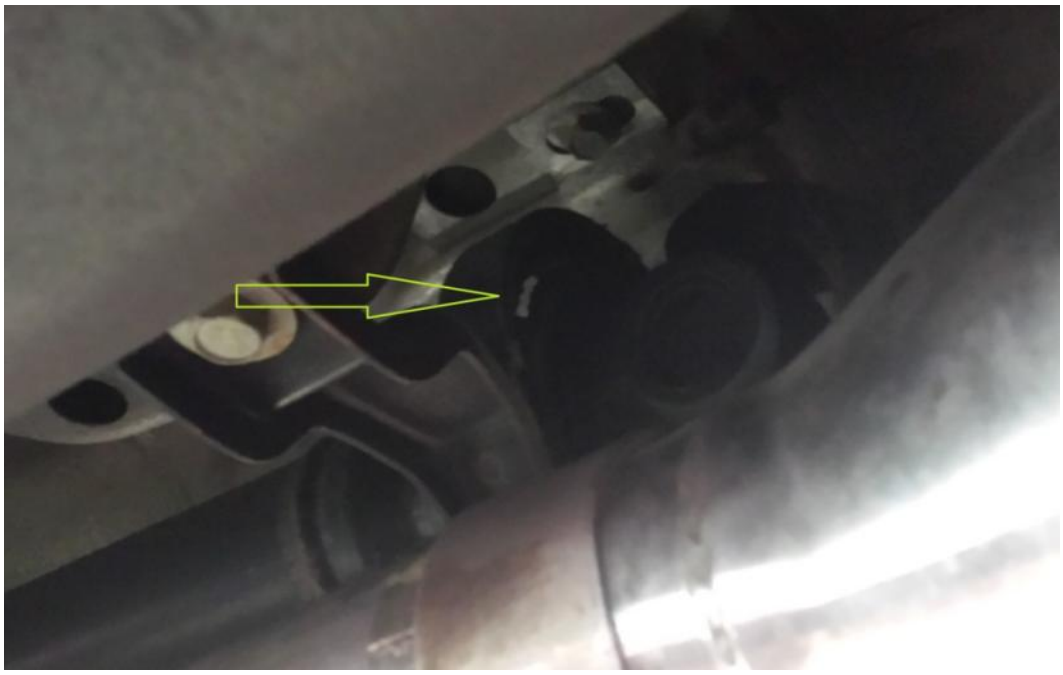
THE HOOD SCOOP

August 2026

Gen 5 GTO Carrier Bearing Replacement

by **Brian O'Sullivan**



While driving my GTO on one of the recent club cruises I noticed a vibration while under medium to moderate acceleration. It almost felt like the car was driving over a rumble strip on the highway. I initially thought it was perhaps wheel hop, which in these cars has a tendency to occur. Then I thought back to something that I noticed a week or so earlier under the car while installing a cat back exhaust. I remembered seeing this… (Photo Above)

What that is, is a tear in the rubber that surrounds the driveshaft carrier bearing (or center bearing). It's impossible to tell from the picture, but that tear ran ¾ of the way around the shaft. The vibration that I was feeling was the driveshaft bouncing around in that bracket under load. I checked a few sources online including LS1GTO.com and did a bit of research on replacing the bearing. I found that GM calls this a "non-serviceable" part and is therefore unavailable. They require that you replace the entire drive shaft, and GM in their infinite wisdom has since discontinued it. So it's left to the aftermarket. Luckily GTOG8TA.com not only has the correct complete drive shaft ($729.00), but they also sell just the carrier bearing ($69.00). I ordered just the bearing and decided to see how unserviceable it really was.

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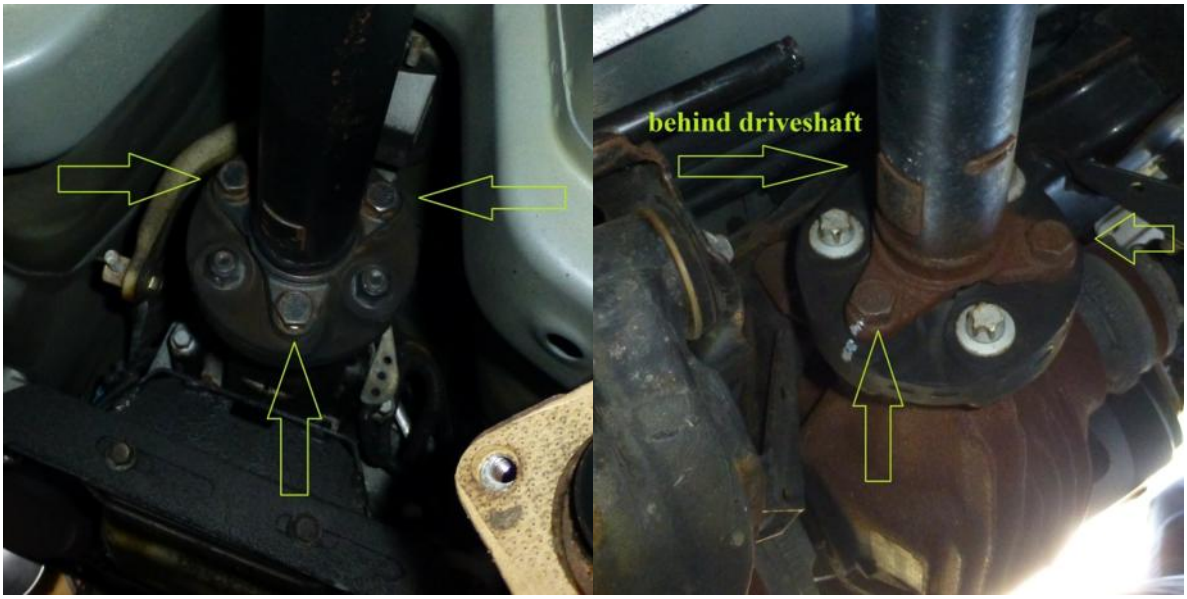
Gen 5 GTO Carrier Bearing Replacement

I'll start by saying that having access to a lift and second person to lend a hand would be ideal. I had the second person (my brother), but no lift. We were able to get things done with jack stands. You will need the following tools:

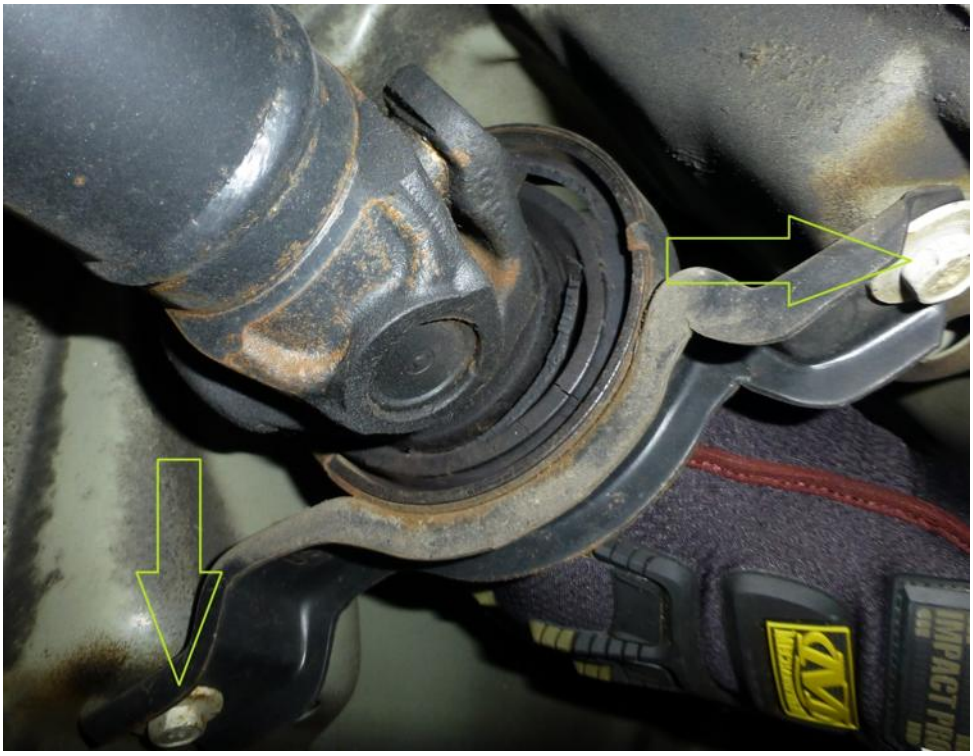
1. Socket wrench with 13mm, 17mm(optional) and 18mm sockets
2. 19mm wrench
3. Dead blow hammer or mallet
4. Chisel or pickle fork
5. Bench vise
6. Block of wood

Step 1. After the vehicle is lifted, decide whether you want to remove or drop the exhaust at the cat back. I would suggest that you do so, as things will go much easier for you with the exhaust out of the way. Use the 17mm socket to remove the four bolts at the flanges located just behind the transmission. We didn't run into any issues with this since we had just recently worked on that area of the car. An older exhaust will surely take more work to remove.

Step 2. Loosen the nuts/bolts at each end of the drive shaft where it meets the two flex discs. There are 3 bolts at each end (see below images). The bolt takes the 18mm socket and the nut takes the 19mm wrench.



This would also be a good time to inspect the flex discs for cracks and damage, and replace them if needed (replacement of the flex discs requires additional tools). Mine were in good shape so I left them alone. Remove the nuts and washers but leave the bolts intact. Then brace the driveshaft while you remove the 13mm bolts that attach the bearing bracket to the underside of the car. (See image on next page)



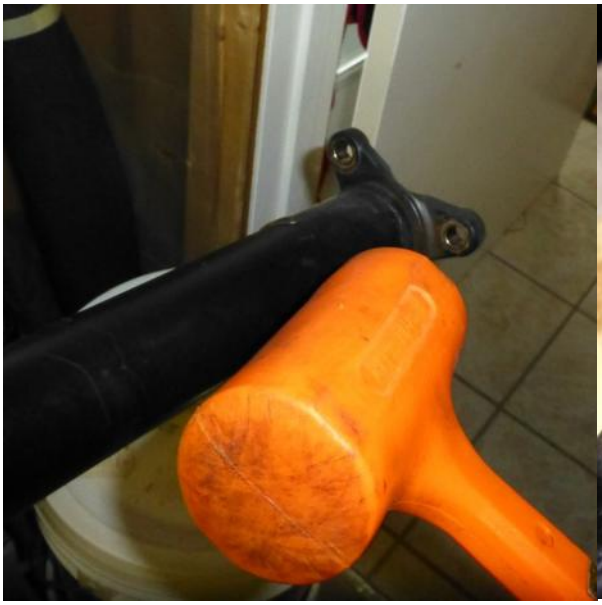
After removing the bolts, continue to brace the driveshaft and have the second person remove the loose bolts from the ends. Remove the driveshaft from the vehicle. With it out from under the car it is much easier to see the extent of the damage.

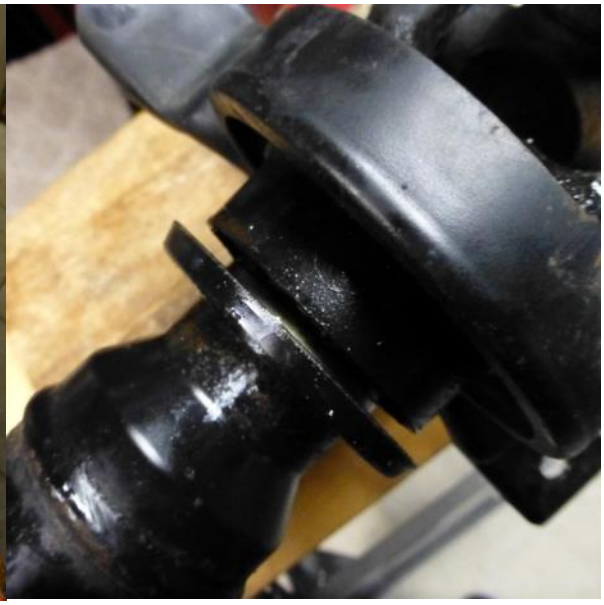


Step 3. Mount the driveshaft to the bench vice by the bearing side u-joint. Then mark the shaft with chalk/pencil/crayon. Line up these marks later when re-installing to avoid balance issues. (See below image) Also, the use of PB Blaster or another penetrating oil may aid you in the next few steps.



Step 4. Now it's time to get out the hammer. Hit the end of the driveshaft away from the bearing (see below image) until the two halves have separated. I'm not going to lie, this will be the most difficult thing to do during this repair. It's going to take time and some elbow grease to get done. As it separates it will begin to look like the second image.





Step 5. Keep the hammer, grab a chisel (or pickle fork if available). Place the chisel between the bearing and the u-joint (see below image) and start hammering. You'll want to work your way around the edge to help keep things from binding. Again…time/elbow-grease.



Here is the new bearing (left) versus the old worn out one (right).



Step 6. Clean up and grease the exposed end of the drive shaft and push the new bearing on by hand as far as you can. Caution: do not use the hammer on the bearing.



Next, realign the loose end of the drive shaft with marks that you made earlier and slide it up as far as you can. With a block of wood at the other end, hammer the driveshaft and bearing back into place.



When everything is seated, it should look like this.



Step 7. Re-install driveshaft and exhaust. Be sure to get the bolts on the flex discs good and tight.

Presidents Scoop

The President's Scoop

By Chris Winslow

For this month, I thought it would be good to slip in a tech article and I thought the one that Brian had prepared a while back would be timely as the rubber on the carrier bearings is not getting any younger on these Gen 5 cars!

As summer winds down, we have a really busy few months coming up in September and October. First up is the fall Wheels In Motion car show. As we have discussed a few times, based on membership feedback we are not going to do a raffle this fall. Instead, I am asking members to please donate any money they would normally have spent on raffle prizes and we will donate that money to the NCCS at the event. For the day of the event, we will need help to cover the gate and help with parking. For this show, they are going to move the registration pop up down near where we collect money, so that will make it easier for folks to know where to go after they get parked.

Next up will be our big show at the Pontiac Museum. I sent a message out last week announcing that the City of Pontiac is going to have an opening ceremony for Centennial Park, where the Route 66 mural is located, on Friday the 18th. The response to that message was overwhelming to stick with our traditional Friday Night Bar-B-Q at the Finkenbinder's. I will be reaching out soon to get a good head count for that event. And, for those that would like to caravan up to Pontiac on that Friday, we will plan to meet for a late breakfast/early lunch at the Cracker Barrel in Troy, IL at 11:00am. We are expecting this to be a big show with the 100th anniversary of Pontiac and Route 66 so you won't want to miss it.

Looking a little farther ahead, we also have some October activities on the books. First up will be the Wheels and Wishes car show on October 10th. That show is organized by Jerry from Top Stitch with all proceeds going to the Make A Wish foundation. Jerry has asked us to supply 5 people to help with parking and the gate during the event so it would great if some of you that are going to attend the show would also help out. I have included the flyer with more details in this newsletter. If you register early there is a discount.

Finally, make sure you have your calendars marked for our Gateway GTO picnic on October 11th. We will once again be at Vago park thanks to Tony Bezzole reserving it for us for the day. As usual the club will provide the meat (burgers, dogs, brats, pork steaks, chicken) and we ask everyone to bring side dishes and desserts to share.



Gateway GTO Meeting Minutes

Minutes 8/6/26

7:02 PM – Meeting Start
Brett Fine, a new member, came to the meeting.

There was a guest speaker that Earl Lewis asked to speak. His name was Craig Trunk from Craig's Customs; a shop located in St. Charles.

7:15 PM – Old Business

Chris Winslow talked about the GTOAA Nationals that were held from July 7th to July 11th in Loveland Colorado. Chris showed some of the awards banquet slide show from the convention, showing Gateway winners.

Chris asked Steve Hedrick to talk about the Tri Power Nationals in Norwalk July 17th – 19th. Steve said that it was a light turnout, probably due to storms and the smoke from the Canadian wildfires.

Chris talked about the tour of the Boeing Prologue room on July 29th. There was a good turnout, with 23 members attending.

7:22 PM – New Business and Upcoming Events

Chris talked about the upcoming Wheels in Motion car show on September 12th at the Church on the Rock. For 2026, we are not doing a raffle. We ask that the members make individual donations instead of gathering donation items. Bob Blattel will be doing some magic shows again.

Chris talked about the All Pontiac Show at the Pontiac Museum from September 18th to 20th. Please be sure to get your hotel reservations as soon as possible. There is a BBQ planned at Finkenbinder's on Friday night. We will need to get a head count for the BBQ so they know how much meat to buy.

Chris asked Robert Woolsey to talk about his tribute car show in Kansas City on August 29th. There are flyers available.

Chris asked Marty Howard to talk about his 81st birthday party at Atomic Pinball on September 13th. There will be a practice session held at Club Howard on August 16th.

Chris mentioned that there will be an Octoberfest car show in St. Charles on September 27th. Stock cars only, age 25 years or older.

Chris talked about the Wheels and Wishes car show being held on October 10th at Calvary church in Cottleville. This show is being held in conjunction with Top Stitch upholstery shop. We will need some help with taking the money at the gate and parking cars. Flyers are available.

Chris mentioned that the Gateway picnic will be held on October 11th at Vago park in Maryland Heights.

7:47 PM – GTOAA

Chris talked about the upcoming National Convention in Kentucky in 2027. Steve Hedrick mentioned that the GTOAA website is in the process of being updated.

7:52 - TECH

Joe Mayweather talked about his car having a wheel cracked on the way back from Loveland. He made it home. There were several cars that had issues at GTOAA Nationals. John Johnson has a transmission linkage issue. The Fogerty's had a possible distributor issue and had to have their car transported back to Pontiac. Frank Chapman had a power steering issue. And the Martins from Utah, who are friends of many Gateway members, had a bearing failure. Terry Schott was kept really busy!

8:09 – PERSONALS

Chris talked about Frank Chapman who is still recovering from surgery for his broken ankle. Frank made it to the GTOAA Nationals. Will Bowers is feeling better after his back treatment. Jon Havens has some back related issues. Tootie May had a slight fall and broke 2 ribs. Brian O'Sullivan had a bicycle accident where he broke his collarbone, a rib and broke his helmet.

The meeting adjourned at 8:16 after a motion by John Johnson and a second by Brian O'Sullivan.

50/50 of $35 dollars was won by Marty Howard.

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

Gateway GTO
Membership Renewal

Gateway GTO Dues for 2026 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

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 Steve Hedrick with any questions:

Steve Hedrick Contact Info:
Phone: 314-640-4020
Email: sthedrick@aol.com



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Collector Cars Against Cancer

Wheels in Motion Day

Charity Car Show
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Saturday, September 12
9 am to 2 pm

All Proceeds Benefit Children in Their Fight with Cancer

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GTOAA Regional All Pontiac Cruise and Show

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Hosted by the...

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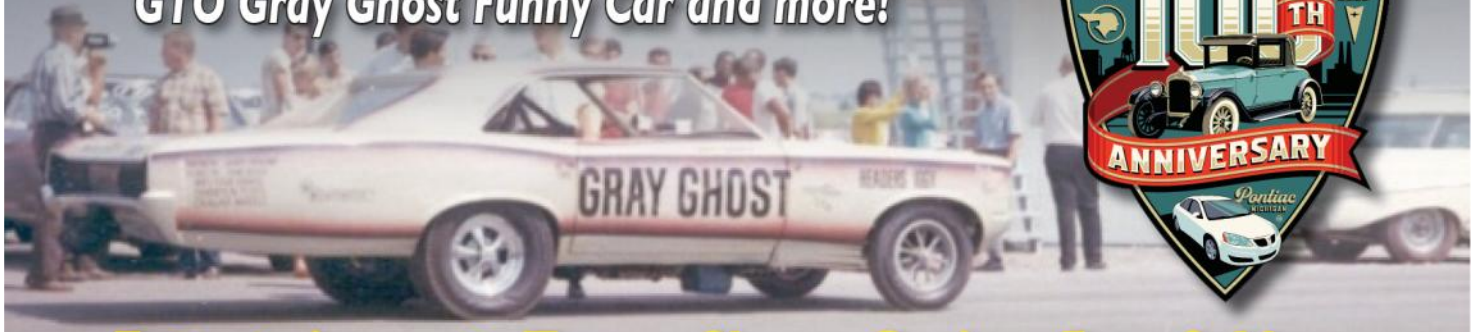
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- Quality Inn 815-844-4444
- Super 8 815-844-6888
- Best Western 815-842-2777

For Information Contact :

Chris Winslow
636-294-8104
chriswinslow@charter.net

Brian Sorensen
630-991-1465
bsorensen1@comcast.net

Pontiac-Oakland Museum • 205 N. Mill Street - Pontiac, Illinois 61764 • Phone - 815-842-2345 • www.pontiacoaklandmuseum.org

Hotels in Pontiac, IL

Best Western
1821 W. Reynolds St.
Pontiac, IL 61764
815-842-2777
GTOAA Rate: 1 King Bed - $129.99 per night
2 Queen Beds - $139.99 per night
Ask for the front desk and mention Group Name **GTO 2026** when reserving room to get rate

Quality Inn
1823 W. Reynolds St.
Pontiac, IL 61764
815-844-4444
GTOAA Rate: 1 King Bed - $129.99 per night
2 Queen Beds - $139.99 per night
Ask for the front desk and mention Group Name **GTO 2026** when reserving room to get rate

Hampton Inn
2000 Grand Prix Drive
Pontiac, IL 61764
815-844-4400
GTOAA Rate: 1 King Bed - $190.00 per night
2 Queen Beds - $180.00 per night
Ask for the front desk and mention Group Name **GTO 2026** when reserving room to get rate

Super 8
601 S. Deerfield Rd.
Pontiac, IL 61764
815-844-6888

BOOK HOTELS EARLY!!! – THERE ARE OTHER EVENTS IN THE AREA THAT WEEKEND

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Contact Jerry 314-608-9636 / Ron 314-503-8228 / Tom 314-915-2144

Pre-Registration until 9/1/26 **PRE-REGISTRATION FORM** (NO REFUNDS)

Year: _____ Make: _____ Model: _____

Class: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Make checks payable to: Wheels and Wishes / 449 Weiss Road, St. Peters, MO 63376
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2026 GATEWAY GTO
CALENDAR OF EVENTS

September

3 - GTO MEETING 7PM at Gingham's

12 - Fall Wheels In Motion Car Show

18-20 - All Pontiac Show at the Pontiac Museum

October

3 - GTO MEETING 7PM at Gingham's

10 - Wheels and Wishes Car Show at Calvary Church in St. Peters - Need 5 volunteers to help with parking

11 - Gateway GTO Picnic at Vago Park

TBD - Winery Run

November

5 - GTO MEETING 7PM at Gingham's

7– Archway Olds Club Trivia Night

SEE THE FULL CALENDAR AT WWW.GATEWAYGTO.ORG

Gateway GTO Classifieds





(314) 496-7368

Jonathan's Q Jet Service

Jonathan Havens

13 Shamblin Dr.
Florissant, MO 63034

(314) 838-5533

Jon's Tri-Power Service

Jon F. 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 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.

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.

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

