



Volume 14  
Issue 5  
May 2003

---

## What's Inside

**Page 2**  
Officer Listing.  
Upcoming Events.

**Page 3**  
PTBR Review.

**Page 4**  
Member Profile.  
Dr. Detail.

**Page 5**  
PTBR Pictures.  
Classifieds.



# In The Marbles...

by Rick Morris, President

With May Comes the World Famous Sounds of.....

Indy Miata Club members getting lost for the first time of the year! Not really, or, at least, we hope not. We are finally into the real driving season, when you can count on temperatures that are warm enough to get the top down on a daily basis. The mornings are still a little nippy, but the afternoons are almost always warm enough to have a top down drive on the way home from work. It's always nice to end the day with a top down drive home to bleed off some of the stress that may have accumulated during the workday. It's also nice to, as Sara says, hear the wind whistling between your ears. It's just a good way to end the day.

Speaking of driving season, we had the annual Post Tax Blues Rally on Saturday, April 26th, and if you missed it, you missed a really good drive. We had a total of twenty-eight cars from our club and the Lake Effect club, and it turned out to be a beautiful day. All the drivers seemed to enjoy the route and nobody got lost, which is always a plus. We did have something of a problem with the restaurant, though, as they weren't even close to being prepared to serve our crowd. Apologies for that, but it was still a good day.

Continuing in the club events vein, don't forget that the second annual Picture This rally is coming up very soon. It will be held on Sunday, May 4th starting at 1:15PM in the McDonald's in Broad Ripple. I've been the administrative assistant on the route and it should be a really enjoyable tour of the city. We have lots of new stops this year and what we think will be some very "imaginative" answers that you may have to look a little bit to find. As always, a phone book and map of the city will be very helpful. There isn't anything real obscure, but route planning will be important (snicker).

### Tell Us Your Story!

One of the things that I have found out in talking to as club members as I do is that we all have a very interesting story concerning how we got our first, or second or third, Miata. I always find them interesting and I think other club members would as well. With this in mind, we would like to start a new section of the Open Road called, not surprisingly, "My Miata Story". What we would like to have is your story about how you got your car. Write up your story, around a half page or more and send it along via email to our intrepid newsletter editor. You can include a picture if you want. We will publish the stories, hopefully at least one a month in the upcoming issues of the Open Road. The news letter gets better the more people we have contributing, and this is your big chance to share your story with fellow club members. We would like to hear from you.

### Whatever Happened to Dr. Detail?

A lot of you, or maybe none of you, have been wondering whatever happened to Dr. Detail? We were wondering, too, as he seemed to just drop off the face of the Earth. As it turns out, he was kidnapped by gypsies and sold to the circus around the first of the year. He finally made good his escape and found his way back home last week. Apparently it was a very traumatic experience that he doesn't like to talk about. He has agreed to take a break from his post-kidnapping therapy sessions though, and write a spring cleaning article that appears elsewhere in this issue. Those of you wanting to help him along the road to recovery can send Godiva chocolate to him in care of the newsletter editor. Apparently that's the only thing that will help, or at least that's what he says.

Finally, we have had a couple of web site hiccups over the past couple of weeks. They have, thankfully, been very intermittent and my hosting service says they have all the problems ironed out now, so we

Zoom-Zoom to page 2

## Indy Miata Officers

### *President*

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

### *Vice-President*

Jay Hofaker  
Jay@JH0.net

### *Treasurer*

Bob Wiley  
WileeKyOT@aol.com

### *Membership Director*

Melissa Forbes  
PO Box 40561  
Indianapolis, IN 46240-0561  
DevilsSnowFlake5@aol.com

### *Tech Director*

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

### *Club Founder / Tech*

Rich Hickie  
317-347-9660  
RTHickie123@aol.com

### *Web Master*

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

### *Open Road Editor*

Sara J mcBride  
4249 Springwood Ct.  
Indpls., IN 46228  
317-291-8993  
miata@2cat.com

*In The Marbles continued from Page 1*

be in good shape now. They did both a hardware and software "enhancement" in a very short period of time, and those of us in the computer world know "enhancements" can be a recipe for problems. Things seem to be working fine now.

Until next time, enjoy your car and the person you're with.

## Is The "Picture This" Rally A Snap?

Sunday, May 4th is the date for this year's Picture This Rally. Our Rally Master, Melissa Forbes, will give us pictures of local landmarks with a few navigation hints with questions about each landmark. Beyond that, you're on your own. Your mission is to find each landmark and answer questions concerning it and end up with all questions answered correctly and drive a route with the lowest miles. Sounds easy, doesn't it?

We'll meet Sunday (Yep, that's right, Sunday), May 4 at the McDonalds in downtown Broad Ripple (1020 Broad Ripple Avenue) at 1:15 for refreshments; driver's meeting at 1:45; first car off at 2:00. Please call Melissa at 569-9880 to RSVP or go to the event page at <http://www.indymiata.org> to pre-register. The registration fee is \$7.00 (per car) for those that pre-register and \$10.00 (per car) for day of event or non-club members. Bring a city map and your thinking cap!

After the rally Melissa is inviting all participants to gather at her house for a light dinner of a barbecue and salad. Is this a great event, or what!

## Upcoming Events for May and June

May is a busy month and not only because a big race on the west side of Indy is going on! Besides the Picture This Rally, here's a quick rundown of other events you may want to participate in.

**Indy 500 Mingle** - For those of you staying in town race weekend, meet up at the Sonic Drive-In in the Speedway Shopping Center. We did this for the US Gran Prix last year, and everyone had a good time.

**Miatas at Lime Rock Park VI** - Miatas at Lime Rock Park in Northwest CT will be held Memorial day, Monday, May 26, 2003. One of the features of the day will be the Miata Race Series along with lots of other breathtaking races. Tickets will be limited to 150 with previous ticket holders having priority. Ticket price includes parking, an enclosed full service building with A/C and a great view of the track, access to the track area, and plenty of food and prizes. Cost: \$50.00 per person. Mail your check to: Nutmeg Miata Club, David Kaufmann 110 Oak Drive, Watertown, CT 06795-3115 Telephone # 860-274-7444. Please include your name and address if not on the check. Ticket packages will be mailed out as soon as we get them, usually within several weeks of the event (May 26). Tickets will not be reserved without being paid for. More event information can be found at <http://www.limerock.com/LRP-Events/grandPrix.html>.

**Indy and Cincy Miata Clubs go to the Gap** - the cincy club has invited us to join them on their annual trip to Deal's Gap. Most folks will be staying at the Tapoco Lodge (800-822-5083). The Cincy club would like to get a head count of people who plan on going down on this trip so please e-mail Jon Roberto at the address below and let him know if you are planning on going. For questions or to RSVP contact Jon Roberto at (513) 232-8422 or via e-mail at [info@cinci.rr.com](mailto:info@cinci.rr.com) If you want to caravan down with them, a meeting point has been set up at the first rest

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.

# Post Tax Blues Rally A Sunny Success

Twenty-eight cars participated in the first driving event of 2003, the Post Tax Blues Rally (PTBR). What has become an annual event hosted by both the Indy Miata and Lake Effect clubs, the PTBR started in Peru Indiana, wandered through three counties and ended at Marty's Pub in beautiful downtown Converse, Indiana. All participants arrived at the ending point with only a couple off course excursions.

The sun was shining as a large contingent of Indy club members met at the Meijers lot in Carmel and caravanned to Peru. Rally Master Sara McBride provided Long's doughnuts to get a good sugar buzz going to help ward off the morning chill. Vice President Jay Hofacker led the caravan to Peru.

As cars gathered at the meeting place in Peru, the usual checking out of all the assembled Miatas ensued. John and Marsha Schaub arrived in their new-to-them '92 Sunburst Yellow and it received the appropriate amount of attention.

The Driver's meeting was held and everyone was able to answer the question "What is the number one rule of this rally?" (The Rally Master is always right.). George and Jane Bali (Lake Effect Rally Masters) and Sara J went over the rules for the Poker Run and drivers and navigators headed for their cars. All tops were down in their correct position, except for Phil Callahan, who arrived with his hard top still in place. (Phil removed the hardtop the next day and drove the route with wife Suzie who was unable to attend on Saturday, to enjoy the roads and sunshine!) The route took club members west along the Wabash river, down to Grissom ARB, and back to Peru for their first card stop. Drivers then headed east along the Wabash, and then they followed the Mississinewa river and cruised by the spillway area of the Mississinewa Lake dam. George and Jane manned the next card stop at the Francis Slocum cemetery, then the route crossed Mississinewa Lake, followed some twisty roads, and then headed south to Marty's Pub in Converse.

At Marty's, participants received their final card and their lucky (or unlucky) hands were revealed. First place, with a winning hand of two Kings, two Jacks and a deuce was Rhonda Beebe from the Lake Effect club. Indy member Ben Hermann placed second, while Don and Linda Buchanan of Indy were in third place. The "Has-Beans" Award (a can of beans!) for the worst poker hand was won by Tom Hughes, a guest of Millard and Jane Johnson.

As meals were served, conversation ranged from the rally route, the weather (one comment was "It was a drop top gorgeous day"), future rallies, car care and other topics.

As anyone who was there would tell you, "If you didn't attend, you missed a good rally!"



Rhonda Beebe (Lake Effect member) and her navigator display the poker hand that helped them win the PTBR.



Ben Hermann (Indy Miata) smiles as he holds the poker hand that took 2nd prize in this year's PTBR.

*Look for more photos on [IndyMiata.org](http://IndyMiata.org)!*

(left) Sara J and the Balis' assure everyone that the driving instructions are "clear as mud". There were no wrong turns included in this year's route directions!

*Member Profile*

# Meet Ben and Nancy Hermann

by Melissa Forbes

Recently I had a chance to chat with Ben Hermann, a new member of our club. Ben and his wife Nancy bought their first Miatas this past February, for Valentine's Day. Ben bought a 2002 Titanium Miata with a manual transmission, and Nancy bought a 2002 Black Miata with an automatic transmission. When I asked him how they had decided on the Miata, Ben said his wife had always wanted a two-seater, and decided that now was the time to do it (Before the spouse, the house, and the kids, you get one chance . . .). Ben attended his first Miata Club event this past Saturday, at the Post Tax Blues Rally.

Ben is a carpenter with Wayne Hermann & Son Carpentry, a business started by his grandfather, and continued by his father and himself. Nancy is currently studying business and finance, and plans to graduate in May of 2004. The couple live on the south side of Indianapolis.

When they are not out touring in their Miatas, Ben and Nancy enjoy bowling.



Ben is all smiles in his 2002 Titanium at the PTBR.

## Spring Cleaning Time Is Here So Grab Your Bucket!

by Dr. Detail

At last it's time to do spring cleaning on the car. When you go driving for the first time in the Spring, you want your car to look good. If you did any prep work last Fall, this should be a piece of cake. If you didn't, it will be a little harder, but not impossible. If your car never sees the outside when it's snowing or raining, you have the easiest job yet, since you don't really have to do anything at all except go out and drive. If your car is a daily driver like mine, it's going to require a little more attention to get it looking spic and span again.

A Clean Car is a Happy Car. This is the subtitle at the Car Care section of the Miata.net forum (<http://www.miataforum.com/>) and it's absolutely true. When your car is clean, it's happy and so are you. It's really nice to get the car looking great and then go out for a nice top down drive.. Its always gratifying to see the heads of jealous people turn as your drive by in your extra special car.

The first thing to do is give it a very thorough washing by hand. Get a good car wash like Zaino, Zymol or one of the other top brands and get our car as clean as your can. Scrub it thoroughly, but gently, using a cotton wash mitt and lots of water. This is the first step towards a good looking car, and it's important that it be done properly. Take the extra time and effort to get it really clean and get all the bugs and other crud off the finish. If a good car wash won't get it clean, you need to go through some other steps before you wash it. You can email me with questions or join in the discussion at the Miata Forum. The people there are always willing to help and there is never a lack of opinions.

The next step is to put a good coat of wax on the car. Those of you that know me know that I am a big Zaino fan. It gives great results but is expensive and may not be the best choice for beginners. If you want excellent results at a moderate price and a moderate amount of effort, I recommend the Zymol combination cleaner and wax that you can get at Wal-Mart for about \$14. I have used it and it works well and is almost foolproof if you take a minute to read and follow the instructions. The mistake that most people make, including yours truly, is using too much wax. In almost all cases, it just takes little wax applied well to give the kind of result you are looking for. Make sure it's a warm day, at least seventy-five degrees, and that you have time to do the job right. It should take a couple of hours to get a good wax job. You can also spend all day, but I'm sure you'd rather be out driving. Make you have lots of towels for polishing and a ready supply of patience.

After you have a good coat of wax on the car, give all the windows a full Rain-X treatment. Not only doe sit repel water, but also makes the windows look great. Don't forget the headlights (like I do about half the time). Clean headlights make

a world of difference during night driving and it's important that they be clean.

Finally, go to the coin-op car wash and use one of those super powerful vacuums to give the interior of the car and the trunk a thorough cleaning. You'll be amazed at how much better the whole car looks when the interior is really clean. Follow that up with a very light application of Vinlyx if you have vinyl or Lexol if your have leather to finish the job (at least for now).

Now your car looks great and you haven't spent all day doing it. Reward yourself with a drive!





The Rally Master's lovely assistant (President Rick Morris) hands a sealed envelope to Linda and Mark Monroe at the first card stop in the PTBR.

# Classifieds

**Wanted:** Cassette player for a 99 Miata. I have the OEM CD/radio but need a tape player instead (or in addition). John Vernon Oaks, jvoaks@sbcglobal.net

**For Sale:** Spare parts available from Spec Miata conversions. Please contact Shane at 317.381.0898 or info@aimtuning.com for listing of available parts.

**For Sale:** 1996 M Edition. Dark blue with white strip down center, Stainless steel exhaust, Supercharger. AM/FM/CD/Cassette, 205/50/R15 tires, SSR Rims, Excellent condition. \$8500. Call Susanne Esopenko Evening 765-482-5478 - Cell (anytime) 317-201-0207.

Look! We've got another Sunburst Yellow in the club!



Don and Linda Buchanan were all smiles on their first rally as they drove their way to 3rd place!



## 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.



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!



**PTBR  
Pix**



## Indy Miata Event Calendar

**May 4** - Picture This II -  
Rally Master: Melissa Forbes  
**May 24 - 26** - Indy & Cincy  
clubs go to Deals Gap  
**May 24** - 500 Mingle

**June 21** - The Longest Day  
Rally - Hosts: The Moores  
**June Mingle**: Open

**July 12** - Fussin' & Cussin' X -  
Evil Rally Masters: Bob Wiley  
& Jim Nutt  
**July Mingle**: Open

**August 2** - Brickyard Mingle  
**August 23** - Late Summer  
Mardi Gras Rally - Hosts:  
The Booes and Brummetts

**September** - Huber Winery  
Tour - Hosts: The Wills  
**September 27** : Formula 1  
Mingle

**October** - Open dates

**November** - Open dates

**December** - Holiday Party

