



Wheels in Motion

February 2022



Dennis and Martha Laslo's beautiful red Miata. Photos on the front and back covers by Dennis Laslo.

See the story about their trip to Shark Valley (Everglades National Park) and the Florida Keys. (starts on page 12)



Wheels in Motion

Miata Club of SW Florida Board of Directors

President: Feliza Lymburner

Phone: 239-560-8470 or email at: Lymburner23@yahoo.com

Vice President: open

Past President: Allan Engler

Phone: 410 244-1100 or email at: allanengler@gmail.com

Awards Officer: Ed Conrad

Phone: 262 497-3011 or email at: edconrad@sbcglobal.net

Events Coordinator: Donna Noyes

Phone: 239 454-5665 or email at: miataeventsswf@yahoo.com

Membership: Judy Western & Kathy Engler

Phone: 941 661-9048 410 919-8261

Both use memmx5swf@yahoo.com

Bill Watts

Phone: 941 779-7647 or email at: wawatts1@gmail.com

Newsletter Editor: Ron Lindensmith

Phone: 239 699-6339 or email at: mrhandyrs1@hotmail.com

Secretary: Rayanna Edwards

Phone: 425 922-6059 or email at: rayanna1@msn.com

Sunshine Lady: Sandy Cole

Phone: 239 997-7679 or email at: colesandon@gmail.com

Treasurer: Noni Cockrum

Phone: 239 810-0570 or email at: nonicmh@gmail.com

Webmaster: Dana Breda

Phone: 336 416-7464 or email at: dbreda@earthlink.net

Dealer Liaisons:

Ed Howard Mazda: Dennis Laslo

941 445-0006 or email at: djlaslo@gmail.com

Mazda of Ft Myers: Ron Kerlin

Phone: 239-464-1291 or email at: ronkerlin@gmail.com

Cox Mazda: Bill Watts

Phone: 941 779-7647 or email at: wawatts1@gmail.com

Website:

<http://www.miataclubofsouthwestflorida.com/home.html>

Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1221394091665789>

Upcoming Events

Babcock Ranch Swamp Buggy Echo, Tour, March 9th (Saturday)
Contact Judy Western at justducky1414@comcast.net

Cars & Coffe, March 13th (Sunday)
Shops at Surfside, Cape Coral
No sign up or cost, just be there!

Picnic & Club Elections, March 19th (Saturday)
At Lakes Park
Details when available

Shark Valley, Everglades National Park
Monday, April 11th or Monday & Tuesday, April 11th & 12th
Contact Ron at mrhandyrs1@hotmail.com

Wheels Across the Pond, April 16th (Saturday)
Carlin Park in Jupiter, FL
No sign up or cost, just be there!

Miata Reunion at Barber Motorsports Park
July 2022 (dates TBA)
Details when available
or contact Ron at mrhandyrs1@hotmail.com

Pending

Key West Road Scholar Tour,
November Sunday the 13th thru Friday the 18th

Track Days at Talladega Speedway, date TBD

Monthly Meeting

Thurs, February 10th

Sea-Craft Waterfront Tiki
3440 Marinatown Lane
North Fort Myers, FL 33903
Remember... NEW MEETING LOCATION

Monthly meetings are
the 2nd Thursday of the month

Dinner at 5pm and meeting at 6pm.
Please RSVP to Kathy Engler by February 3rd
at kathy.engler@gmail.com

JUST FOR FUN

Breakfast at Biggies, February 22th (Tuesday) 9:00am
3701 Fowler St, Fort Myers, FL 33901
RSVP to Ron at mrhandyrs1@hotmail.com by Feb 20th.

Or
Breakfast Socializer
Metro Dinner, 1720 Tamiami Trail Suite 100,
Port Charlotte, FL 33948.
RSVP to Judy at memmx5swf@yahoo.com by Feb 20th

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Feliza Lymburner

We have not only completed 2021 but also have January behind us. If this is any indication of the year ahead, we better have Wheaties, the breakfast of champions cereal.

Maybe I should do this earlier in the day. I don't know, but I feel life is passing quickly. I guess I'm not ready to admit I'm old. But I want to give my best to the club.

We all would like to see people step up to the plate and consider organizing a run. We have two breakfast get togethers Ron Lindensmith our news Letter editor heading up one and Judy Western at the other end of town doing the other one. That's because our club and members are spread out. We try to have meetings equal distance so it's convenient. But it is always a good excuse to go zoom zoom.

If anyone has questions or concerns, ask for help, we are all ready to reach out. Time to regroup and be brave and head up a trip. We have so many options. Donna Noyes has done an outstanding job at researching trips let's take advantage of the choices. Thank you, Donna.

Till the next time God bless, be safe and stay healthy.

Feliza, President



Miata

You can always tell
when people up north get bored!



Breakfast at Biggy's

**Tuesday, February 22nd at 9:00am
3701 Fowler St, Fort Myers, FL 33901**

No formal meeting, just a chance to have breakfast and shoot the breeze with some friends (new or old). I don't want to do RSVP for these, but this being a new thing, I'd like to give Bob a 'heads up' on how many people we will have showing up at 9:00am for breakfast! And yes, we've moved it back half an hour so I can sleep in!

I started this get together, and I admit, I've missed the last 2 breakfasts. But I had good excuses. December was due to eye surgery that morning and January I was kayaking in the Everglades with the Road Scholars, whom I had committed to many months ago! But I'll be at the February breakfast for sure!

Please RSVP to me by email at
mrhandyrs1@hotmail.com
by February 17th

From the Editor's Desk

By Ron Lindensmith

Welcome to the February issue of Wheels in Motion. Again this month, I want to say a sincere “Thank you” to the few members of the Club who continue to write columns and article for the newsletter. I also want to thank the people who send me photographs and even those who send me links to Miata stories and articles they see on the internet. Some are good enough to reprint here in their entirety, some get cut down a bit to make them more pertinent to all of us, and some just give me new ideas for different things that might make the newsletter.

An example is a link to an article about the new Mazda MX-5 kenetic dynamic suspension system (KDSS) that can be found here in the newsletter. But the link also lead me to a different story about the Mazda’s Global MX-5 Challenge Cup. That lead me to an idea for a Club trip. So I am working to see if I can put together a trip to Daytona. More on that as I get feedback from requests for info and possible tours.

In case you are unaware, and I suspect most of you not on the Board of Directors would be; the Board is reviewing possible amendments to the Miata Club bylaws. Nothing dramatic is being considered at this point in time. It’s mostly just clean up stuff in the bylaws that were already approved by the Board in the past. But if you have ideas or suggestions for amendments to the bylaws, now would be a good time to send them in. There is a Bylaws Change Form on the Clubs website. At the far right pull -down menu you’ll find a listing for BYLAWS. Open it and both the current bylaws and the change form can be accessed. Fill it out and email or send it to Rayanna Edwards, the Club Secretary. If you have questions about any of the process you can contact me, Dana Breda, Donna Noyes or Noni Cockrum who are the Board’s official bylaws amendment committee.

A 9 minute video of a Mazda MX5 (ND) driven at speed around the full Nürburgring Touristenfahrten race track. I loved it!
And **thanks** to Ross Clark for sending me the link!
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ttRVJOLSzQ>



Everyone Needs a Little Sunshine

By Sandy Cole

Happy February! It looks like our club's activities are beginning to pick up. I am always pleased to receive emails from you with such interesting ideas. Keep it up. Getting together in addition to our meetings is what we are all about. We have all been very patient. It is also wonderful to note that we have added several new members, despite the pandemic. Now it is time to enjoy making new friends while exploring new places.

Fortunately, we have had very few who have needed extra sunshine. Please send your thoughts and prayers for Pat Roth who had surgery on both shoulders, for a death in the family of Dennis Laslo and, for Neal Titer who has had multiple health challenges these past months. Hopefully, they will be able to rejoin in our activities soon. Stay healthy, so we can enjoy this season in Sunny SW Florida.

In addition to celebrating Valentines Day, we have 17 birthdays in February. Sharon Basil, Ed Conrad, Ross Doe, Lyndi Gaston, Stephen Kapelli, Don Keith, Tim Knight, Paula Larson, Bill Powell, David Pruess, Joel Robbins, Al Roth, David Schutz, Mike Semple, Jerry Stanley, Bill Watts and, Steven Wisniewski. We wish you all a very special and Happy Birthday.

Hugs to all. I look forward to seeing you soon.

Blessings, Sunshine Sandy



Membership Notes

By Judy Western

♥ HAPPY VALENTINES DAY TO ALL MY LOVED ONES ♥

January is a fun month for our Miata members.

At the beginning of the month we had our board meeting. It was fun planning stuff for the club. Then we had our Northern breakfast Social club. There were 14 of us and I think we all had a good time. I know I did. We got to meet some new members and talked to some oldies (not age) but goodies. It was great seeing Lance Curran again.

Our next breakfast Social will be TUESDAY, February 22nd 9am at Metro Diner, 1720 Tamiami Trail, Port charlotte. ALL are welcome, not matter if u live North, South, East or West.

I am planning a trip to Babcock Ranch Swamp Buggy Echo Tour in Punta Gorda. It Is a 90-minute Eco tour through the natural wildlife of historic Babcock Ranch. We will see Telegraph swamp, alligators, wild turkey, wild hogs, breathtaking scenery, and lots more. The dates are March 9th, which is a Saturday. We are going to be limited to the first 35 people that sign up. The Swamp Buggy tour start at 10:15. There will be more details in the following newsletters and e-mails coming up



Feel Alive

REQUEST FOR VOLUNTEERS

In March of 2022 we will start a new year for the Club. That means after a year, 2021, where we didn't ask current members to pay for their renewed Club membership; we will now be collecting dues again. We will also be asking the local Mazda dealerships to start paying for their sponsorship of the Club and for their ad in the newsletter.

There will be an election at the Club Picnic in March of 2022 and any member can run for any position on the Board of Directors (although that almost never happens, no matter how much we wish members would try).

**It looks like we have an opening for a Club Secretary
the job is to do the agenda and the minutes at 4 Board Meetings**

I don't want to insult our current Secretary, Rayanna Edwards, by saying this is an easy job that really doesn't require a lot of your time. But the truth is, this is a mostly just 4 times a year job! You can be on the Board of Directors, have a say in the direction of the Club, get to socialize more with members and not have to commit to tons of work!

We occasionally have a few regular members show up at the Board meetings, which we encourage. The next one is **Tuesday, April 5th at 1:00pm at the Olympia Restaurant at 3245 Tamiami Trail, Port Charlotte, FL 33952**. Show up, enjoy lunch and even have a chance to have a say about what's going on inside the Club. BTW, just in case you were concerned, the people on the Board of Directors don't bite... once and awhile, one or two may raise their voice a bit, but that's about it!

**Get your car on the front & back covers
and get a 19" x 13" framed print
of the Newsletter cover page... FREE!
But you need to send in photos to qualify.**

How the 2022 Mazda Miata Uses Its Brakes to Reduce Body Roll

By Chris Perkins

Kinematic Posture Control makes the 2022 MX-5 Miata corner flatter without changing any suspension components or impacting ride comfort.

The current [Mazda Miata](#) is unusual among modern sports cars in that it has a lot of body roll in cornering. Where most sports cars use stiff suspension to maximize grip, the Miata leans a bit in fast corners. Mazda tuned the Miata this way for a variety of reasons, including better ride comfort and more feedback in spirited driving. But for [the 2022 MX-5](#), Mazda has found a way to reduce body roll without harming ride quality, accomplished in an incredibly clever way.

As with so many things in the automotive world, a carmaker's choice in anti-roll bars represents a compromise—in this case, between body roll and ride comfort. Stiffer bars give flatter, faster cornering, but ride quality suffers. Some high-end automakers use [active anti-roll systems](#) to offer the best of both worlds, though these are big, heavy, and expensive. The sort of thing you'd never see in a Miata.

So Mazda engineers invented a new system called Kinematic Posture Control (KPC), which uses braking to reduce body roll. Some cars, including the Mazda 3 hatchback, will lightly brake an inside wheel while cornering to create torque vectoring. KPC is different, though, as Mazda North America vehicle dynamics engineer Dave Coleman explains to *R&T* in an email.

"We are using a very slight amount of braking tuned to give a specific



downward pull on the inside rear suspension," Coleman says. The ND-generation Miata has anti-squat rear suspension geometry. "When the rear wheel moves up and down, the rear suspension geometry is laid out to guide the wheel on a diagonal path, moving backward as it moves up," Coleman says. "So, if you pull up on the rear wheel, it will necessarily move backward a bit. The converse is also true. Pull backward on the rear wheel, and it will also have to move up. This is how the backward force from the brakes ends up exerting a little upward force on the wheel as it tries to follow that diagonal line."

The braking forces at play here are tiny. "We would have to use much stronger braking if we wanted a meaningful yaw response from the differential braking itself," Coleman explained. "Though physics dictates that any differential braking must produce some yaw moment, the amount of direct yaw response created by KPC here is too small for us to differentiate from background noise."

Specifically, Coleman explained that KPC applies a maximum of 45 psi of braking pressure to the inside rear brake; Coleman says that a typical a brake-torque vectoring system applies a minimum of about 450 psi of braking pressure to a single wheel.

Coleman tells us that KPC is not activated by driver input the way brake-based torque vectoring would be. KPC is instead triggered when it senses the difference in speed between the two rear wheels while rounding a curve. "This little software trick behaves as if it were just a mechanical characteristic of the chassis," Coleman says. "We're basically tricking the rear suspension into doing something it couldn't do through geometry alone."

Subtle software tweaks aimed at improved dynamics are becoming a Mazda hallmark. A few years back, Mazda introduced [G Vectoring Control](#), which briefly reduces engine torque during turn-in to create a tiny moment of deceleration, triggering weight transfer to the front tires to improve cornering grip and response. The fraction-of-a-second deceleration happens automatically and it's totally imperceptible from the driver's seat, but as we showed in 2016, [the effect is measurable in cornering forces](#).

A few years ago, Coleman once told this reporter that it's important for a Miata to ride well. The way Coleman put it, "good roads are often bad roads"—the most winding, remote routes are often the most poorly paved. You can't enjoy this kind of driving in a car that's too stiff to bear.

KPC is ingenious in that it cuts down on body roll without spoiling the ride. It also involves no additional hardware, which is crucial in a light-weight, affordable Miata. Naturally, we can't wait to try it ourselves.

This & That

Dents in my Miata by Dennis Laslo

I took my Miata in for my complimentary oil change at Ed Howard Mazda and before they take the car, they have a “greeter” who checks the car for any damage (so they don’t take responsibility for preexisting dents and dings). And my jaw dropped when he pointed to a dent in the passenger door. I had no idea where it came from and I only have a few thousand miles on the car.

Anyway, it was the right height for a shopping cart dent and below is what it looked like.



The Ed Howard sales manager told me they use a paint less service, “The Dent Eraser,” in Sarasota for small dents. I gave them a call, and the co-owner, Mickey Quinn agreed to come to my house and fix it for \$90.

I wish I had video taped it. He pulled out a case of tools which all looked custom made and got to work. He first slid a large steel plate in the door next to the window (so as not to break the glass) and then he had a tool which looked like a sharp punch or awl. That’s when I almost changed my mind, but he said the trick is to just work the metal back and forth gently and that’s what he did. I short time later the dent was gone and the surface looked as pristine as the day I bought it.

While he was doing that, I noticed something not quite right at the paint near where the convertible top folds in. Mike said sure enough there was a ripple that appeared to be caused by some sort of pressure directly down.

How is this happening??? Who’s beating up my car? Argh !!!

Anyway, he said that since he was here, he’d fix that as well and for free. We are talking about a ripple here. Not a dent. Anyway, he convinced me all was well. To get at this problem, however, he removed one of the rubber grommet from the door and drilled the hole slightly larger. He then magically removed the ripple in a similar fashion. Then he had another rubber piece to fill the larger hole he drilled.

Amazing work and I highly recommend the “Dent Eraser” The-DentEraserSarasota.com 941-685-1464

(continued on the next page)

Dashcam

A friend of mine was rear ended shortly after he bought a brand new car. He had always had a dashcam in all his cars, and when the police arrived he was able to show them the video of what happened and there was no arguing as it was obvious what happened.

On his way home, the insurance company from the woman that hit him called and said he could get a rental car and get the damage fixed at the dealer. They surrendered immediately.

After seeing his video, I decided to put a dashcam on all my cars. I was happy to see that there is an inexpensive adapter for the Miata so that you can use the power in the mirror for the dashcam (or I suppose radar detector) and I ordered one from Amazon. I also got a small Garmin dashcam and talk about easy!! I had the adapter and the dashcam installed and working in less than 10 minutes.

Note these adapters are only valid with the higher Grand Touring trims with Homelink and self dimming mirrors. And also there's an amp limit you can steal from the mirror.

Simple
USBPort
Mirror to
Dashcam



Ticking noise on ND models only

From Jesse Dunham

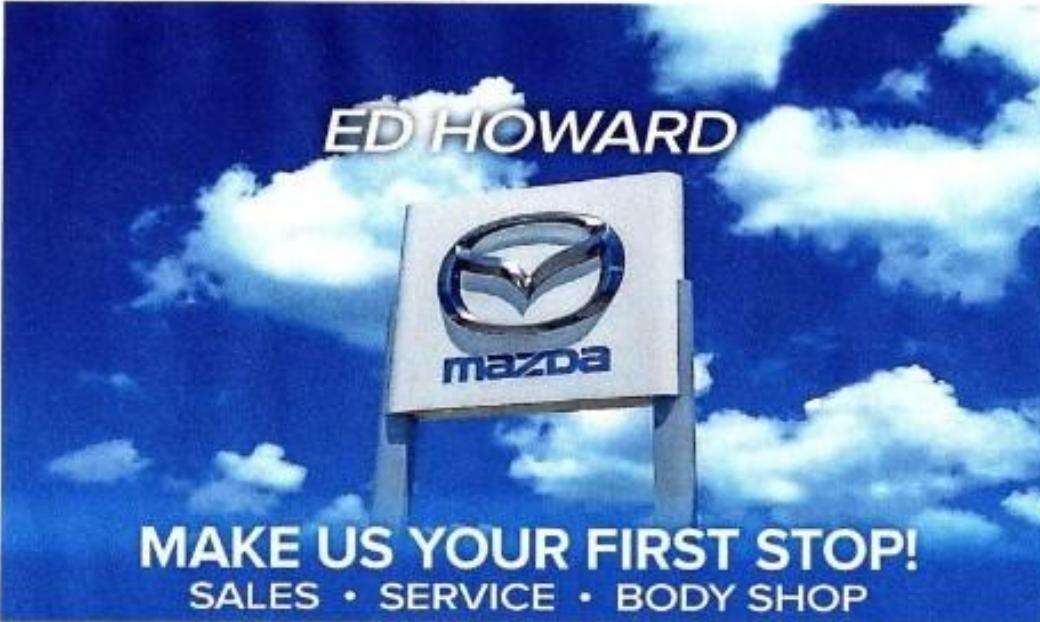
I found this on the MX-5 Miata forum; I had this ticking noise and didn't know where it was coming from. I found the solution for the ticking sound from the passenger side behind the ear/roll hoops. The ticking is coming from a plastic connector in the trunk area. I think This connector is for Sirius XM/ radio. I am not sure as I didn't focus on the wiring etc.

In order to fix it you need to remove the trunk carpeting and the plastic cradle for the inflator and document holder. Just above it you will find a white box kind of thing with wire connected to it. That plastic connector vibrates while driving causing that ticking noise. I just used some foam between the plastic fastener and the metal which eliminated the ticking. Both Convertibles and RF

There's also a ticking-like noise caused in the NDs by the seat back rubbing against the rear bulkhead plastic trim panels. A Quick solution is, if you have the seats pushed back all the way, against the panel. Just move them about one click forward on the seat rails so the seatback does not touch and rub against the rear bulkhead trim panels.

Another source of ticking sometimes comes from the seat belt mechanism anchorage. People eliminated these ticking sources by loosening the related anchor bolts and then torquing them back on to proper factory specs.

Editor's note: Thanks to Jesse for sharing this info



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Post COVID-9 Vaccination Trip

By Dennis Laslo

My wife and I got our second Moderna shot and were looking for something to relieve the fever we had. Not a Covid fever....but cabin fever. But we had a very sick older yellow lab and couldn't kennel him. The vet at one point started dropping hints that it was time to let him go and after one day of watching the poor dog in pain, we decided to say goodbye. We had a good cry and were moping around the house for a couple of weeks as this was the first time in a very long time that we didn't have a dog.

Now we really needed to do something. I was looking for a road trip idea on line and happened on the SW Florida Miata club web site and pictures of the Key West Christmas.

That's it! Key West.



We had been to Key West on a day trip (before the pandemic) via the Key West Express boat and didn't have enough time to explore. So it was settled. I was worried about packing everything into the trunk for a week's worth of clothes and such. We had a medium sized duffle bag and we bought a small soft side cooler and tested by packing the trunk. Everything fit like a glove. Also got my camera bag in there and some beach towels and there was just enough room for maybe one or two small mementos of the trip.

My other concern was when I drove the Miata for any longer trip, my left knee couldn't find a good spot to rest. But, I figured if worse comes to worse, I'd just stop somewhere for a break. We also bought some memory foam cushions for both seats.

I had accumulated quite a few frequent flyer miles when I was working and started looking for hotel ideas. Amazingly, the pandemic had created some fantastic deals. The normally expensive resort hotels (over \$1000/night) were available for clearance pricing. So I booked the entire trip without putting much of a dent in my miles.

Day 1 - Shark Valley

We decided to avoid I-75 as much as possible and keep the top down and the noise down . We took 75 to Naples and then US41 to cross the state. It turned out to be a scenic route and by keeping the speed at 55-60 we could keep the wind noise down to bearable levels.

The Everglade's Shark Valley was our first stop. I had made reservations on line for the tram ride – several hours of touring the wildlife. The tour was OK, but we had arrived in the dry season and there was not too much to look at. We definitely will return in the rainy season for a second look.





Then we had Miata troubles. The Entertainment system went kapoot. I guess it was OK since most of the time, you can't hear the radio anyway. But the rest of the trip, the factory navigation and radio – including Sirius XM didn't work.



[when we got home, we found out there is a firmware upgrade to fix the radio and I waited an hour and a half at the dealer for the very slow upgrade to get everything working again. All is well with the world again.]

Next on the trip was Baker's Cay resort in Key Largo. We simply crashed and enjoyed both their pool and private bay with some gorgeous sunsets.



Now we were off to Bahia Honda State Park. Although it was billed as a beautiful beach, we didn't think so. (*editor's note: the beach at Bahia Honda is a State Park and they leave it in its natural state which means there is almost always lots of vegetation washed up on the sand. However, rent snorkel gear and get 100' off the beach and what you'll see is amazing, sponges, gorgonian corals, tropical fish and more!*)



This is typical of what the Oceanside beach at Bahia Honda State Park looks like. It's kind of yucky. But 100 yards to the north-west is a beach that faces the Gulf of Mexico and it's usually very clean. BTW, note the crystal clear water!



Next was Key West. Since we had recently been to Key West, we spent most of the day in the hotel swimming pool. We also managed a little time to get a delicious sloppy joe sandwich at Sloppy Joe's.



We ended up skipping our next stop. We had bought tickets to the Gulf-stream thoroughbred race track / casino but decided to head home instead.

One final note, the least expensive hotel, the TravelLodge in Florida City was

the cleanest hotel we were at. It looked like someone cleaned it by hand with a toothbrush.

The Marriot in Key West was the opposite. Probably labor shortages during the pandemic.

We took some back roads home and it was great (Rt 29 to Rt 82 to Ft Myers). No traffic and wonderful Miata top down weather.

Looking forward to a repeat.

Trip to Shark Valley (and more) April 11th & 12th or just the 12th

After reading about Dennis & Martha's trip, Elaine and I are inspired to consider doing a trip to the Everglades for the Miata Club. We've done a trip like the ones below and we will do one this spring whether it's with the Miata Club or on our own. There are lots of possibilities.

We could do just a simple day trip to Shark Valley in Everglades National Park. Maybe we could add a stop or two along the way. Like a stop at the Oasis Visitor Center at the Big Cypress Preserve or the Kirby Storter Roadside Park & Boardwalk on the way there and a stop at the Clyde Butcher Gallery or Joanie's Blue Crab Café on US41 or a restaurant in Everglades City on the way home.

The other possibility is an overnight trip with a stay in Everglades City. Maybe do a Ten thousand Islands pontoon boat tour (\$36 to \$40) out of Everglades National Park (just south of Everglades City) the first day, have dinner at a restaurant in Everglades City, spend the night at the Ivey House in Everglades City (rooms are \$179/night) and then visit Shark Valley the next day.

There are a lot of other things we could do as a group or individually while in the area as well. There are air boat rides, the Museum of the Everglades, the Big Cypress Bend Boardwalk, Fakahatchee Strand State Preserve Park, the Miccosukee Indian Village Gift Shop and a number of other restaurants as well.

We'd like to go before the rainy season starts in mid May. In March through May there should be lots of birds to see as that is when they are building nests, mating and raising their chicks. Shark Valley (\$30/car entry fee) has a 17 mile loop you can travel by Tram (\$28), rent a bike (\$22), bring your own bike or walk (yeah, right). We did the tram last year and it was a nice couple of hours with a stop at a big overlook structure halfway through. The next time we expect to rent bikes and just ride up and back on the canal side of the tram loop. That way we can stop for as long as we like to try and capture better photos of birds and other wildlife.

If you have any interest in either of these potential trips (a single day trip or the over night trip) PLEASE let me know. If we get enough interest, I'll make it happen, if not, Elaine and I will do it ourselves.

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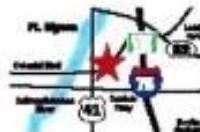


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TRACK DAYS AT TALLADEGA SPEEDWAY

by Donna Noyes

Late in 2020, I received emails from a few organizers that were trying to set up a Miata Day at the Talladega Speedway in Lincoln, AL. Plans were made, Miata Clubs signed up, things were looking good until COVID! Plans were rearranged, organizers set up different dates and events and plans had to be cancelled again due to a lack of staff to man the events.

Now, it is back on the schedule in 2022! Well, almost. It's early in the planning process and four possible dates have been identified. I hope to get more information in a week or two. Here is what I know so far -

Possible dates are:

March 19th or 26th (Only date they are finalizing)

June 18th

August 13th

December 2nd

The event organizer says that Track days will include:

- Two laps around Talladega Superspeedway
- Opening up the garage area to have a large show 'n shine event, open to any makes and models
- We will have food and drink available to purchase
- Photo in victory lane
- Photo of each car before they roll out and do their laps (still working on the details of this)
- Initial plan is to create a folder that we can send to all attendees so they can go in and find their car and other photos that they want to keep
- Dash plaque
- This event is meant to be an all-day event

Also included is a race ticket to either the GEICO 500 on April 24th, 2022 or the YellaWood 500 on October 2nd, 2022. All attendees will sit together for the race, Sections have already been blocked off to keep everyone as close as possible.

Cost is \$35 per person + \$25 per car for the track days. The \$25 will support local charities in East Alabama.

Once we get final details and the actual date, we can find out if we have any interested members that would like to attend. We can caravan to the area - probably this will be a 3- or 4-night trip - and we might find other places to visit on the way or in the area. So, keep this in mind - it could be pretty incredible, I think. Imagine driving your beloved Miata on the Talladega Super Speedway, with a photo to prove it! In the meantime, if you are a fan of Will Ferrell, maybe check out the movie "Talladega Nights: The Ballad of Ricky Bobby".

Stay tuned for more details.

Swamp Buggy tour at Babcock Ranch

Hello Miata Club Members!

Be sure to put this one on your calendar. Judy Western has made arrangements for a 90-minute narrated Swamp Buggy tour at Babcock Ranch on **Saturday, April 9th, at 10:15 am.**

This tour is limited to the first 35 people that sign up (that's all the Swamp Buggy holds). **The cost is \$20.33 per person, paid in advance.** If you want to sign up now, send Judy a check made out to her. Her address is listed below.

Details for caravan meeting location, lunch or dinner will be provided later.

Contact Judy for information or to sign up -

Judy Western

3006 Caring Way #306
Port Charlotte, FL 33952

justducky1414@comcast.net
941-629-3534

REMINDER - Seats are filling up fast for this trip. The bus only holds 35 so if you want to join us, you need to sign up



Odds are that almost nobody in the Miata Club of Southwest Florida can identify where this photo was taken, much less when and what event was going on here?

Give up?

It's the parking lot at The Shops at Surfside 2354 Surfside Blvd, Cape Coral, FL 33991. It was taken at a Car & Coffee car show. I believe it was taken at the December 2021 event because I can see my car and Dana Breda's car in the photo.

There will be another **Cars & Coffee event here on Sunday, March 13th**. It was an interesting event with hot rods, classics, super cars, and even a few race cars, trucks, motorcycles and kit cars as well. There were several other Miatas there as well, but I didn't get to meet up with any of the owners. I'd like to get some of our members and some of the Sun Coast Miata group members to show up and all park together as close to the show cars as we can get. I think our two groups could possibly foster an interesting relationship given time.

I think it might reflect the old adage "Youth and enthusiasm vs wisdom and old age!"

No sign up, no RSVP and best of all, no ticket cost!

MIATA CLUB OF SOUTHWEST FLORIDA

2022 ANNUAL PICNIC AND MEETING

MARCH 19

It is finally time to have our traditional **Annual Picnic and Business Meeting** to elect new officers. Both 2020 and 2021 Annual Picnics had to be cancelled due to the pandemic but we were able to have a successful Welcome Back Picnic in November. Now, it's time for some serious club business (but mostly fun and socializing) at the **Lakes Regional Park** on Saturday March 19. The club will provide a barbecue-style lunch catered by Smoke 'n Pit Barbecue. No beverages will be provided this year so please bring your own. There are vendors in the park that sell beverages and we will also have bottled water available.

For dessert, we haven't decided yet if we would like a few volunteers to bring something or if the club will provide the dessert. We will make that decision as we get closer to the picnic date.

Lakes Regional Park is located at 7330 Gladiolus Dr. Ft. Myers, FL. 33908. (Gladiolus Drive just West of U.S. 41). The picnic is scheduled from 11:00 to 3:00. **Lunch will be served beginning at 12:00.** We have reserved **Pavilion D-1** which provides covered seating around picnic tables for up to 120 people. You may also bring your own folding chairs if you'd like. In addition to the great company you'll be sharing, the park offers amenities such as fishing, bicycle and surrey rentals, paddle boat and kayak rentals, and many lovely walking paths to walk off your lunch. There is also a miniature train ride and train museum (extra cost) and a lovely botanical garden. Check the park's website for an overview of the facilities: <http://www.lakesparkenrichmentfoundation.org/>

Parking is \$5.00 all day, or \$1.00 per hour, and the machines in the parking lot accept both dollar bills and credit cards. Parking will be in lot #1 which is to the left after you enter the park. Drive to the farthest end of lot #1. Pavilion D-1 is at the end of the lot. We will have Miata club signs and banners to direct you.

ALL MIATA CLUB MEMBERS ARE INVITED, **BUT YOU MUST SIGN UP BY MARCH 7 SO THAT WE HAVE AN ACCURATE HEADCOUNT FOR LUNCH.** YOU WILL ALSO NEED TO PROVIDE A REFUNDABLE DEPOSIT OF \$10 PER PERSON WHEN YOU SIGN UP. As in past years, this picnic is free for members so please note that the deposit will be refunded to you when you arrive at the picnic or if you cancel before March 7. You may pay this deposit with either cash or a check and you can give it to me at the February monthly meeting or you may mail it to me at the address below.

**THE DEPOSIT OR ANY CANCELLATIONS
MUST BE RECEIVED BY MARCH 7**

If you have any questions,
contact me: Donna Noyes 239-454-5665



**Every family has
one weird relative.**

**If you don't know
who it is, then it's
probably you.**

**Did you know
ants never get
sick? It's because
they have little
Anty Bodies...**

**Laughter is the
best medicine.
Or wine.
It might be
wine.**

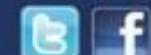
DON'T MISS... Wheels Across The Pond Car Show

Saturday of Easter Weekend

Carlin Park - Jupiter, Florida



www.WheelsAcrossThePond.com



After a couple of extremely challenging years, we are thrilled to let you know that Wheels Across The Pond is BACK ON for 2022!

Our 14th annual show will take place on **Saturday April 16th 2022** at our regular venue, the beautiful [Carlin Park](#) in Jupiter.

Very Important for 2022

Due to the growth of the show in recent years, 2022 will require you to be pre-registered in order to be included in the public voting on the day. We lay out the show field in classes based on what cars and bikes we know are attending and in recent events adding large numbers of vehicles to these classes on the day is becoming a logistical nightmare as we run out of room pretty quickly.

We will still accept 'on the day' arrivals but this year, those arrivals will be 'display only' and will be in one group on the show field and will not be part of the voting.

To have a chance of an award, it is essential that you pre-register ahead of the show and remember, if you're pre-registered by Friday March 25th. you'll get an event shirt, dash plaque and goody bag. Additional shirts can be added as you register online or by mail / check.

Key West City Tour with Road Scholars

By Ron Lindensmith

Here is an outside the box idea for a Miata Club trip. Elaine and I have been taking vacation trips with a outfit called the Road Scholars. We have already done 5 trips over the last few years. We've been southern California for hiking in the desert, kayaking on Florida natural springs, up to Hudson Bay to see the Aurora Borealis, to Utah to photograph canyons and arches and to Albuquerque, NM for the Hot Air Balloon Fiesta. And we have 5 more scheduled over the next 18 months. We'll be kayaking in the Everglades, hiking in the Grand Canyon, back to the Balloon Fiesta, to Yellowstone for more photography and to Bryce Canyon and Zion National Park for more hiking!

But we were looking for a simple trip to take later in 2022 and found one that goes to Key West for a 6 days and 5 nights. They will visit the Mel Fisher Maritime Museum, the Custom House Museum, the Butterfly & Nature Conservatory, the Florida Keys Eco-discovery Center, the Hemingway House, the Tennessee Williams exhibit and the Audubon House & Gardens. They will also do a sunset at Mallory Square, an hour long street walk of Key West's architecture and 2 or 3 morning presentations related to Key West. They include 12 meals during the trip that includes 5 breakfasts, 3 lunches and 4 dinners. They also have some 'free time' one afternoon and a couple of evenings. And they have the group staying at the Opal Key Resort & Marina (formerly the Margaritaville Key West Resort). It's located near Mallory Square and is on the water. BTW, the cheapest rooms at the Opal is \$600+ per night and we'll be there for 5 nights. For those who struggle with math, that's over \$3000 for just the hotel stay! And keeping your Miata or whatever you use to drive to Key West for this trip can be parked at the hotel for free!

OK, well here is the good and the bad, the cost for the entire trip with Road Scholars is \$1699, take that as either good or bad. It's not cheap, but then it is a heck of a deal for Key West prices! Remember, just 5 nights at the Opal would cost over \$3000.



Also, getting around in Key West would mostly be done by walking. Road Scholars makes this a 3 out of 4 in terms of activity. They say, "*Walking two miles daily on paved sidewalks; some stairs and standing at museums and historic sites.*" Finally, you need to sign up with Road Scholars fairly soon as the Key West trip do sell out. They have 8 Key West trips scheduled for before the November trip and all but one are already sold out! They will also require some kind of deposit, I think is like \$200. And should you change your mind or have some other issue force you out of taking the trip, there is no refund, but you can apply the money to any other trip they offer. We had to do this with several trips during 2020 and early 2021 due to our risk avoidance for COVID. Oh, and Road Scholars REQUIRES all participants and staff be both vaccinated and have their booster shot!

You can find out more about Road Scholars at :
<https://www.roadscholar.org>

Find more about this particular trip is at:
<https://www.roadscholar.org/find-an-adventure/20902/Signature-City-Key-West>

If you want to ask us about this trip or about Road Scholars in general, please feel free to email me at mrhandyrs1@hotmail.com or call me at 239 699-6339 (if I don't answer, and I often don't, please leave me a message and I'll get back to you).



ED HOWARD
THE END

SARASOTA, FL.