

Door County Photo Challenge Weekend: Days of Fun in the Door County Sun

(Well, not always sunny)

Hosted by Jane & Dennis Schmidt

Written by

Marcy & Jim Hotz (Thursday & Friday)

Paula & Ron Beckman (Saturday & Sunday)

Thursday, August 21st



Our drive to the Somerset Inn & Suites in Ephraim, a picturesque village on the bay side of Door County, was enjoyable and uneventful. The rain held out, although precipitation was predicted for the entire weekend. Jim and I lamented the fact that Jane and Dennis Schmidt, event organizers, would have had bad luck weather-wise this weekend. We found our room at the Inn to be quite spacious, comprised of a separate bedroom, a living room/kitchenette combination with comfortable furniture, and a patio as well.

It wasn't long before we heard the social party starting in the room next door, which was Jane and Denny's room. Everyone had brought snacks, beverages, sweets and such and we imbibed and chatted through the evening. Lin C. announced that she was going to the pool, and half the party left the room to join her.

Friday, August 22nd

The Somerset Inn provided BMC members a free continental breakfast consisting of bakery, fruit, juice and coffee. It was cool and hazy at 9 AM as we lined up in a lot across the street from the Somerset for a traditional ride through the scenic Door County Peninsula. Brian and Ginger Carney swept us along, and we hoped it wouldn't rain on our parade.

We didn't know there were so many curvy and hilly roads in Door County, but Denny and Jane managed to find them all. There were many sites to see throughout the ride, and we drove through not only Ephraim, but also Egg Harbor, Fish Creek, Sister Bay, Bailey's Harbor on the Lake Michigan side, and Gills Rock on the northernmost tip of the peninsula. If the participants kept their eyes open, they would see many of the sites that were to be on the Saturday Photo Challenge, but I'll let Paula tell you all about that!!

Our morning pit stop was at a scenic look-out. It was difficult to tell where the sky met the water, since everything appeared the same color gray due to the overcast sky and hazy conditions. Nevertheless, it was a serene setting and had the required necessities, although not the type you can flush. It is what it is and we were glad to have them there, all that free morning coffee!



After about half an hour of more scenic and/or curvy roads, we made our second stop at Uncle Tom's (not Cabin, but it was kind of cabin-like). Actually, the building is a former school that now houses a candy store – and what a treasure trove of yummy treats! Uncle Tom's was very generous with us in

donating three boxes of chocolate morsels for prizes for the Photo Challenge, so many of us spent a good deal of cash in the store!

We noted that many of the trees in this area had already begun to show their autumn colors of gold, rust and bright red. Along the way we saw huge, beautiful homes belonging to people who are in a much different socio-economic level than this writer is!! And on these beautiful roads, we switched-back in several locations to see ourselves coming and going!



Lunch was served at Shipwrecked in Egg Harbor (their t-shirts say “I got wrecked at Shipwrecked”), after which we walked across the street to see artistic eggs on display in a small park. The show, entitled Eggstravaganza showcased 50 two-foot-tall eggs, each decorated by a different artist, to commemorate Egg Harbor’s 50th anniversary of being a village. The eggs were to be auctioned off as a fundraiser to purchase more public art for the village. Watch a brief but interesting news story about it [here](#).

The sun tried to pop through the clouds as we wound our way from Egg Harbor to the Door Peninsula Winery. Several people commented that they didn’t remember the building being quite so large and modern the last time they had visited. Indeed, the building started out as a school house before it was a winery. The wine cellar remains in the basement of the old school house! We learned about this and more on a private tour given by one of the owners of the winery. There is now a restaurant on the top level of the building!



After parting with more cash in the winery gift shop (the Door Peninsula Winery was also generous with Photo Challenge prizes), it was time to return to the Somerset to get ready for dinner. We napped, washed up, changed or did whatever was needed, lined up in the parking lot and headed for the English Inn for a wonderful meal.

Saturday, August 23rd

The day started off again with a nice continental breakfast provided by our hosts Matt and Angie at the Somerset Inn. Following breakfast we started the part of the event called the Photo Challenge. The challenge was a timed event that required 13 photos to be taken, based on clues that were given, some of which were quite clever. We were allowed to use any resources available, such as guide books, the internet, or asking Door County locals to help locate the required places.

Cars left the parking lot at 3 minute intervals, beginning at 9:00 am. Jane handed out a copy of the rules of the game and the clues needed to succeed, 30 seconds before the start time for each car. Dennis noted the start time as they left the lot.

We drove a short way, pulled over and studied the handout to plot our strategy. Once we saw our challenge, we decided the best approach would be to stop at the Ephraim Tourist Information Center to get help. We were the second car to drop in. While we were there, Tom C. and Ron C. stopped also. Their wives, Lin and Mary

Lynn decided to challenge the guys in the competition, so they were driving separately (which is becoming a Door County tradition for them).

The staffer at the information center was very friendly and helpful. She was able to help us with all the clues we didn't know except one. A local gentleman said he thought the item might be at the Farmer's Market near Baileys Harbor, so our plan was made and off we went. The clues started in Ephraim, then to Fish Creek, Egg Harbor, Carlsville, Baileys Harbor and the road to the ferry landing near Gills Rock.

Since this was a photo challenge and it is said "a picture is worth a thousand words" here is our photo essay of Saturday's event:



Miata with water in background



Wilson's - established in 1906



What's showing at the drive-in



Julie's big chair



Cherries, cherries everywhere



Kissing the Knocking Head



Sailor man by a lighthouse



Milking "Cookie"



Paul Bunyan in Wisconsin?



Out-of-state license with M,X and/or 5



Most photographed road in Door Co.



Hay Tractor - our downfall

As you can see, there are only 12 pictures, but 13 required photos. We decided to eschew taking a picture of someone wearing a hat, shirt, jersey etc. of a non-Wisconsin sports team, while they are acting out a sports move. Time was of the essence since we went on a wild goose chase looking for the hay tractor. We headed back to the Inn, where Jane and Dennis recorded our finishing time and reviewed our pictures to verify we had completed the challenge.

Later that evening the group met outside to enjoy appetizers, munchies and beverages while sharing our driving and photo experiences. Then we enjoyed pizza and bread sticks from Jo Jo's. Following dinner, the results of the photo challenge were announced and prizes awarded. The winners were Jim & Toni T., followed closely by Jim L. & Karen H. Everyone received a prize thanks to many of the businesses we visited during our weekend here and to the hard work of our event organizers!



It was a fun day, exploring the Door. Jane and Dennis did a wonderful job organizing this event, showing their creativity again. Their events are always unique, challenging and loads of fun. Thanks for a great time!

Sunday, August 24th



Sunday, everyone was on their own, some heading home and others staying on to visit friends or just enjoy the area. The group was again provided a free continental breakfast, but we joined the Elliots and Lucases for breakfast at Al Johnson's in Sister Bay. The Swedish pancakes with lingon berries were good and the goats grazing on the roof were fun to see.

After breakfast, we said good bye to our Miata friends and to Door County until the next time.