



April 2018

Letter from the President



Dear Club Members,

As I look out my office window I see a spectacular spring day. In fact it just turned spring as I write this letter to you. Both Hope and I returned from shopping a few moments ago and, as noted, the weather is so lovely. I remember all too well why we moved to Arizona. If we could just keep this 70 degree weather for a few more months. This is the perfect time for all of us to count our blessings and hop in our Miata roadsters for a spring spin.

By the time you read this we should have had our Afternoon BBQ social at Tom and Becky Shaw's home on March 24th. I am sure it was a big success. The Shaw's have a lovely setting for a fun afternoon! Many thanks go out to both Tom and Becky! I will see if we can have one or two more "Socials" before the weather gets too warm for outdoor events. If you are interested in hosting a social at your home, please feel free to contact Mack Kucera our Vice President and Events Coordinator. You may email him at vpevents@sahuaromiataclub.com. If possible, we would love to hear from someone on the west side.

If you read my "Letter from the President" in last month's newsletter you will remember I have been reaching out to club members for assistance filling board positions. I cannot stress enough how important filling these positions are in maintaining our fun active club. Next month's Board of Directors meeting will once again be held at Berge Mazda on Tuesday April 3rd. If you are interested in seeing how your board functions please attend a meeting. This will give you an opportunity to see firsthand how the board functions and what the responsibilities of Board members are. This is all in the hopes that you will either become a Board member for 2018 or 2019. Please feel free to contact me at 808-269-6693 or drop me a line at president@sahuaromiataclub.com. Regardless of your decision, we appreciate your efforts in learning more about the inner workings of the club.

Elsewhere in this newsletter you will find a how to on a mode for your vehicle, I hope you enjoy it.

Warm Regards,
[Jeff Morris](#)



LETTER FROM
THE EDITOR

Spring is upon us and it's time to put the tops down and enjoy a day on the road. With that said, be sure to check out the events calendar for upcoming runs or if you have an idea for a run that you would like to host contact Mark Kucera and he'll help you plan it.

In this month's newsletter, Mark talks about a fun photo contest that will require some creativity on your part.

Another new feature this month is the Miata of the Month which features a Miata and its vanity plate. Thanks to John and Sonja Wilson of Prescott for their submission. Send in your submissions. You could be the next one to have your Miata featured.

As Jeff said in his letter there are still board positions that need to be filled. If your interested and would like to receive information regarding what your commitment would have be,contact Jeff Morris for details. I know this subject has been brought up every month but it's important that these positions are filled so the Board is able to continue to grow the membership, create new events and keep the club viable.

At the typical club or association:

- 5% of members run the club and show up for almost every event, Another 15% of members regularly participate. Another 20% occasionally participate The remaining 60% never show up for anything! Let's not be the typical club. Let's make the Sahuaro Miata Club an exceptional club!

Until next month,

Paul Gaskill, Editor

Announcing the Sahuaro Miata Club Monthly Photo Contest

We know many of you love to take fun pictures of your MX-5's and show them to your friends and club members. Because we love to see your pictures we would like to give you an outlet to display your best pictures in our newsletter, Facebook page, and if it's a really good photo even the club website.

We are looking for creative, dramatic, humorous, or otherwise exceptionally pictures that include an MX-5, rather than the routine photos we normally see. There are no limitations on what is in the pictures (within good taste), as long as there is an MX-5 in the photo. Take pictures at club events, on vacation, at car races, car shows, or anywhere else. We only want photos you actually took. No internet found pictures, please. You can also use the editing software on your PC or camera to enhance the picture color, framing, cropping, or other aspects to make them special and unusual. Feel free to submit a great photo you've previously taken.

By the first of each month send your ONE best picture attached to an email message to vpevents@sahuaromiataclub.com Describe what we are seeing in the photo, tell us who took it, where it was taken, and what you did to make it special, if anything. All entries will be saved and considered for subsequent newsletters. So even if it isn't the winner one month, it may be the best the following month. The winning photograph will be prominently featured in the following monthly newsletter along with your name and the story behind the picture.

We look forward to seeing your great photos.

Mark Kucera, Vice-President and Event Coordinator



FLASHBACK

Chase Field Tour & More on Saturday, March 24, 2012... Event Leader: Jan Florer

On Saturday, March 24th, we will have the opportunity to take a guided tour of Chase Field with none other, than our own Rook Younger as our illustrious tour guide! As those who have taken the tour before know, this is a comprehensive walking tour of Chase Field (formerly BOB).

We will meet in front of the ticket booths at 10:00AM. The tour will start promptly at 10:30AM. After the tour, we will have lunch at Friday's Front Row, located in the ballpark. For those who would like to do a drive out afterwards, we will do a short run to the top of South Mountain Park.



Track Day At Arizona Motorsport Park March 11, 2018

Eight Sahuaro Miata Club members went to the Arizona Motorsports Park track-day event on Saturday, March 11. It was a perfect day for a track event because that hot Arizona sun was behind the clouds and it was in the 70's. At least until about 3 PM when some light rain moved in ending the fun.

Louis Verloop, the club's most experienced and serious track-day racer, was tearing up the track in an advanced class of racers in his Spec Racing Miata.

Leo Fiebiger brought his Nissan 370 Z Nismo to find out how it handles on the track compared to his previous Miatas. I think he enjoyed the extra speed and power of the Z.

Flyin' Tom Taylor was there in his good looking 2014 Miata.

Anthony Graziano was blasting (i.e. exceeding the noise limits) around the track in his turbo charged 2013 white Miata.

Lou Molvin, a brand new member, brought his Crystal Blue Mica 2002 Miata that he just purchased. Lou came out to observe and find out what the event was all about. He said he was going to have to install rollover protection and buy a helmet so he could get out on the track too. Welcome to the Club, Lou.

Eric Billeter, also a new member, came out for some fun in his newly purchased 2001 British Racing Green SE Miata. Eric was pushing the limits, evidenced by one off-track excursion that resulted in a big dust cloud, but no serious problems. Welcome Eric.

Pat Thompson, a new member visiting from Portland for the winter came out to observe the action in his 2010 copper red Miata. Welcome Pat.

Arthur Stromberg was really ripping around the track in his 2016 Soul Red Club Miata, especially after Jayson, his volunteer Porsche Club in-car instructor, an experienced Spec Miata racer, showed him the fast way around the track.

I was excited to see how my 2016 Grand Touring Miata handled on the track after the installation of Meister CDR Coilovers (firmer shock absorber and spring assemblies). I spent the day trying to find the right shock absorber settings, and tire pressure. By the third track session I think I found the proper balance. Arthur loaned me Jayson, his instructor, for the third track session so I could learn to go faster. Jayson drove my car and me around the track for three fast laps so he could show me the proper line through the corners, and how fast my car can really go

around the track. It was exciting, to say the least, to experience how fast he could push my ND through the turns. Then Jayson coached me while I tried to duplicate his racing line, braking points, and sheer speed. I didn't match his incredible pace, but I did get a lot faster. I even caught up to all the Porsches and BMW's that had passed me earlier. Wow, that really felt good.

I think everyone had a great time. It's always fun to drive this professional style track in our Miatas. It makes it especially fun having good friends there to help and support each other. We share our on-track experiences of exciting moments when things went really well, and also when they went wrong. I know everyone learned a lot. Even though there were a few spinouts all cars and drivers ended the day safe and sound. We all left the track a little tired, but happy and smiling.

Mark Kucera



HPDE Event vs. Track-Day Event by Mark Kucera

I've learned the term "track-day event" I've been using in previous event postings in Meetup is the incorrect terminology. The book "The Lost Art Of High-Performance Driving" by Ross Bentley says the correct terminology for these events is HPDE (High Performance Driver Education). "Track Day" events are when no educational component is scheduled as part of the event: It's just driving your car on a track according to a structured schedule. The difference between the two is that an HPDE is about learning to be a better driver, while track day events focus is on the fun aspects of driving around a track.

Most events offer a combination of education and fun, so the terms do get mixed up and overlapped at times. In fact, many events start drivers with an educational focus, and, as they gain experience, these drivers receive less and less education, with the focus tending more toward just lapping the track.

While there are many different formats for HPDE and track-day events, all feature a few common elements. First, you show up early at the track with your car well prepared, or at least you should. A meeting starts the day off, with the person leading the event providing an overview of the schedule and rules. The attending drivers will have already been split into groups, ranging from first-timers and inexperienced drivers to intermediates and experienced drivers. Each group will go in a different direction: the newbies head to a classroom session, where they will learn the basics of high-performance driving; experienced drivers head directly onto the track; and the intermediates receive a short briefing and possibly more classroom instruction and some time to prepare for their session on track. Each group is on track for twenty to thirty minutes.

On March 2nd, Larry Lloyd hosted the 1st Friday Prescott Lunch at Backburner Restaurant.



St. Pat's Lunch and Run to South Mountain

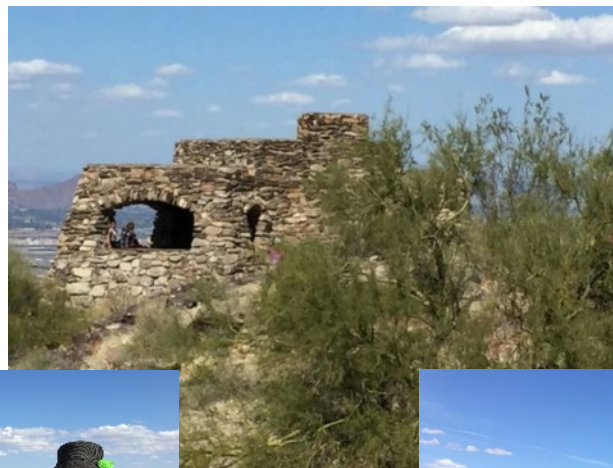
Many Sahuaro members had an "Irish Brunch" with most appropriately, wearing some green, enjoyed a private room at Chompie's in Chandler. Then 12 Miata's braved city traffic for the "Run to the Top of South Mountain"

We drove up to Rustler's Roost from the bottom parking lot for a view from the upper parking lot and exited by the main entrance parking lot!

South Mountain Park, Gila Valley Lookout - 6 Miata's made it to that overlook! Ahwatukee, Firebird Lake & Firebird International Raceway!

Six Miata's went directly to the Dobbins Lookout.

Aloha Yogurt in Tempe completed the day!



The 2nd SMC Social was held on March 24th at the home of Tom and Becky Shaw. 52 members enjoyed the BBQ and chance to socialize with the other members. Among those attending were several new members.

During the afternoon Tom and Becky took members out on the lake. A neighbor loaned them his boat so Tom in his boat and Becky in the neighbor's were able to each take members around the lake. The social started at 3 and concluded around 5:30. If the weather is cooperative, the next social will be in May.



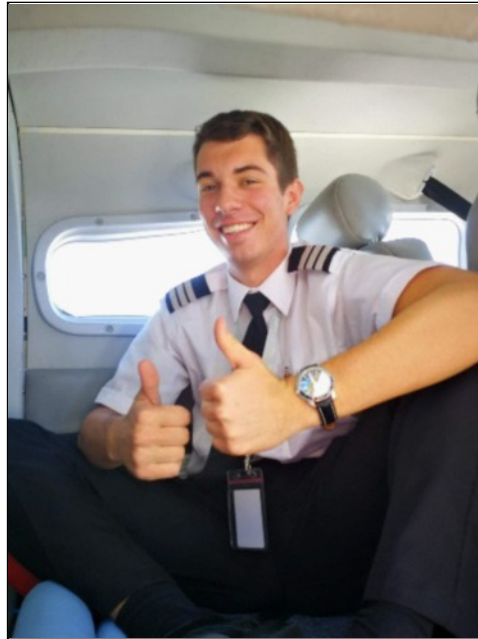
The NE Valley lunch at Big Earl's Greasy Eats in Cave Creek AZ had a great turn-out on Thursday, March 29. Known as the old Cave Creek gas station, Big Earl's Greasy Eats was designed as a station for Standard Oil in 1935 and patented in 1936. In 1936, Phoenix had 127 service stations, 14 of which were Standard Oil stations. Today, the Cave Creek station, Big Earl's Greasy Eats, is the only known surviving example of a 1930s art deco Standard gas station in the greater Phoenix metropolis. Now a world famous restaurant, the former station originally was located on 19th Avenue in Phoenix and was moved to Cave Creek in 1952. It functioned as a Standard station until the late 1980s.

We had over 20 people sitting outside under the covered patio munching on Big Earl's Burgers, fries, and other good eats. Everyone seemed to enjoy the food and lively conversations. After lunch 6 cars went on a fun run to Bartlett Lake. The weather was in the high 70's to low 80's making it perfect top-down weather. The road to the lake provides everything a Miata owner could want as it twists, turns, and goes up and down like a rollercoaster. We had a great drive.

The event was hosted and article written by Mark Kucera.



MEMBER SPOTLIGHT



Hey everyone, my name is **George Nimmer**. I recently moved to Phoenix (North Scottsdale/Kierland area) from Wisconsin upon accepting a new job as a flight instructor. Although it is work, flying is definitely a passion of mine, however motorsports and cars will always be number one. I'm a follower of Formula 1, IMSA, and other various race series. Miatas have always been a dream of mine, so I'm proud to say that my 2000 MX-5 is my first car. I bought it locally and plan on spending too much money and effort on it. I had the car in for service at a dealer when I found a SMC flyer on my windscreen, then later met multiple members at the Concours in the Hills show. Everyone was very friendly; I look forward to meeting more members. Runs and track days sound like they will be my favorite activities. Zoom zoom!

New for 2018

The 2018 Mazda MX-5 Miata soft top offers a variety of new color choices, with an available Dark Cherry soft top; Auburn Napa leather interior; and Soul Red Crystal and Machine Gray Metallic premium exterior paint options

MX-5 Club with Brembo/BBS Package adds heated, black, leather-trimmed seats.



Miata of the Month / Vanity Plate



This 2014 MX- 5 Miata belongs to John and Sonja Wilson of Prescott. John purchased the car as a birthday present for Sonja a few years ago. Their granddaughter, Kahla gave Sonja the plate KOOLGRM which stands for cool grandma.

Mazda provides free map updates for the first 3 years.

To download the new maps you will need to first download the Mazda toolbox (or update it if you already have it). To get started go here:

<http://infotainment.mazdahandsfree.com/navigationupdatemymaps?Language=en-US>.

Once you've installed the program, remove the SD card from your car and insert it into your computer. The program should automatically recognize the card and display your VIN number with a message that you qualify for an update.

This update should apply to any Miata with built-in Navigation. The system will prompt you to back up your maps before downloading the new ones.



April 3rd - SMC Board Meeting at Berge Mazda 10 a.m. - Noon

April 11th - Lake Havasu City and Laughlin, NV. Overnight Run

April 16th - Rock Springs Cafe Social Lunch at 12:30 p.m.

April 21st - Tech Day at Mike's Place 10 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

May 1st - SMC Board Meeting at Berge Mazda 10 a.m. -Noon

May 4th - 31st Annual Historic Route 66 Assoc. Of Arizona Route 66 Fun Run

For complete information on these and other events go to the SMC Meetup page.

New Miata E- Newsletter

MazdaUSA has a new Miata e-newsletter available. The letter is devoted entirely to the MX-5. Now, owners and enthusiasts can dive even deeper into the world of Mazda MX-5 Miata. Subscribe to the free MX-5 Miata E-Newsletter and gain access to photos, club news, motorsports events, product and accessory information, and much more. A special newsletter for a special roadster. Subscribe by going to mazdausa.com.

The Name-Change Game

As the Valley expanded, the surrounding cities and towns gamely adopted Phoenix's cardinal grid - one can even find vestiges of it in the way-way-west town of Tonopah, where it ultimately peters out at 579th Ave. But Phoenix streets do have a way of magically renaming themselves when they cross city limit

Greenway Pkwy. (Phoenix) >>>>> Butherus Dr. (Scottsdale)

Glendale Ave. (Phoenix) >>>>> Lincoln Dr. (Paradise Valley)

Dunlap Ave. (Phoenix) >>>>> Olive Ave. (Glendale)

McClintock Dr. (Tempe) >>>>> Hayden Rd. (Scottsdale)

Rural Rd. (Tempe) >>>>> Scottsdale Rd. (Scottsdale)

**Upcoming Activity – July 28th – Mark your calendars and sign up now!
VERDE VALLEY SUNSET TRAIN RIDE hosted by Hope Morris.**

For those of us living in the valley, we will have a great chance to escape the heat for a weekend at the end of July. We will be meeting on the north side of Phoenix, and taking a leisurely drive up to Prescott. Lunch is planned at the Gurley St. Grill, followed by a fun drive to our hotel (The View) in Cottonwood AZ. Rooms have been reserved at \$85/night for Saturday night only. For those who live in the Prescott Valley and surrounding areas, we hope you will join us at lunch and wander the roads with us after lunch and stick around or meet us at the train. We would also love to have the Prescott (and surrounding area friends) join us for breakfast and another ride on Sunday morning.

We have currently reserved a First Class car on the Verde Valley Railroad for the sunset tour starting at 5:30 pm on Saturday, July 28th. Along with spacious accommodations, first-class passage includes a glass of champagne or sparkling cider upon departure, full-service cash bars with premium liquor, beverage service and complimentary Southwestern-style appetizers. If we have 24-30 people, we will be able to have our own car!!! Full bar service is available in first class.

The train ride is supposed to be spectacular. It will be a full moon that evening, too! The train ride is approximately 4 1/2 hours long. The Verde Canyon Railroad offers a lovely wilderness excursion into an area of extreme natural beauty, following the curves of the Verde River, 20 miles up through a red rock canyon, full of unusual geology, abundant wildlife, lush greenery, and Native-American ruins, on vintage rails aboard vintage train cars. There is something wonderful to be seen each season, and the train runs year 'round. The trip is approximately 4 hours, round trip. The route starts at the depot in Clarkdale, AZ and ventures 20 miles to the historic ranch town of Perkinsville, where the engines disconnect, come around on a side track and reconnect at the back (now front) of the train to power us back home to Clarkdale.

If this is something that interests you, please do the following ASAP:

- RSVP on meetup that you are interested in going
- Contact the View hotel (if you need hotel reservations) 928-634-7581 to make your reservations for the evening. Tell them you are part of the Sahuaro Miata Club. If you want to stay an extra night, let them know and the price for Sunday evening drops to \$75/night.

HOTEL AND TRAIN RESERVATIONS MUST BE MADE BY JUNE 1st. After that date, the rooms and reservations will be released and can not be guaranteed. This is not an event to wait until the last minute. This is limited to 30 participants only. **2 spots still available.**

Cost for the train is \$86.56/per person (\$173.12/couple) This will need to be paid in advance to the club to secure your spot on the train. We are limited to 30 people on the train, so don't delay signing up. To guarantee your spot - please RSVP here, and you must send a check, payable to the Sahuaro Miata Club by 7/1/18. Please note - checks will not be deposited until June 1st, so if you RSVP, we will send reminders for payment in May. **THIS EVENT REQUIRES PREPAYMENT by 7/1/18 AND IS NOT REFUNDABLE** after that date. Checks can be sent to P.O Box 2202, Queen Creek, AZ 85142. To make other payment arrangements, please contact Hope or Jeff Morris or Curtis Wood.

2018 Board Members

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Our Mission

The Mission of the Sahuaro Miata Club is to increase the fun of driving and owning a Mazda MX-5 Miata. This is achieved by combining fun runs and outings that allow us to take advantage of our roadsters phenomenal performance. Through meetings, meals and activities we meet like minded club members. We share our Miata experiences and develop friendships along the way that makes us all proud to be Miata owners and members of the Sahuaro Miata Club.

Serving the Greater Phoenix Miata Community

*A BIG Thanks
to our Sponsors!*



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LAST LAUGH

