

NBCC May Drive 2013

WE started in the Trinity Lane and I 65 area and headed off into the wilds of Robertson County. All told we had 5 cars. Stopped at Steele Saddle Tree and were given an thorough step by step explanation of how Saddle Trees are made. Here are few pictures:



Some of the cars



Steele Saddle Tree is one of a handful of saddle tree makers in the US and they ship around the world. They have been in business since the 1870's in this area, owned by the same family.



They start out with blocks of wood.



And use custom-made 'following lathes' to shape the blocks into the pieces of the saddle trees.



Pieces are then glued together:



Once assembled they are sent to be covered in fiberglass:



Then they are cured:



The dark ones are double glazed for use in Australia.

Then they are stacked and await shipment – some of these have plastic parts – only about 10% are ordered that way.



We then retired for lunch on the Cumberland.



And saw another mode of transportation:



All in all, it was a very informative trip – great roads, interesting stop, great company, and a delicious lunch.