

Gateway GTO Hosts the 2017 Regional Car Show in Pontiac Illinois

By

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For the sixth consecutive year, Gateway GTO hosted the annual All Pontiac Regional Car Show in Pontiac, Illinois benefiting the Pontiac Oakland Museum. As we have done the last several years, many of us arrived on Friday afternoon so that we could hit the ground running on Saturday morning getting everyone registered. As usual, Terrie had us covered with reservations for the whole gang in a special meeting room at Bernardi's.

On Saturday morning we convened on the Pontiac town square in front of the Museum and set up for registration. Mark and Sandra Melrose ran the registration with support from several other members including Paula, Bev, Donna and Cheryl.

The main activity for Saturday was a cruise to the Polk-a-Dot drive in restaurant in Braidwood. This iconic Route 66 burger stop is famous for its burgers and its statues of Elvis, Marilyn Monroe and the Blues Brothers. It is a pretty small place and we had a large contingent of cars, but they were well prepared for us. They had even arranged to allow for some of the cruisers to park in the lot of the business next door. They were equally well prepared inside getting everyone's order up in short order.

Not all of us were driving our own car for this trip. Tom Oxler, who was still recovering from shoulder surgery, had to leave his manual transmission back in St. Charles. Instead, Tim pulled his Can Am (which is an automatic) out of the warehouse and Tom drove that instead.



Following lunch several of us stopped by two of the historic gas stations



The activity for Saturday evening was, as usual, a dinner of Bernardi's famous fried chicken. There were two new wrinkles this year, however. First there was a club of military vehicle enthusiasts that were in the midst of a cross country trip in historic military vehicles. They were spending the afternoon and evening with us in Pontiac. So, they joined us for dinner. The second new wrinkle is that dinner, and the show that followed, was held outside this year adjacent to the Pontiac Route 66 wall painting.

The Vermillion Players once again put on a great show. And, in what has somehow become something of a tradition, Rich Vie for the third year in a row was selected from the audience to participate in one of the numbers.



Of course, the main event was the car show on Sunday. We all got to the town square early to get things ready as the military group pulled out for their next stop. As cars arrived we circled them around the town square with the real early birds (and of course Earl) lined up in front of the museum itself.



Speaking of Earl, he once again took charge of the 50/50 (along with some help from his new daughter-in-law Ashley to raise some extra cash for the museum.

Although the quantity of the cars were off a bit this year due to several conflicting events on the same day, the quality of the cars was outstanding. The tallying team, using the software developed for this event by Tammy Hedrick was once again instrumental in a quick turn in compiling the votes from the show. Of course, several of the best cars were from Gateways members. Gateway members winning awards in the car show included Joe Mayweather, Earl Lewis, Rich Lacavich, Cecil Morton, Frank Chapman, Mike Soto, Tony Becker, Ashley Lewis, and Jon Havens and Mark Melrose.

Over the next few weeks we will total up the proceeds from the weekend and make an announcement of our donation to the museum.

