

## **Organizing a Club Event**

**October '07**

Scott Langley (2 WINDY)

Events are the heart of what we do as a club/group. Without events, we have 11 meetings and a Christmas party! We've been VERY fortunate in 2007 to have a wide variety of club events to participate in. Looking forward to 2008, it's not too early to be planning events and getting a schedule together. Many events require little time and effort, they just need a smidge of organization. So this month, let's talk about how to put some different events together. Perhaps you have one you'd like to share with the club!

There are many types of events you could potentially put together. Here's a sample list, but you could let your imagination go and do something completely different: *Dump of the Month, Drive, Tour, Rally, Weekend Retreat, or Party.*

The easiest events are those things that you are planning to do anyway and can just invite others to join in. An example might be going to a fair or festival and sending an open invitation to the club to join you. You've already done the planning; it's just a few extra minutes to send out the invitation. It's a great way to share your favorite fair, museum or event.

Another easy event to organize is a Dump of the Month. You know, where we invite folks to a restaurant that maybe they wouldn't know about or go to otherwise? In these cases, all you need to do is pick a place, set a date/time and let folks know. It doesn't get much easier. Show us some of your favorite restaurants!

Drives and tours require a bit more work, but even then it's pretty straight-forward. In the case of a tour, pick a place, figure out how to get there, set a date/time and let folks know. For a drive, you may need to run the route first, in order to get the road names and directions together. If it's a small drive, you might simply have folks follow you. For a more involved route, it helps if you can provide directions and/or maps. You'll need a place to meet for the start of the event and some idea of when you'll return. Don't forget to plan for food, gas and restroom breaks!

So how do you schedule these things anyway? Well, have a look at the club calendar and pick an open date. If you have a specific date in mind for your event, you might want to attend the yearly planning meeting to get on the schedule early. The planning meeting for 2008 will be sometime in the next month or two. If the schedule is already established, pick a date and let the President and the Social Director know so they're kept in the loop and your event will be added to the club schedule.

How do you get the word out? Easy! First, put together an email with all the information and send it to our Email Queen (Amy Young). From there, it will go out to all the members and get picked up to go onto the club Web Blog. It will also be added to the club meeting agenda prior to your event date so it will be brought up at the meeting.

See, it's not so hard! If you need help, or have questions, let someone know! There are plenty of folks who have organized events before and would be glad to give you a hand or point you in the right direction. There's no such thing as a bad event if you ask me. Of course, things CAN and DO go wrong occasionally, but that's OK. We're a pretty forgiving group! No blood, no foul, I say! Give it a try!

Meanwhile, get out there and drive! The leaves are turning, the weather is still good, let's enjoy it while it lasts... :O)

*Disclaimer:* Organizing Miata related events can be fun and rewarding... really! Ok, it's not rewarding like winning the lottery, but what else is? It's definitely less painful than smashing your thumb with a hammer. Unless you're doing a tech

day, then you really might smash your thumb with a hammer. But that's not the hammer's fault, nor the responsibility of the event organizer, is it?