



# GTO of the Month



## My 1970 GTO

by Danny Schmidt



I guess you could say my GTO story started in 1954, yes 1954. This is the year I was born and the year my Dad and Uncle bought the local Pontiac and GMC dealership, which remained in our family till 2009. When the 1964 GTO came out, I was 10 years old and already doing chores at the store. I remember those GTOs coming in and sitting on the show room floor with me pretending I was driving and going through the gears. I also remember them sitting on the repair lot after a hard weekend, needing a motor, transmission or rear gears. I also remember the locals that bought the GTOs.

Those GTOs are long gone but many of the locals are still around town and yes those old GTO stories still seem to float to the top. We'll discuss all of that at another time. Let's get to the real "star" of the Car of the Month.

My story with this 1970 GTO started 20 years ago in May of 2000. I found it in the St. Louis Post Dispatch classified section. (Look at the prices from 2000. Don't you wish prices would be like that today. You can see I had the Pontiacs highlighted). The gentleman I bought it from said he had it for approximately 5 years and he bought it the way I saw it. I love all GTOs and have had several, but never a '70. I made the man an offer, he took it, and we came home with an autumn gold 1970 GTO.



# GTO of the Month



4020	Classic, Antique and Special Interest Auto	'71 Pontiac LeMans Sport, fact. buckets, newer 400 mtr. & trans. Nice car. \$2300/Best offer. 867-4478 or 277-7471
4010	Auto News/Info	
4005	Automotive Financing/Insurance	'70 CUTLASS Supreme, 2 dr. hrdtop, V8, ps, pb, air, needs restoring, all orig, \$600. (573)883-7272
4015	Automobiles to Rent-Lease	'70 Dodge Charger 318. Auto, ps, pb, 43K orig. mi., \$7000/ offer 618-466-1298
4470-4475	Auto Parts Accessories	'70 Ford Galaxy XL Convert. Red, V8, auto, 390 eng., pwr. top, p/b, p/s, good cond., reliable, daily driver. \$5,000. 727-1204
4480	Auto Service/Repair	'70 Impala conv, good body, needs restoring. \$500. 573-734-2822
4320	Autos Wanted	'70 Pontiac GTO, autumn gold, exc. cond., 400 4 spd., \$12,000/nego.
4455	Buses, Ambulance For Sale	'69 CAMARO Pro Street, 350 Stroker engine, possible trade, \$9500. 636-398-4524
4465	Cellular Telephone	'69 Chevelle SS, 454 auto, 12 bolt, 3.73, restored, \$8500. (314)653-6495
4390	Four Wheel Drive	'69 Corvette, blue, orig. 350-300 h.p. 4 spd, ac, pb, ps, OEM side exhaust, body off restoration, \$20,000. 636-239-5237 after 5
4520	Mopeds/ Scooters/Go-Karts	'69 DODGE Coronet 440, ac, 318 auto., exc. orig. daily driver, \$7500 firm. (314)725-9648
4525	Motorcycle Services	'69 EL CAMINO \$4500 CALL 636-332-1070
4530	Motorcycles	'69 Firebird Conv., 400 auto., restored, nice, \$11,500/ neg., 636-916-1571
4440	RV/Motor Homes	'69 FORD T-BIRD 429 big block (314)771-2758
4500	Tires & Wheels	'69 NOVA, 350 auto., 2 door, \$5600/Best offer. 636-942-2173
4450	Travel Trailers/ Campers	'68 CAMARO RS SS, 396 cu. in., 4 spd, new metal, needs paint, \$4200/best offer, (636) 464-3021.
4405-4430	Trucks	'68 GTO, runs good, must see, \$4,350/offer, (636)978-0666
4425-4430	Vans and Conversions	'68 Lincoln Continental

*Florian*

*Peters*

4005 - Auto Financing Insurance

ALL CARS under \$4000. NO credit ck. Dwn pmt. \$500 + up. 22 yrs in bus. 524-4636

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The one picture is of my wife and the GTO with a trophy shortly after we got it. As you can see, neither my wife nor the GTO have aged. (That will get me some points.)

Five years went by and the Gateway GTO Association hosted the 26th GTOAA International Meet. I took my '71 GTO and 70' GTO to the meet. I noticed a man really looking my '70 over. I asked if I could help him. He said he was the one that owned and restored my '70. It was cool because I got to find out some history on my '70. His uncle had bought the car new. He was the second owner and I was the fourth.

The motor is the original. It was machined .30 over. Rods were bead blasted and retained. A special cam adds the right lope. It has forged pistons and the heads are port and pol-



ished. It has a Holley Dominator intake and Ram Air 3 exhaust manifolds. The GTO originally came with a three speed and was changed to a four speed, original housing out back with a 4.11 posi unit. 165 R15s are up front and 275/60R15 Mickey Thompson Street/Strip are on the rear for traction. Those are the biggest tires I could fit and not touch the inner fender wells.

I really haven't done a lot to the Goat since I've had it. I couldn't swing a real Judge so I thought I would make one by adding the wing and stripes. The paint is showing a little age and I have redone the front bumper twice and spot painted a few areas. It still gets looks wherever I go. I have several other Pontiacs and ran out of room a few years ago, so GTO Joey as we call him now resides in a heated shop of my son-in-law Josh and grandson Jackson. In fact, 10 year old Jackson eats, sleeps and drinks these cars. So there is still hope out there for that generation. When exercise is needed they get him out and stretch his legs. Really stretched them at Norwalk Tri Power Nationals 2 years ago. Old Goat stayed together for several runs down the track. Out of all the Pontiacs I've owned, for some reason this one feels like family. I believe she's here to stay.

I've included a few other pictures I've taken over the past 20 years. Hope you enjoy my story.

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## GATEWAY GTO



## 35 YEARS OF SLAMMIN' GEARS