

Upcoming Events

Sat Aug 19	Meadowcroft Rockshelter & Historic Village Cruise
Sat Aug 26	WPMC Annual Picnic
Sat-Mon Sep 2-4	Topless in the Mountains
Sat Sep 9	Lunch in the Park & Harvest Festival Cruise
Sat-Sun Oct 14-15	Annual Fall Foliage & Hocking Train Cruise

Meadowcroft Rockshelter And Historic Village Cruise by Mike and Kathy Leone

Join us Saturday, August 19th, for our cruise to the Meadowcroft Rockshelter and Historic Village (www.heinzhistorycenter.org/meadowcroft) just west of Avella, PA. You will experience life in an interpretive 16th century Indian village, and a 19th century Ohio valley village, complete with restored homes, church, school house, functioning blacksmith shop, and more. There will also be an "Old Time" baseball game played using original rules.

The highlight of the cruise will be a private tour of the rock shelter, currently thought to be the site of the earliest known human presence and longest continuous habitation in the new world. Excavated artifacts date back from 16,000 to 19,000 years up to camp fires, and beer bottles from the present. This predates even the Clovis and Folsom sites in the Southwest by a wide margin. The guided tour will take around 45 minutes to an hour to complete. Admission will be at the group rate of \$10.00 per person. If you are a member of the Heinz History Center, admission

is free.

PLEASE NOTE we are required to climb several flights of stairs to access the rock shelter. This may be difficult for some. If so, the other activities will be available to cruise participants.

We will meet at the McDonald's (235 Meadowlands Blvd.) just off of the I-79 exit #41 at 9:00 AM. There are two gas stations immediately off of the exit where you can top-off.

Arrive early for gas, breakfast, and restrooms at McDonald's. Departure will be at 9:30. After a leisurely to sporty drive (possibly a couple of zoomies) through rural Washington County, we hope to arrive at Meadowcroft by 11:00. We are allotting two hours at Meadowcroft, after which, we will continue to the Bull Pen Inn (<http://www.bullpeninn.com/>) for a late lunch. A classy "Biker Bar", House rules are strictly enforced! - NO SHOES, NO SHIRT, NO SERVICE, NO COLORS, NO WEAPONS. I was impressed and I did confirm that we will be welcome, but leave your guns, knives, axes, etc. at home. We tried the food - good burgers, sandwiches, wings, home made chips, specials and salads with great service.

The cruise will conclude around 3:30 - 4:00 with really rich, soft serve custard and Italian Ice at the "Turtle Twist" near Canonsburg. We will lead the group back to I-79 at Canonsburg.

Rsvp by August 12 to (724) 746-0491 or mleone@westpenmiataclub.com

Scenic winding country roads with wide vistas, deep wooded valleys, good company, and food make for a great day!

September Deadline

The deadline for articles for the September newsletter is September 6, 2017





THE FUN 'N' THE SUN TIMES

West Penn Miat a Club Annual Picnic by Michael Butler

It's hard to believe that it's July already -- time sure does fly by! It seems there is never enough time in the summer to do all the things on our agendas - top down adventures in our Miatas, vacations, cook-outs and picnics, just to name a few. Speaking of picnics - it's time to start making plans for the WPMC picnic. As proven from past years, the picnic brings out the "happy" side in all of us with its mouth-watering food, good conversations with old and new friends, and the unpredictable and competitive games. Please make your reservation and mark your calendar now.

The 2017 WPMC annual picnic will be held on Saturday, August 26, 2017 from 11:00 AM - 4:00 PM at the Maple Grove Pavilion in White Oak Park. Reservations are required and we'd appreciate everyone bringing their "bragging signature dish" to fill our food table. As in the past, the Club will provide hamburgers, hot dogs, condiments, soft drinks, water, and paper products. Although many people may not complain about having too much dessert, we try to have a variety of food to satisfy all taste buds - appetizers, desserts, salads, and covered dishes. If you insist on making your famous signature dish, please sign up early otherwise, you may be asked to bring another dish. Please RSVP with your food selection by August 20th to mwbutlerdj@yaho.com or 412-498-0962.

Looking forward to seeing everyone. Let the fun begin!

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)

Topless in the Mountains - Revived by Joe & Linda Zimliki

It has been a few years since we've had Topless in the Mountains. This event always takes place over Labor Day weekend. It is two whole days of driving twisty roads in West Virginia. This is not 1 1/2 hours to 2 hours of driving to a destination and then a meal. It is an entire day of driving. We will be ZOOMIN the twisties. This cruise has country back roads, beautiful scenery, curvy roads, switchbacks (plenty), scenic valleys, and twisty roads. The first day will be Topless Past, favorite roads from Topless and from our cruises to WV. The second day will be Topless Present, all new roads. We have a great gathering place at the hotel in the evenings. There will also be a hose to wash your car after a day of driving. There is a limit to the number of Miatas we are taking.

I had no idea that members have been waiting for a West Virginia cruise. At the March meeting when I unveiled the schedule for the year, by the time I got home I had 4 cars signed up. It filled up fast, and I have a waiting list.

Since it is so early, people's plans can change or things come up making it impossible for them to attend. If you would like to be put on the waiting list, please contact me.

Again, please remember this cruise is two days of solid driving.

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Cruise Dates: September 2-4, Labor Day Weekend

Meeting Date & Time: Saturday, September 2 at 8:00 AM

Meeting Place: Ohiopyle Parking Lot

Hotel Cost: \$82 per night plus taxes. Hotel details will be given to those who have a spot for Topless

Contact: Linda Zimliki at 724-327-1762 or lzimliki@westpenmmiataclub.com

Cruise type: Definitely ZOOMIN

Cruise is FILLED

Lunch in the Park & Berlin Harvest Festival

by Ken & Karen Nagel

Welcome to the last Cruise of this hot Summer Season! Come along with Karen and I to the largest, scenic State Park in Ohio, Salt Fork. We will have lunch at the Lodge and Conference Center/ Resort, deep in the park. It's located on Ohio state route 22 East, Cambridge, OH. <https://www.saltforkstateparklodge.com>

After lunch if you choose, we will travel North East into Amish country to Berlin for their annual Harvest festival to complete our trip - <https://www.berlinharvestfestival.com>.

There will be Live Entertainment, Vendor shopping, Rib Cookoff, parade, and more. Round trip will be approximately 250 miles. For the ice cream buffs, there is a brand new Dairy Queen in Berlin along our route. Return trip instructions from Salt Fork or Berlin will be handed out at the Drivers Pre-cruise meeting before we depart.

Cruise Type: Leisurely – Sportyish with some interstate

travel.

Date & Time: Saturday September 9th. Meet at 9:00 AM. Depart at 9:30 AM

Meeting Place: Giant Eagle lot 1025, Washington Pike Rd, Bridgeville, PA, 15017, (Bridgeville Exit 54, Right off of ramp and Right onto Washington Pike Rd.)

Limit: 25-28 People

RSVP: By Sunday August 27th to Ken at nagelkm@comcast.net or 724-348-8999

Hocking Valley Scenic Railroad & Fall Foliage Cruise

by Joe & Linda Zimliki

For our annual train ride this year, we will be traveling to Ohio to ride the Hocking Valley Scenic Railroad. On this twisty, curvy cruise we should see fall foliage, if Mother Nature cooperates.

Hocking Valley Scenic RR was originally the Mineral Rail Road, and put into operation April 14, 1864 from Columbus to Athens, Ohio. In 1867, the name was changed to Columbia & Hocking Valley Railroad and the railroad expanded. It was built to transport salt & coal, and a famous brick industry rose to prominence not long after. It changed names many times over the years, and operated as a scenic railroad in 1985.

Sunday we will visit Hocking State park before heading home. The park has several spectacular rock formations, including Old Man's Cave - a narrow, deep gorge featuring waterfalls, Rock House - a cliffed area with a rock shelter, Cantwell Cliffs - a broad gorge at the head of a hollow with a unique stone stairway, Ash Cave - a large rock shelter with a small waterfall, and Cedar Falls - a larger waterfall south of Old Man's Cave.

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Dates: October 14-15

Costs: Train ride - \$17.15 per person, Hotel - \$159 plus taxes

Limit: 12 Cars - Filled - Have a waiting list

Type of Cruise: Sporty/ Zoomin

Contact: Linda Zimliki at 724-327-1762 or lzimliki@westpennmiataclub.com

Presque Isle Miata Club Picnic Cruise Report by Ron Vaill

Our Club was invited by the Presque Isle Miata Club to attend their July 8th Annual Picnic that benefits Make-A-Wish, so what could be better than a Miata Cruise to Erie? Scott Coatsworth had made a trial run just a couple days before the cruise, and everything was clear at that time, but PennDot decided to start some work on I-79 near Harmony that gave some of us a challenge getting to the meeting place on time. Miata owners know how to persevere, so the delay was minimal. Ron and Pat Hoffman had charted out a great leisurely route that bypassed I-79 from Meadville to Erie, complete with farms (and farm equipment), woodlands, and wonderful back roads that had everyone grinning from ear to ear. The scenery was so pleasant that it was a real surprise when we passed over I-90 and we knew we were getting close to our destination.

The PIMC Picnic was held at Camp Notre Dame in Fairview PA, a quiet retreat setting with a dining/event building, ample grassy areas, and plenty of trees. The Camp is just a driver and a wedge from Lake Erie (in golfer's lingo), but the setting is so lush that there was no hint that we were close to the lake. We were greeted by our own Mitch McQuown, who is also a member of PIMC

and who handled the picnic parking. Herm Stork didn't let us get too far from our Miatas before we became singing subjects of his video commemorating the event. Herm is quite the videographer, and his video is a hoot to watch on the PIMC web site if you have a chance to see it. There were lots of cool Miatas to drool over, with the Niagara Peninsula Miata Club (Canada), the Niagara Miata Club (Western NY), the West Penn Miata Club and the host Presque Isle Miata Club attending.

In addition to a donation to the Make-A-Wish foundation, we each brought a salad, dessert, or other goodie to complement the regular picnic fare provided by PIMC. Ron Hoffman sure knows how to cook those hot dogs! The meal was excellent, and a Wish family joined us and spoke about the 'Power of a Wish' and how it affected their child and family. It certainly makes you feel good to see how this wonderful charity benefits kids and their families.

We sat outside after the meal and Chinese auction for relaxation and good conversation before we began to pack up our stuff to drive back home. We couldn't help but laugh at the sight of the person who had won a giant flowering plant in the Chinese auction that completely filled the passenger side his Miata as he pulled out to drive home! Every cruise that my wife Clare and I have been on during this, our first year in the WPMC, has been a great experience, and this cruise fits that description to a "T". A good time was had by all.

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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Nemacolin Woodlands Cruise Review by Ray and Barb McBride

All one has to do is mention “winery” in the title of a Miata Cruise and the ride fills up quickly as it did on July 29. Fourteen Miatas met at the Sheetz Gas Station on Clairton Blvd at 9 AM and departed at 9:30 AM for a cruise to the Laurel Highlands. The only brave souls in the group to have their roof down was none other than Linda and Joe despite the cloudy, damp, occasional raindrop, morning.

Our cruise eventually took us to Rt. 40, which is a Historic National Pike. Following our rest stop, the weather cleared a little and most of the roofs were down. Our first stop was the Christian W. Klay Winery in Chalk Hill, PA. In 1997, Fayette County’s first commercial winery opened, named after the Klay’s son Christian. Today, the winery offers tours, wine tasting, and offers special events for the community including an annual benefit for Fayette Friends of Animals. They have bands on some weekends and a Lobster Clambake on August 13 plus a Murder Mystery Dinner Theater on August 19. There is also the Ridge Runner Distillery on the property which is a micro-distillery focused on crafting tasty spirits for the public. The distillery makes grape-based liquors such as Grapa and Brandy, vodka, and moonshine made from grain and whiskey aged in fresh PA oak barrels.

After our wine tasting, our next stop was only a short distance down the road to the Historic Stone House Inn, where we had a delicious lunch. The Inn dates back to 1822 and was opened to Wagoners and Travelers seeking rest, relaxation, and renewed Health in the nearby Fayette Springs. The Inn has Bikers' night every Thursday from 6-9 with games, BBQ, and Music.

Our next adventure was to visit the 2000 acre, Nemacolin Resort, of SouthWestern PA. In 1979, the Rockwell family opened this area to the public. Then in 1987, Joseph Hardy, founder of 84 Lumber Co., bought the resort at an auction. He then transferred ownership to his daughter, Maggie Hardy Magerka, who is still President and owner of the resort. Nemacolin includes 320 suites, townhomes, vacation homes, a shooting academy, Mystic Mt. Ski resort, snow tubing, dog sledding, etc. etc. etc. We toured their wine

cellar which was amazing. We were also able to view their Art Collection which is scattered throughout the resort. The Ice Cream Shop at Nemacolin was our last treat. Ray and I got so caught up in seeing everything, that we lost track of the group and missed out on the Ice Cream. OH WELL, that saved us a few calories and a few extra pounds. Thanks to Mike and Sandy Butler, it was a very pleasant ride. Great Job!!

Thistlewaite Vineyard Cruise Report by Don & Lee Platt

We gathered for the cruise at Trax Farm Market in Finleyville, Pa. The weather was cool and brisk, but dry, and the cruise was leisurely. The roads overall were quite decent and our convoy consisted of 8 cars. Traffic was quite heavy at the start of the ride which separated our cars, not all of them wannabes, but traffic thinned out within a couple of miles and we were back in column.

Our first stop was to a historic winery - Thistlewaite Vineyards. In 1892, the family moved to Greene County and bought the farm. It has 208 acres and at least half of it in producing grape fields. The family has owned it for 100 years. It was the first winery in Greene County, Pennsylvania. We sampled the various wines and enjoyed accompanying cheeses and crackers provided by Bruce and Kim Smith. Thank you guys!

Back on the road, we went past a Marina and Ten mile Park. We had reached Roxy's Roadhouse in Brownsville. Although Roxy's was not in Bruce's original plan for a restaurant stop, the food was very good and lots of it. Back on the road, it was on to Gene and Boots Ice cream and candy shop for our finale. It was a great ride, and Bruce and Kim Smith did a fine job for their first time leading.





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2017 CRUISIN & ZOOMIN SEASON

BY LINDA ZIMLIKI

It's been a wet summer but it didn't stop our leaders & members from hitting those curvy roads. We enjoyed our destinations and time spent with our fellow Miata lovers. We're not going to let the weather spoil our fun. Hopefully our remaining cruises will be dryer. Our annual picnic is at the end of this month, rain or shine. There is a large pavilion to keep us dry if it rains. We will still be able to play games, have door prizes, and don't forget all that great food. Hope to see everyone there.

We have changes to the schedule. The September 16 Laurel Mountains Cruise and September 30 Johnstown Flood National Memorial Cruise have been cancelled. Neither will be rescheduled this year. Anyone thinking of leading a cruise next year, please let me know. I can help you decide on a place to take the club, let you know if it has been done recently, or if someone else is already doing it.

Laurel Highlands British Car Club has invited our club members to participate in a Charity Rally. It will benefit Habitat for Humanity. Ten dollars of your registration fee will go to charity. The Highlander Rally will start at Red Robin in Greengate Center on Route 30. No rally experience is necessary. The rally will run on approximately 62 miles of paved roads in Fayette and Westmoreland counties. Scenery is superb as you travel on many roads most of you will have never seen before. Each team (minimum of two people) will use their Route Instructions to follow the course and may drive at whatever legal speeds are comfortable for them. Three hours are allotted for completing the rally but it may take less time. You will answer questions along the route and the highest score wins. The correct answer may not always be the obvious one. Cars will be sent off at 1 minute intervals. Registration starts at 11:00 am and the cars start off at 1:01. Trophies will be awarded. Registration fee is \$30. If you are interested in the rally, please email me at lzimliki@westpennmiataclub.com.

Zoom Zoomm Zoommm!



Ragtop review by Ron Hoffman, President

Here we are at the beginning of another month and another newsletter article is due. I swear I just submitted the July newsletter article!! Pat and I were certainly busy with club events and cruises throughout last month. We think we set a record – every weekend, other than July 4th, a club special event or cruise with the “Little Guy”. If you didn't get to any of the events last month then shame on you!! We did have a mixed bag of weather last month with a lot more rain this summer than last. Our first two events, the cruise to Erie and the Vintage Grand Prix were perfect from a weather standpoint. Then came the last two cruises to Deep Creek and Nemaocolin – well to say the least, they were a little soggy. But this club is a hearty bunch and a little (or a lot) of rain doesn't hold us back. We still enjoyed ourselves and of course lunch is always good and dry!! Lets keep our fingers crossed that August will be drier and it will be tops down all the way. Speaking of events for August, please remember that our annual club picnic is coming up. Check out Mike Butler's article in this newsletter for details. I hope to see a large crowd and plenty of good food. I also want to try to meet a “few more” club members that have not been able to attend previous events. The picnic committee, as always, has a full day of events planned. We also have a short business meeting, where I hope to get some good ideas from you on how we can make our club fun for everyone and keep it growing.

I found a web posting from MotorAuthority, which I hope, might be of interest to some of our club members. I have not found a lot of interesting Miata news lately but did run across this one. “What's quicker than a Lamborghini Murcielago, Ford GT, and BMW M4 around Nurburgring, Germany (www.nuerburgring.de/en.html)? None other than a Mazda Miata, believe it or not.” I don't think any of us in our Miatas could match Swedish high-performance sports car manufacturer, Koenigsegg's test driver, Robert Serwanski's feat in a Miata NC with just a “few” modifications. He made it around the track in 7:49.74, which is faster than a number of supercars and sports cars, per Nurburgring official lap records. Pretty much unheard of on 197 HP (30 more HP than the factory rating!!) Check out this article along with a cool video and other miata stories at: www.motorauthority.com/news/mx-5-miata.

Later!!





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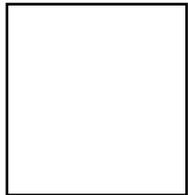
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