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Around The Bend... by Jay Hofaker, President

We're half way through our driving season and our rally masters continue to come up with good events for us to participate in. It's nice to see everyone at these events. Once again, a big thank you goes out to the Rally Masters who organize these events. Remember to thank them for their hard work, because without Rally Masters, there are no rallies! Check the event page on the web site for any and all updates.

Remember, don't be afraid to put a rally on, it can be as simple as a drive on your favorite road or as complex as you can make it. Contact me or I'm sure anyone who has run an event before would be glad to help you out.

We've got the Brickyard Mingle at the Speedway Sonic followed by Ben and Nancy Hermann's Late Summer Rally. Check the air in your tires, put some fuel in the tank and come join us.

See you at the next event!

Star City Motor Madness Tour And More

by Norm Arbuckle

The notice in the June issue of the Open Road about joining the Roanoke, VA, Star City Motor Madness Tour with 5,000 other cruising cars seemed a great idea to Gary and Kathy Collings and Susie and me for a July 4th Miata adventure. We were invited to join the Blue Ridge Parkway Miata Club for some good times and conversation. We were excited and took a Friday vacation day and Monday (a legal holiday) to tour the back roads of West Virginia and "do" the Blue Ridge Parkway in Virginia.

We took off around noon on Thursday and drove to Charleston, WV (seven hours) and after arriving were able to get in several games of double-deck bid Euchre. The hotel we stayed in didn't have a table to play cards on, so we walked to the motel next door and took advantage of their hospitality room and played until after midnight.

The next morning was scenic road touring time. We took SR60 southeast, which was very curvy and picturesque with lots of quaint small towns, until we reached White Sulphur Springs, WV, where we picked up a wonderful curvy mountainous road called SR311. Make sure you travel it if you are heading anywhere near Roanoke. We reached our motel that Friday afternoon in time to freshen up before the great Cruise-In.

Well, it was very unorganized. We found the lot we were to park in and where we were supposed to start our cruise. We met the Blue Ridge Parkway Miata Club, which consisted of exactly one person. He was extremely friendly and helpful and he didn't understand why there wasn't more support from the local clubs. All in all, we saw maybe five Miatas.

At 7:00 P.M. Friday night everyone drove to Williamson Road, a four lane main artery around town, to show off their vehicles. Everything was there. However, we're not sure if there were 500, let alone several thousand entrants. People did get their chairs out and lined the sidewalks for two miles to watch. We were in the parade until it started moving 10 yards every five minutes. Boy, do I love my automatic for parades. I had to let Gary know that several times, during the frequent stops and goes. We finally left early and went back to the motel for dinner and more cards until midnight. The event was OK but it was a long way to travel for just OK.

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