

2015 Fall Run Car Cruise

By Joe Howard

This year the annual Fall Run took place in Plymouth, MA the weekend of September 18th, 19th, and 20th. The weather was beautiful. Clear and sunny with daytime temperatures in the 70s. 21 people came and enjoyed the weekend.

The Blue Spruce Motel and Townhouses in Plymouth was the meeting place for activities and our rooms for the weekend. Those who came Friday for the evening met for a casual dinner at the East Bay Grill at Plymouth Harbor. Great food and a chance to catch up since our Regional Car Show in August.

On Saturday morning after breakfast at the Blue Spruce the group carpooled back to Plymouth Harbor to tour the Mayflower II. This is a full-scale reproduction of the tall ship that brought the Pilgrims to Plymouth in 1620 and is one of the world's oldest wooden vessels that still sails today. Aboard the Mayflower, costumed role-players were there to talk about their perilous journey across the Atlantic. Also, modern day guides spoke to the group about the fascinating history of Mayflower and Mayflower II. We learned about the Mayflower Compact and how America's constitutional tradition began shipboard almost 400 years ago.



Group Visit to the Mayflower II

Everyone was amazed by how small the ship seemed. Particularly below decks, where the passengers were confined. 102 people, including three pregnant mothers, survived more than ten weeks in this small space.

At noon the group walked to the harbor docks to board the Captain John for a 4 hour Whale Watching Cruise.



Whale Watching in Cape Cod Bay off Provincetown and some of the whales we saw

When we returned to shore the group returned to the Motel and relaxed with snacks outside the rooms until time for dinner.

Dinner was at the 42 North Restaurant which was located next door to the motel so we could walk and leave our cars at the Motel.

On Sunday morning we checked out from the motel and drove to Plimoth Plantation (Plimoth is the old spelling) for a tour during the morning. Plimoth Plantation, founded in 1947, is a living outdoor history museum in Plymouth, Massachusetts, USA, that exhibits the original settlement of the Plymouth Colony established in the 17th century by English colonists, some of whom later became known as Pilgrims. They were among the first people who immigrated to America to avoid religious persecution and to seek religious separation from the Church of England.

The first outdoor living history exhibit we saw was the Wampanoag Homesite. There were several native American role players that we interacted with about what life was like during that time and their daily activities.

They lived along the coast during the growing season; planting their crops, fishing and hunting, gathering wild herbs and berries for food, and reeds for making mats and baskets. We saw different kinds of homes including a mat-covered one and a bark-covered long house.



Wampanoag Homesite at Plimoth Plantation

Next was a walk to the 17th-Century English Village which is a re-creation of the small farming and maritime community built by the Pilgrims along the shore of Plymouth Harbor. The Village brings colonial Plymouth vividly to life with timber-framed houses furnished with reproductions of the types of objects that the Pilgrims owned, kitchen gardens, and livestock.



Cannon Loft atop the Village Meeting House



Group outside the Visitor Center





The The 17th-Century English Village

The people we saw and met are costumed role players portraying actual residents of Plymouth Colony. They adopted the names, viewpoints and life histories of the people who lived and worked in the Colony. Each has a unique story to tell. It was like we travelled back in time and can hear about the Colony's difficult beginnings.



At noon we left the Plantation for a wine and jelly tasting at the Plymouth Bay Winery near Plymouth Harbor. There we enjoyed tasting their collection of wines, produced from locally grown, native grapes and berries and made in their Winery in Plymouth, MA.



Wine and Jelly tasting at the Plymouth Bay Winery

After, we walked across the street to view the Plymouth Rock – hear the story of the Pilgrim’s difficult voyage and landing in December 1620 – and have a group photo taken.



1620 Plymouth “Rock” - Where the Pilgrims landed

Lunch was the last stop of the event and we drove a short distance to the Radisson Harbor Grille in Plymouth to relax and exchange stories.

Many thanks go out to George and Donna Berube for planning this event and guiding everyone along the many activities – the weekend was very enjoyable. Looking forward to next year!