

Naturally Topless

Save the Dates: upcoming events
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



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.



Come on lets board the boat

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, which 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. Brown bag lunch picnic (bring your own picnic lunch and drinks). The ferry ride to no-where actually takes to a beautiful park for a picnic if you have room, bring your 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.

This will be a poker run, bring \$5 to play and natural hand wins the pot.



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



Address: 5465 Fox Plaza Dr, Memphis, TN 38115

JR is open to ideas for afternoon site seeing – a trip down Beale, the Zoo, a brew pub, Graceland, we can pick and travel as a group or we can split off and do and see as we wish – if you have a suggestion email

miata2003@sbcglobal.net

June 16: Memphis run for fun and BBQ – Meeting at 8:30 a.m. Saturday morning, June 16 **meeting location change: meet at commuter lot – Prothro exit off of I40 (commuter lot visible next to entrance ramp)** for a trip to Memphis and world famous bbq, Yum-Yum.

Poker run - bring \$5 to play. (best natural hand wins – play with 7 cards drawn along the way – pick your best 5 cards)

Memphis options will be discussed at drivers' meeting. See you at Prothro commuter lot.

July 14 - breakfast run to Cracker Barrel - early morning run to eat and beat the heat.

Cracker Barrel Old Country Store Located in:
[Shackleford Crossings](#)
 Address: 2618 S Shackleford Rd. Little Rock, AR 72205



Drivers' meeting at Starbucks located at Sam Peck and Hwy 10 (Cantrell) at 7:30 – you decide when you need to arrive for coffee and social time. Short drive in and around (preferably on) curvy roads, arriving at Cracker Barrel in Shackleford Crossing at 9:00 for breakfast and social.

Please RSVP if attending the breakfast portion of the day so that we may alert Cracker Barrel staff that we will be there. Miata2003@sbcglobal.net or text to 501-416-3850 (Debbie)

Upcoming events – mark your calendar to save the date:

August 18 Shortest Drive: The Joint/Argenta
September 15 Drive In movie – Marshall,
October overnight Ft. Smith

The October event – overnight adventures – it has been suggested that we take a Friday for a long weekend and do a portion of the Natchez Trace, it would be a Friday, Saturday and Sunday event or keeping the regular Saturday and Sunday run in or around Fort Smith ?

If you have thoughts, suggestions, ideas or opinions, the miata club board and tour director would like to hear from you.

Board Members for 2018:

President

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Earl Wilde

Website guru – Arkansasmiatclub.com

Activities: Ann Steinmeier -501-920-6712

Membership: Ann Davis

Club Liaison: Fritz Kahley

A Miata member we do not see often, Jimmy Baskin contacted about some Team Dynamics that fit 1990-2005 Miatas. Lewis suggested we place them in the Newsletter next month. Below is a description.

Team Dynamics Pro Race 2 (made in England)
 205/40 R16 83W tire size
 7Jx16 CH stamped on wheel
 Bolt pattern 4x100
 Color: Hyper silver
 Weight: ~15.5lbs
 MSRP: \$196/ wheel rim
 All rims are like new and unmarked.

Asking \$250 cash for all.

Call Richard at 831-5958.



President's Notes

The Road Less Traveled

By Lewis Leslie

Natchez

Susan and I left Monroe Louisiana on the March 25th after our club Crawfish drive and headed to Natchez Mississippi to see the sights. Neither one of us had ever been there and we had both have heard good things about the area, so off we went. We took the long, slow road, by driving part of the Natchez Trace, which is a byway in the National Park System. The Trace begins just South of Nashville and ends at Natchez. It was one of the most important roads in the early 19th century in what was then the Southwest part of our then new country. Little more than a path in 1800, it was improved by the federal government to facilitate the delivery of mail.

Natchez was founded on a high bluff on the Mississippi River in the early 18th century as a French Fort. Natchez struggled through out that century to survive-battling Indians, disease and natural disasters. By the 1840's Natchez and Adams County became the most prosperous area in the USA. Why? Cotton, the cotton gin, Delta soil, cheap labor in the form of slavery, and the advent of steam driven river boats, all which played a role in the success of the city.

With the rich delta soil across the river in Louisiana, huge plantations were developed to farm cotton. The owners all lived on high ground on the Natchez side of the river. By the 1840's huge mansions were being built as the most visible way of displaying wealth. Of course, all of that cotton wealth came crashing down when the Civil War started. The US Navy imposed an effective blockade of the Southern coast, that prevented the South exporting cash crops, like cotton, abroad. Many of the old mansions survived the war since Natchez was occupied by Union forces without a fight.

Natchez survived but never regained its antebellum glory. Today, Natchez is a sleepy little Mississippi river town that is lives off it past. Many of the large mansions are open year-round, but some are only open to the public during the Spring and Fall "Pilgrimage". That's probably the best time to travel to Natchez, but not the only time. There are plenty of places to stay. There are several Hotels and many guest houses, that were converted from antebellum and later 19th century homes. However, because of the town's size there only a few good restaurants in town.

If we were planning an Arkansas Miata Club trip, I would allow two full days to see several houses, take a short drive on the Natchez Trace, and see the wonderful city cemetery. The town is not inexpensive for food or lodging and most of homes cost twenty dollars for a 45-minute tour. Of course, the revenue from tours are keeping the houses open to the public. During the Pilgrimage, the city offers a discount that amounts to five dollars a house, if you buy a package of three houses. Susan and I found that three houses in a day were enough.

I think this would be a good trip for our club. We could go for a couple of nights and see a few houses and cruise the Natchez Trace. Spring and Fall are the best times to visit. What is your opinion about going to Natchez as a club road trip? Let us n know!





Saturday, to be rescheduled: 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).

Hope to see everyone soon

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

Also check us out on face book, and our website, Arkansasmiaclub.com.

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

Miata2003@sbcglobal.net

Articles, Thoughts, invites:

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