

## Upcoming Events

Sat May 24	Runway Cruise
Sat May 31	Jimmy Stewart Museum Cruise
Sat Jun 7 10:00 AM	Monthly Meeting at Moon Mazda and The Digs Cruise
Sat Jun 21	Mercer County Cruise
Sat Jun 28	Covered Bridge Cruise
Sat-Sun Jul 19-20	Pittsburgh Vintage Grand Prix
Sat Jul 26	Knoll Cruise
Sat Aug 2 10:00 AM	Monthly Meeting at Billco Motors and Flasche Cruise
Sat-Sun Aug 16-17	New River Gorge Cruise
Sat Aug 23	WPMC Picnic
Sat Aug 30	Kissin' & Huggin' at the Drive-In
Sat-Mon Aug 30 - Sep 1	Topless in the Mountains XIV

Sat Sep 6 10:00 AM	Monthly Meeting at Baglier Motors and Wendell August Cruise
Sat Sep 20	McPheron Surprise Cruise
Sat Sep 27	Clark Gable Cruise
Sat-Sun Oct 18-19	Murder Mystery Dinner Train Cruise
Sat Dec 6	Christmas Party

## 2008 CRUISIN & ZOOMIN SEASON BY LINDA ZIMLIKI

**H**opefully by the time everyone receives May's newsletter, we will have had our 1st cruise of the season. Rain Rain go away.

**T**here have been some changes in the event schedule. The Clark Gable Cruise has been cancelled for July 12th and rescheduled for September 27th. I'm working on a replacement cruise for July 12th. It would be to a winery we haven't been to yet. Details will be in next month's newsletter if we can arrange it.

**N**ew Miata Event: Explore Oregon "08" will be held July 25th thru 27th.

Hosted by: Willamette Valley Miata Club

Cost: \$45 per person/\$85 per couple - Limit: 100 people

Website: [www.oregonmx5.com](http://www.oregonmx5.com)





# THE FUN 'N' THE SUN TIMES

## The Runway Cruise by Sherry and Wally Swarmer

**T**his is your official invitation to join us for a cruise that is all about driving. Come with us to check out some good old country roads as we travel through three (3), yes, you read that right: three (3) counties: Allegheny, Butler, & Armstrong!

**Date & Time:** Saturday, May 24 - Meet at 10:00 AM, Depart at 10:30 AM

**Where:** Target parking lot/ Harmarville, PA (address: 2661 Freeport Road, Pgh., PA 15238 - Exit #48 PA Turnpike)

We will drive for the first 3 hours and then stop for lunch at The Runway Restaurant located at the Butler County Airport. After lunch we will drive for an additional 2 hours before stopping for some delicious ice cream in West Kittanning, where the cruise will end; it should be approximately 5:00 pm.

Please let us know if you plan to zoom with us by responding by email to: [swarmrn@nauticom.net](mailto:swarmrn@nauticom.net) or by calling us at 724-443-0834.

Hope to see YOU there!!!!

## Jimmy Stewart Museum Cruise by Jeff & Melissa Tai

**I** remember the first time I drove up to IUP to visit friends in college. I was struck with how scenic the drive was. And I remember thinking to myself "Boy! It would be cool to make this drive on the twisty roads in a sports car top down!!!"

**F**ast forward 20 some odd years. Fall 2007, West Penn Miata Club meeting. Linda Z was asking for volunteers to lead cruises for the following year. I made the fatal mistake of making eye contact and answering "Yes" when asked if I'd like to lead a cruise.

I was sweating big time because I had said "Yes. I will lead a cruise" and yet I had no idea what was involved. Linda being the veteran cruise planner gave me some things to think about. (type of cruise, destination, points of interest, etc...) A few days later it dawned on me "Indiana, PA. I never did that drive top down like I wanted. That could be fun. AND it'd be even cooler with the Miata club!" Linda and I came up with a nice drive, a meal at a local eatery, a visit to the Jimmy Stewart museum, and a stop at Yarnick's Farm Market.

How fun would that be to get a whole bunch of Miatas out on the back roads of Indiana county?

Come join us on a cruise to Indiana, PA! The county seat of Indiana County. The "**Christmas Tree** Capital of the World". The hometown of celebrated environmentalist author, Edward Abbey, famed opera singer Renee Fleming, and some fella named Jimmy Stewart.

**Date & Time:** Sat. May 31 at 10:00 AM

**Place:** Harmarville Giant Eagle Express located at 2611 Freeport Road, Pittsburgh, PA. 15238. (Close to the Allegheny Valley Turnpike exit.)

**Lunch:** At Roseann's Everyday Gourmet in Indiana, PA before going to the museum.

**RSVP:** Jeff Tai, (412) 782-0714 or [jtai@verizon.net](mailto:jtai@verizon.net) by May 28

**FYI...** They're celebrating Jimmy Stewart's 100th birthday this year.

**More information:**  
The Giant Eagle Express Web site:  
<http://www.gianteagle.com/storelocator/storedetails.aspx?storeid=921>

The restaurant we're having lunch at: <http://roseanns.com/>

The Jimmy Stewart Museum. <http://www.jimmy.org/>





# THE FUN 'N' THE SUN TIMES

## THE MEADOWCROFT VILLAGE DIGS CRUISE BY TOM AND MARY JANE SERTIK

**I**t is always nice to go back in time to view how life was many years ago. The Miata Club had a cruise to Meadowcroft Village in Washington County last year, and although we had a great time, we were unable to visit the Rock Shelter as it was closed for renovations. Following the June 7th meeting at Moon Mazda we will leave to visit the home of prehistoric man and explore the ancient history of how man lived 16,000 years ago. Also new this year is the more modern Native American Village depicting Native American Life 400 years ago.

Following that, we will stop for lunch at a most unique restaurant and end the cruise at Sarris Candy and ice cream in Canonsburg.

Admission cost for Meadowcroft is \$8.00 per person. Please RSVP by May 30 to 724-941-6418 or spouses@nb.net

Date & Time - June 7 at 10:00 AM  
Place - Moon Mazda - Meeting  
Cruise - 11:00 AM  
Meadowcroft Village - 12:30 PM  
Lunch - Approx. 2:00 PM

## The Covered Bridges and Gravity Hill Cruise by Jim & Janet Pfeiffer

**C**ome join us in an exciting Covered Bridges and Gravity Hill driving tour to Bedford County. On our way to Bedford, we will take some scenic back roads enabling us to enjoy some of the countryside. Once in Bedford, we will visit the covered bridges. There is some interesting history with most of the bridges in Bedford County. Some bridges will be viewed from the roadside only, other bridges we can travel over, get out of our cars and take pictures. While in Bedford, we don't want to miss the often talked about, but seldom found Gravity Hill. This is the Hill that defies gravity, where cars roll uphill, water flows the wrong way. How does it happen? There's

all kind of speculations, but no one knows fore sure. There is a small town in Bedford County with several orchards. One of these orchards will have strawberries and berries available this time of the year. So you might want to leave room in the trunk of your car for some "take-homes." Not to worry, we will manage to get in lunch. There is a cozy restaurant on Rt. 56 with a Country Store that looks inviting. This may be where we will stop. And, we don't want to forget our final stop - ice cream before we depart for home. So, plan to meet us at Smail's Mazda on Rt. 30 in Greensburg at 9:30 am, June 28<sup>th</sup> to begin our cruise to Bedford.

RSVP: [pjentre@comcast.net](mailto:pjentre@comcast.net) or call 724-468-8435 by June 22<sup>nd</sup>.

## Mercer County Cruise



by Jim Pacillo

**J**oin us on a delightful drive through Mercer County this June 21. I know you'll enjoy yourself for there is a lot to see. The beautiful country side views which include a farm with adorable miniature horses, the last Erie Extension Canal Lock, and Raisch Log cabin. Also the beautiful Buhl Park witch is perfect for walking, running, picnics, and cruising. There will be some nice roads with a lot of curves and some straight ones where we can blow out some carbon build up. We'll have a wonderful lunch at Muscarella's and don't forget the ice cream. All in all this will be an enjoyable day I hope you will join us.

Date and Time. June 21 at 10:00 a.m..  
Place. Sheetz across from the Grove City Outlets on Rt. 208.  
RSVP: 724-962-5846 or [miatajim90@yahoo.com](mailto:miatajim90@yahoo.com)





# THE FUN 'N' THE SUN TIMES

## PITTSBURGH VINTAGE GRAND PRIX BY GARRY MATSON

**S**ummertime is here and racing is in the air, vintage racing that is. Pittsburgh and Schenley Park will again hear the roar of racing engines and the scenery will be filled with some beautiful show cars. Our club will be attending again this year, representing one of the all time best sports car shows to date.

The PVGP schedule includes:

Saturday and Sunday, July 12th and 13th with racing at the Beaver Run Motorsports Complex in Beaver Falls. There will be vintage racing, an American ground pounders class (Mustangs, Camaros, etc.), and SCCA Solo II autocrossing.

Monday, July 14th has an invitational Car Show on Walnut St. in Oakland from 5-9 pm. Since this is by invitation, the vehicles attending are some of the best that you may never see at other car cruises.

Tuesday, July 15th, there is a car cruise with live music at the Waterfront in Homestead from 5-9 pm. A \$5 donation is asked from cruisers to benefit the charities. A free gift is given for each donation. In 2007, there were approximately 600 cars in attendance.

Wednesday, July 16th, a downtown parade and car display takes place from 10:30 am - 2 pm. Vehicles will be on display at the US Steel Bldg Plaza, Market Square, and PPG Place.

Saturday, July 19th, British Car Day will be held on Schenley Park Golf Course from 11 am - 4 pm. Preregistration is recommended and a registration form is included. Vintage racing practice and qualifying starts at 8:15 am and continues throughout the day. WPMC WILL HAVE A TENT AT PVGP.

Sunday, July 20th, practice starts at 8:15 am with racing from noon - 5 pm. The Larry Smith car show will be held on the golf course during the day. This show includes some of the most unique and rare vehicles you may ever see.

Entrance to the shows on Saturday and Sunday is at the

main gate at Schenley Drive / Forbes Ave. at 9:30 am. A registration form for the combined car show being held on Saturday and Sunday is included which you can mail in or go online at [www.pvgp.org/register](http://www.pvgp.org/register). The registration donation of \$25 benefits the Autism Society of Pgh. and the Allegheny Valley School and includes admission to the car shows and races on Saturday and Sunday.

**IF ANYONE IS PLANNING ON ATTENDING SAT JULY 19TH OR SUN JULY 20TH PLEASE CONTACT ME AT [remsgem@yahoo.com](mailto:remsgem@yahoo.com) OR 412-653-4066.**

Additional information can be found on the PVGP web site at [www.pvgp.org](http://www.pvgp.org).

## Topless in the Mountains - XIV by Steve Lapp

The 14th version of Topless in the Mountains will be from Saturday, August 30 to Monday, September 1. This is an event sponsored by the Trillium Club from Canada with an invitation to WPMC. As always, this event is about one thing - DRIVING. Over the course of two days, expect to take your Miata over 500 miles on some of the best roads West Virginia has to offer.

This year, WPMC has been allotted five spaces. If interested, you are encouraged to book early, but please only make a reservation if you fully intend to come barring some last minute complication. The procedure for registration follows:

1. Contact Steve Lapp at [slapp@westpennmiataclub.com](mailto:slapp@westpennmiataclub.com) or 412-366-3388 to insure open spaces are available.
2. If spaces are available, Steve will send you a registration form which you will complete and send to Bill Olijnyk and Debbie Miller, Trillium leaders for this event.
3. Book your room at the Buckhannon Hampton Inn for August 30 to September 1 by calling 304-473-0900.

At this point, two spots are open as Steve Lapp, Paul and Lulu McCullough, and Dave and Carole McLaughlin have signed up.





# THE FUN 'N' THE SUN TIMES

## Report on Iron Furnace Tour by Ray and Fran Robb

**T**he day dawned dull and rainy, hardly the kind of weather to entice our Miatas out of their dry garages, but 15 adventuresome cars did just that and showed up at the Latrobe Eat' N Park to follow our stalwart leaders, Karen and Bill McCullough, on some exciting back roads of Westmoreland County to visit four old iron furnaces. Two were restored and in excellent condition while the other two were readily identifiable but in much worse shape.

Although most of the roads were in good shape, we did have to dodge a fallen tree and munching deer to complete our road tour. Early in the trek, the weather changed for the better and tops began to unfold to allow the sun in rather than keep the rain out.

We had our first pit stop at the Pie Shoppe in Laughlintown where the line for the unisex potty formed very quickly. Since we were stopping at the Pie Shoppe to meet our tour guides into the private Rolling Rock Club where the California Iron Forge was located, most members found something sweet to sample before leaving. While at the Pie Shoppe, we performed some maintenance on one member's Miata. It seems one of his tires was low on air and needed a fill up. Now we know how many people it takes to perform this chore, about twenty people or just about everyone who was there.

The tour guides, Karen's sister, Ruth Campbell, and her friend, Ed Concus, who works at the club, led our group into the club and through the one lane roads to the furnace. It included crossing a reproduction of a covered bridge where a photo opportunity was set up for everyone. Linda Zimlik took photos of every car as it returned through the bridge.

As we were leaving Rolling Rock, we passed a group of horses in a waterlogged pasture. One of the horses was having a fine time splashing and pawing in the water which created a great photo shot for many of our crew.

We arrived at our luncheon spot, DeNunzio's Italian Chop House at the Arnold Palmer Airport in Latrobe, a little late but efficient Karen had already phoned ahead to alert them so everything was ready when we got there. Lunch was excellent with plenty of chitchat and many pictures being taken. Thanks again to Karen and Bill McCullough for finding so many Miata-friendly roads and leading us on this excellent adventure.

## MIATA WORLD II BY LINDA ZIMLIKI

**T**he website & registration for Miata World II should be available at the end of May if there are no technical difficulties. They are talking around 1000 Miatas will be gathered in Grapevine for the event. I spoke with Mazda's North America Operations person at Miatas Doin' The Charleston about having Miatas to rent at Miata World II. Mazda is looking into that possibility. Hopefully they will know by the time the website is opened.

## Correction from April Newsletter

**K**enjitsu offers a 10% Miata Club member discount on ALL club member vehicles. In addition, while they can't afford to offer the 10% across the board on emissions and inspections, if a member has a free dealer coupon on those items, they will honor them on Miatas.





# THE FUN 'N' THE SUN TIMES

## MIATAS DOIN' THE CHARLESTON



BY JOE & LINDA ZIMLIKI

**O**n April 29 we headed our Miata South to gather with fellow Miata lovers to Do Charleston, South Carolina and Doin' Charleston we most certainly did. The Low Country Miata Club showed us their famous Southern hospitality. We were greeted at the hotel door and their members were waiting to help us give our baby a bath after its long ride. The Bonds also represented WPMC at this event & we met up with them in the evenings. Joe & I headed out right away exploring. We took a boat ride to see Ft Sumter & saw the famous Angel Oak Tree. It is 1500 yrs old & 25 ft in diameter. We toured Boone Hall Plantation, which is still a working plantation. It produced rice, cotton, indigo & bricks. It supplied the bricks used to build Charleston & all federal buildings up to New York City. We ate at the famous Hominy Grill & Joe is still talking about its Shrimp & Grits meal. Thursday evening participants were taken on a dinner dance cruise of the Charleston Harbor. It was a beautiful evening and a great way to see Charleston's skyline.

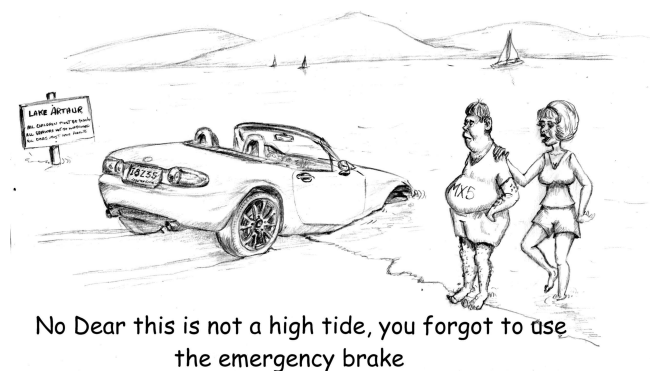
Next morning we were up at 4:45 a.m. to be led to Patriot's Point for the group photo. They had motorcycle cops stopping Interstate highway traffic to get us to our destination. After the shoot, we were off again to explore. We visited plantations & swamps on the plantations. We enjoyed some down time on the front porch of Charleston Tea Plantation with people from the Lone Star Miata Club. The Tea Plantation is the only place in America that grows tea. We visited the original site of Charleston that was protected by marshlands. After 10 years, it was moved to its new site for better trading.

Friday evening everyone was picked up by bus & taken to Elks Club for a Beach Bash. The place was decorated with different size beach balls & umbrellas. They had a DJ & picnic food buffet. Everyone danced & had fun. It was a great evening.

Saturday Joe wanted to place his feet in Atlantic Ocean so we went to Sullivan's Island and Ft Moultrie then on to Isle of Palms. Then we decided to Do Charleston. We had driven around Charleston when we first arrived now we wanted a closer look. We walked downtown Charleston & toured several of the homes. We got a feel for the life in Charleston during 1700, 1800 & early 1900's. What a great town!

Saturday evening was the closing banquet. The Low Country Miata folks certainly know how to lay out a repast fit for a king. Door prizes were given out & everyone got something. Bonds represented our club well. Bryan got second prize in the car show M1 division. Leslie won the scavenger hunt.

We visited the wonderful city of Charleston & made a lot of new Miata friends. Low Country Miata Club organized a great event & I know we will visit Charleston again.



A Miatatoon by Jim Pacillo





# THE FUN 'N' THE SUN TIMES

## Journeys with John by President John Whitmire

**S**ince last month's newsletter, we have participated in the Pittsburgh Auto Show, which went very well. My thanks to all that helped out! Don't know if we got any new members, but certainly some nibbles, as most of the handout material we had was distributed. The folks from Mazda reiterated how much they appreciate us participating - Good publicity for Mazda and us. The one downside was a child apparently bumped into our easel that was holding up our WPMC Miata Mountain Mania poster, knocking it over and breaking the glass. No injuries however! We did get the poster and frame back undamaged.

Unfortunately we ended up canceling the May 3rd meeting at Falconi's Moon Township Mazda and the "This-way-That-way" cruise. Think the combination of a major competing out-of-town event, bad weather, and construction on the dreaded Parkway East all contributed to the lack of interest. Our next monthly meeting and cruise also leaves from Falconi's Moon Township Mazda. It is the Digs Cruise scheduled for June 7th, I encourage all to attend!

We have a very exciting month of events planned with cruises on May 10th, May 24th, and May 31st. Please see the forum and the newsletters for details.

**NOTE:** The Clark Gable Cruise, Scheduled for July 12th is being CHANGED to Sep.27th. Shar and I are planning this cruise and have run into an unavoidable conflict, which is forcing the change. Hope this does not create a hardship for anyone, as we have found some great roads, spanning WV, OH, and PA leading us to and from the Clark Gable Museum in Cadiz, OH, his boyhood home. This should be a fun event, which will leave from I-79 Mazda. Please see newsletter and Forum for additional details.

I'm just going to toss this thought out for comment from the members. Since the Miata is no longer badged as such, should we consider a modification to our club name? My

only concern is that at some point, as Mazda gets further and further away from using the Miata name, will people start thinking of us as a club for Miatas only? I haven't seen any indication that this is happening, or causing us to not capture potential new members who buy new MX-5s, but I could see the possibility down the road. I don't know what the new name might be, West Penn Miata/MX-5 Club? We would certainly need to talk about that. In any event, give it some thought, certainly not something that needs to happen any time soon.

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.

\* 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.

\* If you have gotten a new email provider, please remember to let us know. Send corrections to Sherry Swarmer, our secretary at [sswarmer@westpenmiataclub.com](mailto:sswarmer@westpenmiataclub.com)

Hope to see you on the road.

## June Deadline

The deadline for articles for the June newsletter is June 9, 2008





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