

The Door Drive – October 8, 2017

by Dan Dahl

Blue Clear Sky was a smash hit for country star George Strait in 1996 and the same could be said for a small contingent of Badgerland Miata Club members on this late, unseasonably warm autumn day.



Members Jack Mason, John Grupe (and his son in law James), Dan Dahl, and Mary Ziesemer began the journey to Door County at Jack's residence in greater western Green Bay area, then slaloming through the hilly, wooded terrain on our way to Highway 172 and points east.

Having penned the route, Jack had honors to lead the three-car contingent along the east side of the Bay of Green Bay on Nicolet Drive and County Road DK, the old route up the peninsula. I had forgotten how nice the view is on the old road since it was replaced by the new heavily traveled Highway 57.

Our first stop was lunch at Waterfront Mary's Bar and Grill. Tucked away on the west side of Sturgeon Bay, Mary's is part of Beach Harbor Resort. The food and views of the bay did not disappoint! I suggest the perch sandwich - what else when you are eating near the water!



Crossing over the old downtown Sturgeon Bay steel bridge, Jack led us up the coast on Bay Shore Drive, a twisty scenic road offering views of the bay and some extremely nice properties. Before we knew it, we were rolling into Egg Harbor and being greeted by throngs of pedestrians and traffic. Little did we know, the Pumpkin Patch Festival was in full force along the streets of the village, with many of the visitors giving us the thumbs up as we made our way through town.

Traveling north on Highway 42, we passed though Fish Creek and soon entered the enormous Peninsula State Park. It was a slow go through the park as the weather brought out many campers, bikers, and hikers but the awesomeness of the views is well worth it.

The requisite ice cream stop was derailed as our intended stop at Wilson's Ice Cream Parlor at Ephraim had a line that extended out the door. After a short walk to stretch our legs, we were back in the Miatas and heading east toward Baileys Harbor. The scenic route along Lake Michigan is a driver's dream, unless encountered by a slow driving SUV!!



Further south, we veered toward Algoma, encountering a very strange and eerie fog that rolled off Lake Michigan. Temperatures had dropped about 15 degrees near the lake which explains this phenomenon. The final leg of this seven hour day took us "Strait" west on Highway 54 back to Green Bay where we parted ways.

The route was perfect, the weather measured up, and all had a great ride. Jack even mixed in a U-turn to make it an official BMC event! I'm a little stiff from the 7-hour ride but came out of it better than the squirrel that met its fate with a too close encounter with John's front splitter! The poor thing never had a chance.