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NEWSLETTER

GTO Association of Maine September 2009

President's Message

Typical of this summer's weather, our July event was a washout, but the August Cookout was a success. We still have two events planned for you this fall before we put our "summer toys" away for the winter: The "Bring a Sparkle to a Child's Eye" Fall Car Show in Waterboro, Maine on 9/20/09; and 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 one (or both) of our fall events.

Pres. PJ

JULY EVENT CRUISE TO PENOBSCOT NARROWS BRIDGE 18 JULY 2009 WASHED OUT

Unfortunately the weather was rainy. This is a long trip for most of us and should be enjoyed with the roof down. Also the view from the top of the bridge tower is so much better when visibility is good. So we decided to cancel this cruise. Be on the lookout. This cruise will be scheduled again sometime in the future.

I hope that nobody headed on this cruise only to find that no one else was joining you. I

did make a few phone calls to members that had indicated interest to inform them that the event was cancelled. If you didn't get the word it's because I didn't know that you wanted to attend. In saying that, I will ask you to please let me or the event organizer know if you are planning to attend any of our events. That way we can contact you if plans change. At the very least, please always feel free to contact me (see upper right hand corner) any time if you have any questions about dates, times, rain dates, etc.

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

Charlie: Please provide a write up and pictures from your Cookout.

Thanks, PJ

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

Our next event is 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 is a New Unwrapped Toy. This event is organized by Past Pres Bob Farwell and his wife Joan and is held at the Lakeside Market in Waterboro, Maine. See the flyer later in this newsletter. It is held on Sunday afternoon from 2 to 6 pm. The show is located in a nice grassy area and there is a nice assortment of lunch items at the Lakeside Market. Please try to attend this GTOAM sponsored event and let's see how many toys we can stuff into the back of Bob's van for the less fortunate children to enjoy on Christmas day.

FINAL 2009 EVENT:
FALL FOLIAGE CRUISE
10 OCTOBER 2009

This is the final event of the season. The cruise route has yet to be decided by our VP Mike King. The date is Saturday 10/10/09 with a rain date of Sunday 10/11/09. Mark your calendars for this event. Details will be provided before the end of September. This is always a great time with usually a large turnout of vehicles. 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

OTHER NEWS:
2009 GTOAA/POCI
CO-VENTION

Charlie, Please provide info on the Co-vention and any pictures.

Go ahead and discuss your dealings with the National organization about membership.

Thanks, PJ

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.

NEW MEMBERS

CHARLIE—are there any?

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.

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.

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 glamorous 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.

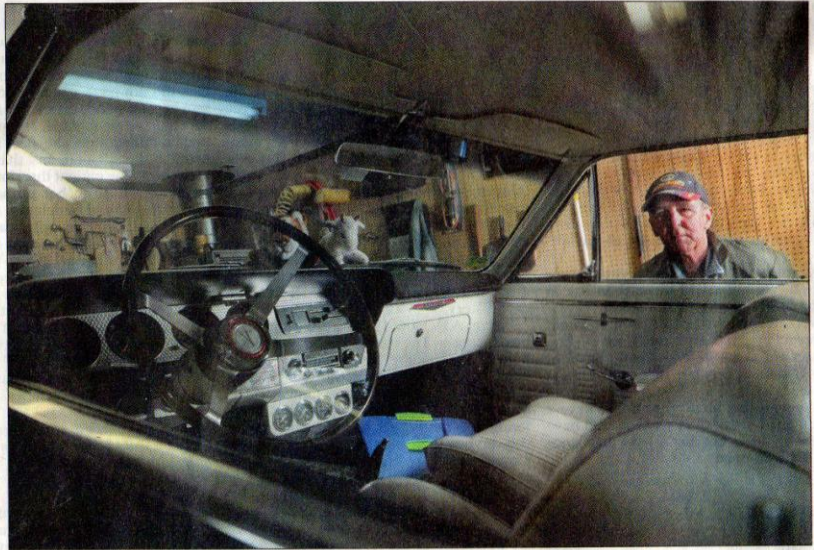
"I first truly fell in love with a 1961 Bonneville convertible, when I was 12 or 13 years old," said Braunfels, who occasionally takes his GTO to his work at Bath Iron Works. "It belonged to a friend, three houses up the street. When I saw that car, I was just struck by the beauty of it. That's still,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

Braunfels said he might trade in his

"You don't fall in love with a Camry."

KENNETH GREEN

PLEASE SEE PONTIAC C2



Staff photo by Andy Molloy

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

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GTO ASSOCIATION OF MAINE



In Conjunction With
Lakeside Market &
Vacationland Cruisers



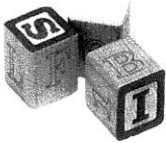
Presents Our 6th Annual
**“BRING A SPARKLE
TO A CHILDS EYE”**



FALL CAR SHOW

SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 20, 2009

2:00PM - 6:00PM



Located at Lakeside Market's Field
Route 5 Waterboro, Maine
(All Toys to be Given to Local Children)



**Cruise-In with your “Ride”
and Bring a New Unwrapped Toy**
(All Antiques, Classics, & Street Rods Welcome)

Enjoy a day with great cars of all kinds and think of the kids
that will have their eyes sparkle on Christmas Morning!



50/50 Raffle (1/2 of the money is to buy more toys)

Purchase a Memento Plaque for a \$1.00

(All Proceeds Are to Buy More Toys)



T 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

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