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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.