

OVEB NEWS



The Newsletter of the Ohio Valley Early Birds

July 2012



July Dixieland Brunch Riverboat Cruise

Our Sunday, July 15 outing is a Dixieland Jazz Sunday Brunch on the Belle of Cincinnati. Dine on a hearty spread, then sit back and enjoy a relaxing afternoon on the Ohio River. Take in the sights of Cincinnati and the surrounding countryside, listen to a Dixieland band, linger in the sun and visit with your fellow T-Birders.

We already have 16 confirmed reservations for the brunch cruise, but there is room for more. Why not join us on the river? Just RSVP by phone to Lisa Nogar at 513-474-5197 or by email to rsvp@oveb.org.

Boarding: 11:00 - 11:30am
Cruise: Noon - 2:00pm
Tickets: \$33.27 each

The cost is \$5 less than the regular senior ticket price and includes the cruise itself, brunch, entertainment, port fees, service fees and all taxes. Your check, payable to the Ohio Valley Early Birds, should total \$33.27 for each person in your party. We need to pay for the cruise with a single OVEB check, so please mail your checks right away to:

Bill Curtis
5791 Summit View Court
Cincinnati, OH 45247

Free parking is available near the B. B. Riverboats dock in the City of Newport, KY lot on Columbia Street. Maps and detailed driving directions can be found at this URL:

http://oveb.org/documents/oveb_dixieland_brunch_cruise_flyer.pdf

President's Message

I'd like to thank everyone who attended the June 10 performance of *Happy Days - A New Musical* at the La Comedia Dinner Theatre in Springboro. It was especially nice to reconnect with members Dan and Arlene Hutton, who drove over from Oxford, OH. You can view some photos from the event on page 3. Many thanks to Bill and Pam Strader for planning the event.

Thanks also to Bill Curtis for creating the detailed plans for our August caravan to Memphis for the International CTCI convention. Maps and a synopsis of Bill's driving instructions are located on pages 4 and 5 of this issue.

Our fun-loving neighbors from Indiana have planned a joint EBOH-OVEB weekend September 14-16 featuring an optional cruise-in, car show, winery visits and plenty of free time to hit the Belterra or Rising Star Casinos. Come for one day or stay for two or three.

The Early Birds of Hoosierland are organizing a steak cookout on Saturday at 6:00pm at the Ridge Winery. Reservations are required. Please RSVP by August 15 to rsvp@oveb.org or to Lisa Nogar at 513-474-5197.

Lodging will be tight in Vevay that weekend, so book your rooms right away. A number of OVEB members have already reserved rooms at the nearby Ramada Hotel in Sparta, KY. Additional lodging choices and details about the cruise-in and *On the River Car Show* can be found on the activity calendar on page 2. I look forward to seeing you there.

Brad

OVEB 2012 Event Schedule

July 15, 11:30am – "Belle of Cincinnati" Dixieland Brunch Riverboat Cruise

After a generous Sunday brunch on the Belle of Cincinnati, sit back and enjoy a relaxing cruise on the Ohio River. Take in the sights, listen to a Dixieland Jazz Band, linger in the sun or visit with the captain. Complete details are posted on the OVEB website: http://oveb.org/documents/oveb_dixieland_brunch_cruise_flyer.pdf
Organizers: Brad and Lisa Nogar.

August 22-26 – CTCI International Convention "Birds on Beale" in Memphis, TN

OVEB members wanting to join a caravan to Memphis should contact Bill Curtis (treasurer@oveb.org).

September 14-16 – Weekend with the Early Birds of Hoosierland in Vevay, IN

Our fun-loving neighbors from Indiana have planned a weekend that includes an optional cruise-in and car show, winery visits and plenty of free time to hit the Belterra or Rising Star casinos. Come for just one day or stay for two or three days.

A free cruise-in will be held from 7:00 – 11:00pm on Friday, September 14, at Ogle Riverfront Park. The Vevay "On the River Car Show" takes place in Ogle Riverfront Park on Saturday, September 15. Car show registration is \$20 and is open from 8:00am - 12:30pm. The EBOH is organizing a steak dinner on Saturday at 6:00pm at the Ridge Winery. Reservations are required. Please RSVP to rsvp@oveb.org or to Lisa Nogar at 513-474-5197.

There are many activities taking place this weekend in the Vevay area, so we suggest that you book your accommodations as soon as possible. Here are some potential places to stay:

Schenck Mansion B&B Inn
206 W. Turnpike Street
Vevay, IN 47043
www.schenckmansion.com

Belmark Inn Bed and Breakfast
100 East Main Street
Vevay, IN 47043
812-427-9877

Rosemont Inn Bed and Breakfast
806 West Market Street
Vevay, IN 47043
812-427-3050

Ramada Inn
525 Dale Drive
Sparta, KY 41086
859-567-7223
www.ramadasparta.com

Best Western Ogle Haus
1013 W. Main Street
Vevay, IN 47043
812-427-2020
www.bestwestern.com

October 20 – U.S. Air Force Museum in Dayton, OH

After a leisurely visit to this renowned aviation museum, we'll enjoy dinner at a location to be determined.
Organizers: Rick Varino and Pam Strader.

November 17 – American Sign Museum in Cincinnati, OH

This unique attraction celebrates everything neon. The ASM recently relocated to a much larger facility, where many more examples of restored roadside Americana are on display. Dinner will follow at a location to be determined. Organizers: Brad and Lisa Nogar.

December 2 – OVEB Christmas Party at the home of Bill and Gail Curtis

Time and additional details to follow.

OVEB 2012 Cruise-In Schedule

Informal cruise-ins offer additional opportunities to get together and drive our T-Birds.

August 12, 6:00 – 9:00pm – Colerain Quaker Steak & Lube Sunday Cruise-In

Quaker Steak & Lube, 3737 Stonecreek Blvd., Cincinnati OH. Classic cars, great food and a live DJ.
(Recommended by Bill Curtis).

September 21, 5:00 – 9:00pm – Greene County Antique & Classic Car Club Cruise-In

Lofino's Beaver Valley Shopping Center, 3245 Seajay Drive, Beavercreek, OH.

October 14, 3:00 - 7:00pm – Spring Grove Cemetery Annual Cruise-In & Car Show

Historic Spring Grove Cemetery & Arboretum, 4389 Spring Grove Avenue, Cincinnati, OH. Registration opens at 2:00pm with live music provided by Ooh La La and the Greasers. This is no entry fee, but please bring a non-perishable food item to donate. Dash plaques will be awarded to the first 200 entries. There will also be hourly door prizes, tram tours, a guided 'Cemetery Cruise' at 6:00pm and a vintage hearse exhibit.

Note: All events subject to change. Please visit oveb.org for updated information and additional details.



Backup Light Repairs

By Brad Nogar

I recently discovered that the turn signals on my '57 T-Bird were weak and blinking too rapidly and my backup lights were not working at all. A \$6 flasher solved my faint turn signal problem, but the fix for my backup lights was a bit more involved.

As built by Ford, the backup lights on a classic T-Bird only operate when the headlights are on. The 12V supply for the backup lights runs from the headlight circuit to the reverse contacts in the neutral safety switch and from there to the backup light sockets.

I confirmed that both backup bulbs were good and the ground connections were solid. I then observed the backup lights while wiggling the Fordomatic shifter in and out of reverse to test for a misaligned neutral safety switch. No position made my lights flicker, so it was time to carefully lift up the driver's side carpeting to gain access to the four wires from the neutral safety switch. They poke through the side of the transmission tunnel near the Fordomatic shifter.



Connections to Neutral Safety/Backup Switch

I separated the two bullet connectors that attached the switch to the orange wires feeding the backup lights and connected an ohmmeter to the switch connections. No continuity was observed as the gearshift was moved through all the gears. I then jumpered the two orange wires together and verified that the backup lights glowed when the headlight switch was pulled out. This confirmed that the neutral safety switch itself, which is located underneath the car, was bad.

A replacement switch from CASCO costs \$80, but for an extra \$50, you can buy the 7A247P version that has been modified



internally so the car can be started in both neutral and park. ALL Classic T-Bird owners know that you can only start the engine in neutral, but I decided the added safety and convenience of being able to also start the car in park justified the extra expense.

Caravan to Memphis CTCI Convention – Day 1

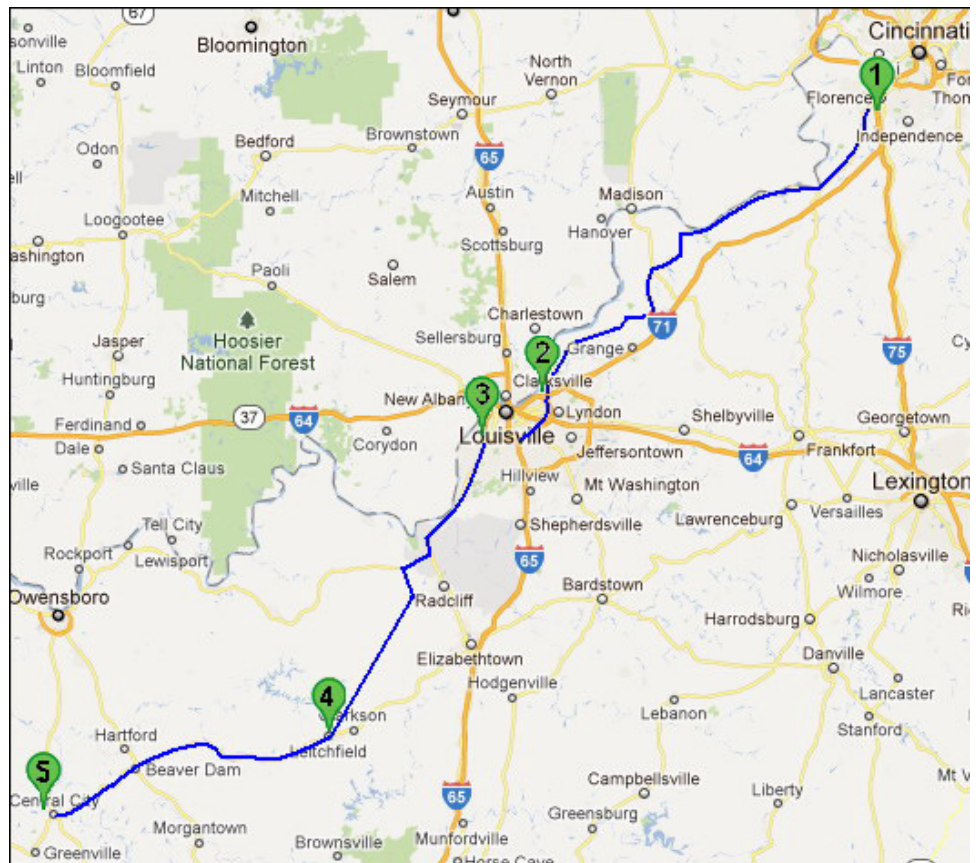


Figure 1 – Day One Caravan Map

A big thank you to Bill and Gail Curtis for test driving our route to Memphis and compiling this interesting itinerary. The following is just a summary. For details, please visit: <http://oveb.org/documents/memphiscaravan.pdf>.

On Monday, August 20, OVEB members traveling to the CTCI convention in Memphis will converge at the Kentucky Rest Area on I-75/I-71S, just south of exit 178 Mt. Zion Road (#1 in Figure 1). We will proceed from there at 10:00am and take exit 175 (Richwood Road) for KY-338. We will follow KY-338 to US-42 and then continue on US-42 into Louisville. It is a pleasant drive with very little traffic.

Once we are near Louisville (#2 in Figure 1) we will get on the Watterson Expressway (I-264) for about 15 miles to US-31W South/US-60 West (#3 in Figure 1).

Immediately off the exit from the Watterson Expressway on US-31W/US-60 is a group of restaurants: Bob Evans, O'Charley's and Texas Roadhouse. They are located on the right side of the road in a shopping area with a large parking lot. We should arrive there for lunch between 12:00 and 12:30pm.

After lunch we will head toward Ft. Knox, KY, following US-31W/US-60 until US-60 turns straight west. We will then follow secondary highways to get to Leitchfield, KY, (#4 in figure 1). In Leitchfield we will pick up the Wendel H. Ford Western Kentucky Parkway and travel the next 50 miles to Central City, KY, (#5 in Figure 1). We will spend the night at the Super 8 Central City, 635 South 2nd St., Wendel H Ford Pkwy, Exit 58, Central City, KY 42330. The hotel is located right off the exit from the Parkway and has a parking lot that can accommodate trailers and tow vehicles. We have reserved seven rooms at the AARP rate of \$74.75.

Caravan to Memphis CTCI Convention – Day 2

New OVEB Logowear

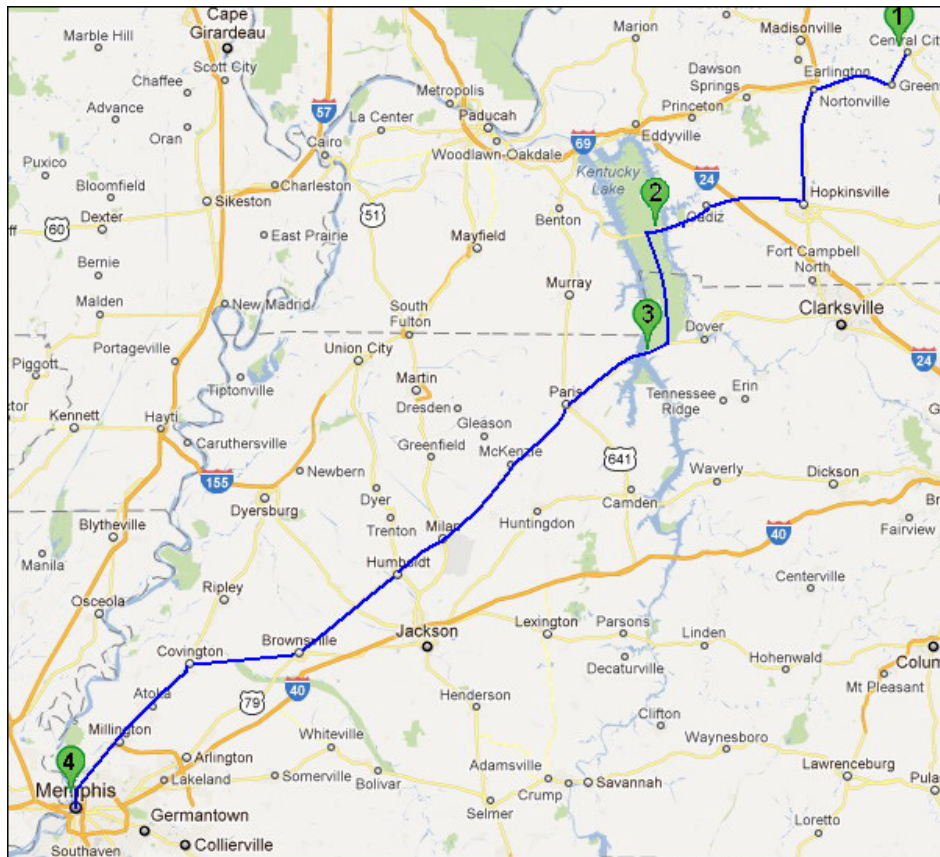


Figure 2 – Day Two Caravan Map

On the second day we can take our time, enjoy a nice breakfast at the hotel and hit the road around 9:00am. We will travel approximately 271 miles, reaching Memphis on Tuesday afternoon.

We will depart Central City, KY, heading west on the Wendel H. Ford Western Kentucky Parkway until we reach the Edward T. Breathitt Pennyryle Parkway. We will follow that Parkway south to Hopkinsville and then head west on KY-80/US-68.

We will cross over Lake Barkley to the Land Between the Lakes (#2 in Figure 2) and head south on the Woodlands Trace National Scenic Byway (The Trace). This should be a nice drive, passing into Tennessee about half way down to where we will emerge near Dover, TN (#3 in Figure 2). By this time it should be getting close to lunchtime. There are a number of places that we can stop while heading west on TN-76W/US-79S toward Memphis. It is approximately 30 minutes to Paris, TN, another 20 minutes to McKenzie, TN, and another 20 minutes to Milan, TN.

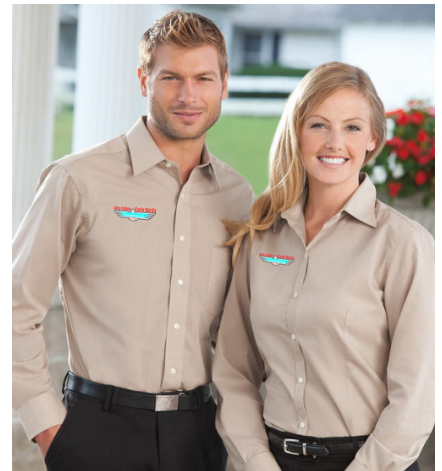
After lunch we will head along TN-76W/US-79S until we get to Brownsville, TN (about 100 miles from The Trace). Here we will head west on TN-54 to Covington, TN and take TN-59/TN-3/US-51 into Memphis.

If all goes as planned, we should get to Memphis sometime between 3:00 and 4:00pm. They will not be loading T-Birds into the Convention Center until Wednesday. There will be secure parking in the Convention Center Garage for cars and trailers on Tuesday.

Make a fashion statement in Memphis or here at home while displaying pride in your local club by wearing clothing embroidered with the Ohio Valley Early Birds' logo.

We've made special arrangements with T&T Sales and Promotions to offer our members a wide variety of apparel and accessories from their 543-page catalog. Clothing choices include polo and knit shirts, T-shirts, sweatshirts, camp shirts, workwear and outerwear. You can also order caps, bags, totes, blankets and coolers featuring the OVEB logo.

Prices vary by clothing style and manufacturer. Brands include Hanes, Jerzees, Outerbanks, Nike, Sport-Tek, Gilban, Port Authority and more.



In order to receive our initial order of logowear in time for those attending the Memphis CTCI convention, we'll need to place an order quickly.

We'll have catalogs, blank order forms and price lists available on the July 15 Dixieland cruise. Feel free to choose any style or color of garment. Some members have indicated a desire to select clothing to coordinate with their cars or their spouses. We'll collect orders at the cruise and fax them to T&T for confirmation of pricing and delivery. If you cannot attend the cruise, you will have future opportunities to place orders.

Some styles can also be viewed online:
<http://www.companycasuals.com/lauriedyer>

User Review: CASCO 3600SM Smaller Steering Wheel for 1956/57 T-Birds

By Brad Nogar



Smaller 3600SM Steering Wheel Installed in 1957 T-Bird



Comparison of 3600SM with Stock Steering Wheel

I have always been confounded by the massive steering wheel on my 1957 Thunderbird. I love the retro appearance, but its sheer girth forced me to adopt an uncomfortably wide stance while driving, which was extremely tiring on long trips. Given that my car is equipped with power steering, the stock wheel seemed excessive. I looked at smaller aftermarket steering wheels with integrated tilt columns, but they were far from period correct in appearance. Why couldn't someone just create a slightly smaller, look-alike T-Bird steering wheel? My wish went unfulfilled for fifteen years, but recently, I spotted a new product on the CASCO website that was exactly what I was seeking—the model 3600SM steering wheel. Is it possible that I wasn't the only dimensionally challenged T-Bird driver who longed for more space behind the wheel? I immediately ordered a 3600SM steering wheel, a 13A806D 1957 Horn Ring Medallion and a 13A807 horn ring spring.

The 3600SM steering wheel is two inches smaller in diameter and one inch shorter in height than the stock T-Bird wheel. Like the original Ford Model T, the 3600SM is available in any color you want, so long as that color is black. Unfortunately, my interior is red, so I dropped the steering wheel off at Bratfish Auto Body for a makeover. In less than a week, I was ready to install the new steering wheel, now finished in the correct shade of flame red acrylic.

The installation itself is a piece of cake, so long as you have a T-Bird steering wheel puller. I easily fabricated one from a piece of bar stock using plans published in Issue 10 (October 1997) of

CASCO's ThunderEnlightening newsletter. Back issues of this excellent publication can be downloaded from CASCO at this URL:

<http://classictbird.com/Factspage.html>.

Driving with the smaller steering wheel seems very natural. It certainly makes the cockpit feel more spacious. Whether steering while underway or parking, the action of the 3600SM feels normal. Turning corners and parking seems easier with the smaller wheel. This may be due to the way that the stock wheel projects above the instrument cluster, creating a small obstruction in the field of view. The 3600SM does not extend above the dash, so the view through the windshield is totally clear. This very benefit brings a corresponding disadvantage, however, at least for someone of my 6' height. The lower profile partly obscures the top of the speedometer, making it a bit harder to gauge the speed when the needle is pointing straight up. This isn't a big deal, but it is worth noting. My only other observation is that there may be slightly more road feel with the smaller steering wheel; the stock wheel may provide more dampening when hitting potholes and expansion strips in the roadway. The difference is very subtle.

The bottom line is that for myself and other larger drivers of Ford's timeless "Personal Luxury Automobile," the 3600SM represents an excellent (and easily reversible) upgrade that enhances driving comfort. For detailed installation instructions and step-by-step photos, download this file:

http://oveb.org/tech/3600sm_steering_wheel_installation.pdf

New Free Classified Ads



Ohio Valley Early Bird members can now post free T-Bird related classified ads on oveb.org. If you have a car or parts that you would like to sell or are looking for a car or parts, why not list them on our website? Just send an email with a detailed description and photos to classifieds@oveb.org.

This is just one more of the many enhancements that Bill Curtis has recently added to our website.



July Birthdays

10	Pam Strader
14	Calvert Busch

August Birthdays

19	Ed Faulkner
28	Jasper Cassidy
28	Lisa Nogar

Cruise-Ins on Calendar

Don't forget the optional cruise-in dates on the calendar. These single-evening outings provide additional opportunities to take your T-Bird out for a spin, to visit with fellow OVEB members and to meet new people.

Send Us Your News

Have you heard or read something interesting about a fellow T-Birder? Do you have a new grandchild or a story to share? Please submit your news to Secretary Lisa Nogar at 513-474-5197 or news@oveb.org.

Thanks to Bill Strader

Bill Strader kindly donated two reams of high quality ledger-sized paper for printing our newsletters.



oveb.org

Ohio Valley Early Birds

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FIRST CLASS MAIL