

THE (un) MUD RUN

By Ginger Carney

Well, to be truthful we did encounter a little bit of mud on the route as well as one good-sized muddy pool in one farm we passed, but overall it could have been called the “dust drive” or the “gravel gallop” - or even “dirty driving” (*but not dirty dancing!*) because it was a beautifully dry, sunny day with dry roads – and maybe even some dry humor, an example of which was “Ah, the sweet smells of Wisconsin” as we passed a field of cows.

Riecks and Netzingers got us out and runnin’ for an excellent start to our 2017 Miata season. Terry Rieck & Henry Netzinger reported that the route was adapted from one Mike Schweiger did in the mid-90s. Exploring in and around Dane County, we traveled on some of the most fun roads in all of Wisconsin with intriguing names such as “Turkey Road”, “Enchanted Valley Road”, and the infamous “Otto Kerl Road”. Our little cars enjoyed twists and turns, hills and farms, and many breathtaking vistas.

Unfortunately for those near the back of the pack, the dust made for difficult viewing and slow goin’ on several of the roads. As Toni Thomas observed, sometimes they could barely see the road much less the Miata in front of them.

Our day began at Don Miller, which sponsors our website and graciously provides space for our season-starting meeting every year, including a delicious buffet lunch. Laura Netzinger led a brief but important Club business meeting in which those officers present were introduced and the season’s events were announced. This year Don Miller got a special boost from its association with the BMC, for Charlie and Cheryl Dell’Accio bought a brand new 2017 Miata hard top convertible right off the showroom! They were able to do the first half of the day’s drive before returning to the dealership to complete the sale. Charlie joked that he paid for the day’s lunch (*at the dealership!*)

Jim from the SCCA stopped in to invite us to their rallies. Ron, our webmaster, has links on our website. (*On a personal note: Brian and I did one of their rallies last summer and really enjoyed it. Their group is very welcoming and the rally was fun.*)

Another new “baby” was Dennis & Jane Schmidt’s new blue Miata. Dennis had been searching for over a year for a particular color of blue and found it in St. Louis. This was its first Miata event.

We had two new BMC members, too. Stan Krueger and his dog joined us for the first part of the drive but needed to leave us at New Glarus. Paul Insolera of Waunakee stopped in to sign up but could not go on the ride because his new Miata had not come in yet.

Henry & Terry lead the pack with Jim & Toni Thomas as sweep. Laura Netzinger and Kathy Rieck rode together somewhere in the middle of the pack (*to make sure the guys didn’t mess up??*) The communication was clear and efficient; Henry even warned us of one “ugly turn”! The driving was smooth and incident-free.

Some of the group had to leave the drive early; others were not able to stay for dinner. But the rest of us shared Benvenuto’s in Madison with prom-goers. We were a complete contrast to them! We were dirty and tired from a long and exhilarating drive, and they were in tulle and tux, sequins and boutonnieres. I had a feeling that we were having more fun, though!

Many thanks to Terry & Kathy and Henry & Laura for all their planning and hard work. It was a great start to the driving season. It was also wonderful to see all our “established” and new BMC friends after a long winter!

By the way: if you are contemplating any kind of BMC event, check the archives in the members’ section of the website. That’s what Henry and Terry did. The BMC has done a LOT of drives since the 1990s, and most of them are already plotted out in detail. Pick one out. Dive the route and make any changes or adaptations that are needed or that you choose. You’ll have fun – and so will we!

www.badgerlandmiataclub.com. If you need the password to the members’ section, contact our webmaster.