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## On The Fence...

by Ben Hermann, President

Another year is in the books and that means there's a new guy on the pulpit you have to listen to each month. Who knew I'd have all this power just two years after joining the club? I'll try to show some restraint and be responsible with it. It shouldn't be too much of a problem since my wife Nancy usually keeps me in check. Although we've recently cut our Miata corral in half, we're going to try to attend twice the events this year and invite you to do the same. We didn't make as many as we would have like last year, it just seemed like there was always something else going on. We've got some great events coming that I'm looking forward to, but first I need to look back.

We had a good year last year and I hope to make this one even better. Thanks to Jay for answering the call to serve as President. I especially need to thank Sara. She works her butt off to put this newsletter together every month and keep open this important line of communication for the membership. Of course, Chuck, Jim, Melissa, Rick, etc. did a great job behind the scenes as well. Stepping up this year are Rick Booe as Vice-President and Craig Johnson as the new membership director. Of course, one of the most important people in the club is you. The club is here for you to use and enjoy as you see fit. Hopefully you'll come out to the mingles and rallies to make some friends, have fun, and enjoy your car. But if you want to just pay your money so you get to read this every month, you're free to do that too, but as you'll soon realize, I ain't a good writer.

As you'll see, we're doing a survey. We've made it really easy to show us what you think of the club and the direction you think it should go. All you have to do is check the boxes you feel are appropriate, fold it, tape it shut and stick it in the mail. How easy is that? It's already got a stamp on it, so don't let it go to waste. You can also use it to renew your membership for this year and not cut up your newsletter to do it. I really want all of these back. I want everyone to be involved and everyone's opinion counts. If you choose to sign the bottom of it you can or you can leave it anonymous. I won't hold anything you say against you or take it personally. I just want to see what is on everyone's minds and get ideas to make the club better for everyone. If you use it to renew your membership on the back, I promise not to turn it over and connect your name with your answers unless there is some sort of assassination threat on it.

The calendar is starting to fill up nicely for the coming year. A big thanks goes out to those who have stepped up and volunteered to host events. But we still need more people to take charge to round out the year. Remember that we can have more than one event in a month. Heck, I wouldn't mind having one every weekend. If you have the desire or an idea but aren't quite sure how to make it come to life, you can either get a hold of me through email or a telephone call, or ask anybody who has hosted an event and I'm sure they'll be glad to help.

Speaking of the calendar of events, our first one is going to be our January dinner. This year we're going to get together at Sir Walter's on the south side of town on Saturday the 15<sup>th</sup> at 7 o'clock. There are more details inside. I'm looking for ideas for a place to hold a dinner in February in place of the traditional trip to a museum, preferably on the north side to make it a little more convenient for everybody. If you can think of someplace, let me know and I'll try to set it up. Of course, I just heard a rumor of a different type of museum trip in February, so we may have a busy February. Check the website or next month's newsletter. For March, I'm working on a tour of the Indianapolis Motor Speedway. We're not just going to the Speedway museum, but also taking a behind the scenes tour of the grounds, including the Pagoda, suites, and standing on the yard of bricks. Follow that up with John and Marsh Schaub's Cabin Fever Rally a couple weeks later and we're ready to start top down weather.

So, to end my first column and start the year... *The Fun Starts Here!*