



NE REGION

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Appeal-ing

It is hard to accept that it is mid-August, and the season for Miatas is waning. There are five official events remaining on the calendar, and they are quite distant from my north-central Wisconsin location. Many of you are aware of my recent health issues, and said issues will likely keep me from participating in those far-flung adventures. In the words of the occupant of the White House, "Sad!"

Since assuming the position of VP for the Northeast Region, I have been a cheerleader, trying to foster more active participation by and for members of the Region (actually, all of northern Wisconsin). Several have answered my call, most notably Dan Dahl and Mary Ziesemer.

Dan and Mary joined the club in July of last year, and their enthusiasm for the MX5 and enjoyment of sharing their fun with others has come to the fore. This year, they have organized one "official" club ride and two "impromptu" drives. These impromptu drive notices were sent out to NE Region members via email, usually about a week prior to the drive and were informal affairs. That is not to take away from the enjoyment of the drive - the drives were great fun. I am writing this having just returned home from the latest of the drives (August 12). At the ice cream stop (there has to be one on each ride, doesn't there?), Dan asked a simple question: "Who's going to do the next one?"

And that segues into a new appeal. Have you a favorite route for "exercising" your Miata? Would you be open to sharing your route for the enjoyment of others? Or how about inviting members to a destination or an event. We have done burger quests. We have

enjoyed outdoor music festivals. We have visited museums and collections. We have visited wineries and breweries. For whatever "trips your trigger", would doing it in the company of others enhance the enjoyment? The Badgerland Miata Club is, after all, a social club brought together by an automobile that makes us smile. The only remaining NE Region event on the calendar has recently been canceled. Hopefully, there will be one or two more opportunities for NE activities before top-down motoring is no longer fun. If you want to do something, just let me know and I will get the word out.

Annual Meeting

The annual planning meeting is to be in November, although a host for the event has not been identified, nor has the date. Be thinking, now, about hosting events next year. A need has been declared for a new venue for the club picnic. In the NE Region, we need hosts for the Holiday Motors drive and the Bergstrom Mazda drive. These facilities open their doors to us and make us welcome, but it is up to the BMC to plan the event. Will you step into that role? Perhaps you would be willing to organize a drive of your own design, or revisit a drive from the archives (see the website Members section). How about a winter get-away to start the new year? How about a destination drive to a fabulous northern vacation spot? Make your wishes known at the planning meeting.

To conclude my appeal, let me say that our region has much to offer to the club and has venues that have not yet been explored. Will you help?



The Road to Pickerel

Today, August 12, we had a wonderful, impromptu drive from Appleton to Pickerel. I use the term "impromptu" because that is the term our club president used to identify events that happen on short notice and don't go through the planning and approval of the annual meeting. That today's drive was in excess of 200 miles belies the implication that "it just happens". Rather, it is the result of sharing a familiar travel with friends.

Dan Dahl and Mary Ziesemer led the way from Victory Lane in Appleton to the shores of Pickerel Lake in Forest County. Four cars began the journey in Appleton and two more, with empty passenger seats, joined in at the junction of Hwy 156 and CR-K in Shawano County. We now had two NDs, 3 NCs, and a lone NB. County Road K led us directly into Shawano, where Dan followed the Lake Drive at Shawano Lake to skirt the city and get us to Hwy 55. It was here we encountered our first U-turn. Backtracking and finding the correct road to Hwy 55, we headed north into and through Menomonie County, also known as "the Rez". If you have never traveled Hwy 55 through the Rez, you are missing a real treat (provided you don't get behind an RV). The road has very few straight sections or areas to pass, but there are numerous turnoffs for slow vehicles to get out of the way. We encountered no such slow vehicles, but were harried by a pickup truck that thought we were not exceeding the speed limit by a sufficient margin. Not only is the road deliciously curvy, but the canopy of trees arching over the road was magnificent. The foliage is close to the roadway, so due caution is needed. I had to perform a panic braking when a pack of three large, black dogs trotted out the end of a hidden driveway and onto the highway. They seemed nonplussed by it all.

Upon entering Langlade County and the Nicolet National Forest, the foliage no longer encroached on the road, and the canopy parted above, allowing bountiful sunshine to fall upon us. I was properly equipped for protection from the intense solar radiation, with spf50 and a cap with a cape. Others may not have been as well-prepared.

We will be closed today at 11:00 to prepare for Northwoods Inn and TjS Customs fundraiser golf outing!

Our destination for lunch was the Northwoods Inn, at the corner of Hwy 55 and CR-A a few miles south of Pickerel. Arriving there, we discovered the Inn was closed at 11:00 for a special function. Plan B evolved after Mary contacted relatives with a cottage on Pickerel Lake. Our new destination was the

Pickerel Point Resort on the lake shore. We made it there after a couple more U-turns.



Fortunately, our group was small as their kitchen was soon overwhelmed. After a couple hours at this stop, it was time to return home. Dan lead us on CR-DD as it looped around the lakes and joined Hwy 52. Hwy 52 brought us to CR-A, and that brought us back to the Northwoods Inn and Hwy 55. Circle complete.



Traveling south on Hwy 55 to Keshena, we made a pit stop before veering off on CR-VV



toward Cecil. Just before reaching Hwy 22 at Cecil, a ice cream shop called the Dairy Cove beckoned us in. Thus, we fulfilled all the requirements of a successful drive: good roads, food, U-turns, and ice cream.

Hwy 22 took us past Shawano Lake to the city of Shawano, where we turned onto CR-K to reverse the trip and return to Appleton. Dan led the group off CR-K and onto CR-CCC for a last helping of curves on CR-CC and CR-C before rejoining Hwys 156 and 187.

Thank you, Dan and Mary, for sharing the day with us.

