

Upcoming Events

Sat
Sep 9 Lunch in the Park & Harvest Festival
Cruise

Sat-Sun
Oct 14-15 Annual Fall Foliage & Hocking Train
Cruise

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

F by Joe & Linda Zimlik

or 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.

Dates: October 14-15

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

Limit: 12 Cars - Filled - Have a waiting list

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Type of Cruise: Sporty/ Zoomin

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

Cruising to (sort of!) Cruise Report By Ann and Ralph Bliss

Even though Saturday July 22 dawned gray and cloudy, an intrepid crew of WPMC members in 14 cars left Irwin with the tops down. Just before we reached New Stanton, however, we had to pull over for a "cover up."

Nancy Galvin and Jack Bartek presented us with a complete set of turn by turn instructions. After a 2 hour drive through beautiful countryside on winding roads, we arrived at our destination of Deep Creek Lake. Along the way, Nancy kept us entertained with good humor and information. The Green Turtle restaurant had a great menu with lots of choices. Nancy and Jack kindly provided a "Rain Consolation Drawing" where names were drawn and prizes awarded to four lucky cars/drivers.

As cruise departure time approached, the rain became very heavy and was accompanied by thunder and lightning. Not surprisingly, the tour-boat cruise was officially cancelled. Despite that, we had an enjoyable time and we thank Jack and Nancy for all of their efforts. It was a great cruise!

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



Meadowcroft Village and Rock Shelter Cruise Review

An interview with Myles
Mitesser - Reported by Mary
Jo Mitesser

Myles is the Miata owned by Jack and Mary Jo Mitesser. Here is what he had to say:

MJ: When was the cruise ?

Myles: The cruise was Saturday August 19th. It was an overcast day to start with temps in the 70's-low 80's.

MJ: Who were the leaders of the cruise ?

Myles: Mike and Kathy Leone

MJ: Was there a destination?

Myles: Yes, Meadowcroft Village and Rock Shelter

MJ: How many attended ?

Myles: 13 of us cars - 26 people

MJ: What was the cruise like going to Meadowcroft ?
Myles: It was wonderful. Lots of curvy Miata type rural roads. The speed was leisurely to sporty. We saw some beautiful scenery, covered bridges and lots of animals along the way.

MJ: What was Meadowcroft like ?

Myles: After arriving, we parked and our owners went into the Visitors Center, which was a very dark building. Low and behold we found out the electricity was out around the area. We cars all laughed thinking of our owners using the bathrooms in the dark. Good thing there's flashlights on cell phones ! Shortly after that, we all went down to the Rock Shelter where "Andrew" gave a private tour. Andrew was VERY smart and our owners learned many facts about the shelter. We cars were again laughing seeing our owners climb the 65 steps up to the shelter. After the tour, we headed back up to the Village

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where our owners leisurely explored the rest of the village which included an Indian village, the Miller Schoolhouse, the Fairview Church, the Blacksmith's Shop and the Miller Log House. AND there was an added bonus which was a Vintage Baseball Game using the rules and customs of the 1860's. It looked like everyone had a fabulous time.

MJ: Where did you go next ?

Myles: We continued on some great roads and ended up at the Bull Pen Inn where great food was had by all.

MJ: Did the group go for the traditional ice cream stop afterwards ?

Myles: Absolutely !! After lunch we drove on more great roads which lead us to the Turtle Twist. One thing though, the weather was getting ominous. Dark clouds were rolling in and storms were on the radar so the ice cream stop was cut short when the winds and rain came. All went running to us with ice cream in hand.

MJ: So how would you sum up the cruise ?

Myles: Great roads

- Great food
- Great cruise
- Great people
- Great cars

I would rate it a 10 on a scale of 0-10 !!!!! Mike and Kathy did a stellar job !! Thank You for such a great day. We all enjoyed.

Ragtop review by Ron Hoffman, President

The West Penn Miata Club's annual picnic is now history and September is upon us; where has the summer gone? For those who couldn't make the picnic, you missed out on lots of good food (oh those desserts!!), fun games, and great conversations. The weather was perfect, if just a bit cool, but that has been most of the summer, similar to the summers Pat and I enjoyed living in Erie. Thanks to all the club members who made it to the picnic, for their contributions of food and also to the board members who organized the picnic

– another successful club event!!

There were also some great drives this cruising season and thanks to the members who organized and led the rides. Planning these cruises does take a bit of effort, but they are well worth it. Hopefully the “wheels are turning” and more of our club members are thinking about where they would like to plan and lead a cruise next season. Be “brave” and step forward – be a cruise leader for next year!! The club will be happy to help out those who have never led a cruise before.

The current cruising season isn't over yet; in fact some very good driving weather (it's called Fall) is fast approaching here in Western PA. There are still a few cruises planned but unfortunately, two cruises in September were dropped from our schedule due to extenuating circumstances. Both were in the Laurel Highlands, one of the best regions, if not the best for fall scenery. I may be a little prejudice though, growing up in that area. Pat and I were looking forward to going on both of these cruises.

As an alternative, Pat and I are going to take our own “private” cruise through the Laurel Highlands. I started listing some of our favorite roads for fall foliage we have taken in the past and decided it might be worthwhile plotting out a route and sharing it with the club to also enjoy on your own. Most of the roads are State routes and should be easy to find and follow. Here is what I came up with:

* Find your way to Greensburg, Westmoreland County and get on PA RT 130 East, which goes right through the middle of town. For those coming from the North Hills, take the Turnpike East to the Irwin Exit No. 67 and follow US 30 East to Greensburg. For those coming from the South Hills, take I70 East to New Stanton and follow US RT 119 North to Greensburg.

* Continue on PA RT 130 East over Chestnut Ridge, crossing PA RT 711 at Stahlstown until it ends a PA RT 381.

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* **T**urn left and take PA RT 381 North through Rector and the Rolling Rock Estate to US RT 30. Turn left on RT 30 heading west.

* **Y**ou can also take an alternate route at Rector. Turn right onto Lynn Run Road, which will take you through the State Park and to the top of Laurel Ridge Mountain.

* **M**erge onto Laurel Summit Road. WARNING – Part of this road is gravel but well compacted, just go slow!!

* **F**ollow Laurel Summit Road out to US RT 30.

* **T**urn left and head west on US RT 30 down the mountain.

* **A MUST STOP** – At the bottom of the mountain is Laughlintown and the “Original Pie Shoppe”. If your top is down, then just follow the smell of fresh baked goods, you can’t miss it!! If you take PA RT 381 to US RT 30, then you will need to backtrack about a mile on RT 30 East, turning right instead of left toward Laughlintown and the Pie Shoppe.

* **C**ontinue on US RT 30 West heading toward Ligonier, which is only about 2 miles from Laughlintown.

* **A second MUST STOP** if you are hungry – Just before Ligonier is Pat’s favorite dining spot, Ruthie’s “Gourmet” Diner. It’s on the left and RT 30 is divided at Ruthie’s so you will have to make a U turn further up the road but it is well worth backtracking a little!! Their meatloaf is my favorite. NOTE – It’s cash only.

* **S**top in Ligonier and take a few laps around the town square to walk off your meal before heading back to Greensburg on RT 30 West and Greensburg.

Pat is ready to go!!

If you have a favorite and easy cruise route that others may like to enjoy on their own, let me know. I will see if we can get it in the next newsletter. Also, if there are any regional special events or festivals in October you think are good, send them to me and I will list them in the October newsletter.

Later!!

FOR SALE

Silver 2010 Mazda MX-5 Miata, 6 speed. It is a Grand touring convertible, and in excellent condition. Call if interested 724-384-8917

October Deadline

The deadline for articles for the October newsletter is October 7, 2017





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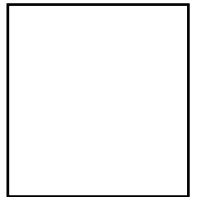
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