

Miami Valley
Miata Club

THE WRIGHT ROADSTER

ZOOM-ZOOM

March 2025 Volume 37, Issue 3

The President's Corner

by Chuck Valley



The milder weather over the past few weeks and daffodils popping up remind us Spring is near! Motorcyclists, bicyclists, and other folks have been out and about enjoying nice weather normally not available until late April. I'm sure many of our Miata enthusiasts have been 'top down' many of these warmer days. As long as the Jetstream stays north of the Miami Valley, we should have more of the pleasant temperatures. As such, I recommend a few impromptu drives this month when the forecast deems so. Any club member can put a drive together and our club Rally master (Clyde Hebert) can assist you in routing, accompanying you in a dry run, and suggesting a lunch stop, especially for members who have never hosted a drive or it has been some time since you hosted. You'll need to publicize your drive so it is recommended you contact our MVMC Secretary/Treasurer Pat Valley (937) 608-5252 (text is best) a week or two ahead of your drive, and she will get the details of the drive out to all MVMC members. A \$30 fuel card is offered by the club to the host for meeting a minimum mileage of thirty miles.






Our next Meet & Greet will be March 18th at Fricker's, Huber Heights. Upon entering, let the hosts know you are with the Miami Valley Miata Club. We will be in the private party room.

Chuck Valley, President
Miami Valley Miata Club



Chuck and Pat Valley will have put their Florida Miata away...

Miami Valley Miata Club Officers for 2025

 President Chuck Valley	 Secretary-Treasurer Pat Valley
 Vice President Vacant	 Technical Director Roger Gordon
 Membership Director Gina Seav	 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
Mar 18	Meet & Greet	MVMC Officers	Fricker's, Huber Heights, OH
Apr 12	Shop Day	Roger Gordon, Randy Mott	Mott Farm, Casstown, OH
Apr 15	Meet & Greet	MVMC Officers	Company 7 BBQ, Englewood, OH
May 20	Meet & Greet	MVMC Officers	Bennett's Pubical, Miamisburg, 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 no new members in February.

We wish the following members happy birthday in March:

March Birthdays

Celebrating birthdays this month are:

Mary Ann Blazer, Darden Whitaker, Jo Anne Vincent, Susan Cain, Gail Allen, Frank Hubbell, Patti Purdin, Chet Hallett, Wendy Blumberg



New Members for 2025



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

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.

Treasurer's Report

By Pat Valley, Secretary-Treasurer

Income and expenses for the month of February:

Income: \$260.00

Expenses: \$0.00

Bank Bal: \$2583.46

Income is from membership dues.

And now for a little March humor...



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/>

Miata Word Search Solution



Pat Gould has graciously provided the solution to last month's Miata Word Search.

Miata Word Search

R	O	A	D	R	A	L	L	Y	B	T	W	O	S	E	A	T	E	R
S	U	P	E	R	C	H	A	R	G	E	R	O	A	D	S	T	E	R
D	Y	J	C	O	N	V	E	R	T	A	B	L	E	P	N	A	H	D
W	R	K	G	X	N	Z	T	O	P	L	E	S	S	O	Z	I	P	M
A	V	I	R	D	D	J	Y	N	B	C	W	R	I	K	O	L	H	C
C	U	R	V	E	S	U	M	A	M	I	A	T	A	E	O	O	A	M
T	S	E	H	E	M	B	H	J	E	S	C	O	K	R	M	F	R	V
U	L	N	D	J	N	R	Z	V	E	U	T	R	J	R	Z	T	E	M
R	S	S	J	O	W	D	R	E	D	M	P	S	C	U	O	H	A	E
B	B	I	L	S	T	E	I	N	W	M	C	E	H	N	O	E	N	E
O	D	C	A	Q	L	Q	I	N	K	E	O	N	U	I	M	D	D	T
Z	N	M	P	A	T	R	K	D	E	R	V	Q	W	T	P	R	H	N
R	W	Y	U	O	I	D	C	P	A	C	K	A	G	E	R	A	O	G
F	U	N	K	A	N	N	A	M	E	D	I	T	I	O	N	G	U	R
S	A	O	D	Z	D	O	U	B	L	E	W	I	S	H	B	O	N	E
M	W	L	P	Q	F	K	D	S	U	M	M	E	R	F	U	N	D	E
B	O	B	C	M	A	Z	D	A	S	P	E	E	D	J	X	G	K	T
C	R	A	G	T	O	P	P	O	W	E	R	H	A	R	D	T	O	P

BILSTEIN
C PACKAGE
COLD AIR INDUCTION
CONVERTABLE
CURVES
DOUBLE WISHBONE
DRIVE N DINE

FUN
FUNKANNA
GT
HARE AND HOUND
M EDITION
MANUAL
MAZDASPEED

MEET N GREET
MIATA
MVMC
NA
NB
NC
ND

POKER RUN
POWER HARDTOP
RAGTOP
RED
RF
ROAD RALLY
ROADSTER

SUMMER
SUPERCHARGER
TAIL OF THE DRAGON
TOPLESS
TORSEN
TURBO
TWO SEATER
ZOOM ZOOM

2025 VIRTUAL RALLY A GREAT SUCCESS!

Saturday, February 15th, was the annual MVMC Virtual Rally. There was lots of good food and great fellowship! Our movie this year was *American Graffiti*! Teams had to answer 60 questions, along with a section to match actor and character names. Eight teams battled to get the high score. Some questions were worth more than one point. And some were tricky.

Team Mike Wheeler and Tammy House took first place honors for a nice gift card. Team Chris and Donna Vollmer followed at second and grabbed a gift card. Team Rick and Kathleen Lach took third for the final gift card. Team Norma and Dan Kirkpatrick brought up the rear and secured a sweet prize.

Lee and I would like to thank Dan and Norma for not only welcoming us into their home to play, but also providing ham, tableware, and the many condiments that went with the food. A big Thank You to the teams who brought dishes of tasty food for everyone to enjoy. And I think we have the first rally food winner – it sounded like everyone agreed that Bonnie Surgeon's salty caramel and pecan oatmeal cookies were indeed the favorite of the rally. (Bonnie did substitute walnuts for pecans). And for those who wanted the recipe, it follows this report.

Lee and I enjoyed putting this rally together for this year. It was our third. We hope next year's virtual rally masters have as much fun putting theirs together and bring us a great car movie to rally with.

Pat and Lee

2025 Virtual Rally Masters



1st Place – Mike & Tammy



2nd Place – Chris & Donna



3rd Place – Rick & Kathleen





Lee briefs the rules



Teams prepare their answer sheets



Movie commences!



*Alas, it wasn't Norma's day...
She got the "Last Prize" for least correct answers*

Salty Caramel and Pecan Oatmeal Cookies

Prep Time 30 minutes

Ingredients:

- 1 cup **butter** *softened*
- 1 cup **granulated sugar**
- 1 cup **packed dark brown sugar**
- 1 teaspoon **salt**
- 1 teaspoon **baking powder**
- 1 teaspoon **ground cinnamon**
- ½ teaspoon **baking soda**
- 2 **eggs**
- 2 teaspoons **vanilla**
- 1-1/2 cups **all-purpose flour**
- 3 cups **rolled oats**
- 1 11-ounce package **caramel baking bits**
- 1 cup **walnuts** *coarsely chopped*
- Coarse **sea salt**

Directions:

In a large mixing bowl, beat butter with an electric mixer on medium to high speed for 30 seconds.

Add granulated sugar, brown sugar, 1 teaspoon salt, the baking powder, cinnamon and baking soda. Beat until combined, scraping sides of bowl occasionally.

Beat in eggs and vanilla until combined. Beat in as much of the flour as you can with the mixer.

Using a wooden spoon, stir in the remaining flour.

Stir in oats, caramel baking bits and pecans.

Using a small ice-cream scoop or a tablespoon, drop 1 1/2-inch mounds of dough 2 inches apart onto cookie sheets lined with parchment paper. Sprinkle with coarse sea salt.

Bake in a 350 oven for 11 to 12 minutes, until the edges are light brown. (Centers will look undercooked.) Cool on cookie sheets for 3 to 4 minutes or until cookies can be easily removed. Transfer to a wire rack; cool. Yield about 48 cookies.

Shop Talk

It's not just about the Miatas

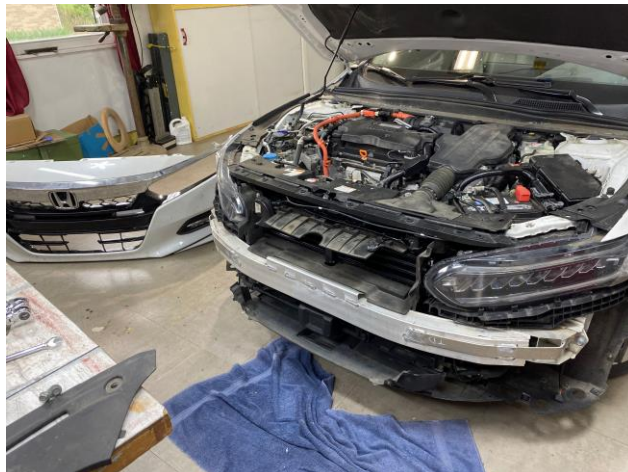
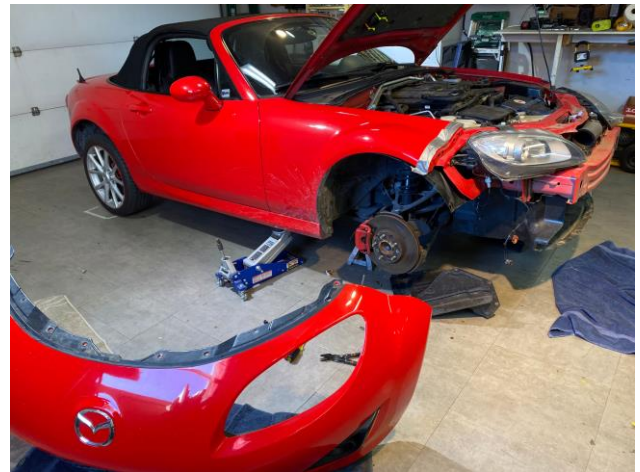
By Roger Gordon

Bumper Covers!!! Part 1



Prior to 2024, bumper covers were never on my radar – had no experience with them – had no opinion of them. But it turned out, in 2024 I removed – and replaced – no fewer than 5 different bumper covers on 5 different vehicles. So I thought I would make some general comments about my experience. Bumper Covers are hereafter referred to as “BC.”

I assume we all know that prior to the 80's, bumpers were huge chrome strong metal pieces on the front and back that absorbed crashes and such, just as their name implied - see image below right. When stringent safety protocols were mandated by the government, it was impossible to meet the (impact) standards with traditional bumpers – additional metal needed to be added in specific places. To hide that additional ugly metal, they created the (plastic) BC. If you look at the next four pictures, you can see the ugliness that is being hidden by your BC as well as what the BC looks like removed.



My experience started with our 2012 NC. I needed to get to the headlight on the driver's side. The headlight on the passenger side can be somewhat accessed from under the hood, but on the driver side, the fuse box and air box make it too difficult.

There are lots of videos you can find documenting the removal of a BC on an NC so I won't describe that process here, but here are a few personal observations:

- It is not really necessary to jack up the car or remove the wheel – it does make things easier but not worth the trouble in my opinion.
- All 5 removals in my instances need to start with removing fasteners from the wheel wells. The fasteners are hidden by the inner plastic fender liner. In most cases, you can bend the plastic liner out of the way rather than removing it. Removing those can be a real pain. In none of my five cases was the fender liner damaged by flexing it out of the way.
- Next proceed to remove various fasteners on top and underneath. It is important to take pics of the top and bottom because you need to reattach the same way with reference to the materials – especially underneath – there are usually several plastic bottom engine covers and you want to make sure the parts are mated as they were originally attached.
- Keep track of the various plastic fasteners and where they go – many look the same but are slightly different in length or breadth.
- You can usually use a slot screwdriver to pop them out, but it helps to have a few upholstery tools handy. The picture on the right shows some simple tools that can help.
- A “scary” part of most removals is grabbing the edges of the BC to free it from the rest of the body. In most cases, especially around the outer edges, you need to grab the edges of the BC and give it a good tug to free it from the hidden tabs that are holding it. There will be snapping and popping but that is normal.



Once you have detached all fasteners, the removal is pretty easy – it practically falls off – and it is not heavy, but remember that the BC has lights attached (and possibly other things such as horn or electronics) so before swinging the BC out of the way, you must unhook all those connections. Honestly, this simple step is one I hate most – every one of the electrical plugs is different – finding the tab that you need to depress is different on each one - some are impossible to see and even harder to get your hands in there to unhook them. In one case, I had to remove the entire light assembly from the BC before being able to unhook the connection.

Prior to complete removal, remember to clear a large space on which to set the BC. It is big and a bit unwieldy. You might also want to spread out some old towels or blankets to keep from scratching the BC. Reattaching is the opposite but remember the “over/under” part – on the bottom side – you want it to be reassembled as it was previously.

My point in writing this is to tell you that removing and replacing a BC is totally within the capabilities of most able-bodied people. As long as you have a dry warm inside place to work, you can easily do this task if you ever have the need – and it is a one-person job.

Part 2 next month will give information on ordering a new painted or unpainted BC.