

Winter Dinner - Miata Talk On A Cold Evening

Call it what you will, a “Wintertime Dinner Party”, the “Your Navigator Deserves a Nice Meal Out”, the “Drive Your 4x4 If It Snows Restaurant Run”, or the “Three Instruction Can’t Get Lost Rally”. You get the idea. This is a dutch treat social get together around some good food and fine friends.

It’s a time to meet and chat about something besides tires and turbochargers. Hey drivers, you can be a hero and repay your faithful navigator for all those times you yelled at them during rally moments of being “not lost”, but merely “temporarily disoriented from the preplanned route” during those wonderful 2001 road runs.

There will be no tough directions; no unmarked roads; no tricky clues; no lost Miatas. Just your choice of good food off of a full menu and lots of good fellowship. Some “old timers” in this club have made lifelong friends during the past eleven years at events just like this one.

We will meet Saturday, January 16th at 6:00 PM at the Steak and Ale Restaurant, located on Indy’s south side, just north of I-465 at exit #2 (U.S. 31), in the Southern Plaza Shopping Strip.

OK..... Here are the three rally instructions:

1. Take I-465 to the south side and exit northbound onto U.S. 31 at Exit # 2.
2. Go to the first light and turn west into the Southern Plaza Shopping Strip.
3. Proceed to the south part of that complex and park at the Steak and Ale.

See, wasn’t that the easiest rally ever?

You can pick your own beverages, entrees, and desserts. A gratuity will automatically be added for members of our group, and we will have our own dining area. It’s an evening of gracious conversation, of holiday review, of 2002 anticipation, of just enjoying friends we’ve made because of a great roadster. Come and kickoff our coming year’s calendar with a nice evening out.

Call Jim & Martha Nutt at 317-255-1874 and leave a message, or leave an email at IndyMiata@aol.com Reservations strongly requested so that a proper sized room can be confirmed.

Washing In A Winter Wonderland

By Rick “Dr. Detail” Morris

Those of you that know me well know that winter is my very favorite time of year. I look forward annually to that thrilling sensation of going outside when it’s below zero and feeling the snot freeze in my nose. I am also excited about the prospect of facing ice-covered roads filled with people who shouldn’t be allowed to drive during the summer, let alone winter. It’s my favorite time of year. Maybe someday I’ll live where it’s warm year round.

For those of us whose Miatas are daily drivers, the best we can hope for during the winter is to minimize the effect of the long Indiana winter. Here are a few tips to keep your car and yourself happy until the warm, sunny days of spring get here.

Gas line antifreeze – Every service station’s gas has at least some water in it, and it always come back to haunt us when it’s dark and cold and we want to be somewhere else. Put a bottle of a good gas line anti freeze in your tank at least once a month. The best additives help break down the water so it can go through the engine and out the exhaust pipe.

Kitty Litter – Get a small bag of kitty litter and keep it in the trunk in case you get stuck somewhere. The sharp edges of the granules are much better than sand for providing traction.

Rain-X – You can Rain-X your windows and headlights during the winter. The only trick is to make sure it’s above 40 degrees and to let it set for about an hour between coats. We had instructions a couple of issues ago about putting on Rain-X. If you need a copy of them, just check the August issue in the newsletter archives on the internet or drop me a note. Not only will Rain-X help keep the windshield clean, but it also makes it much easier to scrape.

Gravel – Bob Hall (sometimes called the Father of the Miata) recommends putting a fifty-pound weight in the trunk during the snowy season. There are lead weights you can buy for this purpose, but I got a bag of gravel from Lowe’s. This extra weight in the trunk **dramatically** changes the handling of the car, so I don’t use it until I

have to, but the extra weight over the rear wheels should help when we finally get a serious snow. Keeping the gas tank full also helps keep some weight on the rear wheels.

Rinsing – Unless you are lucky enough to have a garage with a drain in the floor, washing your car is just a dream until it warms up. You can help minimize the effects of winter by taking your car to the coin-op spray car wash and just rinsing it off. If you are like me, you cringe at the thought of your car going to a car wash (I can hear my car whine when I do this), but it’s better than letting the crud just sit on the car.



photo courtesy of Nora Hague

There is a silver Miata under the snow. Want proof? <http://my-us.com/nora/digout/Digout.html>