



THE HOOD SCOOP

MAY 2012

GTO of the Month

My GTO

By Carol and Charles Morton

Gateway GTO Association



FAMILIES & INDIVIDUALS

An Official Chapter of the GTO Association of America

We are Carol and Charles Morton, your online members. We live about 50 miles north of Birmingham, Alabama. I am a firefighter/paramedic and Carol is an Emergency Department RN. We don't live close enough to be active members but we do enjoy visiting at least once each year. Also, I keep up with the activities of the Association through Mark's emails and the newsletters.

How did we become members of the Gateway GTO Association? Kind of a long story but basically because all of the Gateway GTO Association members we met were so friendly and hospitable. I am not sure of the year now, but it was the second year of the Route 66 Mother Road Festival in Springfield, IL when I ventured off up north in my 69 Mach I alone and knowing nothing about where I was going. I knew to meet at the Chain of Rocks Bridge on Friday morning for a tour of old 66 up to Springfield. As the tour proceeded, we stopped for adult refreshments and as I was talking

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:	
GTO of the Month	1
The Presidents Scoop	5
Tech Article	6
Gateway GTO Activities	7
Calendar	20
GTO Marketplace	21
GGTOA Info Page	24



to some guy on a motor cycle, I noticed all of the cars were gone except for some Pontiacs. Only knowing that I was somewhere in Illinois, I fell in with the Pontiac group and followed until they stopped for lunch. At that point I introduced myself and explained my situation. I met one of the Pontiac guys, Cecil Morton, at an earlier stop as I admired his 68 GTO. For the others it was our first meeting and they invited me to have lunch with them. From that point we became friends. Cecil and I do not appear to be related but we do have some things in common, or so Annette and Carol think. The next year rolled around and Carol started going with me to the festival in Springfield and we met more Gateway members. In a conversation with Tom Oxler, I mentioned that I had a 66 GTO in many pieces waiting to be restored and Tom invited me to join the Gateway GTO Association since there is not a GTOAA group in Alabama.

I fell in love with GTOs as a senior in high school when my best friend got a new 1966 GTO yellow with black interior four speed four barrel. I purchased my first GTO in 1967. It was a used 1966 four speed tri-power ram air (the ram air box came in the trunk) and 3:90 rear end. The original owner added air and changed the rear gears to 3:55. Soon after my purchase, I learned why the original owner let it go. You could not go over 55 mph without the car running hot. Six months later, I sold the car and went to a used ford but still loved GTOs (that did not run hot). In 1969 my friend from high school put his GTO up for sale and I purchased my favorite car of all times. I finished wearing the engine out, put a new engine in, and wore the entire car out. At that point it was time to concentrate on my career and family for a couple of decades.

I purchased my next GTO in 1999 while in Pennsylvania purchasing a fire truck. The fire equipment salesman had a 1966 GTO original engine, automatic, power steering, and

air that he purchased in 1976 from the original owner. The car had been semi-restored with a rebuilt engine and paint but the trunk floor was rusted out from the rear window leaking. Still the price was right and I returned to Alabama with a fire truck and a GTO. We drove the GTO for two years until the rear main began to leak oil excessively and I decided to completely restore the car. It is disassembled and in many pieces, still waiting on me to retire (June 2012) and complete the job.

Our current drivable GTO was announced for sale by Molly Butterworth in an email from Mark Melrose. I called Cecil Morton and asked if he knew the car. Cecil remembered seeing the car at a car show but did not remember what condition it was in, however he agreed to check it out for me. So one beautiful snowy mid winter day Cecil traveled to some area west of St. Louis, took pictures, and emailed them to me. From the pictures, I purchased the car, a white 1967 convertible (original color was blue) and the car had the PHS data with it. I have repainted the car and replaced the upholstery but it is still a work in progress (see picture).





Presidents Scoop

The Presidents Scoop

By Mark Melrose

Silver Lining

Sometime ago we started to fall behind in producing the *The Hood Scoop* in timely enough fashion to reach you by the beginning of its issue-month. Regrettably, we (I) have slid even further and seem to struggle to get it out by the end of its issue-month – this month being no exception. Accordingly, I must apologize for falling so far behind but alas, there is a silver lining in this cloud.

As I read editor Chis Winslow’s email plea for this column, I was reminded of my receipt today of GTOAA’s June issue of *The Legend* magazine. Editor Tom Szymczyk’s (pronounced “spellcheck”) *First Gear* column outlines this year’s winners of the *Old Cars Weekly* 2011 Golden Quill Awards. *The Legend* took first place in the National Intermediate category and, guess what, *The Hood Scoop* was Regional Subcompact winner (the categories are determined by the number of newsletter pages). Little did I know when I asked all members to show their appreciation to Chris for his work on the newsletter and website in my column last month that a Golden Quill Award would be bestowed upon Gateway GTO. Now, if I had written this article even one day sooner I would not have been able to report this great news.

OK, so it’s not really a silver lining. But Tom Spellcheck’s column goes on to say “While you’re reading the latest issue of your club’s newsletter, your editor is already worrying about next month’s edition. My hat is off to those folks who spend hours and hours at the computer trying to fill pages and meet deadlines!” Amen, if only the club president would cooperate.

Be sure and check out “Cousin” Charlie Morton’s Goat-of-the Month article in this issue. My thanks to Charlie (who also owns a killer Mach I) and all the other members who have and are submitting these articles for publication in our newsletter and homepage posting on the Club website. Your contributions have helped garner our newsletter national recognition.

Calling All Cars

Don’t miss the Oldsmobile Show at Tan-Tar-A 6/1-6/3; Hot Rod Power Tour stop in Madison, IL on 6/5; Club Meeting on 6/6 at JJs; North County Cruise Nite at Behlmann on 6/8; All American Classic Car Show at Behlmann on 6/16 and the All GM Nationals in Carlisle, PA on 6/22-6/24.



To the greatest GTO Club in the world,

Barb and I would like to express our most sincere thanks to all of you for the support given to my son Mike, and daughter-in-law, Lori at the auction fundraiser and spaghetti dinner. A total of almost \$20,000.00 was raised between the two events, and that would not have been possible without the generosity of the Club. Lori is now in the process of getting ready to begin chemotherapy treatment after several setbacks.

We cannot say often enough that this is the greatest group of people we have ever met. The support for our family has been unbelievable. At least 30 club members attended the spaghetti dinner, and countless more donated monetarily because they could not attend. It was incredibly heart-warming.

We would like to encourage the club members who do not attend the monthly meeting to please reconsider. We cannot accurately express the camaraderie felt during every meeting. A wealth of information is given out regarding upcoming cruises and local events.

Again, Barb and I, and the entire Lewis family thank all of you at The Gateway GTO Club so much for your incredible generosity, friendship, and support. You have all impacted my family in more ways than can be expressed in simple words.

Thank You,



Earl and Barb Lewis



Meeting Minutes



GATEWAY GTO FEBRUARY MEETING MINUTES MAY 2, 2012

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 7:13PM. Officers in attendance: Mark Melrose, Kerry Friedman, Will Bowers, Darrell May, Steve Hederick, and Shauna Wollmershauser.

New Members: No new members were in attendance.

Old Business:

Lawsuit: Mark Melrose announced that a settlement agreement had been reached at a mediation session on April 17th with the Nettles to end their lawsuit against the Club. After the settlement terms had been reviewed by the membership, he asked for a motion to authorize expenditures by the Club which may be necessary to enforce the agreement. A quorum was present and the motion passed with no dissenting votes.

Lewis Help: The Lewis' thanked the club for all of their support. The letter will be printed in the newsletter.

D&O Insurance: We are still searching for a new carrier.

Event Planning:

All-American Car Show: Is June 16, 2012 at Behlmann. We need some attendance prizes. If you can, please ask your favorite places for a donation. We have fliers available if you need them. Karen Ewens is working hard on finding a band for the show. Club sponsored.

Upcoming Events:

Hannibal/Loafers Car Show: Marty handed out a sign up sheet. The plan is to leave at 9:30AM. If

you would like to attend please let Marty know.

North County Cruise Nights: May 11, 2012 is the date for the next cruise night of the season.

Arch/POCI Sinclair Show: is May 19, 2012 at Sinclair Buick. Please attend and show your support for the local POCI club.

Gateway GTO Club Poker Run: is May 26, 2012 on Illinois Route 66. Please make this Poker Run if you can. It sounds like a great time. Also, let Will know if you plan on playing one or two hands.

Oldsmobile Tan-Tar-A: is June 1-3, 2013. This is an all-indoor show. You can even take the escalator or elevator up to your room. If you have any questions about the show, contact Steve Hederick.

Tail of the Dragon Run: is also June 1-3, 2012 in Maggie Valley, NC. Mark Melrose is going to make the trip. Check your email for updates if you are interested in going.

Hot Rod Power Tour: will hit Gateway Motorsports Park on June 5, 2012 in Madison, IL.

GTOAA Nationals: are being held in Loveland, CO July 3-7, 2012. Several caravans will leave St. Louis. Registration is open. It is 800 miles one way from St. Louis, Mo.

Pontiac Regional: September 28-29, 2012. The Gateway GTO Club as well as the Heart of Illinois clubs are sponsoring this even. There are four museums to visit on Saturday. Sunday is the popular vote car show. If you can make this event, please do. We also need volunteers for the event. Bring your orange shirts if you can help.

Club Personals:

Tootie May had knee surgery. She is recovering well. She'll be back to normal in no time. She had half of her knee replaced.

Lucas Hederick, Chuck Winslow, Clayton Melrose, and Harry Smeltzler's son will all graduate this month.





Technical Article



Sequential Turn Signals by The Odd Couple, Marty Howard and Tom Oxler

Editors Note: For those of you who read the article last month but have not yet had a chance to see the result, I was able to get a photo set of Marty's tail lights in action at North County Cruise Night. They are printed here for your viewing pleasure. Chris





Gateway GTO Activities



North County Cruise Night By Chris Winslow



FINALLY! After a string of bad weather outings for North County Cruise Night, we had some reasonable weather. As a result, the turn out was much better than any NCCN cruise in recent memory.

The variety was really nice this month as well. My personal favorite was a pair of Indianapolis 500 pace car Camaro convertibles. One was a 1969 version and the other a 2011. They were parked side by side, allow everyone to compare old and new.





Gateway GTO Activities



There was also a Mark Donohue edition AMC Javelin SST. That is definitely something you don't see everyday.



Of course, as a Gateway GTO sponsored event, there some really nice GTO's in attendance.





Gateway GTO Activities



There was also the usual attendance by some really nice vintage automobiles that pre-date the GTO by a few years.

Overall it was one of the better NCCN events to date. Hopefully the weather is finally turning in our favor.





Gateway GTO Activities



Gateway GTO Poker Run By Chris Winslow

The Gateway GTO Poker Run was an event planned by our long time club Treasurer, Will Bowers. Will designed the event to combine a number of the Gateway GTO club's favorite activities: Cruising on old Route 66 and Eating. Of course, in addition we played some poker along the way and we stopped at a number of interesting sites.

The weather was a bit warm, but otherwise perfect for a cruise. With no rain in the forecast for days, the turnout was outstanding with a mix of both classic and new age GTOs that added up to 14 cars total.

The cruise started at the old Chain of Rocks bridge and then cruised to the first stop which was the Luna Café. At this stop, the poker run participants drew their first 2 cards.



After a few minutes at the Luna, we continued by cruising past the old Bel Air Drive In Theater marquee. We then cruised through the historic old covered bridge in Glen Carbon and cruised past the famous Yanda Log Cabin.

The next stop had us continuing on old Route 66 to Weezy's Route 66 Restaurant and Bar in Hamel. This was our lunch stop.

Will had arranged for the club to have





Gateway GTO Activities



our own room at the restaurant and because of the great turnout, we filled it up.



The food was outstanding and for those members cruising in cars without air-conditioning, it provided a chance to cool off and hydrate. At this stop, the cruisers received their next card in the poker game and we then headed out for more cruising.

The next stop was the “Rabbit Farm” in Staunton. During this part of the cruise, we happened by a Corvette, who decided to join in and actually cruised with us to the “Farm”.

Having never been to the Rabbit Farm, I was expecting it to be a collection of VW Rabbits in various states of disrepair. While it was that, it was also literally a rabbit farm with many actual rabbits, including the biggest rabbit I have ever seen named Big Red. There was also what was left of a 1986





Gateway GTO Activities



Fiero on display priced for a quick sale. After looking it over, we decided not to take it with us. We each drew another card and headed out for our next scheduled stop Country Classics Cars.

We arrive at Country Classics at a few minutes after 3:00 to find the gates locked and a sign saying that they now close at 3:00 on Saturdays. So, we pulled a U-Turn and headed for the old restored Shell Station in Mount Olive. We stopped their briefly, drew another card, and then headed for a drive by of the Mother Jones Monument.



After passing by Mother Jones, we headed out for the Wooden Nickel Winery and Saloon where we drew our final card and then headed in to rehydrate and play our now complete poker hands.





Gateway GTO Activities



One inside, everyone opened up their envelopes and played their hands. The winners were:

Tod Leible - First Place (\$100)

Mark Melrose - Second Place (\$80)

Marty Howard - Third Place (\$50)

After the hands were all played, 7 couples traveled on to have dinner at the Ariston. Everyone agreed that this was one of the more enjoyable activities that we had done in a long time. Will did a great job planning the route and stops and with the weather cooperating it added up to a great day.



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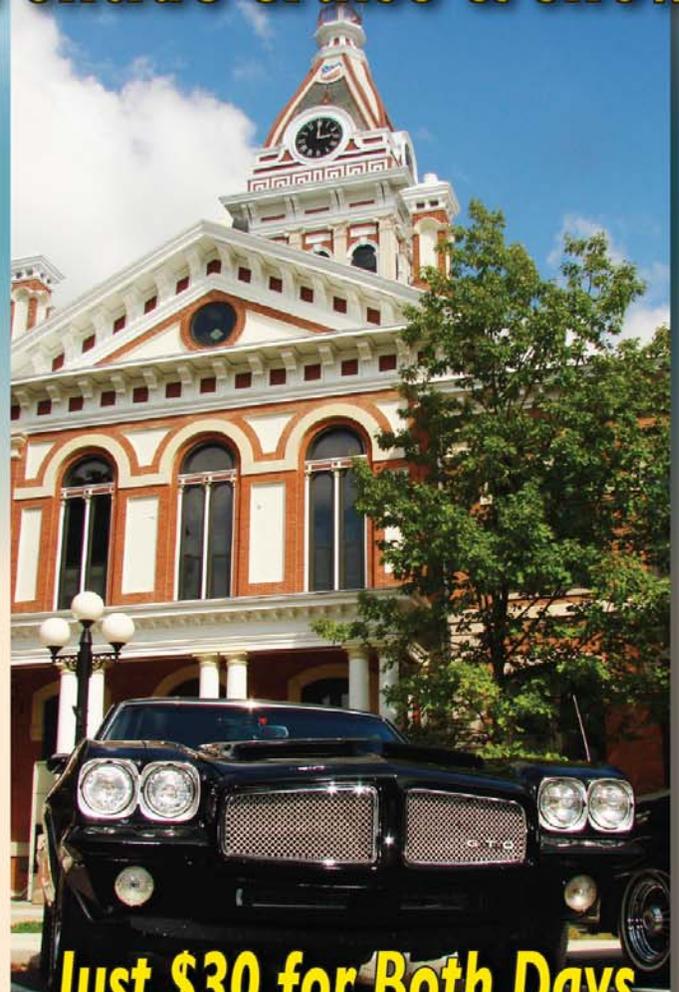
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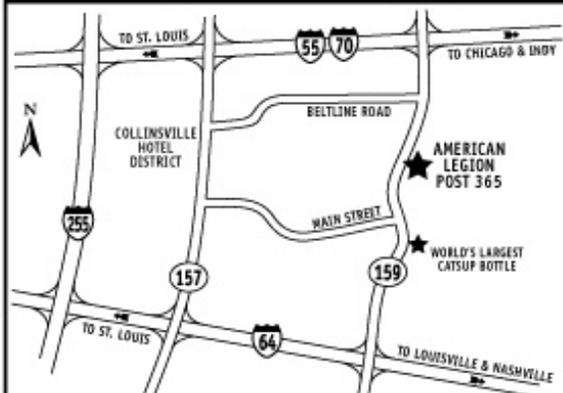
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- 3:00 - 3:30 Trophy Presentation & 50/50 Drawing
- 3:30 - 5:00 *LIVE MUSIC* The Quarter Draw Band



For more information call
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 or visit www.catsupbottlefestival.com



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!**

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) _____
- GTOAA Member (200 points*) _____
- Have GTO featured in a National Pub (40 Points) _____

Total Points for Month

Submit completed form at GGTOA monthly meeting or to:
 S. Wollmershauser
 1948 A Sidney Street
 St. Louis, MO 63041

*Report on points form submitted month of GTOAA registration or renewal.

2012 GATEWAY GTO CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- May 2 GTO MEETING 7pm J.J.'s 1215 S. Duchesne, St Charles, Mo, 63301 (CLUB SPONSORED)
- 11 North County Cruise Night sponsored by Behlmann Buick/GMC and Gateway GTO Association at Behlmann on the 2nd Friday of each month April-October (CLUB SPONSORED)
- 12 JJ's Cruises at 1215 S. Duschene in St. Charles second Saturday of the month April-October
- 12 Cruise to Hannibal, MO & Loafers Car Show. (CLUB SPONSORED)
- 26 Illinois Old Route 66 Poker Run. (CLUB SPONSORED)
- 28 23rd Annual Cobblestone Nationals at Fast Lane Classic Cars
- June 6 GTO MEETING 7pm J.J.'s 1215 S. Duchesne, St Charles, Mo, 63301 (CLUB SPONSORED)
- 1-3 *Tail of the Dragon* run, details to follow.
- 1-3 Mid-Missouri Oldsmobile Show at Tan-Tar-A
- 5 Hot Rod Power Tour stop at Gateway Motorsports Park in Madison, IL
- 8 North County Cruise Night sponsored by Behlmann Buick/GMC and Gateway GTO Association at Behlmann on the 2nd Friday of each month April-October (CLUB SPONSORED)
- 9 JJ's Cruises at 1215 S. Duschene in St. Charles second Saturday of the month April-October
- 16 Behlmann/Gateway GTO All American Charity Car Show (Rain Date 6/23) CLUB SPONSORED
- 22-24 All GM-Nationals in Carlisle, PA

Gateway GTO Classifieds

Used GM Radiator. Contact Joe May-weather if you are interested



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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



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**Visit us at
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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.

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