



Volume 19
Issue 12
December 2009

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Controlled Over-Steer

...or, Steering with Your Right Foot!

by Tom Lewis, President

It hardly seems possible that the month of December has arrived and with it, the end of my tenure as President of the Indy Miata Club. It's certainly been a fun year and I have enjoyed representing the club during 2009. Eric Drumwright will no doubt continue to move the club forward, supported by some very dedicated and faithful people who make this job of President quite easy. People like Sara J McBride, Steve Crouse, Mike Selvy and Nancy Burrill, who have volunteered their time and talent to the club for several years each. These folks are the infrastructure of the club. Be sure to thank them the next time you see them – they deserve the praise!

But, I must confess that the job has not been too strenuous, thanks mostly to my predecessors who really got the club on a roll in 2008 by incorporating the club and then hosting the Midwest Miata Gathering in September of 2008. The MMG brought quite a bit of attention to the club and since then we have seen a steady increase in membership. Membership is now closing in on 150 Miatas and the growth is likely to continue growing as more and more people are discovering - and in several cases "rediscovering" - the merits of the Miata.

The year 2009 was not lacking in club activities, with over 22 Indy Miata sponsored events on the calendar, including 14 Rallies or Fun Runs, two overnight events, and 4 Mingles. We had many new faces join us on for these events, which is always encouraging. It's extremely validating to see new members come out for their first event and watch as other club members warmly greet these new faces and make them feel welcome. I again challenge you members who have never joined us for a rally or a fun run to come out with us just one time and I promise you'll be back again and again.

The year 2010 looks promising as the club continues to build momentum. But as I and many others before me have preached, this success of this club is predicated upon members participating in club events and getting involved. Your club officers and volunteers are available to answer your questions and assist you in planning an event. It certainly doesn't have to be fancy; could be something as simple as a guided drive lead by the host, or perhaps a mingle at your favorite place to cruise for a dish of ice cream. Or be creative and come up with your own event! What's important is your participation.

I wish everyone the very best during this Holiday Season, and a Prosperous and Healthy 2010.



President Tom Lewis at the wheel of his first convertible.

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Where Are The New IMC Events?

We're all dressed up with no where to go.

The slate is clean, the calendar is empty, the events page is waiting.

Most club members don't realize it, but this is the best time of year to plan a rally, mingle or fun run. The first step is the easiest. You shoot an e-mail to the Events Coordinator and say "I'm thinking of holding a rally in _____ (choose your favorite month) and they'll respond by saying "That's great! These dates are open! What's your event's name? Do you need a Rally Master's manual?"

You decide on a name, confirm the date and then on a couple of snowy, cold winter evenings, sit with your favorite libation and begin thinking, start looking over a map and planning a route.

Spring comes, the roads may still be slushy (if you chosen an early month) so you test drive the roads you've been staring at on your maps in your OTM. If your Miata is your daily driver, you drive the route thinking "this will be great driving with the top down!"

You finalize what kind of rally it will be, what roads are Miata friendly, your starting place, your ending place, and times. You've been communicating with the Events Coordinator, so the information is on the web site and members have been signing up like crazy.

You run a final test run of your route and then print your route sheets, always printing extras for those who show up at the last minute.

The day of your rally is sunny and warm and Members, in their eagerness, arrive before you at the starting spot. You start your Driver's meeting with the oft heard phrase....

"The first rule of this rally is 'The Rally Master Is Always Right!'"

Cars take off from your starting point, some run fast, some run slower and enjoy the scenery. Some take wrong turns, some are proud that they've never gone off course on a route, but all the drivers and navigators smile and enjoy the day.

Another great Indy Miata Club rally in the book.

So let's fill up our event page with rallies, mingles and more! Contact our Events Coordinator at events@indymiata.org today!

Welcome To Our New Members

Membership Director Mike Selvy would like to introduce the newest members of the Indy Miata Club. They are:

Gary Davis, Valparaiso
Sharon Van Hove, Muncie
Michael Leamy, Greenfield
Nancy Hunt, Indianapolis

Congratulations on owning the best car to drive top down and we hope to see you at an event soon!

Speaking of Memberships.....

Hard to believe, but 2010 is just around the corner, so here's your first reminder about Indy Miata Club dues!

The annual dues for the IMC remain at \$20.00. That breaks down to just under \$1.67 a month or 0.0547945205 a day! What a bargain!

Those attending the Holiday Party can pay our Treasurer at the event or you may mail your check (made out to Indy Miata Club) to:

Steve Crouse
7001 Peacock Lake Ct
Plainfield, IN 46168-7304

Sunshine, Hidden Drives and Cornfields

Blue skies, sunshine, warm temperatures, it just doesn't get any better than that for a November rally! Twenty-two cars showed up at the starting point of the Hidden Drives / 318 Cornfields (in more than eleven miles) rally on November 7, most with their tops down and all rarin' to go.

Sara J started the driver's meeting and explained that due to some boring parts, the annual Hidden Drives event had "318 Cornfields" tagged onto it. She advised that there would be some questions to answer, but that they would be handed out at the pit stop, half-way through the run.

Despite the Rally Master always being right, it was pointed out that the first instruction didn't indicate which way to turn. The correct turn direction was given to all cars, and the cars took off.

Our route led club members through an industrial park in Carmel, past Trader's Point Creamery, into Hendricks county, then back into Marion county. We headed north through Whitestown, back west around Zionsville, then over to Westfield for our planned stop where the question cards were handed out.

It was six easy questions. The first one was the driver and navigator's names. The Rally Master gave everyone a point for the last one as the answer disappeared early that morning. And only one team got four correct answers total. Sad.

Just so you know how easy they were, here are the questions.

1. The driver and navigator's names are:
2. What was the original name of the Indy Miata Club?
3. Think back. Where was the first Hidden Drive sign you saw?
4. How many times have you crossed over or under an interstate highway?
5. How many cornfields will you pass during this rally?
6. Where is the giant pumpkin house (nearest intersection)?

Leaving Westfield, we headed to the northwest through the cornfields and crossed US 421, then headed north through more cornfields to Elizaville.

New smooth pavement greeted the cars as they headed south on Elizaville Road to Lebanon, then back to Whitestown and into Zionsville where everyone met at Friendly's Tavern. Answer cards were handed to Sara who scored the results, shaking her head at some of the answers.

Gary Weidman and Bailey Livingston scored the most correct answers with a total of four. A drawing was held to determine 2nd and 3rd place with Laura Shilts placing second and Scott and Kyle Black placing third.

And what are the answers?

1. Everyone was able to get their own names right!
2. Indy Miata Chapter of the Miata Club of America. (Remember Sara e-mailed out the first Open Road ever published? It was on the first page!)
3. The first Hidden Drive sign was at the 3 mile mark of the rally on 96th street just before going under I-465 the second time.
4. Under I-465 twice, over I-65 and then under it, and then over I-865 for a total of 5.
5. There were 318!

6. The home owners had taken down the decorations turning their house into a giant pumpkin at 1200E and 300N (Hamilton-Boone County line and W 206th), so everyone got a point for this question. Now, those weren't tough if you were paying attention!

Thanks to all who decided not to rake leaves and showed up for a great top down day! More pictures of this event and others can be found at the club's photo web site at <http://picasaweb.google.com/IndyMiataClub>.



Gary and Bailey on their way to first place.



Cars head into a curve on Salem Road.



Sara tries to get everyone's photo as they meet on the route.

What Fun We Had In 2009! Can't Wait For 2010!



It was chilly for the "Speedy Gonzalez" rally in March!
Gary watches as Steve tidies up his car at the Brickyard Mingle.



It was a sunny day for the Sock Hop and Shine event.



Culver's was the spot for the Moto GP Mingle!!



Herm and Steve led us in "Southern Circles".

Bob Lewis checks out what the "Candyman" has in the bag.
Participants of the weekend trip to Leavenworth pose for a group photo.



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Stop by and
say hi!

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<http://www.jimmybuffit.com>

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

2010 Events Across the US

Thinking about doing a vacation in your roadster? Many Miata Clubs are holding regional events in 2010. Some have limited openings, check the listed web sites. Here's a short listing:

March 25-28 - Miatas At Myrtle Beach - http://www.triadmiatas.com/MAMB_IV.html

April 29- May 2 - Miatas Doin' the Charleston - <http://www.miatasdothecharleston.com/>

May 14-16 - Miatas In Moab - <http://www.utahmiataclub.com/>

June 24-27 - Miata Mountain Mania -<http://www.westpenmiataclub.com/mania10.html>

July 23-25 - Miatas At The Gap XIV - <http://www.gapmiatas.com/>

August 6, 7 & 8 - Romp Through The Rockies- <http://www.heartlandmiata.com>

September 10-12 - Midwest Miata Gathering - <http://www.miatagathering.com>

October 14 - 17 - Surf N Safari 10 -<http://www.sandiegomiataclub.org/sns10/>

Of course, if you don't want to travel far, your Indy Miata Club will be hosting events every month, so check the club calender. And, you can host your own event in 2010!



Short sleeves and tops down were the order of the day on November 7 at the Hidden Drives / 318 Cornfields In 11 Miles Drive.

Don't forget, your source for up to date information is the Indy Miata Club web site.

<http://www.indymiata.org>