



**Issue 16**

**August 2008**

## **From the Desk of the President...**

Hello Club,

Hopefully when you read this musing from the Prez, the picture, if there is a picture, will be an updated one. The picture Bunny had on the last news letter, not only had me with hair but it was brown hair. I also had a waist back then. My how time and gravity has taken it toll. I believe it's circa 1994.

Before I talk about the gap, I wanted to relate a story to you. After our last meeting, most everyone went to the Noisy Oyster on Rivers Avenue. After dinner, Phrona and I pulled out behind Warren and Jewell heading towards the Interstate. As we were working our way through the gears on Rivers Avenue, I commented to Phrona how good Warren's car sounded. It had a deep throaty sound to it, kinda loud but not offensive. It sounded really strong and powerful. I said to Phrona, I wonder what kind of system Warren has put on that thing and what those pipes must have cost him. As you know, it's a pretty good ways to the stop light on Rivers and Ashley Frustrate Road, so we just enjoyed the sound. To be honest with you, we wondered out loud, how it seemed just a little bit out of character for Warren and Jewell to have an exhaust system like that.

The light caught us and we couldn't keep from talking about Warren's car. As the light turned green, we all headed toward the Interstate. Once again, Warren's car sounded better and stronger than ever. Just as I was about to tell Phrona, I've got to get a set of those pipes, a 5.0 Red Mustang (that had been right in front of Warren and Jewell the whole time) roared off into the sunset. We just looked at each other and laughed out loud. But for a moment, Warren and Jewell were our Miata Heroes. They had the badest and best sounding Miata we had ever heard. Before I came back to reality, I was thinking, I bet those two go sky diving on a regular basis and don't tell the club about that either.

What a great time we had at the gap. Phrona was under the weather the first night. She kept commenting to me the next day on how nice it was for everyone to come up and check on how she was feeling. It really is nice to have a club that cares about each other. I think we really liked staying Fontana Dam. Phrona hasn't told me if we really really liked it yet, but she will. She has told me however, we are staying in the Lodge next year.

This is my third gap and I can tell you, this is the best yet. First we were able to run the Interstate at constant speeds to get to our destination. Secondly, staying at Fontana we were able to eat together and visit with each other more than before. I think that is great. I also think a Wii may be on our Christmas shopping list this year. Phrona now believes she has mastered the "squeeze and release" technique and is ready for next year's bowling challenge.

Once again, I must thank Bunny and Bob for all their hard work. The three bed room cottage where everyone ate, the planned trips and the reservations at Fat Buddies. All these things don't just happen without a lot of thought and planning.

For you new guys, the Fall Leaves A Fallin' Run is next. It is even better than the Gap, if you can believe that. It is a little cooler, the roads are different, the leaves are falling and the air is crisp. I am just constantly amazed at how lucky we are to be born in a Country has has so much liberty to go and do some of the things that I am afraid we so often take for granted. May God continue to Bless America.

Charlie Lybrand, Prez



# About the Club Newsletter

The Lowcountry Miata Club is a non-profit organization. The club was founded in 1991 and exists to actively promote the varied interests of Miata owners and enthusiasts in the spirit of fun, friendship and safety. This newsletter is the official publication of the Lowcountry Miata Club. Use of articles or stories by other Miata Clubs is hereby granted, provided the proper credit is given.

Submissions to the newsletter are welcomed and encouraged. The editor reserves the right to edit all submissions. E-mail your submissions to [miata@homesc.com](mailto:miata@homesc.com) or mail to:

Robert McElwee  
506 Willowlakes Dr.  
Moncks Corner, SC 29461

The club assumes no liability or responsibility; neither for injury or damage resulting from the use of this information contained herein; unless otherwise stated, none of the information bears the status of "Factory Approval". All ideas, opinions, maintenance or modification tips expressed are to be used solely at the reader's discretion.

## Club Leadership & Staff

**President:** Charlie Lybrand  
[clybrand@charlestoncounty.org](mailto:clybrand@charlestoncounty.org)

**Vice President:** Susan Sanders  
[susans619@aol.com](mailto:susans619@aol.com)

**Treasurer:** Beverlee Conklin  
[bevieconk@gmail.com](mailto:bevieconk@gmail.com)

**Secretary:** Nancy Holtzman  
[nholtz6524@aol.com](mailto:nholtz6524@aol.com)

**Membership:** Todd Davis  
[todd@miata.net](mailto:todd@miata.net)

**Webmaster:** Bob & Bunny McElwee  
[miata@homesc.com](mailto:miata@homesc.com)

**Newsletter:** Bob McElwee  
[miata@homesc.com](mailto:miata@homesc.com)

**Event Coordinator:** Bunny McElwee  
[miatamaniac@homesc.com](mailto:miatamaniac@homesc.com)

**Club Regalia:** Tari Wood (name tags, magnets, club pins)  
[krafty@sc.rr.com](mailto:krafty@sc.rr.com)

**Club Regalia:** Marsha Inabinett (Shirts)  
[jrinabinett@worldnet.att.net](mailto:jrinabinett@worldnet.att.net)

**Club Historian:** Bob McElwee  
[miata@homesc.com](mailto:miata@homesc.com)

**Cheer Person:** Mary Voss  
[mvooss@sc.rr.com](mailto:mvooss@sc.rr.com)

**Miata Luggage & Hat Chums:**  
Geri Causarano - [geri@geris-bazaar.com](mailto:geri@geris-bazaar.com)

## Club Sponsor

Stokes Mazda is our club sponsor. They provide us with a room to have our meetings in as well as a 10% parts discounts. All you have to do is show them your membership card!

**Thanks Stokes Mazda!**

**Stokes Mazda**

**3570 Ashley Phosphate Rd.**

**North Charleston, SC 29418**

**1-843-764-1600**

## Recommendation on Top Repair from Joe and Jennifer Mills

As some of you know, our car was broken into in a hotel parking lot in Savannah. The thieves got away with our radar detector and left a large rectangle cut in our top. The insurance adjuster suggested that we get a recommendation for someone known to work on convertibles. At Larry's suggestion, we got a quote which the insurance folks worked with from **Bendt Brothers** on Sam Rittenburg. The timing with the order and installation was just as they said. And we are very pleased with the quality of the installation. Beyond convertible tops, they also do interior work as well as boat canvas.

<http://www.bendtbrothers.com/>

---



### Evolution Phase I Autocross School by: Jennifer Mills

The last weekend in May, Joe and I headed to Savannah to participate in Saturday's Evolution Phase I class with a normal autocross on Sunday. When we arrived early Saturday morning, I was glad to see a couple of other women and several 2-driver cars. One of the 2-driver cars was a father-daughter from Florida and there were a couple of husband-wife drivers. There were 6 instructors all of whom have won several national autocross titles. I was one of 30 students. A couple of the students were like me having participated in only a couple of autocrosses. A couple of the students were the guys that generally turn in some of the best times at the autocross events I have attended locally. We were divided into 6 groups which allowed us plenty of one-on-one time with the instructors and time to learn the activities of the workers on an autocross course.

The first morning session was meant to see what we could do without instruction. We ran 3 runs without any instruction from anyone. Those were considered our base line. Next we had 3 runs with the instructor giving us direction primarily about driving form such as smooth turning and when to gas or break. The instructor then drove my car talking through what all he did as we went through the course. After a break and working another round, we had another opportunity to have the instructor ride with us giving verbal assistance. The instructors were wonderful with their positive praise and encouragement.

After lunch, the instructors drove us around in groups on the course in sedans teaching us about looking ahead and finding the key cones around the course. Thus, we discovered the focus for the afternoon and the key to autocross. We switched around instructors in the afternoon so you got a different perspective to help you become a better autocrosser. Again, we had several runs with the instructor, a couple with the instructor driving the car as I rode shotgun, and several on our own with them offering encouragement at the end of each run.

At the end of the day, there was a list of lessons that Joe and I learned. They are now on a piece of paper in our glove box. For me, the first lesson was don't coast - either be on the gas or the break the entire time. Also, I was doing certain elements correctly (slalom & "Chicago Box") which were not the same as what Joe was doing well on - so we do drive differently! I was pleased with my progress during the school. The problem was going to be execution of all Saturday's lessons learned at Sunday's autocross. I've now had good instruction - now to figure out how to make it all work from brain to eyes, hands, and feet. Much easier said than done.

# Miatas Doin' the Charleston II

## Doin' it Again in 2010!

### April 29th & 30th and May 1st & 2nd

That's right! We're doing it again and we need your help. In the coming months we will be looking to the members for help on various activities to make our second Regional Event even better than the first one. We've also listened to all the suggestions from both the members and the attendees and we are going to do our very best to fix any and all issues that may have come up during the event. Those of you who participated in the first event saw just how much we need your help, so please be sure to step up to the plate when we start putting together jobs and volunteer lists. Some things the committee has already done - secure the hotel (Embassy Suites), secure a larger hall for the Beach Party (Omar Shrine Temple), start budget planning, in talks with the photographer about some different shots and places for the group photo, secured the Dinner Cruise boat, and begun work on a new logo for the event. While there is lots of time between now and the actual event, we all learned from our first one that there's NEVER enough time so planning moves ahead and the committee will do it's best to keep the members in the loop and let them know what's going on and ask for ideas and suggestions along the way.

Speaking of logo, some of the ideas we have are two miatas shagging on the beach, a large scale Ravenel Bridge with Miatas crossing over into a small Charleston cityscape and finally, two Miatas dressed as flappers doing the Charleston. If you would like to make a suggestion for a logo or present us with a drawing, please do so by the September meeting (Sept. 4th). The committee will then choose a logo and have it designed. You can send drawings or ideas to [miatamaniac@homesc.com](mailto:miatamaniac@homesc.com) and I will pass them on to the committee.

Below you will find a list of the charities that our group donated to with the proceeds leftover from the Miatas Doin' the Charleston event. A lot of good was done by our club and we should all be very proud!

Charleston Animal Society - \$500 - received two nice Thank You letters  
Ovarian Cancer in honor of Kitty Pardee - \$1000 - received nice Thank You  
Ronald McDonald House - \$500 - received a nice Thank You  
Dee Norton Lowcountry Children's Center - \$500 - received a nice Thank You  
Hospice of Charleston in memory of Sal Causarano - \$1000  
My Stuff Bags Foundation - \$500 - received a personal phone call to Thank us

American Red Cross - \$500 - received Thank You  
Water Missions - \$500 - received a nice Thank You  
Lowcountry Food Bank - \$500

---

## Leaves A Fallin' Run in NC

### October 9th-12th, 2008

This year, we will be hosted by Harry & Kitty Pardee for our mountain run called the Leaves A Fallin' Run. This event will be for our club only and the Pardees have assured me that this will be an unforgettable weekend! The RidgeRunners have decided not to host us this year because the event has gotten so large over the years that they feel it is not safe and it is increasingly harder to find restaurants to feed 100 people - we respect their decision and the Pardees are kind enough to host us for the weekend so we can still enjoy the area and the color. There will be awesome roads, beautiful scenery and of course, falling leaves, color and COOLER weather! We have secured rooms at the Comfort Inn in Maggie Valley and if you are interested in going on this weekend excursion, please contact Bunny and she will give you a confirmation number and the hotel number that you'll need to reserve from our block of rooms (at a reduced rate). We have 13 2-queen bedrooms and 2 1-King bedrooms and they all come with fridges, coffee makers, microwaves, hair dryers and cable TV. All of the rooms are on one floor, except for one of the King bedrooms. They provide a deluxe continental breakfast, indoor pool and hot tub and free high speed wireless internet. We've posted this run on the club's website and as we get more details on the runs, leave time and breakfast/lunch/dinner plans we'll post them there. I hope we'll have a big group like last year and keep your eyes posted on your e-mails and the website for more information!

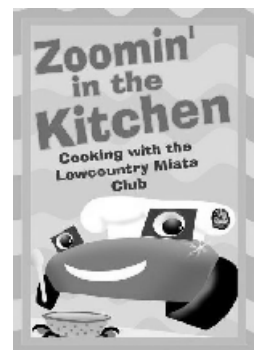
---

## Zoomin' in the Kitchen - Cooking with the Lowcountry Miata Club

### COOKBOOKS ARE NOW ON SALE!

The cookbooks are now being sold at club meetings and events. They turned out great due to all the participation from the club members and I think we turned out quite a cookbook. Lots of them were sold at Miatas Doin' the Charleston and the feedback we've gotten from the attendees who bought them has been wonderful. They have enjoyed the pictures of our members and the recipes they have tried. Some of us were even tracked down by people who wanted us to sign the recipes that we submitted.

Contact Bunny if you are interested in buying one of the cookbooks. The price is \$15 each and they make great gifts!



# July North Charleston Autocross

## by: Joe Mills

On July 13, 2008, the South Carolina Region of the SCCA held an autocross at the North Charleston Coliseum. 147 participants were in attendance with a wide variety of makes represented with all levels of modifications. There were even two go-carts running, but unfortunately, one of them blew a motor in the slalom right off the starting line. Other Low Country Miata Club members in attendance included Marty Bull and Don Reed. Jennifer and Don's wife Judy were our fans. The course we ran was very similar to the course that we ran back in March, except it was reversed. Since the March autocross, fortunately the South Carolina Region SCCA was able to convince the Coliseum to remove several islands in the lot. While the island removal made some spots bumpy, there were a lot less curbs to worry about.

This was my first autocross after I installed the Flyin' Miata intake on the Mazdaspeed. The car is faster, but unfortunately, I am now in a class with faster cars. I immediately noticed the extra power when I gave the car full throttle in the car's sweet spot coming out of the first right hand turn and nearly spun the car. At least I saved it and went on to finish with a respectable time. My second run was a second faster than the first. The third run was a little slower, but my forth and final official run was another second faster than my fastest time.

Trophies were presented, but unfortunately, I did not come home with any hardware. I was competing against 3 other cars in my class: a Corvette, a 350Z, and a twin turbo Mitsubishi 3000GT. Unfortunately, I finished 4<sup>th</sup> in my class, but I was only 0.6 of a second from first place! If these guys are regulars, we could have quite a battle in the months to come.

The day finished with fun runs. Fun runs are unofficial timed runs after the event where you can practice and gain valuable seat time. We usually get a couple fun runs, but for some reason most of the people in my run group left when it was time for them to drive. As a result, I was able to do about 10 fun runs!

The following link is to a YouTube video of the almost spin:  
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SF-braxECJg>

The following is a link to a YouTube video of my fastest run:  
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V4f9NBEp-18>



**Note the guy running to pick up cones I had knocked down!**

---

Don't forget there is still time to register for the big 20th Anniversary trip to Dallas, TX to celebrate 20 years of the Miata. This will be a once in a decade trip and should be a lot of fun. For more information on the event, registration, hotels and the details of the weekends activities, visit **[www.miataworldii.com](http://www.miataworldii.com)**.



Mazda MX-5 *MiataWorld II*  
May 22-25, 2009

---

### Club Distribution List

If you would like to e-mail ALL club members at one time, you can send an e-mail to **[lmcmembers@yahoo.com](mailto:lmcmembers@yahoo.com)**.

This makes it easier for members to stay in touch with each other and to list items for sale, announce impromptu or upcoming events or other Miata related activities. Please use this group for Miata Club related information, not to forward jokes, political views or other things that not everyone in the club may want to see. Remember, everyone is different, and so are our views. That's what makes this club (and world) so great! If you have any question, feel free to contact Bunny for help.



### Got an item you want to sell?

Send an e-mail message to [miata@homesc.com](mailto:miata@homesc.com) and give the details of your item, including price, item description, condition, and contact information and we'll post it for sale in the next Newsletter.

# Bit's & Pieces

For Sale: Car Cover for a M2 (1999-2005) Miata. In mint condition. Used on a 2005 Miata for 1 year parked under a car port. Not sure what brand or if it is waterproof or not. Call Bunny for more information at 843-761-4567. Price is \$50.

For Sale : Cold Air Intake ordered for my 97 Miata. May fit other earlier models. Still in original box . Make Offer. Call Allen Miles @ 843-795-3980 or 843-452-4460.

For Sale: From a 1995 Miata M Edition: Special Edition in-dash sound system- one piece (original equipment) radio, cassette player, and CD player with anti-theft code. CD skips. Used. Make Offer.

From Sebring Superchargers; Mazda Miata Boost Control, by MSD, P/N 86621, used. \$30.

Supercharger pulley and bracket kit 2001 vintage, used. Make Offer.

Contact Stacy Hull at [shull4@bellsouth.net](mailto:shull4@bellsouth.net)

---

## Welcome New Members!

We'd like to welcome the following new members to the club. Hopefully we'll see some new faces at our upcoming meetings and events!

**Daniel & Donna Jones - They drive a 1994 Brilliant Black Miata**

**Dan & Cherrie Sneed - They drive a 2008 Marble White Miata**

**Jim & Janice Guest - They drive a 1995 Classic Red Miata**

**Don Prigdon - He drives a 1990 Classic Red Miata**

**Anthony & Debbie Mosny - They Drive a 2003 Classic Red Miata**

---

## July & August Babies!

**Donna Jones - July 1st**

**Susan Golanski - July 7th**

**Ron Glazier - July 8th**

**Larry Alster - July 10th**

**Harry Pardee - July 11th**

**Eddie Lucas - July 21st**

**John DuBose - July 24th**

**Mickey Tucker - July 27th**

**Ernie Voss - July 28th**

**Denise Butler - July 29th**

**Hugh Kight - July 30th**

**Geri Causarano - August 2nd**

**Mike Grenier - August 2nd**

**Todd Davis - August 5th**

**Deanna Hoops - August 6th**

**Charlie Miller - August 9th**

**Annie Hoff - August 13th**

**Charlie Lybrand - August 13th**

**Rhoda Jones - August 14th**

**Bunny McElwee - August 26th**

**Frank DeFelice - August 28th**

**Bob Compton - August 29th**



We hope you all have a very Happy Birthday!

# Upcoming Events

## August

**Saturday 23rd – 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Car, Truck & Bike Show – Wal-Mart, Goose Creek – 10am – 3pm** - This Car Show will benefit the Children's Miracle Network and Wal-Mart has given us our own Miata Class. We'll have the canopies out to have a shady place to go from the heat as well. I hope everyone will bring their cars out to support a good cause and maybe we'll even win the Club Participation award. I was told that it went to the Mustang club last year with \* 8 \* cars! Surely we can beat that! Remember, you don't have to have a hot rod or a completely altered car to bring your car out to the show. Even bone stock cars have been known to win big at car shows! She just needs to be cleaned up and have all your Club Gear on that you own to show your support. It's about the kids and all the money goes to them. There will be a 50/50 drawing, door prizes and concessions available. The cost to enter the show is \$15 the day of the show and again, all proceeds go to the Children's Miracle Network. We'll meet at the Publix at 208 St. James Ave./Hwy. 176 in Goose Creek, just a few blocks away from the big intersection at Hwy. 52/Redbank Rd. and before you get to Crowfield Blvd. at 9:30am to drive in together to the show. It always makes a bigger statement when we drive over together. I hope you will all come out and join us for the afternoon for a great cause!

## September

**Thursday 4th, 6:30pm - Monthly Meeting – Stokes Mazda on Ashley Phosphate Rd.** – Stokes has offered us a room for our meeting, but they don't have furniture in it yet. We will be having our meeting here, but you will need to bring a chair. Some of us will bring extras if we have them for those of you who forget or don't have a chair to bring. RSVP to Bunny so we know how many for dinner and how many for the meeting. Dinner TBA.

**Saturday 6th – Florence AutoCross – Florence Civic Center** - [www.scr-scca.com](http://www.scr-scca.com) for more information and to sign up.

**Saturday 27th – Fall Tech Day – Hosted by: Bob & Bunny McElwee** - Tech Day will be held at the McElwee's house. (Directions online) For information on jobs we can do and parts you may need to complete them, check the Garage on our website. The club will be providing the main entrée, sodas and paper goods. Bring your favorite side dish (some ideas are potato salad or other salads, desserts, chips etc.). Contact Bunny and let her know what you are bringing. Please RSVP by September 26th and be sure to include what you are bringing and any projects you may want to work on. We'll have coffee and doughnuts for the early birds, so come as early as you want! We'll be doing odd jobs on our beloved Miatas in preparation for the driving season. If you have a light project you need done, no shocks or engine rebuilds ;), let us know and we'll see if we can do it! Be sure to arrive early if you need work done. The event's Mechanics will decide in what order the jobs go in, so if your name is called and you aren't there, you'll have to go to the end of the list! Not all jobs can be done at Tech Day in order to make time for everyone. The event's Mechanics will decide if a job is done or not. We have plenty of room and plenty of tools. If you don't need anything done, come on out and have a chat with some of our other members. And don't forget about the 50/50 raffle! Tech Day's are always some of our best events! A list of RSVP's and jobs being done can be found online.

## October

**Thursday 2nd, 6:30pm - Monthly Meeting – Stokes Mazda on Ashley Phosphate Rd.** – Stokes has offered us a room for our meeting, but they don't have furniture in it yet. We will be having our meeting here, but you will need to bring a chair. Some of us will bring extras if we have them for those of you who forget or don't have a chair to bring. RSVP to Bunny so we know how many for dinner and how many for the meeting. **Dinner TBA.**

**Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> – Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> – Leaves A Fallin' Run In NC – Hosted by Harry & Kitty Pardee** – This run will be taking the place of our normal OctoberFest run that we have done each year. The Pardee's will be hosting us for the weekend and taking us through some of the most beautiful areas in NC for the weekend. It's a nice weekend with cooler temperatures, great roads and beautiful leaves and scenery. We currently have 15 rooms available at the Comfort Inn in Maggie Valley. To reserve one of these rooms, please contact Bunny for more information. She will provide you with confirmation # and a phone number to contact in order to get one of these rooms for the weekend. More details of runs, food and a list of people going to come as we get closer to the date.

## Calling all members!

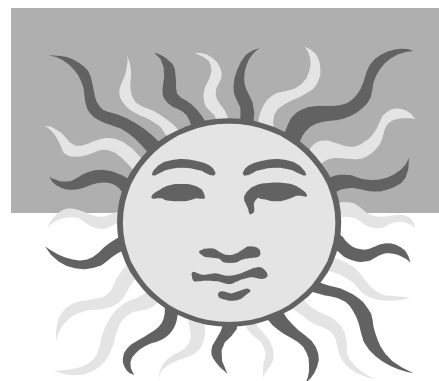
Looking for something fun to do? Been out driving and found a great road or restaurant? Well, how about making it a club run? It's a lot of fun and we are always looking for new fun and exciting things to do as a club. Over the years, we've done a lot of events. Sure, we have our regulars like Tech Day, Picnics, Deals Gap and others, but we also include new ideas each year. In 2005 we did our first Pumpkin Carving event. Even though many thought it might be a silly idea, it turned out to be a really great event and everyone had a really good time. In 2003 we did a run to a Fish Hatchery. While some thought no one would go, several cars showed up, had a great drive, learned about how they stock Bass in ponds and lakes and saw how they grow from eggs to full size fish. It was a great event. During the summer months, late evening or night drives are an option. A dinner run or a run with a stop by an ice cream shop are some ideas for night runs. As you can see, if it's got a little driving, a little food, and a little fun - You've got yourself an event! We have a lot of open weekends coming up and we would love to see some new "blood" come forward to run an event of their own. You'd be surprised what we will do! If you are not sure of how to run an event, contact Bunny and she can help and offer advice. She's well versed in the art of planning great events. Now it's your turn to plan some great events and see how rewarding it can be!

Lowcountry Miata Club  
506 Willowlakes Dr.  
Moncks Corner, SC 29461  
[www.lowcountrymiataclub.net](http://www.lowcountrymiataclub.net)



## We're Looking for Writers!

Do you have a story about a new road or restaurant you found while driving one day? How about a funny story about something that happened in your Miata? Or maybe a story about how an addition to your Miata made the car better or worse? Everyone in the club has a lot of stories. I know because we've all gathered many times and told a story or two. So, how about helping out the newsletter and making it more interesting to the other members by sharing with everyone? It doesn't have to be a long story. Just a paragraph can make an interesting article in the newsletter for others to enjoy. We're also looking for people to write articles on past events, such as the The Annual Club Picnic, Deal's Gap or Tech Days. Maybe you attended a great event and you want all those people who didn't get a chance to come to know how much fun you had and what they missed. It's the ultimate compliment to the host of the event as well. In the coming months we'll be coming to you, the members, for help on writing information for the newsletter. The newsletter is a great place for information and can increase participation in events as well as participation in all club activities. We all know how much that helps. So I hope some of you who have those great stories will step up and help us out and make the newsletter as fun to read as it is for us to write!



*Be careful  
out there,  
it's H O T!*