

THE *M* EDITION

Penultimate Winter Luncheon Draws Enthusiastic Crowd

It's always nice to find a new venue that can accommodate our group, particularly one with a private dining area, so that some of our more boisterous members (you know who you are) can be themselves without risking the glares of other patrons or even expulsion.

Charlie's Taverna filled the bill nicely for our February luncheon, with a room large enough to seat the 30 members in attendance, and with plenty of space to move about, as well. The varied menu also provided something for everyone, although most of our folks went for the Mediterranean dishes for which Charlie's is known. Gyros, Greek salad, spinach pie, chicken and hummus and Greek pizza were all popular.

With the weather a bit warmer and dryer than usual, there were fewer grumblings than might be expected in min-winter. Also, several of the group had either returned from warmer climes, or were planning to venture south soon. With spring about to arrive, there was also a fair amount of talk about contemplated top-down adventures.



(see Charlie's, page 2)

Special March Luncheon

Date: Saturday, March 10, 2018

Time: 1:00 pm

Place: Big Bear Lodge, 25253 Telegraph Rd, Brownstown, MI

Sue Greeley and Kathy Guiberson have discovered a unique venue for our final winter luncheon. The menu for our group will be limited, but will feature several great choices including their "to die for" desserts. Reservations are ABSOLUTELY required and they will charge for no-shows. Observe the deadline and check out Big Bear at www.bigbearlodge.org

Make a reservation by contacting Kathy at 734-854-2266
Or Sue at svgalg@bex.net or 734-854-2800 BY MARCH 3.

Tentative 2018 Event Calendar

Saturday, March 10	Luncheon at Big Bear Lodge by Sue Greeley and Kathy Guiberson
Saturday, April 14	Adopt-A-Highway Session organized by Karl Schwemley
Sun - Sat, May 13-19	Miatas at the Gap hosted by Steve and Pat Beam
Saturday, May 26	Eric Jones Memorial Riverrun Tour, Buckeye Miata Club
Weds-Sun, June 6-10	Zoomin' the Mountains in East Tennessee, Tri-Cities Miata Club
Saturday, July 14	Adopt-A-Highway Session organized by Karl Schwemley
Saturday, October 20	Adopt-A-Highway Session organized by Karl Schwemley

(from **Charlie's**, page 1)



Sue Greeley was ably assisted by Gloria Bracken in conducting the 50/50 raffle, which was won by Tom Thayer. Expect to see more bling on his car.

Marv Himmelein addressed the group, thanking Bill Potvin and Linda Myers for arranging the luncheon. He then reviewed upcoming events, including our March luncheon and April Adopt-A-Highway session, as well as Miatas at the Gap in May.. There are no local driving events currently planned, however, so we definitely need volunteers to organize Meanders for the months of April-October.

Please choose a tentative date and destination and get the word to Marv, so we can be assured of another great touring season.

2018 Zoomin' the Mountains of East Tennessee

Tri-Cities Miata Club is again making plans for their annual event known as ZTMOET. The dates this year are June 6-10. They have a fun filled four days planned with beautiful drives, an auto-cross, laps around NASCAR's Bristol Motor Speedway, games, entertainment, prizes, great food, vendors, fellowship, and lots of good ole' southern hospitality.

ZTMOET is the closest regional Miata event for members of our club. In 2016 we had six cars join over 200 other Miatas from a ten state area. It was great fun and the roads are among the best around.



The Holiday Inn Johnson City, 101 W Springbrook Dr, is again the hosting hotel and the rooms are going fast. Make a reservation by calling 423-282-4611. See www.zoominthemountains.com for more info as it becomes available.

Introduction to Autocross

by Robert Chrismas

Editor's Note - In the past, several of us have enjoyed autocrossing, and I thought there might be some interest in getting together for at least one event this year. This is an article by a former NWOHio Miata Club member to acquaint those who haven't as yet tried the sport.

Looking for another fun way to enjoy your Miata? Besides driving and shining, there is an alternative of a safe, but more competitive nature. Autocrossing is a fun, low cost, and relatively safe form of motorsport. It involves the driver matching his or her skills in a parking lot with a course defined by traffic cones. Think of it as a small-scale road course defined by the cones. Each competitor does a number of timed runs with the best run used for scoring against others in the same class.



In our area, the most prominent club putting on events (which they call Solo) is the Northwestern Ohio Region (NWOR) of the SCCA. There are seven to ten events held every year between April and October. All competitors are required to empty their vehicles of loose items and all vehicles are inspected for safety. During the timed runs, competitors are required to wear helmets (loaners are available).

The locations vary from smaller asphalt parking lots to concrete venues like the Toledo Express Airport. This year NWOR-SCCA is holding a driver's school on Saturday May 5, the day before a regular event.

This is perfect for those just starting out or with limited experience. Also, we can pick an event during the season where those from our club who are interested can run together as a group. We can get some guidance there from experienced autocrossers. No pressure, just fun. If you're up for this, contact me and we'll work out the details.

Learn more and see SCCA's 2018 schedule and results of past events at www.nworscca.com

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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.**