

Upcoming Events

Sat-Sun Sep 12-13	Cruise to Red River Gorge in Kentucky
Fri-Sun Oct 2-4	Colebrookdale Train Cruise
Sat Dec 5	WPMC Annual Christmas Party

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.

October Deadline

The deadline for articles for the October newsletter is October 7, 2026

Colebrookdale Railroad Cruise by Joe & Linda Zimlik

This October, we are stepping back in time to the 19th century, the Gilded 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 Gilded 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 Gilded 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.





THE FUN 'N' THE SUN TIMES

Johnstown Flood Memorial Cruise

Review
By Joel Starr

What a fantastic cruise (if you like zipping around the Laurel Highlands). Saturday August 15th started out a little dicey with heavy fog but by the time we left the muster point at the Blairsville Sheetz at 9:30 am the fog had lifted and the day turned into a perfect day for a cruise: sunny with only a partial cloud cover. Tom and Linda Meyers (our cruise leaders) chose beautiful curvy roads that were well maintained. We roughly followed the Conemaugh River and arrived at the Johnstown Flood National Memorial at approximately 11:00 am. We watched a 30 minute movie about the Johnstown flood then reviewed the exhibits that highlighted all the events and locations that led up to and during that horrific day back in 1889.

Leaving the museum, we continued the cruise to Asiago's Tuscan Italian Restaurant attached to the Johnstown Incline which had a great view overlooking the town of Johnstown. You could see several of the key locations highlighted at the museum from where we were eating. We took a few group photos at the incline overlook and some of us went on for ice cream while others said our good byes. It was a great cruise, great day, with beautiful locations.

Covered Bridges of Somerset & Bedford Counties Cruise

Review
by Walt Dillen

WOW, what a day for a cruise through the Laurel Highlands. Met at Sheetz in Somerset and were on the road by 9:15, 13 cars in all. Had an interesting cross section of members. Some new folks and of course a lot of the old guard. Dave and Luanne did an outstanding job planning the roads. This cruise has always been one

of my favorites, fast very FAST. I refer to it as "The White Knuckle Express", did I mention it was FAST? Dave said there was great scenery to enjoy. Maybe for the passengers, but the drivers were glued to the road.

(1) Bridges we visited were as follows: Lower Humbert Bridge, Packsaddle Bridge, Colvin Bridge Herline Bridge, Snooks Bridge & Ryot Bridge. (2) A side stop at Mt. Davis, the highest point in the state of Pennsylvania. From the lookout you had a fantastic view. (3) Next stop, Jean Bonnet Tavern for lunch, the crab cake sandwich was over the top. The tavern was built in 1762 by Robert Callender, has passed through many hands over the years, current owners are Melissa & Shannon Jacobs, who purchased it in 1999. As some of you may know the tavern has a paranormal history, yes it is haunted. It is my understand there are two ghosts residing in the building. One is the mistress of Robert Callender, the other is a highway outlaw, however, I was not able to get their names. We did have a look at Room 3 where these folks have been known to visit. You can rent it and stay the night if you like, or NOT! Many videos about the tavern are on YouTube. (4) The last stop, of course, was for ice cream at The Igloo. All in all, it was a great day of driving. Huge Thanks to Dave and LuAnne for another super job!

WPMC Picnic Review

by Joe & Linda Zimlik

The weather cooperated. It was a beautiful day, warm but not humid. The food everyone brought was delicious and plentiful. After eating, members divided into four groups for the games. Two groups played against each other then next two played against each other. Winners of those two races played each other. The winning team was the Orange Team which consisted of Captain Bruce Edwards, Mary Edwards, Joe & Joann Kopco, and Kathy McCafferty. They were awarded their Medals by Nancy Bartek who, along with Jack Bartek, organized the competition. There was a lot of laughter and enjoyment.

Afterward, we had a short meeting where I talked about cruises for next year, and gave away a lot of apparel that had been in my basement from events held in 2006 and 2012. Members had a great time rummaging through the boxes. I want to thank the members for helping to clean up afterward. It made things a lot easier and was appreciated.





THE FUN 'N' THE SUN TIMES

2026 CRUISIN & ZOOMIN SEASON

BY LINDA ZIMLIKI

Well autumn is here even though temperatures were in the 90s this week. The leaves are falling around us and cool weather is on its way. As I look back on our year, we had some great cruises. Unfortunately the picnic was the last cruise for the immediate area. We have two overnights left, Miatas at Red River Gorge and Colebrookdale Railroad. The Washington County Roads Cruise has been cancelled. The Edwards are very sorry they had to cancel the cruise but business has taken Bruce out of town and he can't put it off. We have something to look forward to next year.

Our Christmas Party is December 5 at the Courtyard Marriott. It will be in the afternoon again. There were rave reviews for the parmesan chicken last year so we will have that again. The committee is working on the Christmas Party now. Look for the announcement in next month's newsletter, and I look forward to seeing you at the Party.

I am looking for people to do cruises next year so if you want to plan a cruise, get in touch with me. If you don't have an idea, I can provide some

Zoom Zoomm Zoommm!

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

Mia t a Musings: WHERE DID THE SEASON GO?

By Joel Starr, President

It's hard to believe the driving season is just about over. We have had so many great cruises this year. We followed the Washington Trail, visited locations associated with the Underground Railroad, visited fantastic car museums and zipped along the Lauren Highlands (more than once). Sadly, unless you are signed up for the upcoming over night cruises, the driving season is over. I hope to see you at the Christmas Party.





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