

An Enjoyable Sunday Road Tour and Dinner with the Jaguar Club of Pittsburgh and the West Penn Miata Club on Sunday, June 1, 2025

By Stu Benson

On Sunday, June 1, 2025 the Jaguar Club of Pittsburgh and the West Penn Miata Club are joining together for a road tour (a/k/a “a cruise”) on back roads in the North Hills area of Pittsburgh. Using vintage Pittsburgh vernacular, it might be appropriately called the “North of Da ‘Burg Tour”.

The group will meet at 1:00 PM at the Sheetz on Rt. 8 and East Hardies Road, immediately north of the PA Turnpike interchange for Hampton Township/Rt. 8. The meeting time will be 1:00 PM with a drivers’ meeting at 1:15 PM and departure close to 1:30 PM.

The West Penn Miata Club categorizes its cruises – to my understanding, anyway – as being “Leisure”, “Sporty”, or “Zoom-Zoom”. Our Sunday cruise will be Sporty in nature. While consideration was earlier given to breaking into groups of three or four cars each (depending on their desire to be zoom-zoom, sporty, or leisure), it has been decided to do the cruise as one group. The route will be enticing for some sportiness and those that want to just drive in a slow parade need to know this is not likely the event for them unless they wish to follow the caboose on the train of cars. But it will not be a Zoom-Zoom event in any regard.

The route involving back roads will be about 40 miles in length and take a couple hours with a rest stop part way. We will end up around 3:00 PM at the Brick & Barrel Cross Keys Restaurant, located in an Historical building at 599 Dorseyville Road near Fox Chapel, PA. We will have a private room upstairs to enjoy the companionship of both old and new friends as we can enjoy cold liquid refreshments and then an early Sunday dinner so everyone can get back home while it is still daylight. There will be ample parking for our prized vehicles.

For those in the Jaguar Club of Pittsburgh who have never engaged in a road tour of this nature, please know the West Penn Miata Club has these kinds of tours multiple times a month; they are normally much longer and entail much of a day and involve starting in the morning, traveling on interesting roads to an historical or interesting

destination of some sort, having lunch, and then wrapping up the event with ice cream somewhere. The WPMC also utilizes two-way radios (walkie-talkies) in each car so the leader car can alert everyone following of anything they need to be aware of on or near the road as well as provide a head’s up on directions. This way if cars get separated because of other traffic or traffic signals or whatever, those caught behind can call those up front and let them know to slow down or pull over until they can catch up. The last car is always designated as a mop-up car to ensure no one is left behind so it is driven by a person experienced in these cruises. So to JCOP members: while it is not mandatory you obtain a two-way radio, they are most helpful and it is enjoyable to be able to hear what is going on up front and they are inexpensive. They are charged to full capacity at home but many also have a power cord to utilize in one’s vehicle as well. They are **not** CB radios so don’t think you can use a CB to tune in. But they are inexpensive at Best Buy and Wal-Mart, for example. Anyone having any questions about what to get can contact me and we can discuss further.

Given that printed directions will be given to all vehicles as well as hopefully most, if not all, vehicles will have a walkie-talkie radio, a navigator/radio operator in the front passenger seat is a big help to have with each car.

Please RSVP to me – Stu Benson - by Sunday, May 25 if you are planning to participate. This will enable appropriate restaurant reservations to be made as well as having sufficient copies of the route directions printed for every car.

You can best email me at stubenson3@gmail.com. with your name, number of people in your car, and model of car and provide your phone number and email address. Please also advise if you are coming to dinner. This is a “rain or shine” event absent some monsoon or other unexpected situation. You can call or text me at 412-491-1586 but make sure you identify your name if you send a text message to me, please.

Both JCOP and WPMC have members who are passionate about their vehicles and the enjoyment of driving them, as well as using the vehicles to provide a stage for socializing. Having such an event involving both clubs will provide the ability for everyone to see the others’ vehicles up close and be able to have fun both driving and eating together. That entire experience will be the Zoom-Zoom of the day.