

## Upcoming Events

Sat Sep 11	Ferry Crossing Cruise
Sat Sep 18	Pittsburgh Pistons in the Park
Sat Sep 25	Jimmy Stewart Museum Cruise
Sat-Sun Oct 9-10	Fall Foliage & Train Ride Cruise
Sat Dec 4	WPMC Annual Christmas Party

## Ferry Crossing Cruise by Don Hamm

Come and experience a ferry boat ride before it becomes a footnote of history. Sistersville WV operates one of four remaining ferry crossings for the length of the Ohio river. Chartered in 1818 it was first powered by two horses (its been updated since then). The roads are well paved, curved to winding and of course there will be stops for lunch and ice cream. Cruise is approximately 100 miles (2+ hrs) one way driving but return can be lessened by divided higher speed highway or re-enjoy the roads by backtracking the route.

**Date and Time:** Saturday September 11 – Meet at 9:30 AM, leave by 10:00 AM.

**Meeting Place:** McDonalds - Washington PA, Exit 41 (Race Track Road) off RT 79

**Cruise Type:** Leisure to Sporty

**Limit:** 12 cars due to ferry capacity and crossing time.

**RSVP:** deljhamm@verizon.net by September 1st

## Pittsburgh Pistons in the Park by Linda Zimlik

We are adding another event to our schedule. The City of Pittsburgh Office of Special Events has invited our club to participate in a Cruise-In. There will be classic and tuner cars along with trucks and street rods. First 100 cars to arrive will receive dash plaques and raffle tickets. There will be food vendors, prizes, and more. It is FREE. The event will be held on the North Side. We would like to know who plans to attend because the City will reserve a place for our members in one area. They would like to know the number of cars to plan the size of that area. I hope you will join us for Pistons In The Park. Participants are free to arrive anytime after 10:00 A.M.

**Date & Time:** Saturday September 18, 2021, Noon - 4 PM

**Place:** West Ohio Street, Allegheny Commons Park, North Side

**RSVP:** By September 2 to Linda Zimlik at [lzimlik@westpennmiataclub.com](mailto:lzimlik@westpennmiataclub.com)

## 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

## Jimmy Stewart Museum Cruise



by Dennis Clawson

**T**he Jimmy Stewart Museum is a definite must-see for film buffs and Jimmy fans alike! Over 6,000 visitors a year come to this one-of-a kind museum. We have had visitors from all 50 states and multiple countries from around the world. Jimmy Stewart's legacy is alive and well in Indiana, PA and worth the visit to Stewart's quaint hometown. There is so much to see and experience! Come and see for yourself what all the talk is about and learn about Jimmy Stewart's wonderful life! Come and join us on this destination cruise along route 259 to the Jimmy Stewart Museum in Indiana, PA.

The cruise will begin in Latrobe, Pa at the Mount Laurel Plaza behind the GetGo on route 30. Meet at 9:00 and depart at 9:30. It will be sporty+ ride. We plan to have lunch at the Coney (Coney Island Restaurant), 642 Philadelphia Street in Indiana. A menu can be found on line. If there is a large group we might consider a buffet. After lunch we will cross the street to the Jimmy Stewart Museum. There is a film at 1:00 as well as the artifacts and informative displays surrounding his life and movies. Museum Pricing: Adult \$10, Senior or Military (62+) \$8, Ages 7-17 \$8.

There is ample parking in the nearby parking garage and perhaps if we are lucky on the street as well. Ice Cream will be at The Meadows in Indiana for frozen custard!

Please notify me by September 12 if you plan to attend. Dennis Clawson - cornet553@yahoo.com or message me at 814-932-4938.

## Fall Foliage & Train Ride Cruise

by Joe & Linda Zimlik

(This Cruise is Full - Please register to be placed on the wait list.)

**O**ctober, when hopefully fall foliage is in full force, we will zoom our Miatas down south to Maryland on some really great windy roads. This trip is an overnigher. We will take some great curvy roads to the town of Cumberland, Maryland, where three historic modes of transportation were started along the Potomac River. These were the C & O Canal, National Road - "the road that built a nation", and B&O Railroad. We will visit the C&O Canal National Historic Park Museum. This museum explains how the canal was built and the struggles to build it. A life size replica of a canal boat is on the park's property. The Western Maryland Railroad Station is there along with the Cumberland Train Museum, and numerous specialty shops.

Sunday we zoom to Potomac Eagle in West Virginia, where we will take a 3 hour excursion on a train along the southern branch of the Potomac to the 6 mile trough. The trough is a narrow passage where only canoes, trains, and eagles can go. There are 8 documented eagle nests in the trough. You are bound to see at least one eagle. It is a beautiful ride to the trough where you can use an open air car to view the trough.

Rooms at the hotel will be released by September 9 which is why I am advertising the trip early. We are taking 28 people. If interested, please notify me. Once I have your check for the train trip, I will send you hotel information..

**Date & Time:** Sat-Sun, October 9-10, meet at 8:00 AM

**Meeting Place :** Get Go, 1100 Mountain Laurel Plaza, Route 30, Latrobe

**Type of Cruise:** Zoomin & Sporty

**Cost:** \$50 per person train ride, \$94 plus taxes hotel , Free - Museums

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Limit: 28 People

RSVP: By September 1 to [lzimlik@westpennmiataclub.com](mailto:lzimlik@westpennmiataclub.com)

## Fort Roberdeau Cruise Review

by Marlene Strang

**T**he sky was cloudy but spirits were bright as the WPM squad gathered in Blairsville to start the August 7th Fort Roberdeau cruise. Experienced teams gave a warm, friendly welcome to new member, yours truly, Marlene Strang. Team Leader, Tom Cypher, outlined a leisurely drive. Printed directions were slightly modified due to road construction. Real time communication was conducted via Talkabout on Channel 12.

(Rookie Note: Relief! My set passed radio check. The number system is way cool. Yikes ! I'm in #2 position. What's the correct gap ? Why didn't I ask ?)

**A**nd we're off...The first leg out of Blairsville took us North on 119. We then turned onto roads less traveled, an undulating trail passing old farmsteads, horse farms and shadowed woodlands. Thanks to most excellent communications, no turns were missed. We continued North to 219 before heading South on 36 to Altoona. 36 is a lovely drive down into the Altoona valley, beautiful in the Fall too.

(Rookie Note: Easy-peasy rest break. These numbers are fabulous for keeping everyone in order as we exit Sheetz. Am I maintaining correct gap? Tighten up a little. Ok. This has been a great drive. I'm going to do this route again.)

**E**veryone was ready for lunch at Marzonnies, something for everyone on the menu. Delish. Waitress did a commendable job with our large group. Lunch was a chance to relax a bit before heading out on the final leg of the trip. The scamper up to the fort was exhilarating with plenty of Miata worthy twisties.

(Rookie Note: I'm channeling Grace Kelly in To Catch a

Thief. Zoom-Zoom. Is this what Tail of the Dragon is like? How did people do this with horse & wagon?)

**A**dmission to the colonial era fort was a nominal \$4. The gift shop displayed many interesting items; several cookbooks, fans, and corn dolls. Alas, I'd spent my allowance on WPM swag. The group was escorted into the museum by a costumed docet. An educational video illustrated the lead mine fort and Roberdeau's place in American history. After the film, the docet discussed artifacts in the collection.

**W**e then made our way to the Fort where the Park Ranger told us about daily life. Then it was off to our favorite place, Meadow ice cream. We talked Tom into taking us to Boyer Outlet, where we loaded up on candy. Then we said our Good Byes and started our long way home. It was a very nice day. I will certainly remember Kettle Road, what a great Miata Road.

## The Vagabond Cruise Review

by Mary & Bruce Edwards

**T**he cruise started well before the 8:30 meeting at the Mt. Pleasant Sheetz. Nancy & Jack Bartek put in the extra thought and effort by asking everyone to change our meeting place and starting time so we would have a bigger window for all the sights and sounds that they had planned for the day.

**O**ur route retraced some of the "Vagabonds" excursion from 100 years ago. At the meeting, Nancy distributed a summary of the July 1921 trip that Edison, Ford, Firestone & Burroughs took on their way to Swallow Falls. Although we did not see the curious and cheering crowds of the original travelers, I think we had as much or more fun.

**A**ll 12 Miatas, after a quick meeting, started out for the day. Our cruise through southwest PA, WV, and MD included some of the best Miata roads that the Appalachian region has to offer. Are there any 4-lane highways in the region? We didn't drive on any. The sun was warm, the roads were shady and the pavement was smooth. The traffic, stop signs, stop lights, and wannabees were few

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and far between.

We quickly wound our way to Routes 711 and 381, the Laurel Highlands Scenic Byway. We headed south along the Laurel Ridge through rolling hills and flowing roads.

The scenery included farms, country churches, villages, and a golf course. Horses and cows dotted the landscape.

Ohiopyle (PA) was just waking up as we drove through. The kayaks and rafts were ready for the whitewater enthusiasts who had not yet arrived. After about an hour, we turned onto the "National Road" Route 40 for our pit stop at the Ft. Necessity Battlefield Visitor Center.

As we headed toward Swallow Falls on Route 381 we crossed the Mason-Dixon line and wound our way through WV and MD with vistas of tree covered mountain after mountain around every turn for as far as we could see. The animals changed to deer and a runaway dog playing Frogger. Linda pointed out a young buck in the brush who was admiring our Miatas as we drove by.

We arrived at Swallow Falls Park shortly after 11. (No senior discount at the park in MD.) After group parking and a semi-short walk to Muddy Falls for a group picture, we were released on our own recognizance to explore the beauty and history of the park until our 12:15 departure.

The park and the falls – Muddy Creek and Swallow – were both relaxing and energizing.

It was a short trip to Mountain State Brewery Co. where we were greeted and seated better than at most family gatherings. Nancy passed out numbered wedding-worthy menu selection place cards, either to help the servers or remind the cruisers of their selections, or both. After lots of good food and shared stories, we headed off for ice cream, driving through McHenry at Deep Creek and Oakland, MD, toward our final stop. The ice cream saga will need to be covered when there is more space and time.

Good friends and food, Miata roads, beautiful scenery, 350 years of history, and destinations worth revisiting made it a special day.

Thank you, Nancy and Jack, for a memorable cruise.

## 2021 WPMC Picnic Review by Linda Zimlik

It was nice to be able to get together again for our picnic. Last year we had 14 people and everyone bought their own sides. We were back to normal this year with an array of side dishes and delicious desserts.

Very little was left of the meat, the club's contribution. Everyone socialized and got to know each other better. We had several new people at the picnic. You know it was a good picnic when people stuck around and didn't leave right away.

I want to thank Bobby and Don for being our cooks. I understand they don't do it at home. You guys did a very nice job. A very special thank you to Diane, Peg & Sandra for all your help setting up and cleaning up.



## October Deadline

The deadline for articles for the October newsletter is October 2, 2021







# THE FUN 'N' THE SUN TIMES

## 2021 CRUISIN & ZOOMIN SEASON

BY LINDA ZIMLIKI

**W**e are winding down our 2021 season with four cruises left. Check out the newsletter for more details on the Ferry Crossing Cruise, Pistons in the Park, the Jimmy Stewart Museum Cruise and the Fall Foliage and Train Ride Cruise, currently full with a waiting list. The last event of the year is the Christmas party on December 4. We start planning for it this week.

The end of the year is nearing so start thinking about cruises for 2022. If you would like to do a cruise next year please let me know. I can let you know if it has been done or if someone else has already had the same great idea. I can help you plan a cruise or give you an idea.

Zoom Zoomm Zoommm!

## Let's go Cruisin by Bobby Thomas, President

**R**ecently the new VW, generation seven of this particular model, was reviewed by a gentleman whose work has been syndicated and appreciated by car people and shoppers for many years.

This is the last of the previously well selling Golf models. The price was pricey, and the car was unremarkable in any way except it earned a five star ratings out of five for its build quality, quite an accomplishment for a car assembly in Mexico. So, as Scott Sturgis states, "VW, in their ineminanable way, has decided to cancel production of this model."

Many thoughts come to mind, after seven generations of production, who had been buying this vehicle, and where did they suddenly go? The car is not outstanding with the exception of superior build quality. Simple to operate when the driver is fully engaged in actual driving, that is to say, in the act of shifting the standard transmission. Oh you say, that's it, it's a stick shift. Well, sure it is, that act

which makes all others more difficult to do while actually driving the vehicle. Well, no wonder, so some drivers have more important priorities now.

A friend of mine was riding as passenger in my sports car last week and asked, where shall I put my can of soda, where is the cup holder? Alas, my car was made with no such modern connivance and don't even ask about cruise control, negative. Ask about most any new fan dangled add on in this century and the answer is the same, many apologies, they don't exist on this car.

Electronics, not necessarily electric propulsion has taken over the car. Previously cluttered with mostly metal and steel, on some level older cars were able to be understood.

I didn't understand all mechanical components on a 51 Studebaker, but I was able to relate to them, you know, the leg bones connected to the knee bone, that kind of thing. But black plastic boxes? Completely clueless.

Managing to pilot a 62 olds whilst propped up on telephone books, with a truck clutch and three on the tree was a milestone in my youth. Double clutching a bit later in an Opel Kadet impressed a sixteen year old riding shotgun position. I was ten at the time. Must be why shifting gears retains its appeal for me. While the world moves away, I hang on to my gear shift with greater might each time I hear that another super car has dropped the stick.

I have never hankered for a VW golf, but tell me it's the last one and it has a third pedal and I may be off to the VW dealership faster than you can say "Farffignugen".

I heard that you got a tattoo just for me, the love of your life



(by Jim Pacillo)





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