

# Snow Tire Test Results

by Chuck Wills

I had promised several people an update once I got a few miles on my winter tires... so here it is.

The tires that were tested are the Winterforce M+S studdable in 185/60/14. I bought them because they were cheap, about \$44 each from Tire Rack. I figured that even if they didn't work very well at least I wasn't out a lot of my hard earned cash.

On dry pavement they are fine as long as you are just driving around town and at low speed. Once up at highway speed (65+) they tend to wander a bit. Noise isn't bad and the ride is fairly cushy. Compared to my Kumho MX's, they are like marshmallows. Non-snow performance is significantly lower than my previous winter favorites, the Michelin Arctic Alpin. Once you throw the Winterforce's into a corner, things gets interesting. Like most winter tires, they don't have a great deal of dry grip. The funny thing is, after turning the wheel about 90 degrees, all steering feel goes away. You can keep turning the wheel, but not much else happens until sometime later when the rubber starts to howl. That's really not too much of a problem as long as you remember that they are winter tires. After all, you aren't supposed to be autocrossing on them, are you?

The real test came the morning we got over seven inches of fresh powder overnight. (Can I actually say "fresh powder" since I live in Indy?) Wanting to put the tires to the test, I headed out for an unplowed parking lot. The snow was up to the bottom of the doors and the car just kept on going. The Rat Back Racing spoiler on my car plowed through the parking lot, pushing snow up as high as the middle of the bumper. The snow was cresting and blowing up over the hood at one point. Even stopping and starting in deep snow wasn't much of a problem. I had to rock the car once, but with a little momentum, it rolled on through.

[Http://www.photochuck.com/snowmiata/index.html](http://www.photochuck.com/snowmiata/index.html) is where I have more pictures of my adventure in the snow.

In summary, even though they aren't so hot in the dry, the Winterforce are fairly unstoppable in Indiana snow. Definitely high bang for the buck. The only thing lacking is more ground clearance on the car.

*Photo by Emily Walker*



It looks like Chuck and his Miata are earning extra money plowing a parking lot.

# IMC Member Is Prize Winner

The biggest Miata website on the internet, [miata.net](http://miata.net), holds drawings for Miata add-ons and accessories. The last drawing was for a Racing Beat Header and Exhaust and Indy club member John Schaub was the lucky winner!

As John said, "Santa came through with a great surprise. I found out on Christmas Eve, so it made for a very Merry Christmas!"

So, John, which Miata gets the goodies, the LE or the Sunburst Yellow?

# Miata Events Planned Across The US In '05

Looking to hit the road for a Miata vacation this year? Here's a short list of events other clubs are planning that might interest you. Look for more events as other clubs get their 2005 calendars updated.

On May 13-15, it's the "Miatas in Moab" sequel. Moab, Utah is the gateway to Arches National Park and Canyonlands National Park. Beautiful country and of course, great Miata roads! You can find more information here: <http://teamzoom.net/miatasinmoab/index.htm>

The Kansas City Miata Club has partnered with the Arkansas Miata Club for a trip to Eureka Springs on June 10th - 12th. Last year they were joined by members of the WI-EN (Western Iowa/Eastern Nebraska) Miata club, and a post on the [Miata.net](http://miata.net) forums seems to invite anyone else who wishes to go along! More information about this event can be found at <http://kcmiata.homestead.com/Eureka05.html>

July 29-31 is the famous non-event "Miatas at the Gap". I'm sure some Indy club members will be going, but even if you go by yourself, you'll meet a lot of friendly Miata folks.

The "Miata Ozark Playtime" a informal, unstructured gathering of Miatas and is set for September 16-18. Maps, road trip suggestions, information on local restaurants, shopping and points of interest will be supplied. The rest is up to you. Contact Jack and Carol Muirhead at [mjack4619@sbcglobal.net](mailto:mjack4619@sbcglobal.net) for more info.

The Abe Lincoln Club from Illinois has "Monthly Meeting and Nude Bowling" listed on their calendar. We'll see if we can't get a little more information on that event!