

Miami Valley
Miata Club



THE WRIGHT ROADSTER

ZOOM-ZOOM

March 2024 Volume 36, Issue 3

The President's Corner

by Chuck Valley



This has been a crazy winter! One day temps are in the 60s and sunny and the next day it's in the 30s with snow, dipping into the 20s at night, and let's not talk about the wind chill effect! After the big storm and tornadoes in the Miami Valley a few days ago, and now another cool down, we're seeing a gradual warm up again that may reach the lower 70s next Monday. This rapid up and down temperature swing creates unstable air and usually produces some big thunderstorms. As we get into March, we can expect more of the same in temperature swings, nice days to get the Miata out of the garage, then days when you wish you could get your Miata out on the road. Good news though as April usually brings more consistent sunny days and the MVMC Event Calendar has some promising Miata-related events on the horizon.

If you were fortunate to carve a few hours Saturday, February 10th to participate in the Virtual Rally hosted by Dave Berry at Dan and Norma Kirkpatrick's home, you enjoyed some great food, great comradery, and a chance to win some nice prizes! I played remotely and got 38 of the 70 questions answered correctly. Not enough to win anything, but it was challenging and fun.

Remember, the March 19th Meet & Greet will be at Fricker's, Chambersburg Rd. Huber Heights. Be sure to look at any upcoming events in this newsletter as we show three months out. If you want to see what's planned throughout the year, go to the MVMC website: miamivalleymiataclub.org.

Chuck Valley, President
Miami Valley Miata Club

Mazda
ON THE WEB Links of interest:

MVMC GROUP FACEBOOK PAGE:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/300608016771949/>

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/>

Miami Valley Miata Club Officers for 2024

 President Chuck Valley	 Secretary-Treasurer Pat Valley
 Vice President Vacant	 Technical Director Tim Howard
 Membership Director Gina Seav	 Newsletter Editor Dave Berry
 Rally Master L. Calvin (Clyde) Hebert	 Webmaster Christy Haynes

MVMC 2024 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
Mar 19	Meet & Greet	MVMC Officers	Fricker's, Huber Heights, OH
Mar 23	Halderman Mustang Museum	TBA	Tipp City, OH
Apr 13	Spring Shop Day	Tim Howard, Ed Walker, Randy Mott	Mott Farm, Casstown, OH
Apr 16	Meet & Greet	MVMC Officers	Archer's Tavern, Kettering, OH
Apr 20	Wolf Sanctuary/Wick's Pies Drive & Dine	Tony & Jeanne Zlocki	Winchester, IN
Apr 27	American Sign Museum	Chuck Valley	Cincinnati, OH
May 4	Burger Burn/Picnic	MVMC Officers	TBA
May 18	Valley Vineyards Drive	Gail & Mike Allen	Morrow, OH
May 21	Meet & Greet	MVMC Officers	Bennett's Pubical, Miamisburg, OH

From the Membership Desk

By Gina Seay
Membership Director

We added no new members in February.

We wish the following members happy birthday in March:

March Birthdays

Gail Allen, Mary Anne Blazer, Frank Hubbel, Darden Whitaker, Patricia Purdin, Joanne Vincent, Susan Cain, Chet Hallett

Happy Birthday!

New Members for 2024

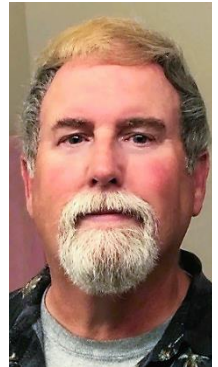
Julie Green
Peter & Christal Kronbergs

WELCOME

Miami Valley Miata Club Member Profiles

Meet Your President – Chuck Valley – Member Since 2012

Chuck drives a 2008 PRHT Stormy Blue Mica Miata. He bought his Miata because it is the greatest engineered and affordable sports car! His best memory is the first fall foliage trip to Tennessee and driving the Tail of the Dragon. Chuck also spends time playing Pickleball, RC Aircraft, occasionally playing golf and piloting Cessna 172s



Meet Bill Bateman – Member since 2009

Bill drives a 2008 True Red Miata. This is Bill's third Miata, cannot beat its handling and low maintenance. Bill also owned a 1960 TR3, had 3 MG's, and an Alpha Spyder. Bill's best adventures are driving the Tail of the Dragon and the Devil's Triangle with the Miata Club. Bill has been collecting beer cans since 1965 and now has 1500 cans that are all different. Wow!



"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 for February 2024

By Pat Valley, Secretary-Treasurer

Income and expenses for the month of February:

Income: \$100.00
Expenses: \$180.30
Bank Bal: \$3518.36

Income is from memberships. Expenses are from the Virtual Rally.

REMINDER: 2024 membership dues need to be paid now, in order to remain active in the Club.

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: MVMX-5 CLUB.

From the Rally Master

Spring is right around the corner and that means getting out and driving with the MVMC. So far we have a very limited number of scheduled drives, so I'm asking members to get involved and plan some drives. Now would be a good time to plan and set up a route. I have numerous route sheets from previous drives, covered bridge routes, drives to Morrow and drives in the area. Please give me a call or text and I will send you some of those route sheets (why reinvent the wheel?). We're out to drive and have a good time.

There is a scheduled drive on the 23rd of March to Halderman Mustang museum. I don't have any details right now, but I will send info out once I get it.

Thank you,
Clyde Hebert, Rally Master
937-657-6294
Lhebert2019@gmail.com



2024 Virtual Rally

By Dave Berry

Off-roading in a 1959 Rolls Royce Silver Cloud? Who would dare such impudence?!

Well, Sam Freeman (Ron Howard) and Paula Powers (Nancy Morgan) did just that in our movie for this year's Virtual Rally – "Grand Theft Auto" (1977). Paula wanted to marry Sam, a humble college student. But no, her wealthy parents, Bigby and Priscilla Powers, insisted that she marry Collins Hedgeworth, a snobby rich boy. Having been banished to her room by her overbearing father, Paula slips out and steals his precious Rolls Royce, picks up Sam at the bottom of the driveway, and they proceed on a mad dash for Las Vegas and a waiting wedding chapel. Soon a pack of goons hired by Bigby, the jilted rich boy, his mother, a preacher, a cop, two seedy mechanics and sundry others are in pursuit of them and a rich reward, egged on by an opportunistic radio DJ. The chase leaves the highway into the Mojave desert – on dirt roads and no roads – as the young couple evade their pursuers. You can guess the action – lots of crashes, mayhem, and close calls – until they finally reach Vegas and wedded bliss.



The Virtual Rally returned to Dan and Norma Kirkpatrick's downstairs game and entertainment space, and ground floor living room, for the players' challenge of trying to answer as many questions, and score as many points, as possible while watching the movie chosen by the Virtual Rally Master.

Thanks again to Dan and Norma for allowing us to hold the event in their home, and for providing meatballs and BBQ weenies (and more) for us to munch. And thanks to all the participants for bringing more eats of various types to share. The food was oh, so good!



**1st Prize - Dashcam –
to Chris and Donna Vollmer**



**2nd Place - Portable Inflator –
to Lee Korb and Pat Gould**



**3rd Place - Miata Generations Mug
- to Mike Wheeler and
Tammy House**

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

By Tim Howard



The recent spurt of warm weather caused me to think about things I might want to do to my Miata before the start of driving season. Although the top on my 2013 is still in excellent condition, it's not quite as dark as it was when I bought it. Winter is a good time to spruce it up with a new coat of top dye. Not only does it make the top look better, but it helps to protect and preserve a part of the car that is very expensive to replace. If you feel competent enough to do it yourself, you could likely replace your top for around \$500.00 and a couple of days work. If

you pay someone competent to do it for you, it will likely cost in the range of \$1000.00 to \$1500.00. Given all that, I have always thought that it was important to go the extra mile in terms of top maintenance. I am sure that many Miatas have been sold because they needed a new top.

All you need to get started is a day that it is warm enough to be outside or in the garage, a small paint brush (1 inch is adequate), some top dye, tape, and paper or sheet plastic to cover the parts of the car you don't want to touch with dye. If you are careful, you can do this job without masking off the parts of the car that you don't want treated, I have done it both ways, but why take the chance when you only need to mask a limited area near the top.

If you decide to refresh your top, you must first determine if your convertible top is made of canvas or vinyl cloth. That will determine the type of top dressing you need to acquire. Vinyl dressing will not work on a cloth top and vice versa. I have used several brands over the years, and they have all done an acceptable job. My personal favorite was Renovo, which I purchased from the internet, but it was also the most expensive. If you have a black top, you can likely go to your local auto parts store and purchase an acceptable product at a reasonable price. If your top is other than black, you might need to look at a high-end company like Renovo that offers a broader selection of colors.

Assuming you are ready to proceed, the first step is to thoroughly wash your top and then wait until it is completely dry. The next step is to mask off any areas adjacent to the top where you think you might drip or splash some dye. Keep in mind that dye is only slightly thicker than water, so it is easy to drip and splash. I usually start with the top unlatched, and slightly raised so I have access to the very bottom of the back of the top that is below the body line and normally not visible. I start here for several reasons. First, because I want to treat the whole top and I don't want there to be a visible line between treated and untreated areas. Secondly, because this gives me a non-visible area where I can practice loading the brush and stroking it on in a way that provides good coverage without drips and runs. Take it from one who knows, if you get too much on the back of the top it will drain down to the drip rail at the bottom and eventually out the drain underneath the car and you will end up with a black spot on your garage floor.

When you are confident that you have mastered the technique required to get full coverage without getting too much dye on the top, it is time to move on to the remainder of the top. The approach is to paint from one side to the other trying to leave a wet edge. I usually try to leave the wet edge as I move forward where there is either a seam or a top brace in order to conceal the panels as much as possible. Never paint one side of the top from back to front and then move to the other side and repeat the process. If you do that, it is likely you will be able to see a line through



the middle of the top. Also, do not try to treat your top in the direct sunlight as it will likely dry too fast, and you won't get consistent coverage. If you do the above and follow the manufacturer's instructions for drying times, you will be very happy with the result. I have included a couple pictures of tops I have treated, one cloth and one vinyl, so you can see how nice they can look when done.

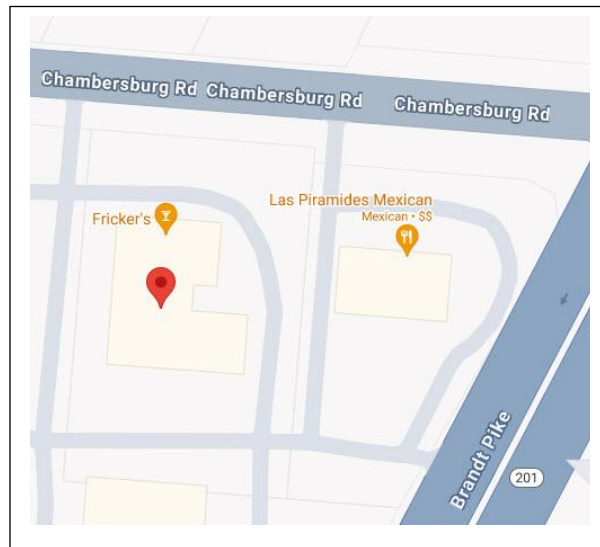


March Meet & Greet

Join your fellow members for the March Meet & Greet!

Where: Fricker's, 6280 Chambersburg Road, Huber Heights, OH 45424

Time: Gather to socialize and order early beginning 5:30 pm Business Meeting will begin at approximately 6:30 pm



OUR CLUB SPONSOR
Jeff Schmitt Mazda

