

*Member Profile*

# Meet Jim And Martha...The Indy Nutts!

By Melissa Forbes, Membership Director

I'd like to introduce long time club members, Jim and Martha Nutt.

They joined the Indy Miata Club in early 1990 shortly after buying a 1990 C package. Jim had taken Martha's RX-7 to Speedway Mazda for an oil change, saw a red convertible beauty on the showroom floor, and drove it home! Was he good to Martha, or what!!!!??? They met the Indy Miata club founder, Rich Hickie at a traffic light in Broad Ripple, exchanged \$10 dues for a windshield decal, and have been members ever since. Jim has been



club president twice, and they co-chaired our club's second National Miata Event in 1994. Jim is currently serving as the club's webmaster.

The Miata proved to be the right combination of style, performance, reliability, and price, in a long line of prior cars that didn't have some (or any) of those attributes: 1949 Ford coupe; Rambler; Corvair coupe; Corvair Spyder convertible; MG Midget; Vega; Pinto; Fiat Spyder; AMC Pacer; Renault LeCar; and a couple that even he is embarrassed to mention. All

of them had names, some of which changed as their reliability diminished.

In 1999, they sold "Mi-Mi Miata" to a Carmelite going through his mid life crisis, and purchased a Silver M-2. Named "Michiko" in honor of Her Imperial Majesty MICHIKO, Empress of Japan. She shares a garage with their PT Cruiser, "Barney", (re: P.T. Barnum, you know).

Like their first Miata, Michiko has but a few modifications. A Hard Dog roll bar was installed at the Bethania (Winston-Salem), NC factory while touring the Blue Ridge Mountains. They removed her black cloth upholstery and installed it in the '90 before selling it. Michiko sports a custom burgundy leather interior, because an Empress deserves the finest in attire.

Michiko is mostly Martha's year round daily driver, but Jim is permitted to drive it on weekends and for rallies, because Martha is an expert clue finder and navigator. Of the many, many places they've driven, two of the most fun were: 1) Panama City Beach, FL with five other Miatas for Spring Break several years back. The stories of that week would fill a book as they formed a serpentine caravan streaking down Interstate 65 and cruised the beach, 2) Open Air rallies in Wisconsin, that end up with two days of SCCA racing at Road America. That weekend includes the world's best track food (brats and beer) and two long sessions of flat out hot laps around the four mile road course.

After graduate school (seminary), Jim was a Methodist pastor for seven years. He then changed careers, joining IBM (and later three of their clients) and spent 33 years in Information Services management. While teaching a night course in computing at IUPUI-FW, he met Martha, who, after getting her computer degree from IU, was a computer lab technician there. It was a

match made in heaven some would say. Jim, known as "anal retentive", and Martha, the most organized analyst to ever code a program, went for coffee and donuts after class one night, and the rest is history.

Jim retired in 2000 and fills his time with carpentry projects, web page editing, house husbandry, and vacation planning. Martha has a few years yet to work as Manager of Client Software for a firm that creates and maintains IBM mainframe application packages.

One favorite activity of theirs is meeting and eating with close friends made during their years in Indy Miata, even vacationing with several of them from time to time. Another joy is cruising on the famed Delta Queen paddle wheel river boat and enjoying an annual week of total relaxation and pampering. And of course, attending some club's Miata National Event, or just cruising in Michiko with the top down, are always anticipated pleasures.

## Flyin' Miata Open House and Palisades Peach Festival

Every year, Miata enthusiasts descend on Western Colorado for the annual FM Open House. It's a chance to meet the folks at FM and other Miata nuts, take in the great roads and scenery, get your car dyno tested and be in the Peach Festival Parade. The dates for this year's event is August 15-17.

Gary and Nancy Summers, IMC members living in Colorado, have suggested that some Indy members might be interested in attending this event. From Indy, Grand Junction is a three day trip (1500 miles) with one night near Kansas City and the second night near Denver. Nancy is the sales director at the Comfort Suites in Dillon, CO and could set aside a block of rooms. If a group arrived on August 13th, Gary would lead a tour in the mountains on the 14th and then all could head west to Grand Junction.

See the IMC web event page for more details or go to the Flyin' Miata info page: [www.flyinmiata.com/news/openhouse03/default.asp](http://www.flyinmiata.com/news/openhouse03/default.asp)