

November-December, 2005
Volume 11, Issue 6



HORIZONS

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

President's Corner

Here we are, drawing a close to 2005. I hope it indeed has been a year of good health, good memories, good friends, good deeds, and good fortunes for our members.

It seems just the other day when I sat down to type my "message" for the January issue of our newsletter. Where has the time gone? We were just beginning to have some fun! There are still many driving events to coordinate! Many restaurants to try out and recommend for our monthly meetings! Many Miata drivers/enthusiasts who have not even heard of the Sun Riders! Many goals not reached! Well... guess what? There is always next year!!

We currently have about 100 members in the club, 30 of whom have joined us in 2005. The Sun Riders continues to be a group of friendly and caring individuals who share a common interest in fun, friends, food, and our beloved Miata. Our special highlight this year of course was the unveiling of the brand new styling MX-5 which prompted many "oohhs and aahhs" from our members. We enjoyed a number of driving events, met new members and made new friends, said good-bye to those who are no longer with us, and helped those in

need by generously donating cash and auction items to charity and hurricane relief drives. We also end the year by wishing the Sun Riders Motorsports Program a bright new beginning as it branches off to become a chapter of the National Auto Sport Association (NASA). All Sun Riders should be proud to see that the autocross program we started way back in 1998 has matured into an independent motorsports organization.

Lastly, but most importantly, I would like to take this opportunity to thank my fellow officers, board members, and committee chairpersons who graciously volunteered their time and effort to serve the club in 2005: Joe Wessling (Past President), Loren Williams (Vice President), Jonathan Vielhaber (Treasurer), Kevin Morrison (Board Member/Newsletter Editor), Ralph Till (Board Member) Kathy Davis (Secretary/Newsletter Editor), Chad Sutton (Motorsports), Mark Cookman (Membership), JoAnn Forte (Fellowship), Jonathan Skinner (Historian), Ilona Wessling (Merchandise). THANK YOU! I could not have done it (or had half as much fun) without you!

See you at the next event!

LoAn Nguyen

Sun Riders Election Notice

In accordance with our bylaws, if there is not more than one candidate for any elected office, we don't need to send out a ballot. Such is the case this year. Voting will take place at the November membership meeting, and is just a formality. The ballot of officers is:

- President - LoAn Nguyen
- Vice President - Ralph Till
- Secretary - Dale Nabors
- Treasurer - Jon Vielhaber
- Board Member - Bill/Willemina Flowers
- Board Member - Woody Woodbury
- Board Member - Betty Welker

This slate of officers includes a lot of new people, and two who are returning (LoAn and Jon). To those of you who have volunteered for next year, and those who served in 2005, we give our thanks for making the Sun Riders a great club. Kevin Morrison will continue for 2006 as newsletter editor, and Jo Ann Forte has agreed to continue as fellowship chairperson, even though she now resides in Wyoming!



PHOTOS FROM SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER



Ed Simon models his commemorative Miata jacket presented to him, along with a plaque, by the Club on the October 30 Southern Run. Ed is one of the original members of the club.



Russel Mazda hosted the club for a 'get to know you' session with the 2006 Miata MX-5. Some great door prizes were awarded and a raffle to raise money for hurricane victims in Mississippi netted over \$400.

The Sun Riders Annual Holiday Gathering

Mark your calendars!

DECEMBER 3RD

6-11pm at the

**FAIRWAY SPRINGS
CLUBHOUSE**

3331 Player Drive - New Port Richey (just off SR 54)

(RSVP to willemina.flowers@verizon.net
or tell a Board member!)




**FOOD
GAMES
FUN
BYOB**

DIRTY SANTA
(car/travel related gift valued
at \$10 gift exchange game)

Visit the club's resources on the web!




I'm sure you are all aware of the club's website at sunriders.com, but if you haven't visited in a while you might not be aware of what's available there. First and foremost, the club's event calendar is there, so you can find out about upcoming events. There's a collection of various tech articles and photos from past (way past) events. A page of links gives a sampling of the many other Miata-related websites. Finally, the Web Forum, at www.sunriders.com/forums/ gives you a place to ask questions and connect with other Miata owners in the area.

Another way the club communicates is the Yahoogroups email group. Found on the web at groups.yahoo.com/group/sunriders/ the Yahoo group is primarily an email discussion group. Once you subscribe to the group, you receive emails sent by other members of the group, and if you reply, the email goes to everyone in the group. It's a lively discussion and is really the heart of the club. Try it!



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NEW MEMBERS!

Please extend a warm welcome to our newest members:

Alan and Sharon Shafran

John and Cecilia Smith

Brent Diehl

Remember, new members 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.

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!



Sun Rider Birthdays

November

11/4 Eileen Simon
11/5 Chad Sutton
11/11 Jo Ann Forte
11/12 Bill Monette
11/16 Mike Benishek
11/18 Fritz Kloepfel

December

12/3 Dewaine Norris
12/8 Don McLaughlin
12/17 Dave Schreiner
12/21 Woody Woodbury
12/31 Don Reese

Happy Birthday, Y'all.

SUNRIDERS MIATA CLUB OF TAMPA BAY 2005 Officers

President
LoAn Nguyen
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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
(kevin.morrison@gmail.com)

Board Member
Ralph Till

Board Member
Dan Rasp
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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

Wednesday, November 16 - Monthly Meeting - Salsarita's Fresh Cantina, 4022 Tampa Rd, Oldsmar. 7 PM. This is the meeting in which we will hold our annual elections. Please plan to attend.

Saturday, December 3 - Annual Holiday Party. 6-11 pm Fairway Springs Clubhouse, 3331 Player Drive, New Port Richey (just off SR54). Food provided. Bring a \$10 CAR RELATED gift if you want to participate in the traditional Dirty Santa game. BYOB. See flyer in this issue.

Saturday, December 3 - Autocross at SPC. See sunridersmotorsports.com or www.sunriders.com/forums for more information.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS! SEE YOU NEXT YEAR!

WEST PENN MIATA CLUB PRESENTS

Miata Mountain Mania
June 15-18, 2006

Miata owners, sign up today to take part in a fun filled weekend of Miata events and cruises as we explore great roads & the beauty of South-western Pennsylvania, Western Maryland and Northern West Virginia.

Registration fee is \$90 per person and includes:

Meals: Reception Dinner, Two Buffet Breakfasts

One Panoramic Group photo
Commemorative MMM 1/72 Scale Miata

Event Pin
MMM T-Shirt

Mazda Welcome Bag

See www.westpenmiataclub.com for more information.

Miatas on the Internet

There is a wealth of Miata information on the internet. If you're new to Miatas, though, you may not know about them and it would take years to find it all. What follows is a small collection of very good resources for Miatas, including some of the more popular aftermarket vendors.

Vendors:

www.flyinmiata.com
www.finishlineperformance.com
www.miatamania.com
www.good-win-racing.com
trussville.buymazdaparts.com
www.racingbeat.com
www.rspeed.net
www.adrenalinerracing.com
www.partsgroup.com (used parts)
www.mazmart.com (used parts)

Resources:

www.miata.net
www.miatadrives.com
www.miata.net/garage
www.mazdamotorsports.com
www.miata.passionroad.com

Discussion:

www.miataforum.com
www.sunriders.com/forums
www.tampabaymiatas.net/forum
sports.groups.yahoo.com/group/sscor (Superchargers)

This is just a tiny sample of what's out there! No matter what you are looking for, the internet has something about it. Of course, there is a lot of bad information out there as well, so don't believe everything you read.

Miata Trivia!

Can you answer these questions?

1. In what year was Sunburst Yellow a color option?
2. How many 1993 Limited Editions were sold in the US?
3. What color was the 1995 M Edition?
4. How many 1997 R package cars were sold?
5. In what year was the turbocharged Mazdaspeed MX-5 introduced?

Answers:

1992, 1500, Meteor Mica, 47, 2004

The Last SunRiders Motorsports Article

by Loren Williams

For those who are interested, I thought I'd share a little about what's going on with SunRiders Motorsports. As was mentioned in the last newsletter, a formal request was made at the last board of directors meeting to fully separate the motorsports group from the SunRiders Miata club. This was approved by the board, and the last official SunRiders autocross will be held in December.

What's happening to the motorsports group? We're joining forces with a much larger motorsports club called the National Auto Sport Association (NASA). Chad Sutton, Dan Rasp and myself have been VERY busy lately setting up the new program. Some of it is easy, just a matter of changing the name on some forms and doing business as usual. But, because the Florida region of NASA has no current autocross program, we're having to work up a lot of policies and procedures from scratch!

The biggest news is that next year we'll be holding events at three new facilities rather than just the St. Petersburg College Allstate Campus. One of the new sites is the Primus race track in Palmetto that we held an event at about 2 years ago. They were shut down by the county due to noise complaints, now they're back in business. We'll be running an autocross event there in January. The other two new sites are the huge overflow parking lot at Tampa Bay Downs, and an old airstrip at the Hernando County Airport in Brooksville.

NASA calls their version of autocross "NASA-X", so our club will be called "NASA-X Tampa". Our first year should prove to be thrilling for all involved. All the fun of a classic "SunRiders" autocross, with a better classing system and slightly more emphasis on competition. We'll be giving out awards at each event and also running a season championship for year-end awards. Of course, if you're not interested in competition, you don't have to give any of that a second thought, just come have some fun!

We thank the SunRiders Miata Club for years of support, and welcome you all to join us whenever you feel the urge to drive a little harder.



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



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