



Road Runners

December 2018

Happy Holidays



From your SMC Board of Directors



LETTER FROM
THE EDITOR

With this being the last edition as editor I want to take a minute and thank several members who have contributed to the newsletter this past year.

Mark Kucera always has contributed something of interest for the letter. He would also follow up with me to make sure I had received event articles from the host. Thank you Mark.

Ron Spannraft photographer extraordinaire supplied photos from many events as well as several articles.

Terye Van Sanford gave me valuable insight regarding the history of the club and contributed many ideas for articles.

Last by not least, Art and Iris Kessel aka Lois and Clark. They were my proof readers and with their eagle eyes caught errors made and made other contributions to the letter during the year. Job well done!

My goal was to put out an interesting and informative newsletter. Hopefully I accomplished that.

Happy Holidays, Paul



Dec. 4th - Board Meeting

Dec. 7th - Prescott Valley 1st Friday lunch at Backburner Family Cafe

Dec. 8th - Holiday Party & Club Elections

Dec. 12th - NW Valley lunch at Dillion's

Dec. 15th - Holiday Dinner & Lights Tour

Dec. 19th - SW Valley lunch at McFate Brewing Co.

Information on these and other events can be found on **Meetup**.

Club Events

BISBEE RUN 2018 - submitted by Cynthia Woods

11 Miatas and 20 individuals enjoyed a fun filled Halloween weekend drive to Bisbee AZ...what a fabulous get-away! Our goal was to maximize our run and enjoy time in Bisbee to include a 2 night stay at the [Shady Dell](#), a fabulous vintage trailer park. We occupied all the vintage Airstreams apart from one, with the rest of our group enjoying quaint inns and Bisbee B&Bs, most of which have fun histories in of themselves as prior jails, taverns and even houses of ill-repute - some even claim to be haunted! It was such a fun weekend, we even had the pleasure of Terry and Julie Thompson joining us from the San Diego Club – love it! Let’s hope we have more joint efforts between our 2 Clubs!

The [route](#) to Bisbee avoided I-10, giving drivers the opportunity to enjoy scenic winding highways (the approach to Bisbee itself) and old interstate pathways (Phoenix to Tucson) with lovely desert vistas. The day was sunny, though not too warm – the best of days for a fall drive! Of interest in driving towards Tucson on Highway 67 was passing the Tom Mix Memorial. Though as a group we didn’t stop on the way down, some members did on the trip home and a suggestion would be to include this stop on future trips – there is fascinating information on Tom Mix, his history in silent films and the first “talkies” – it’s a great place to stretch one’s legs and the area is well maintained.

Lunch on the way down was a stopover at [Bubb's Grub](#) with great service, good food (their claim to fame is BBQ), very reasonable prices, and tons of space for our group. Organizers also noted the excellent pre-communication Bubb’s Grub management had prior to our visit. They were looking forward to having us and were well prepared. We LIKE that A LOT! Lots less worry when we travel as a group – no kidding!

After arrival in Bisbee with the opportunity to check-in and get situated at our various locations, Cathey Kucera had graciously made dinner reservations for us at the [Roka Cafe](#). Roka is recognized as one of the finest rural restaurants in Southern Arizona offering locally sourced selections; it definitely met expectations! This was a leisurely dining experience, allowing the membership the luxury to chat and spend time together over the course of the evening, a far more extended level of comraderie than we usually have the opportunity to enjoy. Thank you, Cathey!

Saturday was unscheduled until our late afternoon barbecue, allowing solo exploration of Bisbee and the general locale. However, most joined in at the start of their day for early breakfast at the famous [Bisbee Breakfast Club](#) ...the GIANT home-made biscuits and cinnamon rolls were amazing...and if you haven't yet tried the BAKED OATMEAL with apples and walnuts, you are in for a TREAT! These guys are breakfast professionals! They can pretty much handle any sized group at any time, no problems, and always do it with a smile.

[Bisbee](#) and [Cochise County](#) have a little bit for everyone...and our club made the best of their day. Some stayed in town and enjoyed Bisbee proper, exploring art galleries, shopping, eateries, [Old Bisbee Brewing](#), and the [Queen Mine Tour](#). We even had a group do the [Bisbee Séance Room](#) – Spooky!!! Others headed out of town for long drives towards the border (Ed Raker drove down to Douglas), and a quick trip to the vistas in [Chiricahua National Monument](#) (Mark & Cathey Kucera and Ted & Julie Tate).

We all regrouped for a cookout at the Shady Dell; Curtis also brought his famous brisket - YUM! Dress code was vintage and Mark and Cathey Kucera won the “prize” wearing kitschy vintage bowling shirts – Mark was in bright pink - definitely HIS color!

The evening ended with a black and white horror film on the big outdoor screen with everyone providing color commentary from the side lines (Don't open that door! Don't go in there! Don't do that! What's wrong with you – Don't you know he's a vampire????)

Sunday was departure day with folks on their own schedules – again with many joining up for breakfast at the Bisbee Breakfast Club before heading on their various ways. Some members extended their stay by adding a night in [Sonoita](#) for wine tasting. Others enjoyed [Tombstone](#)'s history on their drive back to Phoenix. Our San Diego Club friends stayed an additional night at the Shady Dell and were heading home on Monday.

Feedback from attendees was positive as to the extended stay (Friday night – Sunday morning) with comments of making this a regular annual event. An additional planning note was the tremendous group participation in scheduling events due to the multi day focus: outside of Curtis' general hosting and managing accommodations with Shady Dell and the board's communiques with the Club, Cathey scheduled the Friday night group dinner, Hope scheduled a mine tour and gathered info on the séance, Cynthia arranged breakfasts, the Wood's, Kucera's and Morris' tag teaming on many items to ensure smooth sailing. This appeared to be a best practice for this kind of multi day event – much appreciation to all for their willingness and generosity to just “dive in”!



Miata Car Show at Berge Mazda

There was a great turn out of Miata people at the all Miata car show at Berge Mazda today. We counted 62 cars and even more people. There was judging in several categories and awards given out to several people. The free food was good too. Thanks to everyone for coming, and especially to Berge Mazda for hosting and paying for the event. We had a great time.



Veterans Day Parade

Becky and Tom Shaw hosted the clubs appearance in the Phoenix Veterans Day Parade. This was the 6th year the club has been involved, 10 members brought 6 cars to show their support for our veterans.



The Early Bird Run to Globe was fantastic. We all had a great time and as always the warm company made the day. We pretty much had the road to ourselves with the exception of a couple of big rigs that we quickly/safely passed up. Temperatures cooled down even further right past Superior and into Miami until we reached Globe, but, we all braved it with the top down since we were prepared with layered clothing.

The Copper Hen café was quaint and comfortable with authentic home style cooking. Most of the group had French toast or traditional American breakfast or quiche. The food was delicious and prices were reasonable.

After breakfast, no one was in a hurry to call it a day, so we decided to walk around the Historic district of Globe, which included stops at boutiques, antiques shops, art stores and we toured the Globe Art Museum as well as the Besh-Ba-Gowah Archaeological Park. We ended the afternoon with a quick bite at the Drift Inn Saloon. We definitely want to make this a repeat run!

Thanks again to Ron, Anna, Parker, Hope and Jeff for making this a ton of fun!

Genevive



Cave Creek, Carefree and Bartlett Lake Run on November 28th

We had a great run today! The weather was absolutely wonderful. Low 70's and bright sunny sky. The roads were twisty, free of cars, and fast. We drove through Cave Creek and Carefree then headed out of town to 7 Springs Road for a short section of very twisty road. Then drove about 15 miles down hill through more twisty turns to Bartlett Lake. We stopped at a recreational area over looking the lake to enjoy the weather, view, and to talk, before heading back to Cave Creek for some barbecue at Bryan's Black Mountain BBQ. We had lunch outside around a big round counter top surrounding a giant Saguaro Cactus. It was a perfect setting to enjoy the company, the weather, and the good food. - **Mark Kucera**



MEMBER SPOTLIGHT



Dennis and Mary Manning just joined the Sahuaro Miata Club In October and have already been on their first overnighter with the club to Bisbee. What a fun group! We felt welcomed almost immediately.

Mary owned a '92 Miata that she bought new and drove for many happy miles. She sold it in 1999. We tried a BMW Z3 and an Audi TT but are back in the fold now. Here's how we came to own our current 2002 Miata. I was showing a house to a buyer in Sun City a couple months ago. As we looked through the house and went into the garage, there sits this Crystal Blue Metallic Miata. I asked the seller what she was going to do with it when she moved. She said "Sell it. I'm too old to drive it anymore". She was at least 85. She'd had it 11 years and only put 13k miles on it. Total actual mileage....30k. Well, you already know what happened next. That car was in our garage in a New York minute. It was fate, I guess. Do cars and their owners have karma?

We live in Sun City West year round and absolutely love it. We've been married 50 years and have lived in Arizona for the last 20. We were high school sweethearts in Grand Island, Nebraska but finally had enough of that winter weather. We used to ride motorcycles and were in several clubs but decided it was just a little too dangerous at our age. The Miata club feels like the perfect replacement. We can't wait for the next adventure with all our new friends.

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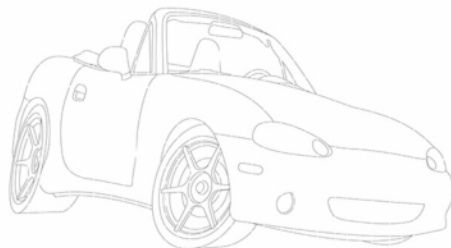
Paul Gaskill

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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



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to our Sponsors!*

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**New
Members!**

Dennis and Mary Manning

Doug Norwood

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LAST LAUGH

