

Naturally Topless

Save the Dates: upcoming events

August 18 Shortest Drive: The Joint/Argenta
September 15 Drive In movie – Marshall,
October 20th overnight/Harrison
November Mt. View for fish dinner
December 1– Cheers Christmas Brunch



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



August 18th Shortest Drive

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

Please watch for an email blast or Facebook event invitation for restaurant information.

Please RSVP by texting Ann 501-920-6712 if you have not already done so. Information on purchasing tickets is found below.

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

September 15 – Drive-in movie – Marshall



We will leave Little Rock mid-afternoon, and stopping at Sonic to enjoy dinner, before arriving at the Kenda Drive-In. Movies have not yet been posted, more to come.

Cash or check only, no debit/credit

Admission Prices: Adults (ages 12 and up): \$6.00; Children (ages 6-11) \$2.00; Children (under 6): Free

<http://www.kendadrivein.com/>

Upcoming events – mark your calendar to save the date:

October 20th and 21st – Harrison

In October, join us as we drive to the Arkansas Grand Canyon. This will be an overnight trip and we will be leaving on Saturday October 20th. Dinner will be in Harrison and there will be goodie bags for each car.

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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Website guru – Arkansasmiataclub.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.

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

President's Notes

By Lewis Leslie

Miatas I Have Owned and Driven: Part 1

After years of trying to buy a 1992 white Miata from a friend, Lee Clark, in October 2008, money changed hands and the title was signed over to me. The Miata was heavily optioned (for 1992) and included a limited slip differential and a white factory hard top. Needless to say, I was a happy camper for a while. My plans were to turn this car into a track day car that I could drive on the street. This is the first car I had seriously modified and I was totally gung ho to get on with that process.

What I didn't realize, there was a gremlin lurking in the car. Lee had told me that the car had not been driven (much) in the last few years. Indeed, it had run rough when I first gotten the car. JR Mills, who was the Miata Specialist in Central Arkansas and owned M-Tech, replaced the fuel filter and spark plugs and the car ran fine for a while. By June of 2009, JR had modified the car with all of the suspension, exhaust and intake modifications I had purchased.

On the last Friday of June that year, I packed up the car and headed to Oklahoma to run at Hallett Motor Racing Circuit the next day. I had driven as far as Mayflower, when the car started running rough. I turned around and drove to M-Tech in Sherwood. JR checked things out and found the fuel filter was clogged-up again. He replaced the fuel filter and I filled my gas tank and headed out again. This time I reached Sallisaw, Oklahoma, when the car started missing again. By that time, I had used a little more than a half a tank of gas. I pulled in to a gas station and filled the gas tank again. Lo and behold, the car ran cleanly again. For the rest of the trip, I filled up when the fuel gauge indicated I had a half a tank of gas.

The next week, I took the car back to JR to see if he could solve the mystery. He found the lurking gremlin in the form of a rusted gas tank. It seems on a full tank, the rust in the tank would be deluded enough to allow the engine to run fine. When the tank was less than the half full, the rust started clogging everything up.

JR found a clean used tank to replace the rusted one. But replacing the tank is not an easy task. Mazda had placed the tank between the trunk and the passenger compartment for safety and packaging. He had to drop the entire rear subframe from the car to get to the tank. This meant several hours of labor to get to the rusted tank so he could remove it and install the good tank. So, several hundred dollars later, I a usable gas tank and another clean filter.

The moral of the story, when you buy a used car (especially one that has not been driven for a while, have it checked out by a Miata specialist before you buy it. Live and hopefully learn.