



# The Wright Roadster

The Newsletter of the  
Miami Valley Miata Club

"Top Down,  
Enjoying Life!"

## ZOOM ZOOM

January 2015 Volume 27, Issue 1



### **The President's Corner** By Tim Howard

*First of all, Happy New Year! I never cease to be amazed at how fast the years roll past. It seems as if the New Year has just begun when we are again watching the ball drop on Times Square, saying goodbye to the old and ushering in a new beginning.*

*For me, the year end has always been a time to evaluate the prior year's activities and then set some direction for the coming year. With respect to the Miami Valley Miata Club (MVMC), I think that 2014 was a good year; membership remained strong, club activities were numerous and well attended, we began to reach out and participate with other local clubs, we initiated a Facebook page and we updated our Website.*

*These are all positive results but, In my opinion, one of most important things that we did last year was to complete a survey of members, and conduct a Members' Planning Meeting. I hope to use the information obtained in that process as a guide for 2015 as we try to fulfill the objectives of the membership.*

*As I see it, our mission is very simple; that is, to have fun (mostly in the sun) with our Miata's, be it leisurely driving, competition, cruise-ins, or simply help with maintenance. In a club our size, there should be room for all of those interests, even if we need to serve some of them in collaboration with other local clubs.*

*I am excited about the prospects that 2015 holds for the MVMC. Along with our normal club events, this is the first time in nearly a decade that a new Miata will be formally introduced to the public. If nothing else happens in 2015, that event alone should create significant excitement within the club.*

*As a result of the turnover on the Board, we held a very productive joint 2014/2015 Board meeting in mid-December in an attempt to ensure that no important functions were dropped during the Board transition. Additionally, there was significant discussion about the 2015 calendar and activities. I was very impressed by the level of enthusiasm and creativity I saw at this meeting. I would like to thank both Boards for their hard work and cooperation during and after the meeting to make this transition as smooth as possible.*

*I think the club is well positioned to move into 2015, and I am enthusiastic about the Club's prospects for the year. I hope you share my enthusiasm.*

**NEXT MEET & GREET**  
**January 20th at 6:30**  
**Chappy's**  
**2733 West Alex Bell Road,**  
**Moraine, Ohio**

See website for map



**8TH ANNUAL JOYCE HILL MEMORIAL**  
**'POLAR BEAR RUN'**

Can you believe it? As sportscaster Al Michaels asked way back in the 1980 Olympics Winter Games, when the U.S. defeated Russia for the Ice Hockey Gold Medal, "do you believe in miracles? Yes!"(has it really been 34 years?). Well, yes, December 31st, 2014 was a perfect day for our annual 'Polar Run' and a remembrance of our late Club member Joyce Hill. Once again, the 'run' actually occurred when it was supposed to - New Years Eve morning - no weather postponement. The conditions were PERFECT (a balmy 16 degrees at the start and then a little bit warmer after lunch at Giovanni'). No blowing snow and a soft warm breeze coming in off the ocean like last year' start, but a dry sunny morning.



More hardy soles this year -21 cars and 41 members -an increase of 1 car and 7 more members -that' really wonderful and it definitely made for a cool-looking caravan. And yes, it was a bit cold standing around until all participants arrived, but, once in the cars - tops down, windows up, heaters on, gloves on, well layered = comfortable as always. [\[More p3\]](#)



**JANUARY EVENT CALENDAR**

January 2015

« PRE NEXT »

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
28	29	30	31	1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15 Board Meeting	16	17
18 Judy Mardis Celebration...	19	20 Meet & Greet	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31



## NEW MEMBERS

Please welcome newlyweds Brian and Samantha Leenheer of Beavercreek with their newly acquired 1992 Classic Red Miata.

Welcome back to Susan Cain of Dayton and her 2003 Garnet Red Mica Miata. Susan was previously a MVMC member from 2003-2008

[Con't p2] Of course, there was a bit of consternation at the beginning. After my previous back and forth phone and email confirmations with the Dayton Aviation Heritage National Historical Park and WPAFB itself, the Wright Brothers Memorial Park gates were locked upon my arrival at 9:20. Some quick calls resulted in the arrival of a couple of Base Security cars/personnel and they were eventually able to open the gates. Of course, the Interpretive Center was not open - so much for all of that planning.

The drivers' meeting was at 10:15 and departure followed at 10:30 for a leisurely 75 minute tour through Huber Heights, Taylorsville Metropark (thank goodness for an open restroom), Phoneton, Brandt, Park Layne, Medway and then to Giovanni's Pizzeria Ristorante Italiano in downtown Fairborn, home of participating club member, and Fairborn mayor, Dan Kirkpatrick.

Some caravan separations occurred, but Russ and Dianne Loughlin kept us well in tune when they were held up by the traffic lights (thanks guys for volunteering ONCE AGAIN doing that very much needed function). Giovanni's was ready for us - tables set with snacks and menus - good food and fellowship in ample quantity. As I say every year, I can't wait until next year's 'Run' - it sure is fun looking at the faces of those along the way who must think all of us were crazy. And you know, for sure, Joyce must have been looking down once again with a very large smile on her face. Thank you, Joyce, for initiating an event that is so highly anticipated and very much enjoyed every year

## IT' THAT TIME AGAIN

*Time is winding down for your membership renewals.*

**NOW DUE !!**

*Please print out a renewal form under JOIN on the website and mail it in. We want to keep your uninterrupted membership for 2015. Stay with us!*



### **BIRTHDAY WISHES TO:**

- Jan 05 Jeff Monnier
- Jan 05 Steve Trego
- Jan 06 Don Bennett
- Jan 09 John Muhlenkamp
- Jan 13 Paula Goodrich
- Jan 14 Kathleen Lach
- Jan 14 Paula Bennett
- Jan 18 Norma Kirkpatrick
- Jan 21 Steve Miller
- Jan 22 Larry Roberts
- Jan 27 Chris Vollmer
- Jan 28 Eric Klinec
- Jan 30 Carl (Sam) Siembida
- Jan 31 Debbie Burnside

## **OUR CLUB SPONSOR**

# Jeff Schmitt Mazda





## RALLY REPORT

by Fred Hoppel

### Planning Drives and Activities for 2015

Based on my time with the club (2013-2014) there has been several long distance drives involving one or more nights of lodging. There also has been several all day drives covering 6-8 hours or longer, whereas no lodging was involved. However there has been few drives that were shorter in terms of distance and time. The shorter drives were quite popular with the membership based on my review of some old newsletters and appear to still be popular with the membership based on the turnout we had for our Fall Foliage Drive to the Florentine Restaurant in Germantown in 2014. Therefore I would like to see us do more drives in 2015 that are shorter in terms of time and distance, so we can have a good mix of drives that will appeal to a greater number of our membership.

Based on the MVMC 2014 Membership Survey the Top 5 activities identified by the membership in conjunction with a drive are as follows:

<u>Top 5 Activities Count</u>	<u>Percentage</u>	
Historical Locations	86.4%	51
Cruise-Ins	57.6%	34
Hiking in State/Federal Parks	50.8%	30
Auto Races (Mid-Ohio, Kentucky)	44.1%	26
Canoeing	40.7%	24

A ballot sheet, to be used at our next **Meet and Greet at Chappy s Tap Room on Tuesday, January 20th**, is in the process of being prepared and will have some suggested activities that will fall within those general categories identified above. We would also like to know if **you** have any activities of your own you would like to add to the "ballot sheet." If so, please send your suggested activities to me at [FPHoppel@Aol.com](mailto:FPHoppel@Aol.com).



**WHAT:** a Celebration of Life for Judy Mardis.

Come and share your memories and hear new stories regarding her great smile and influence on other club members.

**WHEN:** JANUARY 18th 1:30 to 4:30

**WHERE:** Miamisburg Moose Lodge.  
2110 East Central Ave.

See club website for map.

<http://miamivalleymiatclub.org/node/292>

Food and refreshments provided!



### Virtual Rally Organizer Needed

Dan Kirkpatrick has agreed to host our Virtual Rally at his residence as he and Norma did last year,( on FEB 14<sup>th</sup>)

**However we need someone to serve as the Rally Master, picking the movie to be watched, coming up with the questions, and running this event.** If you can assist in this event please email me at [FPHoppel@Aol.com](mailto:FPHoppel@Aol.com).

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

*by Ed Kramer & Tim Howard*

"The Shop" over the last year or so, has become a gathering place for club members to kibitz, share a cup of coffee and tinker on Miatas. We generally meet on Thursdays from 10:00 A.M. to around 3:00 in the afternoon (call first or asked to be put on our email list). Other days can be arranged as needed. Our goal is to provide a helping hand to the general membership to keep their 'rides' in top condition. Tim and I thought, for the new year, it would be a good idea to spell out just what kind of services we offer. Please remember, we are not a 'for profit' operation, however we charge a minimal fee for the use of the shop and our time.

### Free Member Services

1. Auto inspection and evaluation for present and potential purchases
2. Input on any Miata problem mechanical or cosmetic
3. Loan of OBED II code reader and timing belt tools

### Upgrades, Repair & Maintenance

1. Redline synthetic fluid replacement for transmission and differential
2. Amsoil Signature series oil and filter for performance engines
3. Amsoil polyorganic radiator fluid replacement (7 year life span)
4. Amsoil synthetic brake and clutch fluid replacement
5. Winter/summer tire rotation and storage
6. Undercarriage detailing and rust prevention (using KBS 3 step process)
7. Lower rear quarter rust repair
8. Suspension restoration and upgrade
9. Brake parts replacement and upgrade
10. Clutch slave cylinder replacement
11. Performance engine tune-up
12. Performance exhaust system install
13. Ignition switch replacement (especially on NA')
14. Timing belt replacement

Special work, modifications and repairs are always of interest to us so don' be afraid to ask us.

## MIATA CLUB USHERS IN CHRISTMAS by Rick Lach

The Miami Valley Miata Club welcomed the 2014 Christmas Season by conducting an International Christmas Party at the New Carlisle Sportsman's Club on Saturday evening, December 6, 2014. The weather cooperated, and the New Carlisle Sportman's Club building provided an ideal setting. The table decorations represented Christmas around the world with flags of the different nations at each table, and an international collection of large homemade Santa's was displayed throughout the facility. Colorful poinsettias and table place settings added to the elegant atmosphere.

This year's social icebreaker involved matching written titles of Christmas carols with pictorial titles, and two boxes of candy were given to the people who had the winning song drawn.

To add to the international feeling, the Club enjoyed lasagna as the main dish, with many other delicious side dishes, salads, and desserts (all with an international "flavor").

Steve Trego conducted a brief business part of the meeting by thanking the outgoing Executive Board for an outstanding job done all year and introducing the new Executive Board for 2015 with a challenge to improve upon this year's program. Thanks to everyone who has served.

Finally, the 53 club attendees were treated to a "Chinese" Gift Exchange (fits in with the international theme) in which our club members devilishly enjoyed a gift exchange in which "stealing" other members' presents was legal. It is my humble opinion that we saw a record number of steals this year.

In all, it was an outstanding evening, taking place in a perfect atmosphere, attended by very friendly people and friends. Our happiness was shared by those less fortunate as members decorated the tree with over 100 donated gloves, hats, scarves, mittens, and socks. Those items were taken to the St Vincent Homeless Shelter.

Many thanks to the folks who worked so hard on making the evening so successful: Pat Gould for obtaining the facility; Lee Korb for the Christmas music and boom box; Skeeter and Byron Pettit and Jayna and Fred Hoppel for devising the icebreaker social; Bonnie and Pat Sturgeon and Kathleen Lach for the table decorations; Russ Loughlin for bringing the ice; Dianne Loughlin for slicing and serving the lasagna; Paul Haller, Byron Pettit, and Fred Hoppel (and a host of others for setting up the tree); and Rosemary Clark and the larger crew who set up the tables at the beginning and those who helped with the clean-up at the end. And finally, we again thank our club membership for attending and supporting our Christmas Party by your attendance and for bringing such great food.





## 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 20 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](mailto:ck.zoomzoom@gmail.com) 937-903-3875

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](http://miamivalleymiatclub.org), or contact the membership officer. For more information, contact the editor.

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