

Miami Valley  
Miata Club



# THE WRIGHT ROADSTER

ZOOM-ZOOM

November 2021 Volume 33, Issue 11

## The President's Corner

by Jim Brokaw



Welcome to the November edition of *The Wright Roadster*! This month, I begin with a big thank you to Rally Meister Chuck Valley for organizing and leading the Fall Foliage run to Tennessee, and also to VP Mike Wheeler for his coordination with the Mountain Miata Club. The mountain scenery fully lived up to its hype, and the rain did nothing to spoil the beauty! Kudos again to Chuck for the Harvest Moon

drive and also to Randy Mott and our Technical Director Tim Howard for another successful Maintenance Day!

Early voting for the 2022 Executive Committee is underway. We had no new nominations from the floor at our annual Pizza Party, and our slate is:

Vice President: Chuck Valley (Rally Master and prior Club president)  
Jeff Monnier (prior Club president)

Secretary-Treasurer: Pat Valley

Membership: Chris Vollmer

Rally Master: Mike Allen

Technical Director: Tim Howard

Newsletter Editor: David Berry

Webmaster: Christy (Mott) Haynes

Once again, I thank each of these members for volunteering to step up to lead our Club! The voting will take place at our November 16th Meet & Greet at Cassano's Pizza King in New Carlisle, and additional nominations will be accepted up until the time of the vote. We are also accepting votes by email or snail mail until the start of the meeting. Please see the Club email of October 27<sup>th</sup> for details.










Have a wonderful fall and be sure to take advantage of the remainder of our driving season. Have fun, stay safe, and I hope to see you on the road!

"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)."

## Miami Valley Miata Club Officers for 2021

 <p><b>President</b> Jim Brokaw</p>	 <p><b>Secretary-Treasurer</b> Patti Purdin</p>
 <p><b>Vice President</b> Mike Wheeler</p>	 <p><b>Technical Director</b> Tim Howard</p>
 <p><b>Membership Director</b> Pat Valley</p>	 <p><b>Newsletter Editor/Webmaster</b> Dave Berry</p>
 <p><b>Rally Master</b> Chuck Valley</p>	

### From the Membership Desk

by Pat Valley  
Membership Director

We added one member this month: Mike and Marylouise Murphy joined us on the Fall Foliage trip!

We wish the following members happy birthday in November:

#### November Birthdays

Celebrating birthdays this month are:

Tim Blazer, Enrique Ellenbogen, Calvin (Clyde) Hebert, Richard Kogler, Lynda Mott, Randy Mott, Rick Robinson, Gina Seay, Carla Smith, Jon Vincent, and Johanna West.



#### New Members in 2021

Mike & Marylouise Murphy  
Pete & Marissa Ballentine  
Vickie & Tom Gordon  
Roderick & Stephanie Leupp  
A.J. Mesaros, Jr.  
Erik Vasco  
Jeff & Bridget Fath  
Joe & Cindy Beatty  
Nancy & Albert Szkarupa  
Moe & Marie LaBrie  
Bob & Terry Stockholm

## MVMC 2021 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
Nov 16	Meet & Greet & Election of 2022 Officers	MVMC Officers	Cassano's Pizza King, New Carlisle
Dec 4	Annual Christmas Party	MVMC Officers	Fairborn Senior Center
Dec 11	2022 Planning Meeting	Chuck Valley	Fairborn Senior Center



**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/>

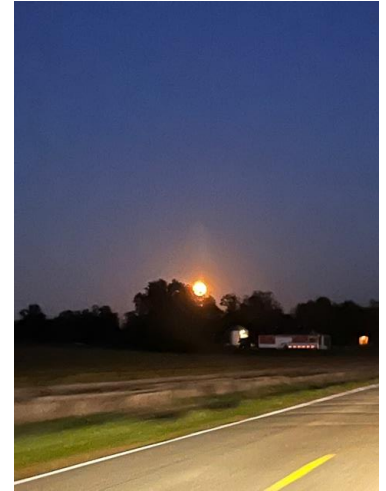
# Rally Master Report

By Chuck Valley, Rally Master



## Hunter's Moon Drive & Dine (October 20<sup>th</sup>)

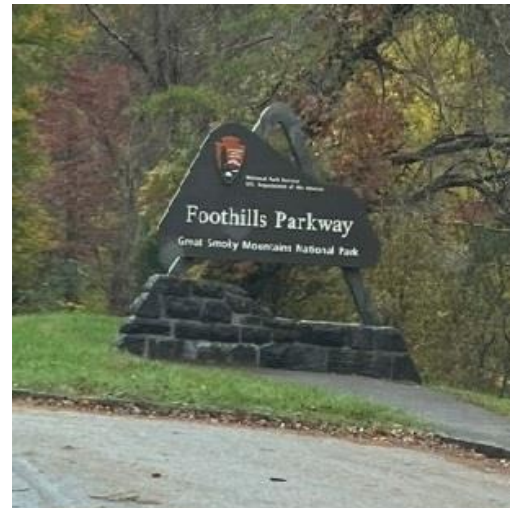
While waiting for the full moon to rise into the night's sky, we dined in our cars at Sonic in Xenia. It was a nice, clear evening with nary a cloud to congest the moonlit view. Not a lot to see at night during the drive around Greene and Clark Counties, but driver and passenger alike could enjoy the bright full moon on the majority of the route as we headed easterly, then northerly. When not hidden by a tall tree line, the moon was within view either ahead of us or to our right side. By the time we got ice cream at Young's Jersey Dairy, driving south on Rt 68, the moon had risen higher and was mostly forward of us again. It was a strategically planned route by yours truly that offered a pleasurable moonlit drive 75% of the drive. On a separate note, VP Mike Wheeler commented the 'grilled cheese-cheese burger' is pretty good at Sonic. I'll have to try one sometime.



## Fall Foliage Trip to the Smoky Mountains (October 28<sup>th</sup>-31<sup>st</sup>)

This trip is the biggest our club does year after year, and we are always hoping to catch "peak" of the Fall colors in and around the Great Smoky Mountains. The drive down Thursday was good, and we had cloudy but mostly dry roads that continued to Townsend, TN.

We drove the old section of Foothills Parkway that led to the Tail of the Dragon and Deals Gap after 11 miles and 318 turns (times 2). Noteworthy is the fact the Valleys have led our fellow Miata drivers six consecutive times. Colors were vivid and near peak in many locations along the route. Friday we departed the hotel with occasional drizzle that required intermittent windshield wipers. By the time we reached NC-28 "Moonshiners Highway" and Fontana Dam, the drizzle had cleared out and roadways



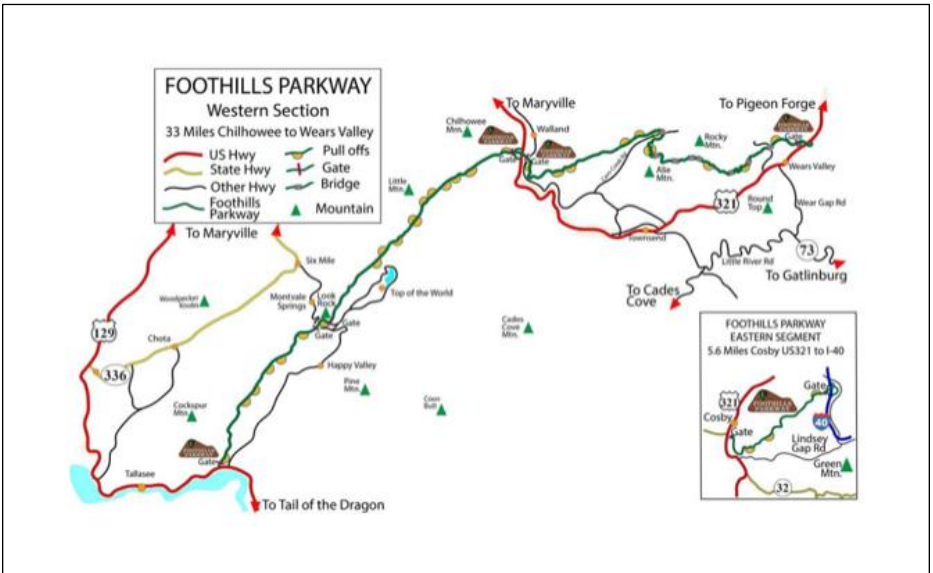
were dry. We visited Tapoco Lodge for a great lunch and good conversation. On the return leg to Townsend, we stopped at Deals Gap for a little souvenir shopping, grabbing a new sticker for the car, Tail of the Dragon placard for the garage, or a tee shirt. Before returning to the Townsend





Gateway Inn, we took the new section of Foothills Parkway and were driving in the clouds at 2,785 feet above sea level. A few passengers complained of ear cloggage, but no one got sick as three from our group did in 2019! The new section of Foothills

Parkway is a seventeen mile stretch between Walland, TN and Wears Valley, TN and overlooks Townsend. We received many kudos from the newbies on this journey which makes it a nice reminder why we do all the preparation and routing for this big trip.



When you enter Tail of the Dragon on US-129, you see the sign that reads, "Entering a MOTORCYCLE HIGH CRASH AREA", although we saw no wrecks on the curvy route. Usually there is a driver who didn't negotiate the sharp turn and their once prized car ended up on its side or flipped upside down! I'm always amazed looking over the photos that caught the moment a motorcycle rider loses control and is flying a few feet above his bike, or an 18-wheeler jackknifed or tipped over on the Tail. Why would a truck driver especially with a truck that large even attempt the 11-mile, 318 sharp turns route?

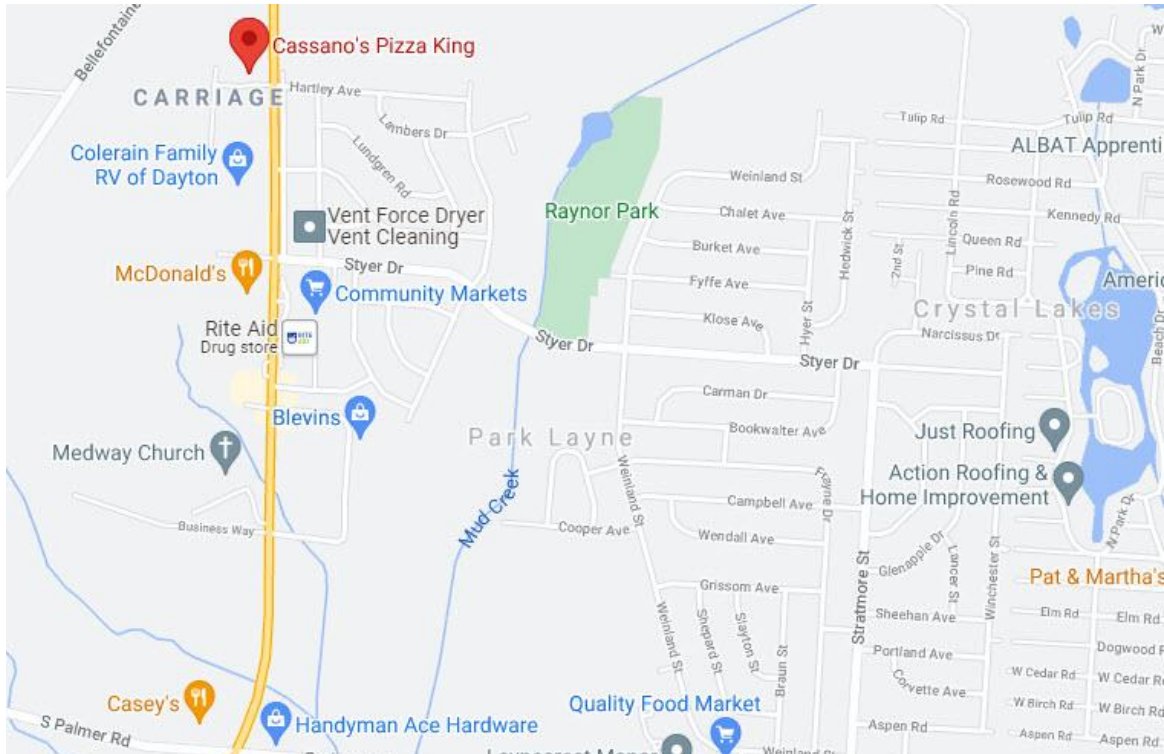
We ended Friday with a stop at the Townsend Cades Cove Wine Cellar for some local wine samples. Friday evening dinner the group gathered at The Abbey which is a former Baptist Church ironically converted to an IPA bar and restaurant!

Saturday morning the Mountain Miatas met us at the Village Market on 321 on the edge of Townsend and we drove about an hour and a half along a route unfamiliar to us. Rain came in that morning, so our speeds were reduced on the wet roads. We drove to Bush's Beans Café and Museum. OK, we ate there and gassed up! Pat and I looked over the menu and decided to partake in sharing a piece of chocolate pie made from, wait for it ... beans! It actually tasted fantastic! After lunch, a movie production by the Bush Beans Family and "Duke," the Bush Beans "wonder dog" showed how the beans are processed for canning. Actually, we learned that the beans are not cooked prior to canning, but rather 'in the can.' We also learned that Bush's beans has a historic connection to Stokely VanCamp, you know, the other bean people.

## Upcoming Events – Mark your calendars now for the following:

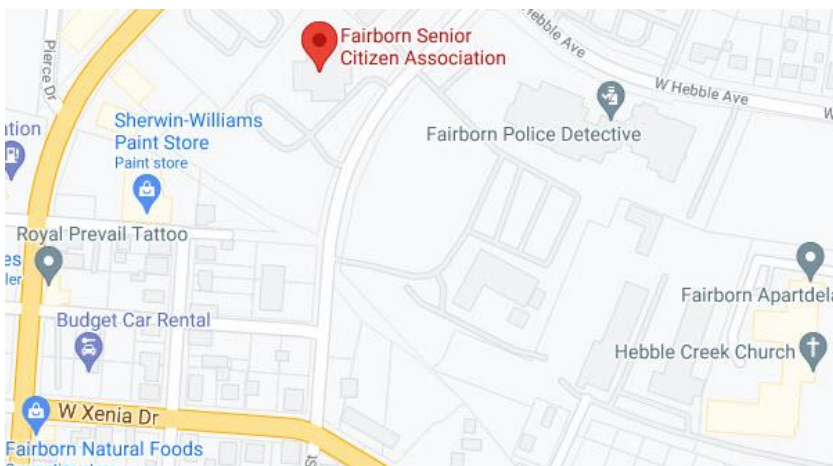
- **November Meet & Greet and Election of 2022 Officers**

Tuesday, November 16, 2021 at Cassano's Pizza King, 1525 South Dayton-Lakeview Road, New Carlisle, OH 45344. Arrivals begin at 5:30pm.



- **Annual MVMC Christmas Party**

December 4, 2021 at the Fairborn Senior Center, 325 North 3<sup>rd</sup> Street, Fairborn, OH 45324. Arrivals begin at 6:00pm.



## 2022 Planning Meeting

***All MVMC Members, please add this to your calendar:***

*Event Planning Meeting, Saturday, 10:00a-11:00a, December 11th at the Fairborn Senior Center.*

*(Coffee and donuts provided)*

*All members are always welcome and encouraged to attend the Event Planning Meeting. Have an idea for a drive? The Rally Master is here to assist in planning the route, planning the dining venue, and scheduling the drive for you. Let's make 2022 one of the best years for Drive & Dines or the newly popular Drive & Picnics!*



*Chuck Valley*

*MVMC Rally Master*



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**Jeff Schmitt Mazda**



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

By Tim Howard



As we end the 2021 driving season and enter the season when most of us store our Miatas, I thought that some tips for long term storage might be appropriate. Don't stop reading just yet. I know I have written about standard storage procedures previously but this time, I want to focus on winter rodent control. The first Miata I ever purchased had been stored in a rural barn all winter and was filled with little varmints, nests that I had to clean out, and damage I had to repair during the restoration process; I would prefer that none of us are forced to deal with such problems. I was recently reminded of this issue when I opened the hood on my 2016 which has been sitting in the garage under its new car cover for most of the summer, and I noticed the remains of seeds and nuts on top of the engine. About the same time, I noticed that my garage door was not sealing well when it closed. A quick look around revealed mouse droppings in the front corner of the garage near the door. I immediately went into action. After I cleaned up the droppings, I went directly to the local DIY store and purchased new rubber bottom door gaskets and mouse poison. After the gasket was installed and the poison was strategically placed, I realized that, although the door seal was better, it still looked as if rodents could get in. As a result, I decided to order a product that I had previously seen in the Griot's Garage catalog ... a sealing strip that glues to the floor and improves the seal of a standard garage door (see enclosed pictures). This action completes the first criteria for rodent-free winter storage, a well-sealed garage.



As it turns out, some internet research revealed that there are several other precautions that should be implemented on the vehicle itself in order to minimize the chance of rodent damage. The first one was a surprise to me: do not cover your car while in storage. Mice like dark places and covering your car enhances the chance that they will search it out for shelter (so much for the new car cover I was so proud of). In keeping with the darkness issue, it is recommended that if your car is stored in a sealed garage, you should keep your hood and trunk open providing fewer dark places for rodents to congregate. One more important suggestion is something I am not good at, keep the garage door closed as much as possible.

Experts also recommend an additional step. Spread Bounce dryer sheets throughout the interior, trunk, and under the hood of your car. Other brands will work, but I am told that mice and rats are particularly offended by the odor of Bounce. If you think this is overkill, you have not seen the thousands of dollars of damage that rodents can do to the wiring, belts, hoses, and interior of a car as they chew to keep their ever-growing teeth from getting too long. Wiring is a particular problem in modern cars as most manufacturers have transitioned to a soy based covering as opposed to rubber, giving rodents another reason to munch on your cars wiring. This increased probability of wiring damage is critically important to you as the owner due to the potential for fire as well as the high cost of repairing such damage.

Finally, if you really want to be cautious you can put steel wool in both the tail pipe and engine air intake and then cover the openings with tape. This will keep the varmints from building nests in these easily accessed dark places.



Although there are multiple approaches available to minimize rodent damage while in storage, I chose the methods outlined above as they are frequently recommended, easily implemented, inexpensive, and easy to reverse in the spring. Happy rodent proofing!!!

## Miata Parts Still for Sale!

**Susan Cain's** 2003 Miata was totaled in an accident in December when a woman turned in front of her (yikes!). She was bummed, to say the least, but soon replaced it with a black 2015 Grand Touring with retractable hard top (good show!). Before the 2003's unfortunate demise, Susan had invested in a number of upgrades which she now offers for sale to MVMC members.



Miata Hard Top Storage Stand  
Used, like new - \$75  
Contact info: Susan Cain  
lawcain7@outlook.com



OEM Spark Plugs, new LFJR-18-110  
Purchased 2018, never used - \$20



Miata Boot Cover, Parchment, 1999-2005 - \$50  
Contact info: Susan Cain, lawcain7@outlook.com

### Item Descriptions

- Hard Top Trolley Cart or Storage Stand w/locking wheels, black, 40x30x20, like new - \$75
- OEM Mazda Spark Plugs, 'LFJR-18-110' in original boxes. New. Purchased in 2018 for 2015 NC, but never used - \$20
- Parchment Tan Vinyl Boot Cover from 2003 NB, very good condition - \$50

**Contact info: Susan Cain, [lawcain7@outlook.com](mailto:lawcain7@outlook.com), 937-232-3363 - please leave message**