

May 2009 GTO of the Month
By Tony Tosto

Tom asked that I write the GTO of the month article, so I will attempt to briefly cover some 40 years of personal automotive and family history.



I graduated from CBC High School in 1967. Attended St. Louis University '67-'68 and UMSL '68-'69, Meteorology was an intended career. Time off from studies resulted in a two year "employment" in the U.S. Army, courtesy of the draft. Sue and I married while in the military and spent time together in Germany in 1970-1971. Wheeled Vehicle Mechanic was my military job, so I pursued that career path after service.

I was an avid softball player (until 2 years ago) am active in NHRA Drag Racing in the sportsman division with a stock eliminator car in the A/Stock Class, specifically a 1969 Camaro, 396 4-speed combination. But I love driving Pontiacs.

Sue and I have been club members for approximately 14 years. A very dear friend, John Seabolt, introduced me to the club prior to the purchase of my current '64 GTO. The car is a clone of the first car I purchased right out of high school: A midnight black, red interior, post car that I owned from 1967 to 1969. That car introduced me to Pontiac Muscle and the classic design has been a favorite of mine ever since. Sue and I dated while I owned the car and it was a very successful "acceleration vehicle" on the streets of north county. (I hope that was politically correct).

We have two grown sons, Mark & Matt and they have given us four grandsons: Taylor, Hunter, Kaiden and Dominic. Many of you know Mark thru the Auto Repair Business that Sue and I operated for over 20 years. He was very much a part of our success. I was pleased to have helped some of you with your performance and repair needs and I Thank You. My youngest son, Matt spent five years in the Marine Corps and is currently employed at Boeing as an Avionics Engineer. We are proud parents and Grandparents.

Now back to Pontiac Muscle. We purchased our current 1964 GTO on a trip to the Phoenix area for an NHRA Drag Race. Sue noticed the car in the parking lot while trying to locate the white rental car with Arizona plates-in Phoenix, everyone owns a white car. She left a note on the windshield asking them to call if ever a sale was anticipated. About 8 months later, we received notice that indeed it could be bought. A trip back to Phoenix, a call to a transport company and the car was delivered to my shop in Florissant for inspection and restoration.



Not being a Body Repair person, I called Jim Novelli (Jim's Auto Body) to perform the body and paint work. I performed all mechanical repairs. Chris Simmons handled the interior and upholstery work. Many thanks to Jim and Chris for their help.

In closing I will say that my membership in the GTO Club has been very enjoyable. Sue and I hope to become more involved in Club Activities this year. If I can be of any help with auto repair or performance questions, please let me know.

Tony and Sue Tosto