

Index::

- President's Message 1
- V.P./Events Message 3
- Hosting Events 4
- Membership 5
- Merchandise 6
- Secretary / Treasurer 7
- Dashboard 8
- Past Events 9
- Member Bios 14
- Miata Versions 17
- Run to the Borders 18
- Route 66 Junket 23
- Tech Tips 27
- Sponsors 28
- Editor's Notes 29



## Happy Holidays From the SMC!

Announcing our biggest give-a-way ever!

**Win! Win! Win!**



**SMC Embroidered T-Shirts**

**SMC Gym Bags, Mazda USB Chargers,**

**Mazda Key Rings, Mazda Hats**

**And much more.**



**You must attend our Zoom Annual Meeting and B.O.D. Election**

**On Sat. Dec. 12, 2020 @ 10 a.m.**

**See Page 9 for details.**



### Board of Directors



#### Your 2020 Board Of Directors

PRESIDENT:	Dennis Manning
VICE PRES:	Steve Talmadge
SECRETARY:	Tim Kroll
TREASURER:	Sue Taylor
MEMBERSHIP:	Cathey Kucera
MERCHANDISE:	Hope Morris
PAST PRESIDENT	Jeff Morris
EDITOR:	Jeff Morris

# More From our President

## President's Newsletter

Greetings and the happiest of holidays to my Fellow SMC members. What a wonderful time of year to own a Miata. Top down weather is fantastic now. The pandemic is still here, like it or not, but our club events are evolving to safely have FUN! It's a challenge but we're an innovative bunch. Three fantastic overnight events were held in the last month. We were not sure we could pull these off but all were a great success. Thank you to Ed Raker for our Route 66 run, Hope Morris for Devil's Highway and Mark Kucera for Run to the Borders. Masks and social distancing were all part of the fun, with no hiccups. More details elsewhere in this newsletter.

Mark Kucera's Run to the Borders event was a new milestone for the club. To the best of our knowledge, we've never done a 5-day, 4-night event. Mark brought this idea up to me over a year ago when I was still event VP. Both of us were somewhat skeptical but he put many hours into researching it and decided to go ahead. All of us who participated had a blast! It was a HUGE success.

Doing Devil's Highway twice in one month was a somewhat harrowing experience. The first time was a piece of cake. I felt like I really learned how to push my Miata through the corners. A couple days before the second run, I installed a new set of tires on the car. The Bridgestone Potenza's were looking thin and were 5 years old. So I went to Discount Tire and bought a new set of a brand I wasn't familiar with but they were recommending based on my driving style. And they were on sale. BIG MISTAKE!!!

While on Devil's Highway the second time, braking hard going into a corner all 4 wheels locked up. Then it happened a couple more times before we took a break at the halfway point

Lots of burning rubber smell. As you probably know there are 3 guys in the club that are profoundly serious about track days.... Mark Kucera, Carl Fiore and Tom Taylor. Carl looked at my tires and immediately discovered why I was having a problem. My treadwear rating was 500.

I'm ashamed to admit I didn't know what that meant but the 3 of them quickly explained. Those babies are rock hard and should never have been put on a car that light. The highest number treadwear rating we should be using on a Miata is 300. When I got home Discount Tire was apologetic and gave me a full refund on the tires. Then we put on some new Bridgestone Potenza's with a 200 treadwear rating. The difference was amazing. Now the car feels super sticky in the corners. When in doubt, ask the guys who do track days.

Warm Regards from Mary and Myself and the Happiest of Holidays!

**Dennis Manning**

[president@sahuaromiataclub.com](mailto:president@sahuaromiataclub.com)

623-229-5308



Mary and President Dennis Manning







V.P. Steve Talmadge

“Few things are more satisfying than leading an event for the club”

Steve Talmadge, Vice President /Events

## V.P. / Events coordinator Message

As we head into the final months of 2020, I think we can all agree that it has been a challenging year. Despite having to cancel or reschedule several events the club still managed to sponsor some fun and exciting events these past months. Overnight events included our annual Devil’s Highway run, run to the Borders, Route 66 Fun Run, Lake Havasu Fireworks Run, as well as other overnights. We have held a whole host of day runs and lunches, as well as numerous track events and some online events such as our June online detailing seminar. I want to thank all our event sponsors for their outstanding work during a most difficult time. I know that we all sincerely hope that this Pandemic will be over soon.

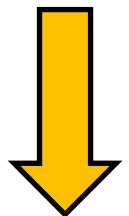
Our club is approaching 200 members and that is a milestone by any measure. Thanks go out to Kathy Kucera for an amazing job as Membership Chairperson. It is especially noteworthy it has been achieved during the Pandemic.

We have also managed to hold 46 events this year thus far which with all the challenges thrown at us is pretty impressive! As the Board is looking toward next year and beginning the planning process. We need additional help from our membership in order to insure a fun, safe calendar of events for 2021. The club needs your input and creativity so that we can all enjoy a fun and varied schedule for the upcoming year. We will be reaching out to many of you who have hosted events in the past for input on events going forward. We want to make hosting an event as easy and painless as possible, but to make the coming year successful we need members to host events. Also please consider carving an hour out of your schedules to attend the annual membership meeting on December 12<sup>th</sup> via Zoom. I guarantee it will be fun and informative.

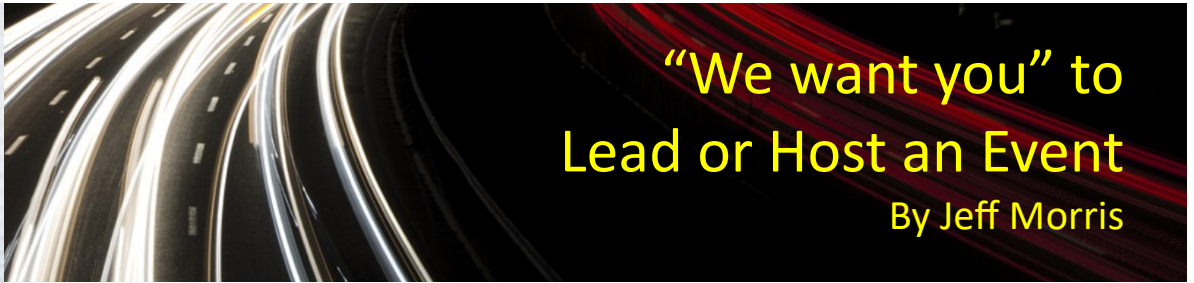
Date	Activity	Hosts
09/05/2020	Track Day / HPDE Event	Mark Kucera
09/16/2020	Run to Toasted Owl Restaurant in Flagstaff	The Kucera’s
9/19/2020	Route 66 ‘Fun Run’ Tour	Ed Raker
10/02/2020	Devil’s Highway annual run	Jerry Gantt Hope & Jeff Morris
10/17/2020	“Run to the Borders”	Mark Kucera
TBD	“Run to Lynx Lake” with picnic.	The Talmadge’s
TBD	“Miata’s at the Drive In Movies”	TBD
TBD	“Overnight Run to Pinetop”	TBD
TBD	“Lunch and Tour of CAF Hanger in Mesa”	Steve Talmadge



**FUTURE  
ZOOM  
BOARD  
MEETINGS**



Zoom	Weds. December 2nd, 2020
Zoom	Weds. January 6th, 2020
Zoom	Weds. February 3rd, 2020
Zoom	Weds. March 3rd, 2020
Zoom	Weds. April 7th, 2020



# “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 Steve Talmadge at: [vpevents@sahuaromiataclub.com](mailto: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!







“I love meeting our new members. We have such interesting people in our club!”

Cathey Kucera, Membership Chair

Holiday season is always a time for family and friends to come together to celebrate and enjoy each other’s company. The COVID-19 pandemic has made it very difficult for us to do this but we can still keep in contact with each other through several electronic methods such as Zoom, Facetime, etc. I, for one, am thankful for these tools! We also have the AZ fall/winter weather to allow us to congregate safely during Miata outings by following the simple CDC guidelines to help us keep each other safe.

We continue to have new members (9 in October alone) join us even in these trying times which reminds me of our resilience and adaptability in these trying times. I appreciate everyone welcoming these new members into our Miata family.

I wish you all the best in this holiday season and I’m looking forward to a greatly improved 2021 when we can have an annual Holiday Party again. In the meantime, let’s all work on planning safe, fun outings in our Miatas!

Regards, Cathey Kucera

**September and October 2020’s new members.**

May you all have a great time with the club. Remember Meetup is our lifeline to all Miata Club events. We also have our website [www.sahuaromiataclub.com](http://www.sahuaromiataclub.com) for lots of good club facts including past newsletters and our facebook page for topics of Miata interest.



September & October	New Members
Jannette & Jim McDonald	Bill and Donna Brinkman
Carolyn & Frank Wnuck	James King
Patty & Robert Hansen	Steven & Terri Meyers
Michael & Wanda Hartfield	Jack & Sue Hinkle
Anayansi Ramirez	Don & Janet Chandler
Sibylle DeMarignac	

Membership, Jan 1st 2019 137

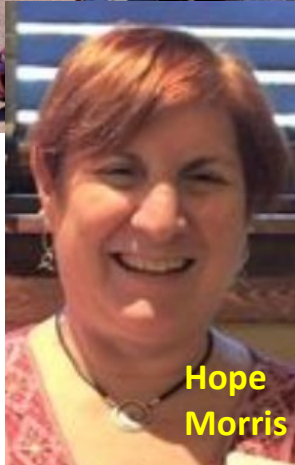
Membership, Jan 1st 2020 155

Membership Oct 31st 2020 166

Percent increase from Jan 1st 2020 7.1%



**Merchandise corner**  
By Hope Morris



**Hope  
Morris**

*More good news from  
our Merchandise  
Coordinator and  
Webmaster,*

*Hope Morris*



**Lost Your Badge Magnet?  
Contact Hope Today!**

**FINALLY.... our e-commerce website is finally operational**

<http://www.sahuaromiataclub.com/merchandise-for-sale>



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



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



Sahuaromiata Club Embroidered T-shirts  
\$15.00



Cap  
\$15.00



Visor  
\$15.00



Moon Over Miata T-shirts  
\$28.00

We keep hats and visors in stock.

Golf Shirts and LS T shirts are made to order. If there is a specific color you want, please let me know and we can accommodate special requests.



Sahuaromiata Club Long Sleeve Embroidered T-shirts  
\$24.00



Ladies Sahuaromiata Club t-shirt - glitter applique  
\$25.00



Sahuaromiata Club Magnet  
\$20.00

All other merchandise is subject to availability.



Sahuaromiata Club Lapel Pin  
\$5.00



Sahuaromiata Club Embroidered Patch  
\$6.00



Sahuaromiata Club Duffel Bag  
\$28.00

2020 special....

get a 20% discount on  
Moon over Miata Shirts.

Use code '2020Moon' at  
checkout!



Sahuaromiata Club Name Badge  
from \$14.00

Contact Hope Morris  
[marketing@sahuaromiataclub.com](mailto:marketing@sahuaromiataclub.com)  
with any questions or comments



# Board Members in Our Headlights



Tim Kroll

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.

## OUR TREASURER, SUE TAYLOR

**Sue wants everyone to know the "Sahuaro Miata Club has waived membership fees for 2021!"**

**Please do not pay any 2020 dues!**

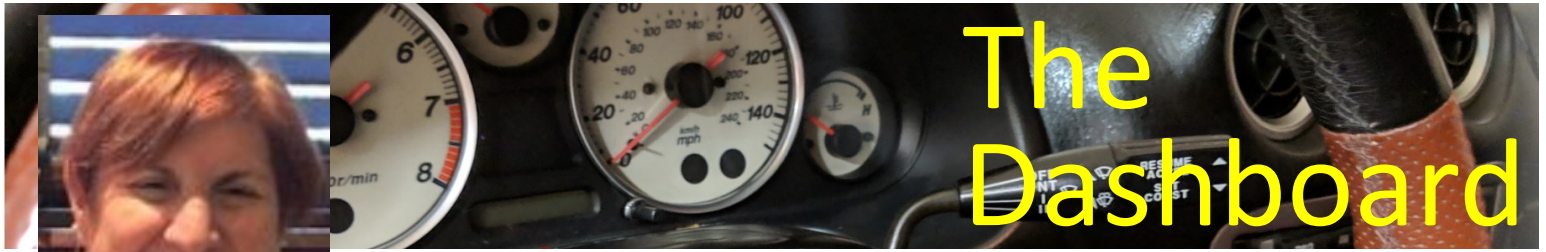
Sue has lived in Arizona with her husband Tom for 25 years and for 13 years has lived at Del Webb Festival in Buckeye. Their two children and three grandchildren live close by so she is staying right in the Buckeye area.

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 six months.

Thank You and Happy Holidays Sue!



Sue Taylor



# The Dashboard

## STOP UNWANTED MEETUP

Hope Morris, Webmaster

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.



Hope Morris

### *meetup*

Some people have been commenting that Meetup sends them too many emails. There is a way for you to manage what you want the application 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 and see if your changes eliminate the number of unwanted emails.

If you have any other *meetup* questions you would like answered or suggestions to improve our WWW website, please feel free to contact Hope Morris at [webmaster@sahauromiataclub.com](mailto:webmaster@sahauromiataclub.com)

## "FACEBOOK" JOIN OUR PAGE!

Did you know the Sahuaro Miata Club has a "**Sahuaro Miata Interest Group**" Facebook page? All you have to do is go to that title page and request to join for access. 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
- What people are doing to enjoy owning their car
- Technical articles on performance enhancements
- Advice on Miata matters, to find or offer
- Personal stories about their Miata's
- Product recommendations by members

You are invited to join and start posting your stories, pictures, videos, and questions.

Within the site there are many more features of Facebook to keep you in-touch with club members and friends.

This Facebook page is open to all, even non-club members, which allows us to reach outside the club to attract new members and find out what other Miata owners are doing to enjoy their sportscar.

The club also has the "**Sahuaro Miata Club Buy And Sell**" Facebook page where you can list your car or parts for sale. Hit the "request to join" button.

Check out our website: [www.sahauromiataclub.com](http://www.sahauromiataclub.com)





## Saturday Evening at Big Earl's Greasy Eats 9-26-2020



**22** Members met at Big Earl's to enjoy the cooler weather in Cave Creek and enjoy socializing. Despite the name, the food at Big Earl's is really good and not really greasy. They serve great burgers, chicken sandwiches, fries and other standard diner options with some interesting tweaks (ie, blackened beef/chicken with blue cheese). Several microbrews, cocktails, soft drinks and shakes are available to accompany your food.

Big Earl's reserved their new back patio area for us which allowed us to spread out over several picnic tables. Barry and Judy Spector joined the Club in February 2020 so it was first opportunity meet them in person. Kathy and Robert Schoepe joined in May 2020 and their son, Duncan, joined in June 2020. Kathy and Duncan each have a Miata. This was our first opportunity to meet the 3 of them. Meeting new members is always interesting and a pleasure.

We thought we would be suggesting an evening drive to Bartlett Lake but the Sears Fire put a stop to that with closures on the roads leading into the Lake. Big Earl's offers free classic movies (projected on the side of a building) you can enjoy from your car but, in lieu of that, the group spent extra time hanging out on the patio and enjoying the great weather.

### Give-A-Way Rules Give-A-Way-Rules Give-A-Way-Rules Give-A-Way-Rules

Dear SMC members, On December 12, we will have a huge Give-A-Way of SMC and Mazda logoed items. This includes T-Shirts, Hats, Gum Bags, and much more! During the meeting we will have contests to:

- “Name that member”
- “Best License Plate”
- “Best Biography”
- “Best Miata Photo”

Yes, this is a sneaky way to get everyone to attend our annual Board meeting and election. Everyone will be a winner! Look for a letter from your club explaining all of the details.

Happy Thanksgiving see you on ZOOM on the 9th!



## Run to Flagstaff and The Toasted Owl Restaurant

On Wednesday September 16, 2020, 19 Sahuaro Miata Club members and 4 prospective club members enjoyed a great drive to the cooler climate of Flagstaff for lunch at the Toasted Owl Restaurant on the patio. 6 Phoenix area members braved the hazards and boredom of Interstate 17 arriving at the restaurant first. Our club president, Dennis Manning, made the most of his opportunity to drive his recently purchased NC by leaving early on his own to drive the fun and twisty Hwy 89 from Wickenburg into Prescott to meet up with the Prescott area group at the starting location in Prescott Valley.

After some socializing and a quick briefing the group departed at 9:30 AM racing to make it to lunch in Flagstaff by 11:30 AM. The route was planned to make the most of the wonderful scenery and twisty roads that northern Arizona has to offer. Roger Petterson lead us northeast on Hwy 89A, a favorite twisty road, and up and over 7,815 ft Mingus Mountain toward Jerome, Arizona. Wade Phyfer joined our convoy in Jerome for the rest of the trip through Clarkdale, Sedona, and Oak Creek Canyon. Richard and Shirley Krug joined the line of Miatas in Sedona.

The Toasted Owl Restaurant had tables on the patio ready for us when we arrived at 11:30 AM. Our group of 23 overloaded our server but eventually we all were served. We all enjoyed the food, the weather, and the conversation with friends.

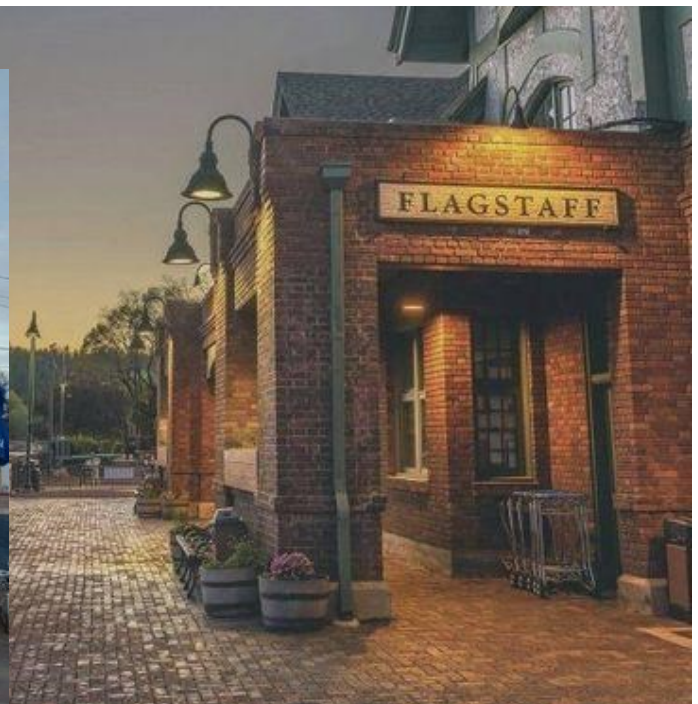
After a long leisurely lunch the group broke up and made their way home. Wade Phyfer lead Roger Pettersen, Dale Strickland, and Mark and Cathey Kucera home via Lake Mary Road past Lake Mary and Mormon Lake. We made a brief stop at the scenic overlook at Mormon Lake to view the scenery and look at the herds of Elk feeding on the plants growing in the shallows of the lake. Wade lead us at high speed south to Hwy 87 and 260 into Camp Verde where he and Dale split off from us to head home. Roger, Mark and Cathey couldn't resist taking the longer twisty drive to Prescott Valley via Hwy 89A from Jerome up and over Mingus Mountain.

It was an enjoyable outing. I would recommend this route to anyone looking for some beautiful scenery and great winding roads.

Regards, Mark Kucera



Toasted Owl Restaurant







Everyone in this club knows when October rolls around, its time for Devil’s Highway. COVID-19 or not, this group was not ready to hunker down and miss another opportunity to experience these curvy roads. Due to the pandemic, we opted to not have organized meals for the weekend. Once everyone arrived in Springerville, they had Friday evening to explore the dining choices – Safire’s, Avery’s, or the local pizza place.

Saturday morning, everyone was ready to roll! The fast ‘n furious group took off first and cleared the road for the smart and savvy drivers to follow. We had a nice leisurely drive into New Mexico and then back into Arizona. Michelle’s bar and grill in Morenci was awesome, and she opened the restaurant for our group. Meals were limited to several choices, but no one was complaining. Food was great, and her rest rooms were clean and sanitized!!

The ride northbound was wonderful. It was a nice day, perfect sunshine and the tops were down! Several deer were spotted and a few ran in front of cars, but fortunately, no accidents to report!

Upon our return to Springerville, we were able to relax. We had tables and chairs outside by the parking lot and a collection of cheese, crackers, wine, and liquor was shared by all.

By Hope Morris



Michelle



Saphire’s Restaurant  
Springerville, AZ



Terry  
Thompson



# Devils Highway Events Recap



Hope Morris & Kevin Fine



Dinner at Avery's



Dinner at Sapphire's





Nurdberger



Larry Lloyd Tony Munro Cindee Munro



Roger Peterson Wade Phyfer



**Editors Note:**  
As Hope mentioned in the beginning of this article, Devil's Highway is a run that starts in Springerville AZ. We drive down the 180, cutting across on 78 to the 191, then back up to Springerville. When we leave Morenci for Springerville is where the fun begins. We literally have dozens if not hundreds of hair-pin turns going north from Morenci. The best way to describe it is slipping into a metal drum and being beaten with hammers for what seems like an eternity. Yes, it is a lot of fun! At 25 mph it is a fun twisty run, at 55 mph you are in for a thrill. A big thank you goes out to Hope Morris who has hosted this event for the last few years, she has done, as always, a great job. Jerry Gantt was this year's co-host and was always there to make sure everything went smoothly and to provide Hope with Jerry's own invaluable expertise. Thank you Jerry.



Jeff and Hope Morris



# Members in Our Headlights

Steve and Terri Meyers



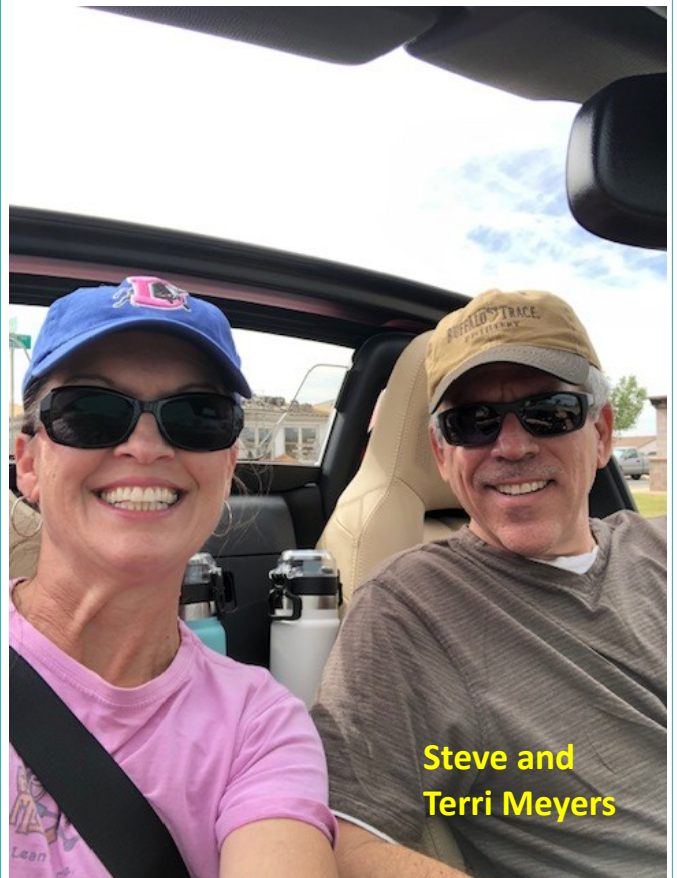
An old lady offers the bus driver some peanuts... so the driver happily munches them. Every 5 minutes she gives him a handful more peanuts..  
Driver: Why don't you eat them yourself?  
Old lady: I can't chew. Look, I have no teeth..  
Driver: Then why do you buy them?  
Old lady: "Oh, I just love the chocolates around them."

**"Vaping"  
back in  
my day.**



**Told my wife I wanted  
to be cremated. She  
made me an  
appointment for  
Tuesday.**

Steve & Terri Meyers. The Meyers' recently moved to the Phoenix area from North Carolina. They just purchased a 2020 Soul Red RF because they suffered a heartbreaker when their 2017 was totally wrecked while being transported across the country. They are looking forward to getting involved with club activities as they were previously involved with other Miata clubs in Southern California and NC. Steve is a health and safety consultant, and Terri works in supply chain for the pharmaceutical industry.



Steve and Terri Meyers





# Members in Our Headlights

Jack and Sue Hinkle

**W**e are the Hinkle's (Jack and Sue). Both of us are from a small town in eastern Ohio (Steubenville) and we met on a blind date shortly after Christmas in 1966. Eight months later we said "I Do" and celebrated 53 years in August 2020. We have lived in many states following Jack's career as a tech engineer that included, New Jersey, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Northern CA, Utah and San Diego. After 26 years in the San Diego area we made the decision to move to Arizona in 2013 and settled down in Goodyear.

**W**e purchased our first Miata in 93 NA, C package and immediately fell in love with this great little sportscar that was True Red with Tan interior. Miata's at the time were very stock and we made many changes to the car that included, cold air induction, dual exhaust, Koni racing shocks, and much more. We were hooked and joined Miata Club of America and Southern CA Miata Club that was located in the Orange County area. It was a long freeway drive to participate in organized drives and meetings that took place in Orange County, however we got to meeting many others Miata enthusiasts and learned much about the Miata. Spent many Saturday's driving Auto Cross, Jack drove the 93 on the Texas Speedway, track laps at Laguna Seca, and Las Vegas Road Course just to mention a few of our driving adventures. We have many copies of the Miata Magazine that was produced by Miata Club of America, as well as the 5<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary books produced by Barbara Beach, one of the originals in Miata world. We have a collection of Miata models (many have been given away for gifts and raffles) and also a collection of club pins from all over.

1994 brought more changes to the Hinkle's as Jack decided to make a career change and accepted a position with EMC, located in the Boston area. A move to Boston was on the agenda, however having a handicapped son in a wheelchair would make it very difficult to live in wintery weather with a wheelchair. So a family decision was made for us to remain in San Diego, since Jack would be traveling worldwide for several years. Of course this made our son very happy and he could continue his college education at Cal State San Marcos. We were overjoyed when we learned that a group from San Diego was starting a club in the San Diego area and become members of SDMC on their annual Twilight Run and became members of a wonderful group of folks and made long lasting friendships all because of a Miata.



During the next several years we became very involved with the club and participated in organized runs, autocross, road trips, charity events, and much more. SDMC was recognized as the largest and most active Miata club in the country. We attended Mazda's 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in Dallas and 25 cars from San Diego attended. It was an awesome event with over 400 Miata's that traveled to Dallas from all over. We kicked off and promoted SDMC's first regional event Surf N Safari in Dallas and I volunteered as the co-chair for this inaugural event. The event was attended by Miata enthusiast from all over the US and Canada. It was 4 days of Miata fun and decision was made to host this event every 5 years. (Cont. next page)





# Members in Our Headlights

Jack and Sue Hinkle

So I was honored to chair two more Surf and Safari events. In

2004 the new Mazdaspeed was introduced by Mazda and to my surprise Jack surprised me at the 2004 Surf and Safari banquet by driving my new Velocity Red Miata onto the dance floor with Tom Matano riding as the passenger. Of course I was more than overjoyed with my new sweet Miata. Having to part with my 93 was bittersweet, however she went to an individual who would easily become a Miata enthusiast.

Jack and I were very active with SDMC and I served on the board as Secretary, VP, and became President in 2006 for two terms. It was very hard to say goodbye to our SDMC friends with our move to Arizona, however we remain members and have participated in a few of their events since moving to Arizona.

Fast forward to 2013, and moving to Arizona. Jack and I were still both working from home and being caregivers to our son, Jason as his health was diminishing. I was still traveling for Active Network as a National Account Manager and Jack was still with EMC. Unfortunately my beautiful Miata was becoming a garage queen due to traveling and our caregiver responsibilities for Jason. We made several trips back to San Diego in the summer months so we could visit with friends and so that our son to meet up with his friends and attend Comic Con (one of his very favorite things). Jack and I really missed getting out with the Miata and we would take off for a few hours to have the sun on our face and the wind in our hair whenever possible. Life took a change when our son passed away in 2018 and we were saddened by the loss of our Jason. Many of our SDMC friends came to us in our hour of loss and sadness to attend a special memorial for a special man. We are ever so grateful for the love and compassion from our Miata Family.

Recently, we opted to participate in the Devil's Highway Run enjoyed meeting new Miata friends and absolutely loved the 2 full days of driving and sharing Miata stories. We are now members of Sahuaro Miata Club, our new badges just arrived and we are looking forward to spending more time in the seats of our Miata and getting to know Sahuaro members.





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 President Dennis and Mary Man-



#### 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 fun SE edition is owned by Wade Phyfer.

#### 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. Many 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 NC sports a supercharged 2.5L engine Owned by Sam and MaryBeth Elbin.



#### 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. Special 30th Anniversary edition Owned by Terry and Julie Thompson.





# “Run to the Borders” Our biggest run ever!

By Mark Kucera

### Editors Note:

*I want to thank Mark Kucera for stepping up and leading this run. This was a big task. Taking a group of people around rural Arizona, during a pandemic, driving thousands of miles was not a task for the faint of heart. Mark led this group, made sure they were safe, they all had fun and had a chance to enjoy their Miata's.*

*Mark has also been a big assistance to me during these first three newsletters supplying me articles and providing our club with a terrific perspective on what each of the events he was involved with were all about. His input in our tech tip column and his involvement in High Performance Driving Events has allowed our enthusiast group to flourish. Last but not least, Mark stuck to our Facebook page through thick and thin. Because of his efforts Facebook is becoming an important social networking tool for the club.*

It all started in the fall of 2019 while daydreaming about getting out on the road in my Miata with friends. I longed for a big run to far away places, not our usual short out and back run. Then it hit me, how about a run to circumnavigate the entire state of Arizona? I researched and planned for over a year to find a route around the state that would be interesting, scenic, and wouldn't take too long. 5 days and 4 nights going counter-clockwise would divide the route up nicely with about 6 to 7 hours driving each day. The plan was to make frequent stops at points of interest to break up the drive, but unfortunately, many of the places we wanted to see were either government or native American places, which were all closed due to the pandemic.

To make the trip as interesting as possible I researched the history and some local facts about each town and place we were going to visit and read a brief summary to the group at each stop. Most everyone seemed to enjoy learning about each place.

The trip was originally scheduled for early April 2020 but was delayed due to the Covid-19 pandemic.



I rescheduled the trip for the middle of October 2020 hoping the weather would be good for lots of top-down driving, which turned out to be perfect timing. 10 members signed up - Ed Raker, Mark & Karen Welch, Tom Taylor, Carl Fiore, Terry & Julie Thompson, Dennis Manning, Sibylle de Mari-gnac, and me, Mark Kucera.

The trip started on a beautiful Saturday morning in Buckeye AZ. Our band of 8 cars drove south through the unattractive desert to Ajo for our first stop at the New Cornelia mine overlook and muse-







# “Run to the Borders” Our biggest run ever!

By Mark Kucera

After a short visit we drove east through the forest of Saguaro cactus on the Tohono O’O-dham Nation Reservation. Finding a place to eat the lunches we brought in some shade was a challenge. We ended up eating behind a small local mini-mart on the side of the road under some mesquite trees. After the long hot drive across the reservation we stopped for a cool drink and relaxation on a restaurant patio in Tubac, AZ. Tubac is a small artist and tourist town on the side of I-19 north of Nogales. There weren’t many shops open or people around in Tubac, probably due to the pandemic. This was to be the way we found all the small towns along the trip.

We traveled on to Nogales on the US and Mexican border and turned north through the scenic Santa Rita Mountains to Patagonia, the Sonoita high desert wine country, and east to Sierra Vista where we stayed the night. We wanted to eat meals outside but we found it challenging and often impossible to find a place with outdoor seating for dinner for our group of 10. Several times meals were from franchise places eaten outside wherever we could find a place, or taken back to our hotel rooms.

On Sunday after our 8 AM discussion of our itinerary and a few words about local area history we set off for the old mining town of Bisbee, AZ. We drove through the town at a slow pace taking in the sights, stopping for a few pictures, a little history, and stopping at a the Copper Queen Mine overlook.

We pushed on to Douglas, AZ in the far southeast corner of Arizona and turned north on Highway 191 to Safford for lunch at the Sonic drive-in burger joint. Next came the town of Morenci where we began our run up Highway 191, (Cont. on next page)







# “Run to the Borders” Our biggest run ever!

By Mark Kucera

“The Devil’s Highway” to Springerville. The weather was warm at the start in Morenci and a cool 70 degrees at the mountain top at 9200 feet of elevation at Blue Vista Overlook. Fortunately, there were few other vehicles to impede our fun run up the twisty mountain road. After a short break and a group picture we continued on to Springerville for dinner and libations on the patio at the Safire Restaurant.

On Monday it was 42 degrees at sun up, and in the low 60’s at the start of the drive which made for a cool start but many people still put their convertible tops down and their coats on. Ed Raker headed home for Softball team practice. We headed north to the Navajo Reservation through the high desert and got lost and confused for a short time while taking a scenic side trip. But we finally found our way through the red rock canyons and over the mountains to Chinle. Lunch was Subway sandwiches sitting on the grass under a shade tree at a local motel because most places were closed due to the extreme pandemic restrictions on the reservation. Our plan was to visit several scenic overlooks at Canyon de Chelly but all but a couple were closed.



So we took a few pictures and headed out across the high planes and red rock canyons of the Navajo Reservation to Page, AZ where we stayed for the night.

On Tuesday, before leaving Page, we made an early morning visit to the Scenic View overlook of the Colorado River and the Glen Canyon Dam. We also took a brief walk on the dam for pictures of the dam, the river, and Lake Powell. Afterward, we drove south through the red rocks and past the beautiful vermilion cliffs, through Flagstaff to Williams for lunch. We had an enjoyable lunch on the patio eating barbecue at Cruisers Cafe 66 listening to live music. After lunch we headed west on the longest undisturbed section of old Route 66, 165 miles through Seligman, Peach Springs, Kingman, to Oatman, AZ. I found most of Route 66 pretty boring old two-lane blacktop. We made a couple of stops for browsing in the memorabilia shops, buying a few gifts for friends and family. Fortunately the old Oatman Highway was a really fun drive. It’s the most narrow, tight, and twisting road I’ve ever seen. Great fun in a Miata.

Oatman was almost like a deserted ghost town. There was none of the usual crowd of tourists and burros. Once again due to the pandemic this stop was pretty much empty of people. There were only a couple of shops open, and there were no bars or restaurants open. And most disappointing there was only one burro working the street for handouts. We pretty much had the place to ourselves which made it a short stop. The next 30 miles of the Oat-

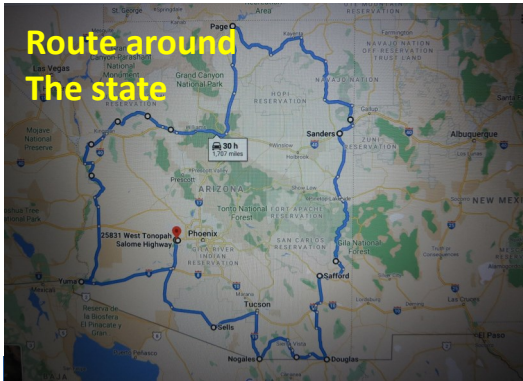




# “Run to the Borders” Our biggest run ever!

By Mark Kucera

After a brief history lesson on the area the remaining 5 cars headed south to Yuma. We had planned to visit the US Army Proving Grounds but it too was closed. Our group was getting a little tired of driving so we skipped going to the Yuma Territorial Prison historical site and headed back to Phoenix. Terry and Julie headed back to San Diego. We stopped in Dateland, AZ for one of their famous Date Shakes for lunch.



A stop at Sonic's



Getting ready to  
Cruise the state!

After about 1800 miles in 5 days the Phoenix area people arrived home around 3 o'clock. Terry and Julie Thompson who drove over from San Diego said they drove about 2200 miles in total. Everyone said they really enjoyed the trip. I think we were really excited to get out of the house, out of town, and be on the road again spending time with fellow club members in our Miatas. We all went to some spectacular places we had never been before, and probably won't ever return to, unless we do this run again. If you would like to take this same trip I can provide you with all the documentation I have. But I would recommend you wait until the pandemic is over.



Ready for Fun



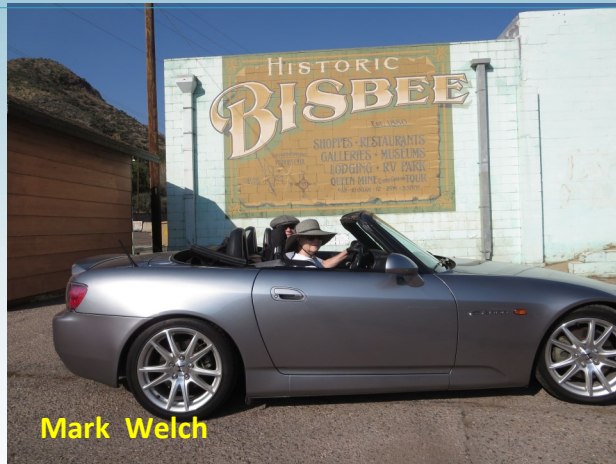


# “Run to the Borders” Our biggest run ever!

Drivers Page



Mark Kucera



Mark Welch



Sibylle de Marignac



Ed Raker



Terry Thompson



Tom Taylor



Carl Fiore



President Dennis Manning





Cindee  
Munro

# SPECIAL MEMBER CONTRIBUTION OF THE MONTH

## 600 Mile Route 66 Junket

This was an excellent ride out of the city and traffic headed for cooler temperatures [at least one day] lead by our infamous drive leader – Ed Raker! The 3-day trip took us a total of 600 miles and to elevations at times of 6,675 -- through some high desert, twisties [*love the twisties. . .*] and some of the prettiest roadside scenery you can find.

The group, 5 departed Saturday late morning from the far west side of Phoenix. The first leg of the trip had us heading first through Wickenburg to Williams '*on the Old West Trail*'. With the second and third day was all about '*getting our kicks on Route 66!*'

Here is where we roamed over our 3 days:

Wickenburg : *the Dude Ranch Capital of the World*

Congress : *a gold mining ghost town*

Yarnell : *where a desert breeze meets mountain air*

Kirkland Junction : *named after William Kirkland, its first settler*

Williams : *Gateway to the Grand Canyon*

Ash Fork : *Flagstone Capital of the World*

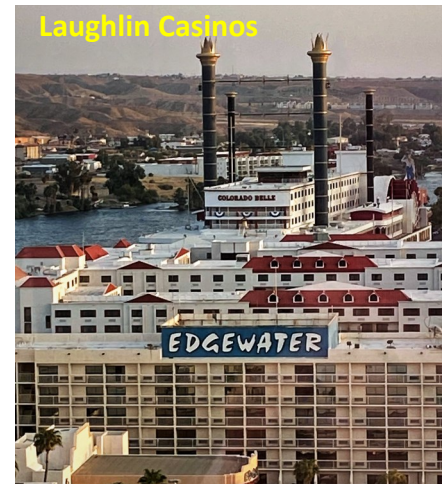
Seligman : *Birthplace of Historic Route 66*

Grand Canyon Caverns, Peach Springs : *largest dry caverns in the US*

Laughlin, NV : *named for Don Laughlin, who purchased the town in 1964*

Oatman : *chosen in honor of Olive Oatman, a young girl captured & enslaved by Indians [quite a sad story]*

Kingman : *Heart of Route 66*



Laughlin Casinos

So, with the arrival of another Arizona Fall season – 5 SMC enthusiasts started on our way to Wickenburg. We saw more cacti than you can count particularly the stately Saguaro – the club name sake I might add. Now remember, there is not a lot to do in the middle of the desert, you understand- so one indulges in exploring impulses such as exploring the desert floor & landscape along the way. Here in Wickenburg, we made a brief stop to add one additional brave SMC sole and now we are 6!

Our adventure continues as we leave Wickenburg and the desert floor for a 16-mile scenic mountain drive to take us to the old mining town of Congress at the base of the Weaver Mountains gaining 2,500 feet in only 4 miles. No stop here as we are only 7 miles away from Yarnell. Yarnell marks the transition from the desert to the central mountains of Arizona. We continue to climb the mountains on a series of switchbacks offering the most spectacular views of the Sonoran Desert we are leaving behind headed for Kirkland Junction, really just a "*Holy Mackerel!*" *What a phenomenon this is to find out in the middle of the wild desert. Sitting regally on the west side of the highway is the venerable Yarnell Frog: ROCKY! At 16 feet tall, folklore has it that this 60-ton boulder was painted by whimsical locals around 1928. It became such an attraction that people in Congress and Yarnell took to keeping it up with crews going out once a year to refresh the froggy green paint job.*

Once we hit Kirkland Junction, we still have a 97-mile ride to Williams. Williams is an old railroad town. It survived when RT66 became the new way to go west. It would have died completely except for the exits from I-40 to get up to the GCNP. For that reason it gets billed as a gateway to the Grand Canyon. A group diner at Red Raven restaurant in historic downtown Williams (on historic Route 66) proved to be an excellent choice.





Cindee  
Munro

## SPECIAL MEMBER CONTRIBUTION

... was a glorious 53. Neglect's outside when we woke in Williams and a delightful 76 when we left for our 20-minute drive Sunday morning beginning our RT66 portion of the trip from Williams to one of AZ's best historical retro towns: Ash Fork. Here hillsides are stacked with large, salmon-colored sandstone slabs. Several commercial quarries supply Ash Fork's thriving flagstone business. In the landscape around us, we see autumn peaking through as trees leaves begin their annual change from green to yellow, oranges and reds - - beautiful!

From here we continued down the road which delivered us to the heart of Seligman, *the Birthplace of RT66*, and the beginning of the Berma Shave road signs. Now, I for one had never heard of these – however since the road between Ash Fork and Seligman was rather non-eventful, it was fun to look forward to each new batch of catchy and prosaic retro signage.

The iconic and historic drive is a mere 17 miles to Seligman traveling west along the historic mother road. Entering on the east end of Seligman you instantly become transcended into the past. And while there is truly not a lot to do - and this town survives solely on tourism – and it is a hoot for sure! And of course we stopped – and shopped - - and bought. . . . finding a plethora of interesting Route 66 memorabilia and town folk.

Back on the road, we are heading for the Grand Canyon Caverns. GCC is located in the AZ township of Peach Springs. The caverns are located at milepost 115 where outdoor dinosaurs lure travelers to a cave along a desolate stretch of Route 66. Here we had a simple and delicious lunch before many in the group descended into the caverns on one of many daily tours. If you love caves, these are a must see – as these caverns began forming 300 million years ago and contain mummified remains of animals that died in them. You also can dine at a restaurant 21-stories underground and if really adventurous spend the night in the caverns ultra plush hotel room for only \$950/night.

We chose to pass to continue our trip. Heading to Laughlin brings us back to the reality that we are living in AZ as the temperature rose from pleasant mid-80's to a scorching 114 degrees over the 83 mile [1-hour] drive! Ouch!! Here we dropped a few pennies, had a second wonderful group dinner and called it a day.



Burma Shave Signs



*Don Laughlin bought a section of land in NV generally known as South Pointe. It was renamed Laughlin when the U.S. Postal Service inspector insisted Don Laughlin give the town name - any name - in order to receive mail. Don Laughlin recommended the name of Riverside or Casino, but the postal inspector used Laughlin instead.*

On Monday mid-morning, we continued our RT66 to the living Ghost town of Oatman. Oatman might have suffered the same fate as many Arizona mining towns and faded into a ghost town if not for Route 66 nostalgia and nearby casinos .





## SPECIAL MEMBER CONTRIBUTION OF THE MONTH



The town prides itself on maintaining a Wild West feel, down to the wooden sidewalks, staged shootouts, kitschy shops and donkeys! We spent time here feeding the donkeys, talking to locals and helping out the Oatman economy recover a bit, before resuming what I believe is the BEST part of all RT66!

This section is the only remaining stretch of RT 66 over a mountain pass that is pretty much in the same condition as it was back in the day. We start out on a flat and fairly straight that quickly features numerous rocky mountainous switchbacks, climbing and then descending back to the desert floor. When I am here, I imagine the early years, the cars, and how this road could have been a challenge to navigate.

As we drove towards Kingman the skies continued to darken and soon after our lunch stop broke up, the skies treated us to a brief rain shower. The drive home was quite pleasant as overcast skies remained with us nearly the entire way home.

This section is the only remaining stretch of RT 66 over a mountain

pass that is pretty much in the same condition as it was back in the day. We start out on a flat and fairly straight that quickly features numerous rocky mountainous switchbacks, climbing and then descending back to the desert floor. When I am here, I imagine the early years, the cars, and how this road could have been a challenge to navigate.

As we drove towards Kingman the skies continued to darken and soon after our lunch stop broke up, the skies treated us to a brief rain shower. The drive home was quite pleasant as overcast skies remained with us nearly the entire way home.

### **Editors Note:**

*A big "Thank You" goes out to a special member Cindee Munro for this terrific article on their Route 66 Fun Run. As you can tell both Cindee and her Husband Tony spent three days and drove 600 miles. There was much to see and do, Cindee captured it perfectly in this very nice article.*

*I appreciate not only her efforts during the trip, I appreciate Cindee taking the time to compose this article for us.*

*Jeff Morris*







# SPECIAL MEMBER CONTRIBUTION OF THE MONTH

Although some would say they can cross RT66 off their bucket list – but I say : What a trip it was! The fun we had during the past 3 days just makes me want to do it again and again. I attribute most of the fun & trip’s success to our run leader Ed – thanks for all the work you put in – it was priceless & all I can say is “gotta love this guy”!



Overnight Stay Room at Grand Canyon Caverns Inn.



**It's been a bit of a strange day!  
First I found a hat full of money.  
Then I was chased by an angry man with a guitar...**



My doctor said now that I'm older I need to install a bar in the shower





# TECHTIPS

This months contributor:  
**Dennis Manning**  
Club President



As you probably know, NC and ND Miata's are notorious for getting rock chips on the front bumper. My 40k mile NC looked like it had been in the battlefield after Run to the Borders. Ed Raker told me about his experience with TouchUp Pros, so I gave them a call and they were out this week to do the fix up in my garage. See the pictures. After 3 coats of color and 2 coats of clear it looked fantastic. Price was \$640. That is a smokin' deal. I would highly recommend them. They have 5 vans working the valley and are about 3 weeks out on appointments.



Good Masking



Well equipped Truck with all of the needed tools.



Griffin



Area to be painted



# Sponsors



*Please visit our sponsor page at  
[www.sahuaromiataclub.com](http://www.sahuaromiataclub.com)  
For more details.*



Welcome to







## 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 tutelage of President Dennis Manning and 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.

**Wishing everyone a wonderful holiday season!**

### **Jeff Morris**

editor@sahuaromiataclub.com

2020 BOD Member at Large

Past President 2017, 2018, 2019

*Place Mailing  
Label Here*