

THE GOAT CONNECTION

VOL.27-7 Newsletter of the GOLDEN GATE GOATS JULY 2021
GTO CLUB OF THE GREATER SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA



25th Anniversary 1996 - 2021

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings Everyone,

Happy 4th of July, do have a safe and sane one! Time sure does fly; half of 2021 is now in our rear view mirrors.

**Hold on everybody,
here we go.....**

Got Picnic? Got BBQ? Got \$ and Prizes? Got cool cars and people?

GGG certainly does, coming up quickly at our post Covid Tilden Park 25th Anniversary Summer Picnic on

Saturday July 31st. Thanks to Jim Lent being proactive we were able to book a date for our picnic as Covid restrictions loosen that is the **same as in the past!** Let's move forward from here, put the train back on the track and carry on to make our 25th Anniversary picnic our best yet. We will be required to comply with any Covid restrictions still in place.

ALL WE NEED IS YOU TO MAKE THIS HAPPEN!

Complete information in last newsletter as well as in this one. RSVP required, thanks to all of you that already have. Please let me know by July 20th @ mitygto@aol.com if you will be joining us. Always a special day and this year our first IN PERSON event in 15 MONTHS so please join in our celebration. For our raffle prizes please bring something car/music/movie related from the golden era of the GTO. It's a 50/50 raffle so a lucky member or guest is going home with a fist full of cash. John Whitmore is planning on bringing his restored 67 GTO recently completed by Josiah Coy. Will be great to see and hear John share the experience with us. If Josiah can join us we can hear from the builder as well. Jim Sloane's 66 GTO was also recently restored by Josiah. If Jim can

attend perhaps we can see the cars in all their glory
SIDE BY SIDE? I am stoked just thinking about that.....
how about you?

Let's plan on having a meeting via Zoom on Thursday
July 8th starting at 7pm. Topics to include the picnic, a
special edition 25th Anniversary GGG T shirt and our
agenda for the remainder of 2021 and beyond.
Considering returning to in person meetings in
September.... if member interest is there perhaps we
can plan a visit to the Pacific Pinball Museum in
Alameda? This would have our meeting schedule back
to where we were prior to Covid.

Think I'll leave it here for now. **Please rsvp for the
picnic at your EARLIEST CONVENIENCE.**

See ya virtually at our July 8th Zoom meeting; IN
PERSON at the picnic or as always; in the fast lane!

Prez John

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

GOLDEN GATE GOATS WEB SITE

AVAILABLE AT:

www.gggoats.com



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**

CAR OF THE MONTH ARTICLES

**Would you like to see your car, and its story,
published in this newsletter. Take this
opportunity now to memorialize 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**

GOLDEN GATE GOATS 25th Anniversary Club Picnic

Saturday, July 31, 2021
Island Picnic Area
Tilden Park, Berkeley
10:00 a.m. until ???



Join us to celebrate our 25th YEAR!

Location: Tilden Park in Berkeley, Island Picnic Area (Next to the Brazil Room)
Date: Saturday, July 31, 2021 following any existing Covid protocols
Start Time: 10:00 a.m.

The Meal:

The Club will provide lunch catered by Back 40 Texas BBQ;

- Barbecued chicken, pork ribs and slow smoked beef brisket
- Ranch rolls, bbq beans and corn cobettes
- Assorted cookies, sodas and bottled water with ice
- Plates, utensils/napkins, condiments and table clothes

Members, please bring:

- Your favorite adult beverage (see below)
- Raffle item(s) Theme based suggested 1964 to 1974 cars/music/movies or?

Please note:

- [RSVP to John by July 20th](mailto:MITYGTO@aol.com) MITYGTO@aol.com
- Beer and wine are permitted in the picnic area; hard liquor is not allowed.

Directions: From Highway 24, take the Fish Ranch Road exit (immediately east of the Caldecott Tunnel). Take Fish Ranch Road to Grizzly Peak Road. Turn right on Grizzly Peak Road. Turn right on South Park Drive, then left on Wildcat Canyon Road. The Island Picnic Area is on the right side of Wildcat Canyon Road, just past the Brazil Room.

Parking:

- Goat parking for about 25 cars immediately in front of the picnic area
- Overflow parking and space for daily drivers directly behind the picnic area

Things to Do at Tilden:

- The Little Train (scaled-down steam train) offers rides along the scenic ridge.
- 18-hole public golf course with driving range, pro shop, and coffee shop.
- Regional Parks Botanic Garden - the most complete collection of California native plants, including rare and endangered species - offers tours and lectures.
- Lake Anza offers swimming in season, with a sandy beach, bathhouse and food stand. Fishing is permitted all year.
- Tilden's merry-go-round – an antique carousel with hand-carved animals and a calliope.
- Children's pony rides, in season.

Check out their website for up-to-date information about availability of these and other attractions:

<http://www.ebparks.org/parks/tilden>

RSVP no later than July 20th to John Mekisich by:

- Phone 650-477-8540, or
- Email MITYGTO@aol.com



DECEMBER
2001



GOLDEN GATE GOATS CAR OF THE MONTH



MIKE AND TERESA LACOMBE'S 1965 GTO "WHAT IS THE BEST YEAR?"

The answer is simple - 1955! That's the year Pontiac came out with the "Strato-Streak V8". A 287 CID slug! And, I had one. The year was 1963, and after selling my first car (a 1950 4-door torpedo body Chevy), for a big profit, I was able to buy my first V-8 car. It was a '55 Pontiac Chieftain and I paid my life savings of \$200.00 for it. This was for a car that was less than 10 years old! First impressions are lasting. I loved that car. It wasn't very fast but it was a V8 and it looked good. In '64 when the GTO first arrived, I wanted one bad! But, all I could afford was a used "Tri-Power" setup from a '57 engine. It helped performance some but the best results was how it looked! When I was in High School, you had to have a Hot Rod or you were nobody. I didn't have any money so I was somewhere in between nothing and nobody but I had my Pontiac with 3 deuces and that helped my social standing somewhat! Since then I have always been intrigued by multiple carburetion. It just looks cool! And I always wanted a GTO! After a four year hitch in the Navy, a friend bought a used '68 GTO. It was a nice

400cid/400turbo. It ran strong like it should (better than my '55) but not any better than another friend's '68 Firebird 400/400. Neither one had "multiple carbs". I was disappointed! Old impressions die hard. I was also disillusioned! GM decided to get out of the racing business and Pontiac had to say good-bye to its Tri-Power system. But for some strange reason you could still get "Tri-Power" in the Corvette! 435HP/427cid where was the logic in that? I was mad! I gave up on American cars and went out and bought a brand new 1972 Datsun 240Z (multiple carbs)! If I was ever going to have a GTO it had to have (you guessed it) "Tri-Power"!

Twenty years, several cars, trucks and four wheel drives, (both foreign and domestic) 1 marriage, 2 kids, 2 careers and a house or two later I found it! A 1965 Pontiac GTO Convertible! It was in kit form (some assembly required). It had no top, a newly done not stock interior (looks like '66 seats) in cloth and leather and fresh Ferrari red paint. The 389 had a bad rod knock and overheated. But the clincher was the unassembled "Tri-Power" sitting in the trunk.

Knowing this was not a #'s matching car, made my decision to build what I wanted that much easier. The 455 CID engine and turbo 400 trans sitting in my garage finally found a home. A little clean-up, a new white top, some radiator work and vintage "MAG" wheels, made a nice looking and running GOAT! It was now time for the Carbs!

After rebuilding the carbs myself, and purchasing linkage, I installed the set-up on the 455. The car didn't go any faster but it sure looked sexy and it sounded great. I had finally achieved high school social status! Everybody liked looking at the car, especially the engine. I was in heaven. Then it happened!

One morning on the way to work, the engine was running kind of rough. It started hard and was blowing a fair amount of black smoke. I figured the choke had stuck and I would fix it when I got to work. Then it back fired! One of those little pops you hear now and then when the engine is cold and you give it a little gas. Flames started pouring out of the cowl in front of the windshield. Oh-MY-GOD this thing is on fire!!! I pulled over, opened the hood and saw my worst nightmare, the whole top of the engine was on fire and all I could do was spit. I had no fire extinguisher, nothing! All I could do was watch it burn. Finally, a passing motorist with an extinguisher stopped and put the thing out before it totally got out of hand. Then the fire truck arrived and made sure it didn't go any farther. They must have poured a thousand gallons of water in and on that car until it was stone cold. That was a sad day! The good news was it was not a total loss. In fact, thanks to the guy with the fire extinguisher the car is still on the road today. It took a little over a year of rebuilding and refurbishing. It gave me the opportunity to rebuild the 389 that came with the car. So, for the last seven years I ran it with a single Carter AFB carb and a fire extinguisher.

After joining GGGoats in the summer of '00 and seeing all the nice '64's, '65's and '66 GTO,s with "Tri-Power", I decided mine wasn't a Goat until it had its Carbs! So, I got brave this time and had the carbs "professionaly rebuilt". I'm glad I did it right this time, they sound so much better then the four barrel and they look so sexy.

So, what is the best year? My car has a little of them all. From the '55 Chieftain of my youth, to the '66 hood and interior, the '71 Turbo 400 trans and the '72 disc brakes. All These parts work in concert to make Gran Turismo Omologato, American style, and I'm glad Im still driving mine! People still enjoy looking at it. These cars are truly a "Wayback machine". People go wayback every time they see one.

The 455 is back in the garage looking for a new home. I was thinking a '64 post coupe would be nice. Doesn't have to be a GTO, already have one of those, but, that's another story.

Mike LaCombe

Part TWO

1965 WAS A VERY GOOD YEAR

The Mustang and the GTO were in their second model year. The Corvette finally had decent 4-wheel disc brakes and big power. And the Mopars were putting big engines in their midsize cars.

At least it was a good year for the auto industry.

After graduating from high school in June of '64, and spending that summer exploring the country side in a friends 1948 Plymouth for "the answer", I ended up in Salinas, CA. where I went to college for the 64/65 year. I had my '55 Pontiac Chieftain for transportation. A good reliable car at the time but I wanted something better. Being a Pontiac guy, I wanted a '65 GTO! How cool was that car? My first impressions of the car were: It had a real looking hood scoop. And the ignition switch was on the far-left side of the dash. I guess the logic was you could start the car with your left-hand when shifting into 1st gear with your right for a quick getaway. Plus it had that checkered flag on the speedo. How cool was that? I wanted a GTO so bad that I quit school to get a job so I could make payments. Problem was I couldn't find a job that paid enough for me to live, let alone buy a new car. Also, Uncle Sam had other plans for young men not in school at that time. 1965 was starting to become a drag.

My GTO had to wait about twenty-five years. After a hitch in the Navy, several used cars, trucks, marriage, kid, and couple of careers taking priority, I finally found it.

October 1992. A 1965 GTO Convertible was advertised in the Farmers Market Wholesale Weekly want ads. The ad said it needs some work, \$5000.00. I quickly went to Fairfield and negotiated the price down to \$4000.00 cash and drove it home.

Now I have been a member of the Golden Gate Goats for 10 years. Some of you may remember the episode with the Tri-power fire. That incident was described in some detail in the December 2001 Car of the Month article. Fortunately, thanks to the guy with a fire extinguisher, the car is still running strong. From time to time, I have taken it to the drags and it was fairly consistent in the 14s. Then one day I ran across a set of used BF Goodrich "Radial Drag T/As". I put them on the car and things started to "click". I suddenly had some traction. On the last run it broke into the 13s. They asked me to leave. A convertible needs to have a roll bar installed when running that quick. I haven't taken it back since.

I love tinkering with this car. Over the years its had a 455 cid engine with the stock 2 speed auto trans then a turbo-400 trans. It is now running the stock 389 engine with Tri-Power and a 2004-R 4-speed overdrive automatic transmission. Front disc brakes and posi rear. It is a real nice convertible cruiser.

1965 was a very good year. And it continues to be a very good year. We get a lot of Positive Pontiac Points when we drive the car and we hope to continue having a good year for many years to come.

YOUR AD COULD BE HERE!

PERSONAL ADS FOR ALL

GOLDEN GATE MEMBERS ARE FREE .

NON-MEMBERS Ads - \$10.@ per month per ad.

Contact: JIm Lent, 118Iris Ct., Hercules CA 94547 (

510) 799-6096 or email - iimlent@comcast.net

WANTED:

Endura bumper for a 1970 GTO.

Contact John Arvizu at: HOTSS@YAHOO.COM

FOR SALE:

Emergency Break Cable Front Stainless Steel for GTO 64-72

\$45.00 New still in package

##Console Lamp Lens lights up rear seat fits GTO 64-67

\$12.00 New still in package

#Glove Box Console Light GTO 61-88 \$15.00 New still in package

#Console Lid Spring Center for Console glove box 64-67

\$25.00 New still in package

#Lock set w/keys for center console glove box

\$18.00 New still in package

#Lamp Housing for for light in rear of center console for GTO 64-67 \$68.00 New still in package

#Bracket spare tire hold down GTO 64-70 \$5.00 New still in package

#Console Base Plastic for GTO 64-67 for automatic transmissions

\$250.00 New still in box

#Rally II wheel 15"x7" New (one only) \$150.00

#Rally II wheels 15"x7" used good condition with Pontiac Rally II center caps set of 4 \$75.00 each

CONTACT CLUB MEMBER DAVE SVODBA @ dave22349@gmail.com

N O S 1965 PONTIAC GTO Passengers Side Grill Insert. Slight Shelf Wear, no original Box. Never installed. \$600.00. You'll likely look long and hard to find another one. Don't wait for your Insurance Company to try to find one of these. I have one in Heated Storage protected by Sig & Sauer. Call Ken Davis. 408-209-2553. kendavis14@sbcglobal.net

GOLDEN GATE GOATS FACEBOOK PAGE

Join our club Facebook page!

- Open discussions with members
- Share links with GGG web site
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Join the blog by clicking on this link:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1739685286060250>

Find the 'Request to Join' on the page and send your request to us. Acceptance will take about a day, and you will be notified when you have been given permission.

Start sharing your ideas, stories, parts and recommendations with the club!



**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!

2018 - Club Meetings

Club Meetings are scheduled for the following months:

February, March, April, May

July, October, November

Check the 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)

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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.

World Muffler - 10% Discount - 966 E. El Camino Real, Sunnyvale - 408-738-2318 Contact Maynard Rougier or Patrick Karl

Victory Automotive Machine, 10 % Discount - 3500 Pearl Ave, Unit E. San Jose -Contact Vic Anderson 408-266-7570 victorymachine@netscape.com.

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