



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

VP : Mike King
724-3574 whlsndeals@hotmail.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@roadrunner.com
9 Turcotte Lane, Litchfield, ME 04350

GTOAM web page: www.badgoat.net

NEWSLETTER

GTO Association of Maine June 2012

President's Message

The gas prices are coming down. Of course this is great news. They are still way too high, but we have to take these little victories when they are available. The price is right to get that wonderful gas-guzzler out for some summer cruising. I know that my '70 requires 93 octane or better and gets 14 miles per gallon. I think that is pretty good for these old muscle cars. Those of you with the '04 - '06 GTOs have it better. You still need Hi-Test but your mileage is in the twenties. Those GTOs sure fly too. Don and Gail Winchell showed up to our annual meeting with a bright red Dodge Viper (2004?). That has a V-10! What kind of gas mileage does that beast get? The answer is: It doesn't matter! It is one beautiful machine!

At the writing of this newsletter we have already had 3 events in 2012.....and 3 more scheduled. Read on to find out what you missed. Mark the days for the upcoming events so you won't miss these fun times with good cars, good friends and good food.

Prez PJ

NEXT EVENT June 24th, 2012

Cookout/Lobster Clambake

Who: Gail & Don Winchell's home

Where: Standish, Maine

When: Sunday, 24 June 2012

Arrive: Plan to get there around 11am

Eat: We'll eat around noon

Details: Gail and Don will supply a lobster clambake to each person that shows up that would like one. Don and Gail do ask that anyone interested to please RSVP by Thursday, 21 June, so that they can plan on a general number of lobsters needed. Phone # is 648-7174 e-mail is 68gto@gwi.net

Directions: From north of Portland, take the Gray exit off the turnpike and take RT 115 west into North Windam. At the light at RT 302 go straight on RT 35 to Sebago Station. At the light at RT 114 take a right on RT 114 go 3.6 miles and take a right onto Cole Hill Road. As soon as you turn onto Cole Hill Road you will see my driveway on the right that goes up the hill at the first corner. There is a number 45 on a tree at the base of the driveway.

Directions (cont): From the south you can take turnpike exit 44 (RT 114) and follow RT 114 north to Sebago Station. At the light at Sebago Station (RT 35) go straight 3.6 miles and take a right onto Cole Hill Road. As soon as you turn onto Cole Hill Road you will see my driveway on the right that goes up the hill at the first corner. There is a number 45 on a tree at the base of the driveway.

Winter/Spring Events Report **GTO Technical Workshops 1 & 2**

Workshop #1 March 2012

The first Workshop was held on Saturday March 10th 2012. We removed the transmission & clutch from Charlie's 66 GTO and then proceeded to "dial in" the bell housing. This means utilizing a dial indicator to determine the run-out between the crankshaft and the bell housing. This is really determining the alignment of the engine crankshaft and transmission drive shaft.



Charlie's garage was nice & warm for '66 work.



The Dial Indicator with magnetic base

Pontiac and GM recognized the importance of good alignment and established requirements that resulted in a very high degree of alignment accuracy. The problems arise with the restorer who swaps engines without also including that matching bell housing.

When there is misalignment, minor problems such as difficulty shifting or unintended gear disengagement can happen. More serious problems can be premature failure of pilot bushing, mainshaft (yoke) bushing or maindrive bearing.

Charlie's set-up was 0.028" out of alignment. The solution would be to purchase Lakewood Industries 0.014" offset dowel pins and install them in the engine block to correct the misalignment.



New dowel pins with 0.014" offset

Workshop #2 April 2012

The second Workshop was held on April 21st. The real challenge proved to be in the removal of the factory installed dowel pins. A lot of heat and a little thumping were required to pull out these bad boys. Special care was required when installing the new dowel pins to orient the offset to improve the mis-alignment. This is by try and error and it took us a couple of tweaks to get there. In the end we were able to reduce the misalignment to 0.008". When we went for a test drive, the improvement could be felt immediately by there being less vibration in the shifting handle.

Thanks Charlie for hosting this event as everyone in attendance learned a lot. The celebration beer was great too.

Our Summer Events Report

2012 Annual Meeting May 6th, 2012

We held our 2012 Annual Meeting for GTOAM at Fast Eddies Drive In Restaurant in Winthrop, Maine.



GTOs at Fast Eddie's in Winthrop, Maine

We had a good turnout for our Annual Meeting. We had old GTOs, New GTOs and even a Dodge Viper.



Mike King's 2006 GTO

It was good to see old friends out of hibernation. We had a nice meal and almost skipped dessert. It's a good thing that I stopped that foolishness and started the ball rolling. Others quickly joined in. I must be a good leader as I was voted President again. The other officers also remained for another year. Thanks to them for volunteering their time.

We had some good ideas and offers from members to host summer events for our club: Gail and Don Winchell will have a Lobster/Clambake at their place in June. Mike and Vicki King will host a cookout at their new house in August. Thanks again to the Winchells and the Kings.



Don Winchell's 2004 Dodge Viper

Don took Mark Dissell for a quick spin in the Viper. Mark was impressed as he was grinning from ear to ear when they returned. Another great event with a good turnout.

AMERICAN BEAUTIES

From the April/May AARP Magazine

Submitted by Fred Worcester

There's a nice article on old people collecting old cars in the recent AARP Magazine. It talks about people going to the Barrett-Jackson Auctions to purchase "the icons of their past." While most of us know that MOST aging Car Guys don't head to Scottsdale or Palm Beach to purchase their "mid life memory," we do enjoy watching (check the next newsletter for a first hand report) the auctions and dreaming about having the bucks to just raise your hand no matter what the cost of your favorite collectible car.

Back to the article: it states that "Collectible cars, especially American ones, that postdate 1973 or so are rare. That's when environmental and safety restrictions killed off the last golden-age muscle cars, and when American auto making in particular entered an aesthetically challenged period that few enthusiasts wish to revisit." Some people say that the hobby is "stuck in neutral." So, here WE are! The last of the original-owners-of-American-muscle-cars living out our dreams by buying or restoring those great old cars we remember from our youth.

The article goes on to say (sorry for the long quote, but he said it well) "A lot of market experts predict...the collectible era of automobiles has essentially ended, and future gear heads will churn through a dwindling stock of ever-more-elderly cars until the gas finally runs out and the last V-8 sputters. Few anticipate that aging Gen

Xers, gripped with nostalgia, will rescue their high school Corollas from junkyards a decade hence. The emotional bond that boomers forged with their wheels in car-crazy postwar America didn't reproduce itself, and few modern cars possess the soulful intangibles that elevate a machine into a vessel of dreams.

"If he's right, this is less a Super Bowl of car collecting than a jazz funeral – a riotous send-off to a culture lead-footing into oblivion. Whether we know it or not, we are gathered here to wave good-bye to the automobile, or at least what we loved about them, before they are gone for good."

REQUESTS FOR FEATURE ARTICLES

Thanks Fred for the great article!! It would be great if others shared their experiences. Please send me some stuff. Any input is welcome. C'mon, there must be something that you could share.
PJ

NEW MEMBERS

Past the word! We always like new members.

DUES

Are you up-to-date?

Please, if you haven't paid your 2012 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 "2012" 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.

GTOAM EVENTS FOR 2012

24 June: Lobster/Clambake at Gail and Don Winchell's in Standish

19 August: Cookout at Vicki and Mike King's in Winthrop

TBD (fall): Our Foliage tour

OTHER EVENTS

Check out the MAAC calendar at the end of this newsletter for other upcoming events in our area.

PONTIACS FOR SALE

FIEROs: 1985, 1986 & 1988
GRAND PRIXs: 1998, 2001 & 2004
BONNEVILLE: 1997
FIREBIRD: 2002

For complete info and pictures go to www.wheelsndealsme.com

The not road ready ones are not on the web site. Call Mike King at 207 724 3574

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
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