



October 2025 Volume 37, Issue 10

The President's Corner

by Chuck Valley



Our annual MVMC Picnic (held traditionally at Lofino Park in Beavercreek) on September 16th was once again a great success. Members brought many tasty side dishes and desserts, and the club provided the main course of hot-off-the-grill hamburgers and hot dogs, chips, and drinks. Forty-four (44) members participated including one (1) new member who was recruited by Drake Daum. Thanks Drake! More information on who joined during our picnic will be reported later in this newsletter edition from Gina Seay, MVMC Membership Director. As you sometimes hear, it is often a sobering reality that car clubs have been known to 'age out.' All new members are welcomed, but it is especially nice to see the younger folks show a strong interest in the Miata/MX-5 and wanting to join our car club for the great return on their \$20 investment (accompanied by the generous quarterly donation by our sponsor Jeff Schmitt Mazda) in exchange for the socializing aspect with fellow Miata/MX-5 owners, the technical guidance, the numerous Drive & Dine events, and free dinners _at least_ three times a year!

Special thanks to Clyde and Bonnie Hebert for hosting the **Village Family Restaurant Drive & Dine** in and around Waynesville. The weather was very nice, and the drive was fun and well attended.

The MVMC Newsletter is a great resource for events three months out but know that we also frequently update the MVMC website so you can be aware of upcoming events that occasionally change dates.

October *going into early November* is one of the club's busiest times of year with the following:

- **Plain Folk D&D** - October 18th hosted by yours truly and my navigator, Pat Valley
- **MVMC Annual Pizza Party** – October 21st at Jeff Schmitt Mazda Showroom
- **The Fall Foliage Drive** - October 23rd through 26 hosted by Dan Kirkpatrick
- **Fall Shop Day** – November 1st at the Mott Century Farm hosted by Randy and Lynda Mott

One important final note, recently meeting with the current MVMC Executive Officers, all current officers have agreed to return to serve in 2026. Even so, if you are willing to commit to any of the officer positions next year, we can include your name on the November ballot. I need to say, all current officers have been excellent at carrying out their responsibilities and openly communicating good ideas to continue the fun factor for all members of the MVMC.

Chuck Valley, President
Miami Valley Miata Club

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
Oct 18	Plain Folk Drive & Dine	Chuck & Pat Valley	Russ Nature Reserve, Beavercreek
Oct 21	MVMC Annual Pizza Party	MVMC Officers	Jeff Schmitt Mazda, Beavercreek
Oct 23-26	Fall Foliage Drive	Dan Kirkpatrick	Southeast Tennessee
Nov 1	Fall Shop Day	Roger Gordon, Randy Mott	Mott Farm, Casstown, OH
Nov 8	TENTATIVE: Dual club drive with Greater Cincinnati Miata Club?	GCMC	Milford, OH
Nov 18	Meet & Greet & Election of 2026 Officers	MVMC Officers	Underground Chuck's, Miami Township
Dec 13	MVMC Annual Christmas Party	MVMC Officers	Fairborn Senior Center
Dec 31	Polar Bear Run	TBA	TBA

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.



From the Membership Desk

By Gina Seay
Membership Director

We added one new member in September. Welcome Clinton Morris to the club!

We wish the following members happy birthday in October:

October Birthdays

Byron Pettit, Jayna Hoppel, Sharon Wilson, Debbie Whitaker, Susan Hubbell, Rick Lach, Laura Garrett, Vicki Beegle, Dan Long, Donovan Hone, Rhonda Thomas, Clinton Morris



New Members for 2025

Clinton Morris
Don Hone
Corey Hoag
Jim Shaw
Sharon & Greg Orbash
Tom Livesay
Larry & Rhonda Thomas
Matthew Human
Tammy House

Treasurer's Report

By Pat Valley, Secretary-Treasurer

Income for the month of September was from a new member's dues.

Income:	\$20.00
Expenses	\$159.67
Bank Bal:	\$ 2120.92

Expenses were for the annual picnic.

The officers held a bi-monthly meeting on September 22nd. The discussion centered on the President asking officers if they are interested in running for office again in 2026.

Plans were discussed for the annual pizza party at Jeff Schmitt Mazda on October 21st.

It was determined that discussion for the Christmas party could be tabled until the November board meeting.

"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 Rally Master, Leroy Hebert

I want to thank everyone who was able to attend the drive to the Village Family restaurant in Waynesville. It was a nice drive with appropriately 12 cars. Newlyweds Mike and Tammy Wheeler did an excellent job as tail gunner. The wait at the restaurant was really long but that gave us plenty of time to socialize. A little mix up at the end of the drive with a block party forced a slight detour.

Coming up: **October 18th** Plain Folk drive hosted by Chuck and Pat Valley

October 23rd The Fall Foliage drive hosted by Dan and Norma Kirkpatrick. The Tail of the dragon 318 curves over 11 miles, which is perfect for the Miata. Be sure to contact Dan or Norma if you plan on going.

Election of Officers, November the 18, 2025. If anyone would like to volunteer as the new Rally Master I would be glad to help. I plan on being a snowbird in Florida from December to April and on numerous trips throughout the year. I will continue if no one else volunteers. Thank you and please consider it.

By way of Chuck Valley – “**Greater Cincinnati Miata Club** (GCMC) is doing a drive on **November 8** - Milford to Serpent Mound to Wheat Ridge to Aberdeen to home along the Ohio (Ohio side). Let me know if you have any interest for you or MVMC.

Bobbi Ross, President GCMC”

And now for a little October humor...

When the car you used to draw in kindergarten pulls up next to you...



Annual MVMC Picnic



Merlot!



No, this wasn't our picnic, but it would have been fun to be part of it



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/>

Fall Shop Day is coming up.
Saturday, November 1 is MVMC Fall Shop Day

This is the day when Randy and Lynda Mott open their great garage facility to allow us to work on members' 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 any 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.

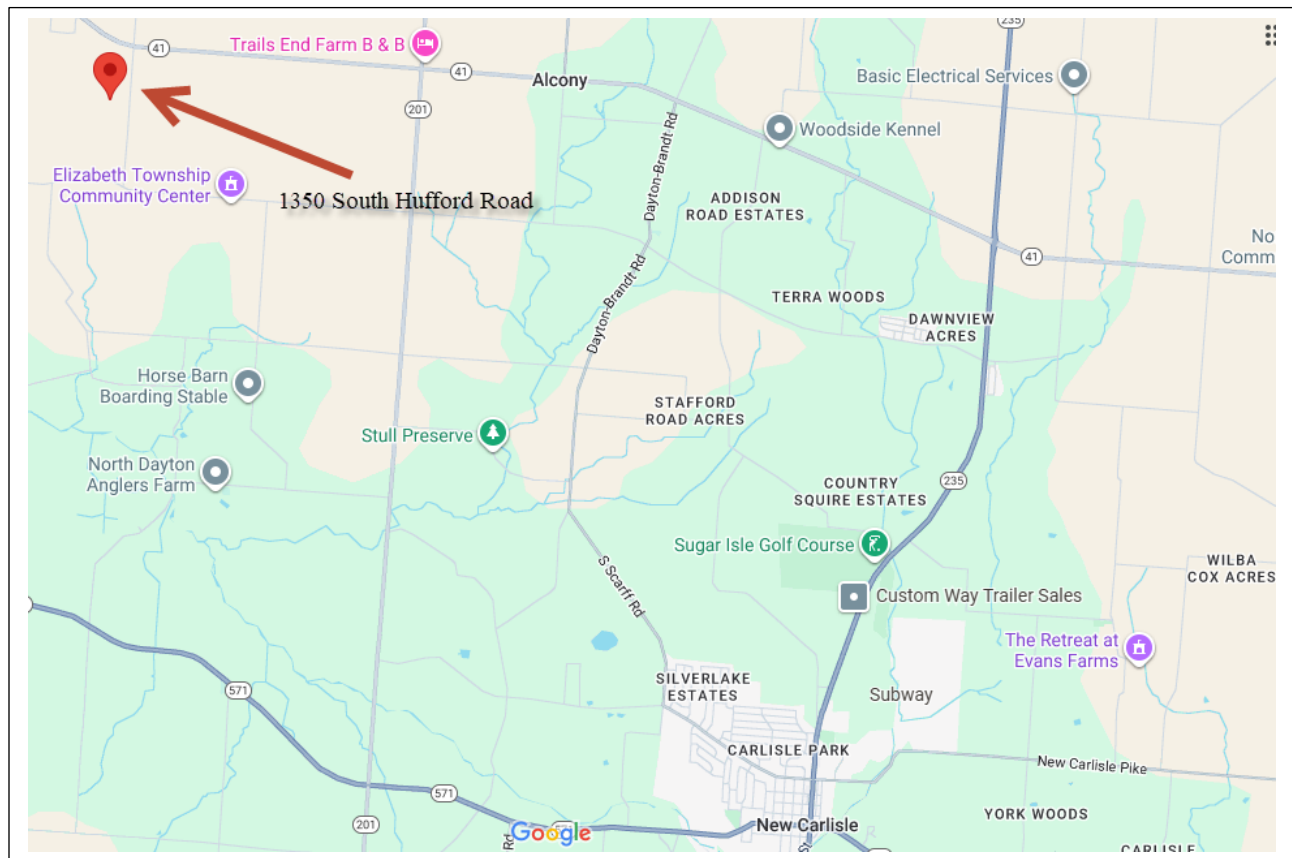
Location: Randy Mott's Farm, 1350 South Hufford Road, Casstown, Ohio 45312

Time: 10:00am until 2:00pm

The club will provide donuts and coffee in the morning as well as hot dogs, chips, and beverages around noon. 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 or chat with Roger via text or phone at 937-831-4209.



FALL FOLIAGE DRIVE

October 23-26, 2025



Join fellow Miami Valley Miata Club members for a Fall Foliage drive to the Smoky Mountains October 23-26, 2025

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

Group Booking: Miami Valley Miatas

Make your reservation *now* and also let Dan Kirkpatrick know you made your reservation.

The club has blocked off rooms at the following rate:
Cost: \$396, Tax \$58.41 Total \$454.41 for 3 nights

RSVP ASAP to Dan Kirkpatrick so a list can be generated. Call or text him at 937-673-4178 or email to: daniel.r.kirkpatrick@gmail.com

Shop Talk

It's not just about the Miatas

By Roger Gordon

Cleaning Your Mass Airflow Sensor



On our 2012 NC Miata, we recently started intermittently flashing a P0171 Check Engine Light (CEL) Code. I used our home-version code reader to read the code. The reader also has the ability to reset or erase the CEL. The code reader plugs into the OBDII port which on most vehicles is under the driver's side of the dash. See PIC1 – Code reader and PIC2 – the OBDII port on an NC Miata. P0171 message is SYSTEM TOO LEAN BANK 1. Lean means

the cylinders are getting too little gas or, more normally, too much air. Remember that your car does not just burn gas, it mixes that gas with air which also gets burned. BANK 1 refers to which side of a V type engine is having the problem. There is only one Bank in a Miata so that is irrelevant in our case.

There are three normal reasons for the P0171 code – a vacuum leak, a bad O2 sensor or a dirty Mass Air Flow device. Many of the CEL code are what I call nuisance codes – meaning that you could probably drive the car normally for years without damage. For nuisance codes like this one, the first thing I usually do is to erase it and see how soon it comes back. I reset this code and after a few driving cycles, the code came back.



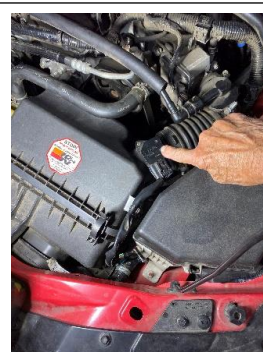
PIC 1



PIC 2

I tried to eliminate the vacuum leak as the problem by checking all vacuum lines visually. Seeing no problems, I started the engine and sprayed starter fluid around the various places where air might be leaking in. If there was a vacuum leak, theoretically, the engine RPM would change noticeably – the RPM would increase due to the addition of fuel being sucked in from the leak area. No such changes were heard.

As it happened, I found an unused can of Mass Airflow Cleaner, so I decided to try that. Starting with a cold engine, locate the Mass Airflow Sensor (MAF). PIC 3 shows the location on an NC Miata. Remove the two Phillips screws holding the MAF. There is an electrical connection that must also be removed. I absolutely hate those things because they are all different – the tabs that must be pushed in are hard to see or hard to locate and sometime impossible to get pressure on. Sometimes you can depress the tabs but cannot exert pressure in the direction to remove it. OK, rant over. There are two tabs on this one – and as usual, I needed other tools to release this electrical connection. Once the screws are out and the electrical connection is broken, the MAF lifts right out.



PIC 3

All instructions I see warn to never touch the inside of the MAF. As you can see from PICS 4-5-6, the working part is some fine wire with electrical continuity, and I assume it is easily broken. To clean it, just put the part on your workbench and on some paper towels and spray it liberally with the cleaner (PIC 7). They also say do not try to clean it with anything other than MAF cleaner. This MAF cleaner dissipates quickly – so you can just wait a few minutes before carefully returning it to the engine and putting in the two screws and electrical connection. You should not try to dry the part first.



PIC 4



PIC 5



PIC 6



PIC 7

In my case, cleaning the MAF did not fix my P0171 problem so I will be replacing one or both of the O2 sensors soon. As I understand it, there is no specific way to tell which of the sensors is bad. For reference, there is one UPSTREAM O2 sensor on or close to the exhaust manifold and a second one usually on the output side of the catalytic converter.

Replacing one or both of those sounds like something for a future article!

BONUS INFORMATION:

If you happen to be a "tool guy" like many of us, you have bought a tool and then never used it. Here is one I bought last year at Harbor Freight that I have used a surprising number of times over the year. These long-nosed pliers (PIC 8) with the bent nose have been extra helpful when detaching electrical connections especially. I recommend them highly.



PIC 8

Club Member Items for Sale or Free



NA tan convertible boot

Free to good home!

Contact Chuck Valley at
937-608-5251

(first inquiry gets it!)

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, write "filter" in the subject line.