
Miami Valley
Miata Club



THE WRIGHT ROADSTER

ZOOM-ZOOM

January 2017 Volume 29, Issue 1



The President's Corner

by Chuck Valley

Several years ago, I bought my first Miata, a red 1990 that still ran "OK", but needed some TLC. After I gave it a tune up, and had new exhaust and tires installed, it became a pleasure to sport around town and drive on the curvy country roads. The A/C didn't work, so on hot, sunny days I discovered "top up" for shade and all windows down (including the rear plastic window that zipped open). At cruising speed it was comfortable.

My NA was originally sold in August 1989 to a young Air Force captain at Eastgate Mazda in Beavercreek. The original owner having been transferred to McClellan AFB in sunny California, the Miata never saw an Ohio winter nor road salt and spent the next two decades there. In 2011 with 100,000 on the clock, the NA was given a new timing belt and was driven back to Ohio. I purchased the rust-free Miata, joined the Miami Valley Miata Club and drove the Miata until the Spring of 2014. I took care of the NA and made sure it never saw a salt laden road. The NA is a "driver's car" and driving it is best described as "feeling one with the car".

We now enjoy a 2010 NC which is quite an upgrade from the 1990 NA. I recently added a touch screen Receiver/DVD for our longer road trips.

When Pat and I joined the club, we knew we'd get out of it what we put into it. Pat volunteered as Membership Chair and I volunteered to be nominated VP in the summer of 2015 and took office the following January. I knew VP was a 'learning year' to prepare to assume the title of club president the following year, 2017. Pat and I became very active in the MVMC Board and volunteered to host several drives as we had in previous years. But I also coordinated with the Kramers on the 1st Annual MVMC Weenie Roast & Bonfire and the Drive & Lick Ice Cream Run. We volunteer because we get great enjoyment from doing so. We both try to serve as an example to other members.

Coming into the presidency, I look forward to working with an outstanding MVMC Board. I believe my continued desire to create a "funner" club with some additional new activities for members to enjoy, and my experience working with board members with varied opinions has well prepared me for this role.

Thanks for allowing me to serve as your new MVMC President. Let's all look to have even more fun in 2017!

Chuck Valley, President
Miami Valley Miata Club

2016 Membership Recap

By Pat Valley, Membership Director



The Miami Valley Miata Club had 86 active members in 2015 and 80 in 2016. Of the 80, 13 were new members for 2016: Mike & Gail Allen, Frank & Penny Brewster, Byron Ditmer, Aram & Lisa Donigian, Enrique & Ruth Ellenbogen, Calvin & Bonnie Hebert, Susan & Frank Hubbell, Richard & Susan Kogler, Mike Minardi, Jeff Monnier (rejoined) & Carla Smith, Patti Purdin, Tom Purkey & Mary Herman, and Linnya Richardson. Overall, we've done a good job recruiting and maintaining a good core of members.

Remember, **every** member can recruit new folks! If you spot a Miata without a Club sticker, you can leave a Club card on the windshield. Ed Kramer spotted our red '90 at the auto parts store nearly five years ago, left a business card on our windshield, struck up a little conversation, and the rest is history! You can see me to get a supply of MVMC business cards.

Unfortunately, we lost two members this year: Ginny Kramer and Karen Maas. In addition, numerous members had serious illnesses or surgeries. Please keep them and their families in your thoughts and prayers.

As a reminder, membership renewals are due **NOW!** Don't risk losing access to the members-only portion of the website, Facebook page, exclusive discounts at Jeff Schmitt, access to our technical experts, members-only Drive & Dines, Meet & Greet and more.

If you're not one of the 37 members that have already renewed, send in \$20 to:

Pat Valley, 2000 Deer Hollow Trail, Xenia, OH 45385. Please make checks payable to: **Miami Valley Miata Club.**

I'm looking forward to my second year as Membership Chair, and will continue to assist everyone in recruiting new members, acting as liaison with the rest of the Board, and keeping all members in touch with all the great events we have planned for the year.



INVITE NEW MEMBERS!

Annual Dues are \$20.00, January through December

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

Meet & Greet January

Date: Tuesday, January 17, 2017 - 6:30pm

Meet & Greet at [Fricker's Huber Heights](#)

6280 Chambersburg Road,

Huber Heights, Ohio 45424



Executive Committee Meeting January

Date: Tuesday, January 10, 2017 – 5:30pm

Panera Bread

6130 Wilmington Pike

Dayton, Ohio 45459

New Members who joined in 2016

Mike & Gail Allen

Frank & Penny Brewster

Byron Ditmer

Aram & Lisa Donigian

Enrique & Ruth Ellenbogen

Calvin & Bonnie Hebert

Susan & Frank Hubbell

Richard & Susan Kogler

Mike Minardi

Jeff Monnier & Carla Smith

Patti Purdin

Tom Purkey & Mary Herman

Linnya Richardson

January Birthdays

1/5 Ruth Ellenbogen

1/14 Kathleen Lach

1/17 Dianne Long

1/19 Jean Zlocki

1/26 Chuck White

1/27 Chris Vollmer

REMINDER TO RETURNING MEMBERS

The annual membership fee of \$20 is due January 1. Some leeway will be granted but membership privileges will be revoked if the fee is not delivered within a reasonable time, including participation in club events and access to the Members' Only webpage.

OUR CLUB SPONSOR

Jeff Schmitt Mazda



RALLY REPORT: Drives and Activities for 2017

by Roger Gordon



New year's greetings to ye good Miata owners from the newly anointed Rally master.

I had no clear idea of the duties of this post - but they are listed in the club bylaws (here: <http://miamivalleymiatclub.org/documents>), and the part I think that is important to me is this:

"The Rally Master will actively recruit members to act as hosts for these road events, will follow up with members who volunteer to host these events to ensure planning is on track . . ."

To me, the key words are "actively recruit". We have several members who, year after year, step up and volunteer to lead a club event and for that we are grateful, but we need to be having new folks step forward constantly. So, I plan in the coming year to be requesting, cajoling, and haranguing members to come up with ideas and host an event. As your new Rally Master, I will also hope to present potential events to host and will be happy to assist volunteers in making their event a success.

No event is expected to be perfect and most of us that will join your event will be extremely forgiving of problems and oversights. Just make sure you provide great weather for your event!!

So, please be thinking about possible events/trips for us in the coming year. ALSO, I hope to spearhead a project to get the details of past events stored online available to all members. This will enable anyone to use a past event and either host it exactly as before or use it as a starting point for something new.

If you have ideas for events, please let me know of them directly or bring them up in a meeting for discussion.

Let's get those ideas coming!

ANNUAL PLANNING MEETING

DATE: Saturday, January 28, 2017

TIME: 9:00am – 12:00pm

LOCATION: Parkview United Methodist Church
3713 Benner Road
Miamisburg, Ohio 45342

**Members planning to attend, please RSVP to
Chuck Valley at charles.valley@yahoo.com for a
headcount for coffee and donuts**

Bring us your ideas for events and activities for the coming year

2016 Christmas Party – Post Party Report

by Fred Hoppel



It was a warm sunny day this Fall, while taking a break from mowing grass at Parkview UMC in Miamisburg, when I got the call from the President of the Miami Valley Miata Club. Our President, David Berry, asked if I could head up the 2016 Christmas Party. I had prepared for this moment since I joined the Club in 2013 by helping with the MVMC Christmas Party in 2013 (headed by Steve Hayden), 2014 (headed by Rick Lach), and 2015 (headed by Tim Howard). I accepted the assignment with little to no hesitation as I was just happy to be alive and well, given my earlier diagnosis of lung cancer and surgery in the last quarter of 2015.

We started our preparation for the 2016 Christmas Party at the October Meet and Greet at Jeff Schmitt Mazda. Rick and Kathleen Lach conducted a survey of the membership present and it was determined we would go with City Barbecue pulled chicken and pulled pork for our meat entree. It was also determined from the survey that we would forgo the singing of Christmas carols, and would also forgo doing an ice breaker game. The members decided to continue with the Chinese Gift Exchange wherein members could participate by bringing a \$15 gift (one gift per car or one gift per person). It was also decided we would collect gloves, hats, mittens, scarfs and/or socks for the decoration of a Charity Tree. These items would be given to the St. Vincent Homeless Shelter after the party.

On Saturday, December 3rd we held our Christmas Party gathering at the New Carlisle Sportsman's Club as arranged with Pat Gould and Lee Korb. This location has been an excellent site for our gathering in past years (2013-2015), and 2016 was no exception. We had 48 persons come out for this year's Christmas gathering, and had lots food, drink, and desserts. The Chinese Gift Exchange, as in past years, provided a good source of entertainment and laughter. Participants appeared to be more subdued in this year's gift exchange with fewer persons stealing the gifts of other participants. At the end of our gathering, Rick and Kathleen Lach took the leftover food and gifts to the St. Vincent Homeless Shelter.

The 2016 MVMC Christmas Party was attended by the following members, their spouse, or guests: Mike & Gail Allen, Bill Bateman & Guest, **Dave & Peggy Berry**, **Tim & Mary Anne Blazer**, Dale & Debbie Burnside, Enrique & Ruth Ellenbogen, Roger & Jeanne Gordon, **Pat Gould & Lee Korb**, Paul Haller, Leslie & Allan Harris, Calvin & Bonnie Hebert, **Fred & Jayna Hoppel**, **Tim Howard**, **Rick & Kathleen Lach**, Dan & Dianne Long, Mike Mardis & Guest, Steve Meyer & Theresa Strausbaugh, Byron & Skeeter Pettit, Patti Purdin, Tommy and Gina Seay, **Chuck & Pat Valley**, Jon & JoAnne Vincent, Chris & Donna Vollmer, Mike Wheeler, Darden & Debbie Whitaker, Tony & Jeanne Zlocki.

Most of the above-named persons helped with setting up, tearing down and/or cleaning up. Those persons who made a significant contribution to the 2016 Christmas Party have been bold printed. I am very much thankful for all of the help I received from our members.



Meet your new Vice President



I'd like to introduce myself. My name is Tony Zlocki, your new Vice President, and I would like to give you a brief bio and my introduction to the wonderful world of Miatas. The very first one I saw was at my son's friend's house. The dad had just bought one and couldn't wait to show it to me. It was a red NA and we spent an afternoon and some adult beverages exploring the features of the new vehicle. I made a mental note to get one a.s.a.p., but kids, mortgages, and life in general got in the way. I'd see one on the highway from time to time and think, "there goes a lucky guy (or gal)". Time passed, and after a series of lucky breaks, we wound up in Dayton as grandparents of two great kids and my association with the Miami Valley Miata Club. The original ride was a red NA similar to my friend's car, but that has been upgraded to a Liquid Silver GT NC. That car has met my expectations for a good combination of performance, handling, and safety.

Chuck Valley and I are looking forward to a memorable time and many fun events in the upcoming months.

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/>

10TH ANNUAL JOYCE HILL MEMORIAL 'POLAR BEAR RUN'

By Paul Haller



It was another great day for the 'Run', but the 'Polar' weather was once again way too warm. Yes, December 31st, 2016 was a perfect day for going to the beach (low 40's, sun at the beginning, plenty of wind, no snow, and the rain held off until later in the evening). I'm sure Joyce Hill was looking down upon us thinking why the 'Runs' over the last few years weren't freezing like the ones she hosted. Twenty-one cars and 33 intrepid members showed up, fought the very strong winds that made it so difficult for the waiver to be signed, and then had a very uneventful drive (*we've just got to find out this year if we really have to have a waiver for every event*). But I digress. The drive started from the UD/Dayton Public Schools football stadium, headed north on I-75 to the route 35 exit to Eaton, on 35 through New Lebanon, down to and through Germantown, on 725 through Miamisburg proper, and finishing through the Dayton Mall area at the Golden Corral.

Thanks to everyone for doing the drive and who experienced another clear-weather day. Once in the cars, and mostly out of the wind, another great turnout, another cool-looking caravan. Man, that wind at UD's stadium was amazing, but, once in the cars - tops down, windows up, heaters on, gloves on, well layered = comfortable as always.



As always, we experienced a few separations and this year I chose the more-populated Dayton Mall route in order to provide more casual observers the opportunity to see the caravan and ask themselves, what in the world is wrong with those people with their tops down – they must be crazy? Thanks once again to Dave and Peggy Berry for being the caravan caboose and to Chuck and Pat Valley being the mid-caravan communication position. As for the Golden Corral, I think the paying up front process, as opposed to the standard of paying afterward, is definitely an easy process. It appeared that everyone found plenty of food to their liking at the very reasonable price of \$11.00 per (seniors in our group paid about \$8.00).



As I say every year, I can't wait until next year's 'Run' – it sure is fun looking at the faces of those along the way. And you know that Joyce was looking down with that big smile on her face. Thank you again, Joyce, for initiating an event that is so highly anticipated and very much enjoyed every New Year's Eve.

It sure is fun to organize an event that is so popular – thanks to all of you who joined the 2016 'Run'. Mark your calendar now for Sunday, December 31, for the 2017 Polar Bear.



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

By: Ed Kramer and Tim Howard



Our 'new administration' has requested that Tim and I give an explanation of ourselves and what we do as "tech directors".

Let me first state that it's all Tim's fault.

After the passing of Forrest Gwinn, my long-time shop companion, in 2012, I was pretty well burned out as tech director. Along comes Tim, with his Monster Miata, and the fire was rekindled. Tim was instrumental in setting up a 'Shop Day' for members to come out and work on their cars with our supervision and the help of other club members. The shop itself has a car lift and "enough" tools to take care of most repairs (if there is a tool we don't have, we buy it). 'The shop' is truly unique among car clubs. What has evolved over the past few years has been amazing. Folks coming out with projects having the satisfaction of; "I did it myself" plus saving a few bucks. The most rewarding part of our Shop Day is the comradery that has developed with the regulars who attend, whom I affectionately refer to as our "Wizards and Oracles of all things mechanical". As spring approaches, Tim and I will once again look forward to opening the shop to new projects and friends. Remember, it's not just about the cars.

THE SHOP:

- Located just outside Spring Valley (3217 Houston Rd. Waynesville 45068)
- Season - April 26 through November 2
- Shop is open about every other Thursday Call to confirm or request to be added to our e-mail list.
- Hours are from 10:00 to Beer:thirty (when we've had enough fun for one day).
- The shop is not profit oriented, however to cover expenses;
 - Most floor projects are done without charge with the help of our crew.
 - Jobs requiring the use of the lift will be charged \$20.00 per hour
 - Projects requiring specialized labor from Tim or myself will be charged at a rate of \$20.00 per hour.
- I also offer limited winter storage for Miatas.
- Also offered is winter/summer wheel storage.
- Inspection and evaluation of your car or a possible new purchase are free to all members



Treasurer Report for Period Ending December 31, 2016

by Fred Hoppel

Bank Balance as of December 31, 2015	\$3,219.81
Funds Deposited to Account in 2016 *	<u>\$4,652.00</u>
Total Funds Available	\$7,871.81
Less	
Expenditures Drawn on the Account in 2016	<u>\$4,283.38</u>
Bank Balance as of December 31, 2016	\$3,588.43

Footnote:

* Includes Sponsorship Funds of \$300 for 2015 that were not received and deposited into the account until the latter part of January 2016 and includes Membership Funds of \$560 for 2017 which were received and deposited in December 2016. The deposit of \$726 relating to the Golden Lamb Drive and Dine was an in and out transaction. The net effect of all three transactions overstates Revenue for 2016 by \$1,586 when compared to prior periods. A more detailed accounting for 2016 will be provided in the Newsletter for February 2017.



"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)."



Questions, comments, or suggestions regarding the newsletter?

Forward to:

David Berry, Newsletter Editor

dinglebe@hotmail.com