

Horsepower Comes In Many Forms

Grand Indiana Auto Tour 18 • August 1-4, 2012

Story by Jane Johnson. Photos courtesy Bill Slone, Jane & Bill Johnson, and Steve Blakey



The 18th Annual Grand Indiana Auto Tour traveled south of the border to Lexington, KY, August 1-4. Forty-six cars and 99 people from Indiana, Ohio, Michigan, and Kentucky, gathered at the Clarion Hotel on Newtown Pike to tour the scenic roads of Central Kentucky.



Wednesday, August 1

The festivities kicked off with a banquet on Wednesday evening at the Clarion. The after-dinner highlight is always the introductions of the participants, as each tells a little about him/herself and the car being driven on this year's tour. Lots of fun sharing this year included tales of the trek to Lexington as well as various birthdays and anniversaries to celebrate.

Thursday, August 2

Thursday morning we hit the road, heading south to Berea, the arts and crafts capital of Kentucky. We browsed the Artisan Center, and made lots of purchases to take home before having lunch at historic Boone Tavern.



Yum—love that spoonbread! After lunch there was time to visit Old Town Berea with its craft shops and studios before heading back to Lexington for a free evening. As usual, some music broke out in the hospitality room and a sing-along of old favorites ensued before everyone called it an evening and headed to bed.

Friday, August 3

Friday's tour took us first to Versailles and a visit to Nostalgia Station, an antique toy and train museum. Then it was "all aboard" for a ride at the Bluegrass Railroad Museum. The skies turned cloudy and a steady drizzle set in as we arrived at Tony's BBQ Barn for our lunch stop. The rain continued the rest of the day, but we didn't let it deter us from touring (and tasting!) at Wild Turkey Bourbon Whiskey Distillery in nearby Lawrenceburg. The day ended with a banquet at the Clarion.

Saturday, August 4

Saturday was sunny again, perfect for a visit to Old Friends Farm for retired racehorses. Here our guides told us about each horse's past. Carrots were handed out to those who wanted an up close and personal visit with such notables as Danthebluegrassman and Bull in the Heather. And from a distance we could see the farm's most recent resident, Zippy Chippy, whose claim to fame is the 100 races he didn't win.

After leaving Old Friends we toured on to the state capital of Frankfort where we visited the Kentucky History Center. Then it was time for our closing luncheon, held in the fellowship hall of First Christian Church. It is always sad to see the tour come to an end, but as we say our goodbyes it is with the happy thought that we will plan to be together again on the 2013 Grand Indiana Auto Tour! See you down the road!



- 1.** Jim Koontz finds a comfy spot between activities during GIAT 2012.
- 2.** Bluegrass Railroad Museum's train conductor Earnest "Earnie" Begley keeps GIAT rolling.
- 3.** Mike Huffman's '35 Auburn Boattail Speedster in repose.
- 4.** Larry & Sandy Stewart's '77 Cadillac hunts for a parking space.
- 5.** A little rain never hurt anybody, especially when relaxing on the front porch at Wild Turkey Distillery's visitor center.
- 6.** Proof positive the participants of GIAT enjoy multiple modes of transportation while on tour.
- 7.** Jane Johnson finds a friend at Old Friends Farm for retired racehorses.



1. GIAT enjoys a fascinating ride courtesy the Bluegrass Railroad Museum. **2.** Jane Johnson finding this kitty's sweet spot at Old Friends. **3.** All the conveniences of modern road travel thanks to Bill Johnson's GPS. **4.** Mike Bryson shops for his granddaughter at Nostalgia Station. **5.** Getting that bourbon recipe just right in the Wild Turkey Distillery mixing room. **6.** Bill & Betty Swopes '62 Chrysler Imperial stand ready for our next outing **7.** Bill & Vicky Sloan ride in style in their '53 Chevy. **8.** Phil Ashcraft's '60 Triumph Roadster. **9.** What's a tour without good victuals? GIAT waits out the rain at Tony's BBQ. **10.** All Aboard! Headed for the train at Bluegrass Railroad Museum.