

# Naturally Topless

## Save the Dates: upcoming events

- March 17:** St. Patrick's Day Parade
- March 24 and 25** Louisiana Crawfish run
- April 21:** Arkansas Grand Canyon (Jasper)
- May 5** Bull Shoals Ferry Ride with brown bag picnic
- June 16** Memphis run for fun and BBQ
- July 14** Breakfast run to Cracker Barrel
- August 18** Shortest Drive: The Joint/Argenta
- September 15** Drive In movie – Marshall,
- October** overnight Ft. Smith
- November** Mt. View for fish dinner
- December 1**– Cheers Christmas Brunch



Man look at all those miata's lined up for the parade – Hope Suni and Sherry bought enough Decorations



Looks like our participation in the annual St. Patrick's day parade is going to be larger than ever. Come **join us Saturday, March 17 at 11:00 – 6<sup>th</sup> and Main is the Staging area.** Ask where the Miata club is gathering. The club has some decorations to share and you can bring a few of your own, dig out your green floppy hat, and come join us, bring scissors and car friendly tape, (we will have some to share as well). The parade begins at 1:00 at Sixth & Main in North Little Rock and ending at Third and Cumberland Streets in Little Rock, they are running backwards this year. We must have our cars decorated and ready to stage by noon with a prompt 1:00 start time. Bring a snack or lunch and drinks, (No alcoholic beverages) and a lawn chair for crowd watching while we wait. Most importantly for those not participating in the parade driving portion of the day, watch for a facebook, email blast or text or call one of us announcing a gathering spot away from downtown to gather for a social time with late lunch or early dinner. Make a suggestion of your favorite spot if you like.

## 2<sup>nd</sup> March event is the Crawfish poker run to Monroe, Louisiana March 24 and 25<sup>th</sup>

What a wonderful trip this is turning out to be! First things first, if you plan to attend Saturday and Sunday portion of the event, make your reservation for Saturday night, March 24 at the Comfort Inn and Suites (I20 – 213 Constitution Drive – West Monroe) phone is 318-361-0750. Mention Arkansas Miata Club for best rate.

Co-hosts Clyde and Carolyn Knapp have found us a better dinner option: Cormier's Cajun Catering & Restaurant that will provide all of us with multiple food options, ordering off the menu, they are listed under google search and trip advisor as a Cajun specialty with cajun delights (crawfish, shrimp, catfish and more).

## Open board meetings

Third Thursday each month  
Corky's McCain Blvd.

6:15 ish side room off the Bar

General membership meetings:  
June – September – October 2018

(suggestions always welcomed) There are lots of things to do in and around Monroe, we should arrive in plenty of time for lunch, hotel check-in, a little sightseeing, maybe a special drive (not in this particular order) and maybe a little down time. This event is a work in progress with time to do and see Sunday before heading home so please check out the online sights and make a suggestion. Mark your calendar for a save the date weekend, make your hotel reservations, RSVP if interested to [miata2003@abcglobal.net](mailto:miata2003@abcglobal.net) and watch for more details as they develop. (bring \$5 to play trip poker)

**Have you made your reservation? RSVP'd?** Comfort Inn and Suites (I20 – 213 Constitution Drive – West Monroe) phone is 318-361-0750. Mention Arkansas Miata Club for best rate.

## Hey – check this out – Clyde and Carolyn have some great ideas for us to consider – if you are going to Monroe with us what do you think about ?

Clyde is looking at options for us to do and see while in Monroe – and is thinking about taking the group to a local micro brew pub called Flying Tiger. Theme based on WW2 hero Claire Chennault from the area. Pretty cool place located on North Second st and geographically close to Cormier's.

Clyde is making lunch reservations for us on the back porch of Trapps at 12:30 Saturday, plan accordingly with a snack to hold us over for a fantastic lunch overlooking the river.

The “Escape Room” on hwy 80 in Monroe is another place to consider. We are looking for options perhaps on Sunday Moring – please include your thoughts about participating in your RSVP.

**If planning on March motoring to Monroe please RSVP to [miata2003@sbcglobal.net](mailto:miata2003@sbcglobal.net).**



**This could be our table at Trapps – what a wonderful view – google says best Cajun food ever – kudos to Clyde for the find!**

### Upcoming events – mark your calendar to save the date:

**May 5: Bull Shoals Ferry Ride with brown bag picnic**- Meet at 8:30 at the Sports Academy parking lot, Wildwood Exit off of 67/167. We will have a short drivers' meeting and prepare to depart on a fantastic road adventure. The Ferry at Bull Shoals, if history serves me correctly, is the last remaining Ferry operating in Arkansas. Although the ferry at Bull Shoals basically goes nowhere of interest that makes it especially interesting for the Arkansas Miata Club, in that we often pick the road less traveled. (Hahahahaa). Brown bag lunch picnic. The ferry ride to no-where actually takes to a beautiful park for a picnic if you have room, bring you lawn chair, there are tables for dining and a little social time – we have only done this ride once before but it proved to be an event that should be done annually.

**June 16: Memphis run for fun and BBQ** – Meeting at 8:30 a.m. Saturday morning, June 16 in the parking lot of Wal-Mart on East McCain for a trip to Memphis and world famous bbq, Yum-Yum. Save the date and time, details to follow.

## **Saturday, April 21: Arkansas Grand Canyon (Jasper)**

We will be meeting at the McDonalds, Hwy 9 exit, Morrilton, Arkansas at 9:15 for a brief meeting, road discussion – radio distribution – poker cards (bring \$5 to play), winding and curvy roads are on the agenda as well as the vista of the Arkansas Grand Canyon. A trip of this magnitude cannot be embarked without a trip to the Jasper Square and *the Cafe* for a 12:15 lunch (for those meeting us for lunch).

Your Miata club board has selected this event as an Arkansas Miata Club Memorabilia free t-shirt event. We need an RSVP by Monday, April 9, to allow sufficient design and printing notices. You may collect your t-shirt one of two ways: first, join us at Corkys for the club board meeting, Thursday, April 19 at 6:15 and second, you attend the event and pick your t-shirt up at the driver's meeting in Morrilton Saturday morning.

## Board Members for 2018:

### President

Lewis Leslie

### Vice President

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Earl Wilde

### Website guru – [Arkansasmiaclub.com](http://Arkansasmiaclub.com)

**Activities:** Ann Steinmeier -501-920-6712

**Membership:** Ann Davis

**Club Liaison:** Fritz Kahley

We have had tremendous club participation so far this year both during the driving event and the board meetings.

Website back up and better than ever

Address is: [Arkansasmiaclub.com](http://Arkansasmiaclub.com)

Also check us out on face book.

If you have a newsletter or event suggestion, you may email:

[Miata2003@sbcglobal.net](mailto:Miata2003@sbcglobal.net)

Also, please RSVP to: [Miata2003@sbcglobal.net](mailto:Miata2003@sbcglobal.net)

### Articles, Thoughts, invites:

It is the Board's intent to publish a monthly newsletter as close to the 1<sup>st</sup> of each month as *humanly* possible! If you have a thought, an article or an invite, please email the editor at [miata2003@sbcglobal.net](mailto:miata2003@sbcglobal.net) by the 25<sup>th</sup> of each month.

## We once again have our website up and running

**Check out the Arkansas Miata Club on the web. I think all of us had heard we were hacked causing the website to be unusable as designed. Thus, we began using facebook as a primary source of information sharing while new website possibilities were discussed and set up. We are now ready for the new and improved Arkansas Miata Club website – same address: [Arkansasmiaclub.com](http://Arkansasmiaclub.com) – check it out and let us know your thoughts.**

**We will still maintain the facebook page along with our monthly newsletters and email blasts, the inclusion of the website brings us back to our original goal of a professional looking club with a primary focus on enjoying the miata and socializing with its owners. Happy travels.**

**A little board meeting housekeeping:** All board meetings for the 2018 Miata Club Season are held at Corkys BBQ on McCain and are open to the general membership, but we must remember that the members of the board are conducting official board business, your input is important, and your vote is counted, but side conversations and socializing should be kept to a minimum. (thank you)

## All suggestions appreciated



## President's Notes

I am using my column this month to introduce myself as your new club President. First some personal information. I been retired from the Arkansas Department of Health for the past seven years. My wife, is also retired from UAMS where she worked in Kids First program. We like to travel both here and abroad. When traveling, besides taking in sights, we always like to hike.

I joined AMC in 2008 before I actually owned a Miata. At the time, I was still dickering with a friend of mine over her white 1992 Miata. She had a hard time letting the car go. In October of 2008, my negotiations for the white 92 had come to fruition. Since that first Miata, I have had the great pleasure in owning two other Miatas, a 2001 British Racing Green Special Edition and a silver 2013 GT with a retractable hard top. In future columns, I write about all three cars.

Before I bought the car, another friend and then AMC member, Owen Floyd, generously shared his Yellow 1992 with me as second driver during Miatas@Hallett in September. This was my first time on a real race track as a driver. Needless to say, I was totally hooked. By the end of that weekend, I knew I would be back to track the next year with my own Miata.

I served on the AMC Miatas@Hallett committee for five years. That included serving as Committee Chair for two years. I have also served as club Secretary and three years as Vice President. This will be my first year of service as your President. My only big goal this year is to fix or get a new website that is stable and meets the needs of our club members. After all the club website along with email and Facebook are our primary means of communications with you, our members and thanks to Earl Wilde, Manages the Club Website, [www.arkansasmiataclub.com/](http://www.arkansasmiataclub.com/), is up for the first time in a few months. I hope you will check it out.

Dan Gurney RIP

By Lewis Leslie

Dan Gurney, one of my racing heroes from my childhood, died January 14, 2018 of pneumonia. Dan did it all during the 60's as a driver and a race car constructor. He drove for Ferrari, Porsche, BRM, Brabham and Shelby/Ford from the late fifties through the 60's enjoying success in most forms of racing- Formula 1, Indy cars (then USAC), Sports cars, Trans am and NASCAR. In 1966, he formed his own team, Anglo American Racers (AAR), and began building Formula 1 and Indy cars that were named Eagles. The next year, He won Le Mans for Ford and one week later he won the Belgian Formula 1 race at Spa in a car of his own design. He was the second driver to earn the feat, but the only American to win in his own car in Formula 1. He retired from driving in 1970, but continued in racing as a constructor and team owner until 2011. His teams won Indy, Sports car races and a total of 8 Championships in various forms of racing.

Owen Floyd, Alston Jennings and I met him in 1990 at a IMSA race in Topeka, Kansas, when his team was racing Toyotas in the Prototype class. He was timing his cars during a practice session and happened to be at same corner where we were standing. After the session, we introduced ourselves and told him we were long-time fans of his. I found him to be a kind, genuine person, who did not mind taking a couple moments to talk to some fans. From all I have read that was very typical of Dan.

So long Dan. You are missed.

