
Miami Valley
Miata Club



THE WRIGHT ROADSTER

ZOOM-ZOOM

December 2024 Volume 36, Issue 12

The President's Corner

by Chuck Valley



On Saturday, November 9th we set out in the morning from Russ Nature Reserve in Beavercreek to a little-known restaurant in Northeastern Ohio called Killbuck Sweet Shoppe. It was rated five stars by Yelp. When we arrived at the restaurant it looked like a former DQ from the 70s with large glass windows and a small kitchen near the six or so tables. A family run operation it was, and although it didn't look like much on the outside or even the inside, the place was clean and offered a wide variety of food from hot to cold sandwiches, quesadillas, many popular sides, and of course what 'sweet shoppe' wouldn't have ice cream, frozen yogurt or fresh baked pie? Not often on drives do we indulge in dessert, but I think nearly all on the D&D ordered dessert. The only disappointment was the small "Mom & Pop" didn't have a restroom and there wasn't one within walking distance or even a short drive. So one needy soul from our group 'took a walk' and found a nearby tree down by the river. 😊 Others in our group chose to endure until a McDonalds came into view about 15 minutes down the road. Our drive was half I-70 and half SR62 that offered numerous long uphill and downhill grades with sweeping turns as we entered Amish Country. The views of the colorful sunlit green and gold rolling fields were spectacular! There were of course horses and buggies, but also a lot of bicycles as local transportation. The once small town of Berlin in the heart of Amish Country has really grown into a bustling tourist town since the last time we were there in the mid-1990s. About 90 minutes after lunch we arrived at the Canton Classic Car Museum where we enjoyed talking to the owners/managers. Aside from a 1901 Oldsmobile (your grandfather's era), there was a complement of many cars up through the early 1970s. A few were what I would call "unrestored barn finds" and the most peculiar of the lot was a 1914 Case Demonstrator Delivery Truck. This truck had a "Human Eye Auto Lamp" center of the headlights, and organ pipes on either side of the windshield! Inside looked about what you'd normally expect, but there was a small organ keyboard situated just ahead of the passenger's seat. Evidently when a delivery was being made the organist/passenger would begin to play to alert the store they had arrived. Maybe this was the genesis for the Mister Softee we all grew up hearing coming down the street, playing a familiar jingle to alert kids that fudgesicles, pushups, and ice cream sandwiches were nearby?

On Tuesday, November 19th we met up at Wandering Griffin in Beavercreek. As is custom this time of year, the MVMC holds elections of club officers that have volunteered to serve the following year. The 2025 officers elected are a repeat of the 2024 gang with the exception of Tim Howard who has been an officer since early 2012. Those serving the club in 2025 are Chuck Valley - President, Christy Haynes - Webmaster, Dave Berry - Newsletter Editor, Gina Seay - Membership Director, Pat Valley - Secretary-Treasurer, Clyde Hebert - Rally Master, and our new Technical Director - Roger Gordon. As you may have heard, Tim Howard served as club president in 2015 and from 2013 to 2024 served as our club's Technical Director. Tim has decided it's a good time to step down after such a lengthy, yet devoted commitment as an MVMC club officer. We greatly appreciate your service to our club Tim

and are glad you will be staying in the club as a valued member. Hope you don't mind if we still come to you for some technical advice. 😊

Well, we've completed our Meet & Greet for the year and now it's on to the Christmas Party! In the next few days you'll be receiving the Christmas Party invitation and will be considering what side dish or dessert to bring. Also, if you are participating in the Chinese Gift Exchange, remember to exchange up to a \$25 gift. As is traditional, the MVMC will be collecting clothing donations to Saint Vincent DePaul. Clothing items should be new and go to homeless adults and children. Suggested items are coats, gloves, winter caps, underwear and socks. We all are so blessed in our warm houses with plenty to eat. Reflecting on that it is a blessing to give to the less fortunate, especially during these cold days and nights of Ohio winters.

We hope to see you all at the Fairborn Senior Center Saturday, December 14th at 5:30pm for fun with the Chinese Gift Exchange, and to compete for a prize in an 'ugly sweater' contest. There will be lots of door prizes, Christmas music along with some favorite oldies, tasty food from Olive Garden, and of course, a great opportunity to enjoy each other's company. Oh, and feel free to bring a bottle of your favorite Christmas Cheer to share!

Remember, we are not quite done with our club D&Ds. Our **Polar Bear Drive & Dine** will be as usual on December 31st, meeting place and time TBD. Bonnie and Clyde Hebert will be hosting. Be looking for the Polar Bear announcement in the next couple of weeks.

Chuck Valley, President
Miami Valley Miata Club



Vice President needed for the Miami Valley Miata Club

The MVMC is currently seeking members to self-nominate for Vice President. Previous donation of time that benefitted the MVMC is a plus that will be considered and voted on by the Executive Committee. The VP should possess a passion to serve the MVMC and devotion and time necessary to carry out the duties of president leading the club in 2026.

The VP coordinates with other executive officers and applies the MVMC bylaws to resolve issues that may arise and may serve as a fill-in for the President during his or her absence. Upon election, you will serve the club as VP in 2025 followed by a full one-year term as president beginning Jan 1, 2026. To a certain extent, as VP you will shadow the then current president, so you learn what is expected during your term as president.











To aid in your decision to self-nominate, you should be willing to commit to the following responsibilities when you become President:

1. Coordinating Meet & Greet locations, ensuring venue can accommodate members and that it is a generally acceptable restaurant.
2. Planning for and leading Executive Committee Meetings held every other month including coordination of date, venue, and agenda items for upcoming club events and general discussions.
3. Organizing the club's annual events and delegating assistance from fellow executive officers for the MVMC Picnic/Nominations for the following year's officers, coordinating the voting and ballots for the following year's officers, and planning/coordinating the MVMC Christmas Party
4. Writing the President's Corner article for the monthly Wright Roadster Newsletter.
5. Maintaining a good relationship with our sponsor, Jeff Schmitt Mazda, and encouraging members to consider purchasing cars, having service performed and buying parts there.

Send your self-nomination to Chuck Valley, President of the Miami Valley Miata Club. c.valley@earthlink.net or text (937) 608-5251.



Miami Valley Miata Club Officers for 2024

| | |
|--|---|
|  President Chuck Valley |  Secretary-Treasurer Pat Valley |
|  Vice President Vacant |  Technical Director Tim Howard |
|  Membership Director Gina Seav |  Newsletter Editor Dave Berry |
|  Rally Master L. Calvin (Clyde) Hebert |  Webmaster Christy Haynes |

MVMC 2024 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 |
|--------|-----------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Dec 14 | Annual MVMC Christmas Party | MVMC Officers | Fairborn Senior Center, Fairborn, OH |
| Dec 31 | Polar Bear Run Drive & Dine | Bonnie & Clyde Hebert | Metropolitan Dayton area |

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. \$100.

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

"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)."

From the Membership Desk

By Gina Seay
Membership Director

We added two new members in November. Please welcome Andy & Wendy Blumberg to the club!

We wish the following members happy birthday in December:

December Birthdays

Dan Kirkpatrick, Doug Snyder, Jim Owen, Leeta (Skeeter) Pettit, Rhonda Miller, John Topping, Kara Topping, Lois Bell, Pete Kronberg



New Members for 2024

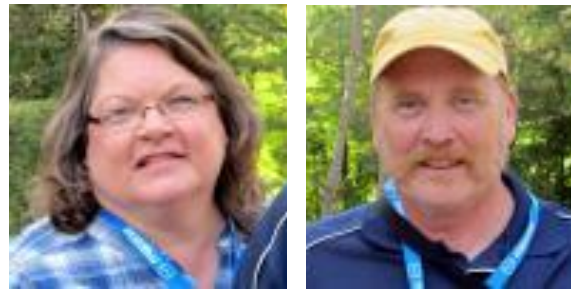
Andy & Wendy Blumberg
Micah Rocha
Richard Coffee
Nancy Spilsbury
Teresa Watkins
Mike & Stephanie Little
Sean & Amy White
Julie Green
Peter & Christal Kronbergs

Meet Jim Denker

Jim has a 1997 Black 5-speed Miata which he inherited from his father-in-law. He has had adventures driving to see covered bridges with a friend who also has a Miata. His other hobbies are traveling, reading, Genealogy, and classic BMW's.

Meet Tom & Gina Seay

Tom and Gina have a marble white 2006 Miata. "We bought our Miata because we wanted a fun sports car to drive. Our best memories are going on drives with the club and the Tail of the Dragon. Our other hobbies are hiking and vacationing."



From the Rally Master

by Clyde Hebert

As the year is almost over I'd like to thank everyone who either organized or participated in a drive or event throughout the year. Special thanks to Chuck and Pat Valley as President and Secretary-Treasurer.

Over the winter months think about a drive you would like to organize.

Upcoming events include the Christmas Party on December 14th and the Polar Bear Run on December 31st (details to be sent out in emails).

Treasurer's Report for November 2024

By Pat Valley, Secretary-Treasurer

Income and expenses for the month of November:

| | |
|-----------|------------|
| Income: | \$216.00 |
| Expenses: | \$584.00 |
| Bank Bal: | \$2,183.04 |

Income is from membership dues - \$80; Sinclair donations - \$136.

Expenses are from: Rally Master gas cards - \$150; officer award - \$34; Sinclair Foundation - \$400

Chuck and I had the privilege of presenting a \$400 scholarship fund check to Sarah Corcoran at Sinclair College on November 26th. We let her know the donation is from the individuals in the club, and we were pleased to hear that the money will be used for whatever the student needs: tuition, books, fees, or tools. She said the scholarship will be given to a student (or maybe students) around February, and she will let us know a little about the recipient then. Thank you for your generous giving, and special thanks to the donor that put a \$50 bill in the bucket at Wandering Griffin (plus one other time, but I can't remember where the M&G was.)



Sarah Corcoran, Leadership Giving Officer, Sinclair Foundation, accepts a \$400 check from MVMC Treasurer Pat Valley. The \$400 donation will go to multiple students in the Automotive Technology Department and helps those students pay for lab fees, books, and tools.

Note to all: Pat has MVMC Club magnets for sale to all members. Price is \$5.00 each



Canton Classic Car Museum Drive & Dine



1914 Case Demonstrator Delivery Truck

Although the Case automobile had a 27-year lifetime, the make is scarcely remembered today. This is in spite of the fact that most people of a certain age fondly remember Case tractors. Founded in Racine, Wisconsin, in 1843 as the J.I. Case Threshing Machine Company, the firm began building steam engines in 1869 and sold its first gasoline-powered tractor in 1904.

It wasn't until 1911, however, that Case entered the automobile business, 20 years after the death of founder Jerome Increase Case. It did so by taking over the neighboring Pierce Motor Company, maker of the Pierce-Racine car. Adding additional models, Case continued to sell conservative, well-built, medium-priced four-cylinder cars through the 'teens.

The reason that inventor John M. Dorton chose a Case as his demonstrator vehicle has been lost to history. The vehicle he left behind, however, tells his story. Dorton was an upholstery sales... from Bonner Springs, Kansas. He invented the Human Eye Auto Lamp, a headlight that steered with the car, much in the way that Pilot Ray driving lights operate. There was also a manual control so that lights could be pointed in any way the driver wished. He outfitted the Case with a set of the lights, and also installed a... of his own design. The Combination Cushion seat, which moved to soften road shock, also had an electric heating element, something that has only recently become popular on higher-priced cars. To better market his wares, he installed Courtesy Lights, valence lighting along the sides, illuminating the running boards and coincidentally the signs on the side of the car. On the roof, he fashioned a luggage rack. Finally, to make sure he never entered a town without being noticed, he installed a calliope. Rather than steam or compressed air, it operated with exhaust gases, which resonated through organ pipes mounted to the cowl, one array on each side. On the right side of the dashboard, he installed a keyboard so that he could play any melody for the occasion. Laid up for 32 years and showing fewer than 26,000 miles, it was discovered in 1962 by father and son Jasper and Glenn Wilesworth, of Kansas City. They exhumed it, got it running, and planned to restore it, but, fortunately, they never did. As a result, it is incredibly well preserved and in original condition. What a story the original paint, original tarnished nickel trim, and worn leatherette seats tell. It is incredibly rare to find such a piece of history today, authentic through and through to the way John Dorton modified and used it.

Specifications:

- 35 hp, 312.1 cu. in. T-head four-cylinder engine, three-speed manual transmission, solid front axle and live rear axle with semi-elliptical leaf springs, and two-wheel mechanical drum brakes. Wheelbase: 120 in.
- Test bed and demonstrator for automotive inventors
- Exhaust calliope attracts crowd
- Perfectly preserved with original patina finish



2025 Officers Elected

The November Meet & Greet at the Wandering Griffin culminated in the election of your Miami Valley Miata Club's officers for 2025. The officers for next year are shown below.



Chuck Valley
President



Pat Valley
Secretary-Treasurer



Gina Seay
Membership Director



Clyde Hebert
Rally Master



Roger Gordon
Technical Director



Christy Haynes
Webmaster



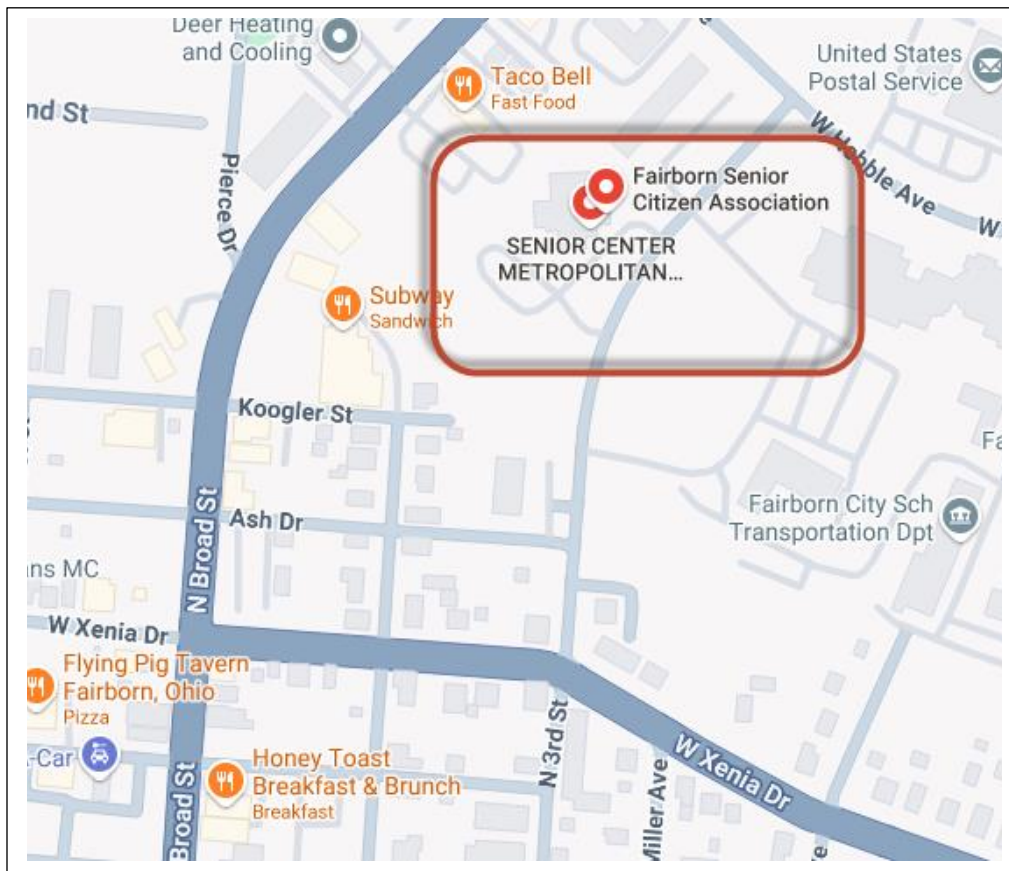
Dave Berry
Newsletter Editor

The position of Vice President remains vacant as 2025 rolls around. For any member interested in stepping up to apply for the position, please read the description and desired qualifications shown on page three of this newsletter issue.

MVMC Christmas Party 2024
December 14th
Fairborn Senior Center

The agenda for this year's Christmas Party is as follows:

- 5:00: Officers arrive at Fairborn Senior Center for tables/chairs set up, video test, audio test
- 5:30: Food arrives and serving tables arranged
- 5:30 - 6:00: Members arrive and are provided door prize tickets, members participating in Chinese gift exchange fill out name slip and place Chinese Gift Exchange gifts under left side of Christmas tree and donated items under the right side of the Christmas tree
- 6:00 - 6:05: Welcome by the MVMC President, acknowledgements
- 6:05 Dinner Bell and enjoying the food from Olive Garden, sides and desserts from members
- 7:00 -7:10 "Ugly Sweater Contest" Contest, tie will draw from the deck – high card wins! Present winner with a gift card.
- 7:10 – 7:20 "Door Prize" Call Out
- 7:20 - 8:20 Chinese Gift Exchange!
- 8:15 – 8:45 Officers help clean up kitchen and dining area



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

By Tim Howard



Tim is taking a well-deserved break as he completes his long run as Technical Director. In his stead we are re-printing an article about MX-5 futures, courtesy of Motor Trend. Enjoy this information!

2026 Next-Gen Mazda MX-5 Miata: It Will Be Electrified

[Miguel Cortina](#)-Writer-Abimelec Design-Photographer Jul 21, 2023

Mazda has confirmed the next-generation 2026 MX-5 Miata will be electrified. But the automaker stopped short of saying what form the electrification will take—fully EV, hybrid, or plug-in hybrid. Mazda's entire lineup is slated to go at least partially electric by 2030, which means if the next-gen Miata is to survive past then—and we certainly hope it does—this is a necessary step in the legendary sports car's evolution.



WHY IT MATTERS

The Mazda Miata has a long, well-earned reputation as a fun, affordable roadster with fantastic driving dynamics, and an electrified model would keep it viable well into the future. With Mazda taking its time to develop EVs, the Japanese automaker will likely introduce a hybrid or plug-in hybrid Miata before developing an all-electric variant. [Mazda's Vision Study Model, a stunning sports car](#) shown at the end of last year, could be a preview to the electric Miata, though it's more likely to simply donate stylistic influences to the production car.

PLATFORM AND POWERTRAIN

Mazda said it will work with Rohm Co. to develop electric powertrains, and it signed an agreement with Envision AESC to develop batteries. Although these contracts could impact the next-generation Miata, a hybrid version of the roadster makes more sense. The Miata's small footprint could make it difficult to package a battery with sufficient range, as the heavy battery pack would hurt performance, and pure EV hardware would likely mean a large hike in price. Mazda could also work with another automaker to develop the platform, splitting its costs to keep the car affordable à la BMW Z4 and Toyota Supra.

ESTIMATED PRICE

Mazda will attempt to hold the line on keeping the Miata from becoming too expensive, but given the advanced powertrain and other enhancements, a price in the neighborhood of \$33,000 seems reasonable.

EXPECTED ON SALE DATE

We believe we'll see the next MX-5 in time for the summer of 2025 top-down driving season as a 2026 model year vehicle.