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June 2005

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On The Fence...

by Ben Hermann, President

We are now right in the heart of racing season. While the 500 is still far from it's former glory, it was nice to see more coverage than normal. Sure most of it focused on Danica Patrick instead of the race itself, but you have to start somewhere. I really enjoyed the new qualifying procedure as it added more excitement to Pole Day, but Bump Day just doesn't have the same feel when you only have 1 bump. I guess it's good that we didn't have to worry about not having a full field of 33 though. The move of Carb Day to Friday was also nice and at least 20 years past due. One of the weirdest things surrounding the race was the Target car hanging from the side of a building downtown. Let's just say that was "unique."

Now that the 500 is over, it's time to gear up for my personal favorite of the trio, the USGP. This F1 season sure has had it's share of interesting events, from the possibility of throwing the BAR Honda team out for good (later turning into a 2 race suspension) to the fall of Ferrari. While I'm sure that some of you are backers of the big red machine, I'm kinda glad to not have to quantify my answer when someone ask who won by saying, "Of course Schumacher won, but the non-Ferrari class was won by (fill in the blank). I'm sure they'll be back, and it's not that I rooting against them, but it's nice to have a little variety. I wouldn't mind them dropping the variety in the qualifying system they use though. Just pick something and stick with it. I'm not a big fan of messing with the rules in mid-season when there isn't a reason.

Other than the USGP, June also brings the club a few events to enjoy. To start the month off, the Arbuckle and the Collings families have put together the "Tour De Boon Docks." The weekend trip down to the southern part of the state promises to be a good time for all. There are several drives planned so you'll have plenty of opportunities to stretch the legs of our little cars.

The USGP mingle is June 18th out on Crawfordsville Rd. Again, since the closing of Sonic, we'll be a little farther to the northwest, but in the same parking lot just behind the White Castle and Arby's. It'll be the perfect chance for you to tell me how wrong I am about my F1 musings above.

Then comes the second stop on the Ritter's Frozen Custard tour. This time we'll be up at the Allisonville Rd. location. Just take the Allisonville Rd. exit off 465 north right up to Ritter's. It'll be a great time to sit around and have a frozen snack with some other Miataphiles.

While the next two events aren't really in June, they need to be mentioned since they happen early in July. The Indy SCCA group is hosting the Indy Grand Prix out at a newly re-paved Indianapolis Raceway Park on July 2nd and 3rd. So if you want to get out and see some racing by teams that don't have multi-million dollar budgets, this is your chance. If you want an even better vantage point, you can volunteer to help out at the races. For volunteering, you not only get into the event free, but also get a second ticket for your spouse or friend, a free lunch, and a great party on Saturday night. But that's not all! You also receive a free entry into a solo or rally event for each day you work and a trial membership to the SCCA if you're not already a member. It just doesn't get much better than that! Look at all the great stuff you receive, it hardly qualifies as volunteering. More details can be found at the Indy SCCA website (www.indyscca.org).

Jim and Martha Nutt have prepared the Frantic Funkanna for July 9th. More details are inside and on the club's website. This looks like a fun event and they'll be free divorce lawyers there just in case it's not, so you don't have anything to lose.

With all this stuff going on, if you're not having a good time, you're just not trying! But on the off chance that this really doesn't appeal to you, remember you can always plan an event for the rest of us to show us a glimpse into your life. There are lots of weekends still available and plenty of help if you need it. And, remember... ***The Fun Starts Here!***