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Skid Marks....

by Rick Booe, President

Welcome to the month of March, troops. Spring is right around the corner now and we will all be out there with our tops down soon. I can't wait for the rallying to start. Warm air, sunshine, and Miatas all in a long row. And now, you don't have to worry about me coming up behind you too close. I have new brakes on my car! I didn't realize how far gone my brakes were until I replaced them and found out how well the car stops now.

Maybe this is a good time to talk about car care. Brakes, tires, oil changes, other important fluids, are all things we need to keep close tabs on. Don't forget about your tire pressure, also. Especially if you are like me and store your car all winter. If you haven't driven your Miata in a while, you need to give it a thorough inspection before hitting the road again. If you don't feel comfortable doing it yourself take it to a good shop, like AIM or to a Mazda dealer. The most important thing is to make sure your car is safe and dependable.

We had our first mingle on February 18th, the LUNCH at the HANGAR in Greencastle, in the Dixie Chopper Center at the Putnam County Airport. I am considering using this place for a starting point for a rally later this summer. We had a nice group for such a cold day. Seven Miatas showed up and 17 people (some left their Miatas at home) for some good food and good conversation. We had some new members join that day. George and Maxine Stizall came as well as Andy Batt with his son Eric. After lunch and a short meeting, John Schaub called me on my offer to lead the group on a little trek through the country. Five Miata took off south from the airport. We basically took the route that Susie and I take on Sunday afternoons. The only difference was we drove it backwards so we could end up at the Putnamville exit of I-70. We drove south out of Greencastle through Manhattan, past my house (did any of you know that?) and then over I-70. Then we went through Poland, Bowling Green, Jordan Village, Cunot, past Lieber State Recreation Area, and back to I-70. I think it took about an hour. It was the first run I have ever made that we encountered a little snow still on the roads out in the deep boonies. Earlier in the day Kathy Crouse had asked me where Poland was. I hope she noticed it when we went by. I hope everyone enjoyed the day as much as I did. And thanks to Susie for helping me put it all together.

I know a lot of our club members are big sports car fans (duh!) and Formula One fans. But, for me...NASCAR has started again!! It's the beginning of the longest racing season in the world. Congrats to Jimmie Johnson for winning the Daytona 500. I like spending my Sunday afternoons watching the races on TV, in between little naps. I always see the start, miss part of the middle, watch some more, nap some more. Susie is great about waking me up to see the end. (What a wonderful woman she is.) My brother and I always go to the Brickyard 400 and would really like to travel to some other tracks this summer. We also have gone to the Indy 500 every year since 1978. Last year we went to the Indy car race in Michigan, too. We are thinking of visiting the Kentucky Speedway this summer, or the Chicago. We just like to go to racetracks. We grew up in Putnamville, a short walk from Lincoln Park Speedway. Dirt track racing is fun too. I have another little race track fact for you. If you have ever been to Lincoln Park Speedway you'll know that the grandstands are built on a large hillside. And the track is at the bottom of the hill. When I was a youngster that big hill was the greatest sledding hill in Putnamville. Some days it seemed like every kid in town was there, but of course, Putnamville isn't a very big town.

I guess I've rambled on long enough. Hope to see you all at our next event.

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