

## Upcoming Events

Thu-Sun Oct 10-13	Back of the Dragon Cruise #8
Sun Oct 20	Smicksburg Cruise to meet The Trillium Club
Sat Dec 7	WPMC Annual Christmas Party

### Back of the Dragon Cruise #8

by Joe & Linda Zimliki

Since this is the 35th Anniversary of the MX-5/Miata, I decided we should celebrate with a drive that is all about this car. That is why I thought we should go to an event in Virginia to drive the Back of Dragon and The Snake. The Back of the Dragon is 32 miles, 438 curves, elevation 3500. The Snake offers 489 curves while crossing 3 mountains and traveling through a beautiful valley. It travels through Johnson County, Tennessee and Washington County, Virginia. If you plan on going you need to book the hotel. Once you decide to go please let me know. Details follow.

**Date:** October 10-13, 2024 (Reserve Room Now)

**Hotel:** Fairfield Inn & Suites by Marriott, Wytheville, VA, 276-228-8080, Brittany Crumb - Contact, \$119 per night, you select bed size

**Activities:** Club fundraiser for the Autism Society, Registration - \$30/car, Car Show, T-Shirt (\$25 - optional), Raffle, Silent Auction, Friday - Back of the Dragon Drive, Saturday - The Snake Drive - Backbone Park, Sunday - Short Morning Devotion

**Volunteers:** Requesting extra set of hands. (30-40 minutes)

**Supplies:** Your Miata, 2 way radio (helpful, not required),



Raffle Donations (\$10-\$2) Car Related

Questions: E-Mail [lzimliki@westpennmiataclub.com](mailto:lzimliki@westpennmiataclub.com)

### Smicksburg Pottery Tour with the Trillium Club

by Joe & Linda Zimliki

On Sunday October 20, our Miatas will head for the Amish town of Smicksburg. The Trillium Club, from Canada, will be joining us for lunch in Smicksburg. In the past we did a lot with them but Covid took a lot of that away. It will be nice to see them again. Since this is an Amish town, stores are usually not open on Sunday but because they are having a Pottery tour, a few will be open. Come join us for an enjoyable day and meet some fellow Miata lovers. Oh did I say the roads to our destination are twisty and curvy? You should know by now I don't like straight roads.

**Date & Time:** Sunday October 20th at 9:30 am

**Meeting Place:** Get Go 4806 William Penn Highway, Murrysville, PA

**Cruise Type:** Sporty

**Cruise Limit:** 15 People

**RSVP:** by Oct 14 to [lzimliki@westpennmiataclub.com](mailto:lzimliki@westpennmiataclub.com)

### WPMC Christmas Party by Linda Zimliki

Our annual Christmas Party on Saturday December 7, will feature entertainment by the East End Kids. They are Pittsburgh's Premier Teen Song & Dance Ensemble ages 12 - 18, and will perform Christmas songs. You can check them out at [Cervi-eastendkids.org](http://Cervi-eastendkids.org). You will be able to pay your 2025 WPMC dues at the party, and we'll have prizes along with a gift exchange table.





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Each couple or individual will be asked to make an item or bring a something baked for the exchange table. Details are attached to this newsletter. Please contact Linda Zimliki with your intention to attend, along with what you are bringing for the exchange table. Hope you will be there.

The handsome waiter promised us, if sent, our pic would be framed and added to the celebrity walls.

Saturday's ride began in sprinkles with a damp road which may have slowed the pace. Still, the route provided exquisite turns through a deep woods wilderness. The on-top-of-the-world drive featured evergreens, ferns, and delightful curves for the Miatas to hug. Guard rails indicated that not all cars are miatas and some previous drivers had perhaps not handled the curves so well.

The sun shown intermittently through clouds and patches of fog on Ridge Road on route 144, highlighting the tips of autumn color just beginning to show in the foliage. Elk Scenic Drive (on 144) boasts a 127-mile loop through portions of five counties. We found it truly to be "a drive-to-believe-it experience" as Pennsylvania WILDS describes it. Honestly —breath taking!

By 10:45, a gorgeous sun-shiny day had emerged as we pulled into the Wellsboro House for lunch and again enjoyed the stories and company of fellow adventurers. Inspired by the clear sky, we left the parking lot with convertible tops down to head to the Watkins Glen International speedway. The route was continually margined by goldenrod glistening in the afternoon sun, and the road provided interesting curves and scenery.

Arriving in Watkins Glen, we stopped for a visit at the International Motor Racing Research Center and visited the Motor Racing Research Library. We viewed a video about the history of the Watkins Glen Grand Prix and heard about the 31st annual festival which had been held the day before our arrival. After a quick view of Seneca Lake and a cruise group picture, we anxiously headed on to the raceway for the "Drive the Glen" experience.

Club members enjoyed each other's company as we waited more than an hour to begin the 3.45 mile circuit course led by an official Watkins Glen International pace car. There was a bit of disappointment on the part of some as we learned we would be following a group of Volkswagen vans around the track, but our fearless Zimliki leaders quickly arranged for us to tail the MG group instead!

The three spins around the track brought an exuberant rush with each person granted the ability to remember the stories of racing greats, fantasize about their own racing, or to simply enjoy picking up the speed in life. All seemed to thoroughly enjoy seeing the track from the inside. Since we were officially stopped mid-second lap for picture shoots, we were also rearranged at the restart and afforded the experience of racing behind both Volkswagen vans and

## 2025 Membership Renewal by Ed Southon, Treasurer

If you come to the WPMC Christmas Party on December 7 – and I hope you do – you can combine a little bit of business with a lot of pleasure by renewing your membership for 2025 at that time. Annual dues have gone up a touch to \$35, but are still a screaming deal. Where else can you get as much fun for \$35 as with the WPMC? (Seriously, if you're having that much fun someplace else, please tell me. Things are pretty quiet in my life these days.) By renewing your membership at the Christmas Party, you'll take one more thing off your to-do list and you'll sleep better for months. And, if you want, you can pay by cash instead of writing a check. Remember cash? We still take it.

## Miata Trip to Watkins Glen by Jill Clawson

West Penn Miata Club cruises are always a good time. The recent cruise to Watkins Glen did not disappoint. Although experiencing a damp start, nine cars embarked on the journey to a beautiful area of New York. The trip planned and led by Linda and Joe Zimliki was a memorable event of great roads, good times and endless memories. It was also brimming with lessons.

Meeting in Dubois on Friday September 6, the group joined at the Hampton Inn and zoomed to Luigi's Ristorante for a fine Italian dinner. A warm European ambiance assisted as members reconnected in the intimate setting for the anticipated three day drive through beautiful northern PA and New York.

The walls of the well known restaurant were plastered with group photos of past patrons who had enjoyed the Italian dining experience. A few members quickly searched for the spot to hang a West Penn Miata 8x10 which Linda Zimliki assured us would be taken during the weekend.



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MG's. All in all, a fine experience in fostering a greater love of our Miatas!

After the exhilaration, we sped to our dinner reservations at Jerlando's Ristorante. (Somebody remarked that "Ristorante"

must mean "diner" in Italian...evidence that we experienced diverse lessons beyond even Linda's expectations on the cruise.)

The Ristorante turned out to be an exceptionally loud place (according to a young bystander, it was because of the second long table filled with the old car people...the cars were not all old. The words could have been cause for an altercation, but nobody got hurt during the encounter! That might be because few of the group could hear very well, and most missed the comment).

Back to the cruise...

We lodged the next two nights at the Country Inn in Horseheads (village) New York. Nobody asked the question, but the town derived its name from the number of bleached skulls of pack horses left behind by the Sullivan Expedition. Again, lessons abounded, if one only sought them!

At the evening meeting before retiring for the night, several cruisers pleaded with Linda to start Sunday morning a bit later than originally planned. Linda pitied them, and agreed to an hour later nine o'clock departure. We lined up and were off to the Finger Lakes for more beautiful scenery and wine tasting while a couple of the travelers chose to shop in nearby picturesque Hammondsport, "one of the best places to live in New York."

Beginning at the renown Dr. Konstantin Franks Winery, the group gathered in the garden with those who chose tasting different wines or just relaxing in the garden setting and enjoying a charcuterie snack graciously provided by Vickie Buzzelli.

After the tasting, we went on to pause for a scenic view of Keuka Lake and a group picture near the Bully Hill Winery where we enjoyed lunch in an outdoor setting. We checked in momentarily at the winery gift shop before embarking in the caravan to the Pleasant Valley Wine Company, the oldest winery in the Finger Lakes region, where we had a most informative tour of the National historic site.

Our guide, Siri (not sure of spelling, but the sound was fun!) was well informed and shared animated stories both mythical and true about the winery's grounds and history. We viewed huge historic wooden barrels that processed

as much as 1,495 gallons of wine at a time, as well as learning about the process of making champagne. In addition to walking through the fascinating building with beautiful hand crafted wood, we visited both the Sherry Cellar and the Champagne Cellar. The building boasted beautiful antique furniture, wine making tools, and pictures and murals of an earlier era. We even learned of the part wine played in the ammunition making for the Civil War.

Siri escorted us to the visitor center where further tasting was invited. It's possible a few were tipsy as the day's tasting came to an end, but not noticeably, and it wouldn't be appropriate to include that information in a sports automobile newsletter anyway! The next stop was to meet up with those who had been shopping in the quaint shops at Hammondsport and check out the charming little town.

We sallied forth to the Seneca Lodge for hydration and camaraderie before "saddling up" to drive on to Watkins Glen and the unique opportunity to drive the 6.6 mile historic road course that ran through town. Three times around the treacherous curves was yet another rush.

Dinner was a warm visit to Seneca Harbor Station where several enjoyed ample servings of lobster mac & cheese. As always, shared stories and experiences enhanced the lakeside ambiance. It was an exhausted group of Miata enthusiasts that headed back to quarters at the Country Inn in Horsehead that night.

Departure was 9:00 sharp on Monday as we headed back to our final official cruise function of lunch at Deb's Cross Fork Inn in Cross Fork, PA. Lunch choices were homemade delights and the diner atmosphere brought peals of hilarity with what we will describe as an Appalachian mountain-flavored ambiance! The article is too long to elaborate, so let's just say that for the ladies on the cruise, "2-seater Coupe of 2024" took on a whole new meaning! That's right! Men often observe that ladies go to the restroom in pairs or a group...Deb's ladies room provided the unique ability for woman to truly go together.

Final learning experience—when aligning yourself with the West Penn Miata Club, you will never be able to honestly say, "I have seen it all," because just around the bend there will be a new and challenging curve in sight.

(Contributors to this article were Jim Blok, Vickie Buzzelli, Dennis Clawson, Walt Dillen & Helen, Bruce & Mary Edwards, Ron & Pat Hoffman, Steve Lapp, Ken & Karen Nagel, and Joe & Linda Zimliki.)





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## Quest for Waterhole Review by Linda Zimliki

**O**n September 21, twelve Miatas gathered at Sheetz in Sewickley, to start their quest for Waterhole. We were all anxious about our adventure, and the roads did not disappoint. There were S curves, switchbacks, and continuous country road curves that put a smile on your face. As those curves became more numerous, smile turned to huge grin. This cruise was a collaboration between Bill Flasche, Jim Blok and Linda Zimliki. Bill gave us the roads. Jim ran the cruise to get the time down, and Linda went over the cruise to verify the roads and was the navigator. We found the Waterhole after 3 1/2 hours where we had lunch waiting for us. After lunch, we went to Millie's ice cream on Rt 19. Needless to say everyone had an enjoyable time.

## Review of Maple Sugar Camp Plus a Few Favorites by Adam Fontana

**W**e had a pack of eight brave the foreboding clouds on the morning of Saturday, September 28th. Luckily we were treated to some sweet weather and gorgeous scenery on our journey to the maple sugar camp. The leaves were changing colors and the sun peaked through the clouds just enough.

**T**hrough the twisty route down RT 259 we had an early sugar buzz courtesy of The Pie Shoppe in Laughlinton, one of my personal favorites. After this quick stop, some more twisty roads through Linn Run with some wonderful horse farms and a brook running along parts of the road, the scenery was as sweet as the treats we were destined for.

**W**e climbed up and then down the mountain into the Seven Springs Resort for a lunch at the Slopeside Dining Room. We had some time to socialize and enjoy the views and calm of the resort during the off season before firing

our engines back up for the roads through the hills and backroads and onward to our destination.

**W**e encountered some freshly tarred and chipped roads that weren't previously there and carefully navigated the terrain. The trip out to this camp was wonderful, and the route well planned and we started to see some strange signs in the woods on our drive in; some oddly placed blue tubing.

**A**rriving at the camp, (named a camp as they only stay at the location during the production months of the year), we learned about their family who has produced products from the maple trees for eight generations. We were treated to a wide variety of samples made with their maple product from nuts and popcorn, to maple creme and cotton candy and more. Then we saw a demonstration of how they turn the liquid maple sugar into granulated sugar right before our eyes and enjoyed a hot sample, yum!

**A**fterwards, we hopped into the wagon and toured the grounds pulled by a tractor as the process was further explained. In the trees we didn't see the traditional taps and buckets, excuse me, keelers as they're called in Somerset County; on the trees, instead we saw a more modern system using the blue tubing we spotted on our route in that is pumped into a processing building and reduced down to the desired sugar content.

**A**fter the relaxing, albeit bumpier ride than in our Miatas, in the tractor we purchased what treats we wanted, gave their commemorative bell a ring for our host's fallen friend, took our group picture in front of the tractor and geared up down the road for ice cream! This creme variety made with the maple sugar had a higher fat content and was tasty! They had traditional maple and a black raspberry flavor available that day with a wide variety of fixings to go on top and other flavors to purchase to take home. They had plenty of other maple treats to purchase as well including some unexpected types like beef jerky and bbq sauce.

**W**e enjoyed the sun and wonderful weather that held out all day for us while we socialized and enjoyed our sweet treats at their picnic tables in the company of some camping dogs. It really can't be said a better way, this was one sweet trip!







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## 2024 CRUISIN & ZOOMIN SEASON BY LINDA ZIMLIKI

**T**he 2024 Season is almost a memory. We have three more cruises and events. We need cruise leaders for next year so if you would like to lead a cruise, please reach out to me. If you're unsure where you'd like to cruise, I can help with suggestions of where members have expressed a desire to cruise. Hope that you will join us on our remaining events.

**Z**oom Zoomm Zoommm!

### 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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e-mail: [wpmc@westpenmiataclub.com](mailto:wpmc@westpenmiataclub.com)  
web site: <http://www.westpenmiataclub.com>



Editor - In - Chief:  
Steve Lapp

Send all  
editorial contributions to:



WEST PENN MIATA CLUB  
c/o Steve Lapp  
105 Gadshill Place  
Pittsburgh, PA 15237  
e-mail: [slapp@westpenmiataclub.com](mailto:slapp@westpenmiataclub.com)

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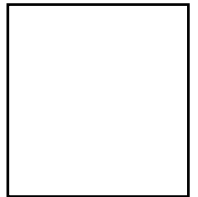
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WEST PENN MIATA CLUB

c/o Vickie Buzzelli   
208 Adams Pointe Blvd, Suite #7  
Mars, PA 16046



*Address goes here*

*leave room for mail bar code to go here*



## **WEST PENN MIATA CLUB ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY**

**Saturday – December 7, 2024  
6:00 TO 11:00 PM**

**Social Hour 6:00 PM–7:00PM  
Cash Bar w/hors d'oeuvres**

**Dinner: 7:00 PM BUFFET – Prime Rib & English Style Cod**

**Place: Comfort Inn – Formerly Harley House Seasons Ballroom.  
699 Rodi Road – Parkway East at Penn Hills Exit 81**

**Spending the night – Special room rate \$75.00 includes Hot Breakfast –  
Pet can stay \$25 extra Reservations (412-244-1600) –  
Mention WPMC Christmas Party**

**Entertainment: East End Kids**

**Send your check made out to “WPMC” for \$25.00 per person, by November 29 to:**

**Linda Zimlik**

**3929 Murry Highlands Circle**

**Murrysville, Pa 15668.**

**[RSVP:lzimlik@westpenmiataclub.com](mailto:lzimlik@westpenmiataclub.com)**