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# The Road Less Traveled....

*by John Schaub, President*

Hello Miata fans. It's been a full year for me as your club president and I have had a lot of fun. Marsha and I have met many members and have made some new friends along the way. It has been a productive year as well, after seventeen years we voted in a new club logo and sold quite a bit of new club logo gear in hopes of promoting our great car club.

I would like to thank all the people that made the club run smoothly throughout the year. Thanks to Dave Besterman for volunteering to help me we will have new name tags and club pins around the end of January. A big thanks goes out to Sara McBride for her hard work as editor of the Open Road newsletter and taking care of the website. Shelley Durell did a great job as our treasurer for at least the last two years. Thanks to Ben Hermann for handling the membership duties for the last two years. Our club is in great shape for the coming year with Roger Burrill having been my vice president and will have taken over president duties from me by the time you read this.

Speaking of the Burrills, I would like to thank Roger and Nancy for hosting two rallies this summer. They ran the West Baden/French Lick rally and the Covered Bridge rally. Both were well planned and well attended events. An A for effort goes out to one of our newest members Ken Rabbers for co-hosting the Post Tax Blues rally with the Lake Effect Miata Club. Ken had only been a member for a few months before he volunteered, thank you very much. Steve and Kathy Crouse were kind enough to run the Smokey Mountain Getaway this spring and their first annual Poker Run this summer. Bob Wiley ran two events as well, the Drive Down Under and his Go Colts! Pitch-in luncheon at Spring Mill State park.

The Indy Miata Club will be hosting the Midwest Miata Gathering next fall. This will be the largest event the club has hosted in over ten years. We are looking at a total of upwards of 150 cars that we will show off our city and some of our favorite Miata roads here in central Indiana. An event of this size could mean as many as 300 people to take care of, so we will need all the volunteers we can get. If you have ever wanted to help out with an event but didn't know where to start, this is the perfect time to step up. We will have many different jobs for you to choose from. Mark your calendar for September 26-28 to attend or better yet help out with the 2008 Midwest Miata Gathering.

Let's celebrate the end of a great year by meeting down at The Old Spaghetti Factory on December 1 for our annual Holiday Party.

Roger, you've got the reins and get to write the next twelve front pages!

Until next time, keep the shiny side up.

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## See You At The Holiday Party

Join your fellow Miata owners on December 2nd at 6:00pm for the last club event of the year, the always fun and entertaining Holiday Party at The Old Spaghetti Factory. The restaurant is located at 210 S. Meridian Street, parking should be OK as the Colts play the 1:00pm game.

This is a casual, fun social evening starting at 5:00pm with dinner, then the ever popular gift exchange (\$12-\$15 per Miata), concluding with the election of 2007 IMC Officers. As usual, the club will pick up the tab for your dinner, you only pay for your drinks.

We need to have an accurate head count five days before the dinner, so it's important to register at the club website on the events page.

If you're interested in running for a club office (VP, Treasurer, Membership Director, Webmaster or Open Road Editor), please contact incoming President Roger Burrill. His contact information is in the masthead at left. Besides hosting a rally, being an officer is another way of helping our club remain a viable, healthy organization.



Old Spaghetti Factory

## Former Club President Passes Away

It is with great sadness that we report that former IMC President, Rick Morris, passed away after a short illness on November 19th.

Rick was club President in 2003, ran several rallies for the club and using the pen name of Dr. Detail, wrote car care articles for the Open Road.

A gathering of friends and family to remember Rick will be held December 1 at the Jazz Kitchen at 5377 College Avenue in Indianapolis from 12:00 to 3:30pm.

## Dave's Miata Tip Of The Month

by Dave Besterman

Own a 1999-2002 Miata? Mazda has issued a service bulletin on the fuel door for those years.

The 1999 – 2002 Miata accessory fuel door may not open when the release lever is pulled inside the vehicle's center console. If this occurs, the two (2) fuel door rubber stoppers are most likely sticking to the underside of the fuel door, causing it to not open. To open a stuck fuel door, gently strike the top of the fuel door with your hand while an assistant pulls the release lever inside the vehicle.

The Service Bulletin provides information on the re-designed rubber stoppers. The old style stoppers are flat; the new style stoppers have a crowned tip in the center which reduces the contact surface area. Go to <http://www.miata.net/garage/tsb/fl01-32.html> for complete information. In the meanwhile, I'm keeping my stoppers and their landing surface inside the fuel door clean...

Remember, technical service bulletins (TSB) are there to aid in solving problems and providing up to date repair information. Repair is not free unless the vehicle is still under warranty. They are not to be confused with Safety Recalls. The work performed for a Safety Recall is free to the vehicle owner.

*Tag! You're it!*

# Empty Nesters On The Road To Fun

by Linda Buchanon

It was great to see and talk to Sara on that brisk autumn morning, as she got us all started on one of her famous Hidden Drives. Or was it just part of a master plan? We got tagged!

So now where to begin.....Maybe the how Don and I even got a Miata. We were empty nesters looking for a fun vehicle just for ourselves. We had gone the route of an old 1966 Porsche 912. We had tried to do some repairs and spiff it up, but were really spending more time and money doing that than enjoying the rides. Then we lost it, the car caught fire and we sold it. Were we ready to give up this dream of riding around in a sports car for two? Not quite. We spent about six months looking at Audi TT's and other sports cars, but really could not justify the price for the look and the ride. Moving on with nothing in particular in mind, Don comes home one evening proclaiming that he has now found my birthday present and goes to the computer. After looking up a few Miata dealers and seeing what they had available on their lots, we head out one evening in October 2002 to look at Miatas.

We returned home the owners of a new 2002 Emerald Green Mica Miata MX5.

We fell in love with the entire car experience, the drive, the ride, the lights at night. Yeah, they are really cool. The feeling of just pure joy every time you open the door. You know you are going to have a great time even before you leave the garage, especially if you have the top down.

We joined the Inddy Miata Club and pretty quickly have found there were a lot more who feel the same way. Some add great devices to make it go faster, or look even better. Others just love talking about Miatas. The enjoyment of meeting fellow club members, participating in rallies, or overnight trips have been wonderful. All ages, all walks of life sharing a common love.

From that October evening in 2002 when we picked up our Miata, I can still feel the excitement just looking at it. I know opening the door, before the key even gets place in the ignition, that it will be a great day. Going topless just means more fun, no extra charge. Everything is opened up. The sky is spacious, the road seems to go on forever, the sounds of motors, smell of nature and others' radios mingle, but you only hear the sounds you want to let in. Am I in my own world, maybe, or perhaps it's just a total attitude of driving or even riding. A kind of excitement like none other. Is it unique? No! I believe all Miata owners, if not always, sometimes during their ownership of this roadster, experience this exhilaration.

The trips we take are often just out of the way places so we can enjoy the scenery, the curves, the hills and the fun of being together in the Miata. We have travelled through a few states. Haven't made the Gap yet, but I am sure we will get there. We took the Miata out to West Virginia to visit our youngest last fall and it was a gorgeous ride. This summer we went to Mackinaw Island. A first for us, so we wanted to experience it in the Miata - we did the drive around the Lake coming back to Indianapolis. You can't even imagine the number of pictures we took and the number of times we got out of the car to take in the spectacular views. Just being able to ride in the Miata opens up so much around you. We would have missed so much in just a regular car. You really do have to be careful because you will often miss a rode you were supposed to have been turning onto. Oh well, did you really have a destination in mind? So who cares, you just make adjustments. Riding in the Miata is a total attitude adjustment from the beginning anyway. And it's



Linda and Don enjoying a top down day at a club rally.

a pleasant one! I hope driving and riding in our Miata always makes me feel this exuberance for life, for adventure.

We have enjoyed finding the roads and the fun here in Indiana, as much as any where else. Our trips around southern Indiana and the Ohio River have been some of the best. We can find such out of the way places we normally wouldn't have even thought to visit, and the romance of some of these places.....WOW! People, places, shopping, food, and romantic get-aways, who would have thought, all of this just because of a little car purchase. One of the best birthday presents I've ever gotten, even if it's shared.

Five years of fun and thrills! Yes, that pretty much sums up driving and riding in a Miata. See your smiling faces out there on the road soon!

Look out John Vernon and Beth Oaks! We tag you for next month's article.



# Last Drive of Year Was Sunny Success

Fifteen cars with IMC members showed up on a cold but sunny day for the 2007 edition of Hidden Drives. Some of the attendees were so eager that they arrive 45 minutes before the start time!

President John and Marsha Schaub were there with their traveling trunk store of club clothing. Long sleeve shirts seemed to be a best seller.

Rally Master Sara McBride was unable to lead the drive, but assured all that they would not get lost on the drive. She handed out the routes and cars headed south. Most tops were still in their full, upright, locked position, but as the drive progressed, many cars went topless.

Brown county (and Monroe county) showed off its fall colors as the cars headed to Nashville. The roads were smooth and the route was fun. A good day for the last drive of the year!



Above: Miatas zoom around one of the many curves on the Hidden Drives tour.

*Photos by Roger Burrill*

Left: Shane Benson cruises top down in his "Go Colts!" Miata with the horse shoe on the hood.

## Miata Magazine Returns, With New Look, New Name

At one time, Miata Magazine was something that subscribers looked for anxiously in their mailboxes. In 2003, the magazine transformed itself into "MazdaSport" which covered all the cars with the Mazda badge. Interest waned and so did MazdaSport.

After four years Miata Magazine is back as the ultimate independent magazine for MX-5 Miata enthusiasts, with a fresh look and new name: Forever MX-5 Magazine.

One familiar name on the masthead is Barbara Beach, who was publisher of Miata Magazine and MazdaSport. Another is Brian Goodwin who wrote many articles for Miata Magazine and MazdaSport.

Subscriptions are \$19.95 for one year (four issues) with charter subscribers receiving a reprint issue of Miata Magazine #1 published in 1989. The reprint issue will be shipped immediately and subscribers should the first issue of Forever MX-5 Magazine in February

Mazdasport will continue to be published, though it's focus is changing to be more race-centric.

For more information, go to: <http://www.forevermx5.com/>

## Classifieds

For Sale - 96 M Edition (automatic) Love a mystery? Like to tinker? A team of mechanics have spent over 100 hours trying to figure out why the "check engine" light keeps coming on regarding the automatic transmission. Go to the Classifieds page on the club web site for the full story on this car! <http://indymiata.org>. Car is for sale by Windy City club member Phil Landers. Contact him at: [rev.phil@idoweddings.tv](mailto:rev.phil@idoweddings.tv)

For Sale - Winter Protection for your car! The Team at Jimmy Buff-It's will skillfully hand wash your Miata and professionally apply a synthetic, acrylic polymer sealant. If you drive your car in the winter, it needs real protection from those harsh winter elements. Call Jim for your appointment at 317-514-2659.

For Sale -Lots of aftermarket Parts for 92 and 00 Miata. Here's a short list: JR Supercharger for a car with PS and Air. Clear 3rd Brake Light. Sola Black Crinkle Shift Knob and Brake Handle. Factory 14" Alloy Wheels. KYB Adjustable Shocks. H&R Springs. Contact Kurt Smith at: [amsracing@verizon.net](mailto:amsracing@verizon.net) for more.

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looking great after it leaves our shop.

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Indy Miata Club members receive a 10% discount.

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4265 West 96th Street  
317-514-2659

<http://www.jimmybuffit.com>

Don't forget to visit the club website for up to date information and more! <http://indymiata.org>



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## **Last Scheduled Event for 2007!**

**December 2 - Holiday Party**

The New Year is almost here. Why not make a resolution to host a rally or mingle in 2008?

## **Scheduled Events (So Far) For 2008**

**September 26 - 28 - Midwest Miata Gathering**