

NEO Classic



AUGUST 2007
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Northeastern Oklahoma Miata Club
neomiata.com

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AUGUST EVENTS

- 15th - Club Meeting
- 18th - SD&D
- 28th - Full Moon Drive

CHECK THE CLUB WEBSITE
FOR CHANGES AND
UPDATES!

NEW MEMBERS

MIKE & JUDY WHEAT
DENISE AND JIM WRAY



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AUGUST EVENTS

Monthly Club Meeting: Wednesday, July 18, 2007 - 7:00 PM

Location: **Johnnies Charburger, I-44 & Skelly Dr, north side I-44 @ Harvard**

What: SD&D

When: Saturday, August 18th, 2007

Where: McDonalds at I-44 & 129th

Time: Gather from 10:00-10:15 AM; Drivers Meeting at 10:20 AM;

Depart: 10:25 AM; Details inside.

Event: Full Moon Drive

Date: Tuesday, August 28, 2007

LEAVE: 8:30 pm from the Braum's on S 101st St, just East of Riverside. Yes, same location as July. This time we go west.

President's Message: GEORGE WALKER

Hi all. Sorry, I missed everyone at the meeting this month but sometimes you have to go to where the work takes you, in my case that was Lake Charles, Louisiana.

On a sad note I have to report on the loss of every sport car driver's friend, Mike Stephens the owner of the Hallett Motor Racing Circuit. Mike passed on June 23rd from some form of undiagnosed brain disease.

One of Mike's many visions for Hallett was a proper winners circle. The Stephens Family have decided to dedicate the new winners circle to Michael Ross Stephens in acknowledgement of

his many years of looking out for the sports car "racers".

I would like to ask approval for our club to join in making a contribution this memorial for Mike. In addition as individual members we can also contribute by sending memorial donations to: Hallett Winners' Circle, c/o Malcolm and Barbara Joyce, 403260 W. 2380 Dr., Bartlesville, OK 74006-0425 (Please include with your donation a clear spelling of your name the way you want it to appear on the memorial list of donors.)

In another change this month Brian

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We'll make a believer out of you!
NEO Miata Club Supporter

July 2007 Meeting Minutes: Barbara Newman

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Ruth Will, Vice President, in place of our President, who was out of town on business. New members Mike and Judy Wheat were introduced. They had just taken possession of a 1996 Black and were anxious to get home to Pryor. They were invited back to attend any event or meeting.

REMINDER: Everyone was reminded the Miatas at Hallett, the Arkansas Club event for High Speed Touring at Hallett Track, will be held on September 21st and 22nd. Anyone who wishes to participate needs to register prior to August 1st in order not to pay the higher rate. A volunteer is needed to lead the group on the dinner drive Friday and the Saturday morning drive, same as last year. Full registration for time on the track, etc. is \$150. An associates package is available for those not wanting time on the track but still wanting to participate in other events for \$25. Both packets include a t-shirt, dinner on Saturday night and chance to win door prizes at the Saturday evening dinner.

Barbara Newman, Secretary//

Membership Chairman, noted we now have 92 members.

Devinna Smith, Treasurer, reported we currently have over \$1,000 in our account.

Report from Tour Director, Bob Huckaby:

- Our Christmas Party will be held at Nelson Mazda on Saturday, December 8th.
- Sunday, October 14th will be our Annual Club Birthday Party
- September 28-30th: Branson Trip! Leave at 6:00 p.m. on Friday evening, staying at the Ramada again, Saturday a.m. will ride a Duck charter, free time from 11:00 to 5:00 p.m., working on a deal for the hotel, Dick Clark Show (with Fabian, Bobby Vee, Brian Hyland, The Chiffons and Chris Montez) and Museum. Bob will need 20 people to get ticket breaks, etc. More information to come. Breakfast both days included in cost of hotel. Working on tour to Fantastic Caverns on Sunday.
- September 10th, Bob and Mona will be getting married in Hawaii. A reception

will be held at the Moose Lodge at 7th and Garnett on Saturday, Sept. 22nd at 2:00 p.m.

KANSAS CITY TRIP: Gail Roop reported on the upcoming KC trip and changes made since the last report.

Tom Jones:

- Earl Larkin is planning a SD&D for Saturday, August 18th
- Fall Tour will be either October 20th or 27th depending on weather conditions.
- Tom will be out at Hallett this weekend and is available to give anyone a free ride on the track. Monday, July 30th, next Full Moon drive.

Bob Huckaby then mentioned that the Ramada in Branson had approached him about a possible regional or national Miata show in 2009 or so. Bob asked everyone to think about this and it will be discussed later. It will take a great deal of participation and work on the part of the club but could be quite an event.

The meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

SD&D: WILD THANG

What: SD&D

When: Saturday, August 18th, 2007

Where: McDonalds at I-44 & 129th

Time: Gather from 10:00-10:15 AM

Drivers Meeting at 10:20 AM

Depart: 10:25 AM

NOTICE: Please do not eat a late breakfast at McDonalds or at home on this day. We will be eating an early lunch at 11:00 A. M. so that we can have the private dining room to ourselves. Our drive will begin after our lunch.

About the drive, as planned at this time, will be a little different, some might even say "strange". Did you know that Eastern Oklahoma has a "lost" state park? Well neither did we. Seems the state built a state park that

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for whatever reasons, no one ever used or visited. So the state department responsible for upkeep and maintenance on this park figured they could save a "fortune" in maintenance fees if they just let this particular state park just "fade away."

Supposedly the park still exists, "sort of," at one-tenth of its original size, unmarked, unidentified, no camping grounds, no showers, but does have "primitive" restrooms for the convenience of the Park and Game Rangers . I heard this story from a "Biker character" I run into from time to time. He lives to find places like this where he can find some privacy, lots of good shade, good water, get naked with his ladies and smoke some weed.

The dude swears this place exists and that he has visited it at least a dozen

times. He has told me how to find it and I think I can if his brain has not been completely "fried." This is a guy who tells me that he loves to go out to this place, sit down under a big shade tree, lean back, and drink beer until he can no longer remember his name or where he lives.

I don't know if his story is true or not; I have not had the time or opportunity to check it out. It is Sunday night and we have just returned from Kansas City and Sam and Gail Roops Drive. Now Wild Child and myself are going to the Rocky Mountains on the motorcycle and we are not coming back until we run out of money or its time for the August Miata Club meeting; we have to be back by then because the drive is the Saturday following the August meeting.

I don't know if we will find it or not but I will promise you this; in searching

for it, We will lead you down at least two roads that we have never led you over before. One of them is so good, so curvy, so smooth, some of you will say unkind things about me for "hiding" this one from you for so long. The other road will have you scratching your head and wondering why isn't this road on the maps?

Important Facts: The cost of lunch including food , drinks, deserts, tip, for two people will be about \$20.00-\$25.00.

Time required: Not counting the time required for all of us to finish eating lunch, if we haven't found our "Lost State Park" within two hours, we will ask ourselves what "MORON" would believe such a story from any "beer-guzzling, pot-smoking, nudist Harley Rider" in the first place?

Wild Thang

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Whitt our Nelson Mazda dealer representative has move over to the new BMW store up the street. Our new dealer representative is Jeff Lewis. He can be reached at Nelson Dealership # 918/296-7800 or his email address is jlewis@nelsonmazda.com and his cell phone # is 918/906-6205. I have spoken with Jeff and he appears willing and able to support the club. Jeff is a long time Nelson employee and should be a great help to our membership.

I also wasn't able to go to Kansas City this time but I still have great memories from the last time we went with Sam and Gail. I hope those that did take advantage of there leadership had as great a time on this trip.

July's Full Moon drive was on July 30th and Tom Jones leading a nine Miata's on a fun drive south of Bixby but it was a cloudy evening and no matter how we tried we didn't see the moon rising. Tom tried top improvise and show us

his southern moon but no one was interested in his display. But as usual he did a great job leading the club on an evening drive that's was fun and gave us chance to drive and visit with our fellow club members both new and old.

I just got word from the Arkansas Club; they have 60 Miatas registered for next month's Miata's at Hallett event. Also, the registration fee is supposed to increase \$25 after August 1. But here are a lot of openings for associate registration for the Saturday night banquet and some of those great door prizes.

Remember if you hear of any fun events let Bob Huckaby and Tom Jones know so that interested NEO Miata Club members can be informed and hopefully put a club drive together or at least for some individuals members participate and represent the club.

What a rainy year this has been, I hope your worst problems have been not enough top down time and not

have irrigate you lawn. Be sure to drive friendly and give a wave to other Miata Drivers and invite them into our fellowship. One of the fun things for Miata folks is a friendly wave from another Miata as we drive around. So don't forget to wave.

One more thing, don't forget to use your 20% discount coupon at Nelson Mazda it's a great deal.

PS: I have added this description that a friend Buck Morris wrote about the 4th of July Memorial service they had for Mike Stephens out at Hallett I think it says it all.

Mikes Memorial was fitting send off. As the Winners Circle ceremony kicked off the sun was just beginning to touch a classic anvil topped blue-grey thunderstorm in the western sky. Just on cue, rays of sunlight streaked from the western sky and surrounded the facility with a warm glow.

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**NEO Miata
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***Top Down, Revs Up,
Zoom-Zoom***

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<http://www.neomiata.com>

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Rev. Bruce Ewing was the MC and welcomed everyone to the memorial. John Clegg, and excellent vocalist, sang Ave Maria. There were some personal readings and then passages of scripture were read. The microphone was passed around to several people that told memorable stories about Mike.

We then all sang a beautiful song that Mike and Connie had earlier chosen for this occasion. I believe its "The Greatest Joy". We gave Mike 5 minutes of silence that, like Mike, passed all too soon.

After Rev. Ewing led us in a closing prayer we all moved to the finish line where Tom Kishner drove 2 victory laps for Mike in Mike's awesome Red Jag. The crackling exhaust reverberated through the still air as Tom traced the circuit. Family and friends were lined up waving all the corner flags as

the race car sped by. Tom parked Mike's car in the Winner's Circle for the rest of the evening where everyone could take a closer look.

Connie was in the Winner's Circle meeting people when she said the burgers and hot dogs were ready so most of the people lined up.

Chris Mills, Joann and I took a reflective walk over to the turn 4-5 grandstands while the burger line thinned out. At dark thirty the fireworks began lighting up the sky.

As we were heading home I realized Mike Stephens will always be at Hallett Motor Racing Circuit.

Godspeed Mike."

