



THE WRIGHT ROADSTER

ZOOM-ZOOM

August Volume 28, Issue 8



The President's Corner

It isn't too early to start thinking about officer elections for 2017. Nominations will be made at the October Meet & Greet, and the election will take place in November. There will be several openings due to normal transition (VP to President), and perhaps less than expected non-repeats by current office holders. This is your chance to become part of the executive team, and if you have views to present on how the club operates, there is no better way to make your point and offer guidance.

It is typical in any group such as the Miami Valley Miata Club that a core of members carries the load. I was reminded of the 80-20 rule in this regard, and that may be the correct citation, without taking an actual count. We understand this, but we also understand that it puts quite a burden on the handful of members who are willing to serve. So ask yourself this, if you will be so kind, have I been a member for any length of time? And if so, is there a way that I can contribute in a bigger way? I hope several of you will answer "yes" and let one of your officers know that you have an interest in becoming one yourself.

Speaking of issues that have triggered opinions and debate, at the August Meet & Greet we will begin voting on the proposed new logo. It would be great if we were to have record attendance to kick off this important event. In other news...

The last weekend of July has been the 20th year of Miatas at the Gap (MATG) in Deal's Gap along the Tennessee-North Carolina border. In normal years, we send a contingent of six or more cars to drive the Tail of the Dragon and mingle with Miata owners from other parts of the country. But this has not been a normal year, with Karen Maas' passing on July 25th. Quite understandably, several members closest to Karen chose not to participate. We also canceled the trip as an official club event out of respect. Two of us did go ahead and make the trip, and there is a write-up in this issue.

I miss Karen Maas, as I am sure all do. I appreciated her smile and her wit, and her habit of poking fun at me. But no one will miss her more than her best friend in this world, Karen Francis. Karen is rightly devastated by the loss of her friend of so many years and so many shared experiences. So I ask all of us to show as much kindness to Karen Francis as we are capable, for surely she is grieving deeply and will for a long while to come.

I'll admit to something very personal – at one time I wondered if anyone would grieve for me when I die. I was between marriages, my children were far away or deep into their own lives, I had no close family left, and I've never been good at lasting friendships. Now I have Peggy, and I have my Miata Club family. I feel richer in friendships than I have since my high school days.

You folks are important to me, and I've tried to return the favor by pitching in to help keep the club running. Won't you take a turn too?



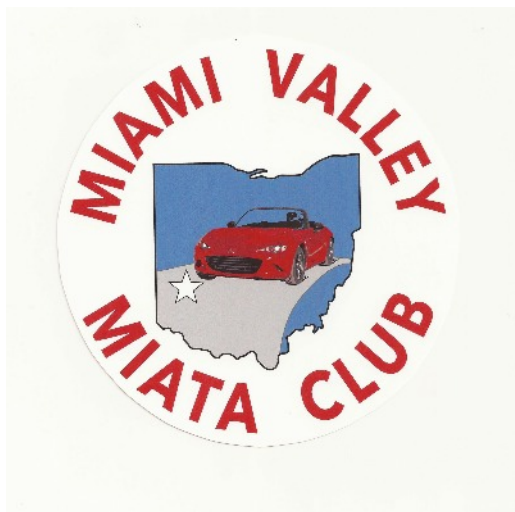
CALLING ALL MEMBERS

INVITE NEW MEMBERS!

Annual Dues are \$20.00, January through December

[View and Download the Membership Form \(PDF\)](#)

We will be voting on keeping our existing Logo or adopting the proposed one shown below BE SURE to voice your opinion



TO OUR NEW MEMBERS

Linnya Richardson



August birthdays:

- 08/01 Theresa Strausbaugh
- 08/03 Brian Leenheer
- 08/04 Marybeth Smith
- 08/04 Karen Francis
- 08/11 Marilyn Kramer
- 08/12 Pat Gould
- 08/13 Cott Wenger
- 08/23 Linda Wenger
- 08/25 Linda Howard
- 08/13 Mary Herman
- 08/27 Anthony Zlocki

Meet & Greet

Important to Attend: Vote on New Logo will be taken

Date: Tuesday, August 16, 2016 - 6:30pm
Marion's Pizza, 1320 N. Fairfield Road,
Beavercreek, Ohio 45432.
Website: <http://www.marionspizza.com/>

OUR CLUB SPONSOR

Jeff Schmitt Mazda



RALLY REPORT: Drives and Activities for 2016

Rally Master' Report



Greetings Miataphiles! The warm weather driving season continues on into August. I'm sure it will be mentioned in other places as well but I wish to express my condolences to the family of Karen Maas, Karen Frances and the entire Miata community on Karen's passing. We will miss her greatly.

July was a laid back month for events. We did have a great time at the Fairborn Independence Day Parade that was held (guess when?) July 4th. A little misty out but still a great time as well as a great "after" get together at the Kirkpatrick home. Thanks Dan and Norma for putting this together.

The MATG XX trip was "officially" canceled in deference to Karen Maas' passing.

The agenda for August and beyond is listed below. While it's still a couple of months off, the October trip to Tennessee to see the Fall Foliage will again include a trip up McCloud Mountain for a great lunch and wonderful view with the Mountain Miatas of East Tennessee. Roger Gordon has added a tentative trip to the Skyline Drive, from Royal to Rockfish Gap, so please express your interest to Roger so we can get this firmed up. Also note the date for this year's Christmas Party so you can make plans to attend during that busy time.

August 6, **British Car Show**, Tim Howard

August 16, **Meet & Greet at Marion's Pizza**, Beavercreek

August 19-20, **Woodward Dream Cruise-Royal Oak MI**, Chuck Valley

Aug 27, **2016 Miami Valley Miata Club Covered Bridge Drive Part II**, George & Jill Wetmore

September 20, **MVMC Annual Picnic**, Lofino Park, Beavercreek

September 24-25, **SCCA National Championship Runoffs**, Ed Kramer

October 9, **Mystery Drive & Lick**, Chuck & Pat Valley

October 10-12 Tentative, **Skyline Drive Tour**, Roger Gordon

October 18, **Meet & Greet at Jeff Schmitt Mazda**, Beavercreek

Oct 20-23, **Fall Foliage Trip to Townsend TN**, Mike Wheeler

10 Rooms blocked @ Townsend Gateway Inn @ \$78 + tax. Suites and Cabins available

November 15, **Meet & Greet at T.J. Chumps**, Huber Heights

December 3, **MVMC Christmas Party**, New Carlisle Sportsmen' Club

I hope to see you at several of these events throughout the rest of the year! Mike

A loss in our family



It is with a heavy heart that we report the sad news that Karen Maas, dear friend of member Karen Francis, and friend of us all, passed away during the evening of July 25, 2016. Our deepest sympathies to Karen's family and friends and especially to our dear friend Karen Francis.



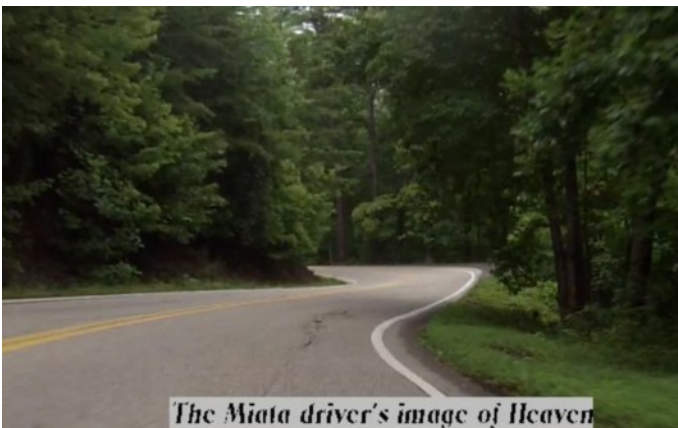
Karen was diagnosed with a brain tumor four months ago, and after surgery, had been recuperating at home. Unfortunately, the tumor could not be defeated, and Karen's condition declined. She spent the past several weeks at the Spring Meade nursing facility in Tipp City, where her daughter and many of her friends, principally Karen Francis, kept vigil at her bedside. Many of Karen's Miata Club friends visited often. We will miss Karen's beautiful smile and great sense of humor.

Dragon Wrangling and other miscreant tales

by David Berry

Friday morning, July 29, dawned partly cloudy and quite humid. Thursday had been mostly miserable, the two of us, Mike Wheeler and myself, wading through heavy rain nearly the whole passage of Kentucky en route to Townsend, Tennessee, where we had caught more rain after dinner. We were on the hunt for dragons, one in particular that lurks in the mountain pass known as Deal's Gap, along the Little Tennessee River at the Tennessee-North Carolina line.

It takes a while to get to where one can confront said dragon, down an 18-mile jaunt on the Foothills Parkway to hook up with U.S. 129. Normally an uneventful, swervy route with lovely views to east and west, this time it was a nail-biter, with persistent fog rising up from the adjacent Happy Valley, leaving the way ahead obscured at points like the inside of a frosted light bulb.



We made it to 129 without mishap, turned left and headed east. Mike put me in the lead, anticipating that his Mustang might not have the dexterity to match a Miata along the ridiculously twisty road. Once I got into rhythm, I was off into the distance taking the dragon's measure.

[continued next page]

For a while, at least, as before too long I caught up with traffic – two non-Miatas and two touring motorcycles. The cars soon found pull-off spots and let me by. But the motorcycle riders, as they tend to be, were more stubborn, and it wasn't until several minutes later that they finally yielded.



The bane of the dragon wrangler

I don't appreciate why touring riders bother with this road – they barely exceed a jogging pace, and struggle through the sharper turns. Late on Saturday, Mike and I learned from a member of the Mountain Miata Club of Knoxville that a Harley had struck a Miata dead center after drifting across the double yellow. The fate of the rider was unknown, save for a fantastic tale that the Miata's passenger caught him by the front of his garb in mid-flight over the cockpit and kept him from a landing amongst the trees.

Mike and I completed the drive, and I did a solo later on Friday. We made one more "spirited" run on Saturday morning, meeting up at the Fontana resort with Mike's friends from the Mountain club. We later drove with them to dinner. The Mountain folks are a great bunch, friendly, dedicated, fun-loving. They've managed one feat that has eluded our group – recruiting quite a few younger members into their midst. That's one dragon that I would like to see us wrangle – and conquer.



Touring motorcycles where they belong parked

Mazda
ON THE WEB

LINKS OF INTEREST:

MVMC GROUP FACEBOOK PAGE: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/300608016771949/>

MVMC ORG FACEBOOK PUBLIC PAGE <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Miami-Valley-Miata-Club/229407270577928>

LINKS TO MIATA CLUBS IN THE MIDWEST <http://www.miata.net/clubs/ohkywv.html>

BUCKEYE MIATA CLUB / COLUMBUS- <http://www.buckeyemiataclub.com/>

GREATER CINCINNATI <http://www.cincimiata.com/news.asp>

INDY MIATA CLUB <http://www.indymiata.org/>

Shop Talk (It's not just about the cars)

: By: Ed Kramer and Tim Howard



Patti's Ride

I wanted to follow up on some more "Third Owners" from my article last month. Before I do that I wanted to report on an issue that Tim and I are seeing on early NA's. Chuck Valley recently purchased a sweet 91 NA with some 43 k on the clock. With that few miles, what could be wrong? How about the clutch master cylinder. We've replaced a slew of slave cylinders over the years but until this year, never a master cylinder. The clutch slave cylinder is easily checked by periodically checking the fluid in the clutch reservoir. If the fluid level starts to drop you have a problem that needs immediate attention or you could be left on the side of the road. How do I know that my master cylinder is going bad? Unlike the slave cylinder, a failing master cylinder will allow you to shift but will lose its ability to hold the clutch plate away from the flywheel for increasingly shorter times. In other words if you shift into gear while still holding the clutch down, the car will gradually move forward, on its own, with the clutch still depressed. Your master cylinder has grown weak and about to give up the ghost..

The good news is that it is an inexpensive fix. We replace both the master and slave cylinder as well as upgrade the brake fluid to a synthetic dot 3 which is non corrosive to the o rings.

Patti Purdin is one of our newest members. She called to have the new member inspection for her NA. Alas, she had to be towed to the shop with, would you believe it, a bad clutch master cylinder. We were able to go through the car and bring it to 'Shipshape and Bristol fashion.' When I told Patti that I wanted to do an article about her "less than new and shiny ride," she took offense and rightly so! How dare I say anything disparaging about her buggy. That, my friends, is the magic of the Miata -- a third owner who is just as fond of her ride as the original owner many years ago. Patti has owned her NA since March with 73k on the clock for which she paid \$3,000. Now that is money well spent. She never puts the top up and enjoys coming out to the shop to learn the tricks of keeping her ride healthy for many miles to come.. She is looking forward to detailing her engine and maybe even a new paint job this winter when the work at the shop slows to allow for a longer project. Patti, by the way, is from Yellow Springs and owner of 'No Common Scents', specializing in herbs, spices, teas and essential oils. After all these years, I sometimes wonder why I still do the work. Well, it's because of people like Patti.



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