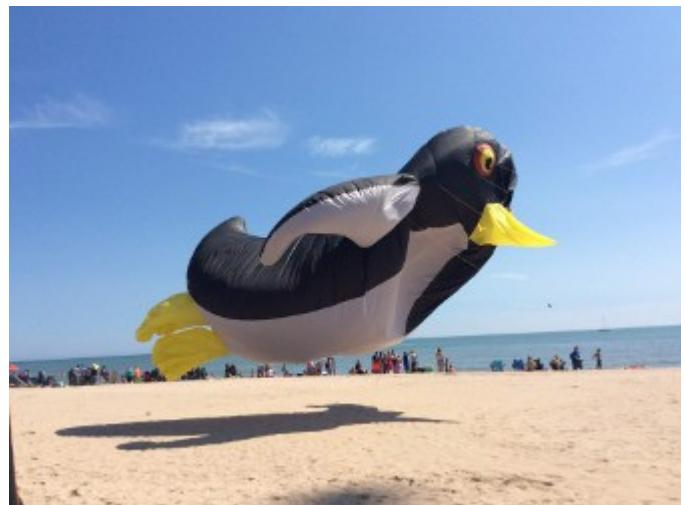


Kites Over Lake Michigan – A Destination Drive

Kites Over Lake Michigan is an annual affair, occurring on Labor Day Weekend at Two Rivers. This was the twelfth running of the event, and brought thousands of visitors to the Lake Michigan shore to watch and to participate. We went to watch.

Mary and I began the day with meeting Toni and Jim Thomas, in Shawano, and caravaning our way through Green Bay and then southeasterly to the parking lot of the Two Rivers high school. This was as flawless as could possibly be, with nary a wrong lane nor a wrong turn. A shuttle bus transported us from there to the Neshota Park beach. I had emailed an invitation to the NE Region members to join us, but I did not have any takers.

This is a 2-day festival, but Saturday had been rained out and most of the activities canceled. The weather on Sunday was just as forecast (like that ever happens), with a clear sky, warm (hot) temperatures and a calm breeze. The latter proved to be a big problem for the kite fliers. Few of the large show kites made it into the air, instead lolling on the sand beach. The aerobatic kite shows went on, but only the ultra-lites were able to harness the weak breeze. One performance team made three attempts to perform before getting moderate success, and that team has been together for 34 years.



After a few hours taking in all that was there, we boarded the shuttle bus to return to our vehicles. I had declared I did not want to travel on the “super-slab” on the way home, so we ad-libbed. Not being totally familiar with this area, I took a sideways glance at the map and off we drove. As you would expect, turns were missed – and that is how we ended up at the Duck Creek Winery. The wine sampling went well, and resulted in the purchase of several bottles of excellent, fruity wines.



We also gave the map another sideways glance and headed out for more adventure. This resulted in two U-turns in quick succession, before settling down. We crossed the Fox River at DePere and followed secondary roads through Ashwaubenon and Green Bay. We drove Hwy 29/32 out of Green Bay. Toni and Jim stayed on Hwy 32 to take them back to Antigo, while we remained on Hwy 29 back to Shawano. Alas, we did not make an ice cream stop, so this cannot qualify as a complete ride. It was an enjoyable day for being with Miata friends.