



# The Open Road

The Official Newsletter of the Indy Miata Club

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## Controlled Over-Steer

...or, Steering with Your Right Foot!

*by Tom Lewis, President*

This past Saturday, September 26th, was the much anticipated 2nd running of the “Eastern Back Roads Run”, but behind the scenes we were wondering if it would really happen!

Dan Lahrman put a lot of effort into putting this year’s route together, a great mix of roads totaling 110 miles in length. As anyone who has put together a rally can tell you, it’s not hard to do, it just takes some time to do it. Dan had obviously put a lot of time and effort into making this year’s run bigger and better than last year’s event. But one week prior to the event, Dan received word from his employer that his presence would be required on Saturday the 26th! We had decision to make – cancel and reschedule, or find a replacement host for the event. Option #1 was really not an option, so I decided that Laura and I would be able to handle the duties because, hey, I’ve got a GPS!

The call to Laura didn’t go as planned; you see, Laura has gone back to school to pursue a dream of a career in the nursing field, and I was informed that her first REALLY BIG exam was happening on the Monday following the Run and she had planned to study all weekend. OK. Call number two went to my lifelong friend, Steve Peachey. Steve had attended one other rally with me about 5 years ago, so that qualified him as an experienced navigator!

Steve informed me that as the Chief of the Cicero Fire Department, he was scheduled to be a judge for the Indiana State Chili Cook-off being held the same Saturday at Red Bridge Park on beautiful Morse Reservoir. But, Steve weighed the offers and decided he’d much rather spend the day ripping through the roads of eastern Indiana than spending the afternoon and evening eating Tums and suffering through some serious heartburn.

The week’s weather was not boding well for a Miata friendly forecast for Saturday. Cool, rainy and overcast days were what we woke up to each morning, and the weekend forecast didn’t look any better. However, rain or shine, this event was going to happen, even if I was the only one that showed up. We must have some very optimistic members, because the registration numbers on the web site remained constant, with no one “unregistering” during the week. Maybe they knew something I didn’t?

Saturday arrived, and as the light began to fill the sky around the 7AM hour, it looked like we were in for another gray, gloomy day. At least it hadn’t rained in a few hours and the puddles in the middle of our street were about as small as I’d seen them in a while, not nearly big enough for the neighborhood kids to play in any longer. So, being the risk taker that I am, I decided to go ahead and roll the dice and wash the Miata, usually a sure way to get the rain falling. But about ¾ ways around the car with the wash mitt, I saw something that really got me juiced. Look! My shadow! Why, hello old friend! ...it’s been a while!

As the time approached to leave the house and pick of Steve, Blues sky and sunshine dominated. Being the thoughtful and caring person that I am, I called Laura to let her know I’d missed her and wish her a good day of studying. But upon answering, she asked, “So, where is it that everyone is meeting for the drive to Batesville?” Uh, so you’re thinking about going? Well, with a 3.99 GPA and your name on the Dean’s List, I suppose you can decide to take a break from studying and get out and play a bit! “...meet us McDonald’s on Post Road! See ya there!”

Twelve Miatas met at the McDonald’s at I-74 and Post Road and at precisely 1:30 PM, Steve Crouse lead a caravan out of the parking lot and onto eastbound I-74 towards Batesville. The group

*Zoom-Zoom to page 2*

## Indy Miata Club Officers 2009

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Tom Lewis  
president@indymiata.org

### *Vice-President*

Eric Drumwright  
vicepresident@indymiata.org

### *Treasurer*

Steve Crouse  
treasurer@indymiata.org

### *Membership Director*

Mike Selvy  
membership@indymiata.org

### *Events Coordinator*

Ken Rabbers  
events@indymiata.org

### *Secretary*

Nancy Burrill  
secretary@indymiata.org

### *Publications*

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



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## Controlled Over-Steer

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arrived at the Kroger parking lot in Batesville at 2:20 where we were met by an additional eight Miatas for a total of 20 cars for our Run. A driver's meeting was held and Steve Crouse opened up sales for the 50/50 raffle.

Unfortunately, as we were heading east, we had caught up with overcast skies again, so the blue sky and sunshine were not present in the Kroger lot. But it didn't take too long for the sunshine to catch up with us and we were again basking in the warmth of the sun with temperatures in the mid 70's.

Seeing as how we were unfamiliar with the local roads on southeast Indiana, we decided to make the Run a guided tour. So, out came the CB radios and magnetic antennas. Tom Lewis and "rookie" navigator Steve Peachey in the Lead Car, Steve and Kathy Crouse in the middle "Relay" position, and Roger and Nancy Burrill running "Sweep" in the rear of the pack of 20 Miatas. It didn't take more than the first 10 - 15 miles before the Lead car made the first mistake of the day, which found about half the pack doubling back and waving to the other half as we returned to our route! Ooooppss! And that only happened two more times during the day! Lead became Relay, Relay became Lead, and Sweep... well, the Sweep was fairly safe from our mistakes and just kept on Sweeping. Unfortunately though, it seems our Sweep car was tuned to Emergency Channel 9 while everyone else was on channel 5! ...we just thought Roger was disgusted with us and was refusing to even speak to us anymore!

The route ended at the beautiful J&J Winery in Richmond, where the owner treated us to a tour of his wine making facility. After the tour, the drawing for the 50/50 was held. While not overseen of any accounting firm or lawyers, it was a fair drawing. Really! I promise. It was purely coincidental that I won the \$74.00 in the pot!! Honest!

Thanks again go out to Dan Lahrman for putting together another unforgettable event. And we were all glad that you at least were able to make out of work in time to get a few good actions photos of the Miatas rounding one of many tight curves. I can't wait until next year's Run!



## Welcome To Our New Member

Membership Director Mike Selvy would like you to join him in welcoming our newest member, Sharon Denyes.

We hope to see Sharon in her 2000 Mahogany at an event soon!

# Circle December 5th On Your Calendar

Your Indy Miata Club Board of Directors has decided to break from hosting our Annual Holiday Party at the Spaghetti Factory this year. 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!

What happens at an IMC Holiday party? There are basically three events: Dinner, Gift Exchange, and Elections for 2010 IMC 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 (this/these) positions, you must contact Tom Lewis with your prospective nominee's name prior to November 15.

Where's the party? Hummel Park Banquet Center, 1500 South Center Street, Plainfield, IN. Parking is free and easily accessible from the I-70 west Plainfield exit #66.

When's the party? 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 wrapped gift per car for the gift exchange, and an expectation for a lot of Miata fun! Your gift should be in the \$10-15 range, it can be car related or not.

Please note that 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 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 [www.IndyMiata.org](http://www.IndyMiata.org), or contact Tom Lewis at [President@IndyMiata.org](mailto:President@IndyMiata.org) if you would like to attend. As this is a catered event, only those with reservations will be admitted.



Will the "LeBra" make a third appearance?

## MMG 10 Was Low Key, But Fun For All

by Steve Crouse

As was reported by the Greater Cincinnati Miata Club (GCMC) in their event lead-in this year, the 2010 (10th annual) MMG was a "return to its roots", with more opportunity to socialize, and lower key activities, but this was not in any way meant to mean it would be insignificant or boring. In a way, having the Gathering reduced in scale, made for more time to catch up with old friends, and make some new ones along the way.

For those Miataphiles that arrived in time for the Friday evening buffet, a tour and entertainment at the Elk Creek Winery, they found a great start to the weekend. The winery is nestled in a beautiful valley about 20 miles southwest of Dry Creek, KY, the lodging venue. Although small, Elk Creek Winery seems to have established a reputation for quality wine in a short time.

On Saturday, the Gathering moved eastward to Kincaid Lake State Park for various seminars in the morning, and voting for crowd favorites of each Miata generation. (Awards were given out after the evening dinner, but neither of our Indy members was lucky this time.)

Following lunch, one guided tour headed to Cynthiana, KY for afternoon dessert and a car show. Other "free range" tours went their separate directions. We have to confirm that the many roads in this area of Kentucky south of Cincinnati are exciting to drive! The only drawback to them is that you find the roads making turns immediately after you reach the crest of a hill or ridge. We were told to pay particular attention to the direction the power lines went as we drove, to avoid some nasty surprises on the other side.

After our evening BBQ buffet, door prizes were given out, with the items much like those provided by Mazda North America the previous year. For those with energy remaining, after the Show'n Shine and 50/50 awards were presented, tables were pushed back to make room for a dance floor. The rest of us headed back to the motel, negotiating the roads in the dark. That was a real challenge!

One last item remained for Sunday morning, a guided drive north to Augusta KY, and lunch, with a final opportunity to take an auto ferry across the Ohio River before heading home.

What about next year? We understand that the GCMC has approached a couple of new Miata groups about doing the next Gathering. We'll have to wait to see how this turns out. Any suggestions should be passed along to Rose G or Jon Roberto with GCMC.

Pictures from the event are here:  
<http://www.miatagathering.com/mmg10gallery/index.asp>

# Marietta Madness, Not To Be Missed!

by Tom Lewis

Hey folks, last call to register for the weekend trip to Marietta, Ohio on October 9th – 11th! If you enjoy driving your Miata on smooth, tight curves, you'll not want to miss this trip! Can't make the trip Friday? Come on Saturday morning!

We currently have 12 Miatas signed up to make the trip from Indy Miata. Additionally, we'll be meeting up with at least 12 Miatas from Dayton, a few from Cincinnati, Detroit, Lexington and other clubs from the Midwest. We're anticipating upwards of 30 or more Miatas for a weekend of driving bliss. Between drives, we'll be enjoying a group dinner at the Marietta Brewing company on Saturday evening, and we'll then head to Blannerhassett Island State Park in the middle of the Ohio River by ferry where we'll tour the 200 year old Blannerhassett Mansion by candlelight!

Don't miss out on this extraordinary opportunity to visit one of the premier Miata Playgrounds east of the Mississippi, rivaled possibly only by the infamous Tail of the Dragon in North Carolina. And the advantage to the roads in Southeast Ohio is the total lack of traffic and smooth, wide asphalt roads, many of which have been recently repaved.

If you would like to join us, you must register on the club's web site or contact me NO LATER than NOON next Monday, October 5th. I can be reach by e-mail at [President@IndyMiata.org](mailto:President@IndyMiata.org) or by phone at 317-946-5926.

More information, including details on lodging choices, can be found at [www.mariettaohio.org](http://www.mariettaohio.org). Convenient hotel choices include the Hampton Inn, Microtel Inn and Super 8 Inn, all located directly off I-77 at exit #1

Come on, live a little! Don't pass up this chance to really experience your Miata on the roads it was meant to be driven. You'll be sorry if you don't!

Need your arm twisted a bit more? Randy Rhodes of the Miami Valley Miata Club wrote an article on his first drive on the roads in that area that will give you an idea of the fun: [http://www.miamivalleymiatclub.com/SE Ohio trip 0523.pdf](http://www.miamivalleymiatclub.com/SE%20Ohio%20trip%200523.pdf)

You can also go to the IMC photo gallery at <http://picasaweb.google.com/IndyMiataClub> and click on "Marietta June 19-21, 2009". There's a video there to show you what the roads are like!



Photo by Randy Rhodes



## BYO BBQ Fun Run Scheduled For October 24

Those of you who have been around a while know that a Bob Wiley Event is not to be missed. This one should be no different. Twisty, curvy roads, Fall colors at their peak, and a BBQ pitch-in picnic. Some of the best things in life!

We'll meet at Hummel Park in the early afternoon for a Fun Run drive. Bring your FRS radios or CBs. This drive was the one used during MMG 2008 as a self-guided tour. It will be about a 90 minute drive. Hopefully, we'll be in fall colors by this time. Returning back to the park for some good ole BBQ!

This will be a BBQ pitch-in get-together. We will be outside, so dress accordingly. The shelter has one grill which is double sided and not all that clean. So we WILL need extra grills. If you have a grill you'd be willing to bring, please let me know so I can plan accordingly. My e-mail is listed below.

The picnic will be in the park where MMG 2008 was held, on the west side of Hummel Park. Please bring a meat item to grill for yourself, and a side dish to share with others. Have a secret BBQ sauce? ...bring it!

If you can't make the drive but would like to pitch in for dinner, feel free to just show up at 3:30 or so at Hummel Park with your meat and side dish.

Meet and Greet: 1:30 pm

First car off: 2:00 pm

Return to Hummel Park: 3:30 to 4:00 pm

Fire up the grills!: 4:00 pm

Directions to the Park: From I-70, exit at Plainfield SR 267 exit, go north and move immediately to the left lane. Turn left at first light on to Hadley Road. Continue straight on Hadley through the roundabout to stop sign at CR 600. Turn right onto CR 600, go approximately 1/2 mile to park entrance on the right.

Have any questions? E-mail Bob Wiley at [wileekyot@aol.com](mailto:wileekyot@aol.com)

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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

**October 9** - Marietta Madness

**October 24** - BYO BBQ Fun Run

**November 7(?)** - Hidden Drives

**December 5** - Holiday Party

You must RSVP for the Holiday Party by November 15! Do it today! See Page 3 for more information.

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

<http://www.indymiata.org>

## The Conception of The Indy Miata Club - Oct. 1990



Who are these people? They are the first members of the Indy Miata Club!

Left: Rich Hickle (center) Founder and first President and Mike Fetsch who also served as President.

Below: Miatas on Rich Hickle's lawn at the first gathering in October, 1990. You had your choice of one of three colors back then, Red, White or Blue!

Thanks to Mike Fetsch and Bob Wiley for the photos. Want to see more photos? Go to: <http://picasaweb.google.com/IndyMiataClub>

