



THE HOOD SCOOP

April 2024

GATEWAY GTO CRUISE TO BONNE TERRE, MO

By Gail Schott

Gateway GTO
Association



Saturday morning, April 20, turned out to be a gorgeous day for a Springtime cruise with our GTO's. The sun was bright, the air crisp enough for a light jacket, and the cars all had their shine on! Those in attendance were Schotts, O'Sullivan's, Oxlers, Winslows, Bowers, Lewis, Melrose Wildebrandts, Vies, and friends of the Schott's, Fuszners, with their black 1963 Ford Galaxie. We met at the Rt. 66 State Park Visitor's Center in Eureka, MO, lined up for a photo shoot and headed out. Well, all but *one* of us headed out! The Fuszner's '63 Galaxie had developed a fuel leak as a result of a cracked fuel pump. Some of us were coming down on them pretty hard with all of the possible terms for the F.O.R.D. acronym, like "Fix Or Repair Daily" and "Found On Road Dead"! They'd heard it all before and had a laugh with us. However, they *were* able to get a replacement, get it installed, get back on the road, and catch up with us just in time for our lunch stop. So, who's laughing now?! 😊

After lunch at Hubs Pub and Grill in Bonne Terre, where they had given us a whole room to ourselves (guess they thought we might get a little rowdy!) we drove the short distance to **The Space Museum and Grissom Center**. It was a rather small museum but was packed with NASA paraphernalia and history. One of the volunteers there, Earl, was highly informative and told us of many stories and aspects of space exploration, the astronauts, and equipment used. We enjoyed the amazing robot, Max Q. We watched as he narrated the immersive Shuttle Experience. It was unfortunate that our extended wait at lunch pushed our time schedule a little off and we wish we could have spent more time there.

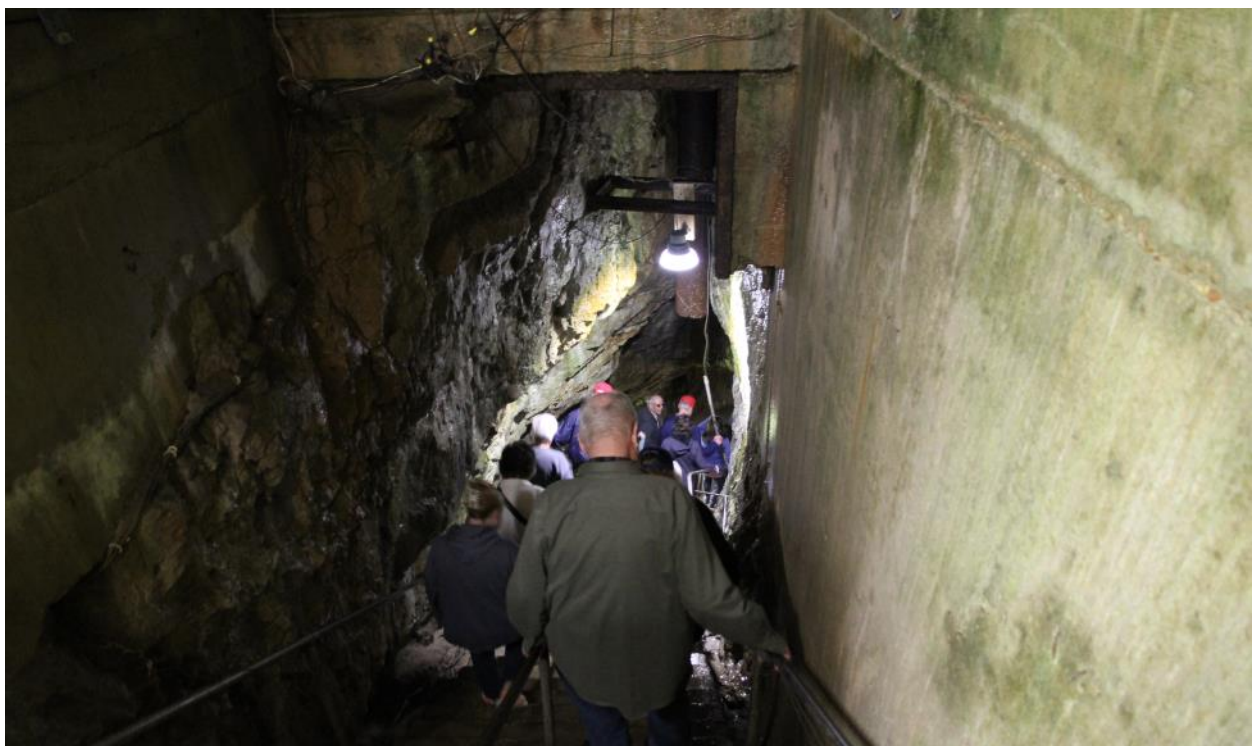
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The Mine at Bonne Terre was just a short walk away from The Space Museum. We left our trusty steeds at the museum and headed to the mine. A number of our group chose not to enter the non-ADA mine with its 65 wet, somewhat muddy, potentially slippery steps to enter the mine. They were able to stay at the Space Museum and wait for the rest of us to return. We entered at the mule entrance. Never mind the chuckles and various other names used for the entrance! This was a long ramp from which in the early days of the mine the mules used to haul the galena, or lead ore, out of the mine. Then came the steps! They really weren't that bad, but it was dark, damp, and the occasional water drops would hit you, but there were hand-rails the whole way which made it much easier. We saw the many rooms that the mining oper-



ation had created, and the tall thick pillars left behind that supported the whole mine. There were rusted and dirty rock drills, railroad tracks, and ore carts. Way up high, we could see wooden slats for walkways where miners could walk or work and abandoned elevator shafts for bringing up or sending down equipment or people.



We descended 2 levels or 200 feet until we got to the BILLION-gallon crystal clear lake below the earth's surface where we continued to learn about the history of mining. How did the lake get there? When the mining operations ended, the majority of the pumps were turned off and the groundwater began to flow into the mine. The mine is now the home to the world's largest subterranean lake! "West End Diving" is the current owner and operator of the mine and lake, and you have the opportunity to take scuba diving lessons and get your diving certification. There were several scuba students and classes going on during our visit and many of us were surprised to see that the typical skin-



tight wet suits that you see so frequently on television shows were not that way at all. However, the tanks, masks, and flippers were all in accordance with our typical thoughts. Renowned scuba diver Jacques Cousteau had been at the mine's lake in anticipation of a one-day dive and ended up spending 5 days exploring its many caverns and sights.

From the dock, we all donned our orange "Mae West" life jackets and boarded a pontoon boat for a short trip on the lake. The excursion took us around the limestone pillars in the largest rooms of the mine. Features of the boat tour were the No. 1 elevator shaft, submerged ore carts, wrapped pillars, and ancient abandoned overhead wooden catwalks suspended 50-100 feet above the lake. We returned to the dock and started the trek back up the steps. Once back on top, all were present and accounted for!

Our cruise continued a little further down the highway to the **Missouri Mines State Historic Site**. This was the former processing plant for lead and zinc. The plant was this huge assortment of rusting, broken window structures and long conveyor systems. It looked as if it could be the scene for a murderous movie. Kinda spooky! We had a tour guide tell us a few things about the processing and equipment and tractors used in their operations. Terry Schott even got to operate parts of the old electric train that had been used in the mine. There was also a huge display of minerals and geodes at the processing plant. Coincidentally, one even had the shape of an arrowhead and reminded me of the Pontiac arrowhead emblem.



GATEWAY GTO CRUISE TO BONNE TERRE, MO

Those of us who chose to spend the night took off for the hotel, others hit the road for home. We had a nice dinner at Dexter BBQ a couple of miles from the hotel. Their free soft serve ice cream was functioning at its fullest capacity and Gateway GTO folks consumed their fare share!

Sunday morning, some of us continued the spring cruise by going to Elephant Rocks State Park and the lookout tower at Taum Sauk Mountain.

It really was the perfect weekend for getting the old goats out of the garage and enjoying the ride.



Presidents Scoop

The President's Scoop

By Chris Winslow

Spring is officially upon us. We had our first big cruise event of the season down to Bonne Terre. Thanks to Terry and Gail for pulling this all together. Organizing an event like that is a lot of work and they pulled it off perfectly. On top of that, the weather was perfect and all of the cars, except the lone Ford in the group, also had a great day with no breakdowns.

There are also a lot of activities coming up in May. First up is the parade at Immanuel Lutheran Church in St. Charles on May 4th. This is the event where we transport veterans from the church to Blanchette Park. We are running a little light on cars this year so please consider participating if you can. Just give me a call if you have any questions. Later, on May 4th, Marty is hosting an evening of pinball and pizza at Club Howard. Space is limited for this event. Please RSVP to Marty by May 2nd to reserve your spot if you plan to attend. The following Saturday on May 11th, Mark Melrose has organized a Gateway GTO Dyno Day. Please see the flyer in this newsletter. You get 3 pulls for \$50 and they are going to have food, a raffle and giveaways. If you have not done so already, please RSVP to Mark Melrose as soon as possible. We need 10 cars for this event to happen.

And, of course, the GTOAA convention is coming up in June. If you have not already registered, you will want to do that right away. We also still have a few more worker slots to fill, so if you have not already signed up for that, please let Dan Jackson or me know what slots you would like to fill. You can always find the latest worker schedule on our website at this address: [2024 GTOAA National Convention \(gatewaygto.org\)](https://gatewaygto.org). Just click on the Worker Schedule Link at the top of the page.





Gateway GTO Meeting Minutes



Minutes

4/4/24

7:21 PM – Meeting Start – No new members present

7:22 – Old Business

Chris Winslow talked about the escape room event. It was a diamond heist. The group infiltrated the museum and got away with the treasure with 7 minutes to spare despite this room having only a 30% escape rate.

Chris Winslow spoke about the Forest Park Easter show. We had 11 cars there. Gateway GTO received the Spirit Award for the show.

Earl Lewis talked about the Easter show held at the Family Arena. We had 8 spots reserved, but had 5 cars in attendance. There were 800 cars in total.

7:26 – New Business

Steve Hedrick talked about the Marine Corp trivia night.

There was a discussion about the Spring Cruise to Bonne Terre.

Chris Winslow talked about a Dyno Day event that Mark Melrose is putting together. It will be held at Ecotech Tuners on May 11th.

Chris Winslow said that they found a tentative new location for the Wheels in Motion car show. It will be at the Elks Lodge on Ladue Road. The event should be set for September 8th.

Upcoming events

5/4 – Immanuel Lutheran Parade

7:44 – GTOAA

Steve Hedrick talked about the Nationals in Springfield MO. If you haven't already done so, please register as soon as possible as things are filling up. We are still looking for volunteers to work the event.

Steve also talked about the shows in Pigeon

Forge, Norwalk and the Woodward Dream Cruise (August 16th).

Steve additionally mentioned that GTOAA is being invited as the guest of honor at the Good Guys car show in Columbus Ohio. All members will be able to park indoors at the event. The event runs Friday through Sunday, but load in for the indoor parking is on Thursday. There is a flyer in The Legend.

Gene from the Oldsmobile Club gave some recommendations for food locations near the Nationals host hotel as there are none within walking distance.

Please contact Tom Oxler or Dan Jackson to volunteer for the event.

8:07 – Tech

Jesse Gill's GTO stalled at the Forest Park Easter Show. The club banded together and got him running again. It turned out to be an alternator/electrical problem.

Terry Schott said that his GTO should be out of the shop on April 5th. Repaired from the storm damage that occurred at last year's nation event.

Earl Lewis was having engine problems with his Trans Am. After having 3 mechanics look at it, they finally found some wires that were chewed on by mice.

Andrew O'Sullivan talked about a 2004 GTO that a friend of his picked up and is in process of repair. He is looking to sell if anyone is interested.

8:22 – Club Personals

Barb Lewis's grandchild made it through their surgery and is doing great. She also had her second cataract surgery and is also doing well. The color issues that she was having after the first procedure have cleared up.

8:23 – Motion to Adjourn by Gail Schott, seconded by Steve Hedrick

50/50 of \$25 won by Sharon Wildebrandt



Gateway GTO

2024 Dyno Day

Saturday, May 11th, 9AM – 2PM

Sponsored by:

Dyno Pro Technologies / EcoTech

9380 Watson Industrial Court
Crestwood 63119 314-729-1100

Fairway Automotive / Watson Classics & Hotrods

8750 Watson Road
Crestwood 63119 314-236-9900

3 pulls at \$50, RWD only, No Trucks, On-site Analysis

Dyno, Food, Raffle, Giveaways
at 9380 Watson Industrial Court

**Expert Tuning (all makes, new & old) available by
appointment**

RSVP ASAP To:

Mark Melrose

314-807-2520

mjmelrose94@gmail.com



GTOAA

45th Nationals

**UNIVERSITY PLAZA &
CONVENTION CENTER
SPRINGFIELD, MISSOURI**

**RESERVE: (417) 864-7333
MENTION: GTOAA MEET**

JUNE 18 - 22, 2024

Scan To Reserve
A Room At
University Plaza



Scan To Register For
The Convention



**Convention Registration
www.gtoaameet.org**

Any Questions - Please call:

- Chris Hooten 317-694-6187
- Bob Alexander 970-214-4234
- Tom Oxler 636-288-1426



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 2024 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



2024 GATEWAY GTO CALENDAR OF EVENTS

May

- 2 - GTO MEETING 7PM at Gingham's
- 4 - Immanuel Lutheran Parade—Parade cars should meet at 9:30 at 115 S 6th Street, St. Charles
- 5 - Model T Swap Meet at GCS Credit Union Ballpark in Sauget, IL
- 11 - Gateway GTO Dyno Day at Dyno Pro Technologies, 9380 Watson Industrial Court, Crestwood, MO, 9am to 2pm. 3 pulls for \$50.
- 11 - JJ Cruise Night - 1215 S. Deschene in St. Charles

June

- 6 - GTO MEETING 7PM at Gingham's
- 8 - JJ Cruise Night - 1215 S. Deschene in St. Charles
- 18-22 - GTOAA National Convention in Springfield, MO

SEE THE FULL CALENDAR AT WWW.GATEWAYGTO.ORG

Gateway GTO Classifieds

(314) 838-5533

Jon's Tri-Power Service

Jon F. Havens
Owner

126 Afshari Drive
Florissant, MO 63034
jfhavens@sbcglobal.net

(314) 496-7368

Jonathan's Q Jet Service

Jonathan Havens

13 Shamblin Dr.
Florissant, MO 63034

Lewis Insurance Agency
W Earl Lewis
LUTCF, CIC, CSP, CSG
636-219-4932
Welewis1949@gmail.com

The
HAGERTY
Guy

A photograph of a red classic car with its hood open, showing the engine compartment.

CustomAutoApparel.com

[CLICK HERE FOR GATEWAY GTO APPAREL CLUB STORE](#)



GATEWAY GTO ASSOCIATION OFFICERS

President

Chris Winslow
644 Emge Road
O'Fallon, MO 63366
636-294-8104
chriswinslow@charter.net

Vice President II.

Dan Jackson
P.O. Box 234
Greenville, IL 62246
618-267-1760
dajalj@gmail.com

Secretary

Amy O'Sullivan
2576 Westrick Drive
Maryland Heights MO 63043
314-225-7241
pooky1891@gmail.com

Photo Album Editor

Laura Kiefer
70 Keystone Drive
Old Monroe, MO 63369
1977kieferla@gmail.com

Web

Chris Winslow
644 Emge Rd.
O'Fallon MO 63366
636-294-8104
chriswinslow@charter.net

Charity Chairman

Bob Blattel
4564 Austin Knoll Court
St. Charles MO 63304
636-441-3141
bob@blattels.com

Vice President Mo

Brian O'Sullivan
2576 Westrick Drive
Maryland Heights MO 63043
314-225-7240

bosullivan@hunter.com

Treasurer

Will Bowers
4213 Napa View Lane
St. Charles, MO 63304
618-791-3110

wvbdsb@yahoo.com

GTOAA Chapter Rep.

Steve Hedrick
3676 Morgan Way
Imperial, MO 63052
314-640-4020

sthedrick@aol.com

Club Events Chairman

Marty Howard
7 Newcastle CT
St. Charles MO 63301
636-724-8641

nycgto@att.net

Newsletter Editor

Chris Winslow
644 Emge Rd.
O'Fallon MO 63366
636-294-8104
chriswinslow@charter.net

Photographer

Chris Winslow
644 Emge Rd.
O'Fallon MO 63366
636-294-8104

chriswinslow@charter.net

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.

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.



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

