

THE *M* EDITION

Meet in the Middle Meander

by Terri Wilkins

We had the most beautiful weather Saturday, June 4th for our second annual “Meet in the Middle” picnic with the Northcoast Miata Club. Lots of sunshine and perfect temperatures for tops down driving and eating outdoors.

Six Miatas and three OTMs “other than Miatas” met that morning at Meijer in Bowling Green. After socializing and catching up a bit we began the drive to Norwalk. Greg Wilkins plotted out some scenic, curvy roads, and he and Terri led the way.



Members of both clubs enjoyed their lunches.

Our route took us along the winding Portage River, around Blue Lake and into Fremont for a comfort break at Walsh Memorial Park. Here we picked up a seventh Miata. We continued our drive along the Sandusky (designated a State Scenic River) almost to Tiffin before heading East to our picnic shelter at Veteran’s Memorial Park.



Steve Beam prepared a fancy lunch!

The Northcoast folks had arrived just before us so the table cloths were on and a platter of cookies waited. Steve Beam stole the show with a fancy lunch salad and table setting! We dug into our picnic lunches in between greeting old friends and meeting new ones. Todd Tannehill led a car trivia quiz where we played as teams made of a mix of folks from

each club. It was really quite challenging!

It was especially nice to have Jan Sheridan along. She and her late husband Larry were instrumental in establishing a connection between our clubs.

Quite a few of us continued the fun and socializing by stopping at Westcott’s Arctic Ice and Ice Cream. There were over 100 flavors of shaved ice! As a bonus, there was ample free parking right there too. We hope having a Meet in the Middle event will continue to be an annual event.



Trivia contest winners: Cheryl and Bob Reitzel of our club; Tony and Lisa Terlesky, Lois and Mike Kerklo and Doug and Carol Leavens of the Northcoast club.

Tentative 2022 Event Calendar

Saturday, July 16	Adopt-A-Highway Session organized by Gamble & Himmelein
Saturday, September 3	Eric Jones Memorial Riverrun Tour hosted by Buckeye Miata Club
Saturday, October 8	Adopt-A-Highway Session organized by Gamble & Himmelein

Spring Miatas at the Gap

by Terri Wilkins



Club members Steve and Pat Beam and Terri and Greg Wilkins on the Maple Springs Observation Deck at the top of the Hillclimb. The deck overlooks the Slickrock Wilderness and Lake Santeetlah. The day and the view were spectacular!



Good roads, good weather, good food and good friends made for a great week for our 2022 Spring Miatas at the Gap trip (May 8-13). Northwest Ohio Miata Club members Steve and Pat Beam and Greg and Terri Wilkins joined nine cars from the Northcoast Miata Club near Cleveland and one car from Florida for a week of driving joy. Eastern Tennessee and Western North Carolina are home to some of the greatest driving roads in America, including the legendary Tail of the Dragon at Deal's Gap, and we had a blast driving them.

The weather was perfect for having tops down almost the entire time we were there (rain Friday afternoon only). Each day started out with the group driving the length of the Foothills Parkway. This scenic road winds 33 miles through US Forest Service land with little traffic and incredible views of the Smoky Mountains and the Tennessee Valley.

We drove the Tail of the Dragon multiple times but drove a lot of other beautiful winding roads too, putting about 200 miles a day on our cars. Bill Titley of the Northcoast club led three of the drives, and the Beams led the other two. They took us on some familiar routes and a few new adventures, including a drive where the annual Chasing the Dragon Hillclimb is held. Part of the adventure this

time was trying some new restaurants. We found several that we would be happy to return to.

Every evening we circled up our chairs in the parking lot of the hotel and talked about the day's trip and all things cars. The sense of camaraderie is one of the most fun things about this trip each year. Many of us in this year's group have already reserved a spot for next year, scheduled for May 14-20, 2023. If you would like to spend a week (or even just part of it) driving the most fantastic roads possible, you can reserve your room at the Highland Manor Inn by calling (800) 213-9462 or emailing office@highlandmanor.com and telling them you are with the Miata group.



Backroads and Brews

by Bill Potvin

A few club members got together on May 28 for a full day tour of about 250 miles, starting in Findlay with lunch in Mount Vernon and dinner back in Findlay. It was fun to check out some nice roads and scenery a little farther from the familiar territory in northwest Ohio.



In keeping with the "spirit" of the day, we enjoyed lunch at Stein Brewing Company and dinner at Findlay Brewing Company. Both locations featured really good menus and sampling beer was not a requirement. The day ended with ice cream treats at the popular Dietsch Brothers.



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**Stop in and talk to Kristen, Adam or Mike,
 and check the club web site for
 the latest special deals.**