worked hard to do this for us. We appreciate your efforts."

Those are actual statements that many of us heard during the week from our visiting guests.

On the "Business" end of this, we are still in the process of wrapping up the final details, and consolidating the Budgets vs. the actual expenditures. We do not have the final numbers as of this writing, but I assure you we should have that process completed if not by the September meeting, certainly by the October general membership meeting.

Hope to see you at an upcoming club event or car cruise in the future.

John Owoc  
Chairman 2014 GTOAA National Convention

## Convention Memories

by Tom Monzo

My volunteer experience at the recent GTO show this year was the highlight of my summer. I am finally reuniting with old friends and my life long hobby as a muscle car enthusiast. As my children get older, I am able to spend more time at car cruises and related events.

I spent the first couple of days volunteering at the Monroeville Convention Center assisting with parking show cars and anything that Joe and John asked me to do. I even had an opportunity to drive the muscle car golf cart and direct traffic on Route 22, which coincidentally, were two items on my bucket list!

My favorite day of the show was Saturday, the last day, when I assisted on the bus tour to the Flight 93 crash site, the Flight 93 Memorial Chapel, and the Que Creek Mine rescue site. As a volunteer at the Flight 93 Memorial Chapel, this part of the trip was rewarding to me since I was able to share personal knowledge and thoughts about the tragedy of September 11, 2001 and why that day is so memorable to me, as it is to many other Americans and people around the world.

The Flight 93 crash site continues to evolve as a national park and will soon include a visitor and learning center. Currently, the wall of names and surrounding park setting provide a relaxing tribute to the forty

heroes who began the fight against terrorism in Somerset County, where America fought back.

A Catholic priest, affectionately called many names, but most commonly, Father Al, founded the Flight 93 Memorial Chapel. Father Al and I became friends after I visited the chapel several times. When he fell ill last year, Carol Love, who was our bus tour guide for the day, asked for volunteers to continue the mission of the chapel, which is to provide a non-denominational place of worship for people to reflect on September 11, 2001. The chapel is open daily and Bishop Ramzi Musallam is the current director of the chapel since the untimely death of Father Al.

Our final stop on the bus tour was at the Que Creek Mine rescue site where local farmers, Navy SEALs, our state governor, and many others worked to free 9 miners who were trapped over 200 feet below ground when they tunneled too close to a nearby flooded mine. All 9 miners survived! This was my first visit to the Que Creek Mine, but it won't be my last. I found this site to be as interesting as the Flight 93 sites and I learned so much. I think the Que Creek Mine site would be a great destination for a fall foliage car cruise this year. After all, the Corvette Club was recently there and we can't let them have a better showing than the GTO's.

After a fun filled week and lots of work by everyone, I feel the Greater Pittsburgh GTO Show was a tremendous success and I want to thank everyone from the officers to the volunteers for a once in a lifetime show right in our backyard!

For more information on the tour sites mentioned above, please visit these web sites.

<http://www.quecreekrescue.org/> Que Creek Mine Rescue web site.

<http://www.nps.gov/flni/index.htm> Flight 93 National Park web site.

<http://www.wewerequietonce.com/> Great video clip and documentary for purchase.

<http://www.catholicchurchoftheeast.org/Flight-93-Memorial-Chapel.html> Flight 93 Memorial Chapel web site.



I urge each of you to also make your thoughts known. What do you want from YOUR club? What changes do you think could be made to make it a better club? The time is now. With all of the momentum from the convention and all of the new members, if not now, when? Email your thoughts to the club officers at [officers@greaterpghgto.com](mailto:officers@greaterpghgto.com).

## 2014 Dues

Greater Pittsburgh GTO Club dues for 2014 are now past due! If you have not paid your 2014 dues, please send a check for \$10 payable to Greater Pittsburgh GTO Club to Alan Fabritius 136 Ridge Avenue, Beaver Falls, PA 15010. Thank you!

## Club Secretary

We are in need of a club secretary. Bonnie Fabritius has resigned as secretary but will continue to be the membership coordinator. We thank Bonnie for all of her service as secretary. If you are interested in being considered for secretary or you would like more information about the position, please contact any club officer.

## Meeting Minutes

16 members attended.

We now have 85 members in the club.

Alan brought up that the club account needs paid back the startup money from the convention account.

John Owoc brought up that we would never have been able to put the National event on without the help of the GTOAA. He suggested we should have 100% participation in the GTOAA. Look for more information on this topic soon.

The club picnic scheduled for Saturday, September 6. Cheryl will send out an e-mail to membership as to what everyone wants to bring. The club will supply meats, corn and drinks.

The Christmas party is scheduled for December 6.

Cheryl Kasper

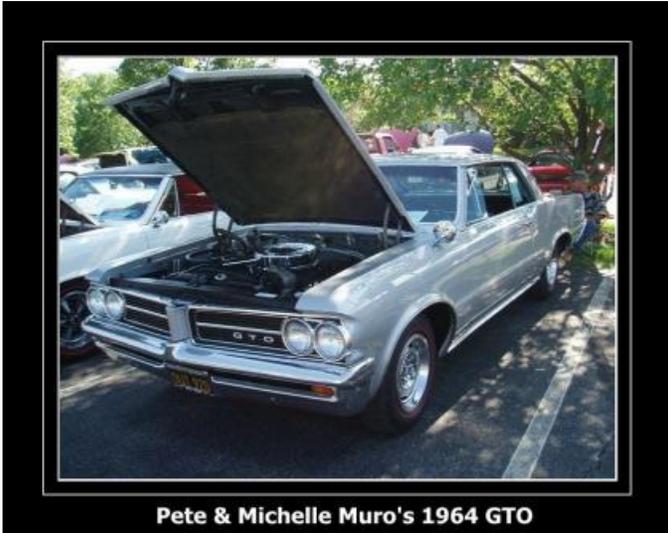
## Now What?

Now that the accolades are subsiding, it is time to look at our club and where we want to go. So much momentum was built over the last three years. We have so many new members. This is the time to take our club to the next level, to borrow an overused phrase.

But what is that next level? I have a lot of ideas. I documented my thoughts in an email that I sent to the club officers. In it, I offered some thoughts about how the group needs to be run. I will leave those thoughts with the officers. I also outlined eight other things that I asked the officers to consider. Following are my thoughts. I provided more detail in my email but I will just list the subjects here:

- 1) 100% GTOAA membership
- 2) Meetings with more content
- 3) Offer monthly activities (dinner, Pirates game, etc)
- 4) Push the cruises especially 4 regional cruises (north, south, east, and west of Pittsburgh)
- 5) Support a charity (with time AND money)
- 6) Help each other
- 7) Move meetings around
- 8) Use the talents of the new people

## Car of the Month



## Welcome Recent New Members

Bob and Annie Bacco  
Phil and Erin Shusteric  
Jim and Debbie Longo

## Club Schedule

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

August 19, 2014 – 6:00 PM (dinner) 7:00 PM (meeting)  
General Membership Meeting  
Perkin's Restaurant, Cranberry Township, PA

September 6, 2014  
Club Picnic  
White Oak Park  
Maple Grove  
3 Muse Lane, McKeesport 15131

September 16, 2014 – 6:00 PM (dinner) 7:00 PM  
(meeting) \*\* may be replaced by picnic \*\*\*  
General Membership Meeting  
Perkin's Restaurant, Cranberry Township, PA

October 21, 2014 – 6:00 PM (dinner) 7:00 PM (meeting)  
General Membership Meeting  
Perkin's Restaurant, Cranberry Township, PA

November 18, 2014 – 6:00 PM (dinner) 7:00 PM  
(meeting)  
General Membership Meeting

Perkin's Restaurant, Cranberry Township, PA

December 6, 2014 – Christmas Party  
Hickory Heights Golf Course

## Classified Ads

FOR SALE: 1970 Hood and Front Bumper – Excellent condition - \$400 each or both for \$700. Email John Owoc at [je70goat@verizon.net](mailto:je70goat@verizon.net).

WANTED: 1966 – 1967 GTO or LeMans convertible top switch. Call John Bacha at 412-343-4445.

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.

## Club Items for Sale

This section will show all of the club items that we have for sale. This section will be completed in an upcoming issue.



## MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

### GREATER PITTSBURGH GTO CLUB

c/o Bonnie Fabritius  
Membership Coordinator  
136 Ridge Avenue  
Beaver Falls, PA 15010

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Last First

Spouse's Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Last First

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Street City State Zip

Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
Home Cell

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

GTO Year(s)/  
Body Style(s) \_\_\_\_\_

GTOAA Member \_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_  
Membership Number Exp. Date

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**NOTES:** *Dues are \$10 per calendar year (January through December)*  
*Mail dues and completed application to address above or give to membership coordinator or any club officer*  
*Dues **MUST** be paid by 12/31 to be included in the annual roster and receive club information*  
*Contact our membership coordinator with any questions:*  
*Bonnie Fabritius*  
*abfabrit@comcast.net*  
*724-480-6910*

### OFFICERS

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[www.facebook.com/greaterpghgto](http://www.facebook.com/greaterpghgto)

[www.twitter.com/greaterpghgto](http://www.twitter.com/greaterpghgto)

## 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. 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 \$10.00 per year on a calendar year basis.

[www.greaterpghgto.com](http://www.greaterpghgto.com)  
[www.facebook.com/GreaterPghGTO](https://www.facebook.com/GreaterPghGTO)  
[www.twitter.com/GreaterPghGTO](https://www.twitter.com/GreaterPghGTO)

## Address Change?

Has your address, phone, or email recently changed? Please notify Bonnie Fabritius, our membership coordinator, at [membership@greaterpghgto.com](mailto:membership@greaterpghgto.com). This will help us keep you informed about the club. Thank you.