



HORIZONS

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

Lakeridge Winery Tour Enjoyed by All

By Jonathan Skinner

On April 16th a group of ten Miatas met up at the McDonalds restaurant on US41 and SR54 in Lutz, just north of Tampa for a scenic drive up to Clermont to visit the Lake Ridge Winery, the largest winery in Florida.

We had a beautiful ride through the Florida countryside, discovering some new roads along the way, and still more on the way back. After about a two-hour drive we found ourselves at the Winery, just north of Clermont, situated among some gently rolling hills, something we rarely ever get to see in Tampa Bay.

As we parked our cars we were greeted by the sound of blues music coming from the grounds, as the Winery periodically has different kinds of Music Festivals on their property during selected weekends.

There was a very minimal \$2.00 per person charge for the blues festival, but the tour and tasting were free. In addition, the food vendors who were at the winery for the festival were really quite good.

Lake Ridge Winery was pretty small, but well run and the tour guide seemed knowledgeable and very enthusiastic about the winery.

The wine tasting itself was very educational, and several of the wines were surprisingly good; I especially liked their Reserve Red and their port, which is actually made at their sister winery in St. Augustine.

The winery trip seemed to be a very popular

event among those Sun Riders who went, and quite a few of us brought back several bottles of wine to enjoy later.

For more information on the winery you can visit their website:

<http://www.lakeridgewinery.com/>

And for information on the music festivals:

<http://www.lakeridgewinery.com/aboutus-events.php3>

There has been talk of a repeat visit, perhaps in July to witness the grape harvest, or perhaps later in the fall when the weather will be cooler! I know I would like to go back for a second visit, so look for this as a future club event.

Presidential Notes

By LoAn Nguyen, President

Our monthly meeting on Wednesday 5/18/05 was attended by 27 members. A good time was had by all as we ate, socialized, conducted some club business, ate, and ate again.

We got the chance to welcome Ken Wood, for whom this was the very first club meeting. We also were joined by Bob Bartlett who looks great after a short "vacation" due to his recent illness. Bob says he continues to improve "slowly but steadily" and thanked all club members and friends for their support and well wishes. Last but not least, we got to see Melody Flowers in her graduate's cap as the Flowers came directly from the gradu-

Continued on page 2

Continued from page 1

ation ceremonies at Tropicana Field. Congratulations to the proud Flowers family! Melody is one of the youngest members of her graduating class.

Members approved the selection of this year's two charities: Faces of Courage; and Boggy Creek Camp, both of which benefit terminally ill children. With this decision made, we can now devote our effort towards raising money and present a sizeable donation at the end of the year. During the meeting we raised \$79 which included \$71 in raffle ticket sales and \$8 from generous members who insisted "let's throw in an extra buck or two and get us pass the \$100 mark for the year." As a result, we now have collected a total of \$102.50 since January, thanks to club members' generosity and willingness to help those who are less fortunate - yet another reason why this is such a special group of individuals. Although we will miss the plush country club atmosphere of this meeting location, it is time to relocate again. Our next couple of meetings will be held at Molly Goodhead's in Ozona, thanks to Ilona's "scouting" efforts. Please continue to offer your suggestions for future meeting locations as we love to try new places!

See you at the next event! And please be safe.



Don and Karen McLaughlin's 1995 led the way to Soloman's Castle on May 21, grinning all the way.

Mazda Starts Production of All-New MX-5 Miata

HIROSHIMA, Japan, May 18, 2005 -Mazda Motor Corporation today announced the May 17th production kickoff of the all-new, third-generation 2006 Mazda MX-5 Miata-the latest and most advanced evolution of the world's best-selling two-seat, lightweight, open-topped sports car. The MX-5 will continue to be built solely at the Ujina No.1 (U1) plant located near Mazda's global headquarters.

The all-new MX-5 is the first new model to be mass-produced at Mazda's U1 plant, which re-started paint shop operations at the end of April. The first MX-5 off the line was a Third Generation Limited model bound for North America, and painted Velocity Red with a red leather interior. It is outfitted with a 16-valve, 2.0-liter four-cylinder, 170-hp engine and six-speed manual transmission.

"A new car launch is always a critical and exciting event for any car company," said Hisakazu Imaki, president and CEO of Mazda Motor Corporation. "But the launch of a brand icon like the MX-5 is particularly special. This is a great moment for all Mazda employees - and a great day for car enthusiasts around the world."

The all-new MX-5 has already been lauded as one of the hottest new cars of 2005. First shown to the world in March at the 2005 Geneva Auto Show, the MX-5 has since been featured prominently around the world. After its US debut only weeks later at the Greater New York Auto Show, a similar Third Generation Limited model recently completed a nine-city cross-country trip riding atop a retired Chicago Fire Department fire truck - dubbed the "Hot Streak Tour" - raising nearly \$100,000 for fire-safety education along the way.

The third-generation of the record-setting MX-5 roadster is an updated and improved version of the most popular two-seat, open-top sports car of all time. In April 2005, the Guinness World Book of

Continued From page 2

Records officially recertified the MX-5 as the best-selling two-seat sports car ever. When production of the second-generation model came to an end in December 2004, a total of 718,954 vehicles had been built. And there are now more on the way.

Mazda North American Operations is responsible for the sales and marketing, customer parts and services support of Mazda vehicles in the United States. Headquartered in Irvine, Calif., MNAO has more than 700 dealerships nationwide.



The first 3rd-generation MX-5 rolls off the line.



Please indulge the editor in a little self-congratulation. This is me at a Sebring test day on 5/15 in my new Spec Miata racecar. It took me over a year to complete it. It started as a 1990 with 185,000 miles on it. Every part of the car has been replaced or rebuilt, a full roll cage and racing suspension installed, and much more. I'll be racing again with the SCCA at Sebring on June 4-5.

Sun Riders Bid Farewell to Jo Ann Forte, fellowship chairperson.

By LoAn Nguyen

A few Sun Riders showed up at Shephard's on Clearwater Beach recently to attend JoAnn's "bon voyage" dinner. In attendance were crab legs, roast beef, different types of salads, sushi, crawfish, shrimps, all kinds of fish, an array of deserts, and other unidentifiable good eats. It all began when Kevin's and Vinnie's red Miatae joined forces in the middle lane of the Howard Frankland, thus declaring it an official "driving" event. From there the entourage proceeded to Clearwater Beach. Soon after our arrival, we met up with Doro in her spanking new "more practical and with a backseat" Honda Civic. JoAnn actually believed our story that we had just run into Vinnie, who was here on a photo shoot. (He even produced a stack of magazines full of beautiful women to add credibility to the story.) Man, JoAnn sure is gullible! Of course, our cover was blown when Doro emerged from her hiding place near the gift shop. Eventually we were joined by Woody and Rosemary, Kathy, Jim, Janet, Ilona and Joe, and Steve and Susie (who cleverly managed to get us all a 10% discount on the bills!) We had a great time. The food was awesome and the conversations were lively. We will miss you, JoAnn. Farewell, but not goodbye.



A group gathered at Shephard's to give Jo Ann a send-off.




Random Tech Tips...

From Miata.net, Via Steve Cook




Turn an ashtray into a cupholder (1990-1997): Simply turn it upside down loosening the four little screws, removing the lid/door and replacing it backwards (i.e., door at rear of ashtray). Then retighten screws and you have a holder that will take a 600ml coke bottle very securely . The bottle actually clicks into place as if it were made to fit. Takes about 5 min and is fully reversible.

Droopy air vents on your dash? Most of the time, you can just press on the center of the vent and the vent will snug up enough to keep it from drooping. Another solution is to remove the vents and disassemble them, then add a half inch by half inch piece of electrical tape to the rear half of each "eye ball" and reassemble them.



Whitesand NetWorks

Managed Service Provider (MSP)
Full-Service Computer Consulting
Servicing Microsoft and Novell Networks
Installation, Support and Troubleshooting
Network and Computer Monitoring
Hourly Rates and Fixed-Rate Contracts



www.whitesandworks.com
info@whitesandworks.com
813-289-5540

2202 N. West Shore Blvd., Suite 450, Tampa, FL 33607



Whitesand WebWorks

Full-Service Web Solution Provider
Website Hosting and Design
Database Design
ASP, ASP.Net and ColdFusion Hosting
Real-time Website Statistics
POP-3 and Web-based Email Hosting



www.whitesandworks.com
info@whitesandworks.com
813-289-5570

2202 N. West Shore Blvd., Suite 450, Tampa, FL 33607



Tampa Bay's only Mazda Miata specific service and repair garage

Treat Your Miata Right...

Oil and Filter Change
with 10 Point Inspection

Sunrider's Special
Only \$19.95

3130 39th Ave. North
St. Petersburg, FL 33714

727-526-4148

www.justmiata.com • stuart@justmiata.com

NEW MEMBERS!

Please extend a warm welcome/welcome back to our newest members:

Bing & Linda Sherer

Michael Devlin

Dave Schreiner

Mark Spahr

Jack Rompon

Betty Welker

Robert Matheny

James Frisbie

Remember, new members to join as of January 1st of this year receive a complimentary name badge. Please contact LoAn (topless@sunriders.com) to place your order. Additional name badges can be ordered at only \$3.00 each.

If you have not received your New Member Welcoming Packet, please contact membership@sunriders.com

Visit us on the Web!
At www.sunriders.com you can see the latest event schedule, update your member information, and participate in our web forum where you can get answers to tech questions or just chat about your car. Not yet a member? You can join and pay online!



Note from the Editor. by Kevin Morrison

I must apologize for the tardiness of this newsletter. I have been very busy with the final preparations of my Spec Miata racecar and a bunch of other stuff that kept me from sitting down to put this issue together. While I've got your attention, though, I'd like to remind folks to please write up an event summary (or appoint someone to do it) for events you plan. Those who couldn't attend still like to read about what they missed!

Sun Rider Birthdays

4/2 Lee Mortimer
4/10 LoAn Nguyen
4/10 Steve Robin
4/24 Ellen Rolleston
4/26 Steve Beach
4/28 Bill Flowers
5/5 Bonnie Hollands
5/13 Robert Appleby
5/21 Doug Presnell
6/3 Dale Nabors
6/10 Joe Incorvia
6/15 Pam Barker
6/15 Glory Velazquez
6/17 Sharon Wilde
6/27 Sheril Cookman

SUNRIDERS MIATA CLUB OF TAMPA BAY 2005 Officers

President
LoAn Nguyen
(topless@sunriders.com)

Vice-President
Loren Williams
(loren@sunriders.com)

Treasurer
Jonathan Veilhaber
(jonathan.veilhaber@whitesandworks.com)

Secretary
Kathy Davis
(kathy@sunriders.com)

Past-President
Joe Wessling (joe@sunriders.com)

Board Member, Newsletter Editor
Kevin Morrison
(kevin1@sunriders.com)

Board Member
Bob Bartlett
(bob@sunriders.com)

Board Member
Dan Rasp
(dan@sunriders.com)

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

Stuff the Lawyers make us say: All opinions expressed in this newsletter are those of the authors. They do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the SunRiders Miata Club, Miata Club of America, Mazda Motors, or the Board of Directors of any of these organizations. Technical advice given is based on the writers' experience with their particular cars. Unless otherwise stated, these procedures are not "Factory Approved". SunRiders assumes no responsibility for the use or misuse of any information presented herein. Use any information at your own risk. Some assembly required, batteries not included. Keep away from small children and point away from face when lighting.



Calendar of Events

Saturday, June 11 - Autocross at St. Pete College, Allstate Campus. See www.sunridersmotorsports.com for details.

Wednesday, June 16 - Monthly meeting. 7:00PM, Molly Goodhead's in Ozona. Tire kicking in the parking lot at 6:30.

Saturday, June 18 - Mystery Drive. Destination? Well, we can't tell you because it's a Mystery! Meet at Safety Harbor Marina Parking Lot (next to the Spa/Resort) at 10 AM. We will leave by 10:15. Have at least half a tank of gas and plan on \$15-\$20 for lunch. Bring an FRS Radio if you have one.

Sunday, July 10 - Autocross at St. Pete College, Allstate Campus. See www.sunridersmotorsports.com for details.

Wednesday, July 20 - Monthly meeting. 7:00PM, Molly Goodhead's in Ozona. Tire kicking in the parking lot at 6:30.

Saturday, August 13 - Autocross at St. Pete College, Allstate Campus. See www.sunridersmotorsports.com for details.

CLUB EVENTS RECAP - Loren Williams, VP

I'll never get used to a two-month newsletter schedule. To get relevant upcoming event information requires people to plan two months ahead, something that most people don't do except for big events. We're usually not even sure where our monthly membership meeting is going to be two months ahead of time! This leaves anyone who isn't keeping up with things via the internet out of the loop for many events. For that, I apologize. Fortunately, most of our members are able to keep up and roll with the changes. I hope the few who are not have befriended someone who is willing to keep them informed.

So, another two months have gone by. Things have slowed down a bit from our very active first two months of 2005. March started out with a Dade City run on the first Saturday that was attended by exactly two cars. (Yes, you read that right. Why is that? I think it was mainly because it wasn't talked up on the web forum. The most successful events always seem to be those that are discussed during the week prior to remind people that they are coming and build some interest. Never let folks forget that you're hosting an event this weekend!) That was followed by a well attended two-day autocross at St. Petersburg College and a monthly meeting at YaYa's in St. Petersburg. The only other March event was the "Night of Relaxation" party, which I never got a report on.

Things picked back up the second week of April with an autocross and a tech session on the same weekend. The autocross was a major success, as usual. The tech session was well-attended in spite of not a lot of work being done. Lots of folks just came by to see what was going on or to chat.

The rest of April was rounded out with some great driving events. First was Jonathan Skinner's trip to the Lakeridge Winery near Clermont. I know it sounds like a "wine and dine" kinda thing, but it was really a nice backroads drive with great music and food at the end... and then the same drive back! Then there was the "Springtime in Savannah" trip, which I believe about 8 of our members went on (maybe more).

Hopefully, some of the people who stepped up to organize events over the past two months took the time to write a little bit about their events for the newsletter. Without that, the people who didn't attend for whatever reason won't know what they missed! Coming up in May and June, we have two autocrosses, two monthly meetings, and two driving events. Check the calendar for details! On that note, I'm retiring as "Events Coordinator" and going back to doing what Vice Presidents do. Last time I checked, that was nothing.



Sun Riders at Solomon's Castle, May21



Chad Sutton, Motorsports Director

The Motorsports group has had a good spring with 3 events in March and April all located at the SPC facility. Way back in March we had a two-day event covering the entire weekend of the 12th and 13th. The Saturday event was a near sellout approaching the maximum number of 60 drivers allowed for the event. Hosts Mike and Ted had a very challenging course setup with a very quick slalom area and 3 really tight hairpins going into the finish. Most of the people I spoke with agreed the fast area leading into those hairpins really make you pay attention. Times ranged from a fast 32 second back to the low 40's. Everybody received 6 runs on Saturday, which is a good amount to run. It was hoped to run 8 but some equipment problems were causing some delays. Lunch was an excellent catered extravaganza with probably the best eats since I've been around the Motorsports group.

On Sunday I took over as an event host. A crack team of electrical engineers spent a few hours getting the equipment problems resolved which meant everybody got 8 runs! The course was the same as Saturday's except I took out two of the tight hairpins and used some of the real estate in the center to lengthen the course. It was longer and a little quicker, so the times ended up about the same as Saturday with a range between 33 seconds and 40 seconds. There were not as many people on Sunday (expected with other events being hosted in the area), so we were done with all the runs by 12:30 PM. After a pizza lunch about 19 people stuck around to have some fun runs, and each of these cars got four more runs each. We certainly used up some tires and brake pads in March.



On April 9th Dan and Bill took charge of a busy day. The course they created was pretty long for SPC utilizing a large section of the track where you drove it twice. It slowed how quickly we could send the second car, but it also meant longer runs, which is always a nice thing. Times ranged from a low 40 second run to up in the upper 40's. Due to the longer length of the track everybody received 6 runs. Lunch had an Asian flair to it and there was plenty to go around.

We have more autocross events coming up through the spring and summer. On May 15th Loren and Bill will be hosting a Sunriders Members only event called Endurocross. We also have events scheduled on June 11th and July 10th at SPC. I hope you can make it out!!

HORIZONS

Sun Riders Miata Club of Tampa Bay

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

Participate in the forums: www.sunriders.com/forums/

Renew or join online: www.sunriders.com/membership.html



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