



THE HOOD SCOOP

JANUARY 2011

GTO of the Month

By Darrel and Tootie May

Gateway GTO
Association



In 1960 I brought a 1958 Pontiac Chieftain with Tri-Power an automatic, I changed it to a 4 speed after rebuilding the Automatic 3 times. Then in Nov. of 1964 I meet Tootie and we started dating, when we got engaged she said we need to get a different car as she could not keep the 58 Pontiac running. She would kill the engine and could not get it started again.

So we went shopping for a new car, I was looking at a Grand Prix when my friend who was dating my sister drove up in a new GTO. So I gave it a test drive, so off I went to the dealer to price a GTO or a Grand Prix, the GTO won out as the price was about a \$1000 cheaper, even though both cars would be equipped the same. So we ordered the GTO with 4 speed , PS, PB, A/C, Lamp Group, Console, and AM/FM radio. Tootie liked the GTO color of Yellow but I talked her out of it. The only reason for the am/fm radio was Columbia had a FM radio station at the time. The station carried all the local news, and that was important to her. This was to be our family car. We bought the GTO in May of 1965 and I drove Tootie's 1955 Red and White Chevy back and forth to work for 3 weeks till the GTO came in,

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THE HOOD SCOOP



Since I had other cars to drive I never got around to fix the radiator, and there it sat till around 1983 when our oldest son started driving and he needed a car for after school activities. All three of our sons drove the GTO to

since we traded my 1958 in for the GTO. We got married that August. About a month later I bought a 421 HO engine, that I was going to put in a 52 Pontiac I had. Kids entered the world and that never happened.

high school. It helped that almost every police office in Monroe County knew who the car belonged to and who their grandfather was, and there would be hell to pay if they did something wrong while driving the GTO.

One rainy evening in 1968 coming home from work a car pulled out in front of Tootie, she locked up the brakes and slid head on into a telephone pole. She found out they do not give. I thought the GTO was going to be totaled; but her dad who was in the garage business said that he would keep the cost down so the insurance company would not total the car, so that is what we did.

So sometime in the early 1980's I decided to enter the GTO in the My-Fest car show in O-Fallon, IL. There I meet Tony Bezzole and he gave me an application for the Gateway GTO

In about 1972 or 73 while I was driving home from work, the radiator split open, since I was working a lot of overtime I parked the GTO in a spare garage that my father-in law had.



club, I took it home and my wife said to fill it out, so I did. I drove it to many car club meetings in the following years.

Then in 2004 I decided to put together my 421 HO engine that I had bought in 1965. We had met a couple at the Red Wing MN Convention, He was from N. Ft. Myers FL and told us to look him up

when we took our vacation each winter in Ft. Myers. He was a Ft. Myers fireman and on the side he ran a speed shop. He kept telling us to bring our engine down and he would build it. He hoped to get it done from Jan to March, but it took him longer and we did not get it back till the following year(2006), when we went down. He has become a great friend and each year I help him in his garage or just go out to eat with him and his guy friends, naturally it is all car talk.

In 2008 I had Cee-Jay Auto Body give it a frame on restoration. A lot of people ask me how it came to pass that I kept the GTO all



these years and I tell then it was a stroke of luck. I also have a hard time getting rid of cars and car parts , which also helped.

When we went to Wichita GTO Convention 2010 I entered the GTO in Concourse Modified Points Judging. I just wanted to know how they judged cars. I really did not think I would get an award, but was pleasantly surprised that I got an award. Tootie really was upset then I did not get bronze award. She figured I would not get any award and she was rooting for me. Well we were ecstatic when they called Darrell's name for a SILVER AWARD. What a great feeling.



The Presidents Scoop

By Mark Melrose

Happy New Year!

Now is typically the time of year when we all reflect on the previous twelve months and plan for the next twelve months. I want to take this opportunity to thank our members for sharing of themselves in 2010 by attending club events, writing newsletter articles, organizing and working events and participating in the Goat-of-the Month Series to name just a few. The results of Gateway GTOs annual participation in the *Wheels in Motion* charity car show benefiting Kids with Cancer are representative of the unselfish, compassionate and hard-working commitments our membership makes to support those less fortunate than ourselves. I ask all Gateway members to accept my heartfelt gratitude for your membership in and commitment to our club. I am proud to be a member and an officer of such a fine organization.

2010 was another successful year for the club – lots of events, lots of fun and lots of friends. So what do we do for an encore in 2011?

As has been discussed at the last several club meetings, Gateway GTO is embarking on a course seemingly reserved for larger car clubs. Our annual, comparatively small (less than 60 cars) GTO Show at Behlmann Buick/GMC will morph into a much larger, all-GM Charity Car Show to benefit the Parents of Kids with Cancer. We have also undertaken, with Behlmann as our co-sponsor, the organization and operation of a monthly North County Cruise Night to be held at Behlmann's lot on the second Friday night of each month April through October. We envision the North County Cruise Night as an event equivalent to the Fenton Shows held the first Friday of those months but drawing mostly from the I-64 corridor and North. Ever since the Dairy Queen Show on North Lindbergh was relocated to a much smaller venue, North County has been left with no equivalent event to the Fenton Show. That's about to change.

What else will be new for 2011? We are returning to the Points Participation Rules in effect in early 2007 – they were derived and revised over the years and worked quite well. You will also see some changes to the club website including the addition of a "Club Store" tab depicting club available merchandise. Your officers are working to renew successful events for 2011 (Dyno and Drag Days, Missouri and Illinois Cruises) as well as committing to the new events listed above. 2011 will be a busy Gateway GTO year. Again, thank you for your support – it makes all the difference.





Tech Article of the Month



Late Model Battery Replacement

By Chris Winslow

As many of you with the late model GTO's know, the Delco battery that the cars came with as original equipment was not really up to the task of surviving in the engine compartment of the new GTO. I have heard a lot of opinions on the reasons for premature failures of these batteries, but I believe that the heat of the engine compartment is the cause of most of these failures.

In my case, I had a Delco Freedom 7 year battery installed from the factory. This battery began leaking in just over a year. Given the relatively gently life my GTO leads, this was pretty surprising. At this point, my car was still under warranty, so I could have taken it to the dealer to have the battery replaced, but I felt that would just be kicking the can down the road.

I decided to move to an Optima Red Top battery so that I would not need to worry about leaking in the future. The problem that I had was that back in 2006 when I decided to make this change, the automotive aftermarket had still not really caught up with the new GTO. This was also before some of the auto parts retailers such as Auto Zone had started selling Optima batteries.

I ended up at Batteries Plus where I tried to order a Group 35 battery. This is the correct battery configuration for the GTO, but since the automotive aftermarket still considered the GTO to be





Tech Article of the Month



a gussied up Grand Prix, they were instead trying to sell Group 34 batteries for the GTO. The Group 34 battery had two issues. First, and most importantly, the posts are in the wrong orientation with the positive post on the left instead of on the right. In addition, the battery had side terminals, which of course is not required for the GTO. The clerk was insistent that all Pontiacs used side mount terminals and that if I ordered this Group 35 battery that it was not going to fit and that I would be stuck with it because it was a special order. I finally had to tell him that I understood the issues and that I wanted the battery anyway.

About a week later, the new battery arrived. I picked it up and installed it. As expected, it was a good fit for the GTO. The only real difference between the factory battery and the Optima battery is that the Optima was just a bit shorter. This did not create any issues for the installation.

I have now been running this battery in the GTO for going on 5 years with no issues to report. The good news now is that the aftermarket has started to figure out the new GTO. Optima now lists the Group 35 battery as the correct battery for the GTO. The Group 34 listings have been removed. In addition, there are more options for buying the battery now. In addition to Batteries Plus, AutoZone, Advanced Auto parts, and O'Reilly's Auto parts all now sell Optima batteries. The Group 35 is still a special order, but in most cases they are available in a few days. Of course, these batteries are not cheap. Current pricing is around \$180. I think this is money well spent myself since a leaking battery can cause extensive damage that is difficult and expensive to repair. Paying a little now for a battery that will save these repair costs later is well worth the investment.

Editors Note:

If you are tired of reading tech articles about things I have done to my GTO, please write a tech article and send it in to me for publication in *The Hoodscope*. There must be some winter upgrades going on somewhere in the club. Remember, each article is worth 50 points.

-Chris





Gateway GTO Activities



Gateway GTO Christmas Party

By Chris Winslow

Gateway GTO held the annual Christmas party at the Webster Groves Barn on December 11th. As in past years, the party had

Following dinner, our CEO Marty conducted the rob your neighbor gift exchange. This year, I was lucky enough to pick initially what turned out to be the most popular gift of the party. It was a large metal Chief Pontiac head that had been purchased at the GTOAA meet. I had the head for only a few minutes until the neighbor robbing began. I also got it



great attendance and the weather, while not good enough to induce most bring out their GTO's, was certainly good enough that nobody was worried about getting home afterwards.

The first event of the evening was a delicious buffet dinner. This was followed by a collection of decadent deserts brought in by the party attendees.





Gateway GTO Activities



back a few times over the course of the game, but ultimately wound up with a set of Steak N Shake gift certificates. (Which Shauna was gracious enough to trade me for a set of wrenches).

The annual Christmas party is also the occasion that the club uses to pass out the club participation awards. This year the winners were:

Third Place: Earl Lewis
Second Place: Terry Schott
First Place: Joe Mayweather

In addition to the gift exchange, the ladies of the club also performed what has become a Gateway GTO Club Christmas Party tradition, the GTO version of the 12 Days of Christmas.

Everyone thoroughly enjoyed the evening. As always, Sandra Melrose, Terrie Oxler, and all of the rest of the people that worked behind the scenes to put the party together did a great job.





Gateway GTO Activities



The 12 Days of GTO Christmas

Lyrics by Sandra Melrose

On the **FIRST** day of Christmas my true love gave to me
A bright, new, shiny GTO

On the **SECOND** day of Christmas my true love gave to me
Two big exhaust pipes

On the **THIRD** day of Christmas my true love gave to me
Three two-barrel carbs

On the **FOURTH** day of Christmas my true love gave to me
Four on the floor

On the **FIFTH** day of Christmas my true love gave to me
Five Wide Oval tires

On the **SIXTH** day of Christmas my true love gave to me
A 6 liter LS2 engine

On the **SEVENTH** day of Christmas my true love gave to me
Seven quarts of oil

On the **EIGHTH** day of Christmas my true love gave to me
Eight bored & stroked cylinders

On the **NINTH** day of Christmas my true love gave to me
Nine years of restoration

On the **TENTH** day of Christmas my true love gave to me
10 highway miles to the gallon

On the **ELEVENTH** day of Christmas my true love gave to me
Eleven classic model years

On the **TWELVTH** day of Christmas my true love gave to me
A twelve second quarter mile





Gateway GTO Activities





In Remembrance



Paul Zazarine
1952-2011

The GTO hobby lost another of its great supports this month with the passing of Paul Zazarine. His influence on the Pontiac restoration hobby cannot be underestimated. He teamed up with Jim Wangers on a number of books on Pontiacs in general and GTO's specifically including *Glory Days*, *The GTO Recognition Guide*, *The GTO Restoration Guide*, *The GTO Buyer's Guide*, and *1964-1967 GTO History*.

For those fans of the late model GTO, he was also the author of Part One of *The Legend Returns*. A book that covers the entire history of the GTO, including detailed coverage of how the new GTO came to be.

Paul was very active in the GTO Association of America and for a number of years was the editor of the newsletter. Until recent health issues caused him to curtail his travel activities, he was also a fixture at the yearly GTOAA meet.

Paul was also well known in other automotive circles as he was a key player in launching *Corvette Fever*, *Mopar Muscle Magazine* and *Chevy Truck*. He was also the editor of *Muscle Car Review* for many years.

A memorial service in his honor was held on January 16th in Orlando Florida by Paul's wife and the Wide Track Warriors Pontiac Club.



Gateway GTO Member's Rides Form

Member Name(s)

Year and Model

Modifications

Awards Won

Publications That Have Featured Your Car

Dragstrip ET's

Please attach a photo for posting on the Gateway GTO website if you have a new photo that you would like posted. Otherwise we will use the photo we already have on file for you



GATEWAY GTO ASSOCIATION
Membership / Renewal Form
(Please print clearly)

Name: _____ Date: _____

Associate Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

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E-mail Address: _____

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

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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 \$20.00 per year,
which includes you and one associate member (spouse, girlfriend, etc.).

ALL NEW MEMBERS AFTER MARCH 1, 2009 MUST BE GTOAA MEMBERS IN ORDER TO JOIN GATEWAY GTO

2011 GATEWAY GTO CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- | | | |
|-------|-------|---|
| Jan | 16 | Gateway GTO Pizza Party 1PM at Serra's Pizzeria; 12218 McKelvey Rd., Maryland Heights. CLUB SPONSORED |
| | 23 | Eagle Watching CLUB SPONSORED |
| Feb | 2 | GTO MEETING 7pm J.J.'s 1215 S. Duchesne, St Charles, Mo, 63301 (CLUB SPONSORED) |
| | TBD | Museum of Transport Trivia Night. Click HERE for more information. |
| | 11-13 | World of Wheels in Kansas City, MO. Click HERE for more information. |
| | 25 | (Tentative) - Pinball |
| Mar | 2 | GTO MEETING 7pm J.J.'s 1215 S. Duchesne, St Charles, Mo, 63301 (CLUB SPONSORED) |
| | 5 | <i>Conventional Murder Weapons</i> Murder Mystery Theatre, details to follow. (CLUB SPONSORED) |
| | 19 | Six Flags Swap Meet, details to follow |
| | TBD | Arch/POCI American Motorcars/Buchheit Automotive car show in Union, MO, 10AM-3PM, details to follow |
| April | TBD | Francis Howell Show |
| | 6 | GTO MEETING 7pm J.J.'s 1215 S. Duchesne, St Charles, Mo, 63301 (CLUB SPONSORED) |
| | 8 | North County Cruise Night sponsored by Behlmann Buick/GMC and Gateway GTO Association at Behlmann on the 2 nd Friday of each month April-October. (CLUB SPONSORED) |
| | 9 | Dyno Day (Tentative) (CLUB SPONSORED) |
| | 9 | JJ's Cruises at 1215 S. Duschene in St. Charles second Saturday of the month April-October |
| | 10 | April Fools Swap Meet at GCS Ballpark, Sauget, IL. |
| | 17 | Ranken Show |
| | 24 | Easter Car Show (CLUB SPONSORED) |
| | TBD | Gateway Swap Meet in Madison, IL |
| May | 4 | GTO MEETING 7pm J.J.'s 1215 S. Duchesne, St Charles, Mo, 63301 (CLUB SPONSORED) |

SEE THE FULL CALENDAR AT WWW.GATEWAYGTO.ORG

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President

Mark Melrose
151 Plant Avenue
Webster Groves Mo 63119
314-968-3106
mjmelrose@aol.com

Vice President II.

Darrell May
829 N. Metter
Columbia IL 62236
618-281-5884
dpmay@htc.net

Secretary

Shauna Wollmershauser
1948 A Sidney Street
St. Louis, MO 63104
636-734-0690
littlemissek@gmail.com

Photo Album Editor

Terry Oxler
450 Muirfield Dr.
St. Charles Mo. 63304
636-928-5548
toxler@prodigy.net

Web

Chris Winslow (Acting)
44 Marcus Drive
St. Peters Mo. 63376
636-939-2770
chriswinslow@charter.net

Charity Chairman

Bob Blattel
4564 Austin Knoll Court
St. Charles Mo 63304
636-441-3141
bob@blattels.com

Vice President Mo

Kerry Friedman
11580 State Road WW
Dittmer, MO 63023
573-678-2353
kfriedman@hughes.net

Treasurer

Will Bowers
#1 Goshen Woods
Edwardsville IL. 62025
618-659-0429
wwbdsb@yahoo.com

GTOAA Chapter Rep.

Steve Hedrick
3676 Morgan Way
Imperial Mo. 63152
636-942-4020
shedrick@aol.com

Club Events Chairman

Marty Howard
7 Newcastle CT
St. Charles Mo. 63301
636-724-8641
nycgto@att.net

Newsletter Editor

Chris Winslow
44 Marcus Drive
St. Peters Mo. 63376
636-939-2770
chriswinslow@charter.net

Photographer

Chris Winslow
44 Marcus Drive
St. Peters MO 63376
636-937-2770
chriswinslow@charter.net

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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.

Club Sponsor



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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**

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:

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THE HOOD SCOOP

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