

# THE HOOD SCOOP

August 2005



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**The Hood Scoop** is published as an informative news bulletin to keep our members up to date on past, present, and future events.

**Gateway GTO Association Meetings**

Are held monthly. Dates, times, and locations are listed in the **Upcoming Events** section of the newsletter.

**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 put your name and date and a description of the event on the back and send them to the Photo Album Editor.

**The Gateway GTO Association is an official chapter of the GTO Association of America**

**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 Wednesday of the month at Culpeppers Restaurant St. Charles Mo. 3010 West Clay 636-916-3105

**Membership dues are \$20.00 per year and all renewals are required to be paid by December 31st. You are allowed to have one associate member.**

*Club Sponsors*



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**Advertising Guidelines**

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. Advertising rates are: full page \$25.00, 1/2 page \$15.00,

1/4 page \$7.00 for three (3) months running time. Payment is due upon submission, discount of 10% for one year pre-paid. Acceptance is at the sole discretion of the editor. All ads should be submitted to Don Bright by the 10th of the month.

## Gateway GTO Association Ads

### For sale

#### Literature:

1964-1972 GTO Restoration Guides

New from club store \$15.00

Contact Chris Simmons @ 636-456-3653

#### Wheels:

Set of 4 OEM N77 deluxe aluminum wheel with 6 spoke design. 17X7 with 6 on 5 pattern off 2002 GMC Envoy SUV. Asking \$400.00 OBO. Contact Don @ 636-240-2229 (AUG)

### Wanted

#### Lionel Trains

American Flyer Marx. Ho-N-G Gauge, Rail road. Books and memorabilia, Free appraisals.

Contact John Novelli @ 636-925-9916 or 314-495-0332

### Services Available

#### Tony's Carburetor Rebuilding

Call Tony Bezzole between 9am-1pm @ 314-878-6892

#### ABC DJ Productions

All types of occasions from weddings to retirement parties. Disc Jockey & Video.

Contact Mobile Marty Howard @ 636-724-8641

#### Cee-Jay Auto Body

ASE & I-CAR Certified shop

2123 East 23rd Street

Granite City Il.

Contact Cecil Morton@618-452-9553

#### Card Services Inc.

#13 Hawks Nest Plaza

St. Charles Mo.

Contact Craig Glenn @ 636-946-9892

#### Painting, Pin striping and Restorations

Contact Pat Loy @ 314-550-8745



The Presidents Scoop  
PRESIDENT'S SCOOP  
AUGUST 19, 2005

I would first like to thank those that came to the meeting this month. The attendance was a little light so I hope that means everyone was out of town on vacation. I look forward to seeing you at the September meeting.

Following are some of the things you might be interested in this month. Please be aware this is a very small sample of events. For an up-to-date list be sure to check the website at [www.gatewaygto.com](http://www.gatewaygto.com) under "calendar".

The POCI club has invited us to the Drive-In on Saturday, August 27. I hope everyone can come out and have a great time. The other thing everyone might be interested in is the Fenton, MO car cruise next month on Friday, September 2. I have heard that Car Craft will be there to photograph the cruise. This would be a great chance to see some GTO's in the pages of Car Craft Magazine. Also, make sure you mark your calendar for the club picnic on Sunday, September 18. Bring out your ride and have a great meal and good company. If you plan to come, give me a call or drop me an email so I can get a head count for food. Chris and I are eager to cook up some grub for everyone. I hope to see you there.

As most of you might know, I still haven't gotten my new GTO. The release of the 2006 GTO information indicates there will be no *yellow jacket*. So the clock is ticking, to yellow or not to yellow, that is the question.

OK, don't forget about the meeting next month and remember to mention you're a GTO club member at any of the Gateway Pontiac Dealers. If you have any questions or want to be in charge of an event let me know.

Steve

15<sup>th</sup> Annual Cruisin' Tigers car show Sunday Aug. 14<sup>th</sup>  
by Vic Nettle

Joyce and I drove to Chicago early (Thursday) and with local friends took in some of the sights Friday (Signature room restaurant for lunch on the 96<sup>th</sup> floor of the Hancock Bldg., the Millennium Park, the architectural tour of Chicago and a speedboat ride on the 4000 horsepower Seadog, followed by dinner in Chinatown).

Saturday we drove to the VOLO Auto Museum where we met Jim and Kathy Kiburz, Will and Donna Bowers, Darrell and Tootie May. We saw quite a few very nice GTOs and cars of most other makes priced as high as \$125,999.00.

Afterwards we went to the Hotel and then to eat in Warrenville at an Italian restaurant where Donna's daughter Emily and her husband Chris joined us. Supper was followed by Ice Cream of course. Later back at Candlewood Suites Steve, Tammy, Krista, and Lucas Hedrick arrived late after driving through rain most of the way from St Louis. Bill and Denise Kirk and their children met us at the car show Sunday.

Sunday we left the hotel at 8:30 and stopped at McDonald's for a bit of breakfast on the way to Geneva where there were about 350 Pontiacs attending the car show. Arnie Beswick and Jim Wangers were in attendance as was Linda Vaughn whose 60<sup>th</sup> birthday happened to be August 14<sup>th</sup>.

There was a B-17 flyover as the National Anthem was sung. The weather was good with the heat having left Friday, clouds shielding us from the sun, and no rain.

Many fine Pontiacs of various body styles and models were on display. After ballots were counted using an old voting machine Bill Kirk's Plum 67 GTO Convertible won a first place. Other St Louis cars shown were: the Hedricks' 67 Red Sport Coupe GTO; the Kiburz's Blue 67 GTO Hardtop; and the Nettles' Black 70 GTO Hardtop. Everybody seemed to have a good time talking to old friends and making some new friends.

After the car show the group went to eat at a Mexican restaurant where Emily and Chris joined us. Some of us did not make the return trip until Monday. We were the last to hit the road at 11:15AM and averaged 13 mpg arriving home at 3:55PM.

## THE RIVIERA

“The Riviera” - What is the first thing that comes to mind? The Mediterranean coast, blue waters, where the rich and famous spend their vacations? How about The Riviera on Old Rte 66!

A group of club members met early for breakfast on August 6 at Scottie’s in Hamel. Our Illinois chapter vice president, Cecil Morton and his wife, Annette, were leading the group consisting of Will and Donna Bowers, Marty Howard and Sharon Hughes, Tom and Terrie Oxler, Cheryl and Don Knowland (POCI members) and Ed and Patty Anderson (he works for Cecil) to Pontiac, Illinois for Rock ‘N Rods on Route 66. This was a different kind of car show as it also involved Ed “Big Daddy” Roth’s custom vehicles. There was a swap meet, numerous food tents and Route 66 memorabilia. Entertainment was provided by the bands, The Fireballs and The Rockin’ Fendershirts, as we sat on bleachers in the middle of a cornfield. (Of course, we had to call our own Buddy Holly impersonator, Mark O, so he could listen to the music!)

Anyway, back to The Riviera! A representative from The Riviera Restaurant was providing samples of their food fare and explaining how quaint the restaurant was so of course the adventurous Gateway GTO club members had to check it out. (It was only another 20 miles down the road!)

The Riviera Restaurant and Tavern is located on Rte 53 (Old Rte. 66) 60 miles south of Chicago, between the villages of Gardner and Braceville. It was during the Great Depression in the year 1928 that the Riviera came into being. James Girot, a businessman decided to build. South Wilmington, a nearby coal mining community, was suffering economic woes and many men were unemployed. Mr. Girot put many to work. He moved buildings from Gardner and South Wilmington and put them together to form The Riviera as it stands now. The upper floor housed the restaurant, the lower portion of the building was the tavern. The barroom is unique. It reminds one of entering a cave. Stalactites hanging from the ceiling and the lighting add much to the effect. The menu for The Riviera was and still is homemade Italian food, also chicken, steak and seafood. In 1933 Mr. Girot added a gasoline station to the establishment but that was closed many years ago.

Bob and Peggy Kraft (now in their 80s) acquired The Riviera from the Girot family in 1972. They are carrying on the traditions. Among the famous customers of The Riviera were such names as the former Governors of Illinois, Horner, Green, Stevenson, Stratton, US Senator Irv Dirksen. Movie greats such as Tom Mix, the western star, and Gene Kelly, the dancer, always stopped. Al Capone and his brother, Ralph, often came in. They had an interest in alcohol stills in nearby Kankakee County. During Prohibition, a section of land just east of Gardner was known as the “Hole in the Wall”.

Along the east side was a cement post that, at one time, was part of a farm gate. In the post was a hole. For those who desired the alcohol, “White Lightning”, they had to put \$1 in the hole, place the empty jug on the ground, and drive around the section. When they arrived back to the post the money would be gone but their jug would be full to the top.

The Riviera can now add to its list of famous customers, members of the Gateway GTO Association. The owners must have known we were “special”, as we had a back room all to ourselves which was probably a good thing since things got out of hand when someone in the group used the bathroom and returned to the table telling everyone they had to check it out. Needless to say, we must have shocked the remaining customers in the restaurant as we all checked out the bathroom. To add to the quaintness of The Riviera, one must climb steps to reach “the throne”!

So we left The Riviera, set in the middle of a cornfield, in the middle of nowhere in Illinois, with lots of laughter resonating through the night as some of us headed back to Pontiac and some others headed home. That’s what it is all about – cruising with your friends, attending car shows, finding the out-of-the way places for making memories, and even a “throne”.



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