

# THE HOOD SCOOP

February 2021

# Association Association Association Association



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# Our GTO Goes Full Circle By Will Bowers



I really wasn't looking for another car; however, it was a slow day at work being the Friday before Labor Day weekend in 1989. Someone had brought in a copy of the St. Louis Post-Dispatch, so, out of habit, I started scanning the classic car ads. The car was advertised as a '67 HO, 4 speed with Tri-Power added and Rally 1 wheels. Needless to say, I called the number several times that day but didn't get an answer until about 4:00 PM. The seller asked if I had called before because his answer machine was not working and he had just gotten home. He did not want to show the car until Saturday; however, he agreed to let me see it since I was going out of town for the holiday weekend. At that time I was working at McDonnell Douglas and he was located in Florissant. I immediately hit a cash machine for deposit money and was on my way. This was great...I would be the first person to see the car! As soon as the garage door went up, I wanted it. After driving it, I knew it was sold. I didn't even try to get him down on price, (which is totally unlike me). After giving him a deposit, I returned after the holiday and paid the remaining balance. Over the weekend, he had received over 30 calls on the car. Most of the people were offering more than the full asking price. Fortunately, he honored our deal and the car was mine. I later learned that Terry Schott, Gateway GTO Association President, was one of the unlucky callers.

In addition to the options listed in the ad, it had A/C, full tinted glass, power disc brakes, power steering, rally dash, wood wheel, Cordova top, 3:73 12 bolt posi, front and rear seat belts, and a push button radio with





a rear speaker. Over the years I added a number options including; AM/FM, 8 track, defogger, map lights, rear headrests and a reclining passenger bucket seat. The rear end had been replaced with a date correct and proper 3:23,10 bolt rear end. The A/C had been stripped out by one of the previous owners. I was able to locate original replacement parts and eventually converted to 134A. The car retains its original interior and a few worn spots were repaired with material from another set of original seat covers that had been found at a swap meet.



The build date was November 1966. With the rare combination of options, it was obviously an early special order car. The PHS documents included the engine unit number that confirmed it still retained its original HO motor. All that could be determined from PHS was that it had been delivered to a dealer in Pontiac's Northern District.

Prior to having a base coat clear coat finish applied in the original Gulf Turquoise color, I had to replace several panels. All parts were replaced with available NOS or reproduction items. The motor has always performed well and has not required a rebuild. However I returned it to a 4 barrel with a correct Q-jet carburetor. The first year for the Q-Jet Pontiac was 1967. Pontiac was apparently concerned that performance minded buyers would be concerned that Tri-Power was no longer being offered. They included a re-print from Super Stock magazine in the glove compartment comparing the two carburetor configurations, confirming that they performed almost identically.

Shortly after the purchase, I decided a trip to Mid America Raceway in Wentzville. MO was in order. My first time out; it turned in the 13.90's with street tires.











In the fall of 1990, my luck continued. While attending a Behlmann Pontiac display, I noticed a young guy looking the car over very closely and said he thought it was in his dad's car that he had bought new. Since I knew it was sold through a dealer in Wisconsin, it seemed unlikely. Later his dad, Nick Decker, stopped by and was able to confirm that it was indeed his. Fortunately, he was a very meticulous individual who had kept all the correspondence with the dealer, the order form, the original window sticker, and other associated documentation. He confirmed that it had been special ordered through Hames Pontiac in Eau Claire, WI. Nick had been attending the University of Wisconsin and ordered it just prior to graduation and returning to the St. Louis area. Initially, Nick gave me copies of the documentation. Later he invited Donna and I to his home for a slide show and gave us the original documents. He also made several prints for us from the slides. Included was one picturing his son, Jeff, standing in front of the car at an early age. We have kept in touch over the years and usually see him at the Easter Show. He is always disappointed if I bring one of my other cars. In 2015, I emailed him that the car would be there and he was actually waiting at the entrance with his camera to see the car and take pictures of the car when we arrived.



Years ago, individuals were allowed to run a title history on a vehicle. Apparently, the car remained in Missouri until I purchased and titled it in Illinois. and then back to Missouri. The research indicated there were 5 previous owners between 1967 and 1989. The state actually sent photocopies of each of the previous titles providing the names and addresses of the previous owners. In 1994, the GTO Club was having a charity car wash at a filling station in South County to raise money for the Make-A-Wish Foundation. As luck would have it, the second





owner saw all the GTO's and couldn't resist stopping. I was able to get his picture with the car. Over the years I have met all but the third owner.

I have had a number of interesting experiences with the car. I don't recall the exact year, but, the Club did a road trip to Indy for their clubs show called "A Day at the Track". It was on the grounds of the Indianapolis Speedway and was reminiscent of the early GTOAA Nationals that were held at the track. We did some driving around the night before the show, even going to a local cruise night. While driving the car I noticed that the timing seemed to be off and had to adjust the distributor several times. On the way home the engine popped and we experienced a total shut down. After opening the hood it was obvious what had happened. The distributor had locked up, spun around, tangling and damaging all of the plug wires. We were stopped on the shoulder of I-70 being blown around by 18 wheelers doing 70 plus MPH! This was before cell phones. I recalled that a club member had also had problems with his car and was waiting at the motel for his father to trailer him home. One of the club members agreed to go back to the motel to see if I could borrow his distributor, and wires, while I pulled the damaged one. As luck would have it, the club member was still there and loaned me the needed parts. We were back on the road in a little over an hour.

Another adventure took place on a club cruise up the River Road concluding with a ferry trip to St. Charles County. The river was high at that time and the ferry could not dock at its regular location. The ferry was loaded with cars 3 across. I was in the first row on the far right. We were sitting high enough that the ramp could not be seen from the car. A crewmember was in charge of the unloading process, when it was my turn he motioned me forward. Unfortunately, when I pulled forward, the ramp was not there. He should have motioned me to the center. The good news was that I did not end up in the river! The bad news was that I ran into a heavy duty metal "T" that was used to tie up the ferry when docking. We pushed the car off and called a rollback to pick us up. Fortunately, the "T" was low enough that it went under the bumper and hit the core support and lower radiator tank. If I recall correctly, it was covered by insurance including the towing.







These cars are intended to be driven and sooner or later you are bound to have a mis-adventure!

This car has always been Donna's favorite. In 1990, we drove her to the church when we got married. (My luck with this car continued once again). They say you cannot put a price on your wife's happiness. In this case, I got the car and Donna too!!



Nick Decker's family also had a strong relationship with the GTO. In addition to Jeff, who had moved to Indianapolis, his sister Cindy contacted me in 2017. She was turning 50 and so was the GTO. She wanted to see it, go for a ride and take some pictures. We agreed and even popped open a bottle of wine to celebrate her birthday.

Nick has not been getting around too well and has not been able to attend the Easter Show. However the next year she, Cindy, Nick's grandson and former- wife came to the show for more pictures.

About a year later I got a call from the second owner wanting to know if I knew where the '67 was, I told him it better be in my garage! He wanted to know if it was for sale. I told him that if it was he would be second in line after the original owner's family.

Moving on to 2020, Donna and I are in the process of downsizing, selling our house and leaving the great state of Illinois and moving to Missouri. I decided to contact Jeff to see







if he was interested in purchasing the car. He said he was definitely interested and wanted time to sell his Firebird and ZR1 Corvette. I told him no problem I would hold it for 60 days with no deposit required. We continued to correspond by email and more information on the car was provided, along with pictures and several phone calls. After a couple of weeks he said he definitely wanted the GTO back in the family. I suggested a visit. He and his wife arrived the day after Labor Day. After an inspection and a drive he wrote out a check and they drove it 250 miles home with no problems.

After 31 years almost to the day the '67 was gone. It was a sad day for Donna and I since we also had a special connection to the car; however, were glad that if the GTO was going to be sold that it was going full circle back to the original owner's family! Jeff and I continue to keep in touch. I send more information as I come across it and he keeps me up to date on the work he is doing on the GTO.

Jeff gives me updates on little things he is sorting on the car. I enjoyed a couple of his early texts. He said when he comes home from work he always goes into the house through the garage. The first time he came home after buying the GTO he could not believe it when he opened the garage door and it was sitting there. Another text said he and his wife would go out in the evening sit in their lawn chairs and look at the trees and flowers. Now they turn their chairs around and enjoy the view with garage door open!

I had another set of seats that I gave Jeff since I didn't think I was going to need them. He actually converted them to an office chair!

If we were going to sell the '67 we are happy that the GTO was able to go full circle back to the original owner's family.





# **Presidents Scoop**



# The President's Scoop

By Terry Schott

Well, I guess the groundhog was right. We've still got some winter ahead of us. The last couple of weeks of teens and single digit temperatures should be a wake-up call. I guess we shouldn't complain but it seems like we are in a Northern state. The light snows, every day or two, tend to accumulate surprisingly well at these temperatures, but February is over halfway done. Spring isn't that far away.

The vaccination process has been a struggle, especially in St. Louis County. The supply has been slow to show up, but hopefully that, too, will improve soon. With all the COVID-19 issues we are starting to plan events more for the early summer timeframe.

We did have our first meeting of the year at Ginghams on February 4. There were 25 people in attendance. Gateway has picked up about 8 new members during 2020 and into 2021. Two of the latest couples attended our meeting and we were pleased to be able to meet them and welcome them. Jim Schneider and his wife Shelly were there, as well as Keith and Kristen Loeffler. Jim and Shelly own a beautiful 1967 red GTO convertible and a 1966 Bonneville, 4-door hardtop. Keith and Kristen own a 1969 Judge which is in the restoration process. It is a good solid car, and they are working on it a little at a time. Those of you with "Judge" knowledge may want to talk with them as I'm sure that they have some questions.

Events for 2021 are going to be spotty for a while. A few days ago, the Horseless Carriage Club officially canceled the Easter Car Show.

In May, we are hoping to participate in the Veteran's car show that we have helped with for the last couple of years. It is usually the first Saturday in May. We have typically offered ourselves and cars to give Veterans a ride in the parade. Sunday, May 2, is definitely the Model T Swap Meet at Gateway Racetrack, (Worldwide Technology Raceway).

June 18 & 19 is the Route 66 Festival and Bicentennial celebration of the state of Missouri. Several members have already booked their rooms at the iconic Munger Moss Motel in Lebanon. For more info, you can go to <a href="http://www.lebanonroute66.com/festival/">http://www.lebanonroute66.com/festival/</a>. Several of us participated in last year's festival and highly recommend it.

Monday, July 5, thru Friday, July 9, is the GTOAA convention in the Wisconsin Dells. There is a link on the website for more information. Please watch for events and check the calendar on the website often so we can keep you updated of future events.







# **Presidents Scoop**



We still plan on our annual charity events, the Wheels in Motion (WIM) on September 12 and our Pontiac Regional event is scheduled for September 18 and 19, in Pontiac, IL. Our Gateway picnic is scheduled for October 3, and we are working to finalize the date of December 4, for our Christmas party.

As you can see, we plan on getting things going back to a more normal time. We will be adding other events as things come up, but it's all subject to change with what happens with the pandemic status. If you have any ideas for cruises or activities, please contact me or one of the officers. As usual, we are open to most things, however, you will be asked to help plan it and run it. We will be glad to assist you.

If you feel comfortable attending, we would love to see you at one of our meetings. If not, that's okay, but hopefully we can see you at some of our future events.

Keep warm, stay healthy, and we'll see you soon.





# Gateway GTO Meeting Minutes



7:00PM – Meeting Start – New members Keith 9/12 – Wheels In Motion and Christen Loeffler have a 69 GTO that is currently under restoration. Jim and Shelley Schneider have a 66 Bonneville and a 67 GTO.

7:03 – Old Business – The Christmas and Pizza parties were both cancelled. Terry Schott talked about the potential 2021 Christmas party and the possibility of having the pizza party held later this year.

Terry Schott talked about the donation that we made to the National Children's Cancer Society despite last year's cancelled Wheels In Motion car show. We made a \$600 donation.

Terry Schott discussed the re-instatement of Gateway GTO Association yearly dues. He further mentioned that Gateway still requires 100% membership in the GTOAA.

Terry Schott said that we have 8 new members this year.

7:11 – New Business – Terry Schott talked about some details for possible Easter, Veterans and St. Pius car shows.

Ron Wildebrandt talked about an upcoming car show in Lebanon MO on June 18-19<sup>th</sup>. It's a Route 66 Festival celebrating 200 years of Missouri.

Steve Hedrick talked about two car shows including Pigeon Forge and swap meet put on by the Model T club.

Terry Oxler mentioned that the Pontiac Regional Event will be held one week after Wheels In Motion. September 18-19<sup>th</sup>.

Terry Schott said that the annual club picnic will be held on October 3<sup>rd</sup>.

7:16 – Upcoming Events

4/4 – Easter Car Show in Forest Park (This event has since been CANCELED)

5/1 – Veterans Car Show. St. Charles MO

5/1 – St. Pius Car Show. Festus MO

6/18-6/19 - Route 66 Festival

7/5-7/9 – 2021 GTO Nationals at Wisconsin Dells

9/18-9/19 – Pontiac Regional Event in Pontiac, Illinois.

10/3 – Gateway GTO Picnic

7:20 – GTOAA – Tom Oxler gave details about the 2021 Nationals. He also said that the 2022 Nationals will be in Kingsport, Tennessee and the 2023 Nationals will be Springfield, Illinois.

7:23 - Tech

Tom Oxler talked about an issue that Mark Melrose is having with his GTO.

Terry Schott talked about some work he's been doing on his GTO

7:25 – Club Personals

Cecil Morton has been declining in health and is currently in the Bethesda Dilworth memory care unit.

Craig Glenn had a hip replacement.

Frank Chapman has had some health issues.

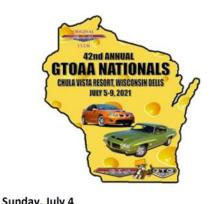
Harry Timmermann had knee surgery.

Tony Becker's wife has thyroid cancer.

7:30 – Motion to Adjourn by Amy O'Sullivan, seconded by Brian O'Sullivan

50/50 of \$32 won by Shelley Schneider





# **42nd ANNUAL GTOAA NATIONALS**

JULY 5 - JULY 9, 2021

# Chula Vista Resort, Wisconsin Dells, WI

Hosted by the Original GTO Club

# Tentative Schedule of Events

May be updated monthly as event times are confirmed

Wednesday, July 7, continued

	Sunday, July 4	wednesday, July 7, continued		A CONTRACTOR OF THE CONTRACTOR
	5:00 - 10:00	GTOAA Board Meeting-Exec. Board Rm	1:00 - 3:00	Duck Boat Road/Water Tour
			1:00 - 2:00	Kids Make & Take Model Building
	Monday, July 5		3:30 - 5:00	*Speaker Session* OPEN Room I
	All Day	Early Arrivals and Staff Arrivals	6:00 - 8:00	Chapter Recognition & President's Meeting,
	All Day	Swap Meet/Vendor/PV & Concours setup		Cash Bar- Room I
	9:00 - 4:15	Registration Open, Tech/Photo		
	Noon - 5:00	Car Wash Open	Thursday, July	<u>8</u>
	5:00 - 10:00	GTOAA Staff Meeting-Exec. Board Rm	6:00 - 5:00	Car Wash Open
			8:00 - 5:00	Swap Meet, Vendors, Display Cars
	Tuesday, July 6		9:00 - 1:00	Popular Voting, Ballots Due 1PM
	6:00 - 5:00	Car Wash Open	10:30 - 12:30	*Speaker Session* Randy Pribyl, Don Micetic
	8:00 - 5:00	Registration Open, Tech/Photo		"Making your GTO Loo it's Best. Room I
	8:00 - 5:00	Swap Meet, Vendors, Display Cars,	1:00 - 3:00	Duck Boat Road/Water tour
		Model Car Displays	1:00 - 3:00	*Speaker Session* Milt Schornack History of Royal
	8:00 - 4:00	<b>Driving Tour EAA Aviation Museum</b>		Pontiac. Room I
		TJs Harbor Restaurant	2:00 - 3:00	Model Car Judging
	09:00 - 4:00	Bus Tour - Circus World Museum,	2:00 - 4:00	Ladies Activity
		& AL Ringling Museum	3:30 - 5:30	*Speaker Session* Tim Dye History of Pontiac Room
	10:00 - 12:00	*Speaker Session* OPEN Room I	7:00 - 11:00	"Ames" Parking Lot Party with DJ
	1:00 - 3:00	Duck Boat Road/Water Tour		Banquet Room FREE ADMISSION
	1:00 - 3:00	*Speaker Session* OPEN Room I		
	4:15 - 4:45	Concours Owner's Meeting: Rm I	Friday, July 9	
	4:45 - 5:30	Concours Judge's Meeting: Rm I	8:00 - 5:00	Swap Meet, Vendors, Display Cars
	5:30 - 6:30	Judges training	8:30 - 4:30	Bus Tour: Monroe Cheese Factory
	6:45 - 9:15	Dinner Cruise		OR Beer Distillery Tour, and Lunch
			09:00 - 4:15	<b>Driving Tour:</b> Cave of the Mounds Baraboo Candy Fa
Wednesday, July 7			tory, Rookies & The Dells Raceway Park	
	6:00 - 5:00	Car Wash Open	9:15 - 4:15	Bus Tour: Mid-Continent Railway Museum & J's Pub
	7:30 - 8:30	Judges Breakfast Mtg-Kilbourn City Grill		Grill
	8:00 - 5:00	Registration Open, Tech/Photo	09:30 - 4:00	Driving Tour: Carr Valley Cheese
	8:00 - 5:00	Swap Meet, Vendors, Display Cars		& Burr Oak Winery, Shipwreck Bay, &
	08:30 -3:30	<u>Driving Tour</u> : Mid-Continent		The Dells Raceway Park
		Railway Museum, The Gravy Train	10:00 - 12:00	*Speaker Session* Jim Mattison TBD Room I
		Restaurant & Cedar Grove Cheese	1:00 - 3:00	Duck Boat Road/water tour
	8:30 - finish	Concours Judging	1:00 - 3:00	*Speaker Session* Arnie Beswick; Racing Room I
	8:30 - finish	Concours Tabulation, Santa Fe Rm	5:00 - 6:00	Awards Happy Hour
	09:00 - 5:00	Bus Tour: Monroe Cheese Tour OR	6:00 - 7:00	Awards Dinner
		beer/distillery tour	7:00 - 9:30	Awards
	3:00 - 5:00	Street Legend Cruise/Pontiacs on Parade		
	10.20 12.20	into Town		
	10:30 – 12:30	*Speaker Session* John Kraman of MECUM		
	1:00 - 3:00	Auctions. Room I *Speaker Session* OPEN Room I	ASS	A TRADITION OF PERFORMANCE



# Gateway GTO Membership Renewal

Gateway GTO Dues for 2021 are \$20 and are due by the February Gateway GTO Meeting

• Sent dues to Will Bowers by mail or pay in person at the February Meeting

# Will's Address:

4213 Napa View Lane

St. Charles, MO 63304

• In order to Renew with Gateway GTO, members must be members in good standing with GTOAA.

Contact Chris Winslow or Terry Schott if you have any questions on renewing your Gateway GTO membership



# **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 n				
GTO Association of America membership re (found on address	enewal date: label of Legend)			

# PLEASE FILL IN ALL FIELDS

And mail to:

Will Bowers, Treasurer Gateway GTO Association 4213 Napa View Lane St. Charles, MO 63304

Membership dues are \$20. You are allowed one associate member (spouse, girlfriend, etc.).

# GTOAA 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.
- 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







ARS OF SLAMMI

# Year Of The 1's







# Calling all owners of 1971 GTO's!

In 2021, in celebration of: 50th Anniversary of the 1971 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



# 2021 GATEWAY GTO CALENDAR OF EVENTS

#### March

4 - GTO MEETING 7PM at Gingham's

# April

- 1 GTO MEETING 7PM at Gingham's
- 4 Easter Car Show at the Muny (THIS EVENT HAS BEEN CANCELED

# May

- 1 Veterans Car Show, St. Charles, MO. Details to follow
- 1 St. Pius Car Show, Festus, MO
- 6 GTO MEETING 7PM at Gingham's

### June

3 - GTO MEETING 7PM at Gingham's 18-19 Route 66 Festival, Lebanon, MO - <a href="http://www.lebanonroute66.com/festival/">http://www.lebanonroute66.com/festival/</a>

SEE THE FULL CALENDAR AT WWW.GATEWAYGTO.ORG

**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

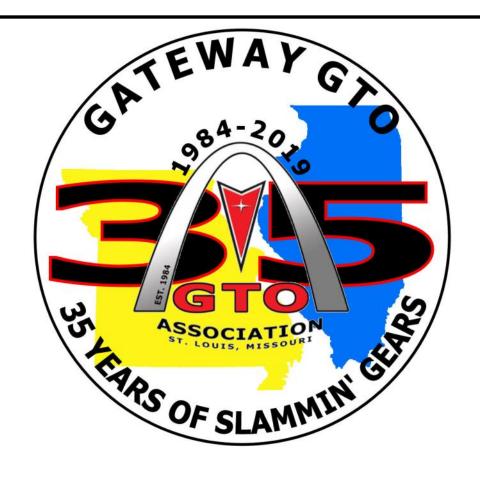
Jon F. Havens Owner 126 Afshari Drive Florissant, MO 63034 jfhavens@sbcglobal.net (314) 496-7368

Jonathan's Q Jet Service

Jonathan Havens

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# **Gateway GTO Association Photo Album**

If you have photos of past events or if you take pictures of future events that you think would be good for our Photo Album, please send them to the newsletter editor.

**The Hood Scoop** is published as an informative news bulletin to keep our members up to date on past, present, and future events.

# 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.

#### **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 yearly dues for Gateway GTO is \$20. The dues are due by the Pizza Party in January. All Gateway GTO members must be a member in good standing with GTOAA. You are allowed to have one associate member.





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



644 Emge Road O'Fallon, MO 63366



