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Annual Elections Were Held on Saturday Dec. 12th on Zoom. Great Turnout!

Congratulations to our two new board members!
Wade Phyfer Membership Coordinator.
Sue Hinkle Vice President and Events Coordinator.

(See Page 10 for Details)



SMC'S WHEEL OF FORTUNE



Your 2021 Board Of Directors

VICE PRES:	Sue Hinkle
SECRETARY:	Tim Kroll
TREASURER:	Sue Taylor
MEMBERSHIP:	Wade Phyfer
MERCHANDISE:	Hope Morris
PAST PRESIDENT	Jeff Morris





A Farewell to our 2020 Past President Dennis Manning

Dennis Manning has resigned his position as President of our club effective January 1st. I bring this to the club with a heavy heart because Dennis and his wife Mary brought so much to our club. His enthusiasm, kindness and years of experience with other groups (Especially the Jaycees) gave him invaluable insight. Dennis and Mary had an agenda. They wanted our club to continue to grow not only in membership, but in what we as a club could offer our community. I know the current epidemic was a great disappointment to both of them as they worked tirelessly to provide safe activities during these trying times. We wish to thank Dennis for his efforts and Mary for her complete support of Dennis and the club. We look forward to seeing them at future events and wish them both well.

Jeff Morris, Past President and Editor, SMC



To All My Fellow SMC Friends....

Welcome to 2021! Praise the Lord we are finally getting vaccinated for this awful virus.

The virus pandemic and all its safety measures and precautions seems in direct conflict with the primary purpose of our club, socializing with our good friends. We cancelled all events in April of last year for several months. Then we began holding some events in an incredibly careful manner in the summer. We held our first overnight events in September and October. They were smaller than in years past, but we figured out how to do them safely. I attended all three and lived to talk about it. Those who attended would tell you we had a lot of FUN!

So, what do we do as a club moving forward into 2021? We continue "walking on eggshells" with our safety foremost in our minds. But we do not just sit at home looking at the four walls. We continue to plan events that will allow us to be safe and still do the zoom, zoom thing. For lack of a better term, we socialize safely.

We have two new board members this year. Wade Phyfer is now our membership chairman. Wade has been a continually active member for 4 years and wanted to give more to the club as a board member. He took over for Cathey Kucera who graciously agreed to step aside to allow us to get some new faces on the board. Thank you, Cathey, for doing a fantastic job. Sue Hinkle is our new Event VP, taking over for Steve Talmadge. Sue comes to us with 6 years' experience on the board of the San Diego Miata Club including 2 years as president. She brings some fresh, new ideas to our club. Steve decided his increasing workload was just too much to stay on as Event VP. Thank you, Steve, for some creative efforts in 2020.

Our club bylaws say that President, Event Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer may not serve more than two one year terms. That means me, Tim Kroll and Sue Taylor will be done at the end of this year. With that in mind, I will be soliciting many of you during the year to consider running for the board next year. I may be creating some more Member at Large positions on the board. We have one now, Lee Shapiro. We need more. We need some new blood! If you have some interest or are simply curious, talk to me. Our club has been around for 28 years and has more members now than ever. (Thank you, Cathey Kucera). We need your leadership, and fresh ideas.

See you on the road! Dennis Manning

Sue Hinkle



Vice President Events Coordinator Sue Hinkle

I am so excited to be elected as your VP of Events and look forward to members stepping up and planning a driving event, charity event, lunch or dinner events. Hosting an event isn't difficult to put together and depending on the event there are things to consider. Below are some steps on Planning a driving event.

First you need to select your destination and fun road.

Notify me the VP of Events on the date and a brief description of your run or event. I will notify you if the date is available. Follow up with more information on your event so all information can be placed on Meetup.com.

Do a pre-run:

Select a convenient meeting place with ample parking and easy in and out access.

Depending on the time and duration of the run, search for restaurants that can accommodate large groups. Suggest speaking with the owner or manager and maybe they will arrange a special menu and pricing.

Follow up with the restaurant a few days prior to the event, just to confirm that everything is ready, and there are no problems.

If you are planning an overnight event, search for overnight lodging and work with the facility to secure rooms and special pricing. A week prior to your event you should following up to confirm that the hotel/motel has all the needed information.

Que-up's are extremely important with lights, stop signs, etc. that will separate the group. Choose que-up area's that are safe and off to the side of the road.

Don't forget about restroom breaks.

Request another member to run sweep during the run. Suggest you invite him/her to the pre run.

Have the sweeper if riding as a co-pilot to take notes on the Pre-Run this will help you decide on stops, restroom breaks and que-up's.

Make handout copies of run instructions to be handed out at the initial meeting location.

A few helpful hints and suggestions:

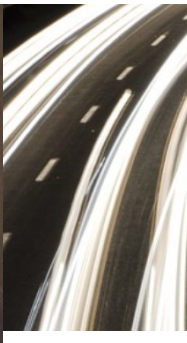
Avoid dirt roads. **C**ombine your event with an **a**ctivity, **a**rt shows, **w**inery, **o**ther places of interest.

Reach out to other members who have sponsored a run, they are a great resource and can give you pointers on how to organize.

Most of all, remember planning and organizing an Event or Run is fun. Your fellow club members are always appreciative of a well planned event. So, please, let me know of your ideas, we can make them happen.

Best Wishes for the New Year, Sue

12/29/2020	Moon Over Miatas Dennis and Mary Manning	12/21/2020	Big Earls Greasy Eats Mark Kucera
12/12/2020	HPDE at AZ Motorsports Mark Kucera	11/27/2020	Wild Horse Pass Mark Kucera
11/21/2020	Run to Bagdad Mark Kucera	11/19/2020	Lunch at Spoke and Wheel Terye VanSanford
11/14/2020	Sonic Drive In Mark Kucera	11/7/2020	Sonic Drive In Host Cathey Kucera



Our Secretary *Tim Kroll*

Our Treasurer *Sue Taylor*



To all the members out there who are looking for another thing to add to your "To do in the age of COVID", consider joining our monthly Board Meeting. They are on ZOOM and in addition to the business of the Club, there is usually lots of lighthearted hilarity as Board members frequently take pot shots at each other and anything else that is current in the world of Miata's and the world in general. It may give you a little more insight how the Club is managed as well as those who provide our management. So...join us !!
Happy Holidays and Warm Regards, Tim Kroll

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.

Remember, No 2021 Dues if you paid in 2020!



**"I wish everyone a happy and healthy New Year. I looks forward to moving to Prescott this fall and spending more time with fellow members in the greater Prescott area."
Sue Taylor**

Sue is using her accounting skills to benefit the club. She enjoys going to events and meeting new people and plans to be more involved in future events since retiring within the last year. We appreciate the outstanding job Sue has done over the past year..



Wade Phyfer with Tom Matano



Past Coordinator Cathey Kucera



The last two years as Membership Coordinator for

the Club has been a wonderful experience. I had the opportunity to be the “face” of the Club to prospective members. The usual term for a Board Member is two years and then it’s time to turn over the reins to someone new who can bring a fresh perspective to the Board.

Happily, the perfect person to take over the role stepped forward – Wade Phyfer. Wade is a people person, very active in the Club with interest in activities from the racing events to lunches to the Devil’s Highway annual event. He purchased his first Miata (a 2000 SE) in February of 2007 and joined the Club the same month. He’s hooked on all things Miata! Aside from all things Miata, he enjoys activities with his co-pilot dogs (Panda and Oreo) and his 2 sons, Austin and Alec (a Miata convert). Wade has been in Arizona since 1974 when he moved with his parents (students at ASU) to Tempe. Wade has resided in Cornville, AZ, since 1989. He is employed as a Senior Service Technician for ProCopy Office Solutions.

Let’s all welcome Wade to his new position. Wade can be reached at membership@sahuaromiataclub.com.

Thanks to everyone who made my two years as Membership Coordinator so great! Warm Regards, **Cathey Kucera**

Editors Note:

These are Cathey’s farewell comments to the club as our Membership Coordinator. Thank You Cathey for your dedicated service to the club and introduction of Wade as our new Membership Coordinator.

November/December

Mark and Pam Weinberg

Beverly and Howard Glass

Howard Hurwitz & Heather Stone



Membership, Jan 1st 2020

155

Membership, Jan 1st 2021

170

Percent increase from Jan 1st 2020

9.0%

Dear Sahuaro Miata Club Members,

I wish I had the stamina to write to each one of you. I wanted to thank you for all the wonderful Christmas cards you sent me this holiday season. For several weeks there were cards in the mailbox everyday. Some funny, some sentimental all filled with love, caring and friendship. Each card brought back memories from the past seven years.

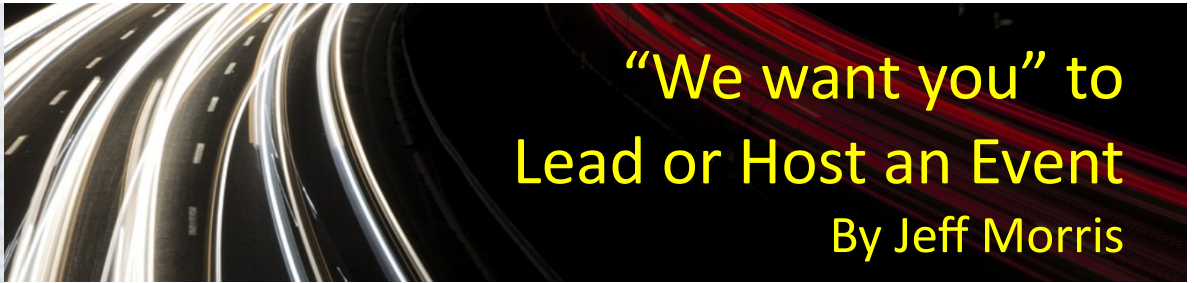
I could picture your faces and hear your voices. I had an opportunity to meet you at one of the many events that I attended from the Berge Mazda Car Shows, Florence, AZ Parada Parades, Titan Missile Museum, runs to Tortilla Flat, picnics, lunches, a run to the Lowell Observatory, Tech days at Mikes, a visit to the Tonto Natural Bridge, Christmas parties, Devils Highway run, and the overnight to Bisbee, AZ and the Shady Grove Trailer Park, the run to Bartlett Lake and “Moon over Miata’s”, a visit to the Dwarf Car Museum and the list goes on. I sold you name badges, fender magnets, caps and tee shirts. I know each one of you. You are the best family of friends I have ever had.

Thank you for your outpouring of love, support and friendship. Please keep me in your prayers.

May 2021 be a better year for all of us than 2020 was.

Smiles & Hugs from the Heart.

Martha Purfeerst



“We want you” to Lead or Host an Event

By Jeff Morris

There are many things we can do to assist each other and to help improve the lives of everyone around us. Donating food and bedding at a local women's shelter, time to local charitable organizations, food to local pet shelters and blood to the Red Cross are a few important examples. Being a member of the Sahuaro Miata Club is something we do for ourselves. However, a member that just participates in events is only experiencing half the fun. Few things are more satisfying than leading a club event. It could be a run down to Yuma or an overnight near Pinetop. Once we are over Covid-19, we will resume our weekly lunches and monthly club meetings and socials. You can Host a meal at a restaurant, or open your home for a backyard social. (The club pays for the food.) And don't worry, there is always a seasoned member who can “Co-Host” an event with you.

Please Contact Sue Henkle at: vpevents@sahuaromiataclub.com for additional information

Leading a Run

A “Run” can be just a “Drive” or a “Drive” to an event.

Submit your idea and time for the event to our V.P. Events Co-Ordinator

Upon approval you (and if applicable) your co-host will research the route we will take, restaurant's we will dine at (and if applicable) what hotels we will stay at.

Write up a Meetup “Event” this explains the “Where, What's and When's “of the event.

Submit your write up to our V.P. Events coordinator Steve Talmadge who will approve it and post it onto meetup.

Monitor the events activities on Meetup. Be prepared to answer questions from club members via our Meetup email's or respond under the comments section of the meetup writeup.

lead the run as outlined in the club newsletter and be in effect the official club “Chaperone” for the event.

Bask in the glory of a job well done.

Hosting an Event

An “Event” can be a Lunch at a regional restaurant or a trip to a Museum, Theater etc.

Submit your idea and time for the event to our V.P. Events Co-Ordinator.

Upon approval you will research the Restaurant, Museum, Event making sure their hours of operation and facilities can handle our needs. Making reservations as needed.

Write up a Meetup “Event” this explains the “Where, What's and When's “of the event.

Submit your event “Write Up” to our V.P. Events coordinator Steve Talmadge who will approve it and post it onto meetup.

Monitor the event on Meetup. Be prepared to answer questions from club members via our Meetup email's or respond under the comments section of the meetup writeup.

Organize all members as they arrive to the event. Explain the event and what rules to follow.

Bask in the glory of a job well done.

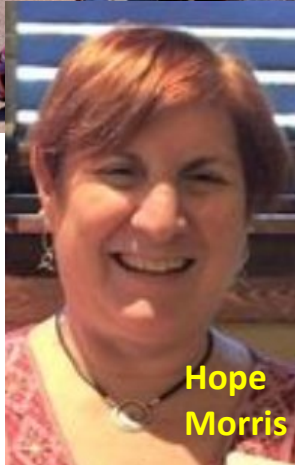


Yum!





Merchandise corner
By Hope Morris



**Hope
Morris**

Did you know you can order Sahuaro Miata Club merchandise right on our website?
Just stop by:
<http://www.sahuaromiataclub.com/merchandise-for-sale>
And order your gear today!



Ladies Golf Shirt with SMC logo embroidered left chest
 \$30.00



Golf Shirt with SMC logo embroidered left chest
 from \$30.00



Sahuaro Miata Club Embroidered T-shirts
 \$15.00



Cap
 \$15.00



Visor
 \$15.00



Moon Over Miata T-shirts
 \$18.00



Sahuaro Miata Club Long Sleeve Embroidered T-shirts
 \$24.00



Ladies Sahuaro Miata Club t-shirt - glitter applique
 \$15.00



Sahuaro Miata Club Magnet
 \$10.00



Sahuaro Miata Club Lapel Pin
 \$5.00



Sahuaro Miata Club Embroidered Patch
 \$6.00



Sahuaro Miata Club Duffel Bag
 \$18.00



Sahuaro Miata Club Name Badge
 from \$14.00

We always keep hats and Visors in stock. Golf Shirts and Long Sleeve T-Shirts are made to order. If there is a specific color you want, please let me know and we can accommodate special requests.
All other merchandise is subject to availability.
 Contact Hope at:
marketing@sahuaromiataclub.com

2021 Special
Receive a 20% discount on
“Moon over Miata Shirts”
Use Code “2021Moon”



Lost Your Badge Magnet?
Contact Hope Today!
hope@cactapaws.com

Contact Hope Morris
marketing@sahuaromiataclub.com
 with any questions or comments



The Dashboard

Hope Morris, Webmaster

STOP UNWANTED *Meetup* EMAILS!

Some people have been commenting that **Meetup** sends them too many emails. There is a way for you to manage what content you wish **Meetup** to send to you.

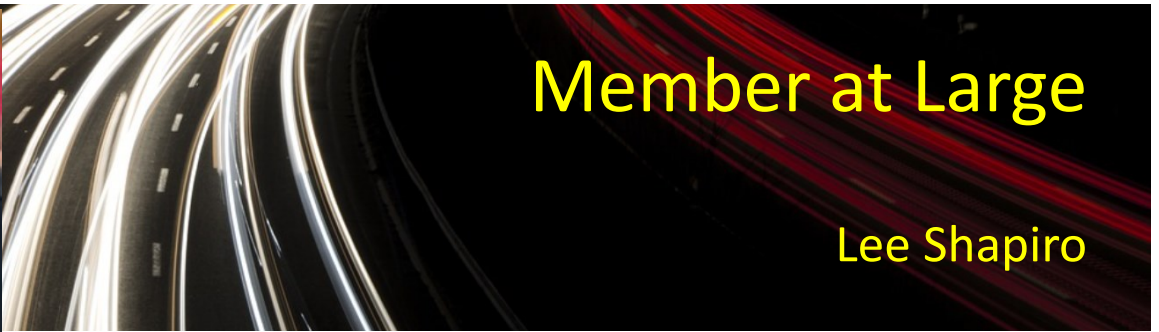
Here's how to do it:

1. To initiate the process, just click on your picture in the upper right hand corner of the screen (on a computer)
2. Then select "settings".
3. Under "settings", you will see a selection on the left side bar - "email updates". Clicking on the email updates will bring in a list of events that cause **Meetup** to send you an email.
4. Uncheck any of the listed boxes - and that will stop **Meetup** from emailing you for each of those particular events.
Specifically, in the middle, there is New **Meetup** Groups, by unchecking that box, you will no longer get emails announcing a new meetup group that may have something to do with your "interests", indicators you selected when you signed up for the application.
5. Once you have made your changes, you can go back to your photo and click on it to return to the Sahuaro MX5 Miata Club.

Test this out to see if your changes eliminate the number of unwanted emails you receive. If you have any additional Meetup questions, please feel free to email me at: webmaster@sahuaromiataclub.com.

Our club uses meetup to manage attendance at our events. Most of you are already familiar with the RSVP options for our events. Each time you click the check mark to RSVP, you are adding "1" to our count. If you and your co-pilot are attending an event, then you need to add 1 guest, that is if your co-pilot does not register themselves individually





Member at Large

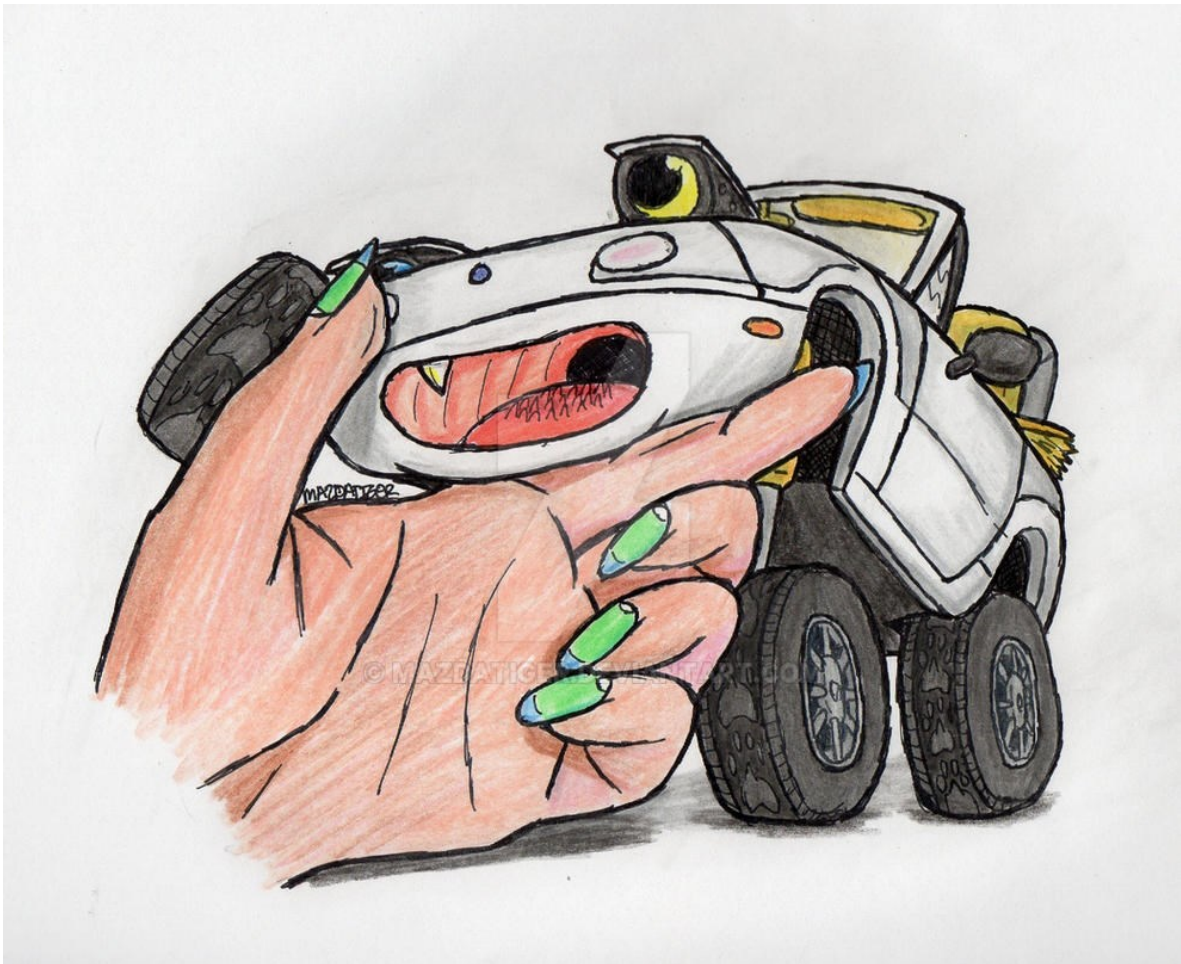
Lee Shapiro

Greetings to the members of the Sahuaro MX-5 Miata Club and thank you for the honor of being the Member at Large. I am also on the Automotive Board of the East Valley Institute of Technology (known as EVIT). EVIT is part of the Mesa School System. It has a large campus (approximately 80 acres) and teaches young men and women the skills needed to be successful as adults. It teaches almost 100 different job skills including aviation, automotive repair, hair styling, carpentry, air conditioning and much more. During the course of the year, I will try to arrange a tour of the school for the club (depending on health restrictions).

I have owned many exotic cars over the years and will tell you of the "cars I love to hate". Some names you will know (Bentley, Jaguar, Maserati, etc.) and others you may not know (Kaiser Darrin, Facel Vega, Elva Courier, etc.).

I am also an avid collector of models. Starting with HO trains as a teenager and expanding to incredibly detailed cars, airplanes, ships, etc. I figured out that it's easier to collect models than the real things.

Remember, No 2021 Dues if you paid in 2020!





Annual Meeting and Elections

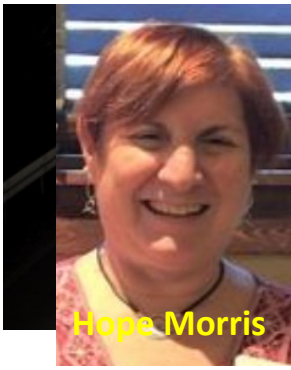
Our annual meeting was held on Saturday December 10th at 10:00. It was a big success with a terrific turnout. Of course President Dennis Manning was the master of ceremonies. During the meeting much was accomplished.

We held our mandatory elections, board members spoke to the club, President Manning presented event host awards to everyone who participated hosting events throughout the year. While the awards were presented by Dennis, Marketing coordinator Hope Morris and Secretary Tim Kroll awarded prizes to the entire club. A prize was awarded to every "Membership" that attended. These prizes ranged from shirts, to back-packs to tote bags, Miata Club Hats and club pins. Hope had the "Spinning wheel of Fortune". As a member was selected, Jeff presented that member with their gift. All gifts were later sent out via USPS.

Your Board of Directors wishes to thank each and every member who attended. Hopefully next years event will be held in a lovely venue as in years past.

Members who received certificates were:

Jerry Gantt	Devil's Highway Run	Zoom Zoom Pres. award	Event Co-Host
Cathey Kucera	Membership Chairman	Zoom Zoom Pres. award	Attention to Detail
Cathey Kucera	SATURDAY Night at big Earls	Zoom Zoom Pres. award	Event Host
Mark Kucera	Track day Events	Zoom Zoom Pres. award	Five Events!
Mark Kucera	Social Media Facebook chair	Zoom Zoom Pres. award	Facebook Chairman
Mark Kucera	Run to the Boarders	Best Driving Event	Event Host
Mark Kucera	Ladies Only High Performance Driving	Most Unusual Event	Event host
Tim Kroll	Secretary	Zoom Zoom Pres. Award	Attention to Detail
Tim Kroll	Detailing Seminar via. Zoom	Best Tech Event	Co- Host
Mary Manning	Valentine Pot Luck	Zoom Zoom Pres. Award	Event Host
Hope Morris	Merchandise Director	Zoom Zoom Pres. Award	Attention to Detail
Hope Morris	Fireworks Extravaganza	Best Overnight Event	Event Host
Hope Morris	Strides for Breast Cancer	Zoom Zoom Pres. Award	Event Host
Jeff Morris	Newsletter Editor	Zoom Zoom Pres. Award	Attention to Detail
Jeff Morris	Concours in the Hills Car Show for PCH	Zoom Zoom Pres. Award	Event Host
Ed Raker	Route 66 Run	Zoom Zoom Pres. Award	Attention to Detail.
Steve Talmadge	Detailing Seminar	Best Tech Event	Co-Host
Steve Talmadge	Vice President Events coordinator	Zoom Zoom Pres. Award	Attention to Detail
Steve Talmadge	Run to casa Grande Ruins	Best Day Trip Event	Event Host
Sue Taylor	Treasurer	Zoom Zoom Pres. Award	Attention to Detail



Social Media

Hope Morris

Did you know we have multiple Social Media sites? They are an easy way to provide you more info on our club. They are a great way to find the info you need.

“Meetup”

Meetup is our communications life blood, our social media calendar of events.

It's exclusively opened to all members and is free to use. Find out about current and past events, look up event photos and download the photos you take at our functions. It is a great way to find out what's going on in the club. Also communicate with fellow members via Meetup.

www.meetup.com/sahuaro-mx5-miata-club

“Facebook”

We have two Facebook pages, “Interest Group” & “Buy and Sell”

1.) Our “Sahuaro Miata Interest Group” page:

Proud Miata owners regularly post topics for varied interests and tastes, such as:

- Articles and pictures of recent Miata runs and events
- Announcements of upcoming events
- Pictures and details on DIY Miata projects



www.facebook.com/groups/sahuaromiatainterestgroup

2.) Our “Sahuaro Miata Club Buy and Sell” Page:

Looking to sell that special part you no longer need? Looking to buy? This is the place to go.

www.facebook.com/groups/SMCbuyandsell

“Sahuaro Miata Club Website”

A wealth of information at your fingertips. Find out about membership, event photos (Most recent photos are found on meetup) sponsors, handheld radio info, club merchandise for sale and so much more.

www.sahuaromiataclub.com

Mark Kucera



Cathey Kucera



Events Recap

The last two months were active and enjoyable months for Cathey and I with the Sahuaro Miata Club. We planned and hosted 7 events. About 78 club members joined us at these events. This time of year the weather is just too nice to not get outside and enjoy our cars and friends. I felt if all events were held outdoors and everyone complied with CDC guidelines we should be able to hold safe and fun events, and it's worked out well.

The first event was a patio lunch on Wednesday, October 28th at PHX Beer Company on Scottsdale Road. About 20 members joined us on the beautiful patio overlooking the small lake behind the restaurant. The weather was sunny and about 70 degrees, perfect for a top down drive to and from lunch, and for lunch on the patio. The food was great and the company was too.



We hosted a couple of weekend events so the members that are employed on the weekdays could attend. The first was Saturday, November 7th at the Sonic Drive-In in the Northeast Valley at 40th Street and Greenway Rd. 11 club members came in 7 Miatas. There was 1 NA, 1 NB, 3 NC's, 1 ND, and 1 RF. It was beautiful weather for some top down driving and hanging out with friends around our cars at the burger stand. After some socializing we dug into the burgers, fries and hot dogs. Some of us ate standing behind our cars using the trunk lid on our cars as tables, and some gathered at the tables provided. We enjoyed talking and eating for about an hour and a half before splitting up and heading home. This was a quick and easy event to have during the pandemic.

No reservations required. It was outside with lots of fresh air to keep us safe. Everyone was asked to follow CDC guidelines by wearing our masks and keeping about 6 feet apart. Most everyone agreed and went along with the request.





Events Recap

The following weekend we duplicated the Sonic event in the Northwest Valley on Union Hills Dr. just west of Highway 101. Once again the weather was perfect. Seven club members came in 5 Miatas. We ate our meals at the picnic tables and talked for an hour or so. These events are so easy to have because there really isn't much planning necessary, and there isn't much to do other than show up. I hope others might take the initiative to hold one of these events on another nice afternoon in their area.



On Saturday, November 21 we went on the always popular run to the mining town of Bagdad, Arizona for a picnic lunch at the nice little city park on Main Street. Several members in 6 Miatas left from I-17 and the Carefree Highway about 9:15 AM and we picked up one more member when we stopped for a break in Wickenburg. The drive up the twisty mountain road through Congress, Yarnell, to Kirkland is always one of the highlights of the drive. We met more members and 6 more Miatas from the Prescott area about 11:45 AM in Kirkland, AZ. We hung out at the road junction in Kirkland for about 15 minutes to socialize and take a few pictures before driving the last 38 miles to Bagdad. The drive from Kirkland to Bagdad is perfect for Miata driving fun. The road twists,

turns, climbs, and drops through the hills and there is little to no traffic. We met a group of about 6 hot rod Camaros with very loud pipes headed the opposite direction enjoying the road at a very high rate of speed. All our cars stayed on the road and made it into Bagdad safely. The little park on Main Street was empty except for one mother and her young child playing in the sand so we had all the picnic tables under the ramada to ourselves. Everyone brought out their picnic lunches and we all spread out on the picnic tables for lunch and conversation. We enjoyed the sunny day, mild temperatures, lunch, and socializing with the group for about an hour before breaking up and making our way home in small groups. But the fun wasn't completely over yet. There was more twisty road between us and home.



Run To Bagdad



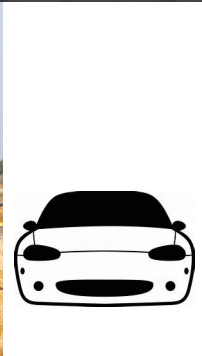
Talk about Social Distancing
Wow!



Three of us enjoyed a high speed drive over the roller coaster Hwy 97 from Bagdad over to Hwy 93. A new club member that followed us remarked that this drive was the most fun he's ever had in his Miata. Everyone had an enjoyable day driving and picnicking on this warm fall day.



Thanksgiving weekend ProAutoSports holds the annual Mondo Track Day at Wild Horse Pass Motorsports Park on the south end of the valley. This is a very popular event because we only get to drive this track once a year. The track is made up of the combined Wild Horse Pass main track, the drag strip, and the Bondurant High Performance Driving School track making a 2.5 mile, 23 turn track. As usual there was a big turn out on Friday when 3 club members attended. John Prieve and his son Brian brought their recently purchased NA that they bought just for track days. They shared the driving. Kevin Allsop and I also had a great day on the track. On Saturday and Sunday club members Lou Molvin and Louis Verloop raced their Spec Miatas in the racing classes. The Spec Miata classes produce exciting door to door racing, unlike the much safer HPDE classes most of us participate in. Lou reports both he and Louis smashed up the front end and right front fender of their cars in separate incidents with tire barriers this weekend. Lou hit a slick spot on the track and slid into the barrier. I believe both cars were able to be driven, but they look a little worse for wear.



Events Recap

Saturday, December 12 ProAutoSports held a one day track day event at Arizona Motorsports Park (AMP) on west Camelback road next to Luke Air Force base. This is professional level 2.2 mile track where many events are held. The weather was in the middle 60's and sunny making it a perfect day to be at the track. Only Lou Molvin and John Prieve ran the track this day. I only attended long enough to go for a ride with Lou in his NA Spec Miata. It was a thrilling ride. Lou is a highly skilled and accomplished driver that gets everything possible out of his NA on the track. Lou was the overall points leader in his class in the ProAutoSports race series this year. Congratulations Lou!

I noticed the forecast for Monday, December 21st was for sunny sky and 75 degrees which would make for a day not to be missed driving with the top down with friends. So three days before I quickly dreamed up and posted a club run from Fountain Hills, past the Fountain Hills fountain, through Rio Verde, out to Bartlett Lake, back to Carefree and Cave Creek, ending at Big Earl's Greasy Eats hamburger stand for lunch. There wasn't much traffic which made for some nice cruising, and some spirited driving through a couple of twisty sections going to and from the Lake. The desert and hills were beautiful on this clear sunny morning. The group stopped at the Lake for a short break and to take a picture before heading back to Cave Creek for lunch. It was a little cool at 10 AM at the start of the drive but it warmed up to the low 70's by lunch time. 12 members in 7 Miatas enjoyed the drive and lunch with friends.

We made the most of the good fall weather and I plan on finding more good opportunities in the coming months for more Miata Club events. I hope you too will make the effort to dream up an event and host a drive on one of the many warm Arizona winter afternoons. See you on the road!

Remember, No 2021 Dues if you paid in 2020!



Members in Our Headlights

Mark and Karen Welch

Karen is an RN and has been working for the same hospital for over 44 years. She has two children, one married, and loves knitting and crocheting. She's a former Air National Guard Nurse which took her to England, Spain, Australia, Alaska, Hawaii, New York and several times to California, Texas and Washington state. She really enjoys camping and knitting under the trees "There's no better smell than bacon cooking outside in the morning". She's been in Arizona since 1973.

Mark moved to Arizona in 1984 from Southern California. He works as a Health and Safety Engineer and is a Certified Safety Professional. He has enjoyed cars since an early age and dreamt about a sports car since 7th grade when he read *The Red Car*, which was about a boy and an MG set possibly in the early to mid fifties. In his spare time he plays trumpet in a community band and is starting to learn piano. He is restoring a 1967 VW Beetle to factory specifications and components. Mark's two daughters are grown and independent. The eldest has her PhD and is married, living in Australia. The second got her BS at University of Arizona and is finishing a second degree in nursing. Mark also enjoys car drives, especially in a sport's car. We both enjoy watching old and new Star Trek television shows and movies. We both square and round dance.



Members in Our Headlights

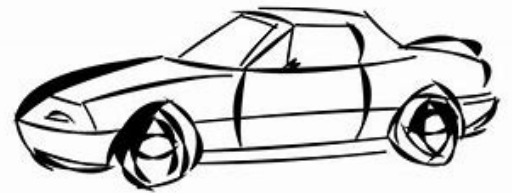
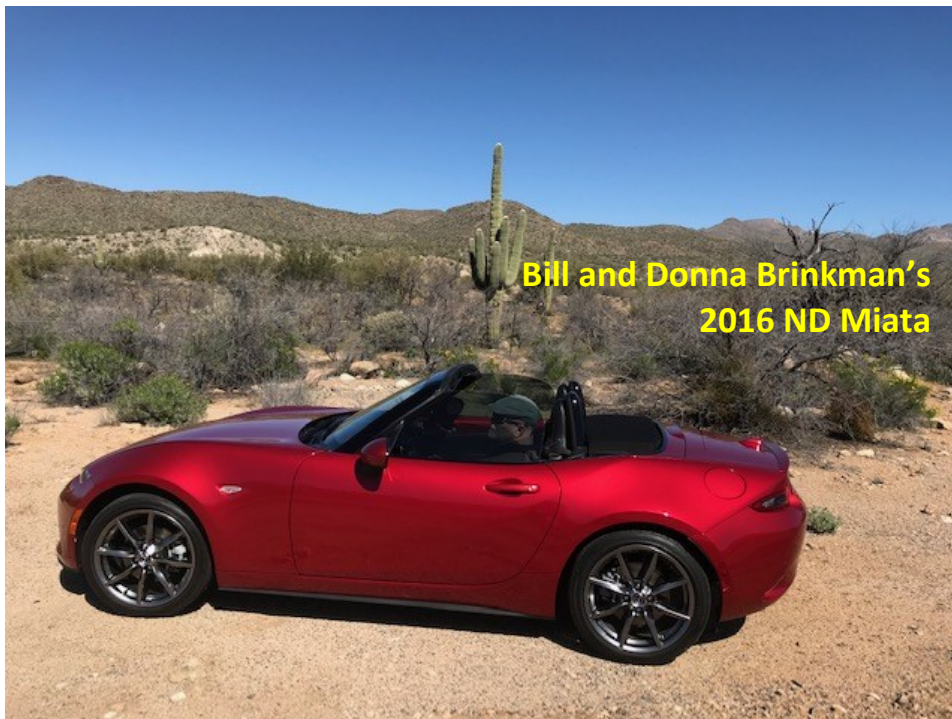
Bill and Donna Brinkman

New members Bill and Donna Brinkman moved to Prescott from Columbus, Ohio almost 20 years ago. We purchased our 2016 Miata MX5 GT last year and love it. Have enjoyed a couple of runs this past year with the Club and look forward to more runs in 2021.

Bill is a retired police officer (25 years) from the Columbus, Ohio Police Department. He had a dual career and is also a retired helicopter pilot from the Ohio National Guard (Warrant Officer 4) and a Vietnam veteran. In addition to driving our Miata, Bill enjoys riding his Harley and his vintage Kawasaki dirt bike and tinkering in the garage. He also enjoys taking our dog Sydney on walks and hikes. We both enjoy road trips in and around the west and south-west.

Donna's career was in business and was a business manager and administrative assistant. One of the most interesting and fun jobs she had was working for a video and film production company in Columbus for over 14 years. Met a lot of famous people in our studio and held many hats while there. Donna enjoys rides in the Miata, college football and basketball, playing slots, and playing Bunco and attending live concerts. She also owned her own Harley and road for 16 years. We belonged to the local Harley Club for several years and went on rides similar to the Miata Club runs.

We have three children; two sons and three grandchildren live in Columbus and a daughter lives here in Prescott.



Miata

Members in Our Headlights

Don and Janet Chandler

Janet and I were born and raised in northern New Mexico in a town called Las Vegas. Yes, there really is a Las Vegas, New Mexico. It sits on the old Santa Fe Trail about sixty miles north of Santa Fe with an elevation of 6500 feet. There is not much industry in that area, but a lot of history. The town currently has over 900 buildings on the National Historic Register. Some of the notables who once resided there were Doc Holliday and Wyatt Earp.

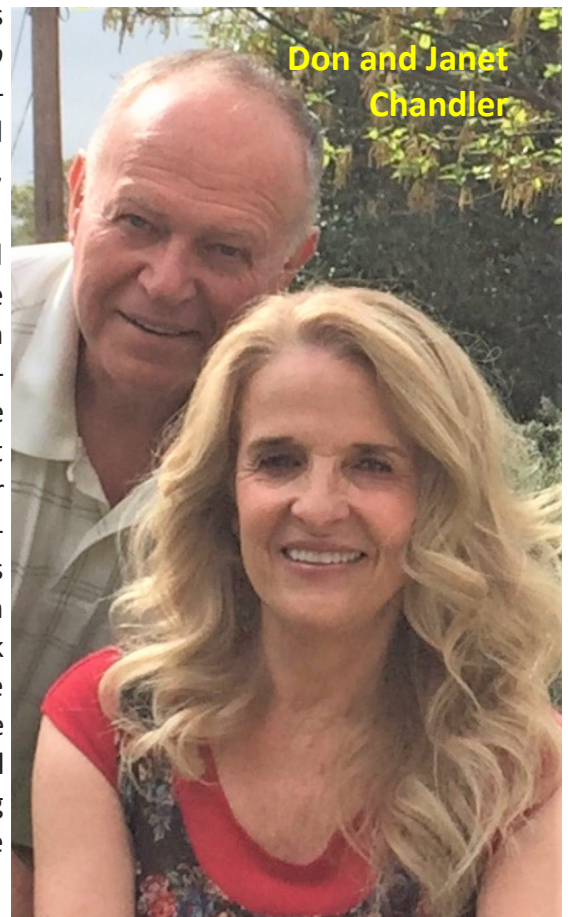
We started dating in high school while participating in the musical "Bye, Bye Birdie". Janet likes to tell people I was married to her sister before marrying her and once the eyebrows rise and the puzzled looks begin she explains that her sister played the part of the wife, Mrs. McAfee and I her husband. We dated through high school, married, and after college spent a few more years in New Mexico then moved to Garland, Texas, a suburb of Dallas. We spent 28 years there where we raised our two boys and daughter. While in Texas, Janet worked in medical research for the Cooper Institute for Aerobics Research. It was there that I got into the world of the stock market, working for a major brokerage firm for a few years and then moving into the teaching of option trading.

As happens most of the time, the kids grew up and moved away. One was in California and two were in Utah. We wanted to be closer to our children and the grandkids. So, the time came to pack up and head west where we spent fifteen years in Utah. The first winter was in Utah, and the novelty of having snow again soon dissipated. The annual snowfalls required *getting up two hours earlier than normal just to clear a path to be able to get to work. Our daughter and family moved from Utah to Arizona because her husband is working on a doctorate at ASU. We found the opportunity to bolt from the frigid confines of that northern latitude, so we packed up and here we are in San Tan Valley.*

While in high school I always admired the British sports cars that would travel through town in the 1960's and was able to own a couple while living in Texas and Utah. Three years ago we were talking to an old high school friend who lives in Virginia. He was telling us about his 1995 Miata that he didn't drive anymore and he wanted to get rid of it. We agreed to take it off his hands and flew from Utah to Virginia to pick it up. It dawned on me during the flight that this was a 22-year old car and I began to wonder if it would make it two-thirds across the country. When our friend opened his garage door our doubts were eased as this car looked almost new. It had 98,000 miles and had been taken care of very well. We signed the papers, stuffed our bags in the trunk and headed west. We saw some beautiful country with rain most of the way and even survived the two-lane construction in Wyoming with the eighteen-wheelers seemingly inches away. Our little MX-5 took us all the way home without incident. While it covered in the garage during the Utah winter, we are now able to enjoy taking it out year round in the Arizona sun.



The Chandler's 1995 Miata NA



Don and Janet Chandler



Members in Our Headlights

Mark and Pam Weinberg

We bought our 2004 Mazdaspeed last year in PA. The young lady in the picture is our daughter. This is our second Miata. The first was a 1990 which we bought new and kept for a few years. We have a matching picture of our daughter next to that first Miata when we were all quite a bit younger. The photo is on our wall in PA.

I have been involved with sports cars since the early 70s when I bought a Triumph TR4. This was followed by too many others, mostly British, which included MGs, Austin Healeys, Morgans, Vettes, and Porsches. While it took almost 30 years before the second Miata, and I still have some other Sports Cars here and in PA, I'm thrilled to have the Mazdaspeed. Although I still love the old British sports cars, people are correct when they say that the Miata is what the Brits should have built.

The Mazdaspeed had remained in PA until a few months ago when I decided that it belonged in AZ, so I had it shipped out. Since it had sat idle for almost a year, I brought it to Greene's Auto to have it checked out. After a new radiator, battery, tires, and a few incidentals, it's running as it should.

We normally spend six months here (in Carefree) and six months in PA, but we have stayed in AZ since last December due to the pandemic. Going back East is not an easy operation for us even during normal circumstances since we drive back and forth with four cats and a parrot. We do hope to return to PA by late Spring so we can finally spend some time with our daughter and granddaughters.

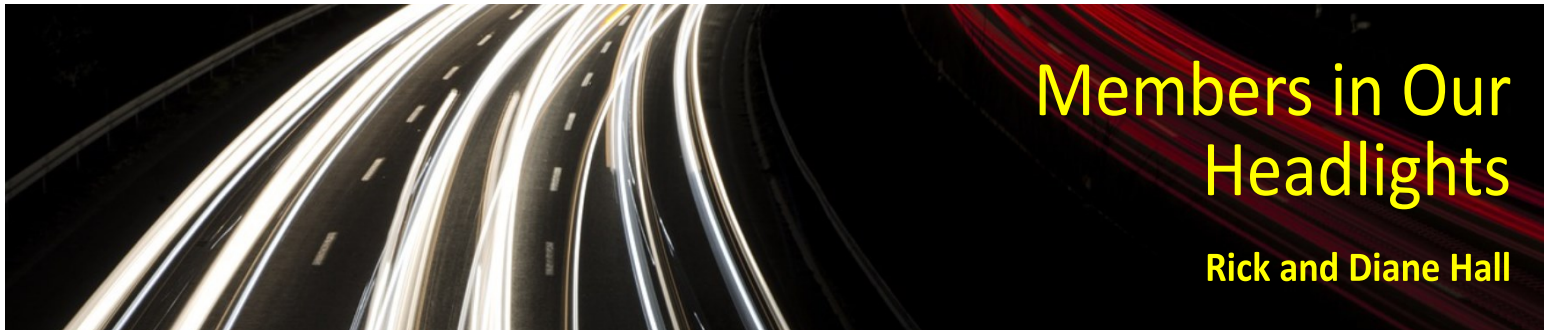
We look forward to participating in Club events and meeting you all during the year .



Loren Weinberg with her parents

Pam and Marks

Mazdaspeed NB Miata



Members in Our Headlights

Rick and Diane Hall

Hello! Diane and myself have just relocated to Goodyear, AZ (Estrella Mountain Ranch). We were living in Oregon City, Oregon, near Portland. Our daughter lives in Peoria and wanted us to be closer to our family. We love it here in Arizona!

We were very active members of The Mt. Hood Miata Club in the Portland area for the past two years...I have had my 2012 Miata Sport (MX-5) since October of 2018. I went shopping for Jeep and came home with a Miata! So my car's name is "PLAN B"!

Both Diane and I are looking forward to going on some great Arizona runs. And meeting some great new Miata brothers and sister. Also I'm very interested in putting together some runs myself.

Beside being (basically) retired, I am also a "really good" Mobile DJ (rimobilemusic.com). I have DJ'ed well over 900 weddings and hundreds of parties. I hope to continue with my DJ'ing for the next several years. I do love to DJ & I do love to drive my Miata!

Diane is a Country/Bluegrass musician and singe. she plays dobro guitar & lap steel guitar. Diane is also retired and is always up for a Miata run!

We both love Blues, Classic Country and, of course, Rock 'N Roll music. We've been to thousands of concerts in our lifetimes and we really miss that aspect of our lives these days. We also love Baseball. I have been to all 30 Major League Ball-parks, some of them more than once!

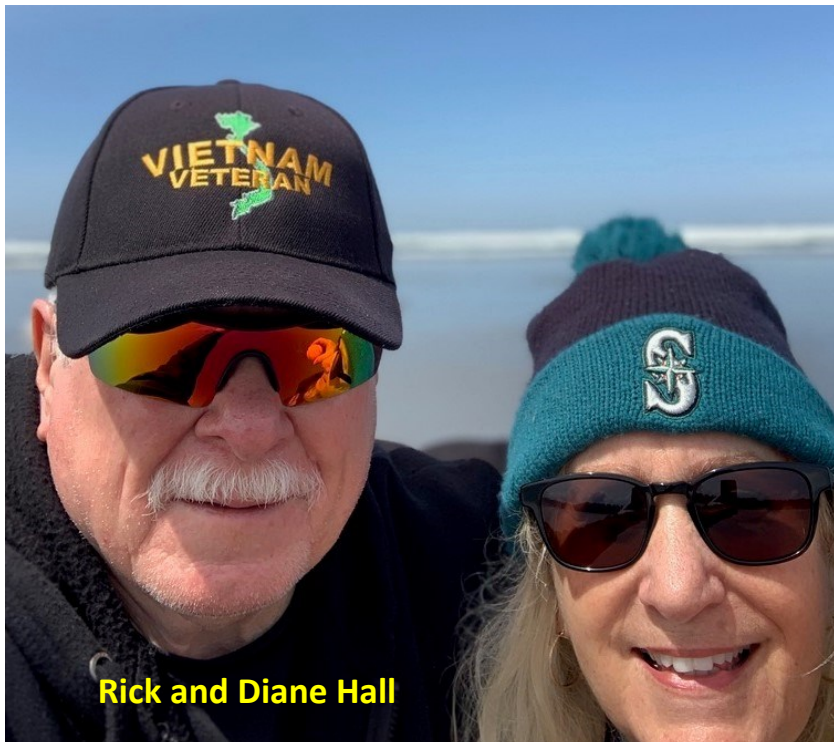
Regards, Rick and Diane Hall



Diane Hall



Rick Hall



Rick and Diane Hall

Would you like to see your high-lighted on this page? Please send a photo of your car to: Editor@sahuaromiataclub.com

Did you know there are four Miata versions?

MAZDA MX-5 / Miata

1989-1998

1.6L 5MT (116 HP) 1.8L (131 HP)

Sold over 400,000 units. Codename Roadster modeled after the British roadsters of the 60's and 70's. (especially the Lotus Elan) the car was simple, reliable, and nimble. It could be a daily driver, it was that much fun. Noted for its famous Pop up headlights and cute design. For many this is the "Quintessential" MX-5 Miata. This stunning example was owned by Bob and Jeanette Benoit.



MAZDA MX-5 / Miata

1998-2005

1.6L 5MT (110HP) 1.8L (146 HP)

Dubbed the NB. Sold another 400,000 units! Very similar to the NA with the Pop up headlights gone due to pedestrian safety concerns. A little wider, larger anti-roll bar, better brakes with optional ABS. Later years saw the Mazdaspeed (2004-2005). This lovely 2004 Mazdaspeed is owned by Mark and Pam Weinberg.

MAZDA MX-5 / Miata

2006-2015

1.8L 5MT (125HP) 2.0L 5MT, 6MT, 6AT (160 HP)

A major design overhaul from the NB, the NC was almost 2" longer and 75#'s heavier than the last version of the NB. Some consider the NC to be a chunkier yet far more refined version. Power Retractable Hardtop shown. Note the flared fenders, HID headlights and top center brake light. This lovely NC PRHT is owned by Dennis and Mary Manning.



MAZDA MX-5 / Miata

2016-Present

1.5L Skyactiv-G (131HP), 2.0L Skyactiv-G (155HP) 2018 Skyactiv-G (181HP)

Another major Miata re-design, the ND is available as a Roadster (Soft Top) and RF (Retractable Fastback) This is a fully modern car with advanced safety features and styling. More compact to bring it in line with the original NA. As before, the ND is a blast to drive. This Sharp example is owned by Art Stromberg and Lynn Christensen.

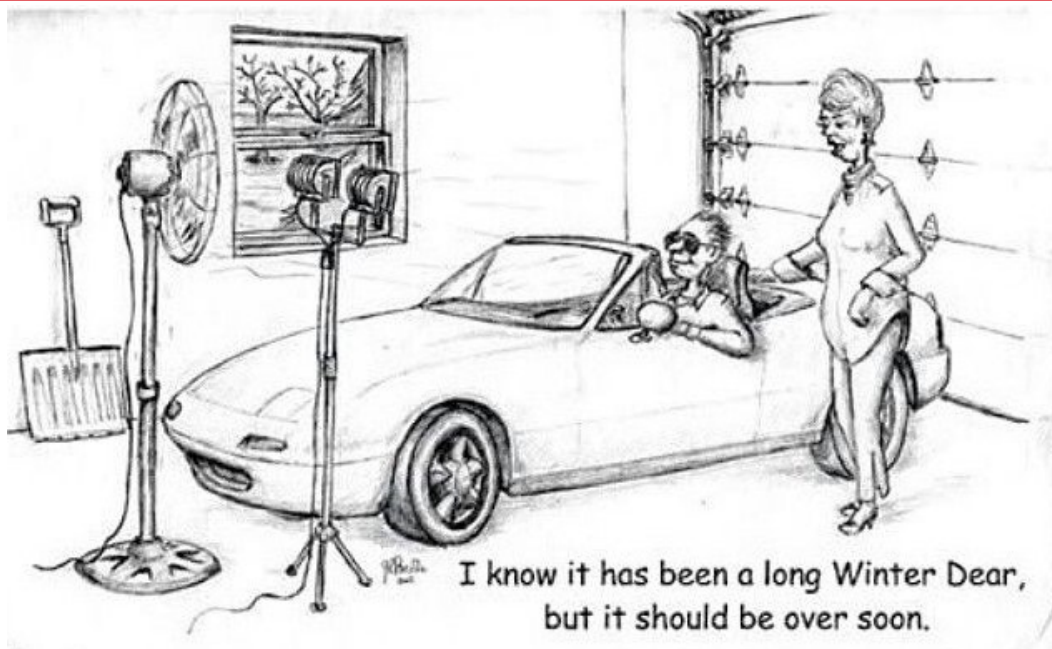
“Moon over Miata’s” Run to South Mountain

By Dennis Manning



Sahuaro Miata Club held a run-on December 29, 2020 to the summit of South Mountain in Phoenix, our quarterly Moon Over Miata’s event. This one was truly special. Perfect weather, a gorgeous sunset followed immediately by a stunning full moon. Then a city lights view across the entire valley. Thirty members and 18 cars made the 5.5-mile curvy run to the summit, Dobbins lookout. What a special night ending in a wonderful dinner on the patio at Los Dos Molinos on Camelback. FYI, they have the best Margaritas in town. A grand time was had by all.

Remember, No 2021 Dues if you paid in 2020!



From:
www.driving.ca

Generation Gap: Ranking each and every Mazda MX-5 Miata

Benjamin Hunting 10/11/2020

From: www.driving.ca

Generation Gap: Ranking each and every Mazda MX-5 Miata

There's no really bad Miata, but some versions are definitely better than others

BY [BENJAMIN HUNTING](#) | OCTOBER 11, 2020



Miata MX-5 NA

Let's get this out of the way: there's no such thing as a 'bad' Miata.

When you set out to rank every generation of a specific automobile, however, there's always going to be a model that sits at the bottom of the ladder.

It's not so much that any version of Mazda's iconic roadster is a victim of its own shortcomings, but rather that in our estimation it pales somewhat when compared to the absolute best iteration of one of the purest representations of sheer driving joy ever built.

With all that said, which generation of the Mazda MX-5 Miata stands out to us as the shining beacon of everything the car was meant to be, and which one has seen its glow dull just a little in contrast? Check out our take on the best versions of the Mazda Miata ever built, and let us know whether we got it right or wrong.

1. 1989-1997 Mazda MX-5 Miata NA

The first Miata was a *tour de force* interpretation of the classic British sports car concept, a vehicle just as notable for what it left on the table as for what it brought to the game. In an era when the Japanese sports car game was dominated by exotic technologies like four-wheel steering, twin-turbos, and even Mazda's own rotary engine, the Miata went in the opposite direction.

Presenting itself as a simple, rev-happy four-cylinder roadster with an ultra-low curb weight (right around 2,100 lbs) and minimal complications between the driver and the asphalt below its 14-inch wheels, the MX-5 made a plus out of its modest 116 horsepower (later elevated to 128, then 133 when the 1.6-liter motor was punched out to 1.8-liters in 1995). It was responsive enough to keep the momentum-car moving at a brisk pace, yet never a threat to overpower either the rear wheels or the driver, and its supremely balanced chassis rewarded every input, no matter how minute.

Generation Gap: Ranking each and every Mazda MX-5 Miata

Benjamin Hunting 10/11/2020

All of the above, plus the NA Miata's svelte shape (a lovely jelly bean with pop-up headlights), simple manual top, and inexpensive running costs set it well on its trajectory to being the best-selling two-seat convertible in history. It's yet to have been equaled.

2. 2006-2015 Mazda MX-5 Miata NC

The third-generation Miata was brave enough to try to expand the roadster's mission statement without losing sight of what had made it great to begin with. Somewhat larger, and a few hundred pounds heavier, than the sprightliest NA, the NC was still one of the least weighty sports cars on the market when it appeared in 2005. It continued the four-cylinder formula (now a 2.0-liter unit rated at 170 horsepower and 140 lb-ft of torque), and buyers could choose between a five- and six-speed manual gearbox. A refresh mid-way through the car's production run would bump the redline by 500 rpm and boost its grin-factor.

The NC was significantly more comfortable and refined than the generation that preceded it and featured the availability of a power retractable hardtop. Whereas past versions of the Miata had required a lift-off design for anyone seeking four-season security, the NC's built-in feature dragged new customers into the Mazda showroom, even if critics complained about the hundred pounds or so it added to the mix.

Most importantly, however, the NC drove exceptionally well. More insulated from the road than the NA of decades past, it was nevertheless a blast when pushed hard, and in an era where most of its rivals were at least 500 lbs heavier, it never came across as portly. It was the first time Mazda had strayed from the original simplicity-is-everything mantra that had guided the first MX-5, and it was a risk worth taking that did indeed change the character of the car, but not for the worse.



Miata MX-5 NC

3. 1999-2005 Mazda MX-5 Miata NB

Why does the NB come in behind the NC on our ranking of every Mazda Miata generation? Whereas the third iteration of the roadster gave us something new, the second was more accurately described as an attempt to civilize certain aspects of the first, without alienating its core fan base. It was just as 'good' but not appreciably 'better' in terms of driving experience, and that keeps it from climbing higher.

Wider, and lacking the rad pop-up headlights of the NA, the NB's cabin was more accommodating to taller drivers and its overall styling was more sleek than round. The 1.8-liter engine was retained, and power remained at 140 horses (143 by 2001) but a six-speed manual transmission was now in the mix and helped the car shame the NA in a straight line. A five-speed also remained on the order sheet.

Aside from the above, there wasn't much about the NB that set it apart from the original Miata. A Mazdaspeed turbocharged model came online for 2004, but its 178 horses and 166 lb-ft of torque were matched with unusually aggressive gearing that conspired to keep the car feeling more frenetic than fantastic, and it never found a widespread following among MX-5 fans.

4. 2016-current Mazda MX-5 Miata ND



Generation Gap: Ranking each and every Mazda MX-5 Miata

Benjamin Hunting 10/11/2020

When the ND was launched as a 2016 model, Mazda went out of its way to compare it to the classic NA. In some ways the parallels were there: the car stepped down to 155 horsepower and cut major weight compared to the NC, which at its core is the same formula applied by the very first vehicle to wear the Miata badge.

What keeps the current version of the MX-5 at the bottom of our list is something that wasn't even dreamed of when the NA first hit showrooms. Electric power steering has managed to deaden the feel for so many modern sports cars, and compared to the hydraulic – or even unassisted – setup available in early Miatas, the ND comes across as remarkably numb. Still, there's a lot to like about the ND Miata. Its suspension tuning remains top-notch and the car is a lot of fun to drive, especially once the revised 2019 engine's 181 horsepower and 7,500 rpm redline injected substantial life into the chassis. The interior also offers far more modern infotainment and comfort options than any previous model. The RF model's power retractable Targa panel is a bit of a puzzler, but like the NC's experimentation it at least tries to take the Miata concept in a different direction. Too bad about that steering, though.

Editors Note:

This article came from Driving.ca and was written by Benjamin Hunting from October 11, 2020.

Of course there will always be controversy in regards to reviews comparing the four generations.

When the NC came out in 2006 it received a lot of distain from the Miata community. Why? because it looked bigger and heavier. In actuality the NC was only an inch longer and wider. The NC convertible was only 100 pounds heavier than the last version of the NB. Today more and more NC's are found on the track due to the 2.5L swap.

The fact is, every generation of our Miata's are wonderful cars. Each generation has a lot to like.



"In Memoriam"

William M. Snyder Jr. Passed away in Florence , AZ at the age of 80. Bill was one of our newer members, he joined the SMC on June 6th, 2019. Bill owned a Red, 1993 convertible and had attended 8 events with the club. He was a life-long resident of Illinois until he moved out to Arizona. I knew Bill enjoyed driving his Miata.

Bill was a graduate of Notre Dame, and a Marine reservist. Bill, a veteran Cessna pilot was also involved in the "French Speakers In Chicago" Meetup group. We appreciate Bill's participation in our club, he will be missed.



TECHTIPS

Congratulations Lou Molvin Overall Points Leader, ProAutoSports PS Series



Lou and Marla Molvin

Lou Molvin, a Sahuaro Miata Club member has won the Overall Points Lead in the ProAutoSports Production Sedan (PS) series races. This was quite an accomplishment considering this was Lou's first season to compete in the series. Lou runs his NA Miata in the PS4 class against other like prepared Miatas. The series races are run January through December at several of the Phoenix area race tracks. Lou placed 1st overall in 4 races and in 3 qualifying races. He earned his points lead win by competing in all 14 races and 11 qualifying races and scoring points in all. Here are a few comments from Lou:

As a rookie driver there was a steep learning curve and it all happens under hectic race conditions. My PS4 small displacement class starts at the back of the starting grid making it difficult to see the starting flag and to get a good start. At the start of the season I would get so caught up in the action that I would forget to shift until the rev limiter kicked in forcing me to shift. The action going into the crowded first turn was always exciting and intense with all the cars so close together and everyone fighting for position while trying not to hit other cars. As the season progressed and I got more experience I was more comfortable, or at least less scared going into the first turn.



Neck and Neck



Ouch!



Lou and Marla Molvin



Out Front



Into the curve

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Welcome to



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Our Covid-19 Policy



Dear club members. We all know that these are trying times to say the least. The Sahuaro Miata Club under the direction of your Board of Directors has made every effort to have as many safe activities as possible. It is challenging to say the least. We want everyone to understand that during these difficult times we must all work together. This means doing the right thing for our fellow club members. Please understand when we gather, we will always wear masks, we will practice social distancing and practice good hygiene. (Wash your hands, if not possible bring hand sanitizer) This is all to protect ourselves, and our SMC friends.

If you can not abide by this simple request, please stay home, and rejoin our club when it becomes safe to do so.

Jeff Morris

editor@sahuaromiataclub.com
Past President 2017, 2018, 2019

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