

The NEO Classic

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

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UPCOMING EVENTS

- ◆ May 17 - NEO Miata Club Monthly Meeting
7:00 PM Mazzio's
@ South Pointe Shopping Center at 101st & Sheridan
- ◆ May 21 - Trip to McAlester/Krebs
- ◆ May 27 - Miata Garage Sale Tour

- ◆ June 21 - NEO Miata Club Monthly Meeting
7:00 PM Mazzio's
@ Tulsa Auto Collection—Mazda, 41st & Memorial
- ◆ June 24 - Back Roads Trip to Woolaroc

- ◆ July 19 - NEO Miata Club Monthly Meeting
- ◆ July 22 - Poker Run Through NE Oklahoma
Moonlight cruise on the Cherokee Queen

- ◆ August 12 - Miata's at the Drive Ins
- ◆ August 16 - NEO Miata Club Monthly Meeting
- ◆ August 20 - Sunday afternoon drive to Fin & Feather on
Lake Tenkiller

- ◆ September 9-17 - Trip to Colorado
- ◆ September 20 - NEO Miata Club Monthly Meeting

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

From the President

Gene Bedingfield

WOW, what a sight! Fifteen Miata headed down the highway. And the neatest thing for me is that they were all from our chapter. I have been in several caravans with more cars but they always included several chapters. I am really thrilled about the growth of the club over the last two years and I want to thank everyone for their efforts and getting new members. We had three new cars (members) for the

drive. It was perfect weather for the drive and the route was excellent. Maybe this is an indication of what all our drives will be like this year. Last year the weather wasn't very co-operative on several of our drives. Thanks again to Earl and Dorothy Larkin for leading the drive. August is the month we elect new officers, so be thinking about the area in which you would like to serve. The club, and all the things associated with it, doesn't just

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Meeting Minutes

APRIL 19, 2000

Gene Bedingfield, President, called the meeting to order. The warm weather certainly brought out the members, including five new members (see membership minutes). The room was full! Everyone introduced themselves and their cars.

Earl Larkin briefed members on his Arkansas trip for April 29 (there might be an article elsewhere). Mike Meyer, Tour/Special Events Chairperson, laid out a busy schedule of planned and unplanned events for the year. May events include a trip to Krebs on May 21 (see article) for a culinary experience at Pete's Place and a Garage Sale Tour, hosted by Joel Eads on May 27. Joel will also lead a group to Woolaroc in June. Other events are (or might be): Ronnie Lane's famous tour of little known roads through NE Oklahoma in July; drive-in night; weekend drive with the Arkansas club in October; club birthday party; trip to Colorado during Gene's vacation; and the Miata national convention in Daytona Beach October 24-27.

Pam Chronister has new membership directories. Periodically, she will provide an addendum of new members. Jan Coody reported that the club has \$1135 in the bank. Gene asked members to send or email their car repair experiences (good or bad) to Kim Hand, Editor. Information or articles need to be to Kim by the first of the month. Tim Gheen still has oil filters for sale. Gene mentioned that a future meeting would be held at the Tulsa Auto Collection conference room at 41st and Memorial.

Meeting was adjourned for some good old-fashioned "tire kicking" in the parking lot.

Pam Chronister
Secretary/Membership Chairperson



MEMBERSHIP NOTES

Pam Chronister

Don't forget to get your 2000 membership directory. They will not be mailed and can be picked up at a club meeting. I won't be at the May meeting (on vacation), but I'll try to see that there are some directories available. Membership now totals 39 households. We had the following members join in April...please make a special effort to say "howdy" at the next event.

--QUANTRILL & ROSEMARY PAGE. Quantrill & Rosemary live at Tenkiller Lake and drove all the way to T-town for our meeting. They have a 2000 Silver tagged ROSE ZS and found out about the club when the salesman at Tulsa Auto Collection gave him a copy of our newsletter. Quantrill has a motorcycle, and I'll bet he knows some good cruisin' roads.

--GARY SISSON. Gary drove up from Muskogee for the meeting. He too also found out about the club from a newsletter that he got at Nelson's when he bought his 1995 Red. Gary is a regional manager for Analysts International.

--GREGG & BETTY ZUMWALT. Tulsans Gregg and Betty have a 1999 Black. He works for Cutler Hammer.

Back Roads to Woolaroc

Joel "Vrrroom" Eads

When: Saturday, June 24th

Time: 9:00 AM

Where: McDonald's

Admiral & Memorial

Buffalo Guide: Joel Eads

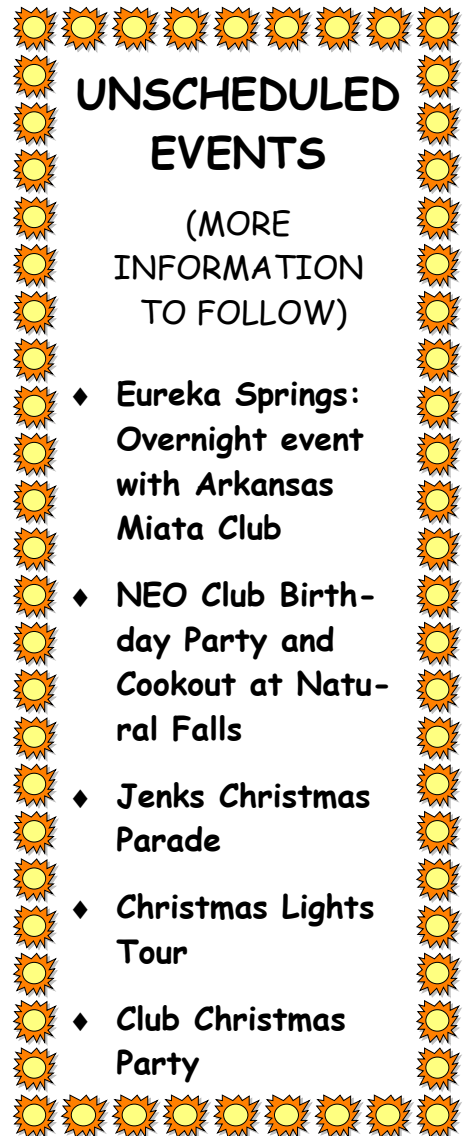
Phone: 250.3476 (H)

695.3046 (M)

Wee-doggies! Polish up your cowboy boots. We're gonna round us up a herd of Miatas and mosey on down some curvy roads on a trip back in time. Destination Woolaroc Ranch.

Admission price is \$5.00 for adults, \$4.00 for seniors (65+) and free for children under twelve.

We'll be leaving from McDonalds at



UNSCHEDULED EVENTS

(MORE INFORMATION TO FOLLOW)

- ◆ **Eureka Springs: Overnight event with Arkansas Miata Club**
- ◆ **NEO Club Birthday Party and Cookout at Natural Falls**
- ◆ **Jenks Christmas Parade**
- ◆ **Christmas Lights Tour**
- ◆ **Club Christmas Party**

9:00 AM sharp. Please get there early if you are planning to rustle some grub so we can leave on time.

More details to follow.

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happen. It takes people and a little bit of time to make them happen. So, if you have never served before, consider serving this coming year. If you have served before, remember only the fun times and consider serving again or serving in a different role. It takes everyone to make a really great chapter.

In the meantime,

Happy Miataing.
Gene



Earl Larkin is “reading the river”

Buffalo Valley April 29th

It was a beautiful day for a wonderful drive. Fifteen cars and 29 people drove over to Arkansas to see the Buffalo Valley. The Buffalo Valley is beautiful. We lunched in Jasper and had a visit from the restaurant's pet, Coco, a brown bear (only in Arkansas). The drive was great, full of curves and hills. A big thanks to Earl and Dorothy for hosting the event.



The cars parked at the Buffalo Valley overlook



From left to right ...

A Passion for Driving

Earl Boyd Larkin

I cannot remember when I did not want to drive, to travel, to go places. That fact became clear for the first time the day a kindly Oklahoma State Trooper picked me up and asked me if I was lost or if I was running away from home. I was eight and a half miles from home pedaling my tricycle down the edge of a state highway. I was five and a half years old. My next big travel adventure occurred at the age of nine when I pedaled my single-speed Schwinn from Wagoner to 11th and Boulder in Tulsa, then back to Wagoner, all in the same day. My fascination with distance was really growing. As the years passed bicycle technology improved dramatically. Bicycles became lighter and lighter and had ten, fifteen, eighteen gears. My fascination with distance grew proportionately. As an adult cyclist I made trips to Six Flags over Texas, Hot Springs, Arkansas. The Buffalo Valley, Eureka Springs, Branson, Lake of the Ozarks, and my longest trip of all, to Indianapolis. My fascination with speed, time, distance, and endurance continued to grow. I entered 24 hour bicycle marathons whose sole purpose is to see who can accumulate the most miles in 24 hours. I competed for the last time at the age of 51 years old and managed a respectable 318 miles total. So why am I telling you this?

It's about understanding. When I suggest that we take more 300 to 400 miles drives, some of you cannot understand why I want to go so far? To a person who has pedaled a bicycle over 300 miles in a single day, they cannot comprehend why someone riding in a sports car would be concerned about completing a 300 to 400 mile drive in a single day. We must both try to understand the concerns of the other and try to understand how the other thinks?

Have you ever noticed how many people say that they just "love to drive?" But do all the people who say this mean the same thing? Hardly. E.g., Dorothy and I know a

couple who have "his and her" matching Harley-Davidson motorcycles. They've had the motorcycles for seven years. They talk almost nonstop about all of their trips. Neither motorcycle has 5,000 miles on the odometer yet. Dorothy and I also claim that we love to drive and to travel. We are members of the Iron Butt Association. This means that we have participated in Iron Butt events in which we traveled more than 1,000 miles per day. In 1997 Dorothy and I rode through every state west of the Mississippi River and visited certain National parks including the Badlands in the East, Glacier National Park on the Montana/Canada border in the North, Yosemite in the West, and Zion National Park in Utah in the South. In all we rode 10,665 miles in fourteen days. (A Passion for Driving)

Is our "passion" restricted to motorcycles? Get serious. We drove our Miata across eastern Oklahoma, the entire state of Arkansas, and the entire state of Tennessee just to drive our Miata on a stretch of road that had 318 curves in just 11 miles. Remember Deals Gap? (A Passion for Driving)

I propose some out of the ordinary trips that require no vacation time. Consider this timetable: Depart Tulsa for the Rocky Mountains at 7:00 PM on a Friday. Drive all night across Kansas and eastern Colorado. If the driver gets sleepy, switch off with your companion. Arrive at the Rocky Mountains by 9:00 AM Saturday morning having never exceeded the legal speed limit. Enjoy the majestic beauty of the Rockies by driving through them all day Saturday. Saturday night retire early and get a good night of sleep. Sunday, enjoy driving through the Rockies all day. Sunday afternoon at 5:00 PM depart for Tulsa. Drive all night arriving in Tulsa in time to go to work Monday morning. Yes, it can be done; Dorothy and I have already done it. The possibilities are limitless. Get out a map or an atlas and draw rings around Tulsa that extend outwards 200 to 300 miles. Anything that interests us within those circles

is a possible "day trip!" Honest guys, we can do this. All it takes is a little imagination, a little curiosity, a little determination, a spirit of adventure, and most of all, A Passion for Driving!

WHERE TO GET NEAT CLUB STUFF

We have added so many new members lately, we thought we should remind everyone where the good stuff can be found.

THE OFFICIAL NEO CLUB PIN:

Jan and Brad Coody have the club logo pins for \$3.00 each, 2 for \$5 and 5 for \$10. The Coody's are at most club meetings and events.

OFFICIAL NEO CLUB APPAREL:

You can get all kinds of shirts and hats with embroidered club logos at *Eagle Apparel*, 608 E. Charles Page in Sand Springs (245.8191). The prices are very reasonable. For example a hat with logo is only \$18 and an embroidered chambray shirt is only \$26. You can also take your own shirts and hats and have them embroidered for \$15. If you take two or more items in they are only \$10 each.



NEO LOGO MAGNETIC SIGNS FOR YOUR ROADSTER:

\$25 each at *Signs Now* located on the NE corner of 51st and Yale.

MIATA OIL FILTERS AND GASKETS:

Tim Gheen has these for only \$6. He is at most meetings or you can give him a call at 272.1294.

Trip to McAlester/Krebs

When: Sunday, May 21st
Time: 2:00 PM
Where: Homeland Parking Lot
(91st & Memorial)
Road Chef: Joe Bohannon
CB Channel: 5
Phone: 744.5696 (W)
622.0578 (H)

The trip to McAllister is set for Sunday, May 21st. We will meet at the parking lot of the Homeland on the Northwest corner of 91st and Memorial at 2 PM. We will take the back roads to the McAllister area, which will be approximately 100 miles. Dinner will be at Pete's Place, which is actually in Krebs that is five miles east of McAllister. You should plan to not eat for two days before eating at Pete's. Arrival will be around 4 PM and we should start home about 5:30 to 6:00 and the direct route back is 95 miles and four lane all the way so you should be home around 7 PM. Joe Bohannon will lead the trip. If you have any questions call 744.5696 work and 622.0578 home. Pete's has been around for over 40 years and make their own beer. The menu is Italian and Pete's Place is "world famous" for the food.

DAYTONA 2000 NA- TIONAL 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 24th 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.

First Impressions

Phil and Diane Prier

I think secretly Diane had already decided the Miata was the car to get when we started talking about buying a new "play" vehicle. My only criteria was that we should get some sort of convertible (I love to feel the wind blow through my scalp. . .). She had driven a Miata a couple of years ago and finally cajoled me into test driving one. It didn't take much to convince me that this is a FUN little car. I still wanted to do a little research before I decided and Jenny at Tulsa Auto Collection gave me a copy of the NEO Miata Club newsletter. I was impressed with the car and liked the idea of being part of a group of other owners.

I e-mailed Gene to find out a little more about the club. You see, I was a little hesitant because sometimes new people are not always made to feel welcome in some groups. Gene's response not only helped convince me that the Miata was the right choice, but that the group is fun and friendly as well.

We picked up our new Miata on Friday night and decided that instead of a long ride Friday night that we would test the waters with the group ride through Arkansas. I admit that I was still a little hesitant about being welcomed but . . .

Well, we were impressed from the start! A number of people waved and said "hi" to us as we walked into the McDonalds where the ride started. Talk about friendly! I think that we talked to everyone on the ride before the day was over. We even got a little ribbing along the way. All of you definitely made us feel like we were part of the group. And we appreciate the tips and pointers that some of you gave us about our new addition to our family.

We just want to say "Thanks!" for making us feel welcome. This is a GREAT group. We look forward to many more adventures with the NEO Miata Club.

Editors Note: Phil & Diane's new Miata is one of the new limited 2000 introduced this year, pretty car!.

GARAGE SALE TOUR

Joel "Vrrroom" Eads

When: Saturday, May 27th
Time: 8:00 AM
Where: McDonald's
4935 S. Memorial
Buyer: Joel Eads
Phone: 250.3476 (H)
695.3046 (M)

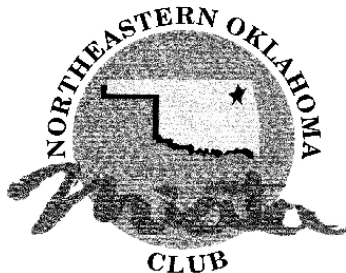
Here's your opportunity to be at NEO MIATA's very first Garage Sale TOUR! Come along to have fun, show off our cars and search for treasures! Alright, I'll admit the Miata is not the first car you think of for large capacity hauling of great garage sale goodies. But we do have a solution! I'll be traveling with the group in a truck to haul your purchases! Imagine the look on the faces of each garage owner as 10 or 15 Miatas show up at the same time! (They'll sure be wondering how a Miata is going to carry that antique table.)

We will be leaving at 8 AM so we can get to the bargains before they're gone. Anyone wishing to have breakfast at the McDonald's please come early enough to be finished by start time. My wife Alessandra and I will have a route laid out when we start based on newspaper ads, and I'm sure we'll take some impromptu detours along the way. I will have my cell phone turned on the whole morning for anyone who needs to call (see number above). Since we'll be traveling in a group, you might remove your spare tire from the trunk for added space (strictly optional).

We will cancel if the weather is bad. If you have any questions about cancellation due to bad weather the day of the tour please call the above numbers. Otherwise, get ready to have a lot of fun finding bargains and showing off our Miatas all over Tulsa!

NEO Miata

P.O. Box 554
Tulsa, OK 74101-0554



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The NEO Classic

Top Down Tales

Ed.

My family consists of my wife, two sons (18 & almost 16) and of course myself. My wife has never driven and even refuses to drive my car (for fear she will harm it). However, my sons, that's a different story. When I first bought the car, I let my oldest son drive. I had to give him lessons on driving a standard and he has been real patient and judicial on asking when he could drive.

My youngest, however, is persistent on asking for driving lessons and driving on the open road. He has

been my Miata buddy on multiple trips and went on the last trip to Arkansas. You guessed it, he wore me down until he finally convinced me to drive the final leg of the trip.

Back to my oldest son. He was going on a big date and wanted to use the car. I finally relented and he took the car, the night of the

2000 flood! I am writing this the morning of and have yet to see the car, but I have heard that the car is safe, and hopefully sound, at one of his friend's house where he got stranded. Oh yeah, my son is OK too.

Kim