THE HOOD SCOOP

February 2026

12th Annual Pinball Wizard Tournament

by **Chris Winslow**

Gateway GTO's Chief Entertainment Officer, Marty, put together another great Pinball Wizard Tournament. This year was our 12th annual tournament and our third year at Atomic Pinball in Wood River Il. Many members will remember that earlier tournaments were held at CP pinball before they relocated to the new location and changed the name.

As is typical, there was a large turnout for the event. This year there were close to 40 people in attendance.

Marty had everything organized and ready to go when we got there. As we have done the past few years, the tournament was run using software that matched up players and then picked a pinball machine for them to play. This system works really well and keeps the players competing almost non stop during the actual tournament. Marty had done all the work up front to make sure the list of players was accurate and as a result the actual tournament play was very smooth.

When the dust settled at the end of the tournament Mathew Busch was ranked #1, Rick Hipes was ranked #2, Bret Bowers ranked #3, and Gail Schott came in ranked #4.

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12th Annual Pinball Wizard Tournament

With the final 4 determined, Matthew, Rick, Bret, and Gail played for the championship. This year they used the Ali pinball machine to decide the winner. This is an older machine and I had found it to be kind of a tricky one to play. It is also not at all forgiving! (No saved balls on this one). When the dust settled it was actually quite close, but the winner was Rick followed by Bret in second place, Gail in third, and Matt in 4th. Marty handed out trophies to the winners and also had drawings for some shirts as door prizes.

Following the event a number of us headed to Alton to the Bluff City Grill for dinner. This was the second year we have headed there after the event and they did not disappoint. They had the table all ready for us and the service was fast and friendly.

Congratulations to Marty for another great event pulled off perfectly!

12th Annual Pinball Wizard Tournament

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Presidents Scoop

The President's Scoop

By Chris Winslow

I wanted to start this month with an update on Sharon Mercer. Earl and I attended a planning meeting for the Spring Wheels In Motion show and the First Capital Classics folks gave us an update. As you may have heard, Sharon had been at home but suffered a bit of a relapse. She is now in rehab at Delmar Gardens. They reported that she is continuing to improve and her broken bones are healing up. She mostly stays in a wheel chair right now but is able to get up and walk with a walker for short distances. We are all hoping that we will see her able to attend our spring show on May 30th.

Last month in the newsletter and at our meeting, we discussed our club finances. At the meeting, I recommended that we increase our annual dues to $30 per year and the members present were generally in agreement. After the meeting, I put it to a vote of the officers and the directors and it passed. So, for 2027 the dues for Gateway will be $30. This should help us get our budget in better shape.

We already have a number of activities coming up on the calendar for 2026.

We have the Marine Corps St. Patrick's day dance coming up on March 14th. I have included a flyer for that event in the newsletter. The event has live music with one of our favorite groups, the Scott Laytham and Karl Holmes Duo. If you would like to go, please get in touch with Steve Hedrick for tickets.

Easter is early this year. I am collecting names for those that want to attend the show in Forest Park at the Muny lot. As I noted in an earlier message, if you would like to attend, please let me know by March 20th so that I can get the final list of who is attending to the organizers. The cost is still $15. I will cover the cost up front when I send in the list so if you want to go you can just pay me at the event. Earl is also organizing some space for us at the show at the Family Arena. So, if you want to attend that show let Earl know.

Also in April is the event Steve Hedrick has organized for us: 421 day! This will be on April 21st (obviously!) at the Sawmill BBQ Pub & Grill on Old Des Peres Road. See the flyer in this newsletter for more details. Steve is promising prizes, trivia and also celebrities!

We do have a lot of open Saturdays in April on the calendar, so if anyone has any ideas for a cruise or activity for April, please let me know.

Gateway GTO Meeting Minutes

Minutes 2/5/26
7:05 PM – Meeting Start
No new members this month
Chris Winslow commented on the good attendance.

7:13 PM – Old Business

Chris Winslow talked about the Gateway GTO Christmas party. Approximately 46 members were in attendance. During the Rob Your Neighbor game, Marty changed the rules. The new rules seemed to make the game go faster. Chris asked those at the meeting if they liked the new rules. The food donations that were brought to the party were donated the next day to Gingham's Restaurant who had a box for Oasis Food Pantry.

Chris talked about the Gateway GTO Pizza party that was held at Fortel's Pizza Den on January 18th, 2026. Approximately 40 members attended.

7:22 PM – New Business and Upcoming Events

Chris Winslow talked about the passing of Beth Butcher on January 4th after long battle with cancer. Chris asked people to vote for Beth for the Pontiac Hall of Fame when the vote becomes available.

Chris talked about the raffle winners of the items donated by the widow of Mark Obukowicz. Some of the winners were at the meeting and received their item.

Chris talked about calendars that Tim Dye made for the 100th anniversary of Pontiac and were for sale.

Chris talked about the Gateway GTO budget and made some recommendations going forward.

Chris talked about the Pinball Wizard Tournament coming up on February 22nd. Marty Howard talked about it and handed out a sign-up sheet.

Chris talked about the Marine Corp League St. Patrick's Day dance on March 14th in Arnold. Steve Hedrick has tickets to sell.

The next event Chris talked about was the Easter Car show at Forest Park on April 5th. Cost is $15 per car and the deadline to sign up is March 20th. Please let Chris know if you are planning to attend.

Earl Lewis talked about the Easter Car Show at the St. Charles Family Arena. Please see Earl about that show.

Chris had Steve Hedrick talk about 421 Day. Steve brought a banner and hung it up. There will be a car show on 4-21. There is a flyer on the website.

Chris talked about Gateway GTO Day at the Red Cedar Inn on May 23rd. A cruise is being worked on for the event and lunch after.

Chris talked about the Immanuel Lutheran Parade on May 2nd. Some members volunteered to drive in the parade to escort the Veterans to Blanchette Park for the church picnic.

Chris talked about the first Wheels in Motion car show this year at Church on the Rock on May 30th.

Also, the Marine Corp Trivia Night will be held on May 30th.

7:38 PM – GTOAA

Steve Hedrick talked about the upcoming National Convention in Colorado. The Canyon Cruise during the convention is filling up.

7:42 - TECH

Earl Lewis talked about the work that was done on his car with Terry Schott, Chris Winslow and Tom Oxler.

7:45 – PERSONALS

Sharon Mercer was recovering her fall in December but had a set-back and returned to the hospital. Sharon is a member of the club that manages the Wheel in Motion Car Show.

The meeting adjourned at 7:52 pm.

50/50 of $39 dollars was won by Sue Vie.

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

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

Marine Corps League 707

St. Patrick's Dance

Saturday • March 14, 2026

7pm till 11pm

Arnold VFW Post 2593

2301 Church Road • Arnold, MO 63010

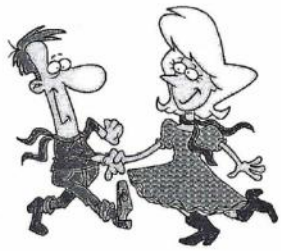
Music Provided by:

The Scott Laytham & Karl Holmes Duo

Scott - *Multi Instrumentalist* • **Karl** - *Vocal Impressionist who, if you closed your eyes you would think you were listening to:*

Johnny Mathis, Nat King Cole, Frank Sinatra, Ray Charles, Marvin Gaye and more

From Old Time Rock'n Roll, Top Pop, Mo-Town & Beyond



Tickets: $25 per person

Tickets include Soft Drinks and Draft Beer

(Cash Bar for Mixed Drinks)

Doors Open 6:00 pm

Music & Entertainment 7:00 pm - 11:00 pm

Limited Seating, get your tickets early

Don't be Shut-Out

Priority Seating for Early Reservation

Contact:
Jack @ 314-403-6536
Gene @ 314-706-0669
Bill @ 314-324-9548
or any MCL Member

Sponsored by Marine Corp League #707
Benefitting Injured Marines
and Marines in Need

PONTIAC DAY 4-21

Sawmill BBQ Pub & Grill

1090 Old Des Peres Rd Des Peres, MO 63131

April 21 @2:42pm (GTO Vin)

Celebrate PONTIAC DAY 4-21

Along with all your Pontiac and GTO friends…

Come out at 2:42pm and enjoy Great food and Great fun

Pontiac and GTO trivia

WIN special prizes...Meet Pontiac Celebrities…

You Don't want to miss this...

100 YEARS

GTO ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

GTO A TRADITION OF PERFORMANCE

WWW.GTOAA.ORG WWW.GATEWAYGTO.ORG

GATEWAY GTO ASSOCIATION EST. 1984 ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI

Contact Steve & Tammy Hedrick 314.640.4020

Trophies for:

- Pastor's Choice
- Kids Pick
- And More....

30TH BI-ANNUAL

Walter F. Phillips Memorial Collector Cars Against Cancer

Wheels in Motion Day

Sno-Cones
by the St. Louis Gateway Buick Club of America

Food & Drinks

Saturday, May 30th, 2026
9 am to 2 pm

All Proceeds Benefit Children in their Fight with Cancer

The National Children's Cancer Society
2900 Frank Scott Parkway, Ste 928
Belleville, IL 62223
(314) 241-1600

church on the rock
900 Birdie Hills Rd, St. Peters, MO 63376

CAR REGISTRATION: $25 PER CAR AT EVENT
FIRST 150 CARS RECEIVE A COMMEMORATIVE DASH PLAQUE

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GATEWAY GTO ASSOCIATION ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI EST. 1984

FIRST CAPITOL CLASSICS St. Charles, MO

GATEWAY CHAPTER Buick CLUB OF AMERICA

For more details, call
Elliott (314) 605-0225 or
Judi (636) 485-0287
https://firstcapitolclassics.wixsite.com/autoclub

Please, No Alcoholic Beverages Allowed!! ***A cooperative event of St. Louis Area Car Clubs***

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

2026 GATEWAY GTO
CALENDAR OF EVENTS

March

5 - GTO MEETING 7PM at Gingham's

14 - Marine Corps St. Patrick's Day Dance - Details to follow

April

2 - GTO MEETING 7PM at Gingham's

5 - Easter Car Shows

21 - 421 Day at Sawmill BBQ Pub & Grill

May

2 - Immanuel Lutheran Church Parade

7 - GTO MEETING 7PM at Gingham's

23 - Gateway GTO Day at the Red Cedar Inn

30 - Wheels in Motion Spring Car Show

30 - Marine Trivia

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

CustomAutoApparel.com

Gateway GTO Club Store

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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.

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.

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