

THE *M* EDITION

Miami & Erie Canal Meander

It has been noted that the age demographic for our club tends toward the older end of the spectrum. Still, the era in which the Miami & Erie canal system was a thriving institution predates even our eldest member (who shall remain nameless). Thus, it was a true history lesson when 29 members drove along a substantial part of the route that the waterway took as it meandered from Toledo to Cincinnati.

The history lesson began at Maumee's Side Cut Park, where the group saw two intact locks. It was then on to Providence Park to see a modern recreation of an operating mule-drawn canal boat, which serves as an excursion boat on an original section of the canal, including passage through Lock No. 44. Further south and west along the Maumee River, the tourers saw another lock and Providence dam. The dam was originally built to provide a reliable source of river water for the canal.

It was then on through Junction, Ohio, where the Wabash & Erie Canal joined the Miami & Erie Canal. In addition to the historic nature of the route, the roads were of the smooth and curvy variety that we so much enjoy. And the weather gods cooperated, providing near cloudless skies and temperatures that warmed to a comfortable topdown level during the daylong tour.

(see Canal Meander, page 2)



Fall Frolic BBQ, Bonfire & Hayride

Date: Saturday, October 21, 2017

Time: 6:00 pm

Meet: Sue Greeley's, 7470 Emerson Drive, Ottawa lake, MI

Meander on your own to Sue's place, park out front and walk to the fire, or drive back if the walk's a bit much. BBQ, cider and donuts, paper products, condiments and water will be provided by Sue and Kathy Guiberson. Bring a dish to pass, along with your own beverages. Kids are welcome to join in the fun.

RSVP to Kathy or Sue by October 14. Email svgalg@bex.net or call 419-460-5470 or 734-854-2800

Tentative 2017 Event Calendar

Saturday, October 14
Saturday, October 21

Adopt-A-Highway Session organized by Karl Schwemley
Fall Bonfire, Cook-Out and Hayride hosted by
Sue Greeley and Kathy Guiberson

(from Canal Meander, page 1)

Arriving in Delphos, Ohio about noon, the gang headed for Cabo Mexican Restaurant, where they had a table all set and ready for us. Menu choices were varied, but most folks elected one of the many \$7.00 luncheon specials. A few of our number left after lunch (something about preparing to watch OSU lose), but most of the group went to check out the Delphos Canal Commission Museum, which turned out to be a highlight of the day.



Miateers enjoy the park in St Marys

Two nice ladies introduced us to the many exhibits, which not only included canal artifacts, but displays showing many facets of small town life in the 1800's. Among the exhibits were memorabilia from doctors' offices, farm implements, period clothing, an early automobile, and military hardware. Also of note was an early 20th century resident, an amateur astronomer who discovered 13 comets.

It was then on the road again, following the canal route south. Along the way, we passed the Deep Cut, where 3000 feet of the canal was dug to depths of up to 50+ feet to avoid building several locks. We then hurried past the Bloody

Bridge, site of an axe murder, which promptly ended a love triangle. Ask former local resident Tony Geise for the gory details.

The next stop was an impressive park in St. Marys, which is home to a portion of the canal with a recreated canal boat, as well as a covered bridge and WWI war memorial. Passing by scenic Grand Lake, formed as a reservoir for the canal system, we ended the history lesson in New Bremen. There we saw a restored lock, as well as a lock keeper's house, which now serves as a welcome center.

Several cars had headed home by now, but the remaining nine pressed on to Findlay, where Randy and Teresa Raymond had thoughtfully gone ahead to secure seating for our group. The dinner venue was Beer Barrel Pizza & Grill, which had been recommended by the Findlay Chapter of the NWOHio Miata Club, namely the Raymonds and Greg and Terri Wilkins. It did not disappoint, as the extensive menu, good service and party atmosphere were just what we needed after a long day on the road. The consensus seemed to be that it was a great ending to the 2017 touring season.



Ready for a 1920's permanent?!

Winter Dinners

It's time to schedule our monthly dinner/luncheon events. Please volunteer ASAP.

It's really easy -

- 1) Pick one of your favorite restaurants that can accommodate 30-35 folks (private rooms are best, but not required).
- 2) Pick a date, book the restaurant and tell them we'll give a good headcount a few days prior to the dinner.
- 3) Supply the info to your editor ASAP, so we can get it on the calendar.
- 4) Take reservations, confirm with the restaurant, show up and enjoy.

We need events for November, January, February and March. Saturday dinners or luncheons work, or a Sunday brunch would be fun, too. Please volunteer now, even if you don't have the arrangements made, so we can solidify our winter calendar.

Adopt-A-Highway - October 14



As usual, the session will start at 9 am and likely take less than two hours. We'll probably do a little drive afterwards and have lunch. Meet at Nazareth Hall, on SR 65 in Wood County, about a mile south of SR 235.

Please volunteer by contacting Karl Schwemley NOW at 419-356-0404 or kschwemley@bex.net so that we can be assured of a good turnout for this last outing of the year.

Welcome to New Member

Don Clark
Toledo, Ohio
2016 Ceramic
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Looking forward to seeing you
at our next event!

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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.