



Open Road



Volume 12

Issue 4

The Official Newsletter of the Indy Miata Club

May 2001

Slower Traffic, Keep Right!

Steve Jacobson, President, Indy Miata

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If you had not heard the news — there is now a new national club to call all our own! Ever since the demise of the Miata Club of America (R.I.P.) we have been on our own in this big, scary, sportscar world. But now things are looking up! The newly formed Miata Owners Club (www.miataownersclub.com) has stepped in and so far is making us all feel quite welcome.

The new organization has been formed by Mazda North America Operations and Affinity Development Group and from what I have read ADG is a well-respected outfit that runs many other clubs including other car clubs for manufacturers. So, I think we have very solid backing behind this whole thing and *Miata Magazine* will continue to be our connection with the national club. Here's the announcement letter that was on their web site:

Dear Miata Club Member,

Today, Mazda North American Operations is pleased to announce the formation of the Miata Owners Club. This new club will replace the Miata Club of America, which has ceased Miata Club operations.

We are pleased to announce that Barbara Beach will continue as publisher of *Miata Magazine*. Members have indicated their overwhelming satisfaction with this high quality publication, and we are happy that *Miata Magazine* will continue to be a key member benefit. In addition, Barbara Beach will play an active role in the new club, working in an advisory capacity. Further, Mazda has engaged the services of an experienced club management firm to help in developing benefits and member services.

What does this mean for you? Our principal goal is to serve as "facilitator" to enhance your member benefits and provide support to local Miata Clubs. We've heard from many of you that you'd like additional benefits as part of your membership. We're working hard to ensure that membership in the Miata Owners Club provides valuable benefits to all Miata owners and enthusiasts. More details will be released soon about our exciting plans.

We greatly value and seek your input. Accordingly, we are forming a member Leadership Council to provide advice and direction to the new Miata Owners Club. This committee will work with Mazda to build the value of Miata Owners Club and help us all achieve continued growth in national and local membership.

To contact us, please visit www.MiataOwnersClub.com or call 1-800-968-4980. Thank you for your loyal support of the Mazda Miata. We look forward to good things to come!

Sincerely,
Stephen T. Odell
Executive Vice President & COO

And the very first event the new organization has announced is a special tour to our beloved Indianapolis Motor Speedway for the 2nd annual United States Grand Prix in September! Here are just some of the things they have in the works for that weekend:



Zoom-Zoom to page 2

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Slower Traffic Keep Right, continued

- Three night accommodations at a deluxe "all-suites" hotel, that includes complimentary "full breakfast" and evening "hospitality" of snacks and beverages.
- Police escorted coach service to "top-notch" reserved seats for Sunday's race. (I sure wish we could get in on the escort to the track!)
- Pre-race dinner party at Dunaways, arguably Indianapolis' finest restaurant, that includes celebrity race drivers and guests from F1, CART and Ford Cosworth. (This sounds great! Imagine Eddie Irvine or Bobby Rahal from the Jaguar team greeting us!)
- Friday and Saturday tickets to F1 qualifying and Speedway festivities.
- All airport, hotel and speedway ground transportation.
- Very special "gift-pack" memorializing your Indy F1 experience.

If you were not so fortunate as to live near the Racing Capitol of the World this would cost you a mere \$1280 per person.

I have been in contact with the M.O.C. about their visit to our city and they have told me that they will keep us informed of the details. I am hoping we are able to get in on some of the activities they have put together for the Miata owners that make the trip. I think this unique event gives us a great opportunity to meet Miata owners from all over the country. Maybe we should consider trying to setup a mingle with the Miata owners that attend the other races in Indianapolis too?

Well, are you sold yet? I am and I think this is going to be the best thing yet for Miata owners in America. Hopefully, this will erase any memory of the old club that left us out in the cold as they went their merry way.

If you subscribed to "Miata Magazine" you're automatically an MOC member for the remainder of your subscription. You will also automatically receive a New Member Kit, and a notice to renew at the appropriate time. I was encouraged to tell everyone it's best to call MOC and confirm that you're on their membership roster; with the right address info, etc. MOC's number is 800-968-4980.

The Open Road

A quick note from the new editor! First of all, thanks go to both Bob Wiley and Beth McCoy for helping me transition into the Editor's spot. Working with all the people listed to the left and most importantly, you, changes are coming to The Open Road, some of which are visible in this issue. This is your newsletter and with your help it will become a great publication. We will be sharing articles with The Open Road on the internet, so you can satisfy that surfing hunger and access the same great information. Please submit any articles before the 20th of each month.

Please send all articles or information for publication in either version of The Open Road to:

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Please feel free to send articles, tips, etc. You own a Miata and there's a story you want to tell!

The Open Road is published monthly for the members of the Indy Miata Club. The Indy Miata Club assumes no liability for any information contained herein, or injury or damage resulting from use of this information. The ideas, opinions, maintenance or modification tips expressed are to be used at the reader's discretion. Individual contributors and/or the editors express no approval, authentication or endorsement.

Post Tax Blues Rally!

On April 21, thirty-two cars met in Logansport for the first road rally of the year, the Post Tax Blues Rally. A combined effort of the Indy Miata and Lake Effect Clubs, this 60 mile plus rally along the Wabash river, was judged a success by all. Though the day started cloudy and cool, the sun was out in full force by the start of the rally and tops were dropped.

State and county road work forced a change of the first seven miles of the rally route, but the Rally Masters (Conrad and Judy Serwatka, Phil and Carolyn Callahan, Rick Morris and Sara J mcBride) quickly devised an alternate beginning and the cars were off. Several brave drivers went solo, handling both driving and navigation duties. Zendog, driving solo, may have been the last car in, but he did finish!

The rally finished in Lafayette at Logan’s Road house, where answer sheets were scored, food consumed, and the rally rerun from several different perspectives. There was a three way tie for third place, and additional questions were posed. All the teams answered the questions correctly, so third



The lineup at the start of the 2001 PTBR

place was decided by mileage. Last place was presented with a special “Has-Beans” trophy.

The winners of the 2001 Post Tax Blues rally:

- 1st Place: Don & Teri Dyson
- 2nd Place: Dennis & Hazel Moore
- 3rd Place: Bill & Lisa Hurley
- “Has-Beans”: Don & Amy Naglich



Why, no, we’re not lost. Yet. Say, was there really a sign at 1050N?



The Dysons beat the Tax Blues by winning the 2001 PTBR!



Where’s the bribe money for the Rally Masters?

2001 PTBR!

Lighthouses of Michigan Tour

* July 14 and 15, 2001 *

This summer tour will take us up the Eastern Lake Michigan coast to see 10 lighthouses. The tour will begin in Chesterton, Indiana where we will meet other Miata owners to drive northward to view lighthouses on Lake Michigan. We will stay overnight in Luddington, MI (where the ferry sails over to Manitowoc, Wisconsin) and visit two of the lighthouses on this tour. In addition, there will be an opportunity to visit lighthouse museums, go shopping, dine, swim and drive some great Michigan roads going to Luddington and coming home on Sunday.

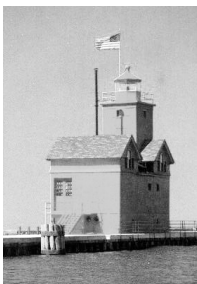
On Saturday, July 14, we will meet at the Wendy's restaurant (Exit 26 on RT 94, south of RT49 to first stop-light. Turn left to Wendy's.) in Chesterton. at 8 AM. We will leave PROMPTLY at 8:30AM driving to the visitors Center in Michigan on RT 94. We will then drive to St. Joseph, MI where we will step back in time to 1832 to see the first of our lighthouses on this trip. Then it's off to South Haven to the next lighthouse and the to Holland to visit "Big Red". A fee will be collected at this State Park in order to see the lighthouse. This fee is included in your registration fee. We will be having a "fun" rally (VERY EASY) on our way so you don't get bored.

Lunch will be in Holland at a local restaurant. It will be your responsibility to pay for lunch.

We will then drive to Grand Haven and then on to Luddington to see two more lighthouses on this day. Dinner will be at a local restaurant, which we found to be a local favorite and will handle up to 80 hungry Miatiates. It will be your irresponsibility to pay for this meal.

On Sunday, July 15th, we will travel some neat Miata roads and see beautiful scenery in Pentwater, Silver Lake, White River and Muskegon. Michigan cherries will be in season and a stop long the way will be added. We will stop for a relaxing lunch before we continue on to White River and Muskegon. Lunch will be in White River or Muskegon and it will be your responsibility to pay for lunch.

We will be holding only 40 rooms (three other Miata clubs will be joining us) for the night of July 14th. Reserve your spot today (rooms are going fast!) by calling Lands Inn at 231-845-7311. Identify yourself as part of the Lake Effect Miata Club, Block #714 in order to get a room at the discounted rate (\$80. + 8% tax = \$86.40). Rooms will be released on June 13, so you MUST reserve your room prior to that. In addition to your room, the cost of the tour is \$25.00 for one person or \$30.00 for two. This fee includes your entrance into all the city and state parks, postage for mailings, a goodie bag, plus a small donation to the prizes that will be handed to the rally winners at dinner. Please call for your room reservations, then call Conrad or Judy to let them know you are coming (have your license plate info, please!). Then mail a check payable to Lake Effect Miata Club to the address listed below.



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Late Apex! The VP's Corner

I'd like to thank you all for your interest in the Indy Miata Karting Challenge. So far we've got 7 or 8 people that are both interested AND can make the event. Unfortunately, this is short of the 16 we need to make this happen. To reserve our spot at Fastimes I would need to come up with a \$650 deposit this week. Considering the short time to pull it together, I just don't see it as being feasible. So, I'd like to propose an alternative.

Manny Lozano (MDC) sent out an e-mail about a karting opportunity in Whiteland (copied below). It's much less expensive with more track time too. The event is a fund raiser for the Whiteland Girls Softball League. I have e-mailed the organizers about getting tickets and will pass along that information.

I will try to organize another karting event later this year when there's more time to pull some other people in from other clubs. Again, thanks for your interest and I will keep you posted on further developments.

Chuck Wills
Indy Miata Club Vice President.

So you wanna go racing wheel-to-wheel, but don't want to bend up your car? Here's the perfect solution: Go Cart racing at Whiteland Raceway (25 minutes south of Indy). This an outdoor go cart facility equipped with real carts (not the ones you see at the Putt-Putt mini golf centers). This event is a fund-raiser presented by the Greater Whiteland Girls Softball League. The event is scheduled for Sunday, June 3rd, from noon to 8pm. You can race all day, as long as you want, and come-n-go as you please during the 8-hour period. The fee is \$20 and covers you for the whole day. The track facility is closed to the public, and the event will run rain or shine. You might want to bring your own Snell rated helmet, since the facility's loaner helmets are not exactly hygienic. You must wear long cotton pants and long sleeved cotton tops to race the carts. Don't wear anything made of synthetics since the go-cart's exhaust piping is near your forearm, and tends to melt the synthetic fiber away (as well as your skin). A thick denim jacket would be best. The tickets will be pre-sale only, and will be available at the April and May Columbus Sports Car Club autocrosses or call Pam Farr at 317-525-8564. Pam can be e-mailed at Whitelandfarr@aol.com. Come join us for some wheel-to-wheel racing action in a safe, enjoyable environment.

Best regards, Manny Lozano
Motorsports Driving Club President

Classifieds will return next month!

Upcoming Events

May 6 (Sunday), and May 23 (Wednesday)

The tradition of the Indianapolis Motor Speedway "Lap around the Track" is returning in the Month of May. **This is not a club function** The Mayor's Breakfast will be held at the Blue Ribbon Pavilion at the State Fair Ground. Following the \$40 per person breakfast and entertainment, there will be an opportunity for a slow paced lap on the Speedway circuit. On Community Day, Wednesday, May 23, you can enter the track for tours of Gasoline Alley, the pits, and take a lap in you car, for \$5 per person. This is a public event, and usually a very crowded afternoon.

May 19th - Mingle at the Mug 'n Bun

Join Event Master Chuck Wills for dinner and drinks at Speedway, Indiana's most famous institution, the Mug N Bun. Located at 5211 W. 10th Street, we'll gather at 5:30pm. to eat, drink and talk about cars, life and other important subjects.

June 16 -Batesville -Metamora Runs

Indy Miata is inviting the GCMA, BGMC and MVMC chapters to a combined rally / road run. Starting in Batesville, IN. This will be a chance to meet Miata lovers from other clubs, for news, views, and a cruise. (The idea is to follow our club motto "Few rules, just fun".) This will be a simple rally, with easy directions and few clues. We have confirmed with the luncheon pub that our dining area will handle 70 persons. With 4 chapters participating. That would average 18 persons per club, or 9 Miatas allotted to each. Therefore each chapter will allow the first 9 paid cars (when registration opens) to pay their \$7 to their own club (for later payment to IndyMiata), and each club will put any others on a club "wait list" in case some chapter is short the day before the restaurant needs our reservations. The wait lists will be called, in turn, until all slots are filled. So mark your calendars NOW and watch for the June issue of Open Road with the registration form. Have that check written, envelope addressed, and ready to mail. Remember, "first postmarked, first in".

June 30 - Mel's Drive-in!

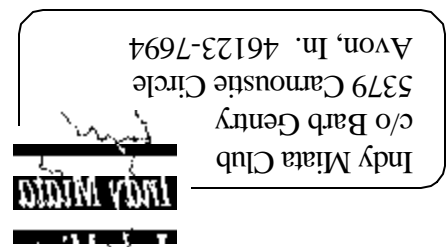
It's Drive-In movie time! Meet at the Zionsville Lion's Park at 6:30pm and caravan to the drive-in. No need to pre-register for this event, but if folks want to make certain you don't get left behind, you may RSVP to Gary Collings by e-mail <gcolling@gte.net> or phone 317/873-4224.

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

<http://members.aol.com/indymiata/>
Indy Miata Club Info Hotline Phone Number
317-767-5324



John Louk proclaims his sentiment loud and clear with this plate on his Miata.



Mug ‘n Bun Mingle! May 19th

2001 Club Event Schedule

May 19th - Mug ‘n Bun Mingle
Event Master : Chuck Wills
(see page 5)

June 16 - Batesville-Metamora
Rally with several other clubs.
(see page 5)
Rally Masters: Jinks & Nutts

June 30th - Mel’s Drive-In!
(see page 5)
Event Masters: The Collings

July 4th - It’s the Sheridan
Patriotic Parade!
Event Masters: Bob & Diane Dix

July 14 - It’s time for the annual
Fussin’ and Cussin’ Rally!
Rally Master: Eric Knight

July 14 & 15th -
Lighthouse Tour of Michigan
(Lake Effect Event) (see page 4)

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

August Mingle - Open

August 18 -
Road Run / Potluck Picnic
With Lake Dunes and Lake Effect
Event Master: Bob Wiley

September ? -
Cruise to Kruse (Classic Auction
in Auburn, Indiana)
Event Masters: the Jacobsons

September 22 -
“Just Shoot Me! Again!” Photo Rally
Event 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