

NEO Classic



JUNE 2008
VOLUME 19, ISSUE 6

Northeastern Oklahoma Miata Club
neomiata.com

CHECK THE CLUB WEBSITE FOR CHANGES AND UPDATES!



**We'll make a
believer
out of you!**



**NEO
Miata Club
Supporter**

NEO Miata Club Events

Have your 2-way radio at each drive. We use channel 5. Never use a voice-activated radio. If you have a Pike-Pass, bring it. Wear your club name tag. Be ready to depart On-Time, with a Full-Tank and an Empty-Bladder. Read "Rules of the Road" on the website homepage before each drive (they get updated). Written directions are available for any club drive we do.

Want to lead a club drive? How about Pops on 66, Wool-A-Roc, Fort Gibson National Cemetery, Tour the old SCCA race track east of Ponca City?? Wherever you want!! Our club needs a drive for the month of **September** (6th, 13th or 20th) or any other time you want to go zoomin'. Remember that any "Day Cruise" or "Night Ride" by T Jones can be scheduled over to accommodate your drive. More possible drive dates include: July 26, August 23, or November 15.

Want to go for a drive at the last minute? Have a WEB Drive! Check your email on Friday or Saturday nights for a drive on any "open" Saturday or Sunday.

"JUNE" Club Events

June 7, Saturday "Run Silent – Run Deep" Drive: George & Kathy Thomas @ 543-4575 / 691-4575 will be leading a day drive 75 miles to the "Batfish" submarine near Muskogee for a tour, lunch and a drive, returning to Tulsa early afternoon. Let's leave the McDonalds on 129th just south of I-44 at 9:30am.

June 13-15, Miatas at Eureka: Visit miasateureka.com for info. Host hotel is Best Western Eureka Inn. Friday pm register, Saturday drives, Sunday check-out, \$20 event entry fee. Eureka Springs is 160 miles away. Local club organizer is Mike & Judy Wheat in Pryor @ 1 918 825-5428.

June 18, Meeting Night

June 21, Saturday "Dewey" Drive: Bob & Mona Huckaby @ 230-5109 will be leading a day drive 60 miles to Dewey, OK and the Tom Mix and Dewey Hotel Museums and the antique shops with bar-b-que for lunch at Dink's. After lunch, people can head for home. Let's leave the McDonalds on 129th just south of I-44 at 8:30am with the driver's meeting at 8:15.

June 28 - 29, 2008, Hallett COMMA Race Club week-end #4. Questions to Tom 492-2834.

JULY "Tentative" events

July 4 is Independence Day.

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July 12, Saturday "Owasso Cook-Out" Drive: Kevin & Devinna Smith @ 272-2890 will be leading a day drive 100 miles around Claremore returning to their home in Owasso for a cookout for supper. Everyone bring a dish to share and your drinks. Meat will be provided. Let's leave the Braum's at Hwy 169 & 76th Str North at 2:30pm. Driver's meeting at 2:15pm.

July 16, Meeting Night

July 19, Saturday "Run from the Chicken" Drive: Jim & Jewel Naufel @ 355-1124 will be leading a day drive for lunch and a drive northwest of Tulsa to return early afternoon. Let's leave the McDonalds at I-44 & 129th at 11am. Driver's meeting at 10:40.

July 26 is open.

AUGUST "Tentative" events

August 2 - 3, Hallett COMMA Race Club week-end #5. Questions to Tom 492-2834.

August 9, Saturday "Wild Horse Bar-B-Que" Drive: Roy & Amy Kolis @ 438-7879 will be leading a day drive south of Sallisaw into southern Oklahoma 100 miles away for Bar-B-Que and a tour around southern Oklahoma returning to Tulsa mid afternoon. Let's leave the Quik-Trip at 145thst & Broken Arrow Expwy at 10am. Driver's meeting at 9:40.

August 15, Friday "Night Ride": Let's leave the Sand Springs Braum's at 3950 Hwy 97 just north of 41st at 7:30pm. This drive will be west of the city thru the "Coyote Shuffle 470".

August 20, Meeting Night

August 23 is open.

August 30 - 31, Hallett COMMA Race Club week-end #6. Questions to Tom 492-2834.
Happy Labor Day.

Other events to consider

September 20 Miatas@Hallett2008

Visit the Arkansas Miata Club Website for details.

September 25 - 28 Colorado Rocky Drive

Visit www.mountaingold.peaktopeakmiata.org/ for info. Join the Colorado Miata club for high altitude fun in the Rocky's. Host hotel is Beaver Run Resort & Conference Center. You can call (970) 897-3046 or (303) 422-9227. Local club organizer is Gene & Shirley Bedingfield @ 1 918 664-4691. This is, also, a Hallett Race week-end.

October 24 - 26 Texas Miata Roundup

Lone Star Miata Club is the host in Fredericksburg, TX October 24-26th. To register, go to ismiaa.com, then to the events section, then the October calendar, or the events list. Register! Once registered, you will receive a package with more Fredericksburg information. Host hotel is the Fredericksburg Inn. Call for Miata Roundup rate. Or visit the Fredericksburg Chamber web site at <http://www.fredericksburg-texas.com/> for a full list of hotels. This will be like the Miatas in Moab event in Utah. Questions?? Email ismiaa.com or call Bill Preston @ 1 800 336 1257

JUNE 2008 President's Message: George Walker

I want to thank Earl and Dorothy for another great spring fling drive. We had a great turn out for this special club overnight drive, 29 Miatas, if I remember correctly. The weather was perfect, roads were fun, the vistas were great and Queen Wilhelmina lodge on the Talimena Drive was terrific. We really hit it right this year the spring green on the trees was near perfect. Thanks again to Earl and I want to express thanks to those who helped by relaying the radio messages and a special Kudos to the swipes for doing such a get job in keeping this large group together on a long fun drive.

We got a good report on the "Miata's Doin' the Charleston" Drive from Kevin & Devinna. I guess we'll have to do a club drive to Charleston sometime in the future.

Carole and I made a quick drive to Atlanta to see family and missed Mac & Suzanne's

"Ugly John's Car Collection" drive. I hear that it was another fun drive and an interesting collection.

At the May Club Meeting there were questions about ethanol and gasoline. I want to correct some of the information I gave about the BTU content of the two fuels. I got mixed up on the energy per pound and per gallon. So to correct the information and get the record straight,

Ethanol has 76,000 BTU of energy per gallon. Gasoline has 116,000 BTU of energy per gallon.

You need 1.53 gallons of ethanol to equal the energy in 1 gallon of gasoline. Or to put it the other way ethanol has .655 or 2/3's the energy of gasoline.

Using E85 you will get 26% fewer miles per gallon. A car that gets 30mpg on gasoline

will get 22mpg on E85 ethanol.

To work it out in dollars and cents and to be equal to the consumer it goes like this, if a gallon of gasoline cost \$3.00 you should pay \$2.90 a gallon for E10 = gasoline with 10% ethanol, and \$2.13 a gallon for E85 = gasoline with 85% ethanol. That way it will cost you the same in dollars per mile to fuel you vehicle with these different fuels.

I don't know why this information is not readily available through the major news media. I guess we are not expected to figure it out, or to know that the federal government is giving a \$.50 credit to the ethanol suppliers to help make ethanol more price competitive.

I'm sure glad my Miata gets over 30+ mpg at highway++ speeds. See y'all on the curves.



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. Take 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:

Full Color Magnetic Club Logos are available for your car. Two (2) for \$35. See George Walker.

Embroidered Patches:

Full Color Club Logo Patches are available for sewing onto whatever. See George Walker. George told me the pricing schedule once, but it was more than two price breaks, so I forgot it.



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>

Club Officers:

President: George Walker
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Vice President: Ruth Will
918-245-3747 vicepres@neomiata.com
Treasurer: Devinna Smith
918-272-2890 treasurer@neomiata.com
Secretary: Barbara Newman
918-245-3209 secretary@neomiata.com
Tours/Events: Tom Jones
918- 492-2834 tours-
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918-230-3910 newsletter@neomiata.com

NEW MEMBERS

**DONNA & RAYMOND BURKS
JULIE ESKRIDGE
JEAN & JAN MCDOWELL
BETTY & DON SITLER
CAROL & FRITZ THAVENET**

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**COUPON VALID FOR
NORTHEASTERN OKLAHOMA MIATA CLUB MEMBERS ONLY**

EXPIRES 07/31/2008



DAY ONE

"Very Crooked and Steep Next Three Miles" is the NEO Miata's quest as 26 Miatas leave Tulsa for Spring Fling 2008, early Saturday, May 3. Leading this noble procession of "Fast, Spirited and Cool Cruiser Dudes" down Hwy 412, our illustrious drive directors, Earl and Dorothy Larkin a.k.a Wild Thang and Wild Child make a quick stop and welcome four more members, Mike and Judy Wheat, and Ronnie and Shirley Lane, at the Arkansas Visitors Center in Siloam Springs.

Twenty-eight cars traveling in relay radio contact, twist and turn down Hwy 16 through Fayetteville and just inside Madison County are presented with a "Hidden Treasure" called Hwy 295. This highway is a short and sweet driver's dream of "S" curves through a canopied valley of new spring leaves and highlighted with the white blossoms of many Dogwood trees. Highway 295 speaks the Miata's language of "Zoomanese". We are thrilled to be acquainted with this new friend.



What's that up ahead? Did Earl say... Pig Trail? Highway 23, the Arkansas Pig Trail Scenic Byway, Brashears, AR., and the long awaited "Very Crooked and Steep Next Three Miles" sign we've been searching for, since before "Light:30" this morning, is just around the next right. This two-lane pig trail offered "steep and crooked" again and again. Tight switchbacks around bluffs, higgley piggley curves, and a great view of the famous canoe retreat, the Mulberry River as we crossed over on the classic old steel bridge. This byway is definitely open for business and serving up a "dandy drive".

Leaving the Pig Trail behind our leaders, who are quite the international hosts took all the ladies to Paris. Paris, AR on Hwy 309. Who knew when you joined this club you would see Paris, in the spring. Merci Beaucoup.

Our next destination is "Mt. Magazine State Park and "The Lodge" on Hwy 309 in the Ozark National Forest. The Lodge at Mount Magazine is Arkansas's finest diamond. Accommodations are reserved a year in advance and the spring and fall foliage would be worth the wait, if you want to stand the price, which can exceed \$300.00 a night. Barbara and John Newman were our hosts for the tour through the lodge. We were at the highest point in Arkansas, 2,753 feet, as the tour concluded on the back porch, looking out over the breathtaking view. Thank you John and Barbara, what a pleasure.

Lunch will be in Danville, AR in Yell County about 2:00 today. Do you know why it is called Yell County? The story goes...Two hillbilly neighbors finally installed telephones in their cabins in Yell County, AR but couldn't afford to connect the telephone lines. The first hillbilly lifted the receiver, opened the screen door and "yelled" at the top of his lungs to his neighbor ...

"B R 5 4 9, BRrrrRING!!!!...BRrrrRING!!!!...BRrrrRING!!!! COME ON ZEEK, PICK UP!.....STOP SCREENIN YER CALLS!!".

I know, I know....Keep my job as the scribe and leave the jesting to the jester.

Lunch in Yell County was great! We had Reubens and burgers at the Main Street Café in Danville, AR, and Steve Campbell even had a piece of Possum Pie. Possum pie is a layered pie of cream cheese and powdered sugar, chocolate pudding, whipped cream and chopped pecans. Steve's culinary critique was very favorable.

We have more fun to have and miles to go to reach the Queen Wilhelmina Lodge on Talimena National Scenic Byway, where we will stay the night and enjoy two delicious meals. We are "minding the gap" and continue to play on the challenging roads offered by Hwy 27, 28, 71 and 88, and appreciate all the spring beauty heading west to Mena. Arriving at the lodge about 5:30 p., the club was surprised and delighted to be joined by Brad and Jan Coote making a total of 58 members and 29 Miatas for Spring Fling.

We have really covered some pretty country and great roads today. Earl and Dorothy, you two really know how to wow this crowd. We have had a great drive. Thank you, thank you.

The Beddingfield's also have special words of thanks to Tom Jones, for the roadside assistance and loan of his spare tire to remedy the uninvited flat tire. The Stewart's, also endured a flat and extend their appreciation to the Beddingfield's, Huckaby's and Eulert's.

Larry and I have enjoyed your company and will think of all of you when next we see "Very Crooked and Steep Next Three Miles".

Your Spring Fling Co-Scribe, Clara Eulert

DAY TWO



On a gorgeous sunny morning, with Mike Wheat staging us like director John Ford in a John Wayne western, his eye glued to his video camera, we said goodbye to Queen Wilhelmina Lodge and rolled past the Lover's Leap point-of-no-return. Since nobody stopped and threw himself off the cliff, we had 24 cars headed for the curves and photo ops along Skyline Drive across the top of the Winding Stair Mountains. At the first photo op, several of our stalwart members climbed the rocky hill for the perfect shot, amid encouraging yells of "throw me your keys...just the new cars," and "we don't wait for nobody on this part of the trip!" It was only when Earl yelled that the ticks and snakes were free that the avalanche started. The next two photo ops came off without a hitch, although one car did miss the turn and have to wait for us at the bottom of the mountain at the Visitor Center.

We took it slow through Tali hina, but as soon as we crossed the bridge outside town, we turned right onto Hwy 82 and picked up the pace through more of the Winding Stair Mountains to Red Oak. The road is a Miata dream with lots of curves and beautiful

scenery. We stayed on the same road heading out of Red Oak, through the Sans Bois Mountains, where Mike Wheat once again got us staged for another portion of his video. He captured us cresting a hill, coming down into a curve, and at least one person was heard to scream, "Stop waving and put your hands back on the wheel!"

At Stigler, we stopped for a rest and most of the cars refueled. It was lunchtime, and some members stocked up on snacks, while others made plans to eat in Muskogee. A couple of our members elected to leave us at Stigler, and after the hugs and goodbyes, the rest of us headed on to Porum, where we were cautioned not to exceed the speed limit by so much as 1 mph because the city government is paid on the income generated by speeding tickets. From Porum, we flew down the road where we regrouped at Warner.

Spring Fling '08 is coming to an end, as Earl and Dorothy lead us home. A few more cars left in Muskogee, and everyone else hit the Turnpike. It has been a beautiful trip and today we continue to enjoy dogwoods in bloom, lots of greenery, and nice cool temps for great top-down driving. Thank you Earl and Dorothy for a great Spring Fling.

Your Spring Fling Co-Scribe, Sandy Sturdivant

