



Update

October 2001

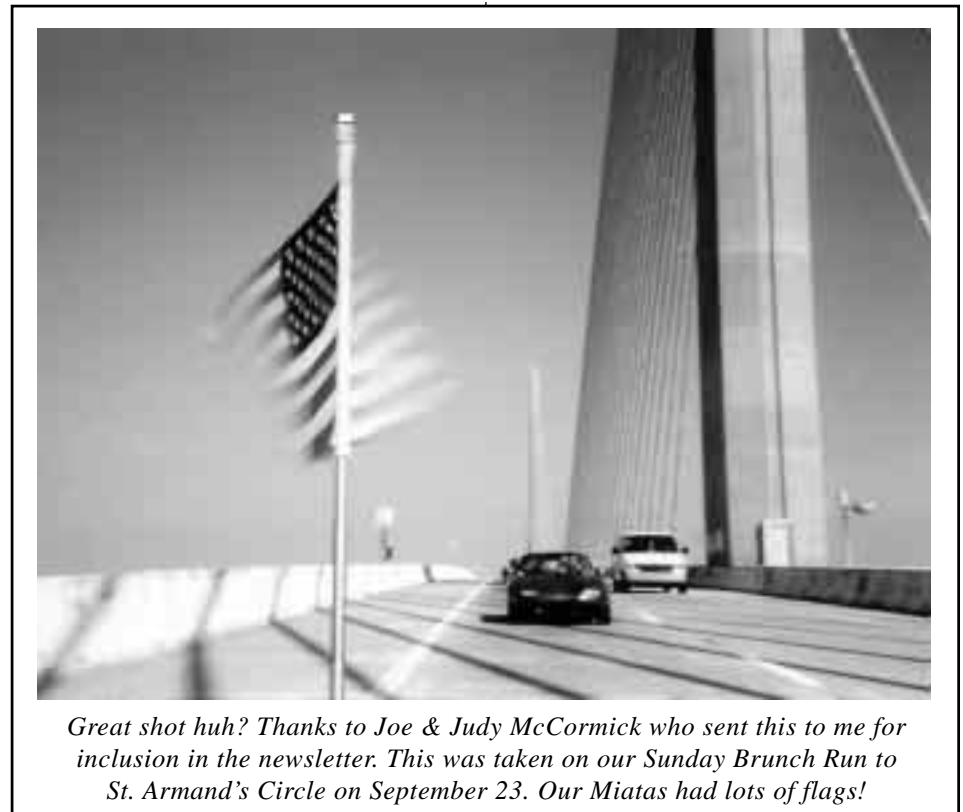
The Official Newsletter of the Sun Riders Miata Club of Tampa Bay

Even in these somewhat unsettled times, we are getting out and spending some time behind the wheel, top down and wind-in-the-hair. As evidenced by the photo on the right, lots of the 20 cars that went on the Sunday Brunch Run had flags on their cars to show our patriotism. Thanks to Nancy & George Bickner for producing magnetic flags we could stick on the sides of our cars... Great idea!

It was a fun run. It is always difficult to keep so many cars together and I (and everyone behind me) got stopped by a draw bridge (which Dianne always loves). Kevin waited for us, and we soon joined up with the rest of the group for a nice drive down through Longboat Key. Good food and a nice warm day. Dianne & I toured Anna Maria Island on the way back (and had adult beverages & snacks on the Gulf) and didn't get back until 5:00 pm. A nice, long day in the Miata.

Dianne & I hosted a MG/Miata Rallye on the 6th, and I guess we did all right. We received lots of compliments at the dinner and had a bunch of e-mails by that evening (all good by the way). It is fun to put on a fun event, and for us, having friends from both our car clubs present made it even more enjoyable (and everyone was well-behaved!). There were 20 cars - 9 MGs and 11 Miatas that took part, and two MG teams, and two Miata teams took home prizes. We will do it again. Nancy Bickner wrote her and hubby George's (neophytes, both) impressions for this newsletter... Thanks Nancy!

Elections are coming up! It appears we have very active members, as I think there are volunteers for all Officer and Director positions and volunteers for most other positions that the new President will appoint. You are still invited to contact Kathy Davis at 727/586-5111 or kdavis.email@verizon.com for any posi-



Great shot huh? Thanks to Joe & Judy McCormick who sent this to me for inclusion in the newsletter. This was taken on our Sunday Brunch Run to St. Armand's Circle on September 23. Our Miatas had lots of flags!

tion you may wish to run for.

Kathy will be doing the newsletter next year (actually starting with the next issue) and that will be good. One person in the same place all the time makes for the start of being in a rut... I will find something different to do for the Club.

Don't forget our Sunriders Charities... Bring something for the SPCA Wish List, and a toy/gift for CASA (see column inside). We did take up a collection for the NYC Fire fighters and Police at our last meeting and collected almost \$200 from a very small group (where was everybody?).

That's it! It was fun! See you at the events!

Dave Tietz

From the Internet...





The Winners; l-r:

Jim & Sharon Alonso (MG), Woody Vosler & Elaine Ferguson (MG), Sharon Cutler & Vinnie Lucido (Miata) and Judy & Joe McCormick (Miata).

Two Neophytes Try a Rallye

By Nancy Bickner

What are we gonna have to do? Will we have to follow complex directions? Keep accurate track of mileage? Take a clipboard. I know we have to write stuff.

There goes the first car... Kim Adams and her sister. I wonder if we will ever see them again.

Dave jots down our mileage, gives us secret envelope (don't open it!) and our directions. We have 2 minutes to go over the directions and definitions. Let's see, "a road is... a T is... a driveway is..." I think we got it. There's Dave giving us the 10 sec. signal and pointing us in the right direction and we were off.

Right away we were in trouble 'cause the first directions talks about a "street". Hey Dave, we don't know what a street is! Where's the "road"?

Hey George, have you been checking the left side of the road? No!?! Hey, I'm supposed to check the right! You watch the left! Hope we didn't miss anything. I think we better speed up or we'll have an MG on our tail.

George, quit trying to read the directions! You drive and I will read.

Ah, Ted's Sheds. Now we got it! Write that down. There's another one! And there's our first turn. And quick... another answer! Glad we didn't miss that one. We're on a roll and this is fun!

Wow, we are driving a long time. See anything? Butterflies, butterflies, where are those butterflies...?

Wait, that's Kim and her sister and they are coming TOWARDS us?!? How can that be. They must be lost. Hey Kim!

Ya know, we've missed 2 answers so far. Should we go back and get them? Which is more important, mileage or answers?

Who knows - we'd get lost if we tried to go back. Onward!

Wow, it's beautiful out here. The weather is perfect. I love all the farmland and these backroads.

"Don't wake up the occupants" - that HAS to be a cemetery but where is it?

Wait! There's Kim going the wrong way again! Boy, are they ever lost! Poor things.

There's St. Joe's store. We're the first ones here! Let's buy a coke and ask the lady for our note... And no, George she won't let you buy up ALL the notes.

Out to the car and there goes poor, lost Kim again! What is that behind her? An MG? and they are both going in the other direction? Oh no! We are the ones who are lost - Check the directions, quick! Naw, we can't have gone wrong. How can this be? Dave must have given out different directions, that sneak!

More driving, more clues, more answers. Father of the Miata??? Who in the world would know that? I bet Dave would think that's apparent - HA HA! Get it? A parent...

Now, we are seeing lots of cars going every whichaway. I bet this looks funny from the air! How come no one is driving our direction? Maybe they are all lost.

Okay. We are doing great. Only lost those 2 clues. Uh oh! We've missed another one! Quick, turn around. I am not going to miss this one. It can't be that far back. Got it! Kumquat Capital??? Learn something new every day.

Almost done. Got the last clue. Look for a big apple - and no, George - it's not a candy apple red Honda SC2000 in that car lot - keep driving.

There it is "Applebee's" and there's Dave and Dianne! We made it.

AAAhhhh, There's Kim! She beat us! Oh well. Do we get a prize for still being married?



The chariots await... The Miatas & MGs that made it to Applebee's (and that is *all* of them). Pictured are cars from 1957 to 2001.

More news from our members in the Ukraine

Update Two, 7 September 2001: Site Development /Site Placement Survey...

In the weeks since the last update, it has been very hectic for us and we apologize that this second update has taken so long to get to you.

Potentially the most important of what we have done since our last update is a Site Development/ Site Placement Survey for the Peace Corps Country Director Ukraine. This was a survey of PCV (Peace Corps Volunteer) Group 20, the PCV's that make up the group of people who came to Ukraine with us at the beginning of February 2001. Without going into all the methodology used, we designed a five-page survey that included questions with responses that could be circled and also allowed for comments as well as a question that included a place for comments only. We printed individual copies on a HP 640 Inkjet Printer we purchased here, and sent out forty-four copies with a stamped, self-addressed (in Ukrainian for the Ukrainian Postal Service) return envelope, and received forty-one responses (including our own) from the total of forty-six volunteers in our Group. We then summarized the results by each of the seven regions that make up Peace Corps Ukraine and a master summary that included all responses for all regions. The result was a master summary that totaled approximately forty pages of 1.5-line spacing of 11-point font. Each summary for the seven regions was approximately twenty-one pages, which made the total pages completed slightly fewer than two hundred pages by the time some background pages were added and it was presented to the Country Director. This was not requested by the Country Director, but was instead initiated by us and done during our evenings and weekends (as well as any time we could scrounge during the day, which was very infrequent).

In our case we believe the Country Director is great! He has been in Ukraine for approximately a year, is a former PCV, and has diplomatic experience as well. He is very concerned about Site Development/Placement since many hours here and experience gained elsewhere are lost when, for whatever reason, the PCV must change Sites. In some Groups this is worse than others. According to a recent letter (which we are taking at face value) in Nu Scho, the bi-monthly journal for PCV's in Ukraine, more than a third of Group 17 (originally thirty-three people) has changed Sites at least once since they arrived in Winter, 2000. In our case, Group 20, approximately ten percent of the forty-six have changed Sites since we arrived in February of this year.

We thought that any information from Group 20 we could provide the Country Director that might reduce Site Development/Placement problems and/or concerns could be useful. That is the reason we suggested doing the Site Development/Placement Survey that we recently completed (and anticipating running again near the end of this year). It certainly took some time, but the reason for becoming a PCV is service and we believed this was a service we could provide that would help not only our Country Directory, but also all future PCV's that are assigned to Ukraine. (And this from someone—Dewaine—who simply wanted to come, work in the community in the background and had no desire for any attention...)

And that is why you have not heard from us in a while... in addition to learning a little about the process of assigning PCV to work locations in Ukraine

We send you our best regards and wishes...

Dewaine and Molly

Update Three, 17 September 2001: Some Ukrainian Reaction to Last Weeks US Events

While many of the people that receive our updates and vignettes know or have friends and relatives outside the United States, also many do not. We want to share with you some of our experiences in Ukraine during the past week following the events in the United States that took place on 11 September.

Our friends and acquaintances in Ukraine were as shocked and saddened as we were about the events in the United States on 11 September. We cannot begin to tell you the outpouring of support that we received (along with other PCV's in Ukraine).

As you know from an earlier message we sent, in the evening of 11 September here (seven hours ahead of the US East Coast), we received a call for a neighbor telling us what had happened, expressing sympathy and asked us to come to their flat and watch the news since they knew we did not have a TV. Following that evening, we have received continued condolences, sympathy, and concern from virtually everyone we meet that know us. The first time they see us, they will not let us speak until they first tell us how sad and concerned they are for the American People and us and express their condolences. One person was driving down the street when he saw Dewaine, applied his brakes, pulled to the curb, got out and came and spoke with Dewaine, expressing his condolences and sympathy. We are asked if there is anything they can do for us. A number of people asked us if we had talked with our families, both to insure that all our families were OK, but also to let them know that we were OK. (Of course the answer was, "Yes, we have".)

Sun Riders Charities

At the meeting 7/17/01 it was decided that the 2001 charities we would be involved in would be the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA) and CASA (Center for Abused Spouses). Our plan of action is as follows:

SPCA:

All Events through November Bring an Wish List item (to be stored at my place)

Dog Biscuits

Cat Snacks

Cat Litter

Nylon Leashes

Towels

Adding Machine

Laser Jet Printer

Sheets

Flower and Plants

Thread Spools

Postage Stamps

Newspapers

Scouring Powder

Window Cleaner

Laundry Detergent

All-Purpose Bleach

Dish Soap

Aluminum Cans

Computer Paper

Cat Food (canned)

Tall Kitchen Garbage Bags

Plastic Bags (newspaper sleeves)

Office Supplies: Pens, Pencils, Tape

Film: Polaroid, 35 mm

Dog Food (canned or dry)

McAfee Virus Scan 4.0

Large Sized Garbage Bags

CASA:

Beginning in August, monetary donations (from 50/50 drawings) to purchase Christmas gift items for a selected CASA location. During the Nov-Dec events, members can bring a new, unwrapped toy/gift for this charity as well. Used, unwanted cell phones can also be donated.

Any questions can be directed to me at kdavis.email@verizon.net or call me at 586-5111.

Kathy P. Davis
Charity Committee
Sun Riders Miata Club

We want to share the following three communications with you. The first one is the body of an e-mail we received from a friend in Moscow. The second recites a portion of a conversation that our Country Director had with a taxi driver one day last week. The third is the body of a letter that we received today from the head of a business association in Alexandria (a city in Kirovograd Oblast). All are transcribed as written to and received by us.

—An E-Mail From a Friend in Moscow (Received on Thursday, 13 September): “Dear Molly and Dewaine, We are all here in Russia shocked and saddened by the news of a tragedy which happened in the USA. I've received a message from a friend of mine who had been living in NY for 3 years and going to WTC every day. I think that the impression it made on me is even stronger than that of TV pictures which seem to be an unbelievable nightmare. I send to you and all the Americans my sincere condolences and deepest sympathy. Olga”

—From a Message From Our Country Director (Received on Friday, 14 September): “Like you, we also are experiencing emotional and very touching expressions of sympathy and concern from many Ukrainians both by phone and email and generally on the street and in shops and the market. This morning the taxi driver whom I came to the office with was so angry about the attacks that I was in the strange position of having to try to calm him. All told, it's good to know that people in other countries understand the depth of our rage and sorrow and the great scar that has been cut across all humanity.”

—From A Letter From The Head of the Association of Alexandria Businessmen (Received 17 September): “Ms. Molly Norris and Msr Dewaine Norris, Together with all the Ukrainians we mourn over the tragic events in the USA

on the 11th of September. Which the lives of thousands of innocent people. Ukraine resolutely protests against terrorism in all its forms and displays. Hope those who are guilty for this crime won't avoid justice. We, businessmen of Alexandria and all the Ukrainians share and feel for grief of thousands of American families whose relatives became victims of terrorism. With sorrow, the Head of the Association of Alexandria Businessmen”.

We hope that these examples (in addition to what we shared at the first of this update) show the support that America and Americans have from the people in at least two countries outside the United States, people that have families and work and are otherwise involved in day-to-day activities/living like the majority of us. It is one thing to hear statements made by heads of government, but something else entirely to hear from people like ourselves. The thoughts and expressions of people here have touched us and show another reason why we like Ukraine and are glad we are doing what we are doing.

We send our best regards and wishes...

Molly and Dewaine

Ukraine Update Four, 23 September 2001

This is an update to let you know that things are still quiet and expected to be quiet in Ukraine. The continued support that we receive is nothing short of incredible. We see no changes in our program or that for any reason we would have to leave Ukraine.

Let us know if you have any questions and we send our best wishes and regards.

Dewaine and Molly



Club Members John and Karen LaVigne camouflaged their Miata for the Sunday Brunch Run - OK, he was getting it painted the next week...



Rallye Meister Dave Tietz and Rallye Meistress Dianne Tietz check in an MGB at the end of the run.

Upcoming Events

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

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

If you have questions about any of our activities or events, please contact the event organizer if one is named or Jonathan Skinner at Jonathan@sunriders.com

For quick event information, or to leave a message for the club leadership, call the SunRiders' official information hotline at 813/225-4240.

Cake Bake Off

Sunday, October 14 - See ad below.

Monthly Meeting

Tuesday, October 16 - 6:30 PM kick the tires, 7:00 PM dinner and meeting. Meeting location is Jimmy Mac's Restaurant located one block south of Gandy Blvd. in Tampa on Bridge Avenue, just west of Westshore. Look for the big Imperial Marina sign on Gandy.

Gulf Coast Autocrossers Novice School & Event No 9

November 3 & 4 - NON SUN RIDERS EVENT - See info at www.gulfcoastautocrossers.com

2001 Florida State SCCA Autocross Championships

November 10 & 11 - NON SUN RIDERS EVENT - Jacksonville, FL. Contact kevin@sunriders.com for details.

SunRiders Autocross Series 2001 event number five.

Saturday, November 17, 2001 - Registration starts at 8:30 AM, 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 this short article 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,

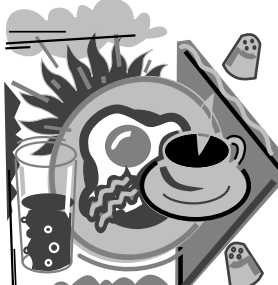
take a left at the light onto 34th Street South. (this is also known as US 19) Head South for about a half-mile, SPJC-Allstate Center will be on your left, across from Florida Power.

Gulf Coast Autocrossers Novice School & Event No. 10

December 1 & 2 - NON SUN RIDERS EVENT - See info at www.gulfcoastautocrossers.com

Sun Riders Christmas Lights Tour and Party

December 14 & 15 - Details to come.



Breakfast Club

Join Joe & Ilona Wessling at the Seven Springs Golf & Country Club November 4 at 9:00 am. It is 1/8 mile north of SR 54 on the east side of Little Road (across from WalMart side entrance). Phone is 727/376-0680

Cake Bake Off!

Chocolate... Vanilla... Whatever your specialty!

Who bakes the best in the bay area??

Come on out and judge for yourself!

Bakers... Lets get some competition going!!

We need bakers AND we need judges!

RSVP by 10/11/2001 to 727/586-5111 or:

kdavis.email@verizon.net

When: Sunday, 10/14/2001 - 6 pm

Where: 2605 Meadowbrook Drive, Palm Harbor, immediately North Of Dolly Bay Condominiums, but right before you get to the Four Points Sheraton on Lake Tarpon.

Kathy will supply the soda, ice, cups and forks

this is at Jonathan's new place on Lake Tarpon... He doesn't have a boat yet, so feel free to bring your own!

Stuck at the bridge... Good time for a picture...



First Class Mail

Tampa, FL 33623-6071
P.O. Box 26071

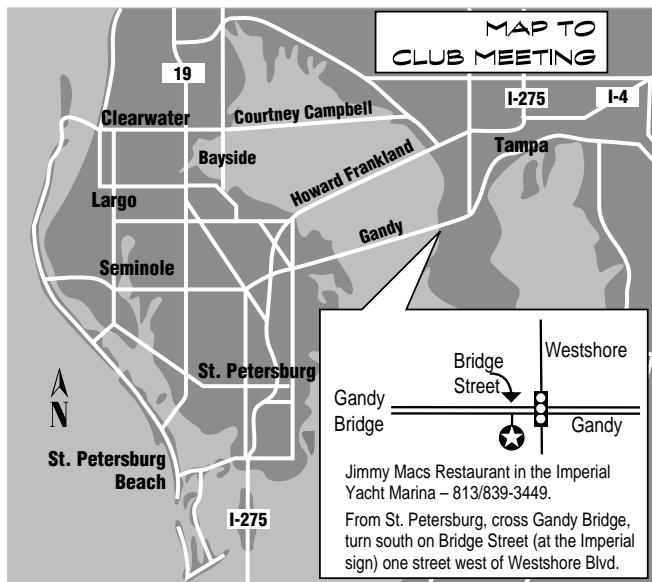


Join Us at Our Club Meetings

We meet the third Tuesday of each month at Jimmy Mac's Restaurant, tire kicking starts at 6:30 pm, the meeting starts at 7:00 pm.

Visit the club's web page at: www.sunriders.com

Call the Event Hotline at 813/225-4240 for the latest event information.



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