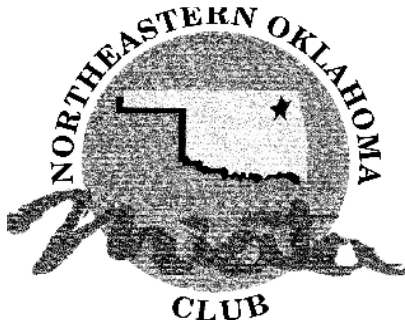


The NEO Classic

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UPCOMING EVENTS

- ◆ January 17 - NEO Miata Club Monthly Meeting
7:00 PM Mazzio's @ South Pointe Shopping Center
101st & Sheridan

- ◆ February 21 - NEO Miata Club Monthly Meeting
7:00 PM Mazzio's @ South Pointe Shopping Center
101st & Sheridan

- ◆ March 21 - NEO Miata Club Monthly Meeting
7:00 PM Mazzio's @ South Pointe Shopping Center
101st & Sheridan

From the President

Mac Arnett

Well much to my disappointment, I have had to keep the BRG in the old garage. I don't know about all of you, but this sure is a bummer. My driveway is in the shade and has three inches of ice and no hope of a defrost. The snow was nice to see, but with my nose pressed against the window looking out at my garage and knowing there will be no Miata miles for a while I am sure blue. I now have to sit around and read car books and try to keep from ordering all those nice looking parts the vendors are offering for our babies. Too much time on my hands could be expensive.

I sure hope everyone is recovering from the holidays. I put on ten pounds, but all that food was sure good. Wow what a Christmas party we had, many thanks to Mark and Peggy Clemons for hosting the

party at their beautiful home. In all 29 members showed up, Mac & Leta Arnett, Gene & Shirley Bedingfield, Mike & Brenda Meyer, Kim & Elizabeth Hand, John & Pam Chronister, Brad & Jan Coody, Joe & Sarah Bohannon, Garry & Diane Kowal, Ron & Shirley Lane, Thelma Lane, Brenda Lane, Rod Van Koughnet, Robert Majors, Robert Baldwin, Gregg & Betty Zumwalt, Jim & Sandy Sturdivant & of course Mark & Peggy. This was one of our best parties, the food was excellent and the Chinese gift exchange was a blast, I know Mike and Ronnie sure had a good time with the light.

We also had a very good turn out for the Christmas light tour. Joel sure had a lot of lefts & rights on that list.

Don't forget January is dues month. See you at the meeting.

May the rod wind your way,
Mac

The NEO Miata Club assumes no liability for any information contained within this newsletter. The opinions expressed within are those of the individual authors and do not reflect any endorsements or opinions of the club as a whole. Use of this information is strictly up to the reader's discretion.

Jenks



Christmas



Parade



Meeting Minutes

December 20, 2000

President Mac Arnett called the meeting to order. Old business consisted of additional discussion of dispute between the MCA and publisher of Miata Magazine. Mac will get more information and pass along to members as available. Brief discussion of the ERG valve problem with the 99 models and the (lack of) service one member received at a local dealer while dealing with this problem. For more details contact Greg Zumwalt. Due to uncertain weather conditions in January and February, no drives are scheduled, but if there is nice weather you may be called for a spur-of-the-moment drive. The meeting was adjourned for the annual Christmas lights tour led this year by Joel Eads

Gene Bedingfield
Secretary/Membership Chairperson

Weekend in the Rockies

Earl Boyd Larkin

In the spring of 2000, Dorothy and I submitted an article to the NEO Classic in which we suggested that the club should take a weekend drive to the Rocky Mountains in the state of Colorado. The response we received to that suggestion covered the entire spectrum. Some members said that we were insane but I disagreed knowing that Dorothy is quite sane. Others said that it simply could not be done in a weekend, but I knew it could be done because Dorothy and I had done it several times on our Guzzi motorcycle. Still others said that it might be possible to do it on a Guzzi, but it could not be done in a Miata. That is a position that I have never understood.

On a motorcycle when it rains you get wet; in a Miata you simply put up the top. On a motorcycle when it's sizzling hot, you get hot; in a Miata you turn on the air conditioner. On a motorcycle when it gets brutally cold, especially above 10,000 feet, you get

cold; in a Miata you turn on the heater.

But Dorothy and I wanted to be fair so we decided to do a weekend in the Rockies in our Miata. On our motorcycle trips I do all the driving and Dorothy does all the navigating. But in our article we suggested that couples take turns driving to eliminate the danger of going asleep at the wheel so Dorothy and I decided to take turns driving the Miata.

We left Tulsa Friday evening, July 28th, at 6 PM. We were driving through downtown Denver at 5:30 AM Saturday, July 29th. We continued another 40 miles west of Denver to where we turned onto one of the many back roads we had discovered on previous motor cycle adventures. These incredible roads finally delivered us to Estes Park where we refueled and had breakfast.

From there we headed due east into the incredible beautiful Big Thompson Canyon. We then did a 180 and went back through the canyon to Estes Park and from there we went to Rocky Mountain National Park. From there we zigzagged back and forth across the state, basically moving from the northeast toward the southwest part of Colorado. Some of the places that we visited that you will have heard of included Winter Park, Keystone, Dillon, Vail, Leadville, Aspen, and Redstone Canyon. We checked into a Super 8 Motel in Montrose at 8:30 PM Saturday night, July 29th. We slept very well.

Sunday morning, July 30th, we headed due east out of Montrose on highway 50 for the Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park. If you visit western Colorado, you have to make time to see this canyon. Not long after leaving the Black Canyon, heading east of 50, you see a sign that says Canon City, 177 miles. Do not be discouraged. For the next 177 miles you will go over mountain passes, scale summits, circle lakes, and follow headwaters of the Arkansas River around more curves than you can possibly count. Before you even realize it you are at the Royal Gorge.

From there we once again chose little known back roads to the north

that eventually led us to Cripple Creek (heavy into the gambling gig), Manitou Springs, and Pike's Peak. We had dinner in Limon, Colorado, and headed for Tulsa at 8:15 PM Sunday night, July 30th. We pulled up into the driveway in Tulsa at 5:45 AM Monday, July 31st. We made some breakfast, then went and picked up our dogs at the kennel at 7:30 AM and I was at work at 8:00 AM just like any other Monday. After work we had an early dinner and went to bed early. By Tuesday morning, everything was back to normal and on schedule.

Many of you had asked me how much money you would need for a weekend in the Rockies and were puzzled when I hesitated to answer. You deserve an explanation. When Dorothy and I travel we usually eat two meals a day in "fast-food joints," to save time and money. Our dinner meal is always in a "nice place," if possible. All we ask of a motel room is that it be clean, cool, and quiet. So we stay at "cheap places" like Motel 6 and "Mom & Pop" places. Because of this strategy, Dorothy and I can travel a lot less expensively than people who will only eat in four star restaurants and will only sleep in Hilton Hotels. That's why I hesitate to tell anyone how much money they will need to go where we go.

But we kept very accurate records on this weekend and it breaks down as follows:

Food & Drink	\$110.11
Fuel	\$110.85
Turnpike Fees	\$ 7.00
Motel	\$ 47.47
<u>National Park Fee</u>	<u>\$ 17.00</u>
Total Cost	\$292.43

We drove a total of 2,266 miles of which 1,400 miles was simply getting to and from Denver. That leaves 866 miles of curves, mountains, passes, summits, and scenery too beautiful to describe. That breaks down to an average of 433 miles per day for two straight days of pure Miata roads. And all of this is available without using one single day of your precious vacation time. So what do you say; what weekend would you like to go?

NEO Miata

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The NEO Classic

Membership Renewal Time

It's time to renew
your membership!
Dues are due by
January 31, 2001.
Please fill out the
enclosed form and
either mail it in or
bring it to the next
meeting!

Nelson Nissan Mazda

258-6581

PLENTY OF USED MIATAS
TO CHOOSE FROM



**10% Discount on
Parts and Service**

Expires: 02/28/01
(discount does not apply
on promotional items)



**February's
Newsletter
Deadline:
Saturday,
February 10th**