

## We have a Waze to go.

By Bill Ellis



CUE member

The word, Waze, appears to be a typo, but it isn't. Waze is navigational App for your iOS or Android devices. I would like to say that I experienced this App first hand, on a recent road trip, but I was sitting in the jump seat, so the information in this article is second hand, at best.

Our son, who was the pilot for our road trip, had downloaded the Waze App to his Smart Phone. With his Smart Phone Blue toothed to his car radio all of us could listen to the App's navigational instructions. Since the Waze App knew exactly where we were at, at all times, all he had to do is plug in our destination and it would plot our course. Our final destination was Gloucester, Massachusetts, which is the seaport from where the fishermen of the perfect storm came from. Our motel reservations were in Manchester and we wanted visit the Hammond castle and a few museums in the area. It didn't matter if our destination was a long or short trip away; the WAZE gave us exact instruction to get there. If it happened to be a long trip, we could be offered several different routes to choose from.

With this information in hand, it was start your engines, and away we would go. It didn't matter where our starting point was. It could be the driveway of our motel, our home or even a parking lot of a restaurant, the WAZE told us whether we should turn right, left, or to go straight ahead. As we traveled along our route, Waze would give us a heads up that a change in our route was coming up and how far ahead it was. As we neared the route change, Waze would chime in again with more driving directions. As we turned onto a new route, we were told how far away our next route change would take place. It's nice to look at road signs, to see what's coming up, but, if missed one, it didn't matter, as Waze App kept us on the right path. In the old days, the person in the jump seat would be on the lookout for road signs and relate that information to the driver. No so today, with the use of a navigational app.

There's a feature in this APP that I really enjoyed. It's how you can interact with it. Everyone using this APP on the same route that you are, can interact with it and tell other drives of various road conditions, such as, a traffic jam, auto accident, or a lane closing. It can alert you to road construction, and even poor road conditions. Of course, there's the money saving alert about a speed trap ahead. We even got a cautionary alert about something lying in the middle of the road. It turned out to be a cardboard box. The most used alert signal was a disabled care on the side of the road. Most all of these alerts are entered into the Waze App by a single touch of a button. If you see a road condition that someone else had entered, you can press the thumbs up button to indicate that condition still exists. If you don't see it, you can press the thumbs down button. If three, or more, drivers press the thumbs down button, that alert will disappear from the App. The thumbs up and down buttons will keep this App up to date.

The Waze App made our trip more enjoyable. It created a lot of chatter and a lot of laughs as we drove along and helped pass the time. In the old days, we passed the travel times with games like, "I spy with my little eye." I'm guessing that a lot of our club members remember that game. Anyhow, it made this trip more enjoyable and shorter.

The Waze and the Google maps are free apps and great apps for all of your travels, whether you travel long or short distances. At this time, the Waze app will only give you driving instructions. Google maps, on the other hand, will work with several modes of travel, auto, biking, walking, etc, and will also alert you to the location of shops, Restaurants, etc, along your route.

You can download either the Waze App, or Google maps, for the iOS, from the App Store. The app for an Android device can be download from Google Play.

Nov 14, 2016