



LEGENDARY LIVES

February 2024



MEMBERS SPOTLIGHT *Revisited*

Needed One of Those- By Bill Nelson—First Shared May 2020



At the end of part one of my Pontiac GTO story I was at the 2016 GTOAA Nationals in Bellevue trying to take it all in. I was admiring all the convertibles and decided I needed one of those! After the convention I started poking around for interesting Pontiac convertibles. I looked on e-Bay and Craigslist. There were plenty of cars at prices higher than I could afford. I did not want to pay for work that someone else had done. I wanted a car to restore but it is hard to find the right one. Maybe a Lemans or a Tempest? [Continued on page 6](#)

Club Meeting

February 3, 6pm [Amante Pizza and Pasta](#) - Kent

2024 Tigers on the Columbia

RICHLAND, WASHINGTON

DATE: MAY 24 - 26

LOCATION: HOWARD AMON PARK

SANTIONED GTOAA EVENT

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION [PG. 4](#)

[REGISTER ONLINE](#)

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MEMBERS SPOTLIGHT

Northwest GTO legends has **115+** members in the club. That is a lot of stories that other members would enjoy reading.

Share your personal story about your pride and joy, short or long with photos. Or, just a note about an interesting, unique or cool car place you visited.

Send your stories to davidgale@comcast.net

<https://www.facebook.com/northwestlegends/>

www.northwestlegends.com



The President's Pen - By Bill Nelson



Hello Legends members,

I'd like to thank all of you out there for renewing your membership and showing your support for this club and for our beloved Pontiacs. The winter months are sort of a quiet time of the year but behind the scenes there is much activity in your Club preparing for future events.

Ted Knapp and your car show committee have been very busy working on details for this year's Tigers on the Columbia, as well as a new home for the XXX Muscle Car Show for 2025, remember this show is at Griot's garage this year, as well as a potential venue for this year's Christmas party that I think people will find interesting.

Also, please remember that we have two caravan cruises that head over the mountains to the Tigers on the Columbia show in Richland. I'm working on sort of an alternate route for the cruise this year that may be of interest.

One other thing that has been happening behind the scenes is that Wally Santella has given me a couple of lessons on the club computer system, G-Man. My new abilities to access the G-Man computer system will allow me to send messages to club members via email. I'm hoping that this will allow us to gather more frequently at cruises and other local events that I can tip people off to. Stay tuned for more.

It's shaping up to be a great car show season for 2024 and I hope all of you will take the opportunity to come out and participate in these events. We're going to work harder than ever this year to get the word out about these shows.

Thank you all again for being members of this club. You all have the privilege of being in the largest chapter of the GTOAA.

Bill Nelson president Northwest GTO Legends.



2024 NW GTO Legends Sanctioned Events

May 24/25/26

6th Annual - Tigers on the Columbia - Richland Washington - Holiday Inn Richland Riverfront Hotel - Howard Amon Park

June 30

11th Annual NW American Muscle Car Show- Tacoma (Griots Garage)

August 25

36th Annual Northwest Muscle Car Meet -Tacoma (Griots Garage)

NW GTO Legends - Club Events

August 17

Club Hosted BBQ - Ted & Jacque Hosted "Barbeque By The Bay"

December 8

Club Christmas Party - Burien - Merrill Gardens

Club Officers

PRESIDENT

Bill Nelson

SECRETARY

Bob Stevenson

TREASURER

Tom Willett (Julio)

Vice President

Ted Knapp

CAR SHOW CHAIRMAN

Ted Knapp

AT LARGE

Steve Martin

Club Meetings

Amante Pizza and Pasta-Kent

21020 84th Ave S, Kent, WA 98032

All Meetings at 6PM

January	13	February	3
March	2	April	6
May	4	June	1
July	6	August	3
September	NO MEETING	October	5
November	2	December	Christmas Par-





TIGERS on the COLUMBIA



The Western GTOAA Regional gathering of Pontiacs. Continuing in the Spirit of Tiger Run.

ALL PONTIAC CAR SHOW

JOIN US
FOR A 3 DAY GATHERING
OF PONTIACS
ALONG THE BEAUTIFUL
COLUMBIA RIVER.

HOWARD AMON PARK
RICHLAND, WASHINGTON

MAY 24TH-26TH 2024
A SANCTIONED GTOAA MEET



Activities-At-A-Glance

HOLIDAY INN RICHLAND ON THE RIVER



OUR
HOME BASE

The newly remodeled Holiday Inn Richland on the River is our main venue hotel. It's pet friendly, has free WiFi, a 24hr fitness center, and outdoor pool. Located on the Columbia River near Howard Amon Park.

THE GATHERING OF PONTIACS
AT HOWARD AMON PARK
8:00AM - 3:30PM



SATURDAY

Welcome to our 6th Annual Tigers on the Columbia show! This Western Regional All Pontiac event will recognize 1st & 2nd Place awards in over 24 Pontiac classes.

WATER 2 WINE DINNER CRUISE - 6:00PM



Once again we are pleased to share with you on Friday evening an exclusive and unique 3 hour dinner cruise that showcases Northwest wines, fine cuisine, dancing, and majestic Columbia River views. The boat departs the Columbia Point Marina at 6:00pm.

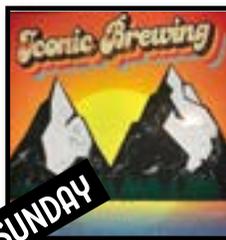
FRIDAY

FRIDAY HUB CAR CRUISE - 5:30PM



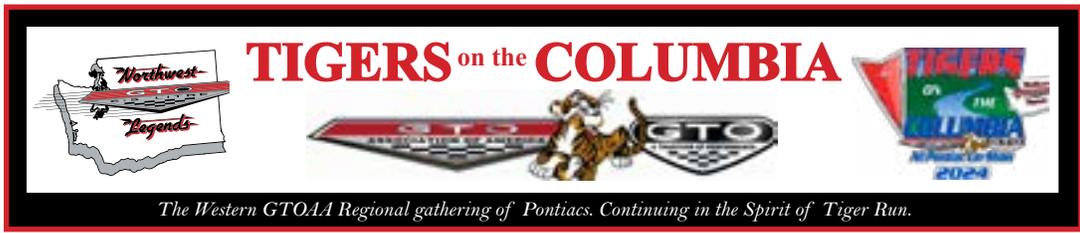
Friday evening at 5:30pm, Club member, & Tri-Cities resident Gary Tischer, will lead a car cruise from the Holiday Inn Richland on the River Hotel, through Richland & Kennewick, ending at The Hub in Kennewick. The Hub boasts over 20 food trucks, 32 taps, local wines, spacious seating, and live music performances. The Hub provides parking for well over 100 cars, where we will join other local car clubs and classic car enthusiasts.

SUNDAY BREWERY TOUR & DINNER 2:00PM



SUNDAY

For those interested in tasting a few local brews, we offer a Sunday afternoon tour of some of Tri-Cities finest micro-breweries. We will leave the Holiday Inn Richland on the River Hotel at 2pm and cruise a short 4 miles to northwest Richland. There we will tour and taste at 3 breweries – the Iconic, the White Bluffs, and the Bombing Range. From there we will cruise back to our final stop, the Atomic Ale & Brew Pub, which is located just 4 blocks from the Hotel. At the Atomic Brew, we will be joined by other attendees who have chosen not to go on the full tour, but will join us for cocktails and dinner.



2024 Event Days – May 24th, 25th & 26th

A Sanctioned GTOAA MEET

PARTICIPANT INFORMATION

CLUB AFFILIATION: _____

All Participant Names: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ St./Province/Zip _____

*Phone: _____ *E-Mail Address: _____

***Phone & Email Information Required**

REGISTRATION FOR ALL CARS: Pre-Registration (on or before May 21st) @ \$35.00/car:..... \$ _____
 On Site Registration (May 24th-25th) @ \$40.00/car: \$ _____

** NO CAR? NO PROBLEM, just register and pay any meal, activity or apparel fee.

THERE ARE TWO WAYS TO REGISTER:**

1. Complete and mail this form to: NW GTO LEGENDS, PO BOX 66899, Burien, WA 98166
2. Register online at: www.northwestlegends.com

CAR INFO	REQUIRED:		Please Circle One		Please Check One Box	
	MODEL _____	YEAR _____	Hard Top	Convertible	Coupe	Hatchback
MODEL _____	YEAR _____	Hard Top	Convertible	Coupe	Hatchback	<input type="checkbox"/> Stock or <input type="checkbox"/> Modified
MODEL _____	YEAR _____	Hard Top	Convertible	Coupe	Hatchback	<input type="checkbox"/> Stock or <input type="checkbox"/> Modified

BANQUET AWARDS/DINNER TICKETS: No Banquet Awards/Dinner Tickets Available after May 18th, 2022

Beef Dish - Oven Roasted Tri-Tip # tickets _____ @ \$59.00 ea. \$ _____
 Chicken Dish - Herb Roasted Chicken # tickets _____ @ \$55.00 ea. \$ _____
 Vegetarian Dish - Quinoa Stuffed Bell Pepper # tickets _____ @ \$53.00 ea. \$ _____

TIGERS on the COLUMBIA T-SHIRTS: \$25.00 ea.

Size/Quantity: M _____ LG _____ XL _____ 2XL _____ 3XL _____ TOTAL \$ _____

EVENT/ACTIVITY PARTICIPATION INFORMATION:

- (1) Friday Night Water2Wine Dinner Cruise: \$110.50/person: Please specify your dinner choice below:
 Steak # tickets _____ \$ _____
 Vegetarian Dish # tickets _____ \$ _____
 EITHER: Chicken OR Salmon - ***NOTE* Menu has not been set by the venue. If you've made this selection you will be contacted by the club when the menu has been set to confirm your option** # tickets _____ \$ _____
- (2) Friday HUB Car Cruise & Dinner: Dinner will be on your own at the HUB Number of people: _____ No Fee
- (3) Sunday Brewery Tour & Dinner: Dinner will be on your own at Atomic Ale..... Number of people: _____ No Fee

HOTEL INFORMATION:

You have two options for making your hotel reservations

- (1) Visit our website www.northwestlegends.com, go to the Tigers on the Columbia Registration Section and use the Hotel Reservation links that are provided.
- (2) Call the hotel reservation number(s) of choice below:

Holiday Inn Richland On The River

(formerly known as: Richland Red Lion) \$139/night.....Reservations: (509) 946-7611 **Group Code: GTO**

Richland Riverfront Hotel

(formerly known as: Richland Shilo Inn) \$140/night.....Reservations: (509) 946-4661 **Group Code: Northwest GTO Legends**

LEGENDARY LINES



The first one was a 65 Tempest in Eastern Washington. It was a solid car but priced too high and a 6-cylinder car to boot. It would have been the basis for a GTO clone. I think I wanted a real GTO. The next one was another Tempest convertible on the East coast. This was a nice original car. Blue with blue interior. It was priced at 16k and I was about to pull the trigger on that deal.....

The next day was the Monroe Swap Meet. I did not go to the Swap Meet but fellow member Steve Martin did. And he found a 66 GTO Convertible project car on a trailer for sale. This Barrier Blue car with



Parchment interior was pretty trashed, but it was all there...sort of. He wasted no time calling me and a mad dash to Monroe ensued because he said a lot of people were looking at it. So, I got there fast!

The car was pretty beat and rusty, but the frame was good, and the rockers were solid. Engine and trans were out. The seller said it had been abandoned on a farm for many years outside in a field.

The trunk floor was gone and the passenger floors too. The car really was a mess, but my nervous appraisal of the situation was accelerated by the many on-lookers and prompted me to make a quick deal. The seller assured me that all the parts for a complete car were at his home. It was buy it now-or look for another and projects like this car are few and far between. So, I paid the \$8,000 for this wreck and Steve and I went to the sellers home the next weekend and picked up the engine and all the boxes and boxes of parts.



The following week the seller delivered the car to my house and the fun began. What made this car worth saving was its great color combination and its 28 different options. This car had power steering, brakes, windows and driver's seat, antenna, top and trunk. It also had many lighting groups and floor mats with Rally wheels. On top of it, PHS (Pontiac Historical Services) showed it was sold at Central Pontiac in downtown Seattle!



LEGENDARY LINES



Like the seller had stated, all the parts were there including the original 4bbl. 389 and auto trans. Not a bolt was missing! The only changes I made to this car were a 4-speed conversion using mostly original parts and Rally instrument cluster.



I dug right into this exciting project and planned a multiple assault to get this car on the road. I wanted it to be a driving restoration and set out to build a solid platform. Not worried about the outside paint, I decided on a three-angle approach.

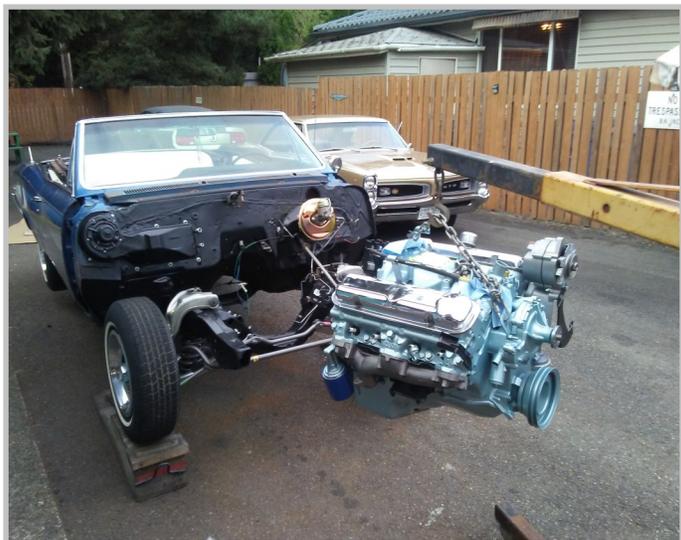
First the engine went to the machine shop. Next, I ordered all the body panels I needed for the passenger floor and rear trunk. While I was waiting for all that I tore

down the seats and ordered a whole new interior.

When the weather was nice, I did bodywork on the trunk and floors. The frame was easy to wire brush and paint, so I did it while the body was apart then welded new floors and trunk and taillight panel on top. All body bushes were changed out with no broken bolts!

When it did rain, I rebuilt the seats and bought a new dash panel. All the wiring for the car was in a big box. I bought a new fuse box and cleaned up all the original wiring. I oiled up and got every motor working on that car like power windows and antenna.

When the engine came back, I bolted the heads on and



carefully cleaned all the original brackets and bolts to like new condition. The engine has all original castings. As the body came together, the front suspension was rebuilt and detailed and the engine reinstalled. The 4-speed and a new console were fitted. Then the original fenders were installed, and the car was made drivable after fellow member Matt DeCosta helped break in the rebuilt engine.

Next, the new interior was fitted along with floor padding and new carpet. It was looking like a car again!

Less than a week later the car was driven for the first time in 25 years! It seemed happy to be on the road and very few problems were encountered during its break in runs. It still drives like a dream and I have put over ten thousand miles on it since.



LEGENDARY LINES



The junkyard-to-a-driving car took only 11 months and an estimated 1000 hours of work. The cost of this if you did not do it yourself would make it awfully expensive and would have exceeded the value of the car. The parts bill was about \$17,000 bringing us up to \$25,000 spent so far with exterior paint left to complete.

Once on the road it became my rolling restoration that I wanted. I worked on it all the time. The next big job was fixing the passenger's rear quarter panel which was the only panel that was not original paint on the car. It had been repaired in the past and a tree had fallen on it and was just a mess. I welded in some new metal and painted it blue. This paved the way for completion of the convertible top. I needed a roof to travel to the Tigers on the Columbia show.



The top frame on this car had been in the up position for 25 years. It sat in the rain for many years too, with no fabric to protect it. The first thing I did was put it down when it came home, after a heavy dose of liquid wrench. The frame was totally disassembled, and bead blasted to bare metal. It had thousands of rust pits to repair and the header panel was completely rusted out. The process of priming, sanding and priming some more, took along time, but a new header panel was added, and the frame reinstalled with new hydraulic cylinders and a new pump.

Next it was off to my friend's upholstery shop where, with a little help, I installed a new top. This job is a tedious one. After 20 hours of labor, I had a new white top!



The work is always continuing. the current project is the fitting of new fenders and a hood with the goal of getting the whole body painted base coat blue in preparation for final painting. I knew from the start this was a special once in a lifetime project. The drive and desire it takes to finish a project like this for me is that first drive and seeing the end result. It is a special thing to be in the flow and totally focused on the job and working on several things at once. I love that part. It's like a drug and the magic of inspiration and desire are not always there on every project.



Additional Photos of Bill's Convertible Restoration



Members Marketplace

A PLACE FOR MEMBERS TO **BUY** AND **SELL** SERVICES, GTO AND OTHER MUSCLE CAR ITEMS

FOR SALE: TH400 3-speed auto transmission with short tail shaft for Buick/Olds/Pontiac bell housing. Data tag: 76-OA-5678. I had this in my '66 GTO prior to restoration and it worked great, no issues whatsoever. It has a shift kit, so the shifts are nice and firm. New owner can run as-is, or freshen it up if desired. Includes dipstick and dipstick tube. Asking \$500.

Email: karlsfreese@gmail.com Phone: (517) 402-8079



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Kenny's Auto Upholstery

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We have established a reputation among our customers for prompt service and the finest quality available. This attention to quality is especially evident in our reproduction items, many more of which are now being made in our own shop. <https://www.amesperf.com/>



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<https://burienupholstery.com/>



Pilkey Hopping & Ekberg started out as Frank Ekberg & Company in a small storefront on Pacific Avenue in downtown Tacoma in 1896.

<https://pheinsurance.com/>



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Ted F. Knapp
President

Knapp Development by Ted F. Knapp, President
knappdevelopment@aol.com

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<https://www.griotsgarage.com/corporate-hq-flagship-retail->



Washington State Car Events

The Northwest GTO Legends has members that live up and down the I-5 corridor and east of the cascades and even out of state. Here are some car events throughout the state that I pulled from oldride.com. This List will grow as events are discovered. When you attend any events please send photos, so they can be shared between the **LEGENDARY LINES**.

White River High School Motor-sports Club Car Show	White River School District	Buckley
May 18, 2024 - May 18, 2024	360-829-5550	
The Little Big Show	Nicholas Odorizi	Wilson Creek
June 8, 2024 - June 8, 2024	509-855-6396	
Ellensburg Car Show	Jason Bell	Ellensburg
June 14, 2024 - June 15, 2024	5093060727	
Dream Builders Car Show	Steve Myers	Monroe
June 16, 2024 - June 16, 2024	425-599-5127	
Gear Heads Father's Day Car Show	Scott Calkins	Lynden
June 16, 2024 - June 16, 2024	3602202686	
HANSVILLE CAR SHOW	Lee McAllister	Hansville
July 14, 2024 - July 14, 2024	425 774 2908	
Vietnam Veterans Chapter #165 13th Annual Car Show	Duane Holliday	Bellingham
July 21, 2024 - July 21, 2024	360-733-5119	
13th Annual Vietnam Veterans Car Show	Duane Holliday	Bellingham
July 21, 2024 - July 21, 2024	360-733-5119	
Goodguys 36th Griot's Garage Pacific Northwest Nationals	Customer service	Puyallup
July 26, 2024 - July 28, 2024	800-777-1258	
King's Kruz-In	Al Curtis	Vancouver
August 3, 2024 - August 3, 2024	360-571-3300	
22nd Annual Cruise in For Youth Car Show	BILL HILTON	Puyallup
August 10, 2024 - August 10, 2024	253-302-1104	
SUMMER FUN ROD Run	Ingrid Marquart	Deming
August 23, 2024 - August 25, 2024	360-380-2733	
Kirkland Police Explorer Benefit Car Show	Patti Ball	Kirkland
September 14, 2024 - September 14, 2024	425-587-3408	
Punkin Rod Run	Babs Marquart	Bellingham
October 27, 2024 - October 27, 2024	36-380-2733	