

THE *M* EDITION

Coronavirus Rules Still Allow for Topdown Fun, Part 2

State of Ohio restrictions still preclude our traditional club drive and dine events, mainly due to the limitation on gatherings greater than 10 people. Since restaurants are now open, however, a small group could meet, drive and end up at any restaurant that can accommodate them.

So you could call a few of your Miata friends and put together your own mini-event. Better still, our Facebook page provides an ideal way to communicate.

Just post a proposed time and place to meet, and invite participation. Just be sure to limit the group to 10 or fewer people and hope for good weather. Since some restaurant space is limited, too, you might make reservations or have folks pack a picnic meal and end at a park.

And don't forget to post a short story and photos on Facebook to share with the club and give other folks ideas for similar get togethers.

The Tire Squeal is Set for June 20-28

The folks in Indiana are still planning to hold their event, since it is centered around driving and eating, and involves no mass gatherings. By June, Indiana plans to have no complicating restrictions. Up-to-date info will be posted on the Tire Squeal website regarding any changes.

The event involves driving a loop of southern Indiana roads at your own pace, while stopping to sample the local food, featuring that "delicacy", Indiana Pork Tenderloin, described as a bigger-than-bun, hubcap-sized-breaded pork sandwich. The route is named after Germany's Nürburgring. Since it's Indiana, it's called The Schweinefiletring™ (translation: Pork Tenderloin Ring)!

It's set up as a charity event for Gleaners Food Bank of Indiana, so donations are appreciated, but not required. There is also a competition aspect, where you can score points to win prizes by visiting points of interest and restaurants. The contest is optional, so you can also just just drive the route and do your own thing. Much more info can be found at <https://schweinefiletring.com/home>

Linda and I are planning to go and are thinking of the following schedule: A four day trip - one day of back road driving to a suitable motel in the area, two days driving the route and catching local attractions, then a day's drive back home. They can be any four days between June 19 and 29, so the exact dates are flexible.

The more the merrier, as they say, so if this sounds interesting, contact me ASAP, so we can see who is available on what dates, pick a motel, and go from there.



- Bill Potvin

Tentative 2020 Event Calendar

Sat-Sun, June 20-28	The Tire Squeal 2020, Southern Indiana Road Tour
Saturday, July 18	NWOHio Miata Club 25th Anniversary Party
Saturday, July 25	Adopt-A-Highway Session organized by Karl Schwemley
Saturday, September 5	Eric Jones Memorial Riverrun Tour hosted by Buckeye Miata Club
September 24-27	Miatas at Margaritaville hosted by Gateway Miata Club
Sun-Sat, Sep 27-Oct 3	Miatas at the Gap hosted by Larry and Jan Sheridan
Saturday, October 17	Adopt-A-Highway Session organized by Karl Schwemley

More 25th Anniversary Year Reflections

A more careful reading of last month's historical contribution by your editor revealed that it was actually from 2000, the fifth year after the club's beginning. This issue's reminiscence is from 2005, when the club celebrated its 10th anniversary. It was a swell event that included a meander, a funcana and a great picnic. Quite a few members who participated are still active in the club. Enjoy the memories.

Stay tuned for more. In the coming months, the *M Edition* will feature articles on the club's 15th and 20th anniversary events, as we lead up to what we hope will be a super 25th anniversary party.

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**Stop in and talk to Nik, Mark or Bill,
and check the club web site for
the latest special deals.**

10th Anniversary Bash Draws Largest Group Ever

by Bill Potvin

The attendance record for a NWOHio Miata Club event was handily broken when 56 people in 30 cars participated in the combination meander/funcana/picnic on Saturday, June 25.

A goodly number of participants arrived early at the starting point, so even with the big crowd and several housekeeping chores to take care of, the group was away on time. The meander consisted of a fairly direct route along the Maumee River, ending at Don & Barbara Barkley's farm, between Grand Rapid and Napoleon. The only deviation was a loop to include the twisty Tontogany Creek Road. This road was part of the first Miata Meander in 1995 and this event marked its ninth use by the club. That factoid was just one of the 20 answers to questions in the Hysterical Historical Game. Along the route, drivers and passengers were challenged to identify signs and search their memories regarding the history of the club.

A break at the Barkley's provided a convenience stop, a chance for some refreshment and time to distribute the nifty commemorative t-shirts that were included in the entry fee. Mike Kraus did a super job with the artwork and arrangements for the printing, and he received many well-deserved compliments for the design.



Cars Lined Up at the Start

After the pause, it was a short trip to Oakwood Plaza in Napoleon, site of the funcana. The parking lot was huge, with plenty of space for the event and for staging the competitors. Thankfully, there was also lots of shade, since the temperature hit 98 degrees. The organizers had planned ahead, though, providing copious amounts of ice water, as well as a porta-potty.

As predicted, the funcana was a lot of laughs. Points were first garnered in three games: tossing and catching a ball in a plastic cone, attempting to fly model airplanes through a large arch, and shooting a ball at a kid's (actually our granddaughter's) basket. Cars were driven to each of these stations and then on to the timed portion of the run. In the initial part, a five cone slalom was negotiated, as the passenger tried to knock cans off the pylons with bean bags. Still on the clock, the driver was then blindfolded and had to drive a course between cones and stop on a line, all under the direction of the passenger.

Sheila and Dick Krieger did a great job planning this event. Everything was well-organized and with the help of the Barkleys, Bishes and Krauses as timers and scorers, all the cars completed the course in good time and we were off to the farm again for the cook-out, socializing and prize giving.



Blindfolded Mike Kraus Listens to Sharon

Barbara and Don's place was an ideal setting. There was plenty of space to park and lots of room outside, although with the hot weather, most folks gravitated to the air conditioning. Don enlisted some help and the burgers and dogs nearly flew off the grill. People brought a huge variety of hot and cold side dishes and desserts, which got raves from the crowd.

As usual, there was a lot of banter about the event and car stuff. Everyone oohed and aahed over John & Claudette Bretzloff's 2004 Emerald Green beauty, recently purchased, and the newest car in the club. We were also pleased to welcome new members Diane Shull ('96 Montego Blue) and Gary & Valorie Walters ('95 Black).



Most of the Cars - Anybody Got a Wide Angle Lens ?

It was a little later that we got down to the business of awarding prizes. Mike Kraus had contacted a number of vendors who came through in spades. Included in the big stuff was a cockpit cover and set of airhorns from The Crazy Red Italian; a *Miata History* video and 3 *Miata Universe* books from Moss Motors; 2 black grilles, 2 mesh windblockers, 3 door sill protectors, 3 ball caps and 4 coffee mugs plus lots of other stuff from MMMiata; and 2 fleece pullovers from The Racing Beat. In addition, Jerry Bish procured a high quality duffel bag, as well as lots of other stuff for the goodie bags from Wagner Mazda. Mazda USA also sent 5 shirts, 5 mugs, 5 key rings, 5 ball caps, 5 cooler bags and 5 third generation Miata posters, plus a zillion zoom-zoom decals.



Most of the People - Really, Anybody Got a Wide Angle Lens ?

The prizes were all laid out in the Barkley's garage for inspection and first choice went to Boo & Todd Finical for having the best score in the funcana. Boo was instructed to go out and make her selection, and she made quite an entrance when she came back with

Don's golf clubs. Nice try! Winners of the Hysterical Historical Game, John & Diane Fouts went next, followed by Mary Jo & Jerry Bish, who had identified the most meanders from a great set of photos that Sheila prepared. Fifth up were John & Claudette Bretzloff who had the worst score on the funcana (and the last shall be first). The rest of the prizes went by drawing tickets and, yes, everybody won a prize. In fact we have some nice stuff left over for future events.

Everyone agreed that the whole event went off in spectacular fashion. In addition to the main events, there were all manner of little additions that made the day great - Sharon Kraus did a neat series of posters commemorating our ten years, Sheila brought memory books of all of our newsletters and meanders, Barb Barkley arranged a display of t-shirts from the many national and international events our members have attended, John Temme entertained the crowd with a radio-controlled sailboat and car ... and who could forget Boo Finical and Kristie Brown pouring over a handsomely illustrated edition of *Puppetry of the Penis!*

Thanks go to all of the organizers and participants, but especially to Barbara and Don Barkley for making their lovely country estate available and for taking care of all of the details that made this a special event.

Some Pics from the Past



Meander to Hell - 2005



Fall Meander - 2004



Partying at Riverrun - 2005



With the Group at Michigan International Speedway - 2004