



14th Annual Car Show at the Pontiac Museum by Chris Winslow



It is hard to believe that this was the fourteenth year for our annual benefit car show at the Pontiac Oakland Museum in Pontiac, Illinois.

For this year only we had a change to our traditional Friday Evening Bar-B-Q at the Finkenbinder's. With Alan and Liane just returning from their vacation earlier in the week, we moved the event to Bob and Ringo's. With lots of help from Dave Sullivan and Alan Finkenbinder and Terry and Gail Schott, we got the event organized and ended up filling up the room at Bob and Ringo's. I think everyone enjoyed it, although we will all be happy to get back to Alan and Liane's for next year.

As always, the weekend officially got underway on Saturday morning. As has become the case every year, the City of Pontiac had everything ready to go for us out front when we rolled up on the Museum. They also had boxes of goody bags that they had prepared ready to go, including the dash plaques and ballots that Terry and Gail had previously delivered. With all that work already done, we were open for business in a matter of minutes.

The first activity for the event is always the car cruise. Alan Finkenbinder and Dave Sullivan had done all of the prep work for another great cruise event. The cruise included a viewing of a Corvette and model train collection and also a lunch stop. While the weather in Pontiac turned rainy in the afternoon, the cruisers reported that the rain held off for them.

Of course, the main event is the big car show on Sunday. We arrived early and had registration up and running by about 8:30. The weather in Pontiac was dry, but weather reports for

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the surrounding area had rain. Despite that folks started to roll in.

With help from Paula, Gail Schott, and Steve and Tammy Hedrick, the registration went off without a hitch.





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Traffic control was a bit different for this year with a lot of road construction and also renovations on the courthouse in the town square underway. These renovations are in preparation for next year's big events celebrating the 100th anniversary of both Pontiac and Route 66. So, a little construction to deal with this year was worth it to have everything ready for next year's big celebrations.

For this year, for I think the first time ever for this event, Earl and Barb Lewis were not able to attend. Since Earl normally does the 50/50 ticket sales, that left us with a hole in our staffing. But, Sharon Wildebrandt stepped up with assistance from Susan Smith from Heart of Illinois. They did a great job with the ticket sales, raising \$540 for the museum.

After all the voting was done it was time to tabulate. Once again Tammy Hedrick made that super easy by setting up all of the balloting sheets up front for us. We would not be able to pull this off without her help!

Brian Sorensen and members of The Heart of Illinois GTO club took the lead performing the tabulation with some help from a number of Gateway GTO members. Once we had it all totaled up, Terry Schott helped get all of the trophies lined up, this year across the street from the court house due to the construction.

We then proceeded to hand out trophies for the Mayor's Choice, The Museum's Choice, and the Kid's Pick. This year Tim chose an original owner 1969 Trans Am as the Museum's choice. Gen 1 Trans Ams are exceptionally rare and to have such a nice example in the show along with its original owner was quite a treat.

Next up was awarding trophies for the 24 classes. Despite some less than ideal weather around Pontiac, we had a decent turn out of 114 cars for the show. With 72 trophies to hand out, a lot of those folks left with one.



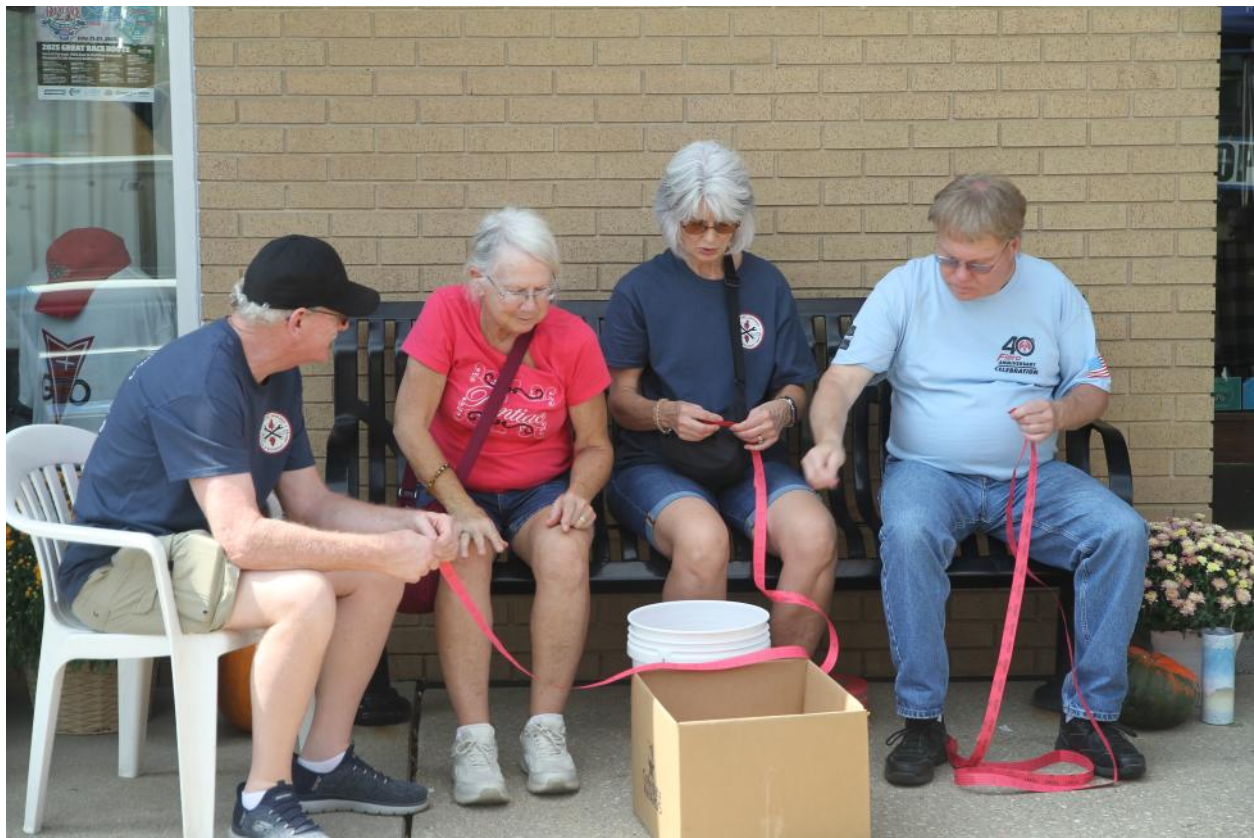


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Of course, all of this is to raise money to help support the Pontiac Oakland Museum. Once we totaled up everything, we determined that our final tally was \$3900 We will present a check to the Museum in a few weeks.

Terry and I would like to thank everyone from Gateway who came and helped out again this year and we also want to recognize all of the great support that we got from the staff of the City of Pontiac, particularly Liz Vincent who organizes everything with the City each year. Also the efforts of Alan and Dave organizing the cruise is a big part of the weekend that everyone looks forward to. Without all this support, we would not be able to pull this off every year. We also want to recognize the help and support we get from Penny Dye who works tirelessly to make sure we have what we need.



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