



**Volume 20**  
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# Opposite Lock

*by Eric Drumwright, President*

Well, it's officially Spring! We can tell by all the shiny Miatas that came out to play with there tops down, on March 27th. Like the first Robin we see after a long, cold winter, the first driving event of the year fills us with joy and hope for warmer weather and more curves in the road ahead! Like most rites of spring, there can be challenges. The first driving event of the year usually has some unique ones. Indiana winters can be rough on our favorite twisty roads. Some of them seem to crumble like three day old Play Doh. If it's not the pavement falling apart, it's all the sand used to combat the ice, just waiting for you to brake too late, accelerate too hard, or corner with a little to much enthusiasm. These challenges are the things making the first driving event fun!

The driver themselves can be the biggest challenge! (I mostly speak for myself here!) As drivers and Miata owners, we've been waiting all winter to get back out on the road and prove we are the master. Show the roads we can take all they have to offer. We want to flirt with that red-line we haven't seen for months. We want to heat up those tires that have gotten slightly flat sided. We want to show that we haven't lost anything over the winter. Unfortunately, many of us have. We might need a little time to get our rhythm back.

In order to successfully complete an Indy Miata Club Rally, you need a good navigator. The driver and navigator have to almost function as one. As the navigator calls out the directions, the driver must relay mileage as they negotiate the many turns. A little rust can set in over the winter. If the driver is occupied with a tricky sand covered turn, they might not be able to steal a quick glance at the odometer, to give the navigator the information they needed to tell the driver they just missed a turn! (Does anyone else have the problem of the tail of the speedometer needle covering the tenths on the odometer most of the time?)

Some of our members drive these events solo. In this case they are at the mercy of those they follow. A wrong turn by a group "leader" can send a lot of Miatas scrambling for a spot to turn around. Sometimes it is easy for a car with a navigator to get lulled into the "follow" mode. In this case, a mistake by the "leading" car can have you back-tracking trying to find out where you missed a turn. For those of us without radios, this will lead to hand signals or drive-bys to let your fellow Miata know where you think you've gone wrong. Sometimes when the car ahead makes what you know is a mistake, a little bit of doubt creeps in, giving you second thoughts.

My wife Ann and I found that we indeed showed a little rust. We missed a couple of turns, but we made it to the end. Sara put together a great route and all her directions were correct, we were just out of practice. Now we feel we've got our groove back and we are now back in sync! We are ready for the challenge of the next Indy Miata Club Rally!

We had two fun events in March. One was a driving event and one wasn't. We had great turn-outs for both. On the 13th about 40 of us met at Ray Skillman Classic Cars in Greenwood. Our hosts, Dave and Donnie told us a little about the facility, and then we walked among the chrome, tail fins, and neon signs. As we headed to Jonathan Byrd's for lunch, Ann handed out a pop-quiz about the classic advertisements that were seen all around the show room. The winners were Greg and Nancy Waltz. They won a shirt and hat donated by Ray Skillman Classic Cars. We all had a great time on a rainy day.

Our first driving event of the year was Sara McBride's "Down To Upland" rally, on the 27th. I have already spoken about some challenges the first drive can present. Now I will speak about the fun!

About twenty cars met in Plainfield, ready to follow Sara's long way to Bloomington. The sun was shining all the way to Upland Brewing Company, where some of us took a tour before dining. I want to thank everyone for bringing the generous amounts of food we donated to the food pantry at

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## Opposite Lock

*...continued from Page 1*

St. Mark's Episcopal Church in Plainfield. I would also like to thank Libby Hammond for meeting us to pick up our donation. I am very proud of our members for stepping up to help those in need in our community. We plan on having food drives several times this year and I can only hope they will be as successful!

Well, April is upon us, that can only mean the Post Tax Blues Rally, to be held on the 17th. Before we start driving, some of us will get together to build a wheelchair ramp (as a community service) on April 10th. Please check out these and other events at our web site's event page. Be sure to sign up!

I hope to see you all soon!

## Ramp Up to Help Others

On April 10th, the "Ramp Up To Help Others" event, a first of its kind event for our club. Organized by Ken and Joan Rabbers, this is a great opportunity for us as a group to help out some people that need assistance with something that most of us take for granted; getting into and out of our homes.

We will be participating with an organization that constructs wheel chair ramps for disabled persons who have no means of getting into and out of their homes. Referrals come from the Indiana Council on Aging, as well as other social services agencies. Prefabrication of the ramps occurs ahead of time and the actual assembly will be during the day on Saturday.

The types of work to be done is primarily assembly of the units using electric drills, nail guns, etc. as well as some minor sawing. You don't need to be a skilled craftsman to help out.

Ideally, we are looking to get at least eight people to help out but as with most efforts, the more the merrier. We will plan on meeting somewhere ahead of time for coffee or breakfast and then caravan to the ramp installation site. At the end of the day, we will plan on a group social activity for those interested.

Please contact Ken as soon as possible (end of the day on Friday April 2nd) as he needs to give a head count to the group's organizer. Please e-mail Ken at events@indymiata.org. If something happens and you need to change your mind later, that is fine, things happen. Also, if you want to just work part of the day (am or pm), that can be accommodated. Please let Ken know if you want to work a partial day and if so, whether you would like to work in the morning or afternoon.

Ken will find out the location of the build early next week and will then let everyone know where to meet in the morning. He would like to get everyone together for coffee or breakfast and caravan to the site of the build.

Volunteer for what we hope will be a positive experience for us as individuals and as a club. This is a "wheelie" good opportunity to help those less fortunate.

## "Tail Of The Dragon" Closed!

After a hard winter that affected many of our Miata Friendly roads, rain caused a rock slide on US128 in Tennessee, home of the well known "Tail of the Dragon" and its famous 318 curves in 11 miles.

The rock slide on US 129 is located between the Dragon and Happy Valley Road/Foothills Parkway on the western end of the Dragon. US 129 has been closed at the TN/NC State Line by Tennessee making the Dragon itself inaccessible.

Rumors were flying that the road would be closed permanently, then until September, but now a contract has been issued a date of July 31 for reopening. Cleanup has started and a bonus will be awarded if completed by July 1.

# Are You Ready For The Post Tax Blues Rally?

"I love it when a plan comes together!" And the plans continue to develop for the 2010 Post Tax Blues Rally.

The annual spring event hosted by the Indy Miata Club and Lake Effect Miata Club is being held on Saturday, April 17th. The starting point for this year's PTBR will be the parking lot of Kauffman Engineering, 830 State Road 25 South, Logansport, IN 46947. (Mapquest will show this location just west of US-24/35 on SR-25 South, but the plant is actually a little further northeast, before SR-25-S intersects S. Cicott St.)

Our Rally Masters for this event are Steve Crouse from IMC and John Panek from the Lake Effect club.

Start Time: A driver's meeting will be held at 10:45 AM (Eastern Daylight Time). The first Miata will be flagged off at 11:00 AM EDT.

Please arrive early enough to get food (Arby's/McDonald's) and gasoline if you need them. Both are available within a block of the intersection of S. Cicott and W. Market St., less than 1/2 mile from our starting point.

We should arrive at our final destination, the Oakdale Inn, between 3:00 and 3:30 PM. We will be dining on their Patio. Everyone is "on their own" for the meal. If you would like to see their menu before the event, log on to <http://oakdaledaminn.com/>. ("The best catfish by a dam site!")

"Entertainment" during the rally will consist of a poker run and/or observational challenges. Prizes will be awarded! The Rally Masters are asking for an entry fee of \$7.00 per car prior to the day of the event (or \$10.00 per car if paid the day of the event). Checks are preferred. Make your check out to Indy Miata Club, and mail to Steve Crouse, Treasurer, 7001 Peacock Lake Ct, Plainfield, IN 46168.

Please register online besides sending your entry fee to Steve as this helps him prepare for the event. As we get closer to April 17th, check the event page for more information. A caravan will be set up for the trip to Logansport, check the web site for the meeting place and departure time. Don't miss this rally as it attracts anywhere from 30 to 50 Miatas! Big time fun!



Department of All Miatas  
Indy Miata Club



A= Kauffman Engineering, starting point.  
B= McDonalds

## Looking Ahead Into The IMC Mysterious Future

We can't predict with certainty what will happen in the coming year, but looking at the event page of the club web site helps us plan our Miata fun.

There are two events scheduled in May for the Indy Miata Club.

First up, on May 15th, is the "Beware the Ids of May" rally. Ken Rabbers will be our Rally Master for this event and judging from the past rallies he and Joan have hosted, it will be fun. As of the first of April, there's not much info on the site as the Rally Masters are still working out information such as; time, starting place, ending place, route, and some other minor details. Keep checking the events page on the club web site, but nine cars have signed up! If that's not an indication that Ken's rallies are fun, we're not sure what would be!

Joe Garber has volunteered to host the "Night Before The 500" mingle on May 29th. We'll meet at the Culvers in Noblesville (557 Westfield Road) to chat and have a bite to eat. Afterwards, we'll head over to the town square to walk among some classic cars and hot rods at the weekly car show. We'll mingle from 5:30 to 7:00 then ogle cars from 7:00 until ?

(Ogle? What? Your editor decided to look up the definition and found it to be right on the mark. Ogle: to eye amorously or provocatively.)

Jack and Claire Cruse have their third annual Mid-week "Cruse" scheduled for June 15th. No reservation required except for signing up on the event page (<http://indymiata.org/events/>). This event is a great excuse to call in well as

in, "I feel too good to go to work!" and enjoy a fun run.

There are some other events to put on your calender as they may require advance registration (due to car limits) or motel reservations.

Tom Lewis is leading a run to Marietta, Ohio for a weekend of driving bliss on the fabulous roads of SE Ohio. Scheduled for June 18-20, Not a lot of details yet, but you might want to think about reserving a motel room.

Dave and Roz Besterman have scheduled their "Lakeshore and Winery Tour" for August 8th. More information can be found on page 5 of this issue.

Look at the event page for up to date information on these and other events. As always, we encourage you to register for an event on the club web site. This helps our Rally Masters plan accordingly for the event.

# Skillman Museum Tour Was Fun For All

Weather wise, it wasn't the best day to have a Indy Miata Club event as the cold wind blew and the rain came down, but luckily, we were inside!

On Saturday, about 40 members arrived at Ray Skillman Classic Cars in Greenwood and were treated to an amazing collection of cars from many different eras and genres.

To name a few, there were American cars (Mustangs, Corvettes, Camaros), foreign cars (Ferrari, Pantera, Jaguar), cars from the 40's to the present, all shiny, and all were a sight to behold.

An additional treat were the signs for cars (Ford, Mercury, Kaiser, Cadillac), automotive products (Deep Rock, Conoco, Gulf), places (Indianapolis Raceway Park, The Wood Shop) and other items (Red Man, Meadow Gold, even Reddy Kilowatt!). There were also gas pumps on display and even some sprint cars.

Members walked down Memory Lane as they looked over the cars, admired the paint jobs and commented on how much room was in both the trunks and engine compartments of the older vehicles.

Many of the cars are for sale, though no member stepped up and drove their favorite car home.

Afterwards, members motored over to Jonathon Byrd's cafeteria for lunch and a test. Ann Cole had warned everyone that there would be a quiz of things we saw at the Museum, but no further information as to exactly what it would cover. Some people counted the number of cars, the number of brands and other items, but no one thought to remember all the signs! Greg and Nancy Waltz



Photo courtesy of Eric Drumwright

were the winners, with many groans heard as the correct answers were revealed.

Thank you to Dave and Donnie, our hosts at Skillman who had an answer to any question posed. Also, thank you to President Eric Drumwright and Ann Cole for setting up this visit.

If you were unable to attend, you may visit the Museum on your own. It is located at 1280 S. US 31 in Greenwood. Call them (1-888-521-0723) for hours. More info at the website: <http://www.rayskillmanclassiccars.com/>

## We Went Down To Upland

On March 27th, Sara McBride took us "Down to Upland", a rally that started in Plainfield and then went south, not going to the town of Upland (which is northwest of Indy) but ending at the Upland Brewing Company in Bloomington.

The weather cooperated with sunshine and warm temperatures (for March) and many of the 20 cars ran the event top down.

A food drive was held and Libby Hammond from St. Mark's Episcopal Church thanked the members who donated for their generosity.

After a short driver's meeting the cars took off. Sara had mentioned that driving skills may have become rusty over the winter and advised drivers to watch for sand and maybe not drive full tilt. Apparently navigation skills eroded over the winter months as many cars drove right by that left hand turn onto 725E, just 1.2 miles from the start!

Some other cars followed the Rabbers, who were not driving in the event, but heading home. As someone remarked, "When we got onto I-70, I knew we were off course!".

All the cars did end up at the Brewery and members sat down to enjoy a cold drink and lunch. Several members took advantage of the tour that was offered and learned more about the fine art of crafting beer.

To see more photos of this event and others, visit the IMC photo gallery at <http://picasaweb.google.com/IndyMiataClub>.



Bren Michaels follows the Marconi's with Larry and Sabrena Smith right behind her. A non-Miata decided to join the fun as they came down Observatory Hill.

# Lakeshore and Winery Tour Details Are Firming Up!

by Dave Besterman

You're invited to spend a day driving the back roads of northern Indiana and southwestern Michigan on the weekend of August 6–8. Enjoy a Saturday afternoon of wine sampling from up to six different wineries all located within a short drive of each other in Berrien County, Michigan. I spoke with Club President Eric Drumwright and found out that he and his wife visited these wineries a couple of years back. Eric recommends this tour to everyone.

On Saturday we'll take a drive over some of the back country roads to a lunch spot in a Michigan lakeshore town. Afterwards, we may split into two groups. One group will visit up to 6 different wineries (all located within 30 minutes of each other) in central Berrien County. These wineries offer wines of all varieties and levels of sophistication. If enough interest is shown, another group will explore the Michigan lakeshore region. A dinner for everyone is planned for Saturday evening back at the Blarney Stone Restaurant in Plymouth.

Our plans for Sunday are now getting set. After about a two hour scenic drive in the morning, we'll arrive at the Bosch Automotive Proving Grounds located just west of South Bend. Bosch Automotive is the current owner of the Historic Studebaker Proving Grounds. We have arranged for a visit to the Proving Grounds track facility and the Indy Club has been invited to drive a couple of laps around the Proving Grounds track in an escorted group drive. All participants will have to sign a Liability Waiver for Bosch Automotive.

South Bend was the location of the main plant where the Studebaker cars were built from the 1920's to the 1960's. In 1926, Studebaker became the first auto manufacturer in the USA to open a controlled outdoor testing track. Studebaker



An aerial view showing the trees planted in the upper right hand corner to spell Studebaker.

heavily promoted the grounds as a "Million Dollar Outdoor Testing Laboratory" in advertisements. The test track that ran through the grounds simulated a variety of terrains and road conditions. Studebaker landscaped the park by keeping natural features. In 1937, 5,000 pine trees were planted here in a pattern that spelled "STUDEBAKER" when viewed from the air.

## Club Classifieds

**For Sale** - 2002 Black with black interior, 5-speed. This car is in excellent shape and runs like a top, there are no issues. Garage parked and never driven on winter snow days. I bought the car with 3600 miles. Includes bra and soft top cover. 52,000 miles. \$10,000 OBO Call Steve (317)507-255t0 Located 20 miles from Indianapolis - See picture in the classified section of indymiata.org

**For Sale** - Traded my '06 MX-5 with manual shift for a 2010 with automatic trans. so no longer need the 5 speed shift knob. Used the wood grain knob about 2 years but it is still in perfect condition. The knob retails for over \$110 but my price is only \$65. Includes the original box and packaging. Call Mike at 812-331-0687



You'll have a chance to drive the Bosch Automotive Proving ground track during the tour.

We now have six people confirmed that they are staying at the Irish Inn and a 10% discount on the room rate will be in effect. The B&B has 14 rooms. Most of the rooms start at \$150 per night, but with the discount, this is now \$135 per night. All room bathrooms have a Jacuzzi tub, (This ought to feel good after a day's drive) and of course a full hot breakfast the next morning is included in the rate.

Dinner Saturday night will be at the Blarney Stone restaurant located right next door. Visit their website at: <http://www.evandjaynesirishinn.com> and their phone number is (574) 936-9190.

Another choice for lodging is the Super 8 motel located at 2160 North Oak Road in Plymouth, IN - (574) 936-8856. A block of 10 rooms at this motel have been reserved.

Please make your reservations at the lodging place of your choice right away and then contact us (dbesterman@verizon.net) to let us know you'll be joining the tour. Be sure to tell the B&B or motel that you are with the Indy Miata Club. Also please be sure to sign up for this event on the Indy Miata Club website.

**For Sale** - It's become one Miata too many. This is a 1995 base edition. It currently has 76k miles. It is my daily driver. Purchased locally 2 years ago. Drives well. Gets regularly 29-31 mpg. \$4995 OBO. More details in the classified section of indymiata.org. Call Steve at 317-694-8202 or treasurer@indymiata.org

# IMC Quarterly Financial Report

As called for by the Indy Miata Club Bylaws, here is the quarterly report for the first quarter of 2010. If you have any questions, please drop me a note.

Respectfully submitted,  
Steve Crouse, Treasurer

<b>Indy Miata Club Inc.</b>				
<b>Financial Report, March 31, 2010</b>				
<b>Perior: 12/30/09 to 3/31/10</b>				
<b>Beginning balances ((12/30/09)</b>				
IMC Checking Acct xx80			\$13,752.89	
MMG Check Acct xx02			\$56.28	
PayPal MMG acct			\$50.00	
			<u>\$13,859.17</u>	
<b>REVENUE</b>				
Memberships @\$20 each	72		\$1,440.00	
Skillman contributions			\$90.00	
50/50 revenue			\$45.00	
Club shirt sales			\$125.00	
			<u>Revenue Subtotal:</u>	
			\$1,700.00	
<b>EXPENDITURES</b>				
Mail/stamp expenses			\$17.60	#794 3/2/10
			\$6.16	dbt 2/23/10
			\$1.73	dbt 2/25/10
			\$3.46	dbt 3/3/10
			\$5.19	dbt 3/23/10
			<u>Mail/stamp subtotal:</u>	
			\$34.14	
Gas cards	3 cards		\$75.00	dbt 3/24/10
Acct xx02 inactivity charge			\$5.00	
			(\$51.28 balance of acct moved to acct xx80, & xx02 closed)	3/30/10
			<u>Expenditure subtotal:</u>	
			\$114.14	
<b>Ending Balances (3/31/10)</b>				
IMC Checking Acct xx80			\$15,395.03	
MMG Check Acct xx02			\$0.00	
PayPal MMG acct			\$50.00	
			<u>\$15,445.03</u>	
Net gain in balance:			\$1,585.86	



1253 South US 31  
Greenwood, IN  
Phone: 317-885-7379



Special pricing on new or used Miatas for all  
Indy Miata Club members  
18% discount for parts/service for all  
Indy Miata Club members  
Free Statewide delivery on new car purchases



5309 W. Pike Plaza Rd  
Indianapolis, IN 46254



Sales: 317-293-8060  
Service: 317-293-8060  
Parts: 317-293-8060

**10% Parts and Service  
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**2009 Mazda  
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4265 West 96th St.  
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Indy Miata Club members  
receive a 10% discount!

We offer services ranging from a "Wash and Vac" to a "Full Service Detail". Most importantly, we'll also give you guidance on how easy it is to keep your Miata looking great after it leaves our shop.



298F Gasoline Alley  
Indianapolis, IN  
317-381-0898

Indy Miata Club members  
receive a 10% discount!



AIM Tuning has specialized in Mazda Miatas since 1999. From basic maintenance for your street car to all out prep for your race car, AIM has the factory-trained knowledge, tools and experience to accomplish any Miata project!

# 2010 Indy Miata Club Events

**April 10** - Ramp Up to Help Others

**April 17** - Post Tax Blues

**May 15** - Beware The Ides of May

**May 29** - The Night Before the 500

**June 15** - 3rd Annual Midweek "Cruse"

**June 18** - Southern Ohio Miata Tour

**July 24** - Night Before the Brickyard 400

**August 8** - Lakeshore & Winery Tour

**August 28** - Night Before the Red Bull  
Gran Prix Mingle

**September 18** - Past Presidents Picnic  
and Rally

**October 8** - Marietta Madness 2010

**October 16** - Seat Of The Pants Rally

Don't forget that your source for up to date information is the Indy Miata Club web site. <http://www.indymiata.org>  
(Check it out, it's new and improved!)



There were a lot of cars and advertising signs to look at during the tour of the Ray Skillman Museum.

Photo courtesy of John Louk



For more photos, visit the IMC photo gallery at  
<http://picasaweb.google.com/IndyMiataClub>.