

# The NEO Classic

Official Publication of the Northeast Oklahoma Chapter of the Miata Club of America

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

- ◆ March 15 - NEO Miata Club Monthly Meeting  
7:00 PM Mazzio's  
@ South Pointe Shopping Center at 101st and Sheridan
- ◆ March 19 - Spring Clean Thing At The Gheens'

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- ◆ April 1 - Grand Opening for Tulsa Auto Collection  
41st & Memorial— Listen for more details!
- ◆ April 19 - NEO Miata Club Monthly Meeting  
7:00 PM Mazzio's  
@ South Pointe Shopping Center at 101st and Sheridan
- ◆ April 29 - Fun Run through NW Arkansas  
7:00 AM McDonalds I-44 & 193rd E. Ave

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- ◆ May 17 - NEO Miata Club Monthly Meeting
- ◆ May 21 - Trip to McAlester/Krebs
- ◆ May 27 - Miata Garage Sale Tour

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- ◆ June 24 - Trip to McAlester/Krebs

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- ◆ October 24-27 - Miatas in Paradise, Daytona Beach, Florida

## From the President

Gene Bedingfield

Are you getting any top down time? (Yes) Are you getting enough top down time? (NO!) I was taking advantage of the nice weather a couple of weeks ago but smelled something that I couldn't put my finger (nose?) on. Then a guy pulled up beside me and told me my car was smoking. I thanked him and drove straight to a car shop I know that was only about a mile away as the car was not dangerously overheating. When I got there and opened the hood I discovered the alternator belt had broken and part of it had lodged between the

fan belt and a pulley. Since the fan wasn't turning properly the radiator had overheated and cracked along the top tank. What I had smelled was the anti-freeze/coolant that was spraying on the motor and hoses and everything else. Needless to say, I left the car there overnight and got it repaired. The cost for a radiator, made of metal and not plastic, was \$150.00. With the new belt (\$16.00), coolant (\$8.50) and labor (1.5 hrs. / \$66.00) it came to \$240.50.

So as the summer time approaches make sure your belts are in good shape. The shop is the

*See PRES on page 3*

## Meeting Minutes

President Gene Bedingfield called the meeting to order. Brad Coody, treasurer, reports that the club has lots of money due to the recent membership renewals. Kim Hand, editor, asks that members send him pictures for the newsletter. An article is being planned for the April newsletter that will detail club members' "car" experiences with local businesses. The experience can be good or bad; email Kim with info. His email address is on the front of the newsletter. Pam Chronister, secretary/membership, said that new directories will be available at the March meeting.

March 19 is the club's annual Spring Clean Thing at the Gheens. Tim won't be doing any "dental" work due to finger surgery. There will be timing lights available and members can install any doodads (nothing too complicated please). Bring Miata pictures and your favorite dish. Please call Valerie and let her know what you're bringing. Address and instructions will be in the next newsletter.

Mike Meyer, tour & special events, stated that April 22 or 29, the Larkins would lead a road trip to northeastern Oklahoma and northwestern Arkansas. It will be a trip that they have taken with their motorcycle club with lots of winding roads. Mike mentioned other possible event possibilities for the year: the Ronnie Lane Grand Lake tour; garage sale; Cowboy Hall of Fame; Harber Village; Woolaroc; Krebs. If you are interested in heading up one of these events, contact Mike. Mike also mentioned that registration for the national convention in Daytona Beach in October is filling up fast. There is a limit of 400 and about 300 have registered so far. Mike has applications.

Joe Bohannon has information on dash kits. Club member introduced themselves and their cars. Rod VanKoughnet stated that the Alpha Romeo club was sponsoring a driving school at Hallett on July 15.

Cost for a touring session (helmets required but no rollbars) is only \$50. He has applications. Christine VanKoughnet has volunteered to assemble a club scrapbook. She'll need photos and other club memorabilia from members to make this happen.

Tulsa Auto Collection is centralizing their Mazda line at 41<sup>st</sup> and Memorial. They have asked the club to participate in their grand opening, probably in April. Details to follow.

Pam Chronister  
Secretary/Membership Chairperson

## MEMBERSHIP NOTES

Pam Chronister

Membership directories will be available at the March meeting. The directories will not be mailed, so please make an effort to attend the meeting to pick up your copy. If you didn't pay your dues, your name won't appear in the directory and you probably won't be reading this article either since your name won't be on the mailing list.

A hearty welcome to our newest members: Nathan & Randi Johnson and Kenneth Sen & Linda Ting. Kenneth and Linda have a '97 Black. Ken works at MCI WorldCom as a software system engineer

### SPRING CLEAN THING AT THE GHEENS' Sunday, March 19

Tim and Valerie Gheen are again hosting the annual Spring Clean Thing and Lunch at their home on Sunday, March 19 at 11:00. This annual event is mostly social, but it also offers an opportunity to stand in their garage and watch the rain, snow, and hail. While waiting for nature to welcome the spring top-down season, we'll have some fun getting our roadsters ready for this year's road trips. For those of you who haven't experienced the spring clean thing, we have everyone meet

at the Gheens' to mostly socialize and install do-dads, remove tie-down hooks, set the timing, change oil filters, share tall stories, and eat, drink, and be merry.

The club will provide the meat; you bring your favorite potluck dish and drinks. Everyone who plans to attend should contact Valerie at 272.1294 to tell her what you will bring for the brunch (to make sure we don't all bring the same thing). Plan on a fine afternoon with your Miata friends. Show up around 11:00 AM and we'll start the food line around noon. Bring your favorite detailing stuff and show off your after market accessories, or just pick up some tips from those of us that have made mistakes in the past.

To get to the Gheens' little golf shack, take Hwy 169 north to Owasso. Exit at 86<sup>th</sup> St. North. Go west on 86<sup>th</sup> Street (back under the highway) for 1 mile and turn right on 97<sup>th</sup> E. Avenue. It's the only direction you can go. Go north approximately ¼ mile to Larkin Bailey Blvd. This is also the entrance to Bailey Golf Ranch. Stay on Larkin Bailey Blvd as it curves north and then west. You will come to a house with a rock front and three redwood garage doors. This is the place. The address is 10303 E 92<sup>nd</sup> St N. See you there!

### DALLAS MARCH/APRIL/ MAY MADNESS

Jerry Joyner with the Lone Star Miata Club tells me he is still working on resuming the March Madness probably in May now. This is a regional 2 day all Miata event with driving games, road rallies and a banquet. Stay tuned for further updates.

### Driving School

The Alfa Romeo Owners Club of Oklahoma is sponsoring a driving school which will hold up to 80 students. For more information and registration forms contact [www.geocities.com/alfarodeo2000](http://www.geocities.com/alfarodeo2000).

## The Motorcycle/Sports Car Connection

Earl Boyd Larkin

Have you ever given any thought to just how much motorcycles and sports cars have in common? Really thought about it? Let's talk about it for a moment or two.

When a motorcycle travels it can only carry two people just like your Miata. No matter how far it is going or how long its owner is going to be away from home, the amount of luggage and gear it can carry is very limited; just like your Miata. On ice or in deep snow the motorcycle has very little control; just like your Miata. Motorcycles rarely go for rides in the rain; just like our Miata club. The cost of motorcycle insurance based on horsepower is unfairly high; just like on our Miatas. The list could go on and on.

But what about the people who buy these machines, are they also alike? Bikers love the open air, not having to look through glass; Miata owners will put their tops down when it's quite cold. Bikers love to gather together and talk about their bikes; just like Miata owners. Bikers gather at national events like Sturgis and Daytona; so do Miata owners.

The latest statistical studies show that the typical biker is over 40 years old and earns over \$50,000 a year; just like Miata owners. New motorcycles and new Miatas tend to be purchased by people over 50 years old in both groups, people who are highly educated and highly skilled professional people.

Why in the world are all of these "old people" buying motorcycles and sports cars? The kids are all college-educated and married and gone; we are looking for new sources of adventure, challenges, recapturing our youth, doing something different. In a word, we are looking for new ways to have **FUN!**

What kind of roads do Bikers like to ride on? Curves, hills, curves, forests, curves, mountains, curves, valleys and curves. Just like Miata owners. But in this area, searching

out and finding all the great roads, the Bikers are light years ahead of us. If you want to know where all the great roads are, ask your friends, relatives, and neighbors who are Bikers. For some Bikers it's almost like a holy quest.

I have to take a special moment right here to say a special "thank you" to Mike Meyer and Joe Bohannon, our touring and Special Event leaders. All big organized motorcycle clubs have a man called the "Road Captain." He leads the club rides, sets the pace, decides where the group stops for fuel, food, etc., but his major responsibility is to have a ride planned, some place to lead the club, week in and week out, month after month. I know this because during the 40 plus years that I have been a motorcyclist, I have held the office of Road Captain more years than I care to admit. Mike and Joe go to a lot of trouble, spend a lot of time and energy, not to mention their own personal money, all in a gallant attempt not only to give us some place to drive to, but to keep us amused and entertained as well. We are indeed fortunate to have them. Thanks!

## Fun Run through NW Arkansas

**When: Saturday, April 29th**  
**Time: 7:00 AM—8:00 AM**  
**Where: McDonalds**  
**(I-44 & 193rd E. Ave.)**  
**Road Captain: Earl Boyd Larkin**

The drive that Dorothy and I will be leading on Saturday, April 29<sup>th</sup>, is one of our favorite motorcycle day-rides. The total distance will be a little over 400 miles of which 250 miles will be curves, hills, valleys, and forests. The entire route is located in northeastern Oklahoma and northwestern Arkansas. We will meet between 7:00 & 7:45 AM at the McDonalds in Catoosa just off of I-44 and 193 E. Ave. The drivers meeting is at 7:50 AM and we will depart promptly at 8:00 AM. Should

it rain we will try again the following Saturday, May 6<sup>th</sup>, same time, same place. These curves would simply be too dangerous if they were rain-slickened. See you at the March meeting.

## DAYTONA 2000 NATIONAL MIATA EVENT

Registration forms are here for the annual National Miata Event. The gathering will be held at the Adam's Mark hotel on Daytona Beach October 24-27. The dates for the event are Tuesday, October 24<sup>th</sup> through Friday, October 27, 2000. By leaving Tulsa on Saturday, and spending three days on the road you could participate in this event, start back to Tulsa on Friday, and only use one week's vacation. Registration is \$325 per couple and rooms with ocean view are only \$89 per night. The event is limited to ONLY 400 MIATA'S nation wide, and 350 have registered already. If you have never been to a national, it is an experience like no other Miata event you have ever done and one you will always remember. See or call Mike Meyer (243.7518) for more information and registration forms. You can also get information at the official website: [www.miata2000.com](http://www.miata2000.com).

*PRES: from page 1*

Harvard Auto Clinic, 9939 East 11th Street. It is at the light by the East Side police station. The Tulsa Auto Collection has moved their Mazda's showroom and garage to 41st and Memorial and is having a grand opening on April 1. They have requested the club's presence if at all possible. I told them I was sure we could get some cars there.

Mike and Joe have lined up some good trips and Earl Larkin and Ronnie Lane have also pitched in with trips so do your part and show up and even plan a drive. See you at the Gheen's on the 19th.

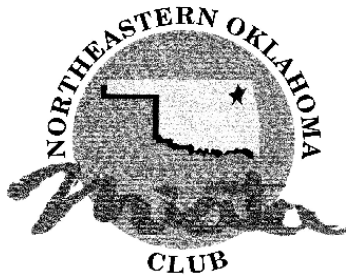
Happy Miataing,  
Gene

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## NEO Miata

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The NEO Classic

### Top Down Tales

Pics & Article by Joe Bohannon

There were 14 decorated Miata's for the annual Jenks Christmas the Saturday before Thanksgiving. The group met at ORU for coffee and rolls and then on to Jenks. It was a perfect day for a parade and many pounds of candy were thrown to the children that lined the parade route. Hope you can make it next year. Mark & Peggy Sue Clemons were selected with the "Best Decorated Car!" (Photos 1 & 3)

**Nelson Nissan Mazda**

**COME SEE THE  
2000 MAZDA MIATAS**

**258-6581**

