



HORIZONS

November 2003

Ever wonder how much your stock Miata wheels weigh? Want to know who has the lightest stock wheels at the next club event? Well, thanks to Kat Bryce and Mike Banishek, here is the answer!

Type of Miata Wheel	Size	Weight
Mazda Miata 92C/93LE (BBS) Forged	14x6	9.00 Lbs.
Mazda Miata 94 M-Edition Cast	14x6	10.25 Lbs.
Mazda Miata 94-97 Cast	14x6	10.50 Lbs.
Mazda Miata 95 M-Edition (BBS) Forged	15x6	11.00 Lbs.
Mazda Miata 90-93 Cast	14x5.5	12.50 Lbs.
Mazda Miata 99 Cast	15x6	13.10 Lbs.
Mazda Miata 96 M-Edition (Enkei) Cast	15x6	14.50 Lbs.
Mazda Miata 97 M-Edition Cast	15x6	14.50 Lbs.
Mazda Miata 01 Cast	16x6	15.50 Lbs.
Mazda Miata 90-97 Steel Cast	14x5.5	18.00 Lbs.
Mazda Miata Spare Tire & Wheel Cast		21.60 Lbs.

***Just added! 2 New Events!!!!
These events are not on the calendar yet!***



First event: November 20th - Cars and Crafts

(well, really it's just crafts) Join some fellow club members on a Thursday evening for some art therapy. We will meet at Everyone's An Artist, a pottery painting studio, located at 5056 East Bay Drive (Tri-City Plaza, US 19 and East Bay Drive, Clearwater behind the Applebee's). Arrival time between 6-7pm. Departure- whenever you are done painting the pottery that you select. The cost is the price of the pottery you select plus \$7 for the studio fee, which covers all paints and use of brushes and stencils. They are open until 9pm on Thursdays, but will stay until 10 for us, if needed. After you paint the pottery, they will fire it and it is ready to be picked up in a week. Here is the studio's website for more info: www.everyonesanartist.com

If planning to attend or need more information, email Doro at dorosmailbox@aol.com.

2nd event: Safety Harbor Christmas Parade - December 20th, Saturday, 1pm. Plan to meet at noon at the lineup place and decorate our cars. Our assigned lineup place has been the Safety Harbor Museum, located on Bayshore Drive in Safety Harbor for the past few years, and it will probably be there again this year. After the short parade, some folks usually go out to lunch. If planning to attend or need more information, email Doro at dorosmailbox@aol.com.

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!



\$25

polo shirts
assorted colors, racing
stripe collars



\$25

polo shirts
assorted colors, plain collars

New chambray shirts!
Customized! \$30!

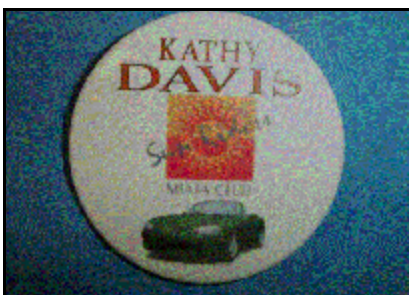


Hot new hats
available! Only
\$15!



\$15

magnets
approx. size 8 inches



\$3

buttons
made with your name and
car color/style



COURTESY MAZDA
OF
TAMPA



3800 West
Hillsboro Ave
TAMPA

MLM Mobile Auto Detailing
Miatas just \$20!!

We come to your home or office!

Full Detailing

Wash and wax, vacuum, clean windows, scotch guard carpets, completely
clean interior, clean leather seats, shine tires

Cars/Pickups \$35 Vans \$45

Oil Changes \$15.95 up to 5 qrts, quality filter

Ask for Mark 352-799-7499



New
Feature!
Guess the
owner!
There are a
lot of animal
lovers
among us
so let's try to
figure out
what pet
belongs to
who!

*Answers will be
posted on the
back page of the
next newsletter!*

_____ is the owner of this little guy!

My mom (Sharon Preston) sent this web
address to me....being a car club member, I
thought it interesting and wanted to share! :)
Kathy

Road Challenge

http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/safety/fourthlevel/msa/a/road_challenge.html



Another UNIQUE plate!

Billy Young of Clearwater sent this in...

About the toyluvr name. I have oft been ribbed about this name in on-line forums, accused of not even being able to spell. Well, if you look at the picture, you'll see that it is the phonetic spelling, so that it fits the '7 letter rule' of Florida license plates. TOY LUVR has been my plate for several vehicles over several years. Now in real-life, when folks see the tag, I am usually asked "What kind of toys? The Miata? Model trains, boats or planes?"

My wife is special. Why? Well, it happens that her initials are TOY. Nope. Not kidding. And all the ladies go "how sweet", all the guys say, "ah, that's why she lets you buy cool stuff." Whatever. After 30 years of putting up with me, she deserves to be recognized by the State!!



Looking for something to get you in the Holiday spirit?



1st ANNUAL HOLIDAY IN THE PARK

*Sponsored by Pinellas Park Citizen's Police Academy
Alumni Association*

ENGLAND BROTHERS BAND SHELL
(TOWN SQUARE PLAZA)

**5121 80TH TERRACE
PINELLAS PARK**

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2003

FROM 6:00 PM TO 10:00 PM

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2003

FROM NOON TO 10:00 PM



- ✓Hayride tour of beautiful holiday lights
- ✓Music and Caroling ✓Christmas Tree Forest
- ✓Crafts for the entire family ✓Photos with Santa
- ✓Games and rides for the children
- ✓Food vendors ✓And much, much more

holiday clip art designs copyrighted by Newport Media Concepts, Inc.



Primus Enduro Pic Pics courtesy of Don Reese



Various shots from last Auto Cross - taken by Billy Young

PRIMUS KART RACING by Don Reese

The FL Region Rotax Max Challenge Championships were held at the Primus Racing test track in North Manatee County starting on Friday October 10th through Sunday October 12th. A last minute call for corner workers went out among the various car groups and the Sunriders Miata Club and Sunriders Autocross Club were included in that call. That is how I ended up being a corner worker for three days.

The event was the first event held on the new Primus Racing test track (about one mile North on US-41 from the US-41 and I-275 junction South of the Skyway Bridge - just under the cellular phone tower), it was also the first event that Primus Racing had ever hosted (even though they have been attending races for decades). The fact that this was the first event hosted by Primus Racing was a major contributor to the last minute call for help. Friday was the worst for workers, I was the only one to show up to work as a corner worker.

Anyway, a large number of kart racers turned out to race in three classes of events. Junior, Senior and International classes. Friday was simply a test and tune day using only the front half of the test track, but using all the cutouts which adds a lot of tight curves (we plan on using these same cutouts for our future events on this course). Very little rest for the workers on Friday since the entire day consisted of back to back ten minute test sessions. By the afternoon you were pretty much sitting through most of the runs, jumping up only when there was a need to flag the karts. Still there was some pretty exciting head to head racing going on during these test sessions, and with the track being new, there was to keep your eyes open.

Corner workers at these events are there to wave yellow and red flags at the drivers to warn them of track conditions. A steady yellow flag is a simple warning that there is a problem on the track. A waved yellow flag indicates that there is a dangerous situation on the track that the driver will encounter quickly, finally a red flag is used to tell the driver that the race is stopped due to an accident. Not that these drivers paid a lot of attention to the flags regardless of color.

Saturday was the actual championship race and I am happy to report that the Sunriders Autocross Club had three people show up to work the corners (thanks to Ed and Matt - sorry, last names escape me). The racing was a bit more intense, but we had fewer little accidents as the drivers were used to the track. Still there were a couple scary moments where karts hit the hay bales and did not get stopped. One where the kart spun 360 degrees with the young driver floating above it trying to get back into the seat, the car was brought back into control and continued to the end of the straight where the driver got off the track. We found out the next day while talking to his father that the driver had no memory of the time between hitting the bales of hay and getting off the track.

Sunday was to be a four hour enduro event. Apparently trying out how to run an enduro and what rules/controls needed to be in place. But many things kept the race from starting on time and then technical problems with the timing equipment halted the race for about an hour and finally the rain moved in causing a change of tires from slicks to rain and then later back to slicks. Still there was some really intense racing going on between a couple of the drivers and I think that roughly two hours of actual racing was achieved.

Overall the event was voted a success by the kart drivers and everyone was very happy to see us there to help. We were welcomed into the pits. Our support for this event will also help us know more about the four events that the Sunriders Autocross Club will host on this track next year.

SunRiders Annual Performance Driving School Review

by Mark C.

The Sun Riders put on an excellent driving school this past Saturday. Loren set up a simple, but challenging course that contained most of the common elements seen at an Autox.

The course started with a pair of opposite 90 degree turns that led into a long sweeper turn. After exiting the sweeper there was a med long straight leading into a 70' diameter circle turn. The exit of the constant radius turn led into a hairpin 180. This was followed by another slight sweeper into a 90 degree turn to enter a 5 cone slalom. The slalom ended in a 90 degree turn into a med straight leading to a chicago box and then to a short straight to the end.

Everyone ran the course 2 times in the morning before any instruction. Then they broke the course into seperate elements and students into 3 groups. They used the big circle in the middle of the course as a skid pad, the 90's at the beginning as a turning exercise, and the slalom section as, u guessed it, a slalom section. Each exercise area had a short "classroom" section explaining what the purpose was and what you were supposed to learn, etc. After the "classroom" part you just drove. Instructors rode with you at first, then they got out and let you do it on your own.

After everyone had several runs at every section (Everybody got four 5-lap runs at the skid pad and I lost count on how many runs I had at the other sections.), everyone got 3 more runs at the whole course. Not too surprisingly, the afternoon times were much better than the morning times. (I pulled .70 G's on the skid pad. (.42 was lowest and .86 was highest) I improved 7 seconds from my best morning run and placed 10th out of 14 drivers running on street tires. I suppose to some that makes me a LOSER, but I learned things so I don't think of it that way.) First driver's meeting was at like 10:15 AM and the event ended at 5:00 PM. Everybody got good instruction, lots of seat time, a catered Vietnamese lunch and it was a lot of fun! A very good bargain at \$40.

A wide variety of cars participated including an Audi A4, a pair of Mini Coopers, a number of Miatas, an Escort, a Chevy S-10 eXtreme pickup, and of course a Probe. Everybody had a lot of fun. I'll try to let everyone know when they they are gonna run this school again. It is a hell of a lot of fun. Make plans to come out next year. L8R!

Birmingham Bound

I recently went to the new Barber Motorsports Complex just outside of Birmingham, Alabama. In case you have had your head in a hole, Mr. Barber has built what is considered to be one of the premier racetracks for sportscar and motorcycle use.

The purpose of my trip was to attend the BMW Riders Association National rally. I have been riding BMW motorcycles for the past 10 years or so having migrated through a series of japanese bikes and Harleys. My current bike is a 1971 R75/5. this is a 750cc bike made from 1969 to 1973. It is a show winner and I'm very proud of it. Anyway, this is a Miata list so I'll stick to the stuff we all like.....

The roads from here to Montgomery are nothing special. We ran up 19 to I-10. Over to Marianna and then up 231 to Montgomery. This is about 500 miles. After spending the night in Montgomery, we left just before first light and scurried out of town. It was COLD!! We discovered later that it was 38 degrees. Just outside of Montgomery, going north on 231, the road turned into one of the most beautiful rides I've had in years. It was two lane, 55 mph without a sole on it for miles. Up hill and down, one curve after another. Trees lining the hills and the valleys all seemed to have an old barn next to a pond with steam coming off of it and filling the valley. I forgot how cold I was, just enjoying the sound of the bike and the rhythm of the road. The sun was peeking through the trees and dappling the road but providing no warmth except for the soul. We finally hit 4 lane at Sylacauga and followed the back roads into the racetrack.

It's always exciting to get to a rally and see several thousand like-minded individuals. I estimate we had 2500 or so BMW enthusiasts, many of them camped out in colorful tents. The racetrack complex is absolutely beautiful. The roadways are wide and curvy, going up and down hills. The landscaping is golf-course quality, constantly being groomed by the grounds crew. The track is carved out of the Alabama foothills and follows the natural topography. You would expect nothing less from Mr. Barber, who has built a reputation in the motorsports world of being a first rate individual.

The motorcycle community first heard of Mr. Barber a few years ago when it was discovered that he had been quietly collecting motorcycles of note and any historic race-bike available for his personal collection. This collection was housed in a series of warehouses in downtown Birmingham. Mr. Barber owned Barber Dairies, a major milk and ice cream producer for the southeast and had made his fortune to spend on his love of motorcycles. When discovered and published in Cycle World magazine, the museum consisted of these perfectly restored motorcycles displayed in glass cases lining the walls four high. Literally hundreds of bikes displayed as if they were hot-wheels models. One of the stellar museums of historic motorcycles now resides in it's new home at the Barber Motorsports Complex.

I left on Saturday afternoon, going a bit east on I-20 and catching State Road 77 south from Talledega to Lafayette. This was also an unbelievably curvy road with lots of hills. I was literally the only vehicle for miles sometimes. I was only passed once (ok I was not going the speed limit all the time!) and only met an occasional approaching vehicle. The scary part of these roads for me were the elevation changes and not knowing which way the road curved over the hill. I've been a Florida flatlander for too long. I then took 431 which was twisty for another good ways before I ended the night in Albany, Georgia. A good 250 miles or so from home. The ride down 19 was an uneventful 6 hour hammer at 70-80 mph.

If you ever get a chance to go up to this track, do your self a favor. It's surrounded with grassy slopes to sit on, pine trees for shade, and a spectacular racetrack, new asphalt and light tan, rock runoff areas. I hope to go see some racing there later this year when the AMA brings Superbike racing to the track. Maybe I'll take the Miata this time.....

Steve Cook - white 92

Calendar Update for the next 2 Months...

NOVEMBER 2003-----

Saturday, 11/1/2003 SunRiders Dade City Dade City Cruise-In 4PM, meet at McDonalds at SR54 and US41. Leave for Dade City at 4:30PM. 40 minute drive in country and car show with dinner. Contact Joe Wesling for details.

Hosted by SunRiders Miata Club of Tampa, FL -- For more information:visit <http://www.sunriders.com> or contact Don Reese at <mailto:Don@SunRiders.com> (941) 739-0104.

Sunday, 11/9/2003 Davis Islands Garden Club - Davis Islands Garden Club Jazz in the Garden

the Davis Islands Garden Club will hold its 2nd Annual Islands Rhythms concert on the lawn of the Garden Club at 81 Columbia Drive in Tampa. The grounds, on the banks of the Seddon Channel, will open at 5:30, with the music starting shortly after that. This year's concert will be "Jazz in the Garden" with Belinda Womack and the Katz providing the musical entertainment. Belinda is a well-known local performer with a wide range of musical styles. For this concert, she and the Katz will be filling the Garden Club's grounds with Jazz. A silent auction and a raffle will go on throughout the evening. This is a casual event. Guests can sit on the grass or bring their own lawn chairs. The Club won't sell any food, so everyone is free to bring their own food. The Garden Club will have sodas and water available, but feel free to bring your own beverage (including alcoholic beverages). Several Sunriders came to last year's inaugural concert. Tickets are \$10 (Children under 12 - \$5). A limited number of tables are available for advance reservation. The cost is \$150, which includes tickets for ten people. Like last year, if we know about it in advance, we will arrange a Miata Corral right next to the entertainment area, so all the cars can be shown off (and kept in sight). For ticket or other information, call Judy at 813 254-1850.

Thursday, 11/13/2003 - Sunday, 11/16/2003 Auto Show - Tampa Convention Center 2004-Model Tampa Bay International Auto Show 2004-Model Tampa Bay International Auto Show - See

<http://www.motortrendautoshow.com/tampa/> for details.

Friday, 11/14/2003 Space Coast - Weekend at Salt Springs

Come join the fun for a camping or cottage weekend getaway. Bill and Linda Grieco of Space Coast have arranged for the club to enjoy the Ocala National Forest from the Elite Resorts facility at Salt Springs (see

<http://www.eliteresorts.com>). Fees for campsites are \$24-\$30 per night plus 7% sales tax. Fees for cottages are based on double occupancy and are \$80 per night (additional adults \$10 each) plus 7% sales tax. There is a two night minimum stay for the cottages. No refunds after reservations are made. To reserve space or if you have questions, please contact Bill or Linda Grieco at 312-269-0972/321-544-9465 or linbill@netzero.net Hosted by Space Coast Miata Club of Cocoa, FL -- For more information:visit <http://www.spacecoastmiata.com> or contact Paul Healy at (321) 728-1863.

Saturday, 11/15/2003 Sun Riders Autox Club - St Petersburg Florida Courtesy Mazda Autocross - Sunriders 7th 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! Hosted by Sun Riders Autocross Club -- For more information:visit <http://SunridersAutocross.com> or contact Loren Williams at <mailto:Loren@Sunriders.com> 727-797-1062.

Tuesday, 11/18/2003 SunRiders Montly Club Meeting

Lee Chinese in Tampa 8309 West Hillsborough Ave, Tampa FL. Hosted by SunRiders Miata Club of Tampa, FL -- For more information:visit <http://www.sunriders.com> or contact Don Reese at <mailto:Don@SunRiders.com> (941) 739-0104.

December2003-----

Friday, 12/5/2003 - Saturday, 12/6/2003 PPCPAAA PINELLAS PARK Holiday in the Park

Saturday, 12/6/2003 SunRiders Dade City Dade City Cruise In

Sunday, 12/7/2003 SunRiders Indian Rocks Beach Indian Rocks Beach XMAS Parade

Saturday, 12/13/2003 SunRiders Sunriders Christmas Party - see insert to newsletter

Tuesday, 12/16/2003 SunRiders No Monthly Club Meeting (See XMAS Party)

Several club members enjoy some social time after a full day shopping at the Ellenton Outlet Mall. LoAn organized this trip and called it "An Expedition".



PROPOSED MEETING DAY CHANGE

At the October Monthly meeting, we took a survey to find out which day of the week might mean more or new faces at the monthly meetings. (According to our bylaws we can change the meeting date after a vote at the monthly meeting.)

The survey showed that Wednesday is the day of choice (by a landslide!).

At Novembers monthly meeting we will be voting to make this change effective January 2004.

Bob Bartlett will take over meeting schedule - getting restaurant lined up. Suggestions from the club can be forwarded to him.

Upcoming Election - Nov 2003 Club Meeting

Nominees for offices:

Pres.....Joe Wessling
Vice Pres....Joe McCormick
Sec.....Kathy Davis
Treasurer.....LoAn Linthicum
Directors.....Mike Beneshek, Owen Johns, Robert Bartlett (Bill Bullington as past president, automatic)

Committees:

AC Direc.Loren Williams
Membership.....George Bickner
Fellowship.....JoAnn Forte
Marketing.....Fritz Kloepful
Historian.....
Web Master.....Kevin Morrison
Calendar/Events..Don Reese
Merchandise.....Ilona Wessling

AUTOCROSS PROGRAM

2004 Scheduling Meeting - Quick Notes

Great turnout for the meeting! I think Brian has the official who's who, but I know there were more than a dozen people there.

We got the trailer cleaned. Also resealed the roof and fogged it for bugs. Everything seems to be in order.

I have a tentative schedule for next season with chairmen for most of the events. Awaiting confirmation of dates from SPCC, and for details on availability of the new race track. For now, the below is what we have. Again, all dates are tentative... take them as "plus or minus a week or two" at this point.

Aside from firming up the schedule, there is one piece of the puzzle missing. We need some co-chairmen for our events. We can find some "good ol' reliable" long time members to fill some of these positions as necessary, but what we really need are some newer members to step up. The co-chairman position is your opportunity to learn without the pressure of responsibility. After you've co-chaired an event or two, you should be more than qualified to act as an event chairman in the future... and we'll be looking for you in 2005!

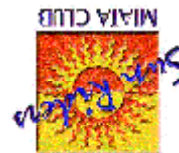
Here's what we have so far:

Date	Event Title / Location	Chairman/Co-Chairman
Sat 1/10/2004	.. SPCC Don Reese	.. Dan Rasp
Sun 2/22/2004	.. SPCC	.. Owen Johns
Sat 3/13/2004	.. Track	.. Fritz Kloepfel / Billy Young
Sun 4/11/2004	.. SPCC	.. Johnathan Skinner
Sat 5/08/2004	.. SPCC	.. Loren Williams
Sat 6/12/2004	.. Track	.. Mike Benishek .. Fritz Kloepfel
Sat 7/24/2004	.. SPCC	.. Brian Hollands
Sun 8/22/2004	.. SPCC	.. Dan Rasp
Sat 9/11/2004	.. Track	..
Sun 10/24/2004	.. SPCC	.. Bill Bullington
Sat 11/20/2004	.. SPCC	.. Chad Sutton
Sat 12/04/2004	.. Track	..

FIRST CLASS MAIL

MIATA CLUB

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



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. Tire kicking starts at 6:30 and the meeting begins at 7:00pm.
For more information visit the web page at:
www.sunriders.com

NEW MEETING LOCATIONS!!!!!!

**SEE CALENDAR
PAGE FOR DETAILS**

or contact any board member.

**SEE INSIDE NEWSLETTER FOR
IMPORTANT NEWS ABOUT THE
MONTHLY MEETINGS!**

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