Hello Miata fans, October is on us and the weather has finally subsided to some very nice top down Miata temperatures. I hope you all have been taking full advantage of the great weather.

Our thanks go out to Bob Wiley for running the Colts Fun Rally and pitch-in luncheon down to Spring Mill State Park on September 15th. Marsha & I showed up for the send off, but unfortunately were not able to attend the fun part of the rally. It looked like a good one.

We have a couple of don’t miss rallies coming up in October that I hope you can attend. The first is the Covered Bridge Rally put on by our new Vice President Roger Burrell on October 6th. The other is the Madison Madness overnight optional rally run by yours truly and my lovely wife Marsha. This rally starts Saturday October 27th. We welcome all to come for the day or stay overnight if you wish, it’s up to you. Historic Madison is a fantastic Ohio River town that has something for everyone. If you plan to join us for the weekend I advise that you make your hotel reservations right away if you haven’t already. October is a busy month down there and the rooms get booked up early. Check the club web site for full details on both of these rallies this month.

On a personal note it looks like we are going to be a one Maita family again shortly. I have decided to sell our beloved 1993 LE. I listed the car this morning at 8 am and it was sold by 8 pm the same day. It looks like it is going to a Miata collector in Virginia. Our 1993 LE will close out his collection of special edition Miatas. It was a hard decision to sell it but I have a project that I think is worthy of its sale. I have a 1968 Camaro Rally Sport that my grandfather bought new in December of 1967. I have owned the car for the last nineteen years and I have finally decided to restore it back to its pristine, original condition I remember from my youth. The car will be 40 years old next year and I will have owned it half its life. After talking to a few restoration shops, it became apparent that it was going to cost more to get the body work done than I originally thought. I wouldn’t be selling our beautiful 1993 LE if I didn’t have a reason that I thought was justified. It has been a difficult decision but I’m looking forward to rolling up my sleeves and getting into this American Iron muscle car project. Don’t worry as we still have Marsha’s 1992 Sunburst Yellow to attend all the club functions and I’m always on the hunt for my next Miata.

Until next time, keep the shiny side up.
The Open Road is published monthly for the members of the Indy Miata Club. The Indy Miata Club assumes no liability for any information contained herein, or injury or damage resulting from use of this information. The ideas, opinions, maintenance or modification tips expressed are to be used at the reader’s discretion. Individual contributors and/or the editors express no approval, authentication, or endorsement. Thank you.

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Last Driving Event Of The Year

Hidden Drives returns! Time flies when your having fun and following the club’s motto (“The fun starts here!”), it’s once again time to have fun, so on Saturday, November 10th, Sara McBride is hosting another edition of her Hidden Drives Tour.

This tour follows one of the many routes that Sara takes to Nashville, Indiana. She admits to being a driver, not a shopper, so her routes are always the road less travelled and she doesn’t care if it takes her two hours or more to get to the bustling artist’s colony down in Brown county. You will cruise down the back roads of Marion, Morgan and Brown counties past all those hidden drives and end up in downtown Nashville. There you can have a bite to eat, shop till you drop, or find more roads to cruise on.

Due to a conflict, Sara will not be joining you on the trip but will be at the starting point to hand out driving instructions. The tour will leave from the back parking lot of the Adams Mark Hotel by the airport (2544 Executive Drive off the Airport Expressway). Get there around 9:30 and we’ll chit-chat, get route sheets, hear Sara’s usual semi-boring speech and then at 10:00am, off you go.

If shopping is an activity you like or just strolling the streets and lanes of Nashville, then join us for the drive, have a bite to eat and then go for it! This is the last driving event for 2007, come on out and join us.

Don’t forget to register on the club website or somehow let Sara know you’re attending so she can have enough route sheets printed. This will be a rain or shine event, and right now, the long range forecast says only a 10% chance of rain!

Reserve 12/2 For The Holiday Party!

Join your fellow Miata owners on December 6th at 6:00pm at The Old Spaghetti Factory, Located at 210 S. Meridian Street, parking should be OK as the Colts play the 1:00pm game.

Some folks will arrive early for conversation and drinks in the upstairs bar. As usual, we’ll have our gift exchange, which is always an event. Bring a wrapped gift valued around $15.00. Don’t forget to put your name on it, so you can be thanked (or glared at)! As usual, the club is picking up your dinner tab.

Officer elections will be held, and sign up sheets for rally dates in 2008 will be available. See you there!

Dave's Miata Tip Of The Month

by Dave Besterman

The next time you wash your Miata, right afterwards, put the top down and look down into the well area where the top is folded up behind the right side and left side doors. If you see water collected in there your weep holes need to be cleaned out. This was happening to my 2000 Miata. A quick blast of compressed air down into the drain openings (thanks, Conrad) blew the openings clear of the debris that had collected there over the years. I am now more careful where I park my Miata with the top up. In the spring I try to avoid parking under tress that are dropping their seedlings and likewise in the autumn when the leaves are falling.

Correction - Mistakes Do Happen

In the October issue, the article about tonneau covers (Top Down But Covered Up With A Tonneau), the author was Skip Powers.

The editor apologizes for this mistake and any confusion it might have caused. Those responsible have been sacked.
Go Colts! Fun Run And Potluck Rally

The groups show its colors, mostly Colts fans! Go Blue!

The Crousores showed up in their favorite team’s color and player’s number.

Newlyweds Sharon and Roy Lichte attend the Go Colts! rally. Congratulations!

Florida Gator fan Gary Collings was Colts fan Norm Arbuckle’s navigator for the rally.

Cars are the main topic as other cars arrive.

Rally Masters Bob and PK.

New members Barb and Steve Cole arrive.

Left: The brain trust compares answers to the quiz.

Right: Kathy taste tests some of the food brought for the pot luck.

Right: Greg Waltz, Roger Burrill, Nancy Waltz, Nancy Burrill and PK Rajic toured the pioneer village.

The groups shows its colors, mostly Colts fans! Go Blue!
Driving Wisconsin’s Open Air Classic

by Norm and Susie Arbuckle

We attended the 15th annual Open Air Classic, which is a Madison, WI based convertible outing. This year 212 convertibles converged upon Dubuque, IA for a three-day fun tour of the area’s sights and attractions. A variety of all years and makes of cars were in attendance from as far away as Texas. Several classic and antique autos participated, as well as 13 Miatas. This event is for convertible owners to explore and enjoy different areas of Wisconsin and surrounding states, as well as to meet new convertible driving enthusiasts.

We had no idea that the Dubuque area was a river port and so lush and green with such awesome scenic views. Dubuque is on the Mississippi River only 15 miles from Galena, IL, which is another great scenic and tourist area. This area would be great for a Miata outing for a two, three or four-day event.

This year’s theme was “If you go topless, they will look”. This tied into one of the stops known as the Field of Dreams from the movie of the same name. We also visited two casinos, a dog race track, the national farm toy museum, wineries, St. John’s lead mine and many other local and interesting attractions.

This event is organized by a professional tour magazine writer, his wife and friends, and costs $25 to join the club and $270 to attend this year’s event.

The event was well organized. It was amazing how successfully they had 212 cars doing the same roads and at no time did you feel you were with more than 20 other cars when stopped for an attraction. Seldom did we drive with four or five cars together, and on most of the roads, we were alone. The organizers staggered groups of 50 starts a half-hour apart, and individually one minute apart, and used three different starting routes. The drives took about five hours and covered approximately 120 to 140 miles each day.

This event is hosted the third full weekend in August every year. If you have an interest, check it out for next year. The web site: http://www.openairtours.com/www/index.htm. Within the website you can get information on different self-guided tours of Wisconsin. These are very professional prepared. If you would like to plan an outing in the area let us know and we’ll send you a copy of the literary. It was a fun event.

IMC Club Classifieds

For Sale - Brand new Robbins top with a heated glass window and attached rain rail still in the shipping box. It is a black Sunfast Cloth top as opposed to a vinyl top and cost about $700.00 from GoMiata. Willing to entertain any valid offers. Please contact Chris Rudd at honmoku@hotmail.com or phone: 317-727-5043

Wanted! Looking for an NA - 1994-1997 - 5 speed - in just about any color as long as it is NOT RED. Laura's been complaining that she never gets to drive the 96 M Edition. Special interest to cars with a hard top. May also consider an NB if the price is right. We'd like to keep it under $8000 if possible. If you happen to have a well maintained Miata that would fit the bill for Laura, or if you know someone who does, please contact me before I have to give in and let her drive the 96 M Edition! Tom Lewis 317-946-5926 email: TML2340@insightbb.com
The Serwatka's Miatas Are Stacked!

by Conrad Serwatka

Eighteen years ago I dated a lady who owned a 1991 Silver Miata with absolutely no aftermarket items ever installed on her car. She looked good in her car and I was the extra luggage! Well, she drove off into the sunset and I went the opposite way.

I started to think that the Miata was a nice car and no matter what she thought, I thought I looked good in her car! I was 100 pounds lighter and wanted a Mazda Miata of my own. It also made me think,” I need a car like hers, but with more options on it.” I proceeded to lease a 1995 Black with a Tan interior with every option Mazda offered at that time.

Several years later, I met Judy who, at that time, owned a Buick Roadmaster (also known as a Land Barge) with a trunk the size of the state of Indiana. After our initial meeting, she told me she could put me and my Miata in her trunk and take me home. Hmmm, a year later Judy said “Yes” to my marriage proposal and we got married. In the next ten years, we had a couple of kids (cars) and a history of owning several Miatas.

Judy and I purchased the 1995 off lease and have added several aftermarket items, including a Supercharger. It’s also been boosted with gold plating of all the chrome parts on the car as an extra added touch.

In 1999, we purchased a 10th AE (#774 of 7,500) after a Lake Effect Miata Club event was held in March of 1999. A 10th AE was shown to all of our members at our local dealership. After Judy and I got home from the event, Judy said to me “I want that car”. Without skipping a beat, we went back to the dealership and tried to purchase it. We found out that someone had already put a down payment on this car and we were really down in the dumps. A couple of days, later we got a phone call from the dealership and were told that if we wanted that 10th AE, it was ours to purchase because the other couple backed out of the deal.

Our next purchase was a 1992 Sunburst Yellow (#111 of 1,519), from an Indy Member who needed to sell it. He had three other people interested in buying his Yellow. I matched his offer and drove it away that day. I totally refurbished that original Yellow, entered it in several car shows and took first place every time for best import! Well, we had bought our third Miata.

As you might imagine, storing three Miatas needs extra floor space so we purchased a Hydraulic lift as seen in this picture. This rack has had more Miatas from our Lake Effect membership on it than our local Miata dealership has. After driving all our Miatas for six years, we traded our ‘92 Yellow and the 10th AE for a new 2006 Black with a Tan interior and have added several chrome extras to “pimp” Judy’s 2006. Since trading the cars in for the new ‘06, a couple from NW Indiana bought the Yellow and has since joined the Lake Effect club and they say they feel like teenagers owning a convertible.

Our 2006 has been on the “Tail of the Dragon” and just last month joined the 2007 Midwest Miata Gathering held in Louisville. It is unbelievable how much better the ‘06 handles compared to the older Miata models Mazda made. When we see a 2007 with the convertible hard top, we sometimes wish we waited had until 2007 to buy a MX5 (have you noticed it is no longer called a Miata?) with a retractable hard top in one of the colors Mazda has listed. But we do love our 2006. Maybe when a retractable hard top Mazda Speed comes out, we’ll consider buying one of those!

We are members of Indy Miata, Windy City Miata and Lake Effect and we try to attend at least one or more events per year.

Look for us in one of our cars at the 2008 Post Tax Blues Rally next April. It will start in West Lafayette, and we will be the volunteers from Lake Effect Miata Club for next year.

Editor’s Note: We’re waiting for confirmation from next month’s “Tag! You’re It” writer!

Which Sports Car Are You?

Are you this car?

"You like to soak up the sun, but your tastes are down to earth. Everyone thinks you're cute. Life is a winding road, and you like to take the curves in stride. Let other people compete in the rat race - you're just here to enjoy the ride."

Go to http://www.tomorrowland.us/sportscar/ to take a short test to make sure that you're a Miata!
Top Down But Covered Up With A Tonneau

by Tom Stone

The little car we all love has plenty of great attributes, but I think one of the niftiest is the fact the Miata can wear a tonneau. I know of no other present day two-seater that can make that claim.

I grew up with MGs, Triumphs and Healeys in the late 50s into the 60s and at that time, a tonneau was standard equipment on those cars. When I lived in New Mexico the top on my MG was never up – the tonneau was used to button things up at night.

When I picked up my '02 Miata, the first accessory I looked for was the tonneau. You can get an OEM from Mazda or one from many of the aftermarket suppliers. Installation is pretty easy. My Miata was factory spotted along the front of the dash for the four anchoring studs. I suspect this is standard for many, if not all, the Miatas. Also needed is to install the side flap snaps under the side mirror mounts. This is also an easy installation: twist the side mirror 1/8th of a turn to reveal the two mirror mounting screws, remove the screws and mirror, slip in the snap mounting pad and re-install the mirror. The rear of the tonneau installs in the same lip into which the boot attaches.

That’s it. However, the tonneau will not work in Miatas with roll bars.

My Miata is a daily driver to work and a nice feature of the tonneau is the ability to zipper just the driver side open. That panel tucks neatly in that little extra space in front of the folded down top.

Advantages? The tonneau can save a lot of wear and tear on the top if you are constantly putting it up and down as I was. With the top down and the tonneau zipped up, it keeps dust, birdy do-do, the sudden shower and prying eyes out of the cockpit.

After all – topless is what the Miata is all about!

Poker Run Photos!

Above Left: Steve starts the Driver's meeting. Above Right: Everyone smiles for the camera at a checkpoint. Below Left: Two cars arrive at a checkpoint from the wrong direction! Below Right: Hard to miss the cornfield checkpoint.
Hubler Mazda South

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More zoom-zoom than ever....

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Hubler is Indy's only MazdaSpeed dealership.

"You are proud of your car. Let us help you to keep your Miata looking great. 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."

Cleaning Indiana, one car at a time!

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We invite you to stop by, take a tour of our new shop, and let's just talk about your car.

Indy Miata Club members receive a 10% discount.

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2007 Scheduled Events

**October 6** - Covered Bridge Rally

**October 27** - Madison Madness

**November 10** - Hidden Drives

**December 2** - Holiday Party

A glorious day for an Indiana Miata Club Rally. Thank you to Steve and kathy Crouse for hosting the Poker Run 1!