

GTO Joe

By
Joe Mayweather



I have always loved to drive. One of my first jobs was driving a city bus in Chicago. Next was driving a UPS delivery truck and then a UPS tractor-trailer truck.

My father had a 1949, 1957 and 1972 Pontiacs. I got my first car at the age of 19, a 1954 Mercury. It was slow but I learned a lot about cars from it. My next car was a 1958 Oldsmobile, which was fast for a big car. I would always beat my friend who had a 1960 Chevy 348 three-speed car. Then I traded to a Buick Special V6 three-speed. It turned in the low 16s at 88 mph in the quarter mile. Then the guys were talking about a Pontiac LeMans with GTO options. The total price of the car was \$2700, so I ordered a red fourspeed and picked up my 1964 GTO in the spring of 1964.

I raced it at the US 30 drag strip in Indiana. It turned in the 13 seconds. I kept that car until the 1966 GTO came out and then traded the 1964 for the 1966 that I kept until my wife and I started our family.

I decided a Buick Station wagon would be a more practical family car. Gas started to go up, cars were getting smaller; the motors were losing power, so I settled down to family and work. I had a lot of gas friendly cars over the years, but my love for high horsepower cars or GTOs never left. By 1995 I had 30 years service with UPS and retired at the age of 58 years old. Bev and I decided to move from the Chicago area to St. Louis in 1996. We found a nice 3 bedroom brick ranch in North County.

I started hearing rumors that the GTO was coming back. I made a promise to myself if they ever brought the GTO back I would get one. So in August 2003 I ordered one sight unseen. On January 12,2004 we picked up the 2004 Metallic Blue GTO automatic.

I had shifted gears long enough in the tractor-trailer, sometimes 13 speeds. A nice salesman named Mark Fry gave me information about the Gateway GTO Club, which I joined and the rest is history. I LOVE MY GTO!

