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In The Marbles... *by Rick Morris, President*

Winter is Finally Over (Hopefully)!

It seems like it has been snowing for at least three years continuously, but it looks like we are finally out of the woods, so to speak. We've gotten a couple good rains to help wash away most of the crud and grime that has accumulated over the past several months and it's looking Spring will be here in full force very soon. I have no doubt that we will get a Spring Surprise snow before we're done completely, but I can live with that.

Sara and I took our first top down drive of the year a couple of weekends ago. We spent the whole afternoon driving in and around Brown County and it seemed like everybody that had a convertible or a motorcycle was out that day. We saw several other Miatas and some Miata wannabes and everybody seemed to be having a great time. On top of everything else, it just felt good to have the open sky over our heads again.

Those of us that have Daily Drivers are getting our summer tires on and taking the hardtops off. I got a new set of Toyo T-1s for summer tires at a great price from onlinetires.com and I have to say that I absolutely love them. Sara has had them on her car for a couple of years and I knew they were good tires, but I had no idea how good they really were until I got my own set. I can't wait for the weather to really warm up so I can drive them the way they were meant to be driven.

Speaking of getting ready for Spring, now is a good time to check all your car cleaning supplies and make sure that you're ready for the first good car cleanup weekend. Make sure you have enough Rain-X, car wash and wax so that when the weather is ready, you will be, too. I got in a real good wash job for both our cars and it was nice to be able to take my time and get them really clean instead of taking them to the coin-op car wash and having to rush through. The rough winter didn't seem to do any lasting damage to the finish (thank goodness for all the wax I have on it), and the shine came right back after a good washing. It's also a real good idea the thoroughly flush out the wheel wells and suspension to make sure all the salt and road grime are cleaned out. That is one task that the coin-op car wash is ideally suited to. A high pressure plain water rinse is just the ticket for flushing out that area of your car.

Our first top-down driving event is coming up! The annual Post Tax Blues rally will be held on Saturday, April 26. We will be holding this event in cooperation with the Lake Effect Miata Club again this year. This event is always a good time and it's a good chance to see everybody and renew acquaintances after the long winter. You can register for the event on the club web site and we like to see a good turnout. We usually have a caravan going from Indy to the event starting place. You can find details for the event in this issue of the Open Road.

Finally, our country is at war and it looks like this is going to last a while. Regardless of how you feel about whether we should be in this conflict or not, it can't hurt to keep a kind thought in mind for our service men and women overseas. We can only hope that they all are able to come return safe and sound to their homes and loved ones. If you know a serviceperson overseas, send them a note to let them know you are thinking about them. It would be nice to give their families a call and let them know that their loved ones are in your thoughts. It's a really tough time for those that stay behind.

Until next time, enjoy the beautiful Spring weather and drive safely.