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## On The Fence...

by Ben Hermann, President

Happy Labor Day everybody! Hope everyone enjoys the long "End of Summer" weekend. Of course since we don't live in Wisconsin or the few other states that are smart enough mandate the start of the school year after Labor Day, the "End of Summer" was about the second week of August for some. Maybe some day we'll get on board and do the sensible thing and pass a law that our schools can't start before Labor Day too, but since it took so long for us to get daylight-savings time, I'm not going to hold my breath.

August was another successful month for the club. The Brickyard Mingle went well for those braving the traffic to get there. All accounts have the "Rags to Riches" Rally as being a great time, and the fourth installment of the Ritter's tour was fun, with the exception of a few sprinkles. Next month we have kind of a light schedule. We have "Highway to Hill" on Sunday, September 11th and the Ritter's mingles continue on Thursday the 15th in Avon. We will probably be adding an unveiling party for the new Miata in there somewhere, but plans haven't been finalized yet. Watch the website and/or make sure you are signed up to email updates from the club. I noticed we had a few more people signed up for the email updates when I sent one out, but we are still in the 60% range. Also, if you are signed up for the emails, you might need to add me (ben@wmhermann.com) in your address book so the updates don't get caught by your spam filter.

I'm going to go off the page a little now. The rest of this doesn't really have anything to do with the club or anything, so don't feel obligated to read it. It's really just me venting a little. As a fairly avid sports fan, I have to express my disgust for certain things that are going on in the sports world.

First off is baseball. The league's new steroid policy is ridiculous. A 10 game suspension for your first offense is a slap on the wrist. If you want to policy to mean anything, then implement Selig's "plan" for 50 games the first time, 100 the second, and life for the third. He was pushing it for a while, and had the perfect opportunity to get it passed when Rafael Palmeiro tested positive, but he was nowhere to be found. Of course, even when Bud does stand up and take action, like suspending Kenny Rogers 20 games for assaulting a camera-man, arbitrators just reduce it down to 13 games anyway.

Then you have this poor bat-boy for the Florida Marlins. You get a 10 game suspension for taking steroids and the kids gets a 6 game suspension for accepting a dare to drink a gallon of milk in an hour with out it coming back up! A 4 game difference from milk to steroids?? They said it was to set an example for the players not to make people do things like this. First off, how are the players learning a lesson by punishing the kid? And second, what kid wouldn't try to do this for \$500? What's the crime to warrant this punishment? Remember, kids, milk is only 40% better for you than steroids. Nice job, baseball.

Then up comes hockey. Like the lock-out wasn't bad enough, as soon as it's over they reinstate Todd Bertuzzi. You remember him, the guy who sucker punched another player from behind and rode him into the ice, breaking his neck and probably ending his career. It's good to know that this thug is back making millions while his victim sits at home.

Unfortunately, or fortunately perhaps, there isn't room here to express my disgust for Miles Brand and the NCAA's idiotic stand on banning the use of Indian names and mascots in post-season tournaments. Sure, pejorative terms like Redskins and Savages should go, but most of these mascots are a source of pride for and have the support of the peoples they represent. At least they have started backing off by letting Florida State out of it, but there are still many other schools that should come off the list, like the Central Michigan Chippewas, Utah Utes, etc.

I guess that's probably enough ranting. Keep your eyes on the website and on your inbox for more info on upcoming events and more contest. And remember...*The Fun Starts Here!*