



July - August 2018

Dear Club Members,

## Letter from the President

Well Happy summer everyone. I trust you are all doing well. This month I would like to share an experience I had with my brother. I think you might be able to relate to this.

My younger brother has been in the car business for two decades. Most of it was in upper management running a huge privately owned chain of dealerships. Today he is a Sales manager for a BMW dealership in



the south west. He is without a doubt one of the sharpest people I know. He has multiple degrees and he oozes intellect and self-confidence while still being a good guy. While visiting him last month for a family event, he called me from work to let me know they just received an "M" edition 2007 BMW Z4 with a 3.2 liter engine. Now please understand I would never have previously considered owning a car from the land of Coo-Coo Clocks and Lederhosen. My brothers on the other hand fully appreciates their technical prowess, but for me I remember the one thing I had been told time after time. "There are two types of BMW's, in warranty and out of warranty." However, his call really had me thinking. Hmm, a very desirable, "M" edition roadster with the highly sought after 3.2 liter engine. (Most are the more common 3.0 variety.) My brother had just purchased a new BMW so he was not in the market, but I had to drive it, it was "Meant for me!" He assured me I could keep this forever, it was a true classic, and I believed him.

So, I check out the car. It had 88K miles. The body and interior were in very good to excellent condition. New brakes, one owner, it looked like a go. 330 hp, "M" edition etc. etc. Well I took it out on some side roads, then onto the freeway for a test drive. And this is where the story gets good. The steering was tight, the car was well put together. However, have you ever pushed a shopping cart through Ikea? This car seemed to have 80% of its mass in the front end. I had no feel of the road. I knew something was wrong with the car. I did not feel one with the road. I felt as though aliens had designed this car without ever driving a real sports car. Now don't misunderstand me. I know what BMW can build.

As the President of the Sahuaro Miata Club I know how a sports car is supposed to handle. My first real sports car was a Lotus Elan, what the Miata was patterned after. The more I drove the Z4 “M” edition, the more I realized it was not something I could enjoy. I went back to my brothers home after that test drive and read all sorts of reviews. Mazda Miata vs. BMW Z4. You know what? The Miata was chosen as the better car review after review!

I returned home a few days later. As soon as I could, I took my 106K 2008 Mazda Miata NC1 out for a spin. I said “YES”. I was one with the road. I had excellent tactile feedback. I moved with the car. I wasn’t pushing a shopping cart, I was having a real sports car experience that very few people today can experience. I wanted the prestige of having a desirable niche car but more importantly I wanted to have fun. This experience made me appreciate my Miata even more. This was a real eye opener.

Safe driving to all this summer, All the best! Zoom Zoom!  
Jeff Morris president@sahuaromiataclub.com

As we approach the last months of summer, I’m sure many of you have or are planning trips to get out of the summer heat like Larry Lloyd did when he went to Italy. Larry shares his adventures with us in this edition of the newsletter.

On August 3<sup>rd</sup>, Larry Lloyd is hosting the 1<sup>st</sup> Friday lunch this month in Pine. An excuse to get out of the valley for the day or the weekend.

With Devil’s Highway coming up in October you will find a re-print of an article from 2012 that talks about the experience in detail.

On the subject of trips, it’s not too early to start thinking about runs for the remainder of the year. Mark Kucera has a list of proposed runs that need a host or you can come up with your own idea. More events and runs could be scheduled if more members would step up and get involved. We shouldn’t rely on a few members to take on the hosting duties. The more people that get involved the better the club will become.

Also in this edition you will find another trivia quiz to test your Miata knowledge. Warning this quiz is harder than previous ones. Good luck!

Until next month, Paul



LETTER FROM  
THE EDITOR

# TRIVIA

## CHALLENGE

**1.) As of 1997, how many colors were available for Miatas imported to the US?**

- A.) 13
- B.) 14
- C.) 15
- D.) 16

**BONUS - Name the colors**

**2.) What was the project name for the Miata during its' development ?**

- A.) R75
- B.) P729
- C.) 1
- D.) M88

**3.) What are the Miatas dimensions: (Overall length, Wheelbase, Overall width)**

- A.) 141.4 inches; 81.2 inches; 60.4 inches
- B.) 145.7 inches; 83.6 inches; 62.9 inches
- C.) 151.9 inches; 85.8 inches; 64.6 inches
- D.) 155.4 inches; 89.2 inches; 65.9 inches

**4.) The Miata ground clearance, (laden) is:**

- A.) 4.5 inches
- B.) 5.2 inches
- C.) 6.0 inches
- D.) 6.6 inches

**5.) Miata fuel tank capacity, US gallons, 1990:**

- A.) 11.2 gallons
- B.) 11.9 gallons
- C.) 12.5 gallons
- D.) 13.8 gallons

**6.) In Miata lingo, PPF stands for:**

- A.) Power Plant Frame
- B.) Peak Power Formula
- C.) Primary Point Function
- D.) Performance Proven Figure

**7.) Which Miata parts(s) is (are) made of aluminum**

- A.) Trunk
- B.) Doors
- C.) Hood
- D.) All of the above

**8.) What was the MSRP for the base 1990 Miata, excluding port processing and inland freight charges ?**

- A.) \$13,800
- B.) \$13,975
- C.) \$14,250
- D.) \$14,900

**9.) What was the EPA Fuel consumption rating for the 1990 Miata ?**

- A.) 22 mpg city, 27 mpg highway
- B.) 25 mpg city, 28 mpg highway
- C.) 25 mpg city, 30 mpg highway
- D.) 27 mpg city, 31 mpg highway

**10.) Mazda recommends changing the timing belt every:**

- A.) 30,000 miles
- B.) 45,000 miles
- C.) 50,000 miles
- D.) 60,000 miles

**Answers:** 1 - A or B; 2 - B; 3- D; 4- A; 5- B; 6- A; 7- C; 8- A; 9- C; 10- D.

**Question 1** - 13 or 14 is correct because Miata had two whites. Here are the colors

Classic Red, Crystal White, Polar White, Mariner Blue, Laguna Blue Mica, Montego Blue Mica, Starlight Blue Mica, Brilliant Black, British Racing Green, Silver Stone Metallic, Sunburst Yellow, Merlot Mica and Marina Green Mica.



**Aug. 26<sup>th</sup>** - Arizona Diamondbacks Baseball Game - 1 p.m.

**Sept. 13 -17** - Miatas At Mazda Raceway.

**Sept. 16<sup>th</sup>** - Sunday Brunch at Anacapa Restaurant Sun City West 10 a.m.

**Oct. 5,6,7** - Devil's Highway Run.

**Oct. 26 & 27** - Bisbee Shady Dell Trailer Park run.

**Dec. 8** - Christmas Party, (Mark Hrishbeel has reserved the large activities room for us.)

**Dec. 15<sup>th</sup>** - Holiday Dinner and Lights at Anacapa Restaurant Sun City West 5 p.m.

Details for these and other events are posted on Meetup.

For those of you thinking about going on the **Devil's Highway run in October** the following article is from 2012 and describes what you have to look forward to.

## **There is a Miata lovers dream carved in the White Mountains of eastern Arizona, the legendary old Route 666 nicknamed the Devil's Highway**

Drive a few hours to Springerville, AZ. The 230 mile trip from Phoenix is already a spectacular one. Both the roads and the scenery are gorgeous as you climb from the desert onto the Colorado Plateau. There are cliffs, canyons and gorges along the way and the roads on the high plateau just sweep through the largest Ponderosa Pine Forest in the US. Get a good night's sleep in order to start fresh in the morning. There are more than 1,000 curves to conquer the next day! The Route 666 Run starts and ends in Springerville. Head south via Alpine Divide Pass (8525 ft) for Alpine where the common branch of US 191 and US 180 departs at 27 miles. Following US 180 fast paced sweepers and broad vistas will entertain you during a gradual descent. These are the "roads less traveled to Alma", the hideout for Butch Cassidy and his gang in the 1890's, now provides you with a rest area 80 miles from the starting point.

If you turn left onto Chase Creek Street, just a mile from the gas station, you'll find yourself in the old business district. The historic brick buildings squeezed between a hill and a mountain creek look right out of a movie set. Turn of the century stores and banks, boarding houses and saloons are waiting for rejuvenation which makes the place even more authentic.

**Tighten your seat belt now! The drive was great so far, but what you'll experience next, is one of the best runs in the entire US. It's the ride of your life, on a road so steep and winding that it would put a Swiss mountain pass to shame.**

From the first summit you can peak into something Switzerland never had, a man-made canyon two miles wide and three miles long. The ant-sized things crawling across its bottom are 200-ton trucks with tires standing nine feet tall. Those trucks and the shovels that fed them were moving mountains at the rate of up to 500,000 tons of ore and waste per day.

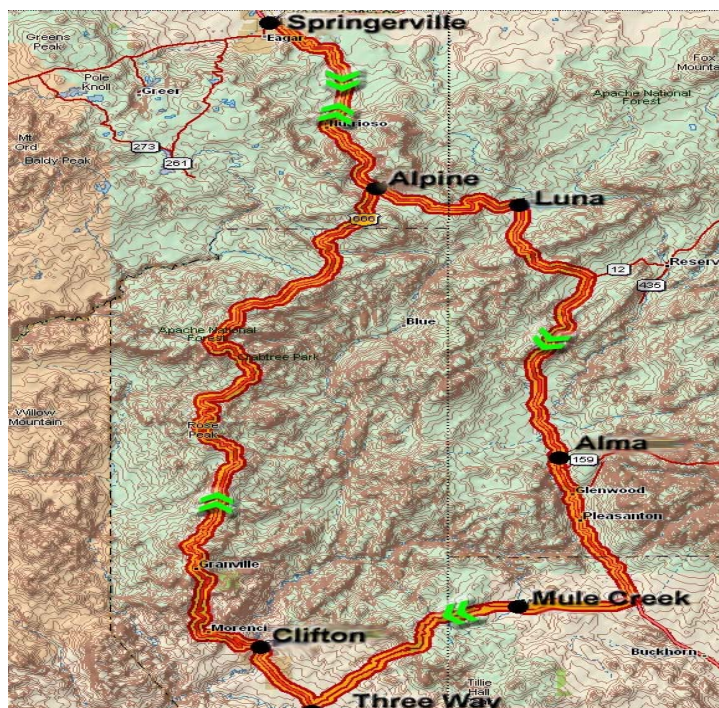
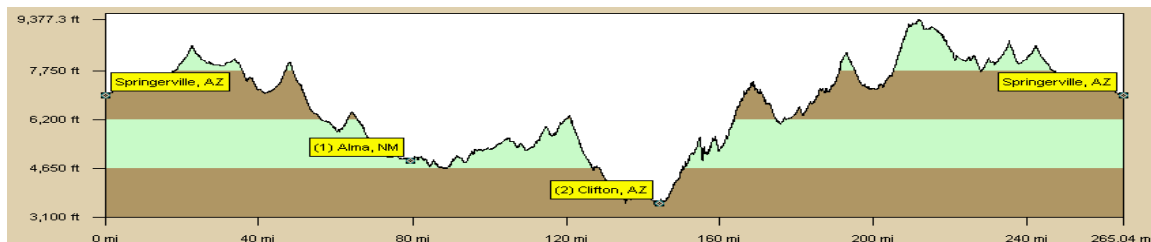
No wonder it seems devilish! You are riding on the legendary Devil's Highway, officially called Rte. 471 formally known as Route 666. The first European visitor of the area was the Spanish explorer Francisco Vasquez de Coronado, seeking the riches of the legendary Seven Cities of Cibola in 1540. His route ran close to the existing road thus the US National Scenic Byway program adopted this incredible 123 mile strip of tarmac as the Coronado Trail.

The Federal Highway Administration considers this road to be the curviest road in the nation, with 450 switchbacks and up to 1000 curves and turns in total. For an incredible run, this one is very hard to beat. It's long, it's twisty, it's a roller coaster, and it's in a wilderness setting that will thrill whatever senses you have left that the road didn't overload. The elevation change is more than 6,000 ft from around 3,000 ft in the Sonoran Desert to over 9,000 ft in the Alpine meadows, forests and highlands.

Concentrate, brake, downshift, twist, accelerate, turn and repeat the sequence for mile after mile after mile. Sometimes you just have to pull off into a scenic rest to rest your brain, otherwise you might just feel like a sun-stroked snake on LSD. Most of the twisties are between Clifton and Hannagan's Meadow (at 215 mi) but after the climb from Clifton it's nice to sit back and enjoy the sweepers through the Ponderosa Pine Forest back into Alpine when your trip meter shows 238 mi.

Though the 27 miles back to Springerville is the same that you started the day with, driving north will provide you with such a different view that you might begin to raise doubts if you were driving in the right direction.

**To quote the late Harry Chapin that "It's got to be the goin' not the gettin' there that's good"**



**On June 23<sup>rd</sup> the club went on a run to Mount Lemmon** on the northeast edge of Tucson for some cool mountain breezes, great panoramic views, and lunch at 8200 feet of elevation near the top of the mountain at the Sawmill Run Restaurant.

Ten cars and 15 people met up at our usual starting point at Idaho Rd. and Highway 60 for an 8 AM start for the 137 mile, 3.5 hour drive. The caravan went east on Hwy 60, turned south on Hwy 79 to go through Florence down to our rest stop in Oro Valley. Paul and Dorothy Roloff joined the caravan as we drove by in Florence. Along the way we passed the Tom Mix Memorial. This is where one of the most famous cowboys of the silent movie era died on October 12, 1940 in a car wreck.

Recharged after the rest stop the caravan headed southeast across northeast Tucson to the Mt Lemmon Hwy which goes to the top of the mountain. The drive up the mountain started out at 95 degrees and ended at a cool 76 degrees at the top. The tops went down for some cool breezes and sun as we climbed out of the scorching desert heat. The long twisty road up the mountain was a pleasure to drive. There were many pullouts with scenic overviews of Tucson and the desert below.

Mt Lemmon was very busy on Saturday as the crowds from Tucson headed up the mountain for picnics, hikes, and lunch in the pine trees and the 76 degree cool mountain air. When we arrived at the Sawmill Run restaurant the group struggled to find places to park because the restaurant was very busy. So busy that the staff didn't have a table saved for our group as they had promised. But they were able to seat us at multiple tables.

We had a leisurely lunch talking, enjoying each others company, and getting to know our two guests, Robyn and Hannah. After lunch everyone seemed to have a different idea what they wanted to do on the mountain. The people that had never been to Mt Lemmon headed off to explore the mountain and the scenic views. Some drove up to the ski area, and some headed home with the top up and the A/C on because it was 109 degrees in Tucson when we came down from the mountain top.

Everyone drove between 300 and 400 miles that day. Larry Lloyd from Prescott Valley said he drove over 500 miles for the weekend.

Participants included:

Larry Lloyd  
Curtis & Cynthia Wood  
Mike & Ann Parr  
Paul & Dorothy Roloff  
Tony & Cindee Munroe  
Shirley Roderick

Rick & Linda Pasquale  
Ken & Polina Buxton  
Mark Kucera  
Hannah Frank – Guest  
Robyn Schultz - Guest







## **Beyond Miataland, the Italy tour May 2018 - Larry Lloyd**

In May, I went with the San Diego Miata Club on a two week tour of Italy. Last year in 2017, it came to the attention of a couple of San Diego club members that there is a sort of bed and breakfast location in Perugia, Italy that has a number of Miatas in a collection. With advance planning, it is possible to stay at Miataland and perhaps even drive some of the models in the collection. Two people from the SDMC then undertook to put together a tour, starting to work out an itinerary as far back as December of 2017. I heard about the tour and wanted to go, making plane reservations in December for the trip in May 2018. Thirteen members of the SDMC went on the tour, leaving May 2 and returning to the US May 16<sup>th</sup>. Several events were scheduled around the purpose of our trip, to see Miataland, stay there and have a short run in some of the cars.

Prior to going to Miataland, we stayed in Rome for 3 nights, then traveled Sunday afternoon to Miataland where we stayed for one night. It turns out that our club was the first Miata club to have every room taken. When we arrived, the host, Andrea Mancini, took us on a tour of his collection which now numbers 40 Miatas, both right and left hand drives. Some very early NA's were there plus other versions of early Miatas were shown to as late as a 2017 RF. He spent a lot of time with us and offered to lead us on a run the next morning. He was given a SDMC magnetic to add to his collection. Under Italian automobile licensing requirements, he has to register and pay insurance on all of the cars, even if they are over 25 years old. If the car is taken out of service to for display purposes, it cannot be placed back in service.

Some of the cars are highly modified, some are kits, a couple are concept cars, a very nice collection.

The following morning, we went on a run with Andrea leading the run through some exciting twisties in that part of Italy. His Miata was right hand drive and definitely modified. The weather broke in our favor as it was raining both the days before and days after this stop. This morning the sun was shining and it was definitely top down weather for a run. We stopped for a brief photo shoot and continued on our way. If you are interested in finding more about Miataland, please contact me. I have sent several pictures to the editor of the newsletter for you to enjoy.

After leaving Miataland, we stayed at an agriturismo in San Gimignano, near Florence. We had a couple of days of free time and several of us went to the Ferrari museum in Maranello. There is also a museum in Modena about 10 miles away but we didn't have enough time to see that museum also. It was interesting to see the history of Ferrari and to see the first car built on display (painted blue, not red).

After leaving San Gimignano, we traveled down to Sorrento and stayed at another agriturismo, while visiting Pompeii and other tourist spots. Also I did drive the Amalfi coast, definitely an experience. If I hadn't folded in the mirrors, more than one tour bus would have taken the driver's side mirror off. I saw more than one bus driver yelling at me. There isn't much room between the two vehicles.

We experienced driving all kinds of roads in Italy; from the Autostrada to city streets and rural roads to one-lane farm roads that were little more than a dirt trail. We experienced sharing these roads with crazy Italian drivers; from swerving, distracted drivers on the Autostrada to scooter drivers crossing the center line and coming at us in our lane, like kamikazes, especially in Sorrento. We had 5 cars at the end, having lost one to 2 incidents. We kept together through all the roads, roundabouts, toll booths and unmarked roads with the same leader and sweep when we traveled together.

When we left Sorrento, the SDMC group got on the plane and returned to LAX. I stayed another week with my son and family in Luxembourg. One of the neat items about northern Luxembourg are that there are a lot of twisty roads. I saw more Miatas in Lux in a few days than I saw in Italy in 2 weeks.

One of the highlights of staying in Lux is that the Nurburgring is only about 80 miles away. So after 3 laps around the 'Ring, I can cross off my bucket list driving the 'Ring. What an experience, as you have to really concentrate on the track ahead as well as keep your eyes on your mirrors as cars will overtake you going anywhere from 50 to 70 miles faster than we were going. There are some serious drivers that drive on that track. I think the only supercar I did not see that afternoon was a Ford GT. Every other make of car was on the track or about to be driven on the track. Definitely something I hope to do again when I visit my son the next time. Driving the 'Ring is taken very seriously. You can drive it yourself or rent a taxi or car for the experience. For instance, you can rent an Audi R-8 if your bank account is big enough among other types of cars.

The drive to the 'Ring and around it was on my last day staying there in Lux. Then it was time to return home to the states with some terrific memories of Italy, Luxembourg and Germany.





Photos clockwise: Larry in Luxembourg with Melusina the mermaid; downtown Trier in western Germany and the Pompeii ruins.

Below is a photo of the first Ferrari built and is in the museum in Maranello.



## MX-5 Cup - Ron Spannraft

The last full weekend in June I returned to Illinois for a family function and spend the Friday of my trip at Road America for the IndyCar weekend. Imagine my surprise when I discovered that the MX-5 Cup would hold 2 races that weekend. Mazda has a long history in motorsports and uses their racing heritage in their marketing campaign. Being a sports car, the Miata is the centerpiece of that campaign.

The cars of the MX-5 Cup start as showroom new street cars that Long Road Racing converts to race cars, adding safety equipment and 200+ race specific parts. More information regarding the MX-5 Cup cars may be found at [www.mazdamotorsports.com](http://www.mazdamotorsports.com). In addition to building, preparing and maintaining the Cup cars, Long Road Racing offers a wide range of street legal components. More information about Long Road Racing may be found at [www.longroadracing.com](http://www.longroadracing.com).

The result of the cars available from Long Road Racing is a series that provides close competition. It's the drivers' ability, and not the pocketbook, that decides the race results. The photos are from Race 1, which was held on Friday afternoon.



# Miata of the Month / Vanity Plate



History behind the plate is that my youngest child was always called wee man due to his tiny size. Forward to 2008 when I had to have a title notarized at a local car lot. My now 10 year old son saw a license plate hanging on the wall that was ZOOMWEE. It turned out that was the notary's plate off of another car. She graciously gave that to my son. I have had to move that plate around for the last 10 years. I stumbled across that same plate about 6 months ago, well after I purchased my Miata, and thought..... It fit perfectly. So as an honor to my son who deployed on the 7th of this month ( and is not so small anymore ) to Kuwait, I proudly have that plate on the Redhead !!!!!

**Wade Phyfer**



The first drive-in theatre opened on July 6, 1933 in Camden, N.J. This was the brainchild of Richard Hollingshead, sales manager for Whiz Auto Products, in Camden.

The popularity of the drive-in spiked after World War II and reached its heyday in the late 1950's to mid-60's, with some 5,000 theaters across the country.

# MEMBER SPOTLIGHT



## Mike Vax

Mike Vax is an International Artist for the Warburton Company. He is also a Summit Records recording artist. He has played lead and solo trumpet with the Stan Kenton Orchestra, the Clark Terry Big Bad Band, and the U.S. Navy Show Band.

Mike has also performed and/or recorded with such greats as Art Pepper, Gene Krupa, Cab Calloway, Al Grey, Freddy Hubbard, John Handy, Don Ellis, Don Jacoby, Louie Bellson, Joe Williams, Anita O'Day, June Christy, Barbara McNair, the Four Freshmen, The Glenn Miller, Harry James, and Jimmy Dorsey Orchestras, the Beverly Hills Unlisted Jazz Band, and the Dukes of Dixieland in New Orleans.

He has appeared as guest lead trumpet and soloist with symphony pops orchestras around the United States, and in Europe.

Mike is also founder and director of the Prescott Jazz Summit, an annual jazz festival in Prescott, Arizona.

Wish I could make more of the events, but being a road musician, I am gone for many of them. Also - living in Dewey, many are a long drive just to get there.





**Curb Rash damage** on your alloy wheels can be repaired by a professional, or DIY at home. One company that does many types of repair is **Dentwizard.com** Or if you want to go the DIY route search for Curb Rash Wheel Repair videos on Youtube. There are several videos showing the process in detail. It's not that complicated. Basically, you sand the damage, possibly fill deep damage, sand, mask the wheel and tire, prime, paint. Check out the videos. There is more than one method. You could even change the color or your wheels using the same methods.

### **Mark Kucera**

\*\*\*\*\*  
Just had some **100k** maintenance work done by Kurt at **Greene Automotive**. He suggested that the serpentine belt be replaced and the differential fluid be changed as I had already done most of the other recommended work. I took his suggestions, purchased the belt on line for \$27 and made an appointment with him to do the work. First of all, I called the local Mazda dealer and inquired the cost of doing this work, with me providing the belt. They said that if they put on a belt provided by the customer, they would not provide ANY warranty either for the part of the labor to put it on. Strike One and Strike Two.

I asked them the cost to install the belt and change the differential fluid (belt provided). They quoted me a bit over \$200 plus tax. Strike Three. My appointment with Kurt was at 1 pm. He completed both items, chatted with me, let me take some photos, asked me for \$70 and I left a few minutes after 2 pm. I can use the money that would have gone to the Mazda dealer for other purposes.

### **Tim Kroll**

\*\*\*\*\*  
**Tim Kroll** send these links to some great racing videos featuring the MX-5.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tQ3x462rlmg>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5pxEKQWW94M>

\*\*\*\*\*  
The first parking meters were installed in the United States, in Oklahoma City on July 16, 1935.

## MERCHANDISE CORNER

**Seat belt slides** are back in stock. \$20.00 for a set of two. They are black with a Velcro closing with “Miata” on one and “MX-5” on the other in red embroidered lettering.

Just a reminder for those that participated in Concours in Fountain Hills in February, you have until December 7<sup>th</sup> to redeem your \$25.00 certificate for Sahuaro Miata Club merchandise. This certificate can be applied to regular stock inventory, special order golf shirts or, if you are participating in the Devil’s Highway run in October, you can apply the certificate to commemorative items that are being designed for this run. I bring all but the tees, pocket tees and golf shirt samples to every event I attend. If you will be attending an event that I am signed up for and would like to shop those particular items, just e-mail me at [marketing@sahuaromiataclub.com](mailto:marketing@sahuaromiataclub.com).

Let me know what you are interested in and I will be happy to bring a selection by size/color to that event that will suit your needs. **Martha Purfeerst**



## 2018 Board Members

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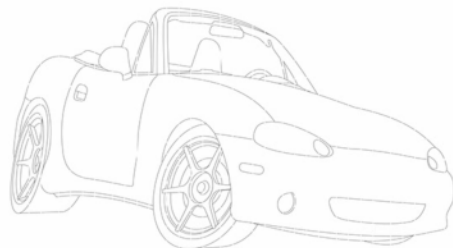
Paul Gaskill

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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



**A BIG Thanks  
to our Sponsors!**



The following members contributed articles for this months edition.

**Jeff Morris**

**Larry Lloyd**

**Mark Kucera**

**Tim Kroll**

**Ron Spannraft**

**Wade Phyfer**



**Ray Merrill**

**David Raimondo**

**William Caldwell**

**Jerry Bevins**

**LAST LAUGH**

