

The NEO Classic

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

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UPCOMING EVENTS

- ◆ August 12 - Miata's at the Drive Ins
7:00 PM for Dinner Sonic Drive-In @ Admiral & Yale
8:00 PM for Movie @ Pep Boys Parking Lot
- ◆ August 16 - NEO Miata Club Monthly Meeting
7:00 PM Mazzio's @ South Pointe Shopping Center
101st & Sheridan
- ◆ August 20 - Sunday Afternoon Drive to Fin & Feather on
Lake Tenkiller
9:00 AM @ McDonald's I244/412 at 193rd East Ave

- ◆ September 9-17 - Trip to Colorado
- ◆ September 20 - NEO Miata Club Monthly Meeting
7:00 PM Mazzio's @ South Pointe Shopping Center
101st & Sheridan
- ◆ September 24 - NEO Club Birthday Party & Picnic
at Natural Falls State Park
- ◆ September 30 & 31 - Hwy 7 Drive & Overnight
at Eureka Springs with the Arkansas Miatas

- ◆ October 18 - NEO Miata Club Monthly Meeting
- ◆ October 24-27 - Miatas in Paradise, Daytona Beach, Florida

- ◆ November 15 - NEO Miata Club Monthly Meeting

From the President

Gene Bedingfield

I guess we should consider this my presidential farewell address. I will still be around and active, just not serving as president. I have enjoyed these last two years a lot. I didn't get everything accomplished that I had planned but it was a fun two years. Thank you for your support. Two of the things I tried to concentrate on were membership and better relations with the Miata dealers. I think both were accomplished and certainly not just by me. A lot of people had a hand in it.

As I look back over the last two years I think the most noticeable change has been in membership. So many new members in the last two years and for the most part they are members who have taken an active role in the club. I see a good future for the chapter and look forward to being a part of it.

GOOD NEWS-BAD NEWS DEPT.

Bad news first. Mike and Brenda Meyer wiped out their car on our drive on July 22. Thankfully neither was hurt badly but the car wasn't so lucky. The good news is that Bob

See PRES page 2

Meeting Minutes

July 19, 2000

Gene Bedingfield, president, called the meeting to order. A total of 37 members introduced themselves. More new members joined the club; see membership notes. Gene mentioned that Ilene Gibbons, a member for many years, had recently got married. Jan Coody gave a treasurer's report. Elections will be held at the August meeting. If you are interested in a position, let your desires be known to one of the current officers or to someone who will nominate you.

Mike Meyer gave a "run-down" on upcoming events. There are several events planned for August and several for this fall. See dates and details elsewhere in the newsletter.

Members who attended the Alpha Romeo club's event at Hallett and road rally in July thoroughly enjoyed themselves. Four cars participated. In fact, the rally was such fun that Rod Van Koughnet will schedule a road rally using the same route for NEO members this fall.

Rod has set up an email group for NEO Miata. To subscribe, see the July newsletter for details. (I have subscribed and think it will be of great value to members, particularly in reminding members of upcoming events). Meeting was adjourned.

Pam Chronister
Secretary/Membership Chairperson

MEMBERSHIP NOTES

Pam Chronister

Aaaahhh, warm weather does bring out the Miata in us. Newest members are Doug & Diane McLaughlin and Greg Adams. Doug and Diane have a 2000 Mahogany Mica. This is the third one in the club (the Mitchells and Priers are the others) ...wow! I tried to keep from drooling on their car after the meeting! Doug owns Miller Sales Wholesale (and sells beer at the Drillers games) and Diane works at Century 21. Greg has a '96 black/tan. Gene recruited

Greg from his job at American Airlines, where he is a senior planning engineer. This brings the total number of memberships to 45 households.

I will not be seeking election as secretary/membership chairperson. Serving in this position is really a great opportunity to get involved in the club...you have to stay awake at the meeting (to take notes) and you get to know all the new members (and old ones) better. When you have senior moments and forget a name, the membership records are as close as your computer. I will gladly provide my membership database to the new chairperson. Think about it...if you're interested, let me know at the meeting so you can be nominated.

Elections this Month!

Elections for new officers will be held at this coming August meeting. It's always best to have willing leaders. Seriously consider volunteering for one of the offices.

ON A PERSONAL NOTE

Mike Meyer

Brenda and I want to thank all of you for your support during a very difficult few weeks. As most of you know, our first Miata was in an accident on July 22. It was officially pronounced dead on July 28. Due to the fact that we had filled out a donor card, various parts will be used so that other Miata's may live. We have adopted a three year old Montego Blue with Leather Package and things are starting to settle down. However, you never can replace your first.

Seriously folks, Brenda and I are very lucky to be alive. When we spun out in the hills of Roaring River State Park, we were at the back of the pack. It is frightening to think what might have happened had we been in front of several other Miatas. As all Bikers know, "you don't go out on Miata roads in the rain, and always leave plenty of space between



UNSCHEDULED EVENTS

(MORE INFORMATION TO FOLLOW)

- ◆ Jenks Christmas Parade
- ◆ Christmas Lights Tour
- ◆ Club Christmas Party

yourself and the next guy."

We are very appreciative of all the cards, phone calls, and kind words. We are very thankful for having friends like all of you. Your friendship and camaraderie is the main reason we replaced our Miata. That and a TV commercial called "Zoom, Zoom, Zoom."



PRES: from page 1

Nichols finally got the BRG he always wanted. I was in the same position about two years ago so I know how he feels.

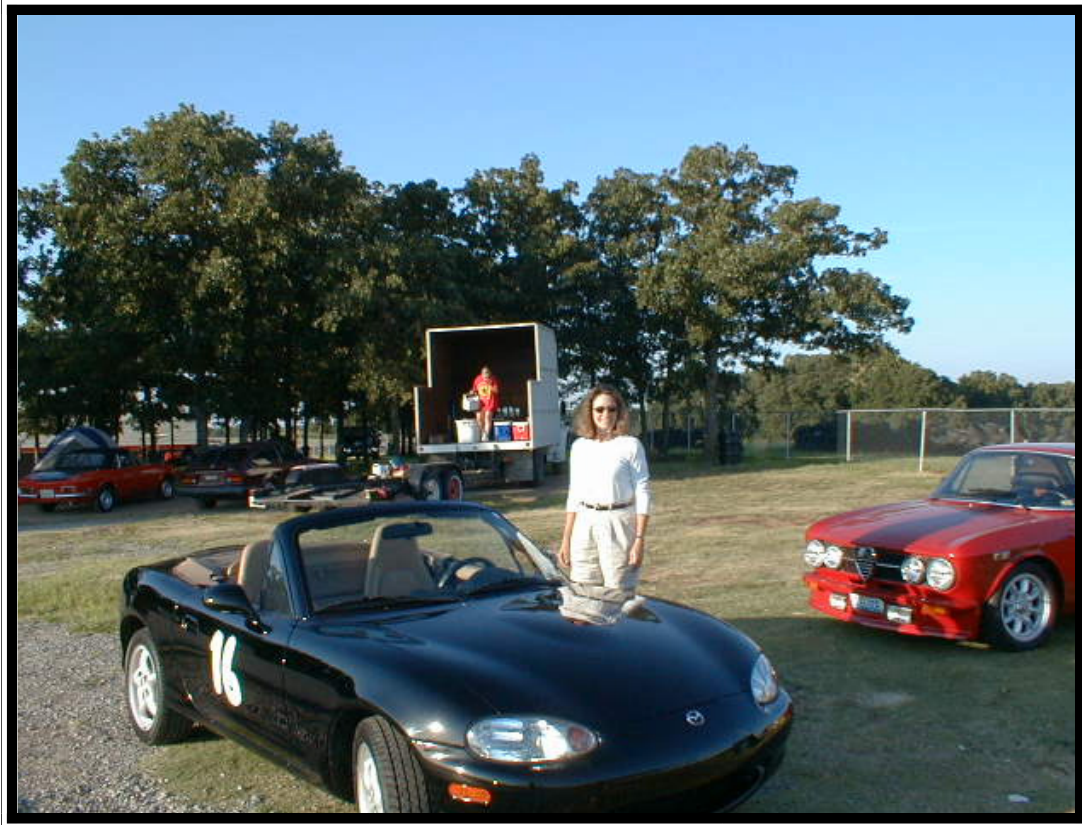
I have ended my column for some time with the words "Until next time, Happy Miataing." Since there won't be a next time for me I'll just say Happy Miataing.

Gene

Alpha Track Event

Hallet Speedway, July 15th

pics by Gregg Zumwalt



Betty Zumwalt Ready to "Race" Her Miata



Suped-Up Miata



Miata with Mustang V8 Engine

**HIGHWAY 7 SCENIC DRIVE
TO EUREKA SPRINGS
FEATURING THE HISTORIC
BASIN PARK HOTEL**

(With the Arkansas Miata Club)
Mike Meyer

A date has finally been set for the joint overnight event. The weekend of September 30 & 31 has been selected as the best time for weather and crowds. Tentative plans have our club meeting the Arkansas group in Russelville around 10:00 on Saturday morning. That means an early 7:00 start from Tulsa.

The combined group will then follow scenic hwy. 7 and end up at the Basin Park Hotel in downtown Eureka Springs overlooking, what else, Basin Park and springs. A group dinner & breakfast is also planned. The Hotel was selected as an historic sight that very few had stayed at and for it's downtown shopping location.

There will be plenty of time for shopping and exploring on your own. We will return to Tulsa on Sunday afternoon. The Hotel will be \$79 for Saturday night (same as last year). The price of meals and events will be \$50 or less per person.

The weekend has always been very well planned by our neighbors to the East and includes meals, giveaways, scenic drives, shopping, and several social gatherings.

If you would like to make Hotel reservations in advance of the official announcement, a block of rooms is already being held. Call the Basin Hotel at 1-800-643-4972 and tell them you are with the Miata group. We took 10 Miata to the Ozarks last year.

More information to follow.

**September's
Newsletter
Deadline:
Saturday,
September 9th**

**Miata Quote
from TV**



Quote from the television show "Caroline in the City" while trying to help a pregnant friend who's going into labor in her apartment :

Caroline: (frantically) "Have you ever delivered a baby?"

Richard: (frantically) "No, but I once helped a fat man out of a Miata!"

***NEO Miatas at
Hallett
Speedway***
Joel "VRRROOM" Eads

Just picture it. You're sitting in one of the world's most nimble and well built sports cars (namely the Mazda Miata). You look out at a terrific road ahead of you with lots of tight curves. And suddenly you realize that your fantasy has come true....there are no speed limits, no speed traps, no slow moving vehicles in your way and no on-coming traffic. Is this a dream? No! It actually came true for all who attended the Alfa Romeo Rodeo at Hallett Raceway.

This was my first time to attend so I didn't know what to expect...but it was so good I haven't stopped talking about it since! I would have enjoyed just SEEING all the great cars that attended, but driving on the same track was just too good. Obviously there were plenty of Alfa Romeos in attendance, and the list of other cars was quite impressive. There was Ferrari, Pantera, a V8 equipped Miata, Viper, Boxter, Shelby, etc.

Looking at beautiful cars is one thing, but the thought of racing on the same track with them seemed a bit intimidating at first. However, since there are four different classes to participate in (novice, intermediate, experienced, and race) any level of driver can feel comfortable. And even in the

company of so many world class sports cars, you quickly find that the Miata is a VERY capable and respected car in this environment.

No matter which class we were in, everyone enjoyed four separate sessions on the track and each was approximately 20 minutes long. Instructors were available at no charge to ride along (very helpful). And I found that Hallett is a first class facility. The only thing that would have made it more fun is if more of our club had been there. It was a well run event that I plan to attend again next year!

Classifieds

For Sale:



1997 STO Limited Edition Miata, No. 945 of 1500. Mileage is slightly over 10,000. Extended Warranty to 2005 or 50,000 miles. Special features are leather seats and tan top, Enkei 15 inch wheels and performance tires, twilight blue mica color, leather wrapped steering wheel, NARDI Shift knob, logo floor mats, dash plate, power windows, power steering, power mirrors, CD player, headrest speakers, rear spoiler and chrome scuff plates. Over 25 after market items have been added and too numerous to mention. Purchased new in July of 1998. List price was \$23,870. Asking \$15,950.00. Always garaged and pampered. Joe Bohannon, home 622-0578, office 744-5696. Reason for selling is due to Miata fever. Purchased a new 2000 Special Edition. You can see at the meeting on 8/16.

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.

Rates:

\$5	Personal ad
\$20	1/3 Page
\$30	2/3 Page
\$50	Full Page

Fun Run to Fin and Feather Resort With Dorothy and Earl

When: Sunday, August 20th
Time: 10:00 AM
Where: McDonald's (north side)
I-44 at 193rd East Ave
Hosts: Dorothy & Earl Larkins

The first thing I must call to your attention is the starting time of this event. It is NOT an afternoon ride. We gather for breakfast between 9:00 to 9:50 AM, have a drivers meeting from 9:50-10:00 AM and depart promptly at 10:00 AM.

As we said at previous meetings, the run will be very "water-oriented." We will cross numerous creeks such as Clear Creek, Spring Creek, 14 Mile Creek, Snake Creek, Chicken Creek, Rocky Creek, and others to numerous to mention. We will drive along, beside and cross the Illinois River, the Barren Fork River, and Arkansas River. We will circle Tenkiller Lake and Greenleaf Lake. Like we said, very "water-oriented."

The entire drive will cover 239 miles. Of that, about 60 miles will be four-lane highway and the rest will be two-lane roads, many of them truly "back roads" roads that many of you probably have never driven on at all, but they are roads with enough twists and turns and hills and curves and scenery that you will not be bored.

Let's talk about food. The Sunday Buffet at Fin and Feather is much more than just great; its positively famous. For those of you who like to eat in a classy place with tons of "ambiance," this is your place, complete with live music. The cost of the buffet for two is about \$21.00 and worth a lot more. Your tip is extra.

I have already said that the Sunday Buffet is legendary. Dorothy and I have stood in line for two hours to eat there. To try and reduce the time we wait in line to eat we developed this strategy. We will take a fun-filled drive over "Miata-type" roads for

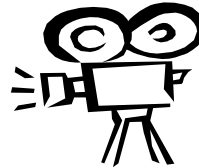
about three to three and half hours to allow the huge crowds to be fed and hopefully gone before we arrive sometime between 1:00 and 2:00 PM. We are hoping that our late arrival will make it possible for all of us to park together in one area and to be seated together when we eat.

After lunch we will proceed to Greenleaf Lake for a photo opportunity. From there we go to Honor Heights in Muskogee, sight of the world-famous azalea festival. Then on to the Castle of Muskogee. From there, more back roads back to Tulsa. I believe we will be back in the city by 5:00 PM.

For those of you who say you want to learn where all the great roads are "close to home," you don't want to miss this ride. For those of you who treasure truly fabulous places to eat, this is a "must try."

Dorothy and I look forward to sharing this special day with all of you.

MIATAS AT THE DRIVE-INS



When: Saturday, August 12th
Time: 7:00 PM for Dinner
Where: Sonic Drive-In
Admiral & Yale
Time: 8:00 PM for Movie
Where: Pep Boys Parking Lot
Admiral & Memorial
Usher: Mike Meyer
Phone: 918.243.7518 (H)
918.261.7518 (M)

Miatas were made for drive-ins. On Saturday, August 12, we will go to two. We will meet for dinner at the Sonic at Admiral & Yale and then move on the Pep Boys parking lot on Admiral just west of Memorial. We will then vote on which movie we are going to see. We then caravan over to the Admiral Twin and park together. If you can't make the Sonic, then meet us at 8:00 PM for the movie. This has always been a fun event. So bring your ice chests & bug spray and join us.

CLUB BIRTHDAY PARTY & PICNIC
(Natural Falls State Park)

When: Sunday, September 24th
Time: Noon
Where: McDonald's
I-44 & 193rd E Ave
Chef: Mike Meyer
Phone: 918.243.7518 (H)
918.261.7518 (M)
CB Channel: 5

Come join us for our annual Club Birthday Party and Picnic at Natural Falls State Park. We will meet at noon at McDonald's North of I244/412 at 193rd East Ave. We will then take some nice Miata roads on old scenic 412 to Natural Falls State Park. The club will provide the hamburgers, hotdogs, condiments, and the birthday cake. You bring a side dish, drinks, camera, and Miatas.

Natural Falls State Park is a very unique area with a beautiful 77-foot waterfall dropping from the top of the park to a clear pool of water below. The park is located about four miles west of Arkansas on scenic hwy 412. The park also has many short trails, and a beautiful formal garden area. There is a \$3.00 per Miata fee to use the Park. We should be back in Tulsa around 6:00 Sunday evening. This should be a great fall afternoon. What more could you ask for? Good food, good friends, great scenery, and Miata roads.

Top Down: from page 6

Texas to Sand Springs.

To add insult to injury, I got lost in Sand Springs and had trouble finding the Mazzio's! All was made alright with some pop and pizza. Needless to say, we came in last but were consoled by the fact we were not captured by the aliens we saw as we rounded Mars.

Seriously, we enjoyed ourselves. Rod Van Koughnet and Rick Lindsay (of the Alpha Club) did a first rate, professional job of putting on the rally. By all means, plan on attending the next one this fall, just watch out for that worm hole east of Hominy!

Kim

NEO Miata

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The NEO Classic

Top Down Tales

Ed.

My youngest son, Jacob, and I participated in the Miata/Alpha road rally last month. The object of the rally was to get from the Gilcrease Museum to the Sands Springs' Mazzios by following directions and accumulating points by finding the correct items using cryptic clues. The car with the most points is the winner, and the car with the least points, well needless to say, is the loser.

We successfully made the correct turn out of the starting point and even answered some of the clues correctly. We did have trouble with clues like "What was the middle name of the fifteenth son of the ruler preceding the Ming dynasty?" We

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also had problems with a worm hole that obviously exists some where east of Hominy! We were mysteriously transported nine miles west past a turn we were suppose to have made. That had to be the problem, because we were paying strict attention to every clue and direction. Next thing we know we went for miles without seeing any of the answers to obvious clues such as "This thing holds

a lot of water and has the following letters on it: 'W-A-T-E-R- T-O-W-E-R'." Realizing our error, we then went even further out of our way just to get back on the same wrong road we took earlier. Fortunately, there was a time limit and we decided we would head back towards Sand Springs. Well, it's no small trip from where we were in the pan handle of

See Top Down page 5