



THE FRANKLIN LINE

HHFC MIDWEST REGION NEWSLETTER

Fall 2025



Greetings my Franklin friends,

Our recent fall meet took place in the fascinating iron range of Northern Minnesota. Greg and Rita organized an outstanding tour for everyone, making sure the experience was memorable. Although we did not visit any car collections during this event, we did enjoy a trip to the Greyhound Bus Museum, which added a unique touch to our gathering.

What I cherish most about our Region is the opportunity to reconnect with friends who have traveled both from nearby and from afar. Each meeting also brings the chance to welcome new faces and form new friendships.

During our business meeting, we covered the usual agenda items. Our Region proudly maintains a membership of over 100 individuals. While we have experienced the loss of some members, we continue to welcome new Franklin owners and members every year. The sales of the Richard and Kathryn Harry collection has played a significant role in introducing cars to new members and expanding our membership.

Bill Fields tells us preparations for our Spring 2026 Meet are underway. If you have any questions, concerns, or simply wish to say hello, please feel free to reach out to me by phone or with a note.

In this Issue

President's Message	1
Fall Meet	2-3
Business Meeting	4-5
Updates	6
Pics & Words	7-16

Aura Vincit

Dean Dorholt
612-803-0836



MIDWEST FRANKLIN FALL MEET 2025

Taconite Trail Iron Range Tour September 17-20

Hosted by Greg Lundeen and Rita Larson



This year's Midwest Fall tour was in the Minnesota Northland on the Iron Range, based in the city of Mountain Iron part of the Tri-Cities of the north including Eveleth, Gilbert, and Mountain Iron.

Thirty-eight intrepid travelers and fourteen vintage Franklins were in attendance with members from both coasts, the deep South, and even the Midwest.

For people not familiar with the Minnesota Iron Range, the range was first mined in the 1880s and consisted of three main ranges: the Vermilion, the Mesabi, and the Cuyuna — all three becoming the main driver of the northeast Minnesota economy. The Vermilion Range stretches from Tower to Ely, MN, is the deepest, requiring underground mining, offering the purest ore that is not magnetic. The Mesabi Range starts in Grand Rapids, MN stretching to Babbitt. The ore is close to the surface and known for being soft and accessible for open pit operations. The last range is the Cuyuna, further south in Crow Wing and Aitkin counties. High in manganese, this range provided 90% of the manganese used in the First World War.

Registration was on **Wednesday** and in the evening, we were treated to snacks and pumpkin pie. The conversation lasted into the night with the reuniting of good friends and even some new friends in attendance.

Thursday, day one, was a trip to Ely, MN, the entrance to the Boundary Waters Canoe Area. First stop was for coffee at mile 28, just past Embarrass, MN, the coldest spot in the lower 48 states. This is up north close to the Canadian border with virgin wilderness alive with wildlife and home to the International Wolf Center. We were treated to information about the history of wolves in North America, how they almost became extinct with but a small number left in Minnesota, and the remarkable recovery they have had. Wolves have been reintroduced into many parts of the U.S., many originating from Minnesota.



Lunch was on our own and people were free to see some of the other attractions offered in Ely. Next was a visit to the North American Bear Center. Again, a first-class operation telling the black bear's story. Black bears are prolific in northern Minnesota and are migrating further south with the change in their habitat. Many myths about the black bear were debunked by our guide, including that they are aggressive to humans if we get between a mother bear and its cub. Personally, I still want to steer clear of any bears, but the black bear is not as lethal as the other bear species. Returning back to Mountain Iron we traveled 110 miles, our longest day. Of course, there were libations in the evening with snacks, pie, and soft drinks (who brought the wine and beer?)

Friday was the trip to the Tower–Soudan area, home to the deepest iron mine in the U.S.

Our first stop was at The Hive Coffee Shop in Aurora, MN. It had started raining and was a welcome stop to dry out a bit and warm up.

Entering Tower, MN, we stopped at the Tower Historical Train Museum. The depot was erected in 1915, kept in remarkably original condition, and reviewed the history in the area. Out front of the depot was a 1910 vintage steam locomotive with rail cars that we could walk through. I always enjoy sitting in the driver's seat of an old locomotive playing engineer, but I can't imagine how hot it must have been in the summer and cold in the winter driving one of these steam behemoths.



MIDWEST FRANKLIN FALL MEET 2025

Taconite Trail Iron Range Tour September 17-20

Hosted By Rita Larson and Greg Lundeen

Lunch was at the Good O'L Days Bar and Grill and we had a choice of pulled pork or handmade hamburgers. Lunch included chips and coleslaw. Very tasty..

Visitors are not allowed to descend the 2,300 feet to level 27 as of yet. To add insult to injury, this was after the mine had a fire there a year prior, shutting it down then too. It was only open for two weeks after the fire repair until the flood. What a shame — but there was Karl. Karl was our tour guide and maybe the best tour guide I have ever met. A retired energetic miner of thirty-plus years, an immigrant from Holland, he knew virtually everything about the Soudan's mining history and operation. The Soudan Mine opened in the 1880s and was mined until 1962 when it became unprofitable to extract ore from a deep mine. This mine produced the purest iron ore there is. Mined by immigrants in teams, they rarely spoke the same language. Not being able to communicate protected the mine owners from miners forming unions and kept the unions at bay until the Second World War. This was a hard job originally done by candlelight in the depths of the earth, using mules to move the ore. The mules lived their entire life underground, never seeing the surface after their first descent to this hell. The miners depended on the company for virtually everything, from the candles they used for light to their food on their table. All commodities were deducted from their pay. Twelve hours a day, six days a week — sign me up! Total miles today 90.

Saturday, our final day, took us to Hibbing, MN. Hibbing, a mining town and home to Bob Dylan is rich with mining history. The mines influenced everything in Hibbing. The town itself was moved as the mine gobbled up the ground around it and then it ate the original ground that was under the town.

Our first stop was at the Hull–Rust Mining Overlook. This was not the original overlook either as that too was swallowed up by the ever-expanding pit. This is the largest open-pit mine in the world — over three miles long and two miles wide, with a depth of 535 feet. Foggy when we arrived, we enjoyed coffee and pastries while the fog lifted, exposing this large wound to the earth. Also, on display were retired mining vehicles and miscellaneous equipment demonstrating how large the trucks and earth movers are and how small they looked in the pit.

Did you know that the Greyhound Bus Company started in Hibbing catering to the miners? It did — and we visited the museum that is a testament to the Greyhound Bus. Video history, artifacts and a number of antique buses told its story. You could walk through the buses and reminisce about how travel was before inexpensive air travel came about.

Lunch was on our own and then off to the Hibbing High School. A high school tour, you say? A trip to the principal's office or the gym for a sock hop? No — much more. The mines paid for this magnificent structure, built in 1920 and dedicated in 1924. It is so large you could fit four White Houses in it, over 400,000 square feet

in total. Designed in the Northern Italian style, when you enter it walking up the marble stairs you view oil paintings and high-styled ceilings, plaster work, and murals by noted artist David Erickson (six of his works in all). The auditorium is fashioned after the Capitol Theater in New York, featuring an Adam style ceiling, Tiffany glass, and chandeliers. There is also a ghost that walks the aisles of the theater and if you Google the Hibbing High School ghost you can see it. The "library again has oil paintings on display along with busts of classic authors. After the high school tour some opted to drive by Robert Zimmerman's house (Bob Dylan) that was close by. This is a modest two-story home that Bob lived in during his school years, leaving Hibbing after high school to seek his fortune in New York City. Total miles today = 55.



MIDWEST FRANKLIN FALL MEET 2025

Taconite Trail Iron Range Tour September 17-20

Hosted By Rita Larson and Greg Lundeen

Business Meeting Minutes – Sat. Sept. 20, 2025 – Mountain Iron, MN

- 1) **Call to Order:** Dean Dorholt, President, thanked our hosts, Greg Lundeen and Rita Larson.
- 2) **Moment of silence** for deceased members John Hufnagel, July 9, and Jim Wade, Aug 7.
- 3) **Recognition:**
 - First time attending** a Region Meet – Rod & Amy Bertzyk, Katie McCarthy and Stuff Tyler.
 - Brought a Franklin** – Rod and Amy Bertzyk, Dean and Cinda Dorholt, Bill and Geri Eby, Bill Fields (brought T.Rasmussen's), Jerry Harry, Jeff & Joan Hasslen, Tom & Ann Kleinschmidt, Greg Lundeen & Rita Larson, Mike & Katie McCarthy (brought J.Hasslen's), Dan & Anne Russell, Stuff Tyler.
 - Drove a Franklin** – Dean & Cinda Dorholt, Bill Fields, Jeff & Joan Hasslen.
 - Drove their Franklin the furthest** – Dean & Cinda drove 225 miles followed closely by Bill Fields – 221 miles.
 - Traveled the furthest** to attend – Mike & Katie McCarthy from Oregon City, Oregon.
- 4) **Host Report:** **Greg** thanked everyone for coming. There were 11 Franklins and 38 attendees. He mentioned he was “grateful to have people from both coast join us.” (Secretary's note: 10 states were represented – IL, KY, MD, MI, MN, ND, OH, OR, VA, WI.)
- 5) **Secretary's Report:** Current membership is **117**. Newest members - Matt Goist, Newport Beach, CA. He owns a 1917 9A Brougham, 1922 10A Touring, 1931 151 Sedan; Aaron & Tanja Greer, St. Clair Shores, MI; Tim & Carrie Kelly, Lake Geneva, WI, own a 1907 G Runabout; Derek Kleinschmidt and Jen Czaja, Elgin, IL drive a 1916 9A Touring; John & Audrey Saunders, Brooklyn Park, MN, own a 1927 11B Sedan; Stuff & Jackie Tyler, Woodville, WI, own a 1903 A Roadster, 1911 G Roadster, 1924 10B Sedan.
- 6) **Treasurer's Report:** Current balance is \$1,768.88. Once again Forever Stamps were purchased for next year because postal rates keep increasing.
- 7) **Old/New Business:** None
- 8) **Midwest Region Reports:**
 - Jeff Hasslen** (HHFC MW Region Director) – Some controversy exists regarding the Trek location. Anne Russell and a committee are looking into different options. You all received Anne's survey so please get that back to her.
 - Cinda Dorholt** (Editor, “The Franklin Line”) – Please send her your stories and experiences regarding this meet and approx. 10 of your best pictures for the newsletter. She will pick and choose and send some to Bill Eby for the website
- 9) **HHFC Reports:**
 - Mike McCarthy** (President) thanked everyone for their hospitality and warmth. He has the advantage of attending the Westrek and Midwest Meet and can see firsthand how “camaraderie is certainly demonstrated through these cars and the people”. He thanked Dean, Cinda, Jeff, Joan, Greg and Rita for all they did and do for the Club. “Our Club runs on volunteers. They keep the Club going.”

MIDWEST FRANKLIN FALL MEET 2025

Taconite Trail Iron Range Tour September 17-20

Hosted By Rita Larson and Greg Lundeen

Business Meeting Minutes (cont.)— Sat. Sept. 20, 2025 – Mountain Iron, MN

9) HHFC Reports:

- Mike McCarthy** (President) - continued He also mentioned that “the Club is exploring ideas to move the Trek.”
- Bouvard Hosticka** (Librarian) -“The Arnie Christianson project is done with about 250 documents added to the digital library. Starting on the Dan Russell stuff with all the Franklin newsletters being scanned in and sent to the web. The newsletters are roughly the predecessor to the Franklin Service Station but generally more technical.”
- Bill Eby** (Webmaster) – The Franklin Membership Directory and all Franklin newsletters are on the website. Send Bill pictures of your Franklins and dealership pictures.
- Roger Moffat** (Chair, Franklin Collection) – A 1930 Salon Special was donated to the Collection. Ted Davis’ race car is now on display. The Air-Cooled Gathering will be June 20, 2026, Father’s Day weekend. A block of rooms will be reserved for Thur/Fri/Sat.

10) Future Meets:

- Spring 2026** – **Bill Fields** will host in the Winchester, Kentucky area (near Lexington). Bill reported he is planning 5 days of touring, May 11 – 15. “The back roads are phenomenal. One main tour will be the Toyota plant in Georgetown, KY. And the Red River Gorge has beautiful scenery.” Optional tours in the area will be planned. Attendees can come for as many days as they want.
- Fall 2026**: One possibility is being discussed. Nothing confirmed. Jeff Hasslen asked everyone to be thinking. Let officers know if they have any ideas. “Maybe the ND Black Hills would be interesting.”

11) Additional Comments:

- Bouvard Hosticka** – Last week he and others drove the Skyline Drive. There will be another full drive – “start to finish, Nov. 24th. It’s a non-tour.”
- Jim Ahrlin** (from Eveleth, MN) – “I sold 2 Franklins 3 years ago. Today I rode in one of them again. Dad and I restored it. My thanks to Rod. I was thrilled.”
- Region member **Sandy Bennett** is a new HHFC Board member.
- Phil and Pam Weisenbarger** participated in the New London to New Brighton Car Run this August. They drove their 1903 Franklin over 100 miles (!) during 2 days of touring. Congratulations! (This was not mentioned at the meeting. But JH wants members to hear this inspirational bit of news.)

12) Thanks again to our hosts Greg & Rita for a great meet !!!



MIDWEST FRANKLIN FALL MEET 2025

Taconite Trail Iron Range Tour September 17-20

Hosted By Rita Larson and Greg Lundeen

UPDATES

2025 through current



John Hufnagel ~ July 9, 2025

Jim Wade - August 7, 2025

WELCOME!

New members not yet in Directory or Addendum

Matt Goist 2 Gretel Ct Newport Beach, CA 92663 330-605-8511 matt.goist@gmail.com 1917 9A Brougham 1922 10A Touring 1931 151 Sedan	Aaron and Tanja Greer 22452 Maple St St. Clair Shores, MI 48081 425-240-2569 aaron.david.greer@gmail.com greer.tanja@gmail.com
William Hupke 505 Jeffrey St Combined Locks, WI 54113 920-419-3010 hupkewm55@gmail.com 1927 11B Sport Touring	Tim and Carrie Kelly N3207 Violet Rd Lake Geneva, WI 53147 847-345-3015 tkelly1250@me.com 1907 G Runabout
John and Audrey Saunders 9112 Colorado Ave N Brooklyn Park, MN 55443 jpf.saunders@gmail.com 1927 11B Sedan	Derek Kleinschmidt and Jen Czaja 12445 N Lyle Ave Elgin, IL 60123 847-321-5560 dkleinschmidt@motionsimple.com
Stuff (Mark) and Jackie Tyler 2466 County Rd DD Woodville, WI 54028 715-688-9463 markt@oemfab.com 1903 A Roadster 1911 G Roadster 1924 10B Sedan	

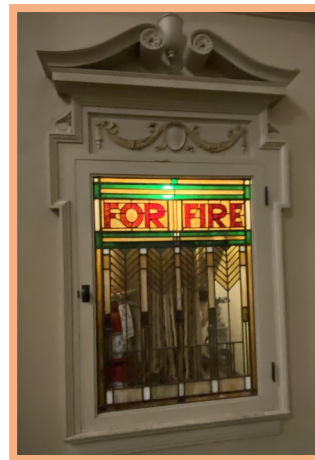
MIDWEST FRANKLIN FALL MEET 2025
Taconite Trail Iron Range Tour September 17-20
Hosted By Rita Larson and Greg Lundeen



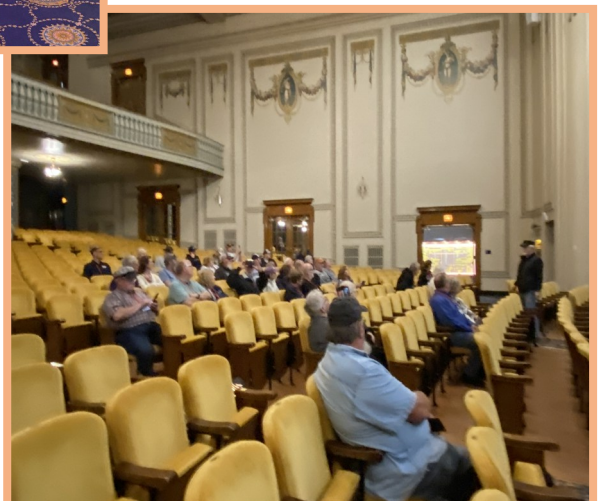
MIDWEST FRANKLIN FALL MEET 2025
Taconite Trail Iron Range Tour September 17-20
Hosted By Rita Larson and Greg Lundeen



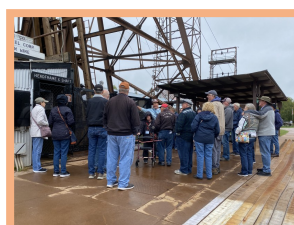
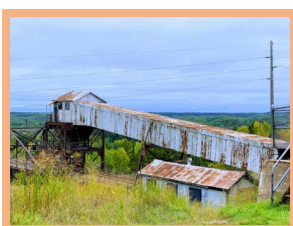
MIDWEST FRANKLIN FALL MEET 2025
Taconite Trail Iron Range Tour September 17-20
Hosted by Greg Lundeen and Rita Larson



MIDWEST FRANKLIN FALL MEET 2025
Taconite Trail Iron Range Tour September 17-20
Hosted by Greg Lundeen and Rita Larson



MIDWEST FRANKLIN FALL MEET 2025
Taconite Trail Iron Range Tour September 17-20
Hosted by Greg Lundeen and Rita Larson



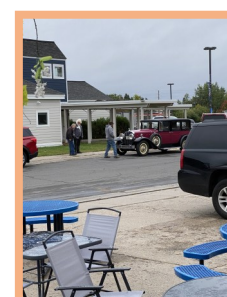
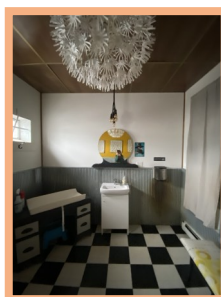
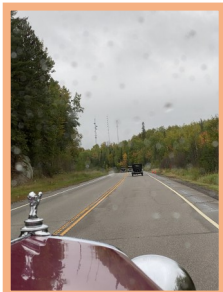
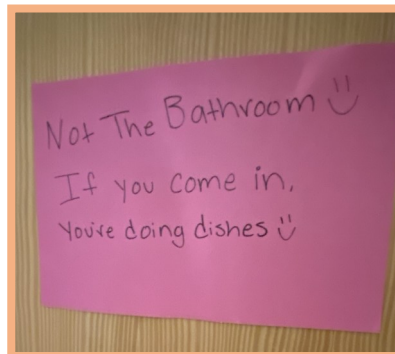
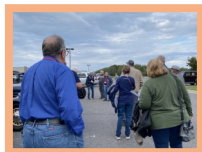
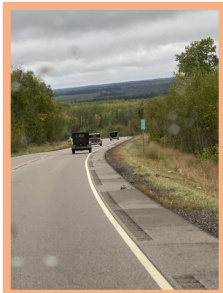
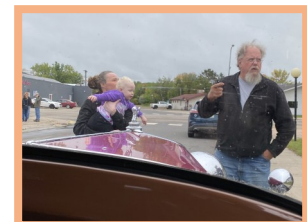
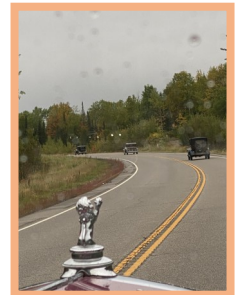
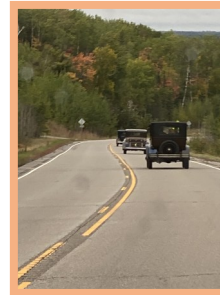
MIDWEST FRANKLIN FALL MEET 2025
Taconite Trail Iron Range Tour September 17-20
Hosted by Greg Lundeen and Rita Larson



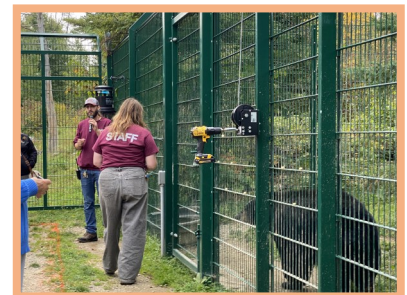
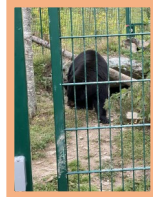
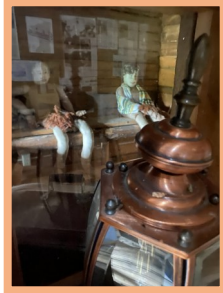
MIDWEST FRANKLIN FALL MEET 2025

Taconite Trail Iron Range Tour September 17-20

Hosted by Greg Lundeen and Rita Larson



MIDWEST FRANKLIN FALL MEET 2025
Taconite Trail Iron Range Tour September 17-20
Hosted by Greg Lundeen and Rita Larson



MIDWEST FRANKLIN FALL MEET 2025
Taconite Trail Iron Range Tour September 17-20
Hosted by Greg Lundeen and Rita Larson



We closed out our tour at the

The Sawmill Restaurant!

A perfect end to a great Fall Meet.

Thanks to Greg Lundeen and Rita Larson!



2025 Trek Tidbits:

- ♦ Total of 154 Trekkers, 20 Red taggers; 29 states and Canada represented;
- ♦ Lloyd David has attended 65 Treks! 38 Franklins on the “green” at Union College and 9 seen off
- ♦ site; 1904 was the oldest car, 1933 was the newest; Bob and Darla Metro received the Service
- ♦ Award; Roger Moffat and Lisa Christenson received the Trekkers’ Choice Award with their 1904
- ♦ A Runabout; Edwin Buiter received the Longest Driven Award – 220 miles one way in his 1929
- ♦ Victoria Brougham; Auction raised \$1700. Trek 2026 – July 11 – 17. Dick and Connie Roth will chair along with John Mishanec.

Don't forget to hold these dates:

May 11 through May 15, 2026

When we'll be together again in the Lexington, Kentucky area



HHFC Midwest Region
The Franklin Line
Cinda Dorholt, Editor
7895 County Road 15
Maple Plain, MN 55359
952-250-8927

