



# NATURALLY TOPLESS

Volume 22, Issue 1

January, 2022

## **TECH SESSION OPENS THE 2022 SCHEDULE ! SATURDAY, JANUARY 22nd 1:00pm SHERWOOD TIRE PROS 8203 AR-107 (JFK BOULEVARD) SHERWOOD, AR**

Join us for the afternoon, as Chris Edens leads us in learning more about the cars we love to drive !

Rumor has it this year that we might not only hear and see what the differences are between the Miata models (NA, NB, NC, ND), but we'll also see the Edens'

race cars and the recently added FIATA !

We usually end the session retiring with one of the local watering holes to quench our thirst and feed our bellies, as well as relating our Miata stories .....



## **ANNUAL POLAR BEAR DRIVE / MEMBERSHIP MEETING SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 19th 9:00am**

The annual Polar Bear Run will be held on Saturday, February 18, 2017.

We will be meeting at the Shell Service Station at Chenal Parkway and Hwy 10 in West Little Rock. Participants will meet at the station at 8:30am, and be gassed and ready for departure at 9:00am.

Please bring your scarves, wool caps, heavy jackets and mufflers

for a jolly romp through the Pulaski, Perry, and Saline County countryside, TOP DOWN !

We will end up at one of Benton's fine dining establishments, La Hacienda, for brunch and a membership meeting. For those that would prefer to just attend the meeting, meet us at La Hacienda at 11:30am (17401 Interstate 30 So, Benton, AR 72015 (501) 776-9959).

### **DRIVING TOPDOWN IN THE NATURAL STATE**



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#### **Special Dates of Interest:**

• Tech Session	January 22
• Polar Bear	February 19
• Drive to Oaklawn	March 19
• Lunch at Mather Lodge	April 23
• Kentucky Bourbon Tour	May 19—22
• TSD Rallye	June 18
• Mount Magazine / Subiaco Tour	July 16

**DUES ARE DUE FOR 2022 !!**

It's that time again that dues are due for the coming year. At the Board Meeting last week end, a full calendar of events was scheduled for 2022; and payment of dues will help us to schedule, plan, and execute these events. Also, were discussed that at least the overnight trips may have tShirts for the participants.

We will again be having member name badges made for all paying members, and are planning to have them available for the May tour to Bardstown, Ky.

So membership will get you a club pin, the club window sticker, eMail distribution of the newsletter, and a nice name badge with lanyard so we'll know who everyone is !!

We are currently experiencing issues with our PayPal account, so dues will have to be paid directly at one of our events, or sent by check. The membership form is still available on the website.



At the Board meeting held in November, the Board discussed the membership situation and evaluating the continued minimum, membership involvement and volunteerism for Board positions or activities.

It was decided that for the current year a list of nominations for positions would be recommended, but that it needed to be understood that more members need to

be involved going forward, as the past Board members have served their terms, and others need to step up.

The following nominees were decided on, and at the membership meeting held during the December Holiday Party were presented to the Membership meeting for acceptance.

The nominees presented by the Board are:

- President.....JR Mills
  - Vice-President.....John White
  - Secretary.....Sherry Heiser
  - Treasurer.....Geri Wilde
  - Membership.....Geri Wilde
- The following appointments were made:
- Newsletter/Web.....Earl Wilde
  - Tour Director.....JR Mills

**CLUB LOGO ITEMS**

News from the keeper of the Club merchandise !

We have club sweatshirts available; these are gray, with white club logo. They are available for \$ 15.

We still have lots of pins and stickers left ! If you are a new member, hit me up at the next event you attend as they are free. If you're already a

member, you can still get extras at a nominal price.

Club car magnets are also available: 2 for \$20 ..... We've currently got plenty of sets available, so if you're interested, bring your money and hit up JR Mills at the next event you attend

Contact Earl at (501) 804-3939, or JR at (501) 416-7787



**DRIVE TO OAKLAWN / DAY AT THE RACES**

**9:30am**

**MARCH 19, 2022**

In March, we will be meeting on Saturday morning, March 19th at the Starbucks in Benton, on the I-30 service road just east of Alcoa Road.

After a morning drive, we will stop at the Oaklawn Park Race Track in Hot Springs for a afternoon of watching horse racing.

Lunch will be on each person's own at the Park !!

Reservations will need to make in advance if you are interested in Grand Stand seating indoors (\$5 in advance, and we'll reserve a block of seats for the Club. The Outdoor Apron Area does not require reservations and is free of charge—first come, first serve.

Hope to see the Arkansas Miata Club in the lights on the racetrack scoreboard during the afternoon ....



**MIATA HISTORY OF THE MONTH**

The original Mazda Miata had many fathers. Bob Hall, the journalist-turned-product-planner who originally pitched the idea to Mazda boss Kenichi Yamamoto; Tom Matano and Mark Jordan, who designed the first concepts at Mazda's California studio and laid out a detailed future for the

sports car; Toshihiko Hirai, the chief engineer, whom Hall credits as the true patriarch. There are others, including Shunji Tanaka, who turned the original concept into the production car we know and love. Per a Facebook post from a Japanese Miata club he was involved with, Tanaka-san died earli-

er this month, at the age of 75.

Born in 1945, there is unfortunately little information on Tanaka's early life and career on the English-language internet, but his contributions to the Miata are documented in [Brian Long's Mazda MX-5 Miata](#). While also working on what be-

came the sixth-generation 929 in mid 1986, Tanaka—by then a 15-year Mazda veteran—was given the task of refining the designs created by Mazda's California studio. "When I found out that he was going to be the chief designer for the project, I felt that we got the right guy to maintain the subtle nuances of the surfaces we created in California studio," Matano told *R&T* in an email.

**PRESIDENT'S NOTES**

2022. Hopefully a better year than the last two ! Your board has been hard at work planning events for this year as if it was going to be the best year ever. Elsewhere in this issue you'll find the complete calendar for this year, so I won't do a recap. Suffice to say, the return to Bardstown in May tops my list of fun stuff, along with the 20th Anniversary of Miatas at Hallett in September. If you've never been to a track event, perhaps now is the time to start planning.

I am looking forward to seeing each and every one of you at our events this year! Remember, we drive to eat and eat to drive!

JR Mills

**ADDITIONAL 2022 EVENTS**

- |                |                       |              |                         |
|----------------|-----------------------|--------------|-------------------------|
| August 20th    | Shortest Drive        | November 5th | Heber Springs Leaf Peek |
| September 17th | Memphis Ribs          | December 3rd | Holiday Party           |
| October 15th   | Tupelo Casino Weekend |              |                         |

## ***Business Tagline or Motto***

### **ARKANSAS MIATA CLUB**

**1 Juego Way  
Hot Springs Village, AR 71909**

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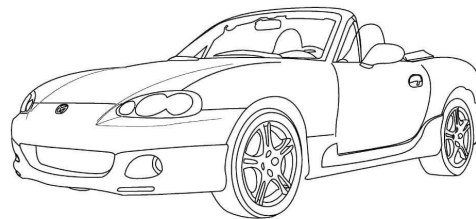
***We're on the Web !***  
***www.arkansasmiaataclub.com***

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***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@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, or use the online form with PayPal. 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. Dues are \$ 24.00 per year



#### **Board Members**

##### **President**

JR Mills  
[miata2003@yahoo.com](mailto:miata2003@yahoo.com)

##### **Vice President**

John White  
[john\\_h\\_white@comcast.net](mailto:john_h_white@comcast.net)

##### **Treasurer**

Geri Wilde  
[geriwilde@att.net](mailto:geriwilde@att.net)

##### **Secretary**

Sherry Heiser  
[sherrychildress@sbcglobal.net](mailto:sherrychildress@sbcglobal.net)

##### **Membership**

Geri Wilde  
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##### **Activities**

Ann Steinmeier  
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##### **Tour / Tech Director**

JR Mills  
[miata2003@yahoo.com](mailto:miata2003@yahoo.com)

##### **Newsletter Editor**

Earl Wilde  
[earl@earlwilde.com](mailto:earl@earlwilde.com)