



THE HOOD SCOOP

December 2025

Gateway GTO Christmas Party by Chris Winslow

Gateway GTO
Association



The final event for Gateway GTO for the year is always our annual Christmas party. It is a time for all of us to get together for fun and some great food.

The theme for this year was release your inner penguin and some of our members really took that to heart. Barb and Earl Lewis and Sharon Wilderbrandt even wore penguin costumes!

The turn out this year was great with 48 members at the event. This included the Sullivans and the Finkenbinders, who came from Pontiac Illinois and Roger and Debbie Johnson who came from Pekin, Illinois to attend.

Kenrick's catered the food again this year and it was excellent. Everyone must have agreed as there was very little food left over at the end. Marty took most of what was left to a firehouse after the event, so what was left over did not go to waste.

After dinner, I made a few announcements. I announced that the date for the 2026 Pinball Wizard tournament at Atomic Pinball has been set for February 22nd. I also reminded everyone that the official date for the Gateway GTO Pizza Party at Fortel's Pizza Den for 2026 is January 18th. In addition, I recognized some of the people that regularly help me during the year to keep Gateway GTO running smoothly. Recognized were Gail Schott who has been proofing the newsletter for a number of years now, Marty Howard for helping to

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THE HOOD SCOOP



Gateway GTO Christmas Party

organize a number of activities in 2025, Jim McCarthy for keeping the club roster up to date, Tammy Hedrick for her work helping us with the tabulating of our Regional Car Show in Pontiac, Sharon Wilderbrandt for her help with 50/50 at several of our car shows, and Earl Lewis for all of his 50/50 and other fund raising efforts, including all of his work on the two Wheels In Motion car shows. (See the Presidents Scoop for more on that).



Terrie Oxler also made a presentation to Will Bowers and Ron Wildebrandt. It is fairly well known within the club that both Will and Ron are big fans of the KTVI traffic reporter, Kalista Mitrisin. In recognition of that, Terri gave them each a standup cutout of Kalista.



Gateway GTO Christmas Party

After some party games, we had a rob your neighbor gift exchange, but with a new twist that Marty came up with where for the first round everyone just grabbed a gift. After that, we passed them a few times unopened and then opened them. Once they were open, Marty went around the circle and had each person show the gift they had opened. Then we went into the traditional rob your neighbor gift exchange. I think the most stolen gift this year was a GTO neon sign, although my favorite item by far was a Pontiac Steering Wheel Cover. (I did not end up with either!!)



Our party this year was a great event and everyone really enjoyed themselves. Thanks to Paula for all of her tireless work to plan such a fun party! She spends untold hours planning every detail and it shows.

Presidents Scoop

The President's Scoop

By Chris Winslow

Winter came early this year. I was not quite ready for the Pontiacs to be trapped in the garage for the season, but there is salt and brine on the roads here in O'Fallon now, so it looks like it is time to do one last treatment of the leather, get them up on the flat stopper ramps and get the covers on them. I usually can get them both out at least once or twice during the Christmas holiday break, but not this year.

There are a lot of things to cover this month. First, we had the officer elections. The 2026-2027 officers will be the same as the 2024-2025 officers with the exception that Paula Winslow will be taking over as secretary. Thanks to Amy O'Sullivan for all of her work as the secretary for the last two terms.

A few weeks ago, Paula and I, along with Barb and Earl Lewis, attended the annual Wheels In Motion check presentation to the National Children's Cancer Society. This year, with attendance back up at the shows due to our new location at the Church on the Rock, we were able to donate \$15,000 to NCCS! That is a huge donation and we would not have gotten there without Earl connecting Wheels In Motion with the Church on the Rock and also all of the work Earl does in the background to raise donations. Hopefully we can build on that in 2026 and raise even more money.

Speaking of donations, Paula and I, along with Terry and Gail Schott, made a trip up to Pontiac a few weeks ago. We presented Tim Dye with a check for \$3,900, which is the amount of money that we raised for the museum at our annual car show. While we were there, we were joined by Alan Finkenbinder and Dave Sullivan for a planning meeting for our 2026 show in Pontiac. 2026 is the 100th anniversary of both Pontiac and Route 66 so we are planning to make that show a special one. More to come on that in months ahead.

Finally, many long time members of Gateway will remember member Mark Obukowicz. Mark was a member of Gateway for many years before retiring and moving out of the area. Unfortunately, we lost Mark to Covid a few years ago. Mark's family has donated some of his collectibles to Gateway recently. See the details on the items in this newsletter. What we are going to do is give these collectibles away as raffle prizes for membership renewal. How it will work is that everyone that has renewed their Gateway GTO membership for 2026 by January 31st of 2026 will be entered in the raffle for the items. We will draw the winner at the February meeting at Ginghams. You will not need to be present at that meeting to win, but you must have your Gateway GTO membership current to be eligible.

That is all for 2025. Paula and I would like to wish everyone a great holiday season. We look forward to a great 2026!



GATEWAY GTO ASSOCIATION

Membership/**Renewal** Form

(Please print clearly)

☐ New

☐ Renewal

☐ Returning

Name: _____ Date: _____

Associate Name (Spouse/Significant Other): _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Home Phone: () _____ Cell Phone: () _____

E-mail Address: _____

Occupation: _____

Year & Body Style of Car(s) **ALL PONTIACS:**

Auto related interests, hobbies or talents:

GTO Association of America membership number: _____

GTO Association of America membership renewal date: _____
(found on address label of *Legend*)

PLEASE FILL IN ALL FIELDS

And mail to:

Will Bowers, Treasurer
Gateway GTO Association
4213 Napa View Lane
St. Charles, MO 63304

Membership dues are \$20.

You are allowed one associate member (spouse, significant other, etc.).

All Gateway GTO Members must also be members in good standing with GTOAA

Go to WWW.GTOAA.ORG to join or renew GTOAA membership



THE HOOD SCOOP

Gateway GTO

Membership Renewal

Gateway GTO Dues for 2026 are \$20 and are due by the annual Gateway GTO Pizza Party.

- Send dues to Will Bowers by mail or pay in person at the Next Meeting
Will's Address:
4213 Napa View Lane
St. Charles, MO 63304
- In order to Renew with Gateway GTO, members must be members in good standing with GTOAA.

Contact Chris Winslow if you have any questions on renewing your Gateway GTO membership



Gateway GTO Annual PIZZA PARTY!

Sunday, January 18, 2026 from 1-3:30 PM



Fortel's Pizza Den
7932 Mackenzie Road
St. Louis, MO 63123
(314) 353-2360

**Club furnishes the pizza and salad – drinks are
members' responsibility.**



2026 Pinball Wizard Tournament



WHAT: "12th ANNUAL GATEWAY GTO PINBALL WIZARD EVENT"

WHERE: ATOMIC PINBALL ARCADE, 102 WHITELAW AVE, WOOD RIVER, IL, 62095

WHEN: SUNDAY, February 22, 2026 ***** SAVE THIS DATE *****

TIME: Noon – 3:00 pm (3 hours)

NOTE: I will be looking for a local restaurant to have dinner after pinball. TBD.

ADMISSION PRICE: \$15/PLAYER

Atomic Pinball (ATOMICPINBALLARCADE.COM) in Wood River, IL., is an 8,000 sq. ft. Pinball Spectacular with Over 125 Pinball Games, Video Games, Skee Ball, and More! At Atomic Pinball Arcade, Private Parties are a blast for kids and even more fun for parents! Bring your own drinks, snacks, and party decorations! Alcohol is permitted, but must be consumed responsibly.

- Pay me on arrival– Exact cash appreciated.
- New building, kitchen, washrooms, and refrigerators plus rest areas.
- Plenty of parking in Atomic Pinball parking lot attached to building, or out front or back.
- You can invite anyone, and any number of players, to join in the fun. Kids, too.
- **Please RSVP before Sunday, February 8, 2026.**
- I will send out a final notice of players on Sunday, February 15, 2026.

Please let me know via email (nycgto@att.net) or home phone (636-724-8641), or cell/text (314-640-0959):

- 1. How many people in your party**
- 2. Name of each person**

If you are considering participating in the "GTO Pinball Wizard Tournament", as most have in the past, you can sign up when you arrive although it would be appreciated if you send me this info before the RSVP date:

NOTES:

- Don't be afraid. We are all here to have fun!
- Most members have not played pinball in a long time, or have only played at Club Howard, Pinball events or have never played but have joined in just for the fun of it.
- You have nothing to lose and bragging rights to win. Plus, your picture in our newsletter.
- This event, as in previous years, has turned out to be a hoot! Much Fun!!
- The tournament will take 2 hours, 12:30 – 2:30 pm, to complete.





2026 Pinball Wizard Tournament



- Prizes will be awarded at the end of the tournament.
- IF YOU ENTER THE “*GTO PINBALL WIZARD TOURNAMENT*”, YOU NEED TO ARRIVE **BY NOON**, IN ORDER TO REGISTER BEFORE THE TOURNAMENT. TOURNAMENT WILL START AT **12:30 PM SHARP** TO ALLOW TIME TO COMPLETE THE TOURNAMENT BY 2:30 PM. YOU CAN PRACTICE ON ALL MACHINES AFTER YOU REGISTER UP UNTIL 12:30 PM. LEAVE EXTRA TRAVELING TIME IF NECESSARY.
- Prizes will be awarded at the end of the tournament.
*** PLEASE DO NOT ARRIVE EARLIER THAN 11:45 AM SINCE THE MANAGEMENT WILL BE CLEANING UP FROM THE WEEKEND ***
- Remember: You want **The Thrill of Victory** and not **The Agony of Defeat!!**

Those that do not want to participate in the Tournament:

- You are more than welcome to play any of the games for the entire afternoon.
- ** The only specific rule here is: If a player is in the ‘Tournament’ and needs to play that machine, the tournament player must be granted 1st choice.
- You can arrive anytime during playing hours and still enter the tournament since winners are calculated by most games played along with most games won. Also, you can come and go as you please.
- LET THE GAMES BEGIN !!!

MOST OF ALL, HAVE FUN!!!

See ya there.....Marty Howard, CEC



Signed Art Fitzpatrick Print



GTO Print "Goat Gathering"



GTO Print



GTO Die Cast #1



GTO Diecast #2



GTOAA Membership Renewal

GTOAA Dues are to be paid directly to GTOAA

- Do not send GTOAA dues to Will Bowers. Instead renew directly with GTOAA by mail or at www.gtoaa.org.
- All Gateway GTO Members must be GTOAA members in good standing.
- Please contact GTOAA Chapter Representative Steve Hedrick with any questions:

Steve Hedrick Contact Info:

Phone: 314-640-4020

Email: sthedrick@aol.com



2025-2026 GATEWAY GTO CALENDAR OF EVENTS

January

18 - Annual Gateway GTO Pizza Party at Fortel's Pizza Den, 1:00 to 3:30, 7932 Mackenzie Road, St. Louis MO 63123

February

5 - GTO MEETING 7PM at Gingham's

22 - Gateway GTO 12th Annual Pinball Wizard Tournament at Atomic Pinball Arcade, 102 Whitelaw Ave. Wood River, IL 62095 at 12:00

SEE THE FULL CALENDAR AT WWW.GATEWAYGTO.ORG

Gateway GTO Classifieds

For Sale:

Alternator for 2006 GTO (Used but tests good)

\$50 with a 90 day warranty

Call: Frank Chapman

(314) 838-5533

Jon's Tri-Power Service

Jon F. Havens
Owner

126 Afshari Drive
Florissant, MO 63034
jfhavens@sbcglobal.net

(314) 496-7368

Jonathan's Q Jet Service

Jonathan Havens

13 Shamblin Dr.
Florissant, MO 63034

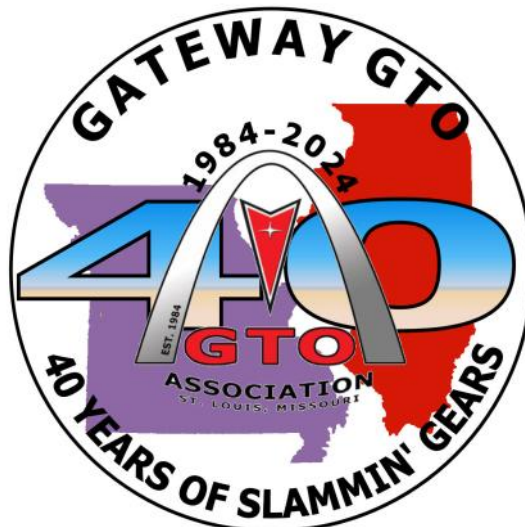
Lewis Insurance Agency
W Earl Lewis
LUTCF, CIC, CSP, CSG
636-219-4932
Welewis1949@gmail.com

The HAGERTY Guy

Image of a red classic car with its hood open.

CustomAutoApparel.com

[Gateway GTO Club Store](#)



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Advertising Guidelines

Classified ads are free to members. 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 Thursday of the month at Gingham's, 1566 Country Club Plaza Drive, St. Charles, MO 63303

The yearly dues for Gateway GTO is \$20. The dues are due by the Pizza Party in January. All Gateway GTO members must be a member in good standing with GTOAA. You are allowed to have one associate member.

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 is free for members in good standing.

Advertising rates for non members 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.



The Gateway GTO Association
is an official chapter of the
GTO Association of America
www.gtoaa.org

Visit us at
www.gatewaygto.org or
www.gatewaygto.com

644 Emge Road
O'Fallon, MO 63366

