



December 2017

Letter from the President



Hello Club Members,

I wish to take a moment to thank everyone who has been participating in our club events during the last few months. Your board has been working hard to come up with new, fun and meaningful activities to keep everyone glad they are members of the Sahuaro Miata Club. I also have a special Thank You to those members who have been supplying us with ideas on runs, restaurants and recreational activities (The three “R’s”). We will make every effort to make sure those good ideas come to fruition.

This year we are once again having our Christmas Holiday party at the Hacienda Valencia Club House in Mesa (Please check Meetup for details). I look forward to seeing everyone there. If your schedule has not allowed you to attend as many events as you may have wished, you need to attend our holiday party. This event gives everyone a chance to visit with each other and also meet many of our new members. I trust everyone will have an enjoyable time.

I trust everyone had a safe Thanksgiving and that you were able to attend festivities with friends and family. As always, but especially during the holiday season drive with care, you mean a lot to us!

Warm Regards,

Jeff Morris



LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

As the year comes to a close, we look back at what the club has done during the year. Mark Kucera's article tells us about all the events the club has held. He also is asking for event suggestions from members for 2018.

Art Kessel reminds us about the true meaning of the season with his article about helping children in need.

Club members were involved in several events this month including an Adventure Rally hosted by Rick Pasquale and a evening event at the drive-in hosted by Mark Kucera.

So it looks like 2017 was a good year for our club. With a 33% growth in membership and a increase from the previous year in activities and events. The Board of Directors are excited about the possibilities for 2018. With your help 2018 can be an exciting and interesting year.

As the year comes to a close and a new BOD takes over we want to thank Rick Pasquale, Tony Munro and Nancy Cunningham for all their hard work this past year. Rick, Tony and Nancy have decided to not seek re-election and we wish them well.

Finally, Art and I want to wish the membership a safe and joyful holiday season!

Until next month, Paul



Highlights from the recent Club Board of Directors Meeting

The Sahuaro Miata Club Board of Directors met at 10:00 a.m. November 7, 2017 at Berge Mazda in Gilbert. Several interested club members also attended as guests.

Treasurer Tony Munro noted the club has a balance of \$3,417.55. A couple weeks prior to the meeting he shared a message that IRS reinstated the club's non-profit status.

Membership Coordinator Nancy Cunningham announced that four new members joined in October, bringing our total to 101 dues paying memberships plus 3 active life members and 8 inactive lifetime members.

Vice President Mark Kucera discussed upcoming club events. Key items included:

- A request from Berge Mazda for us to jointly hold a Miata show. The date is pending.
- Concourse in the Hills. The February 10th event will be a fundraiser for Children's Hospital. Jeff is hoping for a very strong turn-out of our members to this prestigious event.
- Arrangements for the December 9 Holiday party were discussed in detail. The club will furnish entrees, beverages, and supplies. Club members are asked to bring appetizers, side dishes, and desserts based on their generation of Miata.

Merchandise Coordinator Martha Purfeerst provided an update on merchandise, special order, badge, raffle ticket, and gift certificate sales.

President Jeff Morris described initiatives for membership growth. There was related discussion about increasing the number of performance type events, like track days.

Next meeting 10:00 a.m., Tuesday, December 5 at Berge Mazda. Members are welcome to attend, but should contact Jeff Morris in advance due to the limited size of the meeting room.



Mark Kucera writes that it's been a great year to be an active Sahuaro Miata Club member. There have been 43 club events and 39 lunches for a total of 82 opportunities for fun and socializing. In my position as VP and Activities Coordinator I've really enjoyed working with our 2017 event hosts to develop and post their events. My thanks to everyone that provided ideas for events, and especially to the hosts for all their efforts to plan, post, and lead their events. I hope all club members will show their appreciation to all the event hosts so they know we value their contributions to the club.

Your board is always interested to know what events you would like the club to consider. Email your ideas to vpevents@sahuaromiataclub.com or simply mention it to any board member. I look forward to working with any club member that would like to contribute to the club by hosting an event, especially those of you that haven't hosted one yet. I think you will find that you will make lots of new friends and enjoy the club more by engaging with the club and hosting an event. I know I did.

2017 Summary Of Miata Club Events

January 7, Tortilla Flat Run & Lunch At Canyon Lake, hosted by Dani Burgess

January 14, Track Day Event At Wild Horse Pass Motorsports Park, hosted by Mark Kucera

January 21, Falcon Field Breakfast, Car & Aircraft Show, hosted by Rick Pasquale

February 4, Saturday Brunch At Chompies, hosted by Jeff Morris

February 18, Track Day Event At Wild Horse Pass Motorsports Park, hosted by Mark Kucera

February 25, Wickenburg, Bagdad, Prescott, Lynx Lake Road Trip, hosted by Mark Kucera

March 4, St Anthony's Monastery Tour In Florence, host by Rick Pasquale

March 11, Track Day Event At Arizona Motorsports Park, hosted by Mark Kucera

March 19, Roma Café Car Show, Dinner, and General Meeting, hosted by Jeff Morris

March 21 & 22, Lake Havasu City And Laughlin Run, hosted by Ed Raker

March 25, Desert Belle Boat Tour Of Saguaro Lake & Lunch, hosted by Martha Purferrst

March 26, Autocross At Arizona Motorsports Park, hosted by Mark Kucera

April 1, Saturday Brunch At Glendale Chompies, hosted by Craig Krivin

April 8, Spring Splash Car Show and Breakfast, hosted by Martha Purfeerst

April 15, Drive-In Movie Night At Glendale Drive-In, hosted by Mark Kucera

April 26, Cave Creek Hills Exploration, hosted by Mark Kucera

April 29, Tech Day At Mike's Place, hosted by Mike Parr and Jeff Morris

May 7, Phoenix Points Of Pride Rolling Tour, hosted by Rick Pasquale

May 13, Casa Grande Ruins, Artisans Village Run, hosted by Jeff & Hope Morris

May 15, Driver Safety Course, hosted by Mark Kucera

June 2, Feed My Starving Children Charity Event, hosted by Mark Kucera

June 19, Escape From Summer In The City Run To Flagstaff, hosted by Dale Strickland, Larry Lloyd and Roger Petterson.

July 1, Early Bird Beat The Heat Run To Globe, hosted by Mark Hirshbeel

July 15, Martin Auto Museum And General Meeting, hosted by the Board members

July 26, Feed My Starving Children Charity Event, hosted by Mark Kucera

August 5, Cars And Coffee Car Show, hosted by Rick Pasquale and Jeff Morris

August 16, Tempe Center For The Arts Tour, hosted by Terye Van Sanford

September 15 – 17, Devil's Highway Run, hosted by Hope and Jeff Morris and Mark Kucera

September 20, Feed My Starving Children Charity Event, hosted by Mark Kucera

September 28, 1st Club Monthly Meeting hosted by Tony Munro and Jeff Morris

October 5 – 9, Miatas At Mazda Laguna Seca Raceway hosted by Mark Kucera

October 12 – 13, Bisbee Shady Dell Trailer Park Overnight Trip hosted by Ed Raker

October 21, Boating In An Amphicar At Saguaro Lake hosted by Rick Pasquale

October 26, Monthly Meeting & dinner hosted by Jeff Morris and Tony Munro

October 28, Breast Cancer Walk hosted by Hope Morris

November 4, Adventure Rally And Backyard Barbeque hosted by Rick & Linda Pasquale

November 11, Veterans Day Parade hosted by Becky & Tom Shaw

November 16, Monthly Club Meeting hosted by Jeff Morris

November 18, Goodguys 20th Southwest Nationals Car Show hosted by Mark Kucera

November 25, Junior Parada Parade In Florence hosted by Dani Burgess

November 29, Feed My Starving Children Charity Event, hosted by Mark Kucera

December 2, Wildlife World Zoo, Aquarium, And Safari Park Tour hosted by Leo Fiebiger

December 9, Holiday Party hosted by your Board Of Directors

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

With the holidays upon us it's important to remember those less fortunate. With that in mind, Art tells us about his experience helping the Feed My Starving Children organization. Another event will be held January 6th and if you're interested in helping out for two hours go to Meetup where you can contact Mark Kucera and sign-up.

The Reason of Giving

By: Art Kessel

This past September Mark and Cathey Kucera hosted an event that gratified Iris and me in a way both of us can't remember feeling the same in a long time. Sure, we enjoyed past events where we drove in a caravan of Miata's, saw and explored new sights, drove challenging roads and got to socialize with a group of interesting people, all very gratifying. Mark and Cathey showed us through the club, a whole new level of gratification by volunteering ourselves for a good cause. It was a long drive early in the morning from the West Valley to Mesa and we were still yawning when we pulled into the parking lot. A sign in front read Feed My Starving Children assuring us we were finally there. When we walked up to the door and saw how many people were participating; parents with young children, teenagers, young and middle age adults and retirees like us.

Iris and I caught up with Mark, Cathey and Martha Purfeerst inside. Mark, Cathey and Martha had volunteered there before, so we got the short version of what we would do and what is their purpose. Feed My Starving Children is a non-profit organization created in 1987. Volunteers are needed for 2-hour sessions to hand-package life-saving meals for starving children around the world. They are able to take up to 140 people per packing session. The volunteer packed nutritious meals which will be shipped to over 70 countries. The meals are specifically designed to reverse and prevent malnutrition and are dispensed in schools, orphanages, clinics and feeding programs to break the cycle of poverty. What makes the whole experience interesting is they inform you during orientation where the food you're packaging will go.

Mark and I worked in the warehouse bringing out rice, soy and vitamin supplements to the packaging tables. Upbeat music is played during the session and you quickly learn about teamwork. I got such a kick seeing small children standing on boxes working next to adults all immersed in their job and enjoying every minute. How can two hours of labor be gratifying? Believe me it is. Iris and I look forward to next two events at Feed My Starving Children in November and January 6, 2018. Hope we can get more club members involved for a great cause. Mark and Cathey, thanks for bringing us along on the ride.

December Holiday Sale



Car Canes and Club Logo Duffel Bags are discounted for your stocking stuffer holiday gift giving.

Car Canes regularly \$20.00 15% off Now \$17.00

Duffel Bags regularly \$20.00 10% off Now \$18.00

OR purchase 2 bags and get 15% off, save \$6.00

See Martha at any of these events in December. She will have them with her.

Dec. 1st- Prescott Valley Lunch

Dec. 2nd - Wildlife Park and Lunch

Dec. 9th - Christmas Party

Dec. 13th NW Valley Lunch

Dec. 20th SE Valley Lunch



The Northwest lunch hosted by Tony Murno and held at Bobby Q's



Be careful with lithium-ion batteries

Below is a good example of why we need to be careful with re-chargable batteries.

Fellow member, Louis Verloop was charging his lithium - ion batteries in his garage this summer when the battery exploded causing damage to his garage and totaling his Miata. Fortunately no one was hurt and Louis replaced his Miata.



Veterans Day Parade

The club showed its support of our veterans by participating in the Phoenix Veterans Day Parade. A big thank you to Becky Shaw for hosting the event.





Pictured left to right - Dave and Jynx Vautrin, Curt and Cynthia Wood, Dave and Jin Ridolfi, Terye and Royce Van Sanford and Ed Chabot.

Goodguys 20th SW Nationals was held at Westworld on Nov. 18th. Rick Pasquale along with Mark and Cathy Kucera hosted the day. Here are some of the cars they saw at the show.



Urban Adventure Rally

Club members enjoyed a scavenger hunt type rally on November 4. Each car was its own team, figuring out clues for places in the central part of the Valley and then driving to each one to get a photo. There was also a question about each place that gave insights into its uniqueness. A total of 12 teams participated, 10 two person teams and 2 teams with just one person each.

After a challenging and fun afternoon each team reached a preordained location where they picked-up a crossword puzzle about Miata's. Once completed, the puzzle displayed the address of the barbeque finale at Rick and Linda's. Special guest Carol Solomon, a founding member of the club, helped greet the glorious finishers while Rick scored each team's result and wife Linda concluded meal preparations. The top scoring teams were:

2 person teams

1st Place– David and Dawn Carney

2nd Place – Derek and Laurie Neighbors

3rd Place – Ed Raker and Lynn Jacobson

1 person teams

1st Place – Wade Phyfer

2nd Place – Tom Taylor

Hosts Rick and Linda Pasquale provided tasty food and some great prizes. In addition to prize medals for the top scorers, there were modest trophies for the other finishers. Merchandise prizes were awarded, including a Sahuaro Miata Club gift certificate, a Moss Miata gift certificate, a die cast ND Miata, a "Miata parking only" sign, a set of Miata coasters, Knobmeister shifter knob covers, a trickle charger, a bottle of champagne, and an in-home yoga class. After the awards presentation everyone enjoyed food and conversation.

Rick and Linda delighted in putting the event together and were glad to see so many smiling faces. Rick said he was especially impressed by Wade. Wade traveled the farthest to attend the event, coming from near Sedona. More surprisingly, he outscored nearly all of the 2 person teams while taking some great photos on the road. Both Linda and Rick appreciate everyone who was a part of this event.





Pictured clockwise: Rick Pasquale, Laurie & Derek Neighbors / Rick with Ed Raker & Lynn Jacobson / Charlie Hicks, Kathleen Umlauf, Rick, Ken & Polina Buxton / Dave & Dawn Carney and in the center, Laurie Neighbors.

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT



Art and Iris Kessel have been active Sahuaros Club members since 2015. Moving to Sun City Grand in Surprise from DeBary, Florida was a retirement change for them so Iris could be closer to her sister in Scottsdale. Iris retired from a software company in 2004. Art was still actively working as a V.P. of sales and marketing for a manufacturing company when they relocated in 2004. While still living in Florida, Art fell in love with Miata's. His first roadster was a 1967 MGB and he never forgot the thrill of driving a car revered for its exceptional road control. His first Miata a 2001, came close to perfect, but 6 weeks after buying it he saw the car of his dreams at a local dealer. The dealership just received a new 2003 Miata Shinsen special edition with titanium grey paint, accented by a cobalt blue top and interior. Art was sold.

A year after moving they found they just couldn't justify a convertible in the hot Phoenix summers. A few days after listing the car it was sold to a couple who mentioned they were active in a Miata club and was looking for a newer model. Ironically, they suggested we buy another Miata and join the club. It was the furthest thing from their minds. A year later they purchased a bright red 2000 Corvette, joined the Corvette club and began doubting why they ever sold their beautiful Miata. Sometimes destiny takes a strange twist. Art and Iris sold their home in Sun City Grand, bought and remodeled a house in Sun City and yes they did buy a Miata again. A 2008 black Grand Touring which they love taking to Sahuaros Club events.

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT



Becky and Tom Shaw knew each other as children in church, dated some in high school and reconnected shortly after their 50th reunion in April. They were married in June.

They are both from Charlotte, NC. Tom has 3 children, Becky has 2 and between them a total of 7 grandchildren.

Tom says they are “living the life”, staying busy with travel and the Miata Club. Becky plays cards and Tom is getting back into golf. They are active in church and enjoy boat rides with friends.

Becky and Tom live in Gilbert, and are on their second Miata, a '15 white Club Edition. Becky joined the Miata club early in 2012, she owned a '93 red Miata that was in great condition, a real garage queen with a hardtop! After their marriage in '14, Tom fit right in the the Miata club and they both enjoy the many friends they have made and the fun runs and activities!

It's that time of year again!

(Please note this does not apply to Life Members or members who have joined since October, 2017 or those who have already paid)

2018 ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP FEES DUE DECEMBER 1ST!

- Active member's dues are \$25.00 per year, due by December 1st for the following year.**
- Payment can either be mailed or paid on PayPal.**
- Log in to PayPal and select the Send Money Option (click Friends & Family). The payment should be made to e-mail address:**

treasurer@sahuaromiataclub.com

- If you prefer to mail a check for \$25.00, our mailing address is:
Sahuaro Miata Club
P. O. Box #2202
Queen Creek, AZ. 85142**

Please note: If we do not receive your payment by January 31st, your account will be deactivated the first week of February. Please reply to this e-mail, if you are renewing or have decided not to renew as we need to up-date our records.

Please let us know if you have any questions. 520-840-4600

Thank you for your continued membership.

**Nancy Cunningham
Membership Coordinator
smcmembership@cox.net**



www.sahuaromiataclub.com

New Membership / Renewal Application

Member's Name: _____ DOB: (M) ____ (Day) ____

Member Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: (Home): _____ (Cell): _____

Email Address: _____

Spouse / Partner: _____ DOB: (M) ____ (Day) ____

Check here if phone and email are the same as Member's above.

Phone: (Home): _____ (Cell): _____

Email Address: _____

Year of Miata: _____ Color: _____ Trim: _____

Special/Limited Model: Special Edition: Anniversary Edition:

Emergency Contact Name: _____ Phone: _____

Tell us how you heard about our club: _____

By checking the box (left) you affirm that you have a valid Driver's License and Insurance.

Club membership roster is maintained on the SMC Meetup site; access is limited to active (current) members who have requested to join the Meetup Group. Club activities are maintained and updated on the Meetup site only. This site is accessible via cell phone or computer. It is the members responsibility to set up user name (first and last required) and request access to the site once your dues have been paid.

Release statement: I wish to participate in activities and events organized by the Sahuaro Miata Club. In consideration of the right and privilege to enter and participate in these events, I hereby agree to release the Sahuaro Miata Club, its officers, organizes, members, sponsors, and vendors from any and all liability for injury, damage, or loss arising from my participation and attendance in any club activity. (If spouse / partner is also applying for membership, they must also sign).

Member: _____ Date: _____

Spouse / Partner: _____ Date: _____

Please return this signed application to:
The Sahuaro Miata Club
P.O. Box 2202
Queen Creek AZ 85142

Club dues year is Jan – Dec
Dues may be paid at PayPal.com to:
Treasurer@Sahuaromiataclub.com Please use Friends
& Family payment option or send check (\$25.00) with
application.

Board Members E-Mail

Jeff Morris	president@sahuaromiataclub.com
Mark Kucera	vpevents@sahuaromiataclub.com
Rick Pasquale	secretary@sahuaromiataclub.com
Tony Munro	treasurer@sahuaromiataclub.com
Nancy Cunningham	membership@sahuaromiataclub.com
Martha Purfeerst	marketing@sahuaromiataclub.com
Terye Van Sanford	memberatlarge@sahuaromiataclub.com
Paul Gaskill	editor@sahuaromiataclub.com

What the color of your Miata says about you

See if your personality matches the color of your Miata.

Black - artistic and sensitive

White - organizes and logical

Red - tenacious and likes to live life to the fullest

Blue - reliable and loves harmony

Green - affectionate and loyal

Yellow - enjoys learning and sharing knowledge

Brown - reliable and dependable

Gray - neutral about life and is composed

Silver - practical thinker and logical

Copper - warm, caring and sensitive

Orange - good-natured, likeable and social

A BIG Thanks
to our Sponsors!



*****NEWSLETTER DISCLAIMER*****

The Sahuaro Miata Club assumes no liability for any of the information contained in our publication.

The ideas, opinions, tips, expressed are to be used at the readers discretion. Individual contributions and /or the editors express no approval, authentication, or endorsement.

Please e-mail stories and articles for consideration in WORD format. Pictures and graphics should be in JPEG format.

Send all submissions to:
editor@sahuaromiataclub.com



Ronald Spannraft	11/25/17
Tammy Jones	11/15/17
Terry Hagerman	11/9/17

LAST LAUGH

