



THE HOOD SCOOP

March 2019

Gateway GTO
Association



Acquiring My '69 GTO Convertible Part 1 of 2 (Maybe 3)

By Marty Howard



“\$6,500” is what the seller wanted for his “’69 red GTO convertible” as the ad read in some newspaper in Baltimore, Maryland. On March 28, 1989, I was at my usual job in Manhattan on the phone with one of my co-workers in Washington, DC. He had already been given the word that I was looking for a black or red 1969 GTO convertible. Actually, working for the Federal Government had an added bonus of having co-workers all over the U.S. and I certainly wanted everyone to know about a particular car I wanted to buy. So, I spread it...the ‘word’ that is. I don’t remember what the rest of the ad said, but it did have a phone number and a brief description of the car. So, I called the number and arranged to meet Richard at the Amtrak Train Station in Baltimore at 1 p.m. that same day. I was so excited that I almost forgot to tell my boss that I was leaving for the rest of the day. When he asked where I was going, I told him and he just shook his head. Only car fanatics can understand my behavior. I stopped at my bank, put \$6,500 cash in my pocket and caught the next train out of Penn Station. Anticipation was making me crazy, as Carly Simon said in her song way back when. Arriving in a town I had never been to had an added feeling of adventure. Off the train and approaching the exit, I could already see the car was waiting for me at the curb. WOW! Do you remember that feeling when you found yours? I shook hands with Richard and we were on our way to his home to talk and, possibly, sign the papers for the new owner.

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THE HOOD SCOOP

Car of the Month

He explained to me that he was getting a divorce and they decided that the car needed to be put up for sale. I shed a tear....not really since his loss was my gain. At his home, I met his wife and we all sat down to talk. Richard gave me all the paperwork that he had and explained to me that yes, this car was a 4-speed but had been converted to a 3-speed automatic so that his wife could drive the car. I figured, "no big deal" as I later learned that it was, indeed a big deal...and expensive. At least it was ordered as a 4-speed or he was assuring me that it was. At \$6,500 I thought it was a good price for me and even talked him down to \$6,200 explaining that I had to travel so far to get to the car. (Travelling to see a GTO in person was not foreign to me since I had made many trips prior to other parts of the country only to be disappointed in what I found when I got there.) So, the GTO changed hands and I drove the car home that evening with no problem. I breathed a sigh of relief as I was now the owner of my dream car. Toll booth takers gave me thumbs up as I paid various tolls between Baltimore and Staten Island. Absolutely, no problems all the way on my 5+ hour journey home. I was thrilled.

Over the next few years, I got caught up with trying to get my GTO to a "numbers marching" car. Getting information, speaking to other GTO owners, and joining the "Great New York GTO Club" that was located in Long Island. Expenses were getting a bit out of hand, but I was determined. A few of the first things that I wanted to change was to get rid of the automatic transmission and replace it with a correct 4-speed. And, then finding out that the engine was out of a '68 GTO and finding a correct, date-coded block and heads. Yes, I was deep into 'numbers'. The Vice President of the Long Island GTO Club was able to get me





Car of the Month



those parts. However, I had to leave my car in his backyard for about 3 months until completion of those 2 items. Now, his backyard was in the rear of this large apartment house complex so it was shared with about 10 or 20 other families. I dreaded having my car in such a precarious position with all those other cars around it. The VP was able to park my car at the end of all the garages in the backyard so my GTO did not have to be moved. I helped him a few times each week with what needed to be done relying on him to give me as much time working on my car as he could afford, driving an hour each way to his apartment house. Finding a parking spot for my 'driver' car was a bitch since there were so many surrounding apartment houses. During the time when we were taking out the '68 engine, the hoist slipped and the engine wound up sitting on one of the most durable front rubber bumpers ever made. Did I just say that? You already know the answer. Not wanting to cause any more pain, I just said, "It needed to be painted anyway". I thought that would be easy. Yikes! Who knew? Not me. The rest of the parts were obtained and I drove my GTO home into it's own garage. Finally!! One of the other items that needed attention was straightening the frame. Just gonna let this one seep in and not give further details. Another experience! How many more to come???





Presidents Scoop

The Presidents Scoop

By Terry Schott

I sometimes wonder what it would be like to live outside of the Midwest. It would sure be nice to be able to drive the GTO through the winter months in a place without snow, ice and salt all over the roads. The last few years, our winters haven't been too bad, but this year it's a true reminder of what winter can be. We started with snow in November which was a little early to suit me. We've had extremely cold temperatures of below normal through most of the winter. I've lost count but I think we've had close to a dozen snow events as well. I think everyone is ready to see spring.

Our pinball event this year was a great success. It was held on Sunday, February 24, at CP Pinball in South Roxanna, IL. We had a good crowd again this year and each team consisted of couples competing against other couples. The weather cooperated and though it was a little cool, it was one of our better weekends of the winter. No snow and clean roads were a big plus. The winners of the tournament were Tony Bezzole and Carolyn. Will and Donna Bowers took second, and Frank and Cheryl Chapman took third. I think everyone had a good time.

At the February meeting, Joe & Bev Mayweather had invited everyone to come to a renewal of their wedding vows for their 60th anniversary. Chris sent out an email with information on it prior to the event. On Sunday, March 10, ten couples from Gateway met at Olivet Missionary Baptist Church on New Halls Ferry Road. The preacher had a very nice service. It was well attended and we were all glad that we were able to be there for Joe & Bev. We went out to eat afterwards at Cannolis Restaurant on N. Lindbergh. We all agreed that this will probably be where we host next year's pizza party.

We normally attend a Car Trivia night in February that is a fund raiser for WIM. It was supposed to be pushed back to March. I called to check on it and it looks like it will not be held this year at all.

Our March meeting was well attended again. We pretty much filled up the room and I've asked that they set it up a little differently so as to allow for a few more tables for seating. We always welcome a full house and are glad to see everyone there.

Our next scheduled club event will be on Saturday, March 23. It's called a "Mastermind Room Escape". The event was limited to 16 people and we have it completely booked. There will be 2 rooms, each with eight people "locked" inside. (You aren't really locked in.) The object is to use clues you find in the room to help to escape. Everyone that



Presidents Scoop

we've talked to says it's a fun event and I think we are all looking forward to it. Thanks again to Marty Howard for setting it up.

The Easter car show will be on Sunday, April 21 and hopefully the weather will be starting to get better. We are now on Daylight Savings Time so the days are getting longer. It won't be long before the real cruising weather will be here.



Be sure to note that the convention site is up and can be accessed at www.gtoaa.org





Gateway GTO Meeting Minutes



Minutes 3/7/19

7:04PM – Meeting Start – Old Business – Marty Howard spoke about the Pinball Wizard event. He donated the admission fees to the club.

Chris Winslow talked about some updates to the website. Clean-up of old dead links and new content.

Terry Schott talked about club apparenl. There are links on the website. He mentioned the update to the members rides section on the site. He spoke about a “Wheels of the Past” photo shoot that was cancelled due to weather.

7:14 – New Business – Marty Howard talked about the Mastermind Room Escape event on March 23rd. He also mentioned a dance that he is DJ’ing on March 31st.

Terry Schott talked about the Easter Car Show.

Terry Schott talked about a GTO poster created by the Northern California GTO Club. They are for sale for \$14.95 and can be found at <http://gtoposter.com/>.

Tom Oxler talked about the Pontiac Regional event. Gateway will sponsor a car class for the show.

Tom Oxler talked about the Street Legends Reunion Breakfast that will be at the GTO Nationals.

Terry Schott mentioned that we are looking for new ideas for events or activities for 2019.

John Havens talked about a car show at the Museum of Transport.

Mark Melrose said that he is planning another road rally for May.

7:24 – Upcoming Events –

3/23 – Mastermind Room Escape (CSE)

4/21 – Easter Car Show (CSE)

5/4 – Immanuel St. Charles Annual Parade (CSE)

5/?? – Road Rally

5/18 – Backstoppers Show

6/25-29 – GTOAA National Convention in Lawrenceburg, IN. (CSE)

8/2-4 – Ames Tri-Power Nationals, Norwalk, Ohio

9/8 – Wheels in Motion Charity Car Show (CSE)

9/21-22 – Pontiac Regional Event, Pontiac, Illinois (CSE)

10/6 – Gateway GTO Club Picnic (CSE)

12/7 – Gateway GTO Christmas Party

7:36 – GTOAA – Tom Oxler talked about the fact that no current chapters are vying for hosting the Nationals past 2021. He mentioned several possibilities for handling the issue. One is that the GTOAA will start hosting the shows and request a few members to run the basics. It’s likely that the GTOAA will host itself in Springfield, Illinois in 2022.

7:48 – Tech – Mike Duffy had a head gasket problem.

Dave Huesgen had to replace the radiator in his ’05 GTO for the third time. This time he went with an all aluminum Cold Case radiator.

Chris Simmons talked about a car at his work that is getting an LSA Motor.

Terry Schott talked about his project GTO and a grounding problem.

7:55 – Club Personals

Paula Winslow is doing better.

Steve Hedrick is recovering well.

Tony Bezzole turned 80.

Chris Simmon’s mother is in hospice care.

8:00 – Motion to adjourn by Paula Winslow, seconded by Rich Vie.

50/50 of \$43 won by Kerry Friedman





Marty's March Activity



MASTERMIND ROOM ESCAPE

WHAT IS AN ESCAPE ROOM? It's a real-life game experience where people participate in various activities, find clues, and solve puzzles to work as a team to ESCAPE out of a room in 60 minutes or less.

DaVinci's Workshop (The only room(s) that can have more than 12 participants)

STORY: While away working on his latest invention, DaVinci received word that thieves were going to ransack his home. His plea was for somebody...anybody...to save his greatest masterpiece, the Mona Lisa. So your team needs to get in, find the Mona Lisa, and get out before the thieves arrive and do with you what they will. Max. 1 hour.

DIFFICULTY: Easy-Med

ESCAPE RATE: 40%

COMMENTS:

"The whole experience was professional. From the big lobby area, to the detailed video introduction to the game master, everything was well done. The room itself was hard enough to make us work but easy enough we had fun and escaped!"

"We raved about his event, most commenting it is the most fun they have ever had at a club sponsored event."

Held at: 3900 Old Hwy 94 S, St Charles, MO 63304

(Inside Gateway Office Park)

Possible Date: March 23, 2019

Day: Saturday

Time: Approx. 2-3 pm

Price: \$28 per person

NOTES:

- Up to 16 people max.
- 1st 16 people's checks received will be registered.
- This is available for "competing rooms" so your group can split up your group of up to 16 and play head-to-head on the same puzzles.
- Send checks to: Marty Howard, 7 Newcastle Ct., St. Charles, MO. 63301
 - Payable to: Marty Howard
- If you show up too drunk (or, drugged – for those that can identify), (meaning, cannot properly stand or will annoy others), you will not be allowed to play and no refund will be given. So, please go party after!
- Games start promptly at their scheduled start time. If you arrive late, you will not be let into the game. Always arrive 15 minutes early.





Marty's March Activity



FAQ'S:

PARKING: 3900 S Old Highway 94 St. Charles, MO 63304. We are located in Gateway Office park and have plenty of parking spots in our huge lot. So, no worries about parking.

AM I ACTUALLY LOCKED IN: NO. Your entry door to the game will always remain unlocked and you can leave at any time.

ARE ANY OF YOUR ROOMS SCARY: No. Some of the props might be a bit disturbing to some people (like an obviously fake arm), but don't worry, it's nothing like those Halloween haunted houses. Everything looks fake and there are no live actors in the rooms.

HOW LONG DOES AN ESCAPE ROOM TAKE :The escape game itself is 60 minutes, unless you can brilliantly escape sooner, but plan on being here a total of 75 minutes as we have rules to go over before the game starts and you will likely want pictures taken afterwards.



Disco Swing Doo-Wop DANCE

DJ: Marty Howard
"Still Spinning Vinyl Records"

Sunday - March 31, 2019

Concord Hall

10140 Concord School Rd., St. Louis, MO 63128

Full Bar • 50/50 • 2400 s.f. Wood Dance Floor

www.ConcordFarmersClub.com

5:00 - 9:00 PM • \$10 Admission • Full Bar Available



Doo-Wop
Doo-Wop
Doo-Wop



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.





Route 66 Cruise Days 10 and 11



GTOAA ROUTE 66 STREET LEGENDS CRUISE

BY G. TOM OXLER

Days 10 and 11
September 26 and 27, 2018
Santa Fe, NM to Holbrook, AZ



We begin Day 10 adding 1 GTO for a total of 27 vehicles. Today's weather is great and we have a long 200-mile trip ahead of us. This will be one of our longest days with much of Route 66 still intact keeping us off of the Interstate. Several of our GTOs and Pontiacs have 3.73 and higher gears giving them RPM problems at the Interstate speeds.

Members of the Land of Enchantment lead us out of Santa Fe and around the traffic in Albuquerque where we meet the rest of the Land of Enchantment GTO Club at the Enchanted Trails Trading Post. There were 15





LOE members and their GTOs waiting for us with goody bags and raffle tickets and then Manny Vasquez arrives in his 66 GTO to lead us into Grants, NM so off we go. I had been talking with Manny for several months about his plan in Grants, NM. He had mentioned he really liked driving his GTO so when he arrived in a 1966 Black GTO with flames, it was just what I hope he would be driving. The GTO matched Manny's personality to a tee.



Our first stop is the Rio Puerco Bridge built in 1933 with a Parker Truss design. It is no longer able to support traffic but makes for a good photo shot.

Manny continues leading us into Grants, NM where he has rolled out the Red Carpet for us. Food Trucks, Native American Dancers and all of



the city leadership is on hand to welcome us to Grants. Manny is a City Councilman in Grants and wanted to make sure Grants left a lasting impression with us and he certainly did. From the food trucks, photos driving through the Grants Sign, to the Uranium Mine tours to the Native dancers, we all enjoyed our time in Grants, NM and will not soon forget it.



Manny gathers us all back together and leads us west out of Grants to the Continental Divide. The elevation is 7295 feet above sea level and by definition everything west of this point flows to the Pacific Ocean and everything east flows to the Atlantic Ocean. There was another large gift shop for everyone and once again, if it had bling, it ended up in the back of someone's GTO.

From the Continental

Route 66 Cruise Days 10 and 11

Divide, Manny lead us west to our final destination for the day, Gallup, NM and the El Rancho Motel/Hotel. The El Rancho was built in 1937 and served as filming headquarters for such movie stars as John Wayne, Ronald Reagan, Spencer Tracy and Kirk Douglas just to name a few. Each room is named for one of the actors/actresses who stayed there while filming westerns out west of the hotel from the late 40s to the early 60s. Our room was the Suzanne Pleshette room while Jeff (Elvis) and Sue Caldwell got the Ronald Reagan Presidential Suite. The lobby has a striking grand stairway and most everything is made of stone or hand-hewn timbers.

Our evening dinner was in a separate dining room at the hotel where Jamie, Mark and the members of the Land of Enchantment GTO Club drew prize tickets for Route 66 memorabilia they brought to give to us Cruisers. The Grand Prize of a real, authentic, not stolen New Mexico Route 66 sign went to one of our Master Mechanics, Terry Schott.





We begin Day 11 losing 1 GTO for a total of 26 vehicles. Today we lose another hour so we all get to sleep in a little and have our Drivers Meeting at 9 am. The weather looks great and we have a short, 110-mile trip through the Petrified Forest and Painted Desert. Perfect weather for viewing and cruising.

Our first stop is at the Arizona Stateline and the Yellow Horse Trading Post. Here are several Native American gift shops offering jewelry, blankets and novelty items for sale. The ladies were all over this place and it took a while to get them rounded up again.

Much of old Route 66 has been obliterated by I-40 so we get back on the Interstate for about 45 miles to the Painted Desert/Petrified Forest exit. The Painted Desert and Petrified Forest are National Parks and they have a very good Visitors Center with maps and a movie. Both the Painted Desert and Petrified Forest are self-driving tours that you take at your own pace and stop where you want to. Our tour leaders "turned us loose" to explore at our leisure and to meet at the southern exit at 2pm.





With a quick lunch in the snack bar of chili and ice cream, we paid the \$20 park entrance fee, unfolded the park map and started our tour. The Painted Desert is about 6 miles of park road and is just spectacular. There are numerous look out points along the way and the photographs just do not do justice to the expanse and beauty we saw. We stopped at the Painted Desert Inn which was originally built back in the 1920s of petrified wood and was renovated in the 1930s to its current adobe façade. The Inn was purchased by the government from its owner along with 4 square miles of land for \$59,000 and ultimately became a National Park. Just before you cross I-40 into the Petrified Forest portion of the park, you see an old Ford and a long line of telephone poles. This is all that is left of the original Route 66 that parallels I-40 in this area.

Once across I-40, you enter the Petrified Forest portion of the park which consists of about 20 miles of park road with numerous parking locations where you can get out and view specific displays. Newspaper Rock contains several rock paintings or hieroglyphs painted many years ago by



Native American inhabitants. The remaining stops have great samples of petrified wood but the best is on display at the Rainbow Forest Museum and Visitor Center located at the southern end of the park. Great exhibits of dinosaur fossils and displays showing

what the park looked like millions of years ago. Behind the center is a walking trail through huge samples of petrified wood. Some logs being several feet in diameter.

Once our tour leaders take control of the group again, we exit the south entrance and head to Holbrook, our final destination for today and our motel, the Wigwam. The first Wigwam was built in 1937 in Kentucky and Wigwam #6 was built in Holbrook in 1950 giving tourists the

chance to “do it in the teepee.” There are 15 Wigwams and we took almost all of them. Once everyone was settled in their teepees, we headed for dinner at the Butterfield Steakhouse. We

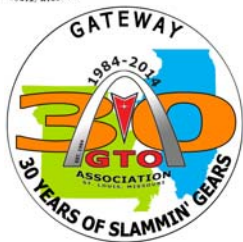


Route 66 Cruise Days 10 and 11

overwhelmed them a bit with our 50 members but the food was good and the conversations were even better. We returned to the Wigwam and commandeered the Duryea's chairs for a night cap and some more conversation about what we would see tomorrow.

The only mechanical issue to report today was a burnt coil wire on Jim McCarthy's 66 GTO. He had some trouble starting the GTO after replacing the wire but our crack team of mechanics soon diagnosed the problem as Jim left the GTO in drive. Once placed in park, it started right up.





Year Of The 9's



Calling all owners of 1969 GTO's!

**In 2019, in celebration of:
50th Anniversary of the 1969 GTO**

The Hoodscoop will be featuring Car of the Month articles on the anniversary year

If you own one of these special cars, please get to work on your article(s) and get them to Chris Winslow



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

To access form from GatewayGTO.com, click below
<http://www.gatewaygto.org/clubpoints.html>

2019 GATEWAY GTO CALENDAR OF EVENTS

March

- 7 - GTO MEETING 7PM at Sports Café (CLUB SPONSORED)
- 23 - Mastermind Room Escape Event (CLUB SPONSORED - See flyer in this newsletter for details)

April

- 4 - GTO MEETING 7PM at Sports Café (CLUB SPONSORED)
- 21 - Easter Car Show at Muny. Classic cars on the upper lot, New Age GTO's in the lower lot. Classic GTO owners send a check to Will Bowers for \$15 to reserve a spot.

May

- 2 - GTO MEETING 7PM at Sports Café (CLUB SPONSORED)
- 4 - Immanuel St. Charles Church Parade - Details to follow
- 5 - Model T Club's 51st Annual Swap Meet and Car Sale at Gateway Motorsports Park
- 27 - 31st Annual Cobblestone Nationals at Fast Lane Classic Cars

SEE THE FULL CALENDAR AT WWW.GATEWAYGTO.ORG

Gateway GTO Classifieds

Items Below Offered by JEFF BOND - PHONE 618-772-0402; email - jbgto73@yahoo.com



**EDELBROCK "PERFORMER" CARBURATOR
1411 - 750 CFM ELECTRIC CHOKE
METERING ROD KIT INCLUDED
\$100.00**



**SINGLE FAN RADTIATOR FAN
(OFF 1968 PONTIAC 400 C.I.)**



GTO's For Sale



FOR SALE 2006 PONTIAC GTO

**QUICKSILVER EXTERIOR/LEATHER INTERIOR(BLACK) GOOD
CONDITION**

41,XXX MILES; LS-2 - 400HP/4-SPEED AUTOMATIC

PS; POWER SEATS; A/C; AM/FM MULTI DISC CD PLAYER

CLEAN! ASKING \$17,500

JEFF BOND - PHONE 618-772-0402; email - jbgto73@yahoo.com

**For FREE: Red Convertible Top Boot. Very
Good Condition. Contact Marty Howard**
nycgto@att.net

**WANTED: Hurst 4 Speed Shifter That Will
Fit In The Console
If you have one, contact Craig Glenn
at 636 293-9765**



*Steve Hedrick
1516 Parkway West
Festus, MO 63028
314.640.4020 (cell, text)
636.937.3200 (office)
sthedrick@aol.com*



***Let us protect your life and those things you need to
make it work, we'll leave the cruising to you!***

(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

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Florissant, MO 63034

CustomAutoApparel.com

[CLICK HERE FOR GATEWAY GTO APPAREL CLUB STORE](#)



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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 Thursday of the month at Sports Café 3579 Pennridge Dr, Bridgeton, MO 63044

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.

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.



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**



THE HOOD SCOOP

644 Emge Road
O'Fallon, MO 63366

