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Miami Valley  
Miata Club



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# THE WRIGHT ROADSTER

*ZOOM-ZOOM*

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January 2022 Volume 34, Issue 1



## The President's Corner

by Mike Wheeler

Greetings and Happy New Year!! Welcome to the 2022 edition of the Miami Valley Miata Club. The twelve months past will be hard to top but with your help we'll "Laissez les bons temps rouler" or Let the Good Times Roll. Speaking of that, be sure to join us January 8<sup>th</sup>, at 9 AM for the 2022 MVMC Event Planning Meeting held at the Fairborn Senior's Center.

It just wouldn't be right to start the year without first thanking the 2021 membership and officers for getting us where we are today. The club grew slowly over the year and eventually reached something near 80 memberships. Not our biggest year, but a good one. Fortunately, most members and officers have seen fit to return this year. We've had quite a few renewals and have four returning officers who, along with the new officers (we now have a full executive committee), will be introduced later in this issue.

This is a good time to remind you of the parts and service discount available from Jeff Schmitt's Mazda because you chose to be a club member. I can't emphasize enough the importance of maintaining a good working relationship with the folks at the local dealer network and the sponsor of our club!







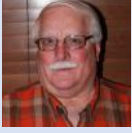

As in years past, we plan to have a full slate of driving events. A couple of people have already shown interest in leading them. If you have a great location for an overnight, give us a holler! Just as a reminder, a driving event host will receive a gas card and a road event award pin for stepping forward and planning something we can all enjoy. Be sure to contact our Rally Master and let him know you're interested in helping out and, in return, you'll get plenty of help if you need it. Contact information is available on our web site, [www.miamivalleymiatclub.org](http://www.miamivalleymiatclub.org) or the list of officers here in the Wright Roadster. Any one of us will put you in touch with the Rally Master.

In addition to the other events that will be planned throughout the year, we will continue to have monthly "Meet 'n Greet" meetings at a local eatery. The first one will be in Huber Heights at the T.J. Chumps on Executive Blvd. We have a little bit of business to conduct so please try and be there otherwise just come to enjoy the food and friendship. I will always take a suggestion on where to hold monthly meetings so if you have a favorite location, please speak up.

Since we're just getting underway, I won't go on and on. Just let me say that I look forward to enjoying my Miata and the camaraderie that goes along with being with a bunch of likeminded people. As the new club president I want to invite you to tell me what we're doing right and what we're doing wrong. I can't guarantee that I'll agree with you, but I do want to know how you feel. Let's, together, make this great year!

Mike Wheeler  
Highland Green '07

## Miami Valley Miata Club Officers for 2022

 <b>President</b> Mike Wheeler	 <b>Secretary-Treasurer</b> Pat Valley
 <b>Vice President</b> Jeff Monnier	 <b>Technical Director</b> Tim Howard
 <b>Membership Director</b> Chris Vollmer	 <b>Newsletter Editor</b> Dave Berry
 <b>Rally Master</b> Mike Allen	 <b>Webmaster</b> Christy Haynes

### MVMC 2022 Calendar of Events

**NOTE: This is displayed as a running calendar of upcoming events for which at least two of the three factors of date, host(s) and venue are CONFIRMED.**



Date	Event	Host(s)	Venue
Jan 8	Planning Meeting	Chuck Valley & Mike Allen	Fairborn Senior Center
Jan 18	Meet & Greet	MVMC Officers	TJ Chumps, Huber Heights

### MVMC EVENT PLANNING MEETING SATURDAY, JANUARY 8<sup>th</sup>

TIME: 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM, Fairborn Senior Center, 325 N. Third St., Fairborn, OH 45324

Donuts & coffee provided

Bring your ideas for drive & dines/picnics, day trips, overnights, or other events



## From Pat Valley, outgoing Membership Director:

As I close out my six years as Membership Director, I want to say how thankful I am for this time to serve the members of this club. The time has indeed gone by quickly. Chuck and I have transitioned through several cars during that time, and (for now), we have settled on our '08 NC1 hardtop and '91 NA that's in fantastic original condition. Who knows what we'll be driving in a year!

The Club has gone through very serious times these last two years, but membership has remained steady and dedicated to our favorite little sports cars. We adapted well and made lemonade from lemons. I pray that in 2022 we'll be back to our normal events and drives, and everyone stays healthy and happy throughout the year.

As I move on to my new duties as Secretary/ Treasurer, I leave the club's membership duties in the very capable hands of Chris Vollmer.

## From the Membership Desk

By Chris Vollmer  
Membership Director

We added no new members in December. We wish the following members happy birthday in January:

### January Birthdays

Celebrating birthdays this month are:

Art Thibeault, Bob Stockholm, Chuck White, Diane Bowman, Dianne Long, Jeanne Zlocki, Jeff Monnier, Kathleen Lach, Larry Roberts, Nancy Szkarupa, Norma Kirkpatrick, Ruth Ellenbogen, Steve Miller, Terry Stockholm

### Renew Your Membership

Club membership dues are payable now; our membership remains a bargain at \$20! You can renew now by mailing your check made payable to: **Miami Valley Miata Club**, to Chris Vollmer, 1675 Sunset Canyon Court, Fairborn, OH 45324. Please include a membership form with payment; only your name plus any updated/changed information are required.



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/>

# Rally Master Report

By Chuck Valley, Rally Master

## MVMC Polar Bear Run 2021



In the ten years I've been with the club, it was the warmest Polar Bear Run that I had ever hosted or even participated in. It may have been the warmest Polar Bear Run in the history of the MVMC! I'll have to do some research on that. The temperature this New Year's Eve was pushing toward 50 degrees when 28 MVMC members situated in 17 top-down Miatas headed out on the 55 min drive. When we reached our destination temps were pushing into the mid-50s! Not exactly polar bear weather, but who's complaining?



This was quite different weather than in 2020 when the weather was at freezing temperatures and patches of snow and ice were on the roadways. Unfortunately, and sadly, I had to cancel that drive – not for the cold air, but for the risk of our cars slipping and sliding on ice-slicked hilly and curvy county roadways that hadn't been salted. On any drive starting with the planning phase, safety always comes first!



This year's Polar Bear Run took us through parts of Greene County and then Clark County (still a lot of farmland out that way) where we ended up at Young's Jersey Dairy for a nice lunch. There were some curvy roads here and there, and there were two particular curves that had warning signs not many, if any of us had ever seen.



*This vehicle did not take part in our Polar Bear Run.  
Perhaps in someone else's...*

For additional photos from the 2021 Polar Bear Run, follow this link:

[https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1\\_q3AJZUMOhMXwbC9R7hC7djPCvgZlfj-?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1_q3AJZUMOhMXwbC9R7hC7djPCvgZlfj-?usp=sharing)

My final thoughts as MVMC Rally Master:

I've always had a heart to serve on this club and I strived to make it a better experience for the club. There's a lot of behind-the-scenes things our club officers do that seldom get mentioned. As we officers occasionally light-heartedly say to each other, "*the job doesn't pay very much so maybe I'll ask for a raise.*" I think joking between us like that helps keep the volunteerism in perspective. Although sometimes time consuming, the service brings reward. As I close the book on my three years as Rally Master, I can look back and know that I helped keep things "event-active" during all three years in spite of the last two years having to deal with COVID-19 and now the variants. Although I hand the reigns over to the competent Mike Allen who is now the Rally Master, I will stay active in planning events and helping the new Rally Master and other members and officers who may want to host a drive or non-drive event. I want to thank Christy Haynes for stepping up to be our new webmaster, I thank Dave Berry for giving Christy good training and advice on handling the website, I thank Pat Valley for providing training and advice to Chris Vollmer, our club's new Membership Director, appreciation to Mike Allen for stepping up as our new Rally Master, and Pat Valley (of course I am biased here), who I know will be the best Secretary/Treasurer our Miata Club has ever had. I miss leading the club and hope to be back in that capacity in the near future.

Chuck Valley

VP 2016, President 2017, 2018, Rally Master 2019, 2020, 2021.

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

By Tim Howard



I have always been a bit skeptical regarding the benefits of ceramic coatings for cars. When they were initially introduced to the marketplace, I put them in the category too expensive with claimed advantages that seemed almost too good to be true. I choose instead to take a half step in that direction moving to synthetic wax which I have been using for 5 or 6 years with very satisfactory results. In March of this year, I purchased a 2013 Miata that had been treated to a professional application of ceramic coating. On a car more than three years old, the process includes a full paint correction routine prior to application of the ceramic (strip old wax, clay bar, buff, clean with denatured alcohol, etc.). Experts say this process can take 10 to 15 hours to complete and costs between \$1,000 and \$2,000. The process worked as the paint on my 2013 is exceptional. In July, I bought a new Mazda CX-5 as a family car; it too came with ceramic protection. It would be fair to say that due to these experiences I have gained a new appreciation for the advantages of ceramic coatings. Not only do they protect your car's finish by creating a much harder surface, but they enhance the color of the paint. Depending on the ceramic content, the coating can last up to 3 years. Finally, an advantage I had not envisioned, is that once the ceramic cures, it is slicker than paint making it easier to wash. In fact, wind and rain actually seem to help the car stay clean longer. I think it is fair to say that ceramic coating technology has seen a lot of progress over the past few years.

Today there are three distinct types of ceramic coatings. By definition, a "ceramic" substance is inorganic in nature. This means that the term can be used loosely to describe numerous ingredients that replicate the benefits of actual ceramic coatings. When NASA originally developed nano-ceramic coatings, they used a blend of silicone dioxide, SiO<sub>2</sub>, liquid Quartz. Speaking in general terms, the higher the SiO<sub>2</sub> percentage the higher the purity level, the harder the coating will cure, and the longer it will last.

Many of today's DIY ceramic protections are polymer-based sprays, which will bond to the vehicle surface, but do not have the hardness due to lack of SiO<sub>2</sub>.

There are also hybrid solutions, also typically sprays, that are a blend of SiO<sub>2</sub> and polymers, combined with traditional wax or synthetic wax.

Obviously, the best ceramic coatings are the ones with the most silicone dioxide. They are also the most expensive, the hardest to apply in a DIY setting, and the longest lasting. Products that contain 70 to 90% silicone dioxide will likely last two to three years. The products with 0 to 25% silicone dioxide will likely only last 2 to 6 months.

There are some additional things you should be aware of when you are choosing from the wide array of these products currently on the market. Some of the products can be used on all surfaces, some cannot. Picking one that can be used on all surfaces will enhance the chances for a successful DIY application. Some of these products come in standard packaging that requires two to three containers to do a full size four door sedan. Look closely at the manufacturers quantity recommendations before you make your choice. There are also some products that are environmentally sensitive (can't be applied above or below a certain temperature, or in the sunlight, etc.). Some products also have an increased cost of maintenance caused by the manufacturer's recommended use of such products as PH neutral wax-free maintenance shampoo, and the need for SiO<sub>2</sub> boost spray. Also, some of these products have an excessive cure time of 1 to 5 days when they cannot be exposed to water (an important consideration for a daily driver). Finally, a surprise to me, some of the products have an unpleasant odor requiring the products to be perfumed, or a mask to be worn during the application process. Research the high-end products thoroughly before you decide.

My conclusion is that the high-end products do add substantial value in terms of durability, beauty, and UV protection if properly applied. Keep in mind that some of this value comes from the paint correction process completed before the ceramic protection is applied and would also improve the performance of any wax, synthetic, or ceramic. At the lower end of the scale where the products are heavily polymer and hybrid based, it becomes harder to justify any significant increase in cost over a high-quality synthetic wax.

Finally, while doing the research for this article, I did review several professionally done independent product comparisons of ceramic protective coatings available on the market today. Based on those comparisons, you will find one high ranking, if not the best, product for each of the three product categories, nano-ceramic, polymer based and Hybrid spray products. If I were to purchase a product from each of these categories tomorrow these would be my choices.



Nano-ceramic: ArmorShield IX- by AvalonKing, \$69.99 for a Miata, 84% SiO<sub>2</sub>, 2-year life, available on the AvalonKing website only.

Polymer based: Mother's CMX Ceramic Spray, \$18.95, SiO<sub>2</sub> and TiO<sub>2</sub> plus polymers, two month life, available on the Internet and at local retailers.

Hybrid based: Turtle Wax Hybrid Solutions Ceramic Spray, \$14.97, SiO<sub>2</sub>, polymers, and silica nanoparticles, manufacturer says life is 1 year, available on the Internet and at local retailers.

If you are interested in ceramic coatings, I hope the above is useful to you.

*Dear MVMC Members,  
To you my gratitude for the comforting card you sent while recovering. It was one of the medications prescribed to me, and it arrived most timely.  
- Enrique Ellenbogen*

"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 Report 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter 2021

By Patti Purdin, outgoing Secretary-Treasurer

Beginning Balance	<b>\$3,799.57</b>	
Plus Income Dues	\$20.00	
Jeff Schmitt Sponsor	\$300.00	<b>\$4,119.57</b>
Less Expenses		
pizza Party	\$223.99	
Xmas Party	\$488.00	
Shop Day	\$48.88	
		<b>\$760.87</b>
Ending Balance		<b><u>\$3,358.70</u></b>
Sponsorship Account Balance	<b>\$500.07</b>	

## Items For Sale

Dianne and Dan Long offer a set of tires for sale

TIRES - Capital Sport UHP 205-145ZR16

Set of 4

Mounted on NB stock wheels

10,000 miles

Asking \$275

diane\_long@sbcglobal.net

Dan's cell - 937-238-9670

