

# Jefferson City Tour

**O**n the weekend of August 22nd-23rd, members of our club caravanned to Jefferson City, mainly to tour the closed State Prison, but also to tour Jefferson Landing and the Missouri State Capitol building.

Our club met at the McDonalds in Lake St. Louis for a quick breakfast and viewed dark clouds to the west. By the time we reached the highway, the rain started and later turned into very heavy rain. After a couple of pit stops, we finally arrived in the state capitol.

We first headed to the Jefferson Landing State Historic Site to tour some of the oldest buildings in the city, both being built after Missouri became a state in 1821. After the tour, we headed to a local Bandana's for lunch. As you know, our club travels on its stomach.

After lunch, we toured the capitol building and learned much about the area's rich history and many interesting stories about the building itself. After that tour, we checked into our hotel, and then partied in the Syl and Judy Biermann room to prepare for dinner. Thank goodness, more food.

Heading out for a late dinner, we gathered at Arris Pizza Palace for some really



# MISSOURI STATE PENITENTIARY



great food and service. With 24 of us arriving at once, it can be a challenge for their staff, but it worked out well. We then took a night tour of the areas surrounding the capitol building. It was truly beautiful at night.

After morning breakfast on Sunday at our hotel, we arrived at the prison for a 10 am tour. WOW. The tour was informative, educational and somewhat daunting. We learned of the cruelty the prisoners endured from the time that the penitentiary opened in 1836 until it closed in 2004, although many things had improved by the mid-1960's. The prison was once called the "bloodiest 47 acres in America". The prison once held Pretty Boy Floyd, Sonny Liston, and James Earl Ray who escaped. The tour finished with viewing the gas chamber which also had photos of all of the 40 prisoners who were executed there.

Having not eaten for at least a couple of hours, we headed to Prison Brews for lunch. Great lunch, but we were not finished. Having a group "sweet tooth", we headed to Central Dairy for ice cream. It was a fitting way to finish our trip. Being well fed, we all headed home from this great tour.

Being known for our "U-turns", our only one was by your editor as I followed the wrong car and had to make the u-turn.

Thanks go out to Jim Biermann who did all of the planning including an earlier trip to Jeff City to make sure that all would go well, as it surely did. Great job Jim!