PTSC Fall Road Tour 2026

Write up: Jimmy Patitucci, Photos: Jimmy Patitucci, Bob Stokes & Brooke Madeira

On Saturday September 12th our chapter went on a "Road Tour" to different sites in Latrobe, Laughlintown and Ligonier, Pa. This year's fall trip was organized by Mike Bucheit and John Kuhns. Once again, they outdid themselves in putting a trip together. Sixteen of our members attended. Five members drove their Corvettes, even with the threat of rain forecast throughout the day. However, the rain held off until much later in the day. We had beautiful weather to enjoy all the stops along the way.

Our first stop was at St. Vincent's Gristmill in Latrobe. Here we were greeted by two very nice St. Vincent Archabbey monks who gave us a brief history about the gristmill and the many changes it went through over the years. After a brief film presentation, we had the opportunity to purchase baked goods and other items made from the wheat milled at the mill.

Next, we traveled a few miles down Rt. 30 to the "Lincoln Highway Experience" also in Latrobe. It's the largest museum in the country to tell the story of America's First Coast-to Coast Highway. While here we toured the museum and at the end we all enjoyed a slice of pie and a cup of coffee in the restored "Serro's Diner".

Following the "Lincoln Highway Experience" Museum we continued on Rt. 30 about 10 miles or so to the small town of Laughlintown, Pa. John and Mike reserved us a private tour of the ***Compass Inn Museum.*** *It was established in 1799. It's an authentically restored stagecoach stop located in the heart of the beautiful Laurel Highlands. Our tour guide took us through the original Inn, blacksmith shop/forge, cook house and barn that houses an 1830's style eastern stagecoach and an authentic Conestoga Wagon.* ***(Fun Fact- A few scenes from the 2022 gothic mystery film on Netflix, "The Pale Blue Eye" starring Christian Bale were filmed at the Inn. Early in the film there's an outside shot of the Inn and the tavern scene takes place inside the kitchen.)***
Across the street from the Inn is the locally famous ***"Pie Shoppe"*** *where everyone had the chance to buy fresh baked goods and awesome pies to take back home with them.*

*Next to the pie shoppe is the "**Country Cupboard**". It's an antique shop with country crafts, decorations, candles and furniture. A perfect opportunity for the ladies on the tour to browse throughout the shop and make purchases if they wanted. The owners treated our group with homemade cookies and cold water to drink.*

*To culminate the tour, we had our own private room reserved at "**Carol & Dave's Roadhouse Restaurant** in Ligonier, where we ate lunch before heading home.*

*Being an active member of the PTSC isn't just about our Corvettes and judging meets, although those are very important and necessary to the continued success of our Top Flight Chapter. It's also about getting together on days like this to see things in our area and enjoy each other's company. Yes, we still had conversations about Corvettes, and some members drove their cars even with the threat of rain. Everyone had a really nice day, and we certainly learned many interesting facts about the places we visited that many of us just drove by over the years. Again, to Mike and John, you guys did it again. Thank you for your hard work in planning the tour. We can't wait until next year! **JP***

Members attending: Brooke & Mark Madeira, Bob & Sandi Stokes, Jimmy & Peggy Patitucci, Dana & Stefani Smith, Norm & Linda Neffield, Don & Judy Geary, Tom & Susan Franczyk, John Kuhns & Michael Bucheit.

Members who drove their Corvettes were:

Mike Bucheit, Tom & Susan Franczyk, Don & Judy Geary, Mark & Brooke Madeira,

Dana & Stephanie Smith