

GTOAA CONVENTION 2022 - "IT'S BRISTOL BABY!"

By Tom and Terrie Oxler



What a week was had at the Convention in Kingsport, Tennessee. Venue was awesome, weather was perfect and Gateway GTO Club arrived en mass and won our share of awards. Four of our regular attendees, Terry and Gail Schott and Earl and Barb Lewis, had to cancel due to Covid concerns, but the Schotts were out of the quarantine period and made a dash drive to Kingsport so Terry could accomplish something on his bucket list, namely driving Gail's 1970 convertible with a new motor at the racetrack! They were in town for 1 and 1/2 days!!! Some chose to leave home a week before the convention for sightseeing, and some chose to be tourists and take a few extra days of sightseeing after the convention before going home. Some places visited: Walton's Mountain, Andy Griffith's hometown, Lucy Arnez' NY home, Blue Ridge Parkway, Smoky Mountains, and the Biltmore, Metropolis, Illinois (Superman Museum), Buc-ees in Tennessee (with 1000 other customers) and the Tail of the Dragon with its 318 curves in 11 miles.

A few Gateway members also have GTOAA responsibilities and arrived on Sunday, June 26 to set up for early registrations on Monday: Those members doing double duty: Steve and Tammy Hedrick, Tom and Terrie Oxler, Chris and Paula Winslow, John and Diana Johnson, Beth Butcher and Bob Alexander, and Vic and Geri Schreck. Gateway Girls helped in popular vote tabbing: Annette Morton, Donna Bowers, Liane Finkenbinder, Sharon Wildebrandt, Amy O'Sullivan, Janice Duryea, Paula Winslow, Tammy Hedrick, Mary Ann Ray, Terrie Oxler, Beth Butcher. Our ladies also helped out on the Street Legends Cruise to Bellafina Chocolates where there was an enormous turnout of cars and orders for the box of chocolates. Gateway Girls stepped up and helped assemble the boxes:



It's Bristol Baby!!!



Thanks Donna Bowers, Liane Finkenbinder, Sharon Wildebrandt and Janice Duryea. The Daniel Boone cruise had a perfect day for the drive and great participation.



It's Bristol Baby!!!



Convention highlight was Bristol! I believe everyone was either a driver, passenger or spectator. Some of the men are still smiling after this adventure! The Bristol folks would let you go as fast as you wanted as long as you signed the liability waiver. Several members took full advantage of this hitting 90+ MPH. I personally know of one individual but I was not a passenger. Tom took Beth Butcher for a ride.



It's Bristol Baby!!!



A big shout-out to our awesome shirt maker Liane Finkenbinder for the Bristol shirts for the girls!





It's Bristol Baby!!!



Gateway members who received awards: John Grissom (Concours Bronze), Vic Schreck (Concours Gold), Joe Mayweather (model) and in popular vote: Frank Chapman, Harry Timmerman, Ron Wildebrandt, Roger Johnson, Brian O'Sullivan, Steve Hedrick, Lucas Hedrick, Brian Ray, Dave Sindelar.

Lots of group gatherings in the bar and on the patio. So great to see our friends from all over the USA!

Now Gateway will be volunteering for next year's convention in Springfield, Illinois. Everyone ready?



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