

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: 06/02/08

Contact: Malcolm J. Wilson, Vice President
Tri-Cities Miata Club
423.797.0102
malcolmwilson@mac.com

‘Zoomin’ The Mountains’ To Benefit Speedway Children’s Charities

JOHNSON CITY, TN — The hills will be alive with the sound of Miatas, as the Tri-Cities Miata Club presents Zoomin’ The Mountains Of East Tennessee June 6 and 7.

Co-sponsored by Bill Gatton Mazda of Johnson City and Bristol Motor Speedway and benefiting Speedway Children’s Charities, the annual gathering of Miata enthusiasts has steadily grown in popularity.

“Miata Clubs are the fastest growing car clubs in the nation,” said Malcolm Wilson, Vice President of the Tri-Cities Miata Club. “We are passionate about our cars and driving, and are excited to host this event to introduce other Miata enthusiasts to our ‘Tennessee Twisties,’” he added.

The Johnson City event isn’t only for Tri-Cities Miata Club members. “It’s a gathering for any Miata owner, driver or enthusiast, and has drawn car clubs from as far away as Nova Scotia,” said Lorie Hagerty, Tri-Cities Miata Club Drive Coordinator, and organizer of the event.

The event gets underway on Friday, June 6 when the hospitality tent opens for registration at the Comfort Suites in Johnson City at 1:00 pm. At 5:30 pm, participants will head out for **Hootin’ In The Holler**, a scenic drive along the back roads and byways of Northeast Tennessee. Following the drive, there will be a cookout, music and social gathering at 7:00 pm at the Comfort Suites.

Saturday, June 7 is the **Second Annual Zoomin’ The Mountains Car Show** at Bill Gatton Mazda in Johnson City from 8:30 am to 2:00 pm. Trophies and prizes will be awarded for top three places in each of three categories: NA, NB and NC and for winners of the Specialty categories including: Stock (NA only), Modified and Extreme. Additionally, there will be a Shine And Show event for those Miata owners who are proud of their daily drivers.

Following the car show, drivers are invited to participate in a **Poker Run** at 2:00 pm. The run will begin at Bill Gatton Mazda in Johnson City and conclude at Bristol Motor Speedway. Cost for participation is a suggested donation of \$5, and prizes will be announced at the event.

Beginning at 3:30 pm, drivers can participate in **Shakin’ The Snake**, a scenic drive across US 421. Known as the “The Snake,” US 421 has become a much-desired drive for road-hugging sports-car enthusiasts and is rivaled only by “The Dragon,” as a premier location to put a car safely through its paces. “The Dragon” is the well-known stretch of US 129 that runs through Tennessee and North Carolina, skirting the Great Smoky Mountains National Park.

Shakin' The Snake will have drivers winding their way back to Bristol Motor Speedway where the World's Fastest Half Mile is reserved for Miatas only. From 6:00 until 8:00 pm Miata drivers can have a little taste of the high banks while they go fast and turn left for five laps for a \$25 per car donation. Additional laps may be purchased, and photos will be made in the winner's circle at BMS for a \$10 donation. All participants must be 18 years of age, or older, and all Miatas must be street legal to participate.

At 8:30 pm, an auction will be held to benefit Speedway Children's Charities. Items to be auctioned include items of interest for both car and driver.

A suggested \$20 donation includes registration for the event, participation in the car show and both drives. A suggested \$10 donation includes the Shine 'N Show car show only. Food and refreshments will be available for purchase.

Proceeds from **Zoomin' The Mountains of East Tennessee** will benefit Speedway Children's Charities (SCC).

"It is heartwarming to know that our passion for the Miata, will be the driving force behind making a difference in the lives of regional children," said Tom Sartain, President of the Tri-Cities Miata Club.

SCC provides funding for hundreds of non-profit organizations throughout the nation that meet the direct needs of children. With priorities set locally, proceeds from the Zoomin' The Mountains of East Tennessee event will directly enrich the lives of children in Northeast Tennessee, Southwest Virginia and Eastern Kentucky.

For additional information about Zoomin' The Mountains of East Tennessee or the Tri-Cities Miata Club, visit online: tri-citiesmiataclub.com.

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Zoomin' The Mountains Of East Tennessee

Tri-Cities Miata Club • June 6 & 7, 2008

Schedule Of Events

Friday, June 6

1:00 pm	Hospitality Tent Opens/Registration	Comfort Suites, Johnson City
5:30 pm	"Hootin' In The Holler" Drive	Back Roads & Byways, NETN
7:00 pm	Cookout & Social Gathering	Comfort Suites, Johnson City

Saturday, June 7

8:30 am – 2:00 pm	Zoomin' The Mountains Car Show	Bill Gatton Mazda, Johnson City
8:30 am – 2:00 pm	Shine & Show Car Show	Bill Gatton Mazda, Johnson City
2:00 pm	Poker Run	Bill Gatton Mazda, Johnson City
3:30 pm	"Shakin' The Snake" Drive	Leaves Bristol Motor Speedway
6:00 – 8:00 pm	Miatas Only At Bristol Motor Speedway	Bristol Motor Speedway
8:30 pm	Speedway Children's Charities Auction	Comfort Suites, Johnson City