

Upcoming Events

Sat Aug 23	35th Anniversary WPMC Annual Picnic
Sat Sep 6	Family House Polo Match at Hartwood Acres
Sat Sep 13	Straub Brewery Cruise
Sat Sep 20	Vineyards at Pine Lake Cruise
Sat Sep 27	Covered Bridges of Greene County Cruise
Sat-Mon Oct 4-6	Cass Railroad Cruise
Sat Dec 6	WPMC Annual Christmas Party

35th Anniversary WPMC Annual Picnic by Linda Zimlik

This month is our Annual Picnic. This is a time for socializing, not cruising. You'll get to know your fellow members. There will be games and food. The Club will supply fried chicken, hot dogs and hamburgers, soft drinks and water. The picnic is August 23rd from 11:00 am to 4:00 pm at Maple Grove in White Oak Park.

Reservations are needed to plan for the appropriate quantities of items. When making your reservation, please let us know what you would enjoy bringing to share. It may be an appetizer, side dish, dessert, or snack foods.

RSVP: by August 16 to lzimlik@westpennmiataclub.com

Directions to White Oak Park

From Pittsburgh via the Parkway East (Approx. 11.2 mi. or 20 min.)

- Exit the Parkway at Forest Hills (Exit 8A) onto Ardmore Blvd. (Rte 30 East)
- Continue 8.8 mi. to Carpenter Lane (Sheetz on right)
- Turn right on Carpenter Lane - go 1.4 mi.
- Turn right into White Oak Park
- Continue through the park 1 mi. to Maple Grove (on right)

From Irwin PA Turnpike Exit 67 (Approx. 7.5 mi. or 14 min.)

- Take the Pittsburgh Rte 30 West ramp
- Proceed on Rte 30 west 5 mi. to Carpenter Lane (Sheetz on left)
- Turn left on Carpenter Lane - go 1.4 mi.
- Turn right into White Oak Park
- Continue through the park 1 mi. to Maple Grove (on right)

From Monroeville PA Turnpike Exit 57 (Approx. 10 mi. or 23 min.)

- Take the Monroeville Bus Rte 22 ramp
- Merge onto Bus Rte 22 West
- Immediately get into the left lane
- Turn left on Rte 48 south (Mossdale Blvd.) at Parkvale Bldg.
- Continue 5.8 mi. on Rte 48 to Rte 30
- Turn left on Rte 30 East - go 1.7 mi. (Sheetz on right)
- Turn right on Carpenter Lane - go 1.4 mi.
- Turn right into White Oak Park
- Continue through the park 1 mi. to Maple Grove (on right)

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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Straub Brewery Cruise by Tom Cypher

This is a new event with more details next month. Brewing since 1872, they are one of the oldest family-owned and operated breweries in United States still handcrafting German-American style lagers and traditional craft beer at their original location in St. Marys, PA.

We will leave from Blairsville, Pa at 9:30 on Saturday, September 13. Lunch is at the Brewery followed by a private tour. Limited to 20 people, no open toe shoes and lots of stairs.

Category: Leisure and Sporty

RSVP: by September 9th to Tom Cypher at tomandkay111@comcast.net

The Vineyards at Pine Lake Cruise by Ed Southon

Join us on Saturday, September 20 as we cruise to The Vineyards at Pine Lake, in Columbiana, Ohio, about 15 miles south of Youngstown. The Vineyards began operations in 2016, and are owned and operated by the Glista family. The business includes vineyards, hops growing, a winery, a craft brewery, a tasting bar, two restaurants, and a large events center. In addition to the Vineyards, there is the attraction that we will be joined at the restaurant by a cruise from the Northcoast Miata Club, from northeast Ohio and centered in Cuyahoga Falls, southeast of Cleveland.

The cruise is a relatively short one, so you can sleep in a bit that morning. We'll meet in Sewickley at 9:30, leave at 10:00, and arrive at the Vineyards around 12:30. We'll build in a little time both before and after lunch so you can check out the variety of wines made at the Vineyards. Afterwards, we'll stop for ice cream and then head home.

Fun fact: the phrase "In vino veritas" is usually credited to the Roman natural historian Pliny the Elder. It's less

well known that the entire phrase is "In vino veritas, in Miata gaudium" – "In wine there is truth, in Miatas there is joy". Come with us on September 20 when we find the joy in traveling to the wine.

Date & Time: Saturday, September 20. Meet at 9:30 am, leave by 10:00 am

Meeting Place: Sheetz at 2686 Nicholson Road, Sewickley (use Route 79, Exit 73)

Cruise Type: Leisure to Sporty

RSVP: by September 6 to Ed Southon at southeh@comcast.net

Greene County Covered Bridge Cruise By Joel Starr

Join us on a cruise through Washington to Greene County where we will visit some of the covered bridges the county has to offer. This will be a scenic/sporty cruise taking advantage of the hilly terrain to zip along the back roads including the "Warrior Trail" a 5000 year old trail (now road) along one of the ridge lines. We will make a stop at the "White Covered Bridge" for a group picture. After the White Covered Bridge, we will head back toward Pittsburgh to have lunch at the Vesta 88 River House along the Monongahela River followed by the traditional ice cream stop.

Date & Time: Saturday September 27, meet at 9:00 am, Depart promptly at 9:30 am

Meeting Location: Sheetz 3109 Washington Pike, Bridgeville, PA 15017

RSVP: jstarr@westpennmiataclub.com





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Cass Railroad Overnighter

by Linda & Joe Zimlik

This cruise is full. I advertised it last March due to bus companies booking the original days I wanted. If anyone would like to be put on a wait list, contact me. We leave Saturday Oct 4th and visit Seneca Rocks. Legend has it that Princess Snow Bird, only daughter of Chief Bald Eagle and his wife, White Rock, found her true love there. Our Cass Bald Knob Train ride will be at 12:00 pm on Sunday October 5. It will take us to the second highest point in WV, and will last 4 1/2 hours with stops. Lunch is provided.

We will visit the Green Bank Observatory on Monday, October 6th. With over fifty years of experience in radio astronomy and uniquely located within the National and West Virginia Radio Quiet Zone, the Green Bank Observatory is home to seven large radio telescopes ranging in size from 14m to 100m in diameter. As a result, the facility's telescopes have been used in a wide variety of ways, including satellite tracking, spacecraft tracking, atmospheric studies, monitoring of astronomical and planetary phenomenon, and educational programs. We will be taking a tour of the telescopes.

We can't forget the curvy, twisty & windy roads that our club loves. We will be staying at a B & B on a 1905 farm with unique features. It is advertised as casual elegance with country hospitality. Each room has a different theme. There is a two story private library containing over 27,000 books and movies, along with a recreation room with fireplace, pool table, jukebox and large screen 3-D TV. You can also visit the horses.

If you want on the wait list place contact me at lzimlik@westpennmiataclub.com.

September Deadline

The deadline for articles for the September newsletter is September 2, 2025

PVGP Kick-Off Rallye Review by Steve Lapp



The Kick-Off Rallye for the 2025 Pittsburgh Vintage Grand Prix was held on July 6, 2025 at Dual Devils Garage in Houston, PA. Nearly 80 cars participated and the event featured a special M Class for Miatas, the spotlight car for this year's event. The event organization was superb with a course through the countryside near Houston that kept us off main roads and challenged us to stay on course, find landmarks, and maintain certain speeds on each segment. A rallye is not about fast driving, it's about precision driving and this course delivered exactly that. My grandson Nate, a car aficionado himself, was my navigator and kept me well informed on upcoming turns, landmarks, and speeds. We did miss one turn but Nate spotted it almost immediately, requiring a quick U-turn which is nothing at all for a Miata. After completing the event, we returned for lunch at Dual Devils and socialized with our fellow competitors. Nate and I missed no turns and spotted all of the landmarks, however, I found that all of our penalty points came from hitting the different checkpoints too soon. Yes, it's about precision driving, not fast driving, but when you're in a Miata with the top down on a perfect day, feeling that acceleration when the supercharger kicks in as you come out of a curve with a car that feels like it's on rails is a bit intoxicating. I'll tone it down next time (not). Huge thanks and congratulations to the people at Dual Devils Garage who put together this wonderful event.





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Miata Gathering at Pitt Race Review by Linda Zimlik

On July 12, Miatas gathered at Pittsburgh International Race Complex in Wampum, Pa to watch Histories at Pitt Race. We were there the second day of races along with other Miata owners. PVGP put a tent up with front row seating at the last turn on the course, which gave us a reprieve from the heat. We watched the different races, and realized how lucky we were when Jim Blok joined us for lunch. Jim is a Corner Marshall for Pitt race and he worked that day. He said it was grueling in the heat. We had a great lunch as everyone who came brought something. We met some new Miata owners and checked out their Miatas, some of which were modified. It was an enjoyable day

Garden Party Review by Linda Zimlik

On July 17, four members took their Miatas to Phipps Conservatory to be displayed, along with different vintage cars throughout the gardens. Tents were set up with different arrays of food to tempt you. One was Mexican, another had prime rib, turkey & ham and the third had seafood along with side dishes. We were most surprised when an ice cream truck with lights pulled into the area where we were seated next to our Miatas. The truck had 10 different varieties of ice cream novelties. People flocked to the truck. Everyone loves ice cream. A flower wagon was also there where you could pick out flowers for a bouquet to take home. It was a lovely summer evening.



Pittsburgh Vintage Grand Prix Review: A Grand Success By Joel Starr

Over 70 Miatas were on display as the "Spotlight Car" at the 2025 Pittsburgh Vintage Grand Prix in Schenley Park, July 19, 2025. Miatas of note from every generation were given featured status in front of the hospitality tent provided by the West Penn Miata Club. The WPMC also provided a catered lunch.

If you had the opportunity to review some of the Miatas on display, you would have seen a spectrum of beautiful cars from well-maintained originals to highly modified restorations. All the cars on display were worthy of the pride their owners have for them.

In addition to being able to see so many Miatas, conversations with the owners and hearing their stories was well worth the attendance. Congratulations are in order to the WPMC board members who put in the time and effort into making the event such a success.

PVGP Review by Linda Zimlik

On July 19, a Spotlight shone on the Miatas, as the Miata was the Spotlight car at this year's PVGP. It was great to see after years of not being recognized that we were the Spotlight car. Due to a set of circumstances, the PVGP committee chose the Miata to be Spotlight car. Jim Blok, Vickie Buzzelli & Linda Zimlik attended every meeting they had for PVGP. It was quite an experience. Jim got in touch with Mazda to get gifts to give away. Vickie luckily knew a caterer we could use. I decided to have an Auto Show and to display M Edition, Special Edition, and special Miatas. I got Mazda Rep Andrew Wilson, Mazda Rep Lincoln Messina, and Andrew Hagerty sales manager for Cochran to be Judges. Lincoln was promoted and left the area. We got our President Joel Starr to be a Judge. Jim also became a Judge and ran the Judging the day of the PVGP. Each Judge took a different generation and then we had Best of Show. Winners were NA Brian Brand, NB John Gunther, NC Robert





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Ferragotti, ND Jim Seman, and Brian Brand won Best in Show

From the emails I received after the event, Spotlight Miata was a resounding success. Everyone enjoyed themselves, the Auto show and the food especially. Food was really good and thanks to Vickie for knowing a great caterer.

There were 20 member cars there. I want to thank the people who helped. Ed Southon manned the application table all day long with a different helper each hour. Those helpers were Mary Edwards, Kathy McCafferty, Pat Hoffman. Betty Jo Louik, Linda Berand and Ted Merklin. I really appreciated their help. Ted's daughter and Betty Jo's grandson helped out too. Steve Lapp designed our sign for the front of the tent. Steve also has the gratitude of Tim (the person in charge of parking cars). He thanked me for getting a person who could carry out parking all the Miatas. Tim is very particular about the rows of Miatas. He had to make it look good for the aerial photos.

Thank you Steve and your grandson Nate for an outstanding job and making Tim happy. Thank you, Judy Dobson who was by my side to help with anything I needed.

Everybody a heart felt thank you for your help in making this a very successful event. It could not have been done without all of you. We broke the record for the number of Miatas displayed. We normally have 40 but our final count this year was 75 Miatas. We let the people know there is a Miata Club in Pittsburgh. We got 5 new members due to the PVGP who didn't know we existed.

For me, my gratification was seeing past members and officers who stopped by the tent. They had to see it for themselves. The Spotlight was finally shone on the Miata. To all who were there, thank you for making it a success.

Railroaders Memorial Museum Cruise Review by Walt Dillen

August 2nd, a perfect Saturday for a Miata cruise, and the weather could not have been better. We had 8 cars take part in the event. All met at the Sheetz in New Alexandria and at 9:30 we were on the road. Regarding the roads, Jack and Nancy did a great job of finding a lot of interesting black top to enjoy. I think it goes without

saying most of us love exploring new roads, and these really filled the bill. After a brief pit stop at another Sheetz we headed to Altoona and lunch. The name of the restaurant was Marzoni's, and we were joined there by 5 members from the Pace Club located in the Lancaster area. I must say the menu was quite unique, with a number of local creations that were very tasty.

After lunch, we took about a 15 minute drive to the museum in Altoona. I found this museum to be a little different then most I have visited in the past. This was a true picture of the life of the railroader, his work and life style of the period. Of course trains were a large part of the venue, along with a lot of very interesting tools and memorabilia that added a personal touch to the museum. The one thing I found interesting was the displays showing the various offices and work areas. The museum even went so far as to replicate the housing of the period. All in all I think the museum did justice to the railroader, and not just the railroad.

Our final stop was you guessed it, ICE CREAM!! The 764 Creamery was a big hit with lots of flavors. Nancy was kind enough to print a list of some of them. We are very lucky to be part of a group of DOERS!! Let's keep the Miata club growing and moving.

2025 CRUISIN & ZOOMIN SEASON BY LINDA ZIMLIKI

I hope that everyone who participated in the PVGP events had a good time. I have sent out information via e-mail on one more PVGP event in September, the Family House Polo Match at Hartwood Acres on September 6. Please see the schedule for our remaining events this year.

If there is a cruise you would like to do next year please let me know. I hope to see you at the picnic where we will celebrate our 35th Anniversary.

Zoom Zoomm Zoommm!





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