

Post Tax Blues Rally A Sunny Success

Twenty-eight cars participated in the first driving event of 2003, the Post Tax Blues Rally (PTBR). What has become an annual event hosted by both the Indy Miata and Lake Effect clubs, the PTBR started in Peru Indiana, wandered through three counties and ended at Marty's Pub in beautiful downtown Converse, Indiana. All participants arrived at the ending point with only a couple off course excursions.

The sun was shining as a large contingent of Indy club members met at the Meijers lot in Carmel and caravanned to Peru. Rally Master Sara McBride provided Long's doughnuts to get a good sugar buzz going to help ward off the morning chill. Vice President Jay Hofacker led the caravan to Peru.

As cars gathered at the meeting place in Peru, the usual checking out of all the assembled Miatas ensued. John and Marsha Schaub arrived in their new-to-them '92 Sunburst Yellow and it received the appropriate amount of attention.

The Driver's meeting was held and everyone was able to answer the question "What is the number one rule of this rally?" (The Rally Master is always right.). George and Jane Bali (Lake Effect Rally Masters) and Sara J went over the rules for the Poker Run and drivers and navigators headed for their cars. All tops were down in their correct position, except for Phil Callahan, who arrived with his hard top still in place. (Phil removed the hardtop the next day and drove the route with wife Suzie who was unable to attend on Saturday, to enjoy the roads and sunshine!) The route took club members west along the Wabash river, down to Grissom ARB, and back to Peru for their first card stop. Drivers then headed east along the Wabash, and then they followed the Mississinewa river and cruised by the spillway area of the Mississinewa Lake dam. George and Jane manned the next card stop at the Francis Slocum cemetery, then the route crossed Mississinewa Lake, followed some twisty roads, and then headed south to Marty's Pub in Converse.

At Marty's, participants received their final card and their lucky (or unlucky) hands were revealed. First place, with a winning hand of two Kings, two Jacks and a deuce was Rhonda Beebe from the Lake Effect club. Indy member Ben Hermann placed second, while Don and Linda Buchanan of Indy were in third place. The "Has-Beans" Award (a can of beans!) for the worst poker hand was won by Tom Hughes, a guest of Millard and Jane Johnson.

As meals were served, conversation ranged from the rally route, the weather (one comment was "It was a drop top gorgeous day"), future rallies, car care and other topics.

As anyone who was there would tell you, "If you didn't attend, you missed a good rally!"



Rhonda Beebe (Lake Effect member) and her navigator display the poker hand that helped them win the PTBR.



Ben Hermann (Indy Miata) smiles as he holds the poker hand that took 2nd prize in this year's PTBR.

Look for more photos on IndyMiata.org!

(left) Sara J and the Balis' assure everyone that the driving instructions are "clear as mud". There were no wrong turns included in this year's route directions!

