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On The Fence...

by Ben Hermann, President

Happy Labor Day everybody! Hope everyone enjoys the long “End of Summer” weekend. Of course since we don’t live in Wisconsin or the few other states that are smart enough mandate the start of the school year after Labor Day, the “End of Summer” was about the second week of August for some. Maybe some day we’ll get on board and do the sensible thing and pass a law that our schools can’t start before Labor Day too, but since it took so long for us to get daylight-savings time, I’m not going to hold my breath.

August was another successful month for the club. The Brickyard Mingle went well for those braving the traffic to get there. All accounts have the “Rags to Riches” Rally as being a great time, and the fourth installment of the Ritter’s tour was fun, with the exception of a few sprinkles. Next month we have kind of a light schedule. We have “Highway to Hill” on Sunday, September 11th and the Ritter’s mingles continue on Thursday the 15th in Avon. We will probably be adding an unveiling party for the new Miata in there somewhere, but plans haven’t been finalized yet. Watch the website and/or make sure you are signed up to email updates from the club. I noticed we had a few more people signed up for the email updates when I sent one out, but we are still in the 60% range. Also, if you are signed up for the emails, you might need to add me (ben@wmhermann.com) in your address book so the updates don’t get caught by your spam filter.

I’m going to go off the page a little now. The rest of this doesn’t really have anything to do with the club or anything, so don’t feel obligated to read it. It’s really just me venting a little. As a fairly avid sports fan, I have to express my disgust for certain things that are going on in the sports world.

First off is baseball. The league’s new steroid policy is ridiculous. A 10 game suspension for your first offense is a slap on the wrist. If you want to policy to mean anything, then implement Selig’s “plan” for 50 games the first time, 100 the second, and life for the third. He was pushing it for a while, and had the perfect opportunity to get it passed when Rafael Palmeiro tested positive, but he was nowhere to be found. Of course, even when Bud does stand up and take action, like suspending Kenny Rogers 20 games for assaulting a camera-man, arbitrators just reduce it down to 13 games anyway.

Then you have this poor bat-boy for the Florida Marlins. You get a 10 game suspension for taking steroids and the kids gets a 6 game suspension for accepting a dare to drink a gallon of milk in an hour with out it coming back up! A 4 game difference from milk to steroids?? They said it was to set an example for the players not to make people do things like this. First off, how are the players learning a lesson by punishing the kid? And second, what kid wouldn’t try to do this for \$500? What’s the crime to warrant this punishment? Remember, kids, milk is only 40% better for you than steroids. Nice job, baseball.

Then up comes hockey. Like the lock-out wasn’t bad enough, as soon as it’s over they reinstate Todd Bertuzzi. You remember him, the guy who sucker punched another player from behind and rode him into the ice, breaking his neck and probably ending his career. It’s good to know that this thug is back making millions while his victim sits at home.

Unfortunately, or fortunately perhaps, there isn’t room here to express my disgust for Miles Brand and the NCAA’s idiotic stand on banning the use of Indian names and mascots in post-season tournaments. Sure, pejorative terms like Redskins and Savages should go, but most of these mascots are a source of pride for and have the support of the peoples they represent. At least they have started backing off by letting Florida State out of it, but there are still many other schools that should come off the list, like the Central Michigan Chippewas, Utah Utes, etc.

I guess that’s probably enough ranting. Keep your eyes on the website and on your inbox for more info on upcoming events and more contest. And remember...*The Fun Starts Here!*

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Highway to Hill Cruise

Join us for the "Highway to Hill" Cruise and Ice Cream Mingle on Sunday, September 11th. This fun event will begin with an optional Mexican meal at the El Rodeo restaurant in Mooresville. If you will be joining us for lunch, we'll meet at the El Rodeo at 1:30.

About 2:45, we'll go to the parking lot and hand out instructions for the fun drive, which will be around 50 miles of rockin' n rollin' hills and curves, on the "Highway to Hill"! This will allow your Burritos to settle!

To get to El Rodeo from Indy, take SR 67 South towards Mooresville. Just before you get to Mooresville, you'll see a big Marsh on the left. This is Bridge Street. Turn Left on Bridge Street, then left into the Marsh Center. El Rodeo is on the opposite end of the Center.

If you aren't going to eat Mexican, just turn into the Marsh lot and meet in the parking area near El Rodeo. Be there around 2:45 to 3:00.

If you will just be arriving to Mingle and have some cool treats, we should arrive back at Ritters Frozen Yogurt in Mooresville anywhere from 4:30 to 5:00. Ritters is in the same area as Marsh and El Rodeo. SR 67 to Bridge St. Left into Marsh Center. Ritters is on the far end out by SR 67. Try to park in a good open area where all the Miatas can gather.

Cost: FREE! (except for the food and ice cream you eat!)

Meet at 1:30 for Mexican / lunch dinner (optional)

Meet 2:45 - 3:00 for handing out "fun drive" papers

Meet back at Ritters after the drive (4:30 to 5:00) for Mingling, reviewing the drive and having ice cream treats!

And the bonus? Plenty of time to get home for the Colts game!

If you have any questions about this Sunday event, email Bob Wiley, at wileekyot@aol.com.

September Miata Events

Hear that doorbell? That's Avon calling! It's still going to be warm enough for ice cream, so on September 15th head over to Ritter's in Avon (5530 E. Highway 36). Unlike Bob's event on the 11th, this is just a mingle. Show up to eat, talk and admire cars! Make a note on your calendar now!

Want to get out of town? The Greater Cincinnati Miata Club is hosting their annual Midwest Miata Gathering on the weekend of September 10th. Stay the weekend or make a day trip out of it. Here's their website for more information: <http://www.miatagathering.com/>.



Participants of the "Dancing In The Streets" tour pose for a group photo before heading off to explore the fine roads in the Wabash valley. (See page 4.)

We Got Really, Really Ugly!

by Bob Wiley

A small group of Indy Miata members braved the hot and humid weather on August 20th for a fun driving route from Martinsville to Lake Monroe in the "Rags to Riches" rally. There were plenty of great roads, pretty scenery (well, except for some of the club members attire!), with some occasional "much welcomed" shaded areas. The route ran approximately 85 miles. We ended up at the scenic overlook at the dam of Lake Monroe. Luckily the shelter house has survived many a storm, including the one we sat through after lunch. Plenty of tasty items including BIG hot dogs, home made salsa, cheesecake, fruit salads and pastas filled the table for our lunch.

Everyone seemed to enjoy the drive with all arriving safely, except for one car... Sheryl... where are you??? Jay Hofacker diving solo, used his new handheld GPS unit to navigate and had no problems. Uh, Sheryl, you might want to talk to Jay about one of those GPS units!

This rally paid off to those who wore the "most ugly" shirts. Jim Jones paid \$4.50 for a hat-shirt combo at Goodwill and it paid off! He and Bruce Durell tied with the most votes for "ugliest" shirt, so they split 1st and 2nd prize money and took home \$35.00 each. 3rd place was Steve Crouse, who received a much better looking Indy Miata Club Anniversary polo shirt to replace the shirt he wore!

Thanks to those who came on a very hot-n-sticky day!



Aren't maps wonderful? With an Indiana map, a discussion ensues of what roads were driven to end up at the first rest stop!



Bruce shows off his winning attire.



Where are the Fab Five when you need them?
Top: PK Rajic and Bob Wiley
Bottom: Linda Jenks and Jim Jones.

October Events That You Should Not Miss!

On October 16th (yep, that's a Sunday!), Don Jordan is inviting us to his Sweet-Owen/Greentucky Rally. This event will take us through such great wide spots in the road as Freeman, Whitehall, Hendricksville, Solsberry, Worthington, Freedom, New Hope and finally Spencer. Grab your own coffee along the way, and meet for the rally at 11 AM, just outside the entrance to McCormick's Creek State Park on Indiana Route 46 east of Spencer, (northwest of Bloomington).

There are no fees and no prizes for this run, it's just an excuse to have a great drive on a Sunday! We'll end up at the Hilltop Restaurant with its great view and fried chicken on Indiana Route 67 north of Spencer, where those who wish can dine. Don't forget to register on the event page of the club website or email Don, so he can plan for the appropriate number of cars and people!

John and Marsha Schaub are putting together the second edition of their Madison Madness, the weekend of October 22. This rally is an optional two day event for those of you who would like to stay Saturday night in beau-

tiful historic Madison, Indiana. Southeastern Indiana has some fantastic roads, as those who came to this rally last year know.

There are a block of rooms reserved for the club at the Hillside Inn in Madison. All the rooms have a terrace with wonderful views of the Ohio River and downtown historic Madison. If you are planning on both days, you should book your room early. There are only 15 rooms held for the club until 9/22, after that, they are open to anyone. (If your plans should change you can cancel your reservation within 24 hours at no charge.) To reserve your room, call the Hillside Inn at 812-265-3221. Once again, register on the event page of the club website or email the Schaub's so they can plan for cars and people.

Hot Summer Nights & Dancing In The Streets

by Gary Collings

Although there might not have been many of us dancing in the streets of Lafayette, Indiana, there were 34 Miatas ripping and roaring on the back roads of Tippecanoe County on July 30. About half of the group arrived Friday evening at the Hilton Garden Inn on the Wabash Landing, which is across the street from one of the sound stages for the week-end festivities. Our tour masters had negotiated a group rate that included free parking in the double gated area of the garage reserved for guests.

Members had Friday evening on their own to cross the walking bridge over the Wabash River from West Lafayette (home of Purdue University) to Lafayette (county seat of Tippecanoe) to seek a dining place of their choice. Strolling along the sidewalks, members were welcomed by a display of 65 adventurous amphibians, which were designed as fund raiser frogs for the Art Museum of Greater Lafayette and CASAs for Kids Fund www.frog-follies.com. We were among a group who went to Bea One for Korean cuisine. After dinner, members returned to the lobby of the hotel for spirits, socializing, and a cut-throat card game of 99 for the mere amount of \$0.75 per victim. Prior to the card game, the world's ugliest hat was unveiled after guesses that it was a vase, oil filter, etc.

After partaking at the Hilton breakfast bar on Saturday morning, we had a drivers' meeting and group photo. Six cars from the Indy Miata Club joined us, for the driving tour and most stayed for the evening activities. We then saddled up and headed out for the first leg of our morning route, which began along the east edge of the Purdue campus and sports facilities. We traveled north to the area of the Wolf Park, which was founded over 30 years ago and is dedicated to gray wolf research, and then through the small town of Battleground, passing the site of the November 7, 1811 Tippecanoe Battlefield at which William Henry Harrison fought Tecumseh's Native Americans.

A mid-morning break for a classic car show at a local shopping center was welcomed by all. The array of vehicles was impressive from the traditional 1950s vintages cars to semi-tractors, all of which were painted and shined to high gloss perfection. We would see many of these vehicles in the evening parked on the roped off streets and in the 7:00 PM parade.

From the car show, we hit the road for the second leg of our driving tour over some great country roads. Five cars missed a crucial turn in mid-route and beat the rest of us to the lunch stop! We arrived at the Riehle Brothers Tavern for a buffet with seating along side a full-sized, indoor volley ball sand lot.

After a well-timed lunch break, we took off for the final leg of our day's journey across the southern edge of the county. The hills and curves were a pleasant surprise for those who might have thought of the area as being in the flatlands. Our drive in the south River Road area drive took us past Fort Quiatenon, which was established by the French in 1717 and is the site of the annual Feast of the Hunters Moon (September 24-25, 2005) that includes re-enactments of the Indian battles with the Americans and French.

In mid-afternoon, we arrived at the Hilton exhilarated from a sunny drive and ready for a break in preparation for the evenings' activities at the Fourteenth Annual Dancing in the Streets Festival. Six of our drivers signed up to be in the cruise-in with the classic muscle and vintage cars that we had viewed in the morning. At 7:00 PM the sidewalks, courthouse lawn and steps were lined with people. The street in front of the courthouse proved to be the place to be when the hot rods started heat-



Norm Arbuckle points in the general direction that the tour participants should head towards.

ing up the pavement and smoking their tires to the delight of the crowd.

The food booths and car displays were spread out from the sound stage at Tapawingo Park across the river walking bridge (filled with Corvettes) to Riehle Plaza with the restored train depot and sound stage about a block from the refurbished court house. The bands started at 8:00 PM at both stages with a variety of music and entertainment (including a good impersonator of the "fat Elvis"). In fact, a few of our members with suites on the stage side of the hotel got to listen to the music past midnight whether they wanted to or not. The food vendors lined the streets with a variety of treats to meet all tastes including elephant ears and Dippin Dots ice cream, homemade candies, coney dogs, Cajun chicken, Sgt. Preston's food and some brew house vendors. If you didn't get enough to eat and drink, it was your own fault.

Members had a leisurely breakfast at the Hilton on Sunday AM and bid each other farewell until we meet again. Thanks to our tour masters, Norm and Susie Arbuckle, who are already working on next year's Miata event at the Fifteenth Annual Dancing in the Streets Festival, so mark your calendar for July 29, 2006.

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Mingles On The 11th and 15th

September 11 - A "Sundae" Mingle
September 15 - Ritter's Mingle

October 16* - Sweet Owen Tour
October 22-23 - Madison Madness

November 12 - Hidden Drives

December - Holiday Party

Mike and Mary Head participated in the "Dancin' In The Streets" event and during the unexpected stop in the Saturday morning tour, were able to wait in the shade. Woohoo!



marcia and Mike Simmerman were top down and smiling at the "Dancing in the Streets" tour!