

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!