



HORIZONS

September-October 2001

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

As evidenced by the smiling faces in the accompanying photo, we had a good time at our first Breakfast Club in August. Hulk Hogan didn't show (his wife owns the restaurant) but we did have a Sun Riders celebrity show (Jonathan Skinner, see below). I think we all enjoyed ourselves (I know, LoAn had to look up from the Miata article she was reading for the photo), but she really didn't mind (I think). Anyway, be sure to come to these breakfasts and get to meet other members.

Jonathan Skinner's photo and sage comments are in this month's Makes and Models magazine. Also, he wrote an article on autocrossing for the magazine (kinda makes him a celebrity, for 15 minutes anyway). There are three pages devoted to our Club's Miatas and autocross. Vinnie Lucido's red 1990 has the best coverage, but other Member's cars are shown too.

I hadn't purchased the magazine before, it really is a "guy" magazine if you know what I mean... The "Models" in the title don't necessarily refer to car models... While I was looking at it (looking for the coverage of our club), a boy nearby kind of looked at me funny, I looked around (trying not to look too guilty) and it seemed like several people were watching me. Then the little boy's mother came and quickly snatched him away... When I took it to the check-out, the girl at the cash register asked me what the lady on the cover was doing to the car pictured with her. I muttered "I don't know, I am just buying it to read the stories"... I don't think she believed me. I asked her to double bag it, and left quickly.

It is available at most news stands, Publix, Kash n' Karry, and Winn-Dixie stores. Besides the stuff on our Club, there are some interesting stories in it (a MUV con-



Sun Rider's Members enjoying Breakfast Club at the French Hen. Good food, good friends, and a little Miata drive. Come to these "mini-events" to meet your fellow members (and have a great breakfast!) Photo-Dave Tietz

cept pick-up truck, and a new VW microbus study... Oh, and a Misty study too, if you know what I mean, and I think you do...

On October 6th Dianne & I are doing a "Fun Rallye" combining members of the Florida Suncoast MG Car Club and the Sun Riders. I am a member of both clubs, and I hope members from each make an effort to get acquainted. You Miata guys will have a chance to see a variety of MGs, with some possibly dating from the 1940s. I am staggering the starting based on your last name, so please read about it in the Upcoming Events section in this newsletter. I hope to alternate MG and Miata starts, and give you all a good ride. It is about 60 miles and ends at a restaurant for lunch. Please RSVP to me so I can

determine the number of instruction sheets I will need, and give the restaurant a head count. Details inside.

Dianne & I will also host a Breakfast Club October 20th. I think I am safe in saying this restaurant is one of the best I have eaten at, and has some of the finest choices for breakfast you will find in our area. The British Car Autojumble is on the same day in Tampa, and after breakfast, those who want, can drive to Picnic Island for the show.

Always a bunch to do with the club, check out the Upcoming Events and make your plans.

See you at the events,

Dave Tietz



Some more pictures from the Deal's Gap trip. Eric and Lorina Smith's house is a gathering spot in the Atlanta area for the final run to the Gap. Ilona & Joe Wessling, Ed Link, the guide, Don Reese & son, and Jonathan Skinner suited up for some serious river rafting. The Tapoco Lodge on check out morning... Good time for the rain.
Photos-Ilona Wessling

Press Release

September 2, 2001 - Sebring, Florida.

Flaming Blue Weasel Motorsports Takes 5th place in Triple Sprints at Sebring

Flaming Blue Weasel Motorsports driver Kevin Morrison posted three solid fifth-place finishes in the SCCA Labor Day weekend race at Sebring International Raceway. Recent construction at the track forced the event to run on a temporary circuit for the weekend, so everyone had to learn the new configuration in one 15-minute practice session before qualifying for the three sprint races. Morrison and the other competitors in the Spec Miata field learned quickly and posted qualifying times within 2 seconds of each other. With in-car temperatures hovering around 160 degrees, keeping cool in the car was a major challenge. Wearing a 2-layer fire-resistant suit, helmet and gloves, Morrison packed his suit with blue-ice to keep cool.

In the first race, Morrison started strong in the #89 car, gaining several places at the green flag, but by the end of the first straight, had to slot back in at fifth place to avoid a collision going into turn one. The seven Spec Miatas were nose to tail for the first lap before the group started to spread out a bit, with Boca Raton's Chip Bryan pulling out a steady lead on the pack. After a brief challenge from behind, Morrison distanced himself from positions 6 and 7 and set out to chase down the leaders. Unfortunately, the 15 lap race came to an end before Morrison could chase down the leaders. Bryan took the victory by a wide margin.

In race two, the pack was even tighter. Seven Spec Miatas were nose to tail once again, but again, Morrison was unable to challenge for 4th place, and was unchallenged from behind. Incidents with traffic on track - Spec Racer Fords embroiled in their own intense battle - kept things interesting for all of the Spec Miatas, with several suffering damage after contact with SRF cars. Chip Bryan charged to another impressive victory after a significant incident which damaged both Bryan's car and the lead SRF.

In race three, the first five Spec Miatas were tightly packed for the first two laps, with battles occurring for positions 1 through 4. Morrison attempted a dramatic pass in turn 9 on Dale Covington in the #13 SM for fourth place, but Covington regained the position after Morrison was unable to hold his line after diving extremely deep into the turn. Morrison went very wide in turn 9 and lost considerable ground to the group, which he was not able to regain in the next few laps. On lap 16, a heavy crash involving a Spec Racer Ford brought out a full-course caution. Due to a fluke of track position, Morrison was forced to remain behind the overall leading SRF while the rest of the Spec Miata field was waved by the pace car and were able to complete a lap at full speed, costing Morrison almost a full lap to the field. In spite of this, Morrison was able to retain 5th place and finish the race without incident. "Just keeping out of trouble and avoiding contact with the other cars was a primary goal for this race", Morrison commented afterwards. "I'm very happy with this result, because we came and proved that we can run with the faster guys and bring the car home in one piece." This was no small feat as Morrison was faced on four occasions with cars spun out in front of him, blocking the track. "I had to take evasive maneuvers on several occasions" Morrison said. "It was crazy out there. Those Spec Racer Fords are really beating on each other!"

Team Roadster Rage and Flaming Blue Weasel Motorsports will be in action again on September 14-15 at Daytona International Raceway when Roadster Rage Pro drivers Andy Felker and Rob Ebersol compete in the Grand-Am Cup season finale, a 6-hour contest of endurance. The entire FBWM team will be on hand to serve as crew.

More information on Team Roadster Rage can be found on the Internet at:

www.roadsterrage.com and Flaming Blue Weasel Motorsports is on the web at www.roadsterrage.com/clubracing/

Sun Riders Charities

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

SPCA:

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

Dog Biscuits

Cat Snacks

Cat Litter

Nylon Leashes

Towels

Adding Machine

Laser Jet Printer

Sheets

Flower and Plants

Thread Spools

Postage Stamps

Newspapers

Scouring Powder

Window Cleaner

Laundry Detergent

All-Purpose Bleach

Dish Soap

Aluminum Cans

Computer Paper

Cat Food (canned)

Tall Kitchen Garbage Bags

Plastic Bags (newspaper sleeves)

Office Supplies: Pens, Pencils, Tape

Film: Polaroid, 35 mm

Dog Food (canned or dry)

McAfee Virus Scan 4.0

Large Sized Garbage Bags

CASA:

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

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

Kathy P. Davis

Charity Committee

Sun Riders Miata Club

A Call for Club Officer Candidates

We are looking for people to serve as Sun Riders Officers and Directors for the year 2002. We must have a ballot fixed by the end of the October meeting with voting to be completed by the end of the November meeting.

If you have ever thought about serving the club as a Officer or Director, please contact Kathy Davis at 727/586-5111 or e-mail Kathy at kdavis.email@verizon.net.

The descriptions of the duties of each post is reproduced below from the Club Constitution. Please note: The Past President position is not an elected post.

ARTICLE V - OFFICERS

SECTION I

The duties of the President shall be to officiate and conduct all the Club's monthly meetings and Board of Directors' meetings, appoint committee chairpersons and represent the Club whenever Club representation is necessary. The President shall not vote on any of the Club's matters except to break a tie vote. The President shall be the official representative to The Miata Club of America and Mazda Corporation.

SECTION II

The duties of the Vice-President shall be to assume the duties of the President in his/her absence, resignation or expulsion.

SECTION III

The duties of the Secretary shall be to take and maintain a written record of all meetings, to take roll, to make a report of the minutes of any meeting when requested and to conduct the correspondence of the Club.

SECTION IV

The duties of the Treasurer shall be to keep an accurate account of all financial transactions of the Club and to submit a verbal financial report at each monthly meeting or at any other time the Board of Directors requests. The Treasurer shall submit a written quarterly financial report at each quarterly Board of Directors meeting or when requested by The Board of Directors. The incoming Treasurer shall audit the previous year's financial records. If the Treasurer is reelected, the Board of Directors shall establish an audit of the financial records. The Treasurer shall also keep an accounting of any physical assets of the Club.

SECTION V

The duties of the immediate Past-President shall be as a Director.

SECTION VI

Line of succession should the office of President become vacant is Vice-President, then the Director who has been a member of the Club the longest. Should a vacancy occur for any of the Club's Officers or Directors, that position shall be appointed by the President.

SECTION VII

Officers may be reelected if they are nominated for that position or they submit their own name to the Ballot Committee and are duly elected by the membership in a general election.

ARTICLE VI - CLUB DIRECTORS

SECTION I

Other than the Club's Officers, the Board of Directors shall consist of a Director for each fifty memberships (member households) or fraction thereof as of September 1. Directors shall be elected at the time of the election of Officers.

SECTION II

Directors may be reelected if they are nominated for that position or they submit their own name to the Ballot Committee and are duly elected by the membership in a general election.



Club Member Jonathan Skinner got a new house! It sounds rather unique... Ask him about it next time you see him.

Please RSVP to Dave or Dianne at 727/321-3809 or e-mail to dave@sunriders.com for this one. There may be limited seating. RSVP by October 17, 2001 please.



Breakfast Club

October 20, 2001 - 9:00 am

Please join Dave & Dianne Tietz at Bec's Unique Eatery. 6211 S. MacDill Avenue, Tampa for a different breakfast experience. Bec's phone is 813/837-2700.

Upcoming Events

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

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

If you have questions about any of our activities or events, please contact the event organizer if one is named or Pam Barker at 727-415-3217 or pam@sunriders.com.

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

Gulf Coast Autocrossers Event Nos. 6 & 7.

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

SunRiders Autocross Series 2001 Event Number Five

Saturday, September 15 - Registration starts at 8:30 AM, driver's meeting at 10:00. Registration closes at 9:30. Be there before 9:30 or be a spectator! This is a great way to improve your driving skills in a place where you can't get a ticket and you can't hurt your car. If you are not a member of the SunRiders, you are still welcome to participate. You don't even have to own a Miata, any type of car can come. Cost will be \$25 and that will include a lunch. Spectators can eat lunch with us for \$5. Call Jonathan Skinner at 727-784-5529 for more details. A few helmets will be available for rental for \$5. Read the short article on the web site about what to expect at a SunRiders autocross. Beginners are welcome. The event will be held at the St. Petersburg Junior College - Allstate Campus in St. Petersburg, at the Southeastern Public Safety Institute.

The Campus is located at 3200 34th Street South, St. Petersburg. Directions from I-275 Southbound:

Take Exit #6, which is 22nd Ave. South

Directions from I-275 Northbound:

Take Exit #5, which is also 22nd Ave. South Head West on 22nd Ave to 34th Street,

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

Monthly Meeting

Tuesday, September 18 - 6:30 PM kick the tires, 7:00 PM dinner and meeting. Meeting location is Jimmy Mac's Restaurant located one block south of Gandy Blvd. in Tampa on Bridge Avenue, just west of Westshore. Look for the big Imperial Marina sign on Gandy.

Sunday Brunch Run

Sunday, September 23 - Meet in Tampa at Courtesy Mazda (corner of Hillsborough and Dale Mabry) at 9:00 am. We'll also stop in St. Pete at the St. Pete College Allstate Center (site of our autocrosses) at 9:45 to pick up any Pinellas People who want to join us. From there, we'll head south across the Skyway Bridge (bring a dollar) and make a stop at Thornton Mazda in Palmetto at 10:30 to pick up any south-of-the-bay types who want to come along. From there, we'll cruise south on Longboat Key and Anna Maria Island down to St. Armand's Circle for lunch at Cha-Cha Coconuts at 12:00. Send an e-mail to kevin@sunriders.com to let us know you're coming (just so we'll have an idea of how many we'll have). Show up with a full tank of gas, as we'll be driving for a couple hours.

Miata/MG Rallye.

Saturday, October 6 - 9:00/9:30 am. Please join Dave & Dianne Tietz for a "Fun Rallye" on October 6th. This will be a fun run in the country to see some sites you haven't seen before. This is a joint event with the Florida Suncoast MG Car Club and the Sun Riders Miata Club (you will get to look at some different tail pipes than what you are used to).

Bring your favorite navigator, it's much easier (and safer) to have someone read the instructions for the next turn or site to see. We leave independently at 2 minute intervals so members with last names starting with A through L come at 9:00 am and last names starting with M through Z come at 9:30 am (you won't have to wait as long).

Please RSVP with Dave Tietz before October 2nd to get your starting position. Either call 727/321-3809 or e-mail dave@sunriders.com. Please RSVP so we will have enough instruction sheets and an accurate head count for the restaurant.

We meet at the McDonald's restaurant at the North East corner of SR 54 and Land O' Lakes Blvd. Again, members with last names starting with A through L come at 9:00 am and last names starting with M through Z come at 9:30 am.

Bay Bottom Crawl - Florida Keys

October 5, 6 & 7 - This is an amazing autocross held on a closed public road - not for the beginner! NON SUN RIDERS EVENT - See info at www.evsc.com

Gulf Coast Autocrossers Novice School & Event No. 8

October 13 & 14 - NON SUN RIDERS EVENT - See info at www.gulfcoastautocrossers.com

Gulf Coast Autocrossers Novice School & Event No 9

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

2001 Florida State SCCA Autocross Championships

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

Sunriders Autocross No. 6

November 17 - Details to come.

Gulf Coast Autocrossers Novice School & Event No. 10

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

Sun Riders Christmas Lights Tour and Party

December 14 & 15 - Details to come.

Mobile Swimming Pool

Ed. note: I kept hearing rumors about a mobile blue swimming pool at the Deal's Gap event, and was finally directed to ask Jonathan about it. His response:

Ah, the mobile blue swimming pool story...

I brought my hard top with me and then took it off once we reached Tapoco Lodge. We had a VERY light sprinkle of rain Saturday afternoon, and I put my soft top up, and rolled up the windows, but left the back window down. I then "forgot" I had left the back window down, and left it that way overnight. During the night, we had a torrential downpour, and my car got soaked! I had about two inches of water trapped on the back window, and at least an inch on the floorboards behind the seats! I did the best I could to dry the car out, but it was still pretty damp... That's how I got my mobile swimming pool!

Jonathan

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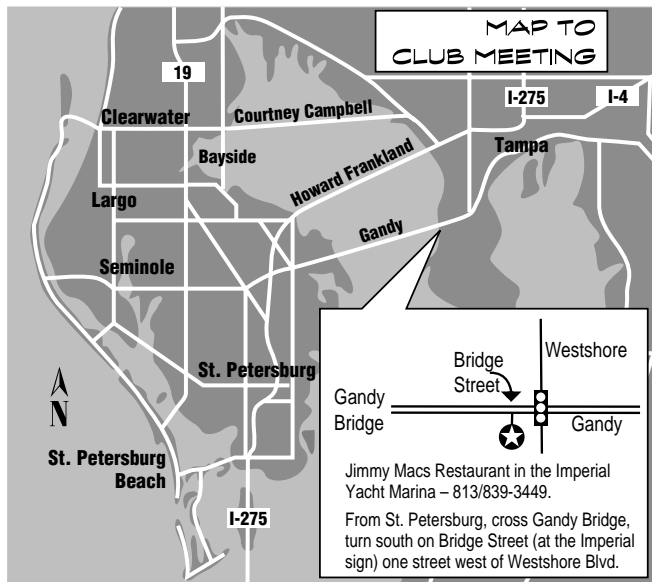


Join Us at Our Club Meetings

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

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

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



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