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A Special Announcement From Our Vice President....

by Ben Hermann

On a couple of occasions during the past few months, I have emerged from my usual secure, undisclosed location of the Vice-President's office. Through these very secret field trips, I am proud to announce that we are welcoming Hubler Mazda South as the official sponsor of the Indy Miata Club. After meeting with Marcus Zimmer, the General Manager of both the Mazda and Acura stores, I hammered out a generous deal with Andy Ficociello, the Mazda Sales Manager.

As a member of the Indy Miata Club, you will receive 15% off parts at both the Greenwood and Plainfield locations. You are also eligible for a new car discount at the Greenwood location. (See the ad for on page 7 for details.) To receive these benefits just take your name tag or copy of the current month's newsletter in with you. Other benefits include giving the club \$50 per month to help defray the cost of the Open Road, as well as paying for a one year membership for the proud new owners of Miatas purchased at the Greenwood store.

In exchange, you will notice their ½ page ad in this and in the following month's Open Road. If you are a frequent visitor to the club's website (if you're not, you should be) you will notice the addition of their logo in the top-right corner of our home page. You can click there to be forwarded to their website where you can check their inventory, see information on specials and rebates, get their hours of operation, and other information..

They will also be hosting at least one event this year, which will be a Poker Run. We are going to coordinate this with the grand opening of their new building in Greenwood. It is probably going to include a cook out and live music. There are more details to come, so check the website often or sign up for email alerts to get the latest info. I am counting on you making this a well-attended event to show our appreciation for their sponsorship and to let them know that we are a good investment. We don't want to just be a charity for them; we are trying to build a relationship that can be sustained for years to come.

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Picture This Rally - May 8

Come join us on Saturday, May 8 for the third annual Picture This rally. We will be meeting at 9:00am at the Marsh/Osco parking lot at 75th and Shadeland Avenue. Drivers meeting will start at 9:30.

You will be given pictures of various famous bars and restaurants around Indianapolis. The idea is to identify the pictures and then go to each of the locations to answer clues to prove you were there. Those not native to Indy, never fear, because you will be given clues to help you figure out the name of the location. No rally route is given you make your own route. The strategy is to find the places in the least number of miles, and whomever does so (and answers all the questions correctly) wins the rally! We will be meeting for lunch after the rally to share stories.

It is strongly advised to bring a phone book to look up places you are not familiar with) and a map of Indianapolis (to plan your route).

Registration is \$7 if you preregister or if you email Melissa at devilssnowflake@aol.com or \$10 the day of the event. It would be greatly appreciated if you letter her know ahead of time if you are attending so she can better plan how many rally packets to make up. A registration form is on page six.

Indy 500 Mingle At The Sonic!

What happens every May? Well, yeah, there's that race, but there's also a Mingle at the Sonic Drive-in the Speedway Shopping Center!

This is an informal gathering to eat high quality drive-in food, talk with old friends and out of towners who might wander by. We'll meet at 7:00 to talk, eat and have a good time. See you there!

Get Ready To "Run To The River"

Are you ready for another drive on the curvy, hilly, twisting roads of southern Indiana? The opportunity is just around the corner (or curve). Reserve June 12th for the "Run To The River with Dennis and Hazel Moore.

The route for this rally is still under construction (i.e. Dennis and Hazel are trying to find roads that are *not* under construction), but it is guaranteed to have lots of hills and curves and will end at a scenic river overlook. This will be a fun drive with no clues to check. However, since they will be awarding prizes, there will be an opportunity for you to tell them about where you have been.

Look for more details in next month's Open Road and on the events page on the club website at <http://www.indymiata.org>.

Miatas And More Sports Car Meet

The Kalamazoo Area Zealous Owners of Miatas (KAZOOM) is hosting the 4th Annual Miatas and More Sports Car Meet, Saturday, may 22, 2004. This event is being held at the world renown Gilmore Car Museum in Hickory Corners, Michigan (about halfway between Chicago and Detroit). The day consists of a car show with Miatas & More displayed on the well-manicured grounds. There will be "friendly (noncompetitive) autocross ad car games, an organized "back roads" tour of the area, mini clinics and door prizes from famous Miata vendors. The Gilmore Museum's critically acclaimed Red Barns are filled with millions of dollars of classic street and race cars for viewing. There will also be an evening banquet brought to you by Mazda.

Get all the details from the KAZOOM website: <http://www.kazoom.org>.

You can pre-register and even pay online. Learn more today, make your reservations and be part of what has become a premier auto enthusiast event.

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.

The Blues Review

Post Tax Blues Rally Not Taxing At All!

by Bob Wiley

What better way to “celebrate” the Tax Blues than going to the Annual Post Tax Blues Rally? I can’t think of any! It was a nice, sunny spring day and spring fever was obvious by the great turnout. A total of forty-nine Miatas gathered at the McDonalds in Peru Indiana. The Lake Effect Club was represented by 12 cars, and Indy drew 37 cars for this event! Way to go!

We had plenty of time for mingling and car gawking before the rally. We checked out all the cool things people do to their cars. Spoilers, shift knobs, super chargers, wind jammers, stereos, GPS units, decals, wheels, tires, seats, personalized license plates, you name it! Each car had its own individual touch added and if you saw something you liked, you could ask the owner about it. You can find most of the add-ons on the internet or post a message in the club forum, someone will help you.

Our co-hosts for this event were Sara McBride and Bill and Jean Florent. They called us together for our pre-rally instructions, and assured us “we wouldn’t get lost”! I have heard THAT before! Of course, they reminded us of the #1 rule for ALL Rallies which is (all together now) “*The Rally Master is ALWAYS right!*”

The plan was for us to follow an “easy” route, with no “tricks” or clue hunting, so this was perfect for my rookie navigator to get her feet wet. This was a Poker Run, and winning is dependent on pure luck, not driving or navigation skills or finding stupid and obscure clues along the way. (Who would do that anyway? Oh, wait...the Fussin' 'n Cussin Rally. Hmmm...) We were given two cards in sealed envelopes at the start. Along the route, we were given two more cards, one at each of two stops. The final card was drawn at lunch for a total of five cards.

A nice route around Mississinewa Reservoir, the Mississinewa and Wabash Rivers and plenty of farm country was laid out. The Rally Masters had two routes, so we were seeing Miatas all day, going the opposite way, and everyone waved, honked or did the “headlight wave”. I think I saw a couple cars four times going the other way! We did pretty well following the route, only missing two turns and having to turn around. (Never just follow a few cars thinking they won’t miss a turn! Read your own directions!) We quickly stopped and went back. I still don’t know where the other cars went! At one point I was clocked at three mph, stuck behind a 13’ wide farm implement! (The road was only about 15’ wide! UGH!)

We had lunch at Nick’s Country Cafe in Huntington, with tenderloins and fries seeming to be the group favorite!

Prizes were handed out to the winners (who all had two pairs) and

losers! First place (\$80.00) was Dan Rumble with 2 pair (queens over sevens), second place (\$50.00) was Greg and Nancy Waltz (sixes over threes), and third place (\$30.00) went to Don and Becky Hill (fives over deuces). Each winner also received a limited edition Post Tax Blues Rally T-shirt. Oh, the “losers” with the worst poker hand got free shirts, too. Jim Jones and his co-pilot Linda Jenks were the losers!

All in all, the event was a great success and fun was had by all! New friends were made, old acquaintances renewed and like our old club motto says, “The Fun Starts Here!”

Thanks to the rally masters for doing such a good job on this event, it’s much appreciated!

I’d also like to thank everyone who made my copilot feel welcome. It is all “foreign” to her. This is one thing which makes the club so much fun, the friendliness of the people! She now has her very own Indy Miata Club name tag, too!

Oh yeah, I get a refund this year! Woo hoo!



Miatas zoom along one of the PTBR routes.

It was a lot full of Miatas and their drivers and passengers as they gathered for the 2004 edition of the Post Tax Blues Rally.



PTBR photos by Ben Herman, Don Hill, John Schaub and Bill Florent. You’ll find more photos at www.indymiata.org/

Another Cruise Down The Open Road Memory Lane

by Sara J McBride

Let's take a look at how the front page of your newsletter has evolved from the first issue to how it looks today.

Originally, the front page held many items, such as news of the National Club (MCA, Miata Club of America, which no longer exists), when and where the next club gathering was to be and other information.

In 1993, Jim Nutt started a tradition that continues to this day. The president of the club writes a front page article and also provides a name for their column. Jim stepped up to the presidential plate twice, filling in for Brad Johnson who had to step down, so not only did he reach down into the creative well again, he also had a different column name.

Some of our presidents were more verbose than others, but they all wrote with vigor including interesting thoughts, humor and ideas each month. The column names provide an interesting insight of each president, from racing interests to the name of their car.

Here's the list of our Presidents and column names through the years:

- 1993 - Jim Nutt - From The Driver's Seat
- 1994 - Chip Helmser - ...and He's On it!
- 1995 - Mike Fetsch - Toolin' Down The Road
- 1996 - Don Weiler - Behind The Wheel
- 1997 - Brad Johnson - Key Notes
- 1997 - Jim Nutt - Passing Thoughts
- 1998 - Bob McCoy - Roadster Racket
- 1999 - Gary Collings - The Curvy Road Less Travelled
- 2000 - Jim Barrick - Surprise!
- 2001 - Steve Jacobson - Slower Traffic Keep Right!
- 2002 - Chuck Wills - Four Wheel Drift
- 2003 - Rick Morris - In The Marbles
- 2004 - Jay Hofacker - Around The Bend

So, Ben Hermann, what will your column name be?

A Letter to The Editor!

We (Susie and I) were wondering if there is anyone in the club that keeps up on track events, like things at Putnam Park or events where racing types (street stock or modified) might be happening. We went to Putnam last summer on a very hot afternoon and watched Porches run, but would be more interesting seeing cars like we own and drive out there dicing it up a little. Might be something that could be put in the newsletter or the website (or both) to let club members see just what Miatas are capable of, from an observation point of view. Whatdayathink?

Phil Callahan

Dear Phil,

Good idea! Here are some upcoming racing events you might enjoy.

Indy SCCA is sponsoring a Double Regional Race series out at IRP on May 8th and 9th. This is club racing, so you'll see Miatas and other kinds of cars. Cars will be on the track starting at 8:00am each day, qualifying in the morning and racing in the afternoon. The Indy SCCA web site at www.indyscca.org/RacePage.html has more info.

NASA (National Auto Sport Association) is having a Drivers Education school along with a double sprint race and a 100 Mile Enduro out at Putnam May 22nd and 23rd. There were several Miatas that participated in this series last fall, so it's likely they will return (along with Audi's, Diasio's, and others.) There's more information about this event on their web site at <http://www.racenas.com/>.

The autocrossers will be at the 16th Street Speedway for an event on May 2 and then will travel to Anderson to chase cones on May 23.

Phil, thanks for writing!

Miatas At "The Vic"

Everybody sing! "Take me out to the ballpark, take me out to the game!"

Have you made your reservation for IMC night on June 26th at Victory Field? Ben Hermann is organizing this "family friendly" event, so it's OK to leave the roadster at home and bring the minivan.

Ben will be taking RSVP's and collecting the money for the tickets. As of right now, he has 50 box seats reserved at \$11.00 each. We can add more if necessary, but need at least 25. The sooner you RSVP and pay, the better, so he can coordinate parking, tickets, and possibly dinner reservations. The deadline for your RSVP is June 8.

Register for this event on the event page at the club website or call Ben at (317) 727-1401. Come and enjoy a fun and relaxing night at one of the best ballparks in the country.

Star City Motor Madness

The Blue Ridge Miata Club, on behalf of the "Star City Motor Madness" Events Committee, would like to issue an invitation to all clubs and interested enthusiasts. Join us this July 4th weekend for the 3rd annual celebration of "Star City Motor Madness" (SCMM) in the Roanoke Valley of Virginia.

This celebration of automotive passion continues to grow as a destination event along Virginia's Blue Ridge Parkway and is scheduled this year for Friday, July 2 and Saturday, July 3.

Friday night's event is "Cruise Night" along Roanoke's Williamson Road, a classic American cruise route, with two SCMM venues near either end of "the strip". Saturday's activity is centered around a giant open air car show in picturesque downtown Roanoke in the historic Farmers' Market area. The event culminates with a parade up Williamson Road.

For more information, go to the event website: <http://www.starcitymotormadness.com>.

It's The Process, Not The Product

by Rick "Dr. Detail" Morris

Every once in a while, people will ask what kind of wax I use, and they're normally a little surprised that I use a wax whose name sounds like you would have to travel to the top of a mountain in Tibet and pay a lot of grinkles to get it. Some people have bought wax that I have recommended and then pointed out later that it was, to put it mildly, somewhat more than they expected to spend. Some people think that the more expensive the wax is, the better it will look on their car. There is a certain degree of truth to that, but price isn't the whole story by a long shot. One important thing to keep in mind is that detailing is something I really enjoy doing. I like trying new products in an effort to get that last one percent of beauty out of my car. You may be more interested in making your car look great and having good protection from the elements. You also not want to spend as much time on your car as I do on mine. You may actually have a life (something I've heard about).

The truth of the matter is that you can get very good results from almost any decent wax if it is used properly. By decent wax, I don't mean Uncle Don's Discount Water Wax that you put on with a garden hose. I do mean something like Meguiar's, Mother's, Zaino or even NuFinish. The most important part of any wax job is how it's done, not what you use. If you properly prepare the finish before applying the wax and then apply the wax properly, your car will look great and it will stay looking that way for quite a while.

What I'm going to do this month is give you some basic wax guidelines so you can pick out the right product for both you and your car and then give you some basic preparation and application tips. I'm also going to point out some really good web resources you can go to for help and advice. Of course, you're always welcome to contact me with specific questions or problems.

Choosing the Right Wax for You and Your Car

Choosing a wax that's right for you is almost as important as choosing the right wax for the car. If you just want to get the car clean and protected without taking a week to get it done, buying a wax that's hard to apply and requires maintenance will only result in the wax not being used and the car not looking as good as it could.

Basically speaking, there are two broad categories of wax, natural and polymer. The natural waxes are generally carnauba wax, which is made from wax obtained from the leaves of the Brazilian carnauba tree (I'm not making this up). The advantages of a carnauba wax are great shine and "depth". The disadvantages are that carnauba waxes generally don't last as long and do require some maintenance to keep them in tip top shape. Mother's, Meguiar's and Zymol are examples of carnauba waxes. The second type of wax are the polymer waxes. The synthetic waxes generally are a little easier to use and last longer. The disadvantages of some of them are that they don't shine as well. Examples of polymer waxes are Zaino, NuFinish and Meguiar's new NXT wax. I have used all of these products and they all have their strong and weak points. Feel free to ask me about any of them.

Proper Preparation of the Car

If the finish isn't prepared properly, it won't make any difference what kind of wax you use. You need to make sure that the car is as clean as you can get it. This can be as simple as a good washing or as complicated as a complete buffing. The important thing is to do the best you can. I highly recommend using a clay

bar once a year (see last month's newsletter). If the finish is clean and well-prepared, the wax will go on lots easier, look better and last longer. If the finish isn't clean, all you're doing is making the dirt shiny.

Applying the Wax

READ THE INSTRUCTIONS! The people that make the wax probably have a good idea on how to use it. Read the instructions and follow them. After you've waxed your car a few times, you'll probably find ways to make the job easier and get better results. When you're doing it for the first time, do what they tell you. If they say to wax only a small portion of the car at a time, that's what you need to do. After only fifty years, I finally realized that reading the instructions can be a "Good Thing".

The next most important thing is to use as little wax as possible. The amount of wax that makes the car look great and be protected is actually very small. An excess just makes the job harder and probably will make the results not as good as you had hoped. One of the forums I go to says to treat car wax like fine perfume. It doesn't take very much to get good results.

Maintenance

After you have your car looking great, keep it looking that way with very little work. Keep it washed and use a detailing spray to keep the shine and protection up. Whoever makes the wax you end up buying also makes a detailing

continued on page 6



Dr. Detail works his voo-doo detailing magic on a Ferrari

WCMC Fine Wines & Arts Tour To SE Wisconsin

The Indy Miata Club has been invited to join the Windy City Miata Club for the Fine Wines & Arts Tour in and around Madison, Wisconsin starting Friday, July 9 through Sunday, July 11. Complete information concerning this event is available at this web site: http://www.friarscove.com/fine_wines_&_arts_tour.htm.

Drive on your own on Friday, July 9 to downtown Madison to the Inn on the Park (Best Western) directly across from the state capitol. This will be your lodging for the trip. On Saturday, July 10, drive curvy, scenic, paved roads of southwest Wisconsin, stopping to visit two or three wineries. Later, at 6:30pm, meet in a hospitality suite to sample wines from those wineries, snack on fruit, crackers and cheese while swapping stories of the day. Then at 8:00pm, dinner is in the eighth floor "Top of the Park" banquet room with floor-to-ceiling windows. On Sunday, you can walk across the street into the well regarded "Art Fair on the [Capitol] Square". Fees for the tour are \$113.00 tour fee for two IMC members (\$56.00 for one person) plus hotel costs. Your tour fee includes the hospitality suite and dinner on Saturday night, all maps and directions and a "goodie bag".

There is a block of 42 rooms set aside for this tour, at press time, 16

are still available. On June 8, any remaining rooms will be released to the public and will be quickly snatched up. Call the Best Western at 800-279-8811. You must say you are with the Windy City Miata Club to get the discounted room rate. Your Miata will be parked in a secured garage at the hotel.

Mail your check to Phil Landers at No More Haggling Inc., 124 N. York Rd. #220, Elmhurst, IL 60126 by June 8th. Questions? You can call Phil at 630-628-3500 or email him at PLanders@NoMoreHaggling.com,

It's The Process...continued from page 5

spray. Use it. It only takes about fifteen minutes to use detailing spray on a Miata and it's well worth the effort when you do.

Getting Help

One of the great things about the internet is the large number of forums that are available for you to go to and get advice and help. Here is a list of the forums I have found very helpful:

The Miata Forum - <http://www.miataforum.com> Not only is this a good resource for appearance, it's a great place to find out more about your car. The people are friendly and ready to help.

Autopia - <http://www.autopia.org> This is a more advanced detailing forum. I learn something here almost every day.

Better Car Care - <http://www.bettercarcare.com> Another excellent technical reference with lots of good how-tos.

Until next time, keep the shiny side shiny.

Observations in a Miata

Adapted by Mike Selvy

Driver: Something loose in cockpit.

CoPilot: Something tightened in cockpit.

D: Dead bugs on windshield.

CP: Live bugs on back-order.

D: Miata handles funny.

CP: Miata warned to straighten up, get serious, and drive right!

D: Noise from under instrument panel.

Sounds like a midget pounding with hammer.

CP: Took hammer away from midget.

Picture This Registration Form

You can register for the Picture This rally online at the club website (www.indymiaata.org) or mail this form with your \$7.00 check made out to the Indy Miata Club to: Melissa Forbes, PO Box 40561, Indianapolis, IN 46240-0561.

Driver: _____

Please Print

Navigator: _____

Please Print

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: _____

Passenger: _____ Date: _____

All entries must be signed and dated to participate in this event.

Hubler Mazda South

Official Sponsor of the Indy Miata Club

Hubler Mazda is the *exclusive* Indianapolis dealer for the new MazdaSpeed MX-5! This exciting car features an intercooled turbocharger putting out 178 HP, it's sport tuned, has a lowered suspension and 17" Hart Racing wheels. The MazdaSpeed MX-5 also has alloy foot pedals, leather seats and many more features.



Available in Titanium Gray and Velocity Red. Prices start at just 25,500.00 (MSRP*).

Could this be your next Miata?

* MSRP excludes destination, tax, title and license fees.

Hubler Mazda is offering Indy Miata Club members a 15% parts discount at their Plainfield location. This discount will soon be available at the Greenwood location.

Buying a new Mazda? Bring this ad to our Greenwood location for \$200 off of your final negotiated price!

Hubler Mazda South

1274 S. US 31 South, Greenwood IN 46143

Located three miles south of the Greenwood Park Mall

Sales Hours:

Mon, Weds, Thurs: 9:00am-9:00pm

Tues, Fri & Sat: 9:00am-6:00pm

Sunday: Closed

317-883-4560

Ask for Andy Ficociello

<http://mazdagreenwood.drivehubler.com>

Service & Parts Dept. Hours

Mon - Fri: 7:30AM - 5:30PM

Sat & Sun: Closed

Club Classifieds

For Sale: Four Bridgestone Potenza RE910 15" tires. Lots of tread life left on these all season tires. \$80! Steve Jacobson call 317-570-4598 or jakenaj@sbcglobal.net

For Sale: New in box front nose mask for M1 Miata. \$50 makes it yours. Email Sara J at miata@2cat.com or call 317-291-8993.

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

Indy Miata Club
 10% off labor and
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Now is the time to plan your springtime service and upgrades!

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- Brakes - Clutch - Suspension
- Precision wheel balancing
- Wheel and tire packages
- Performance upgrades

Flyin' Miata

HARD DOG FABRICATION JACKSON RACING RACINGBEAT AUTOPOWER

Picture This - May 8

May 8 - Picture This III
May 29 - 500 Mingle

June 12 - Run to the River
June 19 - USGP Mingle
June 26 - Miatas at the Vic

July 24 - Fussin 'n Cussin'
July Mingle - Open Mingle

August 7 - Brickyard Mingle
August 14 - B + B Rally

September - Huber Winery Tour

September - Open Mingle

October 9 - Leaf Peeper Tour
October 23-24 - Madison Madness
Tour

November - Open dates

December - Holiday Party

Just a few of the many Miatas that participated in the Post Tax Blues rally.

