



# NATURALLY TOPLESS

Volume 19, Issue 5

May 2019

**DRIVING TOPDOWN IN THE NATURAL STATE**

Calendar of events for 2019 on page 5

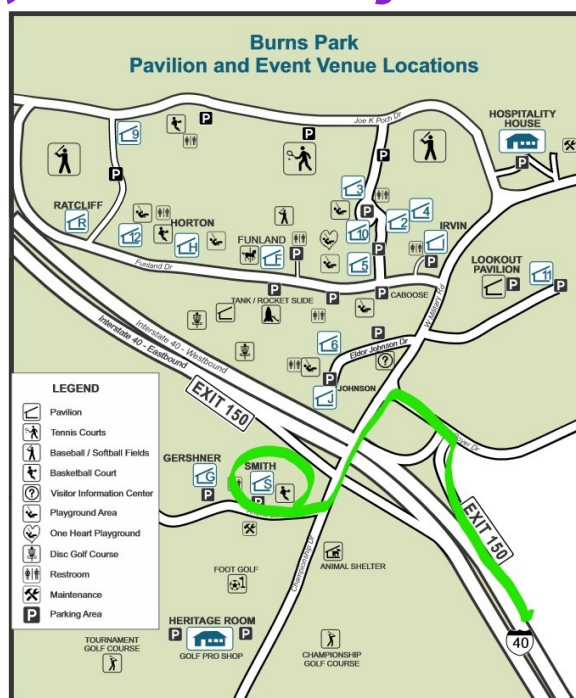
## ***Picnic—Shelby Smith Pavilion, Burns Park May 4th***



May the fourth be with you for an old fashioned picnic at Burns Park. Food will be provided—come prepared for a fun day of burgers, hot dogs, and games! The picnic and drive will go on as scheduled, rain or shine!

Meet at 10 a.m. for a quick drive. We will return to the Pavilion for lunch at noon.

Directions to Shelby Smith Pavilion— from I40 West, take exit 150 (Burns Park), cross over the highway, and turn right on Arlene Laman Drive.



## ***Bentonville, Ball game, & Crystal Bridges Overnight June 8th & 9th***

The June event is an overnight trip to Bentonville for a baseball game and Crystal Bridges. **RSVP to Ann must be done no later than May 9th. Please email or text her before that date.** Phone: 501-920-6712 email: [stnmra@sbcglobal.net](mailto:stnmra@sbcglobal.net).

We will attend the Saturday night ball game and Crystal Bridges is planned for Sunday.

***Save the date: Upcoming Events***

**June 8th and 9th**—Overnight—Poker Run (\$5). Meet at 8 am on Saturday at Starbucks on Hwy 10 and Sam Peck. Must RSVP by May 9th.

**July 13th**—Brunch at Cracker Barrel

**Open board and General membership meetings**

Third Thursday each month; Corky's McCain Blvd—6:15ish side room off the Bar

**2019 Dues are \$24 per car. Dues are due now.**

If you have not already paid, we have multiple ways available to make payment. You may pay directly on our website, by pay pal, or by mail. If mailing, please send to:

Geri Wilde; 1 Juego Way; Hot Springs Village, AR 71909

***October Event: Update***

The October event needs to be moved to another date or location. At the last membership meeting, it was suggested that Toad Suck Bucks, which was cancelled in April due to weather, be rescheduled to the October 12th date.

If you have any other suggestions, please send them to JR before our next meeting (May 17th). A decision will be made at that time concerning the October event.

**Articles, Thoughts, Pictures,  
and Invites:**

It is the Board's intent to publish a monthly newsletter as close to the 1<sup>st</sup> of each month as *humanly* possible! If you have a thought, an article or an invite, please email the editor at [kpecchioni@gmail.com](mailto:kpecchioni@gmail.com) by the 25<sup>th</sup> of each month.

**ARKANSAS MIATA CLUB**


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*We're on the Web !*  
[www.armiataclub.com](http://www.armiataclub.com)

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**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@arkansasmiaata.com](mailto:membership@arkansasmiaata.com).

**New Members:** You may register to join our club at [www.arkansasmiaata.com](http://www.arkansasmiaata.com). Print and complete the membership form. You may email also to [membership@arkansasmiaata.com](mailto:membership@arkansasmiaata.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.

## Board Members

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## President's Notes for May 2019

Lately, I have realized that this is the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Miata. Even though the first model year was 1990, the car was actually launched on February 11, 1989 at the Chicago Auto Show. After four different models and numerous yearly improvements, and "Special Editions", the Miata is still going strong.

I wondered how many Miatas have actually made. Lo and behold, when I was flipping through a August 2016 edition of Grassroots Motorsports on page 24, an article stated on April 22, 2016 the millionth Miata was produced. That compares to the MG-B that sold over 500,000 cars between 1962 and 1981.

That article also noted some other Miata milestones.

October 1997: Second generation MX-5 debuts.

December 1998: 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Limited Edition MX-5 launched.

May 2000: Guinness World Records recognized the Miata as the world's best-selling two-seater sports car.

March 2005: Third generation MX-5 debuts at the Geneva International Motor Show

January 2007: Production reaches 800,00 units.

July 2009: 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Limited Edition MX-5 launched.

September 2014: the fourth generation MX-5 debuts.

By the way, there is a 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary "Special Edition" Miata. But you can't buy one. Mazda only made 500 and Mazda sold out after only four and a half hours from the time it was made available to the public. The color of all these cars is Racing Orange. This seems appropriate given the great success the Miata has enjoyed in racing with Spec Miata and other classes in SCCA road racing and autocross. The hard-top version went for over \$38,000 dollars while the soft top was over \$35,000. A lot of extras are included however, Brembo brakes, heated RECARO seats and Rays forged wheels. Maybe I can pick one up used some day-at a premium.

Thirty years is a long run for any line of cars. Of course, those cars have been updated on a regular basis. But given how long it took to go from 800,000 units produced to one million, it seems either that the car buyers of the world are less interested in small two-seater sports cars or the market is fairly saturated with Miatas. Let's hope that the Mazda Corporation sees the Miata as the halo car that truly represents their latest slogan-Driving Matters.

## *2019 Calendar of Events*

| Date                                | Event   | Notes  |
|-------------------------------------|---|--|
| <del>February 16th, 2019</del>      | <del>Polar Bear Run</del>                       | <del>Meet at Starbucks on Hwy 10 (Sam Peck and Cantrell) at 8 a.m.</del> |
| <del>March 16th, 2019</del>         | <del>Little Rock St. Patrick's Day Parade</del> |  |
| April 13th, 2019                    | Toad Suck Bucks                                 | 2 pm at Shell on Hwy 10 and Chenal                                       |
| May 4th, 2019                       | Picnic at Burns Park                            | Shelby Smith Pavilion<br>Time: 10 a.m.<br>Short drive; lunch at noon     |
| June 8th and 9th, 2019              | Bentonville, Ball game, and Crystal Bridges     | Overnight<br><b>RSVP by May 9th</b>                                      |
| July 13th, 2019                     | Brunch at Cracker Barrel Shackleford Crossing   | 8 a.m. at Starbucks on Hwy 10 and Sam Peck                               |
| August 17th, 2019                   | The Shortest Drive/The Joint                    | Hognado  |
| September 21st, 2019                | I-30 Speedway                                   |  |
| <i>*October 12th and 13th, 2019</i> | <i>Eureka Springs</i>                           | <i>Overnight</i>   |
| November 16th, 2019                 | Stuttgart Museum and AR Post                    | Grand Prairie Agricultural Museum  |
| December 7th, 2019                  | Christmas Party—Cheers, Maumelle                |  |