



Howie-in-the-Hills Tour - On the way back, we found this waterfalls & pond (complete with deer). Pictured are John & Karen LaVigne, Pam Barker, Sue Anderson (Arnie off-camera), Joe and Ilona Wessling, & Dianne Tietz (Dave behind the camera). Charles Cannuette and Marian Pfohl were along too, but left early.

As shown, our Club event for the month was a great time. Nice day, good roads, super food and good fellowship. If you didn't come, you missed a bunch of fun. Please read Sue Anderson's account of the trip. We also had a "Dinner and a Movie" early in the month, pictures and story inside (thanks Pam).

I have a ton of pictures from our special Monthly Meeting, I will try to put all I can in this issue. Special thanks to Pam Barker and all her "helpers" for putting on this event, with all kinds of prizes (some of us are pretty lucky... A few managed to get multiple prizes)... Me, I got a oil filter. Kevin Morrison may have been the luckiest winning a Turn Signal Intake kit from Brainstorm.

I understand the Burger King car show was well attended... I didn't make that one. From the pictures it looks like everyone had a great time.

I have heard rave reviews about Jonathan and his crew about the way he managed

the Daytona 2000 - Miatas in Paradise (National Event) Autocross. Our Club is recognized as being probably the most expert at putting on Autocrosses. Jonathan e-mailed some comments and I have included them in this issue.

Lastly, the Halloween Tricks & Treats was well attended (and a lot of fun), and I have a few pictures from that event too.

Wow, what a month! No Sun Rider has any reason to wonder what to do on most any week-end. Come on out and join us!

See you at the events,

Dave Tietz

Monthly Meeting Notes

e-mail from Miata Myk

I would like to take the time to thank everyone for a great evening and for ending a really bad day on a wonderfully high note!

Special thanks go out to Pam, Sonny, and Kathy for their work in setting up the

meeting place and making the arrangements and to those who helped but were not named. I also am very happy to have been a winner in the raffle.. Well, more than once or twice.. (honest, I'd have given back anything else! Seriously!).

The cars are wonderful, the people great, and the meeting went off without any hitches as far as I could tell. Well managed and tons of smiles floating around the room. I might not have gotten a chance to meet everyone but I did get in a bit late (darned work!). I look forward to the next few events as well.

Thanks go out to Stuart at Just Miata for providing the wonderful Detailing kit, Lindell for the T-shirt (specifically THAT T-shirt!) along with all of the other doodads and gizmos, the wonderful Wal-Mart Man (Sean Robb) for the CBs and models, Dealer Alternative for the gift certificates (my car like many in the club is already a rolling showcase for their

Continued

products so its nice to see them giving back to the club!), Jimmy Macs for their gift certificate, and to everyone else who helped make this such a wonderful evening. :)

Ed. Note: Miata Myk was one of the BIG winners at the meeting.

Pam adds:

Thanks Myk for the nice comments. It was indeed a wonderful evening and we had lots of great help in making that happen

* Don Reese - who organized vendor gifts

* Member Sean Robb - who persuaded his management at Wal-Mart to donate 3 hand-held CBs, 2 Miata models (which he special-ordered for us) and 2 tire gauges

* Sonny Gonzalez at Lindell who arranged for the rental and setup of tables and chairs so that we could be comfortable during the meeting. And he also made sure that we had plenty of opportunities to ooh and ahh over the new 2001 babies.

* Kathy from Great Outdoor Catering who put together a delicious dinner for us

* Ticket sellers: LoAn, my husband John, and others who filled in as needed

* Vinnie Lucido and Kevin Morrison who came out early to help setup.

* Ilona Wessling who continues to sell club regalia faster than Jonathan Skinner can order it

* All our vendors who donated prizes

* Our club officers, committee chairs, and event organizers who reported on current activities, upcoming events, and other areas of club business. They clearly demonstrate that it takes a lot of people working together to make a club successful

* And all our members and guests who came out, had fun, bought tickets, and made the evening special

It was great to see so many new faces alongside many familiar members. We had 45 folks attend which may be a new record for attendance at a monthly meeting. And we raised \$177 for Toys for Tots. With our previous \$50 raised from two 50/50 drawings, we now have \$227 towards our fund-raising efforts. And I'm confident that well be able to increase that total nicely before we are done.

Hope to see you soon at a club event,

Pam



*From the top l-r:
Cher wins & Pam smiles,
the cockpit, Dave takes a
ride, front view, Jonathan
checks it out, Ilona wins a
CB, our host, Sonny
Gonzalez of Lindell Mazda,
Kevin & the Cold Air Intake
(Pam still smiling), and
LoAn selling Club shirts &
other goodies.
all photos-Don Reese*





A couple of shots from the Burger King Car Show. I heard a bunch of the other clubs were pretty jealous... Photos-Mark Jones

Howie-in-the-Hills

Arnie & Sue Anderson

Promptly @ 11:30 A.M. on Sunday, Oct. 22nd, six Miatas departed McDonalds on 54 & 41 for Howie-in-the-Hills, with a promise of a gourmet buffet luncheon.

But first, the trip! Dave Tietz, our leader surprised us all with a new route, having hills, curves, and exciting challenges for the best of drivers. It allowed us to experience the handling, braking, and acceleration of the Miata.

We arrived about 1 pm, at our reserved time, perfect!

The meal was truly a delight with options for breakfast, lunch or both. The desserts were something to die for, and I noticed that some of our group loaded up on the desserts first (they will remain nameless).

The return trip brought us around some of the lakes and a connection with our outbound route, this time at a faster pace.

For our first "Sun Riders" trip, we were very pleased, and look forward to the next one. For those that didn't go, you missed a good one!

Ed. Note: Sue forgot to mention we also saw an Emu. Somebody has one for a pet, and my co-pilot, Dianne, spotted it as we slowed for the group to catch up.

Pam wrote:

Today I went up to Howie-in-the-Hills and the Mission Inn Resort with Illona and Joe Wessling, Dave and Dianne Tietz, Arnie and Sue Anderson (brand new members attending their first event with

us), Charles Cannuette and Marian Pfohl, and John and Karen LaVigne. Dave had scouted out a great route that took us through scenic, rural roads with lots of nice curves and roller-coaster-like dips and hills. Appropriately, one of the roads we were one was named "Curley". :-)

A really nice ride to our destination followed by a wonderful meal and great conversation. And another fun ride back through a different set of curves and hills. All together, 200 miles of top-down driving on the prettiest day that Florida can offer on the sort of curves that are made for Miatas and happy Miata-owners.

Halloween Tricks & Treats

Kathy Davis

Saturday the 28th of October, twelve Sun Riders and their Miatas headed over to Dunedin to catch the Haunted House and catch a little of the "spirit" of the holiday.

There were plenty of activities to get us into trouble and a haunted hayride for anyone brave enough to hop on. Of course we also found a hula hoop contest to have fun with, led by our fearless leader Pam of course

(didn't know we still had those moves!).

Ilona and Kathy (me) even had a show-down to see who was the best "hooper"... Ilona beat me... I just can't do 2 things at once and the music was too enticing. Afterwards, we all headed for Flanigans on Main Street for some good Irish eats, ale and entertainment.

Happy Halloween to all!



Halloween Hula contest. Top photo: Kathy Davis and Ilona Wessling showing their forms, Bottom photo: Pam Barker... You aren't supposed to use your hands are you? Photos-Kathy Davis

Dinner & a Movie

Pam Barker

John and I just got back home again after staying for the first part of the second feature at the drive-in movie. It had been literally years since we had been to a drive-in movie and what a perfect night for it: comfortable weather, a star-filled sky, movie popcorn, and a light-weight action movie.

We had a nice turn-out for our "Dinner and a Movie" event with 18 cars and a total of 32 people who met in Lutz and then had dinner at John's Steak and Seafood Restaurant in Zephyrhills. A very efficient wait-staff and kitchen at John's produced a variety of steaks, seafood dishes, and Italian entrees for the table in record time. During dinner we spent some time looking at Mike and Charlene Emmett's photos from their recent trip, met new members Sam and Judy from New Port Richey who are good friends of the Wesslings, and caught up with Courtenay O'Connell and Mike Sims who are long-time members whom we hadn't seen in a while.

After dinner, some folks headed on home or to other destinations while the rest of us continued north to Dade City and the Joy-Lan Drive-In and Swap Shop. As we had not attended a movie there before, we received complimentary movie admission courtesy of the manager Doug who welcomed us to the theater and invited us to come back again.

Kudos to Paul and Ann Williamson and Ed Simon for leading us on our route from Lutz to Zephyrhills and on to Dade City and for finding and organizing the restaurant for us. We had a wonderful evening.



A bunch of hungry looking Sun Riders getting ready for the Dinner and a Movie run.



Even from the rear, the Miatas look good! Kinda like...I won't go there...

At our special November meeting, we had some very nice prizes donated by generous vendors and some lucky winners:

Brainstorm - turn signal intakes - won by Kevin Morrison
Detail Express - car detailing - Cherie Turner
Walmart - Miata model - Ryan Russon
Walmart - Miata model - Mark Jones
Dealer Alternative - gift certificate - Cherie Turner
Dealer Alternative - gift certificate - Scott Houston
Dealer Alternative - gift certificate - Joe Wessling
Just Miata - detailing kit - Myk Freeman
Jimmy Mac's Restaurant - gift certificate - Brian Reschke
Walmart - CB radio - Myk Freeman
Walmart - CB radio - Frank Gomes
Walmart - CB radio - Ilona Wessling
Lindell Mazda - t-shirt - Myk Freeman
Lindell Mazda - t-shirt - Paul Shaffer
Lindell Mazda - hat - Ryan Russon

Lindell Mazda - t-shirt - Joe Wessling
Lindell Mazda - hat - Dale Nabors
Walmart - air pressure gauge - Mike Beneshek
Walmart - air pressure gauge - Ed Simon
Sun Riders - travel book - Joe Rosas
Sun Riders - travel atlas - Ryan Russon
Sun Riders - travel book - Ed Simon
Lindell Mazda - oil filter - Ryan Russon
Lindell Mazda - oil filter - Don Reese
Lindell Mazda - oil filter - Bill Bulington
Lindell Mazda - oil filter - Joe Wessling
Lindell Mazda - oil filter - Dave Tietz
Lindell Mazda - oil filter - Jonathan Skinner
Lindell Mazda - oil filter - John Barker
Lindell Mazda - oil filter - John Costello
Lindell Mazda - oil filter - Glen Ellingson
Lindell Mazda - oil filter - Steve Robin

Miatas in Paradise Autocross

Jonathan Skinner

Hello everyone, I am now back from Daytona Beach. Although I am very tired (I averaged only about four hours sleep a night for the past five nights), I am very happy with what we accomplished in planning and running Daytona 2000: Miatas in Paradise.

The six Miata Chapters in Florida that agreed to participate in hosting this event started this job almost a year and a half ago. We had multiple planning sessions, team meetings, individual committee work and countless hours of time spent getting ready for this event. After many, many hours of hard work on everyone's part, it has now come to a very successful and happy conclusion.

I was the autocross chairman for this event, and I would like to personally thank the Sun Riders own Don and Jan Reese, Bill Bulington, Vinnie Lucido, Ed Link and Paul Shaffer, along with Jenna Buscher from the Everglades club, for all their hard work in putting on what was by all accounts the best autocross event a

National has ever seen. A big thank-you also goes out to Jim Poehlman, our Autocross Equipment Meister!

Many of the autocross participants also joined in and helped us out tremendously. In fact, we had so many people wishing to help out, we actually had to turn some people away!

I lost track of how many compliments I received on the professionalism, friendliness and speed with which we were able to run this event. Several people commented that they have attended other autocrosses in the past, and never were made to feel welcome. We not only made them feel welcome, they said that the obvious enthusiasm and fun we were having was infectious, and the grins were ear to ear!

I know we made several autocross converts that day, and that is due to the skill and dedication of everyone involved in the Sun Riders autocross program.

Those who weren't able to make it to Daytona 2000 missed what is probably the best Miata event in years...

The committee chairman and volunteers from six separate Florida Miata Chapters

all did their jobs and pulled together as a team to pull off something no other car club (of any marque) has ever done before: combine forces to jointly host a National event for over 600 people and well over 350 cars...

Miata World, the Crazy Red Italian, and Motorsports for Miatas, among several other vendors, made sure that we all had plenty of Miata Goodies to choose from in spending our MSU's (Miata spending units, equivalent to \$50 or roughly the cost of a pearl finish Voodoo Magnum knob, which is just one of several items I picked up...)

The instant customized embroidered shirts from Southeast Specialties Design were a big hit, and Robert, the caricature artist were also big hits. Robert manages to pack his entire business in a four foot trailer, which he tows behind his Miata!

The people were very appreciative of what we did, and even the glitches and occasionally rainy weather did not dampen peoples spirits.

A contingent of Dallas people were even heard to say that ours was by far the best run National event ever! Now that was high praise indeed!



Don and Jan Reese, Ed Link, Bill Bulington, Jonathan Skinner, Vinnie Lucido and Paul Shaffer taking care of business.



The Autocross track... Nice set-up Jonathan!

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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.

And a big "thank you!" to Paul and Ann Williamson, Ed Simon, Kevin Morrison, Joe and Illona Wessling, and Dave and Dianne Tietz who helped organize recent club outings. Upcoming events are being hosted by Charlene and Mike Emmett, Dave and Dianne Tietz, and others.

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@barker.net. 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.

International Auto Show

Saturday, November 4th - 9:00 AM. Meet for breakfast in the private dining room at First Watch Restaurant at 520 North Tampa Street in downtown Tampa (phone number 813-307-9006) and then "ooh" and "aah" over the 2001 models and concept cars at the auto show at the nearby Tampa Bay Convention Center. Regular admission to the auto show is \$7 but we'll have some discount coupons which will save you \$2.00.

Roger's Christmas House ** NEW EVENT

Sunday, November 5th - 10:30 AM. Meet at the MacDonald's at the corner of SR54 and US41 in Lutz for a drive to a destination that will get you into the Christmas spirit. We'll be heading up to Brooksville via some winding country roads for lunch at Blueberry Patch, a quaint Victorian-style house that has been transformed into a restaurant filled with antiques. Following lunch we'll visit the famous Roger's Christmas House. Please contact Charlene and Mike Emmett for more information at blue92@peoplepc.com or 727-669-8786 (evenings) or 727-521-2700, ext. 206 (Charlene - days). The weather is gorgeous and the holidays will be here soon!

Fall Fuel-Up Antique Engine Show

Saturday, November 11th - 10 AM Meet at the Tampa Port Authority parking lot (the next building north of the Aquarium) for a pleasant drive to Ft. Meade and the Fall Fuel-Up Antique Engine and Tractor Show. Interesting things to see, musical entertainment, and good food. For more information, contact Dave Tietz at 727/321-3809 or dave@sunriders.com or check the event web site at www.old-engine.com/fallfuel.htm.

Monthly meeting and Election of Officers

Tuesday, November 21st - 6:30 PM kick the tires - 7:00 PM dinner and meeting. Vote for officers and board members who will lead the club during the next year. We will also collect unwrapped toys for

Toys for Tots. Jimmy Mac's Marina Restaurant is in Tampa and is located 1/2 block south of Tampa's Gandy Blvd at Bridge Avenue which is one block west of Westshore Blvd. Look for the Imperial Marina sign on Gandy Blvd., turn south onto Bridge Avenue, and then right into the marina parking lot at the small Jimmy Mac sign. The restaurant phone number is 813-839-3449.

Holiday Lights Tour and Party

Saturday, December 9th - 6:00 PM. Meet at 4th Street Shopping Center at 31st Ave. and 4th St. N. in St. Petersburg where you'll receive a map and directions to some of the best holiday light displays in St. Petersburg. (Be sure to bring a flashlight for better navigating.) After the light tour, we'll meet at Mid-Town Sundries in downtown St. Pete for dinner and reindeer games:

Toys for Tots - Bring an unwrapped toy for our collection.

Cookie Exchange - Bring a dozen or two of your favorite recipe. Non-bakers can bring any holiday treat, e.g. wrapped candy canes. Take home a collection in a decorative container.

Gift Exchange - Bring an inexpensive gift that would bring a smile to another club member. You will get an opportunity to swap/bargain for the gift you want!

Raffle/Auction - We know your Miata has been very, very good. So reward your car (and yourself) with some Miata goodies generously donated by our vendors and supporters. Funds raised will go towards Toys for Tots.

Safety Harbor Christmas Parade **NEW EVENT

Saturday, December 16th - Noon. Meet at the Clearwater welcome station on the north side of Gulf-to-Bay in Clearwater immediately west of the Courtney Campbell Causeway. We'll drive in a group over to Safety Harbor where we'll join in a parade containing bands, floats, Egypt Temple Shrine units, clowns, antique cars, and Santa (of course!). Dress up both yourself and your car in your holiday finery.

Monthly meeting at Jimmy Mac's

Tuesday, December 19th - 6:30 PM kick the tires - 7:00 PM dinner and meeting. Last chance to bring an unwrapped toy for Toys for Tots as we'll be loading up the Miata sleighs one more time and taking our collected toys and funds over to the Marine Reserve Center the next day.

Autocross Skills Clinic and Practice Day

Saturday, January 20th. Some very experienced autocrossers will be on hand to provide pointers and instruction in the morning followed by unlimited runs of the course in the afternoon. Participation will be limited to 25 cars with registration open only to Sun Riders members until December 15th. Spaces available after that date will be open to non-club members. Cost will be \$20 for each driver and will not include lunch. Rental helmets will be available for \$5. The event will be held at the driving range at the Allstate Campus of St. Petersburg Junior College at 3200 34th Street South in St. Petersburg. For more information, please contact Kevin Morrison at 813-222-0509 or kevin@sunriders.com

SRMC Autocross Event #1

Sunday, January 21st. Registration from 8:00 until 9:30. Drivers' meeting at 10:00. This is a great way to improve your driving skills in a place where you can't get a ticket and can't hurt your car. Cost is \$25 and includes lunch. Spectators are welcome and can eat lunch with us for \$5. Rental helmets will be available for \$5. The event will be held at the driving range at the Allstate Campus of St. Petersburg Junior College at 3200 34th Street South in St. Petersburg. For more information, please contact Jonathan Skinner at 727-784-5529 or jonathan@sunriders.com

Other 2001 Events

We're already working on many exciting events and activities for 2001. So watch this space for news of overnight trips, social activities, Sunday drives, scavenger hunts, camping trips, autocross events, tech sessions, day trips, car shows, etc, etc, etc.



I came across this photo of new Member Mike Benishek of Ellerton while surfing some of Don Reese's photos. Mike just sold his Ford Mustang and bought this Miata... Doesn't his expression say it all?

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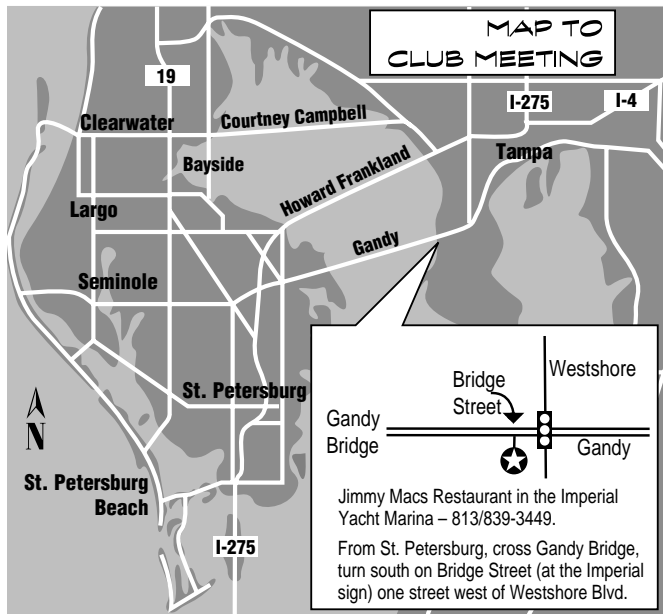


Join Us at Our Club Meetings

We meet the third Tuesday of each month at Jimmy Macs 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.



If you received this newsletter and are not a member of our club, please consider this an invitation to join.

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