

Arkansas Miata Club



Special points of interest:

- Waterfalls Tour — June 19
- Ft. Smith Overnite — July 31
- Shortest Drive — August 14
- Mt. Magazine Lunch — September 18
- Rescheduled TSD Rallye — October 9
- Leaf Peek and JoJo Lunch — November 6
- Holiday Party — December 4

Inside this issue:

Waterfalls Tour	2
Are You Ready to Plug In ?	3
August Event	4
Board	5

Naturally Topless

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July, 2021

FT. SMITH OVERNIGHT TOUR SATURDAY, JULY 31—SUNDAY, AUGUST 1 8:30am Shell Station, Hwy 10 / Chenal Parkway, Little Rock



It's time to travel! We will not pass through England, nor will we ride the Mayflower, but we will dine in London and sleep in the Fort(smith).

July 31, 2021 our destination is Holiday Inn – Airport – Fort Smith, Arkansas. We'll meet at the Shell Station – Chenal Parkway at Highway 10, 8:30am Saturday morning, July 31, 2021. A driver's meeting will be held at 8:45am, with departure for Ft. Smith at 9:00am. ****Special T-Shirts for attendees****

We'll be playing Trip Poker for \$5.00 a person, and lunch will be at Fat Daddy's BBQ around 12:30pmish – We're planning a Hotel Check-in around 3:30pm, followed by a Trolley Ride late Saturday afternoon (\$4.00 each). Dinner Saturday evening will be at Ed Walker's 1950s Diner at 7:30pm, with the Trip Poker winner announced.

There will be an optional drive Sunday morning; a Casino excursion with unlimited options !

******* YOU MUST RSVP – please text Debbie @ 501-416-3850 or email: miata2003@yahoo.com *******

Are you joining us for BBQ lunch in London, the trolley ride, dinner at Ed Walker's diner ? If you can't make the whole trip join us for what you can. The block of rooms is good until July 17, 2021 – 1 king bed or 2 queen bed rooms have been blocked – group rate is \$109 – you MUST mention the Arkansas Miata Club for this rate and call before midnight July 17, 2021 (if you have issues of any kind, contact Debbie Wisdom at 501-416-3850). Call Holiday Inn Airport Ft. Smith – (479) 484-7111

Don't forget to RSVP so we can confirm our culinary details. See you Saturday morning the 31st !

June Waterfall Tour

We had twelve cars start in our June event Although we didn't see any waterfalls (the tour leader explained that waterfalls are almost always at the end of LOOONNNGGGG dirt roads, and that they require an inordinate amount of walking ! It was decided that most of our members might not be up to it), we did see Lake Hamilton, Lake Catherine and Lake DeGray along with numerous streams. A late lunch at Red Oak Fillin' Station satisfied our hunger, and we departed from there



..... And A New Member

Joining us on the June run, after already joining and becoming a member was Mitch Swain with his just acquired 2011 Miata MX5 PHRT !

Born in 1957 and raised in LR, Mitch got interested in little sporty cars when his dad came home with a brand new Volvo P 1800 (Roger Moore's car in The Saint). His first car was a '63 Austin Healey Sprite. Mitch autox'ed in the late '70s in a 1974 Alfa GTV. After many sports cars later, he realized what he liked to do most was touring, and no better group to do it with than like-minded people in the Miata club !

So he joined before he found his 2011 MX-5 (which he flew to Wisconsin and picked up and drove back). And he's was glad he did ! Already been on his first tour of the Hot Springs area and said it was great. Looking forward to many outings.

Coming Events !!

See the front page for the calendar of events for the rest of the year !! From our "Shortest Drive" in August, to the November Annual "Leaf Peek" run, the Board has tried to fill our calendar with some new as well as previously enjoyed events. Hope to see you all there !!

Are You Ready to Plug In ?

(from *Road & Track Magazine*, June 2021)

Mazda recently announced sweeping electrification plans, aiming to have all models feature some form of electrification by 2030. Yes, that means the Miata will be electrified, too.

The company confirmed to *Road & Track* that it intends to electrify its iconic two-door roadster. Check your expectations, though, because "electrify" is a nebulous word. It doesn't mean that a fully electric Miata will be here by the close of the decade. Instead, it means that the Miata will have some percentage of its power come from an electric motor.

"Mazda is seeking to electrify the MX-5 Miata in an effort to have all models feature a form of electrification by 2030," a spokesperson from Mazda said in a statement to *Road & Track*. "We will work hard to make it a lightweight, affordable, open two-seater sports car in order to meet the needs of customers."

On the conservative side, that could mean a 48-volt "mild-hybrid" integrated starter-generator setup. That system—used in cars like the Mercedes E450 or BMW 540i—uses a small electric generator to run the car's high-voltage electronics, provides some assistance in getting the car rolling from a stop, regenerate power, and allow the engine to turn off while coasting or stopped. These systems significantly improve efficiency and can be used as a torque fill in performance applications, but the electric motors never power the car alone.

A more conventional hybrid also would satisfy the electrification component. Think Prius, where the car can travel small distances on electric energy stored in a small battery pack charged exclusively by braking or power from the internal-combustion engine. A plug-in hybrid could also be possible, but they tend to be heavy. The same problem plagues pure EVs. That gives us reason to doubt that the Miata will pivot toward a powertrain where the majority of the propulsion comes from a battery. Keeping weight in check is essential to the mission of the Miata, a fact Mazda knows well.



OUR AUGUST EVENT

Our August event will be on Saturday, August 14th, and will be our annual Shortest Drive

We will have an early dinner in Little Rock's River Market District, and then head across the Main Street Bridge to North Little Rock, where we'll attend the show at The Joint (There's always a chance we'll actually dine in North Little Rock, in which case we may just drive across a parking lot !!). For those that have attended previously with us, everyone will attest to the great evenings we've had at The Joint.

The show is at 8:00pm, and we'll plan on beginning there at 7:15—7:30pm.

Tickets are \$ 30 a person, and must be reserved by calling Box Office at (501) 372-0205. Tell them you are with Miata Club, and Vicki Farrell will make sure you are seated with the group. You can then pick up your own ticket at the box office before show.

The website for The Joint is www.TheJointArgenta.com There is info there about the show, and a menu for coffee and drinks.



Around the Club

Jannis Huckelby ended the last event by having a deer run into her car as she left the Red Oak Fillin' Station and started into Hot Springs. All are OK, and Jannis hopes to have her blue NC back from the body shop before our next event ! Jannis has also been dealing with some health issues and a fall back earlier this year, so it's good to have her on her feet and back again !

Jim Wells has also had some health issues, including a recent hospitalization at the VA. We were glad to see him at the June event, even though he's still recuperating and could only drive a portion of the day. Hang in there, Jim !

And last by not least, our Tour Director JR Mills has been on the 'puny' side. Debbie and he, along with Barbara and John White celebrated JR's birthday in June with a week end trip to Vicksburg for some sightseeing and to catch up on some of the new historical finds around the Civil War. However, JR returned and developed a case of pneumonia which he is still fighting we're sure hoping he's better and up and around for the Ft. Smith trip at the end of the month.



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"Driving Top Down in the Natural State"

Facebook: For up-to-the-minute events information, member input and other stuff, visit our Facebook page at Arkansas Miata Club Group. You may also consult the newsletter, which is published monthly and uploaded to the Facebook page, as well as the web page.

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@arkansasmia.com.

New Members: You may register to join our club at www.arkansasmia.com. Print and complete the membership form, or use the online form with PayPal. You may eMail also to membership@arkansasmia.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. Dues are \$ 24.00 per year



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