

# NEO CLASSIC

## NORTHEASTERN OKLAHOMA MIATA CLUB



### PRESIDENTS MESSAGE Joe M. Bohannon

Another month has gone by and are we having fun yet? The answer is YES.

For those of you that missed Earl's drive to Hot Springs, you missed probably the most exciting drive in my senior memory. We had 26 cars and George Walker hooked up with us at Hot Springs for a total of 27. I am sure there will be more details to follow in the article about the drive. Needless to say, it was fantastic!!!

We are getting more and more new members and they are already participating in the drives. We even had one prospective member with a new Miata who plans to join ASAP. We have many new faces at the meetings and everyone should make an effort to meet and greet the new members and welcome them to the group.

At the last meeting we decided to furnish to our Nelson Mazda representative, Brian Whitt, items to go in a dealer-

ship display case about our club. If you have Miata items like pictures, preferably in frames, items with the Miata logo or other related objects, get them to Brian at the dealership and we will have our own display for prospective members to view.

As reported at the April meeting, a committee is reviewing the Web Site situation to determine the best course of action to follow and the basic design of the site. We should be able to report at the May

meeting about the progress and ask for club input on key issues concerning the design and use of the site.

No one has taken me up on my offer to be a guest writer of the President's message. The offer is still open for any club member to have the floor in the monthly news letter. Please let me know if you are interested.

Sara and I missed the Spring FixUp, as we went to Sara's 50th high school reunion in

Ardmore, Oklahoma. Met a lot of Billy Bobs, Charlie Bobs and so on.

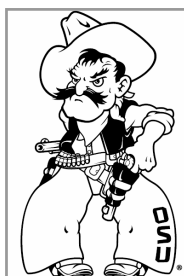
It was reported at the April meeting that one of our members had already ordered a 2006 but no name was given. Brochures and specifications data were given out at the April meeting and the new makeover looks great. More horsepower and even a tilt steering wheel. It will also require high octane gasoline.

To all of the officers and committee members, thanks for the dedicated work and you are appreciated as it makes my job easier.

One new idea I heard during the Hot Springs trip is to revisit "names tags". We have so many new members and old members coming back, names are hard to remember. I plan to bring this up at the May meeting for ideas and suggestions.

All for now as I have to go check on the construction progress of our new home at Battle Creek.

Popa Joe



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### Back Roads To Hot Springs



On  
The  
Road

With  
Earl Larkin

Story  
Page Three



# MAY 2005

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>1</b>	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>15</b>	16	17	<b>18</b>	19	20	<b>21</b>
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
<b>29</b>	30	31				

Down The Road

??????

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 - April, 2005 Leta Arnett, Secretary

The meeting was called to order by President Joe Bohannon. 41 members were present .

The officers had a meeting at 6 pm to discuss problems with the Web Site. It was decided they would start having an officers meeting on a night other than the regular club meeting. Earl updated us on his Spring Fling drive to Hot Springs.

Brian Webb from Nelson Mazda brought us up to date on the new MX-5 and had brochures for us to look at. The Display Case at Nelson was discussed and ideas are needed on what to put in the display case that will best represent our club.

I want to apologize to Martha Jones for calling her Martha Young in the last newsletter. Martha we are all so glad that you are doing better and able to attend Club functions again.

## May Events

May 1  
SOLO II - OKC - SCCA Autocross Event

May 12 -15  
Miatas@Moab

May 15  
SOLO II - NEOKLA - SCCA Autocross  
SOLO II - OKC - SCCA Autocross

May 18  
7-9:00 pm : Monthly Club Meeting

May 21  
8:30 am - 2pm : Dorothy and Earl's SD&D

May 29  
SOLO II - OKC - SCCA Autocross

CHECK THE CLUB WEBSITE  
FOR CHANGES AND UPDATES!

### Welcome New Members:

Paul and Susan Hildebrand  
Wayne and Susan Copeland



## Earl and Dorothy's 'Unusual SD&D' Earl Larkin

**What:** Dorothy and Earl's SD&D (An Unusual Drive)

**When:** Saturday, May 21st, 2005

**Where:** Burger King, Elm Pl and The BA Expwy in Broken Arrow

- 7:30 - 8:15 Breakfast
- 8:15 Drivers Meeting
- 8:30 Depart
- 2:00 PM Back in Tulsa fed and finished.

By Larkin standards this will be a very short drive indeed. None the less we will manage to drive a few good curves, drive one brand new stretch of road, and cover a couple of stretches of road that are not new but are seldom used by the club. Arrive at the departure point with a full tank of gas and you will return to Tulsa with at least half a gas tank full.

We are going to do an activity that we know is unusual but we think you will really enjoy. The cost will be about \$3.00 per person and worth a lot more than that in what you will learn.

In sticking with our unusual theme, we are taking you to eat in a place that the club has never gone to before. Suffice it to say, the ambiance, the surroundings, are let us say "different". The food will be served buffet style and we have a room reserved for our group to eat together in. You may have all the salads, vegetables, meats, desserts, and drinks that you desire for the price of \$19.05 per couple and this price includes the tip.

The total cost should be around \$26.00 plus what you spend at Burger King for breakfast and any drinks along the way.

So if you want to take a drive that includes some good curves, a new stretch of road, a couple of seldom used roads, an unusual activity, and "a most unusual place to go to eat"

Please come and go with us and tell us if you enjoyed it or not. Either way, we want to know so that we know how to plan future SD&Ds.

### Back Roads To Hot Springs Jim Jordan

Magnifique..(French)..Magnificent    Hervorragend..(German)..Outstanding  
 E sorprender..(Spanish)..Amazing    Ajabu...(Swahili)..Fantastic

No matter what language you speak, this year's annual "Earl's Drive" as it's commonly called among club members, was another spectacular event!

It's official name was "Back Roads to Hot Springs", and Earl would certainly want us to mention here that he couldn't have put this drive together without the tremendous help of his wife Dorothy, and Mac Arnett, who each traveled, tested and helped plan this amazing weekend for a total of eight times during the past several months. (A big round of applause here)! Also, a big thanks and applause go to the John Newman and Duane Will for putting together some great goodie bags for everyone. That was really a nice thing to do guys.

The NEO Miata group gathered at the Burger King in Broken Arrow early Saturday morning eagerly looking forward to getting our weekend started, when we received word that "Earl" was running late...He had car trouble! But it wasn't long before he and Dorothy showed up with Mac and Leta Arnett, with the "car trouble" resolved, and we were on our way!

Just outside of Muskogee on the turnpike another little glitch happened while cruising through a construction area. John and Barbara Newman's car ran over a base of an orange barrel that literally ripped their rear bumper off their Miata, causing several cars behind them swerve but fortunately no accidents occurred.

John and Barbara's car did however continue on minus its' rear bumper.

Once we reached Sallisaw, we were joined by three or four other Miatas for a total of 26 Miatas now heading for Hot Springs.

We enjoyed a picnic lunch on Saturday, with 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> prizes being awarded to the best or most creative picnic couple. 1<sup>st</sup> Place went to Rodney and Martha Jones who's creativity won them a Free Oil Change courtesy of Nelson Mazda. 2<sup>nd</sup> Place went to Larry and Cindy Williams who won a nifty "Mazdaspeed" ball cap.

As always Earl managed to find some terrific curves on our drive to Hot Springs and once we arrived there he treated us to still more curves as we wound our way up to the top of a mountain located practically right downtown! After checking in at our hotel, everyone was free to do whatever they wanted, some chose to go shopping, some took advantage of the local bath and massage services while some chose to take a quick nap before dinner. Later that evening some of the group found entertainment at some of the local "live music" establishments.

Sunday morning we headed out in search of more curves on our way to Mena, Arkansas. Once there Earl treated the group to what's become known as "Mena's Deal's Gap"! The

curves along that stretch, definitely earned the name!

After a fantastic buffet lunch at the Queen Wilhemina Lodge, we drove the famous Talimena Drive and then headed north. We were treated to still more curves...curves....and more curves, as we wound our way through what might be Oklahoma's best kept secret when it comes to great Miata roads. Beautiful long sweeping curves winding through the Sans Bois Mountains.

We had two full days of excellent Miata fun, with only one or two minor spinouts on some of the curves, and everyone had a fantastic time! With nearly 30 cars, Earl even had the great idea of having us line up in order of our preference of driving style. That being, "fast...spirited...and cool laid back drivers", so that everyone was comfortable driving at their own pace. A good idea that seemed to work pretty well.

Each time Earl takes us on one of his drives, we think...

"Wow, he will never be able to top this one..." and yet the next drive he leads is even better.

Earl...YOU'RE THE KING OF CURVES! Thanks for another great drive.



## *Northeastern Oklahoma Miata Club*

NEO Miata  
P.O. Box 554  
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74101-0554

*Top Down, Revs Up, Zoom-Zoom*

Check Us Out On The Web  
<http://www.neomiata.com>

### NEOMiata 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.





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