

# THE WRIGHT ROADSTER

*ZOOM-ZOOM*

March Volume 28, Issue 3

## The President's Corner



March madness has me in its grip. And it has nothing to do with basketball. No, I think I am being driven insane by the vagaries of our weather this winter. Did I say winter? As I write this, it is the end of February, and it is 63 degrees and sunny outside. 63 degrees! Of course a week ago, on the day of this year's Virtual Rally, it was a frigid 69. Now as you might assume, we hold the Virtual Rally – an indoor event – in February precisely because we expect it to be winter and we expect the weather to be lousy. It was a beautiful day.

Then again, a few days after the Virtual Rally (more about which later), it turned cold and we had snow. Snow! And wouldn't you know it, the weatherman says we will get more during the first week of March. Maybe we'll catch that and then skip straight into summer.

And yet there are all kinds of harbingers of spring about. Baseball teams are reporting to spring training, the alluded-to official March Madness is around the corner, and I have noticed trees budding and flowers already emerging (and some even in bloom). The tulips that border our driveway have poked out of the ground and I only hope they aren't premature in their optimism.

Another harbinger is the season of auto shows that is upon us. I paid a visit to the Dayton show on Saturday, February 27<sup>th</sup>. The show here is a bit low key, certainly in comparison to others I have visited – Detroit some years ago, which was huge, and Cincinnati about 10 years ago, which was a good deal bigger than Dayton's. I suppose we just have a pint-sized convention center. At any rate it was enjoyable to wander around and see some of the current offerings in the automotive business. Mazda's display of course featured the new Miata, in glorious red, and it attracted its share of attention.



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## CALLING ALL MEMBERS

### INVITE NEW MEMBERS!

Annual Dues are \$20.00, January through December

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

## MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL REPORT

At the first of March our membership stands at 69; There are 23 non-renewals who are being contacted by phone or email to verify their status.

If you are planning to not renew, and have yet to be contacted, please inform the Club via email to our membership chair and let us know if there is a particular reason.



*TO ALL NEW MEMBERS*

*AND ALL OUR*

*RETURNING MEMBERS*

### Don't go shirtless...

The club has several shirts in its inventory that are available to any member on request. They are Mazda promotional items that have not found a new home. Here is a list:

Color	Size	Logo	Qty
black	M	Mazda	1
black	2XL	Mazda	2
blue	2XL	Mazda	1
tan	M	zoom-zoom	2
tan	2XL	zoom-zoom	2

Anyone wishing to take possession of a shirt listed above may contact Dave Berry at [dinglebe@hotmail.com](mailto:dinglebe@hotmail.com), and arrange delivery at the March Meet & Greet at Fricker's in Huber Heights.



03/06 Anne Talafous  
 03/08 Gail Allen  
 03/19 Mary Anne Blazer  
 03/21 Donna Vollmer  
 03/23 Darden Whitaker  
 03/27 Joanne Vincent  
 03/28 Birdie Hilbing  
 03/28 Susan Cain  
 03/30 John Bowling

## OUR CLUB SPONSOR

# Jeff Schmitt Mazda



## **RALLY REPORT: Drives and Activities for 2016**



**MARCH 9 MVMC BOARD MEETING 6PM**

**Giovani's Pizzeria at 215 W Main St Fairborn**

**MARCH 15 Meet & Greet SEE BELOW FOR DETAILS**

**APRIL 19 Meet & Greet**

**Cadillac Jack's**

**9400 North Springboro Pike**

**Miamisburg, Ohio 45342**

**Come join us!**



**The March 15th Meet & Greet** at Fricker's in Huber Heights is just around the corner. Be sure to mark your calendars, and join us for an enjoyable evening of food, drink and socializing in the awesome Fricker's private party room.

**When:**

Tuesday, March 15, 2016 (6:30pm - 8:00pm)

**Where:**

Fricker's, 6280 Chambersburg Road, Huber Heights, Ohio 45424

Fricker's offers salads, wings, burgers, sandwiches, quesadillas, and wraps, as well as several dinner selections. And Tuesday is 55-cent chicken wings day!!!!

**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.frickers.com/Locations/6280-Chambersburg-Rd>



*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](mailto:miamivalleyMC@gmail.com)*

## Rally Master' Report



Wow! Has the weather been tricky or what? Last month we held the Virtual Rally at Norma and Dan Kirkpatrick' home on what had to be the nicest day of 2016 so far! The VR is usually held this time of the year because the weather is just too nasty to get the cars out and do a real road rally. I was heartened though by the number of Miata' that showed up with their tops down and the occupants smiling. Dave Berry did a great job as Virtual Rally Master.

I'm currently at work putting together the known list of events for 2016. These are events that club members have already volunteered to lead or coordinate for the current club year. I should have the list ready for the March Meet ' Greet as well as the April Wright Roadster. I'll post it on the web site as soon as it's validated by all the event leaders. Just FYI, the club now (again) has a copy of the Ohio Road Atlas and Gazetteer. We also have copies of Indiana, Illinois, Michigan, and Wisconsin. It' called the Great Lakes Set and can be checked out for your drive planning use.

There are currently no events scheduled for March. Weather may still be a factor but if anyone would like to lead a Drive and Dine type event the club has several you could choose from. The event could even be rain or shine and I don' think anyone would mind. Please contact me if you' like to step up and I'll be glad to help you on the road to Event Rally Master.

That' all for now, I can be reached at [mtwheel@hotmail.com](mailto:mtwheel@hotmail.com) should anybody need to contact me before the Meet ' Greet.

Keep the rubber side down,  
**Mike**





## The Great Miata Drive Route Gathering of 2016!

Over the past 22+ years the MVMC members have led or participated in dozens if not hundreds of driving events. These events can be classified as Drive and Dines, Gimmick Rallies, TSD Rallies, Day Trips, Weekend or Overnight outings, Impromptu Drives, Hare and Hound Runs, Poker Runs, etc. Since the club has been in existence we've pretty much done it all.

The Miami Valley Miata Club needs your help. Unfortunately, many of these events were completed in what I'll call the pre-digital age and no lasting record of the routes or rules has been maintained except by individual members of the club. We do have some collected but not what I would call anywhere near a complete set.

If you have digital files of any events you have led in the past or paper copies that were provided for any of the events you participated in, would you please make them available to the club?



These routes and rules will be made available to the membership once again so that we may enjoy them over and over. For digital files you can email them to [mtwheel@hotmail.com](mailto:mtwheel@hotmail.com) or give me a call at 937.776.9918 to arrange for pick up or transfer of paper.

Thanks, Mike Your MVMC Rally Master

### Miami Valley Miata Club New Logo Update

Most of you are aware that some members have been lobbying for an update to the club's current logo. Here it is for reference:



Such an action cannot be taken arbitrarily, as the contents of the logo are prescribed in the club's By-Laws:

#### ARTICLE II - Emblem (Logo)

A drawing of a Miata superimposed on an outline of the state of Ohio with the words Miami Valley at the top and Miata Club at the bottom. Red letters, blue state, white star, red car. Location of star in state outline is Dayton.

It is entirely up to the membership whether to adopt a new logo or not. And if a design is chosen that does not comply with Article II, then the By-Laws will also have to be amended to change the wording of Article II.

It is right and proper for the club and its officers to accommodate the wishes to present a new logo to the membership for their acceptance or rejection, in an orderly fashion. In order to support that, I am in the process of drafting a procedure to follow. This will be reviewed with the Executive Committee, and once agreed upon, will be published to the membership.

In the meantime, any member(s) interested in devising a new logo may proceed, and should plan to have it presentation-ready by June 1, 2016. We will follow up with announcement of the procedure, and will also try to answer some of the questions that will inevitably arise.

Thank you,  
Dave Berry, President

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

By: Ed & Tim



Although this is not a topic that we would typically cover in Shop Talk, I ran across a very interesting article in the most recent issue of Popular Mechanics written by Ezra Dryer, "Equal Opportunity Auto Racing", that was a short description of several new ways to participate in auto racing and the cost associated with participating at these various levels of competition.

So, if you have ever dreamed of becoming a race driver, and who hasn't, you will probably find this article as interesting as I did. An unspoken premise in this analysis is that there is a move afoot to bring down the cost of racing so that the common man can again get involved. The desire is to make racing more like it was back in the 50's and 60's when you could buy an MG or Corvette on Saturday, go to the races on Sunday, be competitive, and drive the car to work on Monday. This period represented the golden days of racing in the US, when many of your friends and neighbors were regularly involved. It would be fair to say that at that time racing was also very dangerous due to the lack of safety measures. Below you will find my quick interpretation of Ezra's already short article.

So, to put it all into perspective, let's start with a quick look at some of the more popular current national and international race series. In this scenario you will need an expensive car, a crew, spare parts, race fuel, protective clothing, transportation to and from the track, and food and lodging for race weekends. As most of the existing series have about 12 races, let us use that as a standard. According to Mr. Dryer, participation at this level will cost you between \$800,000 and \$1,000,000 per year probably closer to the higher number. To say the least, too expensive for me.

A second approach is a new concept that has recently become popular in Europe called "Arrive and Drive". In this scenario, you can drive a loaner car such as an Audi RS4 in the 24 hours of Nuremburg or an Aston Martin in the GT4 Challenge for about \$9,000 per race plus transportation, food, and lodging. Assuming you don't want to camp and eat peanut butter all weekend, you could probably add another \$6,000 or so to cover these extra expenses (accommodations and food prices always double or triple during a race). That leaves the "Arrive and Drive" cost of a 12-race series at about \$180,000. Still too expensive?

A third approach is a new concept being implemented here in the US by two Frenchmen, called EXR. In this option, EXR takes care of everything, providing the cars the tracks, and all other support details all the way down to helmets and racing shoes. The car they provide is an EXR LVO2. This car has a proper tube frame RWD race car with a 230 hp. Renault engine. The catch is that this car comes with a passenger seat, drivers-ed. brake pedal, and a trained driving coach to keep you out of too much trouble. The price of this experience is \$4990 plus \$990 of mandatory insurance. In addition, you still have to cover transportation, food, and lodging. Since this is all domestic, it is likely a little less expensive, say \$4000 per race. That totals to about \$120,000 per season. Is that still too expensive?

As an additional alternative, you have the new "2016 MX5 Cup Series". Here you need to own a specially-prepared MX5 Cup Car designed to compete in the series that costs a paltry \$53,000. The car includes a roll cage, fire suppression system, beefed-up cooling, brakes, and suspension. In this car, the parts are all sealed with tamper-proof stickers so a racer can't add performance parts. Thus, on race day, driving talent is the only variable. In this scenario, it is estimated that you will need about \$7,000 per week for tires, repairs, transportation and lodging, or about \$137,000 for a 12 race season. I don't know about the rest of you, but if my age hadn't already crushed my dreams of being a professional race driver, the cost of participation as described above would have. Not to despair, there is still SCCA, and Autocross. As a final thought, I think it is unlikely that the "Golden Age" of racing will ever come back. One of the biggest reasons is the increased safety measures now mandated for the safety of the participants. That is probably a good thing, but it is sad to think that it is gone forever.

Tim Howard



### ***February Meet & Greet***

But overall, the majority of traffic seemed drawn to large pickup trucks and really large SUVs. No doubt these are the real money makers for the manufacturers, particularly when you see window stickers on pickups at \$50,000 and up. Yikes! Getting back to the red Miata, it was a bright spot in a sea of gray. So many vehicles were that color – not silver, not black, but boring, almost industrial shades of gray. It had me scratching my head – why wouldn't you bring a vehicle to an auto show that stood out, that attracted attention? Bright red does that. So do glossy piano black and pearly white. But gray? Save it for battleships and machine tools.

Perhaps if the current warm spell holds we can get an outing on the calendar during March. After all, Punxsutawney Phil promised an early spring. And what's more, Rally Master Mike Wheeler is recruiting members to take the lead on drives, especially shorter length "drive and dines". He has a considerable list from recent years, with routes and directions, custom-made for a member to repeat. About all that is needed is to verify that a given route is still good (no roads closed, bridges out, extensive construction, etc.) and contact the destination facility (if there is one) to check on availability. So here is an amplification of Mike's pitch – please step up and help us get our group out of our recliners and 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 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)."**