

The NEO Classic

Official Publication of the Northeast Oklahoma Miata Club

July, 2001

Volume 12, Issue 7



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UPCOMING EVENTS

- ◆ July 18- NEO Miata Club Monthly Meeting
7:00 PM Johnnie's Charcoal Broiler @ 51st & Harvard
on the North Side of I-44 & East of Harvard
- ◆ July 28 - Route 66 Drive
9:00 AM @ Tulsa Auto Collection - 41st & Memorial

- ◆ August 15- NEO Miata Club Monthly Meeting
7:00 PM Johnnie's Charcoal Broiler @ 51st & Harvard
on the North Side of I-44 & East of Harvard
- ◆ August 25 - This Old House (Osage Hills)

- ◆ September 2 - Take the High Ground
- ◆ September 17 - NEO Miata Club Monthly Meeting
7:00 PM Johnnie's Charcoal Broiler @ 51st & Harvard
on the North Side of I-44 & East of Harvard



From the President

Mac Arnett

I received my Miata owners club packet today. Looks like we are back on line again. The \$30.00 Miata accessory rebate check was the first thing I saw. It looks like Mazda is holding to its word. Barbara Beach has done a great job with the new magazine. Some good technical info and lots of good features, just what we were looking for. Let's get on board and give them our support.

The June meeting was well attended for those of you who missed it and the "pre-dam" drive was a lot of fun. I know I am looking forward

to the "dam drive" on the 15th. With this "hot" weather some things you should not forget: check your coolant, check your tires, bring plenty of sunscreen and wear a hat.

If I don't see you at Sunday's drive, I'll see you at Wednesday meeting.

Also don't forget we will be electing new officers at the August meeting.

Don't forget to shift, at 6-thousands that is.

UNTIL NEXT TIME,
KEEP YOUR TOP DOWN
AND YOUR REVS UP

Mac

Meeting Minutes

April 18, 2001

Mac called the meeting to order and a report was given on the Eureka Springs meeting with the Kansas City, NW Arkansas, and Springfield chapters. We had nine cars from NEO and a total of around 30. The weather was great and everyone had a good time. Earl Larkin spoke on the trip to Eureka Springs in early August. Since the car show was not just a ragtop show and you had to be a paid participant in the car show almost all interest was lost. Scheduled trip was canceled but anyone who is interested should go. Joel Eads reported on the "Dam Drive" scheduled for July 15. Gene Bedingfield announced plans for a trip to OKC to see the bombing Memorial and the Cowboy Hall of Fame. See details elsewhere in the newsletter.

There were four new members joining this month. Make welcome, Mac & Suzanne Young (99 Emerald Green Mica), Liza Stephan (97 STO, twilight blue metallic), Carla and Bob Scott (00 Emerald Green Mica), and Ed and Phoebe Jackson (91 White). Ed retires from the Tulsa Police Department on 7-31 so you better watch how you drive!

Meeting was adjourned early and we took a short drive to Shell Lake dam in Sand Springs and then went to the Brookside Sonic for refreshments.

Gene Bedingfield
Secretary/Membership Chairperson

**August's
Newsletter
Deadline:
Saturday,
August 4th**

Cowl Air Induction

Rod Van Koughnet

This past month I've installed the "Randall Cowl Air Induction" thingee from Dealer Alternative. Now, my engine breathes from the cool, high-pressure area between the firewall and the windshield instead of from the engine bay. This is the same area that our vent air comes from, so you have an idea of the amount of positive air pressure there. It is too soon to say how much of a performance increase there is, but the sound improvement is WAY BEYOND MY EXPECTATIONS! When I punch the gas, some really cool throaty sounds come from that intake. For that alone, I'm pleased with the investment. I think I paid around \$115 for it. I can't wait to see if it makes a difference at Hallett.



2001 Miata

You've Got Mail!



If anyone would like to receive email reminders about NEOMIATA club events or would like a very easy way to reach other club members who have email, do the following:

1. Send a blank email message to the following address: Neomiata-subscribe@yahogroups.com
2. That's it. You would then be subscribed to the group to receive any messages. When you are ready to post a message to the group, use the following email: Neo-miata@yahogroups.com

New Meeting Place

We are now meeting at:

Johnnie's Charcoal Broiler

**51st & Harvard
on the North Side of
I-44 & East of Harvard**

Zoom-Zoom

Mike Meyer

Many of you have recently received the new "Miata Owners Club" sticker. The first question is where to put it. The most common place is in the lower right corner of the windshield. However, with the state having done away with the inspection sticker, you could put it in the lower left hand corner. More and more drivers like it on the bottom of the right front window wing. That way others can see it when you pass.

The second question is how is the best way to attach the sticker. If you want to put something on like this and you want it to look good, spritz the glass and the sticky side of the label with a weak solution of soapy water (two or three drops of soap in a 8 oz of water). You can then position the label and slide it around until it is just right (spray with additional water as much as needed). Then squeegee the label forcing most of the water out from between the label and the glass.

You can now peel the carrier off (if there is one). The remaining moisture behind the label will evaporate in a day or so leaving a perfectly positioned label WITHOUT air bubbles.

Zoom Zoom,
Mike

Route 66 Drive

When: Saturday, July 28th
Time: 9:00 AM
Where: Tulsa Auto Collection
 41st & Memorial
Convoy Leaders:
 Gene & Shirley Bedingfield
Phone: 664-4691
Cell: 637-4691 or 637-4692

We will leave Tulsa Auto Collection, 41st and Memorial around 9 AM. They open around 8 so you can have time to look at any new Miatas that they might have. We will take Skelly Drive to Old Sapulpa Road and then take old Route 66 to OKC. We will stop at the round barn in Arcadia and then on to the Bombing Memorial in OKC. After lunch (I'm open to suggestions, as I don't know where to eat in OKC) we will go the Cowboy Hall of Fame and be inside during the hot part of the day. Other possible stops in OKC are Bricktown and the Myriad Gardens. I plan on returning around dusk when the weather cools down.

Northern Exposure

Miata.net presents Northern Exposure 2002. From July 5-7, Ottawa and environs will be host to 400 Miata enthusiasts from all over the world. This will be one of the major international Miata events of the year.

The event is a "European-style" event to celebrate the love of driving. Each day will have self-paced tours and lots of time to meet fellow Miata nuts followed by an evening of camaraderie. Attendees will be free to make their own schedules and travel at their own pace.

Registration will be opening soon. Information can be obtained at ottawa2002.miata.net.

If you have any questions contact ottawa2002@miata.net.

Miata.net hopes to see you in Ottawa!



2001 Neo Miata Calendar	
<p>July Saturday, July 28th Route 66 Drive Leader: Gene & Shirley Bedingfield</p>	<p>August Saturday, August 25 This Old House (Osage Hills) Leader: Dorothy & Earl</p>
<p>September Saturday, September 2 Take the High Ground Leader: Dorothy & Earl</p>	<p>October Sunday, October ? Drive to Dinner Leader: Dorothy & Earl</p>
<p>November Birthday Party Picnic Jenks Christmas Parade</p>	<p>December Christmas Party</p>

WHERE TO GET NEAT CLUB STUFF

THE OFFICIAL NEO CLUB PIN: take your own shirts and hats and have them embroidered for \$15. If Ann Duckett has the club logo pins for \$3.00 each, 2 for \$5 and 5 for \$10. Ann is at most club meetings and events. If you take two or more items in they are only \$10 each.

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

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.



Non-Destructive, Chemical-Free Stump & Root Removal

BOB NICHOLS 357-1803

Eureka Springs Trip

June 9 & 10, 2001

Pics by Mike Meyer



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Security Tip

🔒 Don't bother to lock the doors when parking your Miata. Use some common sense and don't leave anything of value in plain view. It doesn't take much effort to cut the top to gain entrance into a locked Miata and the hassle and expense of replacing the top is much greater than whatever a thief might steal.

🔒 Also, some Miata owners even disconnect the cockpit trunk release cable to make the trunk more secure. Much like the top, the center console is easy to break into (even when locked). Having the internal trunk release this accessible eliminates almost any security that the trunk may have.

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Top Down New Mexico

Jim & Sandy Sturdivant



On 15 March, we decided to take an adventure trip to Anywhere, USA, to escape the cold of Tulsa, and suspecting it would be warmer going west than east, we headed out at the crack of dawn with the top down in 23 degree weather, bundled up to our eyeballs, but looking forward to the trip. Unfortunately, we didn't bother to check the forecast before leaving home, and that was the day the blizzard with 60 mph winds hit the Plains. By the time we reached Cherokee, Oklahoma, fighting the wind all the way (we put the top up somewhere about two hours into our trip), we were in the middle of a flood, having to navigate a section of road with water pouring over it.

Things got worse crossing into Kansas, as the road had only been opened less than an hour after being closed all morning due to blizzard conditions. Still undaunted, we made a stop at the Big Basin and were wanting to see Jacob's Well, but the ice and snow prevented us from getting to the latter, so we decided to drive into Dodge City and spend the night. We passed no one on the road, but we did see an 18-wheeler jack-knifed in the bar ditch, and it made us highly suspicious that WEST was not the direction we should go.

Our suspicions proved accurate in Dodge City. Power outages had closed all hotels (electronic keys don't open electronic locks when there is no electricity), and we drove into town only to find ourselves unable to get a room on the ground floor because the maids had been unable to get access to the rooms to clean them. We ended up with a back room up in the northeast corner of the second (and top) floor, having little heat in the bedroom area and no heat in the bathroom, and after having to traverse an ice-and-snow covered walkway to get to it, Sandy said, "No way." We left town the next morning, heading SOUTH.

With no particular place in mind, we

decided to drive across the Oklahoma panhandle and headed southwest into New Mexico. It was a pleasant drive, as the snowdrifts provided features to the otherwise flat landscape. We got into Taos New Mexico that night, and it was a balmy 46 degrees with the sun just going down! We decided it would be a great top down experience after all, and with visions of sightseeing plans for the next day, we fell into a much-needed slumber.

The next morning, Jim looked out the hotel window, and there was a foot of snow on the car! Further, snow was still falling! We were literally snowed in, and deciding to make the best of it, we made arrangements to go snowmobiling in the blizzard. It was GREAT!! We crept up the mountain, donned our duds with about eight other idiots, and proceeded to have a blast for four hours in visibilities anywhere from ten feet down to a few inches. The snow was falling only slightly by the time we headed down the mountain, but the road was covered from the morning's blizzard, and Jim did two 180's and fishtailed for about 300 feet before getting the car under control. The people in front of us, who had gone snowmobiling with us, slid off into the ditch. Cell phones don't work well in that area, and we had to wait to flag down a car to seek help. After recovering from our heart attacks, we got back to the hotel with no further problems.

Most of the snow melted from the roads that afternoon, but the next morning, we awoke to five inches of new snow, so we walked Taos in falling snow and otherwise did nothing spectacular. The third morning, we awoke to a light powder of snow on the car, so we deemed it okay to drive and proceeded to check out the surrounding countryside, including Ski Taos, Red River, and Angel Fire, discovering in the process that most of Oklahoma and Texas were also at these places. We learned later that it

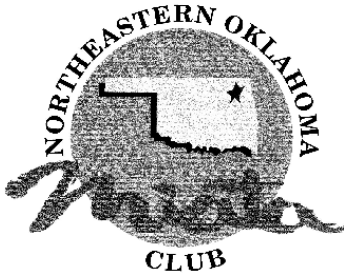
was Spring Break. We had a wonderful Mexican food lunch in Red River and watched the skiers for a bit before continuing the drive. We also drove out to the bridge on the Rio Grande, and since the weather was now glorious, we put the top down and headed north into Colorado. The snow-covered peaks of the Rockies were beautiful, and we lazed along, enjoying things enormously.

Sandy's folks live in Monument, and we decided we would make that our final destination. We drove with the top down through the Sangre de Cristo Mountains, coming back across through the Royal Gorge, before veering off the main road to a country road and heading up the backside of the mountains to Colorado Springs. The views were spectacular, and we stopped often to take pictures. We traveled the I-25 raceway to Monument, had a nice visit, and then headed home via Pike's Peak. We got to the 13,820 foot level before we were turned back with snowdrifts. It was also very muddy, and the car needed a thorough wash job when we got down.

Colorado was very pleasant with snow only in the upper elevations, so we had the top down that whole part of the trip. We stayed in Garden City, Kansas, on the way back, and the snow from the previous week was still everywhere, but the sun was out, so we kept the top down, even though it was still very cold. We decided to journey through Meade on the way back and were surprised to learn that the Dalton Gang had a hideout in the small town. We toured the hideout, including the 90-foot tunnel, before reversing our course through Oklahoma toward home. At Cherokee, where we had run into the flood the week before, water was still cresting the bar ditch on either side of the road. We got back into Tulsa on the 22nd with no further incidents. All in all, it was a great trip, and we had a thoroughly wonderful time.

NEO Miata

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The NEO Classic

Top Down Tales

Gene Bedingfield

Did I really want to do this? What was I thinking of? However, I had paid the fee and there are very few things I dislike worse than wasting money. So I decided to go through with it. I get up early Saturday morning and drive to Hallett (where in the world is Hallett, OK?). Maybe no one I know will be there so they won't see how badly I do. When I get there who is right in front of me in line for inspection but Allen Richardson, one of NEO Miata's king of autocross. Then I notice another king, Rod Von Koughnet's car further up the line. Then I see the Ducketts, and our new member Alan Dougherty, so much for anonymity. Bravely I go through the driver's class. The main thing they stress is plenty of air in your tires and to do all braking and downshifting on the straight. You

cannot control your car if your wheels are turned and you're pushing on the brakes (like driving on ice, they say). The next thing is to go into the curves from the wide side, go in late and come out early and accelerate while you are doing this. Use the whole track. They call my group and I get with the instructor, who I let drive the first few laps. Now I am behind the wheel. Hey, this is great! All too soon

they give us the checkered flag and we have to go in. But I get another chance in a couple of hours. The second session is even better, still with an instructor but I get to drive all the time. As I leave, my thoughts are: Why didn't I do this several years ago? How soon can I do this again? Am I too poor for a new avocation? Am I too old for a new career? How do I convince Shirley I NEED to do this again?

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