

## 2014: Couples Tour

August 9th & 10th; Couples Tour: This was the best couples tour ever; I have memories! Alison and Vernon came all the way from California. Ron and Debbie from upstate New York also arrived the night before and stayed over. Richard had finally talked his wife Lauraine into a RetroTour. They came down from Long Island. Jordan and Hannah also from upstate New York and friends from work with Ron and Debbie rounded out our group of 5 couples. Several other couples were turned away because our accommodations were maxed out at 10 persons.. My wife Lynn rode her CB400F while I took the role of Sherpa and drove BMW/EML side car outfit, packed with everyone's luggage. I think we actually had everyone here in the house sleeping the night before. Couples rode the Moto Guzzi Ambo', the R90/6, the CX500, and the Triumph 650. Lynn made a nice breakfast and by the time we had again broken bread we already felt comfortable with one another. This was to be an action packed weekend without any marathon mileage days. We left after breakfast and rode under 10 miles to a local mushroom farm where we were walked through the mushroom houses and learned about the process of growing mushrooms. It was a fascinating 30 minutes about Kennett Square's claim to fame as the Mushroom Capital of the World. We were gifted two huge boxes of large fresh picked fungi which were loaded into the sidecar and we proceeded at a mellow pace along our very scenic route to Bird In Hand, PA where we had lunch at an Amish Salad & Everything Bar followed by a short ride to a waiting Amish buggy and driver who took us on a terribly pleasant 10 mile ride through the countryside. It was slightly touristy but still a very pleasant experience. I'm sure everyone loved it. After lunch we meandered along back roads to Ephrata where we stayed at a wonderful historic farmhouse B&B. The people who owned it were out of town and we basically had the entire house to ourselves. We sat in wicker rockers on the screened in porch and talked and admired the warmth and quietude of the warm summer evening while enjoying fresh mushrooms and red wine. For dinner we rode or walked about 2 miles to the King Ranch where an Amish family had us into their home to share dinner. The food was home made and hot and we were immersed in Amish culture including a serenade by the kids (were there 6 or 8?) lined up in descending height order. Really something special that was. In the morning we lost ourselves on more tiny scenic roads then popped out at Renninger's Antique Collectible Market. A huge number of vendors populate the seemingly endless line of stalls. If you can't find it here it probably doesn't exist: art, 3 bottles, furniture, even a few very valuable and interesting motorcycles. Mostly the girls shopped and the guys eventually found themselves hanging out outside waiting for the ladies to finish but for sure there is something for everyone, preferably something small and not fragile as we are on motorcycles. Back on the road we head for the Hershey Highway, no really that's what it's called. It's in Hershey PA where chocolate was invented or at least marketed really, really well. Besides the gigundous amusement park there is the Antique Auto Club of America Museum which includes a display of motorcycles. It's the girls turn to hang around outside while the boys finish up. It was hot but no one complains. We eat a hotdog. They even have the Oscar Myers Weinermobile here. We look at old bikes, scooters and cars. We say goodbye to street lamps shaped like Hershey Kisses and head home for dinner at one big table, passing Amish buggies by the score. Everyone got along perfectly; it was a very amicable group. There could not have been a better way to spend a weekend with your sweetheart and friendly fellow enthusiast couples.