

Pooping in Illinois June 2 – 5, 2022 Tom and Mary Lynn Cinealis

**Thursday, June 2 – P-ing in WI, Puffer Bellies, Potosi, and Poopy's Oregon to Savanna**

This was a very interesting 4-day adventure for the 15 MX-5s. We started our trek at a McDonald's in Oregon, WI gathering around 9 am. Around 10am the cars started rolling through the roads: Hwy P; Storytown Road; County Road D - we saw a spaceship in someone's yard; Tunnel road -which had no tunnel; Argue road – we decided not to do that; Airport Road where there was an airport; Hwy 69 –a very tiny State Park with some great views, roller coaster hills and valleys canopies and many horse farms near Monroe; Skinner Road – a Rustic Road with lots of curves and canopies and cranes (the Sandhill kind), as well as blossoming Locust trees – many sneezes were heard ; and finally a pit stop! At The Toy Train Barn at W9141 State Rd 81. Argyle, WI 53504. We were awed as we walked among an amazing miniature world of animated trains (buffer bellies), some of which were made by Buck and Jan, owners. We eagerly listened to the stories of how they chased their dreams of the family farm and trains came to be,--all for \$5 per person! It literally was so beyond what we had expected. A child's dream of landscapes of every kind filled with trains and everything to go with them – towns, circuses, mountain villages, and on and on it went. We marveled at the way they put it all together in one seamless venue.

**And then it happened**....one of the cars died. We tried jumping it. It worked till they tried going up the hill, then it stopped again. They called AAA and got it to start, while the rest of the cars travelled on.

We continued our adventure through wind farms, horse farms, and grain farms. We saw Dames Rockets (white and purple flowers which are wild flowers, (just not indigenous to the area) along the roadside; King Road – we saw no kings or thrones; Ferndale Road-the eagle flew overhead and breathtaking landscapes abound; College Farm Road – where they learn how farm I guess??; Ruff Lane – we didn't see any dogs; then onto the Potosi Brewery.

**And then it happened again**... the same car died, this time in Potosi. They went to a local garage where the battery connections were temporarily fixed, which allowed them to continue the drive. We had traversed about 123 miles at this point to get to the Polosi Brewery where we had lunch The menu was very

diverse so everyone could enjoy what ever kind of meal they wanted. And the beverages weren't bad either!

On the remainder of our journey that day, we enjoyed the scenery, curves, and just driving our great little 2-seaters with tops down on this glorious blue skied sunny afternoon with perfect temps hovering in the low 70s. After about 200 miles we eventually made it to Valleyview Drive, Savanna, IL to our home away from home for the next 3 days, Savanna Inn & Suites, where we took a few minutes to refresh ourselves and then headed to Poopy's for dinner (a favorite stop for Jim Tuckwood, a long-time former member who passed away last September). We imbibed in Poopy's finest food. Then back to the Inn, for some of us, a well needed rest; and the rest to party on!

### **Friday, June 3--Hippos, Herons, and Hazards Savanna to Galena**

A breezy, bright, blue sky mid 70-degree, beautiful day awaited us as we gathered at local restaurants for breakfast and a 10 am start for the day. We wound our way through curves, canopies, cliff (bluffs) and rolling hills and meadows (yes. Illinois has rolling hills and bluffs – it's not all flat land). We saw several concrete hippos and metal herons (don't get that???) We also found out "Ride With GPS" is not always correct when identifying dirt roads.

As we came upon Galena, we had an overview of the city before we swooped down the hill to the main street where all the shopping, candy, restaurants, and bars were located. Most went there and a few went on to see the other attractions that are found in the area. We ended our day there at an Irish Pub called Frank O'Dowds. Both food and beverages were great. After several hours, we all headed out on our own back to Savanna Inn & Suites.

**And then it happened....**one of the cars ran over a very large racoon, (hazard) but they kept on travelling to the Inn,-where they found out they had damaged more than they had thought. The coon took out part of the grill, cracked the radiator, and damaged the side inner fender. SOOOOO, that was the end for the car for this trip. They called their insurance company and then on Saturday it was towed to Clinton, WI to a collision center to be fixed. (It took Friday night and Saturday to get it done.)

We did manage to party until 11ishpm that night though. The Inn had a large area with tables and chairs, coffee, and ice water at our disposal. Some of us needed that more than others.

### **Saturday, June 4, 2022 Miatas, Motorcycles, and Manny's, many stories Savanna to LeClaire**

With a rainy start to the day, and a great breakfast at the Inn, we were greeted to many Miatas and motorcycles in the parking lot. I guess the bikers made a lot of noise the night before as they arrived at the Inn. We got in our cars and caravanned south along the Mississippi River, then popped over to Iowa. The sky cleared and we meandered our way through Chicago Avenue to Wacker Road (no, we are not in Chicago); OH, OH – a train was across the highway! We had to turn around and find a route that had a trestle so we could keep going. Through Scenic Bluff Road –which was not on the Bluff, but in the valley below it; Great River Road – where we occasionally saw the Mississippi River; then onto North Main Street in LeClaire where we stopped at an Antique Mall and then onto the Distillery where many stayed for the duration and others went to restaurants to have lunch at various places. Finding parking was very difficult, and tourist season hasn't even started yet!

After several hours, we proceeded with our Miatas and continued on toward the Wide River Winery in Clinton, WI. After awhile we continued back to the Inn to freshen up and then head to Manny's Pizza in Savanna where we proceeded to party on for a couple of hours. Many stories were shared about past events that had us in tears. You will have to ask Henry about his story that happened at Manny's. We then headed back to the Inn and continued our party until around 11pm.

### **Sunday, June 5, 2022 Slow moving, Savoring the memories, Sayonara**

After a late, leisurely breakfast at the Inn, and a long time savoring the time we enjoyed together this long weekend; all of us scattered in many directions throughout the late morning. We headed out in the overcast sky thinking about the great time we had with our Badgerland Miata Club members.

## **THINGS WE LEARNED ON POOPING IN ILLINOIS:**

1. Things are not always what they said they were.
2. BEWARE of raccoons!
3. This Miata Club loves to have fun and has great members.
4. We would do this again, and again, and again!