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Issue 12
December 2004

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The Fun Starts Here!

Around The Bend...

by Jay Hofaker, President

What a good year it has been for the Indy Miata Club. Next month, you'll be reading what our new President, Ben Hermann has to say about our Miata world. Ben was very active this year and was instrumental in procuring our new club sponsor, Hubler Mazda. I know Ben has some other ideas to keep our club a growing, viable and fun organization.

Marcus Zimmer and his staff at the Greenwood Hubler Mazda Store made us feel welcome at their grand opening in November. An event is being planned for us next year with a B-B-Q and a rally from their location. A big "Thank you!" goes out to everyone at Hubler for their support.

Another group of people who helped keep our club going were all of our Rally Masters for 2004. These members donated a lot of time and effort so we could rally in our cars. Here's what they did:

Rick Morris organized a tour to the Auburn-Cord-Dusenberg Museum in February. Then, John and Marsha Schaub started the driving season with their "Cabin Fever" rally in March. It wasn't a top down day, but 16 cars showed up and had a great time. That night, to celebrate St. Patrick's day, club members met down at the Slipper Noodle for blues and beer. Our annual April event held with the Lake Effect club, the "Post Tax Blues Rally", attracted one of the biggest turnouts of the year, a total of 49 cars ran top down. Rally Masters Bill Florent and Sara J McBride ran us through four counties on a Poker Run in northern Indiana. They had Miatas coming and going everywhere. Talk about your basic Miata craziness!

Melissa Forbes was the next Rally Master with her "Picture This" rally in May. I enjoyed this rally, and not just because I tied for 1st place with Eric Drumwright! In June, Dennis and Hazel Moore led us on a "Run to the River". They sure didn't plan on that tornado sweeping across their route that morning, but all the cars made it down to the Leavenworth Inn, though the pace was a lot slower than they would have normally driven. The one stretch where there was four inches of water running across the highway certainly cleaned the undersides of our cars!

In July, Chuck Wills ran his "Before My Birthday" rally. He'll obviously do anything for gifts. Our VP, Ben Hermann, filled in for an August event and ran the "Late Summer Rally" in the curvy hills of south-eastern Indiana. Quite modestly, he said it was the best rally that he'd ever planned!

The Huber Winery tour planned by Chuck and Teresa Wills, always a popular event, was held in September. Nancy Hermann filled in as our Tour Master for the day. Thirty-two cars met in Nashville and then headed south to Starlight, Indiana on a beautiful day. John and Marsha Schaub got busy again and organized the October "Madison Madness" tour, a tour down to Madison with an overnight stay. The mist didn't stop most cars from running top down on Saturday and then the sun came out on Sunday, making it a great weekend. (There's a rumor of another overnight tour to southern Indiana on next year's calendar!)

Last month, Hubler had their Open House and Sara McBride held the last driving event of the year with her "Hidden Drives II" tour to Nashville (see the articles in this issue about these events).

We also had our "racing mingles", where members met at the Sonic in Speedway the night before the 500, USGP and Brickyard races were held. Chuck Wills coordinated the F1 police escorted tour of downtown event. Both Ben H. and Jim Nutt gave us the opportunities to be in 4th of July parades while Sara also organized a fun "Leaf Peeper" mingle that toured Indy and ended at the Mug 'n Bun drive-in.

To everyone in the Indy Miata Club, it was an honor to serve the club as your president. The thing that makes this club so great is the enthusiasm of its members. Thanks to all the Rally Masters and those who participated in the events to make them so much fun. Thank you to all our officers for keeping the club on track. Thank you's go out to Jim Nutt, our web master and Sara McBride, our newsletter editor, who keep us informed of what's going on. I know the club is in good hands with our new President. I'm confident that Ben will do a great job, but he will need all of you to help just like I did. You can get involved by organizing a rally or mingle, or contributing an article about your car or a special Miata trip to the newsletter. Don't forget to introduce yourself to a new member and make them feel like part of the family. After all, we all are part of that great big family of happy Miata owners.

I look forward to many, many more sunny days driving the curvy Miata roads with you.

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Holiday Party And Officer Elections

The 14th annual Holiday Party is on Sunday, December 5th at 7:00pm. Mark your calendars now..... and plan to drive the SUV if it is bad weather. No one will make fun of you if you do. Honest!

The Holiday Party is being held at The Old Spaghetti Factory in downtown Indy at 210 South Meridian Street. This is a casual, fun social evening starting at 7:00pm with dinner, the ever popular gift exchange (\$12-\$15 per Miata), concluding with the election of 2005 IMC Officers. As usual, the club will pick up the tab for your dinner, you only pay for your drinks.

We need to have an accurate head count three days before the dinner, so please register at the club website on the events page or by leaving a message with Jay Hofaker at 317-328-4880.

If you're interested in running for a club office (VP, Treasurer, Membership Director, Webmaster or Open Road Editor), please contact incoming President Ben Hermann. His contact information is in the masthead at left.

The gift exchange is always a rollicking event. When your turn comes to pick a package, you can take a gift from under the tree, or "steal" one that has already been opened. Lots of laughs and of course, moans and groans. For some reason, the bottles of wine always seem to get stolen a lot!

The Colts play the early game, so there should be close parking available.

See you there!



Recommended Vendor Report

Have Leather Or Vinyl Issues?

by Jim Nutt

Does your Miata need leather or vinyl repair? I have custom maroon leather seats and steering wheel in my 1999 Miata. There was a palm sized area on my driver's seat where the dye had been worn off by my trouser button, and the leather was rough. Also, my custom leather steering wheel had become badly discolored from body oils and my ring had torn out a small chunk of the leather surface. I wanted to fix these problems before they became worse.

Upon recommendation by Don Weiler who used a reconditioning service prior to the sale of his Miata with leather seats, I contacted the same repair vendor, which is OOPS! Auto Interior Repair. They have been in business for 18 years, and regularly visit local car dealers to repair trade-ins being prepared for resale. They do many types of repairs, including vinyl, leather, cloth, door panels, dashes, and plastic repair.

I met them at Tom Wood Mazda on the east side and in about an hour, I left totally satisfied! My maroon color is said to be one of the more difficult to color match, but the worn and faded spot on the seat bolster looks brand new, and has a perfect color match. The steering wheel tear was filled in, the whole wheel cleaned, and then re-dyed to again match the seats. The total bill was just over \$70, and I considered it well worth the fine results.

If you're interested, call 332-3948 and ask for Julie to make an appointment at a dealer's lot near you.

The Hubler M-Cafe Packed 'Em In

by Mike Selvey

The evening of November 4th was a big, packed in like sardines, Grand Opening night for Hubler Mazda's Greenwood store. It was billed as a Retail Revolution Store and in fact, it was! The sparkling new sales and service location lived up to it's billing and did not disappoint the zoom-zoom crowd in attendance. Normally, the M-Café is a "safe zone" set-aside for buying decisions without sales pressure. But, for this special night, the M-Café was taken over by fellow Mazda enthusiasts, eager to see the new dealership concept. The entire building became a Zoom-Zoom zone.

The opening celebration drew a huge crowd. So much so that Ann and I had to circle the building in search of a place to park the Miata that evening because all the driveway space on the lot had been taken. With the inventory of new vehicles and the standing room only crowd in attendance, parking was at a premium that evening. Then, as we were just about to complete a lap around Hubler's new digs, there, just beneath the covered new car display area on the Northwest corner of the building I spotted my parking spot. We were lucky to find the last spot to park that evening. I'm not sure but what there might have been other guests who were still circling the grounds in search of a parking spot in order to join the fun inside, as we entered the new showroom.

The Feature Car Platform certainly performed its job that Thursday evening!

The Mazda officials who were in attendance to help the Hubler Mazda employees celebrate their Grand Opening obviously had to have been thrilled with the turn out. I believe we Miata people refer to that as, everyone had a "Zoom-Zoom" evening.

In fact, a new Miata was the star of the show sitting on the Feature Car Platform for everyone to admire.

The ride to Greenwood was enjoyable because it was yet another reason to drive "Blue" to another Mazda event. Consequently, everyone in attendance that evening received a gift certificate from Buca Di Beppo. Folks, you just can't beat that!

Indy Miata Members Nancy Waltz and Eric Drumwright were also winners of door prize drawings that were carried out throughout the evening.

I estimated that Indy Miata members numbered approximately fourteen people. I must apologize if my count of Miata Club members was incorrect because I spent a good portion of my time looking over the new building and eating some tasty food that was provided for all to enjoy, and enjoy we did.

The Indy Miata Club members would like to congratulate Hubler Mazda in recognition of their flagship Retail Revolution Store opening and Mazda Speed Greenwood location.

Finally we would like to thank Hubler Mazda for inviting the Indy Miata Club members to join the grand opening celebration and also acting as the official sponsor of the Indy Miata Club.



Hubler Mazda South

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the Indy Miata Club



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Come in for a complete winter inspection for only \$49.95 and receive a free Mazda ornament for your tree!



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Club Classifieds

For Sale: Winter tires on Mazda steel wheels - \$175.00 all four. P185/60R-14. Excellent condition. Call Mark or Jennie Shively at 317-251-5506, or email us at shivefamily2000@aol.com.

For Sale: Body Parts from 91 Miata - Trunk deck w/ luggage rack. Needs painted, \$100.00. White front bumper, \$100.00. White rear bumper, \$100.00. All in good condition. Contact Jim Quearry at Agentmj@aim.com.

For Sale: Oil Relocation kit (Cobalt brand) - Relocates filter to the fire wall (all years) \$70. ABS cars need \$20 bracket kit. This kit makes oil changes a snap. Call Al Jennings at (317) 844-2958 or e-mail at ALJ46033@sbcglobal.net

For Sale: 10th AE - We're are selling our Miata. Car is in excellent condition with approx. 41300 miles, new Falken radials and all the standard equipment of the 10th AE. Second owners, car is always garaged and never sees bad weather unless we accidentally get caught in it. Asking \$12,500 or OBO. Call Ken Koehler at 317-253-4494 or email from club website classified section.

For Sale: 99 Chevy Blazer - 99 4 door, 2WD with only 50K miles. \$7000 Call Sara J 317-291-8993 or miata@2cat.com.

For Sale: 99 Mazda Miata Sport, with turbocharger - Black Exterior/Interior (Cloth Seats); PS; AC; AM/FM Radio w/CD Player; 5 speed manual; 48K miles. See ad on club website for more details. \$16,000 or best offer. Call Chris Bennett at 317-781-9556 or email him at Chris@corporatesystems.com.

Holiday Party - December 5 at The Old Spaghetti Factory

See page 2 for more details

We went on the Hidden Drive!

L-R: Mike Selvy, R. Webb, Devon Roth, Brandon and Deanna Darnell, Jim Jones, Jay Hofaker, Nancy and Greg Waltz, Al Jennings, Don McCarty, Rick Booe, Donna McCarty, Sara McBride, Susan Koerner, Nancy Hermann, Susie Booe, Ben Hermann, Patrick and Doug Miller. (Not pictured: Bruce Hedden and our great photographer)

Photo by Rick Morris

