



HORIZONS

May-June 2001

The Official Newsletter of the Sun Riders Miata Club of Tampa Bay

Club Members Dewaine & Molly Norris got some press in Kiplinger's magazine from their decision to pack-up and run off to join the Peace Corps. Wow, who hasn't thought about an adventure like that. If I had the courage, I could do it!

The Club had Peace Corps speaker Shirley Triano give a presentation last July, and Dewaine & Molly signed up. Couldn't happen to a nicer couple!

Below is an e-mail the Club received from them a couple of weeks ago.

Dave Tietz

Yes, we are now officially "Peace Corps Volunteers"!!! We were sworn in by the U. S. Ambassador to Ukraine at a ceremony on Wednesday afternoon in Kyiv that also included a number of Ukrainian officials. It is nice after eleven weeks of training (including a conversational test in Russian near the end, in which we were both generally pleased with our scores, although we have much more study to do yet).

We are getting ready to go to our site in Kirovograd where we will be working with a NGO Resource Center. While most of our group left today, because a train only runs to Kirovograd on Wednesday and Friday nights, we leave Friday night at 11:25 PM for an eleven hour train ride to Kirovograd. We are ready to get settled.

We will send more later, but wanted to pass this on to you.

We are happy and send our best regards and wishes.

Sincerely,

D & M

132 *Rewards* KIPLINGER'S | APRIL 2001



With their finances settled, a Florida couple embarks on a midlife adventure.

OFF TO JOIN THE PEACE CORPS

Names: Molly and Dewaine Norris, both 55, St. Petersburg, Fla.

Achievement: Joined the Peace Corps for a two-year stint in Ukraine.

Sign of success: A "cross-country lifestyle" and a cushion from the sale of Dewaine's business allowed the Norrises "to give something back," says Molly.

How they did it: Moved out of their apartment and stored their household goods. Put their money on autopilot by setting up automatic debits and invest-

ing half their costs in certificates of deposit and money-market funds.

Sources of help: A broker, a broker and an accountant to manage their finances while they're gone; contacts in St. Petersburg's Ukrainian community.

Lesson learned: "Listen to your intuition," says Dewaine. "We knew this was the right thing to do."
Next goal: "Be open to the opportunities that result from this experience," says Molly, a CPA. **E**

PHOTOGRAPH BY MURIELLE HELDER



Miatas of Venice: The Sequel

Saturday, April 21 a hardy group of Miata adventurers took a spin down to Venice. A good time had by all.

Photos by Don Reese. The pictures were taken at Sharky's at the Pier in Venice.

SunRiders on the Internet

The Sun Riders e-mail group (eGroup, Yahoo Group, whatever you want to call it) now has 120 subscribers and in its 28 months of operation has distributed 8,148 posts.

Check out our yahoo groups page at:

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/sunriders> and feel free to add your own links, photos, and other Miata type stuff to the group site. It's got some pretty cool features.

Our main (home) Internet site: www.sunriders.com is where the latest calendar updates are found as well as links to photos of events, articles, a guestbook and other fun stuff. The web site gets upwards of 8,000 unique page views per month, or about 120,000 raw hits, using about 1 Gigabyte of bandwidth per month. Not huge numbers, but not bad either for a web site for a local car club.

Sunriders.com was established in late 1996 and now boasts over 40MB of pure Miata content!

Kevin Morrison, webmaster, e-group administrator

Classified Ads

2000 MIATA - Suspension Package, bilsten shocks, 19K miles, black/black
Debbie Williams
727/507-0346 or
mamadukes@mindspring.com

Bra for 99 up, logo black seat covers and budge heavy duty cover. \$125.00.
727/864-1200 or
afisher2@tampabay.rr.com

The SunRiders Autocross Series

One of our favorite events in the club is the autocross. It's a great way to have a LOT of fun and, at the same time, learn how to be a better driver. Anyone can participate, and there are no special requirements for your car, just sound mechanical condition.

If you've never been to an autocross, you might not know that it is a simple timed event where one car at a time runs on a short course laid out with rubber cones. Typically, you get three or four timed runs, of which your best is counted. Of course we're not really keeping track of who wins (yet), but it is fun to see how you do compared to the other drivers. Speeds rarely exceed 35 or 40 miles per hour, but the twists and turns of the course

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can be quite challenging.

Since we recently have found an inexpensive, well-equipped, and convenient location to host autocross events, we have decided to undertake several of these fun and instructional events each year. In order to encourage more participation, and to make things easier for those autocrossing for the first time, we thought it might be a good idea to present a little primer on how to participate in an autocross. We won't try to tell you how to win Fastest Time of Day (FTD). That's for you to figure out yourself, but we can tell you a few things you need to know before you show up.

First, you should understand that an autocross takes a lot of coordination, planning and volunteer effort to implement. In that light, you should expect to spend

a short time during the day working as a volunteer in some capacity. This usually involves being a course worker. A course worker stands out in the blistering sun and waits for a car to knock down a cone. When that happens, the course worker RUNS to the cone and sets it upright. He or she then signals to the timing steward how many cones were knocked down so that a penalty can be assessed to the lucky driver's time.

You may be asked to help move cones around either before or after the autocross. Mostly we'll need people to help put the cones back the way they were before we arrived. The course we use is utilized during the week as a police training course, and they expect us to return it to their configuration before we leave.

Second, you should make sure before you

arrive that your car is in the proper condition. Cars must pass a basic tech inspection, which will include inspections of the torque on your lug nuts, brake fluid, tire condition and pressure, and there must be NO loose items in the cabin or trunk of the car. Time constraints prevent a more thorough tech inspection, so it is your responsibility to ensure that your car is in top condition.

Third, helmets are required. This can be any DOT or Snell approved helmet, either closed-face or open. For autocrosses, roll bars are not required. The club will have a few helmets (three or four) on hand that can be rented for \$5.

Finally, spend some time educating yourself about autocrossing. On the Internet, a good place to start is:

WWW.AUTOCROSS.COM.



Photos from the last autocross, March 24, 2001.

Come on and join the fun!

Getting to know you....

By Kathy Davis

As promised more member profiles!

Vinnie Lucido

Vinnie Lucido drives a 1990 Red. He is from New York and loves doing fun things with his sporty little Miata. His hobbies include cars, motorcycles, tennis and scuba. Vinnie joined the Sun Riders because he likes the activities that the club participates in and has also recognized the wealth of information the club has to offer and share.

Don Reese

Don Reese, a former Buckeye, drives a '97 Montego Blue named WINDy. Born in Youngstown, Ohio, Don moved to beautiful, sunny Florida in 1961. He is a Systems Engineer (sounds important!!) at Acterna in Bradenton. Don likes to work with computers and cars and also enjoys autocrossing. I have also noticed that Don is a real sweet talker. He is largely responsible for a lot of the great door prizes offered at various Sun Rider Events. Thanks Don, we love your special talent!

The Motleys

John and Irene Motley do not drive a Miata. They drive a Toyota MR2 Spider. They are, however, Sun Riders and we promise not to hold the Spider thing against them (smile). John was born in Ethiopia, Africa (wow!) and raised in Texas. He claims to be a military brat. Irene is a native German. They have two boys, twins, that were born in Hawaii. Hobbies include all water sports, traveling, cars, financial management . They met a few club members at a Burger King show, and joined the group because we just have so much fun! John works as a Surgical Sales Manager Trainer at Ethicon Endo-Surgery and Irene stays very busy at home raising the twins (double everything!).



Kathy Davis Posted this on our list...

UNDERSTANDING YOUR PAYCHECK
Gross pay: \$1222.02

Income Tax	-244.40
Outgo Tax	-45.21
State Tax	-5.89
Interstate	-61.10
County Tax	-6.11
City Tax	-12.22
Rural Tax	-4.44
Back Tax	-1.11
Front Tax	-1.16
Side Tax	-1.61
Up Tax	-2.22
Down Tax	-1.11
Tic-Tacs	-1.98
Thumbtacks	-3.93
Carpet Tacks	-0.98
Stadium Tax	-0.69
Flat Tax	-8.32
Surtax	-3.46
Ma'am Tax	-5.00
Parking Fee	-2.60
No Pkg Fee	-5.85
F.I.C.A.	-10.00
T.G.I.F.	-81.88
Life Ins.	-9.95
Health Ins.	-3.41
Disability	-16.23
Ability	-2.50
Liability Ins.	-0.25
Dental Ins.	-4.50
Mental Ins.	-4.33
Reassurance	-0.11
Coffee	-6.85
Coffee Cups Calendar	-66.51
Floor Rental	-3.06
Chair Rental	-16.85
Desk Rental	-4.32
Union Dues	-5.85
Union Don'ts	-3.77
Cash Advances	-0.69
Cash Retreats	-121.35
Overtime	-1.26
Uvertime	-54.83
Eastern Time	-9.00
Central Time	-8.00
Mntn Time	-7.00
Pacific Time	-6.00
GMT	-24.00
Bath Time	-4.44
Time Out	-12.21
Oxygen	-10.02
Water	-16.54
Electricity	-38.23
Heat	-51.42
Air	-46.83
Misc	-144.38

Take Home Pay: \$0000.02

(This is where the expression "just my 2 cents worth" came from...)

Sun Riders Miata Club Calendar of Events

All events are open to all Sun Riders Miata Club members, their guests, and prospective members unless otherwise noted.

We are always looking for fun activities and events. If you have a good idea, don't be bashful! Something that you enjoy is likely to be enjoyed by other club members also. Contact Pam if you have suggestions for events or would like to volunteer to organize an activity.

If you have questions about any of our activities or events, please contact the event organizer, if one is named, or Pam Barker at 727-415-3217 or pam@sunriders.com. You may also call the Sun Riders Miata Club Event Hot Line at 813/225-4240 for the latest updates or to leave a message.

SunRiders Autocross Series 2001 Event Number Three

Saturday, May 12, 2001 - Registration starts at 8:00AM, driver's meeting at 10:00. Registration closes at 9:30. Be there before 9:30 or be a spectator! This is a great way to improve your driving skills in a place where you can't get a ticket and you can't hurt your car. If you are not a member of the SunRiders, you are still welcome to participate. You don't even have to own a Miata, any type of car can come. Cost will be \$25 and that will include a lunch. Spectators can eat lunch with us for \$5. Call Jonathan Skinner at 727-784-5529 for more details. A few helmets will be available for rental for \$5. Read the article on page 2 about what to expect at a SunRiders autocross. Beginners are welcome. The event will be held at the St. Petersburg Junior College - Allstate Campus in St. Petersburg, at the Southeastern Public Safety Institute.

The Campus is located at 3200 34th Street South, St. Petersburg. Directions from I-275 Southbound: Take Exit #6, which is 22nd Ave. South

Directions from I-275 Northbound:

Take Exit #5, which is also 22nd Ave. South Head West on 22nd Ave to 34th Street, take a left at the light onto 34th Street South. (this is also known as US 19) Head South for about a half-mile, SPJC-Allstate Center will be on your left, across from Florida Power.

Monthly Meeting

Tuesday, May 15th. 6:30 PM kick the tires - 7:00 PM dinner and meeting. We'll be gathering at Paradise Restaurant in quaint downtown Safety Harbor at 443 Main Street. Parallel parking is available in a lighted, paved lot behind the restaurant and along Main Street. We will meet in the private dining room.

From: Jonathan P. Vielhaber

Subject: RE: How'd you choose your Miata?

How did you choose your Miata, its year, and color?

I drove into the dealership to buy a new Toyota MR2 Turbo. There were no parking spots in front of the Toyota dealership, so I had to park next door at the Mazda dealership. The sharks, I mean salesmen were on me before I had the door locked. Trying to talk me into a Miata (I parked in the middle of about 25 of them). Tried to fend them off with being unimpressed driving them when they first came out (I didn't really like the tranny or engine in the 1.6's, might have a different opinion now that I love them). He talked me into a drive anyway. Coming around an exit ramp at about 105 MPH, I knew I was sold. I went with a short term lease knowing that I never went 6 months without buying or selling a car. This Aug. 23 will be 4 years, same car. I've borrowed a few for short term (Audi A4, Z3M, BMW 318i, BMW 540), but that's the only one I've owned and loved. Almost talked myself into a new car (probably the Z3M), but opted for the turbo instead. We'll see in a week if its worth it... Of course it will be!

Is it your first Miata? Yes

What were you driving before the Miata?

3 Honda CRX's - a 87 beater, a 90 track prepped and a 91 touring. Plus before and during those an Acura Integra and 80's Buick Skylark (everybody has to have a first car, I just didn't love mine like some).

Plus the roommate's 69 Vette, 1st gen RX7, Fiero, early 80s Honda Accord (lightly rolled), Cuda, Subaru Brat, Eagle Talon Tsi, basically whatever happened to be in the driveway and closest to the door...

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