

Miatas Make A Michigan Lighthouse Tour

By Judy Serwatka

The Lake Effect Miata Club, with members across northern Indiana and Illinois, sponsored a tour of Michigan Lighthouses on July 14 and 15. Over 40 cars from four Miata clubs participated. Participants were members of Lake Effect Miata Club, Windy City Miata Club (Chicago), Indy Miata Club (Indianapolis) and Lake Dunes Miata Club (Elkhart). Conrad and Judy Serwatka of the Lake Effect Miata Club were organizers of the event.

The tour began in Chesterton, Indiana and the weather was perfect, better than is usually expected in the middle of July. The group then traveled to St. Joseph, MI to view the lighthouse located there. The participants also had the opportunity to try their hand at a little road rally that Judy created to break the boredom of the drive between lighthouses. Our next stop was South Haven, MI where the caravan parked at a local American Legion who graciously allowed us to use their parking lot. The group walked to the beach to view the lighthouse and the boats on Lake Michigan.

The State Park in Holland, MI was the next destination. On the way, we ran into a traffic jam in Holland because of a community picnic. As we approached the State Park, the leaders noticed the parking lot full signs and therefore made a snap decision to bypass this lighthouse and proceed on to lunch. At lunch, we were advised it was quite possible that the Grand Haven State Park would be full as well. The group then decided to skip Grand Haven and proceed to Ludington, MI.

We arrived in Ludington in the late afternoon. Participants had instructions to get to the pier light and lighthouse in this area. Three hours were allowed for those interested in shopping or other sightseeing before our scheduled dinner time.

At dinner (held at Gibb's Restaurant in Ludington), prizes were handed out for the road rally. Third place went to Doug and Rhonda Edgerton of the Lake Dunes club, second place went to Larry and Deborah Tipton from the Indy Miata club, and first place went to Jeff Simon and Marilyn Nance of the Windy City club. A "best effort" award (AKA, last place) was given to Steve and Kim Powell of the Windy City club. Door prizes (donated by several Miata after-market suppliers, Kennedy Buick/Mazda in Valparaiso, IN and the Land's Inn Hotel in Ludington) were distributed at the dinner.

On Sunday, the group traveled to Pentwater, MI and took a group picture of the cars. After leaving Pentwater, we traveled along B15, a great Miata road that winds around Lake Michigan and among smaller lakes. Our next stop was the Little Sable Lighthouse in the Silver Lake State .

Leaving this lighthouse, we again followed some great Miata roads to our lunch

destination, Crosswinds Restaurant. We had a great lunch, watching the boats in the Marina and on White Lake.

After lunch, we went on to the White River lighthouse. This lighthouse sits at the canal from White Lake into Lake Michigan, so we enjoyed watching the large and small boats going and coming through this waterway. This is one of the lighthouses with a museum and a gift shop where several people spent some time (and money).

Our final destination was in Muskegon, MI. A pier light and a lighthouse are at this location. This was another very congested site (with a beach volleyball tournament and carnival going on) but we were able to squeeze our little cars into parking spots and take a stroll out to the lighthouse.

Whenever you can plan an event and have the weather totally cooperate you know it will be a good time. Everyone expressed their pleasure with this tour, even with the unexpected cancellation of two lighthouse visits. We had a great time, met a lot of new and interesting people and look forward to seeing them again at some future event.

Keeping Your Miata Healthy

Did you know that your tires can lose about a half a pound of air pressure a month? If the only time you check the tire pressure is at the 3,000 mile oil change, you may want to check your tires more often.

Look at the information sticker on the door frame and you'll see that Mazda recommends 28lbs. of pressure, but you should test different pressures and find a setting that gives you the type of ride you enjoy.

Check your tire pressure (and might as well check the oil level!) every weekend before you take that

