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In The Marbles...

by Rick Morris, President

September Was Another Great Month for the Club!

Our club had another really active month during September. Starting with the Highway to Hill mingle on the 7th, continuing with a track day at Putnam park, the Cinco de Wino rally, and ending with a great mingle and special parking for the F1 race, this is the kind of month that we like to have. We had something for everybody to do, regardless what kind of driving they wanted to do. It's the kind of month we can have most of the time, and the best part is that a lot of different members contributed by organizing and hosting the events. It really makes me feel great to see everybody pitching in to help make our club so much fun!

The Highway to Hill mingle had an excellent turnout on the weekend after Labor Day. Over twenty cars took part in this Sunday evening drive. Sunday evening mingles are turning out to be rally popular with club members, and I think it's because they are a good way to have one last fling before the work week starts over on the following morning.

Tom Carnegie wasn't there to announce a new track record, but he should have been. We had forty-four Miatas participate in the fifth annual tour to the Huber winery in Starlight, Indiana. In addition to a great turnout of people from our club, we had a number of people from the Cincinnati Miata club as well as a smattering of people from Indiana and Kentucky. The weather couldn't have been any better and Chuck and Teresa Wills did a fabulous job putting on this annual favorite.

The Formula One weekend turned out to be one of the best weekends we have had all year. The weather, which looked threatening during Saturday afternoon, changed into a beautiful later summer evening. We had over twenty-five cars show up for the mingle at the Sonic Drive-In in Speedway and then we all drove down to the Zoo to assemble for a police escorted tour of downtown Indianapolis. It was a beautiful sight to see that many Miatas cruising through downtown. One of my favorite parts of the tour was all the astonished looks we got from the people on the sidewalks as we cruised through the really nice parts of downtown. The route included a loop around the Circle and ended up at Victory Field. It was a great time for all and everybody drove responsibly, which apparently wasn't true of some of the other car clubs that got a tour.

Since we just got done talking about a great month for the club, now is as good a time as any to talk about events for next year. One of the best things about the club this year has been the number of people that have taken the time to host an event. If you've never organized and hosted an event, I know that it can look real intimidating. It really isn't all that hard, as long as you start planning well in advance. We always have a sign up sheet for events at the annual holiday party, so now is the time to think about hosting an event for next year. We all have drives that we like to go on, and it's a lot of fun to share our favorite drives with other club members. Think of your favorite drive and how to plan a club event around it. Whether it's a long tour or an all day event or a short one for an evening mingle, we'd like to go on it. Pick an open date on the event calendar at the holiday party and sign up for it. Other club members will be glad to give you a hand.

One of the great things about owning a Miata is that you plan special trips just to drive the car. We have all been on special vacations or trips that we took that were made even more special by the fact that we took them in our cars. Sometime after the first of the year, we will be adding a "Member Trips" section to the club web site. We will be looking for articles and pictures about your special Miata trip. I'm still working out the details about how to get your pictures and descriptions, but start gathering up your pictures when I'm ready for them. Look for an announcement in the Open Road at the first of the year. I think this will be a very interesting part of the site and I'm looking forward to putting it together.

In closing, I'd like to remind people that we also have elections for club officers at the holiday party, so it's time to think about becoming a club officer. It's people like our great club members that keep things going, to give it some thought.

Until next time, keep those cards and letters coming!