

# The Open Road

The Official Newsletter of the Indy Miata Club

Volume 14  
Issue 11  
November 2003

## *In The Marbles...*

*by Rick Morris, President*

**\*&#!#\$%&%\$\$ Winter!**

Where did the summer go all of a sudden! We had a great summer, and now it's gone. I put the winter tires on my car recently. This event is as depressing as taking them off in the spring is exciting. When the winter tires and hardtop go on the car, I have accepted the fact that it probably won't be seventy degrees and sunny again for quite a while. We may get a couple of nice driving days, but they will be the exception rather than the rule. I just can't wait for the first snowfall so I can get outside and shovel some more snow. I'm all aquiver at the prospect!

We had an excellent driving event during October. Jay Hofacker did an excellent job putting together a tour of Boone County by making up a route that took us by all the historical markers in the county. It was a fun event and the weather was excellent. After the event, we met at the Friendly Tavern in Zionsville for a real tasty lunch (the tenderloin was excellent). Jay did an excellent job organizing and hosting the event. This event was another example of people getting involved in the club and taking us places that we haven't been before. Good job, Jay!

We have a couple of interesting events coming up during November as well. On Saturday, November 8, we will be going on a driving and eating trip from Indianapolis to Brown County. As hard as it might be to believe, Sara has found some roads in Brown County that we haven't been on yet. It will be a fairly short drive with the lunch stop in Nashville. This will be a "no rain" event, so be sure to check the weather or call (see article on page 2).

The second event for November is an open house at AIM Tuning. I always enjoy visiting AIM and asking Shane a lot of dumb questions. He is always patient and explains things so that even I can understand them. If you have some questions about your car, now is the time to get an answer from the master himself. There is also a rumor that Doctor Detail may make an appearance, but this is contingent on court dates and rehab schedule.

Next month we will be having our annual holiday party and officer elections. There are complete details elsewhere in this issue, but I would like to once again urge people to step forward and be an active part of the club. This has been a very good year for the club. We have had events organized and hosted by new members, interesting trips to new places and in general a very good time. It has been a great year. If you would like to see the club continue to grow in the future, now is your chance. Run for a club office and help the club keep going. The only way this happens is if people get involved.

Doctor Detail sent me a note through his attorney asking me to remind all of you that now is probably the last chance you will have to get your cars cleaned up and ready for winter. If your car is a daily driver like mine is, it's time to make sure everything is in tip top shape. This includes the interior and exterior. Winter ravages our cars, but you can greatly minimize the effects with a little preparation. Don't forget to do it, your Miata will love you for it.

Until next time, keep those cards and letters coming.

### What's Inside

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

**Page 3**  
Use the Force!

**Page 4**  
Rally Review.

**Page 5**  
Classifieds.



## Indy Miata Officers

### *President*

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

### *Vice-President*

Jay Hofaker  
jay@hofaker.us

### *Treasurer*

Bob Wiley  
WileeKyOT@aol.com

### *Membership Director*

Melissa Forbes  
PO Box 40561  
Indianapolis, IN 46204-0561  
DevilsSnowFlake5@aol.com

### *Tech Director*

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

### *Club Founder / Tech*

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

### *Web Master*

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

### *Open Road Editor*

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

## Holiday Party Set For Dec. 7

by Rick Morris

We will be having our annual Holiday Dinner and officer elections on Sunday, December 7th at 5:00pm. We will meet at the Old Spaghetti Factory in downtown Indianapolis (210 South Meridian Street). There is lots of parking around the restaurant, so that shouldn't be a problem.

As always, we will be having our "friendly" gift exchange, so be sure to bring a wrapped gift in the \$12.00 - \$15.00 range for each Miata. The gift exchange has turned into a great holiday tradition of the club. If this is your first holiday party with the club, our gift exchange works like this: When it's your turn, you can either pick a new gift from the pile or "appropriate" a gift from someone who already has one. If you appropriate a gift, that person gets to pick another gift. Gifts may be stolen (oops, we mean appropriated), up to three times. It's always great fun and it's interesting to see the wide variety of gifts that people bring.

In addition to the dinner, we will also have officer elections for the upcoming year. If you would like to help the club continue to grow and prosper, run for a club office. You can either nominate yourself or have someone nominate you. If you would like to nominate someone for a club office, be sure to check with them before doing so. Member involvement is what keeps the club going, so now is the time to do your part.

We need to have an accurate head count three days before the dinner, so be sure to either register at the site or send me an email so we can make sure to have enough room at the restaurant.

Looking forward to seeing all of our members there!

## Fun Run, Shopping Trip To Nashville

Hoping for good weather, Sara McBride has planned a fun run on November 7th to beautiful Nashville, Indiana to enjoy the roads and maybe do a little shopping. The leaf peepers should be gone, so it won't be bumper to bumper driving!

We'll meet at the Airport Adams Mark Hotel (2544 Executive Drive off the Airport Expressway) at 10:00am and head to Martinsville around 10:15 or so. We'll stop at the gas station at the corner of SR 252 and SR 37 to reorganize and maybe meet others. We'll then take the long, but Miata friendly roads to Nashville. Remember, the best way to Nashville is not always the fastest!

Once in Nashville, you're on your own to do what you want. Eat, shop, drive some more, whatever makes you happy!

This is a dry event only. Sun is good, clouds are OK, but if it's raining, the event will not be run. If you look outside and are unsure about it, call Sara for event status at 317-XXX-XXXX the morning of the event.

## National Event Set for St. Louis In 2004?

The Gateway Club in St. Louis is rumored to be gearing up to host a national Miata Meet in September of 2004. We'll keep our ears open and will provide more information as soon as it is available.

If you have never attended a national meet, this may be your chance to meet Miata owners from across the country (and world!), participate in fun events and tours and enjoy a national event that will be only four hours away.

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. Thank you.

# Use The Site, Luke! Use The Site!

by Rick Morris

I thought that now would be a good time to have a quick refresher course on using the club web site. The site is the place to get the most current information about upcoming club events as well as see pictures and reports from past club events. In addition, once you have logged in to the site as a member, you can register on-line for upcoming events. All in all, it is a useful tool, but only if you are familiar with its use.

When you first visit the club site at [www.indymiata.org](http://www.indymiata.org), at the top right of the page, as well as all the other pages on the site, there is a "Member Login" link. When you click on the link, you will go to the member login page where you will be asked for your user name and password. You should have received your user name and password when you joined the club. Enter your user name and password in the appropriate boxes and click the "Login" button. You can also tell the site to remember you on future visits. If you do this, you won't have to log in every time you visit the site.

After you have entered your user name and password, you should get a message welcoming you back to the site. If you get a message saying that your login was incorrect, try entering your user name and password again. If that doesn't work, either, you can go back to the main login page and click on the link under the login button that tells you to click if you have forgotten your password. On the next page, you will get a place to enter your email address. Enter your email address and click the "Find Password" button. If we have your email address on file, you will receive an email telling you what your user name and password are. If we can't find your email address, send me a note from the officers page and I will send you your user name and password.

After you have successfully logged in to the site, please take a minute to check and update your member information. We would like to know how to get in touch with you. We use your address information from the site to send your copy of the Open Road. Also, we have started sending out email reminders a few days before each event, and we can't send you a reminder if we don't have your correct email address. If you haven't been getting these reminders, chances are that we got your reminder back indicating that your email address was no longer valid. When this happens, we remove your email address from the system.

As always, if you have problems with the site, we want to know about them. The site is a good thing only if you are able to use it.

## Open House At AIM In November

Come join your friends on November 15th at AIM Tuning for their annual AIM Open House!

This is a special morning set aside for the Indy Miata Club to see new products, participate in informal tech sessions and find out the latest in Mazda tweaks. Learn about their new suspension packages, custom roll bars and big-power turbo systems. The staff at AIM will answer any questions that you may have.

They will have their Spec Miatas on display, as well as some special customer cars featuring their products and services.

Doctor Detail will have a special session on maintaining your Miata's glossy finish.

The morning will be relaxed, so you can come and go as you please. You will be able to wander the shop and ask questions of the staff about any of the equipment, products and procedures that are used in the shop.

AIM will open its doors to us at 9:00 AM. Things should wrap up around noon and then we'll head over to Grindstone Charley's on Rockville Road for food and more car talk.

Don't know how to get to AIM? From I-465 on the west side, take the Rockville Road East exit. Follow Rockville past the light at Lynhurst. The next light is Gasoline Alley and you can only turn left or continue on Rockville, so turn left! Follow Gasoline Alley into the first ess-curve, where you will see their huge sign on the West/left side of the road. Turn left before the sign and then to the right and you are there! AIM is immediately behind Earl's.

AIM's address is 298F Gasoline Alley and their phone number is 317-381-0898.

Don't miss this informative and fun event.



At AIM's Open House, several cars will be on display.

# Cool, Sunny Day For The Historical Rally

Despite cool temperatures, about twenty-five cars showed up for VP Jay Hofacker's rally on October 20th. Jay had set up a tour of Boone County with instructions on finding six historical markers and filling in the blanks of missing words from the signs.

Drivers were given their route instructions and then before leaving the starting point, had to guess how many Milk Duds were in a glass jar. This guess was used as the tie breaker for the rally.

Jay took us all over Boone County, going through Advance, Thorntown, Lebanon and ending up in at Friendly's in Zionsville. While all the drivers and navigator's chowed down, Jay corrected the answer sheets and declared Don and Becky Hill the winners, by virtue of being the closest to the correct number of Milk Duds.



John Hess explains the rally to his navigator, Michael.



Cathy and Steve Randall drop the top.



Jay prepares to hand out instructions.



Melissa Forbes and her brother Scott teamed up to take 2nd place.

Third place was awarded to Roger and Karen McAlister.

First place winners Don and Becky Hill.



# The Devil Drove Down to Georgia In a Miata

by Mike Selvy

Here's an interesting find we made for yet another Miata road!

On our trip South, we did the US129 bit over to US 19 and continued on to Gwinnett County, GA. and Sugar Hill where my daughter lives. It was a cross country choice to avoid the Interstate grind. Little did we realize what we'd discover. Hit this link (<http://www.info-map.com/cycle/>) and scroll half-way down the page and note the photo of US 19! Perhaps there are more sites out there but I've not had time to seek them out.

When one does the Tale of the Dragon, the Blood Mountain adventure should be tacked onto the southern trek if one is headed to points South! It's honestly much faster, wider, and safer, than US 129 while pushing your Miata through the turns. I have no idea as to the number of curves etc. We just stumbled upon it and had one hell of a ride to add to the TofD/US 129 drive.

It was dark and I'm sure that during the day, the normal traffic would present some congestion. This area seems to be highly recreational with campers, boats, etc.. We encountered some RV traffic and others pulling boats up the mountain as we headed down and to the South. We never passed anyone as we sped down the mountain and through the curves. US 19 even treated us to switchbacks, speed limits of 50 M.P.H., dual, and triple lanes (depending upon the grades involved). A speeding Miata still had to be cautious of oncoming traffic crossing that yellow center line while staying on your side of the highway.

Perhaps we were lucky to pass over the mountain in the dark and avoid the traffic. But, that presented another challenge...pushing your car through the turns in pitch black, not really knowing the path and what to expect. It was a good, challenging ride!

Most oncoming traffic was never seen until they were into the same curve with you...and this was with head lights burning. That should give you an idea of how tight this road was.

If I smoked, I would have lit one up at the bottom of the mountain!

We ran the TofD/US 129 on the way back North too. I personally like the South run better.

Our plan was to follow the Foothills Parkway back to Townsend after the North run of the Tail of the Dragon, however it was closed.

Overall, the time and drive was Miata perfect!

## Classifieds

*For Sale:* Floor Mats w/ Miata Logo - These mats are about 6 months old so they are basically brand new and in excellent condition. They have the Miata logo in white in the center. Contact Steve Jacobson at 317-570-4598 or [steven.jacobson@hp.com](mailto:steven.jacobson@hp.com). Bargain priced at just \$50.

**aim**  
298F Gasoline Alley  
Indpls, IN 46222  
**317.381.0898**  
Shop hours: Mon-Fri 9a-6p  
Please call for appointment

**Indy Miata Club**  
Indy Miata 10% off labor and  
Mazda OE parts!

**TIRE RACK**  
Authorized Installer

- COMPLETE maintenance:  
Oil change/15/30/60K svcs
- Brakes - Clutch - Suspension
- Precision wheel balancing
- Wheel and tire packages
- Performance upgrades

**TUNING** 

Are you ready for winter yet?

Call us for special winter wheels & tires  
for your miata or your daily-driver!

Packages Starting at \$288 +shipping, tax



Winter tire install & storage package:

Take the hassle out of changing and storing your wheels every season!  
We will install your winter wheels and store your summer wheels until  
you want them in the spring! \$20.00 for labor and storage

Don't forget that the Holidays are coming! Santa can get all  
of your favorite Miata presents at AIM Tuning!

Roll bars, wind blockers, wheels, tires, superchargers, turbo's....

**HARD  
DOG**  
FABRICATION

**JACKSON RACING**

**RACINGBEAT  
AUTOPOWER**

# November 15 - AIM Open House

November 8 - Tour to Nashville

November 15 - AIM Open House

December 7 - Holiday Party

How many Milk Duds were in that jar?

