



The President's Corner *By Tim Howard*

It is hard to imagine, but we are already 31 days into the New Year and just that much closer to top-down weather. With any luck at all, the ground hog will not see his shadow and we will catapult forward another 45 days into the portion of the year that we all love best. Although that is what we are all hoping for, it doesn't mean that there is nothing for Miata Club members to do if it doesn't happen.

There will be a Meet & Greet on February 17th at TJ Chumps in Miamisburg, A Virtual Rally on Valentine's Day at the Kirkpatrick's in Fairborn and, for those so inclined, there is always the meeting of Miata wizards at Ed's shop on Thursdays. Who knows, maybe someone will even organize an impromptu short drive and announce it on Facebook or email. The point is, the club is still active even during these cold months, particularly the Board.

The Board has been working hard to organize the year and make improvements to all of our back-office systems. Without boring you all to death, the most visible progress can probably be seen in the work done to identify drives that the membership would like and on the website. I encourage you to go to the website and look around.

If you go to the events section, you will find that all Meet & Greets have been scheduled for the year, and locations have been booked. If you click on any Meet & Greet, you access the website for that restaurant, where you can look at the menu and pricing as well as get directions. All locations booked for this year have private rooms in accordance with last year's survey.

The calendar also includes all perennial events important to the club including the picnic (moved to cooler weather), and the Christmas Party, as well as a Planning Meeting in April. After consulting with Jeff Schmitt, it appears that the introduction of the new Miata will be in the September/October time-frame and we will try to arrange our annual pizza party around that event.

One thing that the general membership can do to improve the website during this cold weather is to look through their files and send us copies of photos from past events so we can post them on our website (send to MiamivalleyMC@gmail.com). It is our objective to make the website the repository for all club photos.

Don't forget to let us know what you are thinking, it is our objective to make the MVMC as much fun as possible.

NEXT MEET & GREET

T J CHUMPS

12 E Linden Avenue
Miamisburg, OH

Date: Tuesday, February 17

Time: - 6:30pm

Event Website: [visit Link](#)

Event Directions: [visit Link](#)



FEBRUARY EVENT CALENDAR

Month Week Day Year

February 2015

« PRE NEXT »

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14 VIRTUAL RALLY
15	16	17 MEET & GREET	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28



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NEW MEMBERS

Please welcome Diane & Jack Estridge of Cedarville with their new 2015 Jet Black Grand Touring Miata.

Welcome also to Michelle & Don Bereda of Liberty Township and their 1993 Red Miata.

The Bereda's Miata was in the Jeff Schmidt shop, and from what I gather emailing with Michelle, is a bit of a project car, but will be on the road this spring. I believe she has done much of the work herself, but will no doubt be calling on Tim and Ed in the future.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL APPEAL



The February 28 deadline to renew without a break in membership is just around the corner. While we had hoped to have all the membership renewals completed by this time, there are those who keep forgetting or putting it off. Next week I will be sending out email nudges to those who have not renewed or notified me of discontinuing.

Your attention to this sooner rather than later is most appreciated. I 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 the end of 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 February 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
ck.zoomzoom@gmail.com

IT' THAT TIME AGAIN

February 28th

is the renewal deadline

You may download the membership renewal form online at:
<http://miamivalleymiatclub.org/node/125>



BIRTHDAY WISHES TO:

- 02/03 Carol Bowling
- 02/05 Larry Kramer
- 02/06 Steve Hayden
- 02/07 Ginny Kramer
- 02/09 Bonnie Sturgeon
- 02/10 Don Bereda
- 02/10 Ed Kramer
- 02/13 Fred Hoppel
- 02/15 Evie Heckman
- 02/19 Carolyn Gibbs
- 02/20 Karen Maas
- 02/20 Keri Miller
- 02/21 Peggy Berry
- 02/22 Neva Hufford
- 02/24 Bill Hagedon
- 02/27 Gary Tarka
- 02/27 George Colleary
- 02/27 Karen Walker
- 02/28 Christina (Chris) Barker
- 02/28 Dena Czeiszperger



RALLY REPORT

by Fred Hoppel

Planning Drives and Activities for 2015

A Ballot sheet was distributed at our January Meet & Greet, as well as being emailed to the entire membership. It listed drive activities that fell within the interest areas from our Survey of last year. Your feedback via the "ballot sheet" helps us to identify which activities you are most be interested in participating.

Doing Drives and Activities requires a Team effort. Members who are interested in assisting the Rally Master during 2015 in executing our Club Drives please send an email to FPHoppel@Aol.com.

MEET our RALLY Master: Fred Hoppel

My wife, Jayna and I are both from the Miami Valley area. Jayna grew up and attended high school in Franklin and I grew up and attended high school in Xenia. After high school I enlisted into the U.S. Army, and spent 2+ years of my three year enlistment working for NATO in Izmir, Turkey. After my discharge, I worked for General Motors, (Delco Products) for nearly a year, before taking a job with the U.S. Treasury Department. After 31 years of government service, I retired and began a second career as a real estate agent with Coldwell Banker-Heritage Realtors. After 11 years I retired again in 2013.

Jayna worked for the U.S. Department of Justice, and is retired with 35 + years of service. We will have been married 32 years this February, have three daughters, one son, and seven grandchildren, ranging in age from 5 months to age 20. We each do volunteer work for our church, and enjoy vacations at Lake Cumberland, and Myrtle Beach.

We purchased our 2008 Miata GT, from a Cadillac dealership in Dublin, Ohio in March 2013. I think we got a good deal on the car by buying it during the Winter season, however driving the Miata home became quite adventurous when it began to snow about halfway home to our residence in Miamisburg.



VIRTUAL RALLY 2015

Saturday, February 14

3:00pm

The Residence of :

Dan and Norma Kirkpatrick

1520 Meadowlands Drive

Fairborn, OH 45342

[Event Directions LINK](#)

RSVP

DAVE BERRY

The summer tires that came with the Miata were the worst tires I have ever driven in the snow, causing me to do two 180 degree rotations in the South bound center lane of I-675 between North Fairfield Road and U.S. Route 35.

There were numerous vehicles passing me as I could not travel any faster than 30 mph without spinning out and I could not get over into the right (slow poke) lane.

I just knew I was going to get t-boned by a semi truck that evening. Fortunately with Jayna running interference for me (following me in her car) I was able to make it to The

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Jeff Schmitt Mazda



Greene, where I parked the Miata in an underground parking garage and rode home with Jayna in her car (Hyundai Sonata with FWD, and all season tires). After the roads had been cleared, I went back to The Greene, and drove the Miata home.

MVMC members, Byron and Skeeter Pettit and Mike and Mary Beth Smith are long time friends and recommended we join the Club, which we did in March 2013.

As the Rally Master, I hope to plan and assist in the planning of lots of drives for the MVMC, but I need a little help from my friends (our members). Thanks ... Fred Hoppel

MEET our Vice President: Dave Berry



Dave Berry bought his Stormy Blue Mica Miata just before Christmas in 2009 “I happened to be driving by a dealership,” he recounts, “when I saw this deep blue roadster and heard it calling my name.

I have always loved that color. When I saw the price was marked down for an end-of-model-year sale, that was it. I had to have it.” And for the next several years Dave (and Peggy, who had become his wife six years before) enjoyed top down motoring whenever the opportunity presented itself. She even gets to drive it sometimes.

But Dave seldom seemed to find opportunities to really enjoy the Miata in the way it was meant to be driven – quickly, and with determination. “I don’t even drive to work,” he notes. “I work at home”. Then good fortune struck two years ago when Dave visited a dry cleaning shop and encountered Skeeter Pettit.

“Skeeter told me about the club and invited me to join. When I told Peggy, she encouraged me. And that’s really the beginning of the story. I have had so much enjoyment with this club – the events, the get-togethers, and especially the drives.

Marietta in 2013 and the Tail of the Dragon last year – those are some awesome roads and I loved every minute of it. I’m just glad Karen Francis didn’t hit that cow with me right behind her...”

Dave serves proudly in 2015 as our club’s Vice President. So how does he sum up his feelings about the club? “I love the cars, I love the drives, I really enjoy the events. But what makes this club special is its people. We like one another. We enjoy being together and doing things together. How can it get any better than that?”





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

by Ed Kramer & Tim Howard

Several months ago when temperatures were warm and tops were down, I wrote about our trip to the Columbus swap meet, and the components that I purchased to upgrade the brakes on my 1990 Miata. If you don't already know, the 1990 thru 1993 Miatas came with the smallest brake package ever available on a Miata.

The brake rotors were only 9.0 inches in diameter, and the proportioning valve directed only 30.0% of brake pressure to the rear wheels at maximum braking. Most experts considered this meager amount of line pressure to the rear wheels to be less than optimum (too much pressure to the rear wheels can cause the car to spin under heavy braking; too little, and car doesn't stop well). The net result: early Miata brakes were not up to the expectations of many performance drivers. In my case, probably not adequate for a Monster Miata with 250 horsepower versus a stock 1990 Miata with a 116 horsepower engine.

Given the above, in 1994, Miata upgraded the brake package. The new system included roughly 10.0 inch rotors, a revised proportioning valve (delivering 40.0% of maximum line pressure to the rear wheels) and redesigned brake pads. These changes significantly improved the brakes and were included on all Miatas until the new Sport Brakes were introduced in 2002.

The components that I bought at the swap meet included most of the parts that were necessary to upgrade my 1990 to the improved 1994 thru 2002 brake system. Considering my situation, I decided to go a little further by adding drilled and slotted rotors to better dissipate the heat and gases generated by heavy braking, and braided stainless steel brake hoses to reduce hose flex that translates into a spongy brake pedal under hard use. Finally, I opted to upgrade to carbon-based performance brake pads, not just stock Miata pads.

With all of the above in hand, on a Thursday in October, our group of Miata Gurus met at Ed's shop to begin the process of installing these new components. The process went reasonably well, but there were a few holdups, the biggest of which was that I discovered I needed new front calipers. Despite that, I was able to complete the process a few days later.



Attached is a picture of the upgraded brakes compared to the old, smaller rotor that was replaced. The improvement in braking capability, pedal feel, and driver confidence was well worth the minimal cost of the project. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me.

The following information is supplied to the Membership based on our Club By-Laws

TREASURER'S REPORT FOR 2014

	Actual Income
Revenue	
Sponsor	\$1,200.00
Membership Fee	\$1,740.00
Misc	\$305.00
	\$3,245.00
	Expenditures
Required Expenditures	
Insurance	\$332.00
Webpage Costs	\$695.10
Newsletter	\$106.73
Events	
Virutal Rally	\$102.00
Picnic	\$475.42
Rally Master Budget	\$416.66
Rally Event Prizes	\$81.30
Pizza at Dealers	\$210.41
Christmas Party	\$515.45
Presidents Discretionary	\$496.90
Misc	\$471.84
	\$3,903.81