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Around The Bend... by Jay Hofaker, President

We've had so-so weather for our latest rallies, but the turn out for all of these events have been great. It's nice to see everyone at these events. A big thank you goes out to the Rally Masters who organize these events. Remember to thank them for their hard work, because without Rally Masters, there are no rallies! Please note that Chuck had to change the date of his rally, see inside for more details. Also, the B&B Rally (Booe and Brummet Rally) may be delayed until September. Check the event page on the web site for any and all updates.

Since the August rally may be delayed, if you have an idea for one, let Ben Hermann or me know and we'll add it to the schedule. Don't be afraid to put a rally on, it can be as simple as a drive on your favorite road or as complex as you can make it. Contact me or I'm sure anyone who has run an event before, would be glad to help you out.

See you at the next event!



Photo by Bill Phillips

Several Miata owners parked in Ian and LouAnn Linn's yard the day of the USGP.



Photo by Sara J mcBride

Bruce Heddon chats with Steve Randall, Rick Morris and Janet Klochko while they waited for their food at the Sonic.



Photo by Bill Phillips

The Durrell's license plate really does describe the 2004 F1 cruise as it was "Way 2 Fun"! (See page 3)

IMC June Fun

Rick Booe leads Chuck Wills and John Martin through Dead Bear turn at Putnam Park. (see R-R-Racing, page 2)



Photo by Sara J mcBride

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What To Do In July

We've got parades and other events on the schedule. You can show off your Miata in a patriotic way by being in a parade! Then on the 17th, drop the top, put on your thinking caps and let's get ready to rally.

Come celebrate Independence Day with a parade down Main Street in Beech Grove. The parade will be Saturday July 3rd at 11am, followed by games, food and entertainment in Sarah Bolton Park. The evening will then be capped off with the city of Beech Grove's traditional fireworks display. Polish up the Miata and join them for all of the fun. Contact Ben Hermann to see if any spaces are available by emailing him at ben@wmhermann.com, or calling him at 317-727-1401.

Our club participates each year in the Decatur Township Lions Club Parade to support the Decatur Township 4-H fair kickoff. On July 6th, we'll meet at 4:30 at the Firehouse and Government Building on High School Road, which crosses Kentucky Avenue one mile south of I-465 on the southwest side of Indy. The parade begins about 5:00 after we get all lined up and get our rider. Your passenger is usually a politician or other dignitary. Last year we carried some PaceMates! So, come on out on July 6 with an open right seat, and have some fun. Please RSVP to Jim Nutt via the events page or email.

Popping up on the schedule for July 17th is the "Day-Before-His-Birthday" Rally. If that's not a big hint, we don't know what is. Chuck Wills is the Rally Master and he mumbled something about a "unofficial" Fussin' and Cussin' rally with some of the trickiness of a F&C and other surprises! The ending point for the rally will be at Grey Brothers in Martinsville! We'll be meeting at 9:00 am at AIM Tuning, 298F Gasoline Alley, which is located between 10th street and Rockville Road on the west side. Chuck promised he'd bring the coffee and doughnuts. There's a registration form on page six. Please note that the date has been changed to the 17th, so adjust your calendars accordingly. If you have any questions, contact Chuck. (Inquiring minds would like to know, will you receive extra points if you bribe bring the rally master a birthday gift?)

R-R-Racing Events and News

There are a couple of events on the Indy SCCA calendar for July. On Saturday, July 17, the autocrossers return to the 16th Street Speedway in Indy for a "Kangaroo Hunt" (an Australian Pursuit) event. Want to do a serious rally? On July 25, the time, speed, and distance (TSD) "Take it to the Limit" rally will be held. Club member Jeannie Spellman participates in these events!

The Indy Grand Prix National Races are coming to IRP on July 3-4. They anticipate over 200 cars, so head on out to Raceway Park to watch these races.

The Indy SCCA website (<http://www.indyscca.org>) has more details on all of these events, plus other information.

Shane Benson and Ian Linn were out at IRP participating in the Mother's Day sprints. Shane won both of races he entered, while Ian, in his first year racing, showed marked improvement in the second race as he gained more track time. Our autocrossing club members (Bruce Durrell, Jay Hofacker, Ian Linn, Jay Quinn, Chad Jaeckel) have all been participating in points events.

Though not a racing event, on June 18th, ProSports Drivers Group held a fund raising event for Riley Hospital at Putnam Park and received almost \$2000 towards the cause. They opened the track during the lunch hour of their driving event for touring laps for a \$15 donation. Mike Selvy, Chuck Wills, Rick Booe John Martin, and Sara McBride were all there, driving their cars through the curves. The last four drivers logged almost 70 miles over a two hour span. It was a great way to drive the course with Ferraris, BMW's, Porsches and others.

F1 Cruise Stuns Crowds

by Chuck Wills

This event gets bigger every year! We started by meeting for an early dinner at the Sonic Drive-In in Speedway. It was good to see some familiar faces that have traveled to join us every year, like Graham and Tania from Maryland. We had several other out-of-town Miata friends from such far away places as Columbus, Ohio and Roscoe, Illinois.

We amassed quite a car collection in front of the restaurant. There were 48 cars, including three '92 LE's, three '92 Sunbursts and even Carol and Larry Dixon's Mazdaspeed MX5 Turbo that was only hours old! As usual, we all ended up in the parking lot to drool over all the cars.

At 7:15, everyone mounted up and drove through town to the Indy Zoo, where the F1 organizers were waiting to take us on a downtown car cruise. Done for the first time last year, the car cruise is a police escorted tour of down town Indy. The idea is that motorcycle cops stop traffic so we can zip through the streets unhindered by things like red lights and pedestrians. This event is so cool, it's even noted in the F1 program!

This year, things didn't go quite as planned, though. The organizer had planned on having about thirty Miatas show up, and they would mix in a few other cars that couldn't make their own group. What showed up was over 50 Miatas nose to tail. The organizers didn't know quite what to do with that crush of enthusiasm, and even ran out of windshield decals for the last few cars.

Once the procession started, it was more of a parade than a spirited romp through the streets. Being mid-pack, as far as I could see in front or behind were Miatas! As we wound through the city, even going around a tightly packed Monument Circle, the crowd muttered "There are so many of them, and here come more!". With 60+ cars in our group, we started several traffic jams and even caused people to pile up at cross walks. Unfortunately, as we wound around Monument Circle, the crowd got impatient, stepped in front of a car and it took the cars several minutes to fight their way through the teeming masses. The latter portion of the procession got separated from the police escort and didn't know where we went. Cell phones were buzzing with calls to a car in the front pack and they tried to catch up, but were unable to do so. Also, near the end of the route, a BMW SUV attempted to join the end of the group, but a motorcycle officer zoomed over to him, spoke to the driver and shook his finger at him. The BMW immediately dropped back a great distance from the procession!

Ending back up at the zoo after a 30 minute tour, we all mingled and watched the sun set over a bevy of a few dozen roadsters. In all, it was much fun and I can hardly wait to do it again next year!



So many cars, so much conversation about them.



Fred digs into food bag while Alice and Jim talk.



Jim and Barbara get in line to drive to the zoo.



(L) Linda seems to be eyeing Marsha's dinner!

(R) Our Ohio guests show off their cars.



Rain Doesn't Dampen Spirits of River Ralliers

"It was a cold and stormy..." No, wait, that's a bad beginning to a bad story. This is an article about a good, though slightly damp rally. Twelve Miatas with their drivers and navigators showed up in Bloomington at the starting point for Dennis and Hazel Moore's "Run to the River" rally on June 12th. Most encountered heavy rains on their way to the meeting point and all hoped that the showers were done for the day. Not to be, unfortunately.

We had members driving their first rally (Chad Jaeckel), members who had driven so many rallies, they've lost count (too many to list!), members who had driven down the night before and stayed the night (the Langhorns from Columbia City), and **Ed Chilcote??** brought his guest from England, -----, who drove the rally. One of our more witty members reminded him to "drive on the wrong side of the road"!

After the driver's meeting and the photo session, cars set off in two groups. Jim and Martha Nutt showed up, though they didn't run with us, they wished us well. Jim convinced Sara McBride to put down the top for the rally. At the first stoplight (less than 500 yards from the starting point) the rain began, so she jumped out and up came the roof!

Unbeknownst to us, very high winds and heavy rains had roared across our route and there were many obstacles in front of the drivers. Branches were down on the roads, gravel had washed out onto the highways and at one point, SR 37 was covered with about six inches of water! The rain continued to fall through out most of the drive, so we couldn't enjoy the great route that had been mapped out for us to its fullest potential. Near the end of the rally, some saw blue sky, so they dropped the tops.

Arriving in Leavenworth at the Overlook restaurant, Dennis and Hazel had a quiz to test our powers of observation. We were quizzed on what towns we went through, what stone quarries we passed, and other points of interest, plus our mileage. Bruce and Shelley Durrel placed first with Alexander Gray and ----- winning 2nd place. Mike and Mary Head won the "average" prize, based on what the rally masters determined should be the mileage for the run.

Food orders were placed and conversation began and everyone enjoyed themselves while taking in the sights of the water traffic on the Ohio river below the restaurant. After lunch, some folks went off to enjoy looking and shopping in the antique and crafts stores in Leavenworth, others headed off to sample wines in the wineries in French Lick, while others headed home.

Thank you to Dennis and Hazel for another great rally in southern Indiana. This is their second rally and they're talking about doing another one next year. A bit of advice? Don't miss it!

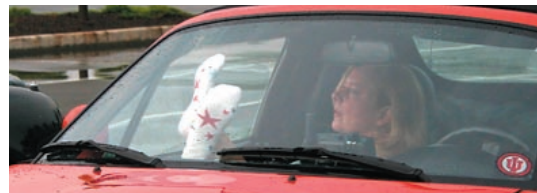


Jim makes a point as Mike and Linda look on.



(Above) Tom laughs because Laura thinks they "may have gotten off course".

(Below) Mary shows off her socks while waiting.



How To Fillet A Fish - A Two Part Tale

by Chuck Wills

Some of you long-time Miata Clubbers may remember two short years ago when I wrote about an adventure out west. The crew from AIM Tuning embarked upon a journey to participate in the inaugural Spec Miata race in Laguna Seca, California. It was a plan hatched over drinks and altered judgment, to put together a crew and drive 5500 miles to race with 75 other Miata-philosophers. It seems that every few years I get an itch for an adventure of the automotive kind. Laguna was one of those and once again, all of a sudden, why am I itching?

It all started quite innocently as Shane and I were trying to wait out the Hoosier winter. We were taking in the Performance Racing Industry show at the convention center in early December. As we walked about, we ran into friends of ours from our favorite magazine, Grass Roots Motorsports. These are kindred spirits with hi-octane in their veins, and they happen to print the best darned sports car magazine in the world. We chatted with them and started to discuss one of their annual events, the \$2004 Challenge. It's something that I had read about, but never given much thought to. The deal is, you have a total budget of \$2004 to build a car to compete in an autocross, drag race and car show. What makes this event doubly attractive is that it takes place in Florida the first weekend in April. I can think of no better time to abandon Hoosierland and head south.

As the conversation progressed, I mentioned that Shane had purchased an old Miata for an embarrassingly small sum, and that it actually ran quite well after some TLC. The guys from the magazine only added fuel to the fire at that point. They described how the event was really a gear-head convention and that we should come on down even if we just brought the car as-is. I was hooked, but Shane needed some convincing to turn his street car, named "The Fish", into a budget racer.

I worked on him for several days, saying how with little effort we should be able to run down to the event and at least get some magazine exposure for the shop. That was somewhat interesting to him, but the real convincer was when I said "Shane, you know I've got enough parts laying around my garage to build a turbo kit". That got his attention. The thought of building a low-budget turbo Miata was more than he could stand. He took the idea and ran with it, discussing what it would be like to strip the car down to its bare essentials. Light weight with turbo power, we would be a shoe-in for the overall win. That was a Friday evening.

When I returned to the shop Monday, I found a sleep deprived Shane and a stripped car surrounded by piles of parts and an entire crate of loose wires. He had spent the entire weekend removing parts and re-engineering the wiring harness to take weight out of the car. What started as a 2400lb pig ended up at a fighting weight of 2007lbs. This was the beginning of many sleepless nights and long weekends to get the project together.

The competition focuses on amateur engineering and resourceful home-brew solutions. We developed a keen shopping strategy to find cheap parts. By dipping into our own parts bins, raiding friend's garages and many hours surfing eBay, we were able to assemble a very fast car for well under our \$2004 limit. With parts cobbled together from RX7's, Nissan's and even Saab turbo's, we ended up making over 230 hp on our mostly stock 130,000 mile engine. In our first test session at the drag strip, even before the car was tuned, it went 105mph in the quarter mile. The Fish was going to be a force to be reckoned with. The car was then fine tuned to run on our special brew of home-made "rocket fuel" – a mix of 2/3 premium gas and 1/3 paint thinner. No kidding. With our 105 octane mix, 15psi of boost was child's play. We were ready to go.

The last big question was "How do we get the Fish down to Florida?". We had a truck and trailer, but it would only go 68 mph and got slightly worse fuel mileage than the Exxon Valdez. We decided that if we were careful, we could drive the car down with a second support vehicle full of spare parts and tools. We had a lot of sage advice from guys that have "been there, done that", saying that we should tow the car even though it would cost a fortune in fuel. Too much can happen on the highway, and making the race is too important to risk it.

Being young and invulnerable, we decided that we were going to drive the Fish down to the event no matter what. We loaded up the MSV (Miata Support Vehicle) with tools, spares, 10 extra gallons of "rocket fuel" and prepared for the journey to sunny Florida. We were leaving Wednesday, one day early, which would give us plenty of time to make the Friday registration deadline. We could almost taste the seafood dinner that was waiting for us.

The morning of our departure was cold, rainy and generally miserable. This is probably the time to tell you that the Fish has no side windows and no heater. Those parts were pitched in an effort to save weight. So, as we pulled out of Gasoline Alley for the last time, Shane was bundled up with 2 coats, a hat, gloves and goggles. He looked like an Arctic WWII Flying Ace.

The first two hours southward were uneventful. Cold. Rain. More rain. But at our fuel stop south of Louisville, the clouds broke and things started to look up, and by the time we hit central Kentucky the sky was bright and so were our spirits. The MSV was loping along effortlessly and the Fish was minding its own business cruising in the fast lane. With no muffler to deaden the exhaust, it sounded like a pint-sized Indy car cruising next to us.

As we passed by the Corvette Museum in Bowling Green, I was chatting on the phone with our newsletter editor, Sara J. We were ahead of schedule and would easily make Florida by bed time. Sara was filling me in on the miserable

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Road Trip!

Miatas and More IV

by Sara J McBride

It had been a trying few months for both Rick and I, so we decided we needed a road trip. After hearing about the "Miatas and More" event that the KAZOOM (Kalamazoo Area Zealous Owners Of Miatas) club puts on in May, we sent in our registration form, booked a hotel room, and on the evening of May 21st, we were northbound to Michigan.

Indy was hot and muggy when we left, but as we cruised up I-69, we could feel the temperature drop as we got north of Ft. Wayne. We stopped for fuel and a quick bit to eat just south of the state line, and after surveying the sky, decided that the storm clouds we saw necessitated the top being raised. Five miles out of Kalamazoo, we ran into heavy, driving rains, with lightning flashing across the sky and thunder reverberating all around us. We made it to the hotel, checked in and looked at the weather channel. It looked like we were in for a wet weekend, but what they heck, we were out of the house.

Saturday morning arrived, and was that sunshine we saw? After a quick hotel breakfast, we headed to the Gilmore Car Museum where the event was being held. We drove onto the grounds, were directed where to park and then handed a packet with information about the Museum, a dash plaque, tickets for the day long drawing of prizes and other items.

I set up a chair next to the car and started chatting with people, while Rick raised the hood of his car as it was entered in the show competition and he wanted all to see his polished valve cover and intake. We then walked the grounds and looked at many of the classic cars in the museum's inventory. Over 100 Miatas eventually showed up for the event, so there were lots of cars to look at! As we roamed around, we met Indy club members Craig and Susan Langhor who also attended the event.

There was a detailer there and he worked on several cars during the day. A graphic artist was pin striping cars and although Susan didn't get the flames she wanted on their 2000 Mahogany, the pinstripes looked good. Other scheduled events included an autocross and a "Drop Top" contest.

Due to the previous night's rain, the area where the autocross was held was quite damp and the autocrossers were informed that severe penalties



Craig Langhor starts his autocross run at M & M IV.

would be imposed for anyone who went off the paved surface. Only one competitor was disqualified, all the other contestants kept their cars under control. It was a good event for first timers and Craig did well.

The "Drop Top" competition was an event where contestants sat in their car with seat belts on and then attempted to exit the car, drop the top, and get back in and belt in the shortest amount of time.

Late in the afternoon, we went on a 30 plus mile tour of the countryside led by a Michigan State Trooper, and then ended up at a lake side restaurant for dinner. More drawings for goodies were held and Rick and I ended up with a Racing Beat Polo Shirt and a \$25 gift certificate from R Speed, and Craig won a pullover.

I would recommend attending this event next year. It's a nice weekend "get away", we met some great people, and it was full of that "Miata Magic" and friendliness. The Kazoom club works hard on this event and it shows.

Oh yes, the rain stayed away all day! It was obviously that there was "magic" at work!

Chuck's Day-Before-His-Birthday Rally Registration Form

Pre-register for \$7.00! Sign up on the event page to pre-register and bring this form with you to the rally or you can mail it with your check (made out to Indy Miata Club) to : Chuck Wills, 8609 Woodbluff Ct., Indianapolis, IN 46234.

CDBHB Rally Saturday, August 17

Mail to: Chuck Wills, 8609 Woodbluff Ct., Indianapolis, IN 46234

Or register electronically and bring this form with you.

Driver's Name _____ Navigator's Name _____

I understand that this is not a speed contest and I agree to participate at my own risk. I agree to hold the Indy Miata Club, its officers, and event organizers harmless from any claim arising from my participation in this event.

Driver _____ Date _____

Navigator _____ Date _____

A signed and dated entry is required for participation in this event.

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Club Classifieds

For Sale: Moss Luggage Rack Part #901-600. All parts and instructions. Will fit any model Miata. Used this rack on 2000 mile trip to Virginia. Worked very well. \$100. (see picture in classifieds on club website) Contact Gary Marconi at marconi12@comcast.net.

For Sale: Miata hardtop off 1991 Miata. Like new, for \$1,000.00. White with black interior. Contact Jim Quearry via email at AgentMJQ@aol.com or telephone 317-272-7728.

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A Fish Tale....

weather in Indy when the Fish went cruising past us with smoke trailing from under the car. I immediately hung up the phone....

What will our heros do? What diabolical fate has set upon them? Is the Fish merely filleted or is it fried?

Tune in next month for the conclusion of "How to Fillet a Fish". Same fish time, same fish channel!!!!

Attention Club Members!

Let our advertisers know you saw their ad in the Open Road and that you appreciate their support! To receive your club discount from our advertisers, just show them the latest copy of the Open Road!

Day-Before-His-Birthday Rally - July 17

July 3 - Beech Grove Parade

July 6 - Decatur Township Parade

July 17 - Day-Before-His-Birthday Rally

July Mingle - Open Mingle

August 7 - Brickyard Mingle

August - B&B Rally - date to be set!

September 19 - Huber Winery Tour

September - Open Mingle

Sept 30 - Oct 3 - St. Louis Mazda Reunion

October 9 - Leaf Peeper Tour

October 23-24 - Madison Madness Tour

November - Open dates

December - Holiday Party



Photo by Sara J McBride

Phil and Susie Callahan cruisin' at the Sonic!



Photo by Rick Morris

Mike and Ann Selvy getting in line at the Zoo.