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Skid Marks....

by Rick Booe, President

Hello out there fellow Miataphytes!

Another month has about passed us by and winter is over, well, according to the calendar anyway. Yeah Spring!! This is my favorite time of year. Now we can really get out there in the sunshine and have some fun. Let's see, work in the yard, plant some flowers, pick up sticks and yard trash that accumulated over the winter, wash windows, clean out the garage. NO! NO! NO! Let's pull that Miata out of the garage, clean it up a little and go for a ride. We have all summer to do that other stuff. I have a serious case of Miata-top-down withdrawals, so I think that the yard can wait.

Some of you have already got one rally under your belts, the Cabin Fever Rally. Thanks to John and Marsha and Sara for getting us started. I am sorry that I had to miss it, but I'm sure it was fun. I'll be sure to make the next one. Top down, of course!

And speaking of that, our next rally is the Post Tax Blues Rally. I hope to see a lot of you at thee. This rally usually has a large turnout and it's one with all the Miatas buzzing around together. I know that Mike and Conrad have been working hard to get it ready for us. Mike works with me, but he has been very secretive about it. He won't tell me anything about the route or questions we may have to answer. I'm looking forward to a real good time.

Also, on the same note, let's not be shy about being a Rally Master. There are plenty of empty dates on our event calendar. It is not too hard, and there are plenty of experienced members more than willing to help you out. We need a local event for May, show us your favorite road!

I know I have said it before, but it is worth repeating. If any of you have a good Miata story for us, please send it to Sara. It can be about how you bought your Miata or a report on a road trip you made. We all like to hear about Miatas and their owners.

And remember, one Miata is fun, but a whole bunch of Miatas is a whole bunch of fun!



"The sun is out, we're top down and there's a rally today. Does it get any better than this?" John and Marsha Schaub relax as they wait for other IMC members to arrive for the Cabin Fever Rally.

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Folding Hardtop Miata?

A rumor popped up late last year and is once again making the rounds that a folding metal hardtop will be incorporated into the Miata. Reasoning for having the folding top is that it would attract buyers who would not have otherwise considered the MX-5, concerned about security, rigidity and refinement at high speeds.

The roof would probably add from \$2,000-3,000 to the price of the roadster in the US, where the hardtop version will be offered alongside the soft-top. It would definitely cut into trunk space to keep the design of the car the same.

Autocross and Driving Events

Whether you want to be behind the wheel or if you just want to watch, here's some area events you may want to check out!

The Indy chapter of SCCA (Sports Car Club of America) swing into action with a couple of events this month. On April 2, it's time for all autocrossers to shake off those cobwebs with their annual "Test and Tune" at 16th/Bush Stadium. On Sunday, April 30th, they're holding their first points event for the year, also at the 16th street location. Go and see what autocross is all about!

The Central Indiana Region Porsche Club of America has opened registration for their "Spring Brake" Driver Education event at Putnam Park. One of our members, Chuck Wills, is once again an instructor for this well run event. More information can be found at the CIR-PCA site: <http://cirpca.org/Events/SpringBrake/>.

The Western Ohio Region SCCA club is hosting a Performance Driving Experience (PDX) on May 8th at Indianapolis Raceway Park. PDX events are non-competitive track events where a driver has an opportunity to drive his or her street car on a racetrack in controlled environment with an instructor. These events concentrate entirely on the teaching of safe car handling and performance driving techniques giving drivers the opportunity to improve their driving skills and increase their enjoyment of driving their street vehicle. More information can be found here: <http://worscca.org/pdx/index.html>.

Tidbits From the Wide World Web

There's so many things "out there on the internets" that are Miata related. If it's a rainy April day, here's a few sites that you may want to visit until the sun returns. No rain tires needed!

The granddaddy of all internet sites, <http://miata.net>. The first Miata related web site and the best, it's always a good visit. A recent addition is the high mileage page. Think you've put a few miles on your car? <http://miata.net/himi/index.html>

Here are two advertisements you won't see in the US anytime soon: <http://www.mx5.co.nz/attitude> (Windows Media Player required).

IMC Member Shane Benson has a video of his car "The Fish" playing and passing a lot of cars out at Putnam Park last fall. Titled "Gone Fishin", you can watch it here: <http://aimtuning.com/IndyMiataTurbo/tabid/139/Default.aspx>. . Flyin' Miata also has a lot of videos of cars from their fast stable on their "FM TV" page: <http://www.flyinmiata.com/video/index.php>.

The Cure For Cabin Fever Was Great!

The 2006 version of The Cabin Fever Rally may have been delayed a day, but all who attended agreed that it was worth the wait. Thirteen cars containing drivers and navigators showed up in the Adams Mark parking lot where John and Marsha Schaub had their chairs set up and were reading the paper!

Hoods were popped, engines looked at, and Miatas were discussed. "Oh! Look! A Jackson racing supercharger!" "Nice color blue on your NC!" "Those were the stock wheels on the MazdaSpeed?"

Several cars had arrived at the rally starting point with their tops down, and several more dropped theirs for the run. Hats, jackets and heaters were on, though! After a short driver's meeting, all cars to Nashville, Indiana, taking the back roads. The warning of sand on the roads issued during the driver's meeting was well founded, but sometimes it added to the fun of rounding a curve. A few took "scenic detours", but always managed to find their way back onto the correct route.

A little over 70 miles later, cars arrived at Franco Marie's for conversation and a good buffet meal. The route was discussed, vehicles we met and had follow us were laughed and grumbled about, other topics made for good conversation.

Some folks got their first look at a Monster Miata after the meal. Fred and Veronica Sisson, Nashville natives who suggested the restaurant to the Schaub's, joined us for our meal. They're the owners of a Miata that had a big Ford engine dropped into the engine compartment. Talk about a wolf in sheep's clothing!

Thanks again to John and Marsha for hosting this event and getting us out of the house and back on some great roads!



Roger and Susie Reed discuss stripes with Craig and Skye Johnson.

Roger Burrill waits for John to give him the OK to leave the staging area.



Left: Linda and Gary Marconi smile for the camera while Mike Simmerman pays attention during the driver's meeting.



Right: Chuck Wills listens to a conversation across the table while Edna Sprowl sips on her ice tea. Navigating is tough work!



Mote photos can be found online! Go to: <http://2cat.com/miata/indymiatata/cabino6/index.html>

First It's Tax Time, Then It's Rally Time!

The Post Tax Blues Rally Wants You!



Circle Saturday, April 22nd on your calendar as the date for the Post Tax Blues Rally, our annual event with the Lake Effect Miata Club. Conrad Serwatka is the Rally Master from Lake Effect and Mike Simmerman is the Indy club Rally Master.

This year's event will be a clue rally, so bring a clip board, a pen or pencil and sharp eyes. We'll head out of Logansport and end up in Lafayette for a late lunch, a verbal rerunning of the rally and the awarding of prizes for the sharp ones among us!

TIME CHANGE!!! We'll be meeting at 11:00 at the McDonalds in Logansport (611 W Market) so you can get a late breakfast and coffee and chat with everyone. Driver's Meeting will begin at 11:15 and the first car will be off at 11:30.

Entry fee is \$7.00 for those who pre-register and \$10.00 day of event. If you register on the club web site, you will only pay \$7.00 on the day of the event. Drivers and navigators will be asked to sign a registration form at the event. If you mail your registration form, please mail before April 15th. (Registering in advance makes your Rally Master's job easier!) If you want to mail your registration form and check (made out to Indy Miata Club), please send it to: Conrad Serwatka, 177 E. 750 North, Valparaiso, IN 46383.

This will be a rain or shine event!

Indy members, want to caravan to Logansport? Indy club members can meet at 9:30 at the Marsh parking lot at 106th and North Michigan Road (US 421) and caravan to Logansport. We will depart at 10:00 (sharp!).

Don't miss the first clue rally of the year, don't miss your chance to win fabulous prizes, and don't miss meeting old and new Miata friends. Here's hoping for a top down day!

Mailing your registration form? Send it to: Conrad Serwatka 177 E. 750 North, Valparaiso, IN 46383

Post Tax Blues Registration

Mail check and registration form to:
Conrad Serwatka
177 E. 750 North
Valparaiso, IN 46383



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, Lake Effect Miata Club, their officers, and event organizers harmless from any claim arising from my participation in this event.

Driver: _____ Date: _____

Signature

Passenger: _____ Date: _____

Signature

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

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Indy Miata Club members receive a 10% discount.

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