

BADGER BURROW - MAY 3, 2015

ZOOM ZOOM?? WE SURE DID!!

Tim Deadrick & Joanne Smith, Brian Carney & Ginger Carney, and Audra Werner & Wendy Wenzler along with their respective cars represented the BMC with enthusiasm and - gusto! Audra, who had done previous rallies, suggested we treat it as a "scavenger hunt". Rally organizers encouraged us to just have fun - and we did! We three teams decided not to worry about strict time limits because we wanted to learn "how-to" in our first SCCA rally. One of the helpful SCCA members started to explain the numbering and how to calculate this & that - and Joanne's and my eyes just glazed over. Both of us are "math-challenged". None of us was concerned with winning; we just wanted to enjoy the experience. And we sure did!



We each took our detailed route instructions and began our adventure for the day. Audra & Wendy were in car #8, which meant they were the 8th car out of the starting gate (*cars leave in 1-minute intervals*). Unfortunately, Audra's Miata is in need of brakes, so she was driving a Focus that day. It was a beautiful "Miata Day", but at least the Focus had a sunroof! Cars #12 (Deadrick/Smith) and #14 (Carneys) took advantage of the perfect weather and "dropped their tops" (*note the little orange stickers on the headlights in photos*). Cars 8 and 12 completed the rally; however, car 14 bowed out at 4:30pm with at least two more hours and five more pages of directions to go. We had a great time, but the day had gotten a bit long for us - especially after we missed a landmark and had to turn around - our third time that day.



The rally organizers and others within the group were welcoming, friendly, and helpful for us novices. We felt very much a part of the group. These are serious rally enthusiasts (*you should have seen the dashboard computers in some of the cars!*), but they were patient with us newcomers. Tim got gently scolded for arriving too soon at one of

the checkpoints, and Brian was gently chastised for "creeping" to one of the checkpoints, but otherwise folks were supportive and amicable. The article reprinted on the BMC website from Rally Master Jay Nemeth-Johannes describes the event itself ([Post-event Article 1](#)). You might want to read it because it explains the rally much better than I can; plus it's well written.

The route covered many excellent Miata roads that we recognized from previous BMC events. The only criticism we had was that at least three of the roads were long, twisty, and covered totally in gravel and dust.

All of us had a terrific time! The "Roads Scholar" event was sold out, but you should try one of the other rallies coming up this year. Brian and I hope to do one again next summer. Now that we know what to expect, it will be even more thrilling. Think about joining us.

As the Rally instructions state: *That's it. Just have fun!*