

THE *M* EDITION

2018 Edition of Miatas at the Gap

Four cars from the NWOHio Miata Club, all veterans of previous Gap events, joined the Ohio Northcoast and Florida Space Coast clubs for the “2018 Miatas at the Gap” tour. Those attending from our club were Frank & Gloria Bracken, Bill Potvin & Linda Myers, Tom & Fran Thayer and Greg & Terri Wilkins.

Unfortunately, perennial leaders from NWOHio, Larry and Jan Sheridan, were not able to make it this year due to family activities and Jan’s recovery from surgery. Steve and Pat Beam had agreed to lead our group, but also had to cancel because of the untimely death of Pat’s son the week before. The Sheridans and Beams were sorely missed by those attending, and best wishes and condolences were extended to them by all of their friends



The Brackens elected to make the trip to Townsend, TN in one day, but the other three couples took two days over a more leisurely path, avoiding I-75. Following their overnight stop in Pikeville, KY, they followed a route selected by Greg and Terri and were able to get in some nice twisty and hilly driving from there to Townsend. There they met the rest of the group, several of whom have attended this event annually for 20 years or more, including the prime movers and organizers, Bill and Rancie Titley from the Northcoast Miata Club.

Over the next few days some 20 Miatas toured the region’s beautiful roads and ate at the best of the area restaurants. A fun feature was a drive to the Bush’s Bean plant and visitors center, where the group also had lunch. Besides several runs of the famous Tail of the Dragon, points of interest included driving the mile-high Cherohala Skyway, a portion of the Blue Ridge Parkway and a stop at the impressive Bald River Falls.

This year’s activities were cut a little short for the NWOHio members, as Gloria Bracken had been battling a sore back, which got the best of her and made bouncing around in a Miata literally a real pain. She and Frank returned home and she was able to see a doctor and get some relief. Coincidentally, Tom Thayer developed some GI issues that reduced the thrill of back road driving, so the Thayers and Bill and Linda also headed back a day early. The Wilkins stayed on as planned and then extended their trip with a drive to Asheville, then to Charlottesville, VA to visit family.

Even with the complications, everyone agreed that this annual outing with great roads and great friends provides some of the best reasons to own a Miata and be a part of its culture.

Tentative 2018 Event Calendar

Saturday, July 14	Adopt-A-Highway Session organized by Karl Schwemley
Saturday, August 25	Michigan Miata Meander hosted by Walt and Linda Beham
Saturday, October 20	Adopt-A-Highway Session organized by Karl Schwemley

Eric's Riverrun - Fun, Friendly and Near

by Bill Potvin

We all know that northwestern Ohio doesn't offer a lot of choice in the way of hilly, curvy roads. We try to find some fun stuff, but that usually means the familiar nearby river roads.

All of that changes in the lower part of our state. Traveling just a bit over two hours south of us, we encounter great driving roads from Columbus down to the Ohio River and beyond. It is just this area that has been used annually for the past 25 years by the organizers of Riverrun. And there are enough choices that very different routes can be used each year.

So it was that Bill Potvin, Linda Myers, Bob and Cheryl Reitzel and Tom and Fran Thayer journeyed south on Friday, first for an overnight in Grove City, with dinner at Rooster's. Then, on Saturday, we again enjoyed dry weather in the 90's for our drive to the river, along with about 75 other Miatas, various British cars and the largest group of Saturn Skies that we had ever seen in one place. Also of interest was a first generation right-hand drive Eunos Roadster (as the MX-5 was known in Japan). We ended the day of spirited driving in Maysville, KY where we had dinner at O'Rourke's Pub and overnighted at a Super 8.



On Sunday, we completed the route heading north over another scenic route, finishing in Washington Courthouse. From there it was back home, avoiding highways and again enjoying the beautiful top-down weather.

This is such a fun way to enjoy some nicely paced driving and camaraderie that we hope more of our members will join us next year.

Facebook Page is Now a Group

Terry Koral, our Facebook guy, has been working on improvements to the page and it is now organized as a Group. You'll find it as **NWOHio Miata Club GROUP**, and you can join as a member, do postings, add comments and be alerted by email when there is something new to look at. Just go to the Group and ask to be a Member.

This will now be our method of getting more timely info out about anything related to the Club or our personal use of our Miatas. Of course, the *M Edition* will continue to provide announcements of future meanders, dinners, and offer feature stories on events, as well as technical articles.



From the Garage - Lights, Camera, Action, Part 1

by Greg Wilkins

Well, after extensive negotiations carried out by my agent, I signed the contract and I am officially your new Technical Editor. So what are my qualifications to be Tech Editor? Other than having a really bad agent who couldn't get me out of this, I'm no more qualified than most of you and probably less qualified than many of you. But, here I go with my first article anyway.

I really enjoy watching first person point of view videos from sports cars driving road courses, auto crossing, or just cruising curvy roads. So, back around Christmas time I started researching action cameras to pick one for my wish list. I'm sure most of you have heard of the GoPro brand as they seem to have the lion's share of the U.S. market and I just assumed I'd end up with one of theirs. They have models with prices ranging from \$200 to \$400. As I researched further, I found that Sony also makes small action cameras that receive good reviews and were in the same price range as the GoPros. However, the shape of theirs was significantly different making mounting options on a car a bit more limited.

Since my primary use for the camera was to stick it on the front bumper of my car, I had visions of all sorts of bad things happening to it, from being hit by a stray stone kicked up by the minivan in front of me all the way up to falling off the car completely and being run over by that RV I just passed. So I wasn't really sure I wanted to pay upwards of \$400 for my first action camera. I came across an article specifically claiming to identify the best "least expensive" (i.e., cheap) action cameras. This article introduced me to the SJCAM brand and touted the many features and low cost of the SJCAM SJ6 Legend. This camera sells for around \$135. (www.amazon.com/SJCAM-SJ6-Legend-TouchScreen-Stabilization/dp/B0752CFLJM)

The SJ6 Legend had many of the features I was looking for, including high definition video with frame rates up to 60 frames per second, image stabilization, a waterproof case and a host of mounting options included, all for a reasonable price. It is also possible to find many accessories for the SJCAM brand at equally low prices and if you can't find the accessory you are looking for in the SJCAM brand, the camera is compatible with GoPro brand accessories as well. It even has a wireless remote control that is ideal for controlling the camera from inside your car while it is mounted outside the car. So, I ended up with the SJ6 Legend for Christmas thanks to my oldest daughter.

While I had experimented with it a little bit, I used it mounted on the front of my car for the first time during the April Meander. I found that it could record non-stop for about an hour before the rechargeable battery was exhausted. I carry two spare batteries and have a battery charger that plugs into the USB port in my car. I also found that two hours of HD video only consumed about 17GB of my 128GB memory card. Based on this first drive, I was pleased with the quality of the video and the functionality of the camera. The video stabilization in a moving vehicle was excellent. All-in-all, the SJ6 Legend is a nice package for the price. (Go to www.youtube.com/watch?v=VtFtT1B2reY to see a short video from the April Meander. For the best results set the video quality to 1080p60)

Editor's Note: We are happy to welcome Greg as our new Tech Editor. Part 2 of his feature on action cameras will appear in the next *M Edition*. Feel free to contact him with suggestions on future articles.



Welcome to New Members

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Toledo, Ohio



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Looking forward to seeing you
at our next event!

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For Sale



1994 Miata MX-5 - 5-speed, tan leather interior, hard and soft top, CD/Cassette stereo, original owner's manual. Very clean. 48,000 miles. Included in sale: hoist for hardtop, battery tender, fitted cover. \$8,000 or best offer. Contact Mia Kujawa at (419) 509-7577 or MKujawa@sylvaniaschools.org



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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.