

The Blues Review

Post Tax Blues Rally Not Taxing At All!

by Bob Wiley

What better way to “celebrate” the Tax Blues than going to the Annual Post Tax Blues Rally? I can’t think of any! It was a nice, sunny spring day and spring fever was obvious by the great turnout. A total of forty-nine Miatas gathered at the McDonalds in Peru Indiana. The Lake Effect Club was represented by 12 cars, and Indy drew 37 cars for this event! Way to go!

We had plenty of time for mingling and car gawking before the rally. We checked out all the cool things people do to their cars. Spoilers, shift knobs, super chargers, wind jammers, stereos, GPS units, decals, wheels, tires, seats, personalized license plates, you name it! Each car had its own individual touch added and if you saw something you liked, you could ask the owner about it. You can find most of the add-ons on the internet or post a message in the club forum, someone will help you.

Our co-hosts for this event were Sara McBride and Bill and Jean Florent. They called us together for our pre-rally instructions, and assured us “we wouldn’t get lost”! I have heard THAT before! Of course, they reminded us of the #1 rule for ALL Rallies which is (all together now) “*The Rally Master is ALWAYS right!*”

The plan was for us to follow an “easy” route, with no “tricks” or clue hunting, so this was perfect for my rookie navigator to get her feet wet. This was a Poker Run, and winning is dependent on pure luck, not driving or navigation skills or finding stupid and obscure clues along the way. (Who would do that anyway? Oh, wait...the Fussin' n Cussin Rally. Hmmm...) We were given two cards in sealed envelopes at the start. Along the route, we were given two more cards, one at each of two stops. The final card was drawn at lunch for a total of five cards.

A nice route around Mississinewa Reservoir, the Mississinewa and Wabash Rivers and plenty of farm country was laid out. The Rally Masters had two routes, so we were seeing Miatas all day, going the opposite way, and everyone waved, honked or did the “headlight wave”. I think I saw a couple cars four times going the other way! We did pretty well following the route, only missing two turns and having to turn around. (Never just follow a few cars thinking they won’t miss a turn! Read your own directions!) We quickly stopped and went back. I still don’t know where the other cars went! At one point I was clocked at three mph, stuck behind a 13’ wide farm implement! (The road was only about 15’ wide! UGH!)

We had lunch at Nick’s Country Cafe in Huntington, with tenderloins and fries seeming to be the group favorite!

Prizes were handed out to the winners (who all had two pairs) and

losers! First place (\$80.00) was Dan Rumble with 2 pair (queens over sevens), second place (\$50.00) was Greg and Nancy Waltz (sixes over threes), and third place (\$30.00) went to Don and Becky Hill (fives over deuces). Each winner also received a limited edition Post Tax Blues Rally T-shirt. Oh, the “losers” with the worst poker hand got free shirts, too. Jim Jones and his co-pilot Linda Jenks were the losers!

All in all, the event was a great success and fun was had by all! New friends were made, old acquaintances renewed and like our old club motto says, “The Fun Starts Here!”

Thanks to the rally masters for doing such a good job on this event, it’s much appreciated!

I’d also like to thank everyone who made my copilot feel welcome. It is all “foreign” to her. This is one thing which makes the club so much fun, the friendliness of the people! She now has her very own Indy Miata Club name tag, too!

Oh yeah, I get a refund this year! Woo hoo!



Miatas zoom along one of the PTBR routes.

It was a lot full of Miatas and their drivers and passengers as they gathered for the 2004 edition of the Post Tax Blues Rally.



PTBR photos by Ben Herman, Don Hill, John Schaub and Bill Florent. You'll find more photos at www.indymiata.org/