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Four Wheel Drift...

by Chuck Wills, President

This month's column should probably be retitled "Miscellaneous Ramblings". Either I've baked my brain with too much top-down driving, or I need to cut down on the midday caffeine. Anyway, here's my scatterbrained diatribe for this month. Enjoy!

Wow! What a rally! It looks like the Fussin' & Cussin' was a great success. Due to circumstances beyond my control I wasn't able to run it, but I was able to attend the drivers meeting and then meet everyone at the end. I am so pleased at the turn out - over 25 cars when I last counted. We must have a bunch of diehard ralliers in our membership to get that kind of response, since the Fussin' & Cussin is notoriously difficult. Nice job, Bob and Steve! Great job, Miata Club!!!

Speaking of events, everyone needs to synchronize their calendars for August. We've got a very special event on the 17th, organized by members Tom Bates and Claude and Shirley Counciller. The Babe Ruth World Series for 14 and 15 year olds is going to be held in Connersville and our club has been asked to participate in the parade beforehand. This isn't just a drive though downtown, our role in the parade will be transporting dignitaries in the event! Have you ever heard of Tug McGraw, Tom Browning or Hal Morris? These are the famous baseball guys that could end up riding in YOUR car! You'd have to be nuts not to do this. I'll see you all on the 17th.

The Indy Miata Club should be well represented at Deals Gap this year. I think there are at least 10 of us trekking down to Tennessee for the big weekend. (July 26~28). For those that aren't familiar with the Gap, it's 11 miles and 318 curves of unbridled driving pleasure. The Gap is nestled in the hills near the Smoky Mountain National Park near Gatlinburg, so the scenery is fantastic. Though this isn't an officially sponsored or organized event, you can count on several hundred Miatas showing up for the last weekend in July. We're meeting up with 30+ other Miatas in Cincinnati to caravan down together. Zoom - Zoom!

It's time to starting thinking about elections again. The December holiday party will be here before you know it, so start thinking about which office you'd like to hold in 2003. Several offices may be available, so if you have any interest or disinterest in club officerhood, please let me know. If I don't hear from you, you may be placed in to some of the new positions I'm opening up, like: Official Club Car Washer, Presidential Lunch Buyer, Editorial Whipping Boy, Traffic Ticket Liaison, or Rally Master. Seriously, your club is only as strong as its members make it. So if you would like to contribute, please contact me.

For those of you that also belong to the national club (the Miata Owners Club) your membership may be due soon if it hasn't expired already. For those that were "grandfathered" in from the old national club, it's probably time to renew. If you didn't get the last issue of the Miata magazine, this may be why. You can renew your national club membership by calling (800) 968-4980 or by visiting <http://www.miataownersclub.com>

We've had several people join the Yahoo! Groups Indymiataclub mailing list. THANKS to everyone that has participated. We may have some other exciting on-line propositions in the near future, so stay tuned. Don't worry, if you aren't on the Internet, we'll make sure you are always well informed too.

Actually, because of the internet the Miata community is very well informed. With all the chat groups and on-line forums you can get info on nearly any Miata related topic. For those of you that haven't surfed the web extensively, here's a short list of my favorite sites:

<http://members.aol.com/indymiata>

<http://mywebpages.comcast.net/indymiataclub>

<http://www.miataownersclub.com>

<http://www.miata.net>

<http://www.miataforum.com>

<http://www.aimtuning.com>

<http://www.tailofthedragon.com> (Deal's Gap site)

Don't forget about the August 17th event and in the mean time, drop that top and **Zoom - Zoom!**