

The IMSA Sports Car Weekend
A.K.A The Art of Watching Racing in the Rain
by Don Gervais

We 3 brave souls (Mike, Cory, and myself) gathered on Friday to setup the Mazda owners corral at Road America. Shortly after completing our task, we were joined by Doug Meintzer and his grandson. The 5 of us then went for a walk through the paddock area so we could look at all the race cars and just see what was going on.

We stopped at the Paddock restaurant for lunch and found a great table to sit and watch the MX5 Cup race from. Shortly after the race was completed it was announced that there was some heavy weather headed our way and it was recommended, we head for cover, so we headed back to the corral to wait out the rain under the easy up canopies. The rain and wind wasn't too bad at first and we were hanging onto the canopies so they wouldn't get blown over. We 5 were not getting too wet. Little did we know what was in store for us.

After a gust of wind Doug had to look up at the sky and yell "Is that all you got?" We got an answer. The sky opened up. 60 mph wind gusts, lightning, and raining sideways. By the time the storm passed we were all cold and drenched standing in ankle deep water. There is a low spot in the corral that quickly filled with water and when asked what we were going to do if it still remained the next day it was suggested that swimming lessons were now on the table. Doug made the comment that sometimes the answer isn't Miata it's a boat.

Saturday dawned to be a better day. A group of us met for breakfast in Allenton and after a great meal we headed up to the track trying to navigate all the detours on the way. In typical BMC fashion we (OK me) missed a detour turn and had to do some back tracking. Once at the racetrack it was time to setup two more easy ups and everything needed for the cookout. Once completed we joined the rest of the

group to watch some great racing including another MX5 Cup race. It was then time to fire up the grill and start cooking.

I was told later that I was grilling burgers and brats for almost 1 ½ hours. I do know there were around 40 Miata's in the corral and Henry handed out at least one application.

After lunch the charity raffle was held with a lot of us getting some cool stuff. Once the raffle was over, we went back to our viewing area and watched some more great racing until it was time to get out the umbrellas and rain gear again. Oh well, that's racing.

We all had a great time and made some new Miata friends. What more can you ask for?