



The **BULB HORN**

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The Touring Club
www.vmccla.org

THE PURPOSE OF THE VMCCA IS TO PROMOTE TOURING AND ENJOYMENT OF VINTAGE VEHICLES THROUGH
THE ACQUISITION, PRESERVATION, AND EXHIBITION OF ALL VINTAGE AND HISTORICALLY SIGNIFICANT
VEHICLES AND ASSOCIATED MATERIALS.



The 74th Annual Great Lakes Region Tour

By Dave Plassman

Left to right: A pair of ponies—Mike & Thelma Stitt with their 1964 1/2 Mustang Convertible and Mark & Beverly Kosin with their 2005 Mustang.

Our 74th Annual Great Lakes Region Tour held during July 27- August 1, started Sunday afternoon, based at the Country Inn & Suites in Rossford, Ohio. There were 32 cars, 62 members, and 4 children on our tour. We headed out for our opening banquet in Zion Lutheran Church.

Our travels on Monday morning took us to the Wolcott House in Maumee, Ohio. We met in their historic church for guided tours. They have many buildings, each with docents to explain the history of their structures. The next destination was the National Museum of the Great Lakes, along the Maumee River in Toledo. It was an excellent maritime museum! We were also able to tour the restored SS *Col. James M. Schoonmaker* Great Lakes boat and Ohio tug. After lunch at the National Museum of the Great Lakes, we took a scenic drive in the country to the Maumee Bay State Park Nature Center. They have many aquariums with turtles and fish; the children on tour enjoyed this stop. On the return to the hotel, we made a stop at the Dairy Depot. It was a great ending for our Monday tour.



Richard Staadt with Marty the dachshund, and Sue Knepper, in Richard's 1911 Ford Model T Touring.



On Tuesday morning we traveled to Fremont, Ohio, to the Rutherford B. Hayes Presidential Library and Museum. The stunning home contains period-correct furniture from when President Hayes lived there. Most of the pieces are original to the house. Fantastic! The VMCCA Toledo Chapter served coffee and donuts in the museum's meeting room. Then we drove country roads to the Schedel Gardens in Elmore, Ohio. This was originally a private home with an arboretum garden. We were able to walk the gardens or ride golf carts with a docent driving and explaining the names of trees and flowers. We ate lunch in the garden's conference room. It was a perfect space to visit and enjoy lunch. Afterward, our next stop was to Packer Creek Pottery in Genoa, Ohio. We were gathered in their workshop and watched as master potters threw various pieces of pottery into shape. We also observed gifted potters inscribe and pinstripe custom-made pottery. After visiting their retail store, we headed back to Rossford to end our day.



Mark and Karen Oberender in their 1947 Willys Jeep.



Don and Chris Dear toured in their 1987 Pontiac Grand Prix.

On Wednesday we traveled great roads to Grand Rapids, Ohio, for a Miami, Wabash & Erie Canal boat ride. The VMCCA Black Swamp Chapter provided donut holes. Our group filled the boat. We used the canal lock to go upstream and to return to our parking area. This canal lock is the only one in the United States that still operates. The canal boat captain was interesting to listen to. Next, we traveled to Leisure Time Winery for lunch. They opened their Field House just for us. Terrific! After lunch we went to the John Bloomfield Home Museum and Carriage House in Napoleon, Ohio. Dr. Bloomfield's house is one of the finest examples in Napoleon. The home and carriage house were both open to tour. Members of the Historical Society prepared homemade German coffee cakes. Yummy! Then the tour guides led us to Mike Androvich's private tractor collection east of Grand Rapids, Ohio. Mike hand-cranked many of his antique, all original, unrestored tractors. On our return to Rossford, we could stop at Mr. Freeze for afternoon ice cream. Mr. Freeze sounded perfect since the weather was in the mid-90s and humid all week.





Gordon and Dawn Rhoades' 1959 Corvette makes one want "2 LUST 4" summer cruising all year long!

Thursday's weather forecast was for severe storms and wind. Our reservations for the trip to Put-In-Bay were canceled as the Jet Express boats were not heading into Lake Erie. Our hosts reworked the day's tour, and we went to Port Clinton to the Liberty Aviation Museum. They have many restored planes in their museum. A restored Ford Trimotor flies on a regular schedule. They had a nice lunch area where we dined in a replica of a trolley car. Our next stop was at the Glass Pavilion in Toledo. We arrived in time to watch artists demonstrate glass blowing. And we saw many glass collections in the museum's rooms before heading back to Rossford for the evening.

Friday morning was our last day. We visited the Millbury Classic Cars and Trucks Museum in Millbury, Ohio. The museum opened in 2015 and has expanded dramatically over the past 10 years. The collection has original and show-worthy restored cars on display. We had our closing banquet there at noon.

Thank you to our hosts, the Black Swamp Chapter, especially to their members Sue Hanley, Judy Wright, and Gary Miron. It was a great tour with nice stops, good traveling roads, morning donuts, delicious lunches, and afternoon ice cream. The 75th GLR Tour is already being planned.



Steve Fitzgerald with his 1998 Lincoln Town Car.

(Photos by Dave Plassman)





In the foreground is Keith and Susan Randall's 1980 Datsun 280 ZX and parked beside it is Ron and Mary Cardeccia's 1965 Lincoln Continental.



Left to right: Doug and Sue Hanely's 1985 Ford Crown Victoria with Gary and Michelle Miron's 1976 Ford Elite.

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