



# THE HOOD SCOOP

FEBRUARY 2010

## GTO of the Month

By Kerry Friedman

Gateway GTO  
Association



The first new car that my parents ever bought was a 1956 Pontiac Star Chief. My Dad took the bus from University City to work in downtown St. Louis, and saw this car in the Thom's Pontiac showroom on Delmar Blvd. It was a pink and grey car. It later was in the Parade magazine in the Sunday Post, and that ad made it to the wall in our kitchen. I don't remember if our house was pink and grey first, or if we bought the car first.

This large solid steel tank of a car was the first car I ever drove. I "borrowed" it on occasion when my parents were not looking. I was only 14 at the time. The next car they bought was a Beige '64 Lemans with the OHC Sprint 6. It had a powerglide transmission, and as many of you know, they were indestructible. The only way to burn rubber with this car was to rev it up in neutral, and then drop it in gear.

What a clunk, but it still kept going. We then traded in the '56 for a '65 Turquoise Lemans with the Sprint 6. I had a few fender benders with the Lemans and totaled the '64.



An Official Chapter of the GTO Association of America

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My introduction to the GTO was after we got the 2<sup>nd</sup> Lemans, and with a coupon, I sent away for GTO posters. I remember having quite a few of them in my room and dreaming that one day, soon, I might own one.



My first car was a '57 Fairlane that I owned for about a month, and I had to get rid of it to go to college. I then bought a '69 Malibu Convertible with a 350, 2BB1, bench seat, and automatic. It was bright red with a black interior and white top. I really liked the car, and I added dual exhaust. I graduated college, got married and started a family. The Malibu was rusting out, so I traded a neighbor for a used Regal. The next car I bought was a 1978 Grand Prix. This was the first or 2<sup>nd</sup> year of the smaller version.

My ex-wife got custody of this car in the divorce, and I was left driving a Honda Civic. I traded the Civic in for a Prelude in 1981, and I was in style. I then met Debbie, we got married and had Ryan and Andy. At that time Debbie did not drive, and I tried to teach her to drive the 4 speed Prelude, but it wasn't going to be. So we traded it in for a Cutlass Station Wagon, a real family car that she could drive.

With Pontiac still running in my blood, I bought Debbie a new Grand Am, which I almost totaled, then a '97 Malibu SS, and now a 2004 Grand Prix GTP.

Over the years I developed heart problems, and had numerous heart attacks,

balloon jobs, and even by-pass surgery. In 2002, 6 years after my surgery, I was going through more treatments, and one day Debbie asked, if I could get a car, what would I get? I don't know if this was a "bucket list" question, or what, but it didn't take long to realize that it would be a GTO.

I started looking on the internet, on eBay, Hemmings, and every other site I could find. There were a lot of them for sale, for a lot more than I wanted to spend.

In my daily job, I travel quite a lot, and even looked for a GTO in different cities. On a trip to Chicago, I made it over to the Volo Museum, in Volo, Illinois. They had a lot of very nice looking GTO's and even some Judge's. After I returned home, I was looking on the Volo website, and found a 1969 2 door hardtop that was for sale there, that I had not seen while I was there. It was more in my price range and looked as though it was in very good condition. Under the bright showroom lights, and according to the list of repairs done to the car, It appeared that all that was need was some hood alignment and reworking the Endura bumper. So we took it for a test drive, put a down payment on it, and brought it home on a trailer the next Friday.

Well things started falling apart the minute we were unloading it from the trailer. The first thing was the headlights went out.

Needless to say, "If I only knew then, what I know now." I went to a GTO Parts Place, up near Jerseyville, IL, and bought a different bumper, and took my car to a shop in Alton. After spending numerous hours trying to make the new bumper fit, they decided it was worse than the old one, and ended up reworking the original. The finish time took longer than expected, of course. I picked the car up on a Friday, and was supposed to drive a newlywed couple from the wedding to the reception. I

worked almost all night long putting the car back together, replacing bolts and nuts and painting each piece as I went. I finished about 1:00 PM Saturday, and the wedding was at 4:00. I cleaned up and took off for a church in the Concord Village area.

When I got to Gravois and Hwy 270, I decided to see what this car could do,

since I had not driven this car at all, and I had it for 6 months already. Well, I floored it, it went into passing gear, and white smoke started coming out of everywhere. Oh \_\_\_\_! I nursed the car to the wedding, and while they were taking the photos, I loaded the car on a tow truck.



Getting back to what I thought I had bought; the engine had been rebuilt, floors pans in solid condition, transmission rebuilt, all new front end bushings, new upholstery, and the list goes on and on.

Since buying the car in 2002, I have replaced the upholstery, recovered the dash, rebuilt the engine and transmission, rebuilt the brakes, painted the Rally II wheels, added a hood tachometer, repaired the radio, installed new front end components, and put in a new carburetor.

We bought this car to drive and have fun with. I drove it to Louisville, and Columbus for GTOAA conventions, as well as every club function and show we could make it to when the weather permitted and the car was not in

disassembly. Since my Goat was an automatic transmission, I was only getting 10 miles per gallon. I met Harry Timmerman and saw that he had installed an overdrive transmission in his Lemans and was getting very good mileage. Sounded like a great idea, so I bought a "rebuilt 700R4" transmission on eBay, and picked it up in Virginia on one of my business trips. A year later when I had built up the courage to change the transmission, I took the pan off of the new unit, just to make sure it was rebuilt, and low and behold it was not a 700R4. It was an electronic transmission, and needed a \$1200 controller to make it work. Bad idea!

After talking to club members, I decided to change the 400TH automatic to

a new 5 speed manual transmission. This would turn my ride into a real “muscle car.”

There were two major repairs still needed for my car; replacing the floor pans, and installing a new radiator support, so that my front end could be bolted to the frame with rubber bushings, instead of it being welded solid. I took my car to Cee-Jay Auto Body, run by Cecil Morton and his brother Jack. Since Cecil was in the club, and always had very nice GTO's and older Pontiacs, I felt that this was better than some of my other, break once and fix three times, bonehead decisions.

I took the car over to his shop, and had my new transmission kit sent there, so they could rework the floor to fit around the new tranny while they replaced the pans. As they progressed, several items came up. What a surprise!

I had them look at why this didn't fit, and can you do this? And so my repair grew with several while you're doing this, might as well do this, and one or two Why Nots.

Cecil and his nephew Gordon did not let me down. I got the car back in the time I was promised and the bill was as quoted. Gordon's attitude was that he was not going to do anything to someone's car that wasn't the quality that he would do to his own.



As it turned out, that the transmission, pedal assembly, shifter, and drive shaft, were all installed and operational when the car was picked up. I still need the rear half of the car repainted and a few leaks fixed in the trunk area. Does it ever end? Probably not.



I must admit, when I was young and dreaming of owning a GTO, I did not know if it would really happen. But today it is a reality and I really have fun with it. The bonus that came along with the car is the friendships that developed when I joined the Gateway GTO Club, and the GTOAA organization. There is so much help available from people who have gone through the same problems and experiences that we have. The publications are excellent and I look forward to receiving them and reading about a national tribe of GTO and Pontiac Owners. As Jim Wangers said, “Pontiac may be gone, but the hobby will live on forever.”





## The Presidents Scoop

By Mark Melrose

It's obviously February. As I begin to write this a sideways glance out the window displays a world of white with more coming down. They say we could have at least six inches by tomorrow morning. While "they" seem to be wrong most of the time, usually "they" tend to be correct when predicting nastiness. One of the things I don't miss from my previous life as a citizen of Buffalo, New York is six months of winter, grey skies and trying to negotiate about a foot of snow almost every day.

But, as of late, the Saint Louis weather has not been co-operating with the Classic Car Gods. I realize it's winter but I have been able to get my '68 out of the garage only twice since Christmas – that has to be some kind of twisted record. Even when the sun is shining and the pavement is dry the clouds of road-salt dust kicked up by normal traffic give owners of classic cars particularly traumatic nightmares of rampant corrosion and swiss cheese rocker panels.

So what's a body to do? It's too cold to lay on the garage floor and try to wrench, so how do we wring some fun out the car hobby in the dead of winter? How about some reliance on Gateway GTO and fellowship with members to warm the cockles of our hearts while our woefully unprotected classic sheetmetal hides from the corrosion monsters? We scarfed down 25 pizzas at our January Pizza Party and saw no less than a couple of dozen Bald Eagles on our Eagle Watch Cruise a week later – including some close-up time with McGwire a twelve-year-old female Bald Eagle named after the Saint Louis slugger.

The calendar for February brings an excursion to Mark Hyman's Classic Cars (100+ of the best – all types) in the Westport area after wings and things at Hooter's on Lackland. Marty Howard is setting us up with the *Pinball Wizard Event* in South Roxanna, Illinois on 2/27. Steve Hedrick has us lined up for the *Irritation to a Murder* mystery theatre at Crestwood Plaza in early March. Our friends at the Arch Chapter Pontiac Club plan a Great River Road cruise in mid- March and one of the first area car shows is at Buckeye Automotive in Union, Missouri on March 21<sup>st</sup>. So, all things considered, it looks like I'll survive until the Easter Show in Forest Park and so will you – just check the club calendar for things to do with people whose company you enjoy.



# GATEWAY GTO CLUB FEBRUARY MEETING MINUTES FEBRUARY 3, 2010

The monthly Gateway GTO meeting was held at JJ's at 1215 South Duchesne in St. Charles, MO. Members began arriving by 6:00 PM for dinner and conversation

President Mark Melrose called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. Officers in attendance: Mark Melrose, Kerry Friedman, Steve Hedrick, Will Bowers, and Shauna Wollmershauser.

**NEW MEMBERS:** No new members were in attendance.

## **ANNUAL DUES:**

Mark related to the membership 2010 dues were due by January 1, 2010. After February 28, 2010 the grace period for renewing your membership will be over and you will no longer receive the Hood Scoop or any club information.

## **OLD BUSINESS:**

The following January events were summarized:

**Pizza Meeting:** members and their families consumed 25 pizzas. Bob Blattell made the mistake of parking under a tree.

**Eagle Watching:** McGwire the Eagle was on display at the Great Rivers Museum. Roughly 24 eagles were spotted along the Great River Road on the way to Dinner at Mel's River Dock. The food was pretty good.

**Nettle Lawsuit:** The Nettles have filed suit in St. Louis County Court. The insurance

company has assigned lawyers to represent the club.

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

**Hooters and Hyman Cruise:** Gene Bossaller from the Olds Club invited the Gateway GTO club to come out and have lunch at the Westport Hooters and then tour Mark Hyman's classic car garage on February 13, 2010.

**Tan-Tar-A Show:** Gene also discussed the upcoming show held at Tan-Tar-A this summer. The dates are June 4-6, 2010. Steve Hedrick says that if you can make this show you should. Bring your spirit items as they help with your judging.

**Comedy Club Night:** Marty is working hard again to secure another comedy night for the club. This year it will not be held at the Comedy Forum because that venue has closed. He is working with the Funny bone in Westport and will let us know when he has a firm date.

**Pinball Wizard:** Marty our fabulous Chief Entertainment Officer has arranged for us to visit CP Pinball in South Roxana, IL on February 27, 2010. Please contact Marty if you are interested in attending this event.

**Irritation to a Murder:** Mystery Theater at Crestwood Court is March 6, 2010. With a group of 10 the cost per person is \$23.

**Member's Ride:** It's time to update this section of the website. Please see the form in this newsletter or check your email for a form to fill out if you wish to add details about your car. Also if you have a newer

picture that you would like posted please email it to Shauna so your information can be updated.

GTOAA Nationals: Get registered as soon as possible. Rooms at the host hotel are filling up. You can register for both the Nationals and the hotel via the GTOAA website. A cruise from St. Louis leaves Thursday July 1, 2010.

Sign in Sheets: The monthly meeting sheets were sent around to be marked with attendance.

### TECH ISSUES

Rich Vie's speedometer cable is leaking.

Tom Oxler cleaned up his radio in his '66 GTO

### GOOD OF THE CLUB

Chris Simmons father passed away.

Donna Bowers father passed away.

Mike Ewens is set to get married in October of next year.

The meeting adjourned at 8:30PM after Will Bowers won \$43.00 in the 50-50 drawing.

Minutes by Shauna Wollmershauser,  
Secretary



# Gateway GTO Activities

## 2010 PIZZA PARTY

By Chris Winslow

The Annual Gateway GTO Pizza was once again held at Serra's Pizza in Maryland Heights. Despite some not so great weather the day before and the morning of the event, the sun popped out early enough in the afternoon to dry out the roads before the event. This encouraged a number of the members to bring out their GTOs



As usual, the pizza was outstanding and due to the large number of members that attended, the staff at Serra's had to make quite a few rounds before everyone was full.



As always, the event was a great time to catch up with everyone after the holidays and officially kick off the Gateway GTO year.

# Gateway GTO Activities

## BIRDS OF A FEATHER

By Sandra Melrose



On Sunday, January 24<sup>th</sup> some Gateway GTO members found themselves headed to the National Great Rivers Museum in Alton, Illinois. Once inside we were treated to a “Meet and Greet” with a live 12-year-old female Bald Eagle named McGwire. Here are some stats on this impressive and imposing bird:

- They live about 25 years in the wild and between 40 and 50 years in captivity.
- The adult female is larger than the male and can weigh up to 15 pounds.
- Their diet consists mainly of fish and in captivity they can thrive on vitamin-rich yellow chicks (baby chickens) which deepen the yellow color of their beaks and talons.
- Bald Eagles are not really bald, they get their name from the Welsh word “balde” meaning white – for the white feathers covering their head and neck.

After our lesson the group, consisting of the Oxlers, Friedmans, O’Sullivans, Ida Brunckhorst, Karen and Mike Ewens with Kathy Hutchinson, the Melroses, Harry and Amy Timmerman with their two lovely daughters and Shauna Wollmershauser cruised the Great River Road in search of Eagles in the wild. We didn’t have to go far before we saw the majestic birds –



some perched, some in flight and some swooping along the water fishing for dinner. We saw probably more than two dozen eagles in all.

We thought about dinner too but preferred to have ours served at Mel’s Riverdock Restaurant in Hardin, Illinois. Our drive home included a very picturesque ride on the ferry across the ice-laden Mississippi River.

## Gateway GTO Activities

Oh, by the way, eagles can dive for food at up to 100 mph. It's been rumored that muscle cars have the ability to reach those speeds and more, on the drag strip of course. That reminds me, Club Drag Day is only four months away!



# Technical Article of the Month

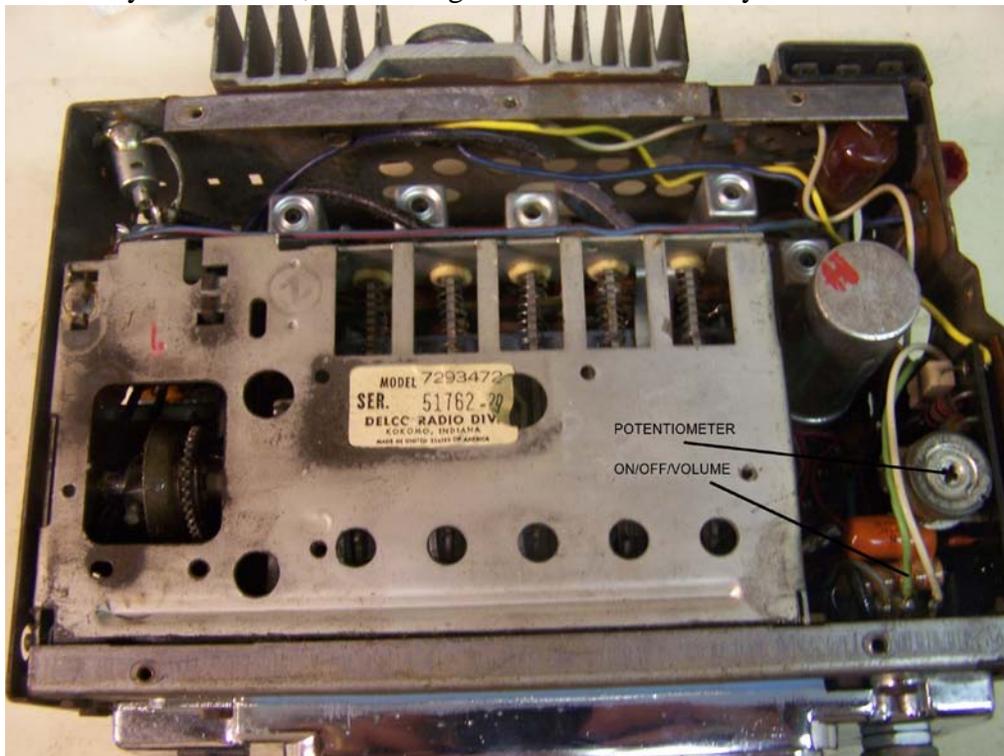
## RADIO REPAIRS DO YOU LISTEN TO THE ADS?

BY TOM OXLER

At one of our Gateway GTO Club Meetings last year, I stated that I was going to send the old AM-FM radio out of my 66 GTO to someone back east who advertised he would replace all of the old capacitors in and make my radio as good as new all for \$190.00 plus shipping. It sort of made sense to me at the time as many capacitors contain an electrolyte which is a liquid and I assumed that over time, the electrolyte would dry up and that was causing my radio to “drift” making me constantly adjust the station.

I pulled the radio a couple of Saturdays ago and was talking with one of our “resident experts”, John Novelli about it. John said that he was skeptical about the radio repair people claiming the need to replace all of the capacitors as he thought they were all ceramic and thus would not dry out. He said all it probably needed was some contact cleaner and it would be as good as new.

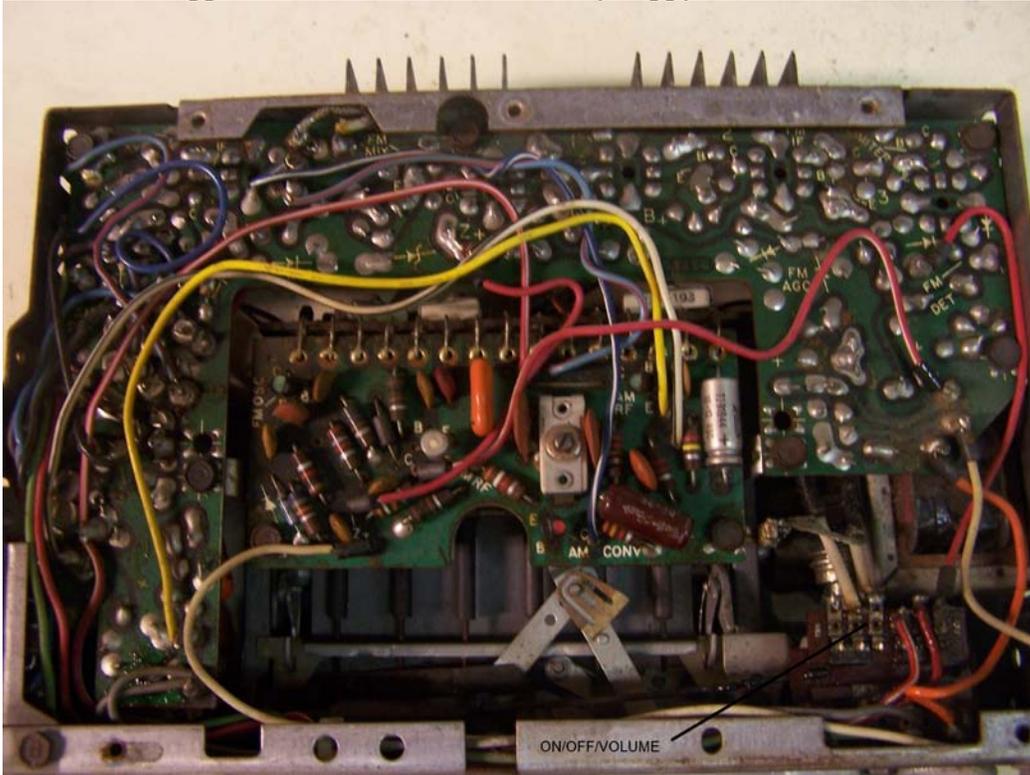
I went to Radio Shack and purchased some contact cleaner and lubricant and sprayed the on/off/volume control, the AM/FM switch, one potentiometer located on the circuit board and the antenna trimmer reachable from the face plate. I wanted to try it out so I called John and he said to bring it over as he had his radio on his work bench running on a battery and speaker and to bring mine over to try it out. Well, it worked great. No scratches as your turn the volume control or switch



from AM to FM. As we were talking about radios, John got out his manual on GM Car Radios and sure enough, all of the capacitors were ceramic and none of them really needed to be replaced. All the old radio needed was a good cleaning and a lube job.

## Technical Article of the Month

As we looked at the manual, we noticed that my radio was out of a 67 GTO and John's radio was out of a 66 GTO. I have a 66 GTO and John has a 67 GTO. Do you see a "deal" coming? Yes, we swapped radios and we both are very happy.



This episode is exactly why I joined the Gateway GTO Club. There is always someone willing to help you when you are not sure what you are doing or know how to fix something. Thanks John for all of your help and advice.





EIGHTH ANNUAL

Mid-Missouri Oldsmobile Show

Friday June 4th Saturday June 5th Sunday June 6th 2010

Location :



TAN-TAR-A RESORT GOLF CLUB, MARINA & INDOOR WATERPARK

State Road KK Osage Beach, MO 65065 1-800-826-8272 WWW.TAN-TAR-A.COM

Hosted by Archway Olds Club

With invited guests representing the chapters of the Pontiac Oakland Club and the Buick Club of America.

ALL models and years of Oldsmobile, Buick and Pontiac vehicles are welcome!

First 60 registered will have indoor Air Conditioned Exhibition Hall Parking!

Registration fee: \$50.00 for the first car and \$25.00 for each additional car.

Registration fee includes one Adult \$15.00 Awards Breakfast Ticket.

Child ages 4-12 yrs Award Breakfast \$3.00

There is no gate registration, this show is by reservation only!

Tan-Tar-A Resort Special \$99.00 + a \$10 facilities fee = \$109.00 per night for "Run of the House" (placement anywhere on property)

or \$109.00 + a \$10 facilities fee = \$119.00 per night for Main Resort complex room.

Rates available June 2nd through June 7th, 2010 be sure to Mention the Oldsmobile Show.

Room reservations must be received by May 1, 2010 - For reservations call : 573-348-3131

For show information call:

Jerry Wilson 314-878-5651 or email: jfwilson66@earthlink.net or sweetpeppeolds@aol.com

Friday June 4th - Set Up - Dinner on your own

Saturday June 5th - Judging 11am to 4pm - Dinner on your own

Sunday June 6th - Awards Breakfast 8:30am to 10:00am

\*\*\*Oldsmobile Club of America National Point Judging\*\*\*

\*\*\*Oldsmobile Club of America Membership not required\*\*\*

\*\*\*Ample trailer parking available\*\*\*

Registration form - cut along dotted line and return with payment

Mid-Missouri Oldsmobile Show - June 4 to June 6, 2010

Name \_\_\_\_\_ OCA # \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_

State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Car #1 Year \_\_\_ Model \_\_\_\_\_ Body Style \_\_\_\_\_ Class \_\_\_\_\_

Car #2 Year \_\_\_ Model \_\_\_\_\_ Body Style \_\_\_\_\_ Class \_\_\_\_\_

Please list additional cars on a separate sheet.

Are you a member of the Oldsmobile Club of America? Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_

Will you be judging? Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_

If so, what class do you prefer to judge? \_\_\_\_\_

Will you need trailer parking? Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_

Table with 3 columns: Description, Number, Amount. Rows include Register - Car #1, Additional Cars, Extra Award Breakfast Tickets, Child's age 4-12 years Breakfast, Total.

Please make checks payable to Archway Olds Club and mail to:

Dan Breen, PO Box 1733, O'Fallon, MO 63366

OCA, AOC & their officers, members & agents will not be responsible for, or liable for property damage, theft or personal injury during the course of the show.

## Gateway GTO Member's Rides Form

Member Name(s)

Year and Model

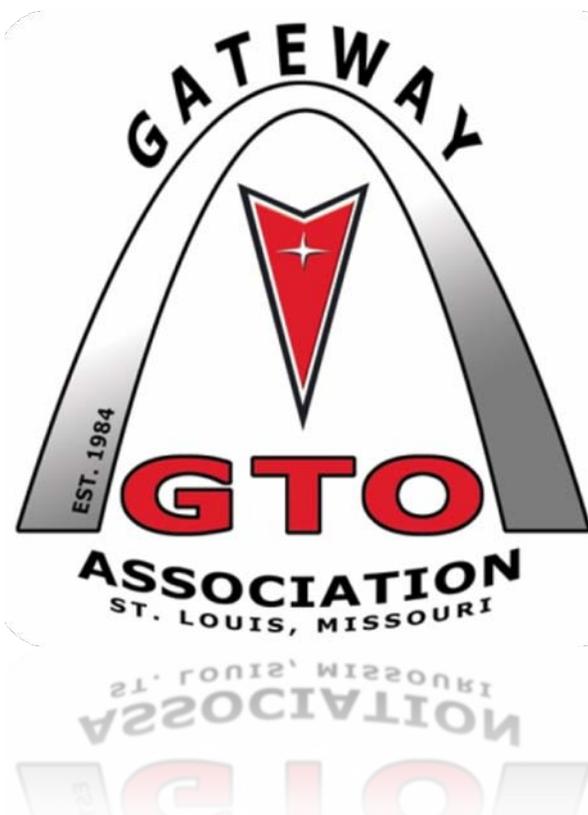
Modifications

Awards Won

Publications That Have Featured Your Car

Dragstrip ET's

Please attach a photo for posting on the Gateway GTO website if you have a new photo that you would like posted. Otherwise we will use the photo we already have on file for you



## 2010 GATEWAY GTO CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- Feb 3 GTO MEETING 7pm J.J.'s 1215 S. Duchesne, St Charles, Mo, 63301 (CLUB SPONSORED)
- 13 Archway Olds, Hooters and Hyman, 11AM at Hooter's on Lackland Rd. then to Mark Hyman Classic Cars at 2310 Chaffee in Westport/Maryland Heights. (CLUB SPONSORED)
- 27 Pinball Wizard Event at CP Pinball, 115 Sinclair Ave., S. Roxanna, IL, 8PM-?. Cost at \$5-\$10 per person. Contact Marty Howard (636-724-6641 or [nycgto@charter.net](mailto:nycgto@charter.net)) for details. (CLUB SPONSORED)
- March 3 GTO MEETING 7pm J.J.'s 1215 S. Duchesne, St Charles, Mo, 63301 (CLUB SPONSORED)
- 6 *Irritation to a Murder* Mystery Theatre at Crestwood Court 109 Crestwood Plaza (Watson Rd.), 6:30PM-? Dinner and Cash Bar, with a group of 10 cost per person is \$23. Contact Steve Hedrick (636-942-4020 or [sthedrick@aol.com](mailto:sthedrick@aol.com)) for details. (CLUB SPONSORED)
- 14 Arch/POCI Great River Road Cruise, details to follow.
- 20 Six Flags Swap Meet, details to follow
- 21 Arch/POCI American Motorcars/Buckeye Automotive car show in Union, MO, 10AM-3PM, details to follow
- April 4 Easter Car Shows in Forest Park, Horseless Carriage Show on upper Muny lot for cars 1985 and older, St. Louis Hot Rod Assoc Show on lower Muny lot. Cost for upper lot show is \$15.00/vehicle, cost for lower lot show is \$25-\$30. Reservations are required for the upper lot (Horseless Carriage Show). You can register day of the show at the lower lot show. If you want to participate in the Horseless Carriage upper lot show get your \$15 to Mark Melrose by the March 3<sup>rd</sup> Club Meeting at the latest – no exceptions as space is limited. (CLUB SPONSORED)
- 7 GTO MEETING 7pm J.J.'s 1215 S. Duchesne, St Charles, Mo, 63301 (CLUB SPONSORED)
- 10 JJ's Cruises at 1215 S. Duschene in St. Charles second Saturday of the month April-October
- 11 April Fools Swap Meet at GCS Ballpark
- 17 Dyno Day (tentative). (CLUB SPONSORED)
- 24 Spring Cruise to Salem, IL, details to follow or contact Cecil Morton (618-877-8254 or [dentologist@charter.net](mailto:dentologist@charter.net)) for details. (CLUB SPONSORED)

**SEE THE FULL CALENDAR AT [WWW.GATEWAYGTO.ORG](http://WWW.GATEWAYGTO.ORG)**

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## Advertising Guidelines

Classified ads up to 50 words are free to members; add 10 cents per word for any ad over 50 words. Payment is due upon submission. (members need to update ads at 3 month intervals or ads will be dropped). Classified ads up to 50 words for non-members are \$5.00 per issue.

## Gateway GTO Club Information

The Gateway GTO Association was initially formed in the summer of 1984 by a group of seven. They all had a common interest in the Original Muscle Car, the Pontiac GTO. As a form of communication we publish a monthly newsletter called "The Hood Scoop". The purpose of this newsletter is to keep our members informed of all upcoming activities as well as providing interesting event coverage. The club meets every first Wednesday of the month at J. J.'s Restaurant, 1215 S. Duchesne Rd, St. Charles, Mo. 63301.

Membership dues are \$20.00 per year and all renewals are required to be paid by December 31st. You are allowed to have one associate member.

## Club Sponsor



820 McDonnell Blvd.  
Hazelwood Mo. 63042

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**As a Gateway GTO member please consider joining the  
GTO Association of America**

**The Gateway GTO Association  
is an official chapter of the  
GTO Association of America  
[www.gtoaa.org](http://www.gtoaa.org)**

**Visit us at  
[www.gatewaygto.org](http://www.gatewaygto.org)**

## Gateway GTO Association Photo Album

If you have photos of past events or if you take pictures of future events that you think would be good for our Photo Album, please send them to the newsletter editor.

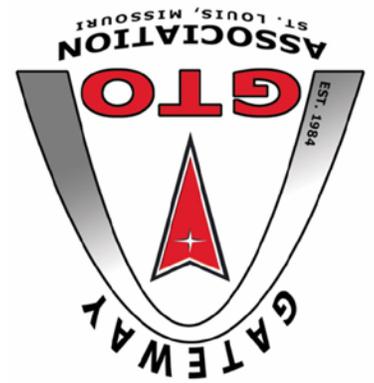
**The Hood Scoop** is published as an informative news bulletin to keep our members up to date on past, present, and future events.

### Advertising rates are:

\$100 – Full page (Color or Black and White) ad in monthly *Hoodscoop* newsletter for 12 months, your logo on our Website Sponsor page, and a link to your website from our Related Website Link space.

\$50 – ½ page (Color or Black and White) ad in our monthly *Hoodscoop* newsletter for 12 months, your logo on our Website Sponsor page, and a link to your website from our Related Website Link space.

\$25 – Business Card (Color or Black and White) ad in our monthly *Hoodscoop* newsletter for 12 months, your logo on our Website Sponsor page, and a link to your website from our Related Website Link space.



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