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On The Fence...

by Ben Hermann, President

What's all this b.s. about April showers bringing May flowers? After we got spoiled with beautiful weather, especially like the day we had for the PTBR, these past several chilly, wet days have been torture. I'm sure things will improve soon, but those May flowers better look gorgeous. Come on, sunshine and warmer temperatures!

One of the first things you'll have a chance to see "bloom" this month will be the new Miata. The only problem is you'll have to go to Chicago to do it. Details are still being finalized as of press time, but can be seen on the Windy City Club's website (windycitymiataclub.com) under the Hot Streak event. As of now, they will be meeting at the Target near the Woodfield Mall in Schaumburg on Sunday, May 8th and again on May 9th. They'll tour through town and wind up at a fire station. There are several links on the Miata.net forums with pictures from past events if you want to see what you're in for.

The following weekend (May 14th) will be our SkyLine Drive Rally. It's going to be a nice little drive in the Bloomington-Seymour area. (Details inside.) This was formerly Bruce Hedden's Rally before he departed the Hoosier state for more Miata friendly roads in the Carolinas. We are going to have a raffle at the end for a couple items donated from AeroDramatics (aerodramatics.com). We have a pair of chrome top latches that work for all years available as well as a set of chrome inside door handle cups for the 90-97's. These pieces are gorgeous and will brighten up your interior nicely.

I've been thinking about having a monthly dinner during the week for those who are busy during the weekends. Those plans have morphed into more of a gathering than a planned dinner. We'll try meeting at Ritter's Frozen Custards around town and see how the idea takes hold. As a matter of fairness, since we've had dinners on the North and South sides and the race mingles out West, we'll start off on the East side. Let's gather Thursday night, May 19th between 7 and 8pm. Ritter's is on Washington St. east of 465 between Post and Mitthoeffer Roads. We'll try these little gatherings for a few months and then re-evaluate response to see if it's worth the trouble to try find a restaurant to host us or if we'd rather just have these meetings.

The first of the Race Mingles is May 28th out on Crawfordsville road. We'll get together around 7 closer to White Castle as the Sonic Drive-in is no longer with us. It's in the same strip mall, so it should be easy enough to find. Really, it would be hard to miss 30 shiny Miatas no matter where we end up!

Lastly, I received an email recently from a representative of the Kentuck Volunteer Fire Department from Virginia. They are having a raffle to raise money to support their efforts. They are trying to sell 450 tickets at \$100 a piece, but had only sold about 135 at press time. The drawing is May 14th so you need to act quickly. The grand prize is a 2004 Miata donated to them from Woodall Auto Mall. Second prize is a trip to Las Vegas and 3rd prize is \$500. There are also 5 other cash prizes. You don't have to be present to win. Details can be found at Kentuckvfd.org or by calling 434-822-8026. This is a good opportunity to help out some volunteer fire fighters and give yourself a chance to win cash or a new Miata.

There are plenty of opportunities out there for us to get together this month, so let's make the most of it. And, remember... *The Fun Starts Here!*