Notes from the President

By John Lyghtel

Even without snow or ice on the ground, these gray days are not very inviting to enjoy our Miatas. Once in awhile we get a nice day or two which we had in January. On one of those weekends we drove over to Ohio for a visit and saw several motorcycles out and about, and one Miata with their top down.

There have been many ways to get around these gray days - one was the Indianapolis Auto Show. I have not missed an auto show as long as I can remember. I grew up in Detroit. My dad and I would attend the Detroit Auto Show (now the North American International Auto Show). The Indy show does not compare in size to Detroit, but it is still nice to get out and see what is new – maybe try one on and see if it fits. Mazda had a special Miata on display which had a bimini top – something normally seen on a pleasure boat. Imagine the top but without the rear window area or corners. It seems to be great way to get a lot of air without baking in the sun. Coming up in February is the Chicago Auto Show – it claims to be the oldest and it is about the same size as the Detroit show. This is where the original Miata was introduced to the USA and where the current version was also introduced to the USA.

Another way to get around these gray days is to simply head south. We spent a week in Florida visiting relatives and friends and enjoying the sun shine. Even when the temperatures are cooler just being in the sun is nice. My mother lives in The Villages, which is a very active place – and there is a Miata club (tvmmx5.org). I did notice a large percentage of hardtop Miatas.

Continued on page 2
Notes from the President, cont.

in Florida – I suspect the ease of putting the top up and down is a draw along with the need/want for air conditioning during the summer.

Another way to get around these gray days is to get together with fellow Indy Miata Club members. We had a good turnout for the President’s Luncheon at George’s Neighborhood Bar and Grille on January 15th. Good food, stories, catching-up with friends, and we had our first board meeting of the year. Many events are coming together for the year including a weekend in Kentucky and a weekend in Marietta, Ohio – look for dates and details in the newsletter.

If you have an idea for a gathering, even before the nice weather returns, let Dave Phares or me know so we can get it on the schedule.

Happy Belated Birthday to SJ, our Miata Star!

WOW!
Brand new members for the new year.
Bill & Angela Couch
Steve Groth / Jere Rosebrock

Limited Sale!
Want an IMC sticker for your Miata or OTM? We've got them! Only $2 and only available if you attend an event!
See Sara J!

CLASSIFIEDS

Beautiful poster from Mazda: 2006 MX5, $10, email webmaster@indymiata.org.

For Sale: A pair of Cobra PR650WX FRS (walkie-talkie) radios, incls. AC wall charger, rechargeable batteries, owner’s manual, $20 for all, Contact Steve at email: editor@indymiata.org

15x7 Chaparral wheels: with 195/55 Kuhmo Ecsta 4XII tires, used only 5000 mi., $500 firm for set. tristan.w.liechty@gmail.com

For Sale: A stock radio from a 2014 Miata. Asking $35. Email davephares47@gmail.com if interested.

1992 Sunburst Yellow, $8,950, low mileage, w/hardtop, call Terry King, 317-491-5916

2004 MazSpd Velocity Red, Many extras, 93K miles, $12000, Details on club Classified webpage. Contact John @ jceaw@sbcglobal.net
It’s Time to Start Thinking about 2017 Rallies!
Would you organize a rally, mingle or weekend trip?
Get it on our 2017 calendar ASAP.
Please report the date & info. to Event Coordinator, Dave Phares.
Contact him at events@indymiata.org.

Indy Miata Club Motoring Challenge
See Entry Form & Rules on our website Events tab.

April
Quarterly Board of Officers Meeting
Date & Location TBD

April 28-30, 2017
“Bluegrass Adventure” weekend
See the Event page on our website for details.

May or June, TBD
Marietta Weekend
Keep checking back for information.

Sat., May 27
“Night before the Indy 500” mingle
Organizer needed

July
Quarterly Board of Officers Meeting
Date & Location TBD

Sat. July 23
“Night before the Brickyard 400” mingle
Organizer needed

October
Quarterly Board of Officers Meeting
Date & Location TBD

November 4
“Hidden Drives” Rally
Plan Ahead!

December 2
Christmas Party
Mark your calendar
A New Long-Term Event for 2017

INDY MIATA CLUB MOTORING CHALLENGE

The first-ever Indy Miata Club Motoring Challenge starts January 1! While it may be a few weeks before you’re ready to be out and about in your Miata, you can sign up now and be ready as soon as the weather improves. The contest, which is similar to a scavenger hunt, is open to all Indy Miata Club members and will run through November 30. As a participant, you’ll receive a list of destinations to visit and items to find. At each location, you’ll take a photo of your Miata along with the 2017 Challenge poster. Some locations will also require a visible, permanent sign. There may also be additional bonus point opportunities during the contest.

Points will be awarded for each destination visited. The participation fee will be $10, and cash prizes will be awarded to the top three finishers. The prize amounts will depend upon the number of entries. Gary and Linda Weidman will be the “rally masters”. If you have questions, please contact Gary at popsw@me.com.

Enrollment forms and detailed instructions are now on the club website.

Mazda RT-24-P IMSA racers for the Daytona Rolex 24 hour

Or, you can head to the beach!
Regional Miata Events in 2017

Do you want to do something different this year? How about attending a Miata event outside our area? These gatherings are a great chance to meet Miata-fanatics from other areas of the U.S.

Need help finding information? See links from Non-IMC Events page on our website, contact one of our club officers, or search Miata.Net.

Saturday, April 8, 2017
“Miatapalooza”
Tampa, FL

April 28-30, 2017
Porsche Club of America
Driver Education Event
At Putnam Park Road Course
(For all makes of cars)
See link from our non-IMC website tab

May 31—June 4, 2017
11th Annual “Zoomin’ the Mountains of East Tenn.”
(includes a run up to Moss Motorfest)
Johnson City TN

August 3-6, 2017
“Miatas at the Gap, XXI”
Deal’s Gap/Robbinsville NC
O A

O B

O C

O D

☑️ All of the above!

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By Scott Hrbacek
Gateway Miata Club

As the Miata/MX-5 has grown up, there have been advancements made to the illumination technology. The NA generation used round sealed beam halogen lamps in the signature pop up headlight housings. These lamps were tasked with high and low beam duties. The first two years of the NB generation, often called NB1, did away with the pop up headlamps for a more modern integrated design with a plug in halogen lamp. This lamp was also tasked with high & low beam duties. The last 5 years of the second generation, often called NB2, used a different headlight housing with a projector for the low beam and a separate lamp for the high beam. The third generation, NC, also had projectors for low beam and a separate high beam lamp. The fourth & latest generation, ND, uses LEDs for headlights.

Back to the NB2... The design of the projector housing & lenses makes it easier to control the light pattern and a pronounced cut-off can be seen when the lights are on. This cut-off is important as to prevent light from shining into the eyes of oncoming drivers.

As the housings have been improving, so have lamps themselves. Using different processes and materials, manufacturers have been able to produce halogen lamps that are brighter and produce a whiter light. The color temperature is rated in units of Degrees Kelvin as can be seen by the scale to the right.

More recently, the advances in high power LEDs (Light Emitting Diodes) have dropped the price of plug-in units to about the same point as a set of replacement lamps. At this point, I felt that it was time to try out some of these high power LEDs. The ones that I chose to test use a passive cooling system. These do not have a large aluminum heat sink & small fan to shed the heat produced by the LEDs. Instead, it has a copper core that draws the heat from the LEDs themselves and transmits the heat to an array of woven stainless steel ribbons. The ribbons are fanned out and cooled by the ambient air behind the headlight housing. The passive cooling configuration eliminates the concern of cooling failure due to heat sinks clogging up with dust or if the fan ceases to operate correctly.

Swapping them into my 2004 was literally a 5-minute operation. Since the back of each headlight housing is exposed Continued on page 8.
Improving headlight performance on NB-2, continued:

to the engine compartment, it is easy to reach everything. The wire can be pulled from the back of the bulb and then the lamp turned counter clockwise about 60° and it pulls out. The installation of the LED bulbs is just as simple. Insert the new bulb into the housing, turn to lock it in & connect the wiring.

I have to say, it is quite the improvement.

(P.: Scott is a long-time friend, and engineer, from the St Louis Miata Club.)

Installed  

6000K LED on the left, stock halogen on right. Note the horizontal cutoff provided by the projector design.

Installed

Light pattern with LEDs.
We want to hear from you!

Do you have any funny auto-related cartoons, photos or sayings?

Can someone explain this one to me?

Funny Stuff?

Keep calm and...

...ok, not THAT calm!

The Holy Trinity

I don’t always drink coffee

But when I do, I stand around in a parking lot at 7am on a Sunday looking at cars.
Hughes Insurance Group is an Independent Agency representing over 35 insurance companies. Our ultra-competitive rates assure that you receive the most value at the best price for all of your home, auto or business insurance needs.

For a limited time, I’m giving away a $20 gas card with an insurance review and quote for your home, auto or business with no obligation! If I’m competitive, consider allowing Hughes Insurance Group to write your business. If I can’t provide you with a better value, you’ll have the peace of mind knowing you’re properly insured at a fair price.

Call or e-mail Indy Miata Club member Tom Lewis today!
317-984-9228    tom@hughesinsurancegroup.com

Have a few dollars invested in upgrades? Ask about Agreed Value Coverage for your Miata!

Benefits for Indy Miata Club Members
- First year dues to the Indy Miata Club after purchase of any Mazda
- S-Plan Pricing to Current Members
- 15% off All Parts & Accessories
- 15% off Labor Rates
- Maintenance for Life with the purchase of Any Mazda
- Saturday Service Hours 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM
- Free Cookies!!
Contact Lauren Auld for more information.
Tom Roush Mazda, Indiana’s first Mazda dealer established in 1972 has not only the most experienced sales and service staff in town, but also is the highest volume dealer in Indiana. We hope to serve you in our next 40 years as Indy’s premier Mazda dealer. In support of the Miata Club member’s we would like to offer the following benefits:

- 15% off regular door labor rate
- 15% off any accessory purchase
- S-Plan pricing to eligible customer’s
- Extended Saturday service hours 7:30—3:30

US 31 North @ 169th Street | Westfield, IN 46074 | 800-891-3056

THE GROUNDHOG
SAID SIX MORE
WEEKS OF WINTER...

SO I ATE HIM.

Groundhog Day
Feb. 2, 2017

4265 West 96th St.
317-514-2659

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.