

SANTA'S GOT A GTO!

GO SANTA GO!



**HAPPY HOLIDAYS TO THE
GOLDEN GATE GOAT FAMILY**

**HOPE SANTA IS GOOD TO YOU
AND YOUR GTO THIS YEAR!**

THE GOAT CONNECTION

VOL.19-#12 Newsletter of the GOLDEN GATE GOATS DECEMBER 2013
GTO CLUB OF THE GREATER SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA



CLUB HOLIDAY PARTY, DEC. 7TH AT THE ENGLANDER, SAN LEANDRO

IN THIS ISSUE

- * **John's** President's Message
- * **Brian Smith's** Car of the Month
- * A Goats Tale for Christmas
- * Events Page
- * Dues Reminder
- * Want ADs
- * Holiday Party Info.
- * GGGoats Info page
- * Club Roster

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Howdy Folks,

Ho Ho Ho Happy Holidays!

Large amount of rain fell earlier this week. Perhaps that is a preview of things to come? Good thing though as we have just had I believe the driest year on record. I was unable to attend our November meeting due to my Dad's declining condition. He passed away

peacefully at home on November 15th and is now in a better place, 93 days after he fell on August 12th. Marsha and I will be going to Oregon by train over Thanksgiving. It will be an odd feeling walking into his house with him not being there and having an empty chair at Thanksgiving dinner.

Our Annual GGG Christmas Party will once again take place at The Englander on Saturday December 7th from 11 until 2. Please see this newsletter for full information. Courtesy of Jim Wangers we have two autographed copies of Pontiac PIZAAZ to give away this year. We will be having a general meeting to discuss our event calendar for 2014 along with anything else club related our members would like to talk about so please be prepared to discuss any ideas and suggestions you may have. Just like every other year our goal will be to increase member attendance at both meetings and events. Hope to see you there for what is always a good time. Until December 7th, see ya in the fast lane.

Prez John

MEMORIAL GIFT

A \$250 Club Donation in memory of our Club President's Father, John Francis Mekisich, has been made to Willamette Valley Hospice (Website is wvh.org)

CHANGES, MISSPELLINGS, ETC.

IF WE HAVEN'T GOT YOUR INFORMATION MIXED UP YET, JUST GIVE US TIME. WE ARE WORKING AS FAST AS WE CAN. Please contact Jim Lent with any name, address, phone number or vehicle corrections or changes. (510) 799-6096.
E-MAIL: jimlent@comcast.net
SNAIL MAIL: Jim Lent - 118 Iris Court
Hercules, CA 9454

GOLDEN GATE GOATS WEB SITE AVAILABLE AT:

www.gggoats.com



GOLDEN GATE GOATS EVENT PICTURES

We have a picture hosting site that has lots of event pictures. These can be downloaded to your own computer or you can order pictures directly from the site. Pictures can be viewed at: <http://imageevent.com/jimlent>

Email List

We have an active list that provides frequent updates on club activities and provides links to pictures of club activities. E-mail jimlent@comcast.net to join or to update your email address.

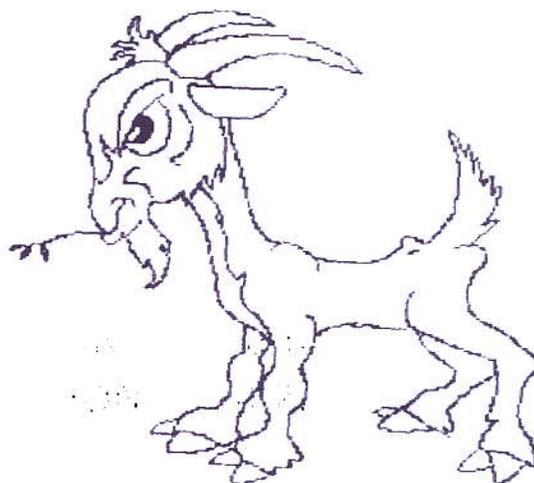
CAR OF THE MONTH ARTICLES

Would you like to see your car, and its story, published in this newsletter. Take this opportunity now to memorialise your ride!

Tell us about your ride: how you got it, what you have done to it, where you like to drive it, etc. Make your car the star.

You can email your story and pictures to Jim Lent at; jimlent@comcast.net

or send them by snail mail to:
Jim Lent
118 Iris Court
Hercules, CA 94547



GGGoats Holiday Party

Hi folks,

Your club Holiday Party is this coming Saturday, December 7th. Full details are included in this newsletter. We are using your club dollars to pay for this event. It has always proven to be a fun event for all who attend. If you haven't attended in the past then please come on out this year.

In addition to Holiday Fun this is your opportunity to bring suggestions about club events for 2014 that you think would be fun for the club. Put on your thinking cap and come up with some ideas for new or different club events that would appeal to many club members.

Don't let 2014 be a year where your GTO doesn't get to come out and play with the fellow club Pontiacs!

Come on out for the Party, meet new and old friends and celebrate the Holiday season.

CAR OF THE MONTH ARTICLES

BIG THANKS TO BRIAN SMITH FOR SUBMITTING A NEW CAR OF THE MONTH ARTICLE FOR THE NEWSLETTER. I KNOW THERE ARE MANY OF YOU OUT THERE WHO HAVE NOT SUBMITTED AN ARTICLE ABOUT YOUR CAR. SO, PLEASE TAKE SOME TIME TO SHARE YOUR RIDE WITH OTHER CLUB MEMBERS.

(Directions are in this newsletter on how to submit an article. Please put this on your NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS FOR 2014 -

THANKS JIM LENT)

Golden Gate Goats
December Club Meeting & White Elephant Gift Exchange!
Saturday, December 7TH 11 AM to 2 PM

Free Lunch

The club picks up the cost of your lunch. But, as they say there is no free lunch! Your group must bring a new, unwrapped toy to donate to the Toys for Tots and be ready to have a great time celebrating the holiday season.

Club Meeting

The meeting takes place at the Englander Restaurant, 101 Parrott Street in San Leandro, on Saturday, December 7th. Lunch will be served in our banquet room prior to the meeting then, at about 12:30 PM, we will be going over the regular agenda of club business followed by the White Elephant gift exchange. **We also have a couple of special gifts from Jim Wangers that member can win.**

White Elephant Gift Exchange

Many of you have asked, what is a White Elephant gift? The best way to describe it is to think of a gift you received that made you say, "You shouldn't have." But you really wanted to say, "What were you thinking!?" You should never, ever have purchased this thing! What am I going to do with it?!" For example:



So, look in your closets, garage and attic and find that "unique" item, wrap it up to look like an expensive and wonderful gift anyone would love to have (it makes the shock factor that much better when the gift is opened).

The club will provide a story again that will result in all the gifts being exchanged. That's right you'll rid yourself of one ugly gift item but get to take home another in its place..

See you there – Happy Holidays!

Club Dues Call

2014 Dues - Payable now!

The dues amount for 2014 is \$36.00.

**Dues can be submitted by mail or paid in person at our
December Holiday party.**

**PLEASE HELP OUR CLUB TREASURER BY
SENDING YOUR DUES IN TODAY.**

**Don't miss out on the exciting
2014 GGGoats events.
Use the envelope included
in the bill sent to you or:**

**SEND YOUR CHECK, MADE OUT TO "GOLDEN GATE GOATS"
TO:**

**GOLDEN GATE GOATS TREASURER
145 Pleasant View Drive
Pleasant Hill, CA 94523**

Best wishes to All Golden Gate Goaters from Jim & Jeannie Lent. Hope your holiday season is filled with good times. Here is a story of how Santa delivers the goods. Enjoy,

**A Goat's Tale For Christmas by Tom Szymczyk,
Delaware valley Old Goat Club**

**Twas the night before Christmas, 1964 When an elf came knocking
on Santa Claus' door. " Mr. Claus, there's a problem," was what the
elf said, "The reindeer are sick, so they can't pull your sled!"**

**"They all caught the flu. They're hacking and wheezing. They have
stuffy heads, and they're coughing and sneezing." "Give'em Ny
Quil," said Santa, "is what you should do."
"But it won't be invented 'til 1982-"**

**"The reindeer can rest," Santa said to the elf "This year I'll deliver
the presents myself. I've got a new beast that can pull the big
sleigh, A beast I've been saving for just such a day."
They went around back, to Santa's garage And walked past a
shiny, red super stock Dodge. "This one," said Santa, " belongs to
Aunt Gina.**

**She's a little old lady from East Pasadena."
"The Dodge here is quick. My Corvette can run. But we need more
than speed to get the job done. Delivering presents, we race
through the skies. These cars are both fast, but I need one that
flies!"**

**So Santa walked down to the end of the row And unlocked the
door of a new GTO. He hooked up the sleigh and said,
"This one is mine. Three deuces, a four speed, and a 389."
He then cranked it over- It rumbled real loud. He idled outside, then
spoke to the crowd, "Without any reindeer, I'll still make my run.
Just me and this Goat, we're gonna have fun."**

**He revved it right up and then dropped the clutch. He wheeled
through first. The guy was too much! By second he's airborne, and
pulling some G's. He power shifts third while clearing the trees.
He circled the Pole and then headed south, A twinkle in his eye,
and a smile on his mouth. And we heard him exclaim at a hundred
miles per hour,
"When all else fails, you should always Tri Power!!!!
Happy Holidays.**

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Bethel's Goat Farm - 10% discount - ask for Ed (408) 295-7611

Performance Years - offers discounts to club members on orders up to \$500 of 3% w/charge card or 5% prepay. Orders over \$500 8% with charge card or 10% prepay. 215-712-7400

Paddock West - offers club members a 10% discount on their orders. Identify yourselves with the code "GGG1" to get the discount. 800 854-8532 or (909) 798-4166.

Vic Hubbard Auto Supply -Preferred Buying Program 1-510-537-9001.Club members receive a Car Club Account Card. Simply present the card every time you shop at any of the Vic Hubbard locations. While there, don't forget to pick up your FREE Parts Pro Catalog. Make sure you give your Account Card to your sales agent prior to making your purchase to insure you receive your special Golden Gate Goat Club Discount.

HUBBARD MACHINE - 10% DISCOUNT
21030 Meekland Ave., Hayward 510-537-7885Contact Wade Cook or Jim Casares

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Victory Automotive Machine, 10 % Discount - 3500 Pearl Ave, Unit E. San Jose -Contact Vic Anderson408-266-7570 victorymachine@netscape.com.

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Greater San
Francisco Bay Area
Pontiac GTO Club

www.gggoats.com

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CLUB LOGO ITEMS

In 2005 we opened our online club store on our website. The store carries a full line of apparel, house wares, and gifts with the Golden Gate Goats logo, Outlaw GTO Association of Western America logo, and images of our club cars! Go check it out at:

www.cafepress.com/gggoats

Our goal is to preserve and keep the legend of the Pontiac GTO alive. We plan to do this by having fun as we learn more about our GTOs through various club activities: Cruises, Parades, Car Shows, Picnics & MORE!

2013 - Club Meetings

Club meetings are scheduled for the following months:
February, March, April, May
September, October, November
and December.
Check newsletter or website for updated dates, times & locations.

**GOLDEN GATE GOATS EVENT PICTURES
CAN BE VIEWED AT:**

[HTTP://imageevent.com/jimlent](http://imageevent.com/jimlent)



**DECEMBER
2013**



GOLDEN GATE GOATS CAR OF THE MONTH



BARN FIND by Brian Smith

Growing up it seemed my Dad and my Uncle always had some sort of project going on in our garage. My dad was a Pontiac guy and one of my earliest memories was of him and my uncle (who was a mechanic at the Olds dealership in Walnut Creek) swapping out the engine in our 69 Catalina. I can also remember them pulling the 390 out of my uncles 1970 Ford Short Bed PU and dropping in a 428.

When I was 11 the whole family packed up and moved back to Missouri back out to the small farming community they had moved from a decade before. My Uncle purchased a Skelly gas station right on the corner of the town square and my Dad bought the only auto parts store in town. I was 12 and had been reading Hot Rod magazine for a couple of years by then and having a Dad that owned an

auto parts store was like heaven on earth!

By the time I turned 16 I already had 2 vehicles under my belt. A 1967 Chevy PU with a 327 3 speed and a 1968 Mercury Cougar with a 302 4 speed. The local plumber had just built a new house for himself in town and was in the process of moving in and one day while I was driving into school there it was sitting out next to his new house, a Verdoro Green 1969 GTO! I immediately went straight to my Dad's store to find out what the story was and where did Ron get the car. Apparently Ron had purchased the car brand new in 1969 and had driven it for several years and then like many guys got married and settled down and the car had been parked behind his old place. After a little prodding Dad agreed to speak to Ron about selling me the car. A few days went by and finally I got an answer-yes he would sell me the car.....for \$500.....\$500! it might as well have been \$5000! I was 16 years old working part time at the local newspaper for \$2.25 an hour and my tab at the auto parts store was growing faster than my salary. I managed to scrape together \$200 went to the local bank and with my Dads signature borrowed \$300 more (I sold the Cougar and the PU and paid the loan back). I grabbed the cash and made a beeline for Ron's house. I was now the proud owner of a 1969 GTO 400, 4 speed!

I look back now and chuckle, what was my Dad thinking turning a 16 year boy loose with the keys to a car like that! I think that car cost him more money than he ever expected, I was going through clutches, transmissions and tires like there was no tomorrow. Of course I always promised to sweep floors and work at the store to pay for all the parts I had to replace and I did make an effort but I was breaking parts right and left. I was having the time of my life with the GTO and in the mean time I had acquired a 1969 Camaro and a 1972 Camaro. Long story short my dad came home one day and asked which of the 3 cars was actually running. I had just broke a motor mount and twisted the housing on the Muncie 4 speed in half on the Goat and I had the 327 for the 69 Camaro scattered out all over the garage floor so I admitted the 72 Camaro was the only one currently driving. Since I was leaving for the Service in a few weeks he wanted the Goat and the 69 Camaro sold and he would keep the 72 Camaro for me. Not really the way I wanted it to go but I had little choice. I sadly sold the Goat, it was gone but not forgotten.

About 7 years ago I had just finished building a 56 Chevy PU and was looking for another project so on a whim I sent a letter to Missouri DMV requesting information on the GTO. Normally they will not supply anyone with any information like that but by some fluke they sent me a photocopy of the last registration from 1985. I made a few phone calls and managed to locate the registered owner and he told me he had traded the Goat for a Firebird back in 1985 and the guy he traded it to lived in Quincy, Missouri. I still have friends back there and one of them owns a tow service and a wrecking yard and he knows where every car within 100 miles is at so I promptly called Don and he was very skeptical that that car was still around, he figured it probably got crushed based on the last known location of the car. Don had no luck and I was long overdue for a vacation so I headed back to visit family and planned a trip to Quincy. Quincy is a town of about 25 people so it didn't take long to look around and the GTO was no where to be found so I gave up. About eight months ago I thought what the heck I might give it one last shot so I called up the gentleman that I had talked to 7 years before and in the course of conversation he remembered the guys name that he traded it to and for some odd reason he remembered his graduation year. At least I had something now his name was Phillip and he graduated in 1982 but he did not know what school. Google is a wonderful tool! I looked at Google maps figured out the closest High School to Quincy and Googled the class of 1982.....bingo there was only one Phillip! With a few more strokes of the keyboard I found out he had a Facebook page so I sat down and pecked out an email explaining who I was and what I was looking for and asked if he was the Phillip that had the GTO. The next day my phone rang and it was Phillip and he still had the car! As it turns out he traded for the car because he wanted my car for parts to repair a 68 GTO convertible that he had wrecked. He used what parts he needed and put the car in a shed at his parent's house in Quincy (I probably drove right by that shed 7 years before). Phillip had moved up near St Louis and had not been home in years, his parents had passed and the house was

abandoned, he told me that if there was anything left of the car it was mine!

I jumped a plane back to Kansas City drove down to Quincy to see if the car was indeed still in the shed. I expected the worst and I was not surprised. The shed was just about rotted away but for the most part it had protected the car from the elements but not from the thieves. There was nothing left but a frame and shell. I left there not really sure what I wanted to do, it was bad. I slept on it that night and decided I would at least pull it out into the sunlight and see if it was salvageable. The next morning I borrowed a chain saw from my cousin and headed back to Quincy. I spent all day clearing brush away from the doors and clearing a road down to the car, in fact I had to use the chain saw to cut the doors off the shed just to get in. The more I looked the more I realized one more winter is about all the car had left. There were 2 trees that had fallen over onto the roof and the shed was barely standing up in fact the collar ties across the roof were 3 inches off the roof of the car, a strong wind would have blown the whole shed over. Before leaving for the airport I set it up with my friend to take his wrecker out there and retrieve the car.

The following Memorial Day weekend my brother-in-law and myself headed back to pick the Goat up. By the time we got there my friend had it at his tow yard so we swung in with the trailer picked it up and headed back to California.

I have spent the last 6 months combing through Craigslist and going to swap meets trying to find all the missing pieces. I managed to meet a gentleman in Sacramento who knew someone that had a complete front clip including doors, I picked up the inner fender from another guy in Napa, scored a 455 over in Alameda. It has been a treasure hunt but at this point I have everything I need to start assembly. Last weekend I trailered the Goat out to Brentwood to the body shop to get the rear quarters replaced and get the body and frame blasted.

It has been a long journey in fact it has been 33 years since I owned the car and it will end up costing me twice what it will ever be worth to complete the restoration but I have a great story and my High School car back!

Looking forward to taking the car on club events.

