

Road Trip to MMG 2004!

IMC Members Go To Miata Midwest Gathering

Miata owners from all over the Midwest met in Cincinnati the weekend of September 11th for the Miata Midwest Gathering event hosted by the Greater Cincinnati Club (GCMC). Included in this number were five cars from IMC.

For those arriving Friday evening, they were met at the hotel by a GCMC representative and, if they had preregistered, received their MMG 2004 information packets. These packets included name tags, a pass to Winton Woods park (where the event was being held), a bound booklet with event activities and maps of the scheduled tours and a car magnet with the MMG logo. There was a drive scheduled to a drive-in movie that evening that some went on, while others decided to relax at the hotel.

Saturday morning, cars gathered at the reserved shelters in Winton Woods and the Miata madness began. Cars were wiped down, gussied up and entered into the "Best of Show" contest. Breakfast was served, acquaintances renewed, introductions were made and cars were looked at.

Michael Valentine of Valentine 1 radar detectors opened the seminar session with a discussion of radar and radar detectors. AIM Tuning was next up, with Shane Benson and Chuck Wills giving a brief presentation and then answering questions about Miatas. Also giving short presentations were the folks from daytripsincincinnati.com (a web site that has well documented day trips around the Cincy area), Roadster Valet (a neat garment bag that hangs off the back of the car's seat) and Koni shocks sent a representative.

A picnic lunch of hotdogs and burgers was devoured by the participants and plans for the afternoon were discussed. There was a scenic tour of the area and a spirited drive planned and soon groups for each of the drives were off and away. After all the cars returned from the drives, a group photo of both cars and participants was taken.

Before dinner, a drawing for prizes which included T-shirts, Mazda books, hats, Mazda mugs and cups, Mazda pens and more was held. Afterwards, participants were urged to don their Hawaiian shirts and everyone headed down to the Hawaiian Luau which was sponsored by Mazda. Roast pig (which had been cooking on the spit by the shelter house!) was the main course. No one walked or drove away hungry!

Sunday morning was the drive to the Hofbrau House in Newport. We ran in two groups to keep things manageable. The route was fun to drive and a highlight of the tour was the ferry crossing of the Ohio River. We met up at the Hofbrau House, ate well and listened to the "Oompa" band. After lunch, it was hit the highway back to Indy.

Pictures can be found at <http://dustbunny.com/photos/2004/mmg/> and at <http://2cat.com/photos/mmg/index.html>.



Kathy Collings, Susie and Norm Arbuckle and Gary Collings at the MMG.

Late Summer Rally Results

What a great day for the Late Summer Rally. We started with a breakfast meeting in Indy, then headed for Batesville. After a quick driver's meeting, 23 cars were off on a twisting course through the countryside to test the observation and trivia skills of the drivers and navigators.

After following the less than perfect directions, we gathered at the Dairy Cottage in Brookville to figure out who would come out on top. When the scores were tallied, Roger McCalister and his son John came up with a nearly perfect score. The only wrong answer came from mis-reading one question. That was good enough to take home \$100. There was a tie for second place between John and Marsha Schaub and Ken and Sara Koehler. Both couples took home \$35 each.

Correction

Bruce Curtiss is great-grandson of Glenn Curtiss, not his grandson as stated in the August issue of the Open Road. Bruce admits to being old, but not quite that old!



Chuck and Teresa Wills were dressed in their finest Hawaiian shirts and leis for the Luau Dinner. Chuck hands over their meal tickets.