



HORIZONS

November-December 2001

ELECTIONS 2001

Fall election time is here! This year due to bad CHAD reports we will have to choose another form of voting...no, seriously, this year all positions were filled without the need for voting. Random and numerous e mails showed that our club members were more than willing to step up to the plate and volunteer for officer duties. They are as follows:

OFFICERS

President: Bill Bullington

Vice President: Don Reese

Board (we need 3): Jonathan Skinner, Kevin Morrison, Kathy Davis

Treasurer: LoAn Lithicum

Secretary: Cherie Turner



OTHER OFFICES / POSITIONS

Webmaster: Kevin Morrison

Membership Director: George Bickner

Autocross/Motorsports: Jonathan Skinner

Newsletter Editor: Kathy Davis

Activities organizer: Dave Tietz

Fellowship: Ilona Wessling

Historian: Paul Shaffer

Marketing: Skip Willis

Merchandise sales: Ilona Wessling

Charity chairperson: (position will be filled at a later date)

Ballot : (position will be filled at a later date)

All officers will assume their new positions as of January 1, 2001.



UPCOMING EVENTS:

Here's the event schedule for the next few weeks. Also check the club website at www.sunriders.com for information and 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 Dave Tietz at dave@sunriders.com or by phone at (727) 321-3809** 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.

- **Saturday, November 10, 2001:** 12:00 Noon : Tech Session. To be held at Cottman Transmission in St. Pete. (directions will be posted soon). The shop closes at 12:00 and after that it's all ours. There will be several lifts available for us to use. There will be a 'tech talk' at approximately 2:00 entitled 'Miatas for Dummies'. This will cover really basic topics, like "what is the air filter", and "how do you change the oil", and "What's that doo-hickey?"

A brake-job demonstration will also be done.

Tasks that are appropriate for a tech session are things like Air Horns, Sway Bars, oil changes, coolant changes, tranny fluid changes, rotating tires, brake pad changes, removing tie-down hooks, tracking down funny noises, changing plugs and wires. Something big like a top replacement, timing belt job, or transmission rebuild should probably be left for another day.



photo by Don Reese

- **Saturday, November 17, 2001:** SunRiders Autocross Series 2001 event number five. Registration starts at 8:30AM, 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. 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 and 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.

- **Tuesday, November 20:** Monthly Meeting - 6:30 PM kick the tires, 7:00 PM dinner and meeting. Meeting location for this month ONLY is Lindell Mazda in St. Petersburg. We will be pre-viewing the 2002 models. There will be a couple Miatas to test drive as well as hopefully an MP3 and a Protege5. We will be kicking our annual charity drive into high gear, so bring your donations for CASA and the SPCA of Pinellas County. We'll post some directions soon...

- **Saturday, December 15:** Holiday Party. To be held at The Chart House Suites located at Clearwater Beach. We have the penthouse reserved. Party starts Saturday at 2 pm...hang out at the beach, bring some games or videos, covered dish or munchies are optional. BYOB. Bring a gift for a dog or a kitty (to go to our charity) or a small wrapped gift for a child (to go to CASA, our other charity).

Studios can be booked for \$44 a night and Suites are \$86. Identify yourself as a Sun Rider when making a reservation.

Chart House Suites on Clearwater Bay
850 Bayway Blvd.
Clearwater Beach, Florida 33767
toll free- 1-877-Chart99 local- 727-449-8007



<http://www.charhousesuites.com/index.html>

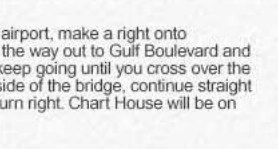
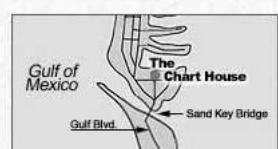
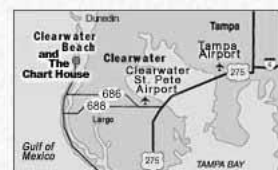

Getting Here

From Tampa
Take Interstate 275 South and cross over the Howard Franklin Bridge. Once on the other side of the bridge, take exit number 18, which is the 686/688 exit. Follow Roosevelt Boulevard (which later becomes East Bay), all the way out to the Gulf Boulevard and the beach. At the light, turn right and keep going until you cross over the Sand Key Bridge. Once on the other side of the bridge, continue straight ahead to Bayway Boulevard and the turn right. Chart House will be on the left, next to the Yacht Club.

From Tampa International Airport
The directions are the same as above...just make sure that you get on 275 South when you leave the airport. Just take a look at the map to your right if you have any questions...or give us a call if you're still not sure. Can't wait to see you!

From Clearwater/St. Pete Airport
Exiting the main entrance/exit of the airport, make a right onto 686/Roosevelt Boulevard. Follow it all the way out to Gulf Boulevard and the beach. At the light, turn right and keep going until you cross over the Sand Key Bridge. Once on the other side of the bridge, continue straight ahead to Bayway Boulevard and the turn right. Chart House will be on the left, next to the Yacht Club.

For Boaters
Steer your vessel east through Clearwater Pass. Chart House is located north of Clearwater Pass, on your port side, next to the Clearwater Beach Yacht Club.



Other Events - We need folks to plan fun events. Why not you?

Come on! Just do it! We'll do anything!



Sun Riders Help Fireman's Fund

At the September monthly meeting, Sun Rider's pitched in and took up a collection to send to the New York Fireman's fund. We collected over \$300 (including club match) from the attending members.



NOTE FROM THE EDITOR:

In order to make this a successful publication I need your input and ideas! Send them (and pictures or stories) to kathy@sunriders.com

Thanks!

INTERESTED IN SEEING THE NEW MIATA COLORS?
<http://www.mazdausa.com/miata/customorder>

NEW LINK ADDED TO THE HOME PAGE!
<http://groups.yahoo.com/groups/sunriders>
This link will take you to the club photos. Post or view photos taken by members of our events and meetings.

Lorie's Hair Design Inc.

576-1185 9015 US 19 North @ Mainlands Village
-Operator Sharon Preston-



This interesting photo was sent to me by Loren Williams from Wichita, Kansas (his wife wrote the article below). If you look real close, you will see Loren in the reflection. Future members Loren and his wife Cathy plan to move to our area sometime next year.

The Call of the Open Hood

by Cathy Scola (Wichita, KS)

I witnessed a strange phenomenon at the last SCCA event at Beech. I couldn't explain it, but I'm sure it goes on all the time. As far as I could tell, it only has an affect on men. It's like a dog whistle or some scent that men are drawn to.

Let me elaborate. Brett Miguel had made a run and tore up a piece of plastic under the front end of his car. He lifted the hood to see if he could pull it off and then suddenly, out of nowhere, men started swarming around his car.

It was as though the click of the hood latch sent out a signal. Ears perked up, noses were in the air sniffing, the low rumble of grunting could be heard throughout the parking lot.

Drivers and spectators alike were drawn to the open hood. Whether to help out or merely take a glimpse of the engine, they came like zombies in a bad horror movie.

Ok, so maybe it's because I just watched a Tim Allen comedy routine (grunt, grunt). But, I still found the spectacle amusing. Sure I ooohed and aaahed with the best of them when Dave Spalding ran the fastest time of the day.

And due to all the sand and gravel on the course there were quite a few entertaining spins and slides. Hell, Mark Braun tried several times to rearrange the course himself by wiping out entire rows of cones.

But, no matter, I will never comprehend the open hood appeal. Perhaps my ears just aren't tuned to the right frequency. Who knows, maybe it's something guys are born with or maybe they just teach it in gym class.

*So, if you ever need help changing a tire or if your car is just lonely and in need of some attention, remember these words: **If you open the hood, they will come.***

**WINNER OF THE SUN RIDERS
BEST OF THE BAY
baking contest.....**

**Key Lime Cheesecake
(Shelley Perfect)**

Crust:

- 1 1/2 cups graham cracker crumbs
- 6 tablespoons butter melted
- 2 tablespoons sugar

Filling:

- 2 extra large eggs, separated
- 2 tablespoons sugar
- 1 pound cream cheese, softened
- 1/4 cup Key Lime juice
- 1 cup sugar

Preheat oven to 350

To make crust:

1. Mix together crumbs, sugar, and butter.
2. Press into the bottom and up the sides of an 8" cake pan, pie pan, or springform pan.
3. Bake for 5 minutes, remove from oven, and set aside.

To make filling:

1. Beat egg whites until stiff.
2. Add the 2 tablespoons of sugar to the egg whites and beat about 2 more minutes, until the sugar is absorbed. Set aside.
3. Beat together cream cheese and egg yolks.
4. Add lime juice and 1 cup sugar to the cream cheese mixture. Beat about 2 to 3 minutes, until smooth.
5. Fold in beaten egg whites. Mix by hand until smooth.
6. Pour batter into the crust and bake for 40-45 minutes, until slightly browned. Do not open the oven door for the first 35 minutes of baking.

To help prevent the cheesecake from cracking, let the cheesecake cool in the oven after baking. After the cheesecake is slightly browned, turn the oven off. To prevent overbaking, open the oven door slightly to let out excess heat. Enjoy!

Cheesecake Tips:

- Use a wet knife when cutting cheesecake. Clean the knife after each cut.
- Cheesecake will rise - and then fall - while baking. Don't panic!



**Milky Way Cake
(Kathy Davis)**

Melt in pan:

- 8 milky way candy bars
- 1 stick margarine
- 1 cup nuts

Mix:

- 1 cup oil
- 2 cups sugar
- 4 eggs
- 1 and 1/4 cups buttermilk
- 2 and 1/2 cups cake flour
- 1/2 tsp salt
- 2 tsp vanilla

add candy and stir (do not beat with mixer after adding candy...STIR). Bake at 350 degrees till knife inserted in center comes out clean (about 30-45 minutes)

Frosting

follow recipe on back of Hersheys Cocoa Can and drizzle "glaze" over cake. Yummy!

Key Lime Pie

Kevin Morrison

- 1/2 cup (plus a smidge for extra tartness) Nellie and Joe's Key Lime Juice
- 3 egg yolks
- 1 can Sweetened Condensed Milk

Keebler Oreo Cookie pie crust

Mix lime juice, condensed milk and egg yolks until blended, pour into crust and bake at 350 for 10 minutes. Let stand for 10 minutes before putting in refrigerator to chill. Later, serve with fresh whipped cream.

Optional - dribble a little chocolate syrup on the top, or serve it on a thin bed of Raspberry syrup.



POLL RESULTS:

POLL QUESTION: Concerning the upcoming Miata Owners Club organizational meeting a question was asked concerning Sunrider/MOC dues. I will summarize options below:

CHOICES AND RESULTS

- Sun Riders yearly dues should include MOC membership (membership fee may be increased)., 1 votes, 11.11%
- Sun Riders yearly dues should include MOC membership (membership fee not increased which may mean cuts somewhere else)., 0 votes, 0.00%
- Sun Riders yearly dues should not include MOC membership. MOC membership is the option of each member., 8 votes, 88.89%

POLL QUESTION: Concerning the upcoming Miata Owners Club organizational meeting, Bob Hotaling (the closest US representative to us) asked:

"Would your club be willing to not only fully affiliate with MOC as a Chapter of the National but would you also be willing to make membership in MOC a stipulation of local club membership "if" it could in return guarantee your club certain benefits such as event insurance at reduced rates, seed money for certain activities, rebates, etc?"

This is all tied to how MOC funds local club benefits. So how about the following:

CHOICES AND RESULTS

- MOC should tie certain club benefits (like event insurance) to a fee paid by the affiliated club., 3 votes, 42.86%
- MOC should provide funding to an affiliated club based upon the number of MOC members in that club., 4 votes, 57.14%

POLL QUESTION: What functions do you feel are important for the Miata Owners Club to provide?

The following list was taken from a charter that was started a while ago when people were considering starting an alternative to the now defunct Miata Club of America.

CHOICES AND RESULTS

- Help with affiliated club product sources (like hats, shirts, bags, pins, etc.), 8 votes, 5.30%
- MOC race (autocross/spec racer) series, 7 votes, 4.64%
- Magazine subscription (current), 10 votes, 6.62%
- Automotive insurance discounts (current), 7 votes, 4.64%
- National events, 11 votes, 7.28%
- Sponsor local club events, 4 votes, 2.65%
- Wrenching events, 5 votes, 3.31%
- Social events (paddocks at Miata oriented races, regional picnics, fundraising events, winery tours, etc.), 9 votes, 5.96%
- Driving events (autocrossing, public roads like the Gap, rallies, etc.), 8 votes, 5.30%
- 1st year membership with new Miata purchase, 5 votes, 3.31%
- Miata purchase plan, 8 votes, 5.30%
- Local club newsletter support, 3 votes, 1.99%
- Discussion group, 6 votes, 3.97%
- Miata knowledge base (How To and Recalls), 7 votes, 4.64%
- Issue polling (like this poll), 2 votes, 1.32%
- Affiliated club representation in board, 7 votes, 4.64%
- Internet and telephone access, 7 votes, 4.64%
- Public records of proceedings, 8 votes, 5.30%
- Affiliated club and Member web space for posting, 2 votes, 1.32%
- Card services, allowing affiliated clubs to accept credit cards, 3 votes, 1.99%
- Affiliated club insurance rates (club and event insurance help), 8 votes, 5.30%
- Guidelines and templates for events and how to get help with local events, 4 votes, 2.65%
- Newsletter for affiliated club officers., 5 votes, 3.31%
- Sponsored driving schools, 7 votes, 4.64%

**Stuffing envelopes (500 of them!)
to send out to local vendors to solicit help
with our Charities - SPCA and CASA.**

**Many thanks to Jonathan's neighbor
Drew who ran home and printed out
return labels for us as we were stuffing!**



SPCA Paws on Parade

by Jonathan Skinner

A note of thanks to all the Sun Riders who helped staff our booth at the SPCA Pet Walk on October 27th.

John Lavigne, Ed and Tammy Link, Scott Houston, Shelley Perfect and Kim Adams all came out with their pets (although Shelley decided to bring her Furby rather than her cats!) and helped talk Miatas with some of the thousands (no exaggeration) of the attendees who braved this chilly fall morning to come out and help raise money for the SPCA of Pinellas County.

As you know, the SPCA is one of two charities that the Sun Riders are supporting this year, and this was their largest fundraising event of the year. We will continue to raise money and collect the items that the SPCA has identified as items needed by the shelter. These are the "wish list" items we list in the newsletter. Please remember to bring some of these items with you for us to collect when you come to a Club event in November and December, or make a cash donation instead! Our Tiger Team raised over \$200.00 for this event alone!

Thanks to the SPCA, We were able to set up a really nice pavilion with a 10' x 10' awning (thanks John!) for us to sit under, along with our Club banner and the Mazda banner I got at the Nationals last year. We also set up an 8 foot table (thanks SPCA!) with some of our club information on it, and with some of our club shirts which we had for sale. We even had enough room to set up five of our Miata's in a display area, so that we could show people our cars. One woman was all set to buy mine, because she thought we were a Mazda dealership!

All in all it was a very successful event, one we may want to build on for next year with an even bigger turnout of Sunriders and their pets!



pictures taken by Kim Adams



FIRST CLASS MAIL

MIATA CLUB

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



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



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

OFFICE	CONTACT	E MAIL
President.....	Jonathan Skinner.....	jonathan@sunriders.com
Board Member	Kevin Morrison.....	kevin@sunriders.com
Board Member	Don Reese.....	don@sunriders.com
Board Member	Jim Poehlman.....	jim@sunriders.com
Newsletter	Kathy Davis	kathy@sunriders.com
Web Master.....	Kevin Morrison.....	kevin@sunriders.com
Event Planning.....	Dave Tietz	dave@sunriders.com
Merchandise	Ilona Wessling	(H) 727.376.2484 (W) 727.937.8247

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 Sun Riders 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 writer's experience with their particular cars. Unless otherwise stated, these procedures are not "Factory Approved". Sun Riders assumes no responsibility for the use or misuse of any information presented herein. Use any information at your own risk. Some assembly may be required, batteries not included. Keep away from small children and point away from face when lighting.