



THE WRIGHT ROADSTER

MARCH 2015 Volume 27, Issue 3

ZOOM-ZOOM



The President's Corner *By Tim Howard*

Ok, I am now officially tired of winter. I don't like it when it is too cold and too snowy to do things I really enjoy.

I am tired of shoveling snow, I have sharpened all of my drill bits, repaired everything in the house that is broken, read several books, and I am two months ahead of schedule preparing my tax return.

I miss the Thursday morning shop sessions, and simply driving in pleasant weather with the top down. I can't wait to get the Miata out of the garage and start enjoying life again.

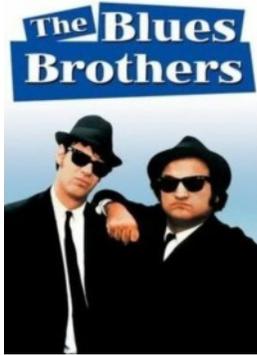
I know that most of you are not as afflicted with the automotive sickness as I am, but I am sure that about this time of the year you are beginning to experience some of the same restlessness that I am experiencing. Even if you just long for green grass, warmth, and leaves on the trees, I am sure you can relate to my frustration.

It always helps me to get through this part of the year if I have something to look forward to: projects to plan, trips to take, activities to anticipate. Well, here comes the Calvary in the form of the Miami Valley Miata Club. During this dark dreary part of the year, our Rally Master, Fred Hoppel, has been hard at work planning events for 2015. Among the drives already scheduled and sponsored, are a drive and dine to the Boat House in Cincinnati; a trip to the Auburn Cord Duesenberg Museum ;: a moonlight drive to Hueston Woods; Marietta Madness; The London Cobra Show; The Mid Ohio Vintage Race; The Mitty; Miatas at the Gap; The Woodward Dream Cruise; an Amish Country Tour including Warther Cutlery; Hocking Hills Fall Foliage; Cruise the Burg; Covered Bridge Drive & Dine; and a Piatt Castle Tour, drive, and dine.

The above is not intended to be all inclusive, just indicative of the excitement that the club already has planned for 2015. Within the next few days there will be a list of finalized events added to the calendar as well as published in list form. In addition, we fully intend to add more 2015 events as the year progresses.

The message is: don't despair. Spring is just around the corner and there are already a plethora of activities planned that we can all look forward to. If you have not already seen your favorite activity mentioned, don't forget to participate in our Planning Meeting on April 4th. This is a great opportunity for you to give us your input regarding activities that you would like to see scheduled for the remainder of 2015. Finally, keep in mind the following quote attributed to Elvis Presley. "What good is the warmth of summer without the cold of winter to give it sweetness."

Virtual Rally 2015
the fabulous
"Blues Brothers Show Band
and Review"



February 14 –Valentine’ Day.

The weather outside was frightful. Cold, snow, blowing wind, all making for an apprehensive drive to the home of Dan and Norma Kirkpatrick in Fairborn. Yet neither the date nor the external conditions deterred the enrolled teams from their destination –an afternoon (reaching into evening) contest of let’s-watch-a-movie-and-answer-questions-about-it.

February isn’t well-suited to outside activities, like drives and such, so watching a movie among friends has proven to be a popular Club event over the years. Cont Pg 3

MVMC 8th Annual St. Patrick's Euchre Party

Gears, Games, and Grub

DATE: March 21 (Saturday)

TIME: 12pm to 4pm ..

LOCATION:

Pat & Bonnie Sturgeon's Home

1180 Dorchester Road

Xenia, OH

RSVP TO: Pat & Bonnie,
oma.sturgeon@gmail.com



**372-3615 (home) by March 18th—
so we can plan table arrangements**

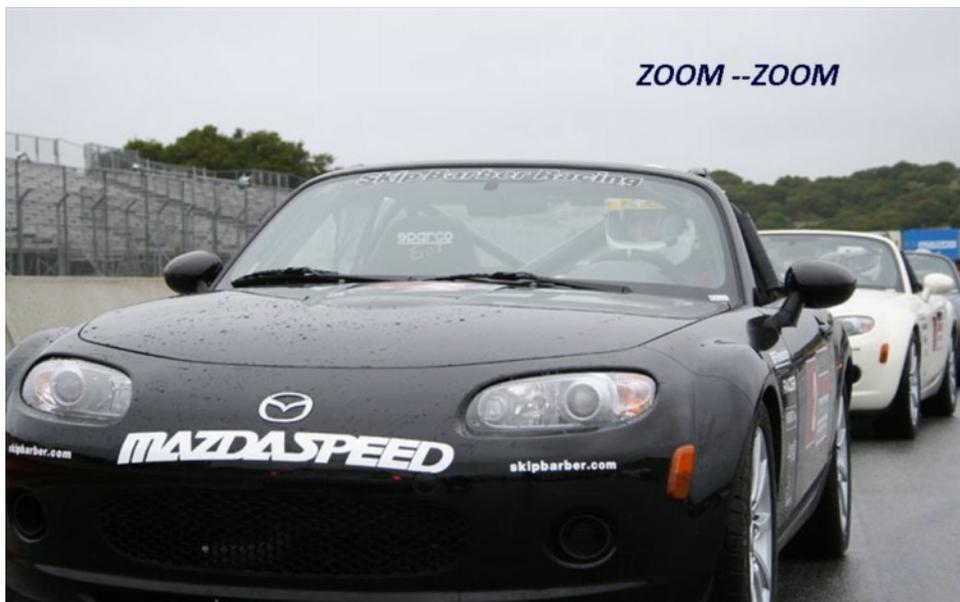
Your hosts: Lee Korb, Patric Gould, & Pat and Bonnie Sturgeon

GEARS: Weather permitting, we will start with a drive through Greene County with your Miata or winter substitute.

GRUB: Then a little lunch, bring something to share, club will provide drinks.

GAMES: Finish up with a Euchre tournament. (Space limits us to 5 tables)

Prizes for first and last! You don't need to be an experienced Euchre player (OR IRISH)...come, learn, or just watch and enjoy the day! Hope to see you there (in your green)!



Seven teams took their places in Dan and Norma's beautifully finished basement to receive pre-contest briefings from Dan on logistics and from Dave Berry, Rally Master for the event, on the rules by which they would play.

The identity of the movie, which had been a tightly held and heavily guarded secret, was revealed –it would be "The Blues Brothers" Question/scoring sheets were distributed, some teams adjourned to the upstairs (where a second screen was available), and the contest commenced.

Some may puzzle that the "Blues Brothers" is not strictly a "car movie" and in truth, it is not. What it is, is a rollicking 1980 comedy with lots of great music and two of the most outrageous chase scenes on film. Who isn't going to howl at a wild pursuit inside a shopping mall, or at dozens of Illinois State Patrol and Chicago Police vehicles careening into stacks of junk? Or at a grudge-holding girl friend attacking her jilting Joliet Jake with rockets, bombs, a flame thrower, and an M-16? Perfect stuff for Valentine' Day.

As the movie rolled each team did its best to correctly answer 50 questions on which Dave and Dan had collaborated, in two sets of 25. Showing of the movie was done in two corresponding parts, with an intermission. The latter allowed time for the contestants to indulge in the fine food items contributed by the contestants, along with a deli tray and beverages provided by the Club.

At the conclusion of the movie, Dave read out the answers and each team scored its results. The total possible score was 78, and three teams, Darden and Debbie Whitaker, Chuck and Pat Valley, and Larry Roberts and Marilyn Rodney, had each amassed a highest total of 66.

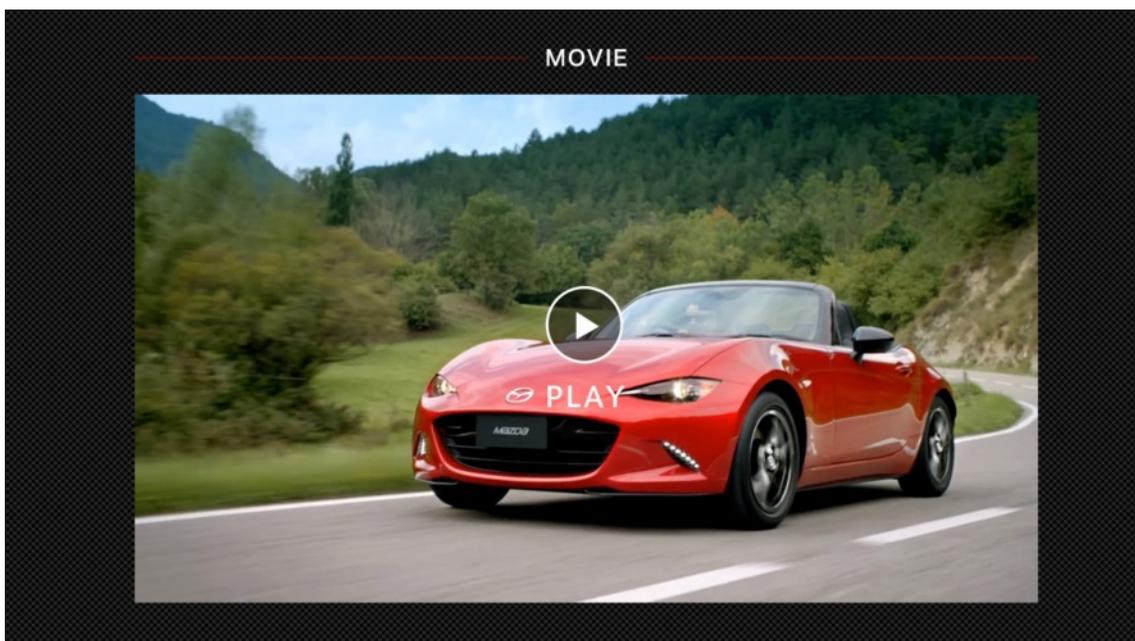
Several rounds of tie breakers were needed to set the final order, and it was:

- 1st Place: Chuck and Pat Valley
- 2nd Place: Darden and Debbie Whitaker
- 3rd Place: Larry Roberts and Marilyn Rodney

Chuck and Pat prevailed because they came up with the answer to this question:

Steve Cropper and Donald "Duck" Dunn joined Booker T. Jones to form Booker T. and the M.G.'.
What hit song did the group record in 1962? Do you know the answer?

Special thanks go out to Dan and Norma for the use of their home, and to Fred and Jayna Hoppel for their help in setting up and cleaning up.





NEW MEMBERS

Please welcome Anthony & Jeanne Zlocki of Springboro with their 1990 Red Miata.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL APPEAL

The February 28 deadline to renew has passed! While we had hoped to have all the membership renewals completed by this time, there are those who keep forgetting or putting it off. I sent email nudges to those who have not renewed or notified me of discontinuing, and will do so again this weekend. This is your last chance, folks! Please send me your renewal form and \$20 ASAP. Without renewal, your name and email will be removed from the membership roster and you will not receive the 2015 website login, email updates, and newsletter. Nor will you be included in our many FUNTASTIC events.

We will leave renewals open through mid-March. This 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 March 17 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!
Cheryl Kay Goldstein, Membership Chair

Just check out the front cover..



BIRTHDAY WSHES TO:

Members with March Birthdays

- 03/01 Gordon Stafford
- 03/06 Anne Talafous
- 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
- 03/31 Donna Tinley

OUR CLUB SPONSOR

Jeff Schmitt Mazda





RALLY REPORT

by Fred Hoppel

Planning Drives and Activities for 2015 FPHoppel@Aol.com.

On Saturday, February 7th the MVMC Drives and Activities Planning Team held its first meeting.

Unlike the weather these past few days, the weather was sunny, dry and beautiful. A few Team members even drove their Miata to the meeting.

Using the Survey results from 2014, and the Ballot sheet that was passed out at the January Meet and Greet and emailed to all members, we identified those drives and activities the members liked the best. Many of those drives and activities were mentioned by our President Tim Howard, under the President's Corner, and will not be repeated.

However there are still plenty of opportunities for members to plan and/or lead a drive or activity. If you have an idea for a drive or activity, and need any help please contact me or any one of the members on the MVMC Drives and Activities Planning Team. I would like to thank the following persons for their participation and assistance; Bill Bateman, David Berry, Tim Howard, Tom Seay, Chuck and Pat Valley, Chris Vollmer, George Wetmore, and Mike Wheeler. The dates for the MATG this year are July 23-26, 2015. I do not know at the present time if I will be able to participate and/or lead our Club members to Townsend, TN this year. If any of our members know they will be participating and going this year and would like to lead our group to Townsend please call or email me at 937-321-1381 or FPHoppel@Aol.com. Thanks ...Fred Hoppel

PLANNING AHEAD

Planning Meeting : Date: Saturday, April 4, 2015 - 9:00am

Maintenance Day: Date: Saturday, April 18, 2015 - 9:00am
Spring Valley

Mitty Vintage Race : Date: Friday, April 24, 2015 - 8:00am to
Sunday, April 26, 2015 - 11:45pm Atlanta

A non-club event, Miatas at Myrtle Beach, is coming up March 26-29

A few of our members usually attend.

There is a [website with details](#) - you can google for more info if you need.

Meet & Greet

Company 7

**1001 S Main Street
Englewood, OH**

**Date: Tuesday,
March 17, 2015 - 6:30pm**

[Event Website:](#)

[Event Directions:](#)

Drives and Activities Planning Team

Bill Bateman,
David Berry,
Tim Howard,
Tom Seay,
Chuck and Pat Valley,
Chris Vollmer,
George Wetmore,
and Mike Wheeler.

If you have an idea for a drive or activity, and need any help please contact me (Fred Hoppel) or any one of the above Team members

The **Wright Roadster** is the official newsletter of the Miami Valley Miata Club. Subscriptions are available as part of membership in the club. Archived issues, membership applications and additional club information may be found on the club website, miamivalleymiatclub.org, or contact the membership officer. or more information, contact the editor. miamivalleyMC@gmail.com Advertising- There is no charge for members to advertise Miata related items and services.

Disclaimer: *Any information contained herein is used strictly at the reader's owner risk. The MVMC, its officers, and anybody else are not liable for any of the material you read about and try to accomplish, which may void your warranty and/or damage your toy. Just because you read it does not mean it works.*

Montgomery Inn Boathouse

Spring Drive and Dine

When = Saturday, April 11th, 2015

Times = Meet Time at 12:00 Noon

Drivers Meeting at 12:15 PM

Departure Time at 12:30 PM

Meeting Place = Xenia Bike Hub

Corner of Miami Ave and S Detroit St
Xenia, OH 45342

Bring = CB Radio (if you have one)

RSVP = Call or email Fred or Jayna Hoppel

at 937-321-1381 or FPHoppel@Aol.com

by Saturday, April 4th



Details : Dining at Montgomery Inn Boathouse
925 Riverside Drive
Cincinnati, OH 45202
513-721-7427

[Http://www.montgomeryinn.com/restaurants/the-boathouse/](http://www.montgomeryinn.com/restaurants/the-boathouse/)

Questions = Call or email Fred or Jayna Hoppel at
937-321-1381 or FPHoppel@Aol.com

Event Calendar

Month Week Day Year

March 2015

« PRE NEXT »

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12 Board Meeting	13	14
15	16	17 Meet & Greet	18	19	20	21 Gears, Games, and Grub
22	23	24	25	26 Miatas at Myrtle Beach	27	28
29 Miatas at Myrtle Beach	30	31	1	2	3	4



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

by Ed Kramer & Tim Howard

Several members have expressed an interest in refurbishing the seats in their Miatas. I have previously written about the installation of new upholstery, so I thought it might be appropriate to write about refurbishing leather seats. If your Miata happens to have leather seats that are showing their age in the form of cracks in the surface of the leather and spots where the color has worn off, this just might be a good project for you.

My 2000 Special Edition was in the above condition. A quick trip to the upholstery shop proved as suspected; that replacing the damaged leather panels was too expensive. As a result, I began to explore the process of repairing/re-dyeing the seats.

Thru online research I found Leather World, a company that not only offers a complete line of leather dyes formulated to match the upholstery in many popular makes and models, and also has excellent online training videos. I bought one of their kits specifically matched to my car for about \$80.00. The kit included, leather prep and cleaner, dye colorant, protectant cream, a scuffing pad, die applicator, and a crack filler plus applicator.

I remove the seats from the car (4 bolts each), and detached the seat backs from the bottoms so I could easily reach all areas to dye them. The process itself was relatively simple, no special skills required. Clean the leather with leather prep solution, lightly scuff the surface with the scuffing pad, and then fill the cracks with the crack filler (multiple light coats are better than one heavy coat).

After the filler has dried (a process that you can speed with a hair dryer) you then go over the repaired areas with the scuffing pad to smooth them out. With all the above steps completed you are now ready to re-dye the leather. I applied the dye using the foam application pad, and found that a pouncing motion worked best for me. Because of the extensive repair work done on my seats and the light color, I found that about three coats of dye were needed before I got consistent coverage.

Attached you will find three pictures taken before, during, and after the process. I drove the car for several years after completion, and found the results to be very satisfactory despite some of the cracks reappearing, albeit much smaller and less visible.



Figure 1 Before



Figure 2 After crack filling



Figure 3 Re-dye process completed