



Open Road



Volume 12

Issue 7

The Official Newsletter of the Indy Miata Club

July 2001

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Why do you drive the color of car you do? There have to be millions of color choices out there in car-dom. Why did you pick the one you did? Deep down inside I know that the color of the Miata really doesn't matter. It's the fact that you chose a Miata is what matters most!

I have often wondered why people choose certain colors. A quick search of the Internet gave me some info on what some colors may say about you:

Black: ambitious drivers that want to project success.

Red: outgoing and impulsive, easily bored

Silver: you have great style and are often successful.

White: the first choice of doctors and drivers who are reliable and methodical.

Blue: a team player that is sociable and friendly but lacks imagination.

There once was a time when the color of racecar told you a lot more than the name of the main sponsor. You could tell the nationality of the driver and the car owner by seeing the paint scheme. Traditionally red has been associated with Italian cars – Ferrari or Maserati. But not all Ferraris were red. English owned teams that drove a Ferrari painted theirs green. Whereas green cars usually were from the UK or another English commonwealth. German cars were white until Mercedes-Benz stopped painting their cars in order to save weight. These colors were assigned in the early days of Grand Prix racing by the FIA and are still followed somewhat today. Here are some of the traditional national racing colors according to Road & Track (January 1960):

Belgium: yellow and black.

Canada: green with white stripes.

France: blue and white (The Prost F1 team uses these colors.)

Germany: white then later silver (Mercedes F1 cars are silver to this day.)

Great Britain: green (This is where we get British Racing Green even though BRG is not one particular shade of green. Several have been used over the years.)

Japan: white with red (See the BAR Honda F1 team.)

Italy: red (Enzo Ferrari would turn over in his grave if he saw how Marlboro-“red” his cars look these days.)

Mexico: gold, white & black.

Spain: yellow & red

Sweden: blue, yellow and white (Kenny Brack's helmet is a good example of this.)

USA: white with blue stripes (Shelby Cobras)

The May '01 issue of Miata Magazine has a great chart that breaks down sales of the Miata over the years into numbers by colors. Do you know what the rarest Miata is? Sunburst Yellow from '92? Nope. There are three others that are more rare – the black with/ red leather from '93, Twilight Blue STO version from '97. And the rarest of all – Evolution Orange from 2000. Only 644 have been imported.

Why is it that there have been 8 different versions of blue Miatas? (Rumor has it that Miata designer Tom Matano likes blue.) It is a sports car though and Classic Red has been a choice every year. Yellow is still popular even though it had limited sales for 1 year. I bet that we'll see it again very soon. We now have BRG back after a ten year absence. Maybe Sunburst will follow.

Update on the USGP Dinner Party that the Miata Owners Club is putting on – they have announced that Phil Hill, 1961 World Champion Ferrari driver will be one of the VIP guests for the evening! Sounds good to me! I will pass along other info as it trickles in!



2001 Club Contacts



President

Steve Jacobson
12291 Blue Sky Dr.
Fishers, IN 46038
317-570-4598
jakenaj@iquest.net



Vice-President

Chuck Wills
8609 Woodbluff Ct.
Indpls, IN 46234
cwills@iei.net



Treasurer

Pat Metheaux
6430 Berwyn
Indpls, IN 46203



Membership Director

Barb Gentry
5379 Carnoustie Cir.
Avon, IN 46123
bmgentry@juno.com



Tech Director

Wayne "Doc" Reynolds
317-299-8002
MX5MD@yahoo.com



Club Founder/ Tech

Rich Hinkle
317-347-9660
rhinkle@aol.com



Website Editor

Jim Nutt
317-255-1874
IndyNutts@aol.com



Open Road Editor

Sara J McBride
317-291-8993
saraj@dustbunny.com

It's a Parade! It's a Parade!

We have two opportunities to have Miatas in parades for the Independence Day holiday.

Our club has been invited to participate in the Decatur Township Lions Club 4-H Fair parade on Tuesday, July 3. Last year we carried the Queen and her Court). The parade forms at 4:29 sharp at the Decatur Township Fire House which is located on High School Road about a mile south of its intersection with Indiana Route 67 (Kentucky Avenue).

Take I-465 to Kentucky Ave. and exit toward the southwest. Go about one mile on Route 67 to the light at High School Road. Now turn due south on High School Road and go one mile to the fire house. It is "behind" Decatur Central High School.

We'll be done by 6:15 and the parade ends right at the 4-H Fair which has great tenderloins and other foods. E-mail IndyNutts@aol.com or call Jim at 255-1874 if you can participate. Come on! It'll be fun!

July 4th is the date for the Sheridan Patriotic Parade. Meet in the Sheridan High School parking lot at 9:00am. Head to downtown Sheridan and from the intersection of IN 47 and 38, take 38 north. Continue straight when 38 makes a left and at the church, angle right (north). The high school is about 2 blocks north on the right. Confused? Please contact Bob Dix for more help at farmerbob6@juno.com. Another chance for the M1's to "wink" their headlights!

Open Mingle Date in August

It's not too late for **you** to schedule a mingle. Contact Steve or Chuck with the details! We can't

Mingle at the Frosty Mug

Beth McCoy is leading the charge to a Mingle at the Frosty Mug in Greenfield at 6:00pm on July 13th. Directions to Frosty Mug are: Take US 40 East, go through Hwy 9 (stoplight) and take a left onto Apple. The Frosty Mug will be on the right hand side. (For the directionally challenged, Greenfield is east of Indy on US 40.)

"Unofficial" Miata Deal's Gap Event

What started out in 1997 as a small gathering has turned into a 300 plus car event at one of the best driving roads in America. US Rt 129 ("The Dragon") and its 318 turns in just 11 miles is the main attraction, so this "non-event" brings Miata owners together from across the country. Hang out, have fun, go drive, bench race, sleep, throw rocks into the creek. It's your choice. Scheduled for July 27-29, 2001, go to www.miatadrives.com for more info on this gathering of Miata lovers.

Don't forget you can check for changes or new events at our web site:

<http://members.aol.com/indymiata/>

Indy Miata Club Info Hotline
Phone Number
317-767-5324

The Open Road

Please send all articles, pictures or information for publication in the Open Road to:

Sara J McBride
4249 Springwood Ct.
Indianapolis, In
46228-3122
saraj@dustbunny.com

and/or
Jim Nutt
IndyNutts@aol.com

Please submit all articles, photos or news items by the 25th of each month. We encourage your participation in making your newsletter the best it can be!

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The Batesville-Metamora Rally Proves That There's Great Twisties in Eastern Indiana!

By: Jim Jones

Looking forward to the B – M Runs on June 16, Joy and I eagerly arose at 5:30 a.m. with our goal of arriving at the Batesville Wendy's by 9:00. Gone were the rain and humidity of the previous days and we arose to an absolutely gorgeous day.

Due to leaving about ten minutes late (my fault) and detours on the southeast side of Indy, we found ourselves running 80 m.p.h. topless on I-74 in order to reach Batesville by 9:00. We managed to arrive at the Shell station across from Wendy's at 9:00 and after a much-needed restroom visit, pulled into Wendy's where we were greeted by merry club members eating, drinking and socializing by their gleaming Miatas in an array of colors.

More Miatas continued to arrive and new members, Steve Chase and Susie Powell pulled up next to us in the beautiful 2000 Merlot Limited Edition. Claude Counciller promptly presented them with a Hot Wheels Miata miniature Miata. At start time, we numbered a total of twenty-one cars (twenty Indy members and one lone Miami Valley car, Steve and Theresa Meyer).

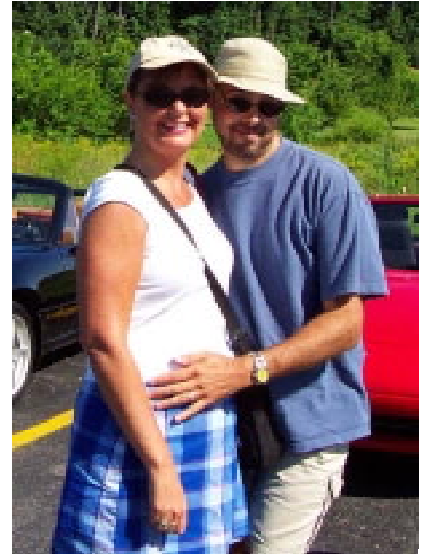
Our hosts, Larry and Sue Jinks and Jim and Martha Nutt, had done a heck of a job organizing the event. The drivers' meeting was held promptly at 9:20 with the first car off at 9:35. The fastest drivers got off first and we were last, if that tells you anything.

After receiving a clear and concise set of directions, we were off but I wondered "How are they going to score this run?" Since the directions were so precise and our time off was recorded at the top of our sheet, I concluded that it must be scored on time and distance. So I began to drive as fast as I could with the best driving skills I could muster and my eyes on the road. I knew I was doing pretty well when I scared Joy twice and myself once. Nevertheless, by Chris', Jim's, Chuck's, and most semi-truck drivers' standards, I was still Tommy the Turtle. When I passed Rich Hickie, who was stopped alone at the side of the road reading directions, I thought maybe we wouldn't be last anyway. A little farther down the road I saw Chuck Wills and Beth McCoy in my rear view mirror. Beth was standing in the passenger seat, skort blowing in the breeze, taking pictures of us, while Chuck was skillfully maneuvering the hills, hollows, and curves at a pretty good clip. At the McDonald's pit stop which had only a couple of one-hole restrooms, we all had to wait in line. It occurred to me that perhaps time might not be a factor in the scoring after all. Rich was behind me in the restroom line, but after we grabbed a Coke, he was off and ahead of us again.

The route was beautiful with curvy, twisting, hilly good roads. The area was very scenic and the hills were steep. With road names like Soap Hill, Salt Fork, Pinbrook, Whites Hill, Chappelow Ridge, Big Cedar, and Pumphouse, how could we go wrong?

Even though the directions were excellent, we got to gabbing and missed a turn near the end and went about a mile too far. I thought, "Well, we won't win, but maybe we will place or show." Entering Oldenburg is a beautiful sight. The town, nestled in the hills, has many spires and because of its German heritage, it looks like a town transplanted from the hills of southern Germany to Indiana. Even all the street signs are in German – a very picturesque town indeed!

Arriving at the Brau Haus Restaurant, we saw the parking lot and street filled with Miatas. We had completed the 97 (for most, 96) mile run in 2 _ hours. But, alas, we were the last in! Upon entering the restaurant we were greeted by Jim Nutt and because of the German surroundings, I uttered by best German, "Nur hier wird Deutsch



Winners of the 2001 B-M Rally-
Beth McCoy and Chuck Wills.

gesprochen" and Jim replied, "Ich spreche ein wenig Deutsch auch." Since Brau Haus means Brew House, I knew an ice-cold beer would hit the spot.

At the entrance of the room where our buffet was located Larry Jinks stood with an answer sheet. Above the fireplace was a series of 32 pictures. Our task was to identify which objects in the pictures we had seen during the run. The catch was that some of the pictures (12) were not located on the run at all! The winners were determined by who identified the most pictures correctly. Since we passed within arm's length of the private, dilapidated Seal Bridge Barn, one of Indiana's 92 historic covered bridges, I thought I would at least know one picture. Wrong! It was not pictured! Joy was able to identify some, but not enough. They all looked foreign to me except one – a beautiful house that I felt I had seen at least five times on the run. Wrong again! That was Larry and Sue's house in Connersville!

Well, here are the Eagle Eye Fleagles in the group. Third place went to Jim and Georgia Barrick, who received \$20, their meal, and a Hot Wheels Miata.

zoom-zoom to page 4

B-M Run in the Eastern Twisties

(continued from page 3)

Second place was awarded to Eric and Michele Knight who received 25 gold coins and a trunk kit courtesy of Roush Mazda. "First place," as Jim Nutt jokingly announced, "goes to our new newlyweds" (their real spouses were unable to attend) Beth McCoy and Chuck Wills. They received \$50 for being observant. Joy and I, being the weakest link, went home with nothing! The buffet was very good and the beer was excellent!

For those who missed this run, and for me who missed the beautiful things in the pictures, I hope we can do it again. Thanks to Jim & Martha and Larry & Sue for an excellent event. We also thank our member, Claude Counciller and Commercial Printing Serices of Connersville, IN for printing the rally directions.



Sue and Martha found the shops in Oldenburg. Nice hats, ladies!



Sunshine, Miatas and great roads..does it get any better than this?



"We had a fun rally and good food!"



All B-M Run photos courtesy of
Beth McCoy and Rich Hinkle.



The Rally Masters prepare the drivers for a nice, easy drive through Eastern Indiana. A great day for a rally!

My Secrets On How To Win A Rally

B-M Rally winning driver shares his in-depth knowledge

By “Wrong Way” Chuck Wills

When you ask people what it takes to win a rally, you get various answers. I’ve compiled a list and have compared that against my actual rally winning experience. I don’t mean to brag, but I have used these techniques to place in the top 5 finishers in national as well as regional events. These are tried and true techniques that most rally professionals will not divulge.

Actual responses to the question “What helps you win a rally?”

1. “Weak Competition”: While this never hurts, it is possible to rely on the STRENGTH of your competitors to aid you in winning the rally. If your competitor is strong, you can generally count on them to be headed in the right direction most of the time. Use this to your advantage! See more details under the “Co-Pilot” section.

2. “GPS Navigational System”: While this might be handy, it certainly isn’t necessary. They are still somewhat expensive, and that puts a dent in your budget for “celebration beverages” for when you win the rally. I’ve found that a good alternative to fancy electronics is a good pair of binoculars. These can be used by your co-pilot for spotting far-off road signs, obscure clues in the distance, and skilled competitors that are likely on the correct route.

3. “A co-pilot that is good with direction skills”: This would make sense, but I’ve found it to be completely unnecessary. In fact, in the last rally that I won, my co-pilot had us lost by the 3rd instruction on the route sheet. That didn’t really matter because she had darned good eyesight. She was able to spot another rally competitor out in front of us, thereby getting us back on the route. This is the key quality to look for in a co-pilot — spotting other Miatas at great distances. When it comes to winning rallies, this is more valuable than a cell phone and signal flares.

4. “A Topographical Map of the surrounding area”: I have seen competitors fussing with maps the size of table cloths, and it sure didn’t help those poor people rank any higher in the standings. Rather than fool with a huge sheet of paper, I suggest buying some inexpensive 3x5 cards and a pencil. Arrive at the rally site early and use these supplies to take notes on your competition. Pay special attention to the relationships between driver and co-pilot. If you hear them address each other with names like “Wrong Way Chuck”, “Moron Mike” or “Old Backwards Beth”, take note that they may NOT be cars to fall in behind. Also listen for key phrases like “If we get lost again, will you PLEASE stop and ask directions?” or “We got turned around just getting to the starting point!”. Again, these may be people to stay away from at all costs. Take good notes and use them later on the route. HINT: it may be best to just categorize the competition as “skilled” and “unskilled”. Keep these cards handy, because you will use them for reference later.

5. “Good directional Skills”: This is one that I would have to agree with. Directional skills are necessary just to get to the rally site. Without them you may as well take the bus. Once on the rally, though, the directional skills are secondary to observational skills. What I mean is this — you are in a “directionally challenged position” (hopelessly lost) and you happen to spot another competitor on the road. First, check your 3x5 cards to make sure it’s not someone that is as “directionally challenged” as you. Now casually fall in behind them and you use your observational skills to try and determine where you should be in the route instructions. Look for road signs, and other clues that seem to fit the directions on the rally route sheet, and then try to keep track of where you are in the instructions. Do this in case you become separated from

the other rally competitor. If you’ve been lost once, there’s certainly no reason to become lost again! So, figure out where you are and try to stay glued to their bumper!

6. “You don’t need a fast car, just steady, consistent driving”: All I can say to that is “Horse feathers!”. Rallies are all about going really fast through the corners and driving the Miata the way it was meant to be driven. Yes, there may be some route instructions that you miss due to co-pilot nausea or going past street signs so fast you can’t read them, but that’s all part of the game! (Refer to 1 through 5 about getting back on course.) And I must say that a fast car is critical. In that last 1/4-mile before the finish, you need to have the horsepower to rocket around the competitor that you’ve been following. That way you get the satisfaction of beating them to the finish, and you have still had the opportunity to enjoy some fast corners without the hassle of following route instructions to the letter.

Road Rallies can be fun for the driver and co-pilot as long as they maintain the proper competitive perspective. This list of helpful rallying tips should encourage novice competitors to come out to the next event. Try them out and let me know how they work for you. I’ll see you all at the next event — I’ll be in the blue Miata right behind you!



Always check out the competition.

A Mingle with a twist! LOTS of twists!

This "Sundae" evening get together will be an "ice cream social". We'll meet for friendship and chat in the strip mall where Wendy's is, at the corner of SR 36 (Rockville Rd) and CR 525. (5:30 pm) This is just west of Avon. (about two miles west of SR 267) We'll meet around 5:30 pm, and depart around 6:00, on a nice 50 mile (or so) early evening cruise. This fun run has some of the best driving roads you'll find without going too far from Indy. After the cruise, we'll arrive at a Dairy Queen south west of Indy off SR 37. (Sr 37 & 144)



If you can't make the drive, please meet us for a great "Sundae" around 7:00. We'll have small door prizes, plenty of car chat and Miatas with many "add ons" for all to check out and talk about. No reservations needed, just come join us! Bob "Wileekyot" Wiley is our Event Master for the evening, so just e-mail him at wileekyot@aol.com if you want more information. We've got an extra napkin waiting for you!

The 'Original' NEXT GENERATION Fussin' and Cussin' Is back!

If you want a mind bending, Miata suspension flexing experience, then this is the rally you've been waiting for! You will be challenged by not only with legendary clues, but also beautiful countryside roads roaming throughout Hendricks County. Meet at the Dog and Suds on West 86th Street near I-465, 9:00am on Saturday, July 14th, with the first car off at 9:15am. Entry fee is \$7.00 in advance, \$10.00 the day of the rally.

Send signed advance registration form with check (made out to Indy Miata Club) to:
Eric Knight 27 South Lake Drive, Brownsburg, IN 46112

Please Print!

Driver: _____ Phone #: _____

Navigator: _____ E-mail: _____

I understand that this is 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.

Driver's Signature: _____ Date: _____

Autocrossing is great!

By Dan Stone

In the June edition of the Open Road, I read the article about the autocross event to be held in Columbus, Ohio. My wife and I have only owned our Miata four months. So, we thought this would be a good event to attend as spectators to witness what autocrossing is all about. We arrived in time for the Friday evening festivities, and I decided to sign-up for the autocross on Saturday. I have never autocrossed before. My seven runs (times) are listed below in the order that they were run.

I will definitely do this again!

Dan's times

DNF
49.381
48.070
46.205
45.162
44.845
44.807



Dan exits a corner hard in his first autocross experience.

Editor's note: Way to go, Dan! Listed below are some upcoming autocross events in Indiana, Ohio and Kentucky. For more information, visit the national SCCA web site at <http://www.scca.org> or the local organization's site listed below.

Indianapolis Region SCCA - <http://www.indyscca.org>

July 15 (Sun) Anderson GM Plant 3 with CSCC, Anderson, IN
July 29 (Sun) 16th St. Speedway, Indpls

Cincinnati Region - <http://www.cincyscca.com/>

July 14 & 15 [Evolution Performance Driving School](#) (Phase 1 on Sat & Phase 2 on Sun) Hurry, very few open spots left! E-mail Caleb Miller millerca@one.net to reserve a spot. (See the June Open Road for Zen Dog's article or ask him how great it was!)

Fort Wayne Region - <http://fwrscca.fwi.com/>

July 7th (Sat) International (Navistar) Tech. Center, Ft. Wayne

Kentucky Region - <http://www.kyscca.org/>

(They currently have a silver M2 gracing their opening page!)

Columbus, IN Sports Car Club - <http://personals.galaxyinternet.net/rotary/csccl.htm>

July 15 (Sun) Anderson GM Plant 3 with IndySCCA, Anderson, IN

Western OH - <http://www.worscca.org>

July 15th (Sun) VA Hospital, US 35 and Liscum Ave. Dayton, Ohio

Southern Indiana Region - <http://www.sirscca.org/>

July 8 (Sun) Castle High School, Newburg, IN

Don't Miss This Benefit Rally

We have a very special rally scheduled for September 8, the "Drive Against MS" Proceeds will go to the "Tara Lane Trust"—an athlete with MS. We will have a fun run through Noblesville, Fortville, and Pendleton. The games and events going on there. Prizes, too! Full details will be in the August edition of the Open Road. Let's make this rally a huge event and help someone in need. Anyone can join in the fun, you don't have to be a Miata Club member or a SCCA member, other cars and motorcycles are welcome, the more the merrier, all for a good cause.

Classifieds

Hard Dog Hard Bar Roll Bar with vinyl cover and padding. No problem with clearance when top is up. Fits all models (M1's and M2's) and includes modified 1/4 trim panel. See it down at AIM or at Hard Dog's web site. \$150.00. Call Roxanne McCombs at 317-842-0686.

1996 mini replica horse trailer. A great cargo trailer for miata's or motor cycles. This dark green cargo trailer is styled after the classic western horse trailer. They are hand crafted of fiberglass and stainless steel and are made only to order. Sells new for \$4,500+. This is an eye catching and ideal trailer to pull cargo or animal cargo behind your Miata or bike. 30 cubic feet of storage. \$2,295. Contact Norm Arbuckle at 765-447-5240 or e-mail Normarby@aol.com. See pix in classifieds at <http://members.aol.com/indymiata/>

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.

July 21th - “We’re all Fussin’, we’re all Cussin’!”

2001 Club Event Schedule

July 3rd - Decatur Township Lions Patriotic Parade. (See Page 2)
Event Masters: The Nutts

July 4th - It’s the Sheridan Patriotic Parade! (See Page 2)
Event Masters: Bob & Diane Dix

July 21 - Are you ready? It’s the annual Fussin’ and Cussin’ Rally!
Rally Master: Eric Knight

July 29 - Ice Cream Store Cruise and Mingle!
Event Master: Bob Wiley

August Mingle - Open

August 18 - It’s the “Can’t See the Forest for the Trees” Road Rally-
Rally Master: Chuck Wills

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

September 22 -
“Just Shoot Me! Again!” Photo Rally
Rally Master: Beth McCoy

October 6 -
Spooky Evening with the Dixs!
Costumes Required!

November 3 - MDC Driver’s Training Day @ Putnam Park

November 11 - Open rally date