



# THE HOOD SCOOP

Feb 2020

## Replacement GTO

by Brian Ray

Gateway GTO  
Association



An Official Chapter of the GTO Association of America

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Two years ago, I told the story of my 68 GTO, and that story ended in 1989 with it getting stolen from our driveway in Tucson, AZ. After finally settling on a dollar figure from my insurance company, I went on a search for a replacement GTO. This time, I was searching for a 70 GTO Hardtop, preferably a 4-speed, but, since we lived in AZ, it NEEDED to have A/C. At that time, a 4-speed with air was like finding a needle in a haystack...but I did find a 70 GTO with A/C and a whole lot more, including a 455, in Eagleville, TN, about 30 miles south of Nashville. The car needed paint, but it ran pretty well and it had most of the options available on a 70 GTO, including the 455, TH400 transmission, 3.07:1 12-bolt posi-track, power front disc brakes, power steering, power windows, power door locks, power trunk release, power drivers seat, map light, vanity mirrors, (simulated) wood steering wheel, tilt, AM/FM radio, 8-track tape player, rally gauges, in-dash tachometer, and it was originally atoll blue with black vinyl top. In 1970 (and 71), the speedometer goes to 140 mph, and the guy I bought it from said that it would bury the speedo...so I had to try it out on the 1600 mile drive back to Tucson. With nobody but me on I-20 in West Texas on a sunny Sunday morning, I verified that claim!

The first thing I did to the car was to buy new tires as I had a rear tire blowout on the way back. Within a year I had the car painted, and then had the engine rebuilt. We were very active in the AZ Chapter of the POCI in those days and drove the car to quite a few local shows and went on



THE HOOD SCOOP



## GTO of the Month



cruises with the club. Thom Sherwood (who now owns two of the xXx GTOS, a cool black 70 GTO w/orange pinstripes, & more) was the president of the club at the time and remains a good friend.

I was transferred to Hill AFB near Ogden UT in Dec 1991, so Mary Ann loaded up our husky in the GTO while I towed our daily driver Grand Am behind my Jeep Comanche PU, spending Christmas in a Super 8. We went to quite a few cruises and car shows in UT and even helped start the Great Salt Lake POCI chapter up there. We cruised with friends to the 1992 POCI Western Regional Convention in Lake Havasu, AZ and to the 1993 POCI Convention in S. CA, Eric's first Pontiac Convention at 3 months old. Of course, while in Utah I couldn't resist checking out the Bonneville Salt Flats during Speed Week. I didn't race since I didn't have any safety gear, and besides, that salt gets EVERYWHERE!

I was transferred to Edwards AFB, CA, in the fall of 1995. Edwards sits in the Mohave Desert about 100 miles north of LA and is close to nothing, which is good for testing aircraft. Pontiac Drag Days (PDD) was one of the few "local" events that I did while in CA as it was held at the now defunct Los Angeles County Raceway in Palmdale, about a 40-minute drive. PDD usually had 40-60 racers broken up into three different classes – A (No limits, cash payout) B (No electronics, cash payout), and Trophy. Both Jim Wangers and Pete McCarthy brought racecar(s) out, and at one of the races, since he was out west for the California Hot Rod Reunion in Bakersfield, Arnie Beswick showed up with his Tameless Tiger. I usually drove the GTO and in 1996, I showed up enough, got lucky enough, and occasionally cut descent lights and I won the Trophy Class for the year. I got progressively worse over the next two years, getting 4<sup>th</sup> overall, then not placing, but I still had a lot of fun racing. Best time/speed in the high





## GTO of the Month



dessert was 14.28/95 mph, not fast, but fairly consistent. We did do a few car shows while in CA, and this is when we joined GTOAA, attending the 1996 Western Regional Convention in Long Beach just across from the Queen Mary. We also attended the first annual “Tour de Wangers” which was an open house at Jim Wangers’ shop. While there the group headed over



## GTO of the Month

to Carlsbad Raceway for a little sea level drag racing. (I couldn't get the tires to grip, unfortunately).

On our next adventure, I was stationed at Little Rock AFB just northeast of Little Rock, AR. The trip to LR featured Mary Ann once again piloting the 70 GTO while I towed the 65 GTO that we currently own. Since I had begun the restoration on the 65 (engine & transmission removed, frame sandblasted, over my head), the hunt was on to maybe find someone who could finish that car. Because I had done one or two things at a time on the 70, I was finding that I was having to redo things that I had done shortly after I got it. After I dropped a valve and had to have the engine rebuilt again, I knew I couldn't afford two car projects. Now, the 70 was a mostly numbers matching, highly optioned 455 HO car, delivered to the Pontiac Retail Store in Pontiac, Michigan in October 1969, so I knew it was worth a lot more than the Chicago-area rust-bucket that was the 65. I also knew I couldn't cut up a numbers-matching car to get the 6-speed that I wanted but the 65 didn't have any of the original drivetrain. So I decided to keep the 65 and the only way to be able to afford to do the 65 right, was to sell the 70. I sold the car in February 1991 to a guy who had been searching the nation for a 70 GTO...he lived less than 10 miles from us and he was originally from N. IL (like me).

We moved back to AR in 2006 and although I have heard he still owns the car, though I have never seen it out. While I love my 65, 1970 is still my favorite year GTO, and someday...







# Presidents Scoop



## The Presidents Scoop

By Terry Schott

If you are like me, you are ready to be done with winter. Even though we haven't had excessive snow, it's been an awful wet winter. Getting our first bigger snow in November makes the winter drag on forever. The good thing about mid-February is that whatever we get from here on usually doesn't stay around too long.

We had our first official meeting of 2020 on February 6, at Gingham's Restaurant in St. Charles. We had close to 40 people in attendance and I think this room will work out pretty well. We are going to group up the tables a little for the next meeting, but there seems to be plenty of room. The food was good and there are plenty of things to pick from on their menu. Our server did a pretty good job of getting the food to us, too.

We discussed some of our upcoming events that are already scheduled. Since it's not good cruising weather yet, Marty Howard is setting up a couple of indoor activities. On Sunday, February 23, we are having another pinball event from 2 till 5 in South Roxanna, Illinois. We have quite a few signed up already, but we always like to have more. Emails with more info have already been sent.

There is a St. Patrick's dance on Saturday, March 7, in Arnold, MO for those interested in attending. Information is listed on the calendar on our website. Contact Steve Hedrick with questions.

On Saturday March 21, the club is going to try our hand at another "escape room". We have several already committed to the event, but there is room for just a few more to sign up. If you are interested, please contact Marty Howard. You should have already received an email on this event that included more details.

The Easter Car Show will be on Easter Sunday, April 12, at Forest Park. We will send out more info as it becomes available. On Saturday, May 2nd we will be helping out again by giving rides to Veterans in the Immanuel Lutheran Veteran's parade.

We are also planning to cruise to Cuba, MO on Saturday, September 26 for the Cuba Lion's Club Car Show. It was a great show last year, even though it rained on us. Several of us plan to stay overnight at the Wagon Wheel Motel and if you participate in the car show on Saturday, you get a FREE breakfast on Sunday morning at Bob's Gasoline Alley. This year they are going to have 2 classes for the GTO's, one for the 1964 – 1974's, and one for the 2004 – 2006's. Please consider going. I'd like to have plenty of our cars in the show. I guarantee that you will have a good time. If you plan to stay at the Wagon Wheel, you better call soon, since they only have a limited amount of rooms.

As you can see, things are starting to shape up for the year. Think about something you'd like to do and let me know. We will work out a date so you can make it happen. Thanks to all of our members who help make this a great club.





# Gateway GTO Meeting Minutes



Minutes

2/6/20

7:11PM – Meeting Start – First meeting at Gingham's

New member, Dan Shable was at the meeting.

Old Business –

Terry Schott talked about the Christmas Toy Drive.

Terry Schott and Sandra Melrose talked about the club's Christmas party. It went great and we had about 50 members in attendance. Club thanks goes to Sandra and Mark Melrose for all of the work that went into making it an awesome time.

Terry Schott talked about the club pizza party at Cannoli's. The facilities and staff were excellent.

7:15 – New Business

Terry Schott discussed looking for a new venue for the Christmas Party due to new management at the Hawkin House. Sandra Melrose mentioned that the new people don't intend to raise the rates for rental of the room. It was decided to continue to use that venue.

Terry Schott talked a bit about Gingham's. The room was ample to hold meetings in. We had about 40 members in attendance and there was plenty of room for more. It should be a great location for us.

Terry Schott asked everyone's opinion about possibly doing the 50/50 drawing at the beginning of meetings in the future. It was decided to collect the money at the beginning of the meetings and hold the drawing at the end.

Steve Hedrick talked about a Collector Car Trivia Night being held on April 4<sup>th</sup>, at the American Legion in St. Charles, MO. The club will be reserving 2 tables. Entry to the event is \$20 per person.

Terry Schott talked about a car show in Cuba MO on September 26-27, 2020.

Terry Schott talked about the Tri-Power Nationals in Norwalk.

Marty Howard talked about a Pinball event

being held on February 23<sup>rd</sup> and an escape room event on March 21<sup>st</sup>.

Mark Melrose mentioned an article in the Legend about the Gateway GTO Association and Earl Lewis. Earl has brought in a significant number of members to the local and national clubs. Mark also talked about a project that Chris Winslow is working on. He is making digital copies of Gateway's old (pre-email) newsletters.

Earl Lewis gave a presentation on auto insurance and accident prevention in different traffic situations.

8:03 – Upcoming Events

3/17 – St. Patrick's Dance. Arnold, MO

4/4 – Collector Car Trivia Night. American Legion 312 St. Charles, MO

4/12 – Easter Car Show

8:04 – GTOAA

Tom Oxler talked about the Gateway/Earl Legend article and the 2020 Nationals in Wichita, KS.

8:07 – Tech

Terry Schott talked about a cracked gear that he found in his oil pump.

Steve Hedrick talked about the 2005 GTO that his son Lucas bought and some of the issues that they are having finding parts.

8:13 – Club Personals

Cheryl Chapman had a mild stroke, but is recovering well. It was also her birthday on the night of the meeting.

8:14 – Motion to Adjourn by Amy O'Sullivan, seconded by Brian O'Sullivan

50/50 of \$38 won by Harry Timmermann





# Gateway GTO Financial Report



GATEWAY GTO ASSOCIATION				
INCOME AND EXPENSE SUMMARY AS OF 12/31/19				
CHECKING ACCOUNT BALANCE 12/31/18				\$19,944.47
INCOME				
DUES TO GTOAA		1,050.00		
50/50		411.00		
CHRISTMAS PARTY		1,025.00		
REGIONAL MEET		5,565.00		
WIM CHARITY		805.00		
GGTO GEAR		240.00		
EASTER SHOW		195.00		
MISC.		48.00		
ADJ.				
		TOTAL INCOME		9,339.00
EXPENSES				
PIZZA PARTY		703.97		
CHRISTMAS PARTY		1,747.00		
PICNIC		391.37		
DUES TO GTOAA		1,155.00		
EASTER SHOW		270.00		
REGIONAL MEET		5,129.64		
WIM\CHARIT		1,046.17		
INSURANCE		450.00		
MISC. EXPENSES		48.00		
WESITE		239.88		
PRINTING/SCRAP BOOK		144.41		
		TOTAL EXPENSES		-11,325.41
CHECKING ACCOUNT BALANCE 12/31/19				\$17,958.06

# Pontiac Uprising

## Thoughts as Leaving Pontiac Uprising

By  
Jim Moran

My draw to racing starting at the age of 16 in 1962 when I took my dad's car to Alton Drag Way in Alton, Illinois to hear the sound of collector's open and rubber burning. My first time slip was an 18.44. WOW, I thought I was fast!

My Pontiac racing started in 1970 with the help of my long time friend, Tony Mance. Tony was great help with engine combinations and knowing what parts I needed to go fast. I ended up with a '64 GTO race car which ran 12.70's with a 389 4-speed and 4.56 gears. With this car I did a lot of street racing. (In those years it was different. Where we raced was like having our own private drag strip.)

During a street race in 1971 I met my future drag racing partner, Walt Schmidt. Around that time I purchased a 1969 GTO Judge with a Ram Air IV off the back wholesale lot of Al-bright Chevrolet with a bench seat and a 4 speed. I thought I was hot stuff, only to find myself repairing rear ends, breaking axles and even high dollar Summer's Bros axels. In the end I couldn't race much because the car broke so often and the car was breaking me. Along comes Walt with a '69 GTO Turbo 400 that needs a motor. So the deal was set. His car. My motor. We were off to the races. Walt was the driver, I was the engine builder and we both tuned the car. The '69 turned into a '73 Grand Am NHRA super stock SS/KA 455 Super duty, but because of the NHRA index system we couldn't compete. So I became a spectator and eventually figured a way to open my own high performance machine shop. Throughout the years of raising families Walt and I managed to race with his '69 GTO and a '70 GTO race car I eventually purchased from Carl Fisher.

Due to my busy work schedule I made a couple trips to the Pontiac Uprising while it was in Wichita, Kansas, but now after retirement my son, Brian, and I have faithfully hauled our '70 GTO to Great Bend, Kansas the last three years. Great Bend is the home of the first





# Pontiac Uprising

NHRH Nationals in 1955. The Pontiac Uprising has been going on for 30 years. For myself it is a nine hour tow and \$250-300 fuel bill, but we wouldn't miss it. At the Friday night Meet and Greet, put on by the Wichita GTO Club, we have been spoiled with bar-b-q pork and coolers of beer and soda and a notable speaker each year. This year's speaker was Joe Stout, an Pontiac executive engineer who was the liaison between corporate Pontiac and the racing Pontiac community from funny car bodies to pro stock wind tunnel testing. He mesmerized us with his insightful stories and his endeavors to help professional Pontiac racers to win, like Warren Johnson.

Norwalk Pontiac Nationals was another race I was never able to attend due to working. For twenty years my customers Ron Beach Jr and Sr tried to get me to go and they finally succeeded in 2018. I had just sold my business and was working on updating my '70 GTO to pass NHRA safety guidelines. The car had sat dormant for a lot of years only going out occasionally to race at local Pontiac shows. So, I got there and was overwhelmed with the number of race cars that showed up. After those five days at Norwalk I was hooked. I never want to miss Norwalk again. Everyone should go at least one time whether they are a show person, a racer, or just looking for car parts. Three days of drag racing, a huge car show and the biggest Pontiac swap meet I have ever seen – ALL PONTIAC!

I haven't been lucky nor won a race at Norwalk but I have at Great Bend. In 2018 I won AFX No Box and came back in 2019 to win it again, due to lots of luck and a few good reaction times. It's not all about winning, though. It's the fun and people you meet every year and the new racers that show up for the first time. This time we met Scott and Ernie who came all the way from Colorado. Even though there is a great turnout for the races, I think the Pontiac drag race community deserves better coverage in both Pontiac publications.



# Gateway GTO Membership Renewal

**Starting in 2020 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](http://www.gtoaa.org).
- All Gateway GTO Members must be GTOAA members in good standing.
- Please contact GTOAA Chapter Representative Tom Oxler with any questions:

## **Tom Oxler Contact Info:**

Phone: 636-928-5548

Email: [toxler@prodigy.net](mailto:toxler@prodigy.net)







[www.classiccaarstudio.com](http://www.classiccaarstudio.com)



## Classic Car Studio and Naked Spirits Tour

**When:** March 14th - Meet at 12:15, Classic Car Studio Tour begins at 12:30 with Naked Spirits tour and tasting to follow

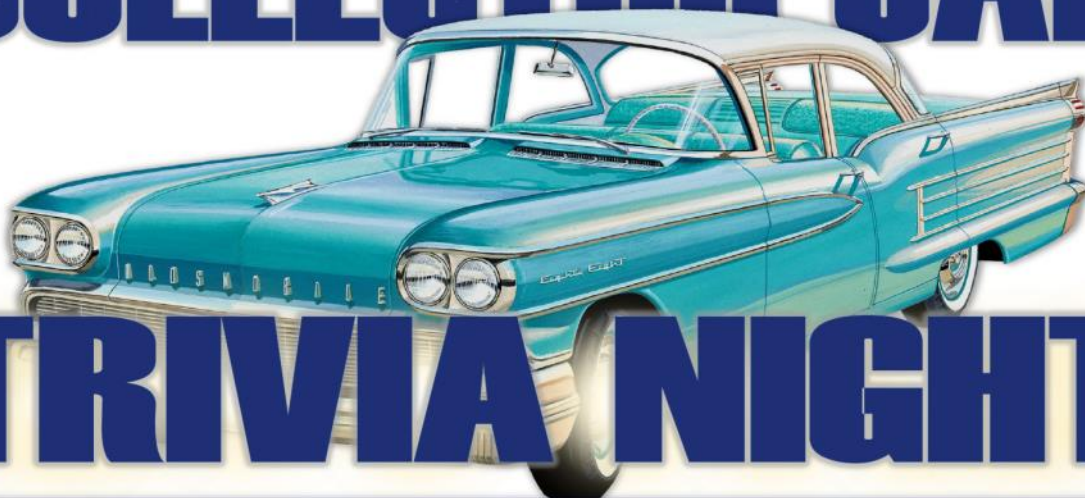
**Where:** Classic Car Studio  
1002 Hanley Industrial Court  
St. Louis, MO 63144

**Cost:** \$5 per person for spirit tasting - Speed Shop tour is free

**RSVP to Mark Melrose ASAP: 314-807-2520**



# COLLECTOR CAR



# TRIVIA NIGHT

**BENEFITING ST. LOUIS HONOR FLIGHT & ANIMAL WELFARE**

HOW MUCH DO YOU KNOW ABOUT OLD CARS? TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE AGAINST OTHER  
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QUESTIONS ABOUT AUTOMOBILE TRIVIA, POP CULTURE & MORE!

**SATURDAY APRIL 4, 2020 • 7:00PM - 11:00PM**

AMERICAN LEGION 312 2500 RAYMOND DRIVE ST. CHARLES, MO 63301

**50/50 • SILENT AUCTION • DOOR PRIZES • PRIZE FOR WINNING TEAM**

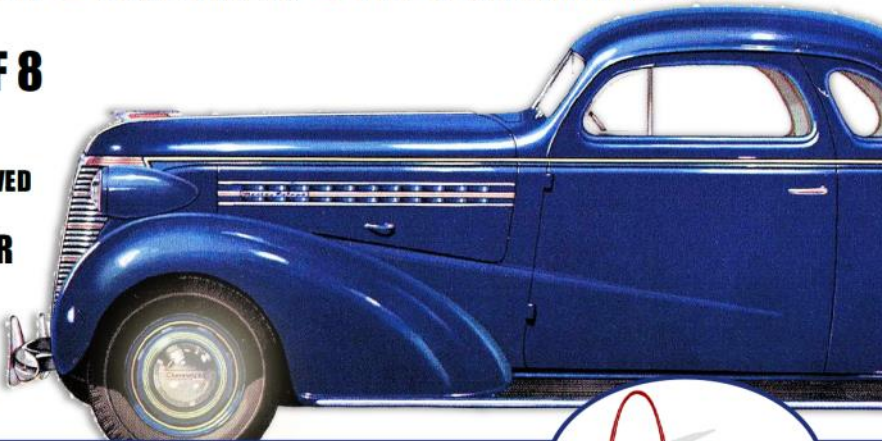
**\$160.00 PER TABLE OF 8**

**CASH BAR AVAILABLE  
SORRY, NO OUTSIDE BEVERAGES ALLOWED**

**MUST BE 21 YEARS OR OLDER**

**BRING FOOD & SNACKS!**

**8 ROUNDS OF QUESTIONS**



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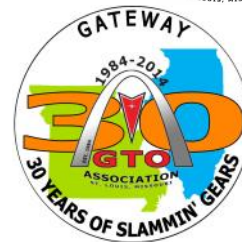
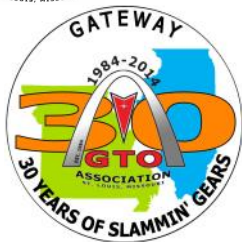
**Make checks payable to Archway Olds Club and send in with  
your name, phone number, email and return address.**



**Trivia Night • 350 Afshari Drive • Florissant, MO 63034  
Questions? olsonrsa@gmail.com or (314) 825-2980**



## Year Of The 0's



**Calling all owners of 1970 GTO's!**

**In 2020, in celebration of:  
50th Anniversary of the 1970 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**



## 2020 GATEWAY GTO CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### February

- 6 - GTO MEETING 7PM at Gingham's
- 23 - Annual Pinball Wizard Tournament - 2:00 to 5:00 at CP Pinball, 115 Sinclair Ave., South Roxanna, IL 62087. See Gateway GTO website for more details.

### March

- 5 - GTO MEETING 7PM at Gingham's
- 21 - Mastermind Escape Room Event - 2:00 to 3:00 at Mastermind Room Escape, 3900 Old Highway 94 #1. See Gateway GTO website for more details.

### April

- 2 - GTO MEETING 7PM at Gingham's
- 4 - Collector Car Trivia Night at American Legion 312, 2500 Raymond Drive, St. Charles Mo, 63301
- 12 - Easter Car Show at the Muny

**SEE THE FULL CALENDAR AT [WWW.GATEWAYGTO.ORG](http://WWW.GATEWAYGTO.ORG)**

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**Gateway GTO Classifieds**





***Tammy Hedrick  
Hedrick Insurance Agency  
558 Gravois Road, Suite 201  
Fenton, MO 63026  
636.492.5180 (office)  
314.540.4122 (cell/text)  
thedrick@farmersagent.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](mailto:jfhavens@sbcglobal.net)

(314) 496-7368

### Jonathan's Q Jet Service

Jonathan Havens

13 Shamblin Dr.  
Florissant, MO 63034



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



## GATEWAY GTO ASSOCIATION OFFICERS

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### Photographer

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[chriswinslow@charter.net](mailto:chriswinslow@charter.net)

## 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 Gingham's, 1566 Country Club Plaza Drive, St. Charles, MO 63303

The are no Gateway GTO membership dues for the year 2020. The rate for membership dues to Gateway GTO for 2021 and beyond will be determined by December of 2020. All Gateway GTO members must be a member in good standing with GTOAA. 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.

**The Gateway GTO Association**  
is an official chapter of the  
**GTO Association of America**  
[www.gtoaa.org](http://www.gtoaa.org)

**Visit us at**  
**[www.gatewaygto.org](http://www.gatewaygto.org) or**  
**[www.gatewaygto.com](http://www.gatewaygto.com)**





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