



THE FRANKLIN LINE

HHFC MIDWEST REGION NEWSLETTER
Fall 2024

Greetings my Franklin friends,

Our Fall 2024 Meet was hosted By Pam and Phil Weisenbarger in the Amish country of Ohio. This is a very beautiful area, it was the peak of the tourist season with a bounty of treasures to be found everywhere.

Pam and Phil planned great stops and points of interest; we saw some very nice Amish craftsmanship. Leaman's Hardware Store was filled with any and everything one could ever need. We saw chairs and Franklin frames being made, wooden wheels for buggies and some of our cars that still have the wooden wheels made by some very Amish craftsmen. One highlight for me was a stop at Ed Erb's Coleman Museum, Ed has many Coleman products starting with the very first items Coleman made and sold. I heard comments from many that said they didn't realize Coleman made so many other things and not just lanterns. After that stop we went to see some very cool steam engines. On the last day we went to a wood carver's museum, that totally blew me away. Lunch and dinners stops were great and Amish cuisine everywhere.

We had a wonderful time and it was great to meet new and see old friends again.

At our business meeting we took care of the usual items, and we are in great shape as a region with over 100 members.

Our 2025 Spring meet will be in Illinois and will be hosted by Tom Kleinschmidt, more details are coming. We are still looking for a location for the Fall 2025 meet, if interested let one of us know

Well, back to the shop to get projects staged for the winter and put some more miles on our 1923 Demi Sedan's fresh rebuild - it's sounding great!

If anyone has any questions, concerns, or just wants to say hi give me a call or write me a note.

Aura Vincit
Dean Dorholt
612-803-0836

In This Issue:

* President's Message	1
* Midwest Fall Meet 2024 Report	2-3
* Meeting Minutes	4-5
* Midwest Fall Meet 2024 in Photos	6-16



FALL 2024 FRANKLIN MIDWEST MEET

OCTOBER 2 - OCTOBER 6

Amish Backroads and Byways

By Darla Metro

The 2024 Fall Midwest Meet was held October 2nd to 6th in beautiful Berlin, Ohio, home of Ohio's largest Amish community. Hosted by Phil and Pam Weisenbarger we were lucky enough to have lovely sunny days in the seventies. We couldn't have asked for any better weather. There were 56 attendees and 15 cars at the meet.

Thursday: We headed to Kidron, OH to visit Lehman's Hardware, family owned and operated since 1955. Voted "The Best Place to Visit in Amish Country" it lived up to the honor. They literally had everything and anything you could be looking for. The place was huge and every time you turned a corner there was more to see! Leaving Lehman's our next stop was at The Ashery to pick up our bag lunches. A bulk food store and deli, tourers found much more to buy and take with them. Pam informed us that it was the first time The Ashery had done bag lunches and liked doing it so much they would look into doing it again. The lunches were excellent. We took our lunches to Hochstetler Chair Company in Berlin where we used their newly built cafeteria to eat. Finishing lunch, we went a short distance to their plant for our tour. Since 1973 this facility has produced chairs for businesses like Cracker Barrel and Buster and Dave's. They produce 800-900 wooden chairs a week from forests they plant themselves. The highlight of this tour stop was seeing frame rails for Franklins being made on site. Several sets had been ordered by Franklin owners. Leaving Hochstetler's we continued on to see Keim Lumber and Home Center in Charm. Founded in 1911 as a lumber mill, it is a fourth generation business that is a source for building and woodworking needs. The 125,000 foot showroom displayed everything from exotic woods to lighting, hardware, etc. On the way back after the tour everyone had the option of stopping at Guggisberg Cheese Factory (famous for their baby Swiss cheese) or Hershberger's Farm Market and Bakery on their own.



Friday: Brought us to three more interesting stops. First was Erbs Coleman Museum in Sugarcreek. If you've ever been on a camping trip the equipment displayed here will look familiar. Started by Ed Erb, the museum, on two floors, features over 3,000 nostalgic Coleman items including gas cooking stoves, ice chests, irons, lamps, lanterns, etc. What a trip down memory lane! Right around the corner from Erb's was our next destination, The Age of Steam Roundhouse Museum, celebrating the largest private collection of steam locomotives in the world. Our 90 minute tour included a fully functional shop where restoration specialists work to preserve, restore, and repair steam locomotives. Featured is an 18-stall, accurately reconstructed, brick roundhouse and 115 foot turntable. Not far from The Age of Steam Roundhouse Museum, we gathered for lunch at The Baltic Mill Winery. This charming boutique winery/restaurant is housed in an old flour mill that has been renovated. After a lunch of delicious pulled pork, veggies, and cookies, Franklinites enjoyed looking at the mill machinery still present on the second and third floor, as well as the flour mill's steam engine that is still in the cellar. Our last stop of the day was Stutzman's Wheel Shop, Ltd. in Baltic. They specialize in custom wood wheels, antique automobile wheels, wooden bicycle rims, and wooden steering wheels. Noah Stutzman gave us a tour of the shop explaining the various tools his father had designed to make wooden wheels. This included a machine for shrinking the rim onto the wood fellow and a basket of different spokes for his duplicating lathe. He also discussed the method for bending the wooden fellow for a cannon wheel. He had various finished wheels in the shop including a set for a LaFrance fire engine. On our own for the rest of the afternoon, tourers were encouraged to explore. Bob and I, along with our passengers Dick and Connie Roth, and joined by Sandy and Betty Bennett, drove to Sugarcreek to see the world's largest cuckoo clock. Serendipitously there was an ice cream parlor near the cuckoo clock so we enjoyed our treats while waiting for the clock to hit the hour.



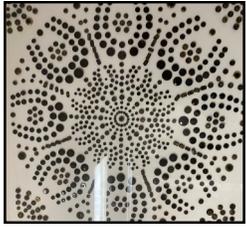
FALL 2024 FRANKLIN MIDWEST MEET

OCTOBER 2 - OCTOBER 6

Amish Backroads and Byways (cont.)

By Darla Metro

Saturday: Found us heading to the Warther Museum and Gardens to see the amazing carvings of



Ernest “Mooney” Warther. Owned and operated by third and fourth generation family members, the museum highlights his carvings in a building built around the original location of his and his wife Frieda’s home and gardens. Also on site is “The Button House”, where Frieda’s button collection of over 73,000 buttons is displayed artistically in geometric and quilt patterns. “Mooney” started carving as a young boy and continued to do so for 82 years. His first work was a pair of pliers that he made with ten cuts. He would make them and give them away over the years and there is a large sculpture in front of the museum made of several large pliers. That humble carving evolved into over sixty works focused on steam engines that are housed in the museum. We were all gob smacked by the incredible detail in his carvings that were made from ivory and wood. Some were even automated! Of all the great things we saw I found this to be the highlight. What an incredible talent!! Several Franklin members bought “blanks” to try carving the pliers themselves. I wonder how many were successful? Hopefully no fingers were lost in the process!

Our banquet and business meeting were held at the Berlin Farmstead Restaurant. We had a great time and I think everyone on the tour did too. The Amish that we encountered were very gracious and welcoming. Seeing the various modes of transportation, school children, rolling hills, and gorgeous farms was a joy.

Many, many thanks to the Weisenbargers for putting on this great Midwest Meet!

FALL 2024 FRANKLIN MIDWEST MEET PARTICIPANTS

OCTOBER 3 - OCTOBER 6

Sandy and Betty Bennett
Gregg Burnett
Kent and Sigrid Carpenter
Mark Chaplin, John Strawway and
Cindy Carr
Dan and Kelly Coffman
Bob Cornman
Tim Coyle
Dean and Cinda Dorholt
Greg Drufke
Bill and Geri Eby
Bill Fields
Steven and Jamie Hall
Jeff and Joan Hasslen
Ray Hemmelgarn
Bouvard Hosticka
Keith and Janet Kilmer

Tom and Ann Kleinschmidt
Derek Kleinschmidt and Jen Czaja
Bob and Darla Metro
Dennie and Varlene Milne
Roger Moffatt and Lisa Christensen
Lee and Nancy Nelson
Carol Norton
Rand Patterson
Alex Ramsier
Jim and Lydia Roberts
Dick and Connie Roth
Dan Russell
Glen and Jolene Short
Richard and Oskar Stubbs and
Sarah Carpenter
Andrew Sullivan and Missy Brown
Bob and Cindy Wisner

Phil and Pam Weisenbarger

FALL 2024 FRANKLIN MIDWEST MEET

OCTOBER 2 - OCTOBER 6

Business Meeting – Sat. Oct 5, 2024 – Berlin, Ohio

Call to order:

Region President, Dean Dorholt opened the meeting by thanking Phil and Pam for hosting a successful meet.

A moment of silence was observed for recently deceased Region members:

Kathryn Harry (Sept.2)

Bruce Levey (Sept.5)



Recognition:

- First time attending a Region Meet: Greg Burnett, Ross, Ohio; Stephen and Jamie Hall, Jefferson City, MO; Sarah Carpenter, Richard Stubbs and Oskar Stubbs, Livonia, MI.
- Brought a Franklin to this meet: Sandy and Betty Bennett, Mark Chaplin and John Strawway, Daniel and Kelly Coffman, Bob Cornman, Tim Coyle, Bill and Geri Eby, Bill Fields, Jeff and Joan Hasslen, Keith and Janet Kilmer, Tom and Ann Kleinschmidt, Bob and Darla Metro, Jim and Lydia Roberts, Glenn and Jo Short, Phil and Pam Weisenbarger. Dean mentioned - There were 14 Franklins and Rand Patterson brought a Model T.
- Drove a Franklin to the Meet: Everyone trailered.
- Traveled the furthest to attend: Glenn and Jo Short from OK City traveled 1,017 miles.

Host report: Phil Weisenbarger – “Thank you all! And I thank Pam for her support and help. Thank you for coming!” After the meet, Phil emailed that credit should go to Jeff Hasslen for setting up the visit to Hochstetler Wood. Thank you, Jeff.

Secretary Report: Total Region membership is **117**.

New members:

- Glenn and Jo Short, Oklahoma City, OK, own a 1912 Touring, a 1930 Dietrich Speedster and a 1930 Convertible Coupe (which Glenn says is their favorite)
- Missy Brown and Andrew Sullivan, North Windham, CT, own a 1923 10B Touring and a 1931 153 Deluxe Sedan.

Treasurer Report: Current Balance in Region Account: \$1,719.29.

- Soon members will be contacted about membership for 2025. Please read over your information in the 2024 Region Directory. If it's accurate and you have nothing to add or correct, don't print the form - just send the dues. A one-page 2025 addendum will list any changes submitted.

Old business: None

New Business:

- Election of Midwest Region Officers: The current slate of officers was read. Moved and seconded; vote was unanimous. The current officers will serve for another 3 year term. Reelected are President Dean Dorholt, Vice President Bill Eby, Secretary/Treasurer Joan Hasslen, Regional Director Jeff Hasslen.

Midwest Region Reports:

- 1) Jeff Hasslen (Regional Director): The new HHFC President is Mike McCarthy. He starts in January. Thank you, Andrew, for your leadership.
- 2) Cinda Dorholt (Editor - The Franklin Line): “Many of you take pictures at these meets. Can you share some and send to me for the Line? We all have a different perspective and our pictures tell a good story.” Email

FALL 2024 FRANKLIN MIDWEST MEET

OCTOBER 2 - OCTOBER 6

pictures to midwestfranklin@gmail.com

Business Meeting continued

Other Business:



1) **Andrew Sullivan** (HHFC President): “We had a lot of fun at this meet. I appreciate your organization and planning for this event. Your hospitality was fantastic. I welcome Mike McCarthy as our new Club President and Dan Russell as VP and look forward to all they’ll do. Thank you.”

2) **Bouvard Hosticka** (HHFC Library): “Susan Roberts has made all the Franklin material that Arnie Christiansen had collected available to the Library for scanning and inclusion in the digital library.... We are ¼ of the way through the scanning process.... Also, the digital library is available to any club member at no charge but they must provide at least 500 MB of media at their expense (or contact me for side deals.)”

3) **Bill Eby** (Webmaster): “As mentioned in the last ACN, you can now search the Engineering Drawing File by Series.”

4) **Roger Moffat** (Chair, The Franklin Collection): The Gilmore hosted their last “Cruise In” of the year. There were 1148 cars; The Gardner car is ready to be sold; A recent highlight for Roger was taking the 1905 Franklin to the “Cars are the Stars” car show in Minerva, OH; Because of his connection to The Collection and being known at the Gilmore as the Franklin “expert”, Roger was filmed, interviewed and an 18 minute video was produced about Franklins. Available on YouTube very soon.

Future Meets: Spring 2025 – Tom and Ann Kleinschmidt will host in Northern Illinois, approx. 25 miles out of Chicago, possibly in May. “I am currently figuring out the hub hotel. I guarantee the area will be flat.”

Additional Announcements / Comments:

- 1) Lee Nelson shared that Wayne Scherer (Milan, IL) has been restoring his 1930 Speedster for many years. In July, the AACA group had the unveiling of his completed speedster and also celebrated his 90th birthday. Congratulations, Wayne!
- 2) Dick and Connie Roth, Chairs for Trek 2025, spoke about some of the highlights for next year. Read about it in a separate paragraph in this Line
- 3) National Franklin Club members, who serve in many different capacities and help keep the Club running smoothly, were asked to stand and be recognized. We thanked them with a round of applause.
- 4) Secretary note: 56 people attended this meet with a special visit from Tim Hockstetler and family; 15 states were represented - CT, IL, IN, KY, MD, MA, MI, MN, MO, NY, OH, OK, PA, SC, VA.

Meeting adjourned. Phil and Pam received another round of applause for a great meet.

Joan Hasslen, Region Secretary



A FEW PHOTO MEMORIES



We were blessed to have a professional photographer with us on this tour. This editor found these photos to be awesome. They truly captured the unique sights on this tour. Thanks Greg!



HAPPY TO SEE YOU AGAIN MY FRIEND



LET'S GET THIS SHOW ON THE ROAD!



MIDWEST FALL 2024 MEET IN OHIO



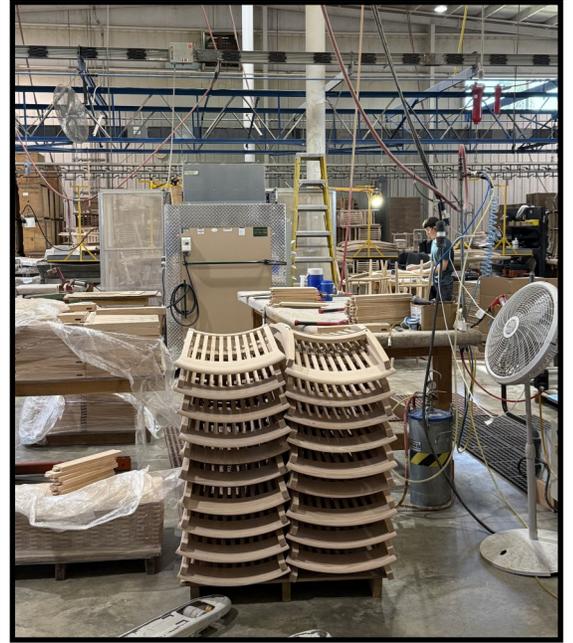
MIDWEST FALL 2024 MEET IN OHIO



MIDWEST FALL 2024 MEET IN OHIO



MIDWEST FALL 2024 MEET IN OHIO



MIDWEST FALL 2024 MEET IN OHIO



MIDWEST FALL 2024 MEET IN OHIO



MIDWEST FALL 2024 MEET IN OHIO



MIDWEST FALL 2024 OHIO MEET



See you in
Spring of
2025
!!!!!!

