

A CONVENTION IN CONCORD!

By Dennis DeVito HM 6758

It's been 23 years in the making – a return to the home of Lionel! The LCCA has visited the home of Lionel twice before: first during the 1993 LCCA Convention and again during the 2000 LCCA convention, both in Dearborn, Mich. The 2023 LCCA Convention is being held in Concord, N.C., the new home of Lionel. And as in the past, Lionel plans on hosting convention attendees with special plans and events.

Starting the week, two days will be set aside for a tour of the entire Lionel facility and its operations, with major areas where Lionel employees will give us the firsthand review of what happens in their areas.

With a train ride scheduled for Friday, the Lionel Seminar has been moved to Wednesday immediately following the LCCA Business Meeting. Thursday is open for tours with Friday evening reserved for the opening of the trading hall.

It is widely known that Concord is not only the home of Lionel, but also a hub for NASCAR. No visit to Concord would be complete without a few NASCAR and racing-related tours. 90 percent of NASCAR teams have facilities within 75 miles of Concord. And we intend to visit a few of them. To complement the relationship Lionel Racing has with NASCAR, a few extra special racing-focused tours are scheduled. Lionel has arranged for a Special Event on Monday

evening – an evening dinner in the clubhouse and overlooking the Charlotte Motor Raceway. This limited-seating venue is a must see, and it is hoped that there will be action on the track.

But Concord is more than just trains and race cars. There are a dozen other tours being offered that will interest and satisfy many tastes. There is the opportunity to meet fellow members at the Get Acquainted Party and to renew friendships at the Saturday LCCA Banquet. Be sure to check out the individual tours. Remember, some tours are limited by firm venue seating, so register early to avoid being disappointed.

As you make your plans to travel to Concord in July, you need to keep the logistics in mind. The Charlotte airport is about 20 miles from Concord and your options to get from the airport to the Embassy Suite Hotel are Uber, taxi or rental cars. There are no hotel shuttles available.

The 53rd Annual LCCA Convention in Concord will have it all. A number of exclusive tours and events, our traditional LCCA Get Acquainted Party and Banquet and, of course, a lively trading hall. All the folks at Lionel are ready to greet, host, and show us around. Be sure to take advantage of this all-too-infrequent opportunity to meet with the folks of Lionel. It is time to start traveling – and this is one trip that should not be missed. 🚂



LCCA CONVENTION TOURS

Dienzel Dennis RM 6713 – Tour Manager

Last year's convention in Nashville was very successful, with 18 tours to 28 different venues. We loaded 59 buses during the week with 2,158 members taking tours. This year's convention will be equally successful but distinctly different. Our train ride occurs on Friday this year, and the LCCA business meeting AND Lionel seminar will be held on Wednesday. You will be very pleased, no doubt, with all these changes and the advantages you will receive because of these changes. So, please read carefully before signing up for the tours. Your tour time slots will be assigned by the LCCA business office when you register.

This will be the first chance for LCCA members to visit Lionel since Dearborn 2000. It may be another 25 years before this is repeated again. To top it off, Lionel will be hosting a week-long "Poker Run" (see details at the end of the tour information) that will culminate with the best hand(s) winning prizes awarded at the banquet on Saturday night.

**Tour #1 Monday, July 24 – Tour Price \$44
Lionel Headquarters & Warehouse Morning Tour**
(Maximum 120)

All aboard for a visit to the Lionel Headquarters in Concord, N.C., and a behind-the-scenes experience you'll never forget. You'll be welcomed by the Lionel team as they personally guide you through their headquarters and show you where the magic happens and how they bring Lionel model trains to life – from start to finish. From engineering and creative to production and shipping, each department plays a crucial role in the overall process of creating these iconic trains – and you'll see it all. You'll hear from Lionel's own experts

and get firsthand knowledge about what contributes to the success of this 123 year old brand. All tour times for tours 1, 2, 6 & 7 will be assigned by the business office. Please only sign up for one tour, either 1, 2, 6 or 7. Lionel Headquarters are not open to the general public, and the Lionel team is excited to welcome us into their home office for this exclusive tour. You won't want to miss this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity!

For both Monday and Tuesday Lionel tours, attendees will be broken up into 12 groups of 20 (departing every 30 minutes) giving us a total of 480 spots available. These tours are limited to the first 480 people registered. All tour times for tours 1, 2, 6 & 7 will be assigned by the business office. Please only sign up for one tour, either 1, 2, 6 or 7.

**Tour #2 Monday, July 24 – Price \$44
Lionel Headquarters & Warehouse
Afternoon Tour**

See the Tour #1 above description (Maximum 120)



Tour # 3A Monday, July 24 – Price \$77
North Carolina Transportation Museum,
Train Ride, and Turntable Ride
8:15 a.m. – 4:15 p.m.

For those taking the Tuesday Lionel Headquarters & Warehouse Tour (Maximum 225 for Tours 3A and 3B combined)

Tour #3B Monday, July 24 – Price \$83
North Carolina Transportation Museum
and Childress Winery
8 a.m. – 4:45 p.m.

For those taking the Tuesday Lionel Headquarters & Warehouse Tour. (Maximum 110)

The North Carolina Transportation Museum is in Spencer, N.C., just north of Charlotte and Concord. The Southern Railroad chose this spot because it was exactly halfway between Atlanta and Washington DC. Once the yards and railroad shops were established, the town of Spencer grew up around them. Several historic structures dating as far back as 1896 are still standing on the museum site. This museum contains all types of transportation including trucks, cars, airplanes, as well as trains. We will take a ride around the museum grounds in a full-sized train pulled by a vintage diesel, and we will also ride on an operation turntable serving the largest remaining roundhouse in North America. The 37-bay roundhouse was the site of the 2012 Norfolk Southern Family Portrait and the 2014 Streamliners at the Spencer event. We will also have a catered barbecue lunch on the museum grounds under its picnic shelters reserved for our group only. This is a well-known first-class transportation museum you will not want to miss.

Tour 3B offers a little less time at the NCTM and adds a short bus ride north to the beautiful Childress Winery in the afternoon after the barbecue lunch and your completion of the museum tour. At the winery, we will have a guided tour plus a taste of the “Wine of the Week.” Of course, purchase is available in the winery store for those of you wishing to take home some goodies. A wine flight will be offered for around \$25 while you tour. This is a beautifully picturesque winery site. The buildings, grounds and hotel are gorgeous and worth the trip alone even without the beverage. This venue is owned by Richard Childress, another one of the well-known NASCAR Hall of Fame owners.



Tour #4 Monday, July 24 – Price \$14
Concord Mall – 10 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
(Shuttle leaves hotel on the hour, every hour;
and from Concord Mall on the half hour.)

This is a short tour for Monday's people coming back early from the Lionel tour, or for those waiting for a later afternoon Lionel Tour. When you sign up for this tour, the LCCA business office will automatically place you in a time slot that fits well with the timing of your Lionel Headquarters tour.

A shuttle bus will transport you to North Carolina's largest and #1 shopping destination, the Concord Mall. This facility is all on one floor and covers 1,362,404 square feet with over 200 stores, including the Lionel retail store. There is also an attached Speedpark, as well as an AMC/IMAX theater. If you wish, purchase tickets on your own and visit the magnificent aquarium. Tired of shopping? Relax with a snack at the outstanding Food Court with its many choices and variations. The Food Court is just outside the Lionel retail store in this gigantic mall. Be sure and allow plenty of time for the Lionel retail store and its four different operating layouts. One you will not want to miss is LCCA and Lionel's own Lauren Morris, showing the different seasons on different levels. Wear your badge as there will be special deals for convention attendees. And be sure to pick up your Poker card!



Bus will leave the hotel at 10 a.m., 11 a.m., 12 noon, 1 p.m., 2 p.m. and 3 p.m. Bus will leave the Mall at 10:30 a.m., 11:30 a.m., 12:30 p.m., 1:30 p.m., 2:30 p.m., 3:30 p.m. and 5:30 p.m. Don't miss your bus and possibly miss your Lionel Tour! Note: The Mall pickup site will be at the announced on the bus.



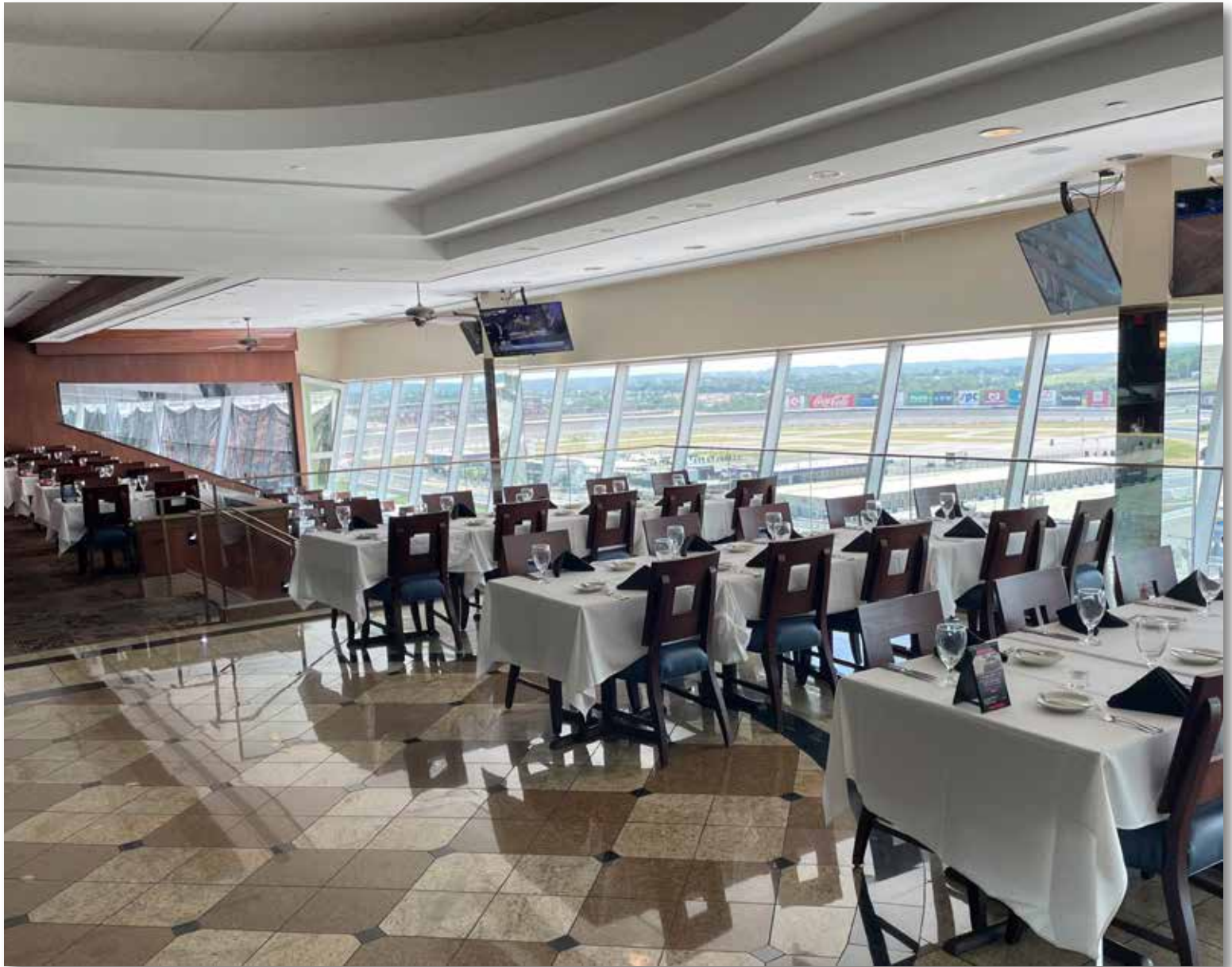
**Tour #5 Monday, July 24 - Price \$83
Evening Dinner at Speedway Club
6 p.m. - 10 p.m. (Maximum 225)**

Sign up for Group A if you wish to take part
in the pre-dinner Cash Bar.

Group A from 6 - 9 p.m. arriving back at hotel
by 9:15. Group B from 6:30 - 9:30 p.m.,
arriving back at the hotel by 9:45.

The Speedway Club is the ultimate fan and guest experience at Charlotte Motor Speedway. Enjoy the iconic Speedway Club food while overlooking the world famous Charlotte Motor Speedway. This

is a very limited tour, with a maximum of 225 people on a first-come sign-up basis. There will be a cash bar available. The outstanding dinner will include non-alcoholic drinks and dessert. We will be welcomed by Lionel Chief Executive Officer Howard Hitchcock, followed by a special guest speaker from NASCAR. A very limited-production surprise gift will be provided by Lionel for those attending this event. We are also 99 percent sure the Summer Shootout Legend Series Cars will be running on the track while we are eating in the glass-enclosed, air-conditioned dining area, high above the front stretch of the Charlotte Motor Speedway. Sign up early as this will surely be a sell-out event with a special collectible that will never be duplicated. *Please choose the meat of your choice when you register for this tour. Tables and seats will be assigned upon registration so there will be no need to rush to beat the crowd.



Tour #6 Tuesday, July 25 – Price \$44
Lionel Headquarters & Warehouse Morning Tour
See the Tour #1 description (Maximum 120)

Tour #7 Tuesday, July 25 – Price \$44
Lionel Headquarters & Warehouse
Afternoon Tour
See the Tour #1 description (Maximum 120)

Tour #8A Tuesday, July 25 – Price \$77
North Carolina Transportation Museum,
Train Ride, and Turntable Ride
8 a.m. – 4 p.m.

See the Tour #3A description.
This tour is for those taking the Monday
Lionel Headquarters & Warehouse Tour.

Tour #9 Tuesday, July 25 – Price \$14
Concord Mall 10 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
See Tour #4 description.

This is a short tour for Tuesday's people coming back early from the Lionel tour, or; those waiting for a later afternoon Lionel Tour. When you sign up for this tour, the LCCA business office will automatically place you in a time slot that fits well with the timing of your Lionel Headquarters tour.

Bus will leave the hotel at 10 a.m., 11 a.m., 12 noon, 1 p.m., 2 p.m., & 3 p.m.

Bus will leave the Mall at 10:30 a.m., 11:30 a.m., 12:30 p.m., 1:30 p.m., 2:30 p.m., 3:30 p.m., 4:30 p.m. & 5:30 p.m.

Note: The Mall pickup site will be at the announced on the bus. Don't miss your bus and possibly miss your Lionel Headquarters Tour!

Tour #8B Tuesday, July 25 – Price \$83
North Carolina Transportation
Museum and Childress Winery
8 a.m. - 4:45 p.m

See the Tour #3B description. (Maximum for 225 for Tours 8A and 8B) This tour is for those taking the Monday Lionel Headquarters & Warehouse Tour.

Don't miss the details on page 24 of our Friday train ride on the beautiful Aberdeen Carolina & Western through the countryside of North Carolina.



Tour #10 Wednesday, July 26 – Price \$77
Motor Sports Team Tour 7:30 a.m. – 12 noon

Visit shops, museums, pit stops, etc., of the giants of NASCAR Racing. (Maximum 150)

Venue #1: RFK Racing will offer a behind-the-scenes look into its pit stop practice area where members of its pit crews will be practicing. RFK's pit athletes train multiple times per week as the Cup Series is in its second season with the single-lug wheel on the NextGen car. The RFK museum will also be a stop on the tour, a historical peek at the rich history of Jack Roush and his race team. Multiple cars, including some race-win cars and show cars, are on display throughout the museum, as well as multiple trophies from Roush's 300-plus wins throughout his NASCAR career. Partner displays, a shrine of Roush's Hall of Fame items, and more are on display for those who take a walk through the facility. Guests on-site will also receive a 30 percent off discount in the RFK Retail Store, which serves as RFK's official apparel and gear store. In addition to a photo opportunity at the fountain in front of the corporate building, members will receive a RFK Racing hat, pin, and decal, as memorabilia for their visit.

Venue #2: Hendrick Motorsports will offer us the rare opportunity to see inside the team's race shops, where cars for the Nos. 5, 9, 24, and 48 Hendrick Motorsports teams fabricate, assemble and race prep their Chevrolet Camaro ZL1s. We will also tour the Hendrick Motorsports engine and CNC facilities where the organization designs, manufactures, assembles and tests over 200 race engines each year. These engines are raced in over 400 events

annually between the NASCAR Cup Series and the NASCAR Xfinity Series. The Hendrick Motorsports Museum will be open for us to enjoy. The museum features a variety of historically significant race cars, some of Rick Hendrick's personal cars and offers a special look at the history of the 14-time NASCAR Cup Series championship-winning organization. We will receive a 20 percent discount off any items purchased inside the museum Gift Shop, as well as an LCCA/HMS special item for each person on the tour!

Venue #3: NASCAR Research and Development Facilities. Originally created for safety within the sport, the R&D Center first opened in Conover, N.C. in 2000. In 2003, the current R&D Center was opened in Concord, N.C. This 61,000 square foot building houses R&D, Inspectors/Officials, Series Directors, and Training/Development personnel from all NASCAR series. Our tour will include multiple areas of expertise during our visit, so please feel free to come with any questions you may have. NASCAR is excited for our visit and would like to personally thank us for our support in carrying on this great sport. During this exclusive experience, we will view car setups, parts of the at-track inspection process, the chassis certification process, and gain access to engineering insights and tests used to execute the great races you see on Sundays, while sustaining the highest levels of safety for drivers and fans. Some of the topics and displays covered will be the NextGen Car, CAD design, dynamometer cell, Optical Scanning Station (OSS), and the fabrication and rapid prototype shop. At the end of the tour, we will have the opportunity to drive a lap around Daytona International Speedway, with the NextGen Car, in one of the iRacing Simulators.

*** We are currently working on a bonus addition to Tour #10, with no extra cost to you. We are 99 percent sure we can make it happen but we don't want to mention it and then have you disappointed. In NASCAR, you can never count on the weather and other unforeseen problems. So, sign up early and then keep your fingers crossed. If it happens, you will be thrilled.*



Thursday Choice Day – You Choose

You must choose between **Tours #11 or #12** (morning tours)
and also choose between **Tours #13 or #14** (afternoon tours)

Tour #11 Thursday, July 27 – Price \$42
The Gibson Mall with the AutoBarn,
Antique Mall, and Cabbarus Brewery
8 a.m. – 12:45 p.m. (Maximum 110)

Please wear your walking shoes for this adventure. We hope to have a shuttle bus between these three locations although they are all three in the same facility. On this tour we will visit three venues, all in one location. This is the Gibson Mall, a new name for the old textile manufacturing company headquarters. You will have around four hours so plan your time at each location accordingly. The gigantic Antique Mall, one of the largest in the U. S., stretches for what seems like miles and includes over 800 vendors. Thank goodness there are street signs and “arrows to exits” throughout this place. The AutoBarn houses hundreds of exotic cars, and almost all of them are for sale. The inventory is never the same two days in a row. However, every day is filled with unbelievable inventory. There are also antique restored trucks, motorcycles, bicycles and more. The AutoBarn will provide us refreshments. And, our third location is the Cabbarus Brewing Company. They make a variety of quality craft beers which we can sample along with a tour of the brewery. Cabarrus Brewing is the largest craft production brewery in the county. They are also the iconic Brewery that made the “Lionel Ale” for the 2019 LCCA Reno convention.



Tour #12 Thursday, July 27 – Price \$42
The Mustang Owners Museum
& The North Carolina Music Hall of Fame
and Curb Motor Museum
8:30 a.m. – 12:00 noon (Maximum 110)

If you're a past, present Mustang owner, or just a current car buff, Mustang Owners Museum is the place to be. This museum features over 25 Mustangs from classics, modified, racing, and a few unique versions. At the museum, you will see the 1964 World's Fair Mustang and a Shelby Cobra found in a river and totally restored. There are barn finds, including cars, memorabilia, and much more. You will see the fourth Mustang ever produced, along with Henry Ford II's Gold car. If you're a PONY fan, this museum is for you, and who didn't want a Mustang when you were young? If you visited the Corvette Museum last year at our Nashville convention, you will want to add this museum to complete your bucket list. A surprise gift could be waiting for you?

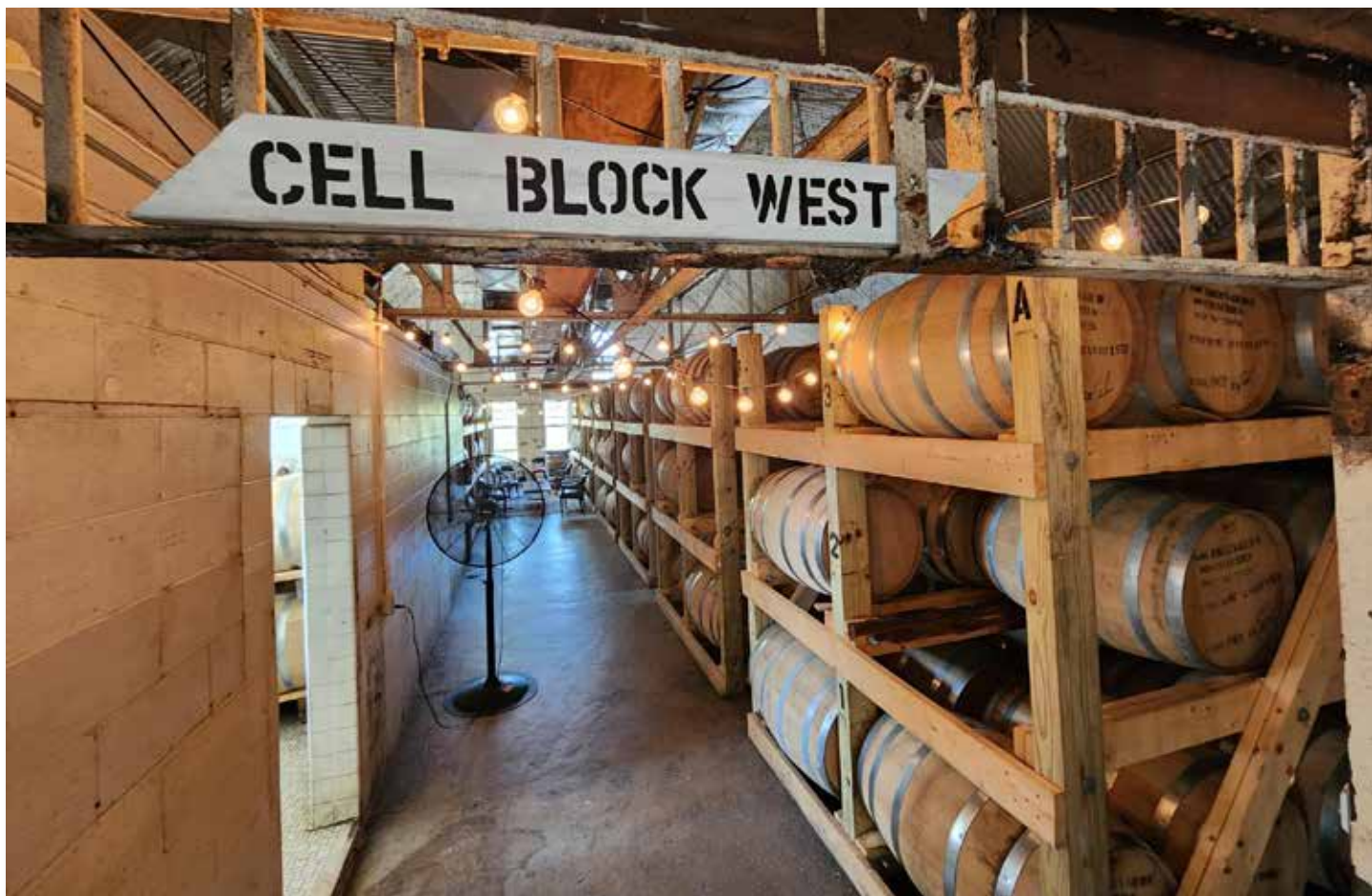
Another stop will be the North Carolina Music Hall of Fame and Museum combined with the Curb Motorsports museum, all in one gigantic building. Step inside to see the musicians of the North Carolina region including Randy Travis and many more. Walk through the displays and see the outfits and diorama settings of the Country Western musicians and other famous people from the area. Listen to music and watch videos from the greatest artists in the North Carolina history. See the exhibits from pioneering older artists to memorabilia from some of today's most well-known entertainers. From there we will go just next door (same building) to see the Curb Auto Museum. Charlotte is NASCAR country and Mr. Curb's collection of older NASCAR, Indy cars and drag racing cars will astonish you. See cars raced by Dale Earnhardt, Richard Petty, and many more on display. From cars to trophies, to everything else in the racing world, this is a place you will want to visit.



Tour #13 Thursday, July 27 — Price \$42
Southern Grace Distilleries at Whiskey
Prison and the Reed Gold Mine Tour
1:30 - 5 p.m. (Maximum 110)

Another opportunity to tease our taste buds awaits at the famous Southern Grace Distillery located in a recently abandoned prison. The prison was built in 1927 and when closed as a jail, it was converted into a distillery. The old cell blocks have been turned into a distillery and storage rooms. However, a couple of prison cells have been left in their original state for your photo shots between the cold steel bars. We will also see the old Guard Tower, the Warden home, and the infamous Hot Box that was located on most prison grounds. The price of this guided tour will include whiskey tasting for those interested.

Our other educational stop on Thursday afternoon is the Reed Gold Mine, (oldest in the U.S.A.) where we will tour the underground mine/tunnels and also try our hand panning for real gold. First, a little trivia. Do you realize that gold was first discovered in North Carolina? Back in 1799, farmer John Reed's son found a 17-pound rock with gold in it. North Carolina led in gold production until 1848 when the gold rush in California took over first place. The first U.S. gold rush was in Dahlonega, Ga., in 1825 where a U.S. mint was later established. And, do you own a Lionel-issued Dahlonega Mint Car #7530 produced by Lionel in the 1979-86 Mint series? Your ticket will allow you to visit the museum, tour the mine/tunnel, and pan for gold if you wish. Inclement weather can have an effect on our mining activities. Let the instructors help you do some panning and maybe you will "strike it rich" and pay for your entire convention with real gold. At least, with any you find, you will be given a vial to take it home with you.



Tour #14 Thursday, Price – \$59
The Duke Mansion and the
NASCAR Hall of Fame
July 27 1:15 - 5 p.m. (Maximum 110)

Mr. Duke is known for quite a few things but one is the Duke Energy Company. Another is Duke University. Why was his mansion in Charlotte and his university in Durham? As a successful tobacco farmer, most of his farm land was up in Durham, so that is where he established his university. Built in 1915 and tripled in size by its most famous owner James Buchanan Duke in 1919, The Duke Mansion is a 20-room bed-and-breakfast and event venue. The Duke Mansion is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and operates as a nonprofit whose proceeds are used to preserve and protect this community treasure.

Being in the heart of NASCAR County means a visit to the NASCAR Hall of Fame is a must. This facility located in downtown Charlotte is not only a museum, but a shrine to the history, heritage and future of the fast sport of car racing. As you enter, you will be greeted by the famous race track with its high elevated banking. Try to walk up it if you dare! The track is covered with famous race cars, however, different cars rotate on an annual basis. You may also take part in over 50 different interactive experiences. You can get behind the wheel in a racing simulator designed for your favorite track. Do the pit road challenge and competition individually or create a team.



Can you change four tires, fuel a tank of gas, and do this in less than 15 seconds? At the end of this experience, you will surely be a NASCAR fan for life.

Buses 1 and 3 will visit the Duke Mansion, followed by the NASCAR Hall of Fame. Buses 2 and 4 will visit the NASCAR Hall of Fame first and the Duke Mansion second. All buses will depart at 1:15 p.m.



Friday, July 28 – Price \$133
Aberdeen, Carolina and Western Train Ride,
Locomotive Shop and Historic Passenger Car Tour

(Maximum 440) Tour #15A 7 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Tour #15B 9:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

The Aberdeen, Carolina and Western Railroad (AC&WR) is a privately owned 150-mile short line in the heart of North Carolina. The ACWR connects to the Norfolk Southern and the CSX, allowing for its freight shippers to be dual served. It must shut down its entire working day just so we can take a scenic ride through the fabulous Carolina countryside. We will ride from Candor through Pinehurst to Aberdeen and back. The famous Pinehurst Golf Club hosts many golf tournaments including the prestigious men and women U.S. Opens. The excursion will consist of open-air cars, a Budd full dome car, a baggage car, and a double diner off the Pennsylvania Railways Congressional. Included in the event is a tour of the Aberdeen Carolina & Western Railway headquarters and their 80,000 square foot railway shop. You will tour some of the most beautiful historic passenger cars which date back to the early 1900s. Along with the refurbished passenger cars, you will also see many other engines, locomotive parts, and railroad artifacts and be greeted by Robert Menzies, the founder and owner of the Aberdeen Carolina & Western Railway. Lionel has modeled many of these passenger cars and locomotives, and this tour will give attendees the opportunity to view and ride some of the models. A box lunch will be provided.



Tour # 16 Saturday, July 29 – Price \$79
Daniel Stowe Botanical Garden
and NarroWay Dinner Theater
8:30 a.m. - 3:45p.m. (Maximum 110)

The Daniel Stowe Botanical Garden is one of the most picturesque spots in all of North Carolina. Its mission statement is “Daniel Stowe Botanical Garden creates an inspiring, unforgettable garden experience that instills a love of nature and its beauty.” Daniel Stowe, a retired textile executive from Fremont, N.C. reserved 380 acres of prime rolling meadows, woodlands, and lakefront property and established a foundation on which to develop a world-class botanical garden. His wife Arlene helped him envision a complex evolving over several decades to rival other internationally renowned gardens. You enter the gardens through a stunning 13,500 square-foot pavilion with a breathtaking 100 year old stained-glass dome. There are eight different gardens and 12 exceptional fountains. It also contains the Orchid Conservatory. Two more areas have been added lately - the Kimbrell Children’s Garden in 2014 and the Piedmont Prairie Garden completed in 2019. This is a venue that is a place in the Carolinas you do not want to miss.

From the Gardens, we will travel a short distance to the NarroWay Theater and Performance Hall just south of Charlotte, the premier Christian Theater of the South, known as “The Broadway of Christian Entertainment.” After a visit to its the gift shop, book store, etc., we will be served an outstanding lunch from the hands of today’s performing cast, followed by the afternoon’s performance of “Samson, The Last Judge.” Billed as “A show that all Christian Americans need to see,,” this is not only a Christian show but also a captivating, patriotic show filled with hope. It is the story of Samson and also the story of America. The creative setting for “Samson” begins in a Senator’s office and though written with no political agenda, it may be interpreted as doing so in today’s environment. If you are a patriotic American who believes in the principles the founding fathers built this nation upon, you will enjoy this production.



Tour #17 Saturday, July 29 – Price \$79
Billy Graham Museum and Home
and NarroWay Dinner Theater

8:30 a.m. – 3:45 p.m. (Maximum 110)

On the south side of Charlotte, we will visit the world famous Billy Graham Library, boyhood home, and the beautiful landscaped grounds and burial site of Billy Graham. This place is known as “An Ongoing Crusade.” Billy Graham was always against the idea of a museum bearing his name. He did not want to take away from the message he preached for more than 60 years, pointing to Christ alone as the way to God. When the concept was presented to him as a Crusade for generations to come, he reconsidered. This spot is organized around the themes of “The Man,” “The Message & The Ministry,” and “The Mission.” Graham grew up on a dairy farm in Charlotte, and from there became known, appreciated, and loved worldwide. He was often called the pastor to presidents since he met with many U.S. Presidents during their terms in office as they sought spiritual counsel. Soak in the memories and accomplishments of this man of God at this memorial.

From the Graham site, we will travel a short distance to the NarroWay Theater and Performance Hall just south of Charlotte. Read the Tour #16 description to learn about this performance company known as “The Broadway of Christian Entertainment.”

