



January 2025 Volume 37, Issue 1

The President's Corner

by Chuck Valley



2024 is a wrap! We had a great time at the MVMC Christmas Party held on December 14th, once again at the Fairborn Seniors Center. Officers arrived at 5:00pm to set up and guests started arriving at 5:30pm. Dinner was served at 6:15pm with Olive Garden lasagna, fettuccini, ravioli, salad, and bread sticks. As usual, numerous tasty desserts and sides were provided by club members.

A popular event is the Chinese Gift Exchange where participants bring gifts that have a \$25 limit. Participants put their names in a box and are called on to go to the Christmas tree to select a gift and open it for all to see. The real fun begins when someone else is called to either go to the tree to open a new gift or steal a gift that was previously opened. When a gift is stolen up to three times, it becomes that last stealer's gift for keeps. Thanks to David Berry and Pat Valley for running the Chinese Gift Exchange and they've partnered at least ten years in a row! This year we also had an ugly sweater contest. There were several participants who were called on to line up for all to compare the 'ugly winter wear.' To help get a close up look of the ugly sweater competition, the participants promenaded around the banquet room, some begging for a vote for their ugly sweater. When all was said and done, Pat Valley's sweater received the winning vote count, and she took home a \$15 gift card. Lots of gift cards and lottery tickets were given out as door prizes. I hope someone won something, but you'll likely never hear how much! Christmas music along with some favorite oldies helped add to the enjoyable evening.

Thanks to everyone who brought a clothing item for Saint Vincent de Paul. This year we filled two large bags from some generous givers! Pat and I took the donated clothing items to Saint Vincent de Paul the very next day. We were surprised they are open on Sundays. Know that some needy person will be warmer this winter because of your kindness and generosity.

As is customary for the Miami Valley Miata Club, we hold our **Polar Bear Drive & Dine** every New Year's Eve. Bonnie and Clyde Hebert led this year's drive that took a good dozen cars and their occupants through some curvy country back roads of southern Greene County that eventually led to Village Family Restaurant in Waynesville. It was a nice drive to end the year. Thanks to Bonnie and Clyde Hebert for stepping up to lead the Polar Bear.

Be looking for upcoming events in the monthly newsletter and go to miamivalleymiataclub.org to see photos of past club activities, our Calendar of 2025 Events, and other important information. I wish you and your families a HAPPY NEW YEAR and a safe and healthy one too!

Chuck Valley, President
Miami Valley Miata Club

MVMC EVENT PLANNING MEETING SATURDAY, JANUARY 4th

TIME: 9:00 AM - 10:30 AM, Beaver Creek Senior Center (Lofino Plaza Meeting Room), 3868 Dayton-Xenia Road, Beaver Creek, OH 45432

Donuts & coffee provided

Bring your ideas for drive & dines, picnics, day trips, overnights, or other events

Immediately following the event planning, you are invited to stay for a 30-minute Executive Committee meeting with club officers.

From the Rally Master

by Clyde Hebert

2024 was a great year. We had a lot of fun drives. Bonnie and I are closing out the Year with the Polar Bear run to Waynesville. While many of us are putting the Miatas away for the winter, I would like everyone to be thinking about a drive you can organize for this coming year. I've been learning a lot about Google Maps and it's a great way to plan a trip.

Happy New Year,
Bonnie and Clyde



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/>

Miami Valley Miata Club Officers for 2025

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

MVMC 2025 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
Jan 4	Planning Meeting	Chuck Valley & L. Calvin Hebert	Beavercreek Senior Center
Jan 21	Meet & Greet	MVMC Officers	Archer's Tavern, Kettering, OH
Feb 15	2025 Virtual Rally	Pat Gould & Lee Korb	Kirkpatrick Home, Fairborn, OH
Feb 18	Meet & Greet	MVMC Officers	Chuy's Tex-Mex, Beavercreek, OH
Mar 18	Meet & Greet	MVMC Officers	Fricker's, Huber Heights, OH

OUR CLUB SPONSOR

Jeff Schmitt Mazda





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.

"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 December. Welcome Matthew Human and Tammy House to the club!

We wish the following members happy birthday in January:

January Birthdays

Celebrating birthdays this month are:

Norma Kirkpatrick, Steve Miller, Ruth Ellenbogen, Kathleen Lach, Dianne Long, Jeanne Zlocki, Charles (Chuck) White, Diane Bowman, Nancy Szkarupa, Wayne Honigford



New Members for 2024

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

2025 MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL IS DUE NOW

Don't miss out on access to our Members-only Website, Newsletters, Monthly Meet & Greets, Drive & Dines, plus other Club events!

RENEW NOW TO STAY ON THE ACTIVE LIST!

Membership form is available online at:

[Membership Form](#)

Dues are still only \$20

Checks should be made out to: **Miami Valley MX-5 Club** (that's our official name of record)

Mail to:

Gina Seay
61 West Hunter Drive
Enon, OH 45323

Treasurer's Report 2024 Actuals

By Pat Valley, Secretary-Treasurer

Income and expenses for the month of December:

Income: \$502.00
 Expenses: \$1,100.12
 Bank Bal: \$1,584.92

Income is from 2025 memberships [\$420] and Sinclair College donations [\$82]
 Expenses are for the Christmas party

A summary of the budget vs. actual income and expenses for the year is below, and is posted on our [website](#).

	<u>Bank Balance</u>	<u>2024 Budget</u>	<u>2024 Actual</u>	<u>Bank Balance</u>
Operating Income				
Membership Dues Current		\$1,500.00	\$880.00	
Membership Dues Future			\$460.00	
Jeff Schmitt Sponsorship		\$1,200.00	\$1,200.00	
Magnet sales			\$70.00	
Sinclair Donations		\$50.00	\$482.00	
Miscellaneous and/or Temp income			\$0.00	
Total Income		\$2,750.00	\$3,092.00	
Operating Expenses				
By Officer				
Membership Director		\$100.00	\$82.12	
Newsletter Editor			\$0.00	
President		\$250.00	\$248.58	
Rally Master		\$450.00	\$450.00	
Secretary/Treasurer			\$0.00	
Tech Director			\$0.00	
Web Master			\$0.00	
Sub Total		\$800.00	\$780.70	
By Activity				
Annual Planning Meeting		\$80.00	\$72.95	
Liability Insurance		\$373.00	\$373.00	
Virtual Rally		\$160.00	\$180.30	
Wienie Roast				
Dragons Game				
Annual Picnic		\$250.00	\$185.46	
Pizza Party		\$402.39	\$351.42	
Burger Burn		\$347.61	\$347.61	
Poker Run		\$475.00	\$476.48	
Christmas Party		\$1,000.00	\$940.12	
Anniversary Party			\$0.00	
Miata Homecoming /Discretionary		152.39	\$0.00	
Event Prizes		\$250.00		
Shop Days		\$100.00	\$98.27	
Lifetime Member				
Misc. Expenses		\$250.00	\$73.85	
Distribute Drive Rewards				
Distribute Sinclair funds		\$37.00	\$400.00	
Miscellaneous and/or Temp Expense		\$250.00		
Magnet purchase			\$118.69	
Sub Total		\$3,975.00	\$3,618.15	
Total Expenses		\$4,775.00	\$4,398.85	
Net Income or Loss	\$2,891.77	-\$2,025.00	-\$1,306.85	\$1,584.92

MVMC Christmas Party



Tim Howard was awarded Honorary Membership for his many years of dedicated service

Drake Daum's festive tie set the mood

Pat Valley's winning Ugly Sweater



Raffled Special Bottle



Santa came to town!



The buffet line moved quickly - we were hungry!



Those were some ugly sweaters



Yummy!



Outgoing 2024 Officers



Incoming 2025 Officers

Many thanks to **Chuck White** for the Christmas Party photos shown here. Additional photos can be viewed [here](#).

MVMC Polar Bear Run 2024



T'was a rainy day PB D&D as folks were getting ready



Shop Talk

By Roger Gordon



What am I doing here?

Anyone remember that song from back in the 60's - "Mr Custer"? A memorable lyric from it was: "What am I doin' here?"

Well, that seems applicable here! Our President was able to talk me into being our club's Technical Director, so now, for a year, I have to figure out how to be one. One thing is for certain: Tim Howard's act is going to be tough to follow!!

Let's start with the official mission statement for the MVMC Technical Director:

"Sec. 6.

The Technical Director shall be available to all Club members for consultation on Miata technical matters such as proper maintenance procedures, troubleshooting, repairs, and modifications. The Technical Director shall from time to time prepare a technical article of general interest to be published in the Club newsletter and shall organize and schedule at least one general maintenance day during the year and one teaching seminar dealing with technical maintenance."

I will be using that as my guide for the year.

What are my qualifications?

Here is what I can list. I've been a "car guy" since I was 14. Love cars of all kinds including "stock" cars, custom cars, hot rods, foreign cars, drag strip cars and have a fondness for the English sports cars of the 50's and 60's. I subscribe to several car magazines including Car and Driver, Motor Trend and lately, I joined the Hagerty Car club in order to receive their excellent magazine "Driver's Club". I have worked on many components of cars – exhaust, brakes (drum and disc), rebuilt carburetors, points and plugs, fuel injection systems, some bad body work, rebuilt a Ford 400 CU engine with new main bearings and rod bearings, always do my own oil changes and wash my own cars. Miata's? Jeanne and I have owned an NA, an NB, and an NC and currently have an NC and an ND2. The NC is an automatic while the ND2 requires me to row thru the gears. As I write this, I am finishing up work on replacing the bumper cover of a grandson's Mazda 3.

So I do have some qualifications and am always game to get my hands greasy – although nowadays, most mechanics wear those thin vinyl gloves to keep from getting greasy.

My plan is to write something usable or interesting monthly for the newsletter, maybe Miata related or not – but at least car focused to be sure. Teaching seminar? Not sure how that might work, although we might work something short into a monthly meeting. I suspect I will be using lots of personal experience as touchstones as well as magazine articles to kick off topics and may even republish articles from the past that are still applicable.

I will be glad to hear from the membership on topics and I would also love to have a guest submission if you want to contribute your own article – that would be fun.

And thanks again to Tim Howard for so many years of great work.



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.