



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

MAY EVENTS

May 3-6, Thursday-Sunday, "Miatas in Moab V". Utah Club website www.utahmiataclub.com/node/2468.

May 5, Saturday, "Full Moon" Drive. Let's go zoomin'!! You are invited to go on an unscheduled full moon drive. It's going to be a hot day and a night drive will do you good. The moon will rise at 7:08pm and the sun will set at 7:15pm, The moon will be at it's fullest showing at 10:35pm. It will be at its closest point to the earth for the year appearing 6% larger then normal. Let's leave the Braum's on Gilgrease Road just north of Hwy 412 at 7:40pm. Drivers meeting at 7:30pm. We'll be home by 9. This night drive, requiring you to be a good follower and pay attention to the road and all cars around you 100% of the time, will be north of the city over the "Cincinnati Circle 610". Drive Leader Tom Jones 918 492-2834. If you would like to lead this drive call tom.

May 12, Saturday, "Broken Arrow Rooster Days Parade": The club has registered to drive in this parade. Our purpose is to promote the club through Community Service. Lets meet by 9:00 am in the East parking lot behind the First United Methodist Church (NE corner of 1st Str. & College Str. (1 block East of Main)) in downtown Broken Arrow. Line up two wide, tops will be up or down depending on the weather. There will be some 150 units/groups in the parade. We should be near the front if all our cars arrive by 9:15 am. The parade starts at 10 am. The parade starts at College Str. down Main Str. & South to the Community Center. At the end of the parade we will meet at Mr. Mombo's Mexican Restaurant (NW corner of Elm Pl. & 101st) for lunch. Hopefully finishing about 1:00 pm. Bring your radio & magnetic logos for your car. Drive Leaders & Club Organizers Bill & Sonja Curts 918-261-3026.

May 13, Sunday, Happy Mother's Day.

May 16, Wednesday Meeting Night

May 19, Saturday, "Natural Falls State Park Picnic & Drive": Let's have a drivers meeting at 9:30am at McDonalds 129th & I-44. We will leave at 9:50am sharp. This is a 136 mile drive to Natural Falls State Park, 918 422-5802, 3 miles west of West Siloam Springs on US-412, for "a bring your own" Picnic lunch (Arby's, Wal-Mart fried chicken, Subway Sandwich's, cook!). We will return 71 miles to the McDonalds for conversation and good-byes. This drive will include some great fun curves and some straight road driving with plenty of great site-seeing and time to talk. Home around 4pm. See for yourself why this beautiful natural wonder was chosen as the movie setting of "Where the Red Fern Grows", located in the scenic Ozark Highlands region, this park features a 77-foot waterfall that cascades through rock formations to create a hidden, serene atmosphere at the bottom of a narrow valley. An observation platform overlooks the falls. There are 4 miles of walking trails. There is fishing under Oklahoma state fishing regulations. There are 2 picnic areas, so we will have plenty of room. There is a \$4 fee per car for park improvements. Requirements for safety on this drive include reading "Rules of the Road" on the website, your full attention to the drive leader, the road and all cars around you 100% of the time while on the drive and the ability to trust the drive leader's instructions and be a good follower. Host is tom 492-2834.

May 20, Sunday, SCCA Solo Program at Lot 14E, Tulsa Fairgrounds. Details at neoklascca.org or greencountrymotorsports.com. Contact George Walker for details 621-9223.

May 26-27, Hallett Race Club weekend #3.

May 28, Monday, Happy Memorial Day.

"TURN THE RADIO ON" CRUISE - MARCH 31-APRIL 1 2012: SANDY STURDIVANT

There were seven cars on the now famous "Dynamic Duo's Magical Mystery Tour Weekend," otherwise known as Mike and Judy Wheat's Bed-and-Breakfast Mena Drive. Not only did we have great weather and stunning scenery, we had fine camaraderie with the cars. It was Pierre who commented that this was the first time the black cars outnumbered the red ones! After a great lunch at Pam's Hateful Hussy diner in Talihina, we headed across the twisty Alps of Talimena Drive into Mena. We stopped first at the Janssen Park Bed & Breakfast to check in with John and Joslyn, who promptly declared that our cars definitely improved the looks of the whole neighborhood, and then we whisked ourselves over to the Studebaker Museum for a leisurely look backward in time.



We learned that the building's design was rumored to come from blueprints that Frank Lloyd Wright did for the Studebaker Company, but George Reeb, the owner of the museum, said he has the original blueprints, and he is not able to confirm it. He said the old Esso Gas Station on the one end had all the latest equipment available in 1948 to handle any kind of automobile repair. The showroom across the street had the Studebakers to be sold to the public. His interest began with collecting the vintage Grapette signs, and it expanded from there into the collection of the cars, which he says are taken out and driven every 90 days. Every car in his museum is in top-notch shape, including the motorcycles and the kiddie cars. The museum is a trip into history from the checkerboard tile floors, to the old-fashioned parts counter, to the walls lined with memorabilia.



From the Museum, we hurried over for a superb dinner at Spinelli's Italian Restaurant. One highlight at dinner was the sudden appearance of Jim and Marian's grandson Clay, a champion mountain-bike racer, who was racing in Hot Springs that weekend. He went looking for his dinner companions out on the veranda, spied his grandparents, and surprised everyone by stopping by for a visit. Another highlight at dinner was the sudden "YIPES!" emanating from Devina, who broke all speed records getting out of her chair when the waiter accidentally poured ice water down her back. Kevin said that in all the years they have been married, he has NEVER seen her move that fast.

The true highlight of the evening was what came after dinner. Unbeknown to all of us, Captain Mike had cooked up an old time radio comedy skit with all of us as the actors and the radio audience. He made it a cross-over story between *Dragnet* and *The Lone Ranger*, and he had parts for Marge and Mary, the telephone

switchboard operators at the radio station, played by Sharon and Leta, Cy the stagehand played by Jim S, and a whole cast of storyline actors played by Pierre, Kevin, Andy, Merry, and Marian, the latter reading her part through her newly-broken eyeglasses. The rest of us were the live radio audience providing the laughter normally heard back in the days of radio programming.

The story started with Announcer Mike giving a lead-in to radio drama, complete with commercials and sound effects, and it headed right into the madcap adventure of the "Copped Copper Clappers Caper," soon to be made into a major motion picture, starring that famous detective, Ranger Red, played by Pierre, who easily takes first place in the tongue twister pronunciation category. We all knew we were in trouble when Ranger Red began with "This is the city. Mena, Arkansas." After learning the copper clappers had been copped from the copper clappers keeper, played by Andy, the story spiraled right out of control when Ranger Red told his trusty sidekick, Pronto Pinto, played by Kevin, to "go start the pinto, Pronto." Pronto's reply, "me start-um engine, yup, yup, yup" sent all of us into hysterics.

Ranger Red and Pronto Pinto had to find the missing copper clappers, and when it led them to Losita Rosita Guadalupe Lopita Maria de Prado Hernandez Ramiriz,



played by Merry, everyone in the cast was laughing so hard we almost missed the lead-in to the next part of the story, the “Mannford Mall Michelin Maxi Mudwalls Missing Miata Mystery,” featuring that now-famous kleptomaniac Losita Rosita Guadalupe etc, better known as Sue. After solving both of the crimes, we were told by Announcer Mike to “be sure and tune in next time for the further adventures of Ranger Red and Pronto Pinto.” We have not laughed so hard in ages! It was a perfect ending to a perfect day.

The Bed and Breakfast folks, John and Joslyn, were very accommodating to all of us. We were in four different houses in close proximity to the main mansion, which they said was built in 1898 by one of the founding fathers of Mena. The main house had period furniture and wonderful antiques from the turn of the century in every room, and we were suspicious that each of the other houses was also decorated in the period style of their own construction. Across the street from the mansion is Janssen Park, created from a donation by Arthur Stilwell, a noted philanthropist and founder of the Kansas City Southern Railway. It was Stilwell who named the town “Mena” in honor of Flomina De Geojen, called Mena by her husband Jan, the latter being Stilwell’s closest friend and business partner. Mena was settled in 1896

It’s interesting to note that during the construction of Stilwell’s railway that connected Kansas City to the Gulf of Mexico, the workers discovered a flat area on Rich Mountain where they promptly built a rest stop for the work crews. This rest stop was later expanded and renamed the Queen Wilhelmina Lodge. Stilwell, Oklahoma and Port Arthur, Texas are two towns named in honor of Arthur Stilwell. After the day’s fun and the fabulous evening, we were too tired to do much visiting, so we all decided to head to bed. We were up by 0800, sitting out on the veranda sipping coffee, and while John slaved away in the kitchen, Joslyn gave us more history on the park across the street. Out near the middle is a log cabin. Built in 1851 by William Shelton as his home, it served as the office for the city planners during the time that Mena was being laid out as a city. It was later used as a hospital, civic center, museum, and at one time, it was the City Hall. During the time it was the City Hall, it was featured in Ripley’s Believe It Or Not as being the ONLY log cabin City Hall in America.

The wonderful breakfast consisted of mixed fruit and yogurt, various juices, two different egg dishes, blueberry French toast, biscuits, and anything else we wanted. Joslyn said John fixed all the dishes, but John confessed that Joslyn did the blueberry French toast. Then, it was off for another scenic drive home.

Thank you, Mike and Judy! It was truly a Drive to Remember!

“SPRING FLING” - APRIL 21-22, 2012: JAUNICE WRIGHT

As the sun rose in the east, 24 Miatas headed south along Hwy 75 officially beginning Spring Fling 2012. Despite the chilly 46° temperature, many of the hardier drivers started out tops down. This year, Earl designed a laid-back excursion drive for us through Oklahoma’s Native American Tribal Lands.

After a pit stop at Okmulgee, capital of the Muskogee Creek Nation, more tops went down and we took Hwy 56 around Dripping Springs and then off through the Nuyaka area of the Creek Nation. Catching old Hwy 62 we wandered past farms in the communities of Ofuske (Sharp Waters), Haydonville and Mason where we saw cattle, horses, sheep...and no chicken farms! Passing the “Last Chance Baptist Church” we arrived in Okemah which is the Thlopthlocco Tribal Town. Okemah has been occupied by Osage, Quapaw, and is now part of the Creek nation, but was actually named after a Kickapoo chief.

By 9:30, it was a balmy 53° as we entered the Seminole Nation Tribal Lands traveling south on Hwy 56 through Cromwell and Wewoka (Capital of the Seminole Nation). The land past Sasakwa (Wild Goose) changed to forests and hills as we picked up 377/3E south to Pontotoc County, home of the Chickasaw Nation. Because of construction we skirted the city of Ada and were delighted by the native wild flowers along the highway and the rolling hills and ranches near the community of Latta. Shortly we caught the Chickasaw Turnpike. It was an interesting two-lane toll road stretching for 17.3 miles.

The turnpike ended at Hwy 7 outside of Sulphur, very near our destination, the beautiful Chickasaw Heritage Center. Featuring architectural elements of native stone, wood and copper, this is the largest tribal cultural center in the United States; and is devoted to sharing and celebrating Chickasaw history and culture. We arrived just in time to see, and participate in, a Chickasaw stomp dance at the amphitheater. Before our tour of the center, we dined at the Aaimpa Cafe where many of us tried the delicious traditional Chickasaw specialties of grape dumplings,



Indian tacos, and pishofa. Rested and ready to explore, we followed our tour guides through the Exhibit Gallery and Spirit Forest located in the Chickasha Poya Exhibit Center. During the tour we learned about the origin of the Chickasaw Nation and the relationship the Chickasaw people have with the natural world. Our guides took us to the Sky Pavilion which overlooked the Traditional Village. We didn't have time to walk through the Village; however, we did have an opportunity to visit the Aaholiitobli Honor Garden. This was a lovely serene setting designed to pay homage to the elders, warriors, and leaders who shaped the legacy of the Chickasaw people. Engraved granite plaques were hung on stone walls that encircled a granite and copper fountain.

After the tour we reluctantly took our leave and traveled south on Hwy 77 through the city of Davis, to arrive at our next destination, Turner Falls. Located at the foot of the Arbuckle Mountains, the 1500 acres of Turner Falls established in 1868 is the oldest park in Oklahoma. Honey Creek cascades down a 77 foot fall to a natural swimming pool making Turner Falls the largest waterfall in Oklahoma. Found in the park are three natural caves, formations of conglomerates, limestone, granite, shale, and sandstone. Although our group didn't find the caves, we certainly did our share of hiking to see the Castle and enjoy a great view of the Falls.



As the day came to a close, the weary travelers arrived at The Inn at Treasure Valley. The Inn is part of the Treasure Valley Casino complex owned by the Chickasaw Nation. There was a sign in the lobby welcoming the NEO Miata Club, and a section had been roped off for our parking. Check-in was quick, we were delighted to find the rooms were comfortable, and the on-site restaurant featured a nice buffet. Some of us spotted the iron fence and rock gateposts of a Cemetery across the road and could not resist exploring; noticing many of the graves dated to the 1800's.

After a peaceful nights sleep we enjoyed a continental breakfast offered by the hotel. Before leaving at 7am, we had to wipe down our windows to get rid of the heavy dew. There were little insects swarming on our cars that persisted until the first rest stop. Those who started out top down quickly rid themselves of the critters.

Traveling down Hwy 7, the countryside was dotted by ranches where longhorn

cattle grazed and oil was being pumped. We could see areas of tightly woven forests; remnants of the Ancient Cross-Timbers Area that once stretched from Kansas to Texas. As we passed through the towns of Tatum and Ratliff City, we entered the Kiowa/Commanche/Apache Nations of Oklahoma.

Entering Commanche County, we stopped to psyche ourselves for the short drive and the ascent to Mount Scott. Located in the Wichita Mountains, Mount Scott rises to a height of 2,464 feet. The Wichita Mountains date back over 550 million years and are one of the oldest geological formations in the United States. Mount Scott is the second-highest mountain in the Wichita Mountain National Wildlife Refuge. The three-mile paved road and park area is a wonderful drive maintained by the US Fish and Wildlife Service. Earl mentioned this is the only mountain in Oklahoma that has a paved road to the summit. The route up the mountain offered breathtaking views. Our cars made quite a site as they snaked to the top where we parked so drivers and passengers could enjoy the vista. From the west side of Mount Scott we could see Mount Sheridan, Elk Mountain, and Haley Peak (highest point in the mountain range). From the north side we could see the wind turbines on the Blue Canyon Wind Farm located in the Slick Hills and Lake Lawtonka north of Lawton.

We descended Mount Scott for the short drive to Meers Store and Restaurant for an early lunch. Meers is famous for its Meersburger, a 7" diameter burger made from longhorn beef raised by the Moranto family farm in Meers. By the time the restaurant opened at 10:30, there were 40 of us, 20 scouts, and various other people lined up outside. Meers was once a mining town and the restaurant served food to hungry miners. On the walls are historic photos of people who have visited and dined there as well as original décor dating back to 1901. Although it took two hours for everyone to get their orders filled and eaten, we had a nice time visiting with club members and other diners.



After lunch we took a side trip to the "Cobblestone Community" of Medicine Park. Medicine Park was Oklahoma's first planned tourism resort established in 1908 by Senator Elmer Thomas. Encompassing 900 acres and containing Bath Lake Park, it soon became the playground for Oklahoma's rich, famous, and notorious. During the Great Depression Medicine Park became a declining community. Restoration began in the mid 90's and the

city has now grown into an arts community with several artists in residence including sculptors and musicians. We could see the lovely metal sculptures in several yards and houses with cobblestone masonry.

Saying our goodbyes, we headed home via the interstate crossing the Kickapoo, Iowa, and Sac and Fox Nations. As we neared Sapulpa (back in Creek Nation), cars began to drop as club members reached their part of town. As usual Earl and Dorothy hosted a wonderful Spring Fling! A big Miata Club thank you to Wild Thang and Wild Child!

PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES: CAROL LAWS

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS:

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1992 Brilliant Black

Another very large crowd attended the April 18 meeting. President Rick Hardmeyer opened the meeting as usual asking for new members to introduce themselves. Tony and Marlene Rodriquez were new members present. Also attending were Mark Courtney who is considering membership. He recently bought a '06 Miata. Tobie McNall also thinking about joining after buying a new Miata. Regular introductions went around and around the room.

OFFICER REPORTS:

V.P. : Tom Jones brought up the thought of members possibly being able to list cars for sale for a brief maybe 24 hour period. This would probably be a more lucrative arrangement for both the seller and the buyer than doing a trade in at the dealership. This idea was tabled for thought period.

TREASURER: Gail Roop reported that the balance is \$1145.12 before any monies that night.

WEBMASTER: Much to the consternation of Joe Bohannon, there was NOTHING to report.

SECRETARY: Carol Laws thanked everyone who had paid their dues. More copies of directory still available.

EVENTS: Tom Jones discussed various events coming up. (**Please check the website for more details.) Bob Schwarz praised Tom for the recent full moon drive. Pierre Smith talked a little about the "Miatas in Eureka Springs" outing June 8,9, and 10. Registration is due by May 2 or contact Pierre with questions. Bill Curts told everyone to look on the calendar for a new drive listed for May 12 as part of "Rooster Day" festivities in Broken Arrow. Members are asked if they can drive their cars in the parade. Check the calendar for information about lineup / time details. Lunch for N.E.O. members participating will follow at "Mambo's" in Broken Arrow.

Next, Earl Larkin spoke about the eagerly anticipated "Spring Fling" Drive. He reminded Mac Arnett, Brad Coody, and Mike Viseur that he finally was getting around to his promise to them to have a nice drive to SW Oklahoma. He said that the drive would still be going Saturday "Even if we have to row the Miatas in the rain". He talked at length about the brunch date Sunday morning at Meers. It has been judged the # 1 Burger in America 18 times. They do their own processing of the hormone free, free range, 97% fat free meat. The parking lot fills by 10:00a.m. usually; open at 10:30. And they only take cash and by the whole table which explained the correct change envelopes required for this trip. Tom Mattox gave a history of the 3-4 hundred year struggle for dominion over the land where Turner Falls ls.

Shortly after Rick Hardmeyer talked a bit about his trip to Laguna Seca down the Pacific Coast Highway the meeting was adjourned.

CLUB OFFICERS

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