



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

VP : Mike King
213-6374 whlsndeals@hotmail.com
440 Outlet Road, Farmingdale Me.04344

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 September 2017

President's Message

Want to save around \$400 on Car Insurance?

This is a line used in a popular commercial from a well known Insurance Company.

I'm here today to tell you that I actually saved about \$400 on my GTO car insurance this summer. Yup, it's true! Wanna know my secret? You bet!

The only problem is that I don't recommend my method and it's really a lesson in "what NOT to do". Now, many of you are already speculating and you have probably figured it out. Perhaps you've done the very same thing.....yup, I forgot to turn my insurance "ON" for the driving season.

Every fall, at the end of the touring season, I call up my insurance company and remove all coverage except fire and theft. Every spring before I put the GTO back on the road I have two things to do: 1) Renew the Maine registration and 2) Call my insurance company to add Collision and Personal Liability Coverage. Both of these are very important and for the last 37 years I've executed it like a robot.

But this year, I somehow goofed. I did get the car registered and I SWEAR that I called the Insurance Company. It wasn't until I got the annual renewal bill in August that I noticed the booboo. I actually noticed the missing coverage before I noticed the impossibly low premium. Of course I was livid! How could those dummies mess this up? I've been driving around all summer without protection!!! Wow!

When I called them they told me that I never called them in the spring to make those changes. Then it hit

me. Maybe I didn't call. They certainly would have gladly added the coverage and sent me a revised bill for the additional premium. I definitely did NOT get a revised bill in April. Ohhh Nooo. Maybe this isn't their fault. Maybe it's me. Am I getting Old?

Luckily, I didn't have any insurance issues that would have exposed my lack of coverage. Chalk one up for clean living and a little good luck. Whew!! Now, what will I do with the money that I saved?

I hope that you enjoyed your summer. The weather was a little weird but, overall, it was a nice summer with relatively low gas prices. I hoped that you got out there and enjoyed your nice old ride and didn't experience any insurance issues either. Whew!

Prez
PJ

NEW MEMBERS

Mike & Janette Sweem – Richmond – 68 GTO

Welcome!

NEXT EVENT

October 1st, 2017

Fall Foliage Cruise

When: Sunday October 1st, 2017

What: Fall Foliage Tour with the Penquis Cruizers

When: Meet at Elmer's Barn – Cooper's Mills 10:30

Where: 107 Rockland Rd, Cooper's Mills (Rockland Rd is both Rts 32 & 17) Alternately you could meet us at the Red Barn in Augusta between 12 & 12:30 After Lunch we have a couple of garage tours lined up.

Contact: Charlie's cell if something comes up that day 841-3996

and soon we were driving thru Alna taking in the sight of the Reversing Falls. Soon after that we made our first stop at the dam at Head Tide right near where the two foot railway went through. Next stop was at Cow Shit Corner for a photo op. The last stop was at the Bunker Hill Church in Jefferson for an amazing overview of Damariscotta Lake. We continued around the lake and headed back to Charlie & Rose's in time to meet the rest of the arrivals for the BBQ.



GTOs at Cow Shit Corner

As with any GTOAM gathering the meal is a big part of the get together. Everyone brought what they wanted for the grill & the club supplied the fixings. As always no one left hungry.



Back at Charlie's and Rose's for BBQ and the Movie

LAST EVENT

Cruise, Cookout and a Drive-In Movie August 26th, 2017



Let the Cruise begin.

This was the event that had something for everyone! We started with a tour of some fresh water sites in the Mid Coast. The group departed Newcastle

After dinner we adjourned to the Garage Mahal for a tour of the petrabilia collection and of course the movie. We opted to use the indoor screen to watch the original Dirty Harry. The auto tie-in turned out to be the large amount of vintage vehicles in the background. For those who stayed for all of the events, it was a long but fun day. Many opted to take in one or two segments of the day's activities. Flexibility was the plan from the get go and it worked out just perfectly. Stay tuned for the next big GTOAM event!

Des Moines 2017

By Charlie Huntington

I wrote this story for the truck club but it does have a little Pontiac content in it. Want a story more directly related to GTOs? – Send it in, we'll print it!

“Another Show – Another Piece of Equipment” that's going to be the title of a future article. This time we'll chronicle the trip to the AHS Convention in Des Moines but even that will tie in a couple of purchases.

We need to start this tale off by looking back to a trip in July of 2016. I planned to go to the Pontiac Oakland Convention in Bettendorf, IA. Unfortunately this conflicted with the All International Show in Muncy, PA. Since the folks at Muncy are super accommodating I figured I could sneak in with my Pontiac wagon especially if I brought my recently purchased IH Service sign to display outside the car. Worked like a charm, and I had a great time as always in Muncy. I'll spare the details of the trip from Muncy to Bettendorf as that's a story in itself and it doesn't involve a truck (except one ramp truck).

The great coincidence on this trip is that the POCI convention was happening at the same time as the Jamboree at Iowa 80. After Rose arrived in Iowa, I decided to take her to see the Jamboree as well as the Truck Stop. We were accompanied by Tim & Penny Dye who run the Pontiac Museum in Pontiac, IL. Tim is the editor of “Smoke Signals” magazine for POCI. Since POCI also includes GMC Trucks, he was glad to be able to attend his first truck show and take some GMC pictures.

I had been thinking about adding another truck to the collection for some time. Because of the Pontiac tie in I thought a Kenworth similar to the “Smokey & The Bandit” truck would be a good fit. After a little more consideration, I came to the conclusion that it would be more practical to have a larger sleeper. Unfortunately a KW with a large sleeper or an Aerodyne starts to look more like a modern truck. When we went down the last row at the Jamboree, the solution appeared – a 1976 KW Bicentennial edition with a beautiful 1982 Timpte trailer. With that color scream it stood out and was obvious as an antique. Best part is it had a For Sale sign in the window. The next Saturday we left in the middle of the car show (even got disqualified) to get back out to see the KW start & run. I made the owner a close offer just \$2000 under his asking price and left him with my card. That was the last I heard...

We stopped on our trip home to visit our friends Blake Baughman in Auburn, IA and Chris Budke in Findlay, OH. If you remember my Budweiser Trailer story you might remember Chris is the guy who hooked me up with the Bud trailer. Chris had a

Fruehauf van that had been converted to a step van with hauling space in the rear and prime living quarters up front. He brought it to York and frankly I was jealous of the rig. He had recently hinted on Facebook that he was thinking of selling. The next morning Rose and I visited again and took a long look at the trailer. A couple of weeks later Chris and I struck a deal. I'll save the rest of that story for the “Another Show – Another Piece of Equipment” story that I promised above. To finish setting the stage for this story, this spring I called the owner of the KW. He quoted me a price \$1000 under his last year's price and I told him we had a deal.

My mother always told me that things work out for a reason. I think the reason for the prolonged negotiation on the KW was to make the timing work for Des Moines. I had decided not to attend due to the length of time it would take for the round trip. Now I was halfway there with the new truck. I flew out Sunday 5/21 to Appleton, WI. I rented a car to get to the hotel and to stock up with stuff for the new truck. Mon AM Larry picked me up and took me to his place in Wild Rose, WI. He spent a lot of time going over the truck and getting me off to a good start. Although the truck was excellent there were a lot of little tinkering projects. The fuel gauge didn't work, only 1 tank was hooked up, and the cigarette lighter which I needed for the Garmin didn't work. I had brought a modern stereo to install and there was no CB. The Garmin was my first issue as I headed to Cedar Rapids, IA. I know that 99% of the trip with no Garmin was no problem. The issue is when you get close and need specific help on the last few turns. After running a couple of hours I stopped at a rest area, while there I started playing with the cigarette lighter. It had power at the lead on back, great, it needs a new socket I figured. After playing with it a little longer a small piece of plastic fell out. Seems that the tip of a previous device had broken off inside the socket and I now was in business.

The rest of the trip to Cedar Rapids went smooth. Once there I met up with the group doing the Lincoln Highway Convoy to the convention. This tour was set up by Jon Vannatta and of course I found out about it on Facebook via Chris Budke. After eating dinner with the group, I went out and hung by the truck. I turned on the clearance lights for a short time and soon they were dim. I had one bank of batteries off so I hoped I'd have enough power to start in the AM. I slept a little more restlessly than I would have liked because I was worried about holding up the group. I got up early and headed down the street and within 1 block I found a couple of parts stores as well as a Cummins dealer. The Cummins dealer opened at 7:30 so I hung around until they let me in. They had batteries in stock so I grabbed a couple of group 31's and schlepped them back to the truck. I had them

installed in time to even have breakfast at the hotel. The trip from Cedar Rapids to Des Moines went without a hitch. I only got to run one day with them but it was still a great time! If you search on YouTube (ATHS Lincoln Highway convoy) you can find a video of us crossing a historic bridge on Rt. 30.

The Convention was great, I'll leave out the details to concentrate on the trip. I did get the stereo installed as well as buying and installing a CB at the show as well. The only hitch was trying to get out. I was packed in tight and the 3 trucks in front of me were all owned by the same guy. I told his wife I was getting ready to leave and she said he's be back soon as he was scouting the staging area to move them to. Unfortunately he moved 2 of them and left the 3rd one in my way. He had room to move it forward but chose to leave me blocked in. Another guy on the other side saw my predicament and moved his trucks so I could go. I had hoped to leave at 2PM but wound up going at 6:30. Despite the late start, I planned to press on to get as far east as I could. At one point I passed a rest area with a few old trucks in it. I figured they'd pull in to Iowa 80. "You only live once" I figured, that's where I'm going. Turned out to be a good choice, even ran it to Mike Hannigan and Linda Hooker in the store.

The next morning it was time to head to Auburn, IA. I was in sticker shock when I bought this unit so I had made a deal to sell the trailer to Blake Baughman. I go to his place just before a big storm was about to hit. We got the trailer in one bay and even got my truck in the next one. After the immediate threat passed I headed out to Truck World in Hubbard, OH. I did have to drive thru one blinding storm before I got there. The next morning – Memorial Day, the skies were beautiful. I headed out and drove 753 miles home. Only a couple of minor traffic delays, the KW cruised effortlessly at 75, so all in all another great rip in the books!

REQUESTS FOR FEATURE ARTICLES

Please send me some stuff. Any input is welcome. C'mon, there must be something that you could share. I've run out of things to share. We need your fresh ideas

PJ

DUES

Are you up-to-date?

Please, if you haven't paid your 2017 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 "2017" 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 2018

Wouldn't you like to host a GTOAM event next summer?

Call Prez PJ and let him know.