2021 #2

MARCH



APRIL

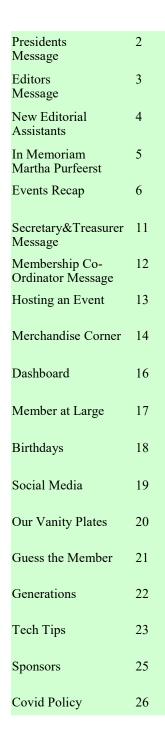
MAY

BI-MONTHLY GREATER PHOENIX AREA NEWSLETTER

All The SMC Miata News That's Fit To Print!

Established 6.25.1992

Jeff Morris Editor





Breaking News!

New V.P. Elect Ed Lutz!
30th Anniversary Miata
Celebration at Horne Mazda
Avondale on June 12, 2021!
New Editorial Assistants
Board Meeting on
May 5, 2021

2020 was a tough year for everyone with the announcement of the Pandemic. I believe that most people celebrated every holiday from March through December with only a few family members or staying home alone to celebrate. I missed the all the celebrations that are part of our family tradition.

It was a tough year for the world and for the Sahuaro Miata Club in that the club held back on events for three months and finally members gathered for a wonderful 2-day event to drive the Devil's highway. Those who participated had a terrific time, we continued to wear masks and social distance. Devil's Highway was Jack's and my first overnight event with the Sahuaro Miata Club since recently joining. Special thanks to Hope Morris for arranging and organizing a great event and keeping us all safe.

We are now rounding the curve in the second quarter of 2021. Folks are finally getting vaccinated, and things are beginning to get back to normal. The Sahuaro Miata Club kicked off the year with a driving event to South Mountain to watch the sunset and the full moon rising. Thanks to Past President Dennis Manning for arranging a great drive and dinner at Los Dos Molino's.

Mark Kucera organized two events in February and March. Boyce Thompson Arboretum, and a drive from Apache Junction to Superior including small stoops on the way. Lastly, Terye Van Sanford organized a run to meet up with the Old Pueblo Club at the Riparian Preserve and Saguaro Lake. I want to thank these members for stepping up to keep our members driving, experiencing new routes, and making new friends.

l also want to thank Ed Lutz for taking over the position of Vice President and Events coordinator. I am sure Ed will be a terrific addition to our Board of Directors and a true asset to our club. You can find Ed and Susie Lutz's biography in our July / August 2020 issue of our club newsletter. Please try to RSVP and join our monthly Zoom board meeting on this Wednesday, May 5th at 7:00 pm. Ed will be voted in at that time and everyone will have the opportunity to Meet Ed on Zoom. For more information and to sign up for the monthly board meeting please visit our Meetup page for more information.

Hoping to see you on the road, Zoom Zoom, Sue Hinkle, president@sahuaromiataclub.com



Hello Everyone,

A lot has been happening in the Sahuaro Miata Club. We have been scheduling more events, future events are starting to fill our meetup pages and this amazing weather has allowed all of us to start to take to the road. We do see light at the end of the tunnel. I am sure by this fall we will be almost back to normal. Just keep in mind we will use good common sense during all club events. I continue to add new columns to the newsletter that I trust will be of interest. Many thanks go out to our new Editorial Assistants.

Dale StricklandEventsReceives Event info from run leadersDales573@gmail.comEd RikerBiographyGathers Bios from MembershipRakere66@gmail.comCarl FioreTechnologyCompiles Tech Tips from MembershipC.fiore@cox.net

Lee Shapiro Sponsor& Dealer Our Liaison to our Dealers & Sponsors azlee38@hotmail.com

These members who are offering their time and assistance will make a great contribution to our newsletter, Also, a big shout out goes to our President Sue Hinkle. Sue has been working with Ed Lutz who is going to be our next Vice President and Events Coordinator. We thank Sue for presenting this opportunity to Ed, and Ed for accepting the position. I also wish to thank Mark Kucera who is working with Ed to bring him up to speed on the events coordinator position. We all look forward to many fun events under Ed's tutelage.

I ask all members to not only contribute to our newsletter, but to host and run events as well.

Please send your content to our Editorial Assistants:

E. A. Events Dale Strickland dales573@gmail.com

Dale should receive all event write-ups. Miata runs, Overnights, Visits to Museums, any special events. The event host writes up a synopsis and sends it to Dale. All event photos should be uploaded to Meetup by attendees.

E. A. Dealership Relations Lee Shapiro azlee38@hotmail.com

Lee will directly submit his Dealership and Sponsor reports to me, the editor@sahuaromiataclub.com

E. A. <u>Biography's</u> Ed Raker rakere66@gmail.com Ed should receive all member biographies along with associated photos.

E. A. <u>Technology</u> Carl Fiore c.fiore@cox.net

Carl should receive all information related to our Tech-Tips column. This not only includes items for the column but Miata modifications your car has received. All related photos should also go directly to Carl.

Editor Jeff Morris editor@sahuaromiataclub.com

I should receive everything else:

Photos of Vanity License Plates, Photos of You or your co-pilot in your teens or as children. Special interest stories, Cartoons, Suggestions, info and pictures of places you wish to share with us. Don't forget your Dog photos, (Very Important), I need pictures of your Miata for our "Miata Versions" page. If you have an interesting hobby that we can highlight that would also be of interest. I am looking for contact related to our members. It is easy to cut and past off of the internet. Content from our members makes our newsletter special!



There are several things that make Miata car clubs different from most other car clubs. Our demographics tend to tilt towards the mature driver. Typically, they have owned more than one Miata through the years. It is not unusual to have members that have owned dozens of sports cars, from British roadsters of the 50's and 60's to sporty sedans such as Mustangs and Camaros. You can even toss in several Corvettes, BMW's, and Porches to boot. However, it is my opinion that what differentiates Miata Club's is the mindset of the Miata owner.

Miata Owners do not drive Miata's to make a statement. We are not trying to wow people with a lofty price tag or blistering fast stop light showdowns. We drive Miata's because they are just, plain, fun. We know that very few cars on the market today can perform on a twisty road like a Miata. Even exotics on the right road can have a difficult time keeping up with us. It does not matter if you drive a Sunburst Yellow 1992 Limited Edition NA or the latest 30th anniversary edition ND in Racing Orange.

All Miata's are real, true sports cars. Designed for one thing, to make the driver and car an integral part of the road. I have been reading a lot about the large number of people that are finally driving Miata's for the first time. They are simply amazed by the performance. Most people who have driven those other copy-cat-cars are starting to understand why Miata owners say "Miata is the answer". This might explain why Miata's continue to be one of the most sought after cars on the road. In fact many Miata's have almost doubled in price since the pandemic. Fun to drive, easy and economical to operate they make a great affordable and maintainable sportscar.

Please make sure to go through the entire newsletter. I trust you will glean a lot of valuable information. And do not forget to contribute photos of your cars, vanity license plates, biographies and write ups on modifications to your cars. Show us your new wheels and tires, roll bars and specialty paint. Have you replaced your radio? Send me a picture. One of the big trends is to keep cars looking as factory stock as possible, so I always need great vintage shots as well.



In Memoriam Martha Purfeerst

What makes a club special? Is it the car we all own? Or is it the places we visit? Is a club special because of where we hold our meetings, or is it something fundamentally more important? I feel what makes a club special are the people. It seems every club has a handful of members who stand out. Why? Because those are the people that really put 110% into their devotion in making sure their club works. Martha Purfeerst was one of those special people.

Today, in 2021 we are seeing a sizeable number of new members, unfortunately, to them Martha is nothing more than the name of a past member. I ask you to indulge me as I talk about our cherished friend Martha and introduce her to our new members.

Martha was our Merchandize coordinator for five years. She was our annual Christmas elf during our Christmas Holiday parties. Martha was the person that made sure that that new members or guests had a name badge at their first events. She was the person that made everyone feel at home and welcome. Martha packed her white Miata with Shirts and Hats, pins and bags and set up our club merchandise for numerous events every year. She was a person full of life and offered her friendship to everyone. A favorite saying was "Cash or Check", she was from a simpler time where Credit Card's and PayPal were not part of her vocabulary. She did not own a cell phone, so cash was king, no processing of credit cards or acceptance of PayPal. No No No! However, we really did not care because we had the best merchandise coordinator ever, we had Martha!

I was going to write the conventional obituary, going over her past, her marriage to Donald, her love of crafting and building amazing doll houses large and small. What is important is that you remember Martha for her kindness, diligence, and dedication to doing the right thing. She was a wonderful person, we miss her.





Run from Apache Junction to Superior, Winkelman, and Globe Saturday February 13, 2021

Our first SMC run of 2021 was a wonderful kick-off to the New Year. Hosted by Mark Kucera, this 150+ mile adventure had some 20 member participants for a Fun outing. The weather cooperated with sunny skies and temps in the mid 70's, perfect for our top-down Miatas. Based on the many compliments and positive comments posted afterwards on Meetup, everyone had a great time. Many thanks to Mark for creating this event, plus planning and communicating all the details required for its success.

From the "Beyond the call of duty" department is the following:

As part of the descriptive write-up for this and other events, Mark also included

"Participant Guidelines for Sahuaro Miata Club Runs", which each of us should be aware of and memorized if possible. These reminders make for a safer and more enjoyable event for all.









5/4/2021	Patio Lunch at Phx Beer Co. In Scottsdale
5/5/2021	Club Board Meeting on Zoom 7:00—9:00 pm see Meetup for details
5/29/2021	TrackDay High Performance Driver Education at Inde Motorsports
6/12/2021	SMC 30th Anniversary Celebration At Horne Mazda Avondale



Run to Boyce Thompson Arboretum State Park Tuesday February 23, 2021

On another sunny afternoon, 14 SMC members enjoyed a casual picnic and stroll thru 340+ acres of plants and flowers. Who knew relaxing in such beautiful surroundings could be educational too? Our Sahuaro Miata Club has something for everyone; fun, friends, and even culture! Once again Mark Kucera created and hosted this pleasant outing. Many great photos by our members were uploaded to Meetup after this event, which can be viewed under past events on our website. Take a few minutes to review and enjoy.





March 11th—Riparian Reserve & Saguaro Lake Hosted by Terye & Royce VanSanford

It was a perfectly beautiful top down day when our Sahuaro Miata Club joined the Old Pueblo Miata Club at the Gilbert Riparian Preserve. It is amazing that a "Gilbert City Park" exists with seven man made lakes to walk around and explore.

Old Pueblo was a small but happy group of 3 Miatas with a great event leader, Christine Hennessey, who kept us on schedule so we would not miss our luncheon reservations at the Saguaro Lake Marina Ship RockRestaurant.

Our Sahuaro group of five Miata welcomed Old Pueblo and had a short visit before we split up to explore the Riparian Preserve. Becky Dennison, who lives very close by the Preserve, and Tim Kroll had other plans for the day, but just wanted to stop by and say hello.

Six Miata's did a caravan north on Power Road/Bush Highway through the city traffic and on to the Lake. We did not see any of the wild horses! Rich Hall, a new member and new to Arizona, really enjoyed the ride from city traffic lights to the open national forest service area.

Sahuaro members Wayne Hostetter and Rich Hall enjoyed lunch with some of the Old Pueblo members. The Old Pueblo Miata President, John McAlister and Royce and I had a picnic alongside the Lake. And did I mention it was a most gorgeous day?

Miata people need to have more picnics by the lake!





March 21—Chuckwalla Valley Raceway Track Day—Host Mark Kucera

5 SMC Members and 1 guest traveled to Desert Center, CA to participate in a Track Day.

No content available.

March 31—Run to Bagdad-"Lunch in the Park"—Host Mark Kucera

On a sunny & warm March day, 12 members visited Bagdad Municipal Park in their Miatas with bag lunches. Nicely paved road, beautiful scenery, and a pleasant well-cared for park, made for an enjoyable adventure.

April 28—Cave Creek Exploring & BBQ Lunch—Hosts Mark Kucera & Carl Fiore

Guided by Carl Fiore, 19 members and Miatas toured the sights in and around Cave Creek Hills and Carefree, followed by lunch at Bryan's Black Mountain BBQ.

Winding roads, beautiful scenery, and spectacular homes rewarded the viewer-attendees, as evidenced by several





May 1, 2021—Nichols West Brunch Event—Hosts Roger Petterson, Larry Lloyd, John Wilson & Dale Strickland

Congress, AZ is the location of Nichols West, a well-known restaurant with a wide-ranging menu with something for everyone's taste. 23 Sahuaro Miata Club Members, the largest number of attendees for an event since 2019, enjoyed each others company, excellent service, and great food. Three groups of members, from various meeting points, converged at the restaurant led by Sue Hinkle, Terye Van Sanford, and Roger Petterson. Since everyone was seated in a reserved section, all were able to greet each other, re-introduce themselves to old and new friends, and in general enjoy a raucous rumpus. After 2 hours of eating and getting re-acquainted, many people gathered outside in the parking lot for more conversation before heading out. Top down temps and hazy clouds resulted in a perfect day for this outstanding Club event.





Our Secretary Tim Kroll

Our Treasurer Sue Taylor

OUR MISSION...

The mission of the Sahuaro Miata Club is to increase the fun of driving and owning a Mazda MX-5 Miata. This is achieved by combining fun runs and outings that allow us to take advantage of our roadsters phenomenal performance. Through meetings, meals and activities we meet like minded club members. We share our Miata experiences and develop friendships along the way that makes us all proud to be Miata owners and members of the Sahuaro Miata Club.





To all the members out there who are looking for another thing to add to your "To do in the age of COVID", consider joining our monthly Board Meeting. They are on ZOOM and in addition to the business of the Club, there is usually lots of lighthearted hilarity as Board members frequently take pot shots at each other and anything else that is current in the world of Miata's and the world in general. It may give you a little more insight how the Club is managed as well as those who provide our management. With person to person contact opening up and getting closer to "normal ", it would be wonderful if more folks would open up, meet more members and Host or co-host an event in 2021.

"I wish everyone a happy and healthy New Year. I look forward to moving to Prescott this fall and spending more time with fellow members in the greater Prescott area."

Sue Taylor

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 year..



It's April and spring has sprung. First off, I would like to greet our new and returning members that joined in April, Richard Kendall, Bobby Scott, Steve and Amy Majeski and Ken Francis. Thank you and welcome to our Sahuaro Miata Club family. I would love to see a biography from all of you in our next newsletter, tell us your passions and how you all came to be Miata people. This also applies to all club members. Please send your "Bios" to our Editorial Assistant Ed Raker at rakere66@gmail.com. Please include a couple of paragraphs of fun facts and a few photos of you, a co-pilot if applicable, your Miata and yes, any dog's.

It is time to get out and organize some runs, be it a lunch or a 3-day event. Please submit any ideas or sign up to be a run leader. Being a run leader is easy and if you're unsure, just contact any of the board members, we are all ready to assist. Please see Jeff's excellent write up on hosting events on page 13 for more information.

We are slowly coming into, what I hope is a post Covid time, we all need to take our Miata's on the road! I have windshield postcards available to place on those random Miata's you find in parking lots, garages, etc. Please try to hand these out, we are always trying to spread the SMC word! BTW, if you are scouring neighborhoods looking for Miata's and find one in a garage with an open door always ring the bell. Do not walk into their garage, after all we do live in Arizona.

Happy Driving, Wade Phyfer Membership Coordinator

We welcome our new members since January 1st, 2021 Thank You! We hope you have a great time as members Of the Sahuaro Miata Club!

Paul Delaurentis Rick Hall Randy Hack David and Anna Porter

Sharon Zinser Geo. & Margaret Mount Jay Sterns Brendan Harrington

Keith & Kerri Gurchick Sharon Zinser Mike Vax Ken Francis

William Voss Richard Kendall Bobby Scott Steve & Amy Majeski



No matter
what version
Of Miata
You drive
Current or vintage,
They are all
Uniquely
Capable of
Loads of fun!





Leading a run is fun!

We can go for a run around the Valley, Cruise down to Tucson or spring up to Springerville!

There is a lot of satisfaction in knowing you helped the club with a successful event.

Do you have a favorite lunch spot you wish to share with the club? Well lets make it happen.

Please read the sections below on Runs versus Hosting events.

The SMC expects every Miata membership to lead or co-lead an event each year.

Please Contact Ed Lutz at: 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 cohost 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.









Did you know you can order Sahuaro Miata Club merchandise right on our website? Just stop by:

http://www.sahuaromiataclub.com/merchandise-for-sale
And order your gear today!















Shirts will be available for purchase at
Avondale Horne Mazda Celebration
on 6/12/21 at 10:30 am
Pre-orders are preferred, to guarantee
your color and style.
Shirts are available in White or Grey
Bleached shirts are available in limited colors.
Trials are in process. More details to come.
To preorder,

email <u>Marketing@sahuaromiataclub.com</u> or call/text Hope Morris at 517-648-9565





Did you know you can order Sahuaro Miata Club merchandise right on our website? Just stop by:

http://www.sahuaromiataclub.com/merchandise-for-sale And order your gear today!







We always keep hats and Visors in











stock. Golf Shirts and Long Sleeve T-Shirts are made to order. If there is a specific color you want, please let me know and we can accommodate special requests. All other merchandise is subject to





availability. Contact Hope at: marketing@sahuaromiataclub.com







New for 2021

Receive a 20% discount on "Moon over Miata Shirts"

Use Code "2021Moon"







Sahuaro Miata Club Duffel Bag

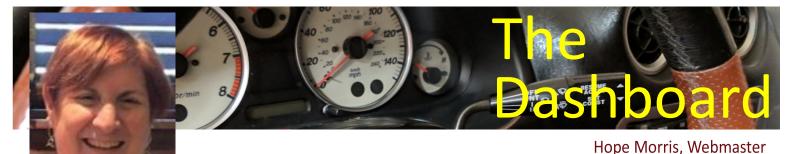


Sahuaro Miata Club Name Badge

Contact Hope Morris marketing@sahuaromiataclub.com with any questions or comments



Lost Your Badge Magnet? Contact Hope Today!



How to stop unwanted Meetup e-Mails!

Test this out to see if your changes eliminate the number of unwanted emails you receive. If you have any additional Meetup questions, please feel free to email me at: **webmaster@sahuaromiataclub.com**.

Some people have been commenting that Meetup sends them too many emails. There is a way for you to manage what content you wish Meetup to send to you.

Here's how to do it:

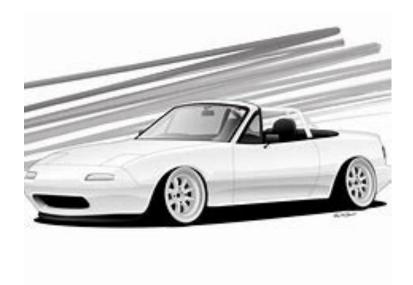
- To initiate the process, just click on your picture in the upper right hand corner of the screen (on a computer)
- 2. Then select "settings".
- 3. **U**nder "settings", you will see a selection on the left side bar "email updates". Clicking on the email updates will bring in a list of events that cause **Meetup** to send you an email.

- 4. **U**ncheck 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. **O**nce you have made your changes, you can go back to your photo and click on it to return to the Sahuaro MX5 Miata Club.

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.



Here's a photo of me driving my Miata. Here's a photo of me washing my Miata. Here's a photo of me waxing my Miata. And here's a photo of me standing next to my Miata. Oh look, heres a photo of my Miata parked in my garage!





Greetings to the members of the Sahuaro MX-5 Miata Club and thank you for the honor of being the Member at Large. I am also on the Automotive Board of the East Valley Institute of Technology (known as EVIT). EVIT is part of the Mesa School System. It has a large campus (approximately 80 acres) and teaches young men and women the skills needed to be successful as adults. It teaches almost 100 different job skills including aviation, automotive repair, hair styling, carpentry, air conditioning and much more. During the course of the year, I will try to arrange a tour of the school for the club (depending on health restrictions).

I have owned many exotic cars over the years and will tell you of the "cars I love to hate". Some names you will know (Bentley, Jaguar, Maserati, etc.) and others you may not know (Kaiser Darrin, Facel Vega, Elva Courier, etc.). I am also an avid collector of models. Starting with HO trains as a teenager and expanding to incredibly detailed cars, airplanes, ships, etc. I figured out that it's easier to collect models than the real things. I wish all the members Happy Holidays and a safe 2021.

Do you remember the millionth Miata?



A few years ago the Sahuaro Miata Club attended the Millionth Miata Celebration here in Phoenix. This lovely ND traveled across the country and was autographed by thousands of Miata Fans. Here we see where Editorial Assistant and Member at Large Dale Strickland, Our lovely Merchandize Coordinator and Webmaster Hope Morris and her stunning yet shy Editor and husband signed the fender of this monumental vehicle. (Photos always add 40 LBS!)





HAPPYBIRTHDAY

March 2021

Eric Billeter

George Boxhorn

Tony Caldwell

Howard Glass

Diane Graziano

Randy Hack

Wanda Hartfield

Ramona Helms

Rob & Tina

Ingenthron

Tim Kroll

Dennis Manning

Hope Morris

Viv Morrison

Dina Norwood

Bruce Philips

David Porter

Barry Prather

Diane Quince

David Raimondo

Robert Schoepe

Ellen Shapiro

Tana Smith

Rosemary Talmadge

Anne Schultz

Cynthia & Curtis Wood

Sandy Wright

April 2021

Donna Brinkman

Austin Dubiel

Sam Elbin

Sharry Hayden

Christa Hoffman

Peter Jenkins

Stephen Knapp

Pete Peterson

Heather & Nich Olver

Linda Killian

David Ridolfi

Rhonda Silvers

Jerry Germanson

Terry Thompson

Karen Georgi

May 2021

Don Chandler

Janet Chandler

Bob Florer

Rose Gaskell

Anthony Graziano

Jeff Leavitt

Jannette McDonald

Jim McDonald

George Mount

Chuck Pettijohn

Paula Prather

Lynn Jacobson

Anayansi Ramirez

Dale Strickland

Arthur Stromberg

Steve Talmadge

Dave Vautrin

Jenny Voss

Sharon Zinser







Did you know we have multiple Social Media sites? They are an easy way to provide you more info on our club. They are a great way to find the info you need.

"Meetup"

Meetup is our communications life blood, our social media calendar of events.

It's exclusively opened to all members and is free to use. Find out about current and past events, look up event photos and download the photos you take at our functions. It is a great way to find out what's going on in the club. Also communicate with fellow members via Meetup.

www.meetup.com/sahuaro-mx5-miata-club

"Facebook"

We have two Facebook pages, "Interest Group" & "Buy and Sell"

1.) Our "Sahuaro Miata Interest Group" page:

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 DYI Miata projects



www.facebook.com/groups/sahuaromiatainterestgroup

2.) Our "Sahuaro Miata Club Buy and Sell" Page:

Looking to sell that special part you no longer need? Looking to buy? This is the place to go.

www.facebook.com/groups/SMCbuyandsell

"Sahuaro Miata Club Website"

A wealth of information at your fingertips. Find our about membership, event photos (Most recent photos are found on Meetup) sponsors, handheld radio info, club merchandize for sale and so much more.

www.sahuaromiataclub.com

bu're So Vain....

Show us your tags!

Send your plate to: editor@sahuaromiataclub.com













Guess Who?

Our members from years past...















"Who's that Member?"

Yes, It's that fun filled contest where you can win a great prize by guessing who these members are. In the next few months, once we receive 25 member photos our contest will begin. So, if you have a photo of you or your co-pilot please send it to:

Editor@sahuaromiataclub.com*

*Please include your \$75 entry fee made out to Jeff
Morris err "Cash" for processing. Limited to SMC members. Not valid in Guam, Utah, or Bosnia Herzegovina.
Entrants must be at least 18 years of age to enter.
Lite on cash? Just send your photos.

Would you like to see your highlighted on this page? Please send a photo of your car to:

Editor@sahuaromiataclub.com

Generations

Did you know we have four Versions of the MX-5 Miata?

MAZDA MX-5 / Miata

1989-1998

1.6L 5MT (116 HP) 1.8L (131 HP)

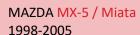
Sold over 400,000 units. Codename Roadster modeled after the British roadsters of the 60's and 70's. (especially the Lotus Elan) the car was simple, reliable, and nimble. It could be a daily driver, it was that much fun. Noted for it's famous Pop up headlights and cute design. For many this is the "Quintessential" MX-5 Miata. This stunning example was owned by Bob and Jeanette Benoit.



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. Some 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 lovely NC PRHT is owned by Dennis and Mary Manning.





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 antiroll bar, better brakes with optional ABS. Later years saw the Mazdaspeed (2004-2005). This lovely 2004 Mazdaspeed is owned by Mark and Pam Weinberg.



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. This Sharp example is owned by Art Stromberg and Lynn Christensen.



About a year ago I started thinking about a new head unit for my 2007 MX5. I looked

around at the units after figuring out what I wanted, that being a Navigation system, satellite radio (Sirius XM) USB, hands free phone and a couple others. I talked with another club member who had completed the install and it appeared to have a few humps to get over, but still possible.

I found that Crutchfield was the go-to place for unit options. From basic to state of the art, they had it all. While this search went on, I also searched the internet for installation videos for my car. Several were found and the install did not seem that difficult. With videos saved, I was back onto Crutchfield's web site to choose a unit. I chose the Jensen VX7002, not the newest, but what I needed. I called Crutchfield's and spoke to a tech there. He suggested what I needed. The unit came with the install bracket, I also needed a wiring harness specific to my car and a unit to hook up the steering wheel functions. I placed my order.





I was able to download all the install instructions from Crutchfield, so with those and the videos I was able to learn quite a bit before the unit arrived. I also called a couple of installation places just to check what they would charge. Several said I needed additional items and most charges were in excess of \$200, plus the parts. No thanks, I will give it a try.

A few days later the unit arrived. After the parts were sorted out, the first order of business was to connect the new wiring harness to the radio. Most of this is just matching wire colors, but it helped to know what the wires were for IE front speakers, back speakers, etc, etc). This information was found on the enclosed material and with some sorting of wires it was not too difficult. I had also purchased a few dozen wire connectors, the type where you put a wire in one end screwed it down then put the matching wire in the other end and screwed it down. There were many recommendations to solder the wires but I had no equipment for that. The connectors seem to work fine. I did run into a couple of problems, but a call to Crutchfield quickly cleared them up. The tech support at Crutchfield is outstanding, and they cheerfully assist with any issue one might have with the install and run through a step by step for novices like me.





Once the harness was completed, it was time to start working on the car. I disconnected the battery per instructions. Removing the side panels and steering column panel. (That was easy.) The radio just had a couple of screws holding it in. It seemed to slide right out except the shifter in N would not allow the unit to be removed. As the battery was disconnected the shifter could not be moved. (Electrical lock out on cars with automatic transmissions.)

I reconnected the battery, moved the shifter all the way back and disconnected the battery again. I disconnected all of the connectors from the back of the Bose unit, antenna, speakers, wire harness etc. as well as the AC, fan controls.

Next, I assembled the new radio face plate/bracket to the radio. I reinstalled a couple of screws, then I installed the head unit into the dash. Then the HVAC control knobs went back into their bracket and secured all connectors. It was at this point I decided to NOT hook up the steering wheel controls. To do this, I would have to first find, then splice into several wires that were in a tightly packed cluster of wires near the steering column that I could barely get to by laying on my back under the steering column where I could barely move. OK, I can do without this. The remainder of the install consisted of putting the connectors in the correct unit receptacle and running the XM antenna and the Navigation antenna to various

spots where they could receive signals.

Once this was all completed, it was just a matter of gently pushing the new unit back into the vehicle, careful to not pinch any wires. Putting the panels back in place, hooking up the battery and hoping everything worked and nothing crackled and melted.

Thankfully, the unit lit up, all the functions worked, the phone paired easily, XM activated, the Nav system found the signal and all the other bells and whistles were right there ready to use. The installation took about 2 hours and other than an aching back, it was not too bad.

Tim Kroll

Thanks go out to our club secretary **Tim Kroll** for sharing his experiences in installing a modern double din head unit. As noted in the article, this was Tim's first attempt at installing such a product. We can tell you from experience this was not a simple 45 minute project. With that said the install looks terrific and we appreciate Tim making the time to document his adventure and sending us these photos. .ED

Please send your articles and photos to me c.fiore@cox.net Thanks, Carl



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Our Covid-19 Policy



Dear club members. We all know that these are trying times to say the least. The Sahuaro Miata Club under the direction of your Board of Directors has made every effort to have as many safe activities as possible. It is challenging to say the least. We want everyone to understand that during these difficult times we must all work together. This means doing the right thing for our fellow club members. Please understand when we gather, we will always wear masks, we will practice social distancing and practice good hygiene. (Wash your hands, if not possible bring hand sanitizer) This is all to protect ourselves, and our SMC friends.

If you can not abide by this simple request, please stay home, and rejoin our club when it becomes safe to do so.

Jeff Morris

editor@sahuaromiataclub.com Past President 2017, 2018, 2019

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