

## **Touring Adventures in Virginia's Northern Neck with Charles & Barbara Emery**

From May 13-16, the Emerys stepped back in time as guests of the Northern Neck Region, AACA. Getting there was half the battle. The temperature was in the mid-nineties on Tuesday and our 190SL was cruising along until we hit traffic in Upper Marlboro, Md. We had no power when traffic started moving again, so we limped into a parking lot and called AAA and our shop mechanic. Rather than turn around and go home, we were towed to Tappanhanock, Va., where the organizers of the tour had arranged for Mike, the mechanic, to address our problem. (Charles thought with all those old cars someone would have a solution.) It was amazing – our “new best friend” - Mike - called our mechanic at home who diaagnosed the problem as a fuel pump. A new electric fuel pump did the trick and Mike succeeded in getting the SL roadworthy for the rest of the week's festivities. We even made it to the opening banquet on time!

For the next three days, fifty antique cars of varying vintage, make and model (early 1930's Fords and Plymouths, a 1937 Auburn Speedster, several Packards, and lots of 1950s cars) roamed the country roads and byways. From a series of old churches on the first day to the discovery of the Fat Finch restaurant that evening, the camaraderie and smoothness of events made everyone feel welcome. One of the highlights was lining up the cars at an old restored Esso gas station and moving us through one by one for a photo opportunity with the cars.

For us as historic preservationists, Thursday was a feast from morning until afternoon - 3 historic houses where we were welcomed by descendants of the builders, all beautifully appointed and maintained. All three houses were near the town of Warsaw. HGTV is filming a series for next season on “Mt. Airy”, one of the houses on the tour. Another stop was at “Menokin”, the home of Francis Lightfoot Lee (a signer of the Declaration of Independence). It collapsed on itself in the 1960s. Rather than do a full restoration, it is being stabilized for education purposes and architectural glass will enclose the various parts so that one can observe the attention to detail and the sound building of old homes, not just cars. Another dinner at the Fat Finch.

Although a major storm rolled through on Thursday evening, the more intrepid of the car owners boarded an excursion boat early Friday morning for a four hour tour of the Rappahannock River with its history and natural beauty and a treat for bird watchers with the eagles, great blue herons, cormorants, osprey, and the usual gull accompanists. In the afternoon, while car owners were taking a walking tour of Tappahannock and soaking up its history, the cars were on display in the center square which the locals got to appreciate.

Friday evening's closing dinner was a fun-filled time as everyone gathered with new friends and old. Awards were given for the youngest, oldest, and traveled the furthest drivers. The Emerys received the “tough luck” award. Good fun was had by all. Much appreciation and many thanks to Wayne and Gloria Burgess, Tour Chairpersons, and all the members of the Northern neck Region AACA for the hospitality and smoothness of a wonderfully constructed tour. Our first tour, but certainly not the last!

***Charles and Barbara just had to share their adventure in their region's newsletter back in Salisbury Maryland. We were fortunate to have plenty of help from all of our members to make this tour enjoyable for everyone. Thanks Northern Neck Region Members!***

It's always special to get "feedback" from an event that ones club hosts. The following two responses should make all of our region's members happy to have put our best foot forward. Although addressed to Gloria and me, the accolades should be shared by all of us, as we surely worked very hard as a team to make our visitors happy.

AUGUST 12, 2014

DEAR WAYNE + GLORIA,

THIS "THANK-YOU" IS A LITTLE LATE IN COMING, BUT IT HAS BEEN WRITTEN OVER + OVER AGAIN IN THE WONDERFUL MEMORIES CREATED DURING THE HISTORIC TOUR IN MAY

RICK + I WANT YOU TO KNOW HOW MUCH WE APPRECIATE ALL THE WORK THAT WENT INTO PUTTING THIS TOUR TOGETHER. WE

HAD A GREAT TIME, NOT ONLY ON THE TOURS, BUT MAKING NEW FRIENDS ALONG THE WAY. YOUR "TEAM" COVERED

"ALL BASES" TO MAKE SURE THAT WE FELT AT HOME, AND WE CERTAINLY DID!

WE HOPE TO SEE BOTH OF YOU AGAIN... WHEN ONE IS A PART OF "THE OLD CAR HOBBY", IT IS VERY LIKELY THAT WE WILL.

THANKS AGAIN FOR EVERYTHING +

PLEASE TAKE CARE.

THE BERGERS  
RICK + KAREN