



HORIZONS

Jan - Feb 2003

MG / Miata Rallye

Towers...Schmowers!! Was it nine towers?.....was it eleven?.....was it ten?.....was it nine tall and one short with a globe on top? Dave & Dianne Tietz entertained us with the second annual MG/Miata Tietz Fun Rallye, bringing two separate car clubs together once again.

The Tietz's Fun Rallye led us through southern Hillsborough County's back roads in the communities of Turkey Creek, Wimauma & Ft.Lonesome, to name a few. Clever clues queried the participants about the black and white lakeside inhabitants. In two preparation runs, black and white goats grazed by the lake. Not on OUR Saturday! But there WERE black and white geese, which Dave graciously accepted as a correct answer. How many of us counted the headstones in the 1875 cemetery, when Dianne asked how many people "lived" there?

A total of 24 MGs and Miatas enjoyed the fun and challenges and agreed that BEC's restaurant was the best place to end.

From Dave: Thanks to all who came out, and all the nice comments about the event. I want to thank Nancy Bickner and John LaVigne for some of the pictures that accompany this article, and Sue Anderson for help in grading the papers.



Arriving: Cars arrive at the end of the rallye



Grading: Grading the papers. Dave is glad everyone made it back.



Winners: l-r, Valerie & Bill, Jim & Sharon Alonso, Loren & Cathy Williams, Ron Brodhurst & Susan Jordan

Sun Riders Club Merchandise For Sale

contact Ilona Wessling
@ (H) 727.376.2484 (W) 727.937.8247

New merchandise arriving!
Great gift idea for YOUR miata enthusiast!



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assorted colors,
racing stripe col-
lars



\$25

polo shirts
assorted colors,
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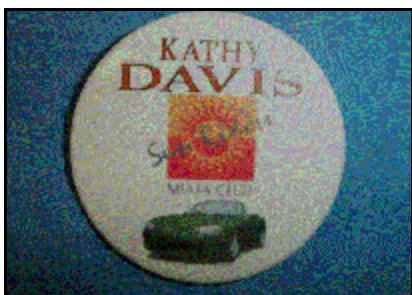
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heavy weight white
cotton



\$15

magnets
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buttons
made with your
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Miatas just \$20!!



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20% OFF All Sun Riders Photo Shoots

Auto/Motorcycle photo-journalist can give you that magazine quality photo of your favorite car or bike. Have recent articles in national auto magazine. Willing to come out to your location within the greater Tampa Bay area



- Packages starting at \$100.00. At least 15 photo shots to choose from: (1) 8x10 (2) 5x7 and all 4x6 proofs. Can e-mail you examples of recent shoots.

Contact: Rene Hogarth #813-831-7217
e-mail: ukcountess@yahoo.co

Sun Riders receive letter from SPCA! (by K Davis)

I took donations to the SPCA Sunday before Christmas...it was cold Saturday and Sunday and donations this weekend brought a trunk load of blankets - I thought the dogs and kittys would need them. :) I estimate this weekends load to be about \$50 in food and supplies. At present we have approximately \$500 in cash and we will be proceeding with the purchase of a dedication stone.

=====
12/27/02

Friends, Sun Riders Miata Club

Dear Friends,

Thank you for your generous gift of blankets, bowls, dog and cat food to the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA) during the holiday season. Your kindness will make this season more enjoyable for all the animals.

Our many adoptable animals hope 2003 will mean loving new homes. We ask that you help us share the message "Adopt Love for Life" and encourage your friends and acquaintances to open their homes and hearts and provide one of our many shelter pets a place of hope and love.

The SPCA does not receive funds from the state or federal government, which means your that your gifts play an essential role in saving lives. In addition, the IRS has classified the SPCA as a non-profit charitable organization under Section 501 (C)(3). Because you have not received any goods or services in return for your gift, the entire amount is "tax-deductible" to the fullest extent of the law on your 2002 tax return.

On behalf of the animals, staff and volunteers, we all wish you happiness in the year ahead. Thank you again for your commitment to homeless and abused animals.

Sincerely,
Beth Lockwood, C.V.T.
Exec. Director

Calendar of Events

visit www.sunriders.com or contact Loren Williams at Loren@SunRiders.com (727) 797-1062 for event info or to add to the calendar

JANUARY 2003

Friday, 1/10/2003 SunRiders

Cruise-In Join Fritz Kloepfel between 6:45 and 7:45 pm for dinner at the new Sonic on Ulmerton (just west of Belcher). Or meet up with Fritz at 6:30 pm at his house at 123 10th Ave in Indian Rocks Beach to cruise to the Sonic. After dinner, we will drive over to the Largo Main Street Cruise In, which will carry on until 9pm. Contact Fritz [fritz@tampabay.rr.com] for more info. Hosted by SunRiders Miata Club of Tampa, FL

Saturday, 1/25/2003 East Side Miatas

Zephyrhills DIY Tech Day

Need to do some work on your car? Want help? Want to help others work on their cars? Want to just watch and learn? This is the place to be.

Hosted by East Side Miatas, Miataphiles in the Tampa/Brandon area. -- For more information: visit www.tampabaymiatas.net or contact Paul Williamson at PaulW@surfbest.net 813-779-2665

FEBRUARY 2003

Saturday, 2/1/2003 SunRiders St. Petersburg Autocross

TENTATIVE DATE First Sunriders Autocross. Allstate Campus at 3200 34th Street South in St. Petersburg. Details on the Courtesy Mazda Sunriders Autocross series and directions to our autocross site can be found on the Sunriders website. Registration is from 8:00-9:30, be there early! For more info Contact Jonathan (424-9683, Jonathan@Sunriders.com).

Hosted by SunRiders Miata Club of Tampa, FL

MARCH 2003

Saturday, 3/8/2003 SunRiders St. Petersburg Autocross

TENTATIVE DATE Joint event with the MINI Club, limited to 20 Miatas and 20 MINIs. Allstate Campus at 3200 34th Street South in St. Petersburg. Details on the Courtesy Mazda Sunriders Autocross series and directions to our autocross site can be found on the Sunriders website. Registration is from 8:00-9:30, be there early! For more info Contact Jonathan (424-9683, Jonathan@Sunriders.com). Hosted by SunRiders Miata Club of Tampa, FL

FOR SALE

Due to the passing of her husband, Ed Kleinhample, a fellow Sun Rider, Kay will be selling a miata. Kay we are deeply saddened by your loss.

'99 leather package - approximately 95k miles on it. Good condition, normal wear asking \$10k for it. If you're interested, call 813-991-7188 (home).

Holiday Parades 2002

Indian Rocks: This parade, new this year for the club, was interesting and long! 5 Cars participated. We drove for almost 3 hours thru all the little streets and neighborhoods of Indian Rocks. It was really nice that we saw lots of older people, shut-ins and mobility restricted and lots of kids and pets. People were thrilled to see the parade come down their street and snapped many photos and home movies. At the end of the parade, we were invited to City Hall and presented with a ribbon and refreshments.

Safety Harbor Parade: With only four shopping days left, and many people already leaving town for the holidays, we had a nice turnout of six cars, including some new faces, for today's parade in Safety Harbor. Cars were decorated with reindeer, bows, kids, (yes, kids!) candy canes, garland, stick on clings, and other festive items. The route was brief, yet we had frequent stops due to us being in the line-up right behind the Shriners in all their little cars and motorcycles. Afterward, Loren led us to a local restaurant where we enjoyed some Mexican cuisine.





Sun Riders Annual Holiday Party

The Sun Riders annual party was held at the Chart House on Clearwater Beach this year. We had a great turn out of about 45 people. The food, prepared by our very own chef, Basil Bandaylan (and his lovely wife), was wonderful to look at and eat. Basil prepared Strawberries with tuxedos, melt in your mouth chicken skewers and pork slices as well as a few other delicious side items. Food fit for a king! Games and gift exchange fun was also enjoyed by the group .

Note: do not ever fall asleep at a Sun Riders party or you could find yourself "decorated" for fun! (Picture altered to protect the innocent!) :



TIPS

I know...this is Florida, it doesn't snow or get icy here...right? Well, a lot of us travel and most of us come from the north (like Ohio or New York!!) so these tips could be handy! :)

What to do if a lock freezes you out

If it's very cold or there has been freezing rain, you might get unlucky when trying to unlock your car door. A simple way to avoid this - dab petroleum jelly on your key and the keyhole. Insert the key into the lock and move it in and out. The petroleum jelly should keep it from freezing. If it doesn't, warm your key with a candle or match and move it back and forth in the lock.

Avoid low tire pressure

Taking care of your tires not only insures your safety, it can save you money.

Advice from the Rubber Manufacturer's Association:

~ Inflate tires properly. Underinflation makes it more likely that you'll lose control or skid. Keep in mind that tire pressure can be low and still not appear flat.

~ Check the label for air pressure guides. Usually this info can be found in your owners manual, inside of the door jamb or possibly in the glove compartment. There are different pressures for type of tire and for each type of vehicle.

~ Test pressure when tires are cold. Check pressure of tires before going on road trips.

Avoid fast starts and stops, bumping curbs or pits in the road when possible while parking, driving, loading and unloading your vehicle.

Sunriders Full-Moon Griswold Drive

By Loren Williams

Let me start by giving credit where credit is due. This wasn't really my idea. When I bought my Miata two years ago, I joined the Air Capital Miata Club in Wichita, KS. They had a wonderful little get-together they called the Annual Frostbite Light Tour. It started with dinner at a good restaurant, then driving around looking at lights, and wrapped up with a casual party at a club-member's house.

The first year I did it the roads were completely iced over throughout town and almost all of the would-be Griswalds had their lights turned off! That didn't stop us from having a little fun when the group got separated and we were waiting for some lost folks to find us, though. It's amazing how much fun you can have with 6 Miatas in an empty, icy, snow-covered parking lot. Zoom-Zoom!

And then last year the weather was much better. 40 degrees and light mist. Perfect top down weather ... if you happen to be dressed like an Eskimo, which several of us were! That was my first attempt at putting together a Christmas light route, and it went very well. Of course, that was in Wichita. I was much more familiar with the area, and there was a lot less area to cover.

This year I was happy to find myself here instead of in Kansas. And since I couldn't partake of the Frostbite Light Tour, I felt the need to do something similar with the Sunriders. I had a hard time putting it together because there is so much area to cover in the bay area and so many interesting places to see. But, looking at perfect weather in the forecast, I chose the night of the full moon, December 19th, to stage the drive. My theory being that nothing else really matters when you're in a Miata with the top down under a full moon.

So, how did it go? Well, we had 8 cars show up, but only 7 cars on the drive. Jonathan left his car and rode with Doro (let the rumors begin), which was fine with us because he had the hard top on his car. With a 70 degree air, a clear sky and a full moon, that was just criminal.

The route turned out to be quite long in spite of the fact that it didn't go very many places (Safety Harbor, Clearwater, a little bit of beach and a small corner of Largo). Being on a weekday night, I was surprised at the number of people who showed up, and expected a few to not finish. Before people started abandoning the drive, I got us all lined up in front of a nicely-lit home (that conveniently had no other cars in front of it) and took a few pictures.

Most of the route was driven as planned, and I played off the rest so well that no one noticed the fact that I was lost! For the record, because we lost two people at the very first stop light and had already started 10-15 minutes late, I blew off the very first turn through my own neighborhood. (about a 10-minute tour) From there, everything went as planned until we got over into Largo.

Driving south on Indian Rocks road, I couldn't find Wilcox Rd. (I hadn't pre-driven that part of the route!) After missing it twice, I decided to go ahead and go "the other way". The other way looks really cool on the map, all twisty and turny. In reality, I found when I pre-drove it that it winds through a retirement community and has a bunch of speed bumps. I had chosen to avoid it. (sorry guys... but remember, *I* don't have stock springs, so it was twice as bad for me) But it got us where I wanted to be and we resumed the route from there! Missed another turn, ended up going the wrong way on 8th street and decided to blow off the last 10 minutes or so and just get back out on the highway. Everyone was pretty well starving by then, anyway.

It all worked out. After almost 3 hours and about 50 miles of suburban zooming, 4 of the original 7 cars were still with us at the end and we went to Applebee's for a bite. Everyone enjoyed the drive, and I think we'll do it again next year with a few revisions. Perhaps a dinner stop at the beginning or in the middle rather than at the end. Or maybe we can find a way to make it part of the Christmas party?

Best part of the drive: Crossing the Belleair Causeway toward Largo with the full moon right in front of us. Christmas lights? Oh, yeah... we saw some of those, too.





Car Club Members Member Discount

The Grand Prix of St. Petersburg is offering all your members a **discount** on tickets to

The Biggest Weekend Event Of The Year

Three days of fun, food, music and the **Hottest Racing on the Planet!!!**

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Members' Price

ONLY \$94.50 Upper Rows (Reg. \$105.00)
ONLY \$72.00 Lower Rows (Reg. \$80.00)

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2003 Grand Prix Of St. Petersburg Circuit Map

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Please fill in quantity of tickets needed

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Card Number _____ Exp. Date ____/____/____

Please note: One \$5.00 service charge per total order will be added.

Pit Lane Club also available - Call 1-727-894-7749

Local car club has a BIG heart

The Sun Riders Miata Club of Tampa Bay has a soft spot for the animals. This unique car group raised money for the SPCA of Pinellas. In order to do this they held raffles at club meetings and sponsored Fun Runs (timed auto cross drives) to raise \$500 for the animals at SPCA. They also rallied together and collected blankets and some other much needed supplies. Several members are involved in the SPCA's annual Petwalk held in October to raise funds for the shelter.

This is the second year in a row that the Sun Riders came to the aid of the animals. Last year they collected over 400 pounds in dog and cat food, toys and treats to reward the animals with.

Spokesperson for the club Kathy Davis says, "We like to give back to the community. The animals need our help so we chose them. There are a lot of dog and cat lovers in the club so when we polled for an idea for our charity, this was a natural choice. Knowing that the SPCA does not get Federal or State funds makes the choice even easier. They really benefit from our help."

The Sun Riders Miata club has about 150 active members that enjoy events and drives in their sporty little cars. Visit the club website at www.sunriders.com for more information or a club calendar of events.

In this car club, hearts are big even if the car isn't. :)

Kathy and Duke, an SPCA resident, by the Tree of Life. Duke got adopted minutes before this picture!!





Miatas Blow Sonic Away - by Fritz Kloepful

What a great turnout for a short notice event!! I had NO IDEA that the Sonic would be that busy. Every parking spot was filled when we arrived, and there was a bit of a traffic mess. Not to worry! A little creative parking and we had about 7 Miatas stuffed in a corner with a few more scattered here and there. We commandeered a few tables in front of the joint and put on the feed bag. I found the food to be just what I expected. Greasy, sloppy, flavorful and cheap!! The kids serving on skates were fun and I thought it was the perfect meeting place for a bunch of car nuts.

Kathy Davis suggested a twisty route from the Sonic to downtown Largo and led most of the way. I know I saw Loren pushing it pretty hard through a couple of corners, and I suspect some of the rest of the group was guilty of that as well. As we snuck up on the area of the car show there seemed to be a distinct lack of,..... well,.... er,..... cars!

Upon arrival we discovered just two cars left. Seems they had given away the awards and raffle tickets early, and immediately after that everyone split! We did find a beautiful yellow Monster Miata parked there with a hardtop and neat louvers in the hood. Seems they needed more ventilation after they stuffed the Ford 5.0 liter V-8 in there!

Well, we all got out and mingled a while and made the best of it, and the people who had sponsored the car show were very nice and asked us to please come again. They have music (yes some of us WERE dancing in the streets) and food, and they would love to have us come to participate or spectate. I met a few new people tonight, whose names I have forgotten already. Ralf? Smokey? Sorry, I'm horrible with names but I look forward to seeing you all again soon, and I promise after the 5th or 6th time you've introduced yourselves I'll remember.

Thanks to those folks for showing up, and I will probably try to do this again the next time they schedule the Cruise In for Largo. I hope those who wanted to come but couldn't can make it next time.

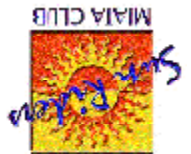
BTW, I believe the long distance award goes to Shelley Perfect who came ALL THE WAY from Mango (look it up!) all by herself. Thanks for making the trip Shelley. It was great to see you again.

Thanks also to Steve and Cindy who don't own a Miata but drove their Honda over from Tampa just so if NOBODY showed up for this thing I wouldn't have to sit there alone. I saw a certain sparkle in Cindy's eye, so who knows, next time they just may have a top they can drop!

FIRST CLASS MAIL

MIATA CLUB

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



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

Join us at our club meetings...

We meet the third Tuesday of each month. Currently our meetings are being held at Jimmy Macs Restaurant, tire kicking starts at 6:30 and the meeting begins at 7:00pm.

For more information visit the web page at:

www.sunriders.com

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