



HORIZONS

September 2003

TECH SESSION A BIG SUCCESS POSTED BY LOREN WILLIAMS

It's been a long time (over a year) since I attended a real "wrench on your cars" tech session. (I went to one at Just Miata a while back, but it was not the same) Thanks to Owen for offering up his garage for us.

Several people (4 Miatas worth) were there. Owen, of course. Me, of course. And also Steve Cook and Al Gruen. We got started about 9:30 and wrapped up a little after 3pm.

Got my "new" shocks installed. Found that I was missing the little mylar spacer that goes between the upper shock mount and the body of the car on the right side. This could very well have been a primary source of my clunk. Since I was missing that one and the other one was getting a little ratty, we cut two new ones out of a sheet of mylar. (an old overhead transparency that Owen had lying around!) I thought a noise (but it didn't seem like "the" noise) was still there when I took my first test drive, but I didn't notice it at all on the way home... I think it may have been the jack-stands in trunk, D'oh! I'll know for sure when I get all the tools unloaded and drive it around some more. The car definitely feels more controlled, this is good.

Other than my little project, a few other things were accomplished. Steve installed new shifter boots and refreshed his turret oil. (there was oil in it, but it was not pretty... and there really wasn't much left of his rubber boots) We did some dental work on Owen's car, it has a beautiful smile now. (and is about 5 lbs lighter) We didn't do anything to Al's car, but I took a drive in it to see if it felt "right". It did, but it really needs new tires and fresh brake fluid. Then Al took a drive in my car and got educated on the differences between a bone stock '96 M and a modified '96 R.

Final Conclusion? We need to do more of these!

ISLANDS RHYTHM CONCERT

Sunday, November 9, 2003, 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.

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!

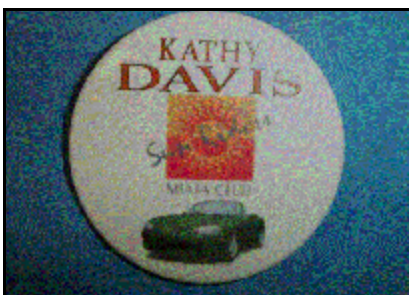


Hot new hats
available! Only
\$15!



\$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

FOR SALE

'97 Miata \$10,900 neg.

45K Miles 1 owner, garage kept

white w/blk interior, pop up headlights,
well kept maint. records, perfect condition

Contact: Carolyn or Ray Jones

SPRINGHILL 352-684-0353

Ouch! *By Kathy Davis, Editor*

Last weekend, Sept 19th or 20th...I am not sure which day, I was the victim of a parking lot "hit and run". Someone hit my passenger side door pretty good. They did not notify or leave me a note, they just left. Boy, that burns me up! Lucky for me, I called Steve Richmond at Dent Solutions and he came out right away and took care of the "boo-boo". He was nice to work with and he cared about doing a quality job...he fixed my titanium and it looks good as new. What moved Steve even higher on my list was that **after** I paid the bill (only \$100.00 - whew!!) he walked around the car and **TOOK OUT MORE** little parking lot dings! Whoa! I LIKE this guy! "Titan" looks wonderful again and I am a satisfied customer who wants to put in a good word for him!

Dent Solutions Inc

727-560-8914

Paintless Dent Removal

Mobile - Licensed - Insured

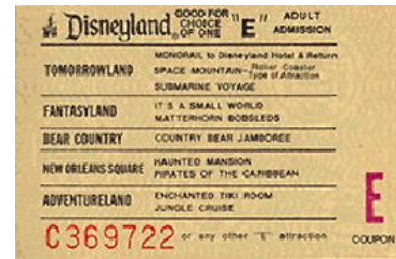
Steve Richmond

The story behind George and Nancy's License Plate



When Disney World first opened, and at Disneyland before that, you bought an entrance pass and a separate coupon book. The coupon book had coupons valued from A to E, based on the 'thrill' of the ride. The slow-moving jitney ride down Main St. took an A coupon; a ride on Space Mountain took an E coupon. Riding in our Miata is so much fun, we think it's a E coupon ride! (Note: Some people called them 'tickets' but they were advertised and sold as 'coupons'.)

It wasn't until the late '70s, that they switched to a higher priced entrance pass that covered rides as well and put an end to Coupons. There's more than you'll ever need to know about coupons at <http://yesterland.com/abcde2.html>.



Got a story to tell about YOUR vanity plate? E mail me! kathy@sunriders.com

Back at Sebring! posted by Kevin Morrison - Flaming Blue Weasel Motorsports Spec Miata #89 - SCCA Central Florida Region

I had a pretty good weekend at Sebring. It was my first time in the car since last November, so I did a test day on Friday to get the cobwebs worked out. Man, was I rusty! My first couple sessions, I could barely work the pedals! By Sunday, though, I was getting back up to speed. I did 2:48's, which is pretty much on par with what I was doing at the end of last year. If I'd been racing all this year I'd probably be faster, though...

The new motor that Stuart Thompson built for me was great. It had great oil pressure, made good power, and felt real smooooooth. The addition of a 4-puck copper clutch was a revelation to me, as now shifts are very direct and positive. I think the clutch alone got me a half-second a lap.

There were 47 SM's entered and my run group was 75 cars. Insane. We ran with ITB/ITC/SSB and a couple production classes. The production cars (old MG's and Bugeyes) were so slow, they were a real danger to us and to themselves. I've never had to pass with such a large speed differential. They hated us.

In the morning practice on Saturday, the traffic was so bad I never got a clean lap. I knew that qualifying would be a problem unless I could get to the grid first and be in the front of the pack. So I went to grid like 20 minutes early and was 4th in line. I thought I had a pretty good qualifying session. Got in 6 good clean laps with no traffic. Very consistent. My fastest lap was within 8-tenths of my slowest. Only problem was, Timing and Scoring didn't pick up any of my laps from my transponder. Turns out one of the sensors in the track was not working and the one that was working never picked me up. Fortunately, Stuart had timed all of my laps and wrote down the times, and they agreed to grid me according to the times he took! So I started 30th out of 75 in my group, 23rd in class. I had hoped to be a little higher than that, thanks to my brilliant early-arrival on the grid, but apparently traffic wasn't as much of a problem for those further back in the group as I thought it would be. (Lesson: ALWAYS have someone timing your laps in qualifying, and ALWAYS check up on timing and scoring).

In the first race Sunday morning, I picked up a bunch of positions on the start, but gave a couple back in turn one (discretion being the better part of valor, you know). Then for most of the race had a pretty good run going. Passed a few more guys. On the second-to-last lap, though, I ran wide in the carousel after having to dodge another car coming back on after an excursion and ran out of track. I straight-lined it and didn't lift, but when the left-side wheels came back on the track, it upset the car too much and I lost it. I shot across the track and put both feet in to keep it out of the tire wall. Got it hauled down and then got going again, but not before about 5 cars passed me. I caught back up to one of them and made some last-ditch desperate efforts to pass, but couldn't get any of them to stick. In the final wash, I was 20th overall, and 18th in class.

So, in the second race, I was gridded 20th for the start. Much preferable to 30th, as I could actually see the front of the group. I got a fairly good jump at the start. Gained a couple positions. (Starts used to be my worst thing, now I'm pretty good at them.) Now this race was a hair-raiser. I was in a group of 6 or 7 cars and we scrapped door-to-door for almost the whole 30-minute race. I would make up a couple positions, and then lose them, and then get them back.... and each pass was hard-fought. We did a LOT of drafting, and I finally felt what it's really like to catch a good draft. It feels like something just grabs the car and shoots you forward! I had to back WAY out to keep from hitting the guy in front of me too hard. All that drafting was making my car overheat a little, so I had to jump out of line to get it some air and bring the temps back down. It worked and the motor didn't get too hot. Anyway, I was running in the top ten by the 20-minute mark. By the second-to-last lap, I had fought to the front of the pack I was in, except for one car. Coming out of 16, he got a little bottled up behind an ITB Golf and had to lift, and I got a good launch, so I just motored right by him by the entrance to 17. I took the inside and got well in front of him. Unfortunately, he decided to try to re-pass me in the *middle* of turn 17 and stuck his nose to the inside. His front wheel only got up to about my door handle, and I never saw him. I came back toward the apex and his nose was there, so I got turned sideways and we both pretty much came to a stop. I got going again, caught up to him, shook my first, and he pointed me by, apologetically. Unfortunately, his efforts cost me about 5 positions and what would have been a top-10 finish (in a field of 40 cars) turned into a 14th. He came and apologized to me after the race and asked me how I drove past him so easily on the back straight. He thought I had a cheater motor (I don't). Guess he never learned the value of exit speed. The only damage to the car is a big black donut on the passenger side door.

Looks like the next race will be back at Sebring at the end of October. After that, Swampy will be for sale and work on the new car ("The Gecko") will begin.

Welcome to Ryan-Performance! Home of Windjammer Sport, the only Mazda Miata windblocker with the distinctive "Audi TT" look!

What is a wind blocker?

A wind blocker is a device that located behind the seats prevents wind from entering the cockpit.

What is Windjammer Sport?

"... a wind blocker for your Mazda Miata with no compromises..." (a wind blocker for your MX-5 Mazda Miata)

Windjammer Sport Features

- t High quality materials (5052 Aluminum, Stainless Steel and Cast Acrylic)
- t Fits all Mazda Miata models with and without factory cockpit brace
- t Compatible with most after market style bars and two-point roll bars
- t CAD engineered black anodized aluminum brackets (Patent Pending)
- t Precision CNC cut cast acrylic with flame brushed edges
- t Stainless steel hardware (hex bolts also serve as theft deterrent)
- t Compatible with factory soft- and hard-tops
- t Allows use of the factory boot cover
- t Does not affect range of seat recline!
- t Allows independent seat movement
- t Totally unobtrusive rear visibility
- t Virtually invisible
- t No rattling!
- t Attaches to existing hardware
- t NO drilling required!
- t Free! Installation hex tool included in every kit
- t Easy to follow installation instructions
- t Can be removed, leaving no traces
- t Creates a stunning European look
- t Unique combination of functionality and style



Windjammer Sport color options:

Clear Acrylic **SKU# 01-0100-00**
\$175.00

Green Edge Acrylic **SKU# 01-0100-01**
\$185.00

Dark Gray Acrylic **SKU# 01-0100-03**
\$195.00

\$19.95 for U.S. S&H - CA Sales Tax (8.750% in CA) will be added at checkout. E-mail us for special color requests.

SUN RIDER'S SPECIAL

10% OFF*

Online Order

Username: sunrider

Password: fmg028

Note: 10%off applies only to order place through ryan-performance.com website
(*Not valid on Limited Edition Bronze)

COUPON VALID TIL DEC 31, 2003.

Must mention Club name to receive discount.

Pay securely with any major credit card through PayPal! or mail your Check or Money Order payable to:

Ryan-Performance
P.O. Box 640711

San Jose, California 95164-0711

Phone orders call Authorize Dealer:

Serious Auto at 1.831.475.5722

Monday-Friday 9:00AM to 5:00PM PST

SunRiders Annual Performance Driving School

It's that time again! This year, instead of doing the law enforcement training course with cop cars and police instructors, we're going to try something different. We're going to do something that's got a little more of a "sports car" slant to it. We'll be using instructors from the local autocross and racing community to help you learn to drive YOUR car in the manner it was designed to be driven. Instruction will be tailored to your own skill level, so it's perfect for anyone from the beginning driver to the semi-experienced autocrosser. You'll get lots of time driving your car with instruction (we call that "seat time") to help you improve your driving skills.

Who: Any club member who wants to learn to better control their car.

What: SunRiders Performance Driving School

When: October 18, 2003 10am-5pm

Where: SPCC Allstate Campus, St. Pete

Entry fee will be \$40 per driver, limited to first 24 drivers. Sharing vehicles is NOT recommended. Pre-registration required no later than October 15. (email or call Jonathan or Loren to get on the list) Payment accepted on-site.



Sun Riders say farewell to friends.... Ed and Tammy prepare to move to Port St Lucie in the coming weeks. The Club prepared certificates and gifts and shared a cake at the September meeting to wish them well in their new jobs and home. Ed has been an ACTIVE member of the club and has been active and supportive of the Auto Cross Program. Good Luck Ed and Tammy...we will miss you!

September Autocross

by Fritz Kloeppel

September's autocross was a terrific success. The morning dawned hot and humid, and much too early for my tastes, but I was heartened to see the number of volunteers who were there at 7:00 am or soon after. We had most of the "usual suspects", but I was very happy to see several new faces as well.

Chad Sutton was my Co-chairman, and had drawn the course for us this time. It was his first opportunity to create a course for our location and he did an excellent job. He created a course that few people got lost on (Of course, Jonathan wasn't there.), but that presented a challenge for even our most experienced drivers.

We had a small turnout, but good considering that there was another autocross taking place the same day, and we are still in the dog days of summer. With only 26 drivers we were able to schedule 8 runs for everybody and that gave beginners a chance to start slow and familiarize themselves with the course before starting to turn the wick up. Several of the more experienced drivers found that 8 runs had them pushing too hard on the last couple, and the last run was seldom the fastest for most of that group. Yes, sometimes driving fast requires restraint!

For lunch we tried something a little different, with Cuban sandwiches and a variety of chips from the Tacky Turtle on Indian Rocks Beach. While we weren't able to serve them warm, as a Cuban sandwich should be, if folks enjoyed this change of pace I'll try to make arrangements to have them delivered "hot off the press" next time. We also stocked the coolers with a wide variety of soda and plenty of water, so no one went thirsty at this event.

We finished fairly early, and as there were only a couple people who were interested in fun runs we decided that we would pack things up, put the pad back in order and get out of there a little early on a hot sunny day. We had a good number of folks stay and help with the packing up and putting the cones back. They have purchased all new cones for the pad which made moving them around a bit easier, and it was also easier to see that bright orange flip up past your window as you clipped it with the front tire!

I thought this was one of the smoothest events we've had, largely because we had so many volunteers help make it happen. I'd like to say a special thanks to several of our regulars, Don Reese in particular. Don has been integral in putting these things on for years now, and even though he was unable to run and had to leave early he was one of the first there and worked his tail off right up until he had to leave. Thanks Don!

We also had help from Pam Barker & Rocco, from Mike Benishek (poor dumb tomato farmer), Bill Bullington, Billy Young, Brian Hollands, Loren Williams and many others including many new faces like Mark from Tampa. Thanks to all of you! I look forward to running another event in the future and I encourage any of you with an interest in the Autocross program to try it as well. Ed, we missed you!

THE CALENDAR

Thursday, 10/2/2003 - Sunday, 10/5/2003 Viva Mazda - Viva Las Vegas October 2-5, 2003!

MazdaEvents.com - Tuscany Hotel & Casino, Las Vegas, Nevada

www.MazdaEvents.Com For more information: visit <http://www.mazdaevents.com/> or contact Barbra Beach at Miatabb@aol.com 760.631.1202

Saturday, 10/18/2003 Sun Riders Autox Club, St Petersburg Florida Sun Riders Performance Driving School

It's that time again! This year, instead of doing the law enforcement training course with cop cars and police instructors, we're going to try something different. We're going to do something that's got a little more of a "sports car" slant to it. We'll be using instructors from the local autocross and racing community to help you learn to drive YOUR car in the manner it was designed to be driven. Instruction will be tailored to your own skill level, so it's perfect for anyone from the beginning driver to the semi-experienced autocrosser. You'll get lots of time driving your car with instruction (we call that "seat time") to help you improve your driving skills.

Who: Any club member who wants to learn to better control their car.

What: SunRiders Performance Driving School

When: October 18, 2003 10am-5pm

Where: SPCC Allstate Campus, St. Petersburg

Entry fee will be \$40 per driver, limited to first 24 drivers. Sharing vehicles is NOT recommended. Pre-registration required no later than October 15. (email or call Jonathan or Loren to get on the list) Payment accepted on-site. 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

Saturday, 10/18/2003 Space Coast Miata Mystery Weekend

For more information: visit <http://www.spacecoastmiata.com> or contact Paul Healy at (321) 728-1863

Saturday, 10/18/2003 Suncoast British Car Club

Sarasota FL Car Show Picnic Island Car Show

For more information: visit <http://clubs.hemmings.com/clubsites/suncoastbritish/index.cfm> or contact Judy Alexander at judyalex1@aol.com 941-953-2277

Sunday, 10/19/2003 SunRiders Board Meeting 7:00PM - 8:00PM Board

Meeting to be held at:

Rowe & Newberry, Inc

2728 20th Ave. N. , St Petersburg, FL 33713

For more information: visit <http://www.sunriders.com> or contact Don Reese at <mailto:Don@SunRiders.com> (941) 739-0104

Tuesday, 10/21/2003 SunRiders Monthly Club Meeting

Meeting to be held at Lee Chinese Restaurant @ 7:00 PM - Lee Chinese Restaurant, 8309 West Hillsborough Ave, Tampa FL

Saturday, 10/25/2003 Sarasota Fall Festival Downtown Sarasota Fall Festival

Thursday, 10/30/2003 Suncoast British Car Club Cricket Festival

Hosted by Suncoast British Car Club For more information: visit <http://clubs.hemmings.com/clubsites/suncoastbritish/index.cfm> or contact Judy Alexander at judyalex1@aol.com 941-953-2277

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

Details on page one of this newsletter. For ticket or other information, call Judy at 813 254-1850. Hosted by Davis Islands Garden Club contact Judy or Joe McCormick at joenjudy@earthlink.net 813 254-1850

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

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

This is an all-volunteer organization. The events on this calendar don't just happen, good club members MAKE them happen. Have you helped organize an event for your club lately? Contact Don Reese (<mailto:don@sunriders.com>) or any board member and start transforming your fun ideas into reality. Don't sit back and wait for someone else to plan an event - do it yourself!

THE CALENDAR continued.....

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 Autocross 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 Monthly Meeting

Meeting to be held at Lee Chinese Resturant @ 7:00 PM - Lee Chinese Resturant, 8309 West Hillsborough Ave, Tampa FL

December 2003 Saturday, 12/13/2003 A Sunriders Christmas Gathering

Party Same location as the past two years. The Chart House on Clearwater Beach.

More details and directions to follow.

NOTE: There will not be a normal monthly meeting - instead we will be having a Christmas party on Dec 13th at the Chart House.

January 2004 Sunday, 1/18/2004 SunRiders St Petersburg Florida

Sun Riders Board Meeting 7:00PM - 8:00PM Board

Meeting to be held at:

Rowe & Newberry, Inc

2728 20th Ave. N. , St Petersburg, FL 33713

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

REMEMBER!

Informal Weekly Events:

Friday @ 6:30PM: Gathering at Skyline Chili on US19 North of Countryside Mall (across from Macaroni Grill) or other restaurant as posted on group mail. Contact Kathy at kathy@sunriders.com or George at george@sunriders.com for details or information.

Tuesday, 1/20/2004 SunRiders Club Monthly Meeting

Location to be announced

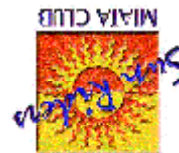


Davis Island
Garden Club - a
FUN evening for all
the club members
that came.

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.

<u>OFFICE</u>	<u>CONTACT</u>	<u>E MAIL</u>
President	Bill Bullington	bill@sunriders.com
WebMaster	Kevin Morrison	kevin@sunriders.com
AutoCross Dir.	Loren Williams	Loren@InvisibleSun.org
Vice President	Don Reese	don@sunriders.com
Newsletter Ed./Sec.	Kathy Davis	kathy@sunriders.com
Treasurer	LoAn Linthicum	topless@sunriders.com
Event Planning	Loren Williams	Loren@InvisibleSun.org
Merchandise	Ilona Wessling	ilona@sunriders.com (H) 727.376.2484 (W) 727.937.8247
Fellowship	Ed Link	twoseater96@yahoo.com
Membership	George Bickner	george@bickner.net

Board Members:

Mike Benishekbenishek@pcsonline.com
Kevin Morrisonkevin@sunriders.com
Loren WilliamsLoren@InvisibleSun.org

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.