

Upcoming Events

Sat Apr 5 10:30 AM	Tech Session at Kenjitsu Auto Repair and Monthly Meeting	Sat Aug 2 10:00 AM	Monthly Meeting at Billco Motors and Flasche Cruise
Thu-Mon Apr 17-21	Pittsburgh International Auto Show	Sat-Sun Aug 16-17	New River Gorge Cruise
Sat May 3 10:00 AM	Monthly Meeting at Moon Mazda and Whitmire Cruise	Sat Aug 23	WPMC Picnic
Sat May 10	Scenic Ligonier & Iron Furnaces Cruise	Sat Aug 30	Kissin' & Huggin' at the Drive-In
Sat May 24	Runway Cruise	Sat Sep 6 10:00 AM	Monthly Meeting at Baglier Motors and Wendell August Cruise
Sat May 31	Jimmy Stewart Museum Cruise	Sat Sep 20	McPheron Surprise Cruise
Sat Jun 7 10:00 AM	Monthly Meeting at Moon Mazda and The Digs Cruise	Sat Oct 4	Monthly Meeting
Sat Jun 21	Mercer County Cruise	Sat-Sun Oct 18-19	Murder Mystery Dinner Train Cruise
Sat Jun 28	Covered Bridge Cruise	Sat Dec 6	Christmas Party
Sat Jul 12 10:00 AM	Monthly Meeting at I-79 Mazda and Clark Gable Cruise		
Sat-Sun Jul 19-20	Pittsburgh Vintage Grand Prix		
Sat Jul 26	Knoll Cruise		

2008 WPMC OFFICERS & CONTACTS:

President:	John Whitmire
Vice-President:	Jim Pfeiffer
Secretary:	Sherry Swarmer
Treasurer:	Bill McCullough
Events Chair:	Rich Lowden & Linda Zimliki
Editor-In-Chief:	Steve Lapp
Web Master:	Steve Lapp
Past President:	Bryan Bond





THE FUN 'N' THE SUN TIMES

Important Membership Information

Dues for 2008 are now due. As you can see by the schedule, we have another great year planned. Make sure you're a part of it! If you've not yet paid your dues, please fill out the enclosed application and write a check for \$30 to West Penn Miata Club, Inc. Mail to:

WEST PENN MIATA CLUB
C/O Bill McCullough
220 N. Fairfield St.
Ligonier, PA 15658

Please note that dues are for the calendar year from January 1 to December 31 and are not based on when a member joins.

To defray the cost of copying and postage, any member with an e-mail address who also wants to receive hard copies of the newsletter by paper mail will be charged an additional fee of \$5.00 each year. Please add this to your dues if you wish to exercise this option. If you've already paid your dues and wish to do this, please send an additional \$5.00 check per the above instructions.

KENJITSU TECH SESSION BY JOE ZIMLIKI

WPMC's season is getting ready to start. We want our Miatas to be in tip top shape for those curvy roads members will be driving on the club's cruises. I have consulted with Ed Dull & Gene Kantor on a Tech Session that we hope will be informative. Ed & Gene's Tech session will be on how to enhance your car's performance as well as what maintenance & when it should be done as your car ages. You will be able to ask questions so come learn from the experts.

Date and Time: Saturday, April 5 at 10:30 AM

RSVP by Wednesday April 2 to Joe Zimliki at jjimliki@comcast.net or 724-327-1762 or Linda Zimliki at lzimliki@westpennmiataclub.com.

Directions: From the west - Rt 376 East which turns into Rt 22 East (if you are coming on turnpike take Monroeville exit after toll booth take exit to Murrysville Rt 22 East) Follow Rt 22 East to Rt 819. Make a right onto Rt 819 South. Go four miles and turn left onto Forbes Trail Rd (There is a Kenjitsu sign at turn). 1/2 mile down road on right is Kenjitsu Auto Repair. From the east - Rt 30 to Rt 119 North. Follow Rt 119 North to Rt 819 North. Go Three miles on Rt 819N to Forbes Trail Rd. Make right onto Forbes Trail Rd. 1/2 mile down road on right is Kenjitsu Auto Repair

NIGHT OF DOO-WOP AND ROCK-N-ROLL VOL. V BY LINDA ZIMLIKI

One of our members would like to know if any of the club members are interested in attending a 50's & 60's Doo-Wop Concert Sat. October 11 at the State Theatre in Uniontown. I have to know now because tickets will be gone by the end of April. The artists are Bobby Rydell, Kenny Vance & The Planotones, Jay Seigel & The Tokens & Kid Kyle. I'M TRYING TO SEE IF THERE IS ANY INTEREST SO PLEASE RESPOND AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. The time will be 7:30 p.m. Ticket prices are \$30, \$35 & \$40. If we get 20 people we would get a group rate. More information is available at website www.statetheatre.info/lar.html.

Please contact Linda Zimliki - 724-327-1762 or lzimliki@westpennmiataclub.com as soon as possible.





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2008 CRUISIN & ZOOMIN

SEASON

BY LINDA ZIMLIKI

Well, zoomin season is hopefully just around the corner. We did have one event this year already. Season started off with a trip to the Bodies Exhibit on January 19. Next up is our Tech Session at Kenjitu on April 5. The club has a very full season with something for everyone. There are a few openings at the end of year in September & October if anyone would like to add a cruise to the schedule. If you have a cruise or event to add to the schedule please contact me to check for availability of dates. If you would like help planning a cruise please contact me. The front page of the newsletter has all the cruises & events presently planned for the 2008 Zoomin & Cruisin Season. There are a few that have not decided on a date yet so they will be added later. There are several places to check on cruises & events. From the home page of website click on Calendar of Events for a schedule of the 2008 season. If there are details available, all you have to do is click on the cruise or event to access the information. Also from home page click on Forum & then click cruises. If leaders have posted details on their cruise or event it will be listed. Another source is our monthly newsletter, which can be accessed by clicking newsletters on home page.

On our forum after you have enjoyed your day of cruising I urge you to post under the leader's cruise your appreciation or comments about the cruise or event. We would like the membership to use the forum. Steve now has a new forum, which is more user friendly this year. The membership thanks you Steve.

As I told you last year, I will inform the membership of other Miata Club events & things that might interest members. Following are Miata Club Events. Their websites are included so you can check out details:

MIATAS AT MYRTLE BEACH - MARCH 27-30
\$5 REGISTRATION FEE, NO LIMIT ON CARS
www.triadmiatas.com/mamb.html

MIATAS DOIN' THE CHARLESTON - MAY 1-4
REGISTRATION CLOSED - IF YOU WANT TO ATTEND, PLEASE CONTACT THEM TO BE PLACED ON THE WAITING LIST
www.miatasdointhecharleston.com

MIATAS AT EUREKA - JUNE 13, 2008
HELD BY NORTHWEST ARKANSAS MIATA CLUB,
REGISTRATION IS \$25, \$20 IF YOU REGISTER BY MAY 1
www.miatasateureka.com

MIATAS AT THE GAP JULY 25 - 27
ANNUAL EVENT - A ROAD 11 MILES LONG WITH 318 CURVES
www.gapmiatas.com

MIDWEST MIATA GATHERING - SEPT 26-27
BEING HELD BY INDY MIATA CLUB THIS YEAR
REGISTRATION CLOSED-AGAIN IF YOU WISH TO ATTEND, PLEASE CONTACT THEM TO BE PLACED ON WAITING LIST
<http://indymiata.dustbunny.com/events/eventdisplay.php?id=165>

MIATA MOUNTAIN GOLD II SEPT 25 -28
BEING HELD BY PEAK TO PEAK MIATA CLUB IN BRECKENRIDGE, COLORADO. NO REGISTRATION FEE & NO LIMIT ON CARS
<http://mountaingold.peaktopeakmiata.org>

MIATA WORLD II - 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE MIATA HELD IN GRAPEVINE, TEXAS, SEE ARTICLE FOR INFORMATION. NO WEBSITE YET

HERE ARE OTHER EVENTS IN OUR AREA WHICH MIGHT INTEREST MEMBERS. THESE CAR CRUISES ARE FOR OWNERS TO DISPLAY THEIR PRIDE & JOY. USUALLY A DJ IS PRESENT SPINNING OLDIES. THERE IS NO FEE. THESE ARE THE BIG ONES.

WEXFORD STARLIGHT CAR CRUISE - STARTS FRIDAY MAY 2 AND CONTINUES EVERY FRIDAY UNTIL OCTOBER
LOCATION- NORTHWAY CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY ON PERRY HWY

IRWIN/NORTH HUNTINGTON - STARTS SATURDAY APRIL 5 AND CONTINUES EVERY SATURDAY UNTIL OCTOBER
LOCATION -NORWIN SHOPPING CENTER ROUTE 30 5 P.M. - 9 P.M.

CASTE VILLAGE CAR CRUISE - STARTS SUNDAY APRIL 6 AND CONTINUES EVERY SUNDAY UNTIL OCTOBER

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LOCATION - CASTLE VILLAGE SHOPPING CENTER
GROVE RD

32ND ANNUAL PITTSBURGH PARTS-A-RAMA - FRI
- SUN JUNE 13-15

BUTLER FAIRGROUND - I-79 TO EXIT 99 THEN RT
422 EAST 8:00 A.M. TIL DUSK. FLEA MARKET ,
COLLECTOR TOYS & VEHICLE CORRAL
www.pittsburghparts-a-rama.com

LABOR DAY FESTIVAL - FRI - MON AUG 29 - SEP 1
LOCATION - ROWLESBURG, WV
www.rowlesburgguide.com/Visit_Rowlesburg/page_12.html

REPORT ON Cathedral of Learning/ Phipp's Conservatory featuring Chihuly by Doug and Candace McPheron

West Penn Miata Club members enjoy many wonders throughout the peak Miata season, but when November and December roll around, there is no reason to mourn the loss of wondrous sites. This year, the group was treated to the marvels of the University of Pittsburgh Cathedral of Learning and its Nationality rooms followed by an evening tour of Phipp's Conservatory featuring the glass art of Dale Chihuly.

For many, it was their first trip to the Cathedral of Learning. A very knowledgeable tour guide gave us a brief history of the building and explained the way it was funded by ethnic neighborhoods and local industry. Construction began in Sept 1926 and was completed in 1937. The architecture alone was reason to be impressed, but hearing of the efforts to bring in the nationality of Pittsburgh's ethnic population was even more inspiring. By obtaining the participation of Pittsburgh's citizens and industry the Cathedral of Learning became the landmark that it is today.

After touring the Cathedral of Learning we had dinner at the Holiday Inn and subsequently drove the short

distance to another Pittsburgh wonder, The Phipp's Conservatory. To celebrate Pittsburgh's "Year of Glass", Dale Chihuly decorated Phipp's with colorful displays of glass artwork. Tall candle-like tapers and broad glass fans rose out of the foliage as we walked through the tropical rooms. Multi-colored glass orbs filled a wooden boat and glass balls atop the water gave one a sense of serenity. For whimsy, the room filled with large tulip-shaped vessels of light and color warmed the senses and engaged the viewer in a playful way.

One thing is certain. Miata club members know how to find works of majesty and beauty at all times of the year and to think it starts with a tiny car in the garage! Looking forward to another wondrous year with the West Penn Miata Club.

REPORT ON THE BODIES EXHIBIT BY GARY BOYD

While most of our little cars were tucked away from the winter winds and snow, under wraps in garages and storage sheds, winterized and quietly awaiting the spring thaw, a group of about thirty-six club members managed a fun day on a cold but sunny January 19th to visit "Bodies--The Exhibition" at the Carnegie Science Center.

Upon arrival, it was obvious that many other folks from the area had decided to enjoy this scientific wonder. Thanks go to Linda Zimliki, whose coordination with Science Center staff enabled our group a speedy escort through the crowds and into the exhibition area.

Once inside, the wonder and the beauty of the human body was displayed utilizing a process called plastination which allowed the bodies to be dissected and preserved without concern for decay. Each major part of the human anatomy was highlighted.

Bodies captured in motion revealed the complex interconnections of the skin and skeleton and muscles. The intricacies of the circulatory and nervous systems were

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clearly displayed as never before. The structure of the feet and hands, the tiny bones of the inner ear, the respiratory, reproductive and digestive systems were presented in a way that left one with a sense of awe. For most, it was an opportunity to see that which had only been viewed in a text book prior to this experience.

Upon completion of the tour, we retired to Bettis Grill 36 for food, drink, and conversation. Of course, the conversation quickly turned to spring and summer plans for road trips and Miata upgrades. We can't wait!

Announcement of the Midwest Miata Gathering 2008 at Indianapolis by Gary Collings gcolling@gte.net, Chairman

Editor's Note: This event is closed. Go to the website to be placed on the waiting list.

The Indy Miata Club (IMC) has accepted the invitation from both the Greater Cincinnati Miata and Bluegrass Clubs to host the 9th annual Midwest Miata Gathering (MMG) on September 26 - 27, 2008.

The Greater Cincinnati Miata Club (GCMC) founded the Midwest Miata Gathering and has hosted seven MMGs. In 2008, the GCMC collaborated with the Bluegrass Miata Club (BMC), which hosted the 8th MMG in Louisville on a weekend in September 2007. There were 129 participants and 80 cars from 8 States at the 2007 event <www.miatagathering.com>. Some of your members may have attended one or more of these events.

The IMC Planning Committee has dubbed the event the CITY OF SPEED and its website is <MiataMG2008.com>. We anticipate Pay Pal registration will be available on this website by February 2008. We will be marketing this regional event to several clubs in the Midwest besides Ohio

and Kentucky. You will want to sign-up early as registration will be capped at 150 cars.

The Indy Motor Speedway has already been reserved for registrants to drive the 500 track. Hummel Park has been selected and hotel options are being explored along the State Road 267 corridor south of Plainfield on the westside of Indianapolis. A full two days of a variety of activities are being planned - mark your calendar for September 26 - 27, 2008.

Our goal is for the Indy Miata Club to host a memorable Midwest Miata Gathering 2008 in the City of Speed on September 26-27, 2008 for 150 pairs of Miata enthusiasts. Solo drivers will be welcomed but the registration fee will be the same ... so bring a navigator.

MIATA WORLD II BY LINDA ZIMLIKI

I told the membership I would keep you informed about the 20th Anniversary Miata National Event being held in Texas. This event is going to be huge. If there are any doubts in your mind about going, think of it this way. The next Miata Event this big probably won't be until the next anniversary, which will be 11 years from this moment. Which means, you'd be 11 years older & may not be able to make the trip. Who wouldn't want to be amidst a massive gathering of Miatas. If you couldn't tell, Joe & I will be going. We would love to lead a group of Miatas to the event. Sign up for the event will start soon and due to the fact Miata Events have been filling up fast & hype on this event, the sooner you sign up the better. As soon as I'm notified I will inform the membership immediately. You have a year to plan for this event. Please let me know if you are interested in attending Miata World II. The following is the latest information on Miata World II. Details are still being worked out & there could be some changes.

- Event name is Miata World II. Date - May 21-25, 2009
 - Location - Grapevine, Texas between Dallas & Ft Worth
 - Grapevine is a small charming historic town.
 - Being held at Gaylord Texan Resort & Convention Center
- In process of finalizing room rate - no rate yet - Talk was \$149/per night

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- Registration for MWII will be via website, which will open mid May
- Fee is not finalized yet but will be around \$300 per person. It may seem like a lot but the last Miata National, which was in either 2002 or 2003, the fee was \$250. So a \$50 increase 6 years later isn't bad. We did attend that one.
- There will be a limit to the number of cars. Right now the number is 500 cars. After a meeting being held in March, they will know exactly how many they can finally handle. They hope to double it to 1000 cars.
- All attendees must be registered to attend any function.
- There will be a one -of -a-kind 20th anniversary car given away.
- There will be track events on Texas Motor Speedway. Auto cross oval runs & road track are planned. They will be included in the registration fee. All levels of experience will be accommodated.
- There will be 30,000 sq ft of exhibit space for vendors
- There will be a MX 5 Cup race.
- Tons of fun & once in lifetime experience
- They were told to make this the biggest & best and it looks like they will achieve that goal.
- Meeting to finalize things is this past Monday, March 10, 2008. After the meeting they will be ready to place finishing touches to the agenda. I will keep you updated.

Mazda MX-5 on top again

by Bond, James Bond

I just received my April edition of Consumer Reports magazine with "2008 BEST & WORST CARS" emblazoned on the cover. I had a pretty good feeling the Mazda MX-5 would score high, but I didn't realize it would be listed as the best of the best in its class.

The very first page of the article shows a photo of a shiny red MX-5 under the heading of "Top Picks." The article

goes on to say that the Miata is a true sports car that virtually tied with the Porsche Boxster in their test scoring, but at about \$27,000, it's roughly half the price.

Reading on, I looked at the "Roadsters under \$40,000" section and yes...there she is...the Mazda MX-5 Miata scoring top honors and a recommended best buy with a lot of red circles (matches the car) and a total score of 89. I went on reading the "Over \$40,000 section" and was a little surprised. The Porsche Boxster is only 1 point higher in total score than the MX-5 but does cost \$22 grand more and the rating circles are not all the same red color. That's right...a big black mark for owner cost.

The article goes on to say that of course you can get a Corvette at \$57 grand. It also comes with big black circles on the rating log and the total score is 8 points under the MX-5. How about the Lotus Elise....Yea...that's got to be a great car. It's a Lotus...right? That thing only scored 55 points. Need I go on?

Ok...Let's get back in our under \$40,000 class. The Saturn Sky, at \$3 grand more than the MX-5, has black circles and scored 30 points less than you-know-who. If you want to save \$1,200, the Pontiac Solstice is your ride. Of course, it scored the lowest of any Roadster at any price. It did however, have a listing under highs for handling and headlights. Headlights???! Who needs headlights when you're touring the countryside with the top off, the sun tanning your skin, your love by your side, and a smile on your face as you zoom around the backroads in the most reliable, fun, roadster ever made?

I guess that if you're reading this in the WPMC newsletter that you already know what I just described. Congratulations! You own and drive the most reliable, fun to drive, sportscar ever built at any price. Welcome to Zoom-Zoom.





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WPMC in Classic Car Base Website

The West Penn Miata Club is now part of the Classic Car Base Website. We can be found by searching under Car Clubs at:

<http://www.classiccarbase.com/>

This is a community based website, which means that anybody can contribute. It is free of charge and the more members that participate, the more classic car information we can share.

The website has many interesting features, such as: Mystery Cars, Discussion Forums and Members' Cars and Parts for sale.

Journeys with John by President John Whitmire

This past Saturday, we had our first meeting of the season at Smail Mazda in Greensburg. 17 or 18 hardy souls braved the elements to get there. Hardly felt like the season is up and running when the weather outside was cold, wet, and foul! We had a very good meeting primarily focused on the upcoming events for the year. Linda Zimliki is working very hard to get the calendar filled. Currently we have 12 events lined up. Mostly cruises but including, one tech session, the Vintage Gran Prix, the Pittsburgh Auto Show, and our picnic. If you want to host an event, you had better jump in quickly and let Linda know before all the dates are taken.

The Pittsburgh Auto Show is April 17 through 21 this

year. The format has been shortened from a full week to a Thursday through Sunday venue. We did not participate last year as it was initially canceled, due to the truck falling inconveniently through the floor, and when rescheduled, we had a conflict. Participation provides very good exposure for the club and you get into the show FREE! All you need to do is hang out near the Miatas, and talk to anyone interested in the car about the club. The club will prepare materials that you can use as handouts. Please let me know if you are interested. It is quite easy duty, you might get to meet some interesting people, and you will see some cool cars!

Some housekeeping items and reminders:

* Over the winter, we changed the Forum software so as to make using it more user-friendly. You do have to reregister. If you have not done so please do. The Forum is a great way to keep up-to- date on the latest happenings.

* The application and a reminder to pay your dues for this year are included with this letter. Remember that our dues run from January through December, not from date paid to the same time the following year. If you know someone who had not rejoined, please apply a little friendly pressure.

* We really want to encourage the use of email for club communications as conventional mail costs the club a great deal in envelopes, stamps, paper etc., not to mention the volunteer labor. In light of this, the club at this past meeting adopted the policy that if a member has an email account and wanted the newsletter mailed to them by conventional mail, there would be a \$5.00/yr surcharge. This is a provision that has been adopted by many clubs in the area and has worked to cut down on mailing costs and time spent.

* If you have gotten a new email provider, please remember to let us know. Send corrections to Sherry Swarmer, our secretary at sswarmer@westpennmiataclub.com. Our next meeting is the tech session at Kenjitsu Auto Repair in Greensburg. Hope to see you there.

April Deadline

The deadline for articles for the April newsletter is April 7, 2008





Officers

Founder: Paul Fronko	
President: John Whitmire	(412) 262-1813
Vice President: Jim Pfeiffer	(724) 468-8435
Treasurer: Bill McCullough	(724) 238-5859
Secretary: Sherry Swarmer	(724) 443-0834
Events Chair: Lowden/Zimliki	(412)672-1689 (724)327-1762
Past President: Bryan Bond	(724) 439-4001

e-mail: wpmc@westpennmiataclub.com
 web site: <http://www.westpennmiataclub.com>



Editor - In - Chief:
Steve Lapp



Send all editorial contributions to:


WEST PENN MIATA CLUB
 c/o Steve Lapp
 105 Gadshill Place
 Pittsburgh, PA 15237
 e-mail: slapp@westpennmiataclub.com

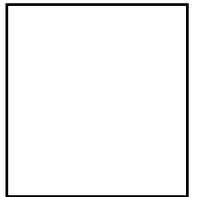
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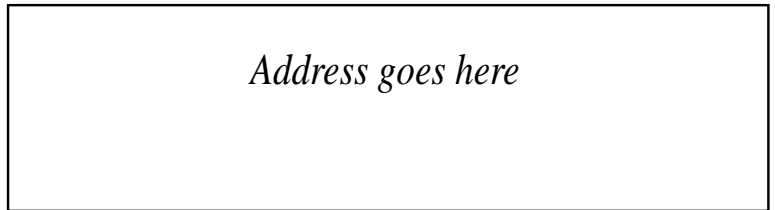
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WEST PENN MIATA CLUB
 c/o Sherry Swarmer 
 1022 Arborwood Drive
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MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION / MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

MEMBER INFORMATION

CHECK HERE IF RENEWAL

NAME: _____

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PHONE NO: RES: (____) _____ FAX: (____) _____

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NEWSLETTERS AVAILABLE FROM THE CLUB'S WEBSITE. IF THIS IS A PROBLEM, PLEASE CONTACT ONE OF THE OFFICERS OR CHECK HERE _____ FOR AN OFFICER TO CONTACT YOU.

SIGNATURES

OWNER _____ DATE _____

CO-OWNER _____ DATE _____

VEHICLE INFORMATION

YEAR: _____ PLATE NO: _____

COLOR: _____ PACKAGE: _____

REMIT A CHECK IN THE AMOUNT OF \$30.00, PAYABLE TO
"WEST PENN MIATA CLUB, INC." MAIL TO:

WEST PENN MIATA CLUB
C/O Bill McCullough
220 N. Fairfield St.
Ligonier, PA 15658

RENEWAL DUES ARE COLLECTED YEARLY AND MUST BE REMITTED PRIOR TO
MARCH 1st

How did you hear about us?

West Penn Miata Club Website

Word Of Mouth

Mazda Dealer

Other - Please explain: