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Skid Marks....

by Rick Booe, President

So, here it is February already. Winter isn't over, but I sure wish it was as sometimes we get our biggest snows in February. Winter is not much fun for me as I can't drive my Miata, can't ride my motorcycle, can't play softball, can't golf, and I can't mow my yard. (Hey! I like to mow my yard!) I am ready for spring as the leaves come back, the grass gets green, and the sun is warm. I want to get my Miata out of the garage and slide around some corners. Of course, if I got out there now, I would be able to slide quite easily with all the sand on the country roads around Putnam county. If you're out, be careful out there this time of year. For now, I can only daydream about warmer days ahead. Don't you think that Miata Clubs in Florida are lucky? They can put their tops down all year.

I hope you are starting to think about participating in or maybe planning a rally or mingle with the club. Conrad Serwatka will be hosting the Post Tax Blues Rally that we do every year in April with the Lake Effect Miata Club. He is tentatively looking at April 22nd. One of our newer members, Mike Simmerman, has signed on to represent the Indy Miata club and help Conrad. It is always good to have new members jump in there and get involved. Thanks, Mike. I am planning on doing something in the Putnam/Owen county area again this summer, probably in August. We've got open dates on our calendar, so here's your chance to put on an event.

I have a non-club event I think you should mark on your calendar, the annual One Lap of America. I'm sure some of you may have heard of this, it's like a big rally that goes around the country to different racing venues. It's starting this year in South Bend at the Tire Rack's skid pad before heading across the country to one of seven courses before returning to South Bend. A group of about one hundred cars will leave Virginia International Raceway on May 11th and plan on being at the Putnam Park Road Course on the 12th. I know this is a Friday, but heck, take a day off work. (I work nights, so I'll be there for sure.) I think they will arrive at the track between 8 and 9am. If you have never seen this, you should come out and watch them race around the track. The public is welcome to come watch and look over all the cars. There is usually a very wide variety of machines in this event. In the past, they've made a stop at Indianapolis Raceway Park. I will relay more information to you as I get it from the Putnam County Tourism Bureau. You can also check out the Putnam Park website at <http://www.putnampark.com> to get schedules and directions. The One Lap of America website is at <http://www.onelapofamerica.com>.

OK, let's talk a little football. It was really sad about the Colts, as I thought this was our year. At one point in the season I didn't think anyone could beat us. Then, after San Diego beat us and ruined the perfect season, we "rested" all of our best players for the next three weeks. D-U-M-B! If I was off work for three or four weeks, I would forget a lot of stuff about my job and it would take me a couple days to get back into the swing of things. I thought it was a bad idea from the beginning, but Tony Dungie didn't call and ask me what I thought. That's all I have to say about that... I don't even care who wins the Super Bowl now.

Do you look at the Club website very often? Chuck Wills is our new webmaster and I'm sure will do a great job for us. I check the website every day as it is a good place to check upcoming events and other club news and there are a lot of useful links there. I always check the member's forum, though I'm not sure how many people do. The forum is a good way to contact a large group of members, if we are checking it often. Look in and see what people have to say.

Also, if you have a good story about your car or driving experiences, send them to Sara, our newsletter editor. She welcomes all help in filling up the newsletter with interesting articles. I know you have a story about your Miata and we would all like to hear your Miata story.

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

Indy Miata Club Officers

President
Rick Booe
president@indymiata.org

Vice-President
John Schaub
vicepresident@indymiata.org

Treasurer
Shelley Durell
treasurer@indymiata.org

Membership Director
Ben Hermann
1424 Mills Avenue
Indianapolis, IN 46227
membership@indymiata.org

Web Master
Chuck Wills
317-291-2232
webmaster@indymiata.org

Open Road Editor
Sara J McBride
4249 Springwood Ct.
Indpls., IN 46228
317-291-8993
editor@indymiata.org



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Fly Out To The Hanger

Come have lunch on February 18th at the Final Approach Bar & Grill that is located at the Putnam County airport, in the Dixie Chopper Business Center. Hosted by our President, Rick Booe, we'll meet for lunch at 1:00. Cost for lunch will be \$8.95 each. They will also open the bar if we ask.

The airport is East of Greencastle on Indiana 240. Register on the event page or let Rick know that you'll be attending. Directions will be posted on the event page of indymiata.org. Sign up, it will be fun! If you need it, the grill phone number is 765-655-1600.

And can we hope for that rare top down day in February?

Member Featured In Indy Mag

Club member Jim Schliebner and his business, Jimmy Buff-It's Auto Detailing, were featured prominently in the January issue of Indianapolis Monthly.

The cover story was titled "How To Make Your Life Easier" and listed 30 experts who "do it all". Jim garnered a full page picture of him working on a car. (Actually, through the magic of photography, he and 2 clones were all working on the car!)

The article notes that Jim is a stickler for detail as several of our members who have had their car detailed by Jim can attest to. If you haven't seen Jim's shop and need to have your car spiffed up for spring, stop by and see him.

Happy 16th Birthday, Miata!

On February 9, 1989, the Mazda Motor Corporation showed the world its Mazda MX-5/Miata at the Chicago Auto Show, capturing the simple elegance of classic British roadsters such as the Triumph Spitfire and MGB. In this case, Mazda created a nimble two-seater with the looks of a Lotus Elan and the reliability of...well, one of the better Japanese cars.

Original Miata designer Tom Matano, now teaching design in San Francisco, says the plan was to create a car that would encourage you to "get up in the morning and go for a drive with the dew still on your cheek."

Interested In Learning To Autocross?

The Indiana Northwest Region Sports Car Club Of America in Merrville, Indiana has finalized dates for their Evolution Performance Driving School. May 27 and 28 will be the dates for the event. Garold Schaffer is host and can be contacted at gjshaffer@yahoo.com or 219-762-3179 .

Evolution Performance Driving Schools are hands-on, foot to the floor autocross driving schools. These programs are designed to improve the driving skills of novices to champions. Go to <http://www.autocross.com/evolution/> for more information.

Notes And Corrections

In last month's article concerning the club logo, Sheryl Sackett was inadvertently not credited as the designer of the new logo. We apologize for the omission.

The calendar on page 8 of the January issue listed the Post Tax Blues rally on the wrong date. Please note that it is scheduled for April 22, NOT Easter Sunday.

Not A Good Subject Line In An Email

"My Miata Is History"

by Sara J McBride

I opened up my email program, saw that subject line and cringed. Jan Young was letting me know that her Miata had a bad encounter with a semi trailer and would no longer be joining us for club events. The good news? Jack McGurk, who was driving the car, was unhurt except for a lot of bruises, bumps, small cuts, and a gash on his knee.

Jan wrote, "Jack hit a slick spot on I-465 as he was leaving the entrance ramp and fishtailed, going backwards and slid under the 18 wheeler, entering it from the side. The driver of the rig didn't know right away he had a car under him and dragged Jack and the Miata about half a mile. Jack is at home resting now, with lots of bruises, few cuts and five stitches in a deep cut on his knee. The rear end looks fine, trunk lid untouched.... He was driving my car this week (taken out of storage) since he loaned his car to his son at Indiana State. Hated to see my Miata go like this, but sure glad that Jack is OK, cars can be replaced, people cannot. Jack was quite complimentary and impressed at how well the Miata held up and the protection it provided him."

E-mails among club members were flying and Ben Hermann posted a link to the report of the accident on the club forum as folks wondered who was involved in the accident. (As of 1/30/06, this link is still active if you want to read the article and see more pictures. <http://www.theindychannel.com/news/6179112/detail.html>)

Jan later posted a message in the club forum and said that Jack was doing OK and the stitches from his knee were about to be removed. She also noted "A friend of mine, knowing how my Miata was my "pride and joy", suggested I have a funeral for it. (lol)

"Naturally, I'm very glad Jack is OK, most importantly, but there has been some sadness surfacing regarding the loss of my car. I've really enjoyed and appreciated the association of the Miata Club."

We were all glad to hear that Jack's injuries weren't life threatening, though sad to hear that a Miata was lost. We're also sure Jan will rejoin our ranks with another Miata to replace the one she lost.



Above: Jan Young's '90 "stuffed" under a semi trailer.

Below: A rescue worker looks in the cockpit of the car.



Photos courtesy of WRTV/TheIndyChannel.com

Racing And Driving, Watching And Doing

It's still a bit early for schedules to be out for SCCA and other organizations, but here are a few items you might want to attend.

The Indy SCCA region will have three events out at IRP this year. On May 7-8, it will be a Club Racing Double Regional Weekend, July 8-9, the Club Racing Indy Grand Prix National Weekend and then on Sept. 30-Oct. 1, another Club Racing Double Regional Weekend. We'll post their autocross (Solo II) schedule when it is released by the Indy SCCA.

The Central Indiana Region Porsche Club of America (CIRPCA) will be holding their annual "Spring Brake" driving school at Putnam Park on the weekend

of April 21-23. Information should be posted soon at <http://www.cirpca.org>. This is a well run event and if you're interested in a Driver's Education school (DE), you might want to check this one out.

On May 20-21, NASA (National Auto Sport Association) will be holding a DE at Putnam Park. More information can be found at <http://racenasa.com/>.

Meet Your 2006 Indy Miata Officers

We have several new faces in our officer ranks and would like to introduce them to you and thank them for standing up and help lead our club.

Moving into the President spot is Rick Booe (pictured right). He and his wife Susie joined the club in 1999 after purchasing his 1995 Brilliant Black roadster. Look for Rick at the front of any "spirited" run, he's the one with the "1ST SGT" plate on his car. Rick also has a new Harley-Davidson in his garage to add a little more excitement in his life. Rick recently retired from the Indiana Air National Guard after 29 years. During our tour of the Air Force Museum last year, Rick was able to tell us a lot of details about some of the planes that were on display there. The Booes were our hosts for the "Late Summer Mardi Gras Rally".

Stepping into the Vice-President slot is John Schaub. John and Marsha joined the club in 1999 while driving a 1990 Mariner Blue, but soon decided that you can never have too many Miatas. John bought a 93 LE (black with red interior), number 214 of 1500 (As he said, "I pulled into my driveway with a smile so big I must have looked like I had a coat hanger in my mouth."). The Mariner was sold, but in 2003 a Sunburst Yellow (#1219) has been added to the stable. To hold the Miatas and other vehicles, John and Marsha (pictured right) completed their garage addition that will hold six Miatas. (Yes, it's true, there's a photo of six Miatas and their smiling owners in the garage!) The Schaub's have hosted several rallies in the past including their "Cabin Fever" event and their overnight tour to Madison. John and Marsha



are also avid sailors.

Our new Treasurer is Shelley Durell (pictured left). She's normally seen in the right hand seat of a 1999 Sapphire Blue Mica acting as navigator for husband Bruce. Shelly recommends a hooded jacket for those cooler top down days!



Obviously he's a glutton for punishment as Ben Hermann (right) leaves the President's office and takes the reins as Membership director. Ben and wife Nancy are now a one Miata household with a 2000 Titanium in their garage. Ben and Nancy have hosted events and stepped in to help run rallies for absent Rally Masters

Chuck Wills moves into his 4th officer position as our new webmaster. Chuck, know to his friends as "Racer Boy", drives a 97 Montego Blue that is very far from the stock car he purchased in



1998. Chuck's better half, Teresa Turbo, drives a stock 1992 Sunburst Yellow. Chuck (right) has hosted several tours to the Huber winery and rallies in the Brown county area.

Usually seen at events with a camera hiding her face, our newsletter Editor Sara J McBride



(below) continues to be happy driving her 1995 Brilliant Black Miata. She's hosted several events in the past including the Post Tax Blues Rally, a Leaf Peeper tour and several Hidden Drives to Nashville.

These folks are to be commended for volunteering to keep the IMC a viable, functioning club. If you have questions, comments or concerns about the club, please contact any of them. Contact information is listed in every Open Road or you can use the contact form from the officer's page on the club website: <http://www.indymiata.org>.





Membership Renewal

for the Indy Miata Club

The Fun Starts Here!



As you know, there are few driving experiences that compare with the thrill of top down driving. Don't miss out what the IMC offers!

Why you should renew your membership for the Indy Miata Club...

- Meet fellow Miata owners at monthly events - rallies, tours and dinners
- Access to “member only” areas of the Indy Miata club web site
- Monthly newsletter outlining upcoming events, equipment reviews, helpful advice
- Join sister clubs for events all over the country for fun events
- Gain valuable information about your car
- Discount on parts and services at local participating Miata dealers
- See aftermarket products before you buy
- FUN!

All of this for only \$20.00 per calendar year. So, fill out the form below so we can verify your information in our files, make out your \$20.00 check to ‘Indy Miata Club’, refold this application with your check inside, tape it shut, affix a stamp and drop it in the mail! (Or use your own envelope, we don't care...what ever is easiest for you.) Don't miss out on the fun! It is truly an experience when 30 or 35 Miatas get together on the road!

First Name: _____ Last Name: _____

Spouse Name: _____ Spouse's Preferred Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Home Phone: _____ May we show your name on club roster? Y N

Work phone (optional): _____ and/or Cell Phone (optional): _____

Email address: _____

Information about your Miata: Year: _____ Color: _____ Package: _____

Please mail this form with your \$20 check payable to the Indy Miata Club.
(Membership year is January 1 to December 31.)

Send to: Ben Hermann
1424 E MILLS AVE
INDIANAPOLIS IN 46227-3735

Fold, enclose check and tape edges

Indy Miata Club
1424 Mills Avenue
Indianapolis, IN
46227

Ben Hermann
Indy Miata Club
1424 E MILLS AVE
INDIANAPOLIS, IN
46227-3735



Visit the club web site at <http://www.indymiata.org>

Email questions to: membership@indymiata.org

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looking great after it leaves our shop.

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Indy Miata Club members receive a 10% discount.

Jim Schliebner

9830 N. Michigan Road

317-514-2659

<http://www.jimmybuffit.com>

2006 Scheduled Events

February 18 - Lunch at the Hanger

March 25 - Cabin Fever 2006

April 22 - Post Tax Blues Rally

May 1 - Crouse's Deal's Gap Trip

May 4-7 - Mountain Miata Colorfest

May 27 - Indy 500 Mingle

June 9-10 - Tour De Boon Docks II

July 1 - USGP Mingle

August 5 - Brickyard Mingle

November - Hidden Drives IV

December - Holiday Party