

THE *M* EDITION

Coronavirus Issues Lead to Event Postponements

The Covid-19 pandemic has affected all manner of elements in our lives, and club activities are no exception. Just when it looked like we could get together for the first time this year, our plans came to a screeching halt.

Steve and Pat Dettmer, along with the Roans, Potvins and Raymonds, had put together what looked to be a really nice celebration of the club's 25th anniversary. A meander, a cake, a historical quiz, commemorative mementos, a new membership booklet, and good food and drink at a nice venue were some of the elements that had been assembled.

Then, an increase in the spread of the virus, and in particular, a positive test by one of the staff at Leisure Time Winery, spelled an end to the event, at least for now. Hopefully, we can reboot yet this year, but that will depend on a lot of factors out of our control.

Karl Schwemley, chair of our Adopt-A-Highway effort, was also informed that all road cleanup events have also been suspended until further notice by the Ohio DOT. Stay tuned for info about the October session.

Although, State of Ohio restrictions (and common sense) still preclude our traditional club drive and dine events, since restaurants are still open, a small group could meet, drive and end up at any restaurant that can accommodate them. We know that outside dining is safer, so that might be a more comfortable experience. You could just call a few of your Miata friends and put together your own mini-event.

Better still, our Facebook page provides an ideal way to communicate. Just post a proposed time and place to meet, and invite participation. Be sure to limit the group to 10 or fewer people, pack your face covering, and hope for good weather. Since some restaurant space is limited, too, you might make reservations or have folks pack a picnic meal and end at a park.

If you do one of these small gatherings, be sure to post a short description and photos on Facebook to share with the club. That way, we can still share a sense of community, as well as giving other folks ideas for similar get togethers.

Very Tentative 2020 Event Calendar

Saturday, September 5	Eric Jones Memorial Riverrun Tour hosted by Buckeye Miata Club
September 24-27	Miatas at Margaritaville hosted by Gateway Miata Club
Sun-Sat, Sep 27-Oct 3	Miatas at the Gap hosted by Larry and Jan Sheridan
Saturday, October 17	Adopt-A-Highway Session organized by Karl Schwemley

Miatas at Margaritaville - September 24-27

by Bill Potvin

The Gateway and Mid-Mo Miata Clubs have finalized plans for their Miata gathering at the Margaritaville Resort at the Lake of the Ozarks, Osage Beach, Missouri. On-line registration is open now at <https://miatasatmargaritaville.com> and closes August 15. So far, there are 159 registrants. The event will start on Thursday evening with a Meet and Greet at the Landshark Restaurant. Friday, Saturday and Sunday will feature both organized group drives and instructions for individuals and small groups to see the area roads and attractions on their own. Other info and route details are on their web site.



Registration is \$68.00 per person and includes a t-shirt, goodie bag and access to the drives. Rooms at the resort are \$129/night plus tax. Their cancellation policy is very generous, in case your plans change or Covid-19 precautions are put in place again.

We and the Thayers are booked and excited to make the road trip. It would be great to have more participation from our club. Give me a call or email if you are interested in joining us.

Yet More 25th Anniversary Year Reflections

No story on this year's celebration, obviously, but the final remembrance of our history is from 2015, when the club celebrated its 20th anniversary. It was a swell event that included a meander, and another festive gathering at Don and Barbara Barkley's lovely Henry County home and farm.

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Mazda6



Mazda3



CX-5



MX-5 Miata

**Stop in and talk to Nik, Mark or Bill,
and check the club web site for
the latest special deals.**

20th Anniversary Event Brings Back Memories



This year's anniversary event not only marked 20 years since the club's formation, but it also rekindled pleasant thoughts of our 10 year commemoration in 2005.

The venue was the same. Don and Barbara Barkley once again played hosts at their lovely Henry county home and farm. And the route from Fort Meigs also followed the Maumee River and included Tontogany Creek Road, as it did on the club's first ever meander and for the 10th anniversary celebration, as well.

Barbara even patterned the birthday cake from the design that Mike Kraus had created for the t-shirts that were provided at the 2005 event.

There were 52 folks in attendance in 27 cars, also nearly the same as 10 years ago. And would you believe how many people were at both events? The correct answer is 16, which probably indicates two things: 1) we have a nice long-time membership base that provides continuity and an appreciation of our traditions, and 2) we have a good group of newer members who share in the fun and, hopefully, will carry on those traditions for many years.



There were a few surprises as we gathered for the afternoon start. President Marv Himmelein and First Lady Carol passed out bags of peanuts tagged with the phrase "We're nuts about Miatas" and Bill Potvin and Linda Myers passed among the crowd with Zoom-Zoom carryalls containing decals, key fobs, pens, etc., in addition to the nifty sling bags that served as mementos of the event. Having done t-shirts and caps at 10 and 15 years, Diane Fouts had suggested the bags, which turned out great (and are available for \$10 to those who couldn't make the event).

Marv and Carol had a couple of more surprises, though, as they passed out colorful star-shaped balloons that the group sent aloft on command. They also arranged for a Perrysburg police officer to hold traffic as our caravan left Fort Meigs. Assuming that the balloon release probably violated some sort of law, Marv craftily had a the cop arrive after the evidence had blown away.

The topdown drive had just begun when we were treated to a roadside expression of what people (or at least some certain River Road residents) think of Miatas. The route to the Barkleys also took us past our lovely Adopt-A-Highway stretch, but it wasn't long before it was tops up, as the rains fell. Undeterred, we negotiated the rural terrain, and soon found ourselves at our destination. Don and Barbara welcomed us to the shelter of their large garage and it wasn't long before the rain ended.

High spirits prevailed, and the camaraderie for which the club is known, ensued. Teresa and Randy Raymond added to the fun by distributing a "Glovebox Scavenger Hunt" whereby points were earned for all manner of items each participant had stuffed into the tiny compartment, including ... gloves. The Raymonds also gave each attending car a neat membership booklet, with photos, addresses, phone numbers, car facts, etc, the better to identify each other when we're meandering. Many thanks to Marbee Printing and Graphic Art. Tom Thayer took advantage of Marbee's graphic skills, as well, by commissioning nifty business cards with **Nice Miata** on one side and the club's contact info on the other. Just stick one on the windscreen of any Miata encountered and spread the word about our organization.

The gang soon got to the business at hand - eating - as Bavarian Catering laid out a great spread. Barbara had assured us that we'd be pleased and the copious offerings did not disappoint. The Barleys had also provided plenty of seating and awnings for shade, so that we could all be together for the final event of the day. Marv and Bill delivered a few well chosen words and then drew ticket numbers for the many items that Mazda USA had provided. Car blankets, caps, USB chargers, cooler bags, notebooks, water bottles and sundry other items flew off the table until everyone had won a prize.

As usual, folks pitched in to clean up, expressions of farewell and good motoring were offered and the assembled Miateers left with thoughts of another great anniversary party. See you for the 25th!

