



THE WRIGHT ROADSTER

ZOOM-ZOOM

FEBRUARY Volume 28, Issue 2

The President's Corner



February – is it the cruelest month? It can be the time when we get some of the year's worst weather in these parts. But it's also the month of Valentine's Day (Peggy's birthday, too). So maybe February is a time to look forward to after all. And it's the month when the Miami Valley Miata Club holds its Virtual Rally. I hope you are looking forward to it and will join us at Dan and Norma Kirkpatrick's home on February 20 at 2:00pm to take part. We will have a great time.

The club has just completed what has become another annual event, a club planning meeting. It took place on Saturday, January 30, at the Centerville Library. The meeting room was perfect for our needs, once we had moved some tables around. Twenty-four of us assembled to share thoughts on topics such as new member recruiting, communications, our website and Facebook pages, community support, and a couple of more involved items – drives and events for the coming year, and a proposal to look at updating the club's logo. There is a separate report on the meeting in its own article.

I have been finding myself devoting more and more time to my duties as president of the club, and I find I do enjoy it. If I were not still working full time, it might take over my life completely! Don't let Peggy know I wrote that. Speaking of Peggy, she and I enjoyed a wonderful evening out together the same Saturday as the meeting. On the spur of the moment, we headed for dinner at the Pine Club – Peggy had never been there and I had not in probably 25 years – and very much enjoyed the ambiance and a great meal. The place is a local treasure and don't pass up a chance to sample it. Of course, if you have been there, you would readily see why it can never host one of our Meet & Greets – too noisy, too crowded, too expensive! Following that we attended a performance of the music of The Who with the Dayton Philharmonic at the Schuster Center. It took us both back to our lives in the '60s and '70s (totally unknown to one another, she in St. Louis and I in Cincinnati) and the societal forces that were at play in that era.

One of the benefits of finally becoming Mr. Dr. Berry is that I get to drive Peggy to the airport once in a while when she is off to a professional conference. One of the non-benefits is that she won't take me along. But fair is fair – I didn't take her along on a business trip to Berlin this past autumn. On the subject of travel – I realize that many of you have made trips, some of them quite distant, in your Miatas. And I saw a post on Facebook just recently that a member of the North Coast club (Canton area) had won the Moss Motoring Challenge, for which he had to drive all over the country. How does one do that – in a Miata, I mean? It seems there just isn't enough room for luggage nor enough comfort for the long miles. Maybe we will try that someday, though I question if either of our backs would agree. My respects go to those who have done so



CALLING ALL MEMBERS

Renew Your Membership!

Annual Dues are \$20.00, January through December

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

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL APPEAL

The calendar has now rolled over and while we had hoped to have all the membership renewals completed by this time, there are those who keep forgetting or putting it off.

Your attention to this sooner rather than later is most appreciated. We'd hate for you not to continue receiving the newsletters, or to not receive update emails as we go forward, especially if your intention is to continue with the club.

We will leave renewals open through February. March will mark the changing of the access codes for the "Members Only" portion of the website. At this time we will update the newsletter and email distribution lists as well.

You may download the renewal form online at: <http://miamivalleymiatclub.org/node/125> and turn it in at the Jan 19 Meet & Greet, or mail it along with your \$20 cash or check (payable to MVMC).

If you have decided not to renew, we would like to be in the know. And if you wouldn't mind, please share with us your reason(s) why. Drop me an email or a phone call and then I won't pester you anymore.

Thank you!
Pat Valley, Membership Chair
pvalley529@yahoo.com
937-608-5252



TO ALL NEW MEMBERS

AND ALL OUR

RETURNING MEMBERS



OUR CLUB SPONSOR

Jeff Schmitt Mazda



RALLY REPORT: Drives and Activities for 2016



FEB. 16 Meet & Greet

FEB 20 Virtual Rally

Dinner is served.



The February 16th Meet & Greet at The Chop House will be here before you know it. Be sure to mark your calendars, and join us for an enjoyable evening of food, drink and socializing in the beautiful Chop House private dining room.

When:

Tuesday, February 16, 2016 (6:30pm - 8:00pm)

Where:

The Chop House, 7727 Washington Village Drive, Dayton (Washington Township), Ohio 45459

The Chop House features a comprehensive menu offering soups and salads, sandwiches, steaks, ribs, chicken, seafood, and of course, their eponymous Chop House Pork Chop (Fred Hoppel's favorite).

New members are especially welcome:

If you are new to the club, some of us may still be looking to welcome you to the club and learn more about your interests and share our own experiences with you. The Meet & Greet is a great venue to get acquainted.

Website: <http://www.thechophouse.com/dayton.html>



A note from Rosemary:

*We all enjoy photo's as reminders of our enjoyable experiences. For those of us using smart phones and it's camera app, **PLEASE** take a few snaps at those Miata activities, from the meet&greet to those great drives that you are participating in.*

THEN take a moment to SHARE with the membership via email share to: miamivalleyMC@gmail.com

Rally Master' Report



Greetings fellow Miataphiles (I know I drive a Mustang but I still love the little car). We're at the start of a brand new driving year and first out the gate will be the Virtual Rally held at the Kirkpatrick's home later this month. I would expect a good turnout as this armchair event is always a fun time and Norma and Dan are gracious hosts. Dave Berry has volunteered once again to be the Rally Master!

Something to think about, as we go about drives and events throughout the year I would like to add FRS radios to the mix of available communications devices that we use. We're successfully used CB radios in the past and will continue to do so but the FRS style radios are useful and much less intimidating perhaps for some people. FRS radios are the small hand held Walky Talky radios you may have seen around. If you have them be sure to bring them along and stay in the know.

At the end of January the club held a planning meeting for the upcoming year. I'm sure you'll hear more about that but of special note, I made a pitch for folks to step forward and volunteer to lead a drive or other event that would be of interest to our sporty car crowd. To help jog memories and provide a means of volunteering I passed around a list of all the events the club has participated in over the past three years and asked that anyone that would be willing to lead an event so note it on the paper. Unfortunately there was a misunderstanding and some folks might not have signed because of the confusion. Never fear, you'll see the list again at the February Meet ' Greet and have another chance to step up and be a leader!

Lastly, anyone that would like to get involved as a leader of a smaller, shorter Drive and Dine style event please let me know and I'll provide you with all the assistance you can use, up to and including the destination and route. It can' be any easier than that.

Looking forward to seeing you on the road,

Mike

Kirkpatrick's VR accommodations =====>





Miami Valley Miata Club



Serving Greater Dayton Ohio Area Miata Enthusiasts since 1993

The 2016 Virtual Rally is no longer virtual! Come join us for fun, food, and a great time. Pick a team. Watch a movie. Answer questions about it. Win fabulous prizes!

Assemble at 2:00pm on Saturday, February 20, 2016 at the home of Dan and Norma Kirkpatrick in Fairborn, Ohio. Bring snacks, munchies, tasty treats to share with the group. Chips and dip, cheese and crackers, Swedish meatballs (or Hungarian meatballs, if you prefer, if there even is such a thing). The Club will supply drinks and bottled water.

The movie will be one you should recognize, but we won't name it here - no fair peeking! It is rated PG for mild language.



Location: Dan and Norma Kirkpatrick's residence
Address: 1520 Meadlowlands Drive, Fairborn, Ohio 45324
Telephone (if you need directions): [937-673-4178](tel:937-673-4178)

RSVP PLEASE - if you plan to attend, reply to this email, or send an email to Dave Berry at dinglebe@hotmail.com, or call me at 937-367-6879. Thank you!

2016 Planning Meeting Report

By Dave Berry, President

On the morning of Saturday, January 30th, a meeting took place at the Centerville Library to discuss topics of importance to the club's administration and activities for the year. Most of the club's officers and many members, totaling twenty-four, took part. President Dave Berry presented an agenda and oversaw the meeting's conduct.

The topics that were presented included:

- New member recruiting
- Drives and events
- Club logo
- Member communications
- Club website/Facebook
- Community support and outreach

For the most part, the discussion ranged over ideas and opinions that we have expressed to one another in recent times, and most topics generated little controversy. Following is a summary.

New member recruiting – the club is at a manageable size, and there isn't a compelling reason to expand. Of course there is turnover, so we should continue to encourage new people to join. One particular stratagem that was suggested was to contact a number of area Miata dealers to ask for the names of new owners whom we could contact. A second was to put together a nice information packet to leave with those same dealers that would be offered to purchasers.

On the subject of drives - there was agreement that we would like more, that we would like a mix of short (one day) and overnight, and that we should try to offer one of each as alternatives in a given period. We also have a number of members who would wish for drives more challenging than a tour through the countryside. Mike Wheeler passed around a list of past drives that could be rerun, but we'll have to work a bit harder to sign up people to organize them.

Communications – experience with VerticalResponse (the application used for mass emailing) was reviewed, and although not all of us are madly in love with it, we have found it works for us and will persevere with it. We will continue to limit use of it to the hands of a few, and any member wishing a communication sent out should contact one of the officers. Preparation of the newsletter was also reviewed, including how it is composed and how it is distributed. For the former, we agreed that articles submitted for publication are to be kept to their original content and layout (as much as practical), and that any edits are to be reviewed with the author before publication. For the latter, we were asked to check if the distribution medium, VerticalResponse, can deliver an attached PDF file, and not just a link to one. Subsequent investigation shows that attachments are not supported.

Club website – there was concern that the website is not keeping current in a number of areas. Examples include: too many of the member listings lack members' photos; the Members Only page contains links that are dead, especially to a library of past road events and to the treasurer's report; and the Gallery section (event photos) is laid out in a less than ideal fashion (a grid of thumbnails would be better) and that the rules for formatting photos for submission are quite bothersome. Facebook was briefly discussed, and one point of note was that we consider using the public page one day ahead of a Meet & Greet to invite prospective new members.

Community support – we reviewed that the club has contributed to a scholarship fund to supply textbooks for Sinclair Community College students in the automotive repair curriculum. We raised enough last year to support one student. We can and should continue, so it was felt we would “dust off” the coffee can and bring it to Meet & Greets to collect donations. It was also suggested that we invite the scholarship recipient(s) to a Meet & Greet so we can offer congratulations and encouragement. This would also make for a great photo opportunity for local media.

I have saved the topic of the club logo for last because it generated the most controversy. The suggestion has been made by a number of members that the logo is outdated, lacking in impact, and generally fares poorly in comparison to those of other clubs. Examples from other clubs were circulated as evidence of the last. Some members are not supportive of any changes to the logo, for legitimate reasons, and we are cognizant of that position. Nonetheless, the club’s charter and rules, including the prescription for the logo, are not permanently cast in concrete, and the membership can vote to make changes. Moreover, it was expressed that there is no harm in one or more teams developing new designs to propose to the membership, since it is entirely up to the membership whether to accept any change or decline it. I presented a proposal for managing a logo redesign activity; it will be refined and presented to the Executive Committee, and if agreed to, will be communicated to the membership in the near future.

During the discourse a number of additional comments were recorded as deserving attention by the Executive Committee, who will take them up at its next meeting, and subsequent meetings as necessary. These include: preparation of written policies and procedures for officers, where needed, beyond what is stipulated in the club’s By-Laws and Standing Rules; potential procurement and use of FRS radios for drives; and adding non-officer Storekeeper and Technical Lead (IT) positions.

All in all, the meeting was a great success. Each attendee had opportunity to raise topics, offer commentary, and agree or disagree with one another as each felt appropriate. Although the discussion was lively, decorum was maintained, and important matters were aired. The Executive Committee is now charged with following up open questions that require further attention. We will endeavor to deliver on those to the membership and will communicate on our progress.

Miata Battery for Sale

Member Susan Cain offers the following for sale:

NEW WestCo AGM battery, fits model years 1990-2005. The battery has a small crack (1/32” wide max by 1” long) in the top corner, which has been sealed with epoxy.

Please check your roster for contact info — Phone / Email



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

By: Ed & Tim



There is a topic that we are asked about regularly in person and via email that we have not discussed recently in Shop Talk. That topic is, how to store your Miata for the winter. There is a great deal written on this subject in automotive journals, but it is difficult to make a distinction between the procedures needed for long term storage (more than 6 months) and those for short term winter storage. Although all of the best practices for long term storage could also be

used for winter storage, I considered some of them to be overkill. Although I will mention a few of those more extreme measures at the end of this article for informational purposes, this presentation is directed toward the average hobbyist that simply wants to store his or her car over the winter. Given that qualification, outlined below are the preparations that I recommend.

1. Check your radiator coolant level to make sure that it is full, and check for adequate freeze protection in the stored location. If you are storing your vehicle outside, you will probably will need to protect to a lower freeze point than if your car is stored in a garage.
2. Fill the gas tank with fresh premium fuel. Condensation in the tank is a problem in stored vehicles. I recommend that you fill the tank with premium non-alcohol fuel to ensure that there are no empty spaces where water can accumulate. Also, since gasoline can become gummy over time, I recommended you add a fuel stabilizer such as Stabil to that full tank. Remember to run the car for about 5 minutes after adding the stabilizer to make sure it is adequately mixed with the gasoline before storage and that you have stabilized fuel throughout the system
3. Check the tire pressure before storage. In cold climates, inflating the tires to a level 3 to 5 pounds more than the level suggested in the manual can reduce storage related flat spots on your tires. Even with this procedure, you can expect some thumping from your tires until they are driven about 10 miles after storage.
4. Use a battery tender, one that turns itself on periodically for short periods to maintain a full charge in your battery. These devices can be purchased very inexpensively. This is very important as maintaining the charge while stored can add years of the life to your battery.
5. Release the parking brake. If the brake is left on the pads can stick to the rotors, or the cable can rust in place. It is better to have the parking brake stuck off than stuck on. Remember to put chocks under your wheels, though, to prevent unwanted movement.
6. It is always a good idea to wash, wax, sweep, and generally clean up your car before storage, but it is not as critical as some of the other steps.
7. Use a car cover for outdoor storage or in very dusty conditions. If your car is stored indoors, leave the car uncovered with the windows cracked. This can allow water vapor to leave the car during humid weather, and can reduce that musty smell that tends to accumulate in the interior. On the other hand, if you have a lot of activity in your garage or if you have the tendency to sit things on the painted surface of your stored car, a padded dust cover can dramatically reduce the possibility of paint damage. Only you can decide which is best for your particular situation.
8. Place a note on your steering wheel to remind yourself what storage steps must be reversed before you drive such as: remove wheel chocks, unhook battery tender, etc.

Other steps that are sometimes recommended for winter storage that I consider to be overkill would include:

- . A sheet of plastic under the car as a vapor barrier
- . Remove the windshield wipers
- . Put the car on jack stands to prevent tire flat spots
- . Rag in the tailpipe to prevent rodent infestations
- . Remove spark plugs and spray oil in the cylinders to prevent rust
- . Change oil and filter before and after storage
- . Check all fluid levels

Tim Howard

MIAMI VALLEY MIATA CLUB FACEBOOK GROUP

This group was setup to allow members to connect outside of the meet and greet activities; share their photo's and drive experiences. Members are free to post items for sale to other members. If you participate in the FaceBook world send a message to be able to connect to our private Miata Club group

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/>

"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)."



Membership Application

Membership: New Renewal - Membership # _____
Membership is \$20 per year. Renewals due January 1st of each year.

Internet access: Yes No *NOTE: Our main source of communication is through email and the MVMC website

Primary Member _____ Birthdate (mm/dd) _____

Email Address _____

Cell Phone _____ Business Phone _____

Home Phone _____

Spouse/SO _____ Birthdate (mm/dd) _____

Email Address _____

Cell Phone _____ Business Phone _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Alt Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Car #1 (Year, Color, Options) _____

Car #2 (Year, Color, Options) _____

If new, have you been a member before? _____ If so, when? _____

If new, how did you hear about MVMC? _____

Yes No I wish to enjoy the benefits of having my name, address, phone number and email address listed in the club directory on the web site (updated quarterly), thereby allowing other club members (**only**) to contact me regarding club matters and events.

Yes No I agree to having my name and email address mentioned in newsletter articles involving club activities.

Send completed form and payment to: **Miami Valley Miata Club**
c/o Pat Valley
2000 Deer Hollow Trail
Xenia, OH 45385