



**MONTHLY MEETING – UNCLE BUCK'S @ BASS PRO, BA, OK!! 7:00 PM!!!**

## FEBRUARY EVENTS

**February 4** is an open weekend; contact Events Director to lead a Drive.

**February 7, Tuesday "Full Moon" Drive.** Let's leave the Braum's on 101st just east of Riverside at **6pm**. This night drive, requires you to be a good follower and pay attention to the road and all cars around you 100% of the time, will be southwest of the city over the "Jenks 500". Drive Leader Tom 918 492-2834. If you would like to lead this drive call tom.

**February 11** is an open weekend; contact Events Director to lead a Drive.

Feb 14, Tuesday, Happy Valentine's Day

### February 15, Wednesday Meeting Night

**February 18, Saturday "Mac's BBQ" Drive.** Let's leave the Quik-Trip on Hwy 97 just south of Hwy 412 at **noon**. We will eat Bar-be-Que at Mac's, Skiatook, 396-4165. This will be an easy visiting drive, but , will require your full attention to the road and all cars around you 100% of the time and will require you to be a good follower. Drive Leader Tom 918 492-2834. If you would like to lead this drive call tom.

**February 25** is an open weekend; contact Events Director to lead a Drive.

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE: RICK HARDMEYER

January brings in the New Year. We had a couple of great drives. One was to Drumright along an original portion of Route 66. Then we had a drive to Keystone Lake in search of Bald Eagles. Our January meeting at our new meeting place, Uncle Buck's inside BassPro, was one of our larger meetings. It was our first meeting there and we had some learning curve issues with us and with the restaurant. They weren't expecting the crowd we had in attendance. Hopefully things will work out. Directories were handed out at the January meeting. They are fantastic! Thanks to Suzanne and everyone that made this project happen. See the calendar for upcoming events. January was the best top down January I can remember. With any luck February will be the same and not like the Blizzard of 2011. Happy Valentine's Day. Zoom-Zoom.

## SPRING FLING 2012 'Go West Young Man, Go West': EARL "WILD THANG" LARKIN

We will do our best to answer all of your questions as accurately as we can. First Question: How much will the week-end cost for each couple? Lets break it down into categories:

- A. Lodging: \$70.02, including all taxes and a free continental breakfast Sunday morning.
- B. Food: \$30.00
- 1. Breakfast at McDonald's in Tulsa Saturday morning for two people: \$10.00
- 2. Lunch for two Saturday: \$20.00
- 3. Dinner for two Saturday? We have absolutely no idea because once we get you to your hotel and get you checked-in we will tell all of you to go fill-up your gas tanks and have dinner wherever you want and spend as much as you want.
- 4. Breakfast Sunday morning: Free! You will receive a free continental breakfast just off the lobby between 6:00 - 6:30 A.M.
- 5. Lunch for two Sunday? This one is really tough because you have such a large range of selections; the menu is at least four pages

long and the prices are surprisingly varied. This is not McDonald's. Most couples will spend at least \$25.00, and if you decide to try some different offerings on the menu, some couples will spend as much as \$40.00 - \$60.00 so we won't even try to estimate what this meal will cost you. This list does not include what some of you will spend for snacks, drinks, souvenirs, along the way.

C. Entrance fees: \$7.75 per person. One place will charge us \$4.00 each, the other place will charge us \$3.75 each.

D. Fuel: \$60.00 If you leave Tulsa with a full gas tank, we will only re-fill our tanks twice more and the total cost of those two re-fills should be less than \$60.00 total. Here's another way to figure your total fuel cost. Mileage for the entire week-end is 580 miles. You already know what kind of MPG you get when driving at legal highway speeds. Divide your MPG figure into 580 miles and you will know how many gallons of fuel you will require. Now multiply that many gallons times \$4 and you will have the exact amount or close, to your total fuel costs for the entire week-end.

E. Turnpike fees: We really don't know what to tell you. We use a Pike-Pass and don't pay any attention to the costs at all. Sorry.

Keep making those reservations by calling 1-580-369-3223. Tell them you are a member of the NEO [Miata](#) Club and want to reserve a room on Saturday night, April 21st, 2012, at the negotiated rate of \$70.02, including taxes.

We look forward to seeing all of you at the February Club meeting.

## THE ROAD TO THE WHEEL: JOE M. BOHANNON

On February 14, 2012, one of the items on my wife Sara's bucket list can be checked off. That is the day the "Wheel of Fortune Show" we appeared on is scheduled to be on national television. It is a couples week so Sara and I were both on the show. Locally it will be on Channel 2 at 6:30 PM.

The road to getting on the show took around 6 months. It started with Sara hearing about auditions in Conway, Arkansas in May of 2011. The "Wheel Mobile" was making a stop for anyone interested in being on the show to have a chance to be seen. Sara's name was drawn, so she played the game and talked briefly about herself. She was told if WOF were interested, she would get a letter in September. She was invited to come to Little Rock in late September for an audition, and to bring her spouse if interested. Of course, I immediately became interested, looking for the national exposure as any good attorney would appreciate.

Around 90 people auditioned in Little Rock that day. We were told either one of us could be chosen, or perhaps as a couple, to appear on the show. We played WOF simulated games several times. We were then each given a written test with partially completed answers and had five minutes to complete the test. After a short break, about 30 people were chosen to stay. We played several more games and then everyone made a short talk about themselves. We were then told that if WOF was interested further, we would receive a letter in two weeks. In exactly two weeks we got the letter inviting us to be on the show as a couple.

Quickly we determined the window of opportunity for appearing as a couple would be a taping on October 28 to be shown during the week of Valentine's in 2012. The actual taping was done at the SONY studio in Culver City, CA which is in Los Angeles. Five shows were taped that afternoon but we were there all day. We rehearsed all morning and played simulated games a number of times.

Some interesting things you may not know about being on the show were revealed to us when we got to L.A. First was a seven page legal agreement we had to sign which was very involved and the general impression was "take it or leave it". You cannot appear on the show for a second time for ten years. You could not have appeared on another game show or reality show for the previous two years. There were many other provision too numerous to mention. We were treated well by the staff, who gave us lots of information and support. The show has been on television since 1978. Pat Sajak and Vanna White have been together on the show for almost 30 years. We paid all of our own expenses including the Arkansas trips and the trip to LA. Three of our five grandchildren went with us, along with our two children and our son-in-law.

The taping of our show took around one hour. We had breaks to freshen up our make-up and for water if needed. The wheel you spin is extremely heavy and the three men were the spinners. One surprise was that each position platform is hydraulically operated, so when we stepped up to the wheel, Sara and I were quickly elevated. Five shows (a week's worth) are taped on Thursday and Friday, twice a month, so Pat and Vanna work four days a month. Not a bad job I figured out.

Everyone we tell about our appearance immediately asks how we did on the show. Our answer is always "Watch the show on Feb. 14, 2012". There was a minimum guarantee of \$2000.00 for each couple. One of the provisions of the contract is that until the show is

broadcast publically, no prize money or trips, etc. will be awarded. The WOF then has a 120 day period to actually award the winnings. We had to provide complete tax information, proof of marriage, and wedding pictures. I also figured out they had done background checks on all contestants as they knew a lot about us by the time we arrived.

In summary, Sara and I had a "once in a lifetime experience" and hopefully you will be able to watch the show on Valentine's Day in 2012.

## PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES: CAROL LAWS

Rick Hardmeyer, new club president for 2012 called his first meeting to order in a new meeting location, "Uncle Buck's". This is a rustic nice restaurant located inside the Bass Pro Shop at the Broken Arrow location. The usual familiar format was followed. But look forward to times when a laptop and slide show presentations may take place.

Recent new members Ken and Jerry Jones were introduced first, attending their 1<sup>st</sup> meeting. Other introductions went around the room with a fairly large crowd of 50-60 in attendance.

### Officer Reports:

Vice Pres.: Tom Jones having dual offices of V.P. and Events Director said that as V.P. his job will be to assist Rick when necessary and that he will be calling members for opinions about club activities etc. He thanked Sandy Sturdivant, Suzanne Young and several others for working on the new club guidelines and job descriptions that are listed on the club website. Members should call him if they have any questions.

Webmaster: Alan Doughty said he had nothing new to report.

Secretary: Carol Laws reminded members that 2012 dues should be paid by March. The new Picture Directories would be handed out starting with this meeting.

Treasurer: Since records had not been transferred yet to Gail Roop, Amy Kolis reported that the balance is \$624.26. Approximately \$1100. was spent on the Christmas Party and another \$200 on website renewal.

Event Director: Tom Jones spoke again. He asked that members call him with suggestions about driving safety rules while at the same time keeping down the number of rules. He asked members to remember that all the officers are trying to give 100% effort to their volunteer positions and to assist them when asked for information or other assistance.

\*\*\*He reminded all that the website has changed. There no longer is a monthly calendar nor are there reminders of events. It is up to each member to look at the website and click on tabs for complete calendar information about upcoming events.\*\*\*

Tom asked that any future night drives be especially carefully planned, not reckless.

Also, he keeps plans of possible drives and of past drives, maps etc. So if someone could lead a drive but need an idea or help planning, give him a call.

Lastly, remember that drives are a "gift" given to us by each drive leader. Respect each drive leaders efforts and guidelines for that particular drive.

Other business: A short discussion about changing dues for single memberships to \$10. It was voted to keep annual dues the same \$20 for a single or couple membership. There isn't enough interest to have a club FaceBook page.

The biggest item of discussion was whether to keep the new meeting location at Uncle Buck's. Many were disappointed that the menu had been limited to only 3 selections. It was pointed out how necessary that probably was for service to a crowd of our size. It was decided to keep the venue at Uncle Buck's at least for the February meeting. Hopefully they will rotate menu selections each month and service will be faster in February. A more open table arrangement was also suggested to seat a possible crowd of 70-80 members.

Earl spoke about the Spring Fling Drive coming up April 21 and 22. He said that the will be to SW Oklahoma around Lawton this time and there will be lots of new and interesting sites to see. He reminded of the special rate for the rooms of \$70.02 (including taxes). Fourteen of the 20 reservations needed for this rate have been made. There must be 6 more by Feb. 16 or the special rate falls off. (See elsewhere in newsletter for more information.)

Paula Viseur told new and old members that Earl's drives are always a special treat. Even if he was just taking members to Grand Lake there would be something unusual and spectacular about the trip!

Meeting adjourned.

---

Reminder from secretary: Club dues need to be paid for 2012 by March meeting. They can be paid at the Feb. or March meetings or by check and mailed to the club post office box: NEO Miata Club, PO. Box 554, Tulsa, OK, 74101.

The new picture Club Directories are done and will be given out at club meetings. They will NOT be mailed. So if you want one please pick up your copy at a club meeting. After several months extra copies may be obtained for \$2 each.

CLUB OFFICERS	
President: Rick Hardmeyer 918-499-3969 president@neomiata.com Events / VP: Tom Jones 918-492-2834 events@neomiata.com Treasurer: Gail Roop 918-665-1869 treasurer@neomiata.com	Secretary: Carol Laws 918-622-4791 secretary@neomiata.com Web/Newsletter: Alan C. Doughty 918-230-3910 newsletter@neomiata.com



# NELSON MAZDA

**20% DISCOUNT ON  
PARTS & SERVICE**

(Discount does not apply on promotional items)

COUPON VALID FOR  
NORTHEASTERN OKLAHOMA MIATA CLUB MEMBERS ONLY

**EXPIRES 2/29/2012**