

IMC Members Enjoyed St. Louis Event

The Indy Miata Club made a strong showing at the 2004 Mazda Reunion event, "Meet Me In St. Louie". The club tied the Windy City Miata Club for having the most members at the event and brought home many awards from the event.

Miatas started arriving at the event hotel on Thursday afternoon. Some members of the Indy contingent formed a caravan across I-70, sampling 'foot high pies' at the Blue Springs Cafe in western Illinois. After arriving at the hotel, members cruised the hotel parking lot, looking at cars and meeting other Miata and RX-8 owners from across the US. One popular area was the car wash station set up in the back lot. Hoses, wash buckets and sponges with Meguiar's car wash soap were provided to get all the bugs and road dirt off the cars.

After the evening dinner, a cruise for frozen custard at Ted Drewes' Famous Frozen Custard stand on Route 66 was organized. Though it was a chilly night for frozen custard, a long line of Miatas took the trip.

On Friday, there were several tours and rallies scheduled. A "Forage St. Louie" scavenger hunt, a Missouri Wine Country and "Scenic St. Louie" rallies were going on, while other people followed the same routes, but just as a tour. Some of the tour participants noted that with all the wine tasting stops, their group was not being adhering to the time schedule! Also, if you wondered what your car's horsepower was, a dynamometer was available in the hotel parking lot to answer that question.

Some lucky people were able to go to a local classic car reseller, Hyman Cars, Ltd. and viewed a collection of cars that was unbelievable. A Delahaye was sitting in their lobby, not for sale, but was valued at over four million dollars! Inside the main area were Austin-Healy's, MG's, a Gogomobile, a Morgan F Super Trike and more.

The Concourse d' Elegance and Not So Elegance was held and then dinner was a sampler of St. Louis foods and then the Zydeco Crawdaddies performed New Orleans styled Zydeco and Dixieland music for all.

Saturday morning was cold and gloomy, but everyone started lining up around 6:30AM for the run to Gateway International Raceway for parade laps and the group photo. It was a brisk 41 degrees as we entered the track area, but the sun came out and soon tops were dropping. Parade laps were done on both the oval and the road course, then all the cars lined up behind the start / finish line for the group shot. Afterwards, folks got ready for the Driver's school, autocross, fun-can-a or went on different tours and shopping trips around St. Louis. Touring laps were held on the track at noon and many people took advantage of that for some track time.

After a long day at the track or cruising around the St. Louis area, folks returned to the hotel and got ready for the Mazda sponsored 15th Anniversary Celebration Banquet. After the dinner, a drawing was held for prizes donated by Mazda and various vendors. Awards were then handed out for the various activities during the event and the Indy Miata Club represented itself well. Bruce and Shelly Durell almost needed a trailer to carry home their awards, which included first place in the Missouri Wine Country Rallye (Enthusiast Level), tied for third place in the Scenic St. Louis City Rallye and a third place in the Concours D'Elegance. As Bruce said, "Getting a third in the Concours after a 170 plus mile rallye complete with gravel roads is an accomplishment! We had a ball!" Other winners included Gary and Kathy Collings (2nd place Missouri Wine Country Rallye - Veteran level), Norm and Susie Arbuckle (3rd place Missouri Wine Country Rallye - Veteran Level), Jay Hofaker (Autocross - 2nd place), Mike and Lyn Doyle (2nd place Missouri Wine Country Rallye - Enthusiast Level, and Mike Head (1st place - Concourse d' Elegance). (Note: Mike was belatedly presented the "Best Dressed Engine Compartment" on Sunday morning as he



The Arbuckles proudly display their 3rd place award.

was changing out fouled spark plugs on his car!)

A "Moonlight Cruise" of St. Louis was offered after the dinner, while some folks from distance states were seen packing up and leaving for their long trip home.

After breakfast Sunday morning, the parking lot was emptied of Miatas heading home. Judging from the comments from folks, a good time was had by all. A big thanks goes to the St. Louis Gateway Miata Club for holding this event.



The Collings hold their 2nd place trophy. First place in this class was decided by spelling and Kathy blamed Gary for not being able to spell!