

Upcoming Events

Sat
Dec 6 | WPMC Annual Christmas Party

Annual WPMC Christmas Party by Linda Zimlik

This year, our Christmas Party will be held at The Courtyard Marriott Monroeville Hotel. It will be an afternoon event on December 6 from 11:00 - 4:00. We will have entertainment. Tim Ruff, The Acoustic Crooner, will sing and play his guitar. There will be door prizes and homemade gift or gift exchange. If you have a craft like wood working, Christmas items, create jewelry, draw, or bake, consider making something for the exchange. Once you RSVP and send your check, please email or send a note letting me know what you are bringing. The invitation is included at the end of this newsletter.

Tom Matano, "Father of the Miata" by Linda Zimlik

Tom Matano passed away on Sept 20, 2025 at the age of 77. He was known as the "Father of the Miata." He designed the original NA along with his team, an affordable two seater sports car that is a joy to drive, and the best selling sports car in history. Tom attended many Miata events where he autographed items and Miatas.

At an event in Canada, a group of WPMC members met and formed a relationship with Tom. Tom and his family traveled with members of WPMC to Niagara Falls. At Miata World II 2009 celebrating the 20th Anniversary of the Miata, I had the pleasure of spending an hour with Tom at the Texas Speedway. He autographed a book and T shirts for us. I found him to be a warm and generous person. He loved to be with Miata fans. It was an honor to have met him and spend a hour with him. Tom, thank

you for the Miata, a car that gives us so much pleasure.
May he rest in peace.

Straub Brewery Cruise Review By Joel Starr

Saturday September 13 was a beautiful day for a cruise. The sky was clear and the temperature was moderate. After leaving Sheetz along Route 22 in Blairsville a little after 9:30 AM, Tom Cypher and Sue lead us north along Route 119 which started as a divided highway but soon turned into a well maintained two lane road. As we made our way north, I noticed the trees were just beginning to don their fall regalia. After a rest break at a very popular Sheetz in Punxsutawney we continued on and soon passed two Amish Buggies and an Amish Barn Raising (something I had read about but never seen).

We arrived at the Straub Brewery at about noon. The brewery has expanded quite a bit in recent years with the addition of a bar and restaurant. The menu specialized in German cuisine (as it should). After a very nice meal and beverage, Dennis McGeehan (a local historian), gave us a brief history of St Marys.

We then toured the of the brewery. Our tour guide's name was Anna Marie who showed us all three floors of the brewery. A highlight of the tour was stopping by the "Eternal Tap" where you can sample (responsibly) their product. After the tour we thanked Anna and travelled to the local St Marys Dairy Queen for some Ice Cream. It was just a lovely cruise, and many thanks to Tom and Sue for organizing it.





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The Vineyards of Pine Lake Cruise Review

by Vickie Buzzelli

What a beautiful Saturday morning it was on September 20, 2025 as the Miata club met at Sheetz on Nicholson road in the North Hills. Little did we know the day would start off with a mishap. Joe Zimliki attempted to put air in his tires when one of the caps broke off. Fortunately Bill Flaschie came to the rescue, and took Joe and his tires to a shop in Wexford. The tires were fixed and the day was saved. We were then off to enjoy a beautiful day of cruising. The cruise was lead by Ed Southon/Linda Zimliki. It was a combination of leisure and sporty. The country roads were magnificent with the leaves starting to change. I personally enjoyed the miles and miles of corn fields on both sides of the road. We arrived at Pine Lake and were greeted with open arms by the North Coast Miata club. The view was breathtaking with the lake and colorful hill side. Linda paired us up with members from the other club for lunch. There was no lack of conversation, the food was spectacular, and I must say for a local winery established in 2016, the wine was decent. I would definitely go back to the restaurant whenever I am in the area. And for those who were unable to make the cruise, it is worth the trip. After lunch we said good bye to the Ohio group and we continued on for Ice cream at Katie in Chippewa. A wonderful day was had by all.

Review of the Greene County Covered Bridges Cruise

by Mary & Bruce Edwards

The Greene County Covered Bridges Cruise was planned as the Club's first cruise on May 3. With the heavy spring rains this year, the cruise was postponed until later in the season as the last open cruise instead of the first. It was well worth the wait. On Saturday, September 27, ten Miatas gathered at the Sheetz in Bridgeville. Cruise leader Joel Starr reviewed the Club protocol and shared some insight into the cruise. A handout was provided for each Miata that included directions and a history of each of the four Greene County covered bridges, as well as the lunch and ice cream stops. Linda Z. lined us up to start our journey at 9:30 and we headed out to

enjoy some of the best Washington and Greene County Miata roads in the Appalachian region.

After winding through about 40 miles of curvy, smooth Washington County roads, we entered Greene County and drove through the Cox Covered Bridge, the shortest covered bridge in Greene County. It was built mostly of wood in 1943 due to the shortage of steel during WWII. Our next stop was for a short pit stop at the Sheetz in Waynesburg.

The next leg of the cruise was to the Shriver Covered Bridge. At the pre-cruise meeting, Joel explained the choreography of driving ten Miatas through the bridge, turning left at the Y, then backing down the left Y and backing up the right Y to line up and drive, in order, through the bridge to the main road. It was easier to understand when you saw it. This was designed to be a memorable WPMC U-turn through a covered bridge and it was. We took a short break before heading back through the bridge to the main road to stretch our legs. While we were walking toward the bridge, two geese from the adjacent farm house determined that we were invading their territory. They let us know, as they came charging at us with loud honks and flapping wings, that we were unwelcome intruders. The lady of the farm came off her front porch and refereed the commotion and all was well that ended well. In the annals of WPMC lore, we think there were two firsts achieved: a 10-car K-turn through a covered bridge and being shooed off a property by guard geese. Mission accomplished Joel!

The roads to the White Covered Bridge included 10 miles on the "Warrior Trail," a 5,000-year-old Native American 67-mile route used for trading, hunting and sourcing flint to use in the making of sharp tools. Six miles north of the Mason-Dixon line, it traces a divide that separates the watersheds of two creeks. It runs along one of the ridge lines with spectacular views of the surrounding areas. We then wound our way down into the valley to arrive at the White Covered Bridge for our group photo. Built in the early 1900s on railroad property, it is the longest covered bridge in Greene County at 77 feet, 6 inches. Since 2002, there is an annual festival held on the site in early fall.

It was then back in our Miatas for more great roads, into Carmichaels and through the Carmichaels Covered Bridge built in 1889, with annual festivals there since 1970. Ten more miles of winding Miata roads (theme ongoing throughout the review) were next, and then back to





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Washington County and our lunch stop located on the Monongahela River at the Vesta 88 River House. The restaurant décor pays homage to the work of the coal miners in the Mon Valley. The black and white murals on the walls in the dining room depicted the underground coal mines and conditions from by-gone eras. The menu provided lots of choices and the food was plentiful and very good, as were the conversations.

Our last stop in midtown Monongahela was 18 miles of more windy, smooth paved roads which gave us enough time to find room for ice cream at Sweets by Mrs. C. It is an old fashioned ice cream parlor with over 30 flavors of soft serve and hard scoop ice cream, candies and chewing gums from the past. It was the perfect ending to a very enjoyable Miata cruise.

Cass Weekend Cruise Review by The Participants

This year's overnighter fall foliage trip to the Cass Railroad Train ride did not disappoint on any level. Seven cars with anxious guests were ready for a great trip and Linda did not disappoint. The beauty of nature surrounded us as we drove through windy roads to our bed and breakfast destination. Once we got there, each room had a different themed room; ours was The Oriental room. The furniture was magnificent and accommodations were great. The train ride was fun, especially the switchback that led us up the mountain. The overlook was beautiful. Although we had to cut our trip short, Ken and I were so pleased with the amount of fun we had in a 24 hour period. The camaraderie of the group was priceless. Thanks Linda for such a great trip.
Karen Nagel

With all of us writing about our Cass Railroad weekend, I'm going to focus on the Mountain Quest Institute. What a find! The rooms were themed, including Asian, retro, aviation, fantasy, garden, etc. The owner of the B & B decorated the rooms with treasures from her extensive travels. My favorite area of the lodge was the library featuring a spiral staircase and the marionettes. We enjoyed feeding apples to the miniature horses and visiting with the dogs and cats. And the breathtaking views of the mountains! The entire weekend was so well planned from the switchback roads, the train ride, the Green Bank

Observatory, and most of all the great company! Nice to meet Kathy and Liz who were on their first cruise with the club. Again, thank you Linda and Joe for all of the planning and navigating.
Pat & Ron Hoffman

On October 4, 2025, seven Miatas, including one of the newest members with the oldest car, an original Marine Blue painted NA, journeyed on a 650 mile round trip drive to the interior of Wild, Wonderful, WV. We spent three very well organized days based at The Mountain Quest Institute Retreat, where we only had breakfast and slept. We rode a coal fired steam locomotive train with a Shay engine, #4, built in 1922. The ride was a slow climb to the top of the second highest point in WV, Bald Knob. Beautiful vistas and blue sky all the way. Before heading home we stopped and visited the 'out of this world' Green Bank Observatory with the largest moveable radio radar dish in the world, the GBT.
Elizabeth LaRue

This member started the cruise with a case of nerves, but they were quickly eased by the other welcoming members and frequent walkie talkie communications. My NA was, for the first time, driven the way it is meant to be driven. It climbed mountains with a screaming engine and kicked dust on the dappled sun lit switch backs. So many switchbacks! While I was learning how to let this NA go as I followed our zooming lead car, my passenger had a few white knuckle moments, but both of us were smiling. What a fortunate life we all lead with our Miata convertibles when zooming through a beautiful weekend in October.
-Kathy McCafferty

Our home away from home for two nights, The Mountain Quest Inn, opened in 2003, as a 12 room retreat situated on 450 acres in the Allegheny Mountains in Frost, West Virginia. The Inn is attached at a 45 degree angle to the original farm house to preserve some ancient trees. Covered porches lead from the rooms to the common areas which include a two-story library with over 27,000 books and movies, meeting rooms, a game room with pool table, and an enclosed third story tower with a telescope for a closer view of the surrounding mountains and the stars at night. These rooms are attached to the 1905 farm house where a homestyle breakfast is served each morning in the dining room next to the kitchen. Each morning we were greeted by the two resident cats on the front porch, guarding the apples for our "neigh"bors basket of treats for the Jerusalem donkeys, horses and miniature horses waiting





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to greet us as they grazed next to the fences. Each of the twelve rooms has a different theme, with décor and collected treasures. On Sunday night, after dinner, we met in the large common room to share how much we were enjoying the cruise. The Inn was convenient to both our Sunday destination, the Cass Scenic Railroad, and the Monday Green Bank Observatory as we began the trip back home. Linda & Joe did a great job finding a unique and enjoyable place to stay which added to a fantastic 3-day cruise. Bruce & Mary Edwards

This was a great weekend! The drive in WVA included far more twists curves and turns than Jill and I have ever done in one day in our Miata! It was great fun!! There was so very much to be seen and experienced at the Mountain Quest that two days were only a glimpse of what could be experienced. The Cass train ride was like being carried through the mountainous parts of the Appalachian Trail. That would be the best way to do that adventure in my experience. And the engineering of the locomotives was a marvel of the steam engine era. The Green Bank Telescope and Observatory was a very educational scientific experience. Far above (pun intended) what I expected to see at an observatory site. Thank you Linda and Joe! It was a great weekend indeed!!
Dennis & Jill

If someone wanted a perfect weekend of clear blue October skies, hundreds of consecutive miles of exciting, twisty Miata roads, and relaxed, cozy accommodations in a gorgeous location, then Linda and Joe Zimlik's cruise through West Virginia was the perfect answer. Stopping first at Seneca Rocks, we made our way to Smoke on the Water for a delicious lunch. After many more enjoyable miles, we arrived at the Mountain Quest Inn, a working farm and B&B in Marlinton, WV. Although its proximity to a 20-mile cellular exclusion area meant no Wi-Fi or cell service, we soon discovered that our accommodations offered a host of fascinating diversions — from quirky themed guest rooms and a games room to a vast two-story library packed with every imaginable book, DVD, and CD a guest could ask for. All of the rooms were filled with eclectic treasures collected from around the world by the Inn's owners. Outdoors, the beautiful setting was enhanced by resident horses and donkeys, as well as a handful of friendly cats and dogs. On Sunday, we made our way to Cass Scenic Railway and enjoyed an 11-mile open-carriage train ride up to Bald Knob, the highest point on Back Allegheny Mountain. The railway provided a hobo-style box lunch, and there was plenty of pleasant conversation,

great views of the mountains and valleys, and the rhythmic sounds of the steam locomotive pushing us around curves to the summit. After a delicious dinner at the Greenbrier Grille, we capped off the evening with wine tasting and snacks in the great room back at the hotel. Monday morning found us touring the Green Bank Observatory, which operates the famous Robert C. Byrd 100-meter Green Bank Radio Telescope. The trip home — full of scenic vistas and more switchbacks than you could count — culminated with our traditional ice cream stop and a chorus of thanks to Linda and Joe for organizing such a memorable weekend.

Jack & Nancy

My take on the cruise is, in one word; Wonderful!!, but more than that, I think what is more important than a title is the making of the cruise itself. Creating a major, overnight, long distance cruise like Cass requires the time and patience of a special person or persons who are completely devoted to making the "details" attractive to every person in the club. Picking out where the cruise travels requires a great knowledge of places to go, activities to attend and places to stay overnight. Trying to find accommodations where a whole group will eat without breaking their pocketbooks is a real trick! Publicizing the cruise, contacting members about reservations and keeping track of the information for months is difficult and time consuming; not to mention creating and posting to the members a complete itinerary of the trip. Our annual Fall cruise requires the patience that our event director, Linda has and uses. She has the will and patience to take all the steps to make all our cruising successful. Not to forget our unofficial Road Captain Joe, who can find some of the most challenging back roads that put our cars and us to the driving test limits. On top of that Joe is also one of our ice-cream specialists that can smell a good ice-cream stand next to the HI way that we are traveling. Kudos to you both!

Ken Nagel





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2025 CRUISIN & ZOOMIN SEASON BY LINDA ZIMLIKI

The 2025 season has ended. It was a very eventful season with the Miata being the Spotlight car at PVGP. Hope all who took part in all the activities enjoyed them. We acquired new members through the PVGP. I turn my attention to 2026. Please let me know if you want to do a cruise next season. I can suggest a destination or area to do a cruise.

I have sad news. Out of the blue, Pitt Race has sold their property! It was a shock to everybody. It was bought by developers. Rumor is they bought surrounding areas also. Developer's name is not known. Rumors are flying that it may be an AI facility or another racetrack. We will just have to wait and see what happens. They will finish their schedule with the last event November 8 & 9 and then will close. Our members enjoyed many moments at Pitt Race and it will be sorely missed.

Our Annual WPMC Christmas Party ends our season and details are in this newsletter.

Zoom Zoomm Zoommm!





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Address goes here

leave room for mail bar code to go here



Saturday – December 6, 2025

11:00 AM TO 4:00 PM

Social Hour 11:00 AM–12:00 PM

Lunch: 12:00 PM

**WEST PENN MIATA CLUB
ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY**



Buffet: Parmesan Crusted Chicken & Baked Ziti w/Meat Sauce

Place: Courtyard Marriott Monroeville

3962 William Penn Highway

Monroeville, Pa 15146

Entertainment: Tim Ruff–The Acoustic Crooner

Send your check made out to “WPMC” for \$20.00 per person

To: Linda Zimlik by November 29th

3929 Murry Highlands Circle

Murrysville, Pa 15668

RSVP : lzimlik@westpennmiataclub.com