

THE *M* EDITION

Return to Fathead's Meander

by Bill Potvin

In the club's 26 year history, we have visited a lot of different places and have eaten at a lot of interesting (one might say quirky) restaurants. The first time that we ended a meander at Fathead's Restaurant in beautiful, downtown Republic, Ohio (population 549) was in 2002. The consensus of the group at that time was that this establishment offered good service, an excellent menu, and prices that were more in line with the 1950's than today. Nearly 20 years later, our group of 27 hearty travelers felt exactly the same way.

We found our way to this little northwestern Ohio gem by a circuitous route over both familiar and newly discovered roads. Starting in BG, we traveled to Pemberville on the always pleasant SR105 and scenic Portage River road.

Continuing east, we skirted the edge of Fremont, where we followed the Sandusky River south, passing through Old Fort. There we managed to continue along the meandering river, ending in Tiffin for a short break.

Some less familiar roads awaited us south of town, where Linda and I had discovered a sample of Seneca County's best hills and curves. We liked them so much that we found a way to experience some of them two or three times! When we had had enough fun, it was on to Republic and the aforementioned eatery.

The touring group included Steve and Cindy Grube, who we hadn't seen in awhile, as well as Katie Wilkins and husband Ben Lichtenwalter, who were visiting from the east coast.

Katie and Ben are the proud owners of "Betty White", the



Photo by Evan Laux

2013 Crystal White Miata, formerly in the stable of Greg and Terri Wilkins. For this event, the senior Wilkinses graciously loaned them "Earl Gray", their 2017 Launch Edition Machine Gray RF, while they meandered in their 2019 30th Anniversary Racing Orange Miata (aptly dubbed "Orange Julius"). You'll have to ask them what they have labeled their 2018 Fiat Spyder.

Filled with good, cheap food and drink, the miateers made their own ways back to civilization, thinking that we may not want to wait another 20 years for a return trip.



Photo by Evan Laux

Tentative 2021 Event Calendar

Saturday, September 4	Eric Jones Memorial Riverrun Tour hosted by Buckeye Miata Club
Saturday, October 23	Adopt-A-Highway Session organized by Karl Schwemley
Saturday, December 4	Gala Holiday Party at Georgio's Cafe International

The Other Bowling Green

by Terri Wilkins

Road trips through Kentucky pretty much guarantee you lots of curves and beautiful scenery, so it is not surprising that our club members have been exploring different parts of that state each summer. This year, four Miatas headed to South Central Kentucky to visit “the other Bowling Green,” the largest city in this cave-carved area and a hidden gem.

Bill Potvin and Linda Myers, Tom Thayer, Steve and Pat Dettmer and Greg and Terri Wilkins drove down on a rainy Monday. Our home there was a hotel called “Tru by Hilton.” It is advertised as “an appeal to tech-minded, design-savvy millennials.” So, of course we fit right in!

Tuesday the sun was shining as we set out to visit Bowling Green’s most famous attraction, the National Corvette Museum. We spent a couple of fun hours here enjoying over 70 Corvettes on display, including mint, classics, prototypes, rare finds and racing champs. You might remember that in 2014 a 30 foot sinkhole opened in the Skydome portion of the museum overnight, swallowing eight priceless Corvettes. Security cameras captured the cars falling in. The mangled cars were brought up and some of them were able to be restored. Now there is an interactive, electronic exhibit detailing the collapse, the aftermath and what was learned from the experience. It was educational and very interesting.



Afterwards we headed for lunch at the randomly selected Laura’s Stockyard Café. We all hesitated a little when we pulled into the parking lot full of pickup trucks and cowboys and realized this was an actual working stock yard. But the food was good and certainly the hamburgers were fresh!



In the afternoon we drove the Duncan Hines Scenic Byway. This byway has been written about in numerous publications, including the Reader’s Digest Coffee Table Book featuring the most scenic drives in the country. The route is 80 miles of rolling hills that starts and ends at the former home of Duncan Hines (the man behind the cake mix) and loops through Mammoth Cave National Park. We did not have a map, only a list of turns to take with no mileage indication so it was a little challenging.

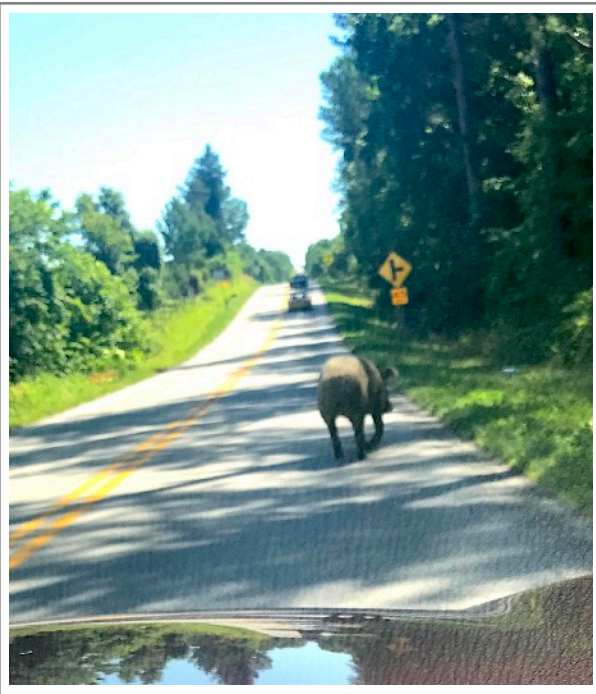
(See **The Other Bowling Green**, page 3)

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As we approached the National Park there were numerous signs warning “this road ends in water.” With such vague directions that was a little concerning. As we crested a hill and looked down we could see that the road did in fact end in water but fortunately there was a continuously running ferry to get us across. There hadn’t been anything in the directions about that so it was a neat surprise. It was a gorgeous top-down drive. We finished the loop fairly early so we headed for drinks at the Preservation Tasting Room and then enjoyed a casual dinner at the Mellow Mushroom.

Wednesday we flipped things around and did our driving first. That route was very rural; the weather was lovely and our tops were down. We had to ford a little stream as it washed across a small bridge; and then we caught up with a large pig in the road. He trotted along next to us for a bit!



After lunch we took an underground boat tour of the Lost River Cave. We heard all about the cave’s use as an ancient native hunting ground, a Civil War encampment for both the Union and the Confederacy, a hideout for the infamous outlaw Jesse James and a swinging underground 1930’s night club. Then, instead of happy hour drinks after the tour, we stopped and had ice cream at Cheney’s Dairy Barn followed by a late dinner at Rafferty’s.

This trip was truly one adventure after another. We had lots of fun though and the Kentucky roads did not disappoint!

The 2021 Riverrun looks like another great event. If you are going, please communicate your plans to other members using our Facebook Group Page, so that you can arrange to make it a group experience.



Saturday, Sept 4, 2021

Eric's Riverrun is a ~240 mile, all-day driving tour using some of Ohio's most interesting and challenging roads. This year we will head east towards Zanesville, then south to the Stockport locks, then to Marietta (a good place for lunch). From Marietta, we will head east on SR26, north on SR260 to some other very fun roads for a finish at Tom's Ice Cream Bowl in Zanesville.

Cars leave from the cinema parking lot behind Bob Evans at I-70 and Rt. 256 in Pickerington between 8 and 9 am. We should be at the Ohio River around Noon and finish by 6 pm., depending on the time spent sightseeing. There is no fixed schedule nor any assigned speeds, other than posted speed limits. This is a tour rather than a rally. The route includes a mix of open and flowing paved roads that connect tight and twisty sections. There are no freeway sections, and all roads are paved.

The North American MGB Register, the Buckeye Miata Club, and the Central Ohio British Car Club Council invite all driving enthusiasts, regardless of vehicle make, model, or type, to join us on Eric's Riverrun 2021. Check out the roads at: <http://tinyurl.com/Riverrun2021>

This year we plan to e-mail the route instructions the week before the event. We will have some printed routes available at registration. Eric's Riverrun 2021 Magnets are available to those that order them in advance for \$10. A \$10 donation to the Mesothelioma fund in Eric's memory is recommended.

Contact Susan Logan at slogan.osu@gmail.com or (740) 815-1554 for more details. U.S. mail address is 16 Timmons Woods Drive, Delaware, Ohio 43015

All profit will be donated in Eric Jones' memory to The James Cancer Hospital for Mesothelioma Research Fund.

DIY Miata Meanders

There are no more meanders on the schedule for this year, but that doesn't mean you can't enjoy a nice drive and maybe a meal with your Miata friends.

If you are thinking about doing some top-down driving, it's easy to communicate your plans by posting the info on our NWOHio Miata Club Group Facebook Page. Just put the word out and invite others to join you.

You might just do a drive and dine to a favorite eatery. Some folks have also pulled out old meander instructions and done part or all of a route.

Another idea is to drive to one of our 19 wonderful Metroparks, take in some scenery and go for a walk. Whatever you choose, it's sure to be more fun if you share the experience with your Miata friends.

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Summer Adopt-A-Highway

Our July road cleanup went well, as six volunteers braved the heat and made "our" stretch of Ohio Route 65 even more beautiful.

Thanks to Chairman Karl Schwemley, who led the group, along with regular workers Jarvis Gamble, Marv Himmelein, Marv Rothenbuhler, Terri Wilkins and Greg Wilkins.



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Mazda6



Mazda3



CX-5



MX-5 Miata

**Stop in and talk to Nik, Mark or Bill,
 and check the club web site for
 the latest special deals.**