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## Skid Marks....

*by Rick Booe, President*

Hi again, troops! Summer is finally here in full force and it's hot now, just the way I like it. You can almost put your top down now and leave it down for the whole summer. Well, unless of course you get caught out in the rain a long way from home, which has happened to me more than once. I hope you are all getting out and enjoying all these nice top-down days we've been having. Susie and I especially enjoy driving on those hot nights when it is still in the seventies and you can look up and see the stars. Passenger only please, drivers should always be watching the road. You also have to be a little careful of nocturnal critters when zooming the curves at night. Raccoons, opossums, squirrels, and sometimes-insomniac deer, are all out there in my way at night. Susie is always trying to get me to slow down once it is dark out. Also, believe it or not, a few weeks ago I hit and killed a wild turkey on my way home from work at 7:00am. Thankfully that was in my Jeep.

Well, since we are just finishing up with the month of June, we have to talk about the Indy 500. We had a nice gathering of Miatas in Speedway the night before the race. Depending on which of us can count, between fifteen and twenty cars were there. It was a beautiful night to stand around and visit. Some June have thought it was still a little hot, but I thought it was just right. Those of you who left before the end of it all missed some fun. A car load of kids showed up wanting to check us out. They took pictures of our cars, and one young boy wanted to look at our engines. They complained to their mother that there were a lot more cars there when they first went by. When they came back most of the Miatas were gone, but at least Mom brought them back to look!.

How many of you go to the Indy 500 each year? My brother and I and a friend of ours have been going together to the race since 1979. We finally figured out that we have been sitting in the same seats since 1987. We sit on the top row in turn one in the South-west Vista. And what a race it was this year! As most of you June know, it was the second closest finish in history. The crowd seemed more excited this year than in a long time, also. It was the hottest race day we have had in long time. (Which I like, remember?) We all had to remind ourselves to drink, drink, drink. Water, I mean!

As far as the racing goes, it was great, close and exciting all day. Everybody had something to cheer about. Of course there were many Danica Patrick fans, and the return of Michael Andretti and Al Unser Jr. made it fun. And the new racing Andretti, Marco. It was hard to believe he is only 19 years old. Even though Dan Wheldon led most of the race, there were plenty of lead changes. I thought Tony Kannan was going to come up and blow everybody away at the end. He did get in the lead late but couldn't keep it. Then we all thought the Andrettis were going to finish one, two, but that didn't happen either. Sam Hornish Jr. was the fastest guy all month and proved it to us at the end of the race. It was also nice to see Americans finish first, second, and third. I'll bet it's been a long time since that happened.

I also want to be sure we all recognize the real reason for Memorial Day. It is not just so we can have a big race and a three-day weekend. We need to all stop for a moment remember all the brave men and women who have died in defense of this great nation. Freedom isn't free, it is paid for with blood of many fine people. From the time of George Washington's army up until today, Americans have sacrificed their lives for the freedom of others. We owe them more than we could ever repay. Let's always remember this day, and every day, for the troops around the world right now that are out there, day and night, for us.

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