



THE HOOD SCOOP

July 2023

2023 GTOAA Nationals

by Chris Winslow

Gateway GTO
Association



For a number of years now, our July issue has always been a recap of the GTOAA National convention. This year, with Gateway hosting and all of our planned activities, including a live band at the parking lot party, there was going to be lots to cover. Unfortunately as we all now know, mother nature had different plans

The Nats started out perfectly. Dan Jackson did a great job organizing everyone so that we had all of the worker slots filled and everyone reported for their assigned duties. As a result, everything on Monday and Tuesday was going extremely smoothly.

In the evenings the social activities, as usual, revolved around Gateway with huge circles forming in the parking lot in the evening for socializing, snacking, and a some interesting beverages, many of them home made.

Thursday started very normally for a GTOAA convention Thursday. Concours judging was the order of the day. In my case, I was judging New Gen Stock cars along with fellow Gateway members Brian, Amy, and Andrew O’Sullivan and Tom Fox. There had been a light rain overnight and it was still pretty wet outside when we started. We had one outdoor car to judge. We had planned to judge it first, but since it was still pretty wet out-

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

2023 GTOAA Nats	1
The Presidents Scoop	7
Calendar	16
GTO Marketplace	17
GGTOA Info Page	18





GTOAA 2023



side, and the weather predictions were for some dryer weather mid morning, we pressed on with indoor cars.

GTOAA Concours administration Bill Markowski took charge of helping get the outdoor concours cars ready by getting all of them moved into the tech tent for judging. In my case, we only had 1 car to judge outside, so as soon as Bill let me know he had it in the tent, we headed out and got that car judged. Judging that car mid morning like we did turned out to be the right move.

A little before noon, we took a break and headed up to the hospitality room for lunch. My team still had one more car to judge, but we would easily get that done after lunch. While we were eating lunch, we looked at the weather and saw that storms were on the way. This worried everyone a bit since there was a parking lot full of GTOs and storms in the Midwest can include hail. We were also talking about the strong storms that occurred during the Convention several years ago and how some of the cars that had been under the tents had receive damage.

Out in the parking lot, everyone also knew that storms were coming. Randy Jones and Terry Schott both put their cars under the tech tent, hoping to avoid any storm damage.

My judging team returned to the concours show floor and began judging our final car. A few minutes into that activity, the storm sirens started to sound. From inside the convention hall, we really could not see or hear what was going on outside, but we could tell there was a lot of activity going on outside the hall. What we now know is that it was everyone running into the hotel lobby to get out of the storm.

About a minute later, the lights went out. For a few seconds, there was total darkness in the hall except for the flashlights we were using to judge the cars. Then the emergency generator kicked in and we had minimal lighting in the convention hall.

Those of us inside the convention hall were not initially aware of the extent of the storm damage. We continued on with our task and completed the judging of our final car. Once that was done and we turned in our judging sheets, we realized just how serious the situation was.

In the weeks following we now know that there was a Derecho at the hotel with straight line winds in the 80 to 100 MPH range. All of the power poles on the west side of the Crowne Plaza had snapped off and the wires were laying on the ground. Reports began to come in that a significant portion of Springfield was without power.

Once I heard how severe the storm had been, I wanted to make sure that everyone from Gateway was OK. After checking we found that nobody from Gateway was injured in the storm. Our meet photographer, Mike from Moto Lenz Photos, did get knocked over during the storm when he was hit with flying debris. Gateway's Annette Morton provided first aid for Mike. We later learned that Mike had fractured his wrist.

Once everything settled from the initial storm and we knew that other than Mike's wrist everyone was OK, we were able to assess where we were with the convention, and the situation was not good.

The tech tent had been destroyed in the storm. In many instances, the eye bolts that had been anchored to the parking lot to secure the tent had literally snapped off. The result was that the poles holding up the tent blew over, damaging cars under the tent, including the cars of Gail and Terry Schott and Randy Jones.

The hotel and all of the surrounding restaurants and other businesses were without power. The hotel had a backup generator that powered minimal lighting on the first three floors of





GTOAA 2023





GTOAA 2023



the hotel and the elevators, but not much else. To make matters worse, the generator, which runs on diesel, only had a quarter of a tank of fuel.

Given the extent of the damage to the power system that we were seeing outside of the hotel, it did not appear likely that power would be restored any time soon.

With no power, it would be impossible for us to continue on with the convention. We had no lights, no air conditioning and the rest rooms on the first 3 floors of the hotel were out of service. In addition, there was a real concern late in the day on Thursday that what little power we did have from the generator would be gone in a few hours if the hotel could not find someone to fill the tank on the generator. This would leave us with no lights and no elevators.

Faced with all of these challenges, the GTOAA Board met and decided that there was no option left but to cancel the balance of the convention and send everyone home. The decision was devastating considering all of the planning and effort that had gone into organizing the convention. It was, however the right decision to make as there was simply no way the convention could continue. (Editors Note: The power to the Crowne was not restored until Tuesday, July 11th - Just short of 2 weeks after the storm).

Despite all of this, Gateway GTO members, like we always do, stepped up to do what we could to help. This was recognized by GTOAA president (and fellow Gateway GTO member) Vic Schreck, who sent us the following message of thanks:

Dear Gateway Members,

I want to personally thank those who volunteered to work the convention. An even bigger thank you for turning your attention to our membership tending to their needs during the crisis we were presented with. I have gotten many emails from our membership commending us for stepping up and taking charge. The convention went from everyone having a great time to crisis mode in a matter of minutes and because of the efforts of our staff and Gateway staff we weathered a very serious situation focusing on the needs of our membership.

Our concours team is working quickly to have awards ready for Norwalk. Bill Markowski will be contacting concours registrants regarding their awards.

We're now focusing on 2024 in Springfield, Missouri. See you there!

Thank You again, your efforts did not go unnoticed.

Vic

I cannot say it any better. Gateway showed all of the GTOAA once again why Gateway is the best chapter in organization!

Presidents Scoop

The President's Scoop

By Chris Winslow

None of us could have predicted the storm that would end the 2023 GTOAA convention early. Many of the really fun activities that we had planned for the event had to be canceled. Fortunately, many of those events, such as live band Captain Rat and the Blind Rivets, will just be delayed until next year in Springfield, Missouri.

The GTOAA staff has relayed on to me that all members that signed up to work 2 slots at the convention will see their \$70 registration fee refunded regardless of whether you were able to work any or all of your slots due to the shortened convention. The GTOAA will also be refunding you for any events you paid for, but had to be canceled. This includes the awards banquet, the popular vote car show, and the any of the cruises or other activities that had to be canceled. For those that paid by credit card you should see that refund hit your card soon. For those that paid by check the GTOAA will be mailing checks shortly for those refunds.

For the handful of Gateway members that had cars in the Concours car show, that judging was completed despite the loss of power to the hotel. Monica Hooten, Doug Pulskamp, and Vic Schreck have been working to get the results out to the participants. If you are going to Norwalk, they are going to have the awards with them at the GTOAA tent. Otherwise, they will mail out the rest of the certificates after Norwalk. (This will include your judging sheets).

Speaking of Norwalk, congratulations to Gateway GTO members Justin and Suzie Sidener. They received the first ever GTOAA New Gen Best of Show Award for their 2005 GTO from GTOAA Concours Administration Bill Markowski at Norwalk!

While the shortening the of the GTOAA Nats was a huge disappointment, We have lots of great events coming up to look forward to. These include Gateway GTO day at Gateway classic cars on July 29th, the Nostalgia Car Show in Wentzville on July 27th, and the car show at the St. Louis Car Museum on August 26th.

September is our really busy month with the Wheels In Motion car show on September 10th and our 12th Annual All Pontiac Show at the Pontiac Museum the following weekend. For the Wheels in Motion car show, now is the time to start gathering prizes and gift certificates, so please start hitting up your usual sources.

We also have some great October activities coming up like our annual Gateway GTO picnic on October 1st and John Grissom's big party the weekend of 7th. More to come on all of this as we get closer to the events.





GTOAA 2023 New Gen Best of Show





Gateway GTO Meeting Minutes



Minutes
7/7/2023

7:04 PM – Meeting Start – New member Tom Unckrich in attendance. He’s currently searching for a 69 GTO.

Gene Bossaller dropped in to let everyone know about the Archway Oldsmobile Club’s collector car trivia night on Saturday October 21 from 7:00 to 11:00PM. It will be held at the American Legion 312 in St. Charles, MO. It will benefit the St. Louis Honor Flight and Open Door Animal Sanctuary.

7:08 – Old Business

Steve Hedrick talked about the Pontiacs at Pigeon Forge. It was held on the first weekend of June. There were 455 cars present.

Chris Winslow talked about the Hannibal Cruise and brought in a slide show of pictures from the event. Everyone had a great time.

Tom Oxler talked about the GTOAA convention in Springfield which was cut short due to a storm that tore through Springfield. It killed power to 1/3 of the city including the host hotel. Until the storm the convention was going fantastically. He read a letter from GTOAA President Vic Schreck thanking all the volunteers from Gateway for all that they did. The band that was supposed to play in Springfield has agreed to perform next year in Springfield MO. The GTOAA is preparing to refund any money for events that anyone was unable to attend due to the cancellation of the event. The Hotel should not be charging anyone for room nights from Thursday, Friday or Saturday. There were a number of cars damaged due to the storm. Mike, the photographer from the event was injured from flying debris and has a broken wrist. If you would like to support him or check out the photos from the event, please visit www.motolenzphotos.com.

Steve Hedrick has some event shirts left over if anyone is interested. He has L, XL and 2XL.

Chris Winslow mentioned that a GTOAA member from New York that was on his way to the nationals had his GTO stolen right out of his trailer outside of Indianapolis. Chris

brought in a Samsung Galaxy SmartTag. It’s a small battery-operated device that can be tracked with your phone. For iPhone users the Apple Airtag works the same. He said that it might not be a bad idea to keep one hidden in your car incase it ever gets stolen. They can be found on Amazon.com for around \$40.

7:28 – New Business

Gateway GTO has been invited to be the special guests at a cars and coffee event at Gateway Classic cars in O’Fallon, Illinois. It’s being held on Saturday July 29th and runs from 9:00AM to 12:00PM. If Gateway GTO has 10 or more cars present we will receive a \$200 donation to the club. If anyone on the Missouri side wants to meet up to cruise over together, Brian O’Sullivan is planning to depart from the McDonalds at Westport Plaza at 8:00AM. Please contact Chris Winslow (if you haven’t already) if you plan on attending so he can add your name to the list.

On Saturday August 19th we’ve been invited to a car display at the Illinois State Fair in Springfield. We’re hoping to get at least 10 cars. All attendees to the car display will get free admission into the fair.

The Wheels in Motion car show is coming up on September 10th so it’s time to start gathering raffle prizes. It will again be held in the rear lot at Westport Plaza. This is not an ideal location, so there is a possibility that next year’s show will be held at the St. Louis Car Museum.

7:38 – Upcoming Events

7/21-7/23 – Tri-Power Nationals at Norwalk

7/27 – St. Charles County Fair – Rotary Park, Wentzville at 6:00PM.

7/29 – Gateway GTO day at Gateway Classic Cars

8/19 – Illinois State Fair in Springfield, IL

8/26 – Annual Car Show and Open House at the St. Louis Car Museum – 1575 Woodson Road

9/10 – Wheels in Motion Car Show at Westport





Gateway GTO Meeting Minutes



9/15-9/17 – 12th Annual All Pontiac Show at the Pontiac Museum

9/30 – Superstars N’ Supercars Event – Maritz Campus in Fenton

10/1 – Gateway GTO club picnic at Vago Park in Maryland Heights

10/7 – John Grissom Car Cruise and Farm Fun

Craig Glenn brought in some flyers gave some more information for the St. Charles Fair car show.

John Grissom talked about some of the activities planned, including some surprises for the car cruise in October.

7:55 – GTOAA – We will need volunteers again for the 2024 Nationals in Springfield, MO. Dan Jackson has graciously agreed to organize the workers schedule again.

7:57 – Tech

Randy Jones is looking for rear window trim for his 67 GTO that was damaged at the nationals.

Steve Hedrick brought in two electric blowers that he uses to help dry cars after washing. One was a Milwaukee and the other was an EGO. He said that they cut down time considerably and really help to get water out of trim pieces.

8:03 – Personals

Kerry Friedman has completed 19 of his 45 treatments and is doing ok.

John Havens is still having trouble with the long haul Covid.

8:10 – Motion to Adjourn by Tom Fox, seconded by Mark Melrose.

50/50 of \$46 won by Sharon Wildebrandt

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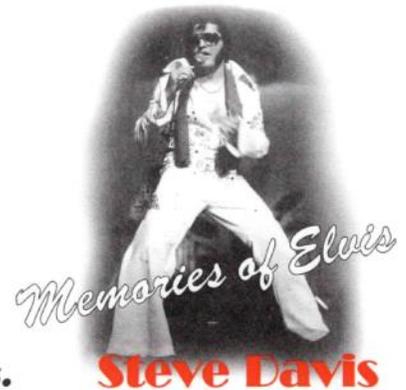
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For Information Contact :

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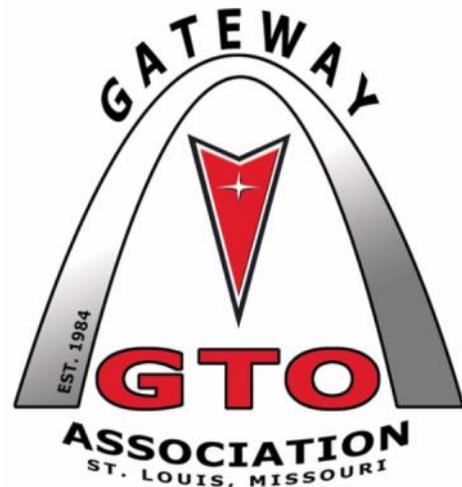
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Gateway GTO Membership Renewal

Gateway GTO Dues for 2023 are \$20 and are due by the annual Gateway GTO Pizza Party.

- Send dues to Will Bowers by mail or pay in person at the Next 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 if you have any questions on renewing your Gateway GTO membership



GATEWAY GTO ASSOCIATION Membership/**Renewal** Form

(Please print clearly)

New

Renewal

Returning

Name: _____ Date: _____

Associate Name (Spouse/Significant Other): _____

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 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, significant other, etc.).

All Gateway GTO Members must also be members in good standing with GTOAA

Go to WWW.GTOAA.ORG to join or renew GTOAA membership

GTOAA Membership Renewal

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



2023 GATEWAY GTO CALENDAR OF EVENTS

July

6 - GTO MEETING 7PM at Gingham's

21-23 - Tri Power Nationals

27 - Nostalgia Car Show at St. Charles County Fair - Rotary Park in Wentzville

29 - Gateway GTO Day at Gateway Classic Cars

August

3 - GTO MEETING 7PM at Gingham's

19 - Illinois State Fair Display

26 - Car Show at St. Louis Car Museum - 10am to 2pm

September

3 - GTO MEETING 7PM at Gingham's

10 - World In Motion Car Show - Westport Plaza

15 - 17 - GTOAA Regional Car Show at the Pontiac Museum

30 - Superstars and Supercars - Details to follow

SEE THE FULL CALENDAR AT WWW.GATEWAYGTO.ORG

Gateway GTO Classifieds

(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

13 Shamblin Dr.
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Advertising Guidelines

Classified ads are free to members. 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.

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 is free for members in good standing.

Advertising rates for non members 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

Visit us at
www.gatewaygto.org or
www.gatewaygto.com

644 Emge Road
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