Notes from the President

By John Lyghtel

We are now officially in the season of summer and that means the top on our Miata has been down much more than up – especially during latter June when the temperatures and humidity were both below normal. The weather has been much more like what I had growing up in Michigan.

We could not attend Ken’s “Not Quite Marietta” rally in June but it looks like he had a good turnout and good weather.

I attended the SVRA’s Brickyard Vintage Racing Invitational at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway in June. There were three of us Indy Miata Club members who participated in the Show and Shine car show on Saturday though only two brought their Miata’s – the third member brought a very nice looking red Mercedes-Benz convertible. Some of the highlights of the weekend included the two

More News on our Revised Website!

Have you visited the IMC web site? You should because it has news, event information and more!

We’ve made a great improvement to our Events page. You now just click a button to register for an event! No more email, just ‘click!’ and you’re done. You can also cancel your registration if something prevents you from attending an event.

Why register for an event, you ask? Having a car count helps the rally master plan for the day so that things go smoothly for you. Having a car count lets the rally master have enough rally sheets, helps grouping and timing of cars leaving and advising the restaurant how many people to expect.

Now here’s the catch. You need to have set up an account to see the Register button. Registering is a simple thing to do. On every page in the lower right hand corner is the Member Login box, and right below that is ‘Create an account’. Fill out the requested information and submit it. You will receive an email asking you to verify your email address (Not seeing the email? Look in your spam folder!), respond to it and then the webmaster will approve your account. Verification can take anywhere from five minutes to a couple of hours, it depends on if your webmaster is online!

While you’re creating your account, don’t forget about our online Forum. Once you’re registered for indymiata.org, the Forum link in the menu will provide a link to the Forum. Head over there to register and join the many conversations going on there.

As always, if you have a question about the website, contact our web master at webmaster@indymiata.org, We’re here to help!
Notes from the President, cont.

Mazda MX-5 Cup races. They run only fourth-generation cars, and the racing was great – a lot of nose-to-tail action, maybe even some bump drafting. Once the racing settled in after a couple of laps it was hard to pass unless a driver made a mistake. During the race the hood on one car popped open to the second latch – he finished the race but kept getting passed – apparently just enough of an impact on the aerodynamics to affect his speed on the straights. The weekend also included the Indy Legends Charity Vintage Pro/Am. This is a fifty-minute race for early Trans Am cars where the owner is paired with a driver who has run at Indy at some point in their career. Drivers included Al Unser Jr, Robby Unser, Willie T Ribbs, Bill Elliott (in a Ray Everham owned car), and many more. Prior to the race the pit lane is open for everyone to wander around and see the cars and drivers. The current Trans Am series also ran. Even though the weekend is billed as vintage there was a decent amount of modern machinery between the MX-5’s and current Trans Am cars.

Coming up in July, Eric and Mike will be performing at Hopwood Cellars in Zionsville on the 7th, we have a board meeting on the 13th, and the Night Before The Brickyard 400 Mingle on the 22nd.

We still have some open weekends on our calendar – if you have an idea for a rally, mingle, etc. contact Dave Phares.

CLASSIFIEDS

For Sale - 1999 10th Anniversary Edition—Runs great, clean interior and seats, top in great shape, no paint work. Just over 64k miles. Asking $6,200. Offers considered from IMC members. Contact Brian Bartlett at 574-276-0548 or brianbart@embarqmail.com

A stock dual-exhaust muffler for a 2007 Miata MX-5, in good condition to give away. Call Rick Rosado at (317) 319-6438.

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

2004 MazSpd Velocity Red, Many extras, 93K miles, $12000, Details on club Classified webpage. Contact John @ jceaw@sbcglobal.net
There is room for many more 2017 Rallies!
Will 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
A year-long club “scavenger hunt” contest.
See Entry Form & Rules on our website Events tab.

7:00 P.M., Thursday, July 13, 2017
Quarterly Board of Officers Meeting
@ Panera Bread, 2902 W. 86th St.

Sat. July 23
“Night before the Brickyard 400” mingle
ORGANIZER NEEDED!

Sat., September 9
Covered Bridge Rally
See website for details.

October
Quarterly Board of Officers Meeting
Date & Location TBD

November 4
“Hidden Drives” Rally
Only the Shadow knows.

December 2
Christmas Party & Election of Officers
Mark your calendar
Volunteer Needed.

We are still in need of a member to organize “The Night before the Brickyard 400” Mingle.
Saturday, July 23, 2017

It’s really easy, guys!
Just contact one of our officers via our website to get the ball rolling.

Ooo! Ooo!
Me! I'll do it!
Pick me!

Or

If you would like to try putting together a driving rally,
We’d be glad to help you with that too.
There’s plenty of room on the calendar.
June 10, 2017

“Not Quite Marietta” rally
Report by Sara Koehler

It was a good June day.
Actually, it seemed to be the perfect morning to begin a Miata rally. Twenty-eight eager participants assembled in one of the ubiquitous McDonald’s parking lots on the north side of Indy. Jenni and Bruce Sowers were welcomed back, having missed the fun of our activities for the past four or five years. First-time ralliers, Brandon and Emma Causey, introduced themselves and got ready to tackle the route.

“Tackle” might not be the most appropriate word, since most of the roads were very tame compared with, say, the ones in Marietta, OH. But rallymasters, Ken and Sara Koehler named this one “Not Quite Marietta” because the route did drive on Marietta Road and passed through the tiny town of Marietta, IN. But, it was good to experience a different part of the state than we usually explore.

Leaving the parking lot, fortified with Ben Hecht’s donut holes, we quickly encountered a “Road Closed” sign. Fortunately, Gary Weidman had noticed it earlier and suggested an easy work-around. Early on, Ken and I broke away from the group to take some action shots, but we quickly encountered a long train, causing us to miss taking pictures of the eight cars in the “fast” group. We caught the next six cars in the “slower” group, happily waving as they passed.

Along the way, there were several “Road Closed” signs for no reason that affected us and we wound our way around them, finally arriving at a hidden gem in Edinburgh, Hickory Hills BBQ. We could tell by the number of cars in the parking lot that the locals know good BBQ. We went through the line quickly, picking up plates piled high with ribs, brisket, slaw, salads, pickles, etc., taking it all to our own party barn out back. It was fun having our very own space, decked out in a Western theme, including a cow’s head skeleton. When we had eaten more than we had intended, Ken handed out the prizes. Ken had asked everyone to be on the lookout for the very first “Miata sign” on the route and note the mileage on their sheets. There was only one "on the route" (another off to the left, when we turned right -- and only one car answered the "tie-breaker" correctly -- two signs). It turned out to be the only curvy sign on the route, and spotted at 49.5 miles, the same mileage number as our rallymasters. We had 4 cars with the right answer -- exactly the number of door prizes we had! The astute winners were Eric and Ann Drumwright, Gary and Linda Weidman, Jonathon and Ann Stinson and Steve and Kathy Crouse.

The fee for the rally was split in two, with half going to the club treasury and half to the lucky Sowers, whom fate rewarded for returning to the club after a few years’ absence. We guessed they probably spent it at the Edinburgh Outlet Mall on the way home.

It was exciting to help Dick and Denise Cady celebrate their 40th wedding anniversary that weekend, and we heard the news that the Ben and Ann Hecht are expecting another baby! So our club is growing, with new members, returning members, and an upcoming birth.

It was a good June day.
Upcoming Dates for Eric & Mike

Hello to all the friends of “Eric & Mike”
I wanted to remind everyone of an upcoming date. We will be performing at:

Hopwood Cellars Winery
12 E. Cedar Street
Zionsville, IN 46077
Friday, July 7 from 7:00 to 9:00 pm

This will be our performance playing at Hopwood on a Friday night. The music will start at 7:00pm, which is an earlier start time than when we played on Saturday. Mike and I hope you can join us in downtown Zionsville for some great wine and fun music.

Please check out their web-site at: hopwoodcellars.com. If you have questions, drop me an email at ericdrumwright@gamil.com
We look forward to seeing you there!
June 3, 2017
Gateway (St Louis) & Heartland (Kansas City) Miata Clubs’
“Meet in the Middle”
Report by Steve Crouse

Every year for nearly 10 years, the St Louis & Kansas City clubs have scheduled a social gathering on one Saturday in June, meeting at a Mazda dealership in Columbia, MO, in the middle of the state, half way between the two cities. This event has been sponsored by Machen Automotive Group during the entire period.

Kathy & I were never able to attend the “party” because we left St Louis before the function came into being. (We also moved from KC long before there were Miatas!) I’ve wanted to attend since the affair started, to see if any old KC friends were in the group, and to visit with many StL friends. So, this year we made it our goal to be there.

Fortunately, there is a pretty good driving road following the Missouri River from St Louis to Columbia, so the Gateway club has a good crowd, several of them friends from our years as members there. The group met on the far west side of StL early on that Saturday, and departed after sufficient camaraderie. The day was hot and humid, so moving was more desirable than standing. The road also goes through a large portion of vineyard country though that wasn’t on the agenda that day.

The trip went well with many of the group sprinting out in front, though not leaving the remainder far behind.

The drive went well until we were within about 15 miles of the Machen dealership. THEN, our Miata started “missing”, prompting us to pull over to diagnose the problem. Even with the help of a couple of friends, we could only guess the cause. Very luckily, the problem solved itself and we were able to continue onward. Once we arrived at the dealership, I immediately went to the service department to consult with them. The engine code indicated that it was, probably, only a little “dirt” in the ignition or fuel injector. Most happily, it didn’t occur the balance of the weekend, nor since. A little bad fuel, maybe?

Machen Automotive also threw a nice little party for the gathering, with lots of food and drink. Very nice people! In addition, there were door prizes and awards given. AND, Kathy & I were the winners of the award for the Miata “Driven Farthest” to attend. I guess that shouldn’t come as a surprise though. Also, check out the photos for some very nice Miatas within the attendees.

Well, I’m glad we went. We can check that off our bucket list.
**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.

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**August 3-6, 2017**

**“Miatas at the Gap, XXI”**

Deal’s Gap/Robbinsville NC

(Our V-P & his navigator are attending. Do you want to go along?)

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**August 26, 2017**

**Carmel Artomobilia**

Carmel Arts & Design District

See website / Non-IMC Events for more information.

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**September 20 – 24, 2017**

**“Miatas in Boone” VIII**

Boone NC

A Driver’s Event

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**October 19 - 22, 2017**

**“Miatas at the Back of the Dragon”**

Wytheville, VA

See information link on Non-IMC Events

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**October 26-29, 2017**

**“Zoomin’ in the Fall”**

Johnson City, TN

Come join us once again, for a ZOOMIN’ GOOD TIME.
For the Darksiders.

- A
- B
- C
- D
- All of the above!

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Funny Stuff?

I'M IN THE MOOD TO MISBEHAVE! WHO'S WITH ME !!!!

Street Legal Go-Kart

Two possibilities exist: Either we are alone in the Universe or we are not. Both are equally terrifying.

-Arthur C. Clarke

KEEP CALM AND DRIVE AN MX5
She’s gone north again.
Oh! Wait. There she is!

Have a great Independence Day!
Now celebrating 40 years!

Exclusive Discounts for Indy Miata Club Members

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