

W.O.W.W Tour By Paula & Ron Beckman

WOW! What a beautiful day for a drive! On Saturday, July 16, 2016, we gathered at Bergstrom Mazda in Appleton to begin the W.O.W.W. tour hosted by Craig & Mary Hodne. This was a scenic tour of Winnebago, Outagamie, Waushara and Waupaca Counties, but not in that order.



We were glad we arrived early, to enjoy the nice breakfast of coffee, bagels, and cream cheese that were provided by Bergstrom. We were also able to feast our eyes on the showroom full of MX-5s, including some 2016 models! I found the car I wanted, but was voted down because it was the wrong color. That's right, it was not red. Kudos to Bergstrom Mazda for their hospitality. They really went out of their way to make us feel welcome, providing breakfast, water bottles, taking a group picture in the showroom and providing an introduction to the 2016 model of the MX-5 Miata.

At 10:00, 25 cars were lined up and ready to start the tour. As we were getting ready to leave another Miata, who is not a member of the club, asked to join the group, so off we went, 26 strong. Toni Thomas road shotgun with Craig, since Mary was helping a neighbor in need and was unable to attend the drive.

Couldn't get our CB to work, so we were riding silent on the first part of the drive. As many of the club members know, I am known as the Navigator. I take my job very seriously and to stay in top form I practice my skills quite often. Well, we had barely started the drive and were approaching a roundabout, so I announced, "Take the third exit onto County CB, Charlie Bravo". The car in front of us took the second exit, so Ron dutifully followed him instead of listening to me! Go figure!! Thankfully only one or two cars followed too, so we made a U turn and were soon back in the group.

After several miles, we were off onto pretty back roads, enjoying the songbirds, wild flowers, nice homes, small towns and the beautiful Wolf river. Our first stop was at Pony Creek Park, along the west shore of Lake Poygan in Waushara County. I got the CB working, but not sure what the problem was to begin with. Next time I'll give it a good whack on the bottom!

We continued on more lovely roads to familiar territory around Poy Sippi. (By the way, from an historical register: Poy was Mrs. Sippi's husband.) Our next stop was at the beautiful Covered Bridge Park, which is privately owned, but they kindly let us stop for a chance to stroll the grounds and enjoy the lovely gardens, gazebo and, of course, the covered bridge. The covered bridge, which replaced a condemned steel and concrete bridge, was completed in 1997 by a group of volunteers.

After another short drive, we arrived at the Red Mill Gift Shop and Wedding Chapel in Waupaca County. What a beautiful setting for a wedding! Someone agreed,



because a wedding was in process that day. The gift shop also had very expensive purses! We cut our stop a little short to keep on schedule.

Before long, we arrived at Chain O' Lakes Bar and Grill in Waupaca for lunch. The food was great and the staff was very friendly and accommodating, plus, the bathrooms were nice and clean! We had very quick service, but we did order just an appetizer. Great choice for lunch, Craig!

After lunch we ventured forth into the warming afternoon, traveling an abundance of beautiful back roads. We enjoyed the pretty scenery, including creeks, lakes and rivers.

We made the required ice cream stop in Iola at the Old Millstone. They served gelato (a nice surprise) in some very interesting flavors like: peanut curry, tamarind chutney, and Moscow Mule (for those 21 and over). We chose the chocolate hazelnut latte. Yum!



With our craving for ice cream satisfied, we continued on our journey. We ended the day at Mathew's Supper Club in Clintonville. We arrived earlier than planned, so some decided not to wait for dinner, but we are glad we stayed. The staff pushed up the serving time as much as they could. We were served family style including: bread, salad, roast beef, chicken, mashed potatoes, gravy, mixed vegetables and dessert. Everything was so delicious! The beef was so tender it could be cut with a fork. WOW again!

Thank you Craig & Mary for a wonderful time, with really great stopping spots. Thanks too to our sweep: Brian & Ginger Carney; mid-ranger: Jim Thomas; and photographer: Laura Netzinger.