

"CRAPPY ROADS, LOTS OF GRAVEL, LOUSY PARKING, AWESOME EVENT"
by Ginger Carney

So said our president, Tom, following the *Wiggles, Squiggles and Giggles* run on June 11th. Before you think he was being critical, consider leaders Sharon and Peter's introduction during the drivers' meeting: many of the roads are in disrepair because of lack of funding for infrastructure ("crappy", Sharon said); some small repairs have been made on some roads but gravel remains on the surface and turns ("lots of gravel", Peter said); one of our stops would be in a popular tourist town where an event of some kind was taking place that same day ("lousy parking"). Where did the "awesome" come from, then? Tom's word, to which we ALL agreed.

It was a great day of twisting and curving and zoom-zooming through the Driftless* area of south central & southwestern Wisconsin. The wide river valley, home to American Players Theatre, Frank Lloyd Wright's Taliesin, Spring Green, and Sharon's family for more than a century treated us to lush fields and broad vistas. While driving on the exciting roads in the surrounding hills, we enjoyed the cool green of the forest, the breathtaking views of the surrounding countryside, the interesting landscaping of homes and farmyards, and the visual and olfactory (!) reminders of where our food comes from. We were even greeted by a friendly black dog that stood at attention (and was perhaps perplexed) as our ribbon of Miatas drove past its farm.

New members Shane Harvey and Jeff Joers joined us as the morning began cloudy but dry, and we all doffed our silly hats for display. A sampling: a red and white rooster hat, a sparkly lace creation, a "margaritaville" of fruit and flowers, two "buffalos", a sparkly patriotic red/white/blue chapeau, and two dashing drivers in leather caps, white scarves and goggles who must have thought this was 1920! And so we had the "giggles". Most of us dropped our tops, and the adventure began

As the day and our spirited drive continued, the humidity rose, the sun peeked through, and the heat index spiked (93!). Many "wiggles and squiggles" thrilled us, but by the afternoon break, most of us put the tops up and the AC on. It was pretty intense, although a few diehards kept their tops down.

Lunch at Rumble Seats in Spring Green was fun, as we were surrounded by 1950s nostalgia (which some of us *actually* experienced!). The young wait staff took good care of us with cheerful service.

And that "lousy parking"? That was in Mount Horeb, where there was supposed to be an event taking place – but it wasn't. So we had plenty of parking and plenty of seating at the Grumpy Troll and Sjolinds Chocolate House, both of which provided refreshment along with welcomed air conditioning.

But as we all know, it is not a "true" Miata event unless there is at least one U-turn and at least some confusion. And so we had two, not just one, u-turn. The confusion, and it was unfortunate, occurred at the very end when some of us got separated from the group and others seemed to have been left behind, which meant that these two groups missed the "surprise" that Sharon and Peter had for us at their home. Since we had had a day of wiggles and squiggles, this last stop was to be a fun, relaxed cocktail/beer break with plenty of giggles before our delicious buffet dinner at Arthur's in Spring Green.

Following dinner many went back to Sharon & Peter's for stargazing. Peter said it was a very good night for viewing, and we would be able to see the rings of Saturn among other squiggly wonders beyond our solar system. However, it had been a long and hot day, so many of us decided to head back to our own areas of the State, even though the stars at home would not have been so brilliant.

Many thanks to Sharon and Peter who are excellent hosts and who planned a really fun and interesting event, a great tour of an enchanting area of Wisconsin, and the hospitality of their own home. Their enthusiasm and sense of fun made the day exceptional.

It was indeed an AWESOME and delightful day with great Miata roads, lots of wiggles, squiggles, giggles, and friendly conversation.

** The Driftless area is so named because the glaciers did not move through there. Thus, no "drift" or glacial residue was left behind. It is known for its deeply carved river valleys and beautifully sculpted topography.*