

## Upcoming Events

Wed Apr 2 7:00 PM	WPMC Monthly Teleconference Meeting
Sat Apr 5	Tech Session at Rohrich Mazda
Wed Apr 30 7:00 PM	WPMC Monthly Teleconference Meeting
Sat May 3	Covered Bridges of Greene County Cruise
Sun May 18	Smail Cruise to Seven Springs
Mon May 26	Baglier Memorial Day Parade
Sun Jun 1	Joint Cruise with the Jaguar Club
Wed Jun 4 7:00 PM	WPMC Monthly Teleconference Meeting
Sat Jun 7	Frick Mansion + Car & Carriage Museum Cruise
Sat Jun 21	Tour-Ed Mine Cruise
Sat Jun 28	Swigart Antique Auto Museum Cruise
Wed Jul 2 7:00 PM	WPMC Monthly Teleconference Meeting
Sun Jul 6	PVGP Start-Up Rallye

Sat-Sun Jul 12-13	Miata Gathering at PittRace - PVGP
Sat-Sun Jul 19-20	Pittsburgh Vintage Grand Prix - Miata is the Spotlight Car
Wed Jul 30 7:00 PM	WPMC Monthly Teleconference Meeting
Sat Aug 2	Railroaders Memorial Museum Cruise with the PACE Club
Sat Aug 9	Tara Country Inn Cruise
Sat Aug 23	WPMC Annual Picnic
Sat Sep 13	Explore Washington County Roads Cruise
Sat Sep 20	Vineyards at Pine Lake Cruise
TBD	Cass Railroad Cruise
Sat Dec 6	WPMC Annual Christmas Party

## April Deadline

The deadline for articles for the April newsletter is April 7, 2025





# THE FUN 'N' THE SUN TIMES

## 2025 WPMC Dues by Ed Southon

**G**round Hog Day has once again come and gone, so it must be time to start thinking about the upcoming cruise season of the WPMC. It's time to make sure your Miata's battery will hold a charge, its tires are properly inflated, and its oil is fresh. It's also time to renew your WPMC membership for 2025 BY MARCH 31. Here's how:

**W**rite a check for \$35.00 to WPMC. As noted previously, this is a rise from the former level of \$30.00, where it had been for a long time. It's still a good deal, though. Where else can you get this much fun for the money? If you are a new member, complete a Terms and Conditions form for yourself. Anyone who will be riding with you will need to complete their own, separate form. Existing members do not need to complete a new form, but any new riders who have not previously completed a form must do so. If you are a new member, complete an Application form. Existing members need to complete an amended form only if any information on the form – e.g., address, license plate, ownership, phone number - has changed. We need to be able to identify and contact members as required. Send your signed check and any forms to:

WPMC  
c/o Ed Southon  
151 Ft. Pitt Boulevard #903  
Pittsburgh, PA 15222

**I**n return, you will get a receipt and membership card and your name will be added to the updated membership list. Your check and materials are DUE BY MARCH 31, 2025. Forms can be downloaded at:

<http://westpennmiataclub.com/docs/Memberapp+Terms.pdf>

**H**ere's to the pleasure of renewing old friendships and making new ones.



## Tech Session By Joel Starr

**R**ohrich Mazda will be hosting our Club Tech Session Saturday, April 5. Come with questions you might have about your Miata or the future outlook for the Miata.

**Date & Time:** Saturday April 5, 10:00 AM

**Location:** Rohrich Mazda  
2690 W Liberty Ave,  
Dormont PA 15216

**R**ohrich has asked that we do not park in front of the dealership. There is a parking lot between Rohrich Mazda and the Honda Service center, next to the dealership. There are also parking lots on the other side of Edgehill Avenue as well as the across Liberty from the dealership. If you choose to choose to park across Liberty, take care crossing the road. It is very busy.

**P**lease email me if you plan to attend at [jstarr@westpennmiataclub.com](mailto:jstarr@westpennmiataclub.com)

## 2025 CRUISIN & ZOOMIN SEASON BY LINDA ZIMLIKI

**W**ell, we had our first meeting of the year. We drove to Washington, Pa and home with snow flurries. I hope this isn't an omen for the season.

**T**he 2025 season should be an exciting year. First, it is the 35th Anniversary of our club, The West Penn Miata Club. Second, the Miata is the SPOTLIGHT CAR for the PVGP. It is an honor for our club. The events for this year I believe live up to such an honor. The month of July will be devoted to PVGP and I hope everyone will join in on the 13 day festivities. The PVGP is the nation's only vintage street race and the largest vintage race event in





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the US. It raises funds to provide residential care, treatment and support for individuals with autism and intellectual/developmental disabilities in Western Pennsylvania. It has been raising money for 43 years. The first event kicks off Sunday July 6 with the PVGP START UP RALLYE. A rallye is a lot of fun. You are provided with questions and you look for answers as you drive the route provided. The Miata has its own category and the winner will receive a trophy. You will need a navigator. Entry is \$80 which includes entry fees for your Miata and two individuals plus a deluxe dinner cookout at Dual Devil's Garage in Houston, PA, which is the start and conclusion of Rally. There will also be 17 Helltown Taproom craft beers. You will be able to tour their car exhibits and check out upcoming cars for auction in their showroom.

Another PVGP event that is on our schedule is the Historics at Pitt Race July 11-13. The club will be going Saturday July 12. The entry fee is \$50 which includes parking on the lawn overlooking the final turns of the race track, along with entry into the Lotus Hospitality Tent. Saturday and Sunday will include a Triumph - MG Challenge. One race each day that will be a Triumph - MG only race. At lunchtime on all three days, PVGP will offer Charity Track Rides for \$50. Rides are limited to 50 minutes. Rides are scheduled noon until 12:50 each day. This is a once in lifetime opportunity for our club. Hope you take advantage of this opportunity. There is an event everyday so check out the event list to see what might interest you.

We have other great events. The season starts with a Tech Session on April 5 at Rohrich. Our driving season starts with a Covered Bridge Tour. We then have a salesman from Smail doing a cruise to Seven Springs. Our annual Butler Memorial Day Parade follows. Next is a joint cruise with the Jaguar Club, who will be hosting us. We then visit the Frick Mansion which includes the Car & Carriage Museum & Greenhouse. We also visit Tara - Country Inn for a tour and lunch. You will get your chance to visit what used to be a working mine, the Tour-Ed Mine. Dave & Luanne will take us to Swigart Antique Auto Museum, the oldest American Antique Auto Museum. We will meet up with Pace Club at the Railroaders Museum in Altoona. We will also explore the Zoomin roads of Washington Country. Then we have a restful time at Vineyards at Pine Lake, where Northcoast might join us. Naturally there will be the annual picnic and to close out the season, the Christmas Party. We have a new venue and time for our Christmas Party. The Party will be held at the Courtyard Marriott in Monroeville. I have moved the time from

dinner to lunch. It will still be the first Saturday in December.

Zoom Zoomm Zoommm!

## Ed Diaz - 1938 - 2025

by Linda Zimlik



Ed Diaz passed away February 11, 2025. He was a member since 2009, and had been in the hospital on dialysis for 6 months. After being moved monthly, Ed decided this was not what he wanted. He told his sons he wanted taken off of dialysis and they honored his wishes.

Ed was a very talented man. He built recumbent bikes, and painted Americana, always with cars in them. He loved vintage cars, was a woodcrafter, and made vases and all types of bowls out of wood,

He loved his Miata, the Miata club, and the people in the club. His son told me he always looked forward to weekends and a Miata cruise. The West Penn Miata Club brought a lot of enjoyment to his life, especially after his wife passed away. His son wanted the members to know what a difference the Club made in his life. So Ed, here's hoping you are zoomin around in Miata heaven.





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## Miat a Musings: Elegance and Engineering

By Joel Starr, President

**E**very year I like to get under the hood of my Miata. Not only does this give me a deep appreciation for my auto mechanic, it also gives me hands on experience to the marvel of engineering that is the Mazda Miata. Every component has been fitted into a compact space to be functional, reliable, and fun.

**T**his past winter I was trying to access the header but first I had to get the heat shield removed. Every bolt was accessible, but there wasn't any wasted space. Sometimes I needed to stop and think about what I was doing and how the engineers expected me to perform the task at hand. Invariably there was an optimal way to perform each task and so long as I found the right way (thank you YouTube), it could be done without special tools. I did make several trips to Harbor Freight and Home Depot to pick up a few common tools I did not have and will probably never use again, but that is part of the experience.

**W**hile under the car I found that I could not reach the lower part of the engine bay. What I needed was to reach around through the wheel well but it was blocked by the mud cowlings. I was not looking forward to removing some 20+ clips holding them in. Then I looked more closely, and there was a small access panel held by one clip at the back of the wheel well right where I needed it to be. I popped the clip and that was all the access I needed. I paused a bit to contemplate how someone had anticipated that I would need that access point. Not only did they build a car that was fun to drive, efficiently utilize the space available, but they also anticipated how those parts could be accessed and maintained.

### 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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