



Open Road



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Four Wheel Drift...

Chuck Wills, VP, Indy Miata Club

I'd like to thank Steve for letting me share the spotlight again this month. He'll be back on the front page next month as he pulls into the home stretch of his Presidency. Thanks, Steve!

We should also congratulate he and Angela on their new bundle of joy. Their son, John Riley, was born last month, and mother and baby are doing fine. I'm sure that Steve has fallen right into the routine of dirty diapers, midnight feedings and sleep deprivation...better you than me, brother!

I would be remiss if I did not mention the tragedy of September 11th. I'm sure that I can speak for all of us when I say that the Indy Miata club is deeply saddened and our prayers go out to all those effected by these dreadful events.

Even though we have witnessed unspeakable tragedy, it has shed light on some good. Our nation does pull together, we can treat one another as brothers and sisters, and we are unified. This is evidenced not only by the huge sums of money that have been gathered, but by the dedication of people that have gone so far out of their way to help their fellow man. We have seen it on television with rescue workers toiling through the night, but there are others that have done their part as well.

A friend of mine in the BMW club related a story to me – he and several other club racers were contacted to deliver supplies right to ground zero. You see, semi trucks were having difficulty negotiating the narrow streets and were unable to drop their loads of supplies where they were needed. Someone came up with the idea of using racecar trailers and tow vehicles to deliver supplies exactly where they were needed. The local BMW Club answered the call and several of their members left for New York in the middle of the night. They were loaded down with saws, cutting torches and various equipment, heading east with fuel donated by the Flying J truck stop. In a small way they were able to do some good for those in need.

I thank God that tragic events like those don't happen frequently in our lives. Though when they do, it gives us pause to reflect on how down right lucky we are. We live in a place where we can freely assemble, live our lives as we see fit and drive roadsters on sunny days (I even drive mine in the rain). We've got it pretty good.

I will stand up on my soapbox for a moment, though. There are people in our community that have needs that go unmet every day of the year. There are people in our midst that need help, though their problems may seem much smaller than what we've seen in New York. We are in a position to help someone less fortunate than us. I've seen other organizations pull together to accomplish a greater good, and I would like us to do the same.

I'm asking each one of you, what can we do to help someone in our own back yard? It doesn't have to be on a grand scale, just something to make a difference. Please think about it and let me know what you want to do.

I've been kicking an idea around for a year and finally feel moved to do something about it. I would like to see Indy Miata have a different kind of rally next spring. Rather than rallying down the highway, could we rally together to build a house? Habitat for Humanity is always looking for volunteers to swing hammers and smash thumbnails. By giving a day of our time we could make a dramatic difference in someone else's life.

I really want to do this, and I hope that you will consider helping too. Watch future newsletters for details, so give me your ideas, or find your hammer and go buy a big box of Band-Aids.

Thanks everybody! —Chuck

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Crash on the Road

by Millard Johnson

The great thing about top-down motoring is that you get so close to the world. You put that top down and you are enveloped in the earth on which we live. You smell the new-cut grass. The morning air fresh with dew is on your hair. The summer sun warms your face. You feel the life, the birds in flight, the grasses and leaves waving in the breeze. It is all close up, enfolding you. In a convertible you are part of it. You are part of life and the living process washes over you. That is the magic of top down driving.

I am aware, however, that not all of life is daffodils and sunshine-there is a lot of pain, dirt, and ugliness. I think all of us have become very good at hiding and avoiding all the messy bits of existence. We deodorize, disguise and sanitize. We put walls around junk yards. Our roads run through meadows, not through strip mines. We put windows on our SUV's that roll up really tight to keep the odors of life outside and away from us.

Unfortunately, the dark side of life came close to us on our rally on September 8th. Just before the first cars of the rally turned onto Route 32 near Anderson, a highway accident ended the life of a stranger. That accident will not be remembered by many people. It was just another crash on the road. But for those of us who participated in the rally, it touched us.

Then, the rally itself, "The Drive Against MS" rally, which was a benefit organized by Beth McCoy for her friend Tara Lane. Tara, who was at the rally, is a vibrant and beautiful young woman, an athlete who is stricken with Multiple Sclerosis. MS is a chronic, debilitating, body-destroying disease. Tara fights that disease. She fights a fight that, without a breakthrough in science, she will lose. Her family and friends came down from Chicago and drove the rally in mini vans and other not-Miata things.

I wish I could say it was beautiful. Maybe it was. But, the truth is, I would rather not know that these struggles exist. Beth McCoy planned this event to benefit her friend. She was there, doing everything wrong: too much food, too many prizes, too much caring. Without perspective, she failed utterly to weigh the cost and benefit. Too much friendship, too much love, too much, too much - as if by caring too much, she could stop the disease from its horrible progress. It was as painful to watch someone caring too much as it was to watch the sufferer for whom friendship seemed to be as important as hope.

That Saturday, I crashed on the road of my own humanity. I saw what I wanted to hide from - a fellow traveler on the road of life being destroyed by a random killer. A killer who could have chosen me or one of my children. Feeling glad it struck someone else instead of me or mine, and then feeling guilty for feeling glad. Feeling good about doing something to help another, then feeling bad knowing that I did not do everything I could have done. Even the unbounded love of family and friends who gathered in support of that victim pulled me too close to my own fears, reminded me that even though each trip out in my Miata is a round trip, my trip through life is one way.

But, I survived this crash, and like every crash I have survived - I learned. I learned, through the presence of club members, that people can overcome their fears and revulsion to support a fellow traveler. I learned, through the eyes of the Tara's parents, that the support of family can be boundless. I learned, through Beth McCoy's actions, how deep a friendship can be. Most of all, I learned that ALL of life is to be lived, the bitter as well as the sweet. No doubt I will return to my flight from pain and suffering but for this time at least, I was forced to open up my existence to the full bouquet of smells and tastes, feelings and emotions of living.

Anyone wishing to contribute to Drive Against M.S. should make a check payable to "Tara Lane Trust" and please send it to Beth McCoy (Trustee) 16331 E. 101st St. Fortville, IN 46040.

The Open Road

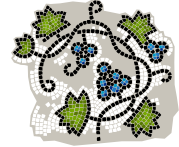
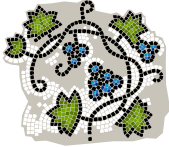
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Huber Winery 2001

Saturday, October 6th



Please join the Indy Miata Club for a drive through the rolling hills of southern Indiana on our third edition of the Huber Winery Tour.

This will be a tour, rather than a traditional rally. That means no tricky clues or obscure trivia questions. Just a clear set of instructions and some of the best roads that Indiana has to offer. For those that haven't been, The Huber Winery is a wonderful destination. There is a cheese shop, farmers market and of course, the winery. The club gets a special reserved parking area.

This tour will be slightly different than previous years, as we will eat at the start of the drive. The breakfast buffet is about \$8 each, plus tip.

The schedule is as follows:

- | | |
|-------------|--|
| 10am | Breakfast at the Seasons Inn, Nashville Indiana. |
| 11am | Drivers meeting and first car off. |
| 2pm | Meet at Huber's Winery for a prize drawing. |

To Register:

Since the 6th will be here before we know it, please DO NOT mail in your registration.

Call or E-mail if you plan on attending so that we can make the appropriate reservation for Breakfast. *Registration fee of \$5 will be collected that morning.*

Phone: 317-697-7192 (mobile)

e-mail: cwills@iei.net

Directions:

The Seasons is on the north side of Highway 46, just outside of Nashville. The fastest way to get there from Indy is take I65 South, and turn west on Hwy 46 (the Columbus exit). It's about 15 miles to Nashville, and The Seasons is on a hill on the right, just before you get into town.

Teresa and I hope to see you all there. Please let us know if you can make it!!

Autumn is one of the best times to be in Brown County, so you may want to plan on staying over in Nashville. The club does not have any rooms reserved, but you may be able to stay at either the Seasons (812-988-2284) or at the Brown County Inn (812-988-2291).



Treading the Trail Towards Tidy Tires

by Rick "Mr. Detail" Morris

One of the most time-consuming, and potentially frustrating, steps in getting your Miata looking really spiffy is getting the wheels and tires to look just the way you want them to. Looking around in any parking lot will usually reveal several unsuccessful attempts, ranging from cars that have never had their wheels and tires cleaned well, on up through the polyurethane look, where you can see your reflection in the tire surface. It doesn't have to be that complicated, but you do need to prepare yourself for some experimentation to get the results you want.

The first step is to get your wheels and tires completely clean. This means getting all the brake dust, road dirt and other mysterious substances off the wheels and tires. I have had really good luck using Castrol Super Clean for this step. It's a good all-purpose cleaner and degreaser and is available almost everywhere. The only caveat is to not get it on your paint. It won't do any long-term damage, but it will strip off any wax you may have on the car. Spray the wheels and tires thoroughly and then let it set for a minute or so. Next, use a natural bristle wheel brush (the plastic bristled brushes scratch) and energetically scrub the wheel and tire. Make sure you get inside the tire lettering and inside the bead on the outside of the rim. Rinse repeatedly and wash the wheel and tire with whatever you are using to wash the car with. I generally wash the car first and then clean the tires as the final step. Dry the wheels and tires with a towel.

Now that you have the wheels and tires clean, you may want to clean the wheels with some kind of wheel cleaner. This always seems like a lot of work to me, so I only do it about twice a year. I have had good results with Mother's Mag and Aluminum polish, but there are probably others that work as well. The main thing to remember is that if you clean the wheels regularly, the extra work of polishing the wheels won't be needed very often.

The last step is to apply some kind of dressing to the tires. This is where the experimentation comes in. I have found that different tires respond differently. For example, I have had really good results with Meguiar's Endurance on my tires (Yokohama AVS). The stuff really does last a long time, and a little experimentation will give you the gloss level

you are after. The Endurance does not work well at all on my roommate's Toyo T1's. I could never get the appearance I wanted, and it would only last a few days. The net result is that I have settled on Vinylex for use on both of our Miatas. It seems to give us the appearance that I want and lasts a couple of weeks before it needs to be re-applied. Vinylex also has the added advantage of being the best treatment I have found so far for the dash, top and boot cover.

The trick for any of the tire dressings I have tried seems to be to make sure that you get it applied evenly to the entire surface of the tire. This generally seems to mean using less than you think is necessary and massaging it in thoroughly. The best tool I have found for this job is a washcloth. Apply the Vinylex to the washcloth and then wipe the tire with the washcloth, making sure to spread the dressing out evenly. If you end up with more gloss than you want, you can take some of the gloss out by wiping the tire with a damp towel after the dressing has dried.

Remember, for best results, make sure your rubber is clean and dressed!

(Mr. Detail spends way too much time on keeping two Miatas looking good, but his room mate really appreciates it.)

A Special Thanks To MS Ralliers

by Beth McCoy

Although the "Drive Against MS" Rally was not a club sponsored event, several Indy Miata Club members participated and contributed. I would like to thank Millard and Jane Johnson, who came in first place on the rally; Gary and Kathy Collings, who came in 2nd place in the rally; Stephanie and Vince Brooks, new members who drove 21/2 hours from Goshen to join us; Chuck & Teresa Wills; Chris Poglth; Rick Morris, Phil Chambers, Barb Gentry, Steve Chase, and Sara McBride.

If I'm leaving anyone out, I apologize. A very special thanks to Shane Benson from AIM, who donated some really cool T-shirts, Speedway Mazda and Sara McBride for donating prizes from RCA and Miata vendors.

Without all of you, the event would not have been so successful. You are all very special people. May God bless you!

Mazda Offers New Miata Colors

Mazda recently announced the return of yellow to its Miata lineup plus a new blue. "Vivid Yellow" and "Laser Blue Mica" are part of the Mazda's "Custom Order" program for the Miata. There is an additional charge of \$150.00 for these special colors. The new Custom Order program opened to the general public September 13, 2001 and ends October 15, 2001, or until production availability limits are reached, which ever comes first.

Visit <http://www.mazdausa.com>, your local participating dealer, or you can call the Miata Custom Order Program Headquarters at 1-877-588-2743 for more information.

New Members

A hearty welcome to our new members. We hope to see you and your Miatas at an event soon.

Chris 'Hutch' & Janet Hutcheson
Donald and Claudia Miller
Steve and Tracie Ollsnamer
Julia Parrish
Jennifer and Bob Wasson



Rock 'N Roll Fright Night

On the evening of **Saturday, October 20th**, we dare you to venture out in your Miatas. Only those dressed in their favorite rock star garb will be allowed in. Come prepared with your favorite dish...we will provide the meat of choice (hotdogs) and the buns. You may also bring your spirit of choice.

It will be a spooky night by the bonfire and the telling of ghost stories is required.

There will be a hayride, a lip sync contest (please bring your favorite CDs), a costume contest, and many fun games will be played.

The night of terror will take place and Bob & Diane Dix. The Dixs and the McCoys host this event, and you know how tricky we can be!

Directions: From 31 (Meridian). Turn left on 38. Go to Sheridan (you will see a John Deere Building) and turn left on 47. The Dix farm is 3 miles on the right....brick house with 2 barns. **10176 E. SR 47.** From 421 (Michigan). Turn right on 47, and their house will be on the left.

Please e-mail or call me (Beth McCoy) at 317-485-7167, or MiataMePink@aol.com to let me know what you are bringing. We need liters of sodas, salads, chips, desserts, paper plates, napkins, paper cups, etc. **DO NOT DRINK & DRIVE!!!!** Have a designated driver, or your keys will be taken away. The Indy Miata Club, including its Event Masters are not responsible for any injury resulting from this event! If you need additional information on directions, please e-mail Bob Dix at Farmerbob6@juno.com.



Mail entry form to: **Beth McCoy, 16331 E. 101st St. Fortville, IN 46040**
(Make check for \$7.00, payable to The Indy Miata Club)

Cut here and mail



Driver _____ Passenger _____

Food Item _____

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 clam arising from my participation in this event. All entries must be signed.

Driver's signature _____

Sale! Sale! Sale!



10th Anniversary T-shirt



Logos for Polo Shirt
Cars on left front
Club logo on sleeve

We have some shirts, both T's and Polos remaining for sale. For the next three months, we'll be selling these for a discounted price. Check our web site at <http://members.aol.com/indymiata/index.htm> for color photos of the shirts. (merchandise page) The T shirts are now just \$8.00! And the Polos are just \$15.00 each.

Here is the inventory we have as of 9-24-01
POLOS = 4 XXL, 7 L, 8 M
ASH T's = 5 L, 1 XL
WHITE T's = 4 XXL, 17 L, 21 XL

I will do purchases by mail, please include enough for shipping. \$3.50 priority mail for 1 shirt. First come, first serve on the short quantity sizes. Make checks payable to :
Indy Miata Club

Mail to: Bob Wiley
5857 Oberlies Way
Plainfield, In. 46168

Shirts will be available at the Holiday party.



October 6 - Huber Winery Tour

2001 Club Event Schedule

September 29 - F1 mingle. Meet at the Dog 'N Suds on West 86th Street to meet Miata folk from all over the globe who are in town for the Formula 1 race.

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

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.



The Indy Miata Hotline number is 317-767-5234