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Four Wheel Drift... by Chuck Wills, President

Summer's nearly over and it's given me pause to reflect on what a great Miata summer it has been. Over the past few months, I've had the opportunity to mingle with "car people" of all description. From Deal's Gap to the USGP F1 race, Spec Miata racing and instructing racing schools, it's been a gear-head summer for me. I've enjoyed every minute of it, too. No matter where we've gone in the Miata, there have been other speed freaks and car fanatics.

We're pretty fortunate in our Miata community. We've got great clubs locally and nationally, a great newsletter (thanks Sara!) and the best on-line forums of any marque. With all of that Miata saturation, it's easy to think that the automotive world stops turning as soon as we shut off the ignition on our little two seater roadster.

With all the mingling I've done, I've realized that there are lots of folks that love their cars. Recently, Shane Benson and I were instructors for a Mercedes Benz driving school. While they are a different breed of cat from Miata people, they were still extremely enthusiastic about their cars and fast driving. You could hear conversations in the pits that were similar to many Miata events. "What wax do you use?", "Do you like those new tires?", "You wouldn't believe how fast I passed that other guy!". It was all good fun and brought me back to reality that Miata folks aren't the only ones that love their cars. I know the same can be said of Porsche and BMW owners too. They all have a "thing" about their vehicle.

As most of you know, some other car-crazies and I trekked across the country helping to campaign Shane's Spec Miata. We met so many other car people I can't begin to remember them all. What I remember most, though, was the feel within the racing community. Everyone was so helpful and friendly, which was not what I expected. The Spec Miata guys were all great. Even though you battle it out on the race track, back in the pits it felt like a brotherhood (and sisterhood for you lady drivers!). The competition was fantastic and really helped me grow as a driver and crew member, but the camaraderie really made the event special. Maybe it has something to do with the level of commitment it takes to make the events and compete, there was always a warm welcome from the Miata brethren.

I will say this, even though there are other clubs and organizations and marques in the automotive universe, there is none that will outshine the Miata community. I remember standing around chatting with some of the Miata faithful before the World Series Parade in Connersville. Someone made the comment "It's a Miata thing, they wouldn't understand!". I think to a certain extent, that's very true. There are plenty of nice cars in the world and lots of people that like their car, but I don't think any can really evoke such a pure driving spirit as the Miata can. Porsches and Ferraris are special cars, so are Aston Martins and Lamborghinis, but they are special for other reasons. The Miata is special because it's about pure, distilled driving passion. It's accessible to most anyone -- if you can afford a Porsche, you can probably afford two or three Miatas. People own a Miata because they WANT to. It's not to impress the neighbors, it's because of the special feeling of top down driving. I think that's what makes the Miata community so special, the common bond is the joy of top down motoring... just because. It's not something that's easily explained, it just has to be experienced.

Recently, I got to drool over a Lotus Elan at the Mid-Ohio race course. It's one of the cars that Mazda set as a benchmark when they developed the Miata. To look at it now, it's very small and spartan - no A/C, no ABS, no insulation between you and the road. It's like a motorcycle with four wheels and two doors, and it makes the Miata look like a big car. Like the MGB, the Elan had something special. Colin Chapman, the founder of Lotus always felt like "Less is More". He was always "adding lightness", and with that he kept the cars simple, nimble, and in touch with the road. I think this imparted a soul to the car. I can't thank Mazda enough for transfusing that soul into the Miata. That automotive soul makes the Miata beg for a twisty road and conspire with you to take the road less traveled. There are plenty of other convertibles you can buy, but I don't think there are many roadsters. The Miata is a roadster.

Zoom-Zoom to page 2

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Four Wheel Drift Continued...

Well, I've probably preached to the choir enough this month. Because you are a Miata owner and club member, you know what I'm talking about. So, hurry up and finish reading this newsletter from cover to cover and go for a drive. It looks like the weather man has granted us a few more weeks of sun and blue skies, so go take advantage of it before the snow flies!

Happy motoring!!

Message From The President

Dear Indy Miata community,

It has been a fantastic year for this club! Though the year is not yet over, Rick and I have been trying to look towards the future to insure that following years will be just as good. Since we have many new members, I'd like to give a little background before proceeding with describing my plan.

Since it's inception in 1989, this club has had one rule: "Have Fun!" We couldn't ask for a better guide than that. A car club should be focused on a good time, good friends and good roads. Other than that, our structure has been fairly loose. This loose structure has served us well, but Rick and I would like to take the next step and provide a little more backbone for future club administrations.

We are proposing a set of simple bylaws to insure that the club runs smoothly through the future. Now, I'm sure that some of the longtime club members are wondering why we need them, after all, it's worked for 13 years with no rules at all! Rick and I feel that these bylaws will strengthen the club and give a cohesive structure to the future administrations so the club can continue to grow and offer more value to its membership. Rather than the new President having to reinvent the wheel each year, this will have everything set in place for a seamless transition. These bylaws will in no way effect the monthly events. The monthly focus is still just one thing: "Have fun!"

We want to have an open discussion about this change, after all, it is your club as much as it is ours. We are planning a dinner in November so we can discuss and answer any questions or concerns that you may have. Right now it is tentatively schedule for November 10th (Sunday night). Please stay tuned to the November newsletter for the exact location and time.

Thank you.

Chuck Wills

Future Indy Miata Club Events

Don't miss the fourth Huber Winery Tour on October 19th. Hosted by Chuck and Teresa Wills, we'll start with brunch in Nashville and then head south. The leaves (hopefully) will be colorful, the drive a fun one, and a good time will be had by all. See page six for the details.

Got an idea for an event? Not sure about how to plan an event? We have a Rally Master's handbook to help you out. Contact Chuck or Rick for the handbook and any help or advice.

The Open Road

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Please submit articles, photos or news items at any time. To be in the next edition, no later than the 25th of that month. We encourage your participation in making your newsletter the best it can be!

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Midwest Gathering Offered Picnic, Tours

by Gary Collings

The Greater Cincinnati Miata Club (GCMC) hosted its fourth Midwest Gathering over the weekend of September 7-8, 2002. Four cars from the Indy Miata Club left Saturday morning at 9:00 and arrived around 11:30am (12:30 Cincy time), just in time for a cookout at Sharon Woods, a county park in the suburb of Sharonville. Besides the two of us, we traveled with Norm & Susie Arbuckle, Al Jennings & Susan Koerner, and Amy Del Mundo and her daughter. We joined other Indy Miata members John Martin and Margaret Skreko and Claude and Shirley Counciller, who had already arrived at the event.

We estimated over 50 cars from various States had either arrived on Friday or Saturday. Although there were no vendors, many had contributed several nice door prizes that were given away in a ticket drawing on Saturday afternoon. Amy won a car care kit as did Norm Arbuckle. Susie Arbuckle won a parking light air induction set for an M-1, which she may sell as they have an M2.



On Saturday afternoon, we had a choice of a scenic tour in and around the hills of Cincinnati or an "aggressive" drive through 100 miles of curves, hills, and hollers of northern Kentucky. The Arbuckles' and the Collings' opted for the latter 2.5 hour drive along with 17 other Miatas. We were not disappointed and all of us were probably going much too fast to stop if the unexpected tobacco wagon pulled out from a side road. After the drive, we parked our cars at the base of a high hill by the shelter house in the park. The photographers had a beautiful panorama of Miatas from their perch on top of the hill.

On Sunday, we gathered at the park for a 9:00 AM scenic tour of the western side of Cincinnati that included driving our Miatas onto the Anderson Ferry for a crossing of the Ohio River to Kentucky. The Anderson Ferry has been in operation since 1817. Just think of all the manner of men, women, beasts and machines that have been transported from this river juncture over those 185 years.

Once on the Kentucky side, we traveled along the shoreline to Newport, where the GCMC members had set up a gymkhana course of orange cones not to be confused with an autocross. A gymkhana requires no helmet but is a timed event. It includes a series of challenges designed to test driving skill as well as the dexterity of the navigator who, for example, is to knock off a ping pong ball on top of a cone with a water soaker gun. Although we headed for Indy and didn't participate in this hot afternoon activity on the asphalt parking lot, it was similar to the fucanna events that were included in former national events of the past. We traveled a round trip total of 475 miles for the weekend. Oh, did we mention that we camped out during this hot, steamy weekend?

You have to remember that Kathy's idea of camping out is the Holiday Inn – it was quite comfortable!

Tom Matano Leaves Mazda

Tom Matano, who led the design of the legendary Miata roadster and influenced two generations of products in a 19-year career at Mazda Motor Corp., is leaving the Japanese automaker for a teaching post. Matano said his North American position had been made redundant in a previous restructuring. With his tour of duty in Japan complete, Mazda would have had to invent a title for him in Irvine.

Matano, 54, will become director of industrial design at the Academy of Art College in San Francisco. Matano has been the acting head of design at Mazda headquarters in Hiroshima, Japan, for about the last four years. Officially, his title remained executive vice president for design at Mazda R&D of North America Inc. in Irvine, California

The Japan-born Matano, who emigrated to the United States at the age of 18, said he had "always wanted to deal with students." "I wanted to do something more experimental than something within one company's confinement. Creating a future designer is more advanced than just doing advanced design," Matano said. Although a graduate of Art Center College of Design in Pasadena, Calif., Matano said he felt pulled by the potential of the newer industrial design department at Academy of Art.

After spending about six years at Holden Ltd., General Motors' Australian subsidiary, Matano joined Mazda in 1983 and soon went to work designing the Miata.

Unveiled at the Chicago Auto Show in 1989 and sold for the first time as a 1990 model, the Miata was an instant hit as an affordable, good-looking car with more than adequate performance. In February, it was listed by Guinness World Records as the world's best-selling sports car. Mazda has produced more than 600,000 Miatas.

Matano said he has enjoyed the acclaim for the Miata. But he said his "most rewarding pure design" would be the 1993 RX-7 because of its lasting design characteristics.

More recently, Matano has been the manager behind the stylists who have designed a string of models that are to be the basis of a Mazda revival. They include the Mazda6, Demio and long-awaited RX-8, the successor to the rotary engine-powered RX-7 sports car.

F1 Weekend Was A Great Miata Fest

by Chuck Wills

The third annual running of the US Grand Prix went off smoothly this year. The only F1 racing excitement came in lap two when Ralf Schumacher decided to rid himself of a rear wing (with a little help from team mate Juan Pablo!), and then in the final few seconds of the race when Ralf's famous brother Michael tried for a photo finish... and lost. That was the closest anyone had come to Michael all day. As usual, the Porsche and Ferrari support races were more exciting to watch than the main event. While the race may have been boring, the Miata Club had a fantastic time.

A big thanks goes out to Steve Jacobson for coming up with the idea of asking the Motor Speedway for Miata parking passes. With a few phone calls and some high level negotiating (begging), the Speedway had dozens of Miata Club parking passes for our F1 contingent. These passes would allow any Miata Club member to park inside the track on race day - for free! This was such a remarkable thing, we couldn't keep it to ourselves. I posted the parking opportunity on www.miata.net and before long we had over 40 cars signed up for the Miata car corral. Special thanks to Rick Morris for setting up a special registration form on his web site.

The Speedway was quite excited that the Miata Club wanted to attend the race. When I called them to confirm, I heard a cheer in their office "YEA MIATA CLUB!!" They went on to tell me that originally the special parking was just for Ferrari, Jaguar, BMW, Mercedes and Porsche. Though BMW and Porsche Clubs had jumped at the chance, they had a pathetic response from the Mercedes Club. In fact, I counted two Mercedes in the parking area at the race. Quite a contrast to the 40 cars representing our Club! Once again, "YEA MIATA CLUB!!"

The international flavor of F1 was also echoed in our Miata Club participation. We hosted people from all over the US, including Texas, Wisconsin, Connecticut, Arizona, Michigan, Illinois, Kentucky, Georgia and Ohio. We even had one Miata Club member join us from Ireland! Jonathan took the opportunity to fly from Ireland to Florida, spend a few days at Disney and then drive up to Indy for the race. To sweeten the deal, he spent a day at Deal's Gap on his way up from Florida.

To welcome our out-of-town guests, the night before the race we hosted a mingle at the Sonic drive-in in Speedway. This was one of our most well-attended events ever, bringing in 56 people! It was a good time getting to know each other better, drinking milk shakes and checking out cars in the parking lot. Our VP tossed his car keys to two Jaguar employees who were checking out all the cars. They went for a spin, came back with grins on their faces, and their wives took their picture sitting in Rick's car. There's even a rumor that certain members were giving rides to our guests in their turbo and supercharged cars. Of course, Teresa Turbo is sworn to secrecy on this topic.

To finish off the evening, a dozen of us went to hear the musical styling of Smokehouse Dave and the BBQ Kings down at the Slippery Noodle. This was the same band that a bunch of us saw at our St. Patrick's day gathering. The car talk and road stories flew by as we tapped our toes into the wee hours of the morning.

In all, our F1 weekend was a great success. Good racing, good friends and good times. We hope to keep in touch with our new Miata Club friends from all over the country. We will plan for a repeat of this event next year!



A 10th AE glistens in the Miata parking corral at the USGP F1 race.

Practicing Feng Shui For Your Car

By Sara J McBride

Feng Shui is the ancient art of object placement and I recently received a book of "Do's and Don'ts" on the subject. I was curious about the small section on cars.

"Do choose a color that matches your element. If you are a wood person, choose blue or green. A fire person should choose a shade of red. Metal-element people should select white, gray, silver or gold metallic finishes and earth folks should pick out beige or tan. Water-element car owners should select blue, teal, or black."

Now I'm not sure if I'm considered a water-element by Chinese standards, but I am an Aquarius (the water bearer) and I own a black car, so if you mix things up, I guess it all works out! I'm not sure where the Sunburst or Vivid Yellow car owners fit in the whole scheme of Feng Shui. They will have to figure that one out on their own.

The book suggests playing inspirational and uplifting tapes to stimulate your mind and spirit while driving. Everyone has their own idea of what they would consider "uplifting", and I know some would include the sound of their engine.

Another suggestion was using an air freshener with your favorite scent in the car. My favorite air freshener is always this: the top is down as I go driving!

Indy Miata Photo Album



An open hood and engine discussion. A common sight at all club events.



(Left) Jim Barrick, class clown. Never stand in front of him when pictures are being taken.

(Right) It was a fun drive, but then, it was in a Miata!



(Right) Lance and Mike in deep discussion at the AIM Open House.



(Left) Linda Amos and her navigator Cheryl Wills find the mingle ending spot!



Winter Weather Is On Its Way

by Dr. Detail

I don't know about you, but I am just tickled to death that winter will be here before we know it. I am just all a-twitter about getting outside when it's a hundred below zero and shoveling snow off the driveway. I can hardly wait. With this in mind, here is a plan to keep your car looking great all winter long. It's a simple, two step plan that is guaranteed to get good results:

Step 1: On November 1st, or sooner, drive your Miata to either Florida or Arizona.

Step 2: On April 1st, or later, drive your Miata back to Indiana.

Following this simple plan will keep both you and your car out of the snow, salt, rain and other crud that would otherwise accumulate on both you and your car. It will also do wonders for your mental outlook. At least it would do wonders for mine. If I hit the lottery before November 1st, I'll let you know how it turns out.

If, for any reason, this plan isn't feasible and your car is a daily driver like mine is, it's time to get your car ready for the coming unpleasantness. We probably won't be as lucky this winter as we were last winter. We might actually get the usual amount of snow and rain and your car's finish needs to be prepared for it.

You should take one of the few remaining warm days we have left and put a good coat of wax on your car. It will do a lot towards keeping it looking good as well as protecting the finish from the elements. It's a lot like your yard. They say that the most important time to feed your lawn is in the fall. Your car is much the same. The winter weather can hurt the finish if it isn't protected. A good coat of wax at this time of the year is a real good idea.

You should also take the time to apply the Rain-X again. Rain-X not only repels water, but it makes scraping the windshield (ugh!) a whole lot easier. Don't forget to do the headlights as well. They accumulate a lot more crud driving through our famous Indiana winter slop.

Finally, apply either Back to Black or Vinylex to your top. The winter elements are particularly hard on soft tops and they need all the protection they can get.



Huber Winery Tour



Saturday October 19, 2002

Please join the Indy Miata Club and the Wills for a drive through the rolling hills of southern Indiana on our fourth edition of the Huber Winery Tour.

As in our previous Huber Winery Tour events, this is a tour and not a rally. That means no tricky clues or obscure trivia questions. Just a clear set of instructions and some of the best roads that Indiana has to offer. For those that haven't been, the Huber Winery is a wonderful destination, with a farmers market and bakery, cheese shop, ice cream and of course, the winery.

NOTE: For those that have been before, we have changed the route this year. While we still travel on the famous Highway 135, we have added many new back roads that are not to be missed! We will avoid much of the usual fall traffic that clogs the scenic byways of southern Indiana.

The tour will start as it has before, with a buffet brunch at The Seasons Lodge in Nashville, followed by a driver's meeting and the run down to the winery. We have our usual reserved parking spot next to the pond, so bring your chairs and blankets to relax with some wine and cheese. We are expecting some company from the Cincinnati and Louisville Miata Clubs as well! You can find out more about the Huber Orchard and Winery at their website: <http://www.huberwinery.com>.



REGISTRATION DEADLINE: OCTOBER 14TH. Cost is \$10.00 per person, which includes brunch. You must pre-register to eat brunch with us! If you do not preregister, you may not eat with us.

Registration: By phone, post, or e-mail to Chuck Wills
 Phone: 317-291-5563
 E-mail: chuckwills@comcast.net
 Postal mail: 8609 Woodbluff Court, Indianapolis, IN 46234

Cost: **\$10.00 per person.** This includes brunch at The Seasons Lodge and tour registration. We are pre-paying for brunch, so you must pre-register and pre-pay if at all possible.

Schedule:

10:00am	Brunch at the Seasons Lodge in Nashville, IN
11:00am	Drivers meeting in the parking lot and first cars off
2:00pm	Meet at Huber's Winery for prize drawing

Directions: The Seasons Lodge is on the north side of Highway 46, just outside of Nashville. The fastest way to get there from Indy is take I-65 South and turn west on Highway 46 (Columbus Exit). It's about 15 miles to Nashville, and The Seasons is on a hill on the right, just at the edge of town. Be aware, there is construction on both I-65 and Hwy 37, so please allow extra time for your trip. If you have any questions, please contact me!

HUBER WINERY TOUR

Registration Deadline 10/14/02

COST: \$10 PER PERSON (Includes Brunch at the Seasons Inn)

Driver Name: _____

Passenger Name: _____

I do hereby swear to hold the Indy Miata Club, its officers and members harmless of any liability before, during and after participation in this event. I understand this is not a speed contest and will obey all traffic laws.

Mail with check (\$10.00 per person) to: Chuck Wills, 8609 Woodbluff Court, Indianapolis, IN 46234
 E-mail: chuckwills@comcast.net Phone: 317-291-5563 Mobile: 317-697-7192

Club Shirt Sale Continues!

The club is getting low on Special Edition shirts. Here is the current inventory as of September 30, 2002. Contact Bob Wiley via email at wileekyot@aol.com with any questions. Shirts can be mailed to you, you pay shipping. Priority mail for a shirt is \$3.85. Tenth Anniversary T shirt with "old" style and "new" style Miatas, curvy road and Indy Miata logo on the sleeve. (Note: Shirts in white only.)

2 XX = 2 White (\$10.00 ea)
XL = 12 White (\$10.00 ea)
L = 10 White (\$10.00 ea)



Embroidered Polo shirts. (\$15.00 ea)
M = 2
L = 1
XL = 6

Mail check or money order (made out to Indy Miata Club) to:
Bob Wiley
5857 Oberlies Way
Plainfield, In. 46168

Classifieds

For Sale: 94 Miata, Black on Black. 105,000 Miles. A/C, Cruise, Power Windows. New Clutch, Water Pump, Timing belt, July 2001. New Front Rotors, pads, rear pads, August 2001. New top, May 2002. Serviced at AIM. Asking \$5,000 OBO. Call 317-722-1838 or matt@cleary.net Matt Cleary.

For Sale: Black cargo rack. Fits 1 1/4" hitch receiver. \$55. Black custom bike rack. Fits 1 1/4" hitch receiver. \$85. Black Robbins 1999 + tonneau cover. This tonneau has been modified to be used with a Hard Dog sport roll bar. \$120. Please e-mail John Boles at jtboles@comcast.net for digital pictures of any of these items You may also call (317) 241-6570 with any questions.

Help Wanted: Rally Masters and Mingle Hosts. The 2003 Miata season will be upon us soon, so start thinking about an event. Contact Chuck or Rick to reserve a date or sign up at the Holiday Party.

We Want to Hear From You!

Articles and photos are always needed for the Open Road and the club web site. Have a favorite story about your car? Have you done a modification that you think is cool? Did you take a great photo of you and your car? Attend an event or just go for a great drive Share the fun with us!

Articles and photos may be mailed to: SJ McBride, 4249 Springwood Ct., Indianapolis, IN 46228 or e-mailed to saraj@dustbunny.com or indynutts@aol.com. Photos that are mailed in will be scanned and returned to you.



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October 19th - Huber Winery Tour

2002 Club Event Schedule

October 19th - Huber Wine Tour
Event Masters: Chuck & Turbo Teresa Wills

October Mingle - Open

November 10th -Dinner meeting

November Mingle - Open

December -Annual Holiday Party



Indy Miata Club Members at the “Unofficial Gathering of Miatas”, Deals Gap. (L to R) Shirley Councillor, Dee French, Donnie French, Claude Councillor, Teresa Wills Chuck Wills, Chris Politsch, Steve Asay, Cathy Asay, Sara J mcBride.
Photo taken at base of Fontana Dam, July 2002