

Fall Color Tour – Oct. 4

by Laura Netzinger

Over the river and through the woods...the MX-5 knows the way to carry the sleigh through the wide and drifting snow...

Oops! Wrong season, except that, YES, WE DID HAVE SNOW SHOWERS on the way from Sauk City through Portage to Merrill. After the snow showers, it just rained.

Thirteen cars snaked along the Wisconsin River and around Fawn Lake, Sand Lake, Hancock Lake, and Lake Tomahawk. The Wisconsin northwoods was ablaze in color as we wound and twisted our way through. We meandered around curves at slow speeds (though we were not sure why the speeds were 35 mph on the country roads where there were fields!). While it rained during our MX-5 journey, it let up when we stopped at Schaefer's Wharf so that we could enter the quaint bar and grill to enjoy a "Mystery Beer" and some warm food. They had a really unique interior and a beautiful walking garden outside the pub.

On the second leg of our tour, we saw SNOW on the ground and the rooftops of buildings (see the pictures on the web for proof!). And were those white stripes across the road for the deer, or bear! No, no, no - they were actually for the snowmobiles to cross the roads. We stopped at a little ice cream/bakery/curio shop for----you got it! ICE CREAM! Some of us chose to eat the bakery instead.

The last leg of our tour took us back to Merrill and to Ballyhoo's where we were treated with a cupcake dessert and the last round of drinks on the house. Now, you just can't get better service than that! (They also had the best homemade burgers!) All who attended came away with Fall memories to last the season. Thanks to Hodnes and Thomases for organizing our last driving event of the 2014 season, and to Mary and Craig for the pumpkins and "Fall Color Drive" buttons.