

Road Trip!

Touring Wisconsin and Road America

by Norm Arbuckle

The Brian Redman International Challenge at Road America in Elkhart Lake, Wisconsin was held the 3rd weekend in July. There were pre-1962 vintage Cobras, Jaguars, Porsches, MG's, Indy cars, Formula Ones, and many other sport and race cars running in 10 different races, with many classes within each race over a 4 mile road race track. What makes it so wonderful is that these are older race cars bought by wealthy wanna-be race drivers that fix them up and have race teams to repair them and get them ready for races. The parts are no longer available but these people make them. All sorts of wealth is there with their expensive cars and motor homes and toys.

We left on Friday after work to meet up with friends in Illinois who aren't lucky enough to have a Miata but did their best with the next best car, a Porsche Boxter. We met and drove to Plymouth, WI, to stay at a beautiful and well-appointed bed and breakfast, called the Gilbert Huson House, for two nights. We were up early Saturday to tour famous Door County, which was located about 1 1/2 hours north of us. Linda Anderson from the Windy City club supplied an older map of some great roads in Door County. We spent the entire day viewing great scenery and had to hustle back to our B&B to freshen up to attend the Elkhart Lake car show.

What an atmosphere! The many vendors have beautiful and provocative products to sell. Great junk food for our feasting pleasure. But the real highlight is for a \$75 fee they let you see Road America like the race drivers do and "race" the track. This year they let 180 drivers on the track for 45 minutes. The rules were clear that you were not to pass on the curves and not to go over 70 mph. Of course, that lasted for three laps and then all 180 racers let their driving fury out. About every kind of car you can think of was on the track. Family cars, as well as Cobras, Jaguars, Miatas, Mustangs, Porsches, Neons, Cadillacs, a Packard and who knows what else were running through the Carousel and the Canada curve on the Road America course.

This show is a sight to behold. It's a car show with fantastic and expensive vintage show vehicles. The owners are eager to tell their story about their cars. Elkhart Lake is a fancy and expensive resort town where the rich out of Chicago find their way for



Photo courtesy of Norm Arbuckle

Norm and Susie on the Road America track.

the summer months. We stayed until dark and headed back to our B&B for wine and conversation after a long touring day.

Sunday morning we were at the race-track by 9 AM for the races. There are many turns on the huge track and many car displays to see and the pit areas are all open so all can watch and be amazed. The races were great. Most of the race drivers were the owners and their ages seem to mostly range from the 50's to 70's. Hey, they have the money and love to race. We left the track around 5 PM so that we would miss the rush hour on our return through Chicago. Our weekend took us 860 miles and we were home by 10:30 PM and ready to rest up during the work week so we can get back at it the following weekend.

Late Summer Rally Registration Form

Pre-register for \$7.00! Sign up on the event page to pre-register and bring this form with you to the rally or you can mail it with your check (made out to Indy Miata Club) to : Ben Hermann, 1424 Mills Avenue, Indianapolis, IN 46227.

Late Summer Rally Saturday, August 14

Mail to: Ben Hermann, 1424 Mills Avenue, Indianapolis, IN 46227

Or register electronically and bring this form with you.

Driver's Name _____ Navigator's Name _____

I understand that this is not a speed contest and I agree to participate at my own risk. I agree to hold the Indy Miata Club, its officers, and event organizers harmless from any claim arising from my participation in this event.

Driver _____ Date _____

Navigator _____ Date _____

A signed and dated entry is required for participation in this event.