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On The Fence...

by Ben Hermann, President

Happy Birthday, America. What better way to celebrate our independence than with explosions and balls of fire. Sure the time spent with the family is nice. The burgers on the grill are delicious. But we know that it's really all about out doing the neighbors with ever bigger pyrotechnics. Just remember to be careful out there, Halloween is still a ways off, and you'll just look silly wearing on pirate's eye patch in July.

So, I missed the United States Grand Prix apparently. I thought I had the TV on the right channel, but it was some sort of test session. For purposes of avoiding a libel lawsuit, I'll just say a special thanks to a French tire manufacturer for ruining the race and possibly killing the "pinnacle of motor sport" in the racing capitol of the world. Is there a better way to endear the fans in the biggest market in the world than to put on a farce of an event and also call the driving force and one of the highlight's behind the this year's Indy 500 a "domestic appliance"? I realize I may not be a "cultured" as our European brethren, but until they get their act together and make things right, they can keep their little F1 soap opera on the other side of the pond. Time heals all wounds, but I think some cash to those effected would heal those wounds a little faster.

However bad the "race" was, a big thanks goes out the track's hospitality department for inviting us to take part in the car corral and the police guided tour. Unfortunately I had to be in a wedding and miss the cruise and the mingle that followed. From every account I've heard, it was a lot of fun.

Earlier in the month, we had the Tour De Boon Docks weekend. Thankfully this time, I have first hand knowledge that it was incredible. The Arbuckle's and Collings' put on a great event. Everything from the Leavenworth Inn to the twisting routes were wonderful. Response was so overwhelmingly positive, that the event has already been renewed and scheduled for June 9th and 10th, 2006. That's plenty of time to make plans for joining us next year.

July brings us the Frantic Funkanna, another Ritter's gathering, and the Hot Summer Nights/Dancing in the Streets weekend. The Frantic Funkanna promises to be "exciting" to say the least. Jim Nutt has some crazy things up his sleeve for our entertainment. Mazda was nice enough to send a box of goodies that will be given away, either as prizes or a raffle.

After a Thursday night custard stop, up comes the Hot Summer Nights/Dancing in the Street weekend. If it's anything like last month's trip planned by the Arbuckle's and the Collings, it should be a another wonderful weekend.

Just added to the calendar is the Car and Driver magazine's 50th Anniversary party. It's being held July 23rd and 24th at Indianapolis Raceway Park. There are all sorts of things going on, including drag racing, chances to ride shotgun doing laps on the IRP road course in some great cars, and a chance to race the editors. More details can be found inside and by following the link on club's website. One pair of tickets to this event, courtesy of Car and Driver, will be given away at the Frantic Funkanna.

There are also a couple of overnight trips that other nearby clubs have invited us to take part in. On August 6th and 7th, the Gateway club out of St. Louis is coming over and heading down to Spring Mill and Nashville. They're staying Saturday night at the Holiday Inn Express in Bedford. Reservations can be made by calling 812-279-1206. Rooms are \$80, mention Gateway Miata Club. On Sunday morning at 10:00, they're leaving the hotel and driving to Nashville, if you want to join them just for that run. More info at <http://www.gatewaymiataclub.com> It's also time to start planning your trip to the Midwest Miata Gathering presented by the Greater Cincinnati Miata Club. It's September 9th-11th. More information about this fun event is at miatagathering.com

And, remember... *The Fun Starts Here!*