

Another great month for the Club, with more good activities for members to participate in. The first, an informal gathering to view the new cars at the International Auto Show. I didn't make it, but I guess there were some beautiful models there (the cars weren't too bad either).

Dianne & I did "drop in" on the Rogers Christmas House get-together. We were returning from a major event our MG club does every two years, and showed up in Molly, our 1970 MGB. We also brought along some MG friends, so after dinner, the guys were able to talk cars and kick tires while the ladies "charged away". Lunch was great at the Blueberry Patch restaurant.

The Fall Fuel-Up antique engine show was lightly attended, but it was a good ride and kinda fun to stroll around. I had an ice-cream float made with engine-turned (homemade) ice-cream and IBC root beer... It doesn't get much better!

I supplied entertainment for our Monthly Meeting. At the big MG event I mentioned, I produce a "MGs-in-the-Movies" game, where I show snippets from different movies that feature a MG. I showed it at our Monthly Meeting, and gave the members the quiz and awarded prizes to the people who could identify the movie, year of movie, actors and actresses, etc. There were a few smash-em-up scenes - where the MG viewers uttered groans, the Miata viewers seemed to enjoy... Hard to predict these audiences! I will do a Miatas-in-the Movies some day, but so far I only know of two titles.

I chatted with Dewaine & Molly Norris the other day. They recently returned from an over 13,115 mile trip out West in their '95 Miata. They will do an article for January's Horizon. Dewaine & Molly are off to two years service in the Peace Corps, in the Ukraine, in February... Our Club's loss, the Ukraine's gain!



Some of over 300 Miatas lining up for a photo at Daytona 2000: Miatas in Paradise Photo-Don Reese

Who has tried autocrossing in their Miata? Jonathan & his crew has about as much experience as anyone in hosting them (we had a lot of kudos after they put on the autocross for the national event, Daytona 2000: Miatas in Paradise). Next month our Club devotes a full weekend to the sport, with lessons for beginners, tips for experienced drivers, and lots of runs for you to try. They will have a nice, new (to us) trailer for the event and I have a couple of pictures inside. It has nice big windows, is air-conditioned, has room for quite a few at one time... Now we have a place to store all the autocross stuff, a way to get it to the track & a place to get out of the sun after those burning runs. Good going guys!

Finally, be sure to come to our Holiday Lights Tour and Party on December 9th. Check the details inside... Lots of fun!

See you at the events!

Dave Tietz

Monthly Meeting Notes

Pam Barker

I hope everyone had a great Thanksgiving and is looking forward to the upcoming holidays. As a club, we have much to be thankful for including some great volunteers who continue to work hard with every event and club meeting, planning session, board meeting, and newsletter and website update.

At our November monthly meeting, we conducted elections for four officers and three board members who will serve the club over the next twelve months. As the US Presidential recounts were still going on, there were a number of very bad quips, one-liners, and puns about recounts, chads of all types, and butterfly ballots flying during our club elections.

Before going any further, I would first like to say how wonderful it was to have more volunteers than available positions. This

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is very unusual for any club and is a great testament to how many members are interested in the Sun Riders and are willing to work to support it.

Another noteworthy item is the fact that some of our newer members are translating their enthusiasm into additional involvement and are also volunteering for club board positions. Having new ideas and new members will help us keep our club fresh and interesting for everyone.

But before we can have an election, we need a ballot. And Kathy Davis, our Ballot Chairperson, sent countless e-mails and made calls to many, many club members in order to identify and recruit a complete slate of officers and multiple Board of Director candidates. Kathy worked very hard and very tenaciously at assembling our list of candidates. Thank you, Kathy!

We also appreciate and thank our outgoing Vice-President, Paul Shaffer, and Board Member, Steve Swiger. Paul and his wife Andrea helped to plan events for us this past year, actively supported our Autocross program by helping out with registration, timing, set-up, and tear-down, and have been a great support to the club throughout the year. Steve and

his wife Emily are custodians of our club tools and opened their garage for us for a number of tech sessions. In addition, Steve helped out with our Autocross program throughout the year, assisted in the organization of the Sebring weekend in March, and has always actively supported the club.

Our annual election was held with the fol-

lowing results:

Pam Barker, President (unopposed)
Jonathan Skinner, VP (unopposed)
Sandi Scott, Treasurer (unopposed)
Cherie Turner, Secretary (unopposed)
Kevin Morrison, Board Member
Jim Poehlman, Board Member
Don Reese, Board Member

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Scott Houston at the Winner's Circle in Daytona. No, all he won was this fine picture... Photo-Paul Williamson



Holiday Light Tour and Party

Join the Sun Riders for holiday festivities on Saturday, December 9th at 6:00 pm. Meet in the parking lot at 4th Street Shopping Center at 31st Ave. and 4th St. N. in St. Petersburg. You'll receive a map and directions to some of the best holiday light displays in St. Petersburg. (Be sure to bring a flashlight for better navigation.)

After the light tour, we'll reconvene at Mid-Town Sundries in downtown St. Pete for appetizers provided by the Sun Riders, a dutch-treat dinner, and reindeer games:

Toys for Tots - Bring a new, unwrapped toy for our collection.

Cookie Exchange - Bring a dozen or two of your favorite recipe. Non-bakers can bring any holiday treat, e.g. wrapped candy canes, cookies from your favorite bakery. Take home a collection of treats on a holiday plate supplied by the Sun Riders.

Gift Exchange - Bring an inexpensive gift that would put a smile on the face of another club member. You will get the opportunity to swap and bargain for the gift you want! Each individual should bring a gift suitable for someone of the same gender, i.e. a man brings a gift for a man, a woman brings a gift for a woman.

Silent Auction - We know your Miata has been very, very good. So reward your car (and yourself) with some Miata goodies generously donated by our vendors and supporters. All funds raised will go towards our Toys for Tots campaign.

As you can see by this list, we have a nice mix of returning officers and board members along with new faces. Jonathan Skinner, Kevin Morrison, and Jim Poehlman have worked hard for the club over the last twelve or more months as board members and will continue their efforts for us. In addition, Sandi Scott, Cherie Turner, and Don Reese have been active in the club as members and will now further increase their level of support. This is a group of folks who won't let any grass grow under their feet (or their Miatas), so look for great things in the coming year.

Thanks also go to Mark Jones, John LaVigne, and Paul Shaffer who stepped forward and volunteered to serve on our Board of Directors. Though they did not win seats on the club board, everyone greatly appreciates their desire to help the club. We have some open Committee Chair positions, so Mark, John, and Paul, brace yourselves for some recruiting. Susan Nicholas' name had been on the ballot that was sent out in the November newsletter, but Susan had to withdraw prior to the election due to other commitments.

Now that we have a full Board of Directors assembled, we need to recruit committee chairpersons and members for the following areas:

Activities: Coordinate and confirm the clubs activities. Seek out, research and suggest new activities for the club.

Fellowship: The contact person from the club who shall make known items of interest within the club such as illness, births, deaths, marriages and, on behalf of the club, make appropriate responses to the members involved and notify the Newsletter Editor.

Historian: Maintain scrapbooks and photo albums of the clubs activities and any other materials of historical value. These items may be maintained on the Internet, digitally, or in hard-copy form.

Marketing: Chairperson shall act as the club liaison to dealers, merchandisers, and any other commercial vendors of products of interest to club members.

Membership: Chairperson shall act as membership coordinator and report on membership applicants at each monthly meeting. The Chairperson shall create and carry out a membership plan for his/her term of office, publish an annual roster of members, and maintain the club membership database.

Motorsports: Schedule and announce the clubs motorsports events, keep track of the clubs motorsports related equipment, including tools, collect fees, and turn over such fees to the Treasurer.

If you are interested in any of these areas and would like to serve as a committee chairperson or as a committee member, then please contact me as soon as possible

at 727/415-3217 or pam@sunriders.com.

After we took care of club business, Dave Tietz entertained us with a special screening of MGs in the Movies which was a collection of movie clips in which MGs were prominently featured. Though guessing the models of the MGs seen in the movies was part of a quiz which had been originally designed for the MG club that Dave and Dianne also belong to, Dave was kind enough to remove that part of the challenge for us. All we had to do (did I say ALL!) was name the movie, the actors seen, and the year in which the movie was made. However, Bill Bullington astounded the room by naming correctly almost all of the MGs which we saw in Daves film clips. The movies sampled covered a wide range of genres with such notable titles as The General's Daughter, Funny Farm, Animal House and even some Monty Python included in the mix. Our movie trivia experts were:

Mike and Charlene Emmett in first place who took home a copy of InTENse, the hard-copy book edited by Barbara Beach (publisher of Miata Magazine) to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the Miata.

Kathy and Lloyd Davis in second place won a Rand McNally Road Atlas.

Kevin Morrison tied with the *Barker's* (its my husband John who knows movies) for third.

We also continued our series of 50/50 drawings to raise money for Toys for Tots. In order to make things a little more interesting, our tickets were priced at 3 for \$1 or the length of your arm for \$5. We had planned on selling the length of your car for \$20, but the temperatures were so cold and the wind was so brisk that no one felt like hanging out in the parking lot and we gave up on that idea pretty quickly. Our winner took home \$45. The other \$45 was added to our previous funds of \$227 for a total of \$272 raised so far.

I wish everyone the very merriest of holidays and a happy new year!

Ed. Note: Pam thanked a bunch of folks for their service to the Club... I want to thank Pam for hers. Pam has proven to be an outstanding President. Bravo Pam!



Club members Scott Houston, Paul Williamson, Jonathan Skinner, 2 guests and Pam Barker enjoy lunch at Daytona. Photo-Don Reese



Ain't it a beauty? The Sun Riders Autocross Timing-Shack-On-Wheels... Lots of wall space for trophies! Photos-Dave Tietz

Heard on the Street

An unnamed source has the following info on the 2001 Miata Special Edition:

- 6-speed
- 16" buff alloy wheels
- cloth like soft top
- British Racing Green Exterior Color
- Chrome plated aluminum fuel door
- Nardi wood steering wheel
- wood shift knob
- wood parking brake
- wood-like center panel
- tan shift lever boot
- chrome button hand brake
- unique floor mat
- badging
- stainless steel scuff plates
- gift set

Limited production 3000 units, 1000 per month beginning January through March 2001. They will probably list at \$26K-27K

Classified Ads

1999 Miata - Twilight Blue Mica/Leather Package W/Hardtop Immediately Available for New Home. Mint Condition, Still W/New Car Smell. Mileage Approximately 30,800 Miles With 30,000 Mile Maintenance Just Completed. Options Include Duetto Key-Light, Fold-Away Drink Holder, and Ultralon Car Cover.

Reason For Sale: Peace Corps Assignment

Price: \$17,750.00

Call Sun Rider Members Dewaine or Molly Norris at: 727-579-0330 (Home) or 727-576-2929 (Office)

Jim Poelman ask the sunriders@egroups members how they came to be a Miata owner. The followin is the response from Don Reese:

From: Don Reese

Subject: Re: How'd you choose your Miata?

How did you choose your Miata, it's year, and color?

Out of desperation. After several months of trying to find a good deal on a end of model year '98 Mustang GT, I finally decided that I would pick up a commuter car ('98 Honda Civic - new then), arranged a deal over the phone to be closed on a Saturday. On the way home on Friday, out of desperation (I really did not want another Civic in my life - boring), I pulled into AutoNation in Tampa. I dragged that salesman around that lot for four hours, until they closed. As we were driving back into the show room, one of their techs drove WINDy onto the show room floor for the next days sale (she was not on the lot, but in being cleaned up). I saw her being pulled in and ask to see her before I left. She was a '97 Montego Blue (looked green under those lights) Touring Package (not that I knew that then) with < 12K miles and they were asking \$13K. I had found the car I was looking for! I put a deposit on the car and then went home to convince Jan that we could live with a two seater.

Is it your first Miata?

Yes, WINDy is my first Miata and while probably not the last, one that I hope to keep around for many years.

What were you driving before the Miata?

Teal '95 Mustang GT 5.0L AODE, K&N - otherwise stock. If Ford had been able to fix the problem with the rear end bottoming out I would probably still have that car now. The plan was to take it down to Steeda in South Florida for some suspension/handling mods so that it would be able to better handle autocross courses. But Ford could/would not fix the rear end under warranty so I dropped that idea. Some of those plans may still be in the future for the old '68 Mustang but that will be more up to Nick than to me.

Sun Riders Miata Club Calendar of Events

All events are open to all Sun Riders Miata Club members, their guests, prospective members, and members of other Miata clubs unless otherwise noted.

We are always looking for fun activities and events. If you have a good idea, don't be bashful! Something that you enjoy is likely to be enjoyed by other club members also. Contact Pam if you have suggestions for events or would like to volunteer to organize an activity.

Thank you to Charlene and Mike Emmett and Dave Tietz who helped organize recent club outings. Upcoming events are being hosted by Cherie Turner, Kevin Morrison, Jonathan Skinner, Ed and Eileen Simon, and others.

If you have questions about any of our activities or events, please contact the event organizer if one is named or Pam Barker at 727-415-3217 or pam@sunriders.com. You may also call the Sun Riders Miata Club Event Hot Line at 813-225-4240 for the latest updates or to leave a message.

Holiday Lights Tour and Party

Saturday, December 9th - 6:00 PM. Meet at 4th Street Shopping Center at 31st Ave. and 4th St. N. in St. Petersburg where you'll receive a map and directions to some of the best holiday light displays in St. Petersburg. After the light tour, we'll meet at Mid-Town Sundries in downtown St. Pete for dinner and reindeer games. See page 2 for details.

Safety Harbor Christmas Parade

Saturday, December 16th - Noon. Meet at the Clearwater welcome station on the north side of Gulf-to-Bay in Clearwater (immediately west of the Courtney Campbell Causeway). We'll drive in a group over to Safety Harbor where we'll join in a parade containing bands, floats, Egypt Temple Shrine units, clowns, antique cars, and Santa (of course!). Dress up both yourself and your car in your holiday finery.

Monthly Meeting

Tuesday, December 19th - 6:30 PM social - 7:00 PM dinner and meeting. Last chance to bring an unwrapped toy for Toys for Tots. Jimmy Mac's Marina Restaurant is in Tampa and is located 1/2 block south of Tampa's Gandy Blvd at Bridge Street which is one block west of Westshore Blvd. Look for the Imperial Marina sign on Gandy Blvd., turn south onto Bridge Street, and then right into the marina parking lot at the small Jimmy Mac sign. The restaurant phone number is 813-839-3449.

Sebring Track Day

Sunday, December 31st. Several members and friends of the club will be participating in a track day at Sebring International Raceway and spectators are welcome. Ride-alongs are also possible if a waiver of liability is signed; this might be a lot of fun for someone who's never been on a track before. Track sessions begin at 8:00 AM and end at 5:00 PM, with a one-hour break for lunch at 12. People arriving at the track should proceed to the paddock entrance after going through the main gates (bear right). Cars will be pitted in the main pit structure along the front straight. For more information, contact Kevin Morrison at 813-222-0509 or kevin@sunriders.com

Board Meeting ** NEW LOCATION **

Tuesday, January 9th, 6:30 PM. Sun Riders board members, committee chairs, and club members will meet in the private dining room at Applebees Neighborhood Grill & Bar at 5110 East Bay Drive in Clearwater. Restaurant is located in the parking lot of Tri-City Plaza at the intersection of US 19 and East Bay; restaurant phone number is 727-539-6388. (Sun Riders members only)

Tech Session

Saturday, January 13th - Noon. Club members are invited to the shop of club sponsor Cottman Transmission for a hands-on technical session. This is a great opportunity to change oil or transmission fluid, install after-market parts, and perform any other needed work. Brant LaVigne will be available to help out and air tools, hand tools, and two car lifts will be available for members to use. Cottman is located at 3128 9th Street North in St. Petersburg. The shop phone number is 727-822-1033. (Sun Riders members only.)

Monthly Meeting ** NEW LOCATION **

Tuesday, January 16th - 6:30 PM social - 7:00 PM dinner and meeting. New meeting location at the Paradise Restaurant located at 443 Main Street in Safety Harbor. Parallel parking is available along Main Street and we will meet in the private dining room.

Autocross Clinic & Practice

Saturday, January 20th - 8:30 AM. Some very experienced autocrossers will be on hand to provide pointers and instruction in the morning followed by unlimited runs of the course in the afternoon. Cost will be \$20 for each driver and will not include lunch. Rental helmets will be available for \$5. The event will be held at the driving range at the Allstate Campus of St. Petersburg Junior College at 3200 34th Street South in St. Petersburg. For more information, please contact Kevin Morrison at 813-222-0509 or kevin@sunriders.com. NOTE: This event is currently at capacity and names are being accepted for a waiting list.

Autocross

Sunday, January 21st. Registration from 8:00 until 9:30. Drivers' meeting at 10:00. This is a great way to improve your driving skills in a place where you can't get a ticket and can't hurt your car. Cost is \$25 and includes lunch. Spectators are welcome and can eat lunch for \$5. Rental helmets will be available for \$5. The event will be held at the driving range at the Allstate Campus of St. Petersburg Junior College at 3200 34th Street South in St. Petersburg. For more information, please contact Jonathan Skinner at 727-784-5529 or jonathan@sunriders.com

The Miatas of Venice

Saturday, February 3rd - 9:00 AM. Drive south to Venice where we'll lunch, shop, and cruise the Myakka River.

Monthly Meeting ** NEW LOCATION **

Tuesday, February 20th - 6:30 PM social - 7:00 PM dinner and meeting. Paradise Restaurant at 443 Main Street in Safety Harbor.

Sunday Drive

Sunday, February 25th - Enjoy a Sunday afternoon drive on some of the twisty roads north of Pinellas County followed by an early supper.

Sunshine Sizzle

Friday - Sunday, May 18th - 20th. Hosted by the Everglades Miata Club, this weekend event will be held at the Lehigh Resort in the Ft. Myers area and will attract Miata enthusiasts from all over Florida and the southeast. (non-SRMC event)

Other Events

In the works are a scavenger hunt, Tacky Tourist Tour, a trip to Lakeridge Winery, spring flowers at Bok Tower, and a visit to Don Garlit's Drag Museum. So watch this space for more information.

First Class Mail

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



Join Us at Our Club Meetings

We meet the third Tuesday of each month at the Paradise Restaurant, tire kicking starts at 6:30 pm, the meeting starts at 7:00 pm.

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

Call the Event Hotline at 813/225-4240 for the latest event information.



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|-------------------|--|------------------------------|
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