

THE HOOD SCOOP

April 2021

Association Association



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Cecil Morton Memorial Cruise

By Chris Winslow



John Grissom is a fairly new member of Gateway, GTO, but he stepped up in a big way this month planning his first cruise for the club. Although John did not know Cecil well, he felt that Cecil's love for the GTO made them kindred spirts and decided to dedicate the cruise to Cecil's memory.

The cruise started on the morning of April 18th in Wentzville. We had a great turnout for the event with a total of 13 GTOs along with Harry Timmerman's 1965 Lemans Convertible for a total of 14 Pontiacs.

John had the route laid out perfectly and despite a few stoplights not cooperating, we were able to keep the cars together as we traveled to our first stop - the Missouri Riverfront and Riverfront Park in Washington Missouri. John had actually planned for us to all park down by the river for some scenic shots with the cars near the water. Unfortunately a rainy week preceding the event had the Mighty MO over her banks and we had to move that part of the cruise to higher ground at a nearby parking lot.



Cecil Morton Memorial Cruise





A possible advantage of this upper parking lot was that we drew a fair amount of attention from the locals in the area. This included somebody in a Mustang who drove by a few times making sure we knew he was there and possibly trying to gen up an impromptu race. (As if any of us would waste our time stooping to taking on a mere pony car in a true muscle car!!!)

After a little more time spent admiring the riverfront, John had us jump back in the cars and head back to Wentzville.

Once back in Wentzville we headed for the historic Friendship Brewing Company. John, who seems to have nearly unlimited contacts in Wentzville had arranged for reserved



Cecil Morton Memorial Cruise



parking and a big lunch for the cruise participants. The lunch included salad, nachos, sandwiches, pretzel bites, and mac and cheese.

Before we all dug into the big feast, John read a poem that he had written in memory of Cecil.



Several of us in the club have put together cruise events, but it appears that John has set the new standard for how to do one and dedicating it to Cecil's memory was the crowning touch.





Cecil Morton Memorial Cruise







Presidents Scoop



The President's Scoop

By Terry Schott

As we move through April, the car season is finally starting to open up a little. I know it's been hard for everyone to be patient and wait out a whole year of COVID restrictions, but we've been the lucky ones. We all owe a debt of gratitude to all those healthcare workers and 1st responders who have battled through this horrible year. Despite all the conditions they have worked long hours, short handed and stayed at it. Thanks to all of them, as well as the scientists and chemists who were able to find a successful vaccine. Without it, I'm afraid things would not be good.

Even though the Easter show in Forest Park was canceled, the one that was held at the Family Arena had a huge crowd. The weather was great, and people really showed up. I wasn't able to attend, but I think they had more cars show up than they had space. Thanks to Marty for setting up the meeting spot.

The weather was wonderful, even though a bit windy, on Sunday, April 11, for the Cecil Morton memorial car cruise. John Grissom did a remarkable job of planning out the cruise from Wentzville to Washington, and back a different route to Wentzville. The route was beautiful and made for an excellent cruise. The final stop at the Friendship Brewing Company was great as well. Chris Winslow has pictures and a story of the event included in this newsletter. It was a very special event to honor one of Gateway's special members. Cecil will be missed by all of us. Thanks to John for all the time and effort spent planning and running the cruise. Thanks for all of the food and the great memories. Thanks to Chris Winslow too, for writing the article and always taking such good pictures. Also in this newsletter, is a special thank you from Annette Morton to the Gateway Club. Please be sure to read it.

Our annual pinball event was held on Sunday, April 18. After setting it all up, CP Pinball realized that they had double booked that day. Marty Howard graciously had anyone that wanted to participate, come over to his house. It was a little smaller group, but it worked out just fine. Thanks to Marty for setting up the event and then hosting it at his house as the backup plan.

Unfortunately, the rain is moving in and Steve Hedrick's Sunrise Cruise for Saturday, April 24, is being canceled. Our next event is Saturday, May 1, the Veteran Car Cruise in St. Charles, MO. I will be sending out more info on this as it gets closer. Keep an eye on the website calendar for updates. I look forward to seeing you at future events.

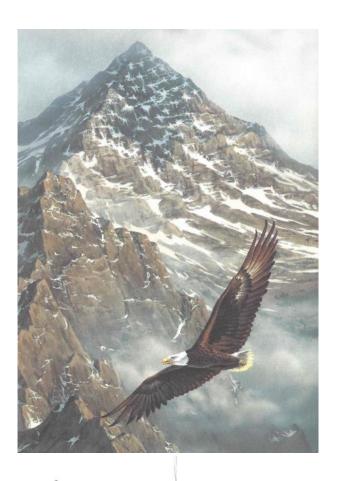






Presidents Scoop





gateway 600 family

thank you for your

friendship + support over

all the years!

Cecie dearly loved

the 600 events and

our 600 family!

The memorial trophy

was sust Beautiful!

During a time
like this
we realize how much
our friends and relatives
really mean
to us . . .
Your expression
of sympathy will always
be remembered

Annette



Gateway GTO Meeting Minutes



Meeting Minutes 4-1-21

7:17PM – Meeting Start – Old Business

Terry Schott talked about the passing of Cecil Morton on March 8th. Annette thanked everyone that participated in his procession.

Terry Schott talked about a Schaeffer Oil order that he is putting together.

7:20 - New Business

John Grissom talked about an upcoming cruise on April 11th, that runs from Wentzville to Washington. It's being labelled "The Cecil Morton Memorial Car Cruise".

Steve Hedrick talked about a Sunrise Cruise taking place on April 24th. It will start at Jefferson Barracks and end at a Cars and Coffee event in Bonne Terre.

Marty Howard talked about a possible pinball.

Barb Lewis mentioned that the first JJ's cruise of the season is on April 10th.

7:51 – Upcoming Events

4/11 – Wentzville to Washington Cruise

4/24 – Sunrise Cruise

5/1 – Veteran Car Show – St. Charles, MO

5/2 – Model T Swap Meet – Worldwide Technology Raceway – Madison, IL

5/15 – St. Pius Car Show – Festus, MO

6/3-6/6 – Pontiacs at Pigeon Forge – Pigeon Forge, TN

6/18-6/19 – Lebanon Route 66 Festival and Cruise-In

7/5-7/9 – 2021 GTOAA Convention – Wisconsin Dells

9/11 – Randi Gori Memorial Car Show – Edwardsville, IL

9/12 – Wheels in Motion – Maryland Heights, MO

9/18-9/19 – Pontiac Regional Event – Pontiac, IL

10/3 – Gateway GTO Picnic – Vago Park – Maryland Heights, MO

12/4 – Gateway GTO Christmas Party

Tom Oxler talked about the Nationals in Wisconsin.

Earl Lewis talked about some goings on with the Route 66 Club. Lisa is no longer affiliated with the club.

There was no GTOAA update

8:05 - Tech

Mark Melrose talked about an engine mishap that he had with his 68 GTO that resulted in a total rebuild. He just got it back from the shop and it is running great. The transmission in his new GTO grenaded as well.

8:09 – Personals

Joe Mayweather is having some aches and pains but is doing ok.

A large number of Gateway members have gotten their covid-19 vaccines.

Barb Lewis' mother is turning 98

Mark Melrose mentioned that it's his and Saundra's "Something or other" Anniversary.

Tom Fox and Laura Kiefer got married

Tammy Hedrick held a drawing. The winner was to receive a check from Farmer's Insurance that would cover one year of GTOAA membership. Dan Jackson was the winner.

8:14 – Motion to Adjourn by Amy O'Sullivan, seconded by Brian O'Sullivan.

50/50 of \$53 won by Tom Fox





Transmission Fluid Change on 2004 GTO Manual By Chris Winslow

Editor's Note: I put this article together back in 2015, but given Mark Melrose's recent loss of a transmission following a clutch change where it appears that the shop forgot to refill the transmission, I thought it might be a good time to remind Gateway Members with that all important third pedal about the process for a fluid swap in a late model GTO. - Chris

At over 10 years old and a trip to the Nats just around the corner, I decided it was time to swap out the factory fill transmission fluid in my 2004 manual. One would not think there would be that much to changing the fluid, but it turned out to be a bit more involved than I thought.

The first thing I had to figure out was what type of fluid to use. I first started with the owners manual. It simply said Dexron III. Of course, as most people know, Dexron III has long since been discontinued. I next turned to the online forums. It turns out, like most things on the forums, there are raging debates on this with lots of people posting lots of opinions. For every person who talked about how great this aftermarket or that aftermarket fluid made their transmission shift, there were other people saying just the opposite. Next, I turned to my GM factory service manuals. Those manuals were calling for "GM Goodwrench –III, GM P/N 12378470 or the equivalent Dexron III.

So, I started trying to find 12378470. That was also no longer available. One person I spoke with at a GM parts counter suggested to just replace it with Dexron VI since that is the new universal fluid for "everything". After doing some additional research on that, however, I found a TSB that specifically said NOT to use Dexron VI in a manual transmission or transfer case. That TSB recommended, instead the use of 88861800 Manual Transmission and Transfer Case Fluid. In addition, I found MSDS sheets that cross referenced 12378470 to 88861800. Based on all of this, I decided to go with the 88861800. (NOTE: That fluid is still available today in 2021)

The next step was to figure out how much fluid I needed. There was a bit of disagreement on the forums on that as well. Apparently early owners manuals indicated 4.4 quarts. The owners manual in my very late 2004, however called for 4.6 quarts, as did my factory service manuals. So, I headed off to our brand new Sponsor, Gateway Buick GMC, and purchased 5 quarts of the fluid. They had it in stock and I was in and out in only a few minutes.







According to the procedure in the factory service manuals, the fluid must be added through the reverse light switch opening. This is apparently because adding it through the transmissions fill plug will result in under-filling the transmission because the angle at which it sits in the GTO. This is backed up by a sticker that is mounted to the side of the transmission adjacent to the fill plug.

The backup light switch is mounted to the passenger side of the transmission fairly high up on the housing adjacent to the frame rail. After scoping it out, I was confident that I could get the switch out, but I had no idea how to get fluid pumped up there to refill the transmission.

I turned to the internet and found a few options. One was a fairly large sort of semi-professional pump system. It would definitely work, but appeared to be overkill for my needs. At the other end of the spectrum, I found a small pump that essentially screwed into quart bottles and then allowed you to pump the fluid by pushing up and down on it. The problem was that based on the literature it was going to take about 80 pumps per quart. The idea of pumping that thing all afternoon to refill the transmission also did not appeal to me.

I finally found a solution in-between the two extremes. It was essentially a 1.5 quart syringe specifically designed for this sort of thing.

The final issue was the sealant to use when re-installing the backup light switch. The service manuals were calling for GM 1052080. Once again that turned out to be un-obtainium! I have







found, however, that most such sealants are actually not really GM sealants, but really Permatex sealants that GM has slapped a part number on. Based on that I was able to find a cross reference to Permatex High Temperature Thread sealant, which I picked up at Advanced. With everything I needed in hand, I jacked up the GTO on the passenger side and got to work. (Note: This would be way easier with a lift, but it is doable with a jack and a jack-stand).

The back up light switch is a bit tricky to get out. After disconnecting the connector, it was time to unthread it. It requires a 22mm wrench. I had a 22mm regular socket, but that would not clear the connector on the switch. I had a 22mm deep socket, but that would not clear the frame rail. So, that left me with a 22mm combination wrench. For some reason, the engineers at Tremec decided to tuck the switch in a pocket between two raised areas in the housing. So, it took quite a few wrench re-positions to get the switch out.

With the switch out of the way, (so that I knew I would be able to refill the transmission), I turned my attention to the drain plug. That was a lot easier. Simply insert a 3/8 inch socket wrench and give it a few turns. The key here is to be careful when removing the plug as the fluid wants to come flying out quickly. With the drain plug out, I pull out the jack stand and lowered the car so that I would be sure to get all of the old fluid out.



I captured all of the fluid in a drain pan and then measured it to see how much was in there. As it turned out there was about 4.2 quarts. A bit less than the 4.6 called for in the manuals.

With the car back in the air and the jack stand in place, I installed the drain plug with a light coating of the thread sealant. Next up it was time to fill.

The syringe pump that I had purchased was very well thought out. The rear of the unit comes off and the opposite end had twist valve to seal it up. This allows the user to simply pour in 1.5





quarts of fluid, and then put the back of the unit back on, sealing in the fluid.

With the pump filled, I was able to slip under the car, poke the end of the hose into the backup light switch opening and fill the transmission back up 1.5 quarts at a time.

The manual calls for filling the transmission to the bottom of the hole, but that would assume that the car is level. Since I had it jacked up on one side, I went ahead and put in the entire 5 quarts. I then lowered the car to let any excess drain out. As it turns out none did.

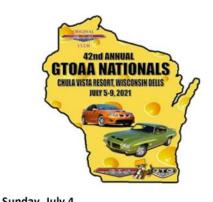
With the car back in the air, I applied a film of the sealer to the threads of the backup light switch and put it back in and reconnected it.



Then, after a quick check to the make sure the backup lights were still working, I took the GTO for a quick spin. I did notice that the neutral to reverse shift was noticeably smoother, but otherwise there was really no difference.

So, in a around an hour with very little mess, I was able to get the fluid changed out and the car back on the road.





42nd ANNUAL GTOAA NATIONALS

JULY 5 - JULY 9, 2021

Chula Vista Resort, Wisconsin Dells, WI

Hosted by the Original GTO Club

Tentative Schedule of Events

May be updated monthly as event times are confirmed

Sunday, July 4		Wednesday III	ıly 7, continued
5:00 - 10:00	GTOAA Board Mooting Eves Board Pm	1:00 – 3:00	Duck Boat Road/Water Tour
5.00 - 10.00	GTOAA Board Meeting-Exec. Board Rm	1:00 - 2:00	Kids Make & Take Model Building
Manday Luky	•	3:30 - 5:00	*Speaker Session* OPEN Room I
Monday, July 5		6:00 - 8:00	Chapter Recognition & President's Meeting,
All Day	Early Arrivals and Staff Arrivals	6.00 – 8.00	Cash Bar- Room I
All Day	Swap Meet/Vendor/PV & Concours setup		Cash Bar- Room I
9:00 – 4:15	Registration Open, Tech/Photo	Th	•
Noon – 5:00	Car Wash Open	Thursday, July	
5:00 - 10:00	GTOAA Staff Meeting-Exec. Board Rm	6:00 – 5:00	Car Wash Open
100 527 10050 5		8:00 – 5:00	Swap Meet, Vendors, Display Cars
Tuesday, July 6		9:00 – 1:00	Popular Voting, Ballots Due 1PM
6:00 - 5:00	Car Wash Open	10:30 – 12:30	*Speaker Session* Randy Pribyl, Don Micetic
8:00 - 5:00	Registration Open, Tech/Photo	PROPERTY NAME OF THE PROPERTY OF	"Making your GTO Loo it's Best. Room I
8:00 - 5:00	Swap Meet, Vendors, Display Cars,	1:00 - 3:00	Duck Boat Road/Water tour
	Model Car Displays	1:00 - 3:00	*Speaker Session* Milt Schornack History of Royal
8:00 - 4:00	Driving Tour EAA Aviation Museum		Pontiac. Room I
	TJs Harbor Restaurant	2:00 - 3:00	Model Car Judging
09:00 - 4:00	Bus Tour - Circus World Museum,	2:00 - 4:00	Ladies Activity
	& AL Ringling Museum	3:30 - 5:30	*Speaker Session* Tim Dye History of Pontiac Room
10:00 - 12:00	*Speaker Session* OPEN Room I	7:00 - 11:00	"Ames" Parking Lot Party with DJ
1:00 - 3:00	Duck Boat Road/Water Tour		Banquet Room FREE ADMISSION
1:00 - 3:00	*Speaker Session* OPEN Room I		
4:15 - 4:45	Concours Owner's Meeting: Rm I	Friday, July 9	
4:45 - 5:30	Concours Judge's Meeting: Rm I	8:00 - 5:00	Swap Meet, Vendors, Display Cars
5:30 - 6:30	Judges training	8:30 - 4:30	Bus Tour: Monroe Cheese Factory
6:45 - 9:15	Dinner Cruise		OR Beer Distillery Tour, and Lunch
		09:00 - 4:15	Driving Tour: Cave of the Mounds Baraboo Candy Fa
Wednesday, Ju	ılv 7		tory, Rookies & The Dells Raceway Park
6:00 - 5:00	Car Wash Open	9:15 - 4:15	Bus Tour: Mid-Continent Railway Museum & J's Pub
7:30 - 8:30	Judges Breakfast Mtg-Kilbourn City Grill		Grill
8:00 - 5:00	Registration Open, Tech/Photo	09:30 - 4:00	Driving Tour: Carr Valley Cheese
8:00 - 5:00	Swap Meet, Vendors, Display Cars		& Burr Oak Winery, Shipwreck Bay, &
08:30 -3:30	Driving Tour: Mid-Continent		The Dells Raceway Park
00.00 0.00	Railway Museum, The Gravy Train	10:00 - 12:00	*Speaker Session* Jim Mattison TBD Room I
	Restaurant & Cedar Grove Cheese	1:00 - 3:00	Duck Boat Road/water tour
8:30 - finish	Concours Judging	1:00 - 3:00	*Speaker Session* Arnie Beswick; Racing Room I
8:30 – finish	Concours Tabulation, Santa Fe Rm	5:00 - 6:00	Awards Happy Hour
09:00 - 5:00	Bus Tour: Monroe Cheese Tour OR	6:00 - 7:00	Awards Dinner
09.00 – 3.00	beer/distillery tour	7:00 – 9:30	Awards
3:00 - 5:00	Street Legend Cruise/Pontiacs on Parade	7.00 3.50	//wards
3.00 - 3.00	into Town		
10:20 - 12:20	*Speaker Session * John Kraman of MECUM		
10:30 – 12:30	Auctions. Room I		
1.00 2.00		ASS	OCIATION OF AMERICA
1:00 - 3:00	*Speaker Session* OPEN Room I		



Gateway GTO Membership Renewal

Gateway GTO Dues for 2021 are \$20 and are due by the February Gateway GTO Meeting but there is still time if you missed that deadline.

• 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 stand-

ing with GTOAA.

Contact Chris Winslow or Terry Schott if you have any questions on renewing your Gateway GTO membership

GATEWAY GTO ASSOCIATION

Membership/Renewal Form

(Please print clearly)

Name:	Date:			
Associate Name:				
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 re (found on address)	enewal date:abel 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, girlfriend, etc.).

GTOAA Membership Renewal

Starting in 2020 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 Tom Oxler with any questions:

Tom Oxler Contact Info:

Phone: 636-928-5548

Email: toxler@prodigy.net







ARS OF SLAMMI

Year Of The 1's







Calling all owners of 1971 GTO's!

In 2021, in celebration of: 50th Anniversary of the 1971 GTO

The Hoodscoop will be featuring Car of the Month articles on the anniversary year

If you own one of these special cars, please get to work on your article(s) and get them to Chris Winslow



2021 GATEWAY GTO CALENDAR OF EVENTS

May

- 1 Immanuel Lutheran Church Parade for Veterans Parade cars should gather at 9:30 at 115 S 6th Street, St. Charles, MO
- 2 Model T Swap Meet Worldwide Technology Raceway Madison, IL
- 6 GTO MEETING 7PM at Gingham's
- 15 St. Pius Car Show, Festus, MO St. Pius X | Car Show (stpius.com)
- 31 33rd Annual Cobblestone Nationals at Fastlane Classic Cars, St. Charles, MO

June

- 3 GTO MEETING 7PM at Gingham's
- 3-6 Pontiacs at Pigeon Forge Pigeon Forge, TN

18-19 Route 66 Festival, Lebanon, MO - http://www.lebanonroute66.com/festival/

July

- 1 GTO MEETING 7PM at Gingham's
- 5-9 GTOAA National Convention Wisconsin Dell, WI <u>2021 GTOAA International Convention</u> » GTO Association of America

August

5 - GTO MEETING 7PM at Gingham's

SEE THE FULL CALENDAR AT **WWW.GATEWAYGTO.ORG**

Gateway GTO Classifieds







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558 Gravois Road, Suite 201
Fenton, MO 63026
636.492.5180 (office)
314.540.4122 (cell/text)
thedrick@farmersagent.com

















Let us protect your life and those things you need to make it work. We'll leave the cruising to you!

(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







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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 rates 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.

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.

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.





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



