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In The Marbles...

by Rick Morris, President

Fasten Your Seat Belts!

We have a very, very busy month of September coming up! In addition to three Indy Miata Club events, there are a couple of events being put together by clubs in neighboring states that you might want to look into. Bob Wiley has put together his annual evening ice cream and snacks mingle for the 7th, the annual Huber Winery tour is on the 20th and the F1 mingle is on the 27th. In addition, there is a Midwest Miata gathering in Cincinnati on the weekend of September 6th and a track day at Putnam Park on the 15th. As hard as it is to believe, summer has almost gotten away for this year, so it's a good time and enjoy the remaining good weather that we will have. We look forward to seeing you!

Help Your Club Keep Growing

Even though December seems like quite a ways away, the annual holiday dinner and officer election will be here before you know it. We are always on the lookout for people who want to take an active part in the maintenance and growth of the club. The best way to do this is become a club officer. We will need someone to stand up and run for Vice President. When the Vice President is elected, he automatically becomes club President the following year, so it is a two year commitment. It doesn't take a lot of your time, but it does take a belief that the club is a valuable resource for local Miata owners and a willingness to keep it going so all of us Miata people can keep getting together and enjoying each other and our cars. You can nominate yourself for office or have another club member nominate you. Either is fine, as long as you do it.

If you don't think you want to run for club office, you can always volunteer to organize and run a club event. It's been great to see new members volunteer to put on events this year. We have gotten to see new roads and new places, which is always good. The only way these things happen is if you get involved.

One More Coat of Wax

September is a very good time to get that last coat of wax on your car before winter gets here. October usually has several warm days, but you can't count on a weekend being warm enough for good car waxing, so try to get it done before it's too late. It's always a good idea to get a fresh wax job on the car to help protect it from the slop that winter brings with it. While you're at it, make sure to flush and fill the antifreeze if you haven't done so lately (while writing this, I just happened to think that I haven't done this for a while, so I thought some of the rest of you might need reminding as well).

Send Me Your Logos!

Don't forget that we will all have the opportunity to vote on the club logo at the Holiday Party. We will have suggestions for a new log as well as the current club log on display. Members will be able to vote for one of the new ones or to keep the current logo. Either is fine with me, but since we are at a point where we need to order new pins and T-shirts, maybe it's also time to have a new logo.

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Another Famous Wiley Mingle!

On Sunday, September 7th, join the crowd for another of Bob Wiley's great Mingles. This year's event is the "Highway to Hill" Cruise and Ice Cream Mingle. Last year at an event similar to this, we had over 30 cars driving the Bob's route and about five to ten more met us for Mingling! This fun event will begin with an optional Mexican meal at El Rodeo in Mooresville around 3:00. To get to El Rodeo from Indy, take SR 67 South towards Mooresville. Just before you get to Mooresville, you'll see a big Marsh on the left. This is Bridge Street. Turn left on Bridge Street, then left into the Marsh Center. El Rodeo is on the opposite end of the center.

After dinner, we'll go to the Marsh lot and Bob will hand out instructions for the fun drive, which will be around 50 miles of rockin' n rollin' hills and curves, on the "Highway to Hill"! This will allow your Burritos to settle! If you aren't going to eat Mexican, just turn into the Marsh lot and meet in the parking area nearest to Bridge Street. Bob will be there around 4 to 4:30.

If you will just be arriving to Mingle and have some cool treats, we should arrive back at Ritters Frozen Yogurt in Mooresville anywhere from 5:00 to 6:30. Ritters is in the same area as Marsh and El Rodeo. SR 67 to Bridge Street, left into the Marsh Center. Ritters is on the far end out by SR 67. Try to park in a good open area where all the Miatas can gather. The only cost to you for this event is for how ever much you eat!

Questions about this event? Email Bob Wiley at wileekyot@aol.com.

September - An Event Filled Month

Start marking your calendar and fill up the tank of your Miata, as there are a lot of events in September.

Starting off this month, we've got Bob's Mingle (see above) on the 7th. The popular Huber Winery Tour is scheduled for the 20th (see page 6) and the last club event for the month is the Formula 1 USGP mingle at the Speedway Sonic Drive-In on the 27th. We usually have an excellent turnout from out-of-town visitors for this event, so it will be a good chance to make new acquaintances and renew some old ones! This mingle starts at 7:00pm. Don't miss it.

Eric Drumwright sent us a note about the "Back to the Fifties on the Square" event in Lebanon, IN on Saturday, September 13th. If you want to have a fun time and see a lot of fabulous classic cars, take I-65 to the Lebanon exit (#139) and follow SR 39 north to downtown for lots of cars, food and vendors. Eric will have a booth and be selling his photographs, so be sure to stop by and see him.

The Indy SCCA autocross season is winding down and they are holding their last points event of the year in Anderson at the former Delco Remy plant on the 20th. We have several club members who are participating in autocross and doing well. If you want to see what it's all about, here's your chance to see cars in action. For more information, visit the Indy SCCA website at <http://indyscca.org> or contact Darrin Daubinspeck at 317-865-0864 or email him at drdspeck@on-net.net.

A Big Welcome to Our New Members

Greetings to these new members, we hope to see you at our next event!

Jo Curtiss
Scott and Lin Percy
Jack and Carla Morris

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Member Profile

A Miata Biography - Meet the Collings!

by Gary and Kathy Collings

Our very first car in 1964 was a mixed blessing -- a year old 1963 Triumph TR3B roadster. It was red with a white top, side curtains, tonneau cover and racing stripes. For newlyweds it provided a love-hate relationship that would serve as an early "road test" for our marriage. We loved it the day we brought it home but our parents thought it to be a somewhat homely design and none too practical for a struggling college student and an underemployed spouse. Unfortunately, we could not afford the continual cost of upkeep and traded it for a new 1968 VW bug. Twenty-seven long years later, after the old dog died and our second son was (almost) out of college, we acquired a new 1995 Merlot Mica M-edition!

Our two sons were in college in the 1990s when Kathy was driving a Mazda. The auto salesman at the dealership knew that we coveted



the ownership of a Miata. Each spring the salesman would call Gary to try to entice him to come to the showroom to view the new models. Gary would resist each year's invitation by telling him that one son had graduated and the other one was a freshman -- call in

four years -- call in three years.... After our annual telephone call in the Spring of 1995, at the end of our son's second year in college, we decided to go to the dealership lot early on a Saturday morning just to check out the inventory before the salesman arrived. With no intention to buy for a couple of more years due to college tuition, we confidently embarked on what we thought was to be a window shopping journey. Well, lo and behold, as we pulled into the lot on April 15, 1995, the first car we saw was this gorgeous Merlot blocking our path. Kathy's immediate words were something to the effect, "I think we are in deep do-do!" We impatiently waited until the salesman arrived at 9:00 AM and drove the Merlot home around noon. The most difficult part of the transaction was wishing our son good luck on acquiring tuition payments for his final two years of college.

The salesman had a worn copy of the Indy Miata Club membership form under his desk blotter, which Gary mailed the next day. The first rally that month was something called a "Fussin' and Cussin'", which Kathy could not attend so Gary set out by himself. Upon arrival, he was welcomed and queried by the Bobs (Wiley and McCoy) about his lack of a navigator. As he naively left the parking lot with his set of instructions, he overheard them chuckle something like "we'll never see him again."

We drove the Merlot for six years accumulating over 60,000 miles of fun and fellowship throughout Indiana and the USA. In the summer of 2001, we acquired a 2000 Mahogany Mica special edition. Before we sold the Merlot, we switched the BBS rims onto the Mahogany for nostalgic reasons, which is the only modification on the Mahogany besides a mounting plate for our CB antenna.

On our long week-end tours, CB radios are a well used communication link. Our "handle" is Indy Gator. If pressed for the name of the car, Gary will divulge it to be Rhinogator, termed after the meanest animal in the

world. Sometime, when we are in a pub, he might be enticed with a drink offer to tell the joke behind the name of our car.

Although the Miata is garaged for several months each winter, we count it as a slow summer if we do not log at least 10,000 miles. Over the years, we have attended six national meets including Cleveland, Atlanta, Poconos, Dallas, Daytona, and Ottawa as well as the Midwest Gathering in Cincinnati. Some of our memorable long week-end Miata getaways include: Deals Gap, Field of Dreams, Door County in Wisconsin, Upper Peninsula of Michigan, Memphis and Graceland, and LaCrosse, Wisconsin.

Gary served as president of the Indy Miata Club during 1999. Along with membership in the Indy Club, we are now members of four other clubs (Windy City, Lake Effect, Lake Dunes, Greater Cincinnati) as well as the local British Car Club. From the activities of these various clubs, we have attended numerous mingles, rallies, and overnight tours. We have journeyed on roads less traveled, viewed scenery beyond description, and made untold numbers of new acquaintances and friends along the way. Our favorite vacation to date was a seven days cruise in the Caribbean with nine other Miata couples on the Voyager of the Seas.

In December 2003, we will celebrate our 40th wedding anniversary. We have three children (Graig and his wife, Krista, and Dayne) and two grandchildren (Camden and Cylar). We collect oak antique furniture, lace linens, depression glass, flashlights, matchbooks, commemorative stamp kits, state quarters and 1976 coins. Kathy is a real estate broker, corporate trainer and former manager with the F. C. Tucker Company. Gary has been a school district administrator and is currently a manager of an educational project affiliated with Indiana State University.

What's the story about your Miata? We know you have one, and we'd love to hear it. Send it to our membership director, Melissa Forbes.

Late Summer Mardi Gras

“Forget your problems and have fun!”

Saturday, August 23rd, was as perfect a summer day as any Miata owner could hope for. Sunny and 84 degrees, just right for top down driving fun.

The Late Summer Mardi Gras rally began from South Putnam High School after the traditional McDonald’s breakfast stop in Cloverdale of Putnam County. In the parking lot, many heads were under the hood and inside the new silver RX-8 of Mike Selvey’s daughter and son-in-law.

Twenty-six Miatas set out after the driver’s meeting on an “informational gathering” rally of 2.5 to 3 hours. Wonderful curvy roads were encountered around rural Greencastle, as well as a beautiful covered bridge. The route then went on to Lieber State Recreation Area, Cataract Falls, and Owen-Putnam State Forest. Great roads and great scenery.

All along the way you were to write down important information about places and things you saw on major signs, knowing that at the restaurant there would be a written quiz about what you passed. Someone even wrote down the names of the three mules some campers had ridden to the quaint general store in Cataract. That’s paying attention to details!

And speaking of restaurants..... WOW, what a neat place to end a rally! Zydeco’s Cajun eatery was a feast for both the eyes and tummy! Were we in New Orleans for Mardi Gras, or what? The authentic music, decor, and food delighted everyone. (If you missed it, it’s well worth the 20 minute drive west of the Indianapolis airport. Check out their site and menu on the internet at <http://www.zydecos.net>.)

After the quizzes were scored, the rally winners were: Third place: Don and Linda Buchanan; Second place: Jim and Martha Nutt; and First place: Jim Jones and Linda Jenks.

Thanks again to the Brummetts and Booes for a great rally, with lagniappe (look up this Creole word), in their part of beautiful Indiana.



Jim Jones and Linda Jenks show off their first prize envelope with great big smiles!



Ralliers get their beads and hand their entry slips to "krewe" members Jana Brummett and Susie Booe.



Jim and Martha Nutt showed up with traditional feathered masks!



Club members wait for the driver's meeting to start.

Ralliers lineup to wait for the start of the rally.



Ralliers love to wave at the camera!



Mardi Gras Rally photos by Jim Nutt, Ken Koehler, Jana and Wyatt Brummett and Rick Morris.

Tool Time with Chuck!

Do You Know What I'm Torquing About?

by Chuck Wills

This month I'm trying to avoid temptation. Since I've been hanging around with the guys at AIM I have been exposed to some of the coolest tools ever created. Tire changers, plasma cutters, bearing pullers and air powered drills. I have to admit that I'm tempted to write about these heavy duty gadgets, but lets face it, they aren't normally found in the tool arsenal of the home mechanic. So even though I really want to tell you about plasma cutters, this month we will cover torque wrenches.

Have you ever been to a mechanic at a big garage or discount store? If you watch carefully you will notice that for most jobs involving removal and installation of bolts they will pull out the impact wrench and beat the fastener mercilessly. Impact wrenches are good for a few things: remove rusty nuts and bolts, remove nuts that are on really tight or loosening lug nuts. That's about it. You should never use an impact wrench to install anything. Why, you ask? It's because impact wrenches are very powerful, yet imprecise. Meaning that you can't use it to fasten something to a precise torque... and every fastener in a car has a specific torque. Using more torque than needed on a fastener will run the risk of damaging it by stripping out the threads, breaking the fastener in half, or more likely, stretching it out of shape so that it will no longer hold tightly.

A good case in point - my Dad is an aircraft mechanic, and they do not have an impact wrench at the shop. Everything is done by hand with a torque wrench.

So what is a torque wrench? It's a precisely calibrated tool that allows you to put a specific amount of force on a fastener. There are three types: a Beam type, a Dial type and a Click type.

Beam and Dial Torque Wrenches: These are very simple tools, consisting of a breaker bar with a needle or dial on it. When you apply force to the wrench, the main beam will bend due to the force. The dial indicates how far the beam is bent, thus indicating the amount of torque applied to the fastener. These wrenches will stay "calibrated" forever, given a reasonable amount of care. As long as you use it within it's rated torque range 80 foot pounds of torque will always register as 80 foot pounds. The down side is, you have to watch the dial carefully to make sure you stop tightening at the right measurement.

Click Torque Wrenches: While much more complex than the beam type, the click type is able to read torque much more accurately. The Click type looks like a large ratchet handle with a knob on the end. You use the knob to dial in the amount of torque you want, and when that level is reached the wrench will "click" to indicate it's tight. With this wrench it's easy to differentiate between

80 and 81 pounds. That level of accuracy just isn't possible with the beam type wrench. The down side is that you have to remember to set the adjuster back to Zero Pounds when finished using it, and you have to have them recalibrated every once in a while to maintain accuracy.

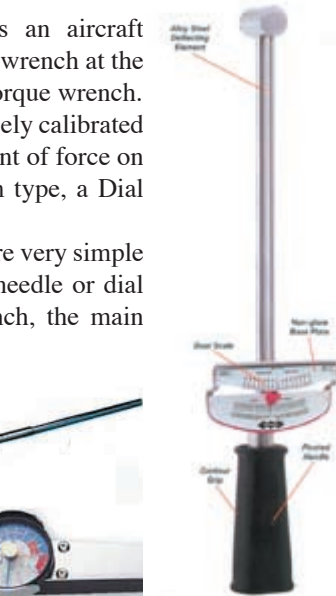
Even if you are not a shade-tree mechanic, or even tinker with your car, I do recommend that you keep a torque wrench around. If you ever get a flat or have to change a wheel, you need to make sure that you get those lug nuts torqued properly to 85 pounds. You can find beam type wrenches for less than \$20, and entry level click types can be found for \$30 or so.

I give the beam or dial wrenches an 8.5 on my tool approval scale. They are cheap and



simple, but not as accurate as the click type wrenches.

The click type wrench gets a full 10 points! Even though it's slightly more expensive, the accuracy more than makes up for this. I highly recommend the click type torque wrench.



Bored? Is it raining and you can't go out for a drive? Surf over to <http://www.web-cars.com/Miatatriv.html> and take a Miata trivia quiz!

5th Annual Huber Winery Tour



also known as “Cinco De Wino”



It's hard to believe that this is the fifth year for this annual club favorite! As this is the fifth year of the tour, we've dubbed the event “Cinco De Wino!”

Unlike most of the club events, this is a tour rather than a rally. There are no trick questions or obscure directions. Just a nice drive through the country to enjoy the scenery. There is no better way to enjoy the hills of southern Indiana than by roadster. Each year the tour has grown in participation, with over 35 cars participating last year!

The tour starts on Saturday, September 20th, with brunch at the Season's Lodge in Nashville, Indiana. We meet at 10:00am and stuff ourselves with southern Indiana fare, such as biscuits and gravy, eggs, bacon, fried biscuits and apple butter. The route will be slightly different than last year - still starting on famous Highway 135, we'll have a few detours to take “the road less traveled”.

For those that have not been to Hubers, it's a great experience. Not only do they have a winery, there is a farmers market, cheese shop, bakery and ice cream parlor. Depending on the season you may also see a pumpkin patch, petting zoo or antique tractor show.

Huber always reserves parking for us next to a pond, where we can stretch out on blankets and enjoy a sampling of wine and cheese other goodies.

Please note that we do require an RSVP if you are attending the rally and intend to eat breakfast at the Seasons Inn. We have to pre-pay for the food, so any no-shows or unexpected eaters will throw off our bill. While pre-payment to the club is not required, the RSVP is a must.

Please RSVP by September 13th. You may RSVP via e-mail, club web site or telephone.

Chuck & Teresa Wills: 317.291.5563 home
317.697.7192 mobile
chuckwills@comcast.net

When: Saturday, September 20th

Where: Starting at “The Seasons Lodge”, in Nashville, Indiana

Cost: \$10.00 per person. This includes brunch, which will be served at 10:00am

Times: Brunch: 10:00am

Drivers meeting: 11:00am

First car off: 11:15am

Prize Drawing: When everyone arrives at Hubers -- Between 1:30 and 2:00pm

----- Cut here and bring signed form with payment -----

Driver _____ Passenger _____

By signing this document, we affirm our understanding that this is not a speed event and will obey all laws and rules of the road. We will hold the Indy Miata Club, its officers, members and the rally organizers harmless of any damages incurred while participating in the event or in transit to and from the event.

A Pleasant Evening for the Brickyard Mingle

Drive in food, cool drinks and cars were all enjoyed at this mingle, the night before the Brickyard 400. We had a good turn out, with old members, new members and out-of-towners.



Brickyard Mingle photos by Rick Morris and Sara McBride.

More photos of club events can be found at [www,indymiata.org](http://www.indymiata.org).

Classifieds

For Sale - 90-97 Enthusa Dual Exhaust - Modified, purchased from Enthusa about 2 years ago. It was way too loud for a N/A car so I replaced the resonator with a Twister baffled glass pack and replaced the 9" small mufflers with 12" small mufflers. It is 304 Stainless steel piping and is now all welded in one piece. It will bolt right up from the cat back. I liked it but the wife thought it was too loud. I went with the new Racing Beat duals which I find now that it is installed is very similar in tone to this unit. This would work well with a Turbo and if your interested in what it sounds like then my car still sounds the same after changing to the Racing Beat duals. Stainless tips included. Best Offer. Mike Head - call 317-815-6868 or email mhead@indy.rr.com.

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

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Mounting and balancing included free!

15x7 ASA JS5 wheel \$89 each
 195/50/15 Yoko ES100 \$53 each
Only \$142 per corner! + shipping and tax



HARD DOG FABRICATION **JACKSON RACING** **RACING BEAT AUTOPOWER**

September 20 - Huber Winery Tour

September 7 -Mingle - The "Highway to Hill" - Host: Bob Wiley

September 20 - Huber Winery Tour - Hosts: The Wills

September 27: Formula 1 Mingle

October 18 - Historical Markers of Boone County - Rally Master: Jay Hofacker.

November - Open dates

December - Holiday Party



The Cataract General Store was a stop for some Miatas during the Late Summer Mardi Gras Rally.

