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In The Marbles... by Rick Morris, President

You can all thank your lucky stars that you don't have to live with me during a winter when we are probably going to set a record for snowfall. I absolutely hate it, and it doesn't look like it's going to get any better any time soon. I have shoveled more snow this winter than ever before and have hated every minute of it. Spring can't be too far away, can it? Please?

In the course of shoveling the forty feet of snow off the driveway, I have found another use for the Zaino Z-6 Gloss Enhancer. If you bring the shovel inside overnight to get it warmed up and cleaned off and then give it a quick coat of Z-6, the snow slides right off. Almost any spray wax should work, and it makes the job a whole lot easier. Those of us that are on our "second lap" around 29 need to be careful about how much effort we put into shoveling snow. Dropping over in the driveway seems like a particularly unsatisfying way to go to the Big Garage in the Sky.

The only positive thing to come out of this winter is that I have gotten a significant amount of seat time in my Miata in some serious snow and can report that it actually does pretty well. I have good snow tires (Dunlops) and a fifty pound bag of gravel in the trunk and the car has done surprisingly well. It's the first time in years that I have driven a rear-wheel drive car in the snow, so it took some getting used to, but I haven't had any "excursions" yet. You do need to pay attention, though. Our cars are very light and with the gear ratio, it does want to spin the rear wheels, but a little caution takes care of this. I have also heard reports that the Miata is a great "doughnut" car, but I have had no personal experience in going to a large, deserted parking lot on a snowy Sunday morning, so I wouldn't know anything about that. At any rate, if you have a Miata as a daily driver during a snowy winter, you are in good shape.

Another positive aspect of such a furschlugginer winter is that we will appreciate Spring more when it finally gets here (at the current rate, I expect a serious warming trend some time during August). We have the "Miatas at the Noodle" in March and the annual "Post Tax Blues" rally in April. The Noodle event will be indoors at the Slippery Noodle, so we still won't be driving, but the music and companionship will be great. The Post Tax Blues event is usually the first real driving event of the year and I am really looking forward to it. You can sign up for both events on the web site.

For those of you whose cars are daily drivers like mine is, don't forget to stop by the coin-op car wash regularly and get all the salt and accumulated road crud rinsed off. Even if it isn't warm enough for a good wash, remember that salt never sleeps (to paraphrase Neil Young) and it's a good idea to get all that grime rinsed off as soon as you can. Also don't forget to put a fresh coat of Rain-X on your windshield and headlights whenever the temperature gets above fifty (sometime during June).

If you haven't been to the web site lately, we have made added a couple of things that should make it even more useful. First, current members can now place classified ads on the site. You can write you own ad copy and even upload a picture of what you are trying to sell. The site has been getting a pretty fair amount of traffic, so it's a good way to reach a lot of people. The second change we have made is that we are listing events from other clubs as well as our own. We realize that there are times when you want to take a Miata related trip, so be sure to check the site to see if a neighboring club is having an event you would like to attend. Jim Nutt is doing an excellent job keeping all this up to date, so you should be able to find something to do on a regular basis.

Speaking of events, the Auburn-Cord-Duesenberg museum tour went so well that it looks like it will become an annual event. The museum isn't crowded during February, so you have lots of time to see all the cars and not have to worry about waiting in line for everything. Those of us that made the trip had a great time and there is a full report with pictures available on the site. We are already looking forward to making the trip again next year.

Until next time, keep those cards and letters coming and I'm looking to seeing a lot of you at the Slippery Noodle on March 15th.