

7th ANNUAL GTOAA REGIONAL ALL PONTIAC EVENT



DO YOU BELIEVE IN TIME TRAVEL

Take the remote in your hand – sit down and hit rewind

Picture this? The entire family is sitting in front of the TV watching the Andy Griffith Show (without a cell phone in their hand)? That's how I will start to explain the town of Pontiac, Illinois and our time travel back to the **GOOD OL' DAYS**.

For those who don't remember or for those not born in that era and only hear stories from their parents and grandparents of how different life was– if you want to experience that feeling – then - you need to take a trip and join us for a weekend of memories and live that era of the **GOOD OL'DAYS**.

Again, the Gateway GTO is hosting the 7th annual event with the proceeds benefiting the Pontiac Oakland Museum. We start our trip by a group of us meeting at the Hen House for lunch on Friday and others meeting us in Pontiac later that evening, as we begin our journey back in time for a weekend of fun and yes - work. I have to **SLAM ON THOSE BRAKES – STOP -** and say that we have such an amazing Club who participates in activities and who join together as friends and not just to have fun but to work and donate their time and are always willing to go the extra mile – they deserve a big shout out –

“THANK YOU”





Terry, has called ahead to reserve the upstairs at Bernardi's for Friday night dinner.



This is where the weekend begins on who is going to be where and do what and help here and there. So set your alarm because in the morning –

LET THE SHOW BEGIN

It's Saturday morning and registration is open





Getting together with old and new friends and setting up for registrations was the first step -- again Mark and Sandra Melrose took control with the help from Gail, Paula and Bev for two days of registering over 200 cars.



Other members helped with directing cars - folding t-shirts – counting ballots – and filling in when needed and taking photos. So the weekend begins, seeing old and new friends and just visiting and catching up with other car enthusiasts - who just like us – enjoy gathering together and showing off their amazing classic cars – amazing muscle cars - and yes amazing works in progress. They spend hours detailing – going for that trophy after the final count of votes on Sunday afternoon - and loving every minute of this weekend spent with their car – family and friends. They enjoy all spectators and other car owners who walk by and comment how beautiful and amazing their car is – and how many times have you heard those words spoken - “I had one just like that back in the day. It starts a whole new conversation. It makes the past a reality and people do travel back to those days when they revved that engine and laid that rubber. You hear stories about their experiences back in the day. So now I ask you,” Do you believe in time travel?” So you see, all this is more than about cars – it’s about people coming together and sharing life.

BUT FOR A MOMENT LETS TAKE A LOOK AROUND



Behind me is the Pontiac Oakland Museum - where you will be in awe and believe these cars just came off the show room floor – amazing displays of years gone by and a library filled with every Pontiac publication that could be found. And did I mention “Free” - but a donation is always appreciated - and “O - look”, there’s Barney Fife coming in the door now –and can’t you just hear him welcoming everyone and hear the excitement of the weekend in his voice.



As you leave the Museum - now look straight ahead and there is the Town Square and in the middle sits the “Livingston County Seat Court House” first opened in 1875. Now that takes you back in time.



Soon cars will be found parked on all 4 sides and in adjacent parking lots just waiting for the weekend to start –In fact the activities are just beginning – A small farmers market is setting up – A DJ is starting to play oldies... Did I mention they close the streets around the town square for this event? People are starting to wander around and setting up there chairs – wiping any dust that may have landed on that hood – and others just beginning to explore the town. I do believe I just saw Andy Griffith walking with the Mayor Bob and Opie is tailing behind making sure everyone feels welcome. I think that Andy and Barney won't have any problems with this crowd this weekend. I call this town "My Trip back to Mayberry USA.





Don't forget while walking around the town to find all the murals that were painted on the buildings by the Walldogs – they are amazing and all over the town of times gone by - and notice the little cars parked on every corner. You'll always find kids and/or adults sitting in these for their picture and remember to drive your car over a block and take a picture of it parked on the brick under the famous

“ROUTE 66 SIGN”





While you in that area make sure you visit the Route 66 Hall of Fame Museum that is filled with nostalgic relics from The Mother Road. - There's also the Livingston County War Museum filled with manikins wearing uniforms and cases of guns and swords and relics found and donated by family members – so much history. You can tour on your own or listen on a head set the history behind the men who wore these uniforms or just talk to the volunteers as they are filled with knowledge – it's all quite amazing. Remember, I said – “This is all free” but don't hesitate to donate a little as I said before “It's appreciated”. And always, remember they gave us the freedom to be here. Take walk thru Bob Waldmire's Road Yacht parked behind the Route 66 Museum. This is amazing in itself.



You ask, “What else is there to do?” – well, let's jump on the “Free” trolley that runs around town and you'll get your history lesson of Pontiac—you can jump off and on where you can visit historic homes – the old jail - walk across the swinging bridge – visit the shops in town – spend time in other museums and see other exhibits of life in the past – stop in for a glass of wine – eat at one of the restaurants – sit outside and have a drink and just visit with friends. And would you believe to top this day off: Here comes Aunt Bee and Opie – she's telling everyone that tonight (Saturday) we're invited for a Famous

Fried Chicken dinner from Bernardi's followed by an Ice Cream Social – and a great talk with pictures of the many stops along Route 66 and come Monday morning the cruise from Pontiac to California begins.

It's Saturday morning and cars are lining up for the Saturday cruise. Weather is beautiful and has totally cooperated this weekend. Headed out of town our first stop is Joe Cleary's Collection of any and everything you can imagine. Would the TV Show the Pickers love this place?



Then after everyone was in awe we headed for Lunch at the Cherry Red Roasters BBQ. All you could eat BBQ pulled pork – beans and potato salad for \$10 – and it held all 100 of us with no problem.



From here we left for two more stops to see - Dave Boomgarden's and Lynn Franz collections.

The first was various old tractors from 1913 and up - and he explained in March he recruits his friends and they take them all out of the barns and actually run them. There were various types of old farm machinery with some restored and some in the process.



The last 2 stops we found other classic cars and trucks and various other collectables waiting to show off their history and times past. Also in one area was layout of rooms decorated with actual furniture and items which came from their own families dating back to the early 1900's.

Arriving back in town around 3:30 everyone got ready to head to the park for the Saturday night Fried Chicken dinner including an ice cream social. We then were given a very informative presentation of Route 66 with many pictures which a lot of us will see as we pull out of town on Monday morning for our **“Adventures on Route 66”**.

Saturday evening wouldn't be complete without our "Apple Pie"



Sunday at 8 am they were lines for registration and once again a perfect day for another successful regional car show and cruise. Earl and Ashley actually ran out of time selling 50/50 – next year they will recruit a couple more for the sales team. They did sell \$666 which ½ went to the Pontiac Museum and the other half split to have 2 winners. Then 1st – 2nd and 3rd places were awarded along with other special awards. Our club again brought a couple home.

So we end another successful Regional Event and on Monday Morning – Mayor “Bob” and Tim waved to those leaving on the Route 66 Cruise to California.



HAPPY TRAILS TO YOU – UNTIL WE MEET AGAIN – AND SAFE TRAVELS TO ALL