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Controlled Over-Steer

...or, Steering with Your Right Foot!

by Tom Lewis, President

Probably one of the most cliché things we say on a regular basis is that the older we get, the faster time goes by. I'm having trouble dealing with the fact that November is upon us. In fact, I'm really bummed out. I don't want the cold. I don't want the snow. The short, grey days. My hardtop, as I write this, is resting against the wall in the garage, ready to be lifted on to its rightful, Madza-given place, not to be removed for months. At least I can enjoy the variation in looks with the hardtop on the Miata; I really like the way it makes the car look. Well, until the road salt gets put down.

Well, at least there might be the occasion or two when there's the opportunity to be the first to drive down the street in 2 or 3 inches of fresh snow. Listen up folks - driving a Miata in the snow is an absolute blast, as long as you know how to steer the car with your right foot. Just the right amount of gas to keep the tail on its smooth arch through the turn. Yeah... the Miata does help bring a little bright spot to an otherwise miserable few months when we can't zoom through the curves. But a little "controlled over-steer" in the snow will certainly put a bit of a smile on your face. Just be careful and drive within your limits!

The realization of the date also makes me very melancholy - that gentle sadness in realizing my time as President of the Indy Miata Club is coming to a close. It has been a tremendously fun year for me, with so many memories of good times. But if you have to pin me down and pick the highlight of the year... I gotta tell ya - driving those tight, twisty roads in southeast Ohio around Marietta still has the adrenaline coursing through my veins. Most certainly, there will be at least one "SE Ohio Non-Event" next driving season. Do your self a favor - GO! If you like to drive, to experience what the Mazda engineers refer to as "Jinba Ittai - Rider and Horse as One"... then go to Marietta. It does happen, becoming one with your car. It happened to me on Ohio SR 255. For Laura, it was on SR 536. You just have to trust me, GO. Experience Jinba Ittai. It's what your Miata was made to do.

I can't tell you how many times I've gone to the club's Photo Site to enjoy and relive the experiences. If you haven't done it already, be sure to add the website <http://picasaweb.google.com/IndyMiataClub> to your "Favorites" on your web browser. Relive the fun... like early spring along the Ohio River for the "Weekend at the Leavenworth". Remember how the leaves were just starting to emerge on this extraordinarily warm early spring weekend. The fabulous roads, the curves, the vistas and overlooks of the Ohio River. That crazy card game we all played at The Cottage. Hey... remember the Shoe Tree? I sure hope Steve and Kathy Crouse are planning a return trip next spring. So, take a few minutes to check out the photos on our Photo Page from the past year, and beyond. Heck, Bob Wylie even posted some pictures that were taken at the very first meeting of the Indy Miata Club 20 years ago in October of 1989! Go check it out!

Speaking of the "Lewis Era" of the Indy Miata Club coming to an end, we have some

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Controlled Over-Steer

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elections in the very near future. And what a great time to get involved with running the club... Membership has grown well over 25% in the past year, with more and more new faces - and new Miatas - coming out to join us on our Rallies and Fun Run. And they're the ones that'll tell you about the thrill of carving tight corners on Mahalasville Road with 15 - 20 other Miatas at 9:00 in the morning while there's still a thick dew on the corn rushing past you. The enthusiasm is infectious. Here's your chance to build on this momentum - get involved! Here's list of the positions open:

Vice President/President Elect - a two year commitment, serves the first year (2010) as VP/President- Elect, then as Club President in 2011. We currently have one nomination for the position - Jack Cruse.

Secretary - a one year commitment, and may choose to nominate themselves to remain in position.

Treasurer - a one year commitment, and may choose to nominate themselves to remain in position.

Newsletter Editor - If you have an interest in this position, please contact me or Sara J McBride at your earliest convenience.

Membership Director - If you have an interest in this position, please contact me or Mike Selvy at your earliest convenience.

So there you have it. Do have a bit of time and talent that you can contribute? Why not share your passion for driving your Miata with other like-minded people? Take my word for it, it's definitely worth the time and effort.

Hidden Drives/318 Cornfields?

Join Sara J on her annual Hidden Drives event. In the past, she's showed you the long way to Nashville, but this year has decided to show you that there are hidden drives and cornfields on the northwest side of Indy.

This year, we'll start at 106th and Michigan Road (SR421) and end up just up the road a few miles in Zionsville. Of course, it won't be the short route, prepare to drive 80+ miles, which means a little more than a quarter tank of fuel.

Charge up your FRS radios [;)] or bring your CB and get ready to rally! Oh yeah, bring a pen and a clipboard, we'll have a short quiz to keep you awake during the boring (cornfield) parts.

A very important note, this is a rest stop deficient rally. Prepare accordingly! Meet at 12:45 in the Marsh Parking lot.

Driver's Meeting 1:00pm

Cars off at 1:15

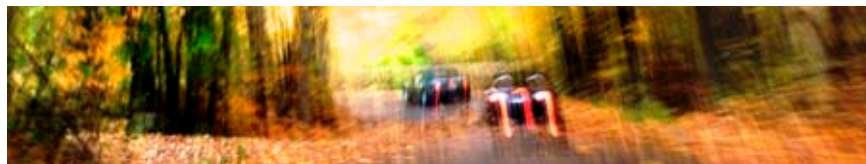
Fee: \$5.00 (cash please!)

We'll end up in Zionsville where you can stroll the village, go to Friendly's for a bite to eat or do what ever you want!

This will be a rain or shine event, but it's a no go if there's snow. The forecast is looking good right now though!

Please sign up on the event page on the club web site.

See you on November 7!



BYO BBQ Fun Run / October-Feast BBQ Rally

What's in a name? Bob Wiley changed the name of his event, but both names described his fun filled event held on October 24th.

Overcast skies and a chilly breeze greeted the participants as they rolled into Hummel Park, but as the route instructions were handed out, everyone seemed determined to have a good time. Tickets were sold for a 50 / 50 drawing, announcements were made concerning upcoming events and then everyone headed for their car. Several members decided to run the route top down, there's always a few crazies in the group, right?

Bob's route used elements from one of the Fun Runs from the 2008 MMG, but he added new roads and in two sections had different routes set up so Miatas were coming and going on the same road. Always fun to see!

The clouds parted about half way through the route and at a stop sign, a few more cars put their tops down and joined the crazies.

Upon returning to Hummel Park, it was decided to move to the other side of the park to avoid the wind. Several members had brought grills, both charcoal and gas fired, so these were set up and soon burgers, pork chops and other goodies were cooking. Everyone pitched in with sides and desserts, so there was lots of food. The fixings for S'mores were even provided! The drawing was held for the 50 / 50 and who won the big pot? Why, it was Bob Wiley!

The final touch of the event was that our Rally Master's birthday was celebrated with a cake. Thirty-nine years old, right Bob?

All in all, another fun event hosted by Bob and PK. He worried needlessly about the weather and pulled off another great event. Thank you Bob and PK for your efforts in putting together this rally.



Above: BBQ Bob gets ready to eat.

There's more event photos at <http://picasaweb.google.com/IndyMiataClub>



Bob watches Tom as he cooks his meal on the grill



We drove great roads with great scenery all day.

At the start, everyone was bundled up against the cold.



One of the crazies waves at the photographer. Woo-hoo!



Mike, Ann, And Blue Join The IMC 100K Club

by Mike and Ann Selvy

On August 12, 2009 our 1994 Laguna Blue Miata, who is known in our family as "Blue", turned 100,000 miles! Considering she came to us with "2" miles showing on her odometer and to now have the privilege to enjoy this milestone has been a wonderful life for all of us here. For the past 100,000 miles, I've tried to be the best owner possible. I always fed her right, made her exercise, and have kept her out of trouble by demanding she lead a clean life. Because of this unique relationship we've become one over the years. She knows my touch because I'm the only one to have taken her on this journey since her birth.

We celebrated this monumental event by driving her to the Frost Bite, here in Avon to celebrate the momentous occasion with some ice cream and did a few photos to add to the family album. She was proud and rightly so!



Ann and Mike and their 94 Laguna Blue at the 2008 MMG.

Blue has been a faithful member of the family since she came into our life in August of 1994 when we got her straight off the Speedway Mazda lot on Indy's west side. We joined the Indy Miata Club within days of Blue coming into our lives.

We had her home immediately and spent a little time burping her for her first maiden trip that included a stop at the Mooreland Free Fair, at Mooreland, IN and then on to the east to run the Blue Ridge Parkway from top to bottom.

As time passed, and one journey and then another, she's seen many states and many sites along the way and she's never let us down.

Thanks Blue, we love you!

IMC Holiday Party Reminder - Sign Up By Nov. 15

We're taking a break from hosting our Annual Holiday Party at the Spaghetti Factory this year and will be moving the festivities to our own private venue. This year's event will be held at the Hummel Park Banquet Center in Plainfield. This will allow us the freedom and time to eat and visit with each other, and hold our elections and gift exchange without interruption or having to share our space with another party. There is NO COST for this event – this is the Indy Miata Club's gift to you and your Navigator!

EVENT: Dinner, Gift Exchange, and Elections for 2010 Officers. As usual, the Holiday Party is the time to nominate and elect our officers for the following year. By tradition, the current year's Vice President becomes the following year's President, so the Vice President position for 2010 is open to nominations. If you would like to nominate yourself or any other member for a position, you MUST contact Tom Lewis with your prospective nominee's name PRIOR TO NOVEMBER 15, 2009

WHERE: Hummel Park Banquet Center, 1500 South Center Street, Plainfield, IN. This is the location of the MMG event we hosted in 2008. Parking is free and easily accessible from the I-70 West Plainfield exit #66. See the directions below.

WHEN: December 5th, 6:30 p.m. The dinner will begin at 6:30 p.m. and last until approximately 10 PM. The club will provide a catered meal and non-alcoholic drinks.

WHAT TO BRING: We're asking that each "car" bring a favorite holiday dessert to share, one (1) wrapped gift per car for the gift exchange, and an expectation for a lot of Miata fun!

****PLEASE NOTE:** Any type of alcoholic beverage is strictly prohibited since it is a public park. If you would like to meet for a bit of "Holiday Cheer" prior to the event, there are several locations available in the immediately area just minutes from the Banquet Center.

***** YOU MUST RSVP FOR THIS EVENT PRIOR TO NOVEMBER 15TH! *****

Once again, you must RSVP in order to attend. The caterer will need a final count on November 15th, so please register as soon as possible on the club's Events Page at <http://IndyMiata.org>, or contact Tom Lewis at President@IndyMiata.org if you would like to attend. As this is a catered event, only those with reservations will be admitted. Thank you for your cooperation!

Directions to the Hummel Park Banquet Center: From I-465 take I-70 West to the Plainfield/State Road 267 exit #66. Turn right/north on SR267 and move immediately to the left lane. Turn left at the first traffic light on to Hadley Road. Continue straight on Hadley Rd to the roundabout/circle where you will turn right on to S. Center Street. Continue north on S Center Street a short distance past the next roundabout/circle where you will turn left into the Hummel Park Banquet Center.

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

2009 Scheduled Events

November 7 - Hidden Drives/318 Cornfields Rally

December 5 - Holiday Party at Hummel Park Banquet Center

Final Notice! You must RSVP for the Holiday party before November 15!



Group shot of the Marietta Madness participants.

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

<http://www.indymiata.org>