



Open Road



Volume 12

Issue 8

The Official Newsletter of the Indy Miata Club

August 2001

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Slower Traffic, Keep Right!

Steve Jacobson, President, Indy Miata

Presidential Review of the Fussin' and Cussin' Rally

Bob Wiley and I started out the day with our usual "trash talking" to Gary Collings about how we going to clean his clock and win the hardware again! Bob and I won the Fussin' & Cussin' together in '99 and had a podium finish last year so we were eager to get the top prize back. Bob is one of the original Bobs that started the F&C Rally back in 1994 so I'm glad to have him on my team for this rally. He and I work well together – he drives and I am ever ready with the binoculars for those hard to see clues. (They came in handy again this time!) But little did we know that our "trash talking" would backfire on us! And up for grabs this year were some very cool trophies that Eric Knight had made — pistons mounted on a wood base. One painted gold for 1st place, one done up in silver for second, and one in bronze for 3rd. Last place took home a burned and blacked piston that really needed to be thrown back into the junk pile! Also, the winners would be the next to have their names engraved on the new President's Cup commemorating the Fussin' & Cussin' Rally.

One of rally-master Eric Knight's first warnings was to watch out for license plates from county #32 (Hendricks). He's a resident of the county so he knows firsthand that they tend to pull out in front on you and drive **below** the speed limit! The other warning was something about driving and enjoying the route first then do the clues later. Yeah, like we would ever leave any blank spaces on the clue sheet just because we were joy riding! Bob lives out that way too so we had the advantage of knowing area a little better than your average Miata driver. So we thought.

Well, we're off. Bob and I chose go last out of the 20 or so cars as to not let anyone see where we are finding the clues along the way. And so he could take some pictures of us all sitting in the line waiting for our instructions. By about the third or fourth stoplight we encountered one of those #32 plates. We were minding our own business waiting to turn left when all of a sudden I hear a voice from over my shoulder inquiring about the lady in the car directly in front of us. (Why does riding in a convertible make you prone to all sorts of unexpected conversations started by complete strangers?) It seems that the lady asking all the questions had moved out of the turn lane because she thought the car in front of us was stalled or something when in fact it just had to wait through a couple of lights before it could proceed. But this had confused the "question lady" and so she turned left from the **right lane** in front of several other cars. That's when we saw the answer to all of our questions! A #32 on her license plate! I really wasn't sure how she could see out of her little Subaru anyway because she had so many dog-nose smudges on every glass surface!

The rally was a great drive through several of the small western Hendricks county towns. Eric and Michelle worked very hard to lay out a nice route and they did a very good job. The weather was very muggy but a cloudy sky kept it somewhat bearable for most of the morning. Now, as for the clues they came up with, they were your usual obscure, hard to understand, good ol' Fussin' & Cussin' Rally-type clues! And the 35 clues were in no particular order on the sheet! So that made for a very interesting time of constantly reading over the clues again and again.

The real fun started once we reached Frank & Mary's. A great little place in Pittsboro, that did a wonderful job fitting us all in and getting our food out to us in record time. Bob and I sat at the rally-master table and got to watch over the grading of the scores. It was then that we realized what Eric had up his sleeve.

Remember when Eric told us to drive the route first then try to answer to clues afterwards?

Zoom-Zoom to Page 2



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Slower Traffic Continued..

Well, this is the Fussin' & Cussin' Rally and when I heard how he was going to score the rally, I warned him that food might start flying! It ends up that the object of the rally was to come as close to a score of zero as possible! So, if you just drove and enjoyed the scenery — like a few people did — you had a very good chance of winning! A correct answer was worth +1 and an incorrect answer was worth -1. When it finally came down to it, Amy Del Mundo and her daughter pulled off the upset victory and took home the hardware! If the rally had been scored in the traditional manner the Collings would have won with Bob and I second. But this is the Fussin' & Cussin' Rally — and the rally-master is always right!



Amy Del Mundo and daughter Gelen with the 1st Place Trophy and President's Cup.



Proving that it's the rally known world-wide, Tim Turner arrived from New Zealand to be navigator for Megan Howard in this years Fussin' & Cussin'.

Eric and Michelle, the devious rallymasters with their good friend Rover.



It's never too early for the drive-thru!



More photos and a review of the rally by a past winner at <http://members.aol.com/indymiata/>.

The Open Road

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Please submit articles, photos or news items at any time. To be in the next edition, no later than the 25th of that month. We encourage your participation in making your newsletter the best it can be!

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Movies, Moonlight, and Miatas!!

By Bob "Kyot" Wylie

This fun night started with some ominous clouds lurking in the distance.. but fear not.. we mighty Miatateers know when we have a run.. the sun shines upon us! Or.. in this case.. the stars!

Our annual drive up to Mel's 50's Drive-in movie was fun as always. The skies cleared and some of us took a "backroads" trip from Zionsville to Mel's. Gary and Kathy Collings set up the route for all to enjoy. They, by the way, are the proud new owners of a 2000 Burgundy Miata.

Remember the good ole days at the drive-in when the reel to reel movie would break.. and you'd see the film flapping round 'n round on the bright white screen? Then people would jump up and down to make their shadows appear on the screen and act silly? Or use your two hands to make "shadow ducks" or "shadow men"? I did that! Remember when everyone would start honking at the movie, if the sound disappeared or the film broke? Heeheehee! I did that! Fun stuff and good memories! Well, none of that happened... I think the technology has changed to where we won't see that again! Colors are bright, hifi stereo sound and the movie doesn't "shake". This particular night we enjoyed an action packed animated Disney film called Atlantis. The second movie was Pearl Harbor, which I didn't hang around for. Check your newspaper for a review!

Thanks to Mel's again for giving us the discounted price and thanks to the Collings for setting this annual event up.

Greenfield Frosty Mug Mingle Report

By Beth McCoy

On July 13th (Friday the 13th) a few of us dared to venture out in our Miatas to Greenfield just to try our luck and push our arteries to the limit with many fried foods. Needless to say the Zendog took off before the food came. Jane (his wife) who is a cardiologist has taught him well. Teresa Wills suggested that I throw out my cole slaw because it did not comply with the "only fried food" law that we had established. I agreed, and decided to start my diet the next day.

All in all, we had a good time harassing each that night, after all, it was Friday the 13th, and nothing that is said can be held against you on a day when anything can happen. Until next time....eat carrots and V-8 juice.

Upcoming Events for You & Your Miata

Midwest Miata Magic Weekend (August 31 - September 3, 2001) in La Crosse, Wisconsin, hosted by the Windy City Miata Club. LaCrosse is located on a scenic stretch of the Mississippi River in some of the hilliest country in the Midwest. There are many Miata roads in the area, as well as opportunities for biking and canoeing. For more details, and a registration form, visit the web site at <http://www.windycitymiataclub.com/2001/lacrosse.html>. For further questions, e-mail Al Brown & Cyndee Boyvey at hobie88903@aol.com. Indy club members Gary and Kathy Collings will be leaving the evening before the event if anyone wants to caravan to the Chicago area with them.

Midwest Miata Gathering. (September 14-16) The Greater Cincinnati Miata Club and the MX5 Journal are instigating a non-event for the enjoyment of all. While the primary audience is comprised of the Miata Chapters in Ohio, Indiana, (?Michigan), and Kentucky... ALL are welcome, there is no fee for registering and attending the Gathering. Go to www.MiataGathering.net for more information.

Movie Road Trip (or Why We Really Drive Miatas)

By Dan Bowers

Editors note: Dan and Peggy Bowers drove over from Sullivan, Illinois to participate in the Mel's Movie Mingle. Last year, they saw the event listed on the our website, drove over and joined our club. They seem to be making this an annual trip! They are also members of the Abe Lincoln Miata Club. This is from an e-mail after the event.)

We went a little crazy that night! We had planned on investing the lovely, long travel time over to your lovely state for the reward of spending time with the members before showtime. Our plan was not to stay long after dark and be home at a "reasonable" time. Well, the company was good, the night was pleasant, we were both on vacation, etc. and I got interested in "Pearl Harbor". We stayed for the whole thing and had that 3 1/2 hour drive home after the show.

The weather was great. The moon was nearly full and kept us company...(you know, the glass half full or empty thing), and well...it was really a good "top down" trip all the way home. We saw lots of wildlife, deer, raccoons, opossums, a young coyote, and a red fox. We nearly had the roads to ourselves. We took country roads to Rockville, then followed US36 home.

It had been many years since we did an all-nighter! We remembered "old times" and had some good laughs...the kind that make your eyes water. We were on the road headed west as the sky began to get pink in the east. We heard the birds waking up and witnessed a whole new day come to life. We saw a beautiful sunrise and shared a wonderful cup of "road coffee". We crawled into our bed at 6am. and were up (well..kind of!) by 9:00am as we had made plans to meet friends by 10:00am. We were tired for sure, but will not trade the experience for another. We know have a new memory to add to the treasure chest.

"Sundae" Mingle Raindate!

As we go to press, the weather forecast does not look sunny for the Bob Wiley's "Sundae Mingle". If the event is rained out, it will be held on August 12th. Check the web site or call the hotline (317-767-5234) for current information. If we do run on the 29th, Bob's thinking of another mingle on the 12th!

Rain, Rain, Go Away

By Rick Morris (Mr. Detail)

One of the best things you can do to enhance your rain driving experience is to have a good coat of Rain-X on your windshield, headlights and side windows. I've had people say that they have tried Rain-X, but have ended up with streaks, spots or it just doesn't work as well as they had hoped. It's one of those things that just takes a little practice. Once you get the hang of it, it's easy to do and makes keeping your windows clean a whole lot easier.

You will need a bottle of the liquid Rain-X (I haven't tried the wipes), some conventional window cleaner, a few hand towels, a piece of an old T-shirt and either a diaper or another T-shirt for the final buffing.

The first step is to get your windows and headlights as clean as you can. If you've never thoroughly cleaned your windows, you might want to use either rubbing alcohol or one of the heavy-duty window cleaners to get all of the accumulated crud off your windows and headlights. You will be amazed at how much stuff has accumulated.

After the windows are clean and dry, take the small piece of T-shirt and dampen it with the Rain-X, being careful to not get the Rain-X on your paint. Apply Rain-X to the entire windshield using a very small, about 3 inches in diameter, circular pattern. Keep putting enough Rain-X on the cloth to keep the cloth damp, but not wet. Be sure to press down firmly, as this step does some cleaning as well as applying the first coat.

Let the Rain-X dry until you can see a haze, but make sure to let it dry for at least fifteen or twenty minutes. After the first coat has dried, apply another coat of Rain-X over the first coat. Don't take off the first coat. This coat goes on top of the first coat. Let the second coat dry for fifteen or twenty minutes.

After the second coat has dried, get a hand towel and dampen it with warm

water. Use this towel to remove the Rain-X. You will need to turn the towel frequently. Rub firmly during this step to make sure you remove all the excess Rain-X. After you are done with this step. Your windshield should look clean and be streak-free.

The final step is to buff the windshield using the T-shirt or diaper. You will notice that the windshield feels very slick, just like your car does after it's just been waxed. Make sure to buff it thoroughly.

That's all there is to it. The first thing you will notice is that looking through your windshield is a lot like having a new windshield, as it's probably never been this clean before. The real treat comes when you get caught in the rain. If you are driving over 35- 40mph, you won't need your windshield wipers, as all they will do is get in the way of the Rain-X. Honest.

You should reapply Rain-X on a regular basis, at least once a month. If your car is a daily driver and you have to scrape the windshield during the winter, Rain-X makes that job a lot easier, too.

Questions? Ask Mr. Detail! E-mail him at rick@dustbunny.com.

Can't See the Forest For the Trees Rally

Join us on August 18th exploring the roads of Morgan and Monroe counties ending with a fine dining experience at the world famous Gray Brothers' in Mooresville. You'll wander through state forests while searching the scenery for the answers to the easy questions your Rally Master and his cohorts will provide.

We'll meet at the Burger King in Martinsville (SR37 and Ohio St.) at 9:00AM. The entry fee is \$7.00 for those that prepay, \$10.00 day of event.

Questions? Call Chuck at 317-291-5563. Mail your entry form and check (made out to Indy Miata Club) to: Chuck Wills, 8609 Woodbluff Ct., Indianapolis, IN 46234.

Please print!

Driver: _____ Date _____

I understand that this not a speed contest and agree to participate at my own risk. I agree to hold the Indy Miata Club, their officers, and event organizers harmless from any claim arising from my participation in this event. All entries must be signed and dated. Thank you.

Driver's Signature _____ Date _____

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Why Are Black Miatas Faster?

By Millard Johnson (zendog)

It is a known fact that black Miatas are faster than cars of other colors. That is, of course, why most race sanctioning bodies prohibit black cars. Think, for example, what would happen if Ferrari painted their cars black. This would force all other F1 cars to be painted black. The result would be the most beautiful race in history, but it would make it difficult to tell which car was in the lead. It would also reduce the interest in the race itself, as spectators would be more interested in watching beautiful black cars go around the track at the expense of concern for which car actually finished first. So, while it is perfectly clear that black cars are, on average, 15% more powerful than the other, less attractive cars, the question remains — why?

Some people have postulated that the advantage is built into black cars at the factory. It is generally acknowledged that assembly line workers, when they are aware they are working on a black car, will take exceptional care. Every part that has any flaw will be withheld from the black car assembly and put on one of the cars of lesser color. Only the finest parts and best quality workmanship is put into black cars. While this understandable bias toward the more beautiful black cars can explain part of the superiority, it certainly can not explain all of it.

A number of studies have shown that people with greater intelligence (19.729 IQ points in the Greeb and Billieu study) tend to purchase black cars. The same study, and others, also shows that these highly intelligent people (who also have heightened esthetic sensibility) take far better care of their machines. But again, higher IQ and greater sophistication of owners can not explain all of the remaining superiority of black cars.

It may yet be proved that black cars absorb energy from the sun and wind and transform that energy into transcendental horsepower. Certainly, anyone who has ever ridden in a recently waxed and polished black car has witnessed the ethereal experience of heightened power. Although this phenomena has been extensively recorded and studied there is, as yet, no technique to measure such natural and paranormal forces at work.

The conclusion we MUST come to is at once profoundly simple, deductively sound, and patiently obvious. This is a conclusion I make reluctantly. But, as Sherlock Holmes said, when all other explanations have been eliminated, the one remaining hypothesis must, in fact, be accepted. I am, therefore sure that all of you will agree with me in my conclusion: black cars are faster because God prefers black Miatas.

Classifieds

Like new hardtop for early edition Miata. Used twice. Red with black interior. Has rear window defrost. \$1,500 or best offer. Contact Brent Cassady, service rep at Tom Roush Mazda 317-896-5561 or 1-800-382-4619.

Rear window protector -- I put in a roll bar and can't use it. This vinyl window protector helps keep your back window protected from scratches and the sun. Snaps into place. It's in excellent shape. A steal for only \$15.00! Sells new for \$34.95. Call Sara J 317-415-2991 or e-mail saraj@dustbunny.com.



Barb Gentry shows off her 2nd place trophy won while driving solo in the 2001 Fussin' and Cussin' as the envious third place winner looks on.

All Fussin & Cussin' photos courtesy of Chuck Wills, Bob Wiley, Beth McCoy, and Sara J McBride

MDC Driver Training Day at Putnam Park

Saturday, November 3rd, is the scheduled driver's training and lapping day at the Putnam Park Road Course. (<http://www.putnampark.com/>) This is the event set up by Manny Lozano of the Motorsports Driving Club after talking to club enthusiasts at the Miata Performance Day at AIM in March. Putnam Park is a good track for learning as it is a smooth and forgiving track (no trees or lakes close by to error into!), but challenging even for the experienced driver.

A minimum of 25 student/lapper cars are needed to make the event happen. Helmets and a four-point rollbar or hardtop is required. Students will have D/C/B group experience levels. Lappers should have A/Red run group, instructor, or club racer level experience. There will only be two run groups (Students and Instructors/Lappers) to maximize track time. Each run group will drive 25 minutes and rest 35 minutes, every hour, on the hour, from 9 am to 11:50 pm, and from 1 pm to 5 pm. Lunch will be from noon to 12:50 pm. Corner workers will receive a fifteen minute break in the afternoon.

Fee schedule is as follows—for 1-driver cars: \$275 by Oct 6, \$325 by Oct 27, or \$375 cash at the gate. Add 20% for 2-driver cars—\$330 by Oct 6, \$390 by Oct 27, or \$450 cash at the gate. Cars will run rain or shine, but will the event will be cancelled if there is a forecast of snow. Contact Manny Lozano, at LLozano@Prodigy.Net for more information.

Drive Against MS

Approximately 1 in 1600 people are affected by multiple sclerosis. The disease does not discriminate. It affects the young, the strong; the healthy. MS involves episodes of inflammation of nervous tissue in any area of the central nervous system. The cause of the inflammation is not known. Some of the symptoms include paralysis, tremors, muscle spasms, facial pain and numbness, loss of vision, dizziness, decreased memory and depression.

Living with MS is not easy for anyone, but those athletes and coaches that are affected are even more heartbreaking. These individuals depend on their bodies to earn a living, teach, and to give them self-esteem. Please join in the rally to help one such individual: Tara Lane. She has given so many students, both able-bodied and disabled the tools and the courage to excel in figure skating and ice hockey.

The "Drive Against MS" will take place on Saturday, September 8th at Forest Park in Noblesville, IN. We will meet there at 9:00 AM with the first car off at 9:45 AM. We will meet back at Forest Park for a catered picnic at Noon. There will be games, raffles, and some great prizes. There will be signs instructing you where to meet.

Cost: \$20. Please make checks payable to "Tara Lane Trust". You can prepay by sending the check to Beth McCoy (Trustee) 16331 E. 101st St. Fortville, IN 46040. My phone # is (317) 485-7167. Prepaying would be very much appreciated, or you can pay the day of the rally. Please include the bottom portion of this flyer with your payment.

Directions: From North: Take 65 South to 32 East to Noblesville. Turn left (North) onto HWY 19. Forest Park will be on your left hand side. Signs will direct you to the meeting location.

From South: Take 465 North to 31 North. Turn right (East) onto 32. Turn left (North) onto HWY 19 and Forest Park will be on your left. Signs will direct you to meeting location.

Questions? Call 317-485-7167 or 317-332-7150 (cell) or e-mail Beth at: MiataMePink@aol.com

Please send entry form and check to Beth McCoy (Trustee) 16331 E. 101st St. Fortville, IN 46040

Driver: _____ Date _____

I understand that this not a speed contest and agree to participate at my own risk. I agree to hold the Indy Miata Club, their officers, and event organizers harmless from any claim arising from my participation in this event. All entries must be signed and dated. Thank you for your participation in this worthy cause.

Driver's Signature _____ Date _____

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



August 18 - "Can't See the Forest For the Trees!"

2001 Club Event Schedule

August 12 - Rain date for the Sundae Cruise.

August 18 - "Can't See the Forest for the Trees" Rally.
Rally Master: Chuck Wills

September 2 -Cruise to Kruse (Classic Auto Auction in Auburn, Indiana).

September 8 - "Drive Against MS". It's a Fun Run and benefit. Don't miss this one! Prizes and fun times for a good cause!

September - Open Mingle Date (Go ahead, pick a day, plan one, and let us know!)

September 22 - "Just Shoot Me! Again!" Photo Rally.
Rally Master: The McCoys

Date Change!!!!

October 6 - Tour to the Huber Winery in southern Indiana. Event.
Masters: The Wills

Date Change!!!!

October 20 - Spooky Evening at the Dixs'! A Rock 'n Roll theme party and costumes are required!

October - Open Mingle Date (Go ahead, pick a day, plan one, and let us know!)

November 3 - MDC Driver's Training Day at Putnam Park.

November 11 - Open rally date

November - Open Mingle Date (Go ahead, pick a day, plan one, and let us know!)

December - Club Christmas Party and Elections.