

# The NEO Classic

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

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

- ◆ October 18 - NEO Miata Club Monthly Meeting  
7:00 PM Mazzio's @ South Pointe Shopping Center  
101st & Sheridan
- ◆ October 21 - Fun Run w/ Dorothy & Earl  
11:00 AM @ Burger King in BA 161st & BA Expressway
- ◆ October 24-27 - Miatas in Paradise, Daytona Beach, Florida

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- ◆ November 15 - NEO Miata Club Monthly Meeting  
7:00 PM Mazzio's @ South Pointe Shopping Center  
101st & Sheridan
- ◆ November 18 - Jenk's Christmas Parade  
8:30 AM @ ORU Mabee Center Marquee

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- ◆ December 9 - Christmas Party  
Time & Place To Be Announced
- ◆ December 20 - NEO Miata Club Monthly Meeting & Christmas Light Tour

## From the President

Mac Arnett

Well here it is October and what nice Miata weather. I have been pining this week because we had to miss the Eureka Springs trip. I know what Hwy 7 is like and it sure is a fun drive.

I called the Miata Magazine last week and they are still having some problems with the Miata Club of American getting addresses; so I had them send me about 40 copies of the latest magazine and I will have them at the next meeting for anyone who has not received theirs yet.

As I was looking through the new issue, they have a new article on the 2001 Miata and I see that the redesigned interior has the cup holder back where they should be, still not

much of a change to the overall car. I sure see a lot of new special editions, one at my office this week, but I missed getting a card on the window at lunch and it has not been back. Also, I saw a nice Black Miata that got smacked on Riverside Drive. I could not tell if it was one of our Club members or not. I sure hope not.

I will be getting some first hand information at the Miata 2000 meeting on what is up with MCA and Barbara Beach as they are having a Presidents' meeting and Vince Tidwell will be there.

Until next time, drive safe.

Mac



## Meeting Minutes

September 20, 2000

Mac Arnett opened the meeting. All present introduced themselves and their cars. Mike Meyer reported on the ongoing controversy between the National Club and the new owners of Miata Magazine. Mike also reported on the club's birthday party on Sept. 24. Two days later this party was postponed due the burn ban imposed by the state. Earl Larkin discussed the Eureka Springs trip on Sept. 30-Oct 1 as well as other upcoming events. The club decided they would like to do both Saturday or Sunday trips with some two-day trips. Hot Springs, AR was prominently mentioned as a destination. Also float trips, sight seeing and trips to the west to be different. Mac Arnett explained the cost of the club pins. Each paid NEW member gets one free. Additional pins are \$3.00 each, 2 for \$5.00, and 5 for \$10.00. Anne Duckett announced that there was a recall on the 1995 air bags and that anyone with a '95 should go to the dealer to get it fixed. Discussion was held on whether to get a new meeting place. The main problem being someplace that will hold 40 or more people and still have reasonable requirements on food purchases. If you have any ideas let Mac know. Rod Van Koughnet's road rally is set for Sunday November 12 at noon. Meeting was adjourned.

### New Members:

- ◆ Dana & Melinda Elkind
- ◆ George & Sharon Curfman
- ◆ Robert & Calab Baldwin

Gene Bedingfield

Secretary/Membership Chairperson

**November's  
Newsletter**

**Deadline:**

**Saturday,**

**November 4th**

# ZOOM ZOOM ZOOM



2001 Miata - More Pics on [www.socalm.org](http://www.socalm.org)

### CLUB BIRTHDAY PARTY & PICNIC (Natural Falls State Park)

**When:** TBA  
**Time:** TBA  
**Where:** Homeland  
 193rd E Admiral  
 (South of I-44 & 193rd)  
**Chef:** Mike Meyer  
**Phone:** 918.243.7518 (H)  
 918.261.7518 (M)  
**CB Channel:** 5



As you well know the Club Birthday Party was postponed due to the state-wide burn ban. There's a lot planned for the next several months, but we are still wanting to have our Birthday Party. So keep your picnic baskets out ready to pack at a moment's notice. Hopefully we will get some rain and a then get a nice weekend we can celebrate.

If possible we will still have our annual Club Birthday Party and Picnic at Natural Falls State Park. 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 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.

## MCA and MIATA MAGAZINE Dispute

by Mike Meyer

All is not well with the National Club. Your local NEO club however, is doing better than ever. While there is not room in this newsletter to go into a lot of detail, here is the background of what is going on nationally.

The Miata Club of America (MCA) was formed a little before the Miata was introduced. Its founder, Norman Garrett, had been a layout engineer and worked with a number of others on the Miata development project at Mazda Research of America in Irvine, California. At the onset, MCA took on Barbara Beach as its volunteer promotion director.

If you join the national club, you pay \$29, and primarily receive "Miata Magazine" (6 issues a year) a membership card and car sticker. You also can take advantage of insurance discounts and discounts on some other items. Members are also kept informed of national and regional events, new products, and technical tips from Miata engineers, mechanics and owners. The Magazine is also the main source for most after-market Miata parts and accessories.

In 1997, the rights to produce "Miata Magazine" were sold to Barbara, her husband Phil Wolfson and their company MediaSource for a sum of \$250,000. Since then, Jay Lamm (and subsequently Alan Paradise) have taken on the task of editing the magazine, still with a lot of input from Norm and other Miata designers and engineers. The primary responsibility for selling advertising and getting the magazine into MCA member's hands belonged to MediaSource. Much about the look and feel of the magazine has changed over the years, but the basic mission to provide useful information to Miata owners worldwide has remained the same. Recently, a dispute has occurred that threatens to disrupt, if not the very existence of the magazine, but the club itself.

The dispute appears to be centered around MediaSource wishing to offer Miata Magazine at newsstands, allowing private subscriptions, releasing a possible competing magazine called "Ragtops and Roadsters and editing control. MCA has been refusing to pay MediaSource for publishing the magazine for some time because of this. MCA has also been withholding the address labels to mail the magazine. In the mean time, MediaSource has been using their own resources to continue to publish.

Centered on these issues of distribution and editorial rights, this dispute between the owners of MCA and the publishers of Miata Magazine has resulted in both a slow down of magazine distribution, and many national members canceling their MCA memberships. No resolution to the dispute has yet been reached. In fact, it is my understanding that a temporary restraining order has been issued against MCA from working on a competing magazine. Mazda has sanctioned MCA as the official national Miata club for over ten years. MCA has stated that it intends to resolve this issue and make sure all members receive a magazine in the future along with many other new benefits of club membership.

**The Northeast Oklahoma Miata Club (NEO) has always stated that we are affiliated with the Miata Club of America. However, no money passes from our club to MCA. No one has ever been required to be a member of the National club to join our own club.**

In the mean time, MediaSource has sent us a box of the latest issue of the magazine, which we will pass out at the next meeting. If you cannot be at the meeting and would like a copy, you can call Mac at 592.2636 and make arrangements to receive yours. Mac and I will be meeting with the officers of MCA along with representatives of Mazda and MediaSource while we are at the Daytona National Speedway the last week of this month. Hopefully these national problems will get resolved. We will give you a report when we get back.





## Tech Corner Tires



This last month a question was sent out via the neomiata.email group asking for a recommendations for tires. Phil and Rod responded with the following good advice:

**Phil:**

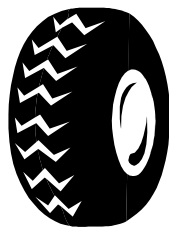
Here's a some information regarding tire selection. First there is the UTOG (Uniform Tire Quality Grading - required by our federal government) that is found on the sidewall. The rating is a number followed by two letters - 160 AB, for instance.

The higher the number, the longer the expected tread life. A number of 100 would be average, while 300 is high. It is not a guarantee but it does allow comparison of tires. The first letter is a grade for the tire's stopping ability on a wet surface. A is best, B is above minimum federal requirements and C is not very good.

The second letter shows the tire's resistance to heat buildup. A is cool and C isn't. Most experts encourage the purchase of tires with an A or B grade for either rating.

There is also a speed rating that appears as part of the tire's size designation that appears on the sidewall. These ratings were established by the European Tire and Rim Technical Organization to ensure that tires can handle a particular car's top speed. The H in the designation 185/70HR-14 is the speed rating.

Here's a complete list:



<b>F</b>	<b>50 mph</b>	<b>Q</b>	<b>100 mph</b>
<b>G</b>	<b>56 mph</b>	<b>R</b>	<b>106 mph</b>
<b>J</b>	<b>62 mph</b>	<b>S</b>	<b>112 mph</b>
<b>K</b>	<b>68 mph</b>	<b>T</b>	<b>118 mph</b>
<b>L</b>	<b>75 mph</b>	<b>U</b>	<b>124 mph</b>
<b>M</b>	<b>81 mph</b>	<b>H</b>	<b>130 mph</b>
<b>N</b>	<b>87 mph</b>	<b>V</b>	<b>130 mph</b>
<b>P</b>	<b>93 mph</b>	<b>Z</b>	<b>150+ mph</b>



The ratings reflect the performance characteristics required of a tire at high speed, including its handling, traction and heat resistance. Tires that generate too much heat are more likely to blow out or have their tread separate at high speeds. In general, tires with a higher speed rating will run cooler, handle better and stop quicker than one with a lower rating .I hope this information helps. I've used it in the past and have had good luck in selecting tires that fit my needs.

**Rod:**

From experience, spins are very easy in a Miata with worn rubber. I found worn tires to be especially spooky in the rain. At 95,000 miles, I'm on my third set of tires. I think mine came with Dunlops which lasted almost 30,000 miles. Based on the recommendations of a friend with a keen interest in performance, I bought Yokohama A509 for my second set. I liked them A LOT, and they lasted for 40-45K miles. Now, I'm on Yokohama AVSi and really like them a lot too. I drive my car very hard on the track and on the street and these tires have been great. My friends with Alfa Romeos and Ferraris also use the same Yokohama tires. I've also heard good things about Toyo tires for Miatas. As far as purchasing tires, I bought my last two sets online from the Tire Rack, then took them to a local shop, like Hesselbein, to get them mounted and balanced. Miata tires are small, so you can get high performance tires for small dollars (around \$50 each).

## Fun Run With Dorothy & Earl

**When:** Saturday, October 21st  
**Time:** 11:00 AM  
**Where:** Burger King in BA  
 161 & BA Expressway  
**Guide:** Dorothy & Earl Larkin  
**Phone:** 918.622.4635 (H)  
**CB Channel:** 5

This will be very a short drive to lunch. The course will be as follows: From Broken Arrow we will drive east to Wagoner, south to Okay, on south to Muskogee, then east again to Ft. Gibson. If the group wants to we will stop and visit the Ft. Gibson stockade, then we will go north along the banks of the Grand River to Ft. Gibson Dam.

At the dam we will go over Norwood Mountain Road (Highway #80), Mike Meyer's most favorite road in Oklahoma; we will follow it to Hulbert. At Hulbert we will get on the Lost City Road and follow it due north to

Peggs. At Peggs we will follow #82 northwest to Locust Grove. When we get to Locust Grove we will only have driven about 80 miles, but we will have gone over so many hills and around so many curves it will seem like we have gone much further. We will eat at the Country Cottage, one of Dorothy's favorites. The meal will be a marvelous "all you can eat" buffet with your choice of meats, vegetables, fruits, salads, and deserts. The cost will be about \$9.00 per person plus tip and I guarantee you will not leave hungry.

After lunch we will drive north to Spavinaw for two reasons:

- 1) More great hills and curves
- 2) The best chance we will have at seeing any Fall colors.

The park directly below Spavinaw Dam always has the most beautiful colors in eastern Oklahoma. At the park we will take a vote and decide to either continue driving through the hills or return to Tulsa. There is no rain date. If it rains that day we will cancel and forget it. Any other weekend might be our club birthday party.

## Osage Hills Rally

**When:** Sunday, November 12th  
**Time:** Noon  
**Where:** Homeland grocery store at  
 Gilcrease Museum Road and Edison  
 (west end of parking lot).  
**Rallymaster:** Rod Van Koughnet  
**Phone:** 481-3420 (H)  
**email:** chrisnrod@ionet.net

Enjoy your Miata on the scenic twisties of the Osage Hills. This will be a gimmick rally where you and your navigator test your navigation skills while answering obscure questions. Prizes will be awarded for the three teams that answer the most questions correctly. The scenic route is around 60 miles long, finishing at a pizzeria in Sand Springs, but many of the questions are tricky enough to cause a lot of backtracking. Expect the rally to take two hours or a little more. Speed and time based competition do not enter into this rally. Its more of a casual drive.

Please bring:

- ◆ a navigator
- ◆ a clipboard or something stiff to write on
- ◆ a pen.

## Jenks Holiday Parade

**When:** Saturday, November 18th  
**Time:** 8:30 AM  
**Where:** ORU Mabee Center Marquee  
 81st & Lewis  
**Lead Sleigh:** Joel "Vrrroom" Claus &  
 Ali-santa Fallini

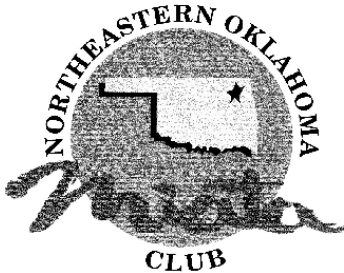
Ho! Ho! Ho! Polish up your sleighs, hook up your reindeer and let's all join the Jenks Holiday Parade!!!! This is an annual event for the Miata Club, and as past attendees know it is a fun one. As usual we will meet under the big sign in the parking lot on the west side of the ORU Mabee Center (just north of 81st & Lewis). We plan to munch on some donuts for breakfast, then head over to the staging area for the parade. There will be some time to decorate our Miatas with garland, wreaths, amazing animated robot elves, etc. (optional). Be sure to bring a lot of candy to toss. One of the best parts of the parade is watching the reaction of the kids catching candy all along the parade route. Hope to see you there!

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## NEO Miata

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

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The NEO Classic

# Top Down Tales

Ed.

Several fortnight's ago, the *Call of the Miata* was strong. It had been a hot Friday and I thought that maybe a drive would help cool me down. So I took my son and we were just going to drive around town. But before I knew it we had passed Collinsville and I was looking for a place to turn around. We found the world's largest Sonic (my words) in Oologah. Of course this was the perfect spot to turn around. After getting something to munch on and a cool drink we were headed back home. (As usual our Miata received a complement from the car hop.)

This was during the summer when it



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was so hot. But driving back we experienced a cool breeze. In fact it was so cool (the cool drink also had a cooling affect) that we had to turn on the heater!

I believe we should all succumb to the *Call of the Miata* more often. Furthermore, I believe we need more night runs especially in the summer. My little drive took less than two hours and may have not had any

curves, but it was still fun. Next time you feel the *Call of the Miata*, give me a call.

*Zoom, Zoom, Zoom!*

Kim

