



Open Road



Volume 13 Issue 4

The Official Newsletter of the Indy Miata Club

April 2002

Four Wheel Drift...

Chuck Wills
President
Indy Miata Club

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Last month at the end of my article I promised to tell the difference between a guibo and a CV joint. Being a man of my word, here goes:

Guibo: (GWEE-bow): a flex joint, often made of rubber, that joins two shafts at their ends and allows a certain degree of misalignment or "flexing" while the shafts spin. Guibo's are often used on drive shafts.

CV Joint: (SEE-VEE-joint): Short for "constant velocity joint" - a mechanical coupling made up of collars and bearings that allows shafts to run at an angle to one another, or nonparallel, and continue turning at the same speed. Often used in drive axles of Miata's.

Whew, I'm glad I got that off my chest. And now for some good news. Rather than my usual miscellaneous ramblings, I'm actually going to talk about club activities this month! Yeah! We have got a very exciting line up of events and happenings.

Announcement #1: Membership Drive. This is going to be a competition starting right now and ending at our June Rally. The idea is to enlist as many new members as you can between now and then. There is a new Membership Form with this newsletter. Grab that form, and at the bottom of the front page is a spot that says "referring member". Print your name there. Now photocopy this form several hundred times and put a copy under the wiper blade of EVERY MIATA YOU SEE. If you see a Miata driving down the road, I suggest you wait until it stops before you try and tag it, but that's up to you. When this new prospective member sends in the form, you will be counted as the referring member and you will get 1 point. Whomever has the most points by mid June will be the winner. So get out now and start tagging cars!

The Grand Prize for bringing in the most new members is a \$50 gift certificate to the restaurant of your choice. This will be presented at the June rally event. (you don't have to be present to win, but it sure wouldn't be a bad idea to be there... otherwise I might pick the restaurant for ya). I will have many copies of the membership flyer at every Miata Club event. Feel free to make your own copies, just please note that this is a two-sided form. Look on page two for more rules.

Announcement #2: The Rally Master Handbook is ready! This is a step-by-step guide to running a successful club event. We are going to make it available on-line as well as in hard copy. See Rick or Chuck at any club event for your copy. If you ever thought about organizing your own rally, this is the book for you. Get yours today!

Announcement #3: The return of AIM TECH DAY! You may have been to previous Tech Sessions at AIM (Advanced Import Motorsports), but this one will be seriously different. Due to a scheduling problem, we've had to postpone our visit to AIM, but the new date will be announced soon.

There have been many changes at AIM in the past few months, and this will be a perfect time to see what's going on and have some great Miata fellowship. This is going to be so big, we are inviting all Miata enthusiasts from all the surrounding clubs. Stay tuned next month for more details, but here a sampling of what we have in store for you:

Dyno Testing!!!: See how much ground-pounding horse power your fire breathing Miata can muster! (Or see what your bone stock Miata can do!

Shop Tour: AIM has nearly doubled in size and added fancy new equipment, come see it in action!

Ladies Tech Session: For ladies only, this will cover basics like changing a flat, general maintenance and an open Q/A session. We know you've been curious about it!

On-line Store: AIM will be unveiling their brand new on-line parts store. Everything you ever wanted for your Miata, just a mouse click away! And much, much more! We are just putting the finishing touches on this, but lets just say it is going to be one special event. Check the next issue of the Open Road or the club web site for the date of this great event.



Zoom-Zoom to page 2

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From Page 1

Stay tuned to next months newsletter for more big announcements, including an update in the membership drive competition. In the mean time, just remember friends, "you ain't really goin' fast 'till all 4 tires are screamin'!"

The More Miatas, The Merrier! Basic rules for the Membership Drive....

Here's how our membership drive functions -- find the Indy Miata Membership Form in this newsletter and do the following:

1. Locate the line at the bottom "referred by", and print you name there.
2. Copy this form (front and back) as many times as you can and keep them with you at all times.
3. When ever you see a Miata, stop and place one of the forms under their wiper blade.

The object of the game is to tag as many cars as possible prior to the June rally. When the New Member forms come in, we will note who the referring member was and give that person 1 point. Whomever has the most points by the June rally will win a \$50 gift certificate to their favorite restaurant!

We will have plenty of these forms available at each Indy Miata Club event, so be sure to ask for extras!

Disclaimers:

- ~ If the Miata is parked in someone's garage, we suggest you ring the doorbell rather than breaking and entering.
- ~ Be sure the car is stopped prior to tagging it
- ~ Tagging your own car does not count.
- ~ Don't bother tagging cars sitting at the Mazda dealer - we've already taken care of that and dealer referrals are not included in the grand prize calculations.

Join the Windy City Miata Club at French Lick

Are you ready to drive some great Miata roads? Are you ready to relax and unwind at a resort & spa? Ready for two three day weekends in a row? Then join the Windy City Miata Club for the "French Lick Springs Resort & Spa, Indiana Tour" the weekend after Memorial Day -- Friday, May 31 through Sunday, June 2.

There will be a do-what-you-want-to-do-day, Saturday, at the resort and spa! Get a massage. Play golf, tennis, bowl, ride a horse, or take a horse-drawn carriage ride. Ride a vintage train or see the 8th architectural wonder of the world. Or just do nothing but sleep, read and walk. Complete details on the Indy Miata Club web site under 'other Miata links'. Several Indy Club members have signed up! The deadline to sign up is April 30, so don't miss out.

Information can be found at http://www.friarscove.com/French_Lick_IN_Tour.htm or write Phil Lnaders, 227 N Baynard Rd, Addison, IL 60101.

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!

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.

Miatas, Minglin', and Music at the Noodle

by Chuck Wills

Have you ever wanted to go to Memphis? The home of Blues Bar-BQ and The King? Well, if you haven't been, it's worth the trip. There is no other place in the world like Beale street - one blues club after another and the smell of sweet bar-BQ in the air. The problem is it's a good 8 hour drive from Indy.

The solution to this dilemma is The Slippery Noodle Inn -- the oldest bar in Indy and the finest blues club between Memphis and Chicago. They may not have bar-b-q, but the hot and spicy music more than makes up for it.

On March 16 (St Patrick's Day), we held the Mid-Month-Miata Club-Mingle at "the Noodle". I had listed this as a "non-event" because there was really no planning involved. Just show up and look for a familiar face, order a beer and enjoy the tunes.

When I arrived, Rick and Sara had beat me there and they were chatting with Jay Hofacker. The band hadn't started yet so we just hung out and talked about cars and club stuff. Just before the band started we were joined by Eric Drumright and the one-and-only Teresa Turbo. Ms. Turbo had just out-run the cops and had ducked into the club for cover. Then Shane and Sara Benson came by and helped us with a few pitchers of green beer.

Did I say there was no Bar-B-Q at The Noodle? I was wrong, because then the band took the stage -- "Smokehouse Dave and the Barbecue Kings". Having won the Naptown Blues Contest, they were just back from the International Blues Competition in Memphis. They had finished in the top ten in that competition, going up against bands from all over the world and as far away as Singapore.

We were not disappointed. The band was hot and Smokehouse Dave's voice was like warm whisky and honey - smooooth! They did some standards like "Red House" and "Rock me Baby" along with my new personal theme song "I got the keys to the highway". I've heard BB King do that tune, and Smokehouse Dave did



it every bit as well. I can't say enough about that band. If you like the blues even a little bit, it's worth it to find where they are playing and take in a show. They were so good in fact, I got up and danced! (either an indication of good music or good beer... maybe both!)

Between the music, atmosphere and good company, I can't imagine a better evening. We had such a great time, before we knew it the band was doing their final song for the night -- an encore of "Rock me Baby". I think we all enjoyed it so much, we may do more "non-events" like this. See ya at "The Noodle" "cause "Dis-is-it!"

"There's a Miata car over yonder, an' it's what my baby drives. She got her foot to the floor, and I be beggin' for a ride!" (Original lyrics by "the Prez".)

Miata Owners Club (MOC) News

The Miata Owners Club was created for Miata enthusiasts and is sponsored by Mazda North American Operations (MNAO). MNAO's principal goal is to serve as "facilitator" to enhance member benefits and provide support to local Miata Clubs. The Club is committed to providing outstanding benefits and value to their members.

Your \$29 annual member dues provide these great benefits:

- Six issues of Miata Magazine
- \$30 Mazda Genuine Accessories Rebate
- Exclusive Miata Auto Insurance
- Special Club Events
- Personalized Member ID Card, Club Decal , a Zoom-Zoom Sticker and more.

And now, MOC and Mazda have just announced a new benefit for MOC members. Participating dealers will now offer a 20% discount on parts and service to MOC members. The program is new as of March 5th so many dealers maybe in process. Feel free to contact your local dealer and encourage them to participate!

Go to: <http://www.miataownersclub.com/> for more information and to see which dealers in your area have already signed up.

No internet access? Here's their address: Miata Owners Club, PO Box 910164, San Diego, Ca 92191

Have You Seen This?

The center brake light, being mounted on the tru higher shock impulses than any other bulb on yc filament tends to have a much shorter life. Check



Installing a Flyin' Miata Flywheel

by Chris J. Poglitsch

This review brought to you by Coleman space heaters, Eddie Bauer thermal underwear, and great friends like Melissa Forbes and Chuck Wills, for without these things, I'd still be freezin' my frazzle off with no one to co-misserate with! Happy Motoring!

I recently put in a new OEM clutch and Flyin' Miata Fidanza 9lb flywheel in my Miata. There are plenty of articles on miata.net on how to do this. Here are some important notes that the articles didn't talk about:

- 1. MOST IMPORTANT. No one on the net told me the 4 wires on top of the transmission, even when unplugged, might get caught up. As I was bench-pressing the transmission off the engine and onto the ground, I broke two of these, and it slowed me down making an extension harness for it. *Que Peligro mis Amigos!***
- 2. Off the ground.** If you're doing this in your garage, sans lift and power tools, put the car far enough off the ground so that you can roll around underneath. For me this was about 25".
- 3. 2 Liter bottles.** Get an empty, put the cap back on, it's now a headrest for when you're on your back, looking at a bell housing and wondering what possessed you to do this in the first place. This trick will save neck muscle strain.
- 4. Rust Eater.** Ask for it by name. I took my entire exhaust system off. I understand one need not remove the header, but I did so anyway. If these bolts are rusted to beat the band, buy a can of Rust Eater; it'll make your world a much happier place.
- 5. Liquid Wrench.** See above.
- 6. Light.** I own one halogen 500 watt, and borrowed another from Chuck. This is an absolute necessity, don't work in the dark.
- 7. Heat.** Don't be miserable, the job is tough enough by hand. Borrow/rent/buy portable heaters if your space isn't heated. It's easier to attract help if you tell them it's a heated garage.
- 8. Latex exam gloves,** They're worth the price. No one wants to shake or kiss hands that have grease and oil on them. Keeps your finger nails clean. No one wants to get handed an open can of beer when you just popped the top with a grimy fingernail.
- 9. Cursing** Fortunately Melissa didn't mind it, and was actually amused by the manner in which I used it. A good example of us in my 10' X 20' garage would be "This !@#% Bolt, Son of a !@#\$^\$ the !@#%^\$ thing won't come off. *Uh, pardon me my dear, would you be so kind as to pass me the driver and 17mm socket? Thank you.* Now you, you son of a bastages Mother, I'll get you, you !@#%^\$". Point is, if you have it in you to cuss, don't invite your pastor to help you with this job.

I work on my car because I dig it. I'm a DIY tinkerer kind of guy, who takes serious pride and joy in knowing that if the car breaks, I broke it. It makes me feel capable and I get the bragging rights. Sometimes, when I work on my car, it is by the Grace of God and some luck that I don't foul things up pretty good. On this particular job, I worked on it at my leisure; I did it after work when I felt like it, and on the weekends, when I felt like it. It took me 5 weeks to finish this job.

On the other hand, AIM, nestled in gasoline alley, has a lift. They have 2 lifts. Your car will be done in I'm guessing three days **at the max.** I have a second car, if you don't have a second car, it's worth it to pay someone to do this for you.

How does it feel? The engine feels freer, the car accelerates much quicker, and with the blower on it, it's gonna go like a scolded dog out the back door. For me there have been no downsides. The car idles as if the flywheel were stock, I have not stalled it even once, and heel-toe downshifting has been even easier than it was before. I highly recommend this mod. Pricey, but well worth it.

Dear Mr. Gates!

Steve and Cathy Asay read of Chuck's struggles with his computer (February Open Road) and sent this photo and message:

Sir,
This is a M-I-A-T-A.
Eat your heart out!

The picture was taken in the Smokeys on a three day weekend. They took off with the sun shining and top down. Three days and 1,350 miles later they returned home with the top still down. ZOOM-ZOOM!!



Spring Cleaning Time!

by Dr. Detail

Just like your house, it's time to get ready for the car's spring cleaning. Even though it's getting warmer, it's probably not going to get warm enough during April to get a coat of wax on the car, although I would really like to. On the other hand, it will be a good month to do some of the really anal things that we probably won't take time to do during the summer. Summer is for driving as much as we can. Here's a list of things that will keep you busy for a couple of hours or a complete afternoon.

Cleaning the Engine Compartment – this is something I was pretty much forced to do last summer, since the previous owner of the car had it Zeibarted, and there was a boatload of overspray throughout the engine bay. The usual method is to take it to the coin-op car wash and just spray it out. That can lead to water leaks around the spark plugs if you're not careful, so I chose another approach. I used Castrol Super Clean, carefully sprayed around the engine compartment *after* the engine had cooled down. I just sprayed carefully around and then wiped it off with a towel and then did a pseudo rinse with a wet towel and dried it. It turned out well and I didn't have to worry about leaks.

Cleaning under the Kickplates – if you have replaced your standard plastic kickplates with some nifty stainless steel ones, you will need to remove the new plates and clean under them once in a while. This is a good place for rust to get started. When you reinstall the plates, you can attach them with good double sided tape and the supplied screws. (My super anal room mate says it's a good idea to do this with plastic door sills also!)

Clean out the Trunk – while you sleep, gremlins break in to the trunk of your car leave all kinds of dirt, candy wrappers, shopping bags and other detritus. Now is a good time to completely empty the trunk and give a thorough vacuum and general cleaning. You might find the missing screwdriver and those socks that got lost in the dryer.

Rain-X – it's always a good time to freshen up the Rain-X on the windshield and the headlights, especially with the April showers that bring the May flowers.

Wheel Wells – if your car has been driven through the winter like mine has, take it to the coin-op car wash and thoroughly clean out the wheel wells. You will be surprised how much crud have accumulated, even with the mild winter we have had. A good rinse gets rid of most of it, and you can help the process along with Castrol Super Clean.

Spark Plug Wires – if you haven't replaced your plug wires for a couple of years or more, now would be a good time to do it. Sara has the NGK wires and she says they help a bit. (Of course, she thinks adding a Voodoo shift knob added 5hp to her car.)

Carpet and Floor Mats – It's amazing how much stuff you can track into the car, even if you're careful. If your carpet and mats seem to have done a color shift, maybe it's time to think about a real carpet cleaning job. Vacuum thoroughly and then use one of the readily available home shampoo products.

Shhh! It's A Surprise!

Chuck's Special Rally...

Due to the move of the AIM tech day event from the May calendar, our fearless leader has stepped up and is planning a fill-in rally for May. Called "Chuck's Surprise Rally" it is scheduled for May 19th. Yes, a Sunday. Several club members indicated that they were unable to make Saturday rallies due to work and other conflicts, so here's a chance to rally!

Chuck promises it won't be a toughie, possibly a VIP tour of the city. He promises to let us know more details in next month's Open Road.

Classifieds

For Sale

Selling my 1999 5 speed. Our family has grown to six and our poor Miata is not getting the road time it deserves. Red with black top. CD/AM/FM. PW and AC. 16,900 miles. Excellent shape. I have all maintenance records. Always garaged and covered. \$ 15,900.
Call Tamera (317) 841-3106 or e-mail: TDElam@aol.com

For Sale

1990, 5-speed trans with 84,000 miles, make offer
Trailer Hitch for 1990-1997, \$50.00
Manual mirrors off 1990, white, \$30.
Call Don Weiler at 317- 862-2473 or email: dmiata@iquest.net

You can receive updated information for Indy Miata club events at the club website - <http://members.aol.com/indymiata/> or you can call our Hotline number at 317-767-5234.

We rarely cancel or delay an event, but a call never hurts!

Music for A Great All Day Miata Drive, Pt. 2

by Phredd

Editor's note: Continued from April. Phredd is a prolific poster on the Miata.net mailing list. A question was posed recently about what would be good driving music. Phredd responded and has graciously given us permission to reprint his remarks here.

Continuing our Musical drive...

Number 12 ought to be something like "Perdido" by Dave Brubeck. The long version from one of his great 50's sides. I can't remember which one at the moment. I think it's from the '58 Newport Jazz Festival. But that's not important. What is, is that you're about to be laid upon by about 20 minutes of the most creative and cooperative music ever produced by a piano, sax, base and drums. And, it's drivin' sounds in the bargain.

There's no doubt where to go next. You're flat out on that wide, black ribbon taking you toward the hills that are dissembling the city where you sleep. Your little four-banger is putting out a fifth gear continuum matching perfectly that which is provided by the drum line in #13; Ahmad Jamal's classic "Poinciana."

As you begin your climb back into the black hills that form the divide between the valley and the city — reentering the twisties that earlier got you out to the flats, you realize that you've already had much excitement for the day. Time to chill out and just enjoy the coolness of the road without quite so much incremental gravity. What you need is some cool music that take as you smoothly up and down the knobs and around the switchbacks. For this, I have to recommend that you hook yourself onto some Vibraphonics. Selections #14, #15, and #16, then, would be sundry cuts from Lionel Hampton, The Modern Jazz Quartet, and The George Shearing Quintet.

When you get to the apogee of the divide, pull into a scenic overlook and switch off. The CD deck, that is. Leave your engine to provide an 850rpm reminder of the day's events, the residuum to come, and to keep the temps relatively even. Walk over to the overlook, give your Squeeze a

squeeze, survey the mini-Milky Way below, and reflect upon the memorialization of this day still to come. Back behind the Nardi. Now you need something to bring you down. There's only one choice. #17 is Miles Davis' immortal, "Kind Of Blue." Play the whole thing. "So What." "Freddie Freeloader." The incredible "All Blues." Davis will mute the music — you must remember to mute the momentum — along with downshifting and reacceleration, of course.

As the last strains of "Flamenco Sketches" drift away, you should be out of the hills and beginning to get into the lights and a bit of traffic. Take a break and enjoy your engine and your ability to trap big, powerful machines in tight places behind you simply because your car is nimble and not too big. Keep an eye peeled for the city limits because, as soon as you see the "Welcome To Metropolis" sign, you hit the button for your last selection of the trip; #18 -- The Best Of The Platters.

BTW, did I mention that CDs sound better in God's Colored Miatas?

Keep the Revs up!

aim

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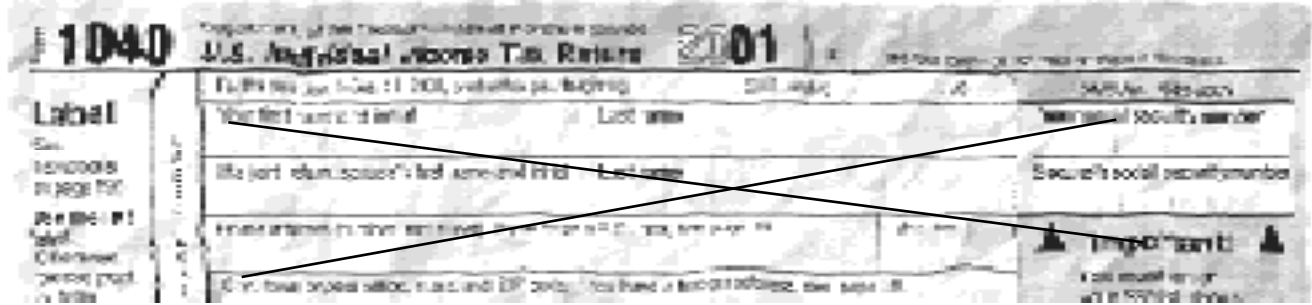
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SYNTHETIC OIL



April brings spring rain, income tax forms, and the Post Tax Blues Rally.

Once again, the Indy Miata and the Lake Effect Miata clubs are teaming up for the first big driving rally of the season, starting in Lafayette this year and ending in Logansport. Your rally masters have planned a Poker Run, so the driver can keep their eyes on the road and the navigator can concentrate solely on getting to the next turn. Don Naglicht from Lake Effect, and Sara J McBride from Indy Miata, have been busy scouting out new roads, old roads, eating establishments, and have an exciting event mapped out. This is a rain or shine event, last year's PTBR was a top down day, so with luck, we'll all be wearing Miata grins!

On Saturday, April 20th, we'll start the rally at the McDonalds on Indiana 43, just north of the 178 exit on I-65 at 10:00. Drivers meeting is at 10:30, with first car off at 11:00. Again, this is a poker run, so no looking for obtuse answers to questions. (Didn't you have enough of that on your 1040 form?) Enjoy the road and enjoy the day!

We'll be eating at Jake's East, a family style restaurant in Logansport. They will open up at 2:00pm just for us, it will be a buffet style meal, and we'll have the place to ourselves until 4:00pm.

Lake Effect Members can contact Don for information on caravanning down to the starting point. Indy club members can meet at 8:45 at the Dog 'n Suds (Not the Sonic!) drive-in on West 86th street (just east of I-465 on the westside) departing at 9:00am. Indy members can call Sara at 317-291-8993 or e-mail : saraj@dustbunny.com.

The entry fee is \$7.00 for pre registered cars, \$10.00 day of event. Don't delay, send in your entry form now, mark April 20th on your calendar and we'll see you there!

Mail your Check (made out to Lake Effect Miata Club) and sign entry form to:

Don Naglich
 910 Crabapple Lane
 Valparaiso, IN 46383 _____

Driver: _____

Please Print

Navigator: _____

Please Print

I understand that this is not a speed contest and i agree to participate at my own risk. I agree to hold the Indy Miata Club, Lake Effect Miata Club, their officers, and event organizers harmless from any claim arising from my participation in this event.

Driver: _____

Date: _____

All entries must be signed and dated to participate in this event.

Post Tax Blues Rally - April 20th

2002 Club Event Schedule

April 20th - Post Tax Blues Rally
Event with the Lake Effect Club

April 27 - AIM Open House

May 19th - Chuck's Surprise
Rally

May Mingle - Open

May 30 - Windy City French Lick
Tour (see page 2)

June 15th - Peach Cobbler Rally
- Rally Masters - Morris and
McBride

June Mingle - Aim Tech Day
(Date will be announced in May
Open Road)

July 13th - Movies at Mel's
Drive-In - Gary and Kathy
Collings

July 20th - 9th Annual
Fussin' and Cussin' Rally!
Rally Masters: Bob Wiley and
Steve Jacobson

August - Speed Racer's
Go_Kart Challenge
August Mingle - Ice Cream
Cruise and Mingle
Event Master: Bob Wiley

September 7th - Regional event in
Cincinnati

September Mingle - Open Date

October 19th - Huber Wine Tour
Event Masters: Chuck & Turbo
Teresa Wills

October Mingle - Open

November - Open Event Date

November Mingle - Open

December - Annual Holiday Party