

# NEO CLASSIC

## NORTHEASTERN OKLAHOMA MIATA CLUB



### PRESIDENTS MESSAGE Joe M. Bohannon

Congratulations to Earl and Dorothy Larkin for another well-planned and executed drive on Saturday, May 21. It was a SD&D drive and we ended up at the new Cherokee Casino for a wonderful buffet lunch. We had 14 cars show up and did we have fun. I am sure glad that Earl retired so he can plan and lead drives. In Japanese, there is a term, "Ichiban" which means number one. I now declare that Earl is the Ichiban drive planner and leader in NEO Miata.

For those of you that missed the May meeting, several things of interest were decided. The suggestion of having "name tags" was discussed and the club decided to move ahead with the idea. Some members still have their old tags and we plan to create new ones for new members and those that have lost the old one. Jim Basteri is looking into possible styles and lamination of the tags. The Web Site survey results were analyzed and you can already see the results on the updated Web Site at neomiata.com. Alan Doughty has done a great job and many kudos to him for the time and effort put into the site. Alan is also the editor of the newsletter and is probably the hardest working member we have and are we lucky to have him. The SCCA information will be provided by linking to their Web Site for those who want to see what activities are going on with their club.

Brian Whitt, our liaison with Nelson Mazda, announced that the 2006 Miata currently touring

the USA will be in Tulsa sometime during September. Once the date is known, we will plan a club activity at the dealership so we can all see the new updated Miata for 2006. We still need items for the display case at the dealership. Nelson Mazda is going to let us use a display case to showcase the club. We need to fill it with items of interest so please look around your Miata "stuff" and take some items to Brian. The case is two feet square and about 6 feet tall with shelving.

We have several new members and some prospective members are coming to the meetings and going on drives. Be sure to welcome these guests when possible as new blood is always good to replace those who drop out from time to time.

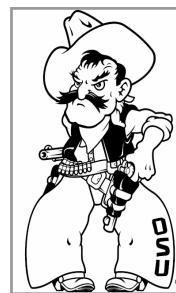
I urge each member to consider leading a drive sometime this year. As you can see by the calendar of events, we have many open weekends in the upcoming prime driving months. Bob Huckaby needs some help in planning drives. Probably the simplest drive is a SD&D drive (Secret Dinner and Drive) event like the one we just had on May 21. We all have a favorite place to eat and it can even be in Tulsa at the beginning

or end of the drive. It can be breakfast, lunch or dinner. Keep passing out the club cards to Miatas you see around Tulsa. Believe it or not, they do work occasionally.

The Tulsa Bedlam baseball game here in Tulsa was rained out in the eighth inning but OSU won the game the next day in OKC but lost the three game series 1/2. The Sooners lucked out once again. We left just before the rain came and listened on the radio on the way home. Go Cowboys!!!!!!

Sara and I went for a drive to Owasso recently with the top down of course. It was so great to see an Oklahoma sunset while just cruising along. This is what it is all about. The new house is coming along and if we survive and are still speaking, we will probably be moving in late June or early July. I figure it will take all 68 Miatas in the club making 100 round trips each to move all of our stuff. Happy motoring and remember, it is not where you have been but where you are going that counts.

Popa Joe





## June Events

**June 15**

7-9:00 pm : Monthly Club Meeting

**June 19** Father's Day

## JUNE 2005

Su	M	Tu	We	Th	Fri	Sa
			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	29	30		



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

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

The main discussion was regarding the Web Site and the questionnaires were filled out and returned to the officers. At this time the Web Site is up and running, thanks to Alan Doughty.

Earl Larkin, our resident speaker, talked about the Hot Springs drive last month and thanked everyone who went on the drive for doing such a good job in making his drive a huge success. He then gave us our instructions for the next drive which was held on May 21<sup>st</sup>.

Nelson Mazda has a Display Case that we can put things in representing our club. If you have anything you want to contribute, get with Joe Bohannon.

The issue of Name Tags was brought up since our club has grown so much and we have so many new members, it is hard to remember everyone's name. So if you already have a name tag, please wear it to the meetings and the drives. If anyone has any ideas on name tags, please get with Joe Bohannon regarding this also.

Welcome new member Bob Hurt of Grove, Oklahoma

CHECK THE CLUB WEBSITE  
FOR CHANGES AND UPDATES!

**Welcome New Members:**

**Bob Hurt**



## The Most Fun I Ever Had With My Clothes On The Coody's

About eight or nine months ago, Jan and I were having dinner with Jim & Sandy Sturdivant and George & Carol Walker. The subject of "Miatas at Moab" came up. Jim and Sandy had attended the first event in 2003 and raved about how much fun they had. George and Carol were already on board to attend, so the four of them kept lobbying until Jan and I couldn't say no. This was a first for both Jan and I since the furthest we had driven our car was about 1200 miles. The Tulsa, Moab, Sedona trip would surpass 3300 miles. With some trepidation, on my part, on May 8<sup>th</sup> we were *off like a dirty shirt*. (A little Irish lingo).

The first stop on our 11-day oodyssey was Amarillo. In Amarillo we met Bill Preston and his fiancé, Jan, our tour leader to Moab. Bill is the current president of the Dallas- Ft. Worth Miata Club and the perfect person to lead our expedition. From Amarillo we toured to Durango Colorado where we spent three nights. While in Durango, the Coody's and the Walkers' boarded the Durango and Silverton Railroad train for a fun filled 3 ½ hour ride through the still snow capped San Juan mountains to Silverton. Jim Sturdivant and his bride chose to hit the road (Hwy 550, the Million Dollar Hwy). This road is a perfect Miata road and Jim knew it. When we arrived in Silverton, there were Jim and Sandy who had driven the 45 miles in about an hour. After a wonderful lunch, the girls shopped up and down the streets of Silverton some of which are still dirt. We were reminded of this every time the wind blew.

On Wednesday we toured Mesa Verde National Park just west of Durango. The Na-

tional Parks charge admission, so we were advised to buy a one-year pass at a cost of \$50. Both George and Jim already had passes and zipped right on through. When it was my turn I asked the ranger what kind of pass my friends had and he said "a Geezer Pass". I immediately asked what is a Geezer Pass. If you are 62 or older, you qualify for a \$10.00 lifetime pass. What a deal and I saved \$40.00 bucks. This pass got me into all other National Parks on our trip. Mesa Verde is the home of the cliff dwellings. Throughout this entire park there are perfectly restored and maintained Pueblo dwellings dating back hundreds of years.

On Thursday it was onward and upward literally, along the Million Dollar Hwy with stops once again at Silverton for shopping, then on to Telluride for lunch. One small aside in Telluride, it's the only place I've ever seen where there are parking meters for dogs. Yes, you tie Rover up to the meter and pay two bits an hour for the time. From Telluride it was on to Moab. Pretty good Miata roads in spots but the high point of this segment of the trip was a little town by the name of Bedrock. No there was no Fred Flintstone in residence, just two gas pumps and a general store complete with outhouse. If you want to use the outhouse ladies it's free. However, the toilet paper will cost you \$6.00.

Moab was totally fun filled with drives through the marvelous National Parks, Arches, and

canyon lands. But let's get to the really good stuff. There were 188 Miatas in residence at Moab, and with a crowd like that in attendance, the Miata dealer in Salt Lake City, spent some political capital and arranged to bring the new prototype 2006 Miata to Moab. No one knew this except the Utah club folks. I was impressed!! Not only with the people who put on this magnificent event but the car is above and beyond its pictures. Two Japanese project engineers drove the car from Los Angeles to Moab on their way to Florida. They held a tech session but yours truly did not attend. I direct you to George Walker who did attend and asked techy questions. The car, I believe will sell well. I for one, with no pressure from my wife ( ha ha ), will be considering my third Miata.

If you ever plan to motor west I suggest you consider the next Miatas at Moab, its terrific!

Brad & Jan



## 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.





## *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://www.neomiata.com>

## Earl and Dorothy's 'Unusual SD&D' Rodney Jones

Never was there a more beautiful day for a top down, wind in your hair, revs up drive. Fourteen cars showed up for Earl and Dorothy's "Unusual SD&D". It was great to have many new members join us. Brian and Melissa showed up in their Lava Orange MazdaSpeed.

I'm not exactly sure why Earl and Dorothy's SD&D was titled "An Unusual Drive" because it seemed a pretty typical Earl and Dorothy drive. Perhaps it was dubbed unusual because of our visit to a bat out of water.

We departed promptly at 8:30AM just as Earl promised, starting the day with a drive over Oklahoma's Deal's Gap the best Miata road in Oklahoma.

After following a short stretch of new road circling us back around we ran it once again. I think everyone received their Zoom Zoom fix for the day.

We then visited The USS Batfish and Museum in Muskogee, a wonderful exhibit for

anyone interested in naval history. The USS Batfish, a WWII submarine took her name from the ferocious fish of the West Indies, and during her seven war patrols in the Pacific sank fourteen Japanese ships and damaged three others; sinking a record three enemy submarines in a three-day period. Our guided tour was not for the claustrophobic, nor the big of hip.

Earl then led us down a stretch of road parallel to Hwy412 that most of us have not ran in years, ending up at Cherokee Casino in Catoosa for lunch. The resort graciously had reserved us our own parking area near the casino entrance with seven cameras and multiple security persons guarding our Miatas.

We had lunch at the Wild Potato Buffet; the buffet featured a salad bar, a vast array of entrees created by award winning chefs, and a huge dessert bar showcasing an elegant chocolate fountain with strawberries, marshmallows and maraschino cherries for dipping by our discriminating chocolate connois-

seurs. I think everyone ate their money's worth and then some.

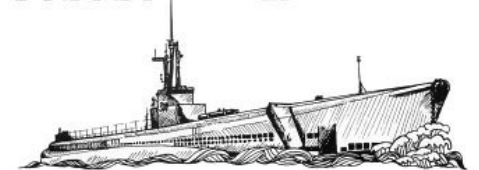
Earl wanted it to be known that he was embarrassed by Mac A. attempting to sneak chocolate covered cherries out in his pants pockets.

So there we were at the casino, and naturally some of us just had to stay around and donate our funds, however I hear at least one young lady in our group (Barbara N.) walked away with her purse full of winnings.

Like I said, a typical Earl and Dorothy drive, lots of curvy roads, a historical exhibit, lots of food, and very best of all... good friends.

Thanks Earl and Dorothy.

**U.S.S. BATFISH**



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