

REM Tours Pennsylvania Dutch Country

Eight hpREMerS set off for Pennsylvania Dutch country on May 10th arriving at the Country Inn in Lancaster, Pennsylvania in time for dinner at Miller's Smorgasbord. The next morning, we toured the Mennonite Information Center where we saw a film about the Amish and Mennonites and met our Mennonite guide for our Dutch country tour. She explained the different headpieces the women wore at the bakery we visited. She also told us how to tell the difference between Amish and Mennonite farms -- the Amish have windmills, no electric wires and green window shades. Farmers were out plowing using mules or draft horses since tractors are not allowed. The day in the fields begins at dawn and ends at dusk. A high-point was a visit to an Amish family selling handmade quilts and crafts.

Then it was off to lunch at the Kitchen Kettle with 32 stores selling Amish crafts and foods. We headed back to our hotel and arrived just in time for "happy hour"-- much enjoyed by the REMers. That evening we were entertained at the Dutch Apple Dinner Theater with a buffet dinner and an enjoyable performance of the musical "Showboat".

Starting early on Friday, our first stop was for a buggy ride through the Amish countryside. Our driver answered lots of questions about Amish life. Lunch was served in an actual railroad coach as it traveled through the farm country passing such landmarks as the Caboose Motel where every room is an actual railroad caboose.

Dinner that night was one of the high points of the entire trip. Served in a garage(!) at a Mennonite farm, it was unbelievable how spotless the dining area was, with brightly painted walls and curtains on the windows. For dinner we had Mennonite specialties like stuffed chicken breast, pot roast, homemade rolls, apple butter, horseradish, pickled beets, cole slaw and strawberry rhubarb and apple pie topped with homemade ice cream.

Our last day started with breakfast at the Amish Barn restaurant featuring delicious Pennsylvania sausage (with very little fat!) and a stop at the farmers' market in Bird-in-Hand. Our last stop was to the QVC Home Shopping Studios for a tour and a little more shopping (what else?).

It was a truly enjoyable trip with good companions and great sights. We shared the trip with a retiree group from New Hampshire who were a lot of fun! Many of us would definitely return to Pennsylvania Dutch Country. (Thanks to Ken Peck for the write-up.)

Mohegan Sun Trip a Big Hit

On June 23rd, twenty-eight folks boarded the Ritchie Bus in Burlington for a day of fun. A pleasant day was had by all. No big winners as our usual "big winner" was not with us on this trip. Traffic on the Mass Pike as we approached the Weston toll gate and getting on 128 north was extremely heavy, to say the least. It was a pleasure to be on the REM bus and let Ritchie do the driving to Mohegan.

Just a reminder - the Mohegan Sun \$10.00 food coupon is good for the casino's complete buffet and no cash is needed. If used on the 1st and 2nd floor restaurants, you'll will pay the difference over ten dollars.

HP Retiree Program Website

HP recently added a new section to the HP Retiree Program website called **HP News Highlights**. This section features the latest news at HP such as quarterly highlights, product information and enhancements, HP in the community, and much more. It is an easy, fast, and convenient way for you to access and stay up-to-date with the latest HP news.

To access **HP News Highlights**:

- go to the HP Retiree Programs website at <http://www.hpretirees.com/>
- click the **HP News Highlight** link located on the right side of the page
- enter the new user name and password (case sensitive) when prompted:
user name: Hpway
password: Toplay

Forgot your HP website passwords? Send an e-mail with your name, employee number, and year of retirement to employeeprograms@hp.com with "PASSWORDS" typed in the subject line.

AGILENT TECHNOLOGIES BENEFITS

Long-term Care Insurance Plan

Agilent Technologies Long-term Care Insurance Plan has been updated. There is no longer a window time period for enrollment and it is now open to family members. Information was sent to all Agilent retirees and is posted on the HP Retiree Program website at <http://www.hpretirees.com>

Medical Benefits Plan

Agilent is currently looking at the retiree medical benefits plan design as it relates to the new Medicare legislation. Any changes will be announced in the September/October time frame in anticipation of Annual Enrollment

ADDISON AVENUE UPDATE

Branch Hours

Effective July 6, 2004, there will be a change in hours at the Addison Avenue Credit Union branch on Shattuck Road in Andover. The new hours will be 11:00am to 1:00pm Monday through Friday. The Branch is located on an Agilent Technologies site. One of the many reasons for this change was the opening of the new branch at 165 Dascomb Road in Andover. Effective July 6, 2004, the hours at the new branch will be 9:00am to 4:00pm. The Dascomb Road branch does not have restrictive access and we encourage the HP and Agilent Technologies retirees to use this location.

Directions:

From the North, I-93 Dascomb Road, exit 42 toward Tewksbury. Turn left onto Dascomb Road.

From the South, I-93 Dascomb Road, exit 42 toward Tewksbury. Turn left onto Frontage Road, turn slight right onto Dascomb Road.

Promotions

Addison Avenue Federal Credit Union is currently running the following promotions in their new branches for members who open two accounts:

- Nashua - gift certificates for a bucket of balls at a local driving range
- Littleton - gift certificate for Kimball's ice cream
- Marlboro - a plant
- Dascomb Road - \$15 gift card to RedSox.com

REM Annual Meeting September 9th

The hpREM Annual Meeting will be at Saint Brigids parish hall in Lexington on September 9th, at 12:00 noon. It's a great chance to catch up with your HP friends and have a fabulous lunch.

Three director's positions on the REM board will be up for election this year. If you'd like to run for one of these positions, please contact nominating committee chairman Jim Phelps at 978-369-8834 by August 15th.

Something Wanted? Something For Sale?

hpREM will try to match buyers and sellers in this newsletter column for items you wish to sell or are looking for. This is a trial and hpREM will not take an active part in the process other than listing the item and other information. You may send the information on the item, along with your name and telephone number to Bob White by regular mail or e-mail. PLEASE, no telephone calls. Send information on your item wanted or for sale to:

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