

Upcoming Events

Thu
Apr 5
7:00 PM
WPMC Monthly Teleconference Meeting

Sat
Apr 7
10:00 AM
Tech Session at Jim Locke Automotive

Thu
May 3
7:00 PM
WPMC Monthly Teleconference Meeting

Sat
May 5
Cruisn' to the Blue Canoe in Titusville

Sat
May 12
Come with me to Foggy Mountain

Mon
May 28
Memorial Day Parade

Thu
May 31
7:00 PM
WPMC Monthly Teleconference Meeting

Sat
Jun 9
Coal Miners Museum Cruise

Sat
Jun 16
Penn State Creamery Cruise

Sun
Jun 24
Glass Center & PIMC Cruise

Thu
Jun 28
7:00 PM
WPMC Monthly Teleconference Meeting

Sat
Jun 30
Let's Go Lago Cruise

Sat-Sun
Jul 14-15
Pittsburgh Vintage Grand Prix

Sat
Jul 21
Platts Go Zoomin

Sat
Jul 28
Wild & Wonderful West Virginia Cruise

Thu
Aug 2
7:00 PM
WPMC Monthly Teleconference Meeting

Sat
Aug 11
Peaches and Gravity Hill Cruise

Sun
Aug 26
WPMC Picnic

Sat
Sep 8
Johnstown National Flood Memorial Cruise

Sun
Sep 16
J. D. Cellars Winery Cruise

Sat
Sep 22
Laurel Highlands Cruise

Sat
Oct 13
Zimliki Cruise

Sat
Dec 1
WPMC Christmas Party

April Deadline

The deadline for articles for the April newsletter is April 9, 2018





THE FUN 'N' THE SUN TIMES

2018 Membership Dues by Larry Shockling

Now that we are into the new year of 2018, your old membership is obsolete, and must be renewed. Remember that membership is contingent on submitting a signed copy of the WPMC Terms & Conditions with your 2018 application. If you have already submitted a copy of the Terms & Conditions, you need not sign it again - once & done!

RENEW NOW BEFORE THE MARCH 31st DEADLINE! The WPMC Membership Application and Terms and Conditions can be downloaded at: <http://www.westpennmiataclub.com>. Click on the "Becoming a Member" link, and then on "Membership Application & Terms and Conditions". Both forms are also attached to this newsletter. We need a new Membership Application from you each year to assure that we have the correct contact information. Make your \$30.00 check payable to West Penn Miata Club and mail it, along with your executed forms, before March 31, 2018 to:

West Penn Miata Club
116 Teton Dr
Pittsburgh, PA 15239

After March 31st, the membership list will reflect those who have paid 2018 dues. Thanks for your continued support of WPMC and your participation in club events!

Tech Session by Larry Shockling

Our Spring Tech Session will take place at Jim Locke Automotive on Route 130 in Level Green at 10:00 AM on Saturday, April 7. Exact address is 549 Harrison City Road, Trafford, PA 15085. We have been treated to a session here a few times previously. A visit to Jim's shop is always informative and stimulating. It livens the spirit to improve your Miata and get out and hit the road, a track, or wherever that Spring air is waiting!

Although a general purpose automotive shop, Jim makes a specialty of Miatas. He is a builder, race driver, instructor, and also at times a racer. He is well known for his expertise with Spec Miatas. He can build one for you, deliver it,

and teach you to get the most out of it on the race track.

We believe that few members are into SCCA racing, but most would like to improve (can it be?) the handling of their car. We'll also be informed about successes in the Miata racing world. Jim will touch on different areas of interest. These could include:

- Recommended upgrades for your Miata, for cruises, for autocross, or even gymkhana events.
- Model D Factory Spec race car status
- Model A, B, C spec Miata local opportunities
- Spec Miata events at area tracks, like Pit Race, Mid Ohio, Watkins Glen
- Or maybe Miata racing on the Big Stage, like VIR.

Following the session, we plan to have lunch down the road at Lucci's Pizza and Pasta, 3510 Rte 130, Irwin PA. The Tech session is open to dues paying members only, so make sure you send in your dues to me. You also need to inform me you are coming to the session and lunch. RSVP to me by March 30 at lshockling@westpennmiataclub.com.

2018 CRUISIN & ZOOMIN SEASON BY LINDA ZIMLIKI

What an unusual winter we have had. In February, on my way to work, I look to my right while sitting at a light to find an MX-5 with the top down. February felt more like April or May. Now we are in March and winter seems to have decided to appear. I hope when May rolls around it will feel like May. Our season starts with the Tech Session April 7. We have 18 events and cruises scheduled for the year. The PIMC will be joining us in June for a cruise. We have a few new cruise leaders this year. Thank you for volunteering to lead a cruise. We have quite a few driving cruise this year ending at a restaurant. The Club's events and cruises are on the front page of newsletter.

For those of you who haven't renewed your membership yet, please do so by March 31. Both you and your spouse must sign the Terms and Conditions. Your renewal must

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be complete in order to attend the Tech Session. If dues are not paid by March 31, your name will be removed from the roster. Members will receive 2018 membership lists before the cruising season starts in May. If there are changes, we will email a new membership list before the next monthly meeting. No list will be e-mailed if we have no changes.

Some Regional Club events are listed below. They are also on the bottom of our Calendar of Events web page.

2018 NJ MIATA SPRING MEET - Sunday April 22 - 10:00 AM TO 1:00 PM, <http://myroadtrip.net/new-jersey-miata-spring-2018-meet-and-cruise-down-the-jersey-shore/>, Exit 123 Garden State Pkwy. Leaving at 1:00 pm for Bubbakoo's Burritos and Gracie and the Dudes Homemade Ice Cream - 1054 Ocean Ave, Sea Bright, NJ

MIATAS AT MYRTLE BEACH XII 2018, April 26-29, <http://www.miatasatmyrtlebeach.org/2.html>, sponsored by Triad Miata Club, Benefits Children's Home Society of North Carolina, Fee: \$30 per car, Hotel is Ocean Dunes - 800-599-9872 - Ask for Miatas of Myrtle Beach 2018 Event, One of the events will be the Blue Angel air show. Registration and event schedule are online at the above link.

ZOOMIN THE MOUNTAINS OF EAST TENNESSEE - June 6- 10, www.zoominthemountains.com , Evening at 1/2 mile Bristol Nascar Race Track, Hotel is Holiday Inn Johnson city - 423-282-4611, ATTENTION - IMPORTANT - We have almost the entire Holiday Inn booked for Zoomin. Due to another large event in our area at the same time as Zoomin , WE MUST HAVE HALF of our room block reserved by April, 2018. If we miss this deadline, we will lose several rooms and I was told all other hotels in the immediate area are already booked. With this being said, if you plan to attend PLEASE make your Reservations ASAP! Online Registration and payment will be added later in the year. There is a charge but you only pay for what you decide to do. The Charity Event benefits Speedway Children's Charity

MIATAS AT THE GAP XXII- August 2-5, <http://gapmiatas.com>, Tail of the Dragon - 318 Curves in 11 Miles, No Charge for this event. Events, roads and lodging are on the website. This is the longest running yearly Miata Event

ROCKIES RENDEZVOUS - September 14-16, sponsored by Canadian Rockies Miata Club, <https://www.rockiesrendezvous.ca/register/rockies-rendezvous-2018-registration>, Hotel - Marriott Resort in Kananaskis, Alberta , Canada, REGISTRATION FEE: \$239 CAD \$185.29 US per person, You have to register before you find out the price of the hotel.

TEXAS MIATA ROUNDUP 2018 - October 11-14, sponsored by Lone Star Miata Club, <http://www.internetcarclubs.com/Events/DrivingEvent.asp>, Hotels: Hilton Gardens Inn - 817-579-3804 Rate \$109 - \$129, Holiday Inn Express - 817-579-9977 Rate 89.99 to \$99.99, Still finalizing the details.

MIATAS AT THE BACK OF THE DRAGON - October 18 - 21, sponsored by Country Roads Miata to benefit Autism Society of NC, www.countryroadsmiatas.com , Hotel is Fairfield Inn - 276-228-8080 - Rate is \$109

2019

FALL FOR NEW ENGLAND II - September 19-21, 2019, sponsored by Mass Miata Club, Host Hotel is Westward Regency in Westward, MA, Additional information on registration and reservations will be coming later this year.

Zoom Zoomm Zoommm!

Cruise Types

LEISURE - A NICE DRIVE WHERE YOU WILL BE ABLE TO ENJOY THE COUNTRY SIDE - COMBINATION OF BELOW SPEED LIMIT & AT SPEED LIMIT

SPORTY - A SPEEDIER RIDE SO YOU CAN ENJOY THOSE CURVES - AT SPEED LIMIT

ZOOMIN - YOUR MIATA WILL BE MOVIN THROUGH A LOT OF CURVES WITH SPIRITED DRIVING





THE FUN 'N' THE SUN TIMES

Ragtop review

by Ron Hoffman, President

Where is Spring?!?! Right before I sat down to write this article, I checked the local weather forecast and they are predicting some snow showers everyday this week except Saturday with high temperatures in the 30's and low 40's – not good. The Little Guy is getting anxious to hit the roads and so am I! Hopefully on March 20th, first day of spring, Mother Nature will flip the switch and it will suddenly be cruising weather with mostly warm sunny days – let's hope.

Our first event of the year, the Pittsburgh International Auto Show is behind us. Many thanks to our club members who volunteered to promote our club at this event by passing out club membership information to the attendees and answering their questions. We did get a few new members as a result of meeting our member representatives at the auto show. They commented on the application form about getting it at the show – good job.

This year's show included both a Miata RF retractable roof model and a soft-top model at the Mazda display. It looked to me like both models were getting equal attention from the attendees. Personally, I still like the ragtop. I always loved those 2 seat roadsters from the 50's and 60's with the cloth tops but could never afford one back then. Thank goodness you no longer need to carry a toolbox with you now like you had to 50 years ago. Getting a bit too nostalgic here -- sorry!!

I have been on the lookout for Mazda to announce a limited (special) edition Miata that they usually do around this time but hadn't seen one so I decided to turn to Google. (I love to dream!!) Guess what, they are releasing a limited edition model. It is called the MX-5 Z-Sport model. It comes with a new cherry red fabric top, Machine Grey Metallic paint job, and Sand Leather seats. With only 300 planned, it is definitely a limited edition. You can get more details including pictures on MotorTrend's website:

<http://www.motortrend.com/news/mazda-mx-5-z-sport-features-cherry-red-roof/>

I see why Mazda hasn't made a formal announcement, though --some bad news. Mazda only plans to release this limited edition model in England – the US loses out!!

But there is also some good news. Apparently the cherry red top has generated a lot of interest so Mazda decided to make this color top also available in the US. I actually ran face-to-face into one with this roof while making arrangements for our first business meeting at Kenny Ross Mazda in Irwin. They have a Grand Touring model in their showroom with the cherry red fabric top, Ceramic Metallic paint, black leather seats w/red stitching and 6 speed manual transmission. It is sharp!! They also have two other Miatas with the red top including one with white paint. Check them out!! While I was at Kenny Ross, I also saw a couple used Miatas that caught my attention. They have a 2006 Touring model with black interior, black paint and automatic transmission with 85,000 miles on it.

It is in such good shape though; they have it in their showroom. They also have a 2011 Grand Touring model, black interior, silver paint, and automatic transmission with only 5,000 miles. Ask for Joe or Darrel, our club reps, if you are interested in any of these cars.

They also have some cherry red top Miatas at Bud Smail in Greensburg but none so far at Cochran in Monroeville. I couldn't check other dealers (I called these) since Mazda's inventory search option on their website didn't want to work for me.

Please check out our list of cruises and events for the upcoming year in this newsletter, if you haven't already. As in past years, it has something for everyone, so start marking your calendars!! Let's hope this current spat of cold, snowy weather will be our last and we can all start cruisin'!!

If you are visiting this site for the first time to check us out, Welcome!! I hope you'll join us for an event and experience first hand a new level of Zoomin' fun.

Later!!





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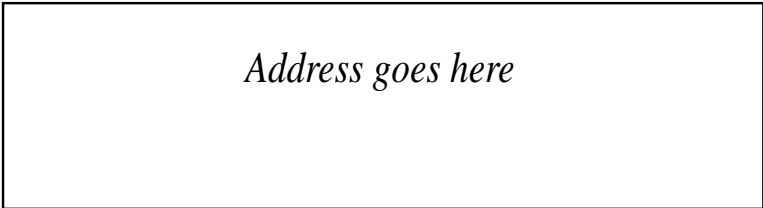
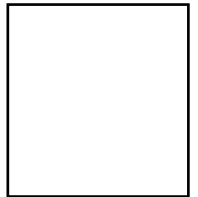
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