
Miami Valley
Miata Club



THE WRIGHT ROADSTER

ZOOM-ZOOM

February 2021 Volume 33, Issue 2

The President's Corner

by Jim Brokaw



February already! February must be the bane of every Miata club and Miata enthusiast in the northern hemisphere! As I type this, a snowplow is spreading salt on our street. But, even amidst the coldest and snowiest days we've endured so far this winter, there exist a few glimmers of hope. First, each day is longer than the day that preceded it, and on those occasional days where we are blessed with the sun, it is shining brighter.

An even more hopeful sign of better days to come was the virtual club planning that we held on January 30th, led by our Rally Master Chuck Valley, who along with our Membership Director Pat Valley, ahem, happened to be vacationing in Florida and did not hesitate to show us the bright Florida day that they were enjoying (as another snowplow drove by my home). It was a great meeting and by the time it ended, we had collectively added 41 events to our 2021 club calendar and discussed several additional potential events. Wow! If COVID will allow us to complete even half of those events, we will have a great year.

Even with the great start with our 2021 calendar, we still need your help. We have a few open weekends remaining and would like to fill them. I know that each of you has favorite places to visit, such as landmarks, parks, museums, restaurants or scenic drives. Please share them with our club. Contact our Rally Master to schedule the drive or event; he'll provide any assistance that you need. Even if we already have an event scheduled for the day that you have in mind, schedule it anyway and let our members choose what they'd like to do. And don't limit your thinking to just the weekends; many options are best done on weekdays when the venues and the roads are typically less crowded.










If you haven't been on our Facebook site lately, I encourage you to check it out. Please share your favorite photos of drives, events, or just you and your Miata (now or way back then). <https://www.facebook.com/groups/300608016771949>

Okay, back to February (sigh). It is winter and the roads can be treacherous, especially for our Miatas. Even if you're feeling confident driving your AWD SUV on a snow-covered road, please be careful and watch out for the other guy, whose tires, attention or skill level may not be equal to yours. I hope to see you at our next event. Keep the sunny side up!



Miami Valley Miata Club Officers for 2021

 President Jim Brokaw	 Secretary-Treasurer Patti Purdin
 Vice President Clyde Hebert	 Technical Director Tim Howard
 Membership Director Pat Valley	 Newsletter Editor/Webmaster Dave Berry
 Rally Master Chuck Valley	(Empty space)

From the Membership Desk

by Pat Valley
Membership Director

The Club welcomed four new members in January! Welcome aboard to Jeff & Bridget Fath, Moe & Marie LaBrie, Nancy & Albert Szkarupa, and Joe & Cindy Beatty. Everyone is anxious to get back on the road and enjoying the fresh air and wind in our hair in our little two-seaters.

We wish the following members happy birthday in February:

February Birthdays	
02/03	Carol Bowling
02/09	Bonnie Hebert
02/09	Bonnie Sturgeon
02/13	Fred Hoppel
02/21	Peggy Berry
02/27	Karen Walker

New Members in 2021
Jeff & Bridget Fath
Joe & Cindy Beatty
Nancy & Albert Szkarupa
Moe & Marie LaBrie
Bob & Terry Stockholm


"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 will appear 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)."

Treasurer's Final Report for 2020 and Budget for 2021

By Patti Purdin



	<u>2020 Budget</u>	<u>2020 Actual</u>	<u>Net Change</u>	<u>2021 Budget</u>
Operating Income				
Membership Dues	\$1,680.00	\$1,480.00	-\$200.00	\$1,680.00
Magnets	\$100.00	\$40.00	-\$60.00	\$100.00
Dayton Dragons	\$200.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$200.00
Jeff Schmitt Sponsor	\$1,200.00	\$1,200.00	\$0.00	\$1,200.00
Pizza Party	\$250.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$250.00
Donation		\$50.00		
Challenge Book Proceeds		\$500.00		
Interest Earned		\$0.05		
Total Revenue	3430	3270.05	-\$260.00	<u>3430</u>
Expenditures by Officer				
President	\$200.00		\$0.00	\$200.00
President, Election Expenses		\$83.60		
Picnic		\$60.00		
Secretary/Treasurer	\$50.00		\$0.00	\$50.00
Rally Master	\$600.00	\$331.80	-\$268.20	\$400.00
Newsletter Editor	\$50.00		\$0.00	\$50.00
Membership Director	\$75.00	\$11.00	-\$64.00	\$75.00
Tech Director	\$50.00		\$0.00	\$50.00
Web Master	\$50.00	\$156.77	\$106.77	\$200.00
Subtotal	<u>1075</u>	<u>643.17</u>	<u>-\$431.83</u>	<u>\$1,025.00</u>
Expenditures by Activity				
Annual Planning Meeting	\$75.00	\$37.25	-\$37.75	\$0.00
Liability Insurance	\$0.00	\$373.00	\$373.00	\$373.00
Virtual Rally	\$140.00	\$171.61	-\$31.61	\$200.00
Wienie Roast	\$50.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$75.00
Dragons Game	\$200.00	\$166.00	-\$34.00	\$200.00
Annual Picnic	\$225.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$225.00
Pizza Party	\$325.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$225.00
Poker Run	\$75.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$75.00
Christmas Party	\$600.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$600.00
Event Prizes				\$400.00
Subtotal	<u>1690</u>	<u>747.86</u>	<u>\$942.14</u>	<u>\$2,373.00</u>
Total Expenditures	<u>\$2,765.00</u>	<u>\$1,391.03</u>	<u>-\$1,373.97</u>	<u>\$3,248.00</u>
Net Income or Loss	<u>\$665.00</u>	<u>\$1,879.02</u>	<u>\$729.70</u>	<u>\$182.00</u>
Beginning Cash in bank	<u>\$1,794.66</u>			
Ending Cash in bank	<u>\$3,673.68</u>			
	\$1,879.02			

Rally Master Report



Rolling into the new year, I hope all are continuing to stay healthy and not be hindered or threatened by the nasty virus. As a car club, we survived a bad situation in 2020, reworking our event schedule to ensure we could socially distance while still enjoying driving our beloved Miatas and being with other MVMC members. I believe we can do that again in 2021. The Drive & Picnics (D&Ps) were an outgrowth of 2020 COVID restrictions and were very popular. Because of the popularity, I am installing one D&P in every driving-season month, among other planned events.

I know our club has done Moonlight Drives in the past, so we are bringing back a few in 2021. These will be held around dinnertime, so we will find a restaurant and then go for a Moonlight Drive. Did you know that these full moons are actually named? In order, "The Wolf Moon" was Jan 28th, "Snow Moon" Feb 27th, "Worm Moon" Mar 28th, "Pink Moon" Apr 26th, "Flower Moon" May 26th, "Strawberry Moon" Jun 24th, "Buck Moon" Jul 23rd, "Sturgeon Moon" Aug 22nd, "Corn Moon" Sep 20th, "Harvest Moon" Oct 20th, "Beaver Moon" Nov 19th, and "Cold Moon" Dec 18^t.

Pat Valley and I will host the Harvest Moon and dinner Oct 20th. Feel free to step up to host one of the other full moon drives this year! Your Rally Master is always happy to help you route a drive, select a restaurant, and plug in the event date.

Chuck Valley, MVMC Rally Master



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/>

OHIO MIATA OWNERS FACEBOOK PRIVATE GROUP (request to join)

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/478759678813248/>

OUR CLUB SPONSOR

Jeff Schmitt Mazda



MVMC 2021 Event Calendar

Feb 27	Virtual Rally/Trivia Challenge	Gould/Korb
Apr 15-18	D.I.S.M. (Dogwood in Smoky Mountains)	Kirkpatrick
Apr 24	Shop Day / Coffee & Donuts	Motts
May 1	Poker Run & Lunch	Valleys
May 8	Drive & Dine	Thibeaults
May 15	Plain Folk D&D	Berrys
May 20	Dayton Dragons	Berrys
May 22	Drive & Picnic	Valleys
May 29	Cartridge Brewery Tour, Maineville OH	Allens
June 3	US Air Force Museum / Lunch	Valleys
June 5	TBD	(need host)
June 11-13	Cincinnati Concourse D'Elegance	Howard
June 19	Drive & Picnic	(need host)
June 26	Deer Creek Drive/JT's Diner, Willoughby OH	Valleys
June XX	Cobra Show (London OH)	Howard
July 4	Fairborn Independence Day Parade	Kirkpatrick
July 4	Beavercreek Independence Day Parade	Kirkpatrick
July 10	Dual Club Ice Cream Run	Valleys
July 17	Tail of the Lizard	Zlockis
July 24	TBD	(need host)
July 31	Drive & Picnic	Valleys
Aug 7	British Car Show (Eastwood MetroPark)	Howard
Aug 6-9	Miatas At the Gap / Wheels Through Time	(need host)
Aug 14	Hocking Hills	Heberts
Aug 20/21	Dublin Car Show	Howard
Aug 20/21	Woodward Dream Cruise, Royal Oak MI	Valleys
Aug 21	Lawrenceburg Indiana	Berrys
Aug 28	Snooks Dream Cars, Bowling Green OH	Zlockis
Sep 5	Tour de Gem	Kirkpatrick
Sep 11/12	Patriots Salute (Vendors/Bands/Car show)	Kirkpatrick
Sep 14	MVMC Annual Picnic (Lofino Park)	Exec Officers
Sep 19	Fairborn Car Show	Kirkpatrick
Sep 21-26	Detroit Intn'l Car Show	Ellenbogens
Sep 25	Pet Fest, Delco Park maybe	Kirkpatrick
Sep XX	Dayton Concourse D'Elegance (TBD)	Howard
Oct 1	Airstream Tour	Ellenbogens
Oct 8-9	Kentucky Bourbon Trail Craft Distillery Tour	Valleys
Oct 16	Shop Day / Weenie Roast	Motts
Oct 19	MVMC Pizza Party/Nom of Officers (Jeff Schmitt)	Exec Officers
Oct 23	Drive & Picnic	(need host)
Oct 28-31	Fall Foliage / Dual Club Drive	Valleys?
Nov 6	USAF Museum / Lunch	Valleys
Nov 16	Election of 2021 Executive Officers	Exec Officers
Dec 4	Christmas Party (Fairborn Senior Center)	Exec Officers
Dec 31	Polar Bear Run	Valleys

Events are tentative and subject to change

2021 VIRTUAL RALLY

Mark your calendar for the 2021 Google Rally on February 27 at 2 pm. This rally will take you on a tour of the INFORMATION HIGHWAY searching for answers to car related questions.

Lee and I are happy to host this year's Virtual Rally. Because of COVID, we are unable to do the typical Virtual Rally where we meet in person, share a wonderful spread of food, and watch a movie.

This year's rally will be totally virtual and it will be a Google Rally. We are planning on meeting virtually on Zoom or another platform to share answers and socialize.

Because of the inconsistencies of the internet, it would be helpful to know who is planning on participating as we have to get the questions out to everyone at approximately the same time frame. We will use email, Facebook, and the club's webpage to try to insure everyone can get to the questions by starting time. Using a computer would be preferable and easier, but a smartphone could also be used (small screen might present problems).

Those wishing to participate, please send your name and email address to p19g53@gmail.com, with VIRTUAL RALLY in the subject line. Your responses allow us to be able to provide further details on the rally as we progress, and so we can send you team instructions.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Zoom Zoom

Pat and The Hat (Lee)



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

By Tim Howard



If you don't already know, over the years I have sold three cars on the internet and bought one. That does not exactly qualify me as an expert, but it does give me more experience than many others. That experience came in handy recently when one of our members needed to purchase a replacement Miata on a short timeline and was unable to find a car she liked locally. My meager experience in buying and selling on the Internet was better than none, so I acted as a consultant of sorts as she began her first Internet search. After she completed her purchase,

she suggested that buying and selling cars on the Internet might be a good topic for Shop Talk. Given this is a slow season for Miata activities and upgrades, I decided to take her advice.

My first thoughts on the subject are that, whether buying or selling, if you can find a car you like at a price you can afford locally, that is always the best option. Likewise, if you can find a buyer for your car at an acceptable price locally that is also always the best option. It is always preferable to be able to physically observe and drive the product you are buying and simpler to negotiate and close the deal directly with a local individual or dealer. Not to mention the difficulties of arranging for delivery or pickup of a car from a remote location, and the additional cost. Unfortunately, sometimes a local transaction just does not work out.

If you find yourself in that situation, the Internet does present a viable alternative. In my opinion, this process does work better for a seller than a buyer, particularly if you have a special-interest car. This process allows you to offer your product to a much larger market (national and, in some cases, international). When I sold my Cobra, I had interested parties from all over the US and about 8 foreign countries. When selling on the Internet, photography and an accurate and informative write up regarding the car are of the utmost importance. Some of the top sites want 50 to 200 photos, and some insist of a professional photographer. You can either spend a lot of your time creating these tools yourself, or a lot of money hiring professionals to create these tools for you. In most cases, there are also seller fees involved and then, of course, you must still spend a lot of time answering buyer questions on the Internet, and you must navigate the issues with receiving remote payment and title as well as car delivery. The good news is that, frequently, all this work and these disadvantages are offset by a higher selling price.

If you are looking for a special car or that special car you can't seem to find locally, the same advantage exists, a much larger market. The disadvantages are that you cannot physically examine or drive the car (even professional photos and video can be misleading), many formats charge a buyer's fee (5 to 10% of the purchase price), you cannot negotiate or pay in real time and in person, there can be significant delivery charges, and there can also be interstate/intercountry inspection and title issues.

It is worth saying that, if you must be cautious and thorough when you make a large purchase such as this locally, you must be even more cautious and diligent when you buy on the Internet.

Outlined below are a few suggestions that might make the process easier if you decide to use the Internet as a buying or selling tool.

- If possible, when buying, limit your search area to a few hundred miles from home; a distance that you are comfortable traveling for personal investigation, delivery, and closing the deal. This can eliminate several the disadvantages of an Internet purchase.
- If you are selling, be prepared to spend countless hours answering questions, and perhaps taking additional photos, or creating videos to support the sale. You must also answer all questions promptly, particularly on the sites where the questions and answers are posted for all

shoppers to see. There are also professional shoppers out there that have no intention of buying; be nice to everyone.

- In a long-distance sale, another part of the process that can be particularly tricky to handle in a way that is relatively safe and fair to everyone is the payment and title transfer process. Someone else may have a better approach, but this is one that has worked for me. There is typically a down payment that is due within 24 or 48 hours after the deal is struck. If the buyer has not already asked for this information, I email him/her a copy of the title at that time so they can verify that the car exists, and the title is as described. I then ask the buyer to wire transfer the remainder of the purchase price to my account. When the bank receives the wire (could be a cashier's check), I FedEx him/her a bill of sale that is contingent upon the wire transfer or check being funded (usually 2 to 3 days). The bill of sale states that, once funding occurs, I will FedEx an executed title made out to his/her specification. It also states that I will make all reasonable accommodations for the pickup and transport of the vehicle as arranged by the buyer (if the truck driver shows up a 3:00 am, I am not getting up).

If you are contemplating buying or selling on the Internet, I would be happy to discuss it further with you. No matter how you look at it, this process is not as easy as doing a deal locally. Unfortunately, sometimes it might be the best solution for you.



Miata Parts for Sale!

For Sale - Steel braided clutch line for NB and maybe NA models. New, never used. \$25. Contact Pat 232-5614 or p19g53@gmail.com

