



THE HOOD SCOOP

August 2025

Route 66 Poker Run!

by Chris Winslow

Gateway GTO
Association



A few meetings ago, we discussed the possibility of a Route 66 poker run cruise. Will and Donna Bower took that idea and ran with it. We set the date for August 23rd and as luck would have it we wound up with perfect weather!

Our day started at the new park on the west side of the old Chain of Rocks Bridge. This used to be mostly a run down parking lot, but a recent renovation has expanded the lot and added a nice pavilion to the site. This was the perfect place to gather up for the start of the event. The only real hiccup for this site is that for those of us coming eastbound on highway 270, there was no marking for the exit and GPS was not exactly on target. Fortunately, everyone got it figured out. Amazingly enough, there was a couple from Sweden visting at the bridge. This would not be the last group from overseas we would run into during the event.

Once everyone arrived, we anted up and we were on our way. The next stop on our run was the Neon Sign Park in Granite City. All of the poker runners made it to that stop with out any issues. Once there, we ran into a charming couple from the Netherlands that was visiting the US on a 3 week trip to see Route 66. Like the visitors we met at the Chain of Rocks, they were thrilled to see all of the GTO's. They visited with us while we were stopped there.

After everyone picked up their next card and did some socializing, we took some photos and got back in the cars to head for the next stop. We did

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Route 66 Poker Run!



have a little car drama on that part of the run when Ron and Sharon Wildebrant's '69 started to make some strange smells. Several of us pulled over and we ultimately determined it was probably something going on with the air conditioner compressor. We disconnected the wire harness to the compressor to make sure it would stay off and then continued on our way.

The next stop was the Luna Café. Unfortunately, we had a second car issue on that leg of the journey. Allen and Pam Neal's GTO began to make a strange grinding noise that was suspected to possibly be a broken brake spring. Ultimately Allen and Pam decided to get the car



Route 66 Poker Run!

towed home, so they were not able to continue. Fortunately, that would be our last car breakdown for the event.

The next stage of our run took us past the historic Greenway Motel. This segment of the journey also took us past some beautiful homes in Edwardsville before stopping at the West End Service Station on Saint Louis Street.



This attraction has been recently renovated and was both a photo op and also a museum inside. The staff at the museum was very friendly and while there we met up with a group of tourists from Poland who were touring Route 66 and thoroughly enjoyed seeing our cars.

Our next stop along the way was the historic Henry's Rabbit Ranch. Unfortunately, the owner of this iconic landmark along Route 66 passed away in 2024, so the site was not open, but we were still able to stop and look around.



Route 66 Poker Run!

Next up on our Route 66 poker run cruise was Soulsby's Gas Station in Mt. Olive. This classic gas station first opened in 1926 so it will be celebrating its 100th anniversary next year. When we arrived, we found that the station was actually open so we were able to go inside and look at some of the displays. While there we met up again with the group from Poland.



Now it was on to our final stop of the day, the legendary Ariston Café in Litchfield. This is probably my most favorite place in this corner of Illinois. Their food is always great, but you have to be careful not to fill up too much because they bring out a huge tray of amazing desserts after the meal. That reputation for great food had also attracted that same group from Poland.

It was here, once we had all settled into our tables, that Donna had us open the envelopes to see our 5 cards and figure out who had the best poker hand. After the dust settled the two best hands, 3 of a kind and 2 pairs queens over jacks, were the winners. Donna had the three of a kind and I actually had the 2 pairs. I was pretty stunned because I never win anything! We split the pot, which turned out to be \$130 each.



Will and Donna did a great job organizing this event! Everyone had a great time. We had not done a poker run in a long time. We will have to plan on doing another one very soon.

Presidents Scoop

The President's Scoop

By Chris Winslow

September is just around the corner and as usual for Gateway, September is a busy month.

First up is the Wheels In Motion Car show on the 6th. There were a lot of cars and even more spectators at the Spring show we held in May, including lots of children. So, this should give us a great customer base for the raffle we are going to have at the fall show. As such, please gather up the those great raffle prizes for the event. If you need some flyers to help when requesting prizes, please just let me know. Also, please save the date for this too as we will need help to cover the parking lot duty, the raffle, and also 50/50.

Next up in September will be our annual All Pontiac Show at the Pontiac Oakland Museum on the 19th through the 21st. For this year only, we are going to move our traditional Friday evening dinner to Bob and Ringo's Grill and Smokehouse. We will need to get a headcount for that to coordinate with the restaurant, so I will be reaching out shortly to see who is planning to attend. Alan Finkenbinder and Dave Sullivan have been working on our Saturday cruise for the weekend so expect that to be a blast like always. If you have not already booked, please get your rooms for the event reserved as soon as possible before the hotels fill up.

Looking a little farther ahead, make sure you have your calendars marked for our Gateway GTO picnic on October 5th. We will once again be at Vago park thanks to Tony Bezzole reserving it for us for the day. As usual the club will provide the meat (burgers, dogs, brats, pork steaks, chicken) and we ask everyone to bring side dishes and desserts to share.

Also coming up in November is the annual Olds Club Trivia night. As everyone will remember, we won last year, hence GTOs (including Earl's '67) are on the flyer. Hopefully we can pull off a repeat!

Finally, as I noted last month, 2025 is an election year for Gateway, so we are looking for candidates for the officer positions. If you are interested in running for any of those positions or have some questions about what is involved, please give me a call. Starting next month, I will include an officer nominations form with the newsletter.





Gateway GTO Meeting Minutes



Minutes 8/7/25

7:04 PM – Meeting Start – New/Returning member John Ferguson in attendance. Retired from oil and lube industry. He has a 66' hard top GTO.

7:06 – Old Business

Robert Woolsey from KC was present and received his trophy for 68 GTO class popular vote from the Nationals in Kingsport.

Steve Hedrick talked about the Tri-Power Nationals. The weather was great and the event was well attended. The swap meet was completely full.

Marty Howard talked about the pinball wizard tournament that was held at Club Howard. He also invited everyone to his 80th birthday party at Atomic Pinball on September 14th from 2:30 to 4:00PM. The event is limited to 100 people so please RSVP with Marty as soon as possible.

Terry Schott talked about breakdowns at the track and the long cleanup times.

Earl Lewis talked about the Memories on Main Street in Troy. There were 230 cars.

Tom Oxler found a good shop for interior work.

7:18 – New Business and Upcoming Events

Will Bowers talked about the Route 66 poker run on August 23rd.

Chris Winslow mentioned that this is an election year for Gateway GTO.

8/23 – Route 66 Poker Run

8/30 – O'Fallon Elks Lodge Car Show. 9AM-12PM, awards at 2PM, 1163 Tom Ginnever Ave.

8/31 – St. Louis Independent Car Klub Show. 7AM-12PM, awards at 3PM. Harvester Lions Club, 4835 Central School Road.

9/6 – Wheels in Motion Fall Car Show.

9/13 – Wheelin' and Healin' Car Show in Jacksonville, Arkansas.

9/19-9/21 – Regional Pontiac show in Pontiac, Illinois.

7:32 – GTOAA – Talked about the planning and some of the events for the 2026 Nationals in Loveland, Colorado. Chris Winslow showed a presentation that was created to promote the event.

7:42 – Tech

John Johnson talked about a blue 72' GTO that he's been tracking for years and how he was finally able to bring it home.

Earl Lewis said that he knows someone who is selling a complete running 400 engine for \$1000.

7:46 – Personals

Tom and Laura Fox are first time grandparents.

Terry Schott pick up another GTO.

There are apparently some new GTO themed songs.

7:54 – Motion to Adjourn by Tom Fox, seconded by Mark Melrose.

50/50 of \$36 won by Jim McCarthy



Trophies for:

- Pastor's Choice
- Kids Pick
- And More....

YOUR NAME
PRIZE RAFFLE
BY THE
GATEWAY GTO
ASSOCIATION

!!! WE HAVE MOVED !!!

29TH BI-ANNUAL

Walter F. Phillips Memorial Old Cars Against Cancer

Sno-Cones
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**Food &
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9 am to 2 pm**



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THE HOOD SCOOP

For Fun Come to the Fourteenth Annual... **GTOAA REGIONAL ALL PONTIAC CRUISE AND SHOW**

proceeds benefit the Pontiac-Oakland Museum

Hosted by the...

Heart of Illinois GTO Club

Gateway GTO Club

Pontiac, Illinois - **Entertainment, Tours, Show, Cruise, Fun & More**



September 20 - 21, 2025

For Information Contact :

Chris Winslow

636-294-8104

chriswinslow@charter.net

Brian Sorensen

630-991-1465

bsorensen1@comcast.net

both days \$30 Sunday only \$20

for registration & info, see www.gatewaygto.org

Saturday • Private Collections • Tour

• Entertainment • Concert in the Park

Sunday • All Pontiac Car Show

• Expanded Classes • Special Displays

Hotels

• Hampton Inn 815-844-4400

• Quality Inn 815-844-4444

• Super 8 815-844-6888

• Best Western 815-842-2777

Pontiac-Oakland Museum • 205 N. Mill Street - Pontiac, Illinois 61764 • Phone - 815-842-2345 • www.pontiacoaklandmuseum.org



THE HOOD SCOOP



TRIVIA NIGHT

**BENEFITING ST. LOUIS HONOR FLIGHT
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**Make checks payable to Archway Olds Club and send in with your name, phone
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Questions? (314) 497-0798**

HOSTED BY THE ARCHWAY OLDSMOBILE CLUB

PRE-REGISTER BY OCTOBER 20, 2025



THE HOOD SCOOP

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 2025 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



2025 GATEWAY GTO CALENDAR OF EVENTS

August

30 - O'Fallon Elks Lodge Car Show - 9am - 2pm - 1163 Tom Ginnever Ave

31 - St. Louis Independent Car Klub Car Show at the Harvester Lions Club - See website for details

September

4 - GTO MEETING 7PM at Gingham's

6 - Wheels In Motion Charity Car Show and Raffle - 9am to 2pm at Church on the Rock in St. Peters

13 - Wheelin' & Healin' Car Show - Jacksonville Arkansas—See website for details

19-21 - All Pontiac Car Show at the Pontiac Museum - See Flyer and website for details

October

2 - GTO MEETING 7PM at Gingham's

5 - Gateway GTO Picnic - Vago Park

SEE THE FULL CALENDAR AT WWW.GATEWAYGTO.ORG

Gateway GTO Classifieds

For Sale:

1990 Buick Riviera

Color: Burgundy

Milage: 95,000

Contact Joe Mayweather if interested at 314-210-7391

(314) 838-5533

Jon's Tri-Power Service

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Owner

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Florissant, MO 63034
jfhavens@sbcglobal.net

(314) 496-7368

Jonathan's Q Jet Service

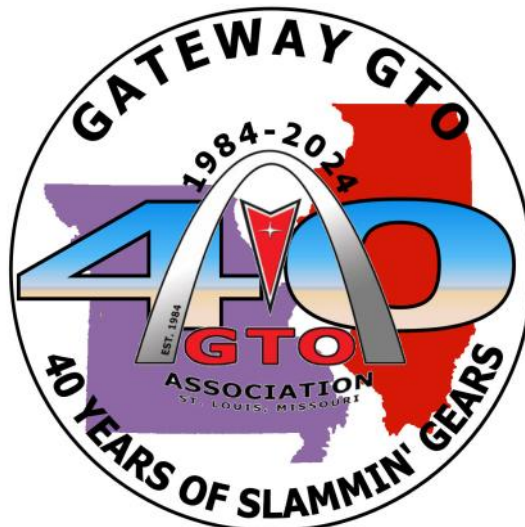
Jonathan Havens

13 Shamblin Dr.
Florissant, MO 63034

The image shows a business card with a yellow and orange background. On the left, it reads: "Lewis Insurance Agency", "W Earl Lewis", "LUTCF, CIC, CSP, CSG", "636-219-4932", and "Welewis1949@gmail.com". On the right, it says "The HAGERTY Guy" above a photo of a red classic car with its hood open.

CustomAutoApparel.com

[Gateway GTO Club Store](#)



GATEWAY GTO ASSOCIATION OFFICERS

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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

