



# The Open Road

The Official Newsletter of the

## Indy Miata Club

“The Fun Starts Here!”



The Open Road is published monthly for members of the Indy Miata Club.

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The ideas, opinions, maintenance or modification tips expressed are to be used at the reader's discretion.

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### The President's Corner by Aaron Workman

Hello Indy Miata Club, February is the month for lovers! Are you loving on your Miata? Hope this finds everyone well and longing for warmer weather! Cannot wait to get the top-down season started!



Question: What is better than one Miata?  
Two Miata's of course!

So goes the feeding of my passion for all things Miata. Here is my story of how I added a second Miata to my garage.

A retired workmate had moved over to Corvettes, so his red 96 NA with hardtop was relegated to the driveway. Well, I could not let a perfectly good Miata go to waist, so I started bugging him about selling it. He finally relented and we made the deal back in August.

It is in good shape for 150k, but does need some TLC and, of course, “a few” select modifications. My “to-do” list is currently at 23 items and UPS has been busily delivering parts.

I am planning on the NA being my daily driver, but more importantly functioning as our “friends & family” car to share the Miata experience.



That is how I was introduced to Miata's, a family friend kept tossing me the keys to his NA or his NB. He would also invite us to Brown County drives. We were hooked, and I knew someday I would have to have my own Miata. That day came in April 2013, my first Miata, a 2001 SE BRG was found, and so the addiction started.

*(continued on the next page)*

(continued from Page 1) **So, what is your Miata story?** We would love for you to share your experience and tell us how you found your “zoom-zoom.” **Please email your story to the Newsletter Editor at [editor@indymiata.org](mailto:editor@indymiata.org) for inclusion in a future article. We hope to feature these stories monthly.**

Finally, we are working on dates for our traditional rallies & meet up’s (see the next page) subject to COVID-19 recommendations. **Please consider hosting a rally.** It is a lot of fun and does not take a lot of effort. Just pick your favorite route from the archive on the website, come up with a name and you are on your way. Build it and they will come!

## The Club officers met on January 26<sup>h</sup>.

Highlights of that meeting are summarized below.



“**Miata Mondays**” has been proposed as a recurring event on the last Monday of each month, beginning as soon as COVID allows in 2021. These events would be **open to all Miata owners** (not just club members) and would include a “Meet ‘n Greet” possibly coupled with an Officers Meeting which would be open to all Club Members. No details have been finalized yet as we continue to monitor the official COVID restrictions. Members are being asked to submit their opinions of this type of event (see the next page). Progress in planning will be published in future Open Road issues and on the website, under the IMC Events link.

There was more discussion about the 2021 **Christmas Party**. The topic was tabled until the February Meeting. The options entertained so far have been a “Christmas in July” party—perhaps a picnic—and a traditional Party next December, or perhaps both. A decision is expected to be made at the February meeting so, ➡ **if you have an opinion about this event, please contact any officer to let them know your preferences.**

**Membership.** We have 63 cars registered for 2021, all renewals. It is common for new memberships to begin to happen around the March-April time frame.

➡ **If you haven’t renewed your membership yet, please make this a priority. Thanks!**

There was a lot of discussion about **2021 events**. (See the following page for updates.)

Discussions centered on scheduling all of the traditional events we have had in the past such as the various “Mingles” and overnight trips as well as new get-togethers that hopefully will be created by the members. You will soon see a 2021 template for events on the website, most of which will require a sponsor or “Rally Master.”

➡ **If you haven’t been involved in putting on an event, maybe 2021 is your year.**

Regardless, the club could really benefit from someone stepping up to fill the open officer position of “**Events Coordinator**.” The job description in the By-Laws states: “*The Events Coordinator shall be responsible for promoting club events within the membership.*”

As you can see, this description allows for a great deal of freedom for the person in the position to develop it as they think best serves the membership.

➡ **If you think you might be interested, please contact the President.**

**The Next Officers Meeting will be at 6:00 p.m. on Monday, February 22nd.**

**President**—Aaron Workman [president@indymiata.org](mailto:president@indymiata.org)

**Treasurer**—Ben Hecht [treasurer@indymiata.org](mailto:treasurer@indymiata.org)

**Secretary**—Sonya Cady [secretary@indymiata.org](mailto:secretary@indymiata.org)

**Website Editor**—Tom Harrison [webmaster@indymiata.org](mailto:webmaster@indymiata.org)

**Events Coordinator**—Your Name Here?

**Vice President**—Brent Lykens [vicepresident@indymiata.org](mailto:vicepresident@indymiata.org)

**Treasurer (2021)**—Jeff Hartling—Turnover in Progress

**Membership Director**—Tom Bowers [membership@indymiata.org](mailto:membership@indymiata.org)

**Newsletter Editor**—Richard Hoogerwerf [editor@indymiata.org](mailto:editor@indymiata.org)



# Event Updates

**Planning for these events is underway—COVID Permitting, of course.**

Check the [IMC Events](#) website link and future newsletters for additional updates.

**April Fuel Weekend #2** This will be an **April 23-25** weekend at the General Butler State Park Lodge in Carrolton, KY. Rooms have been blocked but you should register early to ensure a spot. A Saturday day drive is planned with a morning return drive to Indianapolis on Sunday. Planning is on-going. Check the [IMC EVENTS](#) page on the website for details.



## Mazda MX-5 Cup Race



**Stay Tuned!**

Planning has begun for the trip to the **Mid-Ohio Sports Car Course from May 12-14**. Details will be forthcoming in the near future.

We can tell you that the overnight(s) are planned for the Northern Columbus area, about 45 minutes from the Lexington, Ohio track.

As they are finalized, details will be posted on the [IMC EVENTS](#) page and will also be featured in future Open Road Newsletters.



The first two Tire Squeals raised over \$31,000 for Gleaners Food Bank. So, they're doing it again with the **3rd Annual Tire Squeal!**

This year's event will have extra days to give you more time to savor the Swine! The Tire Squeal will satisfy your driving hunger, and fill you with good food from local eateries. We've also teamed with Gleaners Food Bank of Indiana to help others in need by providing 100% of money and food raised directly to them. **How does this work?** Drive the published route

**ANYTIME, June 12 - 27, 2021**. It's a loop route so you can start anywhere on the route and go in either direction. Then, eat at one of the participating restaurants along the route. More details about rules, prizes, registration and donations are on the [IMC Events](#) page of our website.



**Indy Miata Club won first place in this event in 2020!**

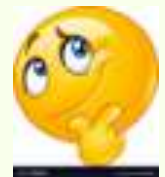
This event idea is being "floated" for your consideration:

**"Miata Mondays"—The Last Monday of Every Month**

A recurring evening "Meet 'n Greet" at a local restaurant/pub with all fellow Miata owners invited (not just our club members.)

➔ **What do you think of this idea?**

Let us know by responding to [editor@indymiata.org](mailto:editor@indymiata.org)



**More Disappointing COVID News**  
Cars & Coffee" has cancelled all events until "Midsummer.



# New Membership Materials Distributed to Dealerships

Each of the Mazda dealerships in Indianapolis (see next page) now has an 8½ x 11” Flyer aimed at potential new members, as well as a supply of new **Business Cards** for new Miata purchasers to take with them when they leave the dealership. Each flyer has a description of the individual dealership’s Indy Miata Club promotional details.

The Skillman West flyer (below) is an example.

FRONT

**The Indy Miata Club** is very active, with the emphasis on having fun with one of the greatest cars ever built, the Mazda Miata MX-5.



NA NB NC ND

Our club is busy year-round with a variety of driving, social and technical events, all designed to have fun.

On our website we have:

- Our current events listing,
- Galleries of photos/videos from our past events,
- pdf files of routes from rallies and tours,
- Back issues of our club newsletter

"The Open Road,"

- A members only forum, ...and much more...

Our club has been having fun for over 30 years and we're still going strong!

If you own a Miata, "the best car to be driving," please come join us.

**The Fun Starts Here!**



**INDY MIATA CLUB**

**Benefits of Membership**

Meeting people who are as much fun as the Miata.

Day Trips  
Road Rallies  
Weekend getaways  
Monthly newsletter  
—and—  
**Dealer Promotions**  
such as those offered by

**Ray Skillman Mazda West**



- 1st year Indy Miata Club Dues paid when buying any Miata.
- 8-Plan Pricing.
- 15% off parts/labor/accessories.

For more information, visit our website.



[www.indymiata.org](http://www.indymiata.org)

BACK

**www.indymiata.org**

The Business Cards are shown below. The next time you’re at your favorite dealer, look for the flyer and business cards. **The flyer will also remind you of what promotional items that particular dealer has promised to Indy Miata Club members.** The Business Cards are also meant to act as marketing tools to give to prospective members that we might meet. All of the officers will have a supply of cards. They will also be distributed (at IMC events) to any individual members who would like to have them as potential recruiting tools.

FRONT



**INDY MIATA CLUB**

BACK



[www.indymiata.org](http://www.indymiata.org)

**The Fun Starts Here!**

➔ If you are at a dealership and can't find the flyer and cards, please contact a club officer and let them know.





## Dealership and Vendor Promotions (updated Dec. 2020)

The Hubler Automotive Group has been serving Indiana drivers for nearly 60 years. We are home of the 10 year/200,000 mile powertrain warranty.

### DISCOUNTS and special offers for Indy Miata Club Members:

- S-Plan pricing to current members.
- Pre-Owned pricing from over 1,500 in stock pre-owned vehicles.
- A 17% discount for parts/service and accessories.
- \$79.95 alignment service to Club Members.
- Multiple no charge Service Loaners available when needed.
- Custom tire replacement quotes to Club Members.
- Free statewide delivery on new vehicle purchases.

### Enjoy our newly renovated state of the art Mazda facility.

1253 U.S. 31 South - 317-885-7379 - [hublermazda.com](http://hublermazda.com)



### Indy's First Mazda Dealer since 1972!

At Tom Roush Mazda, we're all about facilitating a pleasant, successful and exciting dealership experience. Whether you're visiting us for your next new Mazda, used car, service or car part, you can expect a team that's dedicated to your satisfaction. We take pride in being your go-to full-service Mazda dealer near Indianapolis and Carmel, and we're always working hard to ensure our customers' needs are met. Our #1 goal is to make sure every customer has a great experience when they visit our store.



525 David Brown Dr.  
Westfield, IN 46074  
800-891-3056

### Exclusive DISCOUNTS for Indy Miata Club Members...

[tomroushmazda.com](http://tomroushmazda.com)

- 15% off regular labor rate or any accessory purchase.
- S-Plan pricing to eligible customers.
- 3 years of pre-paid maintenance on the purchase of any new Miata. Unlimited Car Washes in our BRAND-NEW state-of-the-art Carwash. Synthetic oil change, tire rotations, multi point inspections and 24-hour roadside assistance. This is for 3 years/5 services total. Service includes oil change, tire rotation and multi point inspection.
- Saturday service hours 7:30-12:00



1630 North Shadeland Ave.  
Indianapolis, IN 46219  
317-375-9500

[rayskillmannortheastmzda.com](http://rayskillmannortheastmzda.com)



5309 West Pike Plaza Road  
Indianapolis, IN 46254  
317-293-8060

[rayskillmanmazdawest.com](http://rayskillmanmazdawest.com)

### Benefits for Indy Miata Club Members

- First year dues to the Indy Miata Club after purchase of a new or used Miata.
- S-Plan pricing to current members
- 15% off all Parts, Accessories and Labor rates
- Sales Hours 9:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. M-S
- Saturday Service Hours 8:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

**FREE COOKIES!**

## Kudos (New Column?)

Have you gotten “above and beyond” service or products from a person or company that you would like to tell your fellow IMC members about?

Think of this as the “thumbs up” column of The Open Road.



Excellence deserves reward and most of us highly value referrals from trustworthy sources. Of course, in this column, the focus would primarily be on Miata-related products and services, but really, **any exceptional experience that you’ve had in the marketplace would be valuable to know about and your opinion would be appreciated by our members. These are people and places you tell stories about and recommend to friends.**

We won’t award “stars” because, only “5-Star” entities are relevant here.

### Here’s one to get us started:

**Langford’s Collision**—5240 West 84th Street, Indianapolis 46268.

There are a lot of body shops to choose from, but this one specializes in the things we all hope for when dealing with repairs to our crunched Miata: technical competence, ethics, empathy and honesty. Their work is of factory-new quality, done when they say it will be and they go way beyond what you would call “out of their way” to make sure you are treated fairly. (Unfortunately) I’ve needed their services three times, but every time their congenial, truly friendly staff performed like a “class act.”

➔ **Please help grow this section** by sending the details of your Kudos recipients (with a brief explanation) to [editor@indymiata.org](mailto:editor@indymiata.org) for inclusion in future issues.

## Tech Talk

Page 3 of the **First Open Road** issue included a column entitled “**Tech Talk: Installing Headrest Speakers**” by J. Matt Vemer. That column started the tradition of sharing technical knowledge within the Club. Since then, Club members have had their tech ideas and “how-to’s” posted to our website under the link, “**Tech Articles.**”

**Note: you must be signed in to see this section of the website.**



The last posting was almost a year ago, so **this is an invitation to all of the “Techies” out there to resurrect the Tech Articles tradition.** Polish up your wrenches, plug in your volt meters, torque all of your bolts, consult your maintenance manuals, put on your mechanic’s overalls, and share with those who understand what you’re saying (and dazzle those of us who reach our technical potential when refilling the gas tank.) The techies will understand what you’re saying and while the rest of us might not, we’ll pretend we do. **The idea is to “debut” your article in The Open Road and then have it posted to the Tech Articles link on the website.**

➔ Please send your “Tech” Articles to [editor@indymiata.org](mailto:editor@indymiata.org).

# Aftermarket Winners

After appearing in *The Open Road*, these will be posted to our website under "Tech Articles"

This section allows members to debut their reviews of favorite accessories or "mods," with emphasis on aftermarket items. Last month we featured the Pre-2019 ND Backup Camera and the "Stubby" antenna. **No entries were received from members this month,** but here's another one to try to stir up some interest in this column.

**Revo-Rack Luggage Rack.** This is an amazing product from the U.K. that will fit almost any car and is held on by (believe it or not) suction cups! No clamps or straps or screws, etc. It really works! You can see pics of the rack installed on Miatas at the Revo-Rack [Website](#) (scroll down for video demonstrations.) The only potential down-side of the rack is that if you know what you're looking at, it would be quite easy to steal. (They make an Anti-theft cable that costs \$5.94.) This could be your solution to adequate storage for a long trip but you'll want to take it into the motel with you overnight. Install/Uninstall in less than 2 minutes.

➔ **Please support this section** by sending reviews to [editor@indymiata.org](mailto:editor@indymiata.org).

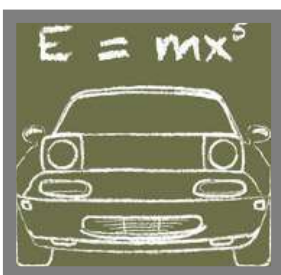
## Just some images to ponder...



Happiness isn't around the corner...



Happiness IS the corner!



Why can't we all just get along?



No words Needed



# Miatas On The Web



**This section highlights websites that might interest any Miata owner.**

## **Mazda MX-5 Epic ROAD TRIP to the most Northerly Point in Europe.** [8:42]

This video covers some gorgeous winter scenery in Sweden and Finland in a backdrop of ice and snow. With a bit of a detour through Mazda history, the narrator does a nice job of making us appreciate MX-5 Winter capabilities.

## **Snow Driving: 2017 Mazda MX-5 GT on Everyman Driver** [8:56]

A review of the 2017 MX-5 while on snow. Reviewer does a nice job with this.

## **Can You Daily Drive a Miata in Winter?** [4:27]

For those of you who only see your Miata in the Winter as you pass by it in the garage on the way to your SUV, this might inspire you to get out on the edge a bit. (Personal Experience Note: The Bridgestone Blizzak tires are amazing...really!)

## **2019 SCCA Finale Group 7 Highlights (SPEC MIATA)** [3:13]

For you racing fans, here's a short in-car highlight. This was chosen because the multiple-camera use (front view, rear view, driver's view and side view of driver) **really gives you a feel for what the driver is experiencing.**

## **2017 MX-5 RF vs. Fiat 124 Spider Abarth ("Fiata") Comparison** [9:16]

This is a pretty thorough review and comparison of the 2018 Fiat 124—which was **built on the same assembly line as the Miata**—and the 2017 MX-5 RF. **Note:** This 2017 review is the most recent video I found that compares these two cars well.

Not much has changed in the **2020 Fiat 124 Spider Abarth**, shown below, however, we will be saying

"Goodbye" to the Fiata because **2020 is the last year it will be made.**



**If you have a half hour with absolutely nothing better to do, you might enjoy this three-part video series. The Miata Snow Plow.** For those who haven't seen this video series, the concept is bizarre, the narrator is funny (in a Dumb & Dumber/ eye rolling kind of way) and what happens to the Miata might bring tears (of joy or sadness) to your eyes. **If you decide to watch, be sure to do so in the order given below.**

**Prior warning: Contains a couple of uses of profanity.**

## **First Ever Stanced Miata SNOW PLOW** [6:43]

## **Miata Plow vs BLIZZARD - Challenge Accepted** [11:59]

## **Improved Miata Plow - To FINISH THE JOB!** [10:27]

➡ **Please help grow this section** by sending the URL(s) of your favorite site(s) to [editor@indymiata.org](mailto:editor@indymiata.org) for inclusion in future issues.





Wells Fargo Advisors' unique Envision<sup>®</sup> planning process offers you an easy, effective way to identify your highest-priority goals and develop an investment plan designed to help you live your life the best way you can.

For more information on how the Envision<sup>®</sup> process can help bring new clarity to your life goals—and enhance your understanding of what it may take to achieve them—please contact me today.

**The Williamson Legacy Group can offer Indy Miata Club members a 12-month subscription to Road & Track magazine with the completion of a complimentary retirement plan and investment portfolio evaluation.**

**Ben Hecht**, Financial Advisor  
317-573-9210 - [Benjamin.hecht@wellsfargoadvisors.com](mailto:Benjamin.hecht@wellsfargoadvisors.com)  
Wells Fargo Advisors, LLC | Member SIPC

## Member Classifieds

Ads may be placed by members for Miata-related items you wish to sell or buy. The headings will be, “**For Sale**” and “**Wanted to Buy.**” All ads received by the first of the month will appear in that month’s edition.

### If you want to place a classified ad:

- Assemble all of the information you want in the ad.

As a minimum, include:

- A complete description of the item.
- A picture (if appropriate)
- Asking price
- Contact information (email, phone, etc.)



- Email all of this to [editor@indymiata.com](mailto:editor@indymiata.com) and [webmaster@indymiata.com](mailto:webmaster@indymiata.com). Including both addresses will ensure that your ad gets in The Open Road newsletter and on the website under the heading “**CLASSIFIEDS.**”

**Please email both the editor and the webmaster when your ad is no longer needed.**

### For Sale

2004 MazSpd Velocity Red  
Many extras  
93K miles.

**Price Reduced** to \$10,000.

[Details](#) on Club Classified webpage.  
Contact John at [jceaw@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jceaw@sbcglobal.net)



# Indy Miata Club Stickers

Interested in an **I.M.C. Windshield Sticker**? The cost is \$5.25.



How about an **IMC Logo**? You have five options:

Limited Edition, 3" Die Cut Vinyl Sticker: \$2.00 each. Thick, durable vinyl protects your stickers from scratching, rain and sunlight. Dishwasher safe!

3" Holographic sticker: \$2.00 each. Coated with a protective laminate, these are durable, resistant to fading, scratching or tearing, and are water resistant/dishwasher safe. Great for your car, mug or any smooth surface.

3" Ohio 555 Triple Nickel Holographic sticker: \$2.00 each.

4" Static Cling IMC Logo (for inside windshield): \$2.00 each.

5" Fender Magnet: \$5.00 each.



**To purchase any of these items, contact Tom Bower at a Club Event or at [membership@indymiata.org](mailto:membership@indymiata.org).**

## IMC Clothing

Don't forget that we have two stores for Indy Miata Club apparel.

### **The Indy Miata Club Clothing Shop**

specializes in T-Shirts and Hoodies.



### **The Lands End Store**

handles polos, jackets sweatshirts, etc.  
with the IMC logo embroidered on the item.

**You can access both of these sites from [HERE](#).**





## Hiccups from the January 2021 Edition

Unfortunately, due to an unexpected requirement to compress the January Newsletter file before uploading it, a couple of graphics items got too blurry to read. So, **here's what you missed:**

The first edition of The Open Road. → **Volume 1, Issue 1**

The cartoon on the last page was pretty much unreadable; this is what it was supposed to say: →



**From now on we'll try to keep the text crisp and the graphics manageable; maybe the pdf god will be kind.**



**What could possibly go wrong?**

Here's a photo of me driving my Miata. Here's a photo of me washing my Miata. Here's a photo of me waxing my Miata. And here's a photo of me standing next to my Miata. Oh look, here's a photo of my Miata parked in the garage.

## Letters to the Editor

This section will appear in every issue and will include communication from members and, if appropriate, responses from the Editor.

To be included in the current issue, letters must be received by the first of the month.

**No Letters to the Editor were received this month.**

**"Sorry...  
Six more weeks!"**



## End of the Road



**The next issue is planned for March.  
Stay warm and stay safe!**



**Just one more thing.....**



# REMEMBER...

If you haven't done it yet...

it's past time to  
renew your  
membership.



Dues for **returning members** are **\$20.00**.

Renewal can be done on our  
website **PAYMENTS** Page.