

# GOAT OF THE MONTH

## MRS. GTO

By

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As most of you know, Terrie and I already own a 1966 GTO that we both enjoy very much. Well, back in the spring of 2007, I got the urge to purchase a New Age GTO to complement our 66. I was looking around at various dealers using the internet to check what was available, in what colors and options and the prices.

Just before I began thinking of a new GTO, Terrie's Mom was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer and was told there was nothing they could do and she had 6 months to live. Well, we spent many months going back and forth to Raytown, Missouri as her Mom was in Hospice at home. Things progressed just as the nurses said they would and her Mom passed away peacefully in July 2007.

On several weekends where Terrie was in Raytown and I was home manning the home-

stead, I was able to locate a new 2006 Torrid Red 2006 automatic GTO at Marquitz Motors in Troy, Missouri. Using GM Card points, dealer discounts and a Loyalty certificate I had been given to me by Gateway Club member Bill Kirk, I purchased the 06 on June 6, 2007 without Terrie ever knowing what was going on. She came home that following Sunday to see the brand new 2006 GTO sitting in her parking spot in the garage. This was a huge surprise as we had never, ever bought a car without both of us driving, testing, talking and agreeing first. Needless to say, she was surprised and very soon, she put her plates on the GTO: MRSGTO.

That following year, we took the 2006 GTO to the GTOAA National Convention in Saratoga Springs, New York with the Melrose's in their black 06, the Friedman's with their Red 69 and the Hedrick's with their red 67. We drove the entire way and visited Buffalo, home to Mark and Sandra Melrose. We got to visit the Anchor Bar where Buffalo Wings were invented and yes, we sampled close to a hundred of them with some beer to wash them down. We also got to see where Mark and Sandra grew up and had lunch with Mark's parents.

While in Saratoga Springs, Mark and I signed up for the drag racing event at Lebanon Valley Raceway about 50 miles away. We drove our GTOs to the track and found we were in the 11.0 seconds and slower class. After making about 4 "time trials" we dialed our GTOs in. My first race I dialed in a 13.95. The 06 could certainly do better than 13.95 but this was bracket racing and it is consistency, not fastest time and I kept the Traction Control ON to help control the wheel spin at the line. I won my first race with a 14.199 ET at 99.16 MPH and a reaction time of .024 seconds.

The second race was a BYE as there were 7 racers left and I got a BYE due to the low reaction time of .024. I made a pass and with a 14.05 dial in and ran a 14.08 at 100.05 MPH.







The third race was the semi-final and I was up against an 11 second GTO with a dial in of 11.79. I dialed in 14.05 and won because my opponent Broke Out with an 11.67 time on an 11.79 dial in. MRS GTO ran a 14.079 at 95.96 MPH with a .022 reaction time.

The finals had MRS GTO up against another very quick GTO with a dial in of 12.02. I kept the 14.05 dial in and won again but this time due to my opponent Red Lighting. MRS GTO ran a 13.966 which is a Break Out but since my opponent Red Lit, MRS GTO won again. The final run was a 13.966 at 99.82 MPH with a .006 reaction time.

So, MRS GTO takes the 11 second and slower Drag Racing Class with just ONE actual win. The rest of the runs my opponents LOST by either braking out or red lighting. Yes, I won but not necessarily by anything that I did.

After the convention, Terrie and I, the Melrose's and Friedman's visited Niagara Falls and then traveled through Canada into Detroit and then back to St. Louis.

In 2011, we took the new GTO to another GTOAA National Convention in Portland, Oregon. Along with the Melroses, we followed the Oregon Trail from Kansas City all the way to Portland seeing some of the best sights in the entire USA. It took us about 6 days to make the trip but it was well worth it.

MRS GTO found her way back to the Drag Strip in 2008 at the Gateway GTO Club Drag Day in Benton, Illinois. Terrie & I were both racing; Terrie in the 06 and me in the 66. We even had a race together.

So far, these are the longest trips we have made with Terrie's GTO as we are trying to keep the miles as low as we can even though Terrie uses the 06 as her daily driver. Right now, it has just 49,000 miles on a 10 year old GTO. We have kept the 06 bone stock as I had a K & N cold air kit on it for a while but took it off to go back to stock. There are just not that many STOCK New Age GTOs out there so someday, MRS GTO may be a collector GTO.

