

Upcoming Events

Sun Aug 9	Touring Indiana County Cruise by Colonial Mazda
Sat Aug 15	Johns town Flood Museum Cruise
Sat Aug 29	WPMC Annual Picnic
Sat-Sun Sep 12-13	Cruise to Red River Gorge in Kentucky
Sat Sep 19	Explore Washington County Roads Cruise
Fri-Sun Oct 2-4	Colebrookdale Train Cruise

Yellow Creek State Park. After a short stop, we will proceed to the Beautiful Scenic Buttermilk Falls, then travel to "The Villa" in Blairsville for lunch. We look forward to seeing you

Date & Time: Sunday, August 9 at 10:00am Leave at 10:30am

Meeting Place: Colonial Mazda, 349 North 4th Street, Indiana, Pa.15701

Category: Sporty

RSVP: Linda Zimlik at bclj8@comcast.net by August 8th

Johnstown Flood Memorial Cruise by Tom & Lynn Meyers

The August 15th Johnstown Flood Memorial cruise will take the club on some back roads crossing over, and through areas where on the night of May 31st 1889 the South Fork dam broke and flooded the city of Johnstown and its surrounding areas. We will start at the Sheetz in Blairsville, PA and proceed up the mountain. The route will take us past the Stonycreek river which became the funnel for flooding the city during the tragic night. Curvy, sporty roads in the hills will take the club to our destination - The Johnstown Flood National Memorial. There is an amazing museum with great views of what once was the dam that gave way to the flood. Park Rangers for information, self guided tours, and an amazing free 30 minute movie in their theater that keeps you on the edge of your seat covering the events that occurred are all available. Once finished after the showing, we will head down and through the city of Johnstown and back up to the Johnstown Inclined Plane where we will have lunch at Asiagos Tuscan Italian restaurant overlooking the city landscape. From there, we will take a few back roads towards Rt 22 to allow those to head home.

Date and Time: August 15th at 9:00 A.M. Leave at 9:30

Scenic Roads to Yellow Creek State Park & Buttermilk Falls

by Chad Segner
Colonial Mazda
(Rescheduled from June 28)

Thank You to the West Penn Miata Club for coming to cruise with us at Colonial Mazda in Indiana, Pa. The dealership has been under the same ownership since 1946, and a Mazda franchise for 30+ years. We look forward to hosting this cruise. I am Chad Segner your Cruise Director.

The Cruise will start with a Meet & Great at Colonial Mazda. From there we will travel some scenic roads to





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Meeting Place: Blairsville, PA Sheetz (610 Rt. 22 Hwy Blairsville, PA 15717)

Category: Sporty

RSVP: Tom Meyers - fastbackmopar@gmail.com by August 12

Date & Time: Saturday August 29 from 11:00 am to 4:00 pm

Place: Maple Grove at White Oak Park, 3 Muse Lane, McKeesport, Pa

RSVP: Linda Zimlik - bclj8@comcast.net

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)

September Deadline

The deadline for articles for the September newsletter is September 5, 2026

Annual WPMC Picnic by Linda Zimlik

Our Annual Picnic is on Saturday August 29. This is a time for members to socialize and get to know each other. The Club will supply the hamburgers, hot dogs, brats, fried chicken, soft drinks, water, condiments, paper plates, napkins & cups. You need to RSVP so we know the appropriate quantities of items to buy. We ask that you bring a dish to share. When you RSVP you will be asked to bring either an appetizer, vegetable, salad, covered dish, snack food or dessert. I will let you know what we need.

This year the Second Miata Mayhem Madness Run is back by request. No special skills are needed, just a desire to have fun and laugh a lot. There will be teams and you can choose your task.





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Miatas at Red River Gorge

by Joe & Linda Zimlik

The date for this event has been changed to September 12 & 13. This is strictly a driving cruise, with two days of driving some great curvy roads. We will be driving the Dragon Slayer, RT 160 in Kentucky & Virginia. Joe and I have driven this road, which transcends Black Mountain, the highest point in Kentucky. It is very challenging with elevation changes and tight curves - 225 of them in 24 miles of total badassery. Great views await, if you can get a glimpse. We'll drive The Gorge on the first day and the Dragon Slayer on the second.

A note from the Organizer: The event will be broken down into smaller groups according to driving ability. "We have fun with it, but we focus on good behavior/safety (I have zero tolerance for people doing anything stupid) and trying our best not to lose anyone on the spirited driving segments. It tends to work out fairly well."

I am advertising this now so if you are interested, you need to get rooms now. If you want to go, please contact me for more information at bclj8@comcast.net.

Colebrookdale Railroad Cruise

by Joe & Linda Zimlik

(I have an opening for one couple. Please contact me before September 5 if you are interested.)

This October, we are stepping back in time to the 19th century, the Glided age and Progressive era with the rise of industrialization. We will be riding the Colebrookdale Railroad, that was built to connect Pottsville and Boyletown for the iron industry. It is a 35 mile trip that cuts through the heart of the Schuylkill Valley's earliest iron industries and the sites of the first iron works in Pennsylvania, the first blast furnace, and the first refinery forge. Area metal industry was involved in significant projects including the Panama Canal and, later, the Golden Gate Bridge.

You will take a 90 minute journey into Secret Valley, which looks much the same today as it did in the 19th century aboard the Glided Age luxury First-Class Parlor Car "Storm King". You will enjoy a tapas plate of hors-d'oeuvres with a complimentary glass of wine, beer or soda plus champagne followed with cheesecake or carrot cake. There is a player piano in the car and we'll have narration about Secret Valley and things of historic significance. The open air car will be part of the train if you would care to go to it. You may get a glance of the other Glided Age cars as well. This car is an adult only car and we would have it to ourselves.

I am advertising this trip now because I have the Parlor Car on hold for the moment. I need to know by April 18 so I can get it under contract. I am taking 20 people on this trip. If you would like to go on this trip, or have questions, please contact me ASAP.

Pertinent Information: Dates: Friday Oct 2 - Sunday Oct 4, Travel To: Boyletown 1 hour outside of Philadelphia, Limited : 20 People, Cost: \$95 per person, Deadline: April 18, 2026 bclj8@comcast.net.

Lenny's Classic Car Cruise Review

By Karen Nagel

I am here to tell you that you missed a wonderful cruise. Six Miatas were in attendance with eight anxious riders. The clouds were overcast at the beginning of the cruise but tops were down and it ended up being a beautiful, sunny day as we drove up through Altoona, PA. Jim took us on many curvy roads; one, appropriately named "Snake Rd" that even looked like a long slithering snake as we sportingly breezed through it. We passed hayfields, cornfields, and active, giant wind turbines. There were a few almost quick turns and we made only one "Oops" turnaround.

We enjoyed a leisurely lunch at the Park Hills Golf and Grille restaurant. During our lunch, we received Jim and Joe's description of the difficulty of the tree lined golf course. Joe says that he's always in the trees! After lunch, while driving to the museum, we were entertained while stopped at a red light by a brave woman who was standing



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Thank you from the
Vazquez



by Greg and Christine
Vazquez

Dear Miata Club,
We wanted to give you an update on our Miata that suffered a mechanical failure on the recent trip to Tara. As you know, a spark plug blew out. We had the car towed to Cooper's garage in Hermitage on Monday. They took very good care of us and were able to fix the problem on Monday. Our mechanic, when we had the head gasket replaced, failed to torque the spark plugs properly and thus they worked their way loose. The other spark plugs were found loose also, thus the reason for the failure. We want to give a shout out to everyone who was ready to help and for all of your patience, especially Jim, Walt and Joel who kindly gave us rides to Tara and home. Thanks again!

P.S. Greg was very impressed with Joel's turbocharger installation.

Tara Country Inn Cruise Review

by Karin and Dan Flanagan

The morning of Sunday, July 26 was ideal for a cruise to Tara in Clark, PA. We met at the Giant Eagle in Seven Fields with nine cars attending. Our cruise leaders, Joe and Linda Zimlik, chose roads that were fun with lots of twists and turns. We saw breathtaking views of farmland and we passed many quaint churches. Our new Miata Club member, Ben Cohen, described an old

abandoned diner that caught his attention. We almost made it to Tara when Greg and Christine Vazquez's Miata had car trouble, breaking down near a Dollar General store. It was determined their car was not drivable. Greg and Christine decided to deal with their car the following day so they rode to the luncheon at Tara with other Miata club members. As we pulled in to Tara, you immediately noticed an immense white mansion that looked like a southern plantation with huge pillars where you could picture yourself sipping a Mint Julep on the front porch!

It was nice to see three former Miata club members Vera DeMathis, and Shiela and Brian Bell who joined us for brunch. As we made our way to the dining area admiring all the beautiful antiques, the smell of home-cooked food lingered as we made our way to the buffet, anticipating a delicious meal and we were not disappointed. You had your choice of made-to-order omelettes, waffles, crepes, turkey, prime rib, salads, cheesy potatoes, and much much more! After brunch, some of the group took a tour through Tara and were amazed at all the "Gone with the Wind" themed rooms. We passed an inviting outdoor pool while strolling along the gardens which had statues and a gazebo positioned along the walkways. After a delightful day at Tara, we drove to Abe's Ice cream in New Wilmington and reminisced as Amish buggies trotted by. Thanks to Scarlet O'Hara and Rhett Butler for leading an amazing cruise. We drove into the sunset anticipating our next cruise "After all, tomorrow is another day!"

2026 CRUISIN & ZOOMIN SEASON

BY LINDA ZIMLIKI

Fall will soon be here and we have some great cruises coming up. Please check them out. At the end of the month we have our annual picnic and I hope you will attend. We will be having the 2nd Miata Mayhem Madness Run this year. Very low key, no particular skills are needed, all you need is a desire to have fun and laugh a lot.

This is the time I ask members to come up with ideas for cruises and lead one. You must have a place you would like to take us. Please let me know what you are thinking and I can help you. If you don't have a place but want to do a cruise, I can help you.

Please come join us on our remaining cruises.

Zoom Zoomm Zoommm!





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Fellow Miata Owner

by Linda Zimlik

Joe & I went to see the Big Boy Engine on its recent visit to Altoona. When we left there was a 10th Anniversary Miata parked next to us. I placed a card on the window with my email on it. The owner responded and we have been sending emails back & forth. I told him to go to our tent and talk to Joel. He attended the PVGP on Sunday and his Miata and wagon got a lot of attention. Remember, he drove this from Altoona to Pittsburgh. Must have been quite a head turner.



Miata Musings: The Saga of a Stuck Parking Brake

By Joel Starr, President

A funny thing happened to me as I tried to pull out of my garage to travel to a WPMC cruise: the car would not move. I turned over the engine, put her in reverse, released the parking brake, and as I tried to accelerate and the car did not move. I immediately turned off the car, put it in gear and engaged the parking brake (as you normally would when exiting the vehicle) and got out to make sure there was nothing blocking the tires (it wouldn't be the first time I left the wheels chocked). Everything was clear. I was suspicious the parking brake was stuck or at least the brake pads were stuck on the brake rotor. So, I turned on the ignition, released the parking and began rocking the car back and fourth by alternating between first gear and reverse gradually increasing the amount I pushed on the accelerator.

I needed to keep in mind I only had about 1 foot between the front of the car and the garage wall. If something broke free I would need to react pretty quickly. Eventually I heard a "bang" and the car was moving. After verifying the brakes and parking brake were operating as intended, I was off to the cruise without any further issues. It turns out, I had washed the car with a pressure washer two weeks earlier and then parked it in my garage with the parking brake applied and never moved the car until the day of the cruise. I'm guessing that in that time the rotors rusted to the brake pads (which were held firmly together because of the parking brake).

Now I park the car without the parking brake applied after washing it until the rotors have time to dry. I have no idea why the parking brake seized this time and never before when I washed the car and parked it for a long time. After removing the tires and inspecting the brakes, everything looked normal so I'm chalking it up to a combination of wear on the rotors, local humidity, and random chance.





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