



# Wheels in Motion

May 2022



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OURS

**The 'front' of the 'bus' at the Babcock Ranch Eco Tour on the 'front' cover of the MCSWF newsletter!**



# 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: 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 Team: 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: mrhandyrsl@hotmail.com

**Secretary: Pat LaPointe**

Phone: 586-342-0999 or email at grandmalapointe@yahoo.com

**Sunshine Lady: Sandy Cole**

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

**New Treasurer: Sandy Butler**

Phone: 412-849-5677 or email at: ssb31460@gmail.com

**Past 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 (sponsor): Dennis Laslo**

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

**Mazda of Ft Myers (not a sponsor): Jerry Davis**

Phone: 701-610-1018 or email at: wjeremy.davis@gmail.com

**Cox Mazda (not a sponsor): 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>



## Miata Club of Southwest Florida - New and Old Board of Directors

From left to right: MAZDA OF FT. MYERS LIAISON: Jerry Davis ED HOWARD LIAISON: Dennis Laslo  
Retiring Treasurer: Noni Cockrum CO-MEMBERSHIP: Kathy Engler NEWLETTER EDITOR: Ron Lindensmith  
Retiring Secretary: Rayanna Edwards CO-MEMBERSHIP: Judy Western PRESIDENT: Feliza Lymburner  
WEBMASTER: Dana Breda New TREASURER: Sandy Butler New SECRETARY: Pat LaPointe  
EVENT COORDINATOR: Donna Noyes AWARDS OFFICER: Ed Conrad  
Not pictured are: VICE PRESIDENT: Allan Engler SUNSHINE LADY: Sandy Cole COX LIAISON: Bill Watts

# Upcoming Events

## Ice Cream Social

June 4th (Saturday at 1:00pm)

Details on page 20

## Track Days at

## Talladega Speedway

June 18th, August 13th & December 2nd

Details on page 20

## Miata Reunion at

## Barber Motorsports Park

July 30th & 31st (Saturday & Sunday)

Details on page 21

or contact Ron at [mrhandyrsl@hotmail.com](mailto:mrhandyrsl@hotmail.com)

## Miatas at the Gap

August 4th thru 7th at Fontana, NC

Details on page 22

## Miata Cruze-In

October 22nd (Saturday)

Details on page 23

## Christmas Dinner & Party

December 13th, (Thursday)

Olde World Restaurant

Details when available

# Monthly Meeting

## Thurs, May 12th

Olde World Restaurant

14415 Tamiami Trail #2728

North Port, FL 34287

Monthly meetings are  
the 2nd Thursday of the month

Dinner at 5pm and meeting at 6pm.

Please RSVP to Kathy Engler by May 5th

at [kathy.engler@gmail.com](mailto:kathy.engler@gmail.com)

## Cover Photo & THE END back cover photo:

This month's 'FRONT' cover is the front of the  
Babcock Ranch Eco Tour bus.

THE END, back cover is mostly the back ends of a huge congregation  
(that is what it's called) of alligators at Babcock Ranch.

Both photos taken by Kathy Engler (thank you for submitting them)!

## **JUST FOR FUN**

**Breakfast Socializer May 24th**

**Metro Dinner, 1720 Tamiami Trail Suite 100,**

**Port Charlotte, FL 33948.**

**RSVP to Judy at [memmx5swf@yahoo.com](mailto:memmx5swf@yahoo.com) by April 20th**

# From the Editor's Desk

By Ron Lindensmith

Welcome to the May edition of the Miata Club of Southwest Florida newsletter. This one is being sent out a bit earlier than normal because I'll be hiking in the Grand Canyon the last week of April.

I couldn't make the Babcock Ranch Eco Tour, so a big THANKYOU to Kathy Engler for the photos from that event. I love having the 'front' view of the Eco Tour bus on the front cover! I did get to the Wheels Across the Pond car show in Jupiter, Florida and I took way too many photos!

I'm also going to try and put together a trip to St Pete in early July for an short kayak tour in clear glass kayaks. Those who want to kayak and then drive home, can.

Those who want to stay overnight in St Pete can do a second kayak tour at sunset or later at night, in the same clear glass kayaks, with LED lights lighting up the water and bottom under the kayak! Both tours are about 2 hours and each one costs about \$65 per person and these are tandem kayaks. As I get more info I will pass it along. **If anybody is at all interested in any of this trip, please share your interest with me so I can try to plan accordingly.**



For those of you who know or care about my health situation, my biopsy was not good. All 12 samples showed cancer cells. The better news was my Gleason score was 3+4=7 (that's mostly high intermediate level cancer cells). More recently I had a bone scan and a CT scan looking to see if the cancer had metastasized out of my prostate into other areas and it appears it has not (also good news). I met with my Oncologist on the 18th and she is scheduling me for a couple more small procedures, at least one 6 month hormone injection and 5 days of intense radiation.

# The Aston Martin Valkyrie is an expensive car

Thanks to Ross Clark for this tid bit!

At roughly \$3.5 million,

a single example of the mid-engine V-12-powered supercar

is worth as much as

**120 brand-new MX-5 Miatas.**

## 2022 Aston Martin Valkyrie Specs

- Naturally aspirated 6.5L V12 paired with an electric motor.
- 7-speed sequential automatic transmission.
- 1,160 hp.
- 663 lb-ft of torque.
- 250 mph top speed.
- 2.5-second 0-60 mph time.



# Everyone Needs a Little Sunshine

By Sandy Cole

Dear Members:

I am so sorry I had to miss the last meeting. But, I guess I wasn't the only one who had a conflict as I understand there were only 24 in attendance. Hopefully, things will change for our May meeting, as we will be returning to the OLD World Restaurant in Port Charlotte. I realize it also the time of the year when our snowbirds head North and other members are traveling to attend Graduations, Weddings, Reunions and other celebrations around the globe. Please travel safely. Meanwhile, we will 'hold down the fort' and look forward to your return.

So far this month, we have had only one request for extra sunshine. Although that is a positive sign, I am sorry that Sandy and Jess Dunham have, once again, tested positive for Covid. I understand there were some complications, but fortunately, they have recovered. And, they were even at the last meeting! We are sad to inform you that Don (Sandy) Cole's brother, Bob, passed away following complications due to stomach cancer. Please keep these members in your thoughts and prayers. Hopefully, for the rest of you, things will remain quiet and you will stay healthy.

May has only 10 birthdays to acknowledge. Anyone care to speculate a reason?????!!!!!!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO: Jill Ambrus, Jackie Audrain, Carl Capozzi, Ron Crawford, Kathy Engler, Al Gaston, Mark Haflich, Charlene Mauti, Katrina McIntosh and, Richard Zwirbel. Please join me in wishing these members a very special birthday. Celebrate safely and keep smiling.

There are several events already on the calendar. And, an interesting list of options were listed in the previous newsletters. My challenge to you is to check out the list. Choose one. Find one or more members who would also be interested. You will make new friends as you work together. Questions?? Please contact Donna. She can give you support and all the steps you need to plan the event. It can be fun and, rewarding. Most of those trips have been done before. So, they will be relatively easy to put together. We all love our club. But we need your help. And, in doing so, you will find a lot of satisfaction. It is a wonderful way to get acquainted and feel a part of our Miata Family.

Meanwhile, stay healthy and safe. Enjoy the good life. With Blessings to all. Sunshine Sandy

# Membership Notes

By Judy Western

Happy Spring..it's a great time to put the top down and enjoy.

I know this sounds like a broken record, but our campaign for renewal membership.is formally over. If you have not renewed by the 30th of April, u will be removed from our roster.

We don't want the club to disband

So please get involved, so we have new and exciting things to do and places to go.

On the 9th of April 21 of us went to Babcock Ranch echo tour. We all had a fun, great time. I did this as a single female and it was easy..as the old saying goes if I can do it, anybody can. Plus there is several of us that

Can help..come on keep our club great and active.

Have a great month!

Judy



*Mazda image.*

2014 Mazda Miata four-seater

I'm going to put as much effort into critiquing this joke as Mazda's graphic designers put into photochopping it.

# Make NAVI into a Compass

By Joel Robbins

I either don't have or can't find a compass in my 2019 Miata Sport. Higher-end Miatas, I believe, have a compass on the dashboard.

Mechanical ones I bought didn't work for some reason. If you have had the same problems, the following may help. Choose:

NAV

Gear ä

Navigation Settings (there are several ways to get here)

Map Settings

2D N (always north)



Then whichever way the arrow on the screen is pointing, that's the direction I'm going, while the top of the screen is always north. Without putting on directional letters and referring to them, this can be confusing.

When I don't want to know the direction, I just toggle the 3D button to 2d, then it shows the roadways ahead no matter which direction you turn. If I want to go back to 2D N, I toggle to it.

Note: I would have preferred smaller letters, but these are what I found.

# Concerns From Our Neighbors to the North



# Some thoughts on aging and some sage advice for the youngsters

By Rod Kent

Most of us are now in our last quarter of our life and need a gentle reminder of reality with no politics, religion, or racial issues - just food for thought..... Time has a way of moving quickly and catching you unaware of the passing years. It seems just yesterday that I was young and embarking on my new life. Yet in a way, it seems like eons ago, and I wonder where all the years went. I know that I lived them all. I have glimpses and photos of how it was back then and of all my hopes and dreams. However, here it is ..... the last quarter of my life and it caught me somewhat by surprise.

How did I get here so fast? Where did the years go and where did my youth go? I remember seeing older people through the years and thinking that those folks were years ahead of me and that I was only in the first quarter and that the fourth quarter was so far off that I could barely visualize it or imagine fully what it would be like. Yet here it is ..... my friends are retired and getting grey - they move slower and talk of aches and pains. Some are in better or worse shape than me, but I see the great change. They're not like the ones that I remember who were young and vibrant ..... but like me, their age is now showing, and we are now those older folks that we used to see and hardly thought we'd become.

Many of my buddies have already crossed River Styx. Each day now, I find that just getting a shower is a real target for the day and taking a nap is not a treat anymore. It's mandatory because if I don't nap of my own free will, I may fall asleep where I sit. And so, now as I enter into this new season of life, I'm wary of my own aches and pains and the loss of agility and ability to do things that I wish I had done. At least I know that, although I'm in the last quarter and unsure of how long it will last, that when it's over on this earth, a new adventure may begin!

Yes, I have a few regrets. There are a few things I wish I hadn't done, some things I wish I'd done more of, but oh so many more things I'm happy to have done..... It's all in a lifetime of four wonderful seasons. If you're not quite in the last quarter yet, let me remind you that it will be here faster than you think.

So, whatever you would like to accomplish in your life do it quickly. Buy that Miata you've been admiring to spice up your life with an impractical, but delightful little sports car. First, of course, make sure that you can get in and out of one without assistance, then don't just buy it, use it with the top down and enjoy the sunshine and outings with Miata club buddies. Don't put things off. Travel widely, venture outside your comfort zone, enjoy your buddies, do silly things, laugh, dance, play practical jokes, write a book, hug your buddies, and embrace the life you've been blessed with. This life is not a dress rehearsal, we only get one good shot at this and our generation is so lucky to have been born when and where we were. Life goes by so quickly.

Grab it by the horns, and wring every last smile out of it while you can still enjoy life. So, do what you can today, as you can't be sure whether you're in the last quarter or not. You have no promise that you will see all the seasons of life. Live for today and say all the things that you want your loved ones to remember - and hope that they appreciate and love you for all the things that you have done for them in past years.

Life is a gift. Be Happy! Have a great day! Remember, it is our health that is real wealth and not money or gold. You may think: Going out is good - but coming home is better! You don't have to get up at a certain time, sleep in and enjoy it. You forget names - but it's OK because some people forget your name too or if they even remember you! You realize you're may never be really good at anything like golf - but you still like the outdoors! So enjoy it.

Things you used to enjoy doing may not interest you anymore - but that's OK too. Take the Miata out for a spin. You sleep better on a lounge chair with the TV on than in bed - you call it 'pre-sleep'! You miss the days when everything worked with just an 'On' and 'Off' switch! We miss the simple days and ways. You tend to use more four letter words - 'what' and 'when'. You write things down and forget where you wrote them. You have lots of clothes in your wardrobe, more than half of which you will probably never wear. Don't forget - Old is good: • Old is comfortable • Old is safe • Old songs • Old movies • and best of all....Old Friends!

So, stay well, 'Old friend!' Have a fantastic day! Have an awesome quarter whether it's the last one or not. Forward this on to other "Old Friends" so they can smile in agreement. It's not what you gather but what you scatter that tells what kind of life you have lived. Our American generation is so very lucky and we should all fully realize that.



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2022 MX-5

# Babcock Ranch

## Swamp Buggy Echo Tour

Story by Kathy Engler & photos by Judy Western & Kathy Engler

On Saturday, April 9th, twenty one adventure seeking Miata enthusiasts drove from two separate directions to explore the wonders of Florida nature and the variety of terrain waiting for us on the Babcock Ranch Eco Tour. To make the adventure even better was the incredibly gorgeous day the Lord provided! The humidity was low, the temperature pleasant and accompanied by a lovely breeze. Yes, some of us wished they had thought to bring a jacket!



For those who have never been on the tour, here is a brief history. The Babcock property was purchased in the late 1800's by a successful business man from Utah, Perry McA Dow. In 1914, 156,000 acres were

acquired by Edward Babcock and named the "Crescent B Ranch", a name and brand that remain today. The ranch served as a base for his timber operation and the most prominent recipients of the lumber were the diamond mine owners of South Africa. The pitch-based pine was used to shore up the mines and was a natural deterrent to termites. Edward's son, Fred, managed the ranch until his death in 1997. In 2006 the 156,000 acres was sold to the state of Florida and Lee County with the stipulation that 73,000 acres be reserved for the most environmentally valuable areas and ranks as the largest, single land preservation purchase in state history.

I've never been on a safari, but I imagine our tour bus could be a contending vehicle: a dusty-colored "olive drab" with giant cattle horns on the hood, no windows to obscure your view of animals or encroaching flora as we passed down the narrow paths, well worn "school bus" seating, and yes, it bounced on

rough roads just like you remembered! Our guide did inform us that a new speaker system had been installed and it worked PERFECTLY! Every word was crystal clear.

Emily, our guide for the trip did an incredible job of describing each of the terrains we traveled: prairie, marsh, swamp, etc. Each area seemed to be home to specific animals or birds. We were privy to Sandhill cranes, wild turkey, cattle, deer, hawks, and everyone's favorite, the feral piggies,



both large and small. The bus carries a bucket of dried corn and handfuls are carefully tossed out so tourists can catch an up-close glimpse of the wildlife. The bus was very careful to keep moving, slowly, so the little ones are not tempted to traverse underneath. For me, and I am sure many, the highlight



was pausing for 10 minutes on the “Gator Bridge” where we took in the sight of at least 100 alligators sunning themselves on the banks of the water. We were so impressed with Emily’s knowledge of the ranch and were shocked to learn that she had only been on the job for 5 months! Another favorite part of the journey was to stop briefly and listen as Emily educated us about “gators” and to introduce us to “Darth Gator”, a two year old baby who rides along in his crate. She held him securely while we got to take pictures and stroke his tail, if so inclined.

Our 90 minute tour seemed to fly by and before we knew it, we were off to The Boatyard Grill for lunch! It was a totally delightful day and I truly believe everyone thoroughly enjoyed themselves. Many thanks to Judy Western, our Membership Chairperson, who single handedly, arraigned the tour and the lunch date. As the board members have said many times before, arrainging an outing is not that complicated nor does it have to be. There are club members willing to help...just bring up an idea!

See you soon,  
Kathy Engler,  
Communications – Membership Committee





# Wheels Across the Pond Car Show

By Ron Lindensmith

I think only Dana & Sandy Breda and I went to the Wheels Across the Pond car show and even we went separately. They drove over on Friday and I choose to drive round trip (6 hours) all on Saturday. It was a comfortably warm morning to drive across the state and it was very pleasant at the show. The show officially started at noon, but I got there at 10:30 and even found free parking across the street from the show. I think parking space was available because only a very few makes of car could fit, and pick up trucks, SUVs and full size sedans aren't in that group!

The cars were separated out into makes and even into various models. I think they said this was their biggest ever car count and it was over 500 cars.

It was fun for me because as a youngster growing up outside of Detroit, I was into muscle cars like the Camaro, Mustang, Barracuda. Even into my 20's I owned a 327 Chevy Nova and drag raced on Woodward Avenue a lot as I lived nearby. But soon I became more involved in small cars and my first wife wanted a Fiat X-1/9. Then I found Waterford Hills Road Racing, a 1.6 mile track with wheel to wheel sports car racing. I was hooked on racing and sports cars from then on. So this was both a chance to see and enjoy both sports cars I was around as race cars and see them as street cars. Because many of them were getting kind of old and rather uncommon to see on the road by the time I became interested in the early 1980's.

There were a lot of vintage cars by makes like MG, Triumph, Jaguar, Mini Cooper, Lotus, Rolls Royce, Austin Martin, Porsche, BMW, VW, Ferrari, Lamborghini as well as a group of vintage European motorcycles. There were also some, but not nearly as many newer models of the few manufacturers who still make cars. I was a bit surprised not to see a single Triumph TR8 and only one Jaguar XKE fastback. There was one TR7 and a handful of XKE convertibles.



There were a few cars that were 'souped up', like an old VW Beetle with a Porsche engine making over 200hp. And a VW Bus that had about 3 or 4 feet of the middle (between the wheels) cut out, making it quite short!

I know this is a Miata Club, but we should all respect the roots of where sports cars came from back before there was a Miata!





## Mazda Pledges To Keep MX-5 On RWD Platform With Gasoline Engine

The next generation is unlikely to come out before 2024.



By: Adrian Padeanu

While virtually all automakers are downsizing on the road to embracing EVs, Mazda is doing the exact opposite. It recently announced a new rear-wheel-drive platform ushering in a pair of inline-six gasoline and diesel engines. In addition, it's among the last car manufacturers to still sell cars with naturally aspirated powertrains. Not only that, but it still sees a future for the oil-burner in some parts of the world.

In the roadster world, the [MX-5](#) is alive and well despite constant pressures from regulators to cut fleet emissions. *Autocar* spoke with Mazda's head of product development and engineering in Europe, and he reassured fans the Miata will remain a Miata: "It's our brand icon and it is always treated very specially. At the moment, it looks like we will have this car forever, with this size and concept and combustion engine."

He admitted there will come a day when "we will have to electrify it, but we want to keep this pure concept." Joachim Kunz pointed out the MX-5 will not switch to an existing platform used by the other cars and SUVs since that would mean the loss of RWD. He went on to say most of the development work is done at home in Japan as the sporty roadster "is the baby of the headquarters."

While an exact date as to when the ND generation will be replaced was not provided, Kunz suggested it won't happen in the near future: "Having one generation for 10 years is not a problem for us." That's because the MX-5 has a special place in the company's lineup, separate from its mainstream vehicles. His statement indicates the NE model is highly unlikely to come out before 2024 considering the current car was launched in 2014.



When it does eventually arrive, the new MX-5 will largely retain the formula that made it the world's best-selling two-seater sports car. However, a company spokesperson told us back in June 2021 that "Mazda is [seeking to electrify the MX-5 Miata](#) in an effort to have all models feature a form of electrification by 2030." A plug-in hybrid seems unlikely since it will add a lot of weight and create issues with packaging, so our money is on a full hybrid setup or a more probable 48V mild-hybrid system.

Whatever the case may be, the NE-gen model might end up heavier than the current car, which weighs a remarkable 2,182 pounds (990 kilograms) in the JDM-only 990S special edition.

# Mazda Has Great News About Next-Gen Miata

Apr 11, 2022 by Michael Butler Sports Cars

Some things won't be changing about the next-gen roadster.

At the end of last year, we bid farewell to the designer of the Mazda MX-5 Miata, Shunji Tanaka, and welcomed a refreshed Miata with new colors and sharper dynamics. This agile little sports car has played a significant role in the world of car enthusiasts and motorsports thanks to its balanced and engaging driving dynamics, and Mazda is all too aware of its status among the automotive fraternity. Mazda, as with most major manufacturers, is clearly moving towards an electric future, and had previously said the Miata might have to go hybrid. But according to Mazda's head of product development and engineering in Europe, Joachim Kunz, the next-generation MX-5 Miata will be more focused than ever before and will be separate from the company's mainstream models.



The Mazda MX-5 has traditionally been powered by a small-capacity naturally-aspirated four-cylinder engine which sends its power exclusively to the rear wheels via a manual gearbox, although automatics have always been optional. And if all goes according to plan, it will remain that way.

"It's our brand icon and it is always treated very specially. At the moment, it looks like we will have this car forever, with this size and concept and combustion engine. Of course, some day, we will have to electrify it, but we want to keep this pure concept," Kunz told *Autocar*. He did, however, note that Mazda Europe has less say over the MX-5, as the design and overall concept of this legendary little sports car falls under the strict jurisdiction of the Japanese headquarters.



What we do know is that Mazda will not be basing the new car on its small car architecture, which means it will remain a rear-wheel-drive vehicle, as the car gods intended.

That being said, the fourth generation isn't going anywhere for a while. "Having one generation for 10 years is not a problem for us," said Kunz, which could indicate that the ND will stick around until at least 2024 after being unveiled in 2014. In that time, the ND will have made quite the impression, winning the 2015-2016 Japanese Car of the Year award and the 2016 World Car of the Year award. Earlier this year, a patent filed by Mazda hinted that the next-generation Miata might be able to retain its lightweight despite hybrid assistance. Instead, we suspect that the new Miata will reap the benefits of Mazda's SkyActiv-X technology plus some hybrid assistance. All we hope for is a rev-happy, lightweight RWD car that conjures up stupid grins.



# WANT TO WIN A BRAND NEW MAZDA MX-5 CUP RACE CAR?

All proceeds will benefit Lemons of Love, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit.

Friday, August 5, 2022  
Elkhart Lake, Wisconsin



For tickets, scan the code  
or go to

<https://give.classy.org/MazdaGiveaway2022>



[www.lemonsoflove.org](http://www.lemonsoflove.org)

Only \$125 Per Ticket - Click Here to Enter  
Now!



You could win a brand-new race car and all of these things along with it:

- Sparco Seat
- Speedcom Intercom
- Safecraft Seatbelt
- HANS Device
- Bell Carbon Helmet
- FAST Cooling Shirt
- And more!

Enter Today for Your Chance to Win!

Drawing will be held Friday, August 5, 2022.

Watch the drawing live on the Lemons of Love Facebook page or view with others during the IMSA Race Weekend Charity BBQ at Road America on Friday, August 5, 2022.



*Lemons of Love is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit that shares love with those impacted by cancer through personalized care packages, free programs and ongoing support.*

*Special thanks to our sponsors Flis Performance, CarbonX, Simpson, BF Goodrich, Hoerr Racing Products, Brown & Miller Racing Solutions, PWR, MPI, 24 Hours of Lemons, Pagid Racing, Brembo, Improved Racing, FAST Cooling, Bell and Winding Road for making this possible.*

# Miata Club Trip Ideas

## SUGGESTIONS FOR POSSIBLE DAY OR OVERNIGHT TRIPS

(\* = Trips we have done before but would do again)

- FAKAHATCHEE STRAND STATE PRESERVE NATURE WALK
- ELEPHANT FARM – POSSIBLE OPTIONS –
  - TWO TAILS RANCH IN WILLISTON, FL. (NEAR GAINESVILLE)
  - ELEPHANT WALK FARMS, CHULUOTA, FL (NORTH OF ORLANDO)
- RINGLING BROS MUSEUM SARASOTA \*
- RODEO IN ARCADIA (Scheduled on March 13, 2022)
- HORSE FARM, OCALA
- STATE CAPITAL, TALLAHASSEE
- NAPLES ZOO
- TRAIN MUSEUM, PARISH FL \*
- TARPON SPRINGS OVERNIGHT
- LEE COUNTY RECYCLE / WASTE MANAGEMENT TOUR \*
- MONKEY JUNGLE, MIAMI FL
- SWIM WITH THE MANATEES (OVERNIGHT?) CRYSTAL RIVER
- RIVER RANCH OFF ROUTE 60, LAKE WALES, FL
- ROAD TRIP ON CURVY ROADS, NO HIGHWAYS.
- OVERNIGHT TRIP TO MOUNT DORA
- TOUR OF RAYMOND JAMES STADIUM (TAMPA) –  
POSSIBLE OVERNIGHT TRIP, INCLUDE VISITS TO OTHER  
ATTRACTIONS.
- OVERNIGHT TRIP TO KENNEDY SPACE CENTER AND/OR  
DAYTONA SPEEDWAY

- DAKIN FARM TOUR, MYAKKA CITY (THIS WAS A WRITE-IN)
- MARIE SELBY GARDENS \*
- AH-TAH-THI-KI MUSEUM \*
- NAPLES CRUISES (DOUBLE SUNSHINE OR NAPLES PRINCESS) \*
- WICKED DOLPHIN DISTILLERY TOUR \*
- OCTAGON WILDLIFE SANCTUARY \*
- SIESTA KEY RUM DISTILLERY, DER DUTCHMAN, CAR MUSEUM \*
- ECHO GLOBAL FARM TOUR \*
- BIG CAT HABITAT, SARASOTA \*
- GREAT APES CENTER, WACHULA \*
- SOLOMON'S CASTLE, ONA \*
- CLEWISTON TOUR, SUGAR FIELDS, ETC. \*
- GUIDE DOG TRAINING CENTER \*
- LIONS, TIGERS, AND BEARS REFUGE, ARCADIA \*
- SARASOTA BREWING CO. \*
- RACE DAY AT SEBRING RACE TRACK
- CRUISE UP THE CALOOSAHATCHEE RIVER, CAPT. J.P., TRIPLE  
DECK PADDLE WHEELER \*
- RANDALL RESEARCH CENTER/TASTE OF PINE ISLAND \*
- CHILI COOKOFF \*
- SOUP COOKOFF \*
- MINIATURE GOLF TOURNAMENTS \*
- SCAVENGER HUNTS
- MYSTERY DRIVES
- OVERNIGHT EVENTS – SUNRISE/SUNSET, TARPON SPRINGS,  
ST. PETERSBURG \*

Don't be shy

and please don't wait for somebody else to step up and do this.

We need you to give this a try and get involved!

Contact Donna Noyes or Ron Lindensmith and they will offer any help  
you may want.

# 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:

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.

## Ice Cream Social

***Mark your calendar for this event,  
hosted by Rayanna and Rick Edwards:***

**It's time for the Ice Cream Social!**

Join us on Saturday, June 4<sup>th</sup> at 1:00.

We will meet at Cracker Barrel, located at 4260 Boatways Rd, Fort Myers (Exit 141 off I-75) at 1:00 (eat lunch before the drive). We will do a drive through the backroads of Lehigh Acres/Alva. We will end at Rick and Rayanna Edwards' house in Lehigh. We will have ice cream with lots of toppings.

Please RSVP by May 28<sup>th</sup> so Rayanna knows how much Ice Cream and toppings to buy.

**RSVP to Rayanna Edwards – [rayanna1@msn.com](mailto:rayanna1@msn.com)**

**Or call phone number 425-922-6059.**

## Miata Club of SW Florida:

*Editors note: As far as I know only 3 of our members are planning to go to this event. I plan to leave for Birmingham, AL. on the morning of Thursday, July 28th and drive 2/3rds to 3/4ths of the way there. I already have reservations for Fri, Sat & Sun nights at the Hampton Inn listed at the end of this ad. There are less expensive motels in the area.*

*I'm already scheduled to do the Track Day on Sunday and I know one other member has signed up for the Car Control Clinic on Saturday. I believe I will be leaving Birmingham on Monday and driving to North Carolina, somewhere near Fontana, which is where they will be doing Miatas at the Gap on August 4th thru the 7th (see page 36). It's my intention to drive the Tail of the Dragon and maybe 1 or 2 other mountain roads on Tuesday and Wednesday, hopefully before too many other Miatas show up. I'll visit Fontana on Thursday and/or Friday to visit the vendor displays, see some sites, buy a T-shirt or two and then leave for SW Florida Friday afternoon or Saturday morning. That's a 750 mile, 11.5 hour trip and probably over 2 days... but it could be a 1 day marathon. Or I might even stop just 90 minutes down the road to visit my younger brother for a day or two in Cashiers, NC.*

**The Miata Reunion website is officially live!**

[www.miatareunion.com](http://www.miatareunion.com)



**Flyin' Miata G-Force Challenge** all day Saturday to test both your driving skills AND your Miata's grip on the Barber Skid Pad.

**No roll bars are required.**

**Car Control Clinic by Jzilla Track Days** all day Saturday, offering professional instruction to improve those driving skills.

**No roll bars are required.**

**Moss Miata Car Show** on Saturday afternoon. Winners receive trophies and prizes, including seats at the Saturday Banquet, courtesy of Moss. Will display winning cars at the entrance of the Museum for the evening Banquet.

**Miata Reunion Formal Banquet** Saturday evening inside the Museum, with **special guest speakers; Tom Matano and Norman Garrett.**

(Space limited to 400 people).

**Vendor Alley** – the only time each year where all the top Miata parts and service folks are at the same event.

**Saturday Parade Laps** on track, including Group Photo and aerial drone video. At our last event, we had 644 Miatas in the Parade Laps.

**Moss Miata Sunday Cruise.** Limited to 50 cars, touring a pre-planned fun route through beautiful (and twisty) Alabama country roads.

**Registration is open**

Miata Reunion 2022

Saturday and Sunday, July 30-31, 2022

Barber Motorsports Parks, Leeds, Alabama

On-site registration: Friday, July 29, 2022, at Hampton Inn & Suites, Leeds (official Event Hotel).



## **What is Miatas at the Gap? <https://www.gapmiatas.com/>**

Simply put, MATG is THE longest running Miata gathering in the country. Located in the midst of some of the greatest driving roads in the country. We are one of the largest gatherings of Miatas and owners in the US.

### **Who?**

Attendees range from Miata newbie to 20+ year veteran and their vehicles from stock to Excocet/track rat and all forms in between. They come from all walks of life and some even come from other countries to attend each year. The cars were meant for these roads and the area doesn't disappoint.

### **Where?**

Ground Zero for the event is the Fontana Village Resort (link, map) located in the middle of Miata driving paradise. The main attraction for the Miata enthusiast is the legendary Tail of the Dragon. Being in close proximity to other options like Wayah Road, the Cherohala Skyway, Moonshiner 28, Devil's Triangle TN, Six Gap in Georgia, and Diamondback 226A means endless hours and days of driving bliss.

### **Why?**

Miata, MX-5, Eunos Roadster, whatever you call it, the Mazda Miata is the most popular sports car ever made. With more than 1,000,000 built since 1989 and fans and enthusiasts the world over love to come together to enjoy great driving roads, make lasting friendships, and enjoy being a part of the greatest group of car enthusiasts around.

### **Other Details**

We have vendors for all types of Miata upgrades, a tent with event t-shirts and commemorative dash plaques, a schedule of organized drives, and the infamous beer and wine swap on Saturday night. There is also a General Store nearby to keep you fed and hydrated for your driving adventures while providing a great meeting point.



MIATA  
CRUISE  
IN

SUMMER CRUSH WINERY

4200 JOHNSTON ROAD, FT. PIERCE

OCTOBER 22, 2022

11AM - 4PM

More info to follow as it becomes available.

Thanks to Mark at the Miata Club of South Florida.



# THE BACK END

From the Babcock Ranch Eco Tour