

# NEO CLASSIC

## NORTHEASTERN OKLAHOMA MIATA CLUB

### PRESIDENTS MESSAGE Joe M. Bohannon



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##### Newsletter Editor:

Alan C. Doughty  
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My how time flies when you are having fun. The "Run from the Chicken" drive on January 22nd was just what our club needed. We had 15 cars including Jim Basteri who drove up just as we were leaving McDonalds for the trip. If we had only left 30 seconds earlier..... The chicken at Coweta was great and the roads good. Too cold to put the tops down but everyone enjoyed the first trip of the year. Good job Jim.

I have contacted Johnnie's and our room is now reserved from 6 to 8 pm for the meetings. We will start the officers meeting at 6 PM and everyone is welcome. If we get much bigger, we may want to move to have more room. Time will tell. I attended the Grand Opening at the new Nelson Mazda dealership on South Memorial and it is really upscale and modern in design. Drop by when you have a chance. I talked to GM Brandon Murphy about getting someone to replace Steve Hester and he said he was working on picking someone to be our connection. Steve is home now and doing well. One of our members told me that he used the 20% coupon at Nelson's recently and saved \$90.00 on a repair bill. Remember to take the coupon when you go for service or parts.

On the way home from the Chicken Run the "Check Engine" light came so I drove slower than normal back to Tulsa. I got

convertibles are going out of style. By the new members joining NEO Miata, the trend does not appear to be true in the Tulsa area. One new member has a Miata factory turbo and is a first for the club. Nelson has a 2005 Miata turbo in the showroom, which is a beautiful burnt orange color - Go Pokes. Check it out. Our membership is up over 70 cars, an all time high. Dues are now due for 2005 so send in your \$20 or bring your check to the next meeting on February 16th. At some point, Leta says she will cut you off the newsletter list for non-payment of dues so send in your check now. At the January meeting, an "Ad Hoc" committee was set-up to review the web site and make recommendations for changes so get your comments to Jim Naufel. It is almost 1:00 AM so I will finish this rambling newsletter.

on Miata.net and found some information about the problem and one solution was to tighten the gas cap. Seems I had not turned it until the cap clicked at the last fill-up. The solution was to tighten the cap, disconnect the battery, hold down the brake pedal for 30 seconds and then hook the battery back up. This engineer does not understand the procedure but it worked and the light went out and stayed out. Hooray for Miata.net! If you haven't fully explored the site, you should visit it and discover everything that is available.

As I mentioned at the last meeting, Miata sales were down in 2004 14.3% and sold the fewest number of all Mazda models in 2004. Maybe this is why Mazda plans a makeover for the 2006 model, which should be introduced around mid-2005. I also read where BMW Z4 sales were down and a cash rebate of \$5000 was offered late in the year, which was a first time deal. Maybe small

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PopaJoe




I LOVE MY MIATA!



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# FEBRUARY 2005

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	 14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28					

## Down The Road

March 6: SLOLOII-CKC-SCCA Autocross  
 March 13: SLOLOII-NECKLA-SCCA Autocross  
 March 16: 7:00 pm Monthly Club Meeting  
 March 26: SLOLOII-CKC-SCCA Autocross  
 April 2: ROAD RALLY- NECKLA- SOCA  
 April 17: NASCAR Fort Worth  
 SLOLOII - NECKLA- SCCA Autocross

April 20: 7:00 pm Monthly Club Meeting  
 April 23-24: Hot Springs trip  
 April 30: Secret Drive & Dinner - ?  
 ROAD RALLY- NECKLA- SOCA  
 SLOLOII - CKC- SCCA Autocross

We need folks to plan events and/or SD&D's for next year, any and all ideas are accepted. Please contact Bob Huckaby.

## Meeting Minutes - January, 2005 Leta Arnett, Secretary

President Joe Bohannon called the meeting to order at 7pm. Forty-Two members were present.

The officer's had a meeting at 6pm to discuss the Web Page and a committee was set up of Bob Huckaby, Jim Naufel and George Walker to work up strategy and instructions for using the Web Page. The Officers meeting will take place at 6 pm every meeting, is open to all members, and if you have something you want to bring up at the meeting please come early and it will be discussed.

All of the future drives were discussed, and you can find information on all the drives on the web page or in the newsletter. Remember one of the most important rules of any drive is to ALWAYS KEEP THE CAR BEHIND YOU IN VIEW.

We now have 79 members which is an all time high. Dues were due 1/1/06. If you have not paid your dues of \$20.00 per year, please mail your check today.

## February Events

**February 6 - SNOLO II, SCCA Winter Event:** SNOLO II is a winter normal speed driving skills event sponsored by SCCA. This event is sponsored by the Oklahoma City Chapter of the SCCA at the OSU/OKC Precision Drivers Training Center, 900 N. Portland, OKC additional information and online registration available at [www.okscca.org](http://www.okscca.org)

**February 14 - Better Not Forget Day**

**February 16 - Club Meeting, 7:00 PM**  
 Johnnies Charburger, I-44 and Harvard, north side of I-44.

**February 19: SD&D "Nature's Drive"**  
 Hosted by Jim & Sandy Sturdivant  
 Time: 8:45 Driver's Mtg, 9:00 Departure  
 Where: McDonald's @ S Memorial & 121st  
 Our drive will be over some very nice roads to places you've never been. You'll love these newly resurfaced roads. We'll have lunch about 12 at a very unique place at a cost of less than \$10 per person. After lunch we'll have a short half hour drive back to South Tulsa. The total time should be under 4 and a half hours.

**February 20: NEOKLA SOLO II**  
 A SOLO II is a normal speed driving skills event sponsored by SCCA. This event sponsored by Northeastern Oklahoma Chapter the site is to be announced. Additional information and online registration will be available at [www.neoklascca.org](http://www.neoklascca.org)

CHECK THE CLUB WEBSITE FOR CHANGES AND UPDATES!

## Welcome New Members:

Aaron and Dulce Bedingfield  
 Kerry and Yvonne Sorrells  
 Merritt Steward  
 Paul & Barbara Vestel



**Earl and Dorothy's 'Spring Fling' Drive** Earl Larkin

**WHAT:** Spring Fling 2005, "Back Door To Hot Springs"

**WHEN:** Saturday & Sunday, April 23<sup>rd</sup> & 24<sup>th</sup>, 2005

**IMPORTANT INFORMATION:**

It is very important that you make your reservations as quickly as possible. We will be staying at **The Downtown Hotel**. The last time the club stayed there, it was called as The Hill-Wheatley Downtowner Motor Inn.

The phone number for the hotel is **1-888-624-5521**. Please call between 9:00 AM and 4:00 PM, and ask for **Wendy**. Wendy is in charge of promotions for the hotel and made this deal with me on Wednesday, December 15, 2004. Ask for the NEO Miata Club group rate of \$70.31. This rate is good if the club reserves at least ten rooms.

There are many activities scheduled for Hot Springs that weekend and as of December 15, 2004, the hotel only had 38 rooms available. We do not want to miss this opportunity. The hotel is on the main drag and within easy walking distance of The Arlington, Hot Springs National Park, Bath House Row, and numerous restaurants and clubs.

Please do not hesitate to make your reservation. You can always cancel up to 48 hours prior to our scheduled check-in time. Procrastinators may

end up staying at a different hotel/motel than the early birds.

Finally, Wendy said that if we get over ten reservations made within the next two to four weeks, she could probably put all of us on either the third or fourth floor, where some of the rooms have balconies overlooking the main drag. A total "HOOT" if you are a people watcher.

Please make your reservation as soon as possible. Watch for additional trip information in future newsletters and on the club website.



**NEO Miata Logo Items**

**Shirts / Jackets / Hats etc.**

Show your pride as a Miata owner and NEO Club Member by wearing our club logo on a shirt, jacket or hat. Our club logo is available at T-Shirt Express in Owasso. Exit Hwy 169 at 76th St. North, turn left at the light and go about 2 to 3 blocks. It's on the left side of the street next to the pawn shop.

You can bring in your own items to be embroidered or purchase items there at the store. Prices are reasonable, check for pricing.

**Club Pins:**

Club logo pins are available for \$3.00 each, 2 for \$5.00 or 5 for \$10.00. Contact the club treasurer at any club meeting or event.

**Magnetic Signs:**

NEO Club Logo magnetic signs are available for \$25.00 each at Signs Now located at 51st and Yale.



**Good Time on the "Run From The Chicken"**  
Jim Naufel

The 14 Miatas that joined Jim and Jewel Naufel for the first event of the New Year had a great time. The Run from the Chicken included, at no extra charge, a car wash including two rinse cycles.

The trip started with lunch at Roy's Chicken in Coweta, followed by a trip through Porter. Earl Larkin pointed out we had come to Porter on the busiest day of the week, which explained all the traffic we ran into. I think there was another car on the road, but I must have missed it.

We continued on to just north of Muskogee and across to Hwy 16 north to Okay. From there we headed east to Hwy 80 and then onto my favorite Oklahoma road. We crawled in Hulbert not wanting to support the city with speeding fines.

After a pit stop in Hulbert we headed north through Lost City up to Peggs, our Miatas receiving a belly wash along the way. We then went east by Cedar Crest, then north by Murphy coming out on US 412 for the return to Tulsa.

We arrived back in Tulsa, just a few minutes after 3:00 pm, as advertised.





## *Northeastern Oklahoma Miata Club*

NEO Miata  
P.O. Box 554  
Tulsa, Oklahoma  
74101-0554

### *Top Down, Revs Up, Zoom-Zoom*

Check Us Out On The Web

<http://neomiata.com>

### The Long And Winding Road Alan Doughty

I was so proud of myself for coming up with the fix for my Miata problem last month. It worked great for about a week. Then the screeching started. On start-up, the alternator belt would let out a loud screech, most embarrassing in a crowded parking lot. It would go away after the engine warmed up, so I figured it was just because it was cold or maybe I needed to tighten the belt a little more. Sometimes it would not do it at all.

I listened to the noise for about two weeks; it was just too cold to stand out in the driveway, working on the Miata. Finally, the weather turned and I told myself, "Okay, Saturday you are going to pop the hood and see what's going on." Too late! Thursday that week, I was out running errands after work. Battery light comes on. Temp gauge climbs into the red. Limp along in traffic until I come upon a Walgreen's and make a hasty turn into the parking lot and find a spot away from the crowd. Pop the hood, looking through the rising steam, I discover the broken belt.

Stranded across town. How to get home? Had my AAA card, but my male ego would not let me pull it out of my wallet just yet. Re-

membered that old mechanics tip about using a pair of party hose as an emergency belt to get you home if stranded. Went into Walgreen's and bought a pair of the cheapest ones I could find. Twisted them into a tight spiral, looped them around the pulleys, and tied them tight. Start-up. No battery light on, maybe this really works. 45 seconds top. Noise, light on, shut off the engine, pop the hood again. Nylon fuzz everywhere. Okay, hang my head, pull out the AAA card.

On investigation the next morning, I discovered that the alternator pulley though parallel to the other pulleys, is sitting about a 1/8<sup>th</sup> of an inch further forward, so the belt was not

running in a straight line. Found the broken belt down on the splash pan. All the ribs had been chewed off and the belt had finally given up. Rummaged through my left over parts bin, found a nice washer about 1/8" thick, I think it came from an old replacement mower blade. Spaced the alternator back at the bracket, checked the alignment with a torpedo level, maybe still about a 1/32" off, and installed new belts.

Has been running fine and QUIET for a couple of weeks now. When I get a break from my renovation work and a nice day, will see if I can further refine the pulley alignment, but for now at least, I am on the road, again.



**mazda**

**NELSON**

*"We'll Make A Believer Out Of You!"*

**20% DISCOUNT ON  
PARTS & SERVICE**

(Discount does not apply on promotional items)

EXPIRES 03/31/2005