

THE HOOD SCOOP

December 2013



Gateway GTO Association



GTO of the Month

My GTO

By Kerry Friedman



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



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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.

My introduction to the GTO was after we got the 2nd 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 2nd 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 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 1st 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 the 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, floor pans in solid condition, transmission re-

built, 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, it 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 would be a better call 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.”





Presidents Scoop

The Presidents Scoop

By Mark Melrose

Swan Song

It has been an honor and a privilege to serve the Club as your President during the past four years. While working to keep my predecessors' wheels rolling true I enjoyed working on new projects such as the *North County Cruise Nites*, the annual "big" Car Shows at our sponsors' locations and the *GTOAA All Pontiac Regional Show & Cruise* events in Pontiac, Illinois. It was gratifying for me to be able to strengthen Gateway's relationships with GTOAA, Arch-POCI and the Heart of Illinois GTOAA Chapter.

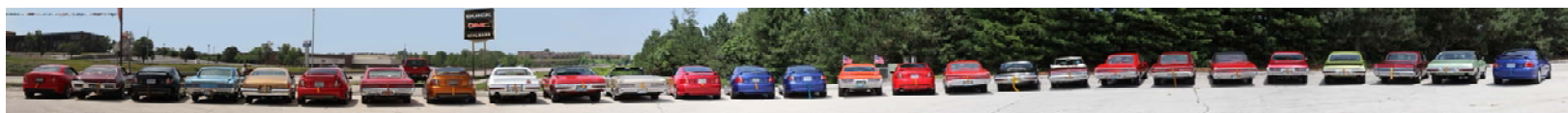
Most gratifying of all has always been the friendships forged with fellow members. The positive spirit, can-do attitude and selfless contributions made by fellow members toward advancing Club events and activities have been awe-inspiring. I can't thank the membership enough for making my tenure so rewarding and Sandra has enjoyed her role in planning and putting-on Club events immensely.

As my term draws to a close we all look to the new administration for a new and fresh approach to exciting events, activities and ways to enjoy our GTOs and each other. I am more than confident that the new slate of officers led by Kerry Friedman will fill the bill. By the way, I'm not going anywhere and the Club is very fortunate to have three additional past presidents as mentors and contributors to Gateway's future. I know I benefited greatly from the counsel, assistance and friendship provided me by Chris Simmons, Steve Hedrick and Tom Oxler.

I have been told by a number of knowledgeable outside observers that Gateway GTO is one of the best Car Clubs they are aware of and I know that our members feel the same. I look forward to supporting Kerry and his administration in their Club endeavors and know you will do the same. On a final note I wish to express my and the Club's thanks to our sponsor Complete Autobody for their support, please give them consideration for your automotive needs – classic and otherwise.

Calling All Cars don't miss the annual Gateway GTO Pizza Party from 1-5PM on Sunday, January 12th at Pirrone's Pizza, 1775 Washington St. in Florissant, MO.

For other upcoming area car shows & cruises see <http://clubs.hemmings.com/lakerscarclub/>





Gateway GTO Meeting Minutes



GGTOA Minutes: 12/14/2013

As has become customary for Gateway GTO, the December meeting is held briefly in conjunction with the annual Christmas Party.

The two primary business items for the meeting were to present the awards for the Gateway GTO Participation Points and to announce the new slate of officers for 2014-2015.

The points award winners were:

Third Place: Terry Schott

Second Place: Earl Lewis

First Place: Chris Winslow

The results of the elections were as follows:

President: Kerry Friedman

Vice President-Mo: Terry Schott

Vice President-II: Frank Chapman

Treasurer: Will Bowers

Secretary: Brian O'Sullivan

Chapter Representative: Steve Hedrick



Gateway GTO Activities



ANNUAL GATEWAY GTO CHRISTMAS PARTY

By Chris Winslow

Gateway GTO Association held our annual Christmas Party at the Hawkins House in Webster Groves. The weather was cold, but not bad it was not bad enough to stop anyone from coming out to enjoy the festivities.

Sandra Melrose had arranged for a new caterer for the event this year and everyone agreed that the food was excellent.

Gateway GTO's CEO, Marty, provided the Christmas music for the event.

After dinner, the party planners had prepared a new game to play based on the TV gameshow Family Feud. In



this case, the questions were Christmas and GTO related.

As is customary for the Gateway GTO Christmas Party, there was a short club meeting during the event. The two primary items of business for this meeting were the awarding of the club participation points awards and the announcement of the new slate of club officers for the 2014-2015 season.

The club participation award winners were:

First Place: Chris Winslow

Second Place: Earl Lewis

Third Place: Terry Schott

The new club officers announced were:

President: Kerry Friedman

Vice President – Mo: Terry Schott

Vice President - Il: Frank Chapman

Secretary: Brian O'Sullivan

Chapter Representative: Steve Hedrick

New GTOAA President Kerry Friedman followed up this announcement with a presentation to outgoing president Mark Melrose. During this presentation, Kerry thanked Mark for his service to the club and his dedication in guiding the club through a some difficult times through much of his tenure. Kerry then presented Mark with a wooden plaque commemorating his service to the club.



Following this presentation, Terrie Oxler made presentation thanking Sandra Melrose for her service to the club during Mark's time as the president. She followed that up by presenting Sandra with one of her hand made custom GTO purses.

Following these presentations, Sandra then conducted the annual Rob Your Neighbor gift exchange.

As always, everyone had a great time at the party. See you all at the pizza party in January!



NEW AGE GTO CONCOURS PROJECT

The GTO Association of America has initiated a project to create a set of photo records on the 2004 to 2006 GTO in anticipation of a time in the future when these cars will participate in the annual GTO Association of America Concours car show.

Gateway GTO has been chosen as the chapter to assemble these photo documentaries.

The project requires six **BONE STOCK** new age GTO's - One manual transmission and one automatic transmission car from each model year.

Ground Rules for Eligible Cars:

- Car must be bone stock with NO aftermarket parts or modifications. The only exceptions are batteries and tires.
- Factory parts, such as the sports appearance package and 18 inch wheels, are allowed.
- All parts the car was originally supplied with, such as the spoiler, must be installed. (Exception: Parts removed to install other factory parts such as the sports appearance package or 18" wheels.)

Once the cars are identified, a photo session will be scheduled.

If your car meets the requirements of the ground rules and you are interested in participating, please contact Chris Winslow.

**This is your chance to make your GTO the standard
against which all new age GTO's will be judged!**

Still looking for a 2005 Automatic Car - All other slots have been filled

Gateway GTO Club Pizza Party

Sunday, January 12, 2014 from 1-5 PM

At Pirrone's Pizza

1775 Washington St, Florissant, MO 63033

About 1 mile north of I-270 off the Washington/Elizabeth exit 314-650-1820

Club furnishes the pizza – drinks, salads, etc. are members' responsibility



GATEWAY GTO ASSOCIATION
Membership/Renewal Form

(Please print clearly)

Name: _____ Date: _____

Associate Name: _____

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 with check to:

Will Bowers, Treasurer
Gateway GTO Association
1 Goshen Woods Lane
Edwardsville, IL 62025

Membership dues are \$35.00 per year, which includes you and one associate member (spouse, girlfriend, etc.) and your GTOAA yearly membership.

Gateway GTO Association Points Submission Form

Member Name _____

Month _____

Club Sponsored Events and Monthly Meetings

Event	With GTO (40 Points)	Without GTO (20 Points)

Total for Club Sponsored Events _____

Non Sponsored Events

Event	With GTO (10 Points)	Without GTO (5 Points)

Total for Non Sponsored Events _____

Other Activities

GTO Regional/National Event	With GTO (100 Points)	Without GTO(70 Points)

- GGTOA Event Worker/Helper (50 Points) _____
- Car Featured as GTO of the Month (50 Points) _____
- Write an Article for *Hood Scoop* (50 Points) _____
- Sign up a new GGTOA member (25 Points) _____
- Have GTO featured in a National Pub (40 Points) _____

Total Points for Month

Submit completed form at GGTOA monthly meeting or to:
 B. O'Sullivan
 10637 St. Phillip Lane
 St. Anne, MO 63074

2014 GATEWAY GTO CALENDAR OF EVENTS

January

12—Gateway GTO Pizza Party at Pirrone's in Florissant, Mo. CLUB SPONSORED

SEE THE FULL CALENDAR AT WWW.GATEWAYGTO.ORG

Gateway GTO Classifieds

For Sale

Heads

#13 I099-I099 \$300

#16 B198-B198 \$300

#62 C199-D199 \$300

#64 J099-J139 \$600 Cleaned & magged

#96 H240-H240 \$300 "" ""

One 6X-4 \$150 "" ""

Chebby short shaft 400 turbo \$100

Contact Tony Bezzole

(314) 737-6534

400 crank #4813 \$150 Fresh 10-10

'75 455 std. block & crank \$450

"69 428 std 2 bolt block, cleaned & magged with
used forged pistons & SD rods.

Crank needs turned. \$800.

Trans Am 10 bolt posi rearends, no drums

3.08 \$300

3.23 \$300

3.42 \$300

3.73 Richmond gears, rebuilt posi. \$600



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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 \$35.00 per year and all renewals are required to be paid by December 31st. You are allowed to have one associate member.

Club Sponsor

2 Locations:

6041 North Lindbergh
Hazelwood, MO 63042
(314) 731-7999

10100 West Florissant
Dellwood, MO 63136
(314) 868-2000

Tow Service:
314-427-8697



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**

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

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.

44 Marcus Drive
St. Peters, MO 63376

