

35th Anniversary Drive #2

If you missed the 35th Anniversary Celebration, I'm sorry you couldn't make it. You not only missed a great party, but on Jim and Karen's afternoon drive, you missed quite an adventure. From what I hear, Ride 1 was spectacular. The route was beautiful, the weather comfortable and it ended at Hillsboro Brewery. What could be better? Except the storm came through just as the group was nearing The Lodge with high winds and a heavy, vertical downpour. All made it inside safely, if a little wet.

The wind and rain persisted and was forecasted to continue through the afternoon. Jim asked those of us who had signed up for Ride 2 if we should call off the ride and perhaps retreat to the bar. This would certainly be the sensible choice. But we are Miata people and we like to drive our cars. The unanimous choice was to press on. Don J volunteered to be my navigator/copilot since both Jan and Mary really are sensible people and made better use of their time.

So with headlights and wipers on, and Jenny and Paul at Sweep, 10 Miatas bravely set off at about 1:15 PM. Even through the miserable conditions it was evident that it was a beautiful route. Just as I was getting comfortable with the conditions, we came to an abrupt stop. The high winds had knocked down a tree that completely blocked the road. At this point I would have accepted defeat and rerouted the group. Not "Ice Man" Jim. Nothing seems to bother him. He was sure we could move the tree. So with logs from the side of the road Jim and two others pried the trunk up while 6 of the rest of us pulled from the other side in the traditional 1-2-3 HEAVE fashion. New members Russ and Monica dove right into the fray. So much so that Russ found himself seated on the wet pavement when a branch he was tugging on broke. Progress was not fast, but after 20 minutes it looked like we had a space large enough for a Miata to pass if someone held the branches back. Monica jumped to this task. Someone handed her an umbrella through the passenger window from the driver's seat as they went through the gap. The move was so smooth it looked like it had been rehearsed. At last we were free! Oh, and I should mention that the rain increased throughout our forestry project.

So, we were back on the road, thankful that our event shirts are very fast drying. That is until there was another tree across the road. There was no possible way we could move this one. So, of course, Ice Man Jim had us rerouted and back to the much needed rest stop in LaValle in a matter of minutes. The question was asked again. Should we cut the drive short and get back to the hotel with time to rest and clean up for the banquet, or finish the route? You know the answer. The sun had just come out telling us we had to continue. Karen yelled "tops down" and we were off. With the roads drying Karen set a brisk pace through the beautiful scenic roads. I had handed the driving over to Don at the stop, so I was able to enjoy the ride while he tried to keep up with Karen's pace in a strange car. The Jim/Karen team delivered us back to The Lodge with enough time for me to get a nice nap and a shower before the banquet. Well done ride leaders!

All sagas are set down in song so that they can easily be remembered by future Generations. Nearby you find [Gilligan's 35th Anniversary Adventure](#) by Gilligan, who else? May it live in BMC history forever!

Bill Bright