

## Upcoming Events

Sat Jul 11	Lenny's Classic Car Collection Cruise
Sat-Sun Jul 18-19	Pittsburgh Vintage Grand Prix
Sun Jul 26	Tara Country Inn Cruise
Sat Aug 1	Covered Bridges of Somerset and Bedford Counties Cruise
Wed Aug 5 7:00 PM	WPMC Monthly Teleconference Meeting
Sun Aug 9	Touring Indiana County Cruise by Colonial Mazda
Sat Aug 15	Johnstown 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

## Lenny's Classic Car Collection Cruise by Jim Blok

On Saturday, July 11th, we will be departing from the Sheetz in Blairsville taking Miata back roads to Altoona PA. We will have lunch at the Park Hills Golf and Grille. After a relaxing lunch, we will continue on to Lenny's Classic Car Collection. This collection is housed in the former Willy's Overland building that produced Jeeps for many years. After purchasing the building, Lenny converted it into a first class restoration facility. Not the largest collection, but certainly one of the highest quality collections in the country. I got a first class private tour by Wayne Farabaugh, who does all the restorations in the collection. He and possibly Lenny will be giving our group a private tour. Of course, we will finish the cruise with an ICE CREAM stop.

**Date & Time:** July 11, 2026, Meet at 8:30 AM, Leave at 9:00 AM sharp

**Meeting Place:** Sheetz 610 US RT 22 Blairsville PA

**RSVP:** 412-287-9954 or jameslblok@yahoo.com

### 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**

## August Deadline

The deadline for articles for the August newsletter is August 10, 2026





# THE FUN 'N' THE SUN TIMES

## Pittsburgh Vintage Grand Prix by Vickie Buzzelli

**T**he West Penn Miata Club will get together on Saturday, July 18th and Sunday July 19th. We meet in the Asian Car Section to enjoy our Miatas, the camaraderie of others, and watch the only remaining Vintage race still run on city streets. Vintage racers take to the streets of Schenley Park for a thrilling weekend of competition. Qualifying races on Saturday set the grid for Sunday's featured Helltown Winners Circle races. As the nation's only vintage street race, the PVGP delivers a competitive experience found nowhere else-tight corners, elevation changes, tree-lined straights and enthusiastic crowds just feet from the action.

**T**he PVGP is more than a race, it's a festival. You will enjoy one of the most engaging motorsports experiences in the country with racing action unfolding through a city park surrounded by car displays, food vendors, and family friendly attractions. Visit the paddock on Prospect Drive and meet the drivers. Please go to the registration web page located at <https://pvgp.org/car-show-overview/asian-car-show/> The rate for the weekend is \$60. This rate is available until June 30th which at that time will increase to \$70. Please use the web site to register for any of the events you would like to attend. The entrance to the International Car Show is at the top of Schenley Drive where it intersects Forbes Avenue in Squirrel Hill, just below the Schenley Park Golf Course Clubhouse. You will enter at Gate D, but actual instructions will be given on race day. Please note that your receipt will contain a QR code that will be scanned upon entry to facilitate a quick and touchless process. So please print your receipt or save it in your phone and bring it with you. The car show runs from 9:30am-5:00pm.

**W**PMC's main day will be Saturday July 18th. We will have a tent. This year we will all bring a covered dish. Details to follow in emails.

**T**he tent and tables will remain in place for both days for anyone who wishes to attend on Sunday, which is the featured Vintage Race, which begins at 11:00am with opening ceremonies. Food will only be available in our tent on Saturday. We also need folks to take turns staffing the

information and merchandise table during the day. Please take a bit of time to help promote our club and to meet prospective members. There are a lot of people signed up for the Miata section who are non-members of WPMC. Please mingle with the others and encourage them to join. Hope to see you all in Schenley Park on July 18th and 19th.

## Tara Cruise by Joe & Linda Zimliki



**L**eaders for this cruise unfortunately have health concerns which prevent them from leading this cruise, so Joe & I will lead it. The original house was built in 1854 on top of a hill in Clarksville by Charles Koonce, who voted to ratify the 13th Amendment abolishing slavery. Lore says it was part of the Underground Railroad. Two generations later his grandson reimagined the residence, whitewashing the brick and adding a sweeping veranda with stately iconic columns and twin sunrooms. It stood vacant for quite a number of years. In 1984, Jim & Donna Winter purchased it and started renovations of the house and grounds. It opened its doors in 1986 and Tara - A Country Inn was born. It was inspired by "Gone With the Wind" with its outhern hospitality. Join us as we cruise the back curvy roads back to another era in time. We will have Sunday Brunch. Some of items include Roasted Tom Turkey, Roasted Prime Rib, Slow Roasted Raisin Glazed Ham, Pork and Sauerkraut. Cooked to order omelets, crepes, and waffles with your favorite toppings and stuffing are also available. They have many homestyle side dishes and desserts. I have spoken to the chef and he is very accommodating. If you have a food requirement, please let me know and I can let him know. They have a special price of \$28.95 for seniors. We will do a self guided tour of Tara and the beautiful grounds after brunch. Join us for a trip back in time.

**Date & Time:** Sunday July 26th at 10:00 am Leave 10:30





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**Meeting Place:** Side Parking Lot of Giant Eagle closest to Blvd , 206 Seven Fields Blvd, Seven Fields, Pa 16046

**Category:** Sporty

**RSVP:** Linda Zimliki - belj8@comcast.net by July 22

## Scenic Roads to Yellow Creek State Park & Buttermilk Falls

by Chad Segner  
Colonial Mazda

(Rescheduled from June 28)

**T**hank 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 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 Zimliki at belj8@comcast.net by June 24th



## Covered Bridge Tour of Somerset & Bedford Counties

by Dave & Luanne Kopco

**O**ur cruise will take us along scenic winding backroads in Somerset and Bedford counties that lead us to 5 covered bridges that we can drive through and past one or two more that are closed to traffic. This year will include a stop at Mount Davis, the highest point in Pennsylvania. Lunch will be at the Jean Bonnet Tavern in Bedford. We will meet at Sheetz #60 on Route 281 in Somerset at 8:30am for a 9:00am start and finish up at the Igloo for ice cream. We previously ran this cruise in 2021. This will be a "spirited" driving cruise so please be sure that is what you are looking for.

**Date & Time:** Saturday, August 1, 8:30 AM

**Place:** Sheetz #60, Somerset, Route 281, 118 S. Rosina Ave.

**Category:** "Zoomin"

**RSVP:** Dave 814-421-0857, dlkopco@gmail.com or Luanne 814-241-3850 lkopco@gmail.com by Friday, July 24

## Johnstown Flood Memorial Cruise

by Tom & Lynn Meyers

**T**he 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





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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

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

**Category:** Sporty

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

## Annual WPMC Picnic by Linda Zimliki

**O**ur 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.

**T**he team game with obstacle course will be back. Nancy Bartek will decide what will be in the course this year. We are out to dethrone Dave Kopco's team. It was a lot of fun last year. He accepted the challenge at last year's Christmas Party.

**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 Zimliki - 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)

## Miatas at Red River Gorge by Joe & Linda Zimliki

**T**he 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





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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](mailto:bclj8@comcast.net).

## Colebrookdale Railroad Cruise by Joe & Linda Zimlik (Information Only - Cruise is Full)

**T**his 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 Boylertown 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.

**Y**ou 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: Boylertown 1 hour outside of Philadelphia, Limited : 20 People, Cost: \$95 per person, Deadline: April 18, 2026 [bclj8@comcast.net](mailto:bclj8@comcast.net).

## Packard Museum Cruise Review by Vickie Buzzelli

**I**t was a bright sunny morning, Saturday, June 13, when 11 Miatas lined up at Sheetz in Wexford for a sporty cruise to the Packard Museum in Warren, Ohio. Before we went to the museum, we had lunch at the Sunny Café. The menu was quite extensive, something for everyone. After lunch, we drove a few blocks to the museum. When one thinks of the Packard Museum, the first thing that comes to mind is cars, but their first successful business was electrical equipment manufacturing, which came before the automobile company. Before cars, James Ward Packard and his brother William founded the Packard Electric Company in the 1890s in Warren, Ohio. The company produced electric lamps, dynamos and generators, wiring and other electrical components. This business grew out of the early electrical industry boom and was quite successful.

**T**he Packard story began in 1899, after being dissatisfied with a car he purchased, when brothers James Ward Packard and William Doud Packard built their first automobile in Warren, Ohio. They formed the Ohio Automobile Company in 1900, which was soon renamed the Packard Motor Car Company and later moved to Detroit in 1900. It operated from three different Warren locations before opening its current facility on July 4, 1999. Its mission is to preserve the Packard legacy and recognize Packard's role in transportation and industrial history.

**P**ackard's motto: "Ask the Man Who Owns One." What did this mean? Introduced in the early 1900s as part of Packard's advertising emphasized customer satisfaction and reputation rather than flashy claims. The slogan helped position Packard as a top-tier luxury brand,





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competing with the finest automobiles of its time. It reinforced the idea that Packard didn't need exaggeration—its owners' experiences spoke for it. In short, the motto reflected Packard's confidence in its product and became a defining part of its identity.

As usual, the day ended with a trip to the ice cream shop. A great day was had by all! Thank you Jim, for a wonderful, educational day.

## 2026 CRUISIN & ZOOMIN SEASON BY LINDA ZIMLIKI

July is here already. It has been a very hot and rainy season this year, We had to reschedule the Scenic Roads to Yellow Creek Park and Buttermilk Falls Cruise. Chad had an event Saturday that was rained out and it was rescheduled for Sunday. We have rescheduled the event for Sunday August 9. The original leaders of the Lenny's Classic Car Collection moved to Florida in May so Jim Blok graciously said he would do it. Jim is very excited about this cruise. We had leaders for Down to Maryland to Stonecroft Manor cancel their cruise. Fortunately that allowed the Yellow Creek & Buttermilk Falls to be rescheduled for August 9th. The Tara Cruise leaders will not be able to lead their cruise so Joe & I will now lead it. Hopefully rain will stay away for our remaining cruises. Have to do my rain dance.

Zoom Zoomm Zoommm!

## Miata Musings: The Joy of Planning a Cruise

By Joel Starr, President

If you like reading maps, planning a Miata cruise is a great pastime during poor weather when you are stuck inside. While some people like sharing routes they are familiar with, I like mapping out new cruises on roads I

have yet to explore and there are so many online resources to utilize. Technology sure has changed since the days when we pulled out hard copy maps and had to make multiple trips figuring out the best roads to get from point A to point B. Here are a few things I've learned while planning Miata Cruises.

Google maps is a good place to start but not to end (for reasons I'll explain). In Google Maps you can plot a route from your starting point to your end point, selecting the option to avoid highways and tolls. Then drag the route around to utilize roads you think might be fun to drive. If the roads you are using don't have Google Street View available, they are probably (but not always) poor roads to use. The problem with google maps is that once you've plotted a course you are happy with and send the link to your phone, the routes get changed. You can't send a fixed route to your smart phone using google maps.

The next step, for me at least, is to use Garmin Basecamp which is free pc based software from Garmin which you can plot a "fixed route" and transfer it to a Garmin for your car. I purchased the cheapest Garmin I could find at BestBuy and downloaded Basecamp from the Garmin website. Basecamp is a little clunky, which is why I like doing as much in Google Maps as I can first. If you are not computer literate and willing to use trial and error to get it to work, this may not be the best option for you.

Finally, there is no substitute for scouting the route in person. There are always adjustments to be made and there are always roads that look good on the computer but are not passible at the time you want to lead your cruise. Avoid gravel roads for sure and chip and tar roads can be a risk. If the township/county decides to re-chip the road just before your cruise, you will have to find a go-around.

You don't have to plan a cruise this way but it has worked well for me. Happy cruise planning.





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e-mail: [wpmc@westpenmiataclub.com](mailto:wpmc@westpenmiataclub.com)  
web site: <https://www.westpenmiataclub.com>



Editor - In - Chief:  
Steve Lapp

Send all  
editorial contributions to:



WEST PENN MIATA CLUB  
c/o Steve Lapp  
105 Gadshill Place  
Pittsburgh, PA 15237  
e-mail: [wpmc@westpenmiataclub.com](mailto:wpmc@westpenmiataclub.com)

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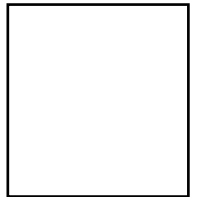
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WEST PENN MIATA CLUB

c/o Vickie Buzzelli   
208 Adams Pointe Blvd, Suite #7  
Mars, PA 16046



*Address goes here*

