



The President's Corner

I bought a helmet.

I plan to go autocrossing. Chris Vollmer has been encouraging me. He and Roger Gordon have been having at it with the Troy Corvette Club during meets at Kil-Kare Raceway in Xenia. Well, let's be real – Chris and Roger are not competing against Corvettes (guess what, those have a horsepower advantage). Rather, they are doing runs during open sessions purely for the fun of it. I'm told the layout has more liberal straightaways than are customary in autocross so the big v8s can get out of first gear, which means our little Miatas are running up against the rev limiter in second gear.

From a young age I wanted to be a racing driver. It started with watching Formula One races in the '60s on Wide World of Sports (they did the Monaco Grand Prix once a year). Then I attended my first professional sports car race in 1969 – the Trans Am held that year at Mid-Ohio Sports Car Course. I loved the sounds, the smells, and the sights. But racing for me never materialized – there was just no way to afford it. Instead I found a way to be at the track frequently as a Sports Car Club of America corner worker (race safety official). I worked many club and SCCA races at Summit Point Raceway (near Harpers Ferry, WV), and professional races at Pocono International Raceway, Road Atlanta, and Mid-Ohio. That was cool.



So even though autocross isn't full-fledged racing (it's one car at a time, against the clock, around a tight course marked by cones), it is a great way to test your skill and your car's handling prowess. And it promises to be a lot of fun. I did a number of passes on a short autocross course one year ago as a student in a high performance driving class at the Mid-Ohio School (see "May Day, Play Day" in the June 2015 newsletter). That was in a sporty sedan that was a lot taller and weighed 500 pounds more than my Miata. I look forward to finding out what it is like in a more suitable car.

I hope others of our members take up autocross, at least once. It's one of the best ways to learn what your car can really do when driven with exuberance. Sure, driving down a twisty road on a pleasant day with the top down is a truly enjoyable experience in these little cars – and the primary reason most of us buy them. But there is a lot to be said for the pure rush of adrenalin, and the ensuing grins, that come from flinging one around a course as fast as you dare. It's the same rush some of us feel when pushing the limit at the Tail of the Dragon – except that in this case, it's closer, and more convenient. And safer.



CALLING ALL MEMBERS

INVITE NEW MEMBERS!

Annual Dues are \$20.00, January through December

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

A NOTICE TO ALL MIAMI VALLEY CLUB MEMBERS

It is necessary that I retract a statement that I made during the April 19, 2016 Meet and Greet at Cadillac Jack's, regarding consideration of a new club logo.

At that time, I stated that no member planned to present a proposed new logo. I was mistaken. I was subsequently informed that at least one new logo is in preparation and will be presented in accordance with the previously published rules for updating the logo.

I apologize for any confusion or frustration my erroneous statement may have caused.

Thank you,
Dave Berry, President

Shirts Remaining Available

A few shirts are still available to any member on request. They are Mazda promotional items that have not found a new home. Here is a list

Color	Size	Logo	Quantity
Blue	2 XL	Mazda	1
Tan	M	Zoom-zoom	1
Tan	2 XL	Zoom-zoom	2

Anyone wishing to take possession of a shirt listed above may contact Dave Berry at dinglebe@hotmail.com, and arrange delivery at the May Meet & Greet at T.J. Chumps in Fairborn.



WHAT: Drive and Dine

WHERE: Loveland Castle

WHEN: Sunday, May 22nd

Meet at noon, at Ritter's Frozen Custard
<http://www.ritters.com> in Beavercreek

We'll drive south to Loveland Ohio and have a mid afternoon meal at Kirby's Restaurant :
<http://www.kirbysinloveland.com/> .

Following our meal there will be an optional drive to nearby Loveland Castle & Museum Chateau Laroche :
<http://www.lovelandcastle.com/>. There is a cost for the castle tour of \$5 per adult. Please RSVP by Thursday, May 19 to Mike Wheeler at:
mtwheel@hotmail.com

[Just a note, there are no restrooms at Ritter's so we will be stopping along the way at Grill 73 for a potty break for those in need.]

OUR CLUB SPONSOR

Jeff Schmitt Mazda



Events

Tuesday, May 17, 2016

6:30 PM



Meet & Greet

TJ Chumps Inc in Fairborn, Ohio
David Berry is going.

Join

Maybe

Hide

Tuesday, June 21, 2016

6:30 PM



Meet & Greet

Brixx Ice Company in Dayton, Ohio
David Berry invited you.

Join

Maybe

Decline

Event Calendar

Month Week Day Year

May 2016

« PRE NEXT »

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12 Executive Committee...	13	14
15	16	17 Meet & Greet	18	19	20	21
22 Loveland Castle Drive... Autocross hosted by Troy...	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31	1	2	3	4



Miami Valley Miata Club

Serving Greater Dayton Ohio Area Miata Enthusiasts since 1993

Sponsored by Jeff Schmitt Mazda

RALLY REPORT: Drives and Activities for 2016



Rally Master' Report



Spring is definitely here! Hopefully most of those April showers won't carry over into May showers and cause a lot of top up driving. It's a good thing that the Miata is known for its fun top up or top down. Last month we had a couple of Drive 'n Dines that I heard were both really great drives though the first one was a little cool. We've got a couple more events coming up this month that I believe the club will enjoy. A Drive 'n Dine to the city of Loveland to eat and then a short drive over to see the famed Loveland Castle. Also, the club will visit with the Troy Corvette Club and some of our members will Autocross with them. Be sure to go out and root the Miatas on.

There are still lots of open weekends to host drives or other events so be sure to contact myself or one of the other club officers if you'd like to host an event. There are previous drives available for you to choose from or you're welcome to create your own route. Many of the previous drives have never been driven by current members so they would be a treat for all. **Please note that the date of the Loveland Castle DnD has moved one day to Sunday the 22nd.**

Here is what is scheduled for the rest of the year so far:

May 22, **Loveland Castle DnD**, Mike Wheeler

May 22, **Troy Corvette Autocross**, Tim Howard

June 12, **Cincinnati Concours D'Elegance**, Tim Howard

June 11, **Serpent Mound Drive**, Dan & Norma Kirkpatrick

June 26, **Mid-Ohio Vintage Grand Prix**, Ed Kramer

July 4, **Fairborn Independence Parade and Social**, Dan and Norma Kirkpatrick

July 28-31, **Miatas at the Gap XX**, Mike Wheeler

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

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

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

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

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

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

Dec 3 or 10, **MVMC Christmas Party**

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

Mike

2016 Corvette Club Autocross Event



What: Join us to observe an autocross. This event is a competition between Troy Corvette Club and the Greenville Corvette Club, so it should be a very heated competition. In addition, the autocross course is open to other competitors and Miatas are welcome. Rumor has it that at least one of our members will be participating in this event. If you have never been to an autocross this is an excellent event to put your toe in the water. The competition is good, it is easily accessible and can be done in one afternoon, the Corvette Club welcomes visitors, Kilcare is a great facility, and it is a chance to support MVMC club members as they compete. In addition, for those that are interested, there is usually the opportunity to ride with a participant during the competition.

When: May 22, 2016 at 11:00 am

Where: We will be meeting in the parking lot of the Old Lofino's Grocery (now Closed) located at the intersection of Route 35 and North Fairfield Road at 11:00 am for a drivers' meeting and short drive to Kilcare Speedway. There is bleacher seating, and some refreshments are available on site (alcohol is prohibited on the premises). Don't forget to bring your sunglasses, and sunscreen.

Why: To learn about autocross and enjoy the company of fellow MVMC members. Experience the event close up and personal, particularly if you choose to ride with a competitor.

How: Contact Tim Howard at tghcc@woh.rr.com, or [937-439-3942](tel:937-439-3942) to reserve your spot in the group and then meet us at Lofinos.

If you would like to compete in the autocross, go to Kilcare at 9:00 am and register. Chris Vollmer has promised to help orient MVMC members and assist them in getting started. The entry fee is \$35.00, and you will need a valid drivers license as well as a Snell 2005 or newer helmet. If you choose to compete, the rest of us promise to cheer for you!

Post Drive Report - Florentine Restaurant Drive and Dine

On Saturday, April 23, 2016 we did a Spring Drive and Dine to the Florentine Restaurant in Germantown, Ohio. The drive was very well attended with (24) cars, and (42) persons. The weather that day was sunny and warm, with temperatures of 45 degrees in the morning and 61 degrees in the afternoon. It was definitely a top down day for our Miata(s). Everyone seemed to enjoyed the drive and their meal at the Florentine Restaurant. The following persons took part in the drive; Mike and Gail Allen, Bill Bateman and Carole Stofer, David and Peggy Berry, Frank Brewster, Roger and Jeanne Gordon, Paul Haller, Steve and Sharry Hayden, Fred and Jayna Hoppel, Frank and Susan Hubbell, Daniel and Diane Long, Denis and Berta Loyer, Mike Mardis and Diana Reed, Steven Meyer and Theresa Strausbaugh, Byron & Skeeter Pettit, Patti Purdon, Tom Purkey, Michael & Mary Beth Smith, Doug Snyder and Patricia White, Chuck and Pat Valley, George and Jill Wetmore, Darden and Debbie Whitaker, Chuck & Chris White, Tony and Jeanne Zlocki.

I would like to thank those persons who joined us on this Drive and Dine. I would also like for all of us to keep those members who were unable to join us in our thoughts and prayers.

Thanks ... Fred and Jayna Hoppel

[sorry, there were no pictures provided for this drive]



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



What services do you offer at your Thursday Shop days?

Answer: We focus primarily on smaller jobs such as brakes, tune-ups, fluid changes and the installation of performance equipment (cold air intakes, roll bars, stabilizing bars, Springs and struts, Performance exhaust). Although we have occasionally done bigger jobs such as timing belts and clutches, due to our one day per week schedule, more extensive jobs such as those mentioned don't

fit our format very well.

What is the traditional role of a Technical Director in the MVMC?

Answer: The traditional role would be to provide technical advice to club members regarding purchase decisions, repairs, maintenance, and performance upgrades. Due to the fact that Ed has a fully equipped shop, we have been able to go beyond that traditional role and assist members in repairing and upgrading their personal Miatas. We also try to make our Thursday and Maintenance Day events a social experience. In addition to accomplishing the assigned tasks and providing some automotive education, we also want to provide an environment where members can learn to know each other better.

Is your Thursday group exclusive to men, or can women attend?

Answer: Our Thursday meetings are gender neutral. There are in fact several women that attend on a regular basis. The conversations that occur on a regular basis can vary from car related topics to current events much like what might occur at club Meet and Greet or any other club event.

How does the annual Maintenance Day vary from your Thursday events?

Answer: The answer is really not very much. The biggest difference is that Saturday allows people that can't attend on a weekday an opportunity to participate. That usually translates to a larger attendance, which causes us to schedule more rigidly, and keep the scheduled work to more routine tasks.

How do I schedule an appointment for either a Thursday or Annual Maintenance Day session?

Answer: Contact Ed Kramer at either 937-862-4434 or kramerfarms@sbcglobal.net. After Ed knows what work you need to have done he can assign you a time on the schedule.

Is there a charge for bringing my car to the shop?

Answer: That depends. Minor projects that can be done on the Shop Floor with the help of our crew are usually free to club members. More extensive projects requiring the use of the lift, special tools and supplies are charged a shop usage fee of \$20.00 per hour. The shop is not a 'for profit' operation, but it is also not a charity.

Can I get my car, or one I would like to purchase evaluated?

Answer: We will provide an extensive evaluation and recommendation free for all current MVMC members.

"The newsletter is an official MVMC publication. By agreement with Jeff Schmitt Mazda we are to provide them with advertising space with their logo in every issue of the newsletter. As the Jeff Schmitt logo is a part of the newsletter, we don't want to appear to be in competition with our sponsor. Therefore, no advertising of used vehicles in the newsletter. We will advertise Miata related parts in the newsletter at no charge for MVMC members. The MVMC will help with preparing and releasing advertisements for used vehicles for MVMC members by e-mail distribution directly to members and on MVMC Facebook page(s)."