



President: Paul Johnson
439-2542 pjrunners@comcast.net
77 Greenwood St., Eliot, ME 03903

VP : Mike King
724-3574 whlsndeals@aol.com
285 Spears Corner Rd, Gardiner, ME 04345

Treasurer: Charlie Huntington
563-5824 badgoat@tidewater.net
78 Lynch Rd, Newcastle, ME 04553

MAAC Representative: Dick Braunfels
375-4079 67gto@adelphia.net
9 Turcotte Lane, Litchfield, ME 04350

GTOAM web page: www.badgoat.net

NEWSLETTER

GTO Association of Maine October 2009

President's Message

Typical of this summer's weather, our July event was a washout, but the August Cookout was a success. The "Bring a Sparkle to a Child's Eye" Fall Car Show in Waterboro, Maine on 9/20/09 was a big success with perfect weather. We still have one final event planned for you this fall before we put our "summer toys" away for the winter. It is our annual Fall Cruise on 10/10/09. See details in this newsletter. Take advantage of some of the best cruising weather we have had all summer. Get out there and enjoy those cars and hope to see you at our foliage cruise.

Pres. PJ

NEXT EVENT FALL FOLIAGE CRUISE TO PENOBSCOT NARROWS BRIDGE 10 OCTOBER 2009

We originally planned this trip as a summer cruise on 18 July. Unfortunately the weather was rainy. So we decided to cancel the summer cruise... But as luck would have it. This trip is back on with autumn colors. This should be a great time. VP Mike King is setting this one up. Give him a call if you plan to attend.

FALL FOLIAGE CRUISE DETAILS:



The spectacular Penobscot Narrows Bridge

This bridge is an engineering marvel and beautiful thing to behold. It was completed in Dec 2006. It sits in contrast to Fort Knox, which was built in the mid 1800s. There is an Observatory (top of the left hand tower) that is 420 feet above the bridge providing breathtaking views of the Fort and surrounding area. This should be a great experience. We hope you can make it.

For more information visit:
www.penobscotnarrowsbridge.com

If you are planning to join us, please contact Mike King either by email or phone (see GTOAM Roster) so that we can get a head count for lunch.

Here are the specifics:

What: Tour of Fort Knox and the Penobscot Narrows Bridge

When: Saturday October 10th 2009
10/11 is rain date

Where: Bucksport, Maine

Lunch: Angler's Restaurant in Searsport.

Details:

If traveling from the North:

9am Meet for Breakfast at Governor's Restaurant, Stillwater Ave, Old Town.

10:30 Leave Governor's; Take I-95 South to I-395 (Brewer); to US-202 (Hampden); Left on Route 9; Right on US-1A to Prospect; Left on Route 174 to Fort Knox State Park and the Bridge.

11:30 Arrive at Fort Knox State Park

If traveling from the South:

8:30am Meet for breakfast at Hi Hat Pancake House, Farmingdale.

9:30 Leave Hi Hat; Take US-201 to the circle; Continue on US-201 over the Kennebec River; Straight through the next circle on US-201; Turn Right onto Route 9 / US-202; Right again onto Route 3 to Belfast; Turn left onto US-1 / Route 3; Left to Route 174 to Fort Knox State Park and the Bridge.

11:30 Arrive at Fort Knox State Park

When you arrive at the gate to Fort Knox, make sure your entrance fee includes tickets to the observatory (\$5.00 for both). Drive straight to the Bridge parking lot. Park in the upper lot so that we can all park together. Don't wait for others to take your elevator ride to the top. We will all get together afterwards at the cars. Then we'll take our time to check out the Old Fort.

2PM Leave the Fort and head to Searsport for a late Lunch; South on US-1

2:30 Arrive at Angler's Restaurant. We have the back area reserved for us.

4PM Head for Home!

See our Website for past fall cruises to reminisce about the great times we had cruising while enjoying the brilliant fall colors of Maine. Don't miss this final event

COOKOUT AT CHARLIE AND ROSE'S IN NEWCASTLE **9 AUGUST 2009**

Mother nature provided a perfect day for the GTOAM cookout at Charlie's and Rose Huntington's in Newcastle. We kicked back and enjoyed a relaxing day of food (of course) as well as old and new friends on the deck. Our most strenuous activity was a tour of Charlie's car collection housed in a new building. Thanks to Don Winchell for bringing the lobster! Hope to see everyone on the fall cruise! PS – Charlie won the sweatshirt!



SEPTEMBER EVENT:
FALL CAR SHOW
WATERBORO, MAINE
20 SEPTEMBER 2009



Bob and Joan Farwell hosted our 6th Annual "BRING A SPARKLE TO A CHILD'S EYE" Car Show. This is a special car show that is sponsored by the GTO Association of Maine. The admission fee was a New Unwrapped Toy. This event is held at the Lakeside Market in Waterboro, Maine. The afternoon was beautiful with lots of cars. Sandy and Leo (the owners of the Lakeside Market) go out of their way to host us with a great picnic area and great food. They are also generous with gifts for the children and donations to us to give away as door prizes. A big Thanks to them and local businesses that helped us this year. We collected over \$200 in 50/50 drawing and donations plus a \$50 donation from Vacationland Cruisers. We also want to Thank the members of Vacationland Cruisers who helped us. We had 8 Pontiacs and GTO's in attendance!!!! along with about 40 beautiful other cars!!!! President Paul Johnson along with the members that were there voted for GTOAM to donate \$50 towards buying more toys and gifts for the children. A big Thanks goes out to the club. Paul signed up two new members. Go Paul!!!!

Three trophies were given out.---- One to a Mustang P51---- Open Street Rod ----- 34 Plymouth Sedan Street Rod (sorry didn't take pictures of the winners).



REQUESTS FOR TRIVIA
QUESTIONS AND OTHER
FEATURE ARTICLES

Remember, this is your newsletter. We welcome any input.

C'mon, there must be something that you could share.

Many thanks to Mike King and Charlie Huntington for their contributions to this month's newsletter.

OTHER NEWS:
2009 GTOAA/POCI
CO-VENTION

Rose and had the good fortune to head to Dayton, OH for the 2009 GTOAM/ POCI Co-convention this past June. We have actually attended more POCI conventions than GTO convention so it was a bonus to have a 2 in 1 show. Location worked well for us as my brother lives about 1/2 way in between so we had an easy 2 day trip As with any convention there's more to do than you can do in the time allotted. The weather was reasonably cooperative as this year it was not excessively hot. It did rain about mid AM on show day. We saw lots of old friends at the show including chapter members Paul Bourbeau and Jerry Plante. The shot below shows one of the indoor display areas. With over 1000 Pontiacs on display it was quite a show! Next year the POCI show will be in Charleston, Wva. We did the last Charleston show so from experience, the time is not too bad and the hospitality is next to none. GTOAA will be in Wichita, KS next year. We'll have detail for both these show coming soon.



You are a member of GTOAM. **Are you a member of GTOAA?**

We are a Charter Member of the National Organization. We encourage you to join this organization. The membership is \$35 per year, which includes a subscription to their award-winning magazine "The Legend". Checkout their website at www.gtoaa.org for more information.

OTHER EVENTS

Check out the MAAC calendar at the end of this newsletter for a complete list of events in our area.

NEW MEMBERS

Welcome to Mike Brennan – Old Orchard Beach
– 1966 GTO

DUES

Are you up-to-date?

Please, if you haven't paid your 2009 dues yet send your check of \$10.00 (or \$20.00) for two years. If you are unsure if your membership is current, just check the GTOAM roster at the end of this newsletter to see if you have "2009" under "Status". Remember this is our only source of income other than the sale of tee shirts and hats. In saying that lets try to gain new members. Remember we accept any and all Pontiacs not only GTOs. And we welcome any and all new members that have an interest in Pontiacs. You don't even have to own a car to join.

SHIRTS/SWEAT SHIRTS

Silk Screened:

Sweats are \$20

T Shirts are \$10

Hats are \$5

Embroidered Shirts and Hats!!!!!!

Shirts are \$25

Hats are \$15

Add \$3 per order for shipping.

Lots of colors in stock

Rose is the contact for these. 563-5824 or

rose@tidewater.net

Rose Huntington

78 Lynch Rd

Newcastle, ME 04553



2010 GTOAA International Meet

July 1-4, 2010

Wichita, KS

Sponsored by the GR-RRR8'R Wichita GTO Club

Online registration coming soon!

**Registration for the
2010 GTOAA International Meet
will not be accepted until September, 2009**

2010 POCI CONVENTION

Charleston, West Virginia ~ July 6-10, 2010

Phone Contact: Toll Free (877) 235-POCI

Mail Address :

Larry Bailey
Convention Coordinator
21 Holly Circle
Winfield, WV 25213

Drag Race Coordinator:

Bill Muck

BMuck5445@suddenlink.net

Convention Advisor:

Bill Fortune

Pont57@aol.com

Holiday Inn CHARLESTON (CHARLESTON HOUSE)

NOTE: as of 8/11/09 the host hotel is FULL.

Please refer to the .pdf of the Convention brochure for other lodging choices.

GTOAM MEMBERS IN THE NEWS

See the following article from the Kennebec Journal of May 17th 2009. It stars GTOAM members: Mike King and Dick Braunfels.

PASSION FOR PONTIACS

Popular cars will hit the end of the line in 2010

BY KEITH EDWARDS
Staff Writer

Kenneth Green's "daily driver" is a Toyota Camry, a sedan which is exceedingly practical and reliable and so popular it is one of the best selling cars in the country.

But don't mistake popularity for passion.

The cars that truly get Green's heart rushing — his two 1970s Pontiacs — have big, burbling American V-8 engines and high style missing from modern showrooms.

"You don't fall in love with a Camry," said Green, a retired Waterville doctor. "The old Pontiacs were glamour cars. Pontiacs always had a certain flair. They had that air about them, of being powerful and glamorous. The new cars are all the same — generic. They don't stand out."

Despite the passion of Green and other Pontiac fans, the line is at an end.

General Motors has announced plans to close its 83-year-old Pontiac division by 2010.

"It's a shame, too bad, but I guess time marches on," said Dick

Braunfels, of Litchfield, who has a restored blue 1967 Pontiac GTO hardtop which puts out about 360 horsepower, as well as his daily driver, a 2001 Pontiac Bonneville. "It's just a sign of the times. Everybody's having trouble."

Pontiac's GTO is considered by many to be the original American muscle car.

In 1964 Pontiac stuffed a 389-cubic-inch V-8 engine from its large cars into the then mid-size Tempest, as a \$296 option. The creation became the prototype for America's thundering muscle cars.

In 1966, Braunfels said, the GTO became the standalone model.

But that was not the first Pontiac to stir Braunfels' passion.

"I first truly fell in love with a 1961 Bonneville convertible, when I was 12 or 13 years old," said Braunfels, who occasionally takes his GTO to his work at Bath Iron Works. "It belonged to a friend, three houses up the street. When I saw that car, I was just struck by the beauty of it. That's still, probably, the prettiest car I've ever seen."

Braunfels said he might trade in his

PLEASE SEE PONTIAC C2



Staff photo by Andy Molloy

MUSCLEMOBILE: Mike King, of West Gardiner, has restored a 1964 Pontiac GTO.



GTO

1967 PONTIAC GTO belonging to Dick Braunfels, of Litchfield.

Contributed photo

Pontiac

FROM C1

2001 Bonneville for a new Pontiac, but he is keeping the GTO, which he recently brought out of the garage for summer.

As a young man out of high school in the mid-1960s, Mike King, of West Gardiner, worked in the body shop at the former Nichols Pontiac on State Street in Augusta, where he often admired the new Pontiacs.

"Working there, seeing the new ones coming in, I said 'I've got to get me one of those one day,'" said King, who now owns his own used car dealership in West Gardiner, Wheels 'N Deals.

After he got out of the service in the 1980s, he finally had enough money to get a Pontiac of his own.

He's still got it, a 1964 GTO which he works on himself and

occasionally drag races at strips in Winterport and Oxford.

King is vice-president of the GTO Association of Maine, an auto enthusiast organization with about 50 members who meet at car cruises and other events.

He's also got another Pontiac, a 1982 Firebird, and a 1957 Chevy.

And he's got three modern Pontiacs for sale on his used car lot, as well, each of them supercharged Gran Prix GTPs.

"They're luxury and high performance together in one vehicle," King said of the GTPs. "I always have a few Pontiacs around. Looks like I'll have to hang onto some if I want one, now that they won't be making them anymore."

Augusta resident Dana Geneseo is also a Pontiac fan, though he believes most recently-made Pontiacs don't have the

same appeal as the older ones.

Geneseo takes his red 1968 Pontiac Firebird to car shows — he said the car has gotten a bunch of second and third places — and drives it once or twice a week.

"It's disappointing that Pontiac is shutting down," said Geneseo, a barber. "I like the brand. They always had their own styling and performance, at least when they make their own cars. Modern Pontiacs, unfortunately, they're mostly just rebadged Chevys and other GMs."

Green, who has a 1975 Pontiac LeMans and a 1974 Bonneville, also feels Pontiac's most recent automotive efforts lack the uniqueness and style of its older cars.

"I think that's the problem — all GM cars are so similar to each other, so they don't stand out," Green said. "I think if Pontiacs

stood out more they wouldn't have to can the brand."

Neither of Green's cars, which he does most of the work upon himself, are for sale.

"They're forever, I'm never going to sell them," Green said. "You can't replace something like that."

Keith Edwards — 621-5647
kedwards@centralmaine.com

Charlie Huntington
78 Lynch Rd
Newcastle, ME 04553