



Volume 14
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Around The Bend... by Jay Hofaker, President

Our top down days are getting fewer, but we've got one last driving event planned for everyone. We all know that the best way to look at the fall colors is with the top down!

Hubler is hosting a get together on November 4th. They have stepped up and become the Official Sponsor of the Indy Miata Club and are helping us with their support. Please show them you appreciate this by attending the Open House. We've had several members take advantage of the discount they offer to club members, and there are several new MazdaSpeed Miatas in the club now!

Don't forget to reserve December 5th for this year's club Holiday Party. We'll be gathering at the Old Spaghetti Factory again. It's sure to be another fun time, so sign up on the events page at the club web site. We'll hold officer elections and have our annual gift exchange (\$15 gift per couple).

Also, keep thinking about nominations for club officers. This is your club, so help us stay a viable active organization. Another way you can participate is to host an event in 2005. The sign up form for events will be at the Holiday Party, and thanks to Bob Wiley, we already have one rally on the calendar. Thanks, Bob! Think about hosting a rally, tour or mingle in 2005.

Keep that top down and the heater on....

Hubler Mazda Grand Opening

by Ben Hermann

Hubler Mazda, sponsor of the Indy Miata Club, is happy to announce the grand opening of their new 'Retail Revolution Store' in Greenwood. This state of the art dealership is like nothing you've ever seen. As you turn into the parking lot and see a sparkling, new car 12 feet in the air, you know you're in for a special treat. Raised on a lift and surrounded by glass and dramatic lighting, it beckons you to come inside to check out the other features.

When you walk in, you'll be drawn towards the "Feature Car Platform". It looks like it's right from an auto show, except with one major difference. At the auto show, the cars on platforms are roped off, but here you are welcomed and encouraged to go up on the platform. Feel free to walk around the car, get in and play with the buttons, etc. Surrounding the Feature Car Platform are several computer kiosks that you can use to browse the complete Mazda line-up and customize your next car. You can print out personalized car specs and pictures and take them to the M-Cafe to discuss them with your spouse. The M-Cafe is a "safe zone" where you won't be bothered by sales people if you so choose.

Don't forget the service department with brand new diagnostic equipment and tools to service your car and keep it running like new for years to come. The factory trained technicians will put their expertise to work for you.

And now the best part... Hubler is having an Open House and you're invited. It's Thursday, November 4 from 5:30-7:30. Come to the showroom, meet the staff, and check out everything. They are having tours and food. They have been very generous in their support of our club and we need to show up and thank them. Afterwards we're going to get together for dinner at Buffalo Wild Wings at 8020 South US 31. We'll probably start arriving for dinner between 7 and 7:30.

Come down, have fun, have food, and say thanks.

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"Hidden Drive" To Nashville

Circle November 13 on your calendar for what will probably be the last driving event for the club. Sara J has organized another "Hidden Drives" driving tour to Nashville, Indiana. It's a slightly different route from last year's event with some roads you may not have been on for quite a while.

We'll meet at 10:00AM in the back parking lot of the Adams Mark Hotel by the airport (2544 Executive Drive off the Airport Expressway), hand out route instructions and be off by 10:15 or so. We'll be taking Miata friendly roads to Nashville, which aren't the fastest way, but who cares?

Once in Nashville, you're free to do what you want. Shop, eat, drive some more, what ever makes you happy. There's lots to do in Brown County. Remember, what happens in Nashville, stays in Nashville!

This will be a rain or shine event. Sign up on the club's event page or call Sara so she'll know how many instruction sheets to print. See you there!

Holiday Party And Officer Elections

We will be having the annual club Holiday Party and Officer elections on December 5th at the Old Spaghetti Factory (255 S. Meridian, Indianapolis) starting at ???. This is a casual, fun evening with dinner, followed by officer elections and concluding with the ever popular gift exchange. As usual, the club will pick up the dinner tab, you only pay for drinks.

If you're interested in running for a club office (VP, Treasurer, Membership Director, Webmaster or Open Road Editor) please contact incoming President Ben Hermann (Contact info in masthead at left).

Are You Interested In A Car Control Clinic?

by Chuck Wills

I've been talking with some of the Cincy Miata Club folks and we've come up with an interesting idea: A Car Control Clinic. This would be a one day school to learn more about braking, skid control, lane change maneuvers, etc. It would be held someplace like Indianapolis Raceway Park or Putnam Park, but it would not be a high-speed lapping event. The idea is to make you a better, safer driver and understand the capabilities of your car a little better. It wouldn't be anything that would wear out your car or your tires.

I floated the idea on the Indy club forum area and have gotten some positive responses and the Cincy folks are very interested also. I'm discussing this with a friend who organizes track events and we'll see if we can put something together for next year. Let me know how you feel about it by posting a reply in the club forum area or drop me a line.

A Sign Not Seen At Any Indiana Rest Stop

While your Open Road Editor was travelling out west this summer, she spotted this sign at a Montana rest area.

Amazingly, for once she used common sense and wisely stayed on the sidewalk.



Leaf Peeper Tour A "Culturally Enriching" Event

The day started out somewhat gloomy and overcast, but by the meeting time for the start of the "Leaf Peeper and Historical Tour", the sun was out and there were 13 cars ready to roll.

Sara McBride was the rally master for this event which started at the Glenwood Mall and we toured some of Indy's most scenic and colorful tree lined boulevards. We not only saw colorful trees, but we drove by some of the city's historical sites, such as Benjamin Harrison's house, a location where a totem pole from the 1904 St. Louis World's Fair stood for many years, the Michigan Road Toll House, and the Charles Fairbanks Home. (Who is that? Why, he was the Vice-President of the United States from 1905 to 1909!)

A small error in the directions midway into the tour led us into, well, shall we call it the 'hood? Luckily, Sara was standing on a corner waiting for us to pass by to take some photos. When she saw us going in the wrong direction, she hopped in her car, caught up with the group and directed us back on course.

The last stop was at the Mug 'n Bun in Speedway and after arriving, everyone sat, ordered food and chatted. Another fun event for the club was in the books.



The Randalls and Halls give a wave as they wait for the stoplight to change from red to green.



Judy and Greg Hall place their dinner order.

Photos by Don Jordan and Sara J McBride

John Oaks loved his automatic with all the stop and go city driving on the Peeper Tour!



Above: Getting ready for the drivers meeting. Below: Getting ready to eat!



Arriving at the Mug 'n Bun and finding a place to park.



Cars turn onto Golden Hill Drive and head for Totem Lane.



Rain And Sun For Madison Madness

A light, misty rain was falling as Indy Miata club members converged on the starting point in Greensburg for the Madison Madness tour on October 23rd. After some folks had a late breakfast, John and Marsha Schaub held the driver's meeting. The usual rules were established with the Number One rule being "Have fun!". (We all know the other rule.. repeat after me, "The Rally Master is always right!") This was a touring event with no clues, questions or as John put it, "No stupid human tricks!" and drivers and navigators were soon heading for their cars.

Most of the participants decided to brave the elements with their tops down (well, except for Mike and Mary Head who arrived with their hardtop firmly attached) and soon a line of Miatas headed out. The first section of the tour included a loop around the Greensburg courthouse square so everyone could see the famous tree growing from the courthouse tower.

A quick trip down 421 to Versailles, onto IN 129 and a left onto Olean Road, where the fun really began. Our route had us on the tops of ridges then we would snake down and follow creeks and rivers. We went through Friendship, Farmer's Retreat, Milton and Allensville. We travelled on curvy roads named Plum Creek, Bell's Ranch, Lake Geneva and Roberts. We were directed past the historic homes in the town of Vevay and then headed towards Madison along the Ohio River.

The rain that had been threatening all day, came down as we drove into Madison and tops were going up at stoplights and in the parking lot of the Wharf Restaurant. Sitting outside for lunch and watching the barges on the river was out of the question today! Meals were ordered and everyone discussed the roads, their cars and the weather.

After lunch, cars headed to the Hillside Inn where most people were staying. From this point on, you were on your own, so in the evening, some folks headed off to the Key West Shrimp House for dinner, while others investigated other Madison eateries.

Sunday morning brought heavy fog on the river, but the sun broke through and it turned into a bright, sunny day. No official activities were planned, it was a "on your own" day. Clifty Falls State Park, Hanover College and just walking around Madison were some of the destinations and activities. Cars then made their way north back to Indy, some taking the quick route and some running the tour route in reverse!

Thanks go to John and Marsha for their work in putting the tour together. As one club member told John, "This route goes in my keeper file!"



Marsha and John Schaub go over some rally details.



Gary Collings make a point to Sheryl Sackett as Norm Arbuckle looks on.

Steve and Cathy Randall arrive with umbrellas in hand!



Bill Best is top down and ready to roll, but he waits for Lynn at the beginning on the tour.



Phil Callahan is no slacker. He brought his wash bucket and cleaned up his car on Sunday morning.



IMC Members Enjoyed St. Louis Event

The Indy Miata Club made a strong showing at the 2004 Mazda Reunion event, "Meet Me In St. Louie". The club tied the Windy City Miata Club for having the most members at the event and brought home many awards from the event.

Miatas started arriving at the event hotel on Thursday afternoon. Some members of the Indy contingent formed a caravan across I-70, sampling 'foot high pies" at the Blue Springs Cafe in western Illinois. After arriving at the hotel, members cruised the hotel parking lot, looking at cars and meeting other Miata and RX-8 owners from across the US. One popular area was the car wash station set up in the back lot. Hoses, wash buckets and sponges with Meguiar's car wash soap were provided to get all the bugs and road dirt off the cars.

After the evening dinner, a cruise for frozen custard at Ted Drewes' Famous Frozen Custard stand on Route 66 was organized. Though it was a chilly night for frozen custard, a long line of Miatas took the trip.

On Friday, there were several tours and rallies scheduled. A "Forage St. Louie" scavenger hunt, a Missouri Wine Country and "Scenic St. Louie" rallies were going on, while other people followed the same routes, but just as a tour. Some of the tour participants noted that with all the wine tasting stops, their group was not being adhering to the time schedule! Also, if you wondered what your car's horsepower was, a dynamometer was available in the hotel parking lot to answer that question.

Some lucky people were able to go to a local classic car reseller, Hyman Cars, Ltd. and viewed a collection of cars that was unbelievable. A Delahaye was sitting in their lobby, not for sale, but was valued at over four million dollars! Inside the main area were Austin-Healy's, MG's, a Gogomobile, a Morgan F Super Trike and more.

The Concourse d' Elegance and Not So Elegance was held and then dinner was a sampler of St. Louis foods and then the Zydeco Crawdaddies performed New Orleans styled Zydeco and Dixieland music for all.

Saturday morning was cold and gloomy, but everyone started lining up around 6:30AM for the run to Gateway International Raceway for parade laps and the group photo. It was a brisk 41 degrees as we entered the track area, but the sun came out and soon tops were dropping. Parade laps were done on both the oval and the road course, then all the cars lined up behind the start / finish line for the group shot. Afterwards, folks got ready for the Driver's school, autocross, fun-can-a or went on different tours and shopping trips around St. Louis. Touring laps were held on the track at noon and many people took advantage of that for some track time.

After a long day at the track or cruising around the St. Louis area, folks returned to the hotel and got ready for the Mazda sponsored 15th Anniversary Celebration Banquet. After the dinner, a drawing was held for prizes donated by Mazda and various vendors. Awards were then handed out for the various activities during the event and the Indy Miata Club represented itself well. Bruce and Shelly Durell almost needed a trailer to carry home their awards, which included first place in the Missouri Wine Country Rallye (Enthusiast Level), tied for third place in the Scenic St. Louis City Rallye and a third place in the Concours D'Elegance. As Bruce said, "Getting a third in the Concours after a 170 plus mile rallye complete with gravel roads is an accomplishment! We had a ball!" Other winners included Gary and Kathy Collings (2nd place Missouri Wine Country Rallye - Veteran level), Norm and Susie Arbuckle (3rd place Missouri Wine Country Rallye - Veteran Level), Jay Hofaker (Autocross - 2nd place), Mike and Lyn Doyle (2nd place Missouri Wine Country Rallye - Enthusiast Level, and Mike Head (1st place - Concourse d' Elegance). (Note: Mike was belatedly presented the "Best Dressed Engine Compartment" on Sunday morning as he



The Arbuckles proudly display their 3rd place award.

was changing out fouled spark plugs on his car!)

A "Moonlight Cruise" of St. Louis was offered after the dinner, while some folks from distance states were seen packing up and leaving for their long trip home.

After breakfast Sunday morning, the parking lot was emptied of Miatas heading home. Judging from the comments from folks, a good time was had by all. A big thanks goes to the St. Louis Gateway Miata Club for holding this event.



The Collings hold their 2nd place trophy. First place in this class was decided by spelling and Kathy blamed Gary for not being able to spell!

Winter Is On The Way, Are You Ready?

Is your Miata a garage queen during the winter? Does your Miata avoid snow? Your Miata will love you next spring if you treat it well this coming winter. If you put your car away during the snowy months, let's talk about preparation for hibernation and storage. First of all, starting your Miata for short periods is not recommended as doing this only adds moisture to your exhaust system and also to your engine oil.

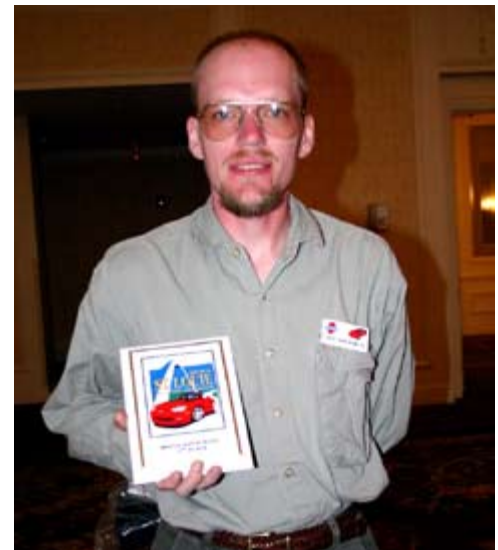
And now, the check list!

1. Wash and wax your car and clean interior.
2. Check the anti-freeze. If replacing the anti-freeze, use a 50/50 mix of antifreeze and distilled water.
3. Change the oil and filter just before storage.
4. Add STA-BIL fuel additive to gasoline, (directions on bottle) and fill fuel tank.
5. Inflate the tires to 50 psi if not storing on jack stands. This will keep your tires from forming flat spots. Flat spots are not a good thing for your tires.
6. Loosen the gas cap to relieve pressure on the fuel system. After the pressure is relieved, tighten gas cap.
7. Remove the battery. If the battery is not being removed, disconnect the negative battery cable. Dark currents will drain your battery if the negative cable is not disconnected. (Dark current is the power used by the radio/clock and the on-board computer when car is off with key removed from the ignition.) Store your battery in a cool location. You should also charge the battery once a month or so with a 2 AMP trickle charger. Do not charge battery with a high AMP charger. A Miata battery will be destroyed if a high AMP charger is used.
8. To prevent rust to the brake rotors, remove the wheels and spray some WD40 on a cloth and wipe the rotors on both sides.
9. Place some steel wool in the tail pipe to keep out the mice and critters. Let them find a different winter home.
10. Place a rag in the air intake snorkel located high left fender area under the hood, also to keep out the critters.
11. Loosen the top latches to relieve the strain on the top.
12. Roll down side the windows a half-inch or so to remove the glass pressure on the top gasket seals.
13. Place a bar of your favorite fragrant soap (cut up or shredded) in an open container inside the cabin. The mice hate it and your car will smell great next spring.
14. Cover your car with a car cover or old sheet/blanket. (This is to keep it clean and also to keep it warm during the cold winter, poor baby!!)
15. Pray for Spring!

More St. Louis Photos



Lyn and Mike Doyle with their 2nd place award.



President Jay Hofaker with his Autocross trophy.



Photo right: Mike advises Chuck to be neat and clean as he displays his "Best Dressed Engine Compartment" award. Chuck was changing fouled spark plugs for Mike.

Hubler Mazda South

Official Sponsor of
the Indy Miata Club

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Club Classifieds

For Sale: Body Parts from 91 Miata - Trunk deck has a luggage rack. Needs painted. In good condition, \$100.00 -- White front bumper from 91 Miata. Very good condition, \$100.00 -- 91 Miata white rear bumper. Good condition, \$100.00. Contact Jim Quearry at Agentmj@aol.com.

For Sale: Oil Relocation kit (Cobalt brand) - Relocates filter to the fire wall (all years) \$70. ABS cars need \$20 bracket kit. This kit makes oil changes a snap for the DIY guy. Call Al Jennings at (317) 844-2958 or e-mail at ALJ46033@sbcglobal.net

For Sale: 10th AE - Sara and I have decided to end the "Miata Era" and are selling our 10th Anniversary Miata. This car is in excellent condition with approximately 41300 miles, brand new Falken radials and all the standard equipment of the 10th AE. We are the second owners, Car is always garaged and never sees inclement weather unless we accidentally get caught in it. We're asking \$12,900. Call Ken Koehler at 317-253-4494 or email from the club website classified section if interested.

For Sale: 99 Blazer - Too many vehicles! Rare 2WD, 4 door with only 49K miles. For IMC members, only \$7500.00 (bluebook is \$8200.00). Call Sara J @ 291-8993

Hubler Open House - November 4

Hidden Drives II - November 13

November 4 -- Hubler Open House

December 5 - Holiday Party at Old Spaghetti Factory

November 13 - Tour to Nashville



New members and first time ralliers on the Madison Madness Tour!
L to R: Mike and Patty Kaschak and Edna and Rick Sprowl



New member Jan Young made the "Peeper" tour her first event. Jack was her navigator for the tour.