



THE HOOD SCOOP

OCTOBER 2010

GTO of the Month

1964 GTO Convertible

By John Novelli

Gateway GTO
Association



I found my 64 GTO convertible scanning Ebay, about four years ago, it was an original car with PHS documents and the number matching motor! The car was at Kentucky Lake. The owner stated he purchased the car in 1978 and stored it in his boathouse for 20 years. In 1998 he sent the car out for a paint job. WOW! An original motor 64 GTO convertible SUNFIRE RED white interior!! This is about the rarest of all the GTO colors and very beautiful when done with the modern paint materials. Pontiac had paint problems mid year and canceled the color, then brought it back and canceled it for 65.

I just imagined what I was doing in 1978..... Driving my 66 Lemans white, with black interior, chrome reverse and baby moons... just a little air in the

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THE HOOD SCOOP



hijackers. Cruising White Castle and hanging with my buddies. The thought went through my mind; this guy stored this car for me, for twenty years!! Luck was on my side; these cars didn't exist in my neck of the woods, North County. I remember the first time I saw a 64 GTO convertible it was 1980 at the POCI nationals in Gettysburg PA. It was gold and white the top was down and it had a white tonneau cover over the interior. I met Jim Wangers at that meet and he drove my 65 GTO tri-power 4 speed around the parking lot.

I really never focused much on the 64, while we were getting the 67 ready for the nationals in Dayton. So couple of years past and the 67 GTO won gold. So I keep pushing back the start date on the frame off and need to make the 64 more fun to have around. I added tri-power and detailed the motor and added a four core radiator.

Then last fall we pulled the two speed power glide and added a rock crusher four speed. Well the four speed conversion went perfectly. It's like owning a whole new car. With family demands and needing to be around the house more, I brought the car home from the shop to tinker on in the evenings. Recently added Pertronix ignition and Flame thrower coil also added rear seat belts to take the kids cruising.



The other night I threw a new taillight harness, replace the flasher and got the blinkers working. The white top was looking dingy and starting to black streak. I had some super vinyl cleaner and it cleaned up real nice and so did the interior also. Next was onto the dash got out my silver paint pen and did the rings on the bezel not bad... then the plastic polish to the cluster lens and it looks like new. Hurst wheels with bullet centers and red line radials look great and dress her out nicely.

I knew if I went to Kentucky to get the car I wasn't coming back without it. I made the guy promise me, if I found anything, he forgot to mention we could negotiate some off the agreed price. We arrived and confirmed the motor was correct and then slid a jack under and checked out the rest. I griped about something and busted him another thousand. He licked his wounds and took the cash. I took the car for a drive around the lake.... It was scary, brakes were bad, steering loose, we loaded her up and headed for Missouri.

I remember the muffler fell off unloading it. Then it wouldn't start. That sinking feeling started to come over me..... I laughed it off, pushed her in the garage and started troubleshooting the problems. Before long she was running good enough to take around and have some fun. I always thought of this one as a keeper. There would be plenty of time to restore it, don't rush it just enjoy every turn of the wrench

and savor every part purchase. I notice some of the original hardware missing, so I called the seller and asked him if he had any hardware left over from the body shop? He said he did and sent me a ten pound box of hardware. Soon I started replacing the old bolts back where they belong!

The 64 had excellent chrome bumpers and sheet metal, no rust, the interior pretty good. New emblems, hood scoops, chrome door handles and perfect taillights! The grills were the damaged and need to be replaced. I searched for grills and a wood wheel found NOS grills and an original 64 four spoke wood wheel on Ebay. The remote mirror was removed and re-chromed.

Early 64 GTO's had the remote mirror mounted on the fender!!

My plans are to keep this one, and do the frame off and return to the original color Sun-fire Red. Maybe take her to the national and take the gold... but for now just have some fun banging gears and cruising.



The Presidents Scoop

By Mark Melrose

Autumn Cruising Opportunities

Mercifully, the summer heat has finally subsided. Due to 2010's hot, dry summer we are told not to expect "vibrant" Fall colors. As the classic car season winds down are you thinking it's about time to winterize the car and otherwise prep it for storage?

Not so fast, the Club has three upcoming sponsored events designed to take advantage of the seasonally cooler weather which also promises to be sunny and dry though at least through the 17th:

Our *Fall Tour Day* is Saturday, October 16th and includes tours of the new Busch Stadium, the St. Louis City Garden and the Gateway Geyser Fountain with a pit-stop for food (naturally) at Tip Top Food and Spirits in Soulard – thanks to Karen Ewens, Kerry Friedman and Shauna Wollmershauser for putting this event together.

The *Mills Apple Farm & Diamond Mineral Springs Day* is scheduled for Sunday, October 24th and includes apple picking and a hay-ride at Mills and food (naturally) at Diamond Mineral Springs restaurant and potentially "Foot High Pie" later at the Blue Springs Café – all in the Highland, IL area.

The Club's *Fall Wine Cruise* will be Sunday, November 7th again at Montelle Winery in Augusta, MO with its beautiful view of the river valley, wine, music and food (naturally).

Additionally, and while not a Club Sponsored Event, the Museum of Transportation is having its *Fall Color Route 66 Cruise In/Cruise Out Tour* on Sunday, October 17th which includes a catered breakfast, Route 66 Cruise, rides on the Wabash, Frisco & Pacific RR and an afternoon car show.

So don't disconnect the battery and throw a tarp over the "old Goat" just yet – there's still plenty of fun on the Club calendar, winding up with the Club Christmas Party at Hawken House in Webster Groves on December 11th which includes food (naturally).



Gateway GTO Club October Minutes

October 6, 2010

The monthly Gateway GTO meeting was held at JJ's at 1215 South Duschene in St. Charles, MO.

Members began arriving by 6:00PM for dinner and conversation.

President Mark Melrose called the meeting to order at 7:06PM. Officers in attendance: Mark Melrose, Will Bowers, Darrell May, Steve Hedrick, and Shauna Wollmershauser.

NEW MEMBERS: No new members were in attendance. Kyle Keith rejoined the club. He owns a highly modified 2005 Cyclone Gray Metallic GTO.

Old Business:

Wheels in Motion: We did better this year than last year. \$1300 was raised from the raffle. 150 cars showed up. Bob Blattel raised \$600 by himself for this event.

Coozies: Have been ordered and will be available at the next meeting.

Vago Park Show: Mark Melrose, Earl Lewis, and Kyle Keith attended the show. Earl Lewis placed second in his class. All that attended had a good time.

Club Picnic: Was a great success despite the weather. Roughly 50 people attended the picnic.

Route 66 Mother Road Cruise: Cecil Morton attended the Friday event. The Chain of Rocks Bridge was not open this year. Cecil estimates that 2000 cars and one take were in the parade.

New Business:

JJ's Cruise: The last cruise of the year was Saturday October 9, 2010.

NMCA Muscle Car Nationals/LSX Shootout: October 9-10, 2010 at Gateway International Raceway. Shauna is one of the track photographers for the event.

Demolition Ball: Is located at Highway 94 and Zumbuhl. Marty will solicit members to attend and set a date later.

EPC Show: is Saturday October 9, 2010.

Fall Tour: is October 16, 2010. The Club will tour City Gardens, Busch Stadium, and the Gateway Geyser. Lunch is at Tip Top Food and Spirits in Souland. Meet at City Garden at 8:00AM. This is a club-sponsored event.

Museum of Transportation Fall Tour. Is October 17, 2010.

Mills Apple Farm and Diamond Mineral Springs: is October 24, 2010. Meet at 2:00PM on the Missouri side of the Chain of Rocks Bridge. Then we will head to Diamond Mineral Springs for dinner. This is a club-sponsored event.

Palisades Car Show: has been CANCELLED.

Fall Wine Run: is November 7, 2010. The club will visit Montelle Winery. This is a club-sponsored event.

Christmas Party: is December 11, 2010 at the Hawken House. This is a club-sponsored event.

Tech Session:

Marty Howard's portable 45 record player does not work. He bought it at the GM Nationals this summer. It will cost him about \$600 to get it in working order. If he wins the lottery he will have the unit repaired or you can buy it for \$500. Let him know if you are interested.

Marty Howard also had an electric fuel pump installed on his car. He started it the morning of the meeting for the first time in 5 days. He learned that the electric fuel pump needs to run for about ten seconds before he attempts to start the car.

Mark Melrose got an email from GM regarding 4 free maintenance trips. He went to Dave Sinclair for the work. They changed his oil with Mobil 1 synthetic oil and rotated his tires for free. Check your email to see if you have something similar from GM. He was in and out in about 45 minutes.

Shauna Wollmershauser will be replacing her stock rotors and pads with DBA rotors and Hawk Ceramic pads. She has roughly 90,000 miles on her stock brakes.

Steve Hedrick bought taillights from Performance Years for his 1967 GTO while he was in Detroit for the Woodward Dream Cruise. He had a small issue with the replacements. If you order lights be sure to check and see if the trim is properly attached. He used a two-part epoxy to re-glue the trim on the lenses.

Club Personals:

Craig Glenn picked up a 1972 Lemans. It has 66,000 original miles.

Erica Melrose got married on September 24, 2010. Tom and Terrie Oxler make the trip to Buffalo, NY with the Melrose's for the wedding.





Tech Article of the Month



PYPES SS EXHAUST INSTALLATION

By Tom Oxler

My 1966 GTO had a hodge podge of various exhaust components. First the Hooker Super Comp headers with 3 inch collectors. These fed a 2 ½ inch steel exhaust pipe into a Y-pipe where my electric cut outs attached. From there, the 2 ½ inch pipes fed the 2 ½ inch Flow Master 40 mufflers then out through 2 ¼ inch steel pipes. Although the exhaust system sounded pretty good, it was causing a lot of restriction and dropping horsepower by 40 with the cut outs closed.

I had been researching various exhaust systems and was very impressed with the

Pypes system. I had talked with Chris Casper and several of his sales people at several events and decided upon a 3 inch stainless steel system with their X pipe from the headers to the mufflers and 2 ½ inch from the mufflers back. With the 2 ½ inch tail pipes, I could get the 66 GTO chrome tips while a complete 3 inch would require some other type of chrome tips.

With the help of Will Bower and Mark Melrose, and the use of John Novelli's lift and shop, we began by cutting out the old exhaust with a sawsall. We stripped out everything since the new Pypes kit included everything from pipes, mufflers, hangers and clamps. I saved the old 2 ½ inch electric cut outs since Marty Howard had been asking for them for over a year. He wanted them for his 1969 GTO.





Tech Article of the Month



adapters arrived and Will was able to help again. We got all of the pipes, mufflers, hangers and clamps installed and tightened down to what we thought was tight. We fired up the engine and found several leaks. Another call to Pypes and we were told you really need to tighten the clamps down to where the two ends are almost touching. We decided to get some muffler sealer and retighten all the

Once everything was removed, we began hanging the tail pipes working from the rear forward. Everything fit great. The new hangers were installed and the pipes were just hung finger tight. Next came the mufflers which fit perfectly. The X pipe and the extensions required a little pre-assembly on the bench with the clamps again finger tight. As we got to the collector adapters I realized I had ordered 3 1/2 inch adapters and needed 3 inch. A quick call to Pypes and the new ones were ordered. So much for the day. However, we were able to see that everything was going to fit very well with little or no cutting of any pipe.

The next week, the new collector

clamps. Once the sealer was installed, all the clamps tightened, everything was sealed and quiet.

The last thing we installed was the new QTP 3 inch electric cut outs. This was ex-





Tech Article of the Month



tremely easy as I already had all of the wiring and connectors from the old 2 ½ inch cut outs so it was just 6 bolts and 2 twist connectors. Later I ordered 3 inch turn down pipes for each cut out directing the exhaust down and to the back of the GTO. This keeps the soot off the underside of the car. I do not think I could live

without these. I have entirely too much fun opening these especially next to a Honda with one of those stove pipe exhausts.

I would highly recommend the Pypes Exhaust System. Everything was of the highest quality with mandrel bent stainless steel pipes. The clamps were also stainless with grade 8 bolts for strength. The system required just 2 cuts, one at the collector adapter since the headers are of different lengths and one at a tail pipe as one chrome tip was about ½ inch longer than the other when fully installed and tightened.





A Look Back



The following three photos are either current or former Gateway GTO members as photographed in the 1980's. Can you identify them? (Answers on page 15)



Mystery Member #1



Mystery Member #2





A Look Back



Mystery Member #3





Gateway GTO Activities



Wheels In Motion Charity Car Show

By Chris Winslow

Each year, Gateway GTO participates in a number of charity car shows. This year, as the club has done for the past 3 years, we took part in the Wheels In Motion Car show at Westport Plaza. Officially, it was the 14th Annual Walter F. Phillips Memorial Old Cars Against Cancer “Wheels in Motion Day”. As in past years, all proceeds went to the National Children’s Cancer Society.

Gateway GTO has a number of roles in the car show including taking part in the set of for the show and staffing the entrance, to patrolling the parking lot. By far the most important roll, however, is the running the raffle. This takes a lot of effort and organization each year as club members solicit raffle items from local businesses and then organizes them into a display at the event. During the event, car show attendees purchase tickets



for chances to win the prizes. Once again this year, despite the economy, the club, was able to assemble an impressive selection of prizes and in the end donated \$1308 to the cause. This included \$708 from the raffle and \$600 in donations that Gateway GTO Charity Chairman Bob Blattel solicited from local businesses.

In addition to the club donation, Harry Timmerman personally made multiple donations



to the event when he twice won prize money drawings and both times donated his winnings to the charity.

There was an outstanding turn out of cars for the show this year. As always Gateway GTO had the largest showing of any of the car clubs present, but the Mustang club also had an impressive showing.





Gateway GTO Activities



The organizers had also arranged for a wide range of entertainment for the main stage. Performers included Waylon, Buddy Holley, a belly dancer, and Elvis. Of course for the children, the highlight of the event was the magic show performed by Bob Blattel. Each year he



memorizes the kids at the show, and this year was no exception.

The event was blessed this year with near perfect weather and as a result of the hard work of all of the club members and the generosity of the participants it was a total success.





Gateway GTO Activities



Gateway GTO Club Picnic

By Chris Winslow

The weather was less than ideal for the annual Gateway GTO club picnic. The morning started off a bit on the rainy side, but improved as the day progressed. As usual, Tom and Chris were at the park early cooking and also as usual, they made too much!

Despite the bad weather, a few of the GTO's made it out. Of course, by far the most interesting car at the event was Marty's Parisienne. After all, how many of those are still on the road? In addition, in an unusual display of green technology for Gateway GTO, somebody brought an electric motorcycle to the event. Debbie Friedman graciously demonstrated to handling and efficiency of the emissions free transportation device.



As the weather improved so did the turn out and in the end attendance was very good. As always, there was a great selection of side dishes and some outstanding deserts. In my case, my wife had made brownies. I guess they were good because they were gone before I had a change to get any. Oh well, maybe next year.....



2010 GATEWAY GTO CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- Sept 1 GTO MEETING 7pm J.J.'s 1215 S. Duchesne, St Charles, Mo, 63301 (CLUB SPONSORED)
- 11 JJ's Cruises 1215 S. Duschene in St. Charles. Second Saturday of the month April-October
- 12 Wheels In Motion Kids for Cancer at Westport Plaza. (CLUB SPONSORED)
- 19 Gateway GTO Club Picnic at Vago Park in Maryland Heights, Mo. (CLUB SPONSORED)
- Oct 6 GTO MEETING 7pm JJ's 1215 S. Duchene, St. Charles, Mo 63301 (CLUB SPONSORED)
- 9 JJ's Cruises at 1215 S. Duschene, St. Charles, Mo. Second Saturday of the month April - October.
- 16 Gateway GTO Fall Tour Day (CLUB SPONSORED)
- 17 Museum of Transport Fall Color Tour
- Nov 3 GTO MEETING 7pm JJ's 1215 S. Duchene, St. Charles, Mo 63301 (CLUB SPONSORED)
- 7 Gateway GTO Wine Run at Montelle Winery (CLUB SPONSORED)
- Dec 11 Gateway GTO Club Christmas Party at Hawken House in Webster Groves, Mo. Details to follow. (CLUB SPONSORED)

SEE THE FULL CALENDAR AT WWW.GATEWAYGTO.ORG

Classified Ads

1970-1971 GTO Spoiler
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Contact Don Bright at dwbgtto@hotmail.com

Mystery Member Answers: 1. Craig "Axel" Weiss, 2. Darrell Carnell, 3. John Novelli

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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.

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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.

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