

Fall Road Tour to: “The Holy Grail Garage”

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Photos: Jim & Peggy Patitucci, Norm Neffield, Mike Fanto

Tour Coordinator: John Kuhns

On Saturday September 24th nine members from our Chapter participated in a Fall Road Tour to the “Holy Grail Garage” in East Pittsburgh, Pa. “A cool new concept in automotive storage/car club. It was a very nice sunny cool early fall day and a perfect day for a long drive in the Corvette. Most of the group met up at the Bob Evans on Rt. 30 and caravanned to the garage. A couple others met the group there.

We were met by the owner, Mike Fanto. He told us how he purchased and resurrected this beautiful decommissioned old Catholic church and created an exclusive space for automobile storage. They offer a wide variety of amenities, such as a full detail wash bay, balcony coffee bar and big screen TV (originally the choir loft). A lounge area, cigar lounge, kitchen and even a small bar area (formally the church rectory). He also mentioned to us that the storage facility has a state-of- the art fire and security system to protect member’s valuable cars. He stated that a space on the main floor rents for \$250.00 a month and one on the lower- level rents for \$200.00. The membership includes a dedicated parking space with 24hr. access, for people who aren’t just looking for a hole to store their cars for winter months.

“It's not just another storage facility”, Mike said he wanted it to be a fun destination 24/7/365. Not sure, but he also said that it might actually be the first time this was done, creating a unique place to store your majestic “Holy Grail” (collector car/bike). There are 33 spaces to rent and he only has a couple left. We were able to tour both levels of the facility as well as the lounge and clubhouse areas of what was the old church “Rectory”.

Mike’s objective was to try to keep most if not all of the original woodwork and to salvage items and repurpose them to use. The original doors were kept and mounted up on the wall above what would have been the alter. Wood from one of the original church pews was used to build the bar. The choir loft is now a small coffee bar area to lounge in and enjoy a cup of coffee read a magazine and watch the big screen TV. There is also a nice size functional kitchen area to use for get togethers. All Mike asks from the members is that they clean up after their event and leave it like they found it. This certainly would be a great storage facility for any of our PTSC members looking for winter storage for their prized Corvettes. If interested here is the contact information: info@theholylgrailgarage.com (Tele. (412)906-3682.

Two of us drove our Corvettes on the tour. Peggy and I came in the ’73 convertible and Larry and Sonnie Miller drove their beautiful Elkhart Green 1972 Coupe. While talking with Mike, he actually asked me if I’d like him to drive in my car and park it up at the alter for a great photo opportunity. With his special lighting, it certainly made the car take on a “majestic look” like Mike said it would.

After the Holy Grail visit/tour most of the group traveled back up Rt. 30 to Rodney’s Restaurant in Irwin. We had lunch there at our own table, to share in great conversation and fellowship.

A special PTSC Thank You to member John Kuhns for coordinating this event and to owner Mike Fanto for inviting us to his “Holy Grail Garage” and unique storage & clubhouse in East Pittsburgh. JP