

LOU & MARY JANE FRITZ, FRANKLIN GAGE ALSO PARTICIPATE

Mary Whitcraft Composes Eloquent Narrative Of 2014 'Founders Tour'

There are six AACA sponsored tours: the Reliability Tour; the Glidden Tour; the Vintage Tour; the Sentimental Tour; the Divisional Tour and the Founder's Tour.

Each tour has distinct characteristics. The Founder's Tour is held annually for all vehicles, except race cars, manufactured from 1932 through a production year twenty-five years prior to the year of the tour. The Founder's Tour was established to honor the founders of the AACA and was designed to permit the use of newer vehicles on an AACA tour. Typically, regional clubs sponsor the tour each year.

My husband Craig and I have participated in the last three tours: Altoona Region in 2012, North Alabama Region in 2013, and Buzzard's Breath Touring Region in 2014. The Buzzard's Breath Group is non-geographic and is composed of members from many states.

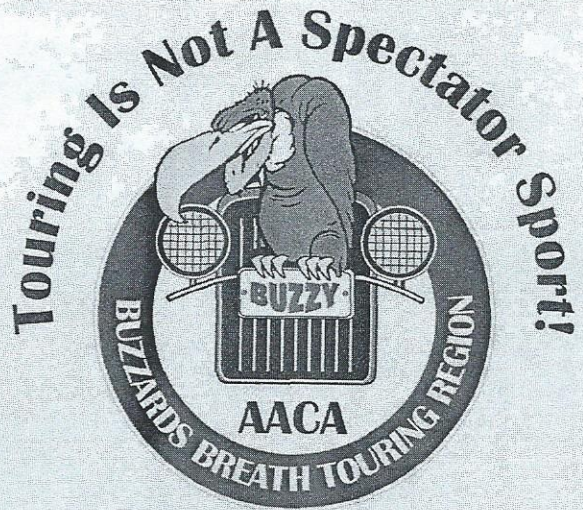
By Mary Whitcraft

Although the very successful Founder's Tour 2013 in Huntsville, Alabama remained a fresh and happy memory, the prospects of finding a sponsor for the 2014 Founder's Tour were quickly dwindling. Luckily for us, The New Jersey Buzzard's Breath Touring Group stepped into the breach and accomplished a mission that had seemed nearly impossible. As you know, planning a tour is a Herculean task, and although time was of the essence, The 'Buzzys' swooped down from their rafters and created for all of us a week of fun, beauty and first class passage from start to finish. Here and now, I want to thank them for providing such a magical carpet ride for us.

Photo Opportunity...

The first photo op was at the picturesque Cape May Lighthouse that has graced a million calendars since its construction. We watched bird enthusiasts peering through binoculars at the indigenous and migratory birds that light in the wetlands surrounding the cape. From there, we cruised up to the Wildwood Naval Air Station Museum. What a display! Navy aircraft of many types and purposes were open for our personal inspection. The seats and armrests still bear the impressions of those 'Magnificent Men in Their Flying Machines' who mustered the courage to fly into harm's way on our behalf. Craig and I sat inside a Coast Guard helicopter that had been used to rescue fishermen from frigid storm-tossed seas off of the coast of Alaska. Where do they find such men? After a stop for lunch, we visited the Cape May Zoo. It was a sweet and serene place, the animals seemed content and unstressed.

On Tuesday we checked out of the hotel in Vineland and rolled up the road to the town of Asbury in northern New Jersey, one hundred thirty miles away. Surprisingly, the landscape becomes mountainous and from a distance, we could see an estate, perched at the tippy top of a very high peak. To our surprise, it was our destination, the home of Mr. Jeff Day and his unbelievable collection of cars and carriages. I simply cannot begin to describe this stunning



Proud hosts of the 2014 Founders Tour

treasure trove of museum quality vehicles. To even try would be to deny them the justice they so richly deserve. Mr. Day also has a stable of horses, fenced pastures and a specially designed separate building dedicated to equine exercising. You might call it a 'Gold's Gym for Mr. Ed.' The place is mind-blowing and very close to another Wonder of the World.

The Schaedals of Hope...

On Wednesday, the rains came, along with a bit of chill. But what care we? Off we go on the rain slicked byways and soon arrive at a coffee-break stop at the home of Peggy and King Schaedel in Hope, New Jersey. There we found a lavish array of donuts, muffins and homemade cakes for our enjoyment and we were happy to hear that all of the goodies were calorie-free! The fresh brewed coffee was going like hot cakes and in my estimation, it was the BEST coffee I have ever tasted. The Schaedels live in a home that was once a barn, complete with its antique silo adjacent to the front porch. Peggy, 'Peg-0-My-Heart' Schaedel is a most unique and wonderful woman. I immediately wished that she were my neighbor. Her talents are astonishing, including shearing wool from her own sheep and spinning the wool into yarn on an old spinning wheel. Peggy hand dyes the yarn and knits an array of lovely winter garments. When not spinning, Peggy is quilting. If I were a quilt judge, I would pin a blue ribbon on each one of her colorful and flawlessly stitched creations. Upon leaving the Schaedel's home, our tour took us to High Point State Park, lovely even in the rain. Its elevation provides vistas of the Pocono Mountains to the west and the Catskills to the north. A very tall monument made of New Hampshire granite and dedicated to the memory of New Jersey's fallen heroes presides over the luscious countryside below. On that day, the land was carpeted with fallen red and gold leaves made shiny by the lingering showers.

(Continued in January 2015 Chesapeake Bulletin)