

September 22, 2018

Eleven Miatas lined up at Cliff Wall Mazda, Green Bay, for the first annual drive originating from the eastside dealership. Owner Cliff Wall and other salespeople welcomed the guests with fresh fruit, Danish, coffee, and juice for the pre-event meet and greet.

There was much discussion about the variety of cars that attended, showcasing models from every generation including a couple 1990 models, a BRG, and a beautiful red Mazdaspeed example. Red stole the show with 5 of the 11 painted in various shades of the color. My 2016 Blue Reflex stuck out like a sore thumb!

On this crisp but clear mid-50s morning, the group exited the dealership for points north to the Door County Peninsula following the bay of Green Bay as much as possible, capturing great views of the calm blue waters from Green Bay to Little Sturgeon Bay.

Our lunch stop was Mary's Waterfront restaurant, located on the south side of Sturgeon Bay. The Mary's staff had an extended table set up for us on their outdoor patio. Virtually no wind and sunny skies made for a perfect view from our table looking across the water to the downtown area.

More shoreline roads proved to be great scenery of the bay from Sturgeon Bay continuing up to Egg Harbor. The Miata train then fell into normally heavy traffic on Highway 42 through Fish Creek to the entrance of Peninsula State Park. This 15-20 minute park tour has great lake views peeking through the thick forest and, upon exit, offers an overview of the lush green golf course.

What's a drive without an ice cream stop and a U-turn? After indulging ourselves at Wilson's in Ephraim, the leader made a bone headed error by missing his first turn, resulting in an awkward U-turn on the busy through-way. Sorry guys!

From the congested west side of Door County, we traveled east toward Baileys Harbor, which had an ongoing large car show and fall festival. It was slow going but did manage to see some great rides in the area.

The route then proceeded south along Lake Michigan, with a spirited drive along Glidden Drive. This is maybe one of the best drivers' roads I have come across as it's a populated road with sharp corners and dense forest drivers dream about.

The final leg led us to Algoma with several elevated views of Lake Michigan and our eventual endpoint where the group said its goodbyes.

Special thanks to Jack Mason for putting this route together for a small group drive in 2017.

It was a perfect Fall day for this drive!

By Dan Dahl