



THE HOOD SCOOP

March 2022

Sign Lighting Ceremony at the Shamrock Court Motel

By Chris Winslow



Back in early January, Tom Oxler alerted the Gateway GTO officers that Roamin' Rich Dinkela had purchased the old Shamrock Court Motel. It had started life as a motel but was later converted to efficiency apartments. His plan was to restore the motel as an important piece of Route 66 history.

One of the centerpieces of the restoration of the Shamrock was commissioning a brand new neon sign for the motel. The original sign had stood on the entrance to the property from the opening of the motel in 1948 until the sign's removal in 1971. Fortunately, there were enough photos of it still in existence to have a precise replica of the old neon sign fabricated. This was, of course, an expensive sign to make, so Tom suggested that we consider a fund raising effort for the sign, much like we did last year for the new awnings on the Pontiac Museum.

As everyone now knows, we presented this to the membership both via email and also at our March meeting and Gateway's members stepped up in a big way. More on that later.

Roamin' Rich scheduled the sign lighting ceremony for Saturday March 19th. For those of us that wanted to attend the lighting in person,

Gateway GTO
Association



INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Shamrock Sign	1
The Presidents Scoop	9
Calendar	15
GTO Marketplace	16
GGTOA Info Page	18



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Shamrock Court Motel



the Oxler's organized a dinner in advance of the event. The dinner was at the Du Kum Inn in Sullivan.

The weather was really nice and there had been a decent amount of rain a few days earlier that had washed away (hopefully) the last of the salt for the winter. That convinced many of us to break out the GTOs for the event.



Shamrock Court Motel

The restaurant had set up a table for all 16 of us that had made the trip.

After a great dinner, we headed over to the Shamrock. There was already quite a crowd there when we arrived but they did manage to squeeze in the classic GTOs near the motel. This included a special spot for Earl next to the motel itself.



They had the event set up sort of like an open house where they had most of the motel rooms open so that the visitors could take a self guided tour. They also had a 50/50 and a silent auction underway as well as a dessert room set up. The silent auction was for a metal sign that had once hung on the building.

The original exterior stonework on the building appeared to be in remarkably good condition and with a new roof and repairs made to the gables and dormers, Rich already has the outside of the building looking really good.



Shamrock Court Motel



In keeping with the Irish theme for the motel, there was even a leprechaun roaming the grounds.

The sun was still up when we first arrived so we all got a chance to get a good look at the new neon sign in the daylight and it looked amazing. (Probably better than the original sign did when it was new!)

As anticipation of the lighting ceremony grew, Rich jumped up on the roof of his truck and gave the growing crowd an overview of his plans for the restoration of the motel. All of us there agreed that there is a lot of work ahead of Rich, but he is off to a great start.

As the sun began to set, we all gathered again at Rich's truck for the final announcements before the lighting of the sign and the building. Two of those announcements were check presentations in support of the project. The first presentation was made by the Route 66 Preservation Society. As they were making their presentation I was really hoping it was not going to be as much as what Gateway had pulled together, so the suspense was killing me as they presented Rich with a check for \$1000 towards the project. I breathed a sigh of relief because I

Shamrock Court Motel

knew Gateway had beat that amount.

With my turn next, I presented Rich with a check for our donation of \$1025. A few minutes after that, it was time to turn on the lights. There was a huge cheer from the crowd as the building and the sign were lit. What had not been visible in the daylight on the building was green accent lighting on the outline of the roof. From what Tom Oxler told us, the accent lighting was actually LED, but it looked just like neon. The sign, which is neon, also looked amazing. All of us that attended are looking forward to seeing this project completed and staying a night or two in the motel when it opens for business.



Shamrock Court Motel



Shamrock Court Motel



Shamrock Court Motel



Presidents Scoop

The President's Scoop

By Chris Winslow

April is almost here and with warmer weather it is time to get the cars out of winter storage. I have had both the GTO and the Trans Am out for the first time this year in the last week. The TA is almost ready for the 2022 car season, needing only an oil change and a good detailing to be fully ready to go. I would still like to do a total hose swap on the GTO for this year, but given that I still have not found factory (or aftermarket) heater hoses for it, I may have to settle for replacing what hoses I have in my spare parts inventory and leaving finding heater hoses for a project for next winter.

Activity wise, we have 3 activities scheduled for April. First up on April 3rd is our annual Pinball Wizard Tournament organized by Marty and once again taking place at CP Pinball in South Roxanna. We will have more details to follow shortly, but you will want to attend. This is always a fun time. (Even if like me you are pretty much horrible at pin ball!)

The other two big activities in April are the Easter Car Shows. For 2022, the show on the upper lot of the Muny sponsored by the Horseless Carriage Club is on for the first time since 2019. If you are planning on attending that show and you have not already let me know, please get in touch with me right away. This show is limited to cars model year 1997 and older. The show that had traditionally been set up at the lower Muny lot put on by the St. Louis Street Rod Association has been moved again this year to the Family Arena in St. Charles. Marty has taken the lead in setting up Gateway's participation this year. Marty has arranged with the organizers to set up an area just for Gateway, but you will need to let Marty know if you are attending so that he can get the count right for the event.

Looking out to May, the other event to put on your calendars is the Immanuel Lutheran Church and School Parade. Gateway has once again been invited to participate in the parade. We will be transporting veterans and also school officials. I usually try to have between 5 and 7 cars for that event, so if you are planning to attend, please let me know.

Finally, if you have not already, time is running short to get registered for the GTOAA convention in Kingsport TN. This is going to be a big event and includes a chance to drive the track at Bristol, so you won't want to miss it.





Meeting Minutes



Minutes 3/3/2022

7:0 PM – Meeting Start – Dan Semar, and Randy & Diane Jones

Old Business

Chris Winslow talked about GTOAA because Tom Oxler was on vacation

7:10 – New Business

Chris Winslow proposed a change to the constitution to reflect the fact that officer nominations can now be sent in by e-mail.

There was a vote for the proposed change. The change was unanimously approved by the present membership.

3/19-Neon sign for Shamrock hotel: Dedication will be on 3/19, the membership raised \$875 and Gateway will add \$100. Gail Schott motioned 2nd Barb Lewis

Meeting at Sullivan Inn

4/3 –Marty Howard -sign up sheet passed around for Pinball Wizard Tournament. 2-5pm

2/27- Sandra Melrose -Sex, Dogs and the full Catastrophe @ Alton Theater \$18/Person if we can get 20 or \$20/Person. Eat after show.

5/7-Immanuel Lutheran church parade

7:24 – Upcoming Events

3/12-Steve Hedrick St. Patrick's Day Dance \$25/person. Donations go to Semper Fi & Toys 4 tots

3/19-Cruise to Shamrock Hotel for dedication

4/17-Easter show 2-locations

5/1-Model T Swap meet

5/14&15th-NMRA-NMCA show @ WWTR

7:43 – GTOAA

Chris Winslow and Steve Hedrick talked about the 2022 GTOAA Nationals in Kingsport, TN. It will run Tuesday June 28th through Saturday July 2nd.

Daniel Boone tour-Sold Out

Concourse has a waiting list

Host Hotel sold out

7:49 – Tech

Chris Winslow talked about his heater hose replacement on his 2004 GTO and having a hard time finding replacements

Terry Schott talked about the bearings going out in his '70 and the steering column in his '67

7:55 – Personals

Diane Johnson's father passed away.

Jon Havens is doing well after Covid. He was able to travel to POCI with a little fatigue.

Tony Bezzole's sister passed away.

Tony Bezzole is a great grandfather.

Marty Howard recovered from Covid.

Barb & Earl Lewis become grandparents again.

8:09 – Motion to Adjourn by Brian O'Sullivan, seconded by Paula Winslow.

50/50 of \$32 won by Sharon Wildebrandt

43RD GTOAA NATIONALS WE'RE GOING TO

KINGSPORT, TENNESSEE
JUNE 28TH - JULY 2ND, 2022
MEADOWVIEW MARRIOTT
CONFERENCE RESORT & CONVENTION CENTER
BRISTOL BABY!



HEART OF DIXIE



Event Registration

Plan now and make your reservations!
Room Reservations: 888-632-3697.
Mention the GTOAA to get your discount!

Join today @ www.GTOAA.org



Room Reservations

ANY QUESTIONS - PLEASE CALL

Tom Oxler: 636-288-1426

Bob Alexander: 970-214-4234

John Owoc: 412-400-5093



THE HOOD SCOOP

Gateway GTO

Membership Renewal

Gateway GTO Dues for 2022 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



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



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 Tom Oxler with any questions:

Tom Oxler Contact Info:

Phone: 636-928-5548

Email: toxler@prodigy.net



2022 GATEWAY GTO CALENDAR OF EVENTS

April

3 - Annual Pinball Wizard Tournament at CP Pinball

7 - GTO MEETING 7PM at Gingham's

17 - Easter Car Shows:

Horseless Carriage Club Show at the Muny - Contact Chris Winslow to register. Meet at the McDonalds on Hampton at 8:00

St. Louis Hot Rod Association Show at the Family Arena - Contact Marty Howard to register.

May

1 - Model T Swap Meet at GCS Credit Union. See Gateway GTO website for more details

5 - GTO MEETING 7PM at Gingham's

7 - Immanuel Lutheran Parade - Parade cars should gather at the church parking lot at 115S 6th Street in St. Charles at 9:30

SEE THE FULL CALENDAR AT WWW.GATEWAYGTO.ORG

Gateway GTO Classifieds

WANTED

**An Enclosed Trailer big enough for hauling a GTO.
Must be Bumper Hitch Style trailer
Contact John Johnson 573-473-4928**



***Tammy Hedrick
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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

