



THE WRIGHT ROADSTER

ZOOM-ZOOM

NOVEMBER Volume 27, Issue 11



The President's Corner *By Tim Howard*

On a personal level, November is going to be a big month for the Howard's. In fact, it is going to be one of the biggest in quite some time. The day after Thanksgiving, our daughter gets married! It is a second marriage, and we couldn't be happier about the choice that she has made. Most of the preparatory work is done at this point, but I am sure that some last minute emergencies will arise. At this point, hopefully what we have left to experience is the really good part. In addition to the wedding, we have family coming in from out of town and we will get to have Thanksgiving dinner with them for the first time in years. It should be quite a happy time in our lives. Our daughter in a good relationship, and some quality time spent with our family, and really close long- time friends.

From the Club's perspective, we still have several really nice driving events scheduled during the remaining months of 2015, and we still have two significant challenges. If you attended the October Meet & Greet at Jeff Schmitt's Mazda, you know that, due to health concerns, Fred Hoppel has withdrawn his name form nomination for Rally Master in 2016. That is a real blow to us, as Fred has been a great Rally Master in 2015, and we really looked forward to his continuing contribution in 2016. Despite that, we certainly understand his decision and wish him the best of luck with his personal health issues. At the time of this writing, no one else has come forward to put their name in nomination for the Rally Master's position in 2016.

If, as you examine your talents and available time in 2016, you determine that you might have an interest in serving the Club in this capacity, please contact either Dave Berry or me. I believe that this can be a fun and fulfilling position, and I might say that there is much support available for the Rally Master both from the Club's files as well as from the Board and membership.

Our second challenge is leadership for the 2015 Christmas Party. This has become a critical issue as the party is only four or five weeks away. Last year was my first time to attend, and I thought that it was a really nice, well attended, worthwhile event. As such, with the help of the Board and numerous people that have volunteered to help, I have decided to act as organizer for this event.

I will be sending out an official event announcement to the membership within the next few days including all of the specific details. Hopefully as a team we will be able to replicate the joyous holiday event that the Lach's orchestrated last year.



CHRISTMAS PARTY

Saturday, December 5, 2015 - 6:30pm

MVMC 2016 Board Nominations

President: Dave Berry
Vice President: Chuck Valley
Membership Chair: Pat Valley
News Letter Chair: Rosemary Clark
Web Master: Elizabeth Kline
Technical Directors:
Tim Howard
Ed Kramer

Rally Master: ??????
Treasurer: Russ Loughlin



Jeff Schmitt Auto Group is our club sponsor

MVMC's Part of this Association

Owner/CEO: Jeff Schmitt

Sales Manager: Kris Mcneal

Parts Manager: Dave Potts

Service Manager: Matt Valiante

Financial Support: \$100/month

Jeff Schmitt will provide a meeting room for a Meet-n-Greet upon request

Oil Change: \$5.00 discount

Parts and accessories: Cost + 20%

All service: 10% discount

Special sales deals on new vehicles, contact sales manager for details

Members must show name badge or vehicle decal to obtain discounts

Provide club promo material for dealership

Provide link on our Webpage to their website

Provide full page ad in the Wright Roadster

Patronize Jeff Schmitt for our parts, service, and new car needs

Invite Jeff Schmitt personnel to participate in club events

Invoice Jeff Schmitt quarterly for monthly cash donation in arrears

Refer non club members to Jeff Schmitt for Mazda, Cadillac, Mitsubishi, Chevrolet, & Nissan needs

OUR CLUB SPONSOR

Jeff Schmitt Mazda



RALLY REPORT

by Fred Hoppel



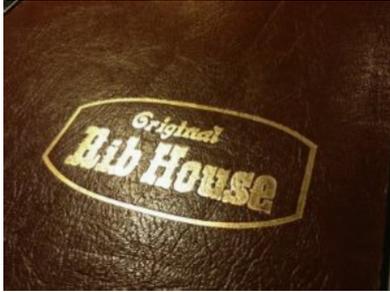
Planning Drives and Activities for 2015

FPHoppel@Aol.com.



Upcoming Drives and Events

MEET & GREET



The November 17 Meet & Greet at the Original Rib House is just around the corner. And it is one of the year's most important, for two reasons:

It's the last Meet & Greet of 2015 (only the Christmas Party remains)

It's the time and place for election of club officers for 2016

When: Tuesday, November 17, 2015 (5:30pm - 8:00pm)

Where: The Original Rib House, 275 E. National Road, Vandalia, Ohio 45377

The Original Rib House has been around for quite a while, and although its decor might remind you of something out of a 1960's movie, the cooks still know how to turn a spoon. The bill of fare runs from BBQ ribs (of course) and chicken, to steaks and some very good sandwiches (your VP's favorite is the broasted pork tenderloin).

Website: <http://www.theoriginalribhouse.com>

Special Event: The election of Miami Valley Miata Club officers for 2016 will take place at the Meet & Greet. Your attendance and participation are much desired.

Special Announcement: As of this writing, the club remains lacking a candidate for the position of Rally Master for 2016. This is a very important office, as the Rally Master serves as chief inspirer, encourager, and assister (sorry if those read like made-up words) to the membership in planning and carrying out events. We don't ever expect the Rally Master to lead all of the events, moreso to guide those who wish to. So PLEASE, take the club's interest to heart, and approach Tim Howard or Dave Berry if you would be interested in serving. We would be happy to speak with you at anytime before the meeting, or as we arrive at the restaurant.

The **Wright Roadster** is the official newsletter of the Miami Valley Miata Club. Subscriptions are available as part of membership in the club. Archived issues, membership applications and additional club information may be found on the club website, miamivalleymiatclub.org, or contact the membership officer. For more information, contact the editor.

Advertising- There is no charge for members to advertise Miata related items and services.

Disclaimer: *Any information obtained herein is used strictly at the reader's own risk. The MVMC, its officers, and anybody else are not liable for any of the material you read about and try to accomplish, which may void your warranty and/or damage your toy. Just because you read it does not mean it works.*

2015 Miami Valley Miata Club Christmas Party



What: 2015 Miami Valley Miata Club Christmas Party

When: December 5, 2015 at 6:00 pm

Where: The New Carlisle Sportsman's Club
1475 Folk Ream Road, Springfield, Ohio 45504

Why: To celebrate the holiday season with the friends that we have made in the MVMC, have a lot of fun, a good meal and, in the spirit of the Season, make a contribution to a worthwhile local charity.

6:00 to 6:45 Sign-in, Charity tree decoration, pot luck delivery, Ice breaker

6:45 to 7:30 Dinner

7:30 to 7:45 Brief Club Business Meeting

7:45 to ??? "Chinese" Gift Exchange

How: With a great deal of Holiday Spirit, comaredarie, and good will toward men. Please respond to Tim Howard by November 27th at tghcc@woh.rr.com or 937-439-3942 if you plan to attend.

Note: If it happens to snow, as it sometimes does at Christmas, don't stay home ... we have made arrangements for snow removal at the Sportsman's Club. Those that attended the October Meet & Greet at Jeff Schmitt's in October know that the Lach's surveyed the attendees to learn their preferences for things like food and activities at the 2015 Christmas Party.

The results of the survey are as follows:

Food: Participants will bring either a salad, dessert, or side dish, and the Club will provide both meat and meatless lasagna as the main course and drinks of course.

Music: The overwhelming preference is not to have group singing. There will be prerecorded Christmas music during various portions of the evenings activities.

Games: There will be an ice breaker game played before dinner is served.

Gifts: After dinner there will be a "Chinese" Gift Exchange with a gift limit of \$15.00. Participants can choose if they would like to participate with one gift per car or one gift per person.

Charity: The Club will continue the tradition of celebrating the season with the less fortunate by decorating our tree with gloves, mittens, hats, scarfs, and socks that will be donated to the Saint Vincent Homeless Shelter at the conclusion of the party.

CONSIDER BECOMING THE 2016 RALLY MASTER

Here are the duties based on our bylaws:

The Rally Master shall be responsible for educating new members on hosting Club road activities such as, but not limited to, Drive n Dines, caravan drives, and road rallies. 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 and that promotion pieces are provided for the Club newsletter, will provide timely details to the Webmaster to update the website Events database, keep the Newsletter Editor appraised of events, make mass Email promotions to members on upcoming road events, and will award Event Pins to those members who host a road event, seminar, maintenance event, etc.

Tail of the “Lizard”

What better way to spend a Saturday in October than winding up and down the back roads of Ohio in the fall!? We are so pleased that so many were able to take a day to join us in the pursuit of colorful fall foliage, scenic roads, and just hanging out with other club members!

Thank you Chris and Donna Vollmer, Denis and Berta Loyer, Chuck and Chris White, George Wetmore, Bill Bateman, Flash and his friend, Marita, Chuck and Pat Valley, Dale Burnside, Mike and Marybeth Smith, Tom and Gina Seay, Tony and Jeanne Zlocki, Paul Haller, Jim and Neva Hufford, David Berry and his son, Ryan, Fred and Jayna Hoppel, Russ and Dianne Loughlin, Roger and Jeanne Gordon, Dardon and Debbie Whitaker, Steve Meyer and Theresa, Rick and Kathleen Lach, and Joe and Anne Talafous for sharing this day with us!

The “Lizard”(13 miles with 100+ curves) didn't fail to catch our attention yet again. Such a pretty road with it's dips and turns and exploring Chicken Hollow Road was an added bonus!



We'll save Suck Run, Fishing Gut and Slickaay roads for another time! I hope those who took pictures were able to get them in this newsletter!

Temperatures in the 60's, 23 cars (including 3 OTM'), beautiful Ohio fall colors, lunch overlooking the scenic Ohio River sure trumps a Pit Stop closed because of a power outage, a backed up kitchen, a bit of unexpected construction, and a few missed turns. We hope!

Pat and Bonnie Sturgeon

"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)."



PHOTOS:

Selections from Chuck White photo album on Facebook

" Tail of the Lizard"





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

By Tim Howard

Over the past few weeks, I have been working on the Monster Miata to enhance the appearance of the engine compartment using a metal polishing technique that I learned years ago while building kit cars. It all started innocently enough when I decided to remove the air conditioning compressor which had never been hooked up, and I have never missed. My logic was if it doesn't work and I don't miss it, why not take 25 pounds off of the front of the car. So, I set about the removal and manufacture of a replacement pulley that would maintain the existing serpentine belt configuration. Now, this is where I went wrong. I decided that it would be a good idea to polish a decorative aluminum plate that was part of the replacement part that I made. Once I had done that, I thought that stainless steel nuts and bolts would really go better with the polished part, so I bought some. While I was admiring my work, I observed, as did some of the wizards at Ed's shop, that the shiny parts on one side of the engine compartment looked kind of lonely. That caused me to come home and polish the aluminum radiator. That was an improvement, but still wasn't right. At that point, one of the wizards suggested that the belt tensioning device needed to be polished. I reluctantly admitted that the comment was valid, so I came home, removed the offending part and polished it. It was at that point that it struck me that maybe this could work as a Shop Talk article. It also explains why there are no "before pictures". Below you will find a picture of the engine compartment as it stands today. What bothers me now is that the valve covers and fuel injection unit are starting to look a little shabby.



If you happen to have some aluminum parts on your engine that would look better shiny, the process is really very simple and might lend its self to completion over the winter when most Miatas are out of daily use. The tools that I used are an electric drill with a buffing wheel, a Dremel tool with a grinding tool and a buffing wheel, several grades of sand paper (120, 180, 600, and 1000 grit), Meguair's Metal Polish and some chrome polish. The process is simple. Take the part to be polished, grind off any unsightly mold parting lines, smooth those areas with progressively finer sand paper, 120 thru 1000, and then polish with The Meguair's polish until you achieve a consistent polished surface. The final step is to polish the part with Chrome

polish or automotive wax. Three cautions are appropriate. Sand the part until few or no sanding marks are visible on the surface. Wear rubber gloves as the polish creates a very black slurry. Spread a thin layer of polish on the part, and the begin polishing at a slow speed with the polishing wheel touching the surface of the part or you will spray the black slurry over yourself and everything around you. Please contact me if you would like to try this and you feel that you need more information.

Fall Foliage At Deals Gap

It was a nice day when 5 Miatas and a Mustang left the Springboro Bob Evans for the trip to the Highland Manor Inn at Townsend Tennessee. As a change of pace the group used Family Radio System (FRS) Radios to stay in touch rather than the usual CBs and I think it worked out well. That might be a suggestion for future trips. After a rest stop or two including lunch we headed south out of Knoxville where we were met on the road by Sally Morgan, the events coordinator of the Mountain Miatas of East Tennessee. Sally would act as our Hostess and area guide throughout most of the weekend. And to typify that Sally lead us to our hotel using back roads and curvy routes that were just the beginning of a really nice weekend. Two more miatas from the club joined us later that afternoon. Upon opening the door to our hotel rooms on Friday morning we were greeted by heavy fog. It didn' bode well for the trip over the Foothills Parky to begin the run on the Tail of the Dragon. As I mentioned throughout the time leading up to the trip, this drive was all about the scenery and not an attempt to set any speed records. We were not disappointed! Once on the Foothills the fog began to burn off and we stopped at one of the turnouts that seemed to be above the clouds. Looking back at the mountains in the distance was a magnificent site and a clear indication why these are called the Smoky Mountains. We had timed our departure to arrive on the Dragon before the traffic buildup but after the commercial photographers set up for the day. It worked out perfectly as we made the run through the Tail of the Dragon without any law enforcement nannies monitoring our passage. Once on the North Carolina side of the route we stopped for breakfast, photographs and souvenir shopping at the Deals Gap Campground and restaurant as well as the Killboy.com facility across the street.

From there it was great roads and colorful scenery all the way over to Tellico Plains TN with a stop for lunch and then back to Townsend for dinner later that evening. Getting to Tellico Plains involved a route that took us up to the Fontana Dam, out the backway through Fontana Village, over some little used but fabulous back roads, and through the



Joyce Kilmer National Forest just to get to the Cherohala Skyway along with a stop at Bald River Falls! The drive included a few wrong turns but it was a beautiful adventure. The color was great and varied depending on your elevation. The best color was at the mid-levels of the mountains but even the green was pretty.



PHOTOS BY: Sally Morgan
" Our Mountain Miatas members
really enjoyed sharing the
Saturday event with you "

The next day we joined up with the Mountain Miatas of East Tennessee for one of their trips with a destination of the McCloud Mountain Resort well north of Knoxville. To get there, the club had planned a drive through the Devils Triangle and even though it was a rainy day, it seemed the Miatas stayed in the one break in the rain and had a great, dry run on a really nice scenic road. McCloud Mountain is a privately owned mountain with security on the bottom and some fantastic views of the surrounding areas up top. We wound our way to an area called the Sky Walk that was built out over the abyss and had some more group photos taken followed by a great lunch at a really nice venue. All in all this was a really great trip and we owe Sally Morgan a great deal for showing us her beloved mountains and roadways. From what I heard, the talk seemed to be that October beats July by a landslide! Same time next year? I' in!

