

- President’s Message 1
- V.P./Events Message 3
- Hosting Events 4
- Past Events 5
- Devil’s Highway Info 6
- Merchandise Corner 7
- Membership 8
- Miata Versions 9
- Member Bios 10
- Secretary & Treasurer 12
- Event Request 13
- The Dashboard 14
- Tech Tips 15
- Special Contribution 16
- Sponsors 19
- Editor’s Notes 20



**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

**President’s Newsletter**

“Life in the fast lane. Surely make you lose your mind.” Thank you to the Eagles for that bit of wisdom. Life in the slow lane or completely stopped may do the same thing to you. I’m living proof. Just ask Mary. So what do you do to keep from going insane during the pandemic. You take a trip in your Miata, of course. I drove to southern Utah BY MYSELF for a few days. It worked. As a matter of fact, it worked so well that Mary and I took a trip to Williams, AZ in the Miata a few days later.

We had a wonderful time relaxing by the pool and took a short hop to the Grand Canyon as well. Getting away from the heat didn’t hurt anything either. We discovered a great fine dining restaurant in Williams on Main St....the Red Raven. We had dinner their twice. On the next page, there’s a picture just before we went inside. If you haven’t taken a trip this summer, I highly recommend it. Our experience was excellent for pandemic safety measures. All the restaurants were practicing social distancing and all the help were wearing masks....same thing at our hotels.

This was the first time I’ve been able to spend a considerable time behind the



Mary and President Dennis Manning

wheel of the NC with the PRHT (power retractable hardtop). I’m officially spoiled and could never go back to a soft top. At the least whim, the top the top came down and up and down and up. What a wonderful convenience. And it’s quiet and keeps the heat out. Our first overnighter for the club since the pandemic is scheduled for September 19. Thank you, Ed Raker. Route 66, here we come. Then a couple weeks later on October 12, Devil’s Highway. Thank you, Hope Morris.

(Continued P.2)



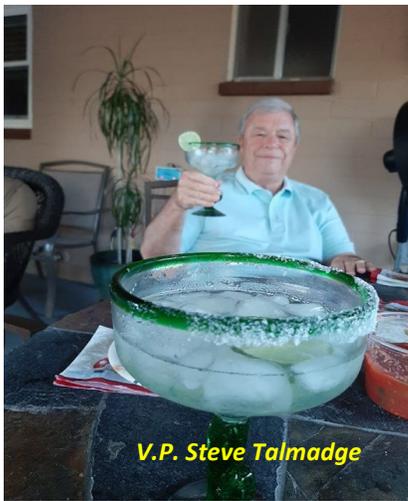
# More From our President

(Cont. From Page One)

Then Run to the Borders October 17. (Thank you, Mark Kucera.) There are going to be some great events this fall. Check Meetup for the latest. I have some ideas for a new event. Back in January I told you one of my goals as president was to raise money for a charity. Forty years ago when I joined the Jaycees, one of their mottos really stuck with me. "Service to humanity is the rent you pay for the space you occupy". We as a club can fulfill that motto as well. I'd like the club to sponsor a car show on at least a monthly basis similar to the Pavilions Car Show on Saturday nights in Scottsdale. The event would be sponsored by our club and not affiliated with a dealer. It would be open to all types of cars, not just Miata's. There would be an entry fee for the show cars and trophies awarded. We would also request donations from the general public. I want the charity to be St. Mary's Food Bank. Their role in helping people during the pandemic has been amazing however they need more money. This type of event is a "feel good" endeavor but can be a lot of fun, too. I would love to hear your opinion. Have lots of Blue sky's and green light's!

**Dennis Manning, President**  
Sahuaro Miata Club  
[president@sahuaromiataclub.com](mailto:president@sahuaromiataclub.com)  
623-229-5308





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

Steve Talmadge, Vice President /Events

## V.P. / Events coordinator Message

The club has held some exciting and successful events in July and August despite the Pandemic and the beastly heat! Several events have been held virtually over Zoom including a Happy Hour and a Lunch Date. I also want to shout out to Tim Kroll for the hard work in hosting a very successful virtual tech. seminar on detailing. Stay tuned we will have additional sessions on other detailing subjects. We have had several socially distanced day runs to the cooler north including a very successful run to Christopher Creek hosted by our President Dennis Manning this past Thursday. We have several exciting upcoming events including our annual Devils Highway run and several more in the planning stages. Please let us know if you have any suggestions.

Thanks to everyone who has participated in our events, we look forward to seeing more of our members in upcoming events. Rosemary and I came to join the Sahuaro Miata Club by way of a sister club in northwestern Ohio. We were active in our former club and so we sought out the club shortly following our permanent move to Arizona. It's been a rewarding couple of years for us with many fun times had and many new friends made. Both Rosemary and I treasure the club and the membership. Thank you all!!

We know that the past couple of months have been trying for all of us. We have had to cancel or reschedule numerous club events due primarily to the pandemic, but various other factors got in the way such as fires, hot weather, and a curfew thrown in for good measure. Hopefully we are through the worst of this!

Now, perhaps more than ever we need your help with planning and executing events and fun get-togethers. We need ideas and volunteers. The board and myself are here to help. You can reach me at [vpevents@sahuaromiataclub.com](mailto:vpevents@sahuaromiataclub.com).

Mark Kucera has a really good article on events elsewhere in the newsletter and I echo his sentiments and will certainly do our best to plan weekend events to remedy the situation. Mark made a really good point regarding co-sponsoring an event if you haven't sponsored an event before. We will be discussing ways to make it easier for first time event hosts at our next board meeting. In the meantime, feel free to contact myself or a board member and we will help you put an event together and or hook you up with a co-sponsor.

Regards, Steve Talmadge, Vice President and Events Coordinator

## 2020 PLANNED EVENTS & HOSTS

Date	Activity	Hosts
08/08/2020	Tech-Session Detailing	Tim Kroll
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 Boarders"	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**



<b>Zoom</b>	Weds. October 7th, 2020
<b>Zoom</b>	Weds. November 4th, 2020
<b>Zoom</b>	Weds. December 2nd, 2020
<b>Zoom</b>	Weds. January 6th, 2020
<b>Zoom</b>	Weds. February 3rd, 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!





## Remembering our past activities

Bellow you will find a list of main events and their leaders. A big Thank You goes out to everyone who has participated. We look forward to many fun events in 2020 and 2021. Please check out the pictures below for an idea of the events ran. If you would like to Lead or Host an event please check page 4 for more details.

8-27-2020	Cool Pines Lunch and Run to Christopher Creek	Dennis and Mary Manning
8-8-2020	Zoom Miata Detailing Seminar	Tim Kroll and Steve Talmadge
8-2-2020	Morning in the Park	Mark Kucera
7-15-2020	Zoom Lunch date with Hope Morris	Hope Morris
7-2-2020	Moon over Miata's	Dennis and Mary Manning
6-25-2020	Run to Prescott / Goldwater Lake	Roger Petterson, Dale Strickland, Cathey Kucera & Mark Kucera





## ***Devil's Highway—More Details***

Thank you to those of you who already responded to my previous email through Meetup. For those who have not yet responded... I am looking to automate my registration process for this event, and would like everyone who is planning to attend complete this registration form as soon as possible. I need to have this information to finalize Friday's travel planning.

(<https://forms.gle/fPpoHNLE1yBf2YHx8>)

For those of you who are interested in merchandise for this event, I have updated the website and you can view the items available at :

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

To make ordering easier this year, you can complete this order form:

(<https://forms.gle/HxfWUs2aN6QQmCEq8>).

Once I get this request, I will put all of the orders together and will send you an invoice for payment. All orders must be placed by 9/22 to guarantee they will be there for delivery at the event.



This year the run will be different due to the current health concerns. Instead of a stop at a restaurant on the way to Springerville, we will stop at a fast food restaurant where people can get food, and use the restrooms as needed. Meals on Friday evening, and Saturday evening, will be your responsibility. I will have a list of all restaurants in the area, and you will be welcome to break into smaller groups for dinners, or enjoy a dinner by yourselves.

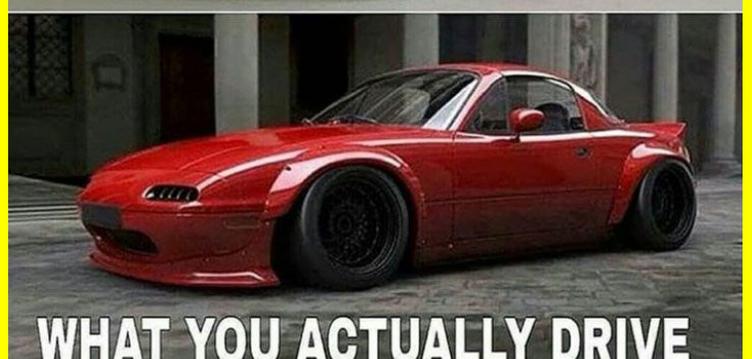
**Questions? Contact me at [hope@hopeamorris.com](mailto:hope@hopeamorris.com) or call me at 517-648-9565.**

**Please check out our Website at [Sahuaromiataclub.com](http://Sahuaromiataclub.com) for more Fun Merchandise!**

**FLAGSTAFF IN AUGUST**



**WHAT INSURANCE THINKS YOU DRIVE**



**WHAT YOU ACTUALLY DRIVE**



2020 Devils Highway Merchandise Order Form:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_



Men's golf shirt (CST650) \$30 - Sizes S, M, L, XL  
 Ladies golf shirt (CLST650) \$32 - Size 2XL  
 Colors: Black, White, Light Blue, Grey, Maroon \$35 - Size 3XL



Embroidered T-Shirt Men's (C2000) \$18 - Sizes S, M, L, XL  
 Black, Cardinal Red, Carolina Blue, Daisy, Ash  
 \$20 - Size 2XL  
 \$21 - Size 3XL & up



Embroidered T-Shirt Ladies (C2000L)  
 Black, Daisy, Dark Heather, Heliconia, Light Blue



Sublimated T Shirt (CPC380/CLPC380) \$15 - Sizes S, M, L, XL  
 White - Dri Wicking Polyester \$18 - Size 2XL, 3XL



Car Magnet \$10. each  
 Semi-Permanent & durable  
 Fade-resistant, wind -tested magnets  
 0.85 mm with rounded corners  
 Designed for metal surfaces only



Sahuaro Miata Club Car Magnets \$10. each

To order any of the above items -  
 Go to the Meetup event and click on the link in the write up.  
 or send this form to Hope with the items you want identified.

Questions?  
 Contact Hope Morris at [marketing@sahuaromiataclub.com](mailto:marketing@sahuaromiataclub.com)



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

Cathey Kucera, Membership Chair

## NEW MEMBER LISTINGS



July New Members
Karen Georgi and Mark Welch
Ron Piracci
Judith and Duane Ruckle

August New Members
Mia (Mai Tai) Thompson
Joe and Miriam Weiner

Membership, Jan 1st 2019      **137**

Membership, Jan 1st 2020      **155**

Membership Sept 1st 2020      **155**

Percent increase from Jan 1st 2020      **0.0%**

While gathering some basic information on our newest members, I noted 4 of them are in health care. It reminded me of our many members who are involved in health care careers. I want to take this opportunity to thank everyone in the Club who is involved in health care (**whether for we humans or our furry friends**) for being on the front lines in this crisis and all the times when we need you. And what about all the essential workers who ensure we can get food and supplies, the volunteers who help our needy neighbors – putting yourselves at risk? **We salute each and every one of you!**

### New Members:

**Karen Georgi/Mark Welch.** Karen moved to Arizona with her family in 1972 from North Illinois. She’s worked as a Nurse for 44 years at a Scottsdale hospital. Mark came from Southern California over 30 ago and works as a Certified Safety Professional for a semiconductor manufacturer in Phoenix. They own 5 cars between them.

**Ron Piracci.** Ron moved to Arizona from New Jersey 12 years ago and lives in Glendale, AZ. He bought his 1995 Miata new in 1995. Ron works from home as a Technology Manager for IBM. Miata Mike (Paar) serviced Ron’s Miata and introduced Ron to our Club.

**Judith & Duane Ruckle.** The Ruckles live in Mesa, Arizona and drive a 2020 Soul Red Miata.

**Mai Thompson.** Mai has been in Arizona for 17 years and lives in Peoria, AZ. Mai drives a 2016 Miata (Ceramic Metallic finish). She works in health care as a Registered Nurse.

**Joe & Miriam Weiner.** The Weiners recently moved to Phoenix, AZ from Maryland. They just took possession of their 2020 Miata RF this month. Joe is a Consultant to the Dept. of Treasury writing policy and business processes. Miriam is a Nurse Operating Room Manager.

# 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 Manning.



## 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.

# Members in Our Headlights



## WILL DODRILL NEW MEMBER SPOTLIGHT



My name is Will Dodrill and I am a new member of the club. I grew up in North Carolina and have lived both on the Outer Banks as well as the mountains. I fell in love with cars from a young age. I spent a lot of time watching Top Gear, Motorweek, and listening to Car Talk. When I was old enough, part of my familial duties was to do the maintenance on all the family cars. When I turned 16, my first car was a hand me down Dodge Neon which was a beater but was at least a stick shift. Eventually I saved enough to buy a 1988 Jeep Wrangler. I turned every nut and bolt on it to keep in running, but it was my first fun vehicle!

I went to the University of North Carolina Asheville for mechanical engineering. After a year, I decided engineering wasn't for me and took some time off. At 19, I moved to Alaska to live and work on a salmon fishing boat. I did one season and decided that I wanted to work in the maritime industry and become a captain. A family member heard my plan and suggested that I try to become a pilot, as the pathways were similar. I did one flight and was hooked! After starting flight training, I found a good deal on a 1972 Datsun 240z. It needed some restoration work and with some help I completed it. Unfortunately, flight training is expensive and I had to sell the Datsun and the Jeep to help fund my career. Ultimately, I went back to school and got my degree in Economics and earned a commercial pilot license and became a Certified Flight Instructor on the side.

I moved to Arizona in January of 2018 to work as an instructor pilot for Embry Riddle Aeronautical University and have been there since. Luckily this move paid off and I was able to buy a new car! I wanted something practical and safe but my search for vehicles always ended with Miatas. I pulled the trigger on a 2001 NB Miata in Crystal Blue a few months ago. It is a working project but has been a fun car to own so far!

# Members in Our Headlights

## JOE AND MIRIAM WEINER NEW MEMBER SPOTLIGHT



Reishi the pup. ↗

**Did You know that the word "Reishi" according to "Lexico" means:**

A mushroom, *Ganoderma lucidum*, of the POLYPORALES order of basidiomycetous fungi. It has long been used in traditional Chinese medicine in various forms.

Editor



New Members Joe and Miriam Weiner are first time Miata owners and are very excited to start enjoying the top down life in their 2020 Mazda GT RF. Neither of them has ever been in a car club before, but until three weeks ago they never played Pickleball either.

They have five kids and the last was just dropped off at ASU this past weekend. The best way to celebrate -- buy a new car that no teenager will ever get to drive!

With all the kids gone and the grandkids across the country in VA, it is time for Joe and Miriam to focus on raising "The Big Fluffy" (Reishi). Reishi is 4 years old and loves to cuddle and co-pilot. How he will fit into the new car is a work in progress.

When not busy raising Reishi, Miriam spends her time working as an Operating Room Nurse Manager and Joe writes process documents for the US Treasury (super boring stuff). Outside of work they are avid bike riders and the same day the clear bra goes on the Miata so does the bike rack.

Golf and Pickleball round out the schedule, and they are both thrilled to finally be AZ residents and enjoying this beautiful part of the country.

# Board Members in Our Headlights



**Tim Kroll** is our 2020 Secretary. The secretary's role is like a "watch dog", keeping the Board of Directors' actions in line with our By Laws.

Per the By Laws: "The secretary shall keep the minutes of official club meetings; and upon request, shall furnish each member with a copy of these bylaws and their amendments."

Tim does a great job of noting the main topics of our monthly board meetings and any Main club events such as our Annual Meeting held in early December each year. Thank You

## 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 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's husband Tom was initially asked to become our Treasurer. Tom knew that Sue had a background in accounting and asked Sue if she would take on this important position. To Tom's delight Sue offered to take over the position of Treasurer. As Sue explained "I want to give back to the club, since the club has given so much to us". 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 Sue!



# A CALL FOR MORE WEEKEND EVENTS

## More Weekend Events Please!

Periodically people ask if the club has weekend events, or why are there aren't more weekend events. The answer to the first question is yes, the club does have weekend events. There are several reasons why there may not be as many weekend events as weekday events. First, understand that the club is a volunteer organization made up of people like you that joined just to have a little fun with their Miata's. There is a board of directors that manages the club, but there are no paid individuals tasked with developing and holding a certain number and type of events to entertain members. Events are initiated and run by club members when they want to get out and have a little driving fun with other Miata owners. So if there aren't enough of the types of events members want members should get involved and plan some events.

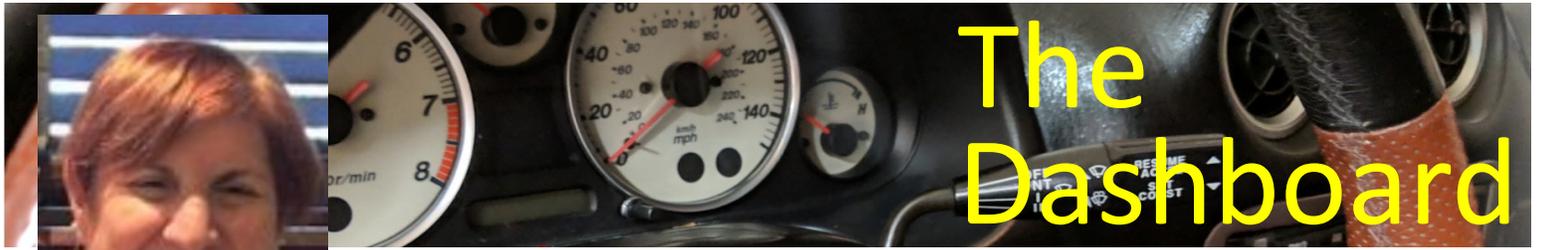
One of the reasons many of the club runs/events occur on weekdays is that many of the events are initiated by people that aren't employed. They may not have many activities during the week so it's a good time for them to go for a drive in their Miata and socialize with friends in the club. Also restaurants and other popular attractions are usually less busy on weekdays so it can be easier for a large group to get reservations or gain entry during the week. There is typically less traffic heading out of town on the major arteries going to the popular out of town attractions. Weekends can also be when members have busy social calendars with friends and family or they have other tasks they must address.

But there are also advantages to holding events on weekends. The people that work Monday through Friday might be available to participate. There is also no morning or evening rush hour traffic to deal with. Many entertainment events that may be fun club events are held on weekends.

All it takes for an event to go on the schedule is for a member to come up with an idea for an event and plan it. If you've never planned an event you can get assistance from another member, or from the Club VP and Events Coordinator, Steve Talmadge. You can be teamed up with another member that is experienced in running events to co-host the event with you. If you need ideas for events there are lots of previous club runs/events that would be easy to duplicate because all the planning and logistics were done for the previous run/event. You can review the past events posted in Meetup under Events, Past Events. These can easily be copied and updated with new dates, times, and any changes you would like. All we need is someone with the motivation to take action to make it happen. Steve Talmadge or another member experienced in hosting will be happy to help you plan and host an event.

So you can sit back, wait, and hope someone decides to initiate an event that you are interested in on a day you're available, or you can initiate one yourself with a little help from the club. I encourage you to take the initiative and contribute to the fun with your event. New ideas for runs/events and destinations are always welcome. If you have questions about planning or hosting an event send an email message to [VPEvents@Sahuaromiataclub.com](mailto:VPEvents@Sahuaromiataclub.com)

Mark Kucera  
Active Club Member



# 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.

### *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)

This months contributor:

**Mark Kucera**

Facebook Coordinator



## ***Maximum Miata Fun***

Driving a Miata on your local streets and highways is a wonderful experience, but to really have some fun in a Miata you need a safe place to increase the speed and throw your little sports car into some turns. After all the car was designed for performance handling as well as top down cruising. Engineers put in a lot of effort to balance the weight distribution and tune the suspension to make a fantastic handling sports car. Finding an empty curvy country road to enjoy some speed and lateral G-forces is fun, but it has it's dangers and limitations. For maximum fun and driving experience a day at a local race track in your little Miata can't be beat! Although these professionally run events are very controlled and safety is stressed there are some risks associated with this as well. But in the four years I've been participating in track days no member of our club has every had an accident at one of these events.

Track Days and High Performance Driving Education (HPDE) events are held on weekends at race tracks. You pay an organizer to participate in training classes and driving in three or four 18 to 20 minute track sessions per day with other drivers of similar experience levels. First time participants attend short classroom sessions with an instructor before and after each on-track session. Instructors ride with participants to make sure you have a fun and safe experience. First time participants typically report they had a blast driving their car around a real race course for the first time.

Several members of the Sahuaro Miata Club regularly attend track day events at Arizona Motorsports Park in the west valley, the 4 tracks at Wild Horse Pass Motorsports Park, Inde Motorsports Ranch in Wilcox, AZ, and Chuckwalla Motorsports Park near Blythe, CA. There are typically a couple of events each month at the local tracks. The first part of this year started out with the usual number of events with good participation, but the Covid-19 virus pandemic completely shut things down for a couple of months. Memorial day weekend Tom Taylor, Lou Molvin, Phil Noto, and I (Mark Kucera) braved leaving home to go to Inde Motorsports Ranch for the semi-annual event that was being run under new Covid-19 restrictions. There were no classes for first time participants, no passengers were allowed in cars during track sessions, and social distancing was stressed. Three of us ran in the HPDE events, and Lou Molvin raced in the Spec Miata racing series. Overall it was a great event, as usual, especially since the weather was cooler and there was a nice breeze. We made a new friend at the hotel, a guy we called "Mustang Mike" because he had a 2016 Mustang GT350 he was going to drive at the track, and he has owned lots of Mustangs throughout his life. It was Mikes first time at the track so we provided some coaching. The Miata guys felt good because Mike's best lap time in his 525 horsepower Mustang could only match our best laps times in our little Miata's. We found a good Mexican restaurant 3 blocks from our hotel with a nice patio where we could all eat outside, have a couple of beers together and walk back to our hotel. It was a fun weekend at the track with friends.

There are several events on the schedule this fall and winter for the four race organizers, ProAutoSports, National Auto Sports Association (NASA), Sports Car Club of American (SCCA), and Porsche Club of America (PCA). The next event our group is planning on attending is Labor Day weekend at Inde Motorsports Ranch in Wilcox, AZ, which is 83 miles south of Tucson. ProAutoSports has several events scheduled at all of the above mentioned tracks that we will participate in. We are especially looking forward to the popular ProAutoSports "Mondo" track event Thanksgiving weekend. The Mondo track is a combination of the Wild Horse Pass main track and the Bondurant track which makes a long track with lots of fun corners and turns.

If you would like to come out to a track to experience the excitement you can only get driving your Miata on a race track find event postings in Meetup, or look up one of the race organizations on the internet. Come to just watch for free or register to drive the track. See you at the track.



# SPECIAL MEMBER CONTRIBUTION OF THE MONTH

COVID-19 RISK VERSUS THE BENEFITS OF MIATA FUN RUN...  
THE THRILL OF TWISTIES WINS!

By Julie and Terry Thompson  
Contributions from Daryld Bristol and Mark Kucera



Once the Sahuaro Miata Club decided it needed to reschedule the official Devils Highway Run due to Covid 19 (as so many other events this year had needed to do) many Miata lovers in both Arizona and California were extremely disappointed and began monitoring the safety of adventuring on the trip independently. Roger Petterson, Sahuaro Miata Club, kept this trip together along with Wade Phyfer. Due to many different reasons, the number of committed Miata enthusiasts dwindled down from six cars from SDMC and five cars from the Sahuaro Miata Club to Two cars with three members of the SDMC and three cars with three members from the Sahuaro Miata Club who all rendezvous in Payson AZ.

Once the five cars connected in Payson, one from La Mesa via Oatman/Sedona/Williams AZ, one from Escondido via Phoenix, one from Phoenix and two from Prescott AZ, we bought sandwiches at a Safeway in fear of no open restaurants. Our worries were for naught, as we found plenty of food options on the trip and did not starve. We also managed to find plenty of open places for gas, snacks, cool air and “comfort” stops. We headed up the highway from Payson and reached the Mogollon Rim on Highway 260 taking us into Show Low and eventually Springerville.



Once we arrived on the rim with amazing views, we found some rocks with a gorgeous view of the valley below and enjoyed our picnic lunch. After lunch, we stopped about 30 min down the road to fill our gas tanks and empty our personal tanks. We attempted a stop at Hawley Lake, but the Apache Nation had temporarily closed the forest. Once we discovered this, we decided to continue on into our destination for the evening to rest up.

Three cars decided to take one more detour driving into a little settlement, Greer on the Little Colorado River and found an open establishment with cold beer, a very welcome find with the temperature above 100 most of the day. We did a little sight-seeing on the river and then drove on into Springerville. Once we arrived, we discovered the hotel had decided that the group didn’t need rooms since the Sahuaro organizer had called to inform them the official event was being postponed until October. The AZ club members rooms were cancelled, the SDMC members





## SPECIAL MEMBER CONTRIBUTION OF THE MONTH

rooms were still available, but the hotel was full. We were all moved to the sister hotel across the street, the “El Jo Motor Inn”. We were all settled into our rooms and went next door to the Safire Lounge for delicious burgers. We took a little after dinner walk and sunset viewing to the Safeway for some beverages to enjoy while sitting on the stoop and planning the trip for the next day.

The next morning, we all found breakfast on our own since the hotel continental breakfast was shut down due to Covid 19 preventative practices. After energizing ourselves and completing the necessary car care in the parking lot from the rain and wet pavement the prior day, we departed for our driving adventure on the Devils Highway.

Two drivers, Daryled Bristol from San Diego in his blue NC and Mark Kucera from AZ in a beautiful striped ND (the prototype from which the Thompson’s striped ND was created), decided one trip on the twisty road was not enough for one day, so they split off on their own journey to go down and then meet the other three cars at the bottom to head up AZ Highway 191 aka “The Devil’s Highway”. The three less ambitious cars “easy rider group”, as labeled by Mr. Bristol, traveled across AZ and through New Mexico to meet the two adventurous cars in the mining town of Morenci for lunch prior to beginning our trip up the thrilling highway. While calling to arrange our meet up time and spot for lunch, the three cars learned that there was a story to be told but it would have to wait to be told at lunch. Our trip through New Mexico was uneventful compared to the adventure seekers.



The story goes as follows: Daryled had made two previous trips on Route 191 but had never entered Alpine (the head of the route) from

the West before. So, Mark Kucera from the Sahuaro Club, the Route 191 expert, led the way. Once in Alpine, Daryled took the lead and let the fun begin. About 15 minutes into the run where the broad meadows end and the pine forest begins, the two made a comfort stop to prepare for the fun ahead. Within 10 miles the lead car, Daryled, met up with “Kamikaze Bambi”, stepping hard on the brakes and attempting to avoid the doe, he put a violent end to her wanderings. (The second car’s driver, Mark Kucera, judged the deer’s flip over the car and off the side of the road as a 9.5, because she didn’t stick the landing) Shortly after this encounter, the two pulled off the road to inspect the damage (and let their heartrates return to normal) ...left front headlight busted, fog light missing, side marker also missing, dent in the bumper and hood slightly tweaked. All indications were the engine had not suffered any damage and the handling was working as expected. A four-minute inspection and they were back on the road at speed continuing south.



## SPECIAL MEMBER CONTRIBUTION OF THE MONTH

Mark decided he needed to reduce speed somewhat, just in case the deer had family that might attempt to take revenge. The two arrived in Clifton/Morenci without further incident and shortly were joined by the easy rider group. We bought sandwiches at a PJ's restaurant (open for takeout only) and found a shaded park to eat lunch. During lunch we were able to share stories of our adventures to Morenci. After lunch we drove through the open mine in Morenci and began our trip up the "Devils Highway"/old route 666 with 460 twists and turns in 120 miles and a 6000' change in elevation. The trip up was much less eventful than previously experienced in the morning on the way down, but still fun. We returned safe and sound to Springerville for a shower, rest, dinner and to sit on the hotel stoop to revisit the day. Daryled took off for Williams after the trip down and up and the great deer encounter. He wanted to get home with his injured Miata to start the repair process.



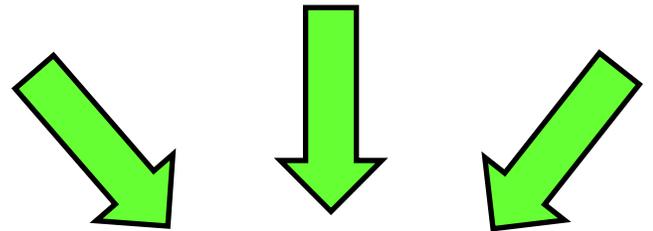
The next morning, we checked out of the hotel and made a trip up the mountain 9,500' to visit Big Lake. It was a Beautiful area with 360-degree breathtaking views which are not what you typically think of as Arizona landscape. There was even a sighting of snow on the mountain tops in the distance! After our morning adventure we took off for home. Two cars split off at Payson to head to Prescott. Before parting ways, the traffic began to get pretty heavy and through our maneuvers trying to stay together, we took a pretty large rock to the windshield...window replacement is in our near future! We said our goodbyes to the other car in Northern Phoenix and continued on to Wickenburg to rest for the night before heading home to Escondido. We had a great weekend practicing for the fun we hope to have again on October 2<sup>nd</sup> – 4th participating in the official "Devil's Highway Run". Hope you'll consider joining us.

### **Editors Note:**

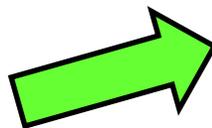
*A big "Thank You" goes out to Terry and Julie Thompson for this terrific article on their Fun Run . These brave souls wanted to participate on our Devil's Highway run which was postponed until October. This limited car run was made in it's place. This write up and photos remind us all of the great days we have ahead of us as members of the Sahuaro Miata Club.*

# Sponsors

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



Welcome to



Lost Your Magnet?  
Contact Hope at:  
[hope@cactapaws.com](mailto:hope@cactapaws.com)



This was a last minute stick it in the newsletter thingy.



Dear Members,

This is our second newsletter of 2020. I think we are off to a great start. A big “Thank You” goes out to all of the members who contributed their time and effort in supplying much of the content that went into this months newsletter. I truly wish we could all get together in mass to chat, and give each other appropriate socially distanced hugs . As the virus dissipates, we will have more runs and events. Until that time I ask you to send me Biographies of you and your co-pilot . You should include some photos that depict you, your Miata or Fiata and if you have any hobbies include those pictures as well. I am also looking for “Tech Tip” contributors. Please make the time to write up modifications you have done to your Miata or modifications you are thinking of doing. Good photos are always welcome.

Next months newsletter is going to be our “Holiday Edition”. In it we will cover upcoming events including our holiday party that is tentatively scheduled for the Casino Arizona off of the 101 in lovely Scottsdale. Of course no one is more concerned about the safety of our club as your board is. We will continue to monitor Covid-19, work with Casino Arizona and hopefully have a great event. (Following all common sense safety precautions.) If possible we are going to try and mail out our Holiday newsletter to all members.

Please make sure to Email, Text or Call Me and let me know how we can improve your club newsletter.

**Warm Regards, Jeff Morris, [editor@Sahuaromiataclub.com](mailto:editor@Sahuaromiataclub.com), 808-269-6693**

*Place Mailing  
Label Here*