



NEO Miata Club April & May Calendar

Tom @ 492-2834

Have your 2-way radio at each drive. We use channel 5, no hands free, no chargers, battery operated & carry extra batteries. Bring your Pike-Pass, if you have one. 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).

Please consider leading a club drive. Let's go eat or site-see or attend an event. Decide how long and how far and what driving pace you want and let's go. We need a drive from you. Robber's Cave, Ponca City, Oklahoma Natural Falls State Park, anywhere you want. Lunch at Bad Brad's Bar-B-Que, Pawhuska. Hammett House, Claremore, Knotty Pine Bar-B-Que, Tulsa, El Tequila Mexican, Owasso, Savannah's Café @ Forest Ridge, B A., Cowboy Junction, Vinita, Fish's Bar-b-Que, Tahlequah. Help is available.

Written directions are available for any club drive we do.

APRIL Club events

April 4 is open.

April 9, Thursday "Full Moon" Drive #3: Let's leave the Braum's on Garnett just south of I-44 at 7pm. This drive will be east of the city thru the "Tigerswitch 380". Host Tom 492-2834.

April 11, is open. April 12, Sunday, Happy Easter.

April 15, Meeting Night

April 18-19, Saturday & Sunday "Spring Fling" Drive: A 2 day drive in Arkansas and Missouri, driving 321 miles on day 1, spending Saturday night, April 18 at the Days Inn in Harrison, AR, reservations at 1 870 391-3297. A club rate of \$62.15 including taxes has been arranged. This is a quick paced drive. There is a write-up of this trip in the January Newsletter. Let's leave the McDonalds south of I-44 on 129th at 7am. Driver's meeting at 6:45. Hosts Earl & Dorothy Larkin 342-6992.

April 25 - 26, Hallett COMMA Race Club week-end #2.

MAY "Tentative" events

May 2, Saturday Drive: Let's visit to Historic Main Street in Van Buren, AR which has about 2 blocks of shops. The shops are mostly antique, collector type stuff. There are a couple of coffee shops and unique little stores. We'll browse and shop for an hour. We'll lunch at Big Jake's with steak to salad, pasta and fish priced from \$8. Let's meet at 7:30am at the McDonalds 129th and I-44, Driver's meeting at 7:45, with an 8am departure. Should be back around 5pm with many places where you can cut off to come home earlier, if you need to get back. This will be a cruiser drive not a spirited drive. Hosts John & Barb Neuman 245-3209.

May 9, Saturday "Strawberry Festival" Stilwell Drive: We will lunch at The Smokehouse in Cookson, and then save room for dessert at Stilwell's annual Strawberry Festival. Let's meet at McDonald's at 71st and Elm (161st E Ave), B.A., for a 9:00AM departure. Hosts Bill & Carol Laws 622-4791.

May 10, Sunday, Happy Mother's Day.

May 16 is open.

May 20, Meeting Night

May 22–25, Mazda MX-5 MiataWorld II: Oval, road course, autocross track events at Texas Motor Speedway. 30,000 sqft indoor vendor's alley. Sunday banquet dinner with entertainment. Registration is \$300. Gaylord Texan Hotel (817) 778-1000 with 500 rooms reserved is the host hotel at \$139 per +. Register at www.miataworldII.com.

May 23 - 24, Hallett COMMA Race Club week-end #3. May 25, Monday, Happy Memorial Day.

May 29 - 30, Hallett HST Only.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE JOHN NEWMAN

March certainly had some surprises for us what with Johnnie's Charcoal closing down and the club having to find another meeting place. It was nice that even with that disruption we had a huge turnout at our March meeting. That was great. Like I've said before, the meetings are a wonderful time to visit and kick tires. The officers will do all that we can to keep the meetings informative and fun and on time. We will mix in some door prizes and interesting information along with our drive leaders describing their exciting upcoming drives.

April is here now and we have some great drives coming up this month including the Annual Spring Fling drive. I love this time of year and can't wait for some serious top down time. You can always get the vital information about our upcoming events by checking the website or the newsletter. Tom let us know at the March meeting that we are going to have all kinds of drives coming up this year. There should be a drive to fit everyone's taste or interest.

Of course what I enjoy the most is to be out driving our great roadsters but I also enjoy looking at other peoples cars and reading about the Miata and all the different ways that people modify their cars to more fit their personalities. There is a new Miata (MX-5) magazine out that I subscribe to that I have really been enjoying. It's called Forever MX-5. I realized maybe not everyone is aware of this magazine. It is an independent quarterly magazine just for the MX-5. Plus they have a great website that you can subscribe to and they will email you all kinds of articles and links to other sites that are just great fun to read. Their website is <http://www.forevermx5.com>. They always have articles by Keith Tanner of Flyin' Miata, Brian Goodwin, and a host of other guest writers. Be sure to check it out. It is a really fun website with lots of great articles about our fun cars.

Until next month.....keep the tops down and the revs up.

MARCH 2009 MEETING MINUTES GAIL ROOP

The meeting was called to order by club president, John Newman. He shared with the group that member Brenda Myers was home and everything went well after surgery. John mentioned that our new meeting location at Mazzio's at 100th and South Sheridan was the only meeting place that could be located on short notice for a group our size. At tonight's meeting we were popping at the seams and he said to call any of the club officers if you have a suggestion of a different place that does not charge for their meeting room.

Club members introduced themselves including the year, color and specialty tag for their Miata, as well as updating everyone on news about their car.

Webmaster report: No news, other than a few changes on the website.

Treasurer report: We have \$1,488.11 in the club account.

Secretary report: As of today, we have 68 paid memberships, and 46 members were removed from the roster on March 1st for unpaid dues.

Tours/Events report by Tom Jones: There is a tentative event calendar on the website. The NEO Garage found on the website is a great way to locate items for sale, resources, rules of the road, and it is updated each month. The September Miatas at Hallett will be handled by the Arkansas Club and we are not contributing to it this year. Hallett fees have increased and they now have a no show fee. The drive photographer's gallery is great for people to upload pictures. Tom is looking for more drive plans. The Ft. Smith Cemetery Drive has been postponed. The Walker's will be leading a drive to Ponca City. The Daniel's will be leading a drive to Pete's Place and the Choc Brewery in Krebs. He suggested we might want to try some short notice lunch drives. Everyone was reminded of the "3 second rule" to keep enough space between you and the car in front of you on drives.

Ronnie Lane talked about his upcoming drive to Granby, Mo. He also told everyone about his new car that he built himself. Part of the drive is to go to the place that custom builds cars like his.

Earl Larkin talked about the Eureka trip on June 12-13-14. 80 cars are signed up and 14 are from our club. There are 13 states represented. He also talked about the Spring Fling on April 18-19 in Missouri.

In May, there will be a drive to the Strawberry Festival in Stillwater.

SurfSide Auto is offering a discount to NEO Miata Club Members on parts.

WAR BONNET TOM JONES

Lake Ponca Grand Prix Racing, Ponca City, Oklahoma, 1961 – early 1990s

The Ponca City Grand Prix was held annually on the July 4th weekend. Like its sister park track, Lake Afton, Kansas it succumbed to increasing safety standards: contemporary photographs show cars racing past, and occasionally hitting, unprotected trees. Its traditional July 4th weekend date has since been taken by Hallett.

Ponca City was a 1.5-mile park course that used the roads of Lake Ponca Park in Ponca City, OK. Although the roadways still exist (La Cann Drive and Checkstand Road), they are no longer used for racing.



Club Officers:

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SPRING FLING 2009: MIATAS ON A MISSION IN MISSOURI Wild Thang & Wild Child

By the time you receive this newsletter there will only be about two weeks before we leave on our "Mission in Missouri." We will now try to answer the most recent questions about our "schedule" for the week-end:

Saturday schedule, April 18th, 2009:

- A. 06:00--06:40 A.M., Breakfast at McDonalds at I-44 & 129th.
- B. 06:40--06:55 A.M. Drivers meeting.
- C. 07:00 A.M.-----Depart promptly.
- D. ??????????????????Lunch, where & when unknown, determined by our time and distance.
- E. 5:40 P.M.-----Assemble in motel parking lot for dinner.
- F. 5:45 P.M.-----Depart as a group for dinner.

Sunday schedule, April 19th, 2009:

- 07:40 A.M.-----Assemble in motel parking lot for breakfast.. Leave nothing in your room as we will not return to the motel after breakfast.
- 07:45 A.M.-----Depart as a group for breakfast.
- 09:00 A.M.-----Depart from breakfast on our drive south to I40.
- ?????????-----Depart from Clarksville on our trip north on the "backroads" up to #412 west..
- 5:00 P;M.-----Everyone should be back in Tulsa. With just a little bit of luck we could be back an hour earlier than that.

Questions are being asked about how will weather affect our drive? The N-E-O Miata Club does not cancel Miata Drives because of fog or rain. We still go, we just drive a little slower.

If you haven't already done it, get your Miata ready now !!! Tires must have sufficient tread and be inflated to the proper air pressure. Be sure your lug nuts are torqued to the proper settings. Check your brake fluid and brake pads. Check the level of your radiator coolant. Check your wiper blades (remember April showers).

Personal comfort becomes very important on a long drive. Saturday morning if it is not cloudy, you will be looking right straight into the sun for awhile. You will need some good sunglasses. Your two-way radio will be in use for many hours on both days. Start out Saturday morning with new batteries and have a second set of new batteries with you so that you may insert them, into your radio the moment you realize they are starting to go "dead." Some of you will be shocked to learn that a set of brand new batteries will not last all day Saturday, they simply are not that strong. So be a good scout and be prepared.

Know your own body. If you know that drinking caffeine products such as coffee and sodas makes you urinate frequently and a lot, DON'T DRINK THEM SATURDAY & SUNDAY during our drive!!! Why not ? We have to make "good time" and our "potty stops" have to be at locations that are clean and have enough physical space to safely park 30-40 Miatas off the road and out of harm's way. Such places are few and very far apart in rural Missouri and Arkansas.. There will be "potty stops" on Spring Fling that will be 76, 84, 97 and more miles apart. On winding, twisting "backroads" any traffic at all will cause some "potty stops" to be more than two hours apart!!! Know this and don't ingest anything, food or drink, which will make you uncomfortable for or within two hours. Aristotle, Plato, Socrates all "got" what I am trying to tell you. All three of them taught their students, "Know thyself, and to thy own self, be true."

Cover all the bases. We're going in mid-April so the temperature should be in the 70's & 80's, but I've seen 30's in April so take a coat jacket, sweater, something to keep you warm if it is cold in the mountains. And never forget, it rains in April, frequently. Remember, if it turns out that you don't need any of this stuff, fine. But if you do need it and don't have it, not so fine. For all of you new club members, there are still a few rooms left. Telephone 1-870-391-3297, tell them you want the NEO Miata Club negotiated rate of \$62.15, including taxes, for Saturday, night, April 18th 2009. We promise you it will be a week-end you will remember.