

2022 #1

SahuarO Miata Club

GREATER PHOENIX AREA NEWSLETTER

JAN

FEB

MARCH

APRIL

2022

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

Established 6.25.1992

Jeff Morris Editor

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Messages from your BOD
Jeff Morris welcomes new
editor Paul Stonebraker!

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Mark Kucera
Jeff Morris

New Tech Products
New Member Biographies



Presidents Message

Sue Hinkle

Presidents Message

It's been a tough couple of years with all of us facing Covid, getting vaccinated and making sure we could avoid getting this horrible virus.

We held off on any air travel for more than two years, cancelled a Miata trip to Italy but finally made a trip in January to Daytona Beach to visit with friends and family and attend the Daytona Beach 500. It was an awesome experience for Jack and me to be at one of the best races in the country. Over 200,000 fans were there to cheer for their favorite driver. We had perfect seats and could see the entire track as the drivers moved in and out of position hoping to be the driver that would cross the finish line. For the first time since 2011, a rookie made his way to the Winner's Circle. Austin Cindric of Team Penske, lead the field after two crashes in the final six laps. What a race, we were on the edge of our seats for the last stage of the race. As a very special treat for us, we traveled with friends to a restaurant/museum "Racing's North Turn". The sight where racing history began in Daytona Beach starting in 1936 with the Grand National Race in 1948. The races on the sandy beach continued until 1958, when NASCAR relocated to the Daytona International Speedway. Another special treat for us was a private tour of the "Motorsports Museum Hall of Fame" at the International Speedway that showcases the lives and achievements of inductees with a broad display of vehicles from motorcycles to various race cars as well as memorabilia and plaques that honor each of the 250 inductees. So it was a fun filled time for us in Florida, so much that we are going back in January 2023 for the Rolex 24 Races. A 4-day event of racing that includes Miata's.

Spring is blooming across our beautiful state. I hope members are enjoying this perfect weather with the top down and wind in your hair. In just a few months we will be in those triple digit temperatures and most of our organized drives and gatherings will be in our mountain areas. If you have a run or event idea that you would like to host, please let me or our VP of Events, Ed Lutz knows what you have in mind and we will be happy to work with you on planning. Let's get things moving with Wednesday Lunches in the North, West, East, and South, more run and event ideas over the summer months.

Thanks to members who have organized lunches, events, and driving runs since the beginning of the year. Your efforts in support of the club and our members does not go unnoticed. Additionally, a big shout out to our terrific board members who volunteer their time to ensure that our club runs like a fine-tuned Miata! Great Job Everyone!

See you all around the next curve!

**Sue Hinkle,
President**

Sue included the Presidents duties: Club President shall schedule monthly board meetings, membership meetings and preside over these meetings. President shall enforce by-laws with input from all board positions, and be responsible for carrying out decisions of the board of directors. The President is our "club cheerleader" recognizing all member activity organized by members, that include driving events, overnight events, social events, charity events, etc. (We will be posting our club bylaws on our sahuaromiataclub.com website which will contain all Board Member duties, Editor)



V. P. Events Message Ed Lutz

Hello Miata Friends!

What a wonderful spring we are having in the Valley! The weather is great, the sky is blue, and the roads are awaiting! Many of us have had the opportunity to entertain friends and family who visit us during the year, and we typically make a list of sites and stops to take them so they can get a flavor of all that our beautiful state offers in terms of weather and fun. Well, as a club, we also have seen many new people join our Sahuaro Miata Club family this year, and what better way can there be to get to know our new friends than to spend time driving the back roads and enjoying our state.

Thank you to all of you who have designed events and runs for the club. And I want to encourage all of us to do the same. Just as we make lists of what to do and where to take people new to the Valley, let's all offer some places to see and stop at to welcome all our new members...as well as get together with long-time friends. As the Vice President of Events, my role is to assist club members in pulling off successful runs. All I need from you is an idea and a date, and I will be sure to connect with you, and together we will make it happen. Send me any and all ideas, and let's get driving!

Finally, please take the time to send Jeff Morris an encouraging word of thanks for this tremendous newsletter. He truly does a fantastic job!

Vice President And Events Coordinator

1. work with members to develop, publish, and host events and runs
2. publish event/run write-ups on Meet-up platform
3. Communicate with members as questions arise about events and runs
4. Participate in monthly board meetings to share club activity participation
5. Fill in for club president when needed

Please feel free to contact me at vpevents@sahuaromiataclub.com with anything event related. I welcome your input and assistance.

Warm Regards, Ed Lutz, Vice President / Events Coordinator



Guess who just bought another Miata? That's right, VP Events coordinator Ed and Susie Lutz! Congratulations. It's a 2008 NC and mighty fine indeed. Drive safe and happy, Lutz family!





Editor's Message

Jeff Morris

Hello Everyone,

As I put together my last newsletter for the club several thoughts go through my mind. I had no idea in June of 2016, when my wife Hope, and I purchased our first Miata our lives would change as they have. In December of 2016 I was installed as President of the club. I was president for the following three years, 2017, 2018 and 2019. I had no experience as a board member not to mention the position of President. I will tell you I would not trade those three years for anything. Working with wonderful people on the board, we built our club into one of the best Miata chapters in the country. It was accomplished because every one of our board members was dedicated to the success of our organization. I owe much to the board members from the last five years especially my wife Hope who did a lot to modernize merchandise. Today we have an active website where you can go and purchase SMC items, pay for them and have them delivered to your residence. Hope has also worked hard to make sure that technical aspects of our sahuaromiataclub.com website are up to date. She has assisted the club in so many technical ways I could write five pages on her accomplishments.

However, Hope's dedication and hours of service are typical of what every board member gave to this club. One important thing that I learned about the operations of a club is that it takes work to cross every T and dot every I. Did you know we have a tax-exempt license; we are registered with the state, and we file all reports every year? We use Dropbox to store our valuable forms and data and QuickBooks is what Sue Taylor our Treasurer uses to keep our bookkeeping accurate and organized. It takes organization and effort by all board members to keep a club in tip top shape.

In 2020 we elected a new and vibrant President, Dennis Manning. Dennis and his wife Mary were very excited, and Dennis had many great ideas for the club, then Covid struck the world. Covid not only drove everything to a screeching halt, but it also made it almost impossible for social organizations to function. How could we have runs? Go out for meals? Have Tech days and so much more? We did the best we could, but it has not been easy.

Near the end of Dennis's term Dennis had to step down and Sue Hinkle a past San Diego Miata Club President and current SMC Vice President became our President. We all appreciate Sue's efforts. Over the last 16 months.

We have many new members and we have lost members due to normal attrition. Some have sold their Miata's; others have moved out of state, and some may have left us because our activities have not been what they were pre-covid. I am please to report that our calendar is starting to fill up once again!

I want everyone to wish our new Editor, Paul Stonebreaker best wishes in his new position. Paul is a terrific person with a lot of good ideas, and I am sure he will bring our newsletter to new heights. Thank You Paul for taking over the position.

I invite everyone to read Mark Kucera's article on Page 26th and my article on page 27. They give you a little depth into our relationships with our Miata's. They are both well worth the read. Also there is a very nice article on our friend Kurt Greene of Greene Automotive . Please catch that as well. Kurt has serviced our Miata's for years, he is a true friend of the club.

With Much Appreciation,

Jeff Morris, Editor, Sahuaro Miata Club



Duties of Secretary, Sahuaro Miata Club by Tim Kroll

The position of Secretary for the club is very specific, you attend Board meetings, take notes and write them up for distribution to the Board and any interested members. This may sound daunting but it is not so. Taking notes does NOT mean recording everything said. It means you look at the agenda and take notes of whatever happens that is of consequence. It does NOT mean recording all the conversation that goes on. For instance: the topic is Lunch Meetings: for this topic Board members discuss where, when, what food, cost and not everyone agrees, this could go on for 10-15 minutes. After this discussion nothing is decided except it is agreed that Lunch Meeting are something to look into. What you would record is: The topic of Lunch Meetings was brought up, discussion was had on venue, cost, dates, several opinions were expressed but nothing was decided. So, a topic that took 15% of the meeting is recorded in one sentence.

It takes a few meetings to understand what needs to be recorded, but with a bit of help and discussion this position can be Learned. It is a fun position because you can keep things on track by asking for clarifications, which often gets Board members back on topic.

If you have an interest in serving the Club in this Position, let me know. I would be happy to share insights into the Position and happy to stay with you until you are comfortable.

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.



Tim Krill



Sue Taylor

Our Treasurer Sue Taylor



Sue Taylor

Congratulations to Sue and Tom Taylor.

The Taylor's just moved into their new home. They were living in a on-site travel trailer as their home was being built and they are unpacking and getting their home all set up. We wish them the best! Sue, as usual, 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. We owe Sue a big "Thank You" for all of her efforts. Sue also wants you to know that she is making the Treasurer's position available since she will be traveling more since the completion of her new home. If you can assist the club and take over this position, please contact Sue at Treasurer@sahuaromiataclub.com or our president Sue Hinkle at president@sahuaromiataclub.com for more details.



Magyar Miata Klub

w w w . m i a t a . h u



Wade Phyfer with Tom Matano



Our Membership Coordinator Wade Phyfer



Dear Members,

I would like to provide you with a new article this month by our Membership Coordinator Wade Phyfer. However, Wade just sold one of his three Miata's and picked up a new to him 2019 ND with something like 3000 miles on it, just disgusting. So Wades advise to the club is 1.) East My Dust and 2.) ZOOM ZOOM!

We are all so happy for Wade. Wade is the most enthusiastic Miata lovin member I ever met. Wade eats, drinks and lives Miata and I know right now on some dusty back road he is having a ball with his gorgeous 2019 roadster. Wade promised me next month he would have the greatest membership message ever, I can't wait.

Congratulations Wade! Jeff Morris Editor

Welcome New Members!

Justin Aremd

Conrad Betrand

Patrick Cullen

Michael D'Oliveria

Douglas Dunyan

Mark and Leslie Eskridge

Jim Garvin

James Hart

Jared & Jeanette Lombardo

Sharon Martin

Ralph Serrano

Shane Smith



INTRODUCING: DEVILS HIGHWAY MERCHANDISE

Devils Highway



6 Colors available:

White/Silver/Grey Heather/Dark Forest Green/Black/Royal Heather

Ladies and Mens Sizes - S-2XL available

Design is embroidered on the shirts, and will be available on or before the event on June 3-5, 2022.

Cost is \$30/shirt (2XL is \$2 additional)



Devil's Highway Magnets will also be available this year.
Cost is \$10 each.

To order any of these, please contact Hope Morris at marketing@sahuaromiataclub.com or order from the merchandise page on the website.

www.sahuaromiataclub.com/dhmerchandise

Deadline: May 26th for the event.



Merchandise corner
Page 2

**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!**



Ladies Golf Shirt with SMC logo embroidered left chest \$30.00



Golf Shirt with SMC logo embroidered left chest from \$30.00



Sahuaro Miata Club Embroidered T-shirts \$13.00



Cap \$15.00



Visor \$15.00



Moon Over Miata T-shirts \$18.00



Sahuaro Miata Club Long Sleeve Embroidered T shirts \$24.00



Ladies Sahuaro Miata Club t shirt - glitter applique \$15.00



Sahuaro Miata Club Magnet \$10.00



Sahuaro Miata Club Lapel Pin \$5.00



Sahuaro Miata Club Embroidered Patch \$6.00



Sahuaro Miata Club Duffel Bag \$18.00



Sahuaro Miata Club Name Badge from \$14.00

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

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



**Lost Your Badge Magnet?
Contact Hope Today!**



How to Contribute To the Newsletter.

Jeff Morris Editor

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.

Paul Stonebraker Events Receives Event info from run leaders editor@sahuaromiataclub.com

Ed Raker Biography Gathers Bios from Membership Rakere66@gmail.com

Carl Fiore Technology Compiles Tech Tips from Membership C.fiore@cox.net

These members who are offering their time and assistance will make a great contribution to our newsletter, 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 Paul Stonebraker editor@sahuaromiataclub.com

Paul 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 Paul. All event photos should be uploaded to Meetup by attendees.

E. A. Biography's Ed Raker rakere66@gmail.com

Ed should receive all member biographies along with associated photos.

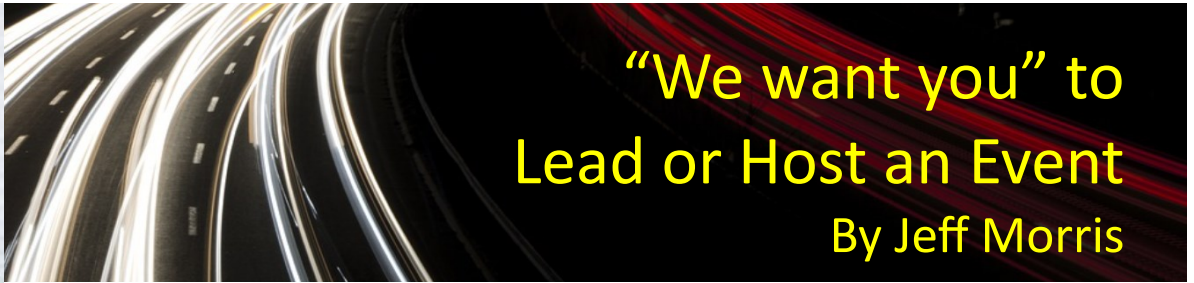
E. A. Technology Carl Fiore c.fiore@cox.net

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 Paul Stonebraker editor@sahuaromiataclub.com

Paul 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!



“We want you” to Lead or Host an Event

By Jeff Morris

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 co-host will research the route we will take, restaurant’s we will dine at (and if applicable) what hotels we will stay at.

Write up a Meetup “Event” this explains the “Where, What’s and When’s “of the event.

Submit your write up to our V.P. Events coordinator Steve Talmadge who will approve it and post it onto meetup.

Monitor the events activities on Meetup. Be prepared to answer questions from club members via our Meetup email’s or respond under the comments section of the meetup writeup.

lead the run as outlined in the club newsletter and be in effect the official club “Chaperone” for the event.

Bask in the glory of a job well done.

Hosting an Event

An “Event” can be a Lunch at a regional restaurant or a trip to a Museum, Theater etc.

Submit your idea and time for the event to our V.P. Events Co-Ordinator.

Upon approval you will research the Restaurant, Museum, Event making sure their hours of operation and facilities can handle our needs. Making reservations as needed.

Write up a Meetup “Event” this explains the “Where, What’s and When’s “of the event.

Submit your event “Write Up” to our V.P. Events coordinator Ed Lutz who will approve it and post it onto meetup.

Monitor the event on Meetup. Be prepared to answer questions from club members via our Meetup email’s or respond under the comments section of the meetup writeup.

Organize all members as they arrive to the event. Explain the event and what rules to follow.

Bask in the glory of a job well done.



Yum!



In Memoriam *Jeanette Benoit*



Jeanette was the most kind and generous person I have ever met. If she knew someone was alone at any of the holidays, she would invite them to join us.

She loved driving her red 2016 Miata Grand Touring with the top down. She nick-named it "Zoomer" as she love the Mazda advertising that said "Zoom Zoom." and she even bought a club visor with those words.

Jeanette and I met on Match.com and were married October 14, 2017. The marriage was amazing and perfect in every way.

Unfortunately, she passed away suddenly and unexpectedly on February 20th from sepsis.

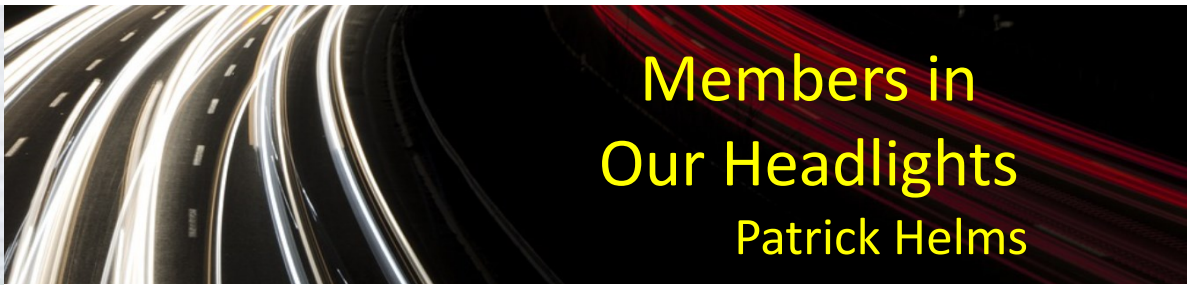
She is sorely missed by all, especially me, her husband Bob.

Her favorite charity was St. Jude's Hospital which helps terminally ill children. In tribute to her if you so desire a contribution can be made.

I will be keeping my Miata, while hoping to maintain the relationships both Jeanette and I have built through the years.

Warm Regards, Bob Benoit

What separates the great clubs from the good clubs is the involvement that members provide. Bob and Jeanette were those members that went above and beyond. They were involved in our holiday lights tours every fall and greatly involved (Hosted) our delicious meals at the Anacapa Restaurant in mid December. The Benoit's were always willing to help organize and lead these annual dinners and "Holiday Light Runs" through the neighborhoods on our far west side. Bob also would call and email me with suggestions that always meant a lot to me, and kept our SMC activities full. Our hearts go out to Bob as we remember all of the kindness Jeanette provided the club. Thanks to you both. **Jeff Morris editor@sahuaromiataclub.com**



Members in Our Headlights Patrick Helms

Greetings Miata friends.

We are Patrick and Ramona Helms. We own two Miata's. A classic red 96 NA and a copper red 2010 NC with the power hardtop. We share them but the 2010 is in Minnesota and the 96 is here in Sun City West where we spend most of the year. We are originally from Minnesota and Patrick purchased a house down here about 6 years ago. At the time he was married to his wife Susan, but she was not well and died from dementia and Parkinson's. His health was not good after years of caring for her, but he met Ramona and she was a good influence on him plus helped him with doctor visits and cared for him even though she did not know him very well. Well, he thought that this was a pretty good deal, and it wasn't long before they were married.

Little did he know that his world would change. They both are car and motorcycle people and with his health returning it wasn't long before Ramona had persuaded him to invest in a motorcycle. He also had become fond of her 96 Miata. When she expressed interest in getting a newer Miata with the power hardtop, he was helpful and decided that he would like to keep her old 96 for himself. She also influenced him to purchase a 1934 Plymouth Town Sedan that they found for sale on the north shore of Lake Superior last summer when they were on vacation. Both loved it at first sight, so it was an easy decision. This was after we rode to Sturgis S.D. the week before the big bike rally just to see if we could still do it at our age. We have a pair of 2003 Harley 100th Anniversary models that we ride. It was fun and we might even do it again.

We keep the 2010 at our townhouse in Minnesota where we spend the hot months of the year and visit with our friends, family and especially the grandkids. We also belong to the Minnesota Miata Club. They are another fun group and have several outings over the summer plus spring and fall rallies that are a lot of fun.

Patrick's latest purchase is a 57 Ford Ranchero that he found on Facebook Marketplace and couldn't resist. See what happens when you have a wife that likes cars as much as you do? Now we must figure out where to park them all. Does anyone know of a garage stall for rent.? In 2019 we drove the 2010 from Minnesota to Hayward Wisconsin for the fall rally with the Minnesota Miata club and then when they headed back to Minnesota, we took off for Chicago to find the beginning of Route 66. Over the next 2 weeks we drove the whole length of Route 66 in the Miata plus side trips to stop off at our place in SCW and finally after arriving at

the Santa Monica Pier we also drove down to Oceanside to visit friends before finishing up back here in Arizona. It was a fun trip, but we did decide that we prefer a little more legroom for a touring car.



57 Ford Ranchero



Ramona and Patrick Helms



34 Plymouth Town Sedan



96 NA Miata



Members in Our Headlights Austin Hunt & Maddy

Hello, my name is Austin Hunt. I'm twenty five years old and I moved to Phoenix with my girlfriend of four years Maddy. A few months ago we moved to Phoenix in order for Maddy to complete her education. I found this club online months before moving to Arizona and I was excited to be around fellow MX-5/Miata owners for the first time. Driving fourteen hours to Phoenix with no cruise control was a rough but enjoyable drive.

I've owned my 2013 Sport for one year and it has been some of the most fun I've had. I was lucky to find this car with only 10,000 miles from the father and son who purchased it 9 years ago. I'm sure they would be happy to know how much I've enjoyed the car since then. More specifically my favorite activities are autocross and scenic drives. I'm looking forward to my first group drive!



Austin & Maddy's 2013 NC3



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

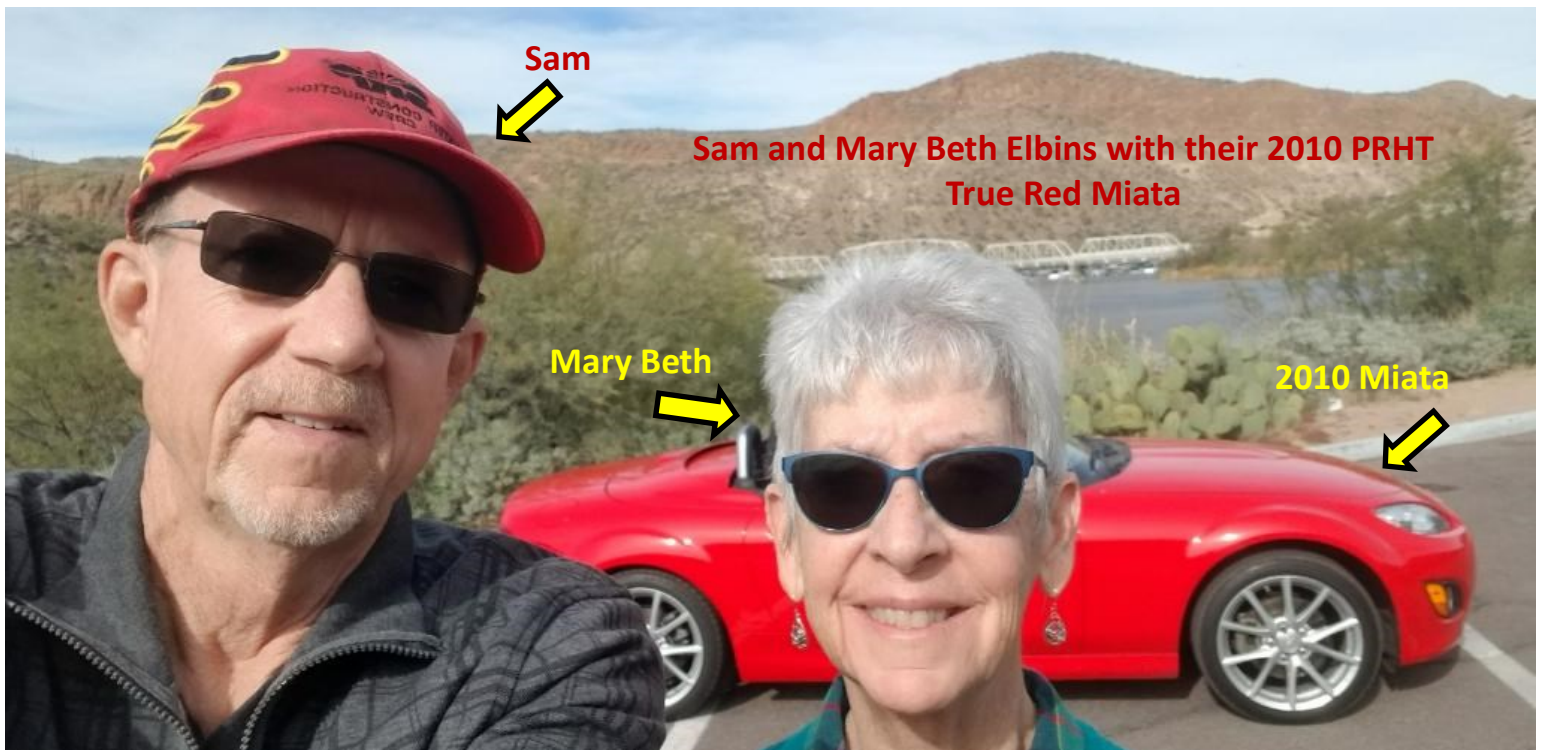




Members in Our Headlights Sam & Mary Beth Elbin

Mary Beth and I are originally from the Columbus area, in Ohio. We have lived in Arizona for almost 30 years. We will celebrate our 46th wedding anniversary in March. We do not have any children. Our dogs have always been our children. We currently have Oliver he is a combination of five different breeds. He is Labrador, Boxer, Staffordshire, German Pointer and Sharpei.

We left Ohio in 1986 and moved to Tempe. When I retired in 2008 from the Groundwater Division at Salt River Project, we moved back to Ohio to take care of my parents. We wanted a fun vehicle and we found a 2010 true red Miata and a 1964 Ford Falcon. I had to decide between the two cars. Both being convertibles. The Falcon was totally restored / customized and NOT stock under the hood. I did not want to work on my own car and I knew Mazda was good. Well, the Miata stole both of our hearts, when we test drove it, with the retractable top down, we chose the Miata. We drove it all over the “flat” state of Ohio not feeling any lack of power.



When our parents passed, we said, why are we shoveling snow and storing our Miata 5 months of the year. So, in 2015, we moved back to Arizona (Chandler). Our first trip up the hill to Globe is when I knew the Miata needed help with horsepower. Before any changes, I had it put on a hub dino. The automatic transmission takes 35 horsepower before it gets to the rear wheels. I found a shop that swapped the original 2.0 for a 2.5. It bolts right up to the original transmission.

Original 2.0 engine – 92HP 95 Ft #s torque. 2.5 engine – 150HP 148 Ft #s torque.

One day we were eating at Chase’s Diner in Chandler and saw several Miatas. We saw several people eating together and making A LOT of racket and decided to ask about all the Miatas. That is when we met Jeff Morris the President. He gave us his card. He told us about the Miata club and all the fun things the club does. We joined the club less than a year later and have been members ever since. That was almost three years ago. We have enjoyed our time in the club, even though we have not been able to join many events.

Events Recap

Run to Bartlett Lake & Big Earls
Goodyear Balloon Festival

January is our catch our breath month from all of our fourth quarter activities.

January 13th, 2022 Scenic run to Bartlett Lake and lunch at Big Earls. This is a popular run hosted by Mark and Cathey Kucera. Bartlett lake is lovely , a fun drive and Big Earl's has a great burger. Thanks to the Kucera's and all that attended. Six Members of the Sahuaro Miata Club enjoyed the beautiful weather in the Phoenix area today with a run to Bartlett Lake where we stopped for a group photo. We then drove to Cave Creek for a picnic lunch of burgers and fries at Big Earl's Greasy Eats. It was a nice top-down kind of day. Participants were Carl Fiore, Kevin Smith, Frank Wnuck, Caleb B. Cathey Kucera, and Mark Kucera. (Thanks for the write up Mark!)

January 29, 2022 Goodyear **Balloon Festival**. Hosted by our V.P. Events Coordinator Ed Lutz, this massive festival is always fun. We attempt to meet at a central location and take in the event as a group. Of course the nature of this event often leaves members finding fun in smaller groups.



Carl Fiore, Keyin Smith, Frank Wnuck, Caleb Bouwens, Mark and Kathy Kucera



January 2022 Goodyear Balloon Festival



www.timhmurphy.com



Events Recap

Concours in the Hills

Lunch at Perch Brewery

Run to Globe

Canyon Lake & Tortilla Flat Run

February, Now we are getting into wonderful Arizona weather and fun runs.

February 12, 2022 Concours in the Hills. This is one of our two biggest car shows of the year. Set around the Fountain Park, this is one of if not the nicest car shows in Arizona, We set up near the water and were surrounded by other great cars. Many thanks to all of the volunteers who helped us set up and dismantle out tent. A special thanks to Mark and Cathey Kucera who made their tent available for this fun event. What makes the Concours so much fun is the wide variety of vehicles found their. From our mighty Miata's to classics from around the world. Not to mention vintage American Iron from the 50's on up to exotics of all kinds. Even the motorcycle section continues to grow each year. Looking forward to seeing everyone next February. Thanks to our hosts Wade Phyfer, Tim Kroll, Ed Lutz and Hope and Jeff Morris.

February 16th, 2022. Lunch at Perch Brewery. We had an awesome attendance at one of our favorite lunch spots. The Perch is well located, with great food, supper outdoor seating, Plenty of exotic birds and a great list of beers. Thanks to Cathey Kucera, Hope and Jeff Morris for organizing this lunch.

February 19thth, 2022 Run to Globe. Always a fun run on the far east side. We get to fo through many small towns such as Superior, Miami and Claypool. Globe is fun, it really is making a turn around in a big way. Look for Globe to become a real artists Mecca in the next five years. Lunch was accommodating and good at Americano Moderno. Thank You Mark and Cathey for Hosting.

February 26, 2022. Canyon Lake and Tortilla Flat Run. Thanks to Wade Phyfer and Sue Hinkle for hosting this event. Wonderful roads, lots of Zoom Zoom with a great turn out. This popular run was enjoyed by all.

Photos from our Concours in the Hills 2022 Car Show in Fountain Hills, AZ 2/12/2022

Lots of fun Miata's



The Berge Tent and race car



Two Miata's that track often. (Go Mark Ki)

The famous Fountain at Fountain Hills



Ed Chabot our strolling Minstrel.

Lots of fun Miata's





Events Recap

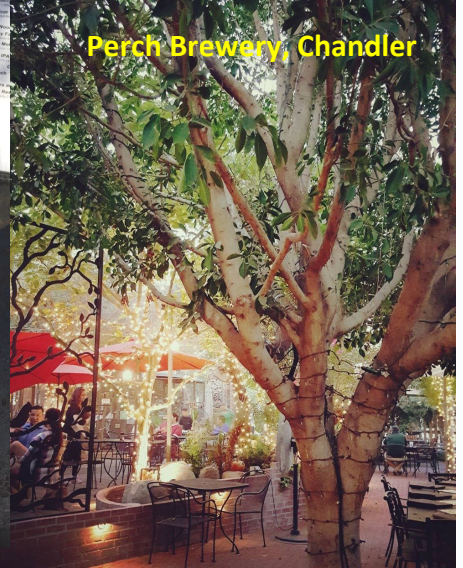
Concours in the Hills
Lunch at Perch Brewery
Run to Globe
Canyon Lake & Tortilla Flat Run



Bravo, Americano Moderno Globe, Arizona



Perch Brewery, Chandler

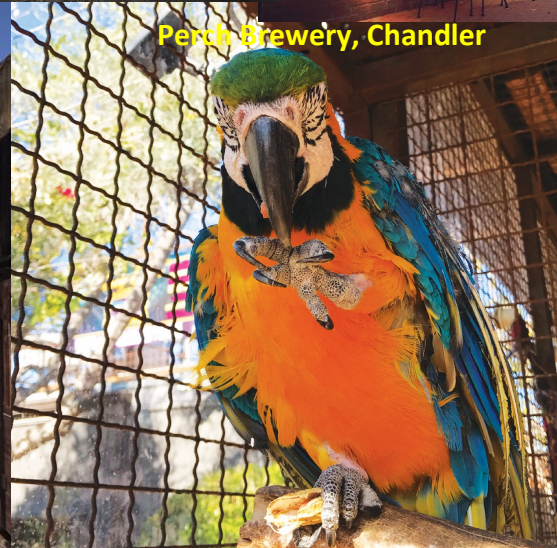


Perch Brewery, Chandler



Tortilla Flat, Arizona

Tortilla Flat, Arizona



Perch Brewery, Chandler



Canyon Lake, Arizona



Canyon Lake, Arizona

Events Recap

*Spokes on Southern
Run to Jerome
Track Day HPDE
w/Mark Kucera*

March 2022 More SMC fun.

March 16th, 2022 Lunch at Spokes on Southern. Hosted by Hope and Jeff Morris. Spokes is one of those big sprawling bars with great outdoor seating. We had 19 members attend and we all had a great time.

March 19, 2022 Run to Jerome Az. Paul Stonebreaker and Wade Phyfer let our club to scenic Jerome. Jerome is straight up north from Phoenix. Looking on a map it is between Prescott Valley and Sedona. The club had lunch at Bobby D's BBQ and desert at OJ's Copper Country Fudge. 22 members signed up, by the looks of the photos it must have been a great trip.

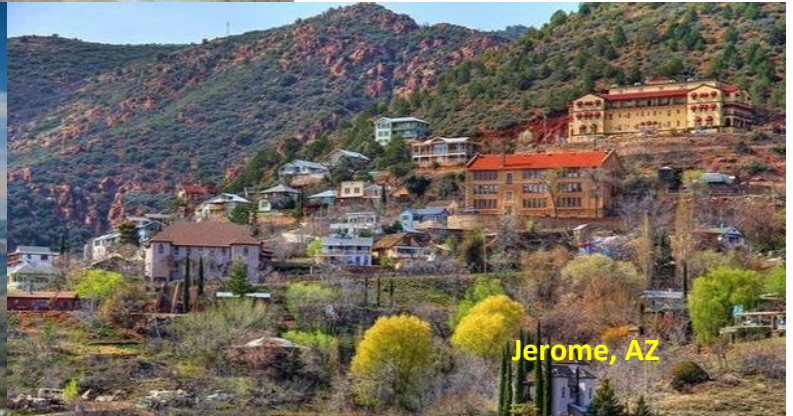
March 20, 2022 HPDE Track Day Event This event was held at Chuckwalla Valley Raceway. On Saturday they drove to First Watch restaurant on North Valley Parkway. Then they drove to the Best Western at I-10 and frontage road and stayed at the Best Western in Ehrenberg, AZ. Carl Fiore, Mark Kucera, Kevin Allsop, Arthur Stromberg and Tom Taylor drove their track ready Miata's, please see pictures attached.



Spokes on Southern in Tempe



Jerome, AZ



Jerome, AZ



Jerome, AZ



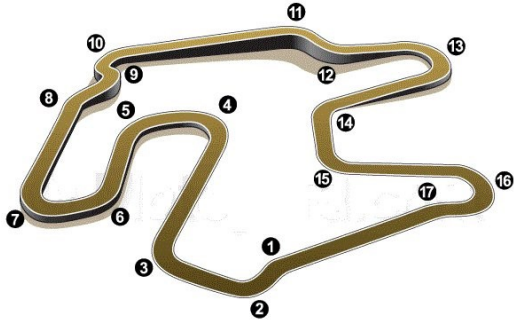
Jerome, AZ



Jerome, AZ

Events Recap

Spokes on Southern
Run to Jerome
Track Day HPDE
w/Mark Kucera



Many thanks for these great track day photos from our HPDE event. Thank You to all who attended.



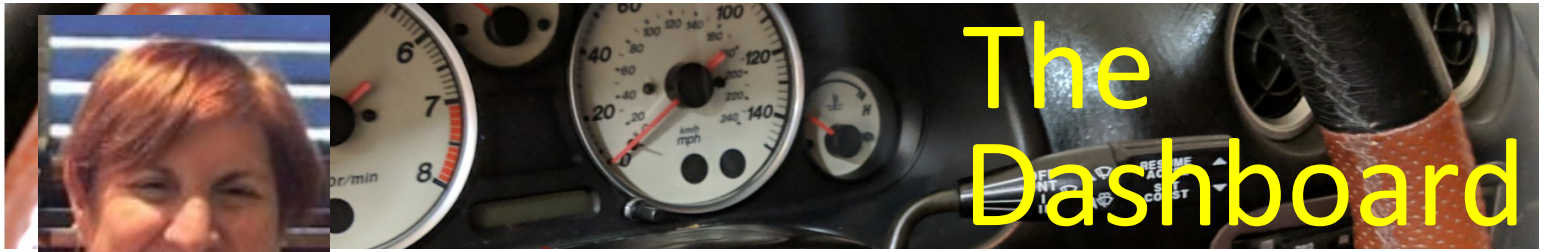


April 2022 More SMC fun.

April 2nd, 2022 Run to Bagdad for lunch in the park. Many Thanks to Mark Kucera for hosting this fun event. Bagdad is a popular lun, members brought their own lunches and we all met at Bagdad's city park.

April 13, 2022 Send off lunch for Kevin Smith at Dillon's in Arrowhead. Tony Munro Tim Kroll, Cathey and Mark Kucera and the North West team gave a very club active Kevin Smith a terrific goodbye lunch at Dillon's. Everything went well and of course we wish Kevin the best in his new (Old) home of Syracuse New York. The club gave Kevin a Miata Club car blanket with the Mazda logo and club logo emblazoned on it. Kevin headed out on April 20th. Many thanks to Hope Morris for embroidering our logo on the blanket.





The Dashboard

Hope Morris, Webmaster

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.

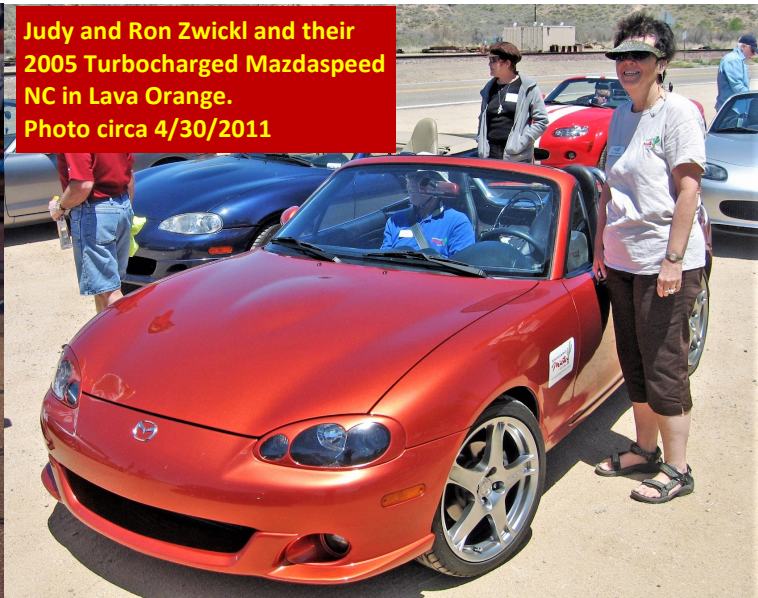
Here's how to do it:

1. To initiate the process, just click on your picture in the upper right hand corner of the screen (on a computer)
2. Then select "settings".
3. Under "settings", you will see a selection on the left side bar - "email updates". Clicking on the email updates will bring in a list of events that cause **Meetup** to send you an email.
4. Uncheck any of the listed boxes - and that will stop **Meetup** from emailing you for each of those particular events.
Specifically, in the middle, there is New **Meetup** Groups, by unchecking that box, you will no longer get emails announcing a new meetup group that may have something to do with your "interests", indicators you selected when you signed up for the application.
5. Once you have made your changes, you can go back to your photo and click on it to return to the Sahuaro MX5 Miata Club.

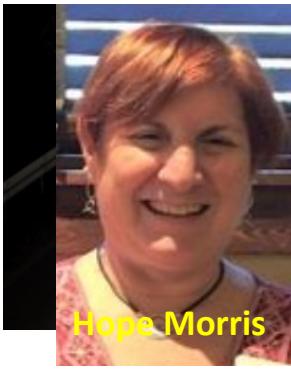
Our club uses meetup to manage attendance at our events. Most of you are already familiar with the RSVP options for our events. Each time you click the check mark to RSVP, you are adding "1" to our count. If you and your co-pilot are attending an event, then you need to add 1 guest, that is if your co-pilot does not register themselves individually.



From an HPDE driving event?
Can anyone name the owner?



Judy and Ron Zwickl and their
2005 Turbocharged Mazdaspeed
NC in Lava Orange.
Photo circa 4/30/2011



Social Media

Hope Morris
Webmaster

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 DIY 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

You're So Vain....

Show us your tags!

Send your plate to:

editor@sahuaromiataclub.com



Dennis & Mary Manning



Tim Kroll



Sue & Jack Hinkle



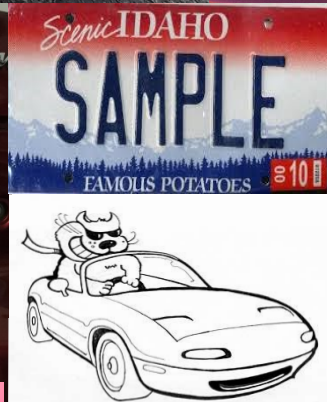
Randy Hack



Jeff & Hope Morris



Lori Sucharski



Kevin Smith



Would you like to see your high-lighted 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 its 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

1998-2005

1.6L 5MT (110HP) 1.8L (146 HP)

Dubbed the NB. Sold another 400,000 units! Very similar to the NA with the Pop up headlights gone due to pedestrian safety concerns. A little wider, larger anti-roll bar, better brakes with optional ABS. Later years saw the Mazdaspeed (2004-2005). This lovely 2004 Mazdaspeed is owned by Mark and Pam Weinberg.



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.



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.

TECHTIPS

By Carl Fiore E.A.

How "An MX-5 Changed My Life"

Mark Kucera Guest Contributor

Mark Kucera.



Carl Fiore E.A.



In 2015 I felt I needed more fun activities and friends to enjoy them with. I was retired and had stopped doing many of the previous activities I had enjoyed with friends. Then I went to an Indy Car race with two friends in 2015 and saw the soon to be available 2016 Mazda MX-5 that was on display and I loved it. When I returned home I called my Mazda dealer and told the salesman to call me when the new MX-5s arrived. In August he called to tell me a truck was offloading the first of the new MX-5s. My wife Cathey and I immediately rushed down to the dealer and bought a blue one. Life hasn't been the same since. The Miata and everything associated with it has become a major hobby of mine.

When I first got the Miata it was a fun little car with great handling and acceleration that I loved to drive. I lived to find uncrowded twisty roads to power through the turns experiencing the speed, lateral G-forces, the wind in my hair, and the sun pouring in. But for greater thrills in 2016 I got involved with "Track Days" where you pay for the opportunity to drive your car on dedicated race tracks. I read all about Track Days, bought a helmet, and signed up for my first event. I was excited and nervous but it was fun. The thrill and adrenaline rush was intoxicating. I couldn't get enough of it. I started talking to other club members about Track Days and eventually several club members were doing Track Days too. There is now a small group of "Track Guys" that have become very good friends. We regularly go to events at the 6 tracks in Arizona and one just across the border in California. Over the last 6 years I have participated in 25 to 30 track days as far away as Laguna Seca Raceway in Monterey, CA.

Another MX-5 social event I enjoy are "installation parties". Several of my fellow MX-5 friends enjoy getting together to pitch in to help each other install aftermarket parts like coil overs, coil springs, racing shock absorbers, sway bars, big disc brakes, racing stripes, roll bars, fancy steering wheels, and other trick stuff. Learning about the aftermarket parts available and enhancements to improve the performance and personalize the car is a lot of the fun of owning the car for many owners.

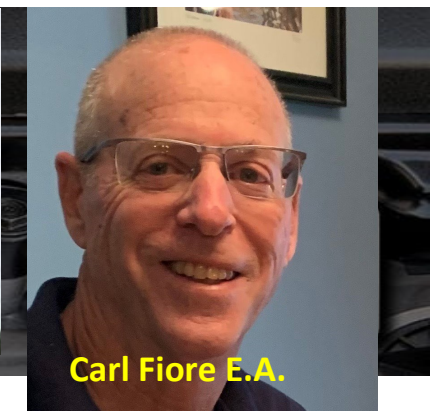
Buying the car was a great decision, but the other important decision was joining the Sahuaro Miata Club so I could enjoy the car and the many activities with other MX-5 owners. I like to tell people that when I bought the MX-5 and joined the Club I got a couple of hundred new friends. Another good decision I made was joining the Miata Club board as VP And Events Coordinator in 2016. Being a board member really enhanced my enjoyment of the club by getting me involved in all aspects of running the club which brought me into contact with most club members. Now I was really involved and having fun. A few other fun and motivated people like Jeff and Hope Morris, and Tony Monro also joined the board who, along with the remaining existing board members starting working hard to grow the number of activities and promote the club. We were having a great time with the club and all the new members that were joining.

Since I joined the club I've participated in hundreds of events with hundreds of nice club members. We have traveled over every fun back road, visited just about every town, and seen all the interesting sites in Arizona, many of them several times. We've been to interesting places we would never have seen had we not joined the Miata Club. The hundreds of social events have taken us to many hotels and good restaurants all over the state and beyond.

I am truly grateful for all the great times I have had with the Miata and all the wonderful people I've met in the Sahuaro Miata Club. I'm looking forward to more good times with fun people in my MX-5.

Warm Regards, Mark Kucera





My early history with cars:

From an early age I was a car nut. I read everything I could find, mostly interested in small foreign 2 seaters. Back then, there was no internet. So, everything came from magazines and books. My first two-seater was a Fiat 850 spider circa 1969. It was a fun, totally under powered little car with the quality that only Fiat and companies like Yugo and Renault could provide. It was a lot of fun but built like junk. Later I purchased my first real two seat sports car a 1965 Lotus Elan S2 SE. Gosh I loved that car, however, at 19 I just could not afford to keep it on the road. You see as much as the Lotus was a thrilling little roadster, it was a British wallet drainer. The Elan is considered by many to be the quintessential sports car. Does the Lotus look familiar? Through the years I drove many mundane cars and vans, but I always had a soft spot for my original little roadsters. Oh, by the way, in the mid-eighties, Hope and I did have a Mazda RX-7 Series 2 GS for a few years. It ran like a watch, however when our child Renee was born, we sold it for something that could hold a car seat. (Yes Dear)



Finding my Miata:

In the spring of 2016, I found a Lotus for sale in Tucson, it was located at a Copart salvage scrap yard. That should have been my first tip off. The add said "Lotus Elite, 1975, Like New", "You just need a feather duster" etc. etc. Scrap yards and feather dusters don't go together. So, my loving wife Hope escorted me down to Tucson and there we found a car that would have taken \$30,000 to restore. I was heartbroken.

Hope feeling sorry for me said, "Well, what else can you get?" I thought about it for a short while and the Miata came to mind. An "NA" Miata due to its resemblance to my Lotus Elan. We scoured the internet looking for a "Hard Top" Miata. You know, one of those newer Miata's with the Power Retractable Hard Top. And it couldn't have one of those silly smiley faces. It had to have a proper Miata grill. (I knew nothing about Miata's) So basically, I bought the first PRHT I could find without that silly face. Back in the spring of 2016 PRHT Miata's were not easy to find, plus I had to strike while the iron was hot.

My history with my 2008 NC PRHT Miata:

Where do I begin? I look back at my fuel logs and I see my first fill up was on June 21, 2016. My new to me Miata had 88,256 miles on it and with my 2.0-liter engine I was averaging 24.5 mpg. In hindsight, I should have waited and purchased one of those 25,000 mile, pristine, driven to church models everyone finds for \$4,500.00.



TECHTIPS

Thoughts on My 2008 NC PRHT

Jeff Morris Editor



Jeff Morris

However, I tend to be impatient. So, from June of 2016 to November of 2016, I drove my little car with the original 2.0-liter engine. However, I wanted more. I wanted more Zoom-Zoom. Being a fast learner, I read everything I could on Miata's. NA's, NB's, NC's and the newly released ND. I wanted a super charger. A Cosworth super charger to be exact, sold by Good-Win Racing and Flyin Miata. Hope and I made a road trip to San Diego, in search of more Zoom-Zoom.

Did you know that it's not a good idea to supercharge a small Miata engine with 91,000 miles? Did you know the NC1 (The ones without the smiley face) did not have forged internals, they had cast internals)? Cast internals came with the NC2's. That's right, the ones with the smiley faces. Do you see a pattern here? My wife Hope does! So Good-Win suggested we install a new Mazda MZR 2.5-liter engine. It would be like the supercharged version with no miles on it and the extra torque and horsepower would negate the need for a supercharger. (If you believe that, then I have a lot in Florida I would like to sell you)

Mods to my 124,000-mile 2008 NC1: (Did you see the movie "Money Pit"?)

Car mods to a car nut are like bigger amplifiers and speakers to a Hi-Fi buff, more lenses to a photography geek, a Smith and Wesson revolver to a gun collector. You can never have enough. Here is a partial listing of everything I have done to my Miata. (Please don't show this to Hope Morris.)

2.5L Mazda MZR engine, Triple Pass Racing Radiator, Racing Clutch and Flywheel, Complete front to back stainless exhaust system including ceramic coated stainless headers. Upgraded brake pads and slotted and dimpled rotors, high performance anti-sway bars, coils, and Koni shocks, upgraded infotainment system, EcuTek interface and tune from MotoEast, front shock tower brace and Stainless coolant recovery tank not to mention Shayloni, my Hula girl dashboard goddess. This list is what comes to my 70-year-old not so sharp mind as I type this.



Early photo of my 2008 NC1

As you can see my engine compartment has been jazzed up a little bit. Cobalt shock tower brace stiffens the front end. The Moroso coolant expansion tank is stainless steel, this prevents leaks that can result in thermal destruction of modern engines. Hood props keep the hood up for easy access to the 2.5 liter engine.

TECHTIPS

Thoughts on My 2008 NC PRHT

Jeff Morris Editor



Jeff Morris

My real feelings on the NC and where it sits amongst the other Miata generations

I found out after I purchased my NC that by many people, the NC is the dog of the group. The black sheep, the boat, the lumbering, slow, heavy as a brick pile of dung worst generation. You know, too long, too wide, too high, too heavy just a mess. Well, that was and is a load of misinformation. In my opinion the NC is a fantastic generation, a fantastic sports car, a fantastic Miata. Everything that has been said about this car was from angry people who NEVER drove an NC Miata. You see the Mazda NC Miata compared to the NB Miata is 2" longer, .4" higher and .4" wider. And the weight of the NC Miata was only 102#'s heavier. The horsepower of the NB was 146bhp to the NC's 170bhp. When you consider how many more safety features, reinforced structures, and modern accouterments the NC has over the first two generations I think Mazda did an amazing job. Another reason for the distain towards the NC was the fact this was a 100% new car with non interchangeable parts from the previous generations. If a person purchased an NC they could not modify it with current off the shelf components. So, NA and NB owners were caught in a situation where they could not economically upgrade to an NC and use existing performance parts.

This NC1 was scoffed at because it had the posture of a small SUV. You could fit a family of four in the space of the wheel wells. This was not the way it was supposed to be. Just before the NC was released the US Department of transportation changed bumper height regulations due to the influx of SUVs onto the American auto market. Mazda had to raise the height of the NC's bumpers to pass this regulation. Mazda increased the spring length of all four NC Miata springs to raise the car up to meet this requirement. It was a cheap and fast fix that IMHO bit them in the butt. In the NC2 generation (There is that smiley face again) they moved up the bumpers, redesigned the front and rear facias to accommodate these changes and placed correct length springs on the NC2's. Now the NC Miata's did not resemble a small SUV. NC1 owners corrected this problem by installing aftermarket lowering springs.



My Miata when I first got it in June



Today, many people look at the

A current Miata Photo
See, no smiley face, the NC1



A current Miata Photo

Today, many people look at the NC generation as one of the best generations. Some people feel it is the best generation. Reviewers who never drove an NC are now driving them for the first time. Every review I have read from these people both in print and on video say the same thing. This is not just a great sports car; this is a great Miata. The Miata NC is based on a shortened RX-8 chassis. It is much stiffer and a far better platform for racing. You can modify the suspension and brakes with serious aftermarket parts. The drop in 2.5l engine gives this car the extra torque and horsepower the car needs. You can pass cars on the freeway without saying "I think I can-I think I can". The car has real features on it that make driving a delight. And by the way, PRHT owners love the security of their 12 second open and close hardtops. I love mine which as noted earlier is why I bought the car in the first place. Of course when I bought my car it was really because of the hard top, I learned much more as time went on.

Check out some great photos on the next page. If you read this far then may you be blessed with great karma!

TECHTIPS

Thoughts on My 2008 NC PRHT
Jeff Morris Editor



Look at That Front end!



Jeff, Hope, Kimba and Raven out for a Drive

Like the previous generations, the transmission is a delight, period. I drive a 6 speed and it has a wonderful gearbox. Shifting is awesome and perfect for heel and tow driving. The stock brakes are amazing, I upgraded mine because I could. If you race your Miata's, Wilwood had complete big brake kits for heavy track use. For me, the biggest reason to get a NC is that it is more comfortable. I am overweight, if I lost 40 pounds, I could shave a few tenths off my 0-60. That said, I feel like a sardine in a NA or ND. Taller or stouter people will appreciate the extra cabin space you have in an NC. Understand, it's still a tiny car. The NC does feel roomier even though the dimensions are similar to previous generations.

Today, we see more and more NCs on the track winning more records. More people are realizing what a great platform the NC is. Even if you own a different generation Miata, you owe it to yourself and the greater Miata community in general to test drive the greatest generation. I'm not saying you will not find me with a 2023 or a 2024 Miata. What I am saying is that the NC is a great car.

Warm Regards, Jeff Morris editor and past president 2017, 2018, 2019



Check out those Konig's with 225 Michelin's.
Nice Roadstersport Super Q back box.



I love the rear end of the NC1

TECHTIPS

Thoughts on My 2008 NC PRHT

Jeff Morris Editor



Jeff Morris



Hood Props



Konih Dekagram wheels 17 x 8

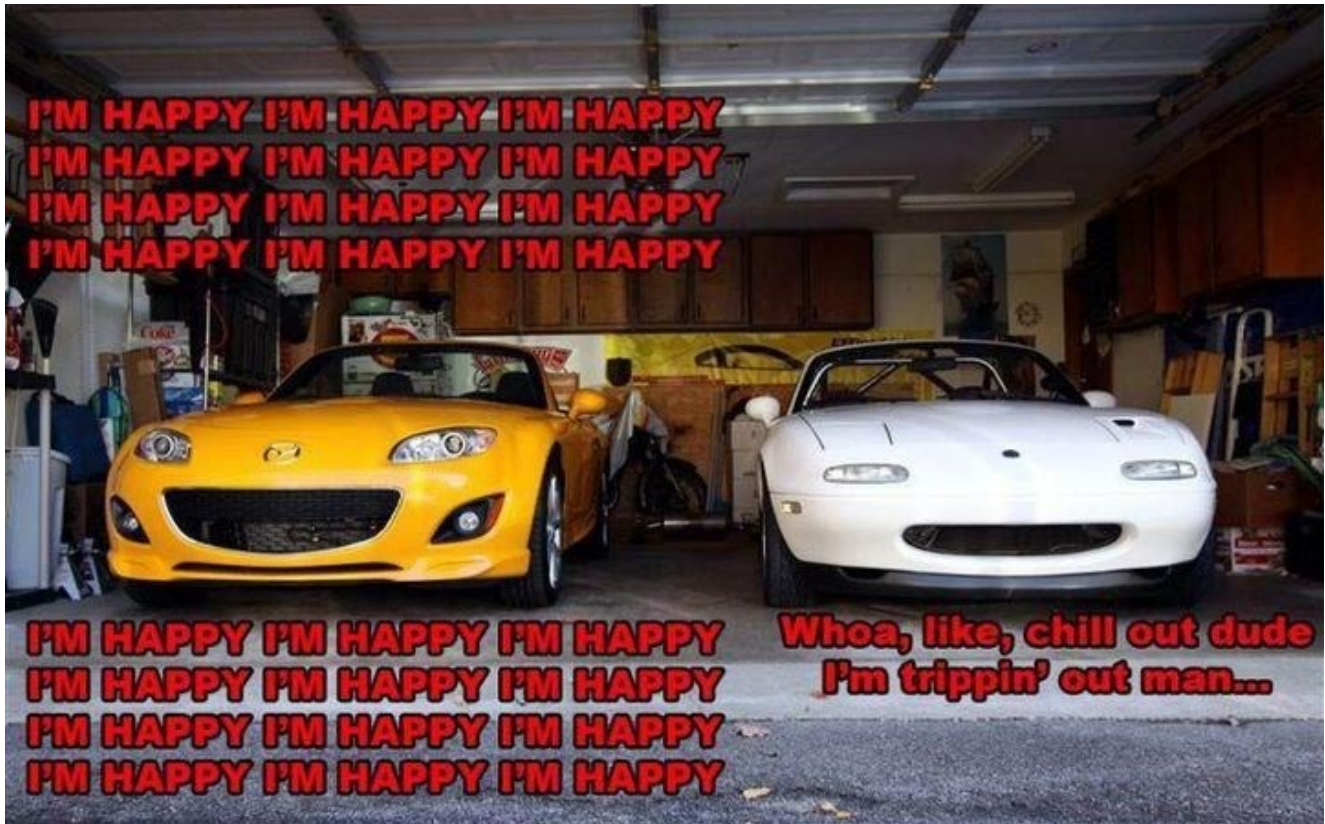
I made many small changes to my NC1 Miata. New infotainment from Pioneer and so many convenience items.



Converted my cup holders into storage cubby. From I.L.Motorsports



Extended clutch pedal



I'M HAPPY I'M HAPPY I'M HAPPY
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Whoa, like, chill out dude
I'm trippin' out man...

TECHTIPS

Kurt Greene of
Greene Automotive

Contributed by Jeff Morris Editor

Green Automotive
40819 N 3rd. Avenue
Desert Hills, AZ 85086
602-697-6680



Jeff Morris

What do we need in life? A great spouse and children, food and shelter, Doctors we have confidence in and don't forget a Dentist and a place of worship where we feel welcome and comfortable. But right up there is a person we can trust with one of our most valuable possessions our Miata's. Kurt Greene is the person our club has gone to for many years. Kurt has a very long history servicing Miata's. He worked under Mike Parr's tutelage at Mike's Place / Mike's Miatamecca in Phoenix. (He was Mike's chief mechanic.) When Mike shut down his service facility Kurt opened Greene Automotive in Desert Hill's between Anthem and Cave Creek. Kurt supports Miata service exclusively and has hundreds of thrilled clients. How often do you read the word thrilled and Automotive Mechanic in the same sentence? Even Jeff and Hope Morris in Queen Creek uses Kurt's service. (Well over an hour away from our home) Kurt is the absolute best!

Warm Regards, Jeff and Hope Morris



Kurt Greene



Kurt always's does it right!

Kurt green has been more than a helper, apprentice and friend. Kurt Green has been a blessing in my life. We started working together in 1991 in a shop in downtown Phoenix called future service. We were the only shop in the Phoenix metro area that was open 24 seven. We saw every car broke down on the freeway from Flagstaff to Tucson towed in at all hours of the night and day. We struggled to make the business work. Families lived in our waiting room while they waited for their cars to be fixed.

Meanwhile, a new car had just arrived on the scene. The Mazda Miata MX-5. Several customers had purchased these cars, we took a liking to them right-away. As time passed, we focused on the Mazda Miata and opened a new shop. We became "Miatamecca".

Over the decades we work together, Kurt ran the shop with my wife Ann. When I was ill for months at a time Kurt was always there for us. Kurt was my trusted blessing.

It came time for me to lay down my wrenches. There was no greater blessing then to be able to refer all my loyal customers to Kurt Greene. Knowing full well that he would treat them with respect and honesty as we have done in the past. What greater blessing and relief than to pass the service torch on to such a qualified technician.

Warm Regards, Mike and Ann Paar

Sponsors

*Please visit our sponsor page at
www.sahuaromiataclub.com
 For more details.*

Our sponsor page will be a listing of all current sponsors offering the Sahuaro Miata Club a discount of 10% or more on parts and service. To obtain your discount you will have to contact the corresponding sponsor and tell them you are a member of the Sahuaro Miata Club. You will have to request your discount before any work is started and show the sponsor your official Sahuaro Miata Club name badge for proof of membership. (Can be done during your first visit.) If you have a company your are very impressed with, please feel free to contact me. I will contact that vendor and see if we can welcome them as a sponsor. **Please contact me at editor@sahuaromiataclub.com or call me at 808-269-6693**



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Our new Editor Paul Stonebreaker's
first newsletter coming in our next
edition.

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