

Zoomin' the Mountains of East Tennessee.

July 2015 Trip Report

I did an article earlier this year about Regional Miata Events. As I told you all about this one. I thought I would do a little report on the event. First, here is the Event Logo for you to see.



The event Logo features several themes of the event. To me, the Miatas and the words "Under the Lights" referred to us running laps on the Bristol Speedway. The Biplane upper right was for the Visit to the Hensley Airpark, which is a private airport with houses along each side of the runway. Each house has it's own hanger to keep their own airplane in, and out of the weather. The Moonshine Jug was for the BBQ and Tour we had of the Mellowmoon Distillery. The word Zoomin' was for the drive one morning on Route 421 known as "The Snake". The Snake is similar to the Tail Of the Dragon. It is 489 curves covering 2 mountains and thru one valley. Several of us also drove that on our route home.

The 3 pictures below are us staging on the Bristol Speedway for a group picture. You can see the bank angle in the curve of the track by the angle of my car in the one picture. I felt like I was going to roll over while not moving. The middle picture is where we were all lined up ready for the picture. The other picture is in the pits. Bill Anderson is in the front Copper Red Miata.



Here is a link to a You Tube video taken while a Miata named "Pokey" was being driven on the track: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=692Rrx5B5zI&feature=youtu.be>

After everyone got to run their laps on the track, the Speedway opened up their track to the highest bidder to challenge the pace car to a race. The Picture to the left was last years challenger. It was an early NA with a stock motor. But he did have an upgraded suspension. He actually passed the Pace car! The middle picture is the BBQ at the MellowMoon Distillery. The guy in the middle with a red hat on, standing up, is Jay Evans. My wife and I are the last ones at the end of the line, to Jay's right. The picture to the right is at the Country Store in the middle of The Snake. We stopped there for souvenirs.



The Left picture below was the pool and courtyard at our hotel. A very nice hotel and pool. The picture in the middle is of a homebuilt airplane at the AirPark. It was a beautiful plane with an immaculate paint job! The far right shot is of the Shenandoah Valley taken from Skyline Drive. Great views that day!



This last picture is for an event scheduled for July 14-17 of next year. The country is beautiful in Connecticut, and we had met several of their members here, at our events, and when attending the Fall For New England event in 2012.

I am sure this will be a fun event.

We had a great time at this Zoomin TN event, so you don't want to miss this next Regional Event. Stay tuned to the PACE Newsletter and Web Page, as I am sure when we know more, it will be posted for all.

Zoomin' for sure!

Bill Latsha