

PTSC 2024 Spring road trip to LaSalle Engine shop

By Don Geary

We started the road trip in brilliant sunshine and 70 degrees, on route 30 in Greensburg. By the time we reached the summit of Laurel Mountain it was foggy and cool. Our road tour at this point included four generations of corvettes, a 1954, a 1973, a 2017 and a 2023. The C1 was a convertible with the top down and at 50 mph and 59 degrees it was COLD. The fog gradually cleared and we made our way along the Lincoln Highway through historic Bedford, past the site of the old ship hotel on top of Allegheny Mountain at Grand View Point, past Shawnee State Park and on to Breezewood. It was a comfortable smooth ride except for Barney in the 1954 who was cold by the time we reached Lasalle's.

We met the rest of our group at Lasalle's including a C8 and a Ferrari. So, we had 4 generations of corvettes, a Ferrari and a total of 12 members and guests. Chuck Lasalle and his wife met us outside and marveled at the cars in his parking lot. The Ferrari looked remarkably like the C8's.

Chuck gave us the grand tour of his shop including his dyno machine and all of the specialty machines for repairing and building all kinds of engines from 4 cyl to huge diesel truck and tractor engines. Chuck specializes in racing engines for short track oval racing and related his experiences in racing himself with a lot of the NASCAR early racers. Chuck employs 10 full time engine specialists for all the components of today's vehicles.

After the tour we went to a local fire hall where they were having a car cruise with a live band and all kinds of homemade food. What a great opportunity to join the show, eat some good food and support the local Breezewood fire department. We even met the mayor of Breezewood.

On the return trip, Barney had the '54 top up, and we stopped at the Flight 93 Rose Garden. The garden is a 50 acre park across RT 30 from the entrance to Flight 93. It was presented originally by some of the families of the victims. It features hundreds of roses and multiple benches for reflecting around a central fountain and pool. This is a nice quiet park for all to reflect and enjoy nature. There is a short hiking trail where you can view a couple pieces of the plane itself under a cross in the field. The park is privately funded and maintained by volunteers and open to the public.

Once again, we had a great time enjoying our cars and the fellowship of members and guests. A big thank you goes out to Mike Bucheit who organized this trip.