

CHILI BUT NOT CHILLY!
Dave's Chili Run - October 10, 2015
By Ginger Carney

On a near-perfect October morning the Badgerland Miata Club celebrated the end of its driving season with camaraderie and chili in the only Waunakee in the world.

Lynn Bonfield hosted the event, which is named for her late husband Dave. Dave was an active and much-loved member of the BMC and also VP-Southwest for several years. He passed away unexpectedly in 2014.



We began to gather around 11:00am for lively conversation and the traditional “kicking-of-tires”. We welcomed new and newer BMC members Diane & Lon Michener and Lori & Jeff Weishoff. Lynn’s family members directed traffic & parking on Gilkeson Rd., a normally quiet rural road that happened to be unusually busy because of a huge estate sale across from Lynn’s “estate”. At one point someone pulled up and asked if the Miatas were part of the sale! Several people who were actually on Gilkeson for the sale walked over to admire all our

beautiful cars.

Everyone brought something to share, and along with Lynn’s huge variety of chili dishes, we had plenty to eat. It was a relaxing time to catch up, to share stories, and to laugh with each other. Some of us dined outside, and others ate indoors in Lynn’s comfortable lower level family room, which had been arranged with extra tables and chairs. Veggies, chili, crackers, cheese, chili, brownies, pumpkin bars, chili, homemade chocolate chip cookies, homemade cornbread, chili, sliced sausage, pretzels & dip, a variety of sodas, water – and did I mention chili!?!?



Lynn’s family graciously did the clean-up so that we could start the Chili Run at 12:30-ish. And it was a very Fun Run! Lynn with Jim Thomas as navigator led the ribbon of 17 Miatas, with Mary & Craig Hodne at mid-point and Brian and Ginger Carney as sweep. We twisted and turned from Waunakee to Middleton, traveling on Turkey Road, Otter Kerl, Spring Valley, etc. If

you've been in the BMC for a couple of years, you will probably have driven on these fun roads before. This is a very popular area for curves, twisties and hills in the west-of-Madison area.

In Middleton we had a treat at Culver's and/or bought bread from Clasen's Bakery, or just enjoyed the lovely afternoon as we gave our cars a rest before Leg 2.



During the second leg we again twisted, turned, arose and descended our way west to the Barneveld area and Botham Vinyards. At one point along the route we encountered a vigilant sheriff, and so we were especially cautious with our speed. Fortunately for us but unfortunately for some others, the vigilant sheriff did his duty and ticketed some bikers.

At the winery some of us stayed awhile to enjoy one of Botham's wines and eat pretzels, dip and cheese. Others left for home, and still others headed back to Madison and Benvenuto's for dinner together.

I wish to add that as sweep we enjoyed watching the long line of cars traverse the territory. It really is a great view of our ribbon of colorful Miatas climbing a hill or rounding a curve. Pretty cool!

Thanks to Lynn's family members - Joni, Joe, Brandon, "the other" Lynn and Mitch for all their help in making "Dave's Chili Run" a success.



Thank you especially to Lynn herself, who really put on a fun, well-organized and successful event! She says thanks to everyone who showed up and had a good time.

Note: *The route for this year's chili run was adapted from an event held in 1999 by Bill Wanazek, the "Bill 3". If you are interested in holding an event but are unsure about how to set up the drive, visit our "History" on the website. Go to www.badgerlandmiataclub.com, click on the Members Section and scroll down to "History" and "Some of the BMC's monthly drives". Just pick one of those, drive it to see what if anything needs to be changed, then offer to host it in 2016 or another year.*