

THE EDITION

Volume 15 Issue 4

Newsletter of the NWOHio Miata Club

May 2009

Weather Cooperates for First 2009 Meander

Temperatures have been up and down this spring, but it all came together on April 18 for our first road event of the year. It was tops down all the way under partly cloudy skies and a high of 74 degrees.

The promise of great weather and the need to relieve cabin fever combined to draw 14 cars to the start in BG. Work schedules and other commitments caused cancellations of two other cars that had planned to join the group. Among the starters were Jack and Denise Moore, members of the Miata Owners of Middle Michigan. We were happy to welcome them and they seemed to get right into the spirit of our type of fun.

The route included some more and less familiar territory, starting with SR 105 and the north and south Portage River roads. We then headed south and east toward the Sandusky River, which we followed into Tiffin. The original intent was to have a rest break at the

Pioneer Restaurant, at a really scenic spot along the river. Their hours have changed, however, and since they wouldn't be open until later, we settled for a loop through the parking lot and then pressed on to McDonald's. That became a bit problematic, since the city of Tiffin uses one way streets, but sometimes neglects to identify them with street signs. A few cars extended the route a bit, but we all ended up at the golden arches and had plenty of time to regroup for the second segment.

We worked our way south over some very nice twisties that felt so good that we ran them backwards and forwards. The pace was brisk, but comfortable, and the whole parade stayed together very well.

The last part of the course took us through McCutchenville and on to the New Riegel Cafe. The timing was just right, as we arrived with time to stand around and chit-chat before being seated in a group and ordering our selections from their 4:30 barbecue.

(see **Meander**, page 2)

Return to Ickey's Meander

Date: Saturday, June 13, 2009

Leave: 12:30 pm

Meet in beautiful downtown Grand Rapids, Ohio

Come early and peruse the shops (open at 10 am) and/or have lunch at LaRoe's (open at 11 am). LaRoe's now has a nice patio overlooking the canal. Breakfast or lunch is also available at Cuzins, next to LaRoe's.

We will meander along the beautiful Maumee to Defiance then head across country to the Candy Cane Christmas shop north of Archbold (ice cream available). We plan to arrive at Ickey's about 3:30 to view the (in)famous Moon Meander ceiling tile while chowing down on burgers and good beer.

Please contact Don or Barbara Barkley at hypointe@bright.net or 419-748-8117 by June 11 to make a reservation.

If you decide late or are running late that day, call our cell phone at 419-262-5259 or 419-262-9415. We don't want to leave anyone behind!

(Meander, from page 1)

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For Sale



1995 Miata M Edition. Merlot, tan leather interior and top, BBS wheels. This is a nice clean car with 68,000 miles. Price is \$5,850.

I bought another Miata a few weeks ago (a red 1999) which is why I am selling this one!

For more information, contact Bob Edds at reds@woh.rr.com or 419-306-7850.

Most folks had been to New Riegel, but the newbies got to see the country charm first hand - BBQ ribs and chicken in a paper dish, served with fries and a piece of buttered white bread and a basic salad for a nominal upcharge.

As usual, there was a lot of car talk and some discussion of what went on over the winter. It was good to see our friends again and start the new season of on-the-road adventures.



The lineup of beauties at the end of the first 2009 meander.

New U.S. Requirements for Canadian Travel

On **June 1, 2009**, the U.S. government will implement the full requirements of the land and sea phase of the Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative (WHTI). The rules require U.S. citizens entering the United States at sea or land ports of entry to have a passport, passport card, or other travel document approved by the Department of Homeland Security.

For most of us, the easiest (though not necessarily least expensive) path for traveling to Canada is to just obtain a passport. The advantage is that a passport also meets the requirement for entering Canada (as well as other countries) by air. Someone who anticipates just traveling by car or boat to Canada can save a few bucks by obtaining a passport CARD, Nexus card or enhanced driver's license (if available in their state).

The passport card costs \$45 (instead of \$100 for a passport). A Nexus Card provides expedited passage for land, sea and air travel. Holders are prescreened and the fee is \$50. Finally, some states are offering enhanced driver's licenses (EDLs) which serve both as a driver's license and border crossing card. Michigan has announced that their EDL program went into effect on April 21, 2009. The fee is \$45. Ohio has not implemented such a program.

In any, case, if you are planning a little road trip that involves crossing the Canadian border, be prepared.

Club Approves Economic Stimulus Package

Your club officers have been following with interest the global financial crisis, economic recession and stock market meltdown. We have also noted that, despite all of this doom and gloom, our club assets continue to grow (no, we did not spend all of our cash on postage stamps, as the April Fools article implied).

Thus, we have decided that an adjustment is in order. Since we have never had a payroll tax to fund the club's activities, we cannot reduce taxes. But we can "just say no" to our annual dues request.

So here's the deal: for those members on record as of May 1, 2009, all memberships will be extended one year. If you have already paid your dues this year, you'll then have most of two years before your renewal is due. If your renewal date is later this year, it will now be on the corresponding date in 2010. As always, you'll know when to pay next - the treasurer will remind you.

Also, to be consistent, new members joining in 2009 will receive a two year membership for their \$10.00.

Rest assured, we will still have sufficient funds to conduct our activities. In fact, if anyone has a suggestion as to any needs of the club, please communicate them to President Jerry Bish or Treasurer Bill Potvin.

I Love This Car Lyricists Contact Club

Bill,

I just stumbled across your Club web site and found the "I Love This Car" lyrics and music posted for all to enjoy. That really put a smile on me and my wife Leslie's face. To see that others can enjoy this song like we have is priceless. This was written just before we held our regional event (Miata Mountain Mania in '06) and performed for all to enjoy the closing night of the event. I'd like to thank you and the other officers for adding this to your web site.

Live and Let Drive,

James "Bryan" Bond and Leslie
West Penn Miata Club

2009 Midwest Miata Gathering

The 10th Annual Midwest Miata Gathering will again be hosted by the Greater Cincinnati Miata Club, following the 2007 event in Louisville and 2008 in Indianapolis. It will return to its roots as a low key, low cost event to be held at Kincaid Lake State Park, near Falmouth, Kentucky. The focus is on the cars and the people who drive them with some great roads and, of course, great food. The dates are September 11-13, 2009 and the event is limited to 75 cars, so early registration is encouraged.

Planned events include a Friday night drive to Elk Creek Winery for wine tasting, a buffet dinner and live music, followed by a caravan back to the headquarters hotel. Saturday will feature a car show, vendors and socializing at the park with a cookout lunch. The day will be completed with drives, shopping and ice cream. Saturday night dinner is included. Time will be available for a drive or other activity on Sunday morning, ending with lunch and 1 pm farewells.

Reduced rates have been arranged at two adjoining motels near Dry Ridge, KY. The event fee is \$50.00 for car and one driver and \$30.00 for an additional person. Registration for the event is now open. Details of activities and an entry form can be found at <http://miatagathering.com>

Wagner Mazda

1600 N. Countyline Street

Fostoria, Ohio 44830

419-435-8131

800-589-8111

Email: EmailWagner@aol.com



MX-5 Miata



Mazda3



Mazda6



CX-7

Call or stop in and talk to Jeff, Brett or Dave and check the NWOHio Miata Club web site for the latest special deals.

Tentative 2009 Miata Event Calendar

Tue - Sun	May 12-17	Miatas Do Deals Gap with the Sheridans
Fri - Mon	May 22-25	Miata World II, Dallas, Texas
Saturday	May 23	Eric Jones Memorial Riverrun, Columbus
Saturday	June 13	Meander to Ickey's by the Barkleys
Sunday	July 11	Meander to MIS with the MiMiata Club
Saturday	July 18	Adopt-A-Highway Cleanup Session
Sat - Sun	August 1-2	Meander to Meadowbrook Concours by the Bishes
Fri - Sat	September 11-13	Midwest Miata Gathering - Cincinnati
Saturday	October 17	Adopt-A-Highway Cleanup Session
Saturday	October TBA	Miata Meander by Greeley and Guiberson



View from the Driver's Seat

Sounds like Bill and Linda had a great meander. Perfect weather and plenty of cars to share the drive. Wish we could have been there, but as they say the best laid plans often go awry. We are looking forward to the next meander hosted by Don and Barb Barkley. Barb shared some of the plans and it sounds like an interesting fun-filled drive.

Looking a little further ahead, I'm thinking of attending the Arthritis show in Columbus on July 11. Anyone interested in joining me for a trip to show off our Miatas in the show within the show should contact me by the June meander and we can set something up. Also by that same date I will have hotel reservation information available for our meander to Meadowbrook concours. The web site lists the attractions as the following: "Our 30th Anniversary show will feature "The Best of Detroit", "Fins and Chrome: The Convertibles of 1959", Packard V-12, Rolls-Royce Phantom, Featured Museum – The Gilmore Museum, Swoopy Coupes and British motorcycles, The 100th Anniversary of Morgan, Exotic Italian Cars, and Drag Racing - Stockers and Gassers." Sounds like an interesting collection.

Road clean up news. Keith Sommers, Tom Thayer, Barb Barkley, Mary Jo and I were the 'pick up crew' for the first road clean up day. The day was sunny but very windy. (That explains why my bag scooted out of my hand and down and across the road 50 yards!) Tom and Keith headed one direction while Barb, Mary Jo and I went the other. Aside from the usual junk and stuff to be found along the roadside, we found some interesting items. Barb found a mono-pod (think one-footed camera tripod) and case for a camera. It was in great shape. I put it on the other side of the road to pick up on the way back because it was too heavy to carry with our bags. Shortly after that, Mary Jo found a purse complete with Indiana driver's license, car keys, a credit card and the usual 'female paraphernalia'. Barb and Mary Jo commented that at least we hadn't found the gross things like used diapers and such...leave it to the guys — they found illicit DVD cases (no DVD) and Jerry found the rest of the yucky stuff! Keith and Tom finished their end of the route and caught up with Mary Jo and Barb and exclaimed that they had found a mono-pod....they found the one Barb originally found and I had stashed across the road! A quick call to the Wood County Sheriff was made and the cool stuff was taken to Bowling Green for the sheriff to re-home. Come help us next month and you, too, could find something 'cool'.

Jerry Bish

Griz's Garage - Blinded by the Light

by Keith Sommers



I have been asked many times why my driving lights are always on. There is a good reason for this. There have been several past incidents where large trucks and vans have decided to pull out in front of me without any warning. My little beep-beep horn and animated hand gestures seem to have little effect on those "HUB" drivers, except to make me feel a little better. To make my car more visible and hopefully alleviate future incursions into my personal space I decided to add a set of driving lights.

Installing a set of driving lights is one of the easiest modifications you can perform. They can even add a little personality and attitude to your baby. I selected Pilot ovals with a blue tint to match my car. The installation on NA models shouldn't take any more than a couple of hours and is what I will refer to. Your installation may be different and should be planned accordingly.

The first order of business is to remove the hooks from the mouth of your car. These are sometimes misidentified as **tow hooks**. These are actually **tie-down hooks** and are used to secure the car during shipping to the United States. They should even be removed if you are not installing the driving lights. This will prevent damage to your front end in the unfortunate incidence of being towed. The hooks are held in place with three bolts each and will require a 14 mm wrench to remove.

The lights are mounted using the vertical attachment hole of each removed tie-down hook (figure 1). Run the power and ground wire above the mouth and terminate at the blue connector located to the rear of the left headlight (figure 2). This connector is used as a power source for your timing light during maintenance and is hot when the ignition is on. Splicing the power wire of the lights the blue connector wire will allow the lights to automatically come on every time the car is running. Another added benefit is that they will also turn themselves off. I grounded the lights to body bolt next to the connector.

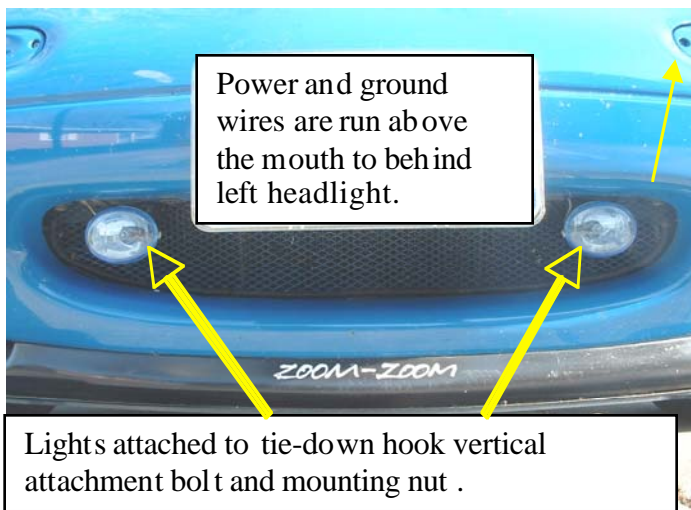


Figure 1.

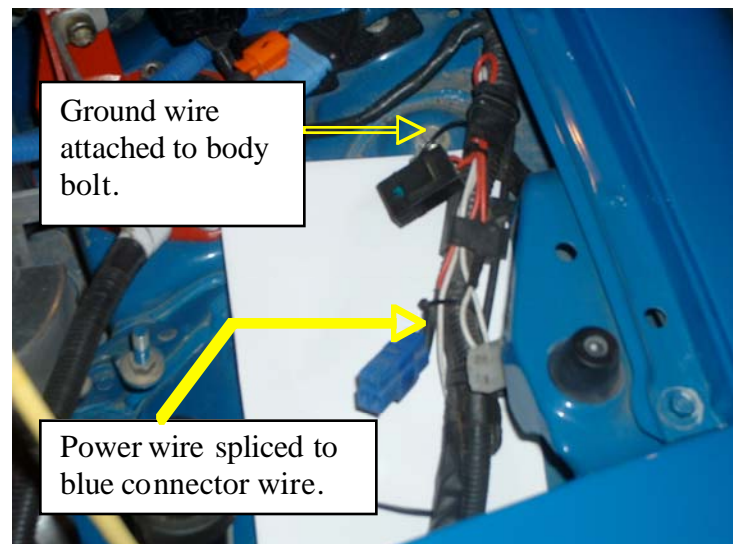


Figure 2.

That is all there is to it. Start your car and check for proper operation. Adjust the lights according to the instructions that came with the light kit and secure all loose wires.

Now get out there and drive with a little more confidence that your little car will be a stand out, by drawing attention to your newly installed driving lights.