



NATURALLY TOPLESS

Volume 18, Issue 9

September 2018

DRIVING TOPDOWN IN THE NATURAL STATE

Kenda Drive In—September 15th

We will meet at 2:00 pm in the parking lot at the corner of Maryland and Hwy 107 (Sherwood). Dinner will be at 6:00 pm at Sonic in Marshall. The movie schedule has not been posted yet. Updates will be sent by email when the information is available.

Kenda Drive in

Www.kendadrivein.com

Cash or check only (no credit cards)

Admission prices:

Adults (12 and up): \$6

Children (6-11): \$2

Children under 6: free



Grand Canyon—October 20th and 21st

****Please make reservations before Sept 10th (hold on rooms expires on that date)**

Lots of news: The Grand Canyon event kick-off will begin with the Friday night dinner at Whole Hog at the Wildwood exit off 67-167. The address is 5701 Warden Road, North Little Rock. Dinner is at 6:30 on Friday, October 19th and will include the trip bag distribution and last minute details and news of the trip.

Out of towners hotel for Friday night: Best Western—Sherwood located at 7533 Warden Road. Call 501-835-7556 for reservations.

We will meet Saturday (October 20th) morning at 8:00 a.m.—DoubleBees station on Hwy 5—exit off 67/167 or meet us at 7:30 in the Best Western-Sherwood on 7533 Warden Road to pick up the out-of-towners and parade to DoubleBees on Hwy 5. Trip poker begins at DoubleBees, drivers meeting and quick info updates. Bag distribution for anyone not at Whole Hog Friday night. Trip poker is \$5 to play (not included in the trip charge)

There will be a **\$25 per person trip charge** that will get you a wonderful all you can eat buffet lunch with drink, a t-shirt, and each car will receive a special trip bag in addition to the normal goodies and games.

Lunch will be served at the Ozark Café at 11 a.m. located on the square in Jasper, AR. Your trip charge includes the lunch buffet and drink, this lunch selection allows us an in and out opportunity saving some time to adequately tour the Arkansas Grand Canyon after lunch. October is prime leaf-peeping in the Ozarks.

Hotel Seville: Address: 302 N Main St, Harrison, 72601; phone (870) 741-2321

The afternoon portion of the event will provide curvy roads, spectacular views, overlook stops, and trip poker, arriving at Hotel Seville in time for a check in and social in the Presidential Suite. **Make your reservations before Sept 10** and mention the

Arkansas Miata Club. Base room for the quaint queen is \$89 + tax (about \$110). If your plans change and you cannot go, there is free cancellation until day of trip.

We will meet in the lobby of the hotel at 4:30 p.m. for a 5 pm reservation at Roma Italian. This meal is order off the menu and on your own. Please be ready and in the lobby by 4:30 to parade to dinner. Address: 1320 US-65A, Harrison, 72601; phone (870) 204-5160

Announcements and more fun during dinner—the trip poker winner will be revealed. Following dinner we will gather once again in the Presidential Suite for games—\$1 will get you 50 dollars in chips and a 30 minute play limit. Most chips at the end of the 30 minutes wins the pot. This will also be a social time so bring your favorite beverages and enjoy!

Save the date: Upcoming Events

September 15 Drive In movie – Marshall, AR

October 20th overnight/Harrison

November 17th Mt. View for fish dinner

December 1st 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

November 17th—Mountain View

We are meeting in the parking lot behind Starbucks (107 and North Hills) at 8:30 a.m. This will be a poker run \$1 to play. We should arrive at JoJo at 12:30. More information to come!

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 2

I owned the 1992 Miata for about three years. In that time, I turned it into more of a track car than one for the street. I had stiffened the car with steel frame rails and a Hard Dog roll bar, but it still lacked the steering precision I was looking for on the track. The car tended to move around in the turns. So, the next step was installing new suspension bushings. I used Mazda competition bushings, that are 30-40 % stiffer than the stock bushings. The car had a ride rougher after that, but it cornered better. While I drove the car on a regular basis on the street, it had definitely lost some of the street appeal, especially for long trips.

In 2010, right after I retired from work, I bought a full-size truck and a car trailer, so I could trailer my car to the track. There was definitely a learning curve to towing the car on a trailer, but now I could set my car up at home, so the car would be ready to go when I got to the track. Plus, I didn't have to endure that rough drive to Hallett. Of course, getting it safely on and off the trailer remained an issue the entire time I used a trailer. I had several misadventures over the next few years that involved the trailer.

In the summer of 2011, a combination of love, envy, and opportunity came together resulting in selling the 92 Miata to Owen Floyd and buying a 2001 Miata Special Edition (SE) from Jim Baskin, both were members of the Arkansas Miata Club at the time. Jim had owned the 2001 for a number of years. The first time I had seen the car, I was smitten. It was a special color, British Racing Green (BRG), which was a favorite color of mine since the 1960's when Jim Clark raced BRG Lotus' for Colin Chapman. In other words, in my eyes it was beautiful car. Jim and his wife, Nancy, both drove the car every year at Miata@Hallett. They had already done the modifications that improved the car on the track. My 1992 looked rather shabby by comparison. The dash was cracked, paint was beginning to peel in places, etc. So even though I loved my car, I made myself a vow if Jim's 2001 SE ever car available for sale, I would buy it.

In August of 2011, the opportunity arose-Jim had decided to sell his 2001 SE. I needed money, so I called Owen, who was Miata-less at the time, to see if he would want to buy my car. He bought it and within a week I had a new (for me) 2001 SE. I will admit, I have always been a fickle car owner. This car would be in my possession for five and a half years. It would bring me many great memories and very few problems or complaints. But that is a story for next month.

ARKANSAS MIATA CLUB

We're on the Web !
www.armiataclub.com

Change of Address & Member Info: *Be sure to keep your contact information and particularly your email address up-to-date; you don't want to miss anything! Submit your email address, snail mail address, new car info and any other contact information changes to the Membership Officer at membership@arkansasmiata.com.*

New Members: *You may register to join our club at www.arkansasmiata.com. Print and complete the membership form. You may eMail also to membership@arkansasmiata.com. You also can download the printable form, fill it out and mail it together with your check to the club address or bring your completed form and dues at the next club event. Be especially careful in printing your email address to ensure we record it correctly so that you will receive the newsletter and club announcements.*

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