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In The Marbles... by Rick Morris, President

I've only been on the job for a month, but it has already turned out to be a really interesting and exciting experience. Thanks to all of you, the event calendar for the year is filling up nicely, including a special tenth anniversary edition of the Fussin' and Cussin' rally, which should be an event to remember. Fussin' and Cussin' is always one of my favorite events before and after it happens, and one of the most "interesting" while I am participating in it. I am really looking forward to it this year.

Another event that I am looking forward to is the Auburn-Cord-Duesenberg Museum tour on Saturday, the eighth of February. For those of you that don't know, the museum, which is located in Auburn, Indiana has exhibits of over one hundred cars from the "good old days" of our automotive history. I am very excited about this trip, and I hope lots of you will join in the fun. It's a pretty long trip to Auburn, but it's interstate all the way and should be painless. You can find out more about the event, and register for it, on the web site. (<http://www.indymiata.org>)

Speaking of the new web site, the response to it has so far been very good. I'm glad that so many of you have taken the time to visit the site and post personal information about you and your car. We have only had a couple of hiccups and we've been able to fix those pretty quickly. Once again, I would like to thank Jim Nutt for continuing to administer the site for the club. The new site is very easy to take care of, but it's still a job that requires a commitment of time and effort, and I'm grateful that Jim has taken on the job.

The only significant problem that some people have had is getting their images uploaded to the site. Preparing images for the web is a topic that can be discussed ad nauseum, and there is a separate article in this issue that gives a brief introduction along with some helpful tips that may help you out.

If you haven't visited the site yet, there are a few features that deserve special mention. The first of these that ability to pay your club membership dues on line through PayPal. It's very easy to do and saves you the hassle of writing out a check and putting it in the mail. It also saves the club, or, more specifically, Bob Wiley, the trouble of making a trip to the bank the deposit the check. Whenever you pay your dues on line, Bob gets an email saying that the club has received money from you for your dues. Bob then forwards this message along to Melissa Forbes, our new membership director, who then updates your information on the site to show that you are with us for another year. This is particularly important at this time of year. Your membership expiration date is on the mailing label for this issue of the Open Road. If your membership has expired, you need to renew now to keep getting the Open Road and to be able to access the "Members Only" features and areas of the web site. Don't miss out on what promises to be a very exciting year.

The second feature of the web site that you should be aware of is a member discussion forum. When you log in as a member, you can join in the discussions currently taking place in the forum or start a new discussion of your own. What we had in mind when we implemented the forum was that it would be a place where members could exchange ideas and opinions about what's going on in the club, general Miata discussion or almost anything else relating to the club or our cars. Don't be shy. Jump right in and get your feet wet, let's talk about Miatas and other stuff!

Finally, you can contact other club members and the club officers via email through the site. On the "Officers" page, most of the officers have a "Contact" button by their names. When you click on the button, you can send an email to the club officer very quickly. We want and need your feedback, so let us know what's on your mind. When you log in as a member and go to the "Our Members" section, a lot of the club members have an envelope next to their name. If you click on the envelope, you can send an email to the club member. It's a good way to keep in touch with your fellow club members without having to remember their email address.