

THE *M* EDITION

Meet in the Middle Meander

by Terri Wilkins

Do you know who said, "The fact is that if you want a sports car, the MX-5 is perfect. Nothing on the road will give you better value. Nothing will give you so much fun. The only reason I am giving it five stars is because I can't give it fourteen. "? The same person also said, "It's a cure for depression, this car, it really is. You just can't be in a bad mood when you're driving it."



If you joined us for our June 5th "Meet in the Middle" meander, you already know the answer is Jeremy Clarkson of Top Gear fame. Actually, if you were on that meander you probably now know more trivia about your Miata than you ever thought you needed to!

(See **Meet in the Middle**, page 2)

Return to Fathead's Meander

Date: Saturday, July 10, 2021 **Depart:** 12:00 noon

Place: Meijer Parking Lot in Bowling Green, 1/2 mile east of I-75
on E. Wooster Street (State Route 105)

Our tour will take us on some scenic roads heading south and east along the Portage and Sandusky Rivers. We'll have a short break in Tiffin, then continue to explore some nice scenery in Seneca County.

We will finish at Fathead's in Republic, Ohio about 4:00 pm. It's a place where time stands still. We ended a meander here in 2002 and it's just the same today.

RSVP to hosts Bill Potvin and Linda Myers by **Saturday, July 3.**
Email bpotvin@bex.net or call 419-891-9191.

Tentative 2021 Event Calendar

Saturday, July 10	Return to Fathead's Meander by Bill Potvin and Linda Myers
Saturday, July 24	Adopt-A-Highway Session organized by Karl Schwemley
Saturday, September 4	Eric Jones Memorial Riverrun Tour hosted by Buckeye Miata Club
Saturday, October 23	Adopt-A-Highway Session organized by Karl Schwemley

(From **Meet in the Middle**, page 1)

But our “Meet in the Middle” wasn’t just educational. We all enjoyed a sunny, top-down morning drive on some curvy roads and then had a lot of fun getting to know some folks from the Northeast part of

the state. Nine cars from our club met in the Bowling Green Meijer parking lot. While we spent some time socializing and getting caught up with each other, our line-up caught the attention of one little boy who asked his family to stop so he could get out and admire our cars. Dick and Irmi Green



made this boy’s day by letting him sit in the driver’s seat of their 2011 SE.

Greg Wilkins held a short driver’s meeting and then he and Terri led the group along a route that followed the winding Portage River. Just before Elmore, we headed south, drove around Blue Lake and into Fremont where we made a comfort stop. Jon Laux and his daughter Laurel met us there and joined the caravan. The second half of the drive was more linear but the day was bright and sunny, and the countryside was traffic free. Our group pulled into Memorial Lake Park in Norwalk just a minute behind the 15 cars from the Northcoast Miata Club. We had reserved a covered picnic shelter right on the lake with lots of shade trees. A gentle breeze kept the temperature very comfortable.

We all got right down to eating lunch; then did some introductions. We broke into mixed club groups for a Miata Trivia game (some of us did not know as much about our cars as we thought we did!) . The winning group took home bags of Shirley’s Gourmet Popcorn.



Thanks to Todd and Dee Tannehill and Len and MaryBeth Kozak of the Northcoast Club for hatching the meet up idea and coordinating the event with us. It was a great day!

Wings, Wheels and Meals

by Bill Potvin

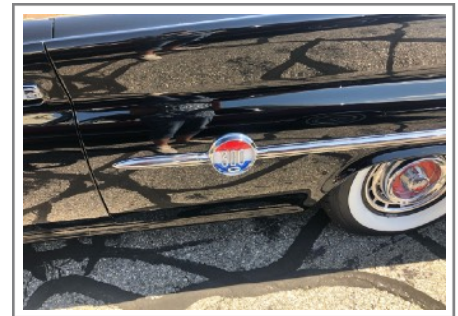
A couple of years ago, Mike and Karyn Teadt, Bill Potvin and Linda Myers took a ride down memory lane (to coin a phrase) to attend Wings and Wheels, an outdoor display of historic aircraft and cars, gathered at Willow Run Airport, near Ypsilanti. The event was held again this year, and this time, Terry and Sherri Koral, Tom and Dean Thayer, and Steve Beam joined in the fun.

Willow Run is the site of the Ford Motor plant where nearly 9,000 B-24 bombers were produced during WWII. It's now home to the Yankee Air Museum. The day was warm and sunny and the tarmac was filled with dozens of planes of all ages and types.



There were cars representing the Indy 500 from its earliest days, along with classics from the 1920's through today. For our group, those built in the 50's and 60's brought back lots of memories from our youth.

Tom Thayer and Bill Potvin spent a lot of time looking at two 1964 Corvair Spyder convertibles, a model both had owned way back when. They still represent a unique design for the time with



their turbocharged rear engines, 4-speed transmissions and fully independent suspensions. Terry Koral was impressed by a lot of the cars, but his big thrill was a 20 minute ride in a Vietnam War era Huey helicopter. Steve Beam's favorite

was a beautifully restored 40's drop-canvas vegetable truck. Mike and Karyn couldn't get enough of an immaculate 1961 Chrysler 300G and a 1963 Chrysler Turbine. The Turbine is one of only 10 of the remaining cars, of which 55 were originally produced (and, yes, Jay Leno has one). Linda and Terri had their favorites, too,



but, when questioned, couldn't recall years or names. They WERE impressed that the owner of the cars was some sort of playboy type who lives in Rome.

The afternoon was capped by lunch at Bedrock Quarry Bar & Grill in Monroe, a great spot right on the water with excellent food and drink. In all, the day represented just the sort of summer fun that we Miateers enjoy.

Thanks to Terry Koral for the photos. Another 50 or so can be seen on our Facebook page, along with videos of his helicopter flight.



Event Help Needed

With Covid-19 restrictions lifted, it's time to complete our event calendar for the year. It would be really good to have a schedule established soon, so please contact Bill Roan to fill in meanders for August through October.



No need to get fancy: a nice easy tour ending with dinner is just fine. Remember, for folks who haven't planned an event before, our more experienced members will be happy to help.

Adopt-A-Highway - July 24

Our second roadside cleanup session of 2021 will be on Saturday, July 24, starting at 9:00 am.

We'll meet at Nazareth Hall, on SR 65 in Wood County, about a mile south of SR 235. It will take less than an hour and a half, followed by an optional drive to have brunch in Grand Rapids.

Please volunteer to join the crew by contacting chairman Karl Schwemley at 419-356-0404 or kschwemley@bex.net. We particularly welcome new members, who will find it a nice way to meet folks, as well as participating in this community service.



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