

THE FUH 'N' THE SUN TIMES

Volume 35 #6
July, 2025

Upcoming Events

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|--------------------------|---|
| Sat-Sun Jul 12-13 | Miata Gathering at PittRace - PVGP |
| Sat-Sun Jul 19-20 | Pittsburgh Vintage Grand Prix - Miata is the Spotlight Car |
| Wed Jul 30 7:00 PM | WPMC Monthly Teleconference Meeting |
| Sat Aug 2 | Railroaders Memorial Museum Cruise with the PACE Club |
| Sat Aug 23 | WPMC Annual Picnic |
| Sat Sep 20 | Vineyards at Pine Lake Cruise |
| Sat Sep 27 | Covered Bridges of Greene County Cruise |
| TBD | Cass Railroad Cruise |
| Sat Dec 6 | WPMC Annual Christmas Party |

August Deadline

The deadline for articles for the August newsletter is August 4, 2025

Historics at Pitt Race by Joe & Linda Zimliki

Legends of the 60s & 70s, including Mustangs, Corvettes, Jaguars, BMWs, Porsches and Alfa Romeo, to name a few will be racing. You can see list of racers for Historics here: <https://www.motorsportreg.com/index.cfm/event/event.status/uidEvent/F87F37DB-0B79-F359-5A7B9284454DCD99>

The Host Club, West Penn Miata Club, will have a place set aside for us at the Water Tower parking lot. We will have a pop up tent, and ask that you bring a dish to share. Race is Friday, Saturday & Sunday. We will be there Saturday. Cost is \$50 per car which includes parking at the Water Tower. You are getting a \$10 discount. We have invited PIMC and Northcoast Miata club to join us.

There are other events, at lunch time where they will have Charity PVGP Track Riders. Your \$50 donation benefits PVGP charities. Rides are limited to 50 minutes each day, so get your tickets now. Timing depends on track conditions and race schedule – rides are scheduled from noon until 12:50 PM. You will be a rider not a driver.

Also karting is available on the world class .83 Wilson Karting Circuit, where you can reach speeds of 45 MPH! The kart, gas, and all safety equipment are included. Closed-toe shoes are required. The drivers must be between 5'0" and 6' 2" tall.

Date: Sunday July 12, 2025 at 9:00 am

Place: Pitt Race: 201 Penndale Road, Wampum PA 16157

Register here:

<https://pvgp.org/car-show-overview/miata-2025-spotlight/>
Once you register please contact Linda Zimliki at lzimliki@westpennmiataclub.com and let me know who is coming and what you will bring.



The Newsletter of the WEST PENN



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Pittsburgh Vintage Gran Prix by Vickie Buzzelli

This year, the PVGP is celebrating the 43nd annual race through the streets of Schenley park. The festivities start on Sunday July 6th with the Kick Off Rally. This is a combined driving tour and scavenger hunt, starting and ending at Dual Devils Garage in Houston Pa.

This year is a ten day venue leading up to the International Car Show Saturday July 19th and Sunday July 20th. You can find details of all the events by clicking on the PVGP web site which is listed later in this article.

The marque car for this year is the Lotus with the Miata being the spotlight car. It is important to note that all the proceeds of all the events year go towards the Autism Society of Pittsburgh and the Allegheny Valley School.

The West Penn Miata Club will host other clubs and Miatas on Saturday July 19th. We will all meet in the Spotlight Tent to enjoy our Miatas and the camaraderie of others and watch the only remaining Vintage race still run on city streets. Also the new event this year is the Hill climb where Miatas entered. Please go the registration web page located at <https://pvgp.org/car-show-overview/asian-car-show/> The rate for the weekend is \$70 this rate is available until July 1st which at that time the rate increases to \$80. Deadline for online registration is July 17th after that you must pay at the gate. Please use the web site to register for any of the events you would like to attend. This is the first year Miata is able to attend additional events and we would love to see a great turnout.

The entrance to the International Car Show is at the top of Schenley Drive where it intersects Forbes Avenue in Squirrel Hill, just below the Schenley Park Golf Course Clubhouse. You will enter at Gate D, but actual instructions will be given on race day. Please note that your receipt will contain a QR code that will be scanned upon entry to facilitate a quick and touchless process. So please print your receipt or save it in your phone and bring it with you. The car show runs from 9:30am-5:00pm.

WPMC's main day will be Saturday July 19th We will have a tent and tables set up. Food will be provided by John Marshall Catering. Cost is \$20/person. Go to the Forum in our news letter to sign up for lunch. Lunch is to be pre paid. The tent and tables will remain in place for both days for anyone who wishes to attend on Sunday which is the featured Vintage Race which begins at 11:00am with opening ceremonies. Food will only be available in our tent on Saturday.

We also need folks to take turns staffing the information and merchandise table during the day. Please take a bit of time to help promote our club and to meet prospective members. Please mingle with the other clubs and make them feel welcomed. Hope to see you all in Schenley park on July 19th and 20th.

Miata – Spotlight Calendar

Miata Spotlight Car Show at Schenley Park – July 19/20 Weekend

The Miata Spotlight Show on the Bob O'Connor Golf Course will be adjacent to the traditional Asian Car Show. Registration is for the entire weekend. Park your Miata on the golf course in the middle of the International Car Show with a weekend view of the track. There are plenty of food vendors and Helltown Brewing nearby.

Your \$70 Entry Donation includes:

- * Weekend Parking spot
- * PVGP Race Program and sticker.
- * Two wristbands to enter the event and browse the International Car Show and the Start/Finish Line.
- * Entry into Auto Show with trophies for 1st place NA, NB, NC, ND AND Best of show
- * Gift from Mazda (one per car)

Garden Party at Phipps Conservatory – Thursday, July 17

The Pittsburgh Vintage Grand Prix planted the seeds for a fabulous new event in Schenley Park at the Phipps Conservatory & Botanical Gardens alongside the race track. The party showcases a variety of cars and vehicles. Any registered Miata owners will be displayed in a special area in front of Phipps.. This Garden Party features palate-pleasing food stations, wine, Helltown Beer and bar cocktails





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throughout one of the nation's oldest and largest Victorian greenhouses. It promises to be an elegant and entertaining evening. Tickets are \$295 per person.

Tune-Up @ SouthSide Works – Wednesday, July 16
 The PVGP Tune-Up was started in 2006 and has become a highlight of our Race Week Car Shows. Participation in this year's Tune-Up Party is just \$50. You get a reserved parking spot within the Automotive Showcase on the streets of the SouthSide Works. You will receive a PVGP Race Program and car decal. Also included are two drink coupons for the driver, redeemable at one of the drink stations. You can also register any guests for \$20 each to receive two complimentary drink coupons.

Downtown Car Display – Wednesday, July 16
 If you work downtown, Wednesday of Race Week is a great day to take a long lunch break. The Pittsburgh Vintage Grand Prix hosts a car display among the skyscrapers at downtown's most prominent address at PPG Place and the plaza surrounding the fountain.

Any Miata that registers will be parking together. The cost is \$25 per car to participate in the Downtown Plaza Display. All vehicles must stay in place until 1:45 pm and depart plazas by 2:00 pm.

Waterfront Car Cruise – Tuesday, July 15

Join 600 other auto aficionados for a vast car show at the Waterfront Shopping Center in Historic Homestead. Check out classic and modern vehicles from all makes and years. Enjoy a day of automotive fun and fellowship with food, music, vendors, and giveaways. There will be a special area for Miatas. Bring your friends and family—\$ 10 charity donation per car.

Walnut Street Car Show – Monday, July 14
 Nestled on Shadyside's charming Walnut Street, you will see 135 rare, classic and exotic cars the length of the street. This is a glimpse of what you will see that weekend at the PVGP International Car Show, which will occur a few days later. This popular long-running show features some of the region's finest and most unique vehicles. Cars are carefully selected for the show by invitation only – so this promises to include show cars rarely seen at other car shows and cruises. The Miata Spotlight is assigned two display spots – held for the most notable examples. This is invitation only.

Miata Gathering at Pittsburgh International Race Complex – July 12/13 Weekend - Details in previous article

- will be participating as Club

Kick-Off Rallye – Sunday, July 6 - Details in previous article - will be participating as Club

Railroaders Memorial Museum Cruise by Jack and Nancy Bartek

Please Join us on Saturday August 2 for a Cruise which will take us through Westmoreland, Cambria, and Blair counties on our way to the Railroad City of Altoona to visit the Railroaders Memorial Museum. The museum tour will be self-guided and should take about 1.5 – 2 hours. The cost of admission is \$17 for seniors and if we have 10 or more there will be a discount. After the tour we will head off to a local restaurant with the PACE Miata club joining us. The traditional ice cream stop will cap off the cruise.

Date and Time: Saturday Aug 2 – Meet at 9:00AM, leave by 9:30AM.

Meeting Place: Speedway, 8064 US-22, New Alexandria, PA 15670

Cruise Type: Leisure to Sporty

RSVP: by July 25th to abarte@aol.com or text/call 724-244-4582

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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Annual WPMC Picnic by Linda Zimliki

Next 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: lzimliki@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)



Joint Cruise with Jaguar Club Review by Joe and Linda Zimliki

On June 1st in the afternoon, the West Penn Miata Club joined the Jaguar Club at Sheetz on E Hardee's Rd for our adventure. There were 22 cars. Quite an ambitious endeavor to keep 22 cars together. Our leader Stu did a great job

We started off on our sporty cruise, and Stu must have found every twisty, curvy road in North Hills. It was quite a Miata cruise. After cruising for a few hours, we headed to Brick & Barrel Cross Keys restaurant to partake in lively discussions and some good food. We had the top floor of restaurant to ourselves with individual rooms so we went room to room to socialize. We ended the day with a trip to Churns Ice Cream and had some social conversation. It was a very nice day with great roads. We made new friends and hope to join up again next year. Thanks Stu.

Gilded Age Cruise Review by Natasha Franz

June 7th had a beautiful morning in store for the GILDED AGE cruise to the lush 10 acre home of the Frick Mansion & Carriage Museum. It included us having a delicious lunch at the Cafe onsite and a drive to a quaint street to find a cool sweet treat at Millie's Homemade ice cream.

This well planned excursion took the Miata adventurers to experience Pittsburgh and its history of steel and the gilded age. Our tour started with an extremely knowledgeable guide telling us the story of Henry Clay Frick. The tale was told as we weaved through the house of customs, fashion, architecture and the history of how Henry Frick built the steel industry with coke. Brought to life was the story of a hard edge ruthless steel man, the steel worker strikes, and the Pinkertons all interwoven with Henry's family life and the tragic death of his beloved daughter Martha.





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The Carriage house was a grand display of vehicles from the time period and the advance in the auto industry. There were many cars built in Butler, PA during that time. It was interesting to learn there was no standardization for left or right side driving.

The cafe had both wonderful food and attentive staff. It was a much enjoyed meal followed by an ice cream stop at a mystery location that was Millie's Ice cream. The Millie's franchise was created by the passion of a renowned chef named Chad Townsend who was ready for a change. He bought a very expensive Swiss-made appliance called a Paco-Jet that micro-purees deep frozen foods to make ice creams and sorbets thus creating his dream. If you get to the south side of PA, this is a must in places to stop and cool off. Thank you Jim Blok for planning this fun filled day!.

Tour-Ed Mine Cruise Review By Dave Grundler

With clear skies and a 90 degree forecast, nine Miatas zoomed out of Giant Eagle's parking lot, led by Vickie and navigator Linda. Our thanks to them both for keeping us in the shade and on many back country "Miata" roads!

Upon arriving at the mine, well-seasoned coal miners gave an excellent history lesson and explained the hardships and dangers that early miners faced every day. We then donned hardhats, climbed into the rail car (making us appreciate the comforts of our Miatas!), and descended 1/2 mile into the earth and a comfortable 55 degrees. Once below, we witnessed how miners of the 1800's hand drilled, picked, and dynamited the coal by candlelight, then shoveled it into carts pulled by donkeys (until a donkey ate the dynamite,,, then explosive di...rhea ??). We then saw (and heard and felt) how electricity and machinery revolutionized the industry from the 1800s to the present.

Above ground again, we stepped into an 1800s miners' cabin to watch a short film on the life and vision of Ira Wood, the final mine owner and founder of the museum, then walked back in time through the museum filled with many americana and mining artifacts.

Ultimately, it was time to leave, with our lumps of coal in hand, we zoomed our way to nearby Villa Ballanca Italian restaurant for a delicious lunch, then just down the road to Glen's Frozen Custard before wrapping up a wonderful and educational day!!

Review of Swigart Museum Cruise by Lynda Mistick

Ten Miatas left the Sheetz in Ebensburg, PA at 9:45am on Saturday, June 28th. We followed Dave and Luanne Kopco on an awesome cruise over rolling hills and through beautiful countryside. We encountered fog and rain sprinkles and enjoyed every moment. The PACE club was waiting for us at Top's Diner in Huntingdon, PA - What an extensive menu and huge portions.

The Swigart Antique Car Museum was just down the street. A very unassuming building, we were not sure what to expect. Our private tour guide, Linda, was very informative, fun and personable and a new Miata fan to boot! The museum had 30 - 35 mint condition vehicles on display along with a collection of license plates, badges and bicycles, a Herbie the Love Bug, a Tucker, a Duesenberg that was almost bought by Jay Leno (Mr. Swigart, Jr. out-bid him!!) and their newest addition, a red NB Miata. We even met the widow of the original Mr. Swigart's son. She runs the museum now.

The cruise ended with ice cream treats for all at The Meadows about 5 minutes away. As this was only our second West Penn Miata Club cruise, we are still trying to match names with faces and cars but we had a great day enjoying our Miata with other enthusiasts.





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2025 CRUISIN & ZOOMIN SEASON

BY LINDA ZIMLIKI

It is the heart of our cruisin season. July seems to be PVGP month. Pitt Race is this Saturday and the West Penn Miata Club will be there. Check this newsletter for details. We will have a tent and ask everybody that comes to bring a dish to share. It should be a nice day. The Schenley Park Race is July 19 & 20 with the spotlight car this year being the Miata. We have an Auto Show being judged by Mazda Reps with 1st place awards for NA,NB,NC & ND. We will display some M-Edition Miatas, Special Editions, and a 35th Anniversary MX-5. Check the article in the newsletter for details.

We have a lot great cruises coming up later this year. Hope to see you at one of them.

Zoom Zoomm Zoommm!

Miata Musings: The Parking Brake is your Friend

By Joel Starr, President

Southwestern Pennsylvania is a wonderful place for cruising in your Miata: the curvy roads, the hills and all the neat places to visit. One challenge, when driving a stick, is when you stop at a light on a steep grade (pointing up a hill) and someone stops behind too close for comfort.

To avoid rolling backwards when you take your foot off the brake, use your parking brake. Put your car in gear with your left foot depressing the clutch and your right foot on the brake. Then engage the parking brake before you take your right foot off the brake. As you slowly depress the accelerator and release the clutch, gradually release the parking brake.

Before I moved to Pittsburgh, I never needed to use the parking brake while driving as the roads were all flat and level. Now I use it all the time to avoid burning the clutch and/or rolling backwards when I want to get moving.



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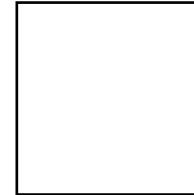
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