



Volume 13
Issue 11
November 2002

What's Inside

- Page 2**
Dinner Meeting
Information.
- Page 3**
Huber Winery Tour.
- Page 4**
Salvage Yard Trip.
- Page 5**
MOC Disbands.
Dr. Detail.
- Page 6**
Huber Tour Photos.
- Page 7**
Classifieds.



Four Wheel Drift... by Chuck Wills, President

Greetings to all from Indy Miata Headquarters. As winter approaches, I hope all of you are readying your cars for the cold – snow tires, new anti freeze and maybe some new wiper blades. If you are lucky, a hard top, or if you are REALLY lucky a car cover and a second car for the bad weather.

We at Indy Miata HQ are busy readying our custom built environmentally controlled garage for the impending winter season. It's pretty easy, really. Just a matter of switching on the dual ceiling mounted heaters and making sure the overhead doors are tuned up. You see, it's a little known perk of being a Club officer – we get to use the club headquarters as our own personal “tree house”. Along with the eight bay garage with in-ground lifts and indoor car wash, we've got a heated lap pool, sauna and espresso bar. These are manned 24 hours per day by a masseuse, Ingrid. And you thought your club dues paid for nothing!

I'm letting you in on this secret because I'm giving YOU an opportunity to join our secret society of Club Officers. You may think it sounds rather unglamorous, but there's really much more than meets the eye. If you become an officer, you get unlimited access to the “Club Treehouse” (garage), personal use of our lot-boy/gopher Trevor, and a velour smoking jacket with the club logo embroidered on the chest. But wait there's more! You also get the feeling of power, knowing that you make the decisions on club activities and content. Ever want to have a real live ego trip? Now's your chance!

In all seriousness, now is the time to think of the club leadership for the next year. Elections will be held at the December Christmas party, so the time for nominations is at hand. None of the positions require an MBA or even a GED. It's just a matter of spending an hour or two a month making sure the club business is attended to – checking the calendar and maybe writing an article for the newsletter. Piece of cake! Do you remember the old Smokey the Bear commercials? “Only YOU can prevent forest fires”. It's true, and “Only YOU can make a contribution to the club” with your time and talents. Our club runs so well because we've got a great team at the helm and great members ready to participate. We need this to continue next year and I need you to pitch in and do it (yes, I'm talking to YOU!)

I have been thrilled with the amount of new members that have joined the club this year. Even if you are new, we would love to nominate you for a position in the club. It's open season on offices, so if you want to be a part, just say the word. Or, if you know someone that you think would make a good officer, just nominate them!

If you don't know, the officer positions are: VP, Newsletter Editor, Treasurer and Membership Director. The VP automatically becomes the President, so Rick has that post wrapped up for 2003.

There is one last job that is more important than any other: Rally Master. We need members to plan events for next year. There are many folks that have experience in planning club events, and they will be willing to help any new folks put together an event of their own. I think I can speak for Rick, Sara and myself when I say, “If you come up with a rally idea, we'll help you organize it!” All it takes is an idea! Without Rally Masters, the monthly events, or lack thereof, will be very boring.

EVENT ALERT! Our November dinner will be a planning and discussion session for the next year. If you want to have a voice in things or have your opinion heard, please come to the dinner. We'll discuss officers job descriptions, elections and event planning for next year. On top of that, we'll have the usual camaraderie among our club friends and some mighty good grub. I hope to see everyone on November 10th (Sunday night) (Look further in the newsletter for more dinner details)

Also, get ready for the annual Holiday Party. It's right around the corner on December 15th (Sunday afternoon). At the beginning of my term of office, a longtime member mentioned that he liked to see the different personalities of the Officers come out in the types of events we have. Looking back, I can see that. Each holiday party has been a little different and has reflected well upon the officer's style.

Bearing that in mind, our holiday party is going to be “a little different” this year. Country Clubs are very nice, but anyone that knows me will quickly realize that racing is in my heart. So, we're having our

2002 Club Contacts



President

Chuck Wills
8609 Woodbluff Ct.
Indpls, IN 46234
chuckwills@comcast.net



Vice- President

Rick Morris
4249 Springwood Ct.
Indpls., IN 46228
rick@dustbunny.com



Treasurer

Pat Metheaux
6430 Berwyn
Indpls, IN 46203
pmetheaux@aol.com



Membership Director

Barb Gentry
5379 Carnoustie Cir.
Avon, IN 46123
bmgentry1@juno.com



Tech Director

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



Club Founder/ Tech

Rich Hickle
317-347-9660
RTHickle123@aol.com



Website Editor

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



Open Road Editor

Sara J McBride
317-291-8993
miata@2cat.com

Continued from Page 1

party at Fastimes Indoor Karting. Before you think, "Hey, I don't race go-karts!", just hear me out. Fastimes has a very nice party room, and the whole place has a racing motif...rom the TV's showing Speed Channel, to the Indy car suspended from the ceiling. Fastimes also has on-site Italian catering and beer on tap. This is a very classy facility and you won't be disappointed. We will have the party room all to ourselves for the afternoon, and kart racing will be available for those that are interested (you must pay to drive). It should prove to be a very good time with a Miata Motorsport theme. Plus, you may get to watch me stuff a kart into the wall in turn ten!

Stay tuned for next month's newsletter, the last one of my administration. So look out for another story about the adventures of Teresa Turbo! In the mean time, keep the shiny side up!

November Dinner Meeting Details

Our event for November is a dinner at the Old County Buffet on the west side of Indy, 4873 W. 38th in the Georgetown Plaza (see map) at 6:00pm. Not only is this a chance to hang out with your Miata friends, it's also a chance to help plan events for next year, discuss officer job descriptions and talk about new things happening in the club. We will talk about nominations for officers and will start taking nominations that night (voting for officers will be at the holiday party in December).

Join us and remember, your opinion can't be heard if you're not there!



Fastimes Indoor Karting will be the site for the 2002 Holiday Party and elections on December 15th, 3 to 6 PM (Sunday afternoon). It's a very nice room, sized for about 150 people. They have on-site catering and a liquor license. Don't worry, it's much nicer than Johansson's! There are large windows that overlook the track so we can watch and cheer for anyone that cares to race. The address is 3455 Harper Rd, go east of North Keystone on 96th St., then turn south at Aronson Drive. Go a long block and look left at the "T" (Harper Dr.), there it is, right next to Woodlawn Bowl.

We'll have exclusive use of the dining room, and we'll have catered "heavy appetizers". The track will remain open to walk-in racer traffic, including us. (Renting the whole place was too expensive!!) This way, if anyone wants to race, they just need to bring their wallet. If you don't want to race, you can just hang out and eat and drink.

We'll plan on a similar format to last year, mingle and eat for a while, announcements and elections, and then the famous gift swap. Gifts should be in the \$10-15 range and may or maynot be Miata related.

Mark this event on your calenders now!

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 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.

Tour Spirits Not Dampened By Rain

The sun was bright and shining as we headed south of Indy, driving to Nashville, IN. We were meeting other club members for brunch and then heading south on the 4th annual Huber Winery Tour, hosted by Chuck and Teresa Wills. Clouds soon moved in, a light mist hit us, but nothing could dampen our spirits.

Seventy people showed up and immediately got to the business at hand, eating and talking. The largest turnout of the year included the Serwatkas and Bali's from northern Indiana and members of the Cincinnati Miata Club. Around 11:00, a driver's meeting was held and people readied their cars for the tour. Some brave souls dropped their tops, but most road with tops up and heaters on. Chris Poglitsch and Carol Roth acted as starters, sending cars off in 30 second intervals. Of course, the best laid plans.....things fell apart at the stop sign at the bottom of the hills as cars waited to turn onto SR46. Too many leaf peepers!

Once on the way, drivers and navigators were treated to some new roads and different sights. At one point, a compass would have shown we were heading north. Yes, there were lots of twists and turns! The leaves were colorful despite the dry summer we had, and were just peaking. As we drove through Vallonia, they were celebrating Fort Vallonia Days, cars parked alongside the road, hundreds of people walking around and a band was forming up for the parade.

The rain turned from a light mist to larger drops, and most of the cars that had started top down, pulled over and buttoned up. The Arbuckles were one car that drove the entire route top down!

After arriving at Huber's, we parked in our reserved parking area by the pond. Folks scattered to go through the farmer's market, grab a bite to eat and sample the wine. We eventually met under a tent outside the store and a drawing was held for "fabulous prizes". Normally, most of us would picnic by the pond, but only Eric and Ann unfolded their chairs under the large tree and opened a bottle of wine.

Folks were on their own in returning to their starting points, and as we headed north, we were greeted by the sun when we neared Indianapolis. Despite the rain, it was a good day shared by friends and their Miatas.



Chuck goes over directions in the Huber Tour drivers meeting.



Above: Al Jennings, Susan Koerner, Susie and Rick Booe enjoyed the brunch and conversation at the Seasons Lodge in Nashville.



Right: Damp roads didn't dampen the driving enthusiasm of the Tour drivers. Thrity plus cars, including this Mahogany Miata, made the trip.

When Bad Things Happen To Good Cars

by Sara J McBride

My mother has always said that I'm "easily entertained". As a small child, I could spend hours looking at things, be it a book, cereal box, machine or a tree. One of my childhood memories is going to the dump with my Dad, I considered it a fun time with all of the stuff to look at. Last summer I decided that I'd like to wander around a junk yard or as they are known today, a salvage yard. My stated purpose was to find a new driver's side seat for my car, but as I said before, I'll look at anything.

Brooklyn, Indiana, off of SR 67, is home to the Brickyard Imported Car Parts. This salvage yard is considered an 'import mecca' by some as they have almost every type of import car in their yard. One cool thing about the Brickyard is that they let you wander around the yard and look at the cars. Mike Selvy expressed an interest, so one afternoon, we jumped into his truck and headed south to Brooklyn.

We had basic instructions of how to get to the Brickyard, but it seems that every street sign in town had been stolen. We rolled by the police department and asked an officer how to find the Brickyard. I started by saying, "We're not from around here" and he said "Looking for the Brickyard?" and proceeded to give us directions. Obviously, the reason most people go to Brooklyn is to go to the Brickyard.

As we entered the Brickyard, there were acres of vehicles, all neatly aligned in rows. We spotted a Miata, so parked and began wandering. Despite its size, the Brickyard is organized, with the cars are lined up in areas by make. Volvo's are here, BMW's there, Mercedes over there, VW's in another spot, so once you find your desired brand, off you go.

Thankfully, there's just a few crashed Miata's in this yard. Most of them seemed to be crunched in the front, but as a friend remarked, it's not a pretty sight. These had been pretty much picked over, seats were gone, wheels were missing, and engines missing. They are not covered, but open to the elements. We looked around, didn't find much of interest to us and began wandering around looking at other cars. Saab's, Talon's, Toyota's, Audi's were all organized and most did not have engines.

We stopped and watched two guys taking parts off a Mercury Capri and toss the parts into a truck that was so beat up, I thought was part of the salvage yard. When they needed to get to a part on the bottom of the engine, a fork lift was used to lift the Capri into the air and then was gently placed back into its resting spot.

The most amazing part of the whole yard was a large storage shed. I looked into the gloom of the building a saw a pile of engines on the floor. We entered and then realized that this is where all the engines missing from the cars in the yard were stored. It was like the final scene of the original Indiana Jones movie, where they stored the ark among hundreds of other crates. There was a rack with three levels on each side of the building (which was a couple of hundred feet long) and it was full of engines on pallets. Two engines to a pallet with a tag for each engine with model and mileage. The pile of engines we saw may have been too damaged to be used.

Mike and I headed back to Indy without finding a replacement seat for my car, but what an interesting afternoon it turned out to be!



Above: Mike shows off a Miata gauge panel that he found just laying on the ground.

Below: Mike finds the lost engine graveyard down at the Brickyard.



Through The Plastic Clearly...

by Dr. Detail

If you have one of the earlier Miatas like I do, you have no doubt noticed that one of the prices we pay for having such a fun car is the furschligginer back plastic window. The owner's manual tells us to not use an ammonia-based cleaner on it, but most of the standard window cleaners have ammonia in them. The net result is that, after a while, we end up with a back window that is translucent at best and opaque at worst. I've always used Windex on my back window and it keeps it pretty clean, but the soft plastic eventually gets scratches in it just from normal daily use. Chuck Wills turned me on to a set of products that does a really good job of getting most of the scratches out and helps prevent new ones. These are the Novus Plastic Clean and Shine and the Novus Fine Scratch Remover. These are available at most larger car parts stores and at a lot of motorcycle shops. I've used these products on three cars so far and have been very happy with the results. This month, we're going to go through the procedure for using these products and give you some tips on keeping your plastic window looking great, or at least as it's likely to look.

The first step in any cleaning process, whether it's your car paint or the back window, is to get it as clean as possible. Clean both the inside and outside of the window with a good window cleaner, making sure to get it dry. Use a soft cotton towel or T-shirt for this step. Next, using a different small towel, apply the Fine Scratch Remover to the window. Be sure to rub it in thoroughly and evenly over the entire surface. Rub it in until it's dry and then remove the haze that forms with a different cotton towel. If your window is heavily scratched, it may take a couple of applications to get the results you want (they also make a Heavy Scratch Remover if things are completely out of hand). Repeat this process for the inside of the window. Regardless of how careful you are zipping the window in and out, it's going to accumulate some scratches. Plus, you've all ready got the tools out, so you might as well finish the job.

After you have used the scratch remover on both sides of the window, it's time to apply the polish. Spritz a small amount over the entire surface and then buff it in using another small cotton towel. The polish not only buffs up the surface of the plastic, it will also make it a lot slicker, so fine dust and other contaminants aren't as likely to stick to it. It's the same principle as putting wax on your car body. Be sure to do both sides of the window. I usually re-apply the polish every other time I wash the car to keep it looking good. It only takes a couple of minutes.

Now that the window looks great, here are a few tips to keep it looking that way. If you fastidiously unzip the window before putting your top down, it would be a good idea to invest in a window protector. This is an accessory that snaps on to the back deck using the same snaps that the boot does. It's a two-layer cloth device that has a soft inner layer. When you unzip the window, it lays inside the protector and stays cleaner and doesn't get nearly as many scratches as it would otherwise. You can get them from the usual on-line places for about \$30.

If you have a roll bar and can't unzip your window, you can still give the window some protection by investing in a pool noodle. These are things you can get at any discount store for about \$2.00. It is stiff enough to help keep the window from getting a crease in it when folded down. Sara and I wrapped ours in a pair of long tube socks to give some more protection against scratching. It helps a lot.

And remember, if your car is your daily driver, the colder it gets, the more fragile the back window becomes. Let's be extra careful with that scraper when removing snow and ice!

Keeping your rear window clean is like everything else. The hardest part is getting started.

Miata Owners Club Disbands

It was recently announced that the Mazda Team and the MOC Advisory Council have unanimously agreed to discontinue operations of the national Miata Owners Club. The club will continue to fulfill on existing memberships, but the renewal process has been stopped as of October 18, 2002. The Miata Owners Club will be phased out over the next year so that there is a smooth transition and will officially cease operations when the last membership expires.

Members will continue to receive some benefits such as the Miata Magazine subscription, the Mazda Genuine Accessories rebate, and the Preferred Dealer Network at participating dealerships until their membership expires. A prorated refund of your Miata Owner's Club membership is available. Call customer support at 1-800-968-4980.

Miata Magazine will now be offered by subscription with an annual subscription rate of \$19.95. You may subscribe by calling Miata Magazine at 1-877-227-6249.

Mazda plans to continue working closely with the Advisory Council, as the Council will be communicating with the local club base and playing a role in defining event sponsorship opportunities. They will also help with the phase-out of the national club to ensure Mazda fulfills on all existing obligations.

When Mazda made this announcement, they stated that they are still committed to continued support of the Miata community including event sponsorship and promotion of local clubs in various Mazda communications.

Miata Owner Club members can call Mazda at 1-800-968-4980 with any questions.

2002 Huber Winery Tour

You should have been there!



Southbound on SR135, these Miatas are enjoying both good roads and scenery. John Martin leads topdown!



Let the shopping begin! Lots of goodies went home in a Miata.



Ann and Eric had a picnic under a tree.



Hearing details about the route brought out some smiles.



With his official stopwatch, Chris tries to set the cars off in an orderly start.



These new members braved the less than perfect conditions to attend the Huber Winery Tour. Left to Right: Cathy Grindstaff and Tom Ford, Nancy and Greg Waltz, Susie and Roger Reed, Bill and Jan Quick, and Craig and Susie Langohr.

More Huber Tour Photos



Visit <http://indymiata.2cat.com> for more pictures of this tour and other club events!

Classifieds

For Sale: -We just had a baby, and have to sell our fun machine. 1992 Mazda Miata / Black ext / Tan Leather int / BBS wheels / Limited Slip Diff / 63,300 miles / Excellent condition. Asking \$5,500. Contact Vince at 1-574-534-4995 or vinceandsteph@yahoo.com

For Sale: -Dash Topper, brand new in the box. Ordered for my 94, it is custom made for it. Paid \$35.00 will sell it for \$20.00. Call Brett at 317-590-2512 or email bbennett2@indy.rr.com.

For Sale: -Four snow tires/wheels that fit 1995-1999 Miatas without anti-lock brake systems The tires are almost new and the wheels are ARS Racing wheels. Also, CD player (Mazda) and headrest speakers. Contact Karen Flasan at flasan@msn.com.

Wanted -Looking for some cheap wheels to fit my 2001 for snow tires. Contact Karen Flasan at flasan@msn.com.

For Sale: 94 Miata, Black on Black. 105,000 Miles. A/C, Cruise, Power Windows. New Clutch, Water Pump, Timing belt, July 2001. New Front Rotors, pads, rear pads, August 2001. New top, May 2002. Serviced at AIM. Asking \$4750.00 OBO. Call Matt Cleary at 317-722-1838 or matt@cleary.ne.

ADVANCED IMPORT MOTORSPORTS

298F Gasoline Alley Indpls. IN 46222 ph 317.381.0898 M-F 9am-6pm

AIM is serious about providing superior service and value for your Miata!
We are Mazda factory trained with over 25 years of experience.



www.AIMtuning.com



Indy Miata Club members receive 10% off labor and original equipment Mazda parts. AIM offers COMPLETE maintenance:

- Oil change/15/30/60K Svcs
- Brakes - Clutch - Suspension
- Precision wheel balancing
- Wheel and tire packages
- Performance/appearance

DID YOU KNOW...



...AIM can also service that thing parked next to your Miata? Call us!

November 10th - Dinner and Meeting

2002 Club Event Schedule

November 10th - Member meeting and Dinner
(Decisions are made by those that show up!)
The event starts at 6:00PM at The Old Country
Buffett on West 38th Street.

November Mingle - Open

December 15th - Annual Holiday Party

