



# Cecil Morton Memorial Cruise



## 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 spirits 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.

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

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



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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.



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