

Miami Valley  
Miata Club

# THE WRIGHT ROADSTER

ZOOM-ZOOM

April 2026 Volume 38, Issue 4

## The President's Corner

by Chuck Valley



När temperaturerna stiger brukar april vara början på körsäsongen för vår klubb och det börjar bli mer hektiskt på schemat. Innan vi går in i det "konsekvent trevligare" körvädrret, fundera på vilket MX-5/Miata-underhåll ni vill ha gjort. Vårverkstadsdag på Mott Century Farm i Casstown, lördagen den 18 april. Den 21 april blir det månatliga Meet & Greet, den här gången på Company 7 BBQ i Englewood. Den 23 april kommer ett besök på cykelmuseet i New Bremen att hållas av vår rallymästare, Clyde Hebert. Jag har blivit försäkrad om att detta kommer att ske på landsvägar och/eller statliga vägar. (Vi försöker undvika motorvägarna när det är möjligt.)

Det verkar tidigt att prata om att boka hotell inför Fall Foliage Drive i Tennessee och North Carolina, 22-25 oktober, men det är en bra idé att boka så snart som möjligt eftersom vi bara har ett block med tio (10) rum på Townsend River Breeze Inn (865)448-2389 och tre (3) rum från våra medlemmar har redan bokats. Detta är ett rimligt klubbpris på 132 dollar/natt för 3 nätter. Townsend River Breeze Inn är nyligen renoverat och ligger nära Great Smoky Mountains National Park och populära leder som Tail of the Dragon (US Highway 129 känd för sina 318 kurvor packade på bara elva (11) miles bergsväg), den slingrande Foothills Parkway och Cherohala Skyway. Som vanligt kommer vår klubb att ansluta sig till Mountain Miata Club på lördagsresan och äta lunch.

Meddelanden med detaljer om aprilevenemang kommer att skickas ut snart. Efter april kan du läsa mer om framtida evenemang i detta nyhetsbrev, då vi visar upp dem om tre månader. Om du vill se vad som är planerat under året kan du gå till MVMC:s webbplats: [miamivalleymiataclub.org](http://miamivalleymiataclub.org)

Slutligen vill jag rikta ett STORT TACK till vår vice VD Peggy Berry för att hon ställde upp för de tre första träffarna och hälsningarna 2026. Vi ses på Company 7 BBQ den 21 april.

Önskar alla medlemmar en rolig och säker körsäsong!

Chuck Valley, VD  
Miami Valley Miata Club





## The President's Corner

by Chuck Valley



As temperatures are warming up, April is typically the beginning of driving season for our club and things start to get busier on the schedule. Before we get into the 'consistently nicer' driving weather, be thinking about what MX-5/Miata maintenance you'd like done **Spring Shop Day** up at the Mott Century Farm in Casstown, Saturday April 18<sup>th</sup>.

April 21<sup>st</sup> will be the monthly Meet & Greet, this time at **Company 7 BBQ** in Englewood. On April 23<sup>rd</sup>, a visit to the **Bicycle Museum in New Bremen** will be hosted by our Rally Master, Clyde Hebert. I have been assured this will be using country roads and/or state routes. (We try to avoid the interstate highways when possible.)

It seems early to talk about getting your hotel reservations in for the **Fall Foliage Drive** in Tennessee and North Carolina, October 22<sup>nd</sup>-25<sup>th</sup>, but it's a good idea to reserve as soon as possible due to the fact we have only a block of ten (10) rooms at the **Townsend River Breeze Inn (865)448-2389** and three (3) rooms from our members have already been booked. This is a reasonable club rate of \$132/night for 3 nights. The Townsend River Breeze Inn was recently remodeled and located near the Great Smoky Mountains National Park and popular routes like Tail of the Dragon (US Highway 129 known for its 318 curves packed into just eleven (11) miles of mountain roadway), the meandering Foothills Parkway, and Cherohala Skyway. As usual, our club will join up with the **Mountain Miata Club** on the Saturday drive and dine for lunch.

Announcements with details for April events will be going out soon. Beyond April, look at future events in this newsletter as we show three months out. If you want to see what's planned throughout the year, go to the MVMC website: [miamivalleymiatclub.org](http://miamivalleymiatclub.org)

Finally, I'd like to give a BIG THANKS to our VP Peggy Berry for standing in for the first three Meet & Greets of 2026. I'll see you all at Company 7 BBQ on April 21<sup>st</sup>.









Wishing all members a fun and safe driving season!

Chuck Valley, President  
Miami Valley Miata Club

"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 will appear 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)."

## Miami Valley Miata Club Officers for 2026

 <b>President</b> Chuck Valley	 <b>Secretary-Treasurer</b> Pat Valley
 <b>Vice President</b> Peggy Berry	 <b>Technical Director</b> Roger Gordon
 <b>Membership Director</b> Gina Seay	 <b>Newsletter Editor</b> Dave Berry
 <b>Rally Master</b> L. Calvin (Clyde) Hebert	 <b>Webmaster</b> Christy Haynes

### MVMC 2026 Calendar of Events

**NOTE: This is displayed as a running calendar of upcoming events for which at least two of the three factors of date, host(s) and venue are CONFIRMED.**



Date	Event	Host(s)	Venue
Apr 18	Spring Shop Day	Randy Mott, Roger Gordon & Ed Walker	Mott Farm, Casstown
Apr 21	Meet & Greet	MVMC Officers	Company 7 BBQ, Englewood
Apr 23	Bicycle Museum Tour	Clyde Hebert	New Bremen, OH
May 9	Charleston Falls Drive	Clyde Hebert	Tipp City, OH
May 19	Meet & Greet	MVMC Officers	Chuy's, Beavercreek
Jun 6	Plain City/Der Dutchman Amish Restaurant	Tommy & Gina Seay	Plain City, OH
Jun 16	Meet & Greet	MVMC Officers	China Cottage, Centerville
Jun 20	Poker Run	Chuck & Pat Valley	Rotary Park, Beavercreek

## From the Membership Desk

By Gina Seay  
Membership Director

We added no new members in March. Welcome back to the club Jill Marcotte!

We wish the following members happy birthday in April:

### April Birthdays

Dave Berry, Mike Allen, Jim Denver,  
Ann Lundgren, Stephanie Little



### New Members for 2026



**Mazda**  
ON THE WEB 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/>

OHIO MIATA OWNERS FACEBOOK PRIVATE GROUP (request to join)

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/478759678813248/>

## Treasurer's Report

By Pat Valley, Secretary-Treasurer

Financial data for the month of March are as follows:

Income:	\$ 20.00
Expenses	\$ 287.70
Bank Bal:	\$1685.25

Income is from membership dues.

Expenses are for park rental fee for picnic and poker run \$30.00, Virtual Rally \$182.70, Grub, Games & Green \$75.00.

### From the Rally Master

Mark your calendars, Thursday, April 23 for the drive to the Bicycle Museum of America in New Bremen. We meet at Russ Nature Preserve at 10:00 and start the drive at 10:30. The drive is approximately one hour and a half. We have reservations at the 17 West Restaurant which is next to the museum. Then at 2:00pm we have a guided tour of the museum. There is a \$3.00 fee for the museum. We will send out another notice prior to the drive.

Please RSVP to. [Lhebert2019@gmail.com](mailto:Lhebert2019@gmail.com) or text. (937)657-6294 so we can give the restaurant an accurate head count.

The Ark encounter tour has been cancelled. We will try for a local drive in its place.

There are plenty of open dates for drives, so feel free to volunteer to host a drive!

Thank you,

Clyde Hebert, MVMC Rally Master

### Club Member Items for Sale or Free

**FOR SALE** - oil filter relocation kit. I believe I bought it from Moss Motors. It fits NA/NB models. I can provide photos and additional info by request. \$75.

Contact Pat Gould 937-232-5614 v/text or email [p19g53@gmail.com](mailto:p19g53@gmail.com), write "filter" in the subject line.



## 2026 Virtual Rally

by Dave Berry

Yours truly returned as Virtual Rally Master this year (having taken a hiatus to deal with various health issues, mainly structural), and chose a movie to screen that was, as told by several participants, just too good to answer questions about it! You see, everyone playing was so engrossed in the drama taking place on Dan and Norma Kirkpatrick's downstairs big-screen TV that they were loath to look down at their question sheets and record answers. Oh well, if I do this again, I'll pick a movie that's not so interesting.

What was the movie, you ask? It was *Ford v Ferrari*, a 2019 depiction of Henry Ford II's determination to beat Ferrari at its own game – winning the 24 Hours of Le Mans race. Employed to pull off this seemingly impossible task were Carroll Shelby (played by Matt Damon) and his ace engineer/test & racing driver, Ken Miles (played by Christian Bale). As the story progressed, various Ford Motor Company executives mostly got in the way (typical of such institutions, no?) yet the Shelby team succeeded in developing a competitive race car – the Ford GT40. After dismal results in 1964 and 1965, owing largely to an undersized engine in the former (the Ford 289 V8), and an inadequate transmission in both, the 1966 version of the car arrived with the 427 (7-liter) V8 and a sturdy gearbox, enabling Ford to take sports car racing's Triple Crown – Daytona 24-hour, Sebring 12-hour, and Le Mans 24-hour.

What's more, the winning driver pairing in each of these events was headed by the unrestrainable Ken Miles! Well, almost. Miles did restrain himself in the late hours of the Le Mans race, and although far ahead of the second and third place cars (both GT40s), at the insistence of Ford executives (those guys again) he slowed down and allowed those two cars to join him for a 1-2-3 photo finish. What looked great for Ford turned out to be humiliation for Miles, as the French officials bizarrely took away his and Denny Hulme's first place and awarded it to Bruce McLaren and Chris Amon, reasoning that they had traveled farther, having started farther back! Miles would have been the first and only driver – still to this day – to have won all three long-distance races in the same year.

That personal tragedy was compounded by a far worse tragedy, as two months later, Ken Miles was killed while testing a new iteration of the GT40 at Riverside International Raceway in California. He was survived by his wife, Molly, and son, Peter.

The Virtual Rally's attendees breathed a sigh of relief at the end and scored their answer sheets, none of which was momentous, given the rapt attention to the TV noted above. Yet they had all enjoyed wonderful food brought by one another and pizzas provided by the club (with a bonus of free meatballs, courtesy of Verona's Pizza) and one another's company.





*First Place - Mike & Tammy Wheeler*



*Second Place - Jim Shaw*



*Third Place - Russ & Dianne Loughlin*



*"I helped a little!" said Dianne*



## Grub, Games & Green

Sixteen euchre players showed up for some exciting card playing. Some were seasoned euchre players, and we had some new players too. We played about four rounds, rotating tables and sometimes partners.

About five other club members attended to play board games in the media room.

Kathleen Latch took first place in euchre, with Dean Lundgren taking a close second.

To include game players that didn't play euchre, and those who didn't win 1st or 2nd, a drawing was held and Dianne Loughlin took that prize. Winners were given gift cards to various eateries.

We believe all had fun. Many thanks to Tammy and Mike for hosting the games.

Lee and Pat



## Spring Shop Day is coming up. Saturday, April 18 is MVMC Spring Shop Day

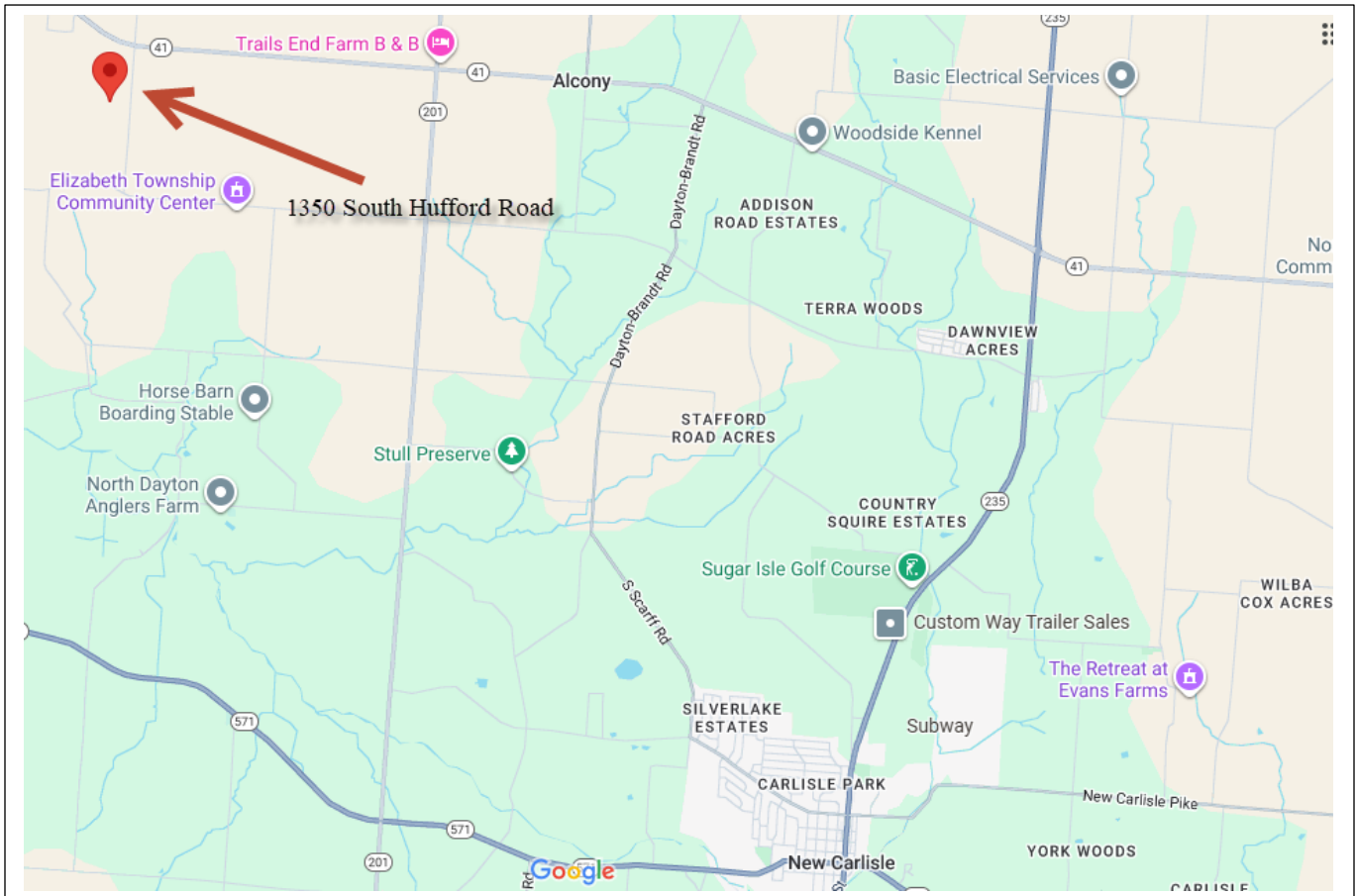
This is the day when Randy and Lynda Mott open their great garage facility to allow us to work on member's cars. Members are free to schedule time in ½ hour increments to do usual maintenance tasks as approved by the club. Oil and filter changes along with tire rotations are the most obvious things to have done, but we can also schedule time for many other maintenance issues. Lift time is available for projects where that is necessary. Obviously, we cannot do major things like transmission work or engine rebuilds, but we can do general inspections or possible diagnosis of strange noises coming from foreign places.

Location: Randy Mott's Farm, 1350 South Hufford Road, Casstown, Ohio 45312

Time: 10:00am until 2:00pm

The club will provide donuts and coffee in the morning.

You do not need to have work done to come and watch or hang out with the gang. As always, you must bring your own consumables, oil, filter, and other fluids. Lift time is billed at \$25 per ½ hour. Schedule your time by emailing our Technical Director at [mvmc.technical.director@gmail.com](mailto:mvmc.technical.director@gmail.com) or chat with Roger via text or phone at 937-831-4209.



**FALL FOLIAGE DRIVE**  
**October 22-25, 2026**



**Join fellow Miami Valley Miata Club members for a Fall Foliage drive to the Smoky Mountains October 22-25, 2026**

We will be staying at the Townsend River Breeze  
8242 TN-73; Townsend, TN 37882  
Phone: (865) 448-2389

**Group Booking: Miami Valley Miata Club**

Make your reservation **now**, and also let Chuck Valley know you made your reservation.

The club has blocked off 10 rooms at the following group rate:  
Cost: \$132 plus tax per night

**RSVP by September 1st to Chuck Valley so a list can be generated. Email to: [Charles.valley@yahoo.com](mailto:Charles.valley@yahoo.com)**

## Shop Talk

*It's not just about the Miatas*

by Roger Gordon, Technical Director

### ND Suspension Differences



Recently a member asked me what exactly were the differences in suspensions between an ND Club edition versus a GT. I thought I knew that the setup would be quite different between the two – the Club being sportier, would have suspension set up FIRMER with tougher shocks/struts and way firmer sway bars. It never occurred to me that there might be a difference based on stick versus automatic transmission. Reality quickly set in when I used AI (Grok in this case) to check my work. Below is

the answer I got from GROK.

The ND Miata (fourth-generation Mazda MX-5 Miata, 2016–present) has seen changes to the suspension differences between the Club and Grand Touring (GT) trims over the years, particularly with manual vs. automatic transmission variants. Current Models (ND3: 2024–2026) in recent years (starting around 2020 and continuing through 2025–2026 models), the suspension hardware and tuning are largely aligned for manual-transmission versions:

- Both Club and Grand Touring (with manual transmission) feature sport-tuned suspension with Bilstein monotube dampers (shocks), a front shock tower brace, and related performance enhancements
- This setup provides firmer; more performance-oriented damping compared to the base/standard monotube shocks (non-Bilstein, softer tuning) found on automatic models or lower trims like Sport
- The Club remains more track/performance-focused overall (e.g., it includes DSC-Track mode in its stability control, which is unique or more emphasized there, and it's manual-only – no automatic option)
- The Grand Touring adds luxury features (e.g., leather seats, advanced lighting, Bose audio) but matches the Club's suspension upgrades when equipped with the manual transmission

For automatic-transmission Grand Touring models, the suspension reverts to the standard (non-Bilstein, softer-tuned) setup, without the front shock tower brace or full sport tuning. Earlier ND Models (ND1/ND2: 2016–2019/2020) differences were more pronounced initially:

- The Club had the Bilstein dampers, sport tuning, front shock tower brace, and stiffer rear springs (manual-only) from the start
- The Grand Touring used softer standard shocks unless optioned with a package (e.g., GT-S in 2019 included the Club-level suspension and LSD)
- By 2020, Mazda standardized the Bilstein/sport suspension on manual GT models to match the Club

Overall, the core suspension architecture is the same across trims: double-wishbone front and multilink rear. The key differences come down to damper brand/tuning (Bilstein sport vs. standard), the front brace, and associated stiffness – now mostly shared on manual Club and GT, with the Club positioned as the enthusiast's choice. If you're looking at a specific model year or region, details can vary slightly – official Mazda specs or a dealer config tool can confirm for exact builds.

### **ND Miata Generations (for reference)**

- ND1: 2016–2018
- ND2: 2019–2023
- ND3: 2024–2025 (minor updates; core mechanicals largely unchanged from late ND2)
- ND4: 2026+ (current; no major suspension changes reported from ND3)



*This ND is the cat's meow!*