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Skid Marks....

by Rick Booe, President

So, here it is February already. Winter isn't over, but I sure wish it was as sometimes we get our biggest snows in February. Winter is not much fun for me as I can't drive my Miata, can't ride my motorcycle, can't play softball, can't golf, and I can't mow my yard. (Hey! I like to mow my yard!) I am ready for spring as the leaves come back, the grass gets green, and the sun is warm. I want to get my Miata out of the garage and slide around some corners. Of course, if I got out there now, I would be able to slide quite easily with all the sand on the country roads around Putnam county. If you're out, be careful out there this time of year. For now, I can only daydream about warmer days ahead. Don't you think that Miata Clubs in Florida are lucky? They can put their tops down all year.

I hope you are starting to think about participating in or maybe planning a rally or mingle with the club. Conrad Serwatka will be hosting the Post Tax Blues Rally that we do every year in April with the Lake Effect Miata Club. He is tentatively looking at April 22nd. One of our newer members, Mike Simmerman, has signed on to represent the Indy Miata club and help Conrad. It is always good to have new members jump in there and get involved. Thanks, Mike. I am planning on doing something in the Putnam/Owen county area again this summer, probably in August. We've got open dates on our calendar, so here's your chance to put on an event.

I have a non-club event I think you should mark on your calendar, the annual One Lap of America. I'm sure some of you may have heard of this, it's like a big rally that goes around the country to different racing venues. It's starting this year in South Bend at the Tire Rack's skid pad before heading across the country to one of seven courses before returning to South Bend. A group of about one hundred cars will leave Virginia International Raceway on May 11th and plan on being at the Putnam Park Road Course on the 12th. I know this is a Friday, but heck, take a day off work. (I work nights, so I'll be there for sure.) I think they will arrive at the track between 8 and 9am. If you have never seen this, you should come out and watch them race around the track. The public is welcome to come watch and look over all the cars. There is usually a very wide variety of machines in this event. In the past, they've made a stop at Indianapolis Raceway Park. I will relay more information to you as I get it from the Putnam County Tourism Bureau. You can also check out the Putnam Park website at <http://www.putnampark.com> to get schedules and directions. The One Lap of America website is at <http://www.onelapofamerica.com>.

OK, let's talk a little football. It was really sad about the Colts, as I thought this was our year. At one point in the season I didn't think anyone could beat us. Then, after San Diego beat us and ruined the perfect season, we "rested" all of our best players for the next three weeks. D-U-M-B! If I was off work for three or four weeks, I would forget a lot of stuff about my job and it would take me a couple days to get back into the swing of things. I thought it was a bad idea from the beginning, but Tony Dungie didn't call and ask me what I thought. That's all I have to say about that... I don't even care who wins the Super Bowl now.

Do you look at the Club website very often? Chuck Wills is our new webmaster and I'm sure will do a great job for us. I check the website every day as it is a good place to check upcoming events and other club news and there are a lot of useful links there. I always check the member's forum, though I'm not sure how many people do. The forum is a good way to contact a large group of members, if we are checking it often. Look in and see what people have to say.

Also, if you have a good story about your car or driving experiences, send them to Sara, our newsletter editor. She welcomes all help in filling up the newsletter with interesting articles. I know you have a story about your Miata and we would all like to hear your Miata story.

Remember, one Miata is fun, but a whole bunch of Miatas is a whole bunch of fun!