Meet The Ousnamers

by Melissa Forbes

Steve and Tracie Ousnamer bought their 2001 British Racing Green Miata in September of 2001, and have been attending Indy Miata Events since January 2002. Their favorite cruising road is Highway 450 out of Bedford, and while both enjoy the ride, Steve usually drives. When asked if their car has a nickname, they replied that it did, “the Twin”. As it so happens, Chris and Janet Hutcheson were looking for a Miata the same day Steve and Tracie were shopping for a Miata. Steve and Tracie bought their car, but while Chris and Janet were looking at an exact duplicate as Steve and Tracie's, Chris and Janet were not happy with the price they were quoted. The two couples compared notes, and talked the dealership down on price for Chris and Janet's car. Hence, they bought their cars, which are exactly alike, on the same day, so we have twins in our club! The Ousnamers and Hutchesons like to go out cruising together, and do so often.

Steve and Tracie had a magical experience in their car. They were out cruising around the Lake Potoca area in the fall with the Hutchesons. As Tracie explained, it was a beautiful fall day, the trees were in full color, and leaves were dancing along the ground as the car drove by, when they looked up to notice a bald eagle fly right over their car!!

Both teachers, Steve works at Avon Middle School in industrial technology and Tracie teaches fifth grade at Van Buren Elementary in Plainfield. When they are not working or out cruising, they enjoy vacationing. Their most exciting vacation was to a Sandals resort in Jamaica a couple of years ago. Warm sun, sand, and waiters bringing you lots of drinks – sounds good about now! Steve also enjoys vehicles with two wheels, and has a BMW motorcycle.

Tracie and Steve Ousnamer being interviewed at the Winter Dinner.

Need Help With Images For The Web Site? Read On!

by Rick Morris

About the only real “problem” people are having with the new web site is getting the pictures of their car uploaded. It’s not getting the picture uploaded that is the problem, it is the file size limitations that we have. The maximum dimensions for your picture are 400 pixels wide and 300 pixels tall. The maximum file size is 50 kilobytes. I picked these limitations because I wanted the pages to display well on almost any size monitor and I did not want people who are using dial-up internet connections to have to wait for an unreasonable length of time for the page to load.

Most of you probably received some kind of picture software when you bought your computer. This software works well when you are working with pictures that you might want to print. They are simple to use and they give pretty good results. The problem pops up when you want to put images from this kind of software on a web page. The pictures look great, but they can take forever to load. Keeping in mind that people surfing the web have the attention span of gnats, I wanted to make sure that browsing the club web site would not turn into a frustrating experience for our site visitors.

Most imaging software will let you resize an image to make it meet the dimension limits we have in place on the site. A lot of software, though, will not let you manipulate the image enough to meet the file size limits. If you are printing an image, you really do not care about file size, since you want the print to look good. If you are putting the image on the net, though, file size is what determines how long the site visitor has to wait for the picture to display.

The most common file format for pictures you will use for your car picture is called “jpg” (or “jpeg”). This is computerspeak for a file format. It is a good format for images that have lots of colors and a fair amount of image detail. The key to this format is what is called the “compression level” that is used. Jpg (pronounced “jaypeg”) images give you the option of “compressing” the image to try to save overall file size. Compression is a euphemism for “throwing stuff away”. The image reduces the overall file size by discarding parts of the image. The amount of stuff that is thrown away is determined by the compression level that is used when the image file is created.

Before you get upset about a computer throwing away parts of your beautiful picture, you need to know that the computer is very intelligent about what to throw away and what to keep. Areas of the picture that contain nothing but a single shade of blue sky can be compressed an amazing amount and you would never know the difference. On the other hand, if you have a picture of a whole field of zinnias, for example, throwing away a lot of information might not be a real good idea. It is a trade-off.

Digital picture manipulation is an area that can turn into a career if you let it. On the other hand, you can get good web images with very little effort. As a matter of fact, you can get pretty a good reduction in file size by visiting

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