

## Upcoming Events

Sat  
Oct 13

Fall Foliage Cruise

Sat  
Dec 1

WPMC Christmas Party

## Fall Foliage Cruise by Joe & Linda Zimlik

**T**here is nothing like the Laurel Highlands in the fall. Let's hope Mother Nature will cooperate with beautiful colors the second Saturday in October. Our Miatas will cruise the country byways while taking in the scenery. We will make stops at some of our favorite places.

**Date & Time:** Saturday October 13, 10:00 AM

**Meeting Place:** 110 Mountain Laurel Plaza, Latrobe, PA,  
Parking area between Get Go and closed K-Mart

**Limit:** 32 People

**Cruise Category:** Sporty, Zoomin

**RSVP:** [izimlik@westpennmiataclub.com](mailto:izimlik@westpennmiataclub.com) or 724-327-1762 by October 7

## Roadster Factory Cruise Report by Ron and Clare Vail

**A**s we gathered at the cruise meeting place on August 11th. I realized that this was going to be a cool cruise. The weather was cool, Jack and Nancy Bartek had put together a cool set of turn by turn directions for the cruise, and The Roadster Factory was a cool destination for our Miata club! After the pre-cruise meeting, our 14

car convoy turned right onto Route 30, took the first right turn and didn't go on any other major highway until the end of the cruise - Perfect! After a zig and a zag we wound up on Route 130 heading east, a gorgeous scenic road for many miles that turns zoomy as it goes up and over Chestnut Ridge.

**I**n Stahlstown, we turned left on Route 711 heading north. That route is very picturesque with horse farms and golf courses seemingly everywhere you looked on the way to Ligonier. Nancy did an excellent job giving us a heads up on upcoming intersections, and we urged each other to get all of our Miatas through the traffic light at Route 30 and 711 before it turned red. We made it through the road construction in town without trouble and to the Sheetz rest stop a short time later. As we continued, we were treated to beautiful highlands scenery past Champion Lakes Golf Course then down to New Florence and the Conemaugh River. A few more zigs and zags later, we headed up Route 403 to The Roadster Factory.

**T**he Roadster Factory is the life's work of Charles Runyan, starting in his apartment in 1978 and growing to be the go-to place for everyone who wants to maintain or restore all 1950's and 1960's Triumph Sports Cars and MGBs. Google "The Roadster Factory" and check out the website. It is a wonderful treasure for British car enthusiasts. We had a complete tour of the facility by none other than the owner's son, a gracious host with refreshments for us and willing to answer any and all questions we had. They even had two race cars on display in the lobby!

**I**n keeping with proper British Sports Car tradition, the weather turned to mist and rain when we left The Roadster Factory. Jack and Nancy then led us on some of the best Miata roads that went this way, that way, and every way in between! When we emerged from the woods onto Route 119, by some wizardry we were in view of the Homer City Power Plant, sister to the Conemaugh Power Plant we saw in New Florence. Our Miata Train snaked our way down 119 a few miles to Route 22 and our lunch stop at the 37 Grill at the Chestnut Ridge Golf Course. The folks at the 37 Grill provided us fine food, beverages, and excellent service, and as we were leaving the restaurant the weather changed again to a hot sunny day! We took the back way to the Blairsville DQ for our traditional ice cream treat, and we all thanked Jack and Nancy for a most enjoyable West Penn Miata Club Cruise.





# THE FUN 'N' THE SUN TIMES

## 2018 CRUISIN & ZOOMIN SEASON BY LINDA ZIMLIKI

**T**he cruisin season is winding down. Unfortunately, the next two cruises had to cancel. J & D Winery Cruise was canceled due to impending bad weather caused by hurricane Florence. The expected rainfall would impede our cruisin and time at the winery. Rich and Leeanna tried to find a time to reschedule this year but it wasn't possible. The Laurel Highlands Cruise also had to cancel. Dave Kopco fell and tore the tendons off his knee cap. He had surgery on September 5th and can't drive. This cruise was canceled last year, and Dave said it will definitely happen next year. You can send Dave a recovery card. His address is on the membership list. We do have one more cruise this year. Details are in this month's newsletter. The Christmas Party will be Saturday, December 1. There will be more information in next month's newsletter. I ask members attending to make a homemade item for the Homemade Table. It can be an homemade item or baked item. So mark your calendar, and we hope to see you there.

Zoom Zoomm Zoommm!

## Ragtop review by Ron Hoffman, President

**T**he Club's summer picnic is now behind us so you know what that means – yep, fall is almost here. Though right now as I am writing this article (Sept. 5th) it feels like summer in Georgia with some of the highest heat and humidity we've experienced this summer – even too hot for top down driving!! The good news is that it is supposed to cool down in a couple days to more fall-like temperatures. We had a very good turnout for the picnic. Forty-nine members attended which was almost 30% more than last year's attendance. Hope everyone had a good time and had their fill of great picnic food. I had to jump in this year and take over the organization of the picnic due to the resignation of our past president so I was sweating it a bit, but the board members came through as they always do and helped out along with others who pitched in with the cooking and setup. I worried about nothing!! Again, thanks to all who helped out, along with those who brought games and a big thanks to all for the great food dishes. There is only one cruise left in this



season. Check this newsletter for details. If you haven't gone on a cruise yet this year, then time and cruises are running out!! As most of you know, Fall in SW PA can be some of the best cruising times of the year, so I urge you to sign up for our final cruise if you haven't already.

**I** found another interesting Miata news article I thought was worth mentioning. For anyone who has a 2004 factory-turbocharged Mazdaspeed MX-5 Miata (I think there might be one in the club, but not sure), you may have one of the highest rated Miatas made. Check out the TorqueNews article: "A 14-Year-Old Mazda Miata May Be Better Than a New One". It was published back in June. The article pretty much rates both the 2004 and 2018 Miatas the same and "have well-earned places among the great Miatas". The fact that a 14 year old model is being considered on par with a brand new model with all its "advanced features" is quite remarkable as far as I'm concerned. I know of a member in the Presque Isle Club that has a 2004 Mazdaspeed and he has said it is definitely the last Miata he will ever own; he's in love with it that much!! I am guessing similar articles will be coming out next year when they start comparing the 2019 Miata with its most powerful engine yet to its predecessors. The direct link is: <https://www.torquenews.com/4022/14-year-old-mazda-miata-may-be-better-new-one>

Later!!

## October Deadline

The deadline for articles for the October newsletter is October 6, 2018

## 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**





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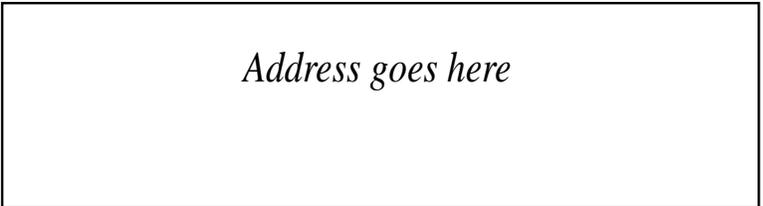
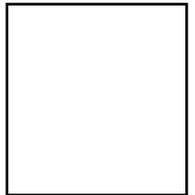
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