



Open Road



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The Official Newsletter of the Indy Miata Club

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Four Wheel Drift...

Chuck Wills, VP, Indy Miata Club

I'd like to thank Steve for letting me share the spotlight again this month. He'll be back on the front page next month as he pulls into the home stretch of his Presidency. Thanks, Steve!

We should also congratulate he and Angela on their new bundle of joy. Their son, John Riley, was born last month, and mother and baby are doing fine. I'm sure that Steve has fallen right into the routine of dirty diapers, midnight feedings and sleep deprivation...better you than me, brother!

I would be remiss if I did not mention the tragedy of September 11th. I'm sure that I can speak for all of us when I say that the Indy Miata club is deeply saddened and our prayers go out to all those effected by these dreadful events.

Even though we have witnessed unspeakable tragedy, it has shed light on some good. Our nation does pull together, we can treat one another as brothers and sisters, and we are unified. This is evidenced not only by the huge sums of money that have been gathered, but by the dedication of people that have gone so far out of their way to help their fellow man. We have seen it on television with rescue workers toiling through the night, but there are others that have done their part as well.

A friend of mine in the BMW club related a story to me – he and several other club racers were contacted to deliver supplies right to ground zero. You see, semi trucks were having difficulty negotiating the narrow streets and were unable to drop their loads of supplies where they were needed. Someone came up with the idea of using racecar trailers and tow vehicles to deliver supplies exactly where they were needed. The local BMW Club answered the call and several of their members left for New York in the middle of the night. They were loaded down with saws, cutting torches and various equipment, heading east with fuel donated by the Flying J truck stop. In a small way they were able to do some good for those in need.

I thank God that tragic events like those don't happen frequently in our lives. Though when they do, it gives us pause to reflect on how down right lucky we are. We live in a place where we can freely assemble, live our lives as we see fit and drive roadsters on sunny days (I even drive mine in the rain). We've got it pretty good.

I will stand up on my soapbox for a moment, though. There are people in our community that have needs that go unmet every day of the year. There are people in our midst that need help, though their problems may seem much smaller than what we've seen in New York. We are in a position to help someone less fortunate than us. I've seen other organizations pull together to accomplish a greater good, and I would like us to do the same.

I'm asking each one of you, what can we do to help someone in our own back yard? It doesn't have to be on a grand scale, just something to make a difference. Please think about it and let me know what you want to do.

I've been kicking an idea around for a year and finally feel moved to do something about it. I would like to see Indy Miata have a different kind of rally next spring. Rather than rallying down the highway, could we rally together to build a house? Habitat for Humanity is always looking for volunteers to swing hammers and smash thumbnails. By giving a day of our time we could make a dramatic difference in someone else's life.

I really want to do this, and I hope that you will consider helping too. Watch future newsletters for details, so give me your ideas, or find your hammer and go buy a big box of Band-Aids.

Thanks everybody! —Chuck