

Wheels In Motion Spring Car Show

by Chris Winslow



The Wheels In Motion car shows are probably the most significant of the charity events that Gateway GTO supports every year. Starting last year, in cooperation with the First Capital Classics who run the show each year, we expanded the event to two shows per year and moved the event to the Church on the Rock in St. Peters.

This new location has really worked out well for a few reasons. First, the church has a large parking lot for the show and lots of adjacent parking for spectators. Additionally, the way the parking lot is laid out, there is a long entry drive on the south side of the lot that allows us to route cars onto the show field and collect money from the owners without backing up onto the Birdie Hills Drive, which runs in front of the church. And, probably most importantly, the church has been an amazing partner for these shows. They provide the parking lot and tables and chairs for the event. They advertise the show and have a large electronic sign to attract attention. They also provide a DJ for the event and arrange for other things like Jonny on the Spots. Without all of the outstanding support from the church, this event would not be possible.

For the Spring 2026 show, we started the morning with really nice weather. The show was scheduled to start at 9:00, but several of us arrived around 7:00 to make sure the early birds paid to enter the show field. As is usually the case, cars started to arrive shortly after 7:00. So, by 7:30, Brian and Amy O'Sullivan and I were manning the entrance and already pretty busy. As the morning continued, we were relieved by others from the club including Terry and Gail Schott and Jim and Shelly Schneider.

For this show, the First Capital Classics club had decided to try their hand at running a raffle similar to the one that Gateway has done in the past. To help them with that, we lent



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them our raffle supplies, including the raffle ticket tubs. Also, Paula spent most of the morning with them helping with operating the raffle tent.

Bob Blattel was also at the event to perform magic shows for the children. This is one of the highlights of these car shows for the children from the church and also any children that are



there from the National Children's Cancer Society (NCCS). Bob did two shows at the event and both were well attended by children and adults.

Earl, who is the driving force behind Gateways participation in these events and also a huge supporter of NCCS, had not been feeling well in the days leading up to the event. He tried



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to soldier on the morning of the show, but ultimately had to head back home. Earl had, however, raised over \$1400 in advance of the show including a donation from Will and Donna Bowers.

Earl and Barb normally run the 50/50 for these shows, but with Earl under the weather, Sharon Wildebrandt volunteered to take over along with help from Ron. The two of them





worked the show field and ultimately they raised a total of \$350, allowing a 50/50 donation of \$175.

As the morning continued, the weather began to head in the wrong direction, so the First Capital Classics club decided to accelerate the program so that people could leave by about 1:00 before the bad weather rolled in.

In support of the accelerated schedule, Paula grabbed the ballot box and tallied the ballots for the three categories for the event. Those were Peoples Choice, Ladie's Choice, and Kids



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Vote. When the ballots were totaled up Gateways John Blankenship won the Peoples Choice award for his 1964 GTO Convertible!

The First Capital Classics club drew the winners for the raffle prizes and then everyone started to pack up to beat the weather. Most folks were able to get on their way before the rain started, although a number of us wound up getting caught in the rain on the way home.

Once it was all tallied up, First Capital Classics president, Bill Brecht, let me know that Gateway had collected a total of \$3200 from the gate. This translates to a total car attendance of 128 cars. (Actually we know at least one person intentionally snuck into the show to avoid paying on the way in. So, we had at least 129 cars. It is extremely disappointing that somebody would do that to avoid a donation to the NCCS). Overall, when the Bill totaled up the donations that Earl raised, the 50/50 from Sharon and Ron, the money the Olds club raised selling



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snow cones, and the money from the raffle, the event raised a total of \$4416.

This was the first of these events since Gateway has been participating where Sharon Mercer was not in charge for First Capital Classics. Sharon has for decades been a driving force for this show. I thought that Bill and the rest of the club did a great job pulling it all together given that for the past years Sharon largely planned and operated the whole event largely singlehandedly. Sharon and Al did make it to the event and I got a chance to talk to her for just a few minutes. She was busy tallying up the number of attendees, so she was hard at it as usual.

Once again Gateway really stepped up to help with a great cause. We will plan on supporting the fall show in September. We did decide, by the way, last fall that we were not going to do the raffle at the fall show any longer because in fact we determined it was collectively costing us more money to conduct the raffle than we were raising. So, for this fall, as we discussed last year, we are asking everyone to provide donations for the fall show. We will gather up all of the donations and give them to the NCCS in lieu of conducting the raffle.

