

Naturally Topless

Save the Dates: upcoming events

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



June 16th: Memphis run for fun and BBQ

We will have a short drivers' meeting and prepare to depart on a fun road adventure to Leonard's Pit Barbeque in Memphis, located at 5465 Fox Plaza Drive, Memphis, TN 38115.

Drivers' meeting at 8:45 a.m. Meet at the commuter lot – Prothro exit off I40 (the commuter lot is visible next to the entrance ramp).

If you are meeting us at the restaurant for lunch only, we plan to eat at 11:45.

JR is open to suggestions for afternoon site seeing. 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, please email miata2003@sbcglobal.net. We will discuss additional Memphis options at the drivers meeting.

Leonard's began in 1922, a time widely accepted as the beginning of Memphis' love affair for pit-smoked barbecue. This was the year Leonard Heuberger opened his stand with just 5 stools, selling a barbecue sandwich for only five cents. It quickly became the largest drive-in restaurant of its time. People from all over came to pig-out on his pit-cooked ribs and pork shoulders.

This will be a poker run. Bring \$5 to play. Play with 7 cards drawn along the way; pick our best 5 cards. Best natural hand wins the pot.



Open board meetings

Third Thursday each month
Corky's McCain Blvd.

6:15ish side room off the Bar

General membership meetings:

June – September – October 2018

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

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)

Cracker Barrel Old Country Store Located in:

[Shackleford Crossings](#)

[Address: 2618 S Shackleford Rd. Little Rock. AR 72205](#)



August 18th – Shortest Drive: The Joint/Argenta

Address: 301 Main St, Ste 102, North Little Rock, AR 72114
Time: 7 pm (for show)
Tickets \$24 each, can be purchased on-line
<http://www.thejointargenta.com/> or at the door. First time guests are free



We will meet for dinner (location tbd) and then heading to The Joint at 7 p.m. for **Birthday from Hell**.

This show is a brand new Fertle Family comedy! Bridgette Fertle is turning 40 and she's convinced that her quality of life is headed straight downhill. To make matters worse, everyone seems to have forgotten her birthday. Meanwhile, the slow-witted Earl is being inducted into "The High Order of the Little Baby Owls, and Mama Fertle believes she is encountering her late husband Ned.

Please RSVP to activities@arkansasmiaata.com if attending. We will need a headcount for the reserved seating.

Upcoming events – mark your calendar to save the date:

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:

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Treasurer
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Membership: Ann Davis

Club Liaison: Fritz Kahley

President's Notes

By Lewis Leslie

Adolescent Dreams

Back in the mid-1960's, three young boys would get together to talk about cars and racing. Unlike most boys living in Pine Bluff, Arkansas, they didn't have much of an interest in the NASCAR and the then growing muscle car scene. Instead, they were much more interested in road racing and sports cars. Their interest in American open wheel racing was limited to the Indianapolis 500, since a lot of European drivers like Jim Clark, Graham Hill and Jackie Stewart were racing there.

Television was just beginning to broadcast events like 24 hours at Le Mans, so mostly they had to rely on newspapers and magazines, such as *Car & Driver* and *Road & Track* for racing news. These two magazines also provided news of the latest sports cars. They would drool over Ferraris and Porsches, but dream about Fiats, Alfas, Triumphs, and MGs. Why? The later cars might someday obtainable in the mind of a thirteen-year-old boy. Ferraris were just the stuff of legends!

Those boys were Joe Solomon, Buddy Fey and yours truly. Joe and Buddy both had nice sports cars by the early 70's. Joe bought a very clean Triumph TR-3, while Buddy had a red 1969 Alfa Spyder. I on the other hand, had a small Toyota. I had to use my car with my job, so I wanted a vehicle that was reliable, got good gas mileage, etc. I wouldn't own a sports car until 1984. It was a 1971 Alfa Spyder and I only had for about three years because of the cost of upkeep was eating me alive.

The years past, we all had regular jobs. Joe became a nurse anesthetist, while Buddy was a mechanical engineer and I work in human services in several different capacities before ending up in children protective services. Later, I would go to work in administration at the Arkansas Department of Health, while Buddy went on to become a race engineer after a decade or so as a race car owner (G production Sprite) and driver in SCCA amateur racing, Joe ended up continuing his profession in the VA system here in Little Rock after working in the New Orleans area for a number of years.

Not surprising each one of us bought sports cars later on in life. The cars, as one might guess, were all Miatas. Buddy and Joe both owned 1999 Miatas. Buddy still has his silver 1999, while Joe has owned a white 2006 and 2013 GT models. Always the late bloomer, I finally joined the other two when I bought a 1992 Miata in 2008. Since then I have owned a 2001 Special Edition and my current car a 2013 GT with the power hard top.

After over 50 years, each one us has realized that boyhood dream of owning what amounts to the modern version of the basic sports car. In fact, my opinion the Miata and it's first cousin, the Fiat124 are the only cars made today that really fits that bill. I wonder if Miatas are the stuff of dreams for 13-year-old boys today.

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:

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.