



THE HOOD SCOOP

October 2018

First Installment of Route 66 Cruise Report

By Tom Oxler

Gateway GTO
Association



Editors Note: As everyone knows, Tom and Terrie Oxler organized a Route 66 cruise that started in Pontiac Illinois and ended 2 weeks later in Needles California. Over the next few Hood Scoops, Tom will be providing us articles and photos of their amazing trip - Chris

About 3 years ago, my wife, Terrie, and I started talking about a Route 66 trip with our old 1966 GTO.

We had done two other trips in the past with a 1998 Bonneville and Terrie's 2006 GTO but really wanted to do one in the 1966 GTO. For these 3 years, we began researching places to stay, places to eat and sights we wanted to see along the route. Our first decision was to bring on Don and Janice Duryea as we quickly realized



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Route 66 Cruise - The Introduction



we needed Route 66 experts and after viewing the Duryea's Route 66 presentation at the 2017 GTOAA Convention in Springfield, Illinois, we knew Don and Janice were just what the Route 66 Street Legends Cruise needed.

The decision to start the Cruise in Pontiac, Illinois was an easy one since GTOAA sponsors a Pontiac Museum Regional event in late September and we would already have a bunch of Pontiacs and GTOs attending. Also, the weather might be a bit cooler on the old GTOs and Pontiacs when we get into New Mexico and Arizona. Weather was also part of the decision to stop the Cruise in Needles, California as Needles is right at the beginning of the Mojave Desert with a long drive in the desert heat and then the traffic in Los Angeles. Terrie and I had completed the entire route twice before and felt the desert and traffic would not work well with the old GTOs and Pontiacs. Thus, we would touch all seven states on Route 66.

I presented this idea to the GTOAA Board of Directors and they whole heartedly agreed and authorized the purchase of banner, decals and printing necessary for the trip. We had two decals designed, one for everyone who participated and one for everyone who completed the entire route. We also purchased a banner with the whole route shown that would be used each morning at our Drivers Meeting and group photo showing everyone our progress across Route 66.

Notices and articles appeared in both *The Legend* and *Smoke Signals* and the registrations began coming in. We ended up with a total of 56 GTOs and Pontiacs with 104 people signing up for part or all of the GTOAA Route 66 Street Legends Cruise. We averaged 27 cars per day with as many as 35 in any one given day except for days when we were joined by several GTOAA and POCI Chapters along the way.

We ended up with 34 GTOs, 8 Pontiacs, a 1963 ½ Ford, a 1968 Cadillac, several daily drives and 2 motorhomes. The GTOAA turn-out was excellent with 36 of the 56 being members of GTOAA. Although we sent info to just GTOAA and POCI publications, several friends of GTO and Pontiac people were allowed in thus the Ford and Cadillac. Looking at the registrations, we had cars from as far away as South Dakota, South Carolina, Utah, Florida, California, Mississippi, Kansas, Texas, Illinois, Missouri, Oklahoma, New Mexico, Arizona, Wisconsin, Alabama and Nevada.

The turn out for the GTOAA Route 66 Street Legends Cruise was spectacular. The GTOs and Pontiacs were a sight to behold especially on some of the very oldest sections of Route 66. Most of the cars made the entire trip with a few, yours truly, being towed home or having our crack team of Pontiac Mechanics make field repairs. The people attending are what we will all remember as we will all be friends for life. You do not spend 14 days with people without getting to know them and Terrie & I can certainly say we have hundreds of new friends across the country because of the GTOAA Route 66 Street Legends Cruise.



Route 66 Cruise - Day 1 - Sept 17, 2018 Pontiac, IL to Raymond IL



Don & Janice Duryea and Terrie & I arrived in front of the Pontiac Museum in Pontiac, IL to a crowd of 21 GTOs, Pontiacs and daily drivers anxious to get going on the first ever GTOAA Route 66 Street Legends Cruise. Terrie handed out goody bags with our special Street Legends Cruise decals. As we would do every morning before we began, Don & I had our Drivers Meeting where we talked about what we would see and do today and any special instructions needed along the way. We got everyone together and drove over to the Route 66 Mural for our Group picture with our banner showing everyone just where we were.

Mayor Bob Russel and Museum Curator, Tim Dye, escorted our 21 vehicles out of Pontiac in the Mayor's Firebird and



Route 66 Cruise - Day 1 - Sept 17, 2018 Pontiac, IL to Raymond IL



waved good-bye and we proceeded south on old Route 66. Our first stop was Memory Lane in Lexington, IL. This is a very old section of Route 66 was built in 1926 and recently restored. Notice how narrow the lanes are compared to the Wide Track Pontiacs. Two Pontiacs could not pass each other on this old road for sure.

Our next stop was Sprague's Super Service station in Normal, IL. This is an old Cities Service Station built in 1931 by William Sprague as an independent gas station, restaurant and garage that has been completely restored with a nice gift shop. The owner saw us pull in and opened the gift shop as they are normally closed on Mondays. This is very typical of the renaissance that is taking place on Route 66. Many of the old stations are being refurbished to the way they were 80-90 years ago. The girls all found something in the gift store and especially if the shirts had any bling on them.

Continuing through Bloomington, IL to Funks Grove where again, the owners opened

their maple "sirup" store, yes, that is how they spell it, just for us as they had sold all of their sirup several weeks ago. Funk's Grove was founded in 1824 by Isaac Funk to farm and raise Cattle. The maple trees and the sirup were used for personal use until 1891 when the first sirup store was opened. We got some great pictures and sampled some of the sirup. Not like the stuff you buy at the store.

Our lunch stop was at the Palms Café in Atlanta. The Palms first opened in 1934 on old Route 66 had a great buffet waiting for us with fried chicken and all of the fixings like mashed potatoes and gravy. I mention gravy as this will be a recurring theme throughout our entire trip: fried foods smothered in gravy. During lunch, Atlanta volunteer, Bill Thomas, gave us a very interesting history of Atlanta and the Palms Grill. Everyone had plenty of time to walk around Atlanta where pictures with Paul Bunyan seemed to be the most popular.

After lunch, Don & Janice herded the GTOs and Pontiacs back onto the old route and



bypassed Springfield to get to the older portion of Route 66. Several Cruisers went into Springfield to visit the Lincoln Museum, Home and Grave Site which if you have not seen, are really worth your time. Many of us had seen these sights during the GTOAA National Convention in Springfield, IL in 2017.

We pulled off onto an original 1.4 mile brick portion of old Route 66 that was constructed in 1936. Back in the day, many roads were paved with clay bricks so we all had a chance to drive about a mile on one of the oldest sections still in use.

A few miles down Route 4 (old 66) lies the Turkey Tracks. Legend has it that a flock of turkeys walked across the fresh cement leaving their tracks in the old 12-foot pavement back in 1926. The tracks used to be very hard to find but the Illinois Route 66 Foundation has done a great job of marking just where the Turkey Tracks



Route 66 Cruise - Day 1 - Sept 17, 2018 Pontiac, IL to Raymond IL



are located. They may have done it because many people would knock on the farmer's door asking where they were.

From the Turkey Tracks, we headed towards our Host Hotel, the Magnuson in Raymond, IL for some refreshments and dinner. There were no mechanical issues today but the weather was well into the 90s and most of our motors were running hot, even without air conditioning. However, Tom Kelly broke down on his way to Pontiac so he had his GTO towed home and brought his Toyota Pickup. Rich Vie had to get his A/C repaired as it broke on his way to the Pontiac Museum Regional. Little did Rich know that this would be one of many repair issues he would have to deal with. Dale Grunewaldt had some transmission problems that he found while attending the Pontiac Museum Regional but Alan

Finkenbinder from Pontiac called a local repair shop and Dale was able to get his 67 GTO fixed before we left on Monday morning.





Presidents Scoop

The Presidents Scoop

By Terry Schott

We are halfway through October and it seems like the summer has just flown by. As usual, September was a busy month for Gateway. There is always the Wheels in Motion charity car show in the beginning followed by our Pontiac Regional event.

The regionals were another big success this year. The weather was a little warmer than normal, but it's sure better than rain. We had a great turnout with right at 200 cars. The Saturday cruise was another great event. Our thanks go out to Gateway member Alan Finkenbinder for another job well done. He has done a great job every year to allow us to witness private collections of cars, boat, and antique tractors. Without his help, we probably would never get to see a lot of these specialty vehicles.

This year on Monday after the Regional event was the start of the Rt. 66 Street Legends tour from Pontiac, IL to Needles, CA. A special thanks to Tom & Terrie Oxler for the months of planning it took to set up this special GTOAA event. As usual, it was a well-planned and organized event. Our thanks also go out to Don & Janice Duryea for all the great knowledge of Rt. 66 and to lead us throughout the tour. Their knowledge of old Rt. 66 is amazing and they can show you spots that are pretty well hidden and would be easily missed without their guidance.

Gail and I were lucky enough to get off work to participate and it was an amazing event. The group of people we met all seemed to fit together and we made a lot of new friends from all over the country. Our 70 convertible was running and we did take it to lunch when the group passed through town. (It was only a 4 mile trip.) It still has too many bugs to work out to try to take it for a 4200 mile trip. We ended up taking our 2006 and it did a great job. No problems at all and it got twice the gas mileage that the 70 would have.

A few of the older cars did have a few problems along the way to deal with. With the help of Alan Finkenbinder, mechanic, Frank Chapman, the parts store in a station wagon, and many others, we were able to keep everyone going. I know Tom will be writing a story on it, so I'll let him expound on the rest of the tales. We had people from other clubs visit us and help do repairs as well.

We were proud to be members of GTOAA as we traveled across the country. The GTO clubs in New Mexico and Arizona did a great job of supporting and helping us as we passed through their states. Special thanks to all who helped with the Gateway meal that was hosted at the hotel in St. Clair, MO. We want to thank Chris Winslow and Steve Hedrick as well as others who helped to make it a success. Many of the group thanked me for the gener-





Presidents Scoop

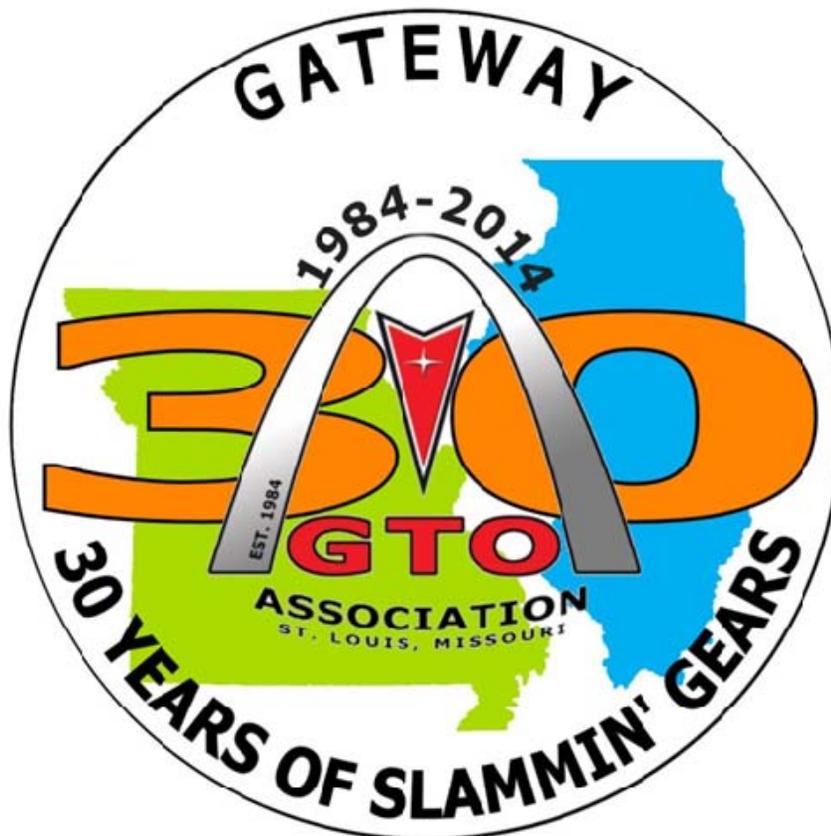


osity of our club.

I'd also like to thank Chris Winslow for taking over my duties at Gateway while we were gone. He made up the agenda, and ran the October meeting as well as sending out emails and proofreading. I really do appreciate the great job he did as well.

Thanks to Marty Howard for organizing a wine cruise on Sunday, October, 14, to Montelle Winery. We were unable to attend, but I'm sure it was a good time as usual.

Our last major cruise of the year will be the Tiger Cruise on the weekend of October 27 – 28. The cruise will head south in Illinois and take the ferry across the Mississippi River to Ste. Genevieve, Missouri. Thanks to Dan and Anita Jackson for all the planning and work they have put into this event, as well. I'm looking forward to seeing everyone there.





Gateway GTO Christmas Party



Stepping Out for the Holidays

Saturday, December 8, 2018 5:00PM – 10:30PM

Webster Groves Barn
1155 South Rock Hill Road
Webster Groves, Missouri 63119

Enjoy a festive evening dressed in Black and/or White attire

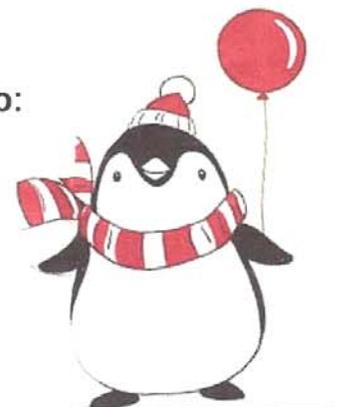
Be Fancy or Be Funny but Be Sure to Be There!

BYOB, Buffet meal \$15 per person, \$30/Couple

Bring a Rob-Your-Neighbor Gift (\$20-\$30)

For Reservations send a check by November 30th to:

Will Bowers
1 Goshen Woods
Edwardsville, Illinois 62025





Meeting Minutes



GGTOA Minutes: 10/4/18

7:02PM – Meeting start – Old Business

Wheels in Motion show went great. We should have donation totals next month.

The Pontiac Event was successful. There were about 200 cars and dinner was excellent. We should have donation totals next month.

The Route 66 Cruise went well, except the Oxler's had trouble with the 66' GTO. The St. Louis theme dinner was tasty.

The Dents Express BBQ was good. There were only 2 GTOs but there were a lot of Mustangs and Camaros. They showed how plastic welding and paintless dent removal worked.

The Gateway Club Picnic was hot but well attended. Tom Oxler and Gail Schott won the washers tournament.

7:10 – New Business

Dan Jackson talked about the St. Genevieve cruise. It is \$15 cash only for the Mississippi river ferry.

Marty Howard talked about a potential wine cruise on October 14th.

7:16 – Upcoming Events

10/27-10/28 – Illinois/St. Genevieve Fall Cruise (CSE)

12/8 – Gateway GTO Christmas Party (CSE)

7:21 – GTOAA – Steve Hedrick mentioned that the host hotel for next year's convention is filling up. He also said that the GTOAA website has an archive of old articles that can be

accessed now.

7:24 – Tech

Chris Winslow talked about Tom Oxler's breakdown on the Route 66 Cruise

Steve Hedrick brought in a toy GTO that he's had for years. It's a 71 bodystyle GTO that transforms into a tank. It's from an 80's cartoon called M.A.S.K..

Chris Winslow talked about a plastic welding kit he used on his 04 GTO bumper. It worked well and if anyone wants to use it, he still has some left.

7:28 – Club Personals

Kerry Friedman is recovering from heart issues.

Terry Oxler's dad is still dealing with health problems.

Darrell May had stint surgery on his heart and is doing ok now.

Steve Hedrick is recovering from shoulder surgery.

7:35 – Motion to Adjourn by Paula Winslow, seconded by Will Bowers.

No 50/50



Gateway GTO Donation to the Pontiac Museum



Another Successful Event in Pontiac Illinois

By Chris Winslow

Now that the GTOAA Regional Event is in the books, we have had time to assess the results. The consensus is that the event was a huge success. We will, as always make a few adjustments for next year. For example, base on the cars that turned out this year we need more Trans Am classes and probably 1 less Fiero class. But, with over 200 cars registered for the show, it was one of the biggest GTOAA events at Pontiac ever.

The size of the event also led to a great financial result for the museum. Once all the expenses such as the cost of trophies and the chicken dinners were accounted for, we raised a total of \$5300 (including 50/50). That check was delivered in person on Sunday October 21st. The check was presented to the museum on behalf of Gateway GTO, Heart of Illinois GTO, and Windy City GTO by Tom Oxler.





Year Of The 9's



Calling all owners of 1969 GTO's!

**In 2019, in celebration of:
50th Anniversary of the 1969 GTO**

The Hoodscope 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



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 number: _____

GTO Association of America membership renewal date: _____

(found on address label of *Legend*)

PLEASE FILL IN ALL FIELDS

And mail with check to:

Will Bowers, Treasurer
Gateway GTO Association
1 Goshen Woods Lane
Edwardsville, IL 62025

Membership dues are \$35.00 per year, which includes you and one associate member (spouse, girlfriend, etc.) and your GTOAA yearly membership.

Gateway GTO Association Points Submission Form

Member Name _____

Month _____

Club Sponsored Events and Monthly Meetings

Event	With GTO (40 Points)	Without GTO (20 Points)

Total for Club Sponsored Events _____

Non Sponsored Events

Event	With GTO (10 Points)	Without GTO (5 Points)

Total for Non Sponsored Events _____

Other Activities

GTO Regional/National Event	With GTO (100 Points)	Without GTO(70 Points)

- GGTOA Event Worker/Helper (50 Points) _____
- Car Featured as GTO of the Month (50 Points) _____
- Write an Article for *Hood Scoop* (50 Points) _____
- Sign up a new GGTOA member (25 Points) _____
- Have GTO featured in a National Pub (40 Points) _____

Total Points for Month

Submit completed form at GGTOA monthly meeting or to:
 B. O'Sullivan
 10637 St. Phillip Lane
 St. Anne, MO 63074

To access form from GatewayGTO.com, click below
<http://www.gatewaygto.org/clubpoints.html>

2018 GATEWAY GTO CALENDAR OF EVENTS

October

4 - GTO MEETING 7PM at Sports Café (CLUB SPONSORED)

13 - JJ's Cruises at 1215 S. Duschene in St. Charles

27-28 - Gateway GTO Fort de Chartres/Ste Genevieve/Tiger Sanctuary Cruise (CLUB SPONSORED).

November

1 - GTO MEETING 7PM at Sports Café (CLUB SPONSORED)

30 -

December

8 - GATEWAY GTO CHRISTMAS PARTY at Webster Groves Barn in Webster Groves, MO,
See flyer in this newsletter (CLUB SPONSORED)

SEE THE FULL CALENDAR AT WWW.GATEWAYGTO.ORG

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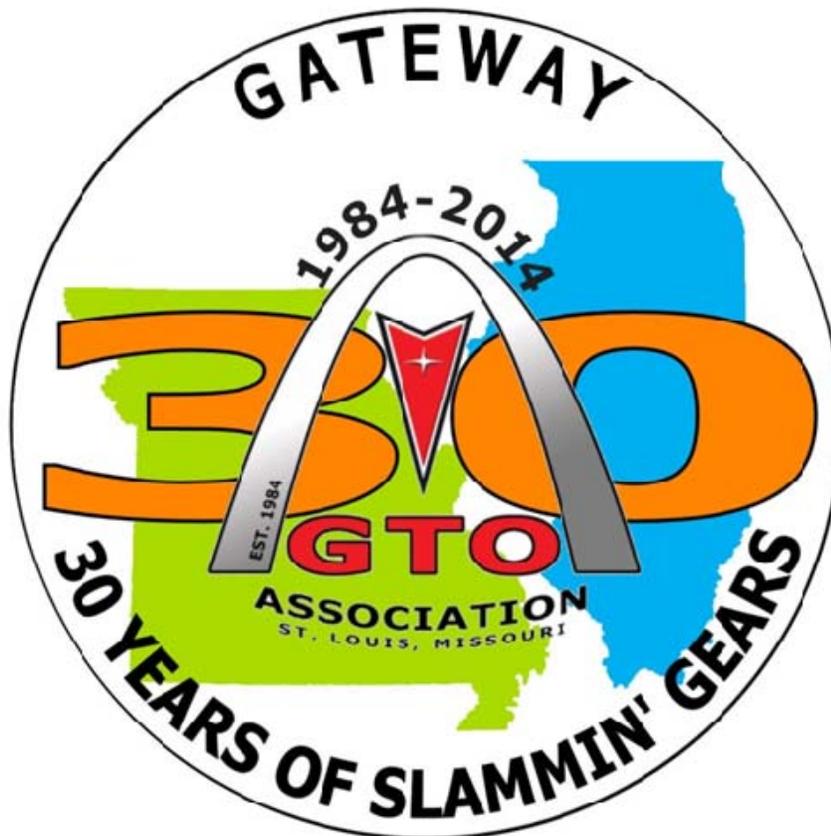
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Classified ads up to 50 words are free to members; add 10 cents per word for any ad over 50 words. Payment is due upon submission. (members need to update ads at 3 month intervals or ads will be dropped). Classified ads up to 50 words for non-members 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 Sports Café 3579 Pennridge Dr, Bridgeton, MO 63044

Membership dues are \$35.00 per year and all renewals are required to be paid by December 31st. You are allowed to have one associate member.

Club Sponsor



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GTO Association of America**

**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**

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.

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