



THE WRIGHT ROADSTER

ZOOM-ZOOM

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The President's Corner

September. Back to school. End of summer. Start of autumn. There are at least twenty songs with "September" in the title, some of them named simply "September". Probably the best known is "September Song" by Kurt Weill and Maxwell Anderson, that has been covered by every pop singer since 1938. I'm sure you would recognize it – it begins with the line, "Oh, it's a long long while from May to December". The September song that I most remember, "See You in September" had its most popular recording in 1966 (my high school senior year) by the Happenings. It's the story of a young guy who is afraid of losing his girl while she's away on summer vacation.

Summer vacation, by the way, is an almost foreign idea to me since my school kid days. I prefer vacationing in the spring or fall, when the weather is more temperate in most places. Even though Peggy and I spent two weeks in Europe last July, that was a rarity – and will likely remain one, since temperatures at the start of our time in Switzerland and Germany were in the upper 80s – and Switzerland has no air conditioning.

If anything, our summers are becoming more severe, hotter, and with fiercer storms. I've made the suggestion that we have inherited St. Louis' climate, and it has inherited that of Dallas. I don't have data to back that up, but I would not be surprised if it were true. This leads me to worry that our precious Miata convertibles will soon be only two-season cars, with summers just too hot to put the top down. And I wonder if, subliminally at least, this has resulted in fewer club drives during this year's summer. Possibly we will have to start tagging drive records with annotations such as "tree cover, good for hot days" or the like. We had already moved our annual picnic from July to September. Is an October date in the future?

As of this writing, the only other event on the September schedule is the SCCA National Runoffs at Mid-Ohio Sports Car Course on the 24th and 25th. I will be joining Ed Kramer and several others to take it in. It will be great racing by the nation's best amateur drivers, hundreds of them in numerous classes, vying for recognition, trophies, and a bit of contingency money. Some past champions were Jerry Hansen, Bob Sharp, Roger Penske, and Paul Newman (yes, that Paul Newman, a four-time winner).

I am hoping to add a drive to the September schedule, to a little town south of Morrow called Pleasant Plain, where an old school house has been converted into quite an interesting café. There are a few kinks to work out in the route, so another trip or two in preparation is needed.

A few closing words about September – the kiddies are back to school, the school buses are on the road every weekday morning, noon, and afternoon, so PLEASE be careful when you drive, wherever you drive, whatever your drive.



CALLING ALL MEMBERS

INVITE NEW MEMBERS!

Annual Dues are \$20.00, January through December

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



**Miami Valley Miata Club
Picnic**

Tuesday, September 20

Lofino Park

**640 Grange Hall Road,
Beavercreek, OH**

Meal service will begin promptly at 6:30pm, members are asked to arrive at that time, and not before, unless you are assisting in set-up.

Reminder: No alcoholic beverages or illegal substances are not permitted in any Beavercreek park.

Those members attending are requested to bring a side dish or dessert to share with your fellow club members.

To aid you in choosing your item, a shared worksheet has been prepared. Please use the link below, enter your name, the item you plan to bring in the appropriate columns. Also choose if your item will require connection to a source of electricity for warming. Please also bring whatever serving implements are needed.

[PICNIC SIGNUP WORKSHEET](#)



TO OUR NEW MEMBERS

None added this month



09/03 Ed Walker
09/04 Roger Gordon
09/05 Dale Burnside
09/06 Bill Duncan
09/06 Russ Loughlin
09/10 Chuck Valley
09/11 Jim Hufford
09/11 Paul Haller
09/16 Carole LaCombe Muhlenkamp
09/17 Jeanne Ponziani
09/18 Garry Cyr
09/18 Frank J. Brewster
09/27 Mike (Flash) Mardis

OUR CLUB SPONSOR

Jeff Schmitt Mazda



RALLY REPORT: Drives and Activities for 2016



Rally Master' Report



Another great driving month down and 4 more to go! Last month we had the British Car Show event hosted by Tim Howard, The Woodward Dream Cruise hosted by Chuck Valley, and the slightly abbreviated Dam Covered Bridge Drive Part II hosted by George and Jill Wetmore. Those drives along with the Meet 'n Greet helped fill up month.

The remaining schedule is listed below and there are two events I want to call your attention to.

The first is the Fall Foliage drive to Townsend TN. The drive is still almost a month and a half off but the block on our rooms expires on the 19th of September so if you want to go be sure and get your reservation in for this busy season for the Smoky Mountains.

The second event has just been added and that's what is being called the 1st Annual Burger Burn in November. The expectation is that this will be a cool weather, outdoor get together so that we can really enjoy the fall season before putting up our cars up for the winter. But I always say just drive it and enjoy it year round! Anyway, September is a little lite in the drive department so if you'd like to step up and plan something you can get a lot of help. Just ask!

September 20, **MVMC Annual Picnic**, Lofino Park, Beavercreek

September 24-25, **SCCA National Championship Runoffs**, Ed Kramer

October 9, **Mystery Drive & Lick**, Chuck & Pat Valley

October 10-12 Tentative, **Skyline Drive Tour**, Roger Gordon

October 18, **Meet & Greet at Jeff Schmitt Mazda**, Beavercreek

October 20-23, **Fall Foliage Trip to Townsend TN**, Mike Wheeler

10 Rooms blocked @ Townsend Gateway Inn @ \$78 + tax. Suites and Cabins available

November 4, **1st Annual Burger Burn**, Chuck Valley (Details TBD)

November 15, **Meet & Greet at T.J. Chumps**, Huber Heights

December 3, **MVMC Christmas Party**, New Carlisle Sportsmen's Club

I hope to see you at several of these events throughout the rest of the year!

Mike

SCCA National Run-offs



Date: Saturday, September 24, 2016 - 9:00am
to Sunday, September 25, 2016 - 5:00pm

What: Annual 2016 SCCA Run Offs, very competitive races for bragging rights and prize money.

When: September 24th and 25th

Where: Mid-Ohio Race Track
7721 Steam Corners Road
Lexington, Ohio 44904

Why: To enjoy great racing, and club camaraderie.

How: Those that have already made overnight reservations to attend both days of racing will be staying at the Best Western in Mount Gilead, Ohio. If you intend to drive up for one of the racing days you can arrange to join other MVMC attendees.

When you arrive at the track call Tim Howard' cell phone, 937-287-2424 to arrange a convenient place to meet. If for some reason you cannot make phone contact, we intend to spend the majority of our time in the grand stand on the West side of the track at the end of the straight away.

Other: If you intend to drive up for one day, the drive is about 2.5 hours. Make sure you contact either Tim Howard (937-439-3942 or tghcc@woh.rr.com), or Ed Kramer (937-862-4434 or kramerfarms@sbcglobal.net). If several people are planning to attend on the same day we might be able to facilitate some ride sharing or caravanning.

2016 British Car Show

At 9:00 am on August 6th, about 19 MVMC members met at Bob Evans on Woodman Drive for breakfast before attending the 2016 British Car Show at Eastwood Park. As luck would have it, the weather broke and it ended up being a beautiful day...clear skies and about 10 degrees cooler than the prior week. Although the Bob Evans was unusually crowded, we had great breakfast service, lots of good conversation, and still left the restaurant right on schedule, arriving at Eastwood park a few minutes after 10:00. With unusual good luck, we arrived before the crowd and were able to park as a group in the main parking lot just steps from the show. While in the parking lot we met a few more members of the Club making the entire entourage 21 people. Before we disbursed into the show grounds, we took the time to take a group picture to commemorate the event, something I almost always forget. Someone that many of you have asked about over the past year or so joined us for the morning, Steve Trego. See if you can find him in the picture shown below:



As per usual, the show did not disappoint. There were hundreds of restored and unrestored cars on display to tantalize the multitude of appreciative attendees. Enclosed below are pictures of a couple of the cars that were particularly worthy of notice.



COVERED BRIDGE DRIVE

The 2016 MVMC Dam Covered Bridge Drive Part II is in the books...well sort of. Saturday the 27th. we departed Xenia Station with 18 cars and 34 people. We meandered through some of the better scenery and roads the Dayton area has to offer on our way to our first bridge on the tour was the Corwin M. Nixon Covered Bridge just south of Waynesville.

After the Nixon Bridge we made a comfort stop which was at the Caesar's Creek Visitor Center. Some people wandered back to the scenic overlook and observed the Caesar's Creek Reservoir along with the dam itself. We ended up with a rather nice parking area which was partially shaded.

After leaving the visitor center we headed for the Engle Road Covered Bridge. The weather was warm and the skies were partly cloudy. At this point, although it was warm, the weather looked favorable.

Several of us had received severe thunderstorm warnings on our phones giving us an indication there was some potentially bad weather in the area. We checked the radar and the weather they were warning us about was a rather nasty and large cell west of us but at the time the skies still looked like we were going to be able to progress with the drive.



We left the Engle Road Bridge and headed for the Charlton Mill Covered Bridge northeast of Xenia. On our way there the skies to the west were turning black and it wasn't looking good for a dry outcome for our drive. Because our group had a few older model Miata's that required more time to put the tops up I thought we better stop enroute and secure our cars for the approaching storm. We then continued on to the next bridge.

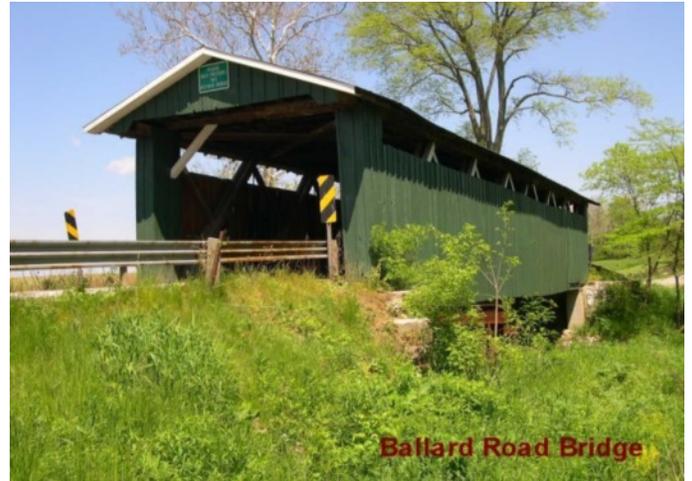
Just after we passed Wilberforce Collage and turned on to SR42 I made a transmission to Dave Berry tailing my group and Chris Vollmer and Fred Hoppel who were leading and tailing group two, soliciting their opinions about cancelling the remainder of the drive because of the severe weather that was about to hit us. I had pretty much made the decision that it wasn't the best idea to lead a large group into harm's way.

We drove through the Charlton Mill Bridge and stopped on the side of the road to advise everyone that I was cancelling the drive because of the storm but Jill and I were still heading for Young's. The wind had picked up significantly while we were setting there and rather large tree branch blew out of a tree and crashed right in front of my car breaking into pieces. I told Jill we've got to get out of the trees before one falls on us.

Some elected to head for their homes and 24 of us headed for Young's to try to salvage a drive ending dinner. On the way we passed several areas where debris had either fallen or blew on the roadway so we had to be cautious where we were driving. It was raining rather hard when we got to Young's so people parked close to the building not requiring the reserved parking I had arranged and coned off.

Young's was very accommodating (thanks to Chris Seegraves, Manager) accepting us 90 minutes earlier than we originally coordinated. Before we finished dining the weather moved further east past us and the drive home was a pleasurable end to a tiring day.

I do see a repeat in the future of this drive with cooler weather and no thunderstorms. I'll keep you posted. Maybe next time the Ballard Rd. Bridge will be available.



Your Hosts,

George & Jill Wetmore

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/>

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

: By: Ed Kramer and Tim Howard



After a long day in the sun at Mid-Ohio watching the vintage races, I got into my Miata turned on the air conditioner and got on the interstate anticipating a quick comfortable trip home. I set the speedometer needle a few notches beyond the speed limit and began the long trek. After about an hour I found myself thinking that my 2004 Miata was really an enjoyable and comfortable car to drive even on a long trip, with the exception that it is a bit noisy. Since I still had another hour to drive before I got home I had plenty of time to contemplate the noise issue and possible solutions.

Several years ago when I was refurbishing my 1990 Miata, while I was installing new carpet and interior parts I decided to incorporate after-market sound reduction and heat resistant insulation in the process. That insulation made such a significant difference in interior noise that I could not help but consider that as an option for the 2004. At that time in a Shop Talk article on the process, I commented that if I was going to change the carpet on a future car I would definitely incorporate this insulation in the process, but I would probably not tear out the interior and carpet just to install the insulation. Two hours on the interstate gives one a long time to contemplate such an issue, and I suspect that it is a lot like the pain of child birth for a new mother. As time passes, the memory of the unpleasant portions of the process fade and the positive results become more apparent. By the time I got home I had convinced myself that the work involved in installing insulation in my car would be justified by the benefits of more comfortable cruising. The next day I ordered the insulation.

The insulation I ordered (aluminum face with a sticky butyl backing) came from a company called B.Quiet and cost about \$150.00. Installing the insulation took me about 16 hours to both take out the interior and install the insulation. I have taken all of these parts out many times so the process was not difficult, just time consuming. It is also a bit of a messy process as the butyl backing tends to stick to your fingers. I suggest that if you try it you wear rubber gloves.

The results of the process were beyond my expectations. At highway speeds the car is significantly quieter, and except for the wind noise almost luxurious. Give me a year or two to forget the work involved and I will likely be willing to do it in some future Miata. See me if you would like more specifics on this process.

On a completely unrelated note, I recently attended a motor scooter and motorcycle convention held at the Fair Grounds in Portland, Indiana. Being a Golden Retriever owner myself, I thought that you might enjoy the attached picture that I took while I was there.



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