



May 2018

Letter from the President



Dear Club Members,

Once again we had a great month in greater Arizona. The weather continues to be spectacular. We had numerous fun dining experiences that allowed us to meet and greet many new members. Our Membership coordinator Hope Morris tells me we have had 28 new members since the first of the year. That is spectacular, your Board of Directors sends everyone a hearty welcome. A big Thank You goes out to Ed Raker for our Lake Havasu, Laughlin run. Not to mention our annual Tech Day hosted by Mike Paar and Ann McLaughlin. Both events were well attended and lots of fun. Thanks to all!

I also want to remind the club of the outstanding work our editor Paul Gaskill performs each month in putting together our Newsletter. This newsletter is an important way that we let all of our members know about recent and special upcoming events. I am asking all members to take 15 minutes to help Paul with his important content. Please send him information on areas you feel would be valuable to Paul and our club. Paul needs a short bio on you and your co-pilot. Also, any interesting hobbies you would like to share with Paul would be appreciated. Please send him any applicable photos that he can use to enhance your content. Is there anything out of the ordinary you have done to your Miata? Is your Miata "Special" in some way? Please let Paul know. By sending Paul a short Bio, Interests you have or special Miata content, you assist Paul in keeping your newsletter fun and interesting. You may send your content to: editor@sahuaromiataclub.com.

I am very pleased to announce two new members to our Board of Directors. Brent Morrow has stepped up and offered to take the position of Club Membership Coordinator. Brent has attended a number of Board meetings and club events.

He has demonstrated a level of interest and concern for the well-being of our club. Our board thanks him for his participation and we look forward to working with him this year. Tim Kroll has offered to fill the position of Secretary. Much thanks go out to Tim for filling this important position. Tim will join us on Tuesday May 1st at Berge Mazda for his first official Board member meeting. I also want to take a moment to thank my wife Hope who is our webmaster. Hope has been doing a very special (Read Spectacular) job as interim Membership coordinator. She will be working with Brent to make sure we have a smooth transition.

Wishing everyone a safe and healthy summer,
Jeff Morris



LETTER FROM
THE EDITOR

Here it is May and we have already reached 100. That means we need to take advantage of the “top down” weather before the 100’s are here to stay.

Mark sent me a list of events that need a host. Some events like the stadium tours would be mostly indoors but most are outside events. Take a look at the list and see if there’s something that gets your attention. Remember you can co-host an event and split the duties.

Also this month you will find another trivia quiz on the Miata. I had a good response on the first one so I thought I’d do it again. Hope you enjoy and learn something new about Miatas.

Ron Spanncraft shares his passion of model building with the building of a 1/24th scale model of his actual car. The finished product is amazing.

Larry Lloyd talks about the 1st Friday lunch in Prescott and tells us why we need to come up more often.

Cindee Munro fills us in on the Laughin / Havasu Run and traveling on Route 66.

Mike Roberts hosted 29 members for lunch at Rock Springs Cafe on the 16th. Yummy pie !!

Jeff Morris shares his installation of hood struts which should be of interest to many.

Until next month,

Paul Gaskill, Editor

Miata Trivia Test (Easy)

1.) The Miata was first available in:

- A.) May 1988 as a 1989 model
- B.) May 1989 as a 1989 model
- C.) May 1989 as a 1990 model
- D.) May 1990 as a 1991 model

2.) The Miata is configured as a:

- A.) Front engine, front wheel drive
- B.) Front engine, rear wheel drive
- C.) Front engine, all wheel drive
- D.) Mid engine, rear wheel drive

3.) The second generation Miata was first available in:

- A.) March 1998 as a 1998 model
- B.) March 1998 as a 1999 model
- C.) December 1997 as a 1999 model
- D.) March 1999 as a 2000 model

4.) Changes in the second generation Miata include:

- A.) Exposed headlights
- B.) Larger colored door handles
- C.) Spare tire mounted under the trunk floor
- D.) All of the above

5.) The Miata engine is a:

- A.) Four cylinder, single cam, two valve per cylinder unit
- B.) Four cylinder, two cam, two valve per cylinder unit
- C.) Four cylinder, two cam, four valve per cylinder unit
- D.) Four cylinder, two cam, four valve per cylinder, with optional V6

6.) The Miata is:

- A.) Manufactured Exclusively in Japan
- B.) Manufactured in Japan and the USA, depending on production demands
- C.) Manufactured in Korea with engines made in Japan
- D.) Manufactured in the U.S.

7.) The Miata is available as a:

- A.) Convertible only
- B.) Convertible with an optional hardtop
- C.) Convertible with optional hardtop and a coupe
- D.) All of the above

8.) Which of the following is not a true statement:

- A.) All Miatas have featured all wheel disc brakes
- B.) All Miatas have featured four wheel independent suspensions
- C.) Factory options for the 1999 Miata include a Sebring supercharger
- D.) There is no such thing as a 1998 Miata

9.) The Miata engine:

- A.) redlines at 5100 RPM
- B.) Features an aluminum block
- C.) is manufactured by Mitsubishi
- D.) Is fuel injected

10.) A Miata with 2+2 seating:

- A.) Was available in the 1990 model year but discontinued due to poor sales
- B.) Has never existed, even as a concept Car
- C.) Is available in Japan only
- D.) Is available in all markets as a special order

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

First Friday Lunches in Prescott Valley

On the first Friday of each month, there is a lunch in Prescott Valley attended by 10 to 12 club members and guests. We have met for nearly a year at the BackBurner restaurant in Prescott Valley. The restaurant is easily accessible from Highway 69 without a lot of stop lights via Fain Road.. About half of the attendees are “locals” who live in the Prescott/Prescott Valley area. The other club members attending come up from the valley, enjoying the drive and the twisties along the way.

In April, us northerner’s decided to try a different venue for our monthly meeting by showing off Prescott from the air. We had our lunch at the Prescott Resort with 24 members and guests in attendance. More than half of the attendees came from the valley. In fact, there was a short run prior to the lunch by a group that came on Highway 89 from Wickenburg. Those coming up from the valley have started to have runs on their way to the lunch. The Resort set up half of the restaurant to accommodate our group. Everyone enjoyed the meal and the view towards Prescott to the west, especially Thumb Butte.

After lunch, we had a short “run” to the lovely home of John and Sonja Wilson to enjoy another aerial view of Prescott. Once again, there are a few twisties getting both to and from their home. Some of the club members might still be at their home as it was a very inviting atmosphere there for dessert and drinks. Sonja was a great hostess and displayed why so many people like living in Prescott.

Later this year when you flatlanders are tired of the heat in the valley, try to put it on your calendar to have a monthly Saturday up here in the high country. There are two locations in mind for a BBQ at this time, details to follow in the near future.

We are also considering lunch in Pine one of months in the future. We could start a run at McDonalds in Camp Verde and have a nice run before lunch to work up an appetite.

Please put it on your calendar to come up to one of the club’s monthly lunches in Prescott Valley, that’s the first Friday of each month.

Larry Lloyd





The annual Sahuaro Miata Laughlin run happened April 11th and 12th, 2018. This exciting trip had something for every taste and is surely not one to be missed next year. The run was led by **'Captain' Ed Raker**. And if you know the *Captain* he is very accommodating, friendly and funny!

A small group gathered in the north east valley early Wednesday near the I-17 & the Carefree Hwy. Heading out to Wickenburg, where the group grew a little more. At the same time 2 Miata's in the Prescott area headed out on their own to meet the group in Laughlin later that evening.

This group is the most active of all the runs with constant chatter on the radios of every highlight along the way and the hours flew by. For example, who knew that the Arizona town outside of Wickenburg – Aguila – was Spanish for Eagle. Ok, maybe useless chatter, but chatter none the less. The great weather allowed for our tops to be down all the way to Parker, AZ.

After a brief pit stop in Parker we continued towards Lake Havasu. The Colorado River runs along here in Parker and is Arizona's west coast. If you have not seen it, you should. It has miles of sandy beaches and the most beautiful blue water you can imagine. Our western shore holds some of the most scenic mountains in AZ you will see, but being a native, I am sort of partial.

Our lunch stop was in Lake Havasu City, home of the magnificent London Bridge. We dined at Shugrue's Restaurant & Brewery and gathered for a picture before heading back into our cars for the remainder of the run to Laughlin!

We had a leisurely dinner [Outback] meeting up with the fellow Miata-ites [now we were 20!]. The evening was a success. As with any gambling town not too much can be revealed; however, I can tell you that several ended up dancing the night away, while others strolled along the riverwalk peeking into various Casinos, and then there were those who of course were making our customary 'deposit' at the machines or tables.

On Thursday, the group [minus 2 cars who were staying a 2nd night] began the day with our legendary trip to Oatman, AZ. Yes, I said Oatman, located along the old Route 66, a Miata's dream delight! Here we feed the wild burros which freely roam the streets, dropped a few dollars on souvenirs and visited the hotel where Clark Gable and Carol Lombard spent their honeymoon in 1939!

Back in our cars for the most exciting part of the run. . . . a twisted ribbon of pavement that was killed off decades ago – a part of the original Route 66! This is one of my favorite road trips in Arizona! A new addition, and really a 'must stop'

and we did - - is at the Cool Springs gas Station and visit Crazy Rays! We lined up the cars in front of the old gas station and Crazy Ray himself took a picture of all of the Miata's with the old Route 66 sign painted on the highway road. It was a really 'cool' part of the trip!

So as good journeys must come to an end – so did this one. However, not before we gathered one last time . . . wait for it . . . of course for lunch! But not just any lunch, we had to finish off in style and we did at **Mr. D'z** -our nostalgic lunch stop. Again on a part of the old historic Route 66 this diner did not disappoint, with burgers, fries, malts and shakes, once more we had a wonderful lunch. Here also a large Route 66 emblem was painted in the middle of the parking lot where we had all the 'Boy's' all gather for one last group photo.

It was another fantastic Laughlin 2-day run. Thank you Ed !!! See you next year.

Thanks to **Cindee Munro** for submitting this article





Tech Day at Mikes Place was once again a big success. We owe much thanks to Mike Paar and Ann McLaughlin for hosing this reoccurring event. Also, much thanks go out to Martha Purfeerst and Hope Morris for the support they gave at our merchandise tables.

Mike reviewed Hydraulics with the club. He explained how a clutch and its associated hydraulics work. Mike also went over a few aspects of automatic transmissions. His insight was much appreciated.

Mark Kucera presented awards to numerous club members for their contributions over the last few months. Fender magnets were given to Jeff Morris for “Concours at Fountain Hills”, Rick Pasquale for “Racing Go Carts and More”, Mike Paar and Ann McLaughlin for hosting “Tech Day”, Terry and Royce VanSanford for our trip to “South Mountain”. Tee Shirts were given out to Mark Kucera for our “Tortilla Flats Run”, and Ed Raker for our “Laughlin Run”. Congratulations and appreciation goes out to all who received awards.

Jeff Morris then conducted a club vote on Brent Morrow becoming our new Membership coordinator. A vote was taken and Brent was voted onto our board. We also reviewed various car care products that Jeff had on display. Lori Sucharski gave much insight into car detailing, taking advantage of her years of experience in that field. Eric Billeter also assisted with information on the types of polishing equipment and products needed to keep our cars in show room shape. Jeff also mentioned that we have 28 new members since the first of the year and thanked Hope for her diligence.

Mike Paar then took over and explained how our check engine lights work and how an OBDII reader can assist us in determining what engine issues can be causing our OBDII system to alert us to issues with our cars. This was a great session. We then convened for lunch where we dined on sub sandwiches, chips, cookies, and soft drinks.

We ended the day by pin striping Hal Wands lovely Blue Mica NC. Hal chose a sharp silver and red pin stripe that looked great on his car. Thank You Hal for allowing us to stripe your car.

Just prior to ending the Day, Tim Kroll approached Jeff Morris and volunteered to step in as Secretary. Much thanks goes to Tim for stepping up to fill this position. We will have a vote during our next general meeting to confirm Tim. However, Tim will be taking over the position on Tuesday May 1st, 2018.

Once again a big Miata Club Thanks to Mike and Ann. They gave up their Saturday for our club. Supplied us with Chairs, tables with table cloths, took care of ordering and setting up all of the food, the list goes on. Our club is fortunate to have Mike and Ann not only as members, but as supporters of our club.

Jeff Morris contributed this article.





Month / Vanity Plate



This has been my license plate for a bit over 26 years. Started on a 924 S Porsche, then a Toyota, then a Mazda Tribute, and now on a Honda CRV and the 2 designation on my MX-5. Through all those years there has only been ONE person who correctly guessed what it said without several hints. Some of the guesses have been truly creative, but way, way off the mark.

. Most everyone knows it by now, they have all asked. It is two words:

SZ (sez) NTHN (nothing)...so it SZNTHN or sez nothing...I know, once you see it, you cannot miss it.

It has been fun and certainly expresses my opinion on vanity plates.

Tim Kroll

New Board Members

Brent Morrow was voted in as a board member at Tech Day. He is taking over the position of Membership Coordinator which has been vacant.

Brent joined the club in March 2018. He currently lives in the East Valley.

Tim Kroll has accepted the position of Secretary starting May 1st. Tim has been a member of the club since November 2016.

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT



Ron Spannraft

After retiring from the University of Illinois at Chicago I moved to Arizona 5 years ago. Snow and cold are 4-letter words and not conducive to driving a sports car or riding a motorcycle.

My interest in cars, motorcycles and racing started when I was a child, fueled by my father and older brother. Over the years I have had some fun cars, including a 2-seater almost continuously since 1979. I have owned at least one MAZDA since 1981 and after one look at the new Miata it wasn't long before I had this one.

Although I have never raced my hobbies of photography, model cars and model motorcycles have all blended together in a fun manner. Road racing and Indianapolis cars are by far my favorite form of racing, but the short tracks around Chicago/southern Wisconsin developed in me an interest in sprint cars. With 3 dirt tracks in the Phoenix area I can enjoy the sprinters on a regular basis.

My other interest is music, and I have enjoyed discovering some of the music venues off the beaten path in the Phoenix area.

As Ron mentions in his bio one of his hobbies is building model cars. Recently Ron finished building a 1/24th scale Miata made by Tamiya. On the following pages he shares his experience of building the car. I think you will agree Ron did a excellent job.

Ever since I was a child I have been interested in building models. As my interest in cars and racing grew I concentrated on building model cars and motorcycles. But for all the cars I have owned I was never able to build an exact replica of MY car. When Tamiya introduced their 1/24th model of the MAZDA Roadster I thought my record was intact. Tamiya offers a very nice/accurate model of the Miata in Grand Touring, but not the Club like my car.

Shortly after I purchased my car last November I discovered an after-market kit by Plamoz to convert the Grand Touring model into MY Club. (Plamoz also offers a kit to convert the roadster into the RF, so it looks like a second Miata model is in my future.) Although I have been disappointed with the quality of some resin after-market items in the past I knew I had to take the plunge and purchase this set. I'm glad I did, as this resin and photo-etched kit is one of the nicer ones I have used.

So let's look at what was done to convert the Tamiya Grand Touring into a Club.

Photo 1: The Tamiya MAZDA Roadster (# 24342) has the typical quality found in all the Tamiya models. This kit comes with the parts necessary to build RHD (Japan and British) and LHD (U.S. and Europe) versions. This is a curbside model (no engine detail).

Photo 2: The model builds into a nice example of the Miata in Grand Touring trim. (Model and photograph courtesy of Jonathan Stevens.)

Photo 3: The kit windblocker is a solid piece with indentations to simulate the screen.

Photo 4: The Plamoz windblocker is a 5-piece photo-etched item. The center piece has the screen which accurately represents the actual component. When painting this screen use a thin paint, applying the paint in mist coats to prevent the screen getting filled with the paint.

Photo 5: The 2 photo-etched seatbelt guides from Plamoz must be folded into shape. The right and left-hand guides are mirror images of each other.

Photo 6: The seatbelt guide folded and installed onto the passenger seat.

Photo 7: The passenger seat test-fitted for proper positioning of the seatbelt guide.

Photo 8: Seats painted and installed. The Plamoz seatbelt buckle test-fitted for proper placement.

Photo 9: Seatbelt buckle painted and installed. The Tamiya kit seat belt fitted through the Plamoz seatbelt hardware and positioned through the seatbelt guide.

Photo 10: The completed interior.

Photo 11: The completed interior. Notice how the driver's shoulder strap rides high. The strap was tightened to get it to sit correctly.

Photo 12: Plamoz photo-etched radiator grill adds depth to the kit's flat surface.

Photo 13: Plamoz photo-etched front brake rotor added to the Plamoz front brake assembly. The caliper is painted red. The kit front brake assemblies are not used for this conversion.

Photo 14: Back side of the Plamoz front brake assembly with photo-etched rotor piece installed.

Photo 15: Plamoz front brakes installed, Brembo decals applied.

Photo 16: PlamoZ photo-etched rear brake rotor mounted to the kit rear brake assembly. Kit rear caliper painted red to resemble the Brembo caliper.

Photo 17: The Tamiya wheel and tire (right) for the Grand Touring and the PlamoZ wheel and tire (left) for the Club.

Photo 18: The BBS wheel installed to the right front of the model. The wheel cap is an unpainted photo-etched disc with a PlamoZ BBS decal applied. The BBS of the decal is clear, so do not paint the discs.

Photo 19: The model body must be modified to accept the PlamoZ Club trim. The lip at the bottom front must be sanded smooth.

Photo 20: The trim at the bottom of the sides must be cut off along the top edge of the trim. sanded away.

Photo 21: The rear of the body has the most extensive modifications. The marked area must be cut or

Photo 22: The PlamoZ front aero piece test-fitted. The body was primed in gray to help identify any fitment issues.

Photo 23: The PlamoZ driver's side aero piece test-fitted.

Photo 24: The PlamoZ passenger's side aero piece test-fitted.

Photo 25: The PlamoZ rear aero piece test-fitted. Please note the gaps and/or kit trim still visible. More work was needed to allow for a correct fit of the rear aero piece.

Photo 26: Body painted white, PlamoZ aero pieces cleaned, prepped and painted gloss black before installation.

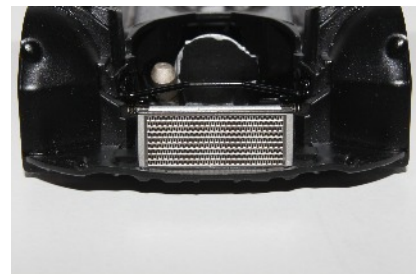
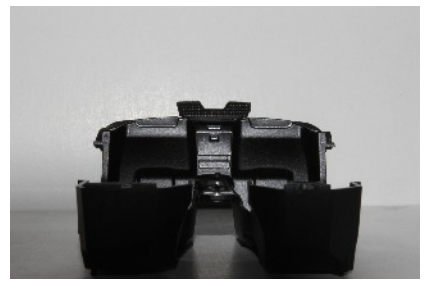
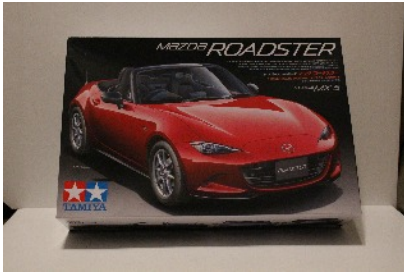
Photo 27: The completed model of a Miata Club.

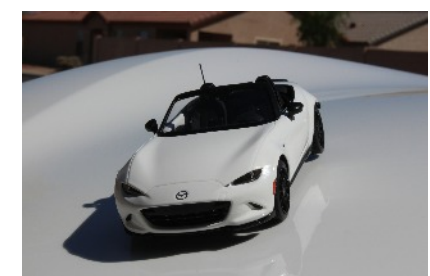
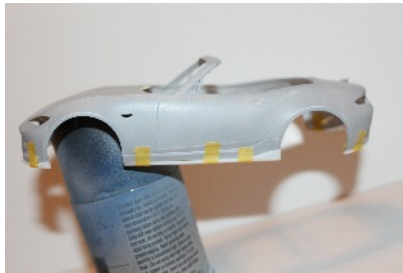
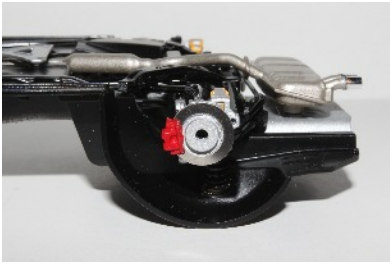
Photo 28: Rear $\frac{3}{4}$ view of the completed model. Please notice that the MX-5 emblem is missing. The kit's peel and stick emblem decided to disappear when I was polishing the model. Tamiya's Customer Service (1-800-TAMIYAA) is outstanding and a replacement has been requested.

Photo 29: I decided to make a vanity license plate to celebrate the first time I could build an accurate replica of my car. I had to play with the size of the decal on Paint3D to get the license to scale.

<http://www.acme.com/licensemaker/licensemaker.cgi?state=Arizona&text=nin&plate=1929&r=910298045>

Photo 30: My 2 Miata's. One is simply a little bigger than the other.







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

May 3rd - Cool Weather Run to Bagdad 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

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

May 19th - Westside lunch at Rudy's BBQ in Goodyear 11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

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

Event Ideas In Need Of Host

This is a list of ideas for events & runs that were submitted by Club Members. All could be good events if someone in the club will develop a plan and host the event, with my help. If you submitted one of these ideas and you want to host it then please let me know you want to host this event.

If one of these ideas doesn't appeal to you can come up with your own ideas. And there are 2.5 years of run and events history in Meetup that you can draw on. It would be very easy to repeat any one of these events since the written plan with complete details is already documented for you. All we have to do is copy the event, and update the date, time, and any other changes you want to make. You can tailor the event to your liking. I'm available to assist with any phase of planning and running an event. Contact Mark Kucera at vpevents@sahuaromiataclub.com

Tour Chase Field

Tour University of Phoenix Stadium

Arizona Open Wheel Museum

Gateway Auto Museum in Gateway Colorado

Road House Theatre Scottsdale

Sedona Springs Open Tour

Arcosanti

Biosphere 2

Penske Auto Museum Scottsdale

Barleens Dinner Show in Apache Junction

Mount Lemon Run

Sonoita Vineyards HarvestFest 2018, July 28th

Miata's At Mazda Raceway, September 15 & 16

Halloween week run to Jerome

Flyin' Miata Summer Camp, 6/21, 22, 23

Saturday or Sunday morning brunches.



Tech Tips



RoadsterSport Hood Lift Kit for the Miata NC 2006-2015.

I was getting tired of having to work around my hood prop. The RoadsterSport kit consists of two high quality props (Gas Struts) and easy to install mounting hardware that makes this project a breeze! This kit can be found on the Goodwin racing website for the very reasonable price of \$69.00. Please check this link: <http://www.good-win-racing.com/Mazda-Performance-Part/61-1959.html> for ordering information.

To mount these hood props (Struts) all you do is loosen two bolts, one on each side of the hood and install one bracket on each side of the hood and tighten the associated bolts. Then you remove one bolt on each fender and mount the corresponding bracket. Once the four brackets are installed, you “Snap” in a “Strut” on each side of the hood and you have completed your installation. It is a 15 minute job, all you need is a ratchet or adjustable wrench.

When you go to open your hood you just pull the hood release from under your dash. Lift up the front of the hood and slide over the safety latch. Your hood will start to glide up as if it is on a cushion of air! These struts allow you to work under your hood without the hood prop getting in your way. This kit is a very affordable addition, I get a kick out of just opening my hood!

These kits are also available for NA, NB and ND Miata’s from various vendors. This tip was submitted by **Jeff Morris**.



The Fumoto Engine Oil Drain Valve will make changing your oil easier and with less mess. You do change your oil yourself, right? I just bought one after reading about it on Miata.net. See all models on fumotooilvalve.com Here's a video about the newest model of the valve. There are lots of videos about the valves on [youtube.com https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6fIxGaFm2mA](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6fIxGaFm2mA)

If you want to protect the rubber seal weather stripping on your MX-5 for your convertible top or doors you can treat them with one of these two products. It protects them from extreme heat, cold, and UV Rays.

Gummi Pflege Rubber Care Stick. Gummi Pflege is a special rubber treatment that conditions rubber weather seals on car doors, windows and trunks reducing squeaks, rattles, wind noise and potential water leaks. Gummi restores color to dried out rubber and keeps them elastic while protecting them against the damaging effects of heat, freezing temperatures and UV rays. It uses a petroleum-free, water-based formula. Easy-to-use shoe polish type applicator makes application simple without the mess.

<https://www.amazon.com/dp/B004B8GTQG?tag=viglink20337-20>

303 Rubber Seal Protectant and Conditioner. 303 Rubber Seal Protectant is an easy, convenient way to keep the rubber seals of doors, windows conditioned and pliable. Helps protect against drying and cracking in extreme temperatures, and rejuvenate color and elasticity to old seals, keeping them looking and performing like new.

These items are available on Amazon.

These articles were submitted by **Mark Kucera**.

A Novel way to remove Dings and Dents

I have not seen this solution for dings and dents anywhere. I recently had several dings in my red 92 miata and was told that dry ice would remove or reduce them. With nothing to lose I tried it and found success! My 2 inch dent is now just a small dimple. It will not work on creases or large dents. But it works great for those small parking lot dents! The paint was not damaged or affected in any way. Simply apply the dry ice directly on the dent until you feel a "pop". I left the ice on for several minutes and then would check its progress.

Article courtesy of miata.net website.

Please make your reservations for the Bisbee Run on October 26th

Please finalize your reservations for the Bisbee Run on October 26th. The Shady Dell needs to open that weekend up to others if we do not fill the Vintage Trailer Court. Please see the Bisbee Run Details. Do it now or you might miss out!

<https://www.meetup.com/Sahuaro-MX5-Miata-Club/events/248817988/>

Did you know that Bisbee is the southernmost mile-high city in the United States. It's true !

Article - When To Upgrade Your Car

In his book "The Lost Art Of High-Performance Driving", Ross Bentley, champion race car driver and racing instructor since 1980 gives the following advice on when to upgrade your car.

If you drive on a racetrack for a while, you'll eventually consider modifying and upgrading your car. My advice here focuses on the big picture, rather than on the details of how to modify your car.

Your approach to upgrading your car will have a big impact on your enjoyment of the sport, as well as how you improve your driving. Any modifications to your car should be approached in the following order:

1. Safety
2. Reliability
3. Performance

Unfortunately, many drivers take the opposite approach, spending serious money on making their cars faster. In the process, they make them less safe and less reliable. But if you're unsafe and your car breaks down all the time, you're not improving the car or having fun.

Perhaps the biggest question is when you should upgrade your car's performance. Part of the answer depends on your motivation for driving on a track. For some drivers, "playing" with their car's setup is a prime motivator; for them, upgrading may begin earlier than for a driver whose focus is on improving their driving skills. Either way, if you're driving far below the limits of your car, modifying it doesn't make a lot of sense; you'd be far better off focusing on developing your driving performance, not your car's.

When you can consistently drive your car near its limit, you'll have reached the appropriate time to consider upgrades. Having an outside observer – an instructor – provide honest feedback about your level of driving performance may save you a lot of money in the long run. If the feedback is aimed at improving your driving skills, rather than your car, do that first.

Thanks to **Mark Kucera** for submitting this article.

Mazda Reportedly Planning Important Miata Changes For 2019- What We Expect

Mazda is expected to make meaningful updates to the Miata for 2019. Here's what is reportedly on the way for the most popular convertible in the world.

The Mazda Miata is only entering its third model year as an ND (fourth generation) car, but reliable sources now report that the car will undergo significant upgrades for 2019. We do not have Mazda confirmation of these changes, so take them for what they are worth. If Mazda does provide an official update, we will report it the day it is provided.

2019 Mazda Miata Power Bump

The biggest news is that power will increase. And not a little. The rumors are that the new peak power will be 181 hp, up from just 155 hp now. A 14% increase is always welcome and in a car as light as the Miata, this should shave some time off the Miata's 0-60 MPH time, which has been tested to be as low as 5.9 seconds by reliable publications. Even better, the changes are significant. A flywheel change and new pistons are part of what is being bandied about. Road and Track reports that the intake and exhaust ports will also change (increase) and a new throttle body will be included. Let's cross our fingers.

2019 Miata Changes - Content

There are also rumors that a telescoping steering wheel will become available. Automatic Emergency Braking and a backup camera are also rumors we have heard. All of these would be welcome to those who have owned past Miatas and hope to own a new one in the future.

2019 Miata - When?

Normally, the new model year is mid to late year during the preceding calendar year. We would guess it will be later rather than earlier for the Miata, but it is hard to tell. The 2016 Model year was very long for this car. Mazda does weird things sometimes.

2019 Should You Wait?

Absolutely. At least wait until mid-2018 to find out if Mazda confirms these rumored changes. As a former Miata owner, the author understands that sometimes a person just needs a convertible pronto. If so, go for it, but if you already have a fun car and can wait a bit, we would strongly recommend it. Who wants to get their new Miata home and see a new one on the road a month later that has 14% more power and more features? Not this guy.

Article submitted by **Mark Kucera**

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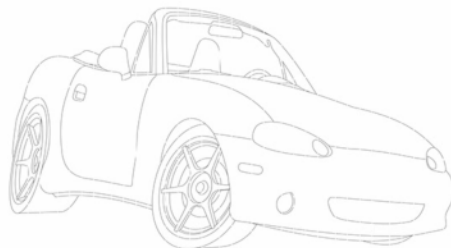
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Our Mission

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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