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Skid Marks....

by Rick Booe, President

Welcome to the month of March, troops. Spring is right around the corner now and we will all be out there with our tops down soon. I can't wait for the rallying to start. Warm air, sunshine, and Miatas all in a long row. And now, you don't have to worry about me coming up behind you too close. I have new brakes on my car! I didn't realize how far gone my brakes were until I replaced them and found out how well the car stops now.

Maybe this is a good time to talk about car care. Brakes, tires, oil changes, other important fluids, are all things we need to keep close tabs on. Don't forget about your tire pressure, also. Especially if you are like me and store your car all winter. If you haven't driven your Miata in a while, you need to give it a thorough inspection before hitting the road again. If you don't feel comfortable doing it yourself take it to a good shop, like AIM or to a Mazda dealer. The most important thing is to make sure your car is safe and dependable.

We had our first mingle on February 18th, the LUNCH at the HANGAR in Greencastle, in the Dixie Chopper Center at the Putnam County Airport. I am considering using this place for a starting point for a rally later this summer. We had a nice group for such a cold day. Seven Miatas showed up and 17 people (some left their Miatas at home) for some good food and good conversation. We had some new members join that day. George and Maxine Stizall came as well as Andy Batt with his son Eric. After lunch and a short meeting, John Schaub called me on my offer to lead the group on a little trek through the country. Five Miata took off south from the airport. We basically took the route that Susie and I take on Sunday afternoons. The only difference was we drove it backwards so we could end up at the Putnamville exit of I-70. We drove south out of Greencastle through Manhattan, past my house (did any of you know that?) and then over I-70. Then we went through Poland, Bowling Green, Jordan Village, Cunot, past Lieber State Recreation Area, and back to I-70. I think it took about an hour. It was the first run I have ever made that we encountered a little snow still on the roads out in the deep boonies. Earlier in the day Kathy Crouse had asked me where Poland was. I hope she noticed it when we went by. I hope everyone enjoyed the day as much as I did. And thanks to Susie for helping me put it all together.

I know a lot of our club members are big sports car fans (duh!) and Formula One fans. But, for me....NASCAR has started again!! It's the beginning of the longest racing season in the world. Congrats to Jimmie Johnson for winning the Daytona 500. I like spending my Sunday afternoons watching the races on TV, in between little naps. I always see the start, miss part of the middle, watch some more, nap some more. Susie is great about waking me up to see the end. (What a wonderful woman she is.) My brother and I always go to the Brickyard 400 and would really like to travel to some other tracks this summer. We also have gone to the Indy 500 every year since 1978. Last year we went to the Indy car race in Michigan, too. We are thinking of visiting the Kentucky Speedway this summer, or the Chicago. We just like to go to racetracks. We grew up in Putnamville, a short walk from Lincoln Park Speedway. Dirt track racing is fun too. I have another little race track fact for you. If you have ever been to Lincoln Park Speedway you'll know that the grandstands are built on a large hillside. And the track is at the bottom of the hill. When I was a youngster that big hill was the greatest sledding hill in Putnamville. Some days it seemed like every kid in town was there, but of course, Putnamville isn't a very big town.

I guess I've rambled on long enough. Hope to see you all at our next event.

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

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SOS! Rally Masters Needed!

by John Schaub

I'm sorry to report that our rally calendar is woefully empty. We really need some people to step up and volunteer to run some rallies this summer. Running a rally is great fun and you get to meet some really nice people. There are two main excuses that we hear why people say that they can't run a rally. "I don't know how" and "I just don't have time to put one together".

No problem, the club has put together a complete manual on how to run a successful rally. This manual covers every aspect on how to a good rally is run, all the do's and don't are covered. This manual is available from our club president Rick Booe or myself VP John Schaub, we can be contacted thru the club website.

The other excuse of no time is a valid problem for most people between work and family obligations. Most of us don't have the time we would like to just go out and enjoy our cars. No worries, we have you covered there as well. The club has a whole file of fantastic rallies that you can pick from. Now for me, running country roads and finding a great Miata route is the fun part of putting together a rally, but if you don't have the time we understand. Go to the website and look at what rallies have been run in the past (<http://www.indymiata.org>).

Spring is right around the corner, so put down that remote, get of the sofa and go out and runs some of your favorite roads. Write down the mileage between intersections and before you know it, you'll have your own great rally to share with the club. Contact me at vicepresident@indymiata.org and I'll put your rally date on our calendar!

Cabin Fever Cure Set For 3/25

What's the old saying? "He can talk the talk, but can he walk the walk?" John Schaub put out the call for rallies and then show us he can "walk the walk" by presenting the "Cabin Fever Rally" on March 25th.

Famous for his "no clue" events, this will be a tour to Nashville, taking the roads less travelled through Marion, Morgan and Brown counties. We'll meet John and Marsha in the back parking lot of the Adam's Mark hotel (2544 Executive Drive, off the Airport Expressway) at 10:30 and head south at 11:00.

After arriving in Nashville, the Schaub's plan to have lunch at The Ordinary restaurant. You can then stroll through town, do some more driving, or head back home. Lunch with the group is optional, but if you are going to join us, please contact John so he can give The Ordinary a head count or register on the club web site.

As you know, the weather in late March can be anywhere from sunny and 65 degrees to a horrible late winter storm, so this is definitely a weather permitting event. Wet and damp is OK, if it's snowing, we're staying home!

Don't forget to RSVP and we'll see you on the 25nd!

Last Membership Reminder

No more reminders. None, Nada, Nenhuns, Niets, Nyet. Look at the date on your mailing lable and if it says 12/31/2005, you need to renew.

If you haven't renewed, there will be a huge void in your life, you won't know where the fun rallies are being held and you'll think that it's just not worth going out to the mailbox the first week of the month. You can use the form in last month's issue or go online for the form (<http://indymiata.dustbunny.com/join/>). We'll miss you.

Note: If you have recently renewed, the database may not have been updated before the mailing labels were printed.

Hanging At The Hangar

Twenty-one club members braved the 20 degree temperature and headed west on February 18th to enjoy lunch and conversation at The Hangar, located at the Greencastle Airport. Arriving late, Sara McBride jokingly asked if she was the only one who drove top down to the event!

Organized by Rick and Susie Booe, members enjoyed food and conversation and watched a couple of planes with student pilots land and take off. We met new members, Andy Batt, who had son Eric as his copilot and George and Maxine Stizall. A drawing was held for a bottle of wine and new member Andy Batt was the big winner.

After lunch, John Schaub reminded Rick that he had said something about a drive, so Rick led five cars on sections of his Sunday drive. We wandered through Putnam, Clay and Owen counties on roads that if they weren't so sand covered and our cars on winter tires, would have made us smile bigger than some of us were doing. Rick promises a summer rally on some of these roads, don't miss it!

Thank you to Rick and Susie for hosting and to all those who participated.



President Rick Booe led five cars on a drive after lunch. This is one cornfield we passed. More pictures on the club website! (<http://indymiata.dustbunny.com/events/>)



New member Andy Batt shows his prize he won as son Eric looks over his shoulder

Photos by Susie Booe and Sara McBride



George and Maxine Stizall joined us for their first Indy Miata Club event.

Tour De Boondocks Returns To Club Schedule

Set your calendar for Tour De Boon Docks II, a great Miata weekend of June 9th and 10th, presented by your Tour Masters, Norm & Susie Arbuckle and Gary and Kathy Collings. We have discovered several great new scenic and twisty roads with three beautiful vistas on our tour. This will be similar to last year's successful outing but with several new roads. This will be a twisty tour through the back roads of deep southern Indiana with short relief stops.

Your Tour Masters have reserved 16 rooms at their favorite romantic bed and breakfast inn, the Leavenworth Inn Bed & Breakfast for the nights of Friday, June 9, and Saturday, June 10. Call the Leavenworth Inn at 888-739-2120 to reserve one of these rooms for both nights. First come. First served. Ask for the Indy Miata Club rate of \$97 plus 11% tax for a total of \$107.67 per night. Those of you who can only stay one evening or prefer a lower rate can call the Baymont Inn in Corydon, 812-738-1500.

The rough itinerary for now is to drive down on Friday night. If you can get there in time, we will all eat together at The Overlook Restaurant. We will have fun and games with wine sampling at "the Cottage" and room tours afterwards. Saturday morning, we'll eat breakfast at The Overlook Restaurant and then head out for our morning tour. We'll meet up with those who can only join the Saturday tour in Salem, IN, and then continue to our lunch break stop. After lunch, we have an afternoon drive planned, ending back at the Inn in plenty of time to relax and take advantage of the B&B's atmosphere. Saturday evening, we'll drive to Corydon for

our dinner then back to the Inn for some more socializing, fun and games, and wine tasting.

Sunday morning a truly great drive back to Nashville is planned where the tour ends. You will travel our five-hump roller coaster road; and if your speed is over 60 mph, you must have a pilot's license to enjoy the sky time.

Norm and Susie Arbuckle and Gary and Kathy Collings are your tour masters and have booked the first two rooms for both nights. Sign up (for a head count) further down on this website. Then please notify us by email at normarby@aol.com, or call Norm at 1-765-426-5994 and tell us where you've booked your rooms. Remember to stay at the Leavenworth Inn bed and breakfast, and that both nights must be booked.

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

The Post Tax Blues Rally Wants You!



Circle Saturday, April 22nd on your calender 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!

We'll be meeting at 10:00 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 10:45 and the first car will be off at 11:00.

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!

Check back soon for a possible meeting point for Indy club members to caravan to Logansport!

Indy club members can meet at 9:00 at the Marsh parking lot at 106th and North Michigan Road (US 421) and caravan to Logansport. We will depart at 9:15 (sharp!).

Don't miss the first rally of the year, don't miss your chance to win fabulous prizes, and don't miss meeting old and new friends.

Here's hoping for a top down day!

Post Tax Blues Registration

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

Driver: _____
Please Print

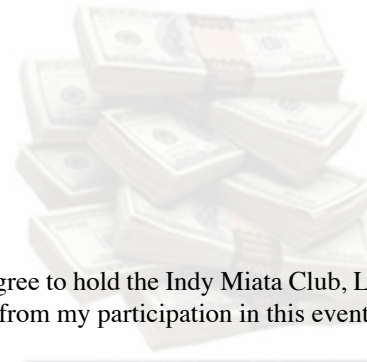
Navigator: _____
Please Print

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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2006 Scheduled Events

March 25 - Cabin Fever 2006

June 9-10 - Tour De Boon Docks II

April 22 - Post Tax Blues Rally

July 1 - USGP Mingle

May 1 - Crouse's Deal's Gap Trip

August 5 - Brickyard Mingle

May 4-7 - Mountain Miata Col-
orfest

November - Hidden Drives IV?

May 27 - Indy 500 Mingle

December - Holiday Party

Is this your last issue? Check the date on your mailing label!

Visit the club website for all the latest information! Visit the Member's Only Forum!

<http://www.indymiata.org>