



# Open Road



Volume 12

Issue 9

The Official Newsletter of the Indy Miata Club

September 2001



## Chuck Wills, VP, Indy Miata Club

### What's Inside

#### Page 2

Officer Listing.  
Run For the "Cold"!

#### Page 3

"Drive Against MS"  
entry form.

#### Page 4

Can't See the Forest  
rally review.

#### Page 5

"Sundae" review.  
Northern Exposure.  
Huber Winery tour.

#### Page 6

How to plan a rally.

#### Page 7

Just Shoot Me! II -  
entry form.

First off, I'd like to start this column with some well deserved thank-you's:

Thank you Steve, for giving me the front page for a month or two while you get ready for Daddy-hood. Given the choice between dirty diapers and an editorial deadline and I'll take the deadline.

Second, thanks to the co-rally masters and participants in the "Can't See the Forest For the Trees" Rally. Thanks to the dedication and efforts of Rick, Sara and Chris, we had great event. I think we all would agree that the toughest part of organizing the event was trying to find good roads that Jim Barrick hadn't used in one of his rallies. Thanks again, everyone!

Now, a question for all of you. Is your Miata slightly mangled? Is your baby bent? If you are like me, your Miata probably has its share of door dings and dents. I am going to try to get a group rate from one of the paintless dent removal experts in Indy (like Dr. Dent) and have them attend one of our upcoming rallies to do dent removal while we wait. If you would like to participate, please let me know. I will need to tell the dent removal folks how many are interested in the service. If you think you might be interested, please call or e-mail me ASAP so we can get this organized before the snow flies. E-mail me at [cwills@iei.net](mailto:cwills@iei.net) or call me at 317-291-5563.

I now want to call everyone's attention to an addiction that seems to be sweeping the Indy Miata community. This phenomenon is more addictive than heroin and plants a huge grin on your face for weeks on end.... and it's legal!

I'm talking about taking your car out on the big track. These events go by several names - drivers training, lapping days, track events -- but they are all basically the same thing. The opportunity to drive your Miata to its potential (and your potential) in a safe, controlled environment.

I did my first track event in 1988 and have been addicted ever since. There is truly no feeling quite like powering down the front straight at full throttle and drifting through turn one. Ahh... I love the smell of hot brakes in the morning!

I'm really happy to say that there are some Indy Miata folks that have taken the plunge and attended a driver education event at Putnam Park Road Course over the summer. Sara McBride and Jay Hofacker attended a drivers school put on by Hikari - it was a two day event with instructors that ride along to help learn the limits of you and your car. Chris Poglitch, Bruce Myrehn and I did several Friday evening events put on by Motorsports Drivers Club.

For those that have not yet experienced the thrill of the big track, here are some common questions and the answers:

Q: Is it safe?

A: YES! It's really safer than driving on 465. This is a very controlled atmosphere with everyone driving in a quick, but predictable manner. There are no cell phones, trucks or drunks to distract you, just a few other cars on the track. Everyone watches out for everyone else and drives courteously. There is generally plenty of runoff room in case someone goes off course. Speed does not equal danger because no one is ever pushed to go faster than they are comfortable with.

Q: Won't it hurt my car?

A: Probably not. It will scuff some rubber off of your tires and shorten the life of your brake pads by a few thousand miles, but that's about it. It's about as hard on the car as a days worth of auto-crossing. As long as your driving style isn't harsh, a track event is not abusive to your car at all. In my opinion, every

