

MiataFun News



Miata Fun

January 2005

Vol. 3, No.1

Sequoia/Kings Canyon National Park Run

Dates: Friday, April 22 – Sunday, April 24

Place: The River Inn

45176 Sierra Drive

Three Rivers 800-793-7309 <http://www.the-riverinn.com/>

Host: Bill Bryant **SOCALM** 909-598-7035 (w) 909-437-7492 (c) bbryant@tvrc.com

Please RSVP by April 4. Everyone is responsible for his/her own hotel reservation.

Description: Everybody will make it to the Inn on his or her own Friday Afternoon/Evening. We will begin the run at 9:00 Am on Saturday from the Inn. After a morning of driving on some twisties outside the parks we will enter the North entrance and head to Cedar Grove for lunch. After lunch we will travel some of the back roads in the parks, with a couple of stops for sightseeing opportunities. Eventually we will make our way back to the Inn where we will rest up for dinner. Dinner will be at a local steakhouse in Three Rivers. On Sunday Morning we will return to the park for some more sightseeing.

The River Inn Guest Rooms are warm and inviting, decorated in the botanical colors of the area, with artwork depicting scenes of the river and mountains. Relax outside your room at your own bistro table with a breathtaking view of the foothill peaks rising to meet the great Sierra Nevada Divide and the boundaries of Sequoia National Park. All rooms at the Inn include a "BREAKFAST IN A BAG" delivered to your doorstep each morning. Watch the sunset and the stars come out in the warm twilight air. Barbeque your dinner while you enjoy the view from our shady park area. I have blocked the whole Inn for SOCALM that weekend, but will have to release any unreserved rooms by April 1, so get your reservation in early.

The cost of rooms will be **\$99.00** per night. (below their AAA rate) At present all 10 rooms are blocked under SOCALM and the Group Code # is: 04058P.

The Rooms are being held until April 4 at which time they will be released for general bookings.

There are also 4 riverside cabins available, but not blocked Call Laura at 1-800 793-7309 or 1-559-561-4367 to make reservations.

For more information go to:

<http://www.the-riverinn.com/>

As with all Miata Runs this is one you will not want to miss. Driving through the Sierras in your Miata is an exhilarating experience to share with a line of your fellow Miata Drivers.

New MiataFun Members

Joe and Fran Schmidt # 69
1995 Merlot
Arkansas

Ted and Paulette Bruns # 70
2003 Sunlight Silver Metallic
California

Eddie Brau # 71
1991 British Racing Green SE
Georgia



Have you placed your order for your MiataFun name badge? You can order direct from the badge maker right from MiataFun's web site. They are only \$5.00 pin style and \$6.00 with Magnetic holder. (saves holes in shirts!). You get three lines. You can put your name, Member #, Car name, Year and model, such as the example on the left. Buy it now, so when you go club shopping they will know your name and you will feel like one of the family.

[\(Order Info\)](#)



In This Issue

1 Cover story

- April Trip
- New members
- Name Badges

2 MiataFun Run

- Calif-Oregon Trip
- 10 Day Adventure
- Multiple Clubs

3 Death Valley Run

- With the SAHUARO Miata Club, SDMC, SOCALM, and SJVMC

4 Radiator tips

- The Radiator

Newsletter Editor



Tom Wood

MiataFun News

You keep us informed and we will keep you informed. Send your runs and events information to have put on our site and in our newsletter. This year we are going to let you know of as many runs and events as possible and you can find them here. Also if you have pictures or stories about your runs please submit them to miatafun@miatafun.net and we will post them for other clubs to see.

MiataFun Club

As you know we started the MiataFun Club so people that buy a new Miata, and are thinking about joining a club could do so for free. They can then get a name badge for just \$5-6.00 in a few days to put their name on so when they find a club to join they will have a badge so people could learn who they are. Then they can wait while the Miata club they join has their badge made. It is also a way to say "I belong to two clubs" with out the added expense every year. We have had a lot of people come to events wearing the MiataFun Badge and join up after taking a run or going to a social. Now they can belong to a club and start receiving the benefits ,discounts, email, newsletters Etc.

MiataFun Multi-Club Run

Yes it is back for it's third event. We had seven clubs join up with us at different times in 2003. Anyone can join us for any part of the run. And for as long as they would like. Each year we get more cars joining us for the full 10 Days! You will see more about this in the upcoming months so stay tuned to the <http://MiataFun.net> web site for updated information.

CALIFORNIA OREGON RUN

Our third trip to Oregon happens this year.

Starts Labor day weekend (3 Days), you will need five vacation days, And the next weekend. Some times we extend it another day (Monday) For a more leisurely trip home and some more exploring.

Description: Mark your calendars, put in for vacation and get ready for 10 days of driving some of the most beautiful roads in California and Oregon.

As we have in the past, we will spend the first 4 days driving north along the western side of the Sierra Nevada Mountains. We will visit 5 National Parks – Sequoia, Kings Canyon, Yosemite, Lassen Volcanic and Crater Lake. We will then spend 5 days exploring central Oregon and Northern California, before we have to head home. In Oregon, the Willamette Miata Club, of Eugene, will host us as they share their favorite roads. Then, our second weekend will be spent with the Redwood Coast Miata Club for their Annual Cool Weekend at the Coast.

Our first trip the California Oregon "Gold Rush Run" was quite a success. Due to all the planning involved we decided to do it every other year.

Our second trip the California-Oregon "National Parks Run" was even better. We had lots of other clubs join in (7) and partake on some of our adventure. We had a brand new club the "Willamette Club" join us and they showed us some of their best roads. We had dinners and lots of socializing along the way.

Our third trip coming up the California-Oregon Run "**From the Mountains to the Sea**" Will be even more enjoyable with more time to explore and see the sites.

Let us know if you are interested in joining us for this memorable trip and keep a watch for more information.

Stay tuned for more information in the coming months.



The Death valley trip of 2004



Friday:

Here the SOCALM group meets up to head out to Death Valley to join up with the SAHUARO Miata Club.

Upon early arrival everyone from the SOCALM group stopped by the museum and park rangers to pick up their passes for the death valley park. Most got passes for the whole year to be able to visit many parks during the next year. Some are already planning for the California-Oregon Run coming up in May of next year.



That evening we all got together with the San Diego and SAHUARO group for dinner.

Some people had already arrived earlier in the day and joined us.



The rooms were nice and warm as it did get down to the 50-60 degree Temperatures in the evenings. But was a nice 72 Degree average during the days.

Saturday:



Here some of the early risers left early to go to Scotties Castle for the first tour of the day.

A photo Op! The mountains look like Ice-cream!



We were joined by the SAHUARO Miata Club and filled the parking lot with Miata's. Everyone had different ideas on where to go from here so we had Miata's going in every direction in Death Valley.

We decided to go to Beatty for gas (Arizona cheaper). After getting a splash at the gas station in the park we were off. Tom had if figured out mileage wise he would have enough to make it. When we gassed up at Beatty Tom put in 12.8 Gallons! Not bad for a tank that holds 12.7???



We headed back to the ranch, the wind was picking up and it was getting really cold. We had to get ready for dinner too. We arrived and were going to take a few pictures of the ranch when the wind started

blowing sand so this is the only picture we were able to take!

Sunday:

Well it's time to head home, so we planned on going to Badwater Basin. The lowest point in the continental USA. It was cool about 68-70.

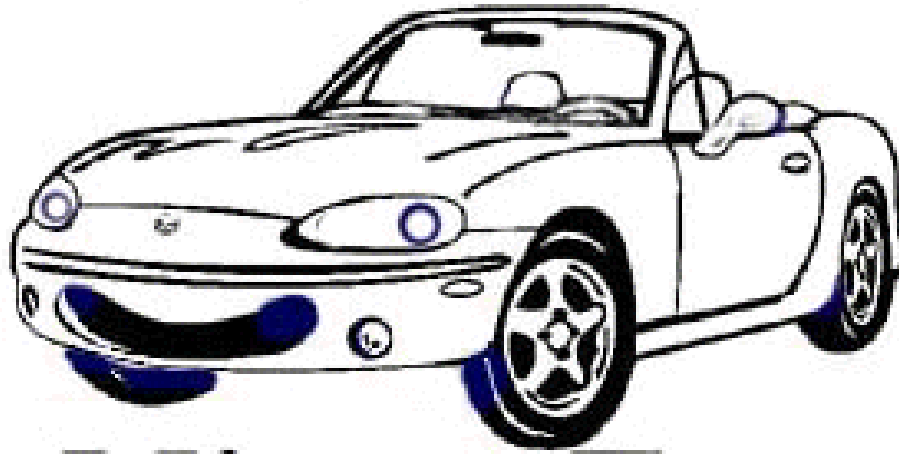


Everyone in our small three car group took pictures to prove we were there. Little did we know that if we did not hurry we would get



caught in a snow storm that was closing down the freeways between us and home! But as a few had reported the snow

was only two feet deep and the freeways were open. Well hope you plan on joining us next year.



Miata Fun

The Radiator

Have you ever thought about what the most important part of your Miata is? There are a lot of important parts but one of the most is the RADIATOR. And probably the most neglected by the average driver. The radiator provides many important tasks in your car.

Well it keeps you warm on cold days by providing you heat for your heater. And it provides cooling for your engine of course. And it provides information to the ECU in your computer to maintain your smog emissions information.

Now what have you done for your radiator lately? Probably checked to see if the level is up right?

Okay, here is a tip or two for you to have a healthy radiator and a happy Miata.

First lets check that radiator cap. Take it off and see if the gasket is still in good condition. If you have a gas station or parts store that has a cap checker take it in and have them check it to make sure it holds the correct pressure. This is important as the pressure reduces the temperature at which the water boils in the radiator and could lead to over heating. Not an expensive item I suggest getting a new one every three or four years.

Now, when was the last time you changed the anti-freeze? Most anti-freeze last about 2 Years, you mean it wears out? Yes with the heat in the radiator and the engine it causes a chemical breakdown especially in today's alloy engines. It actually turns a bit caustic and will eat away at the "Water pumps" fins that pump the water threw the engine. This is caused by cavitations in the old fluid because of air and poor water quality. Make sure that you follow the instructions on the anti-freeze bottle when you add it and mix it correctly. Also dispose of the old fluid properly since it is a Bio-Hazard!

Okay we checked the cap and the fluid. Do not forget to check your hoses for cracks or swelling. When your car reaches its 10th birthday it's a nice present to give to your car a nice set of hoses, this is up to the individual.

Yes we are still talking about the radiator, now how clean is your radiator? Have you driven in the rain, gone down dusty roads, picked up small rocks in the fins? These are just a few of the things that can plug a radiator and cause you over heating problems. One thing to do as you see the need, is to wash out the radiator. You can buy all kinds of cleaners for the engine and wheels but what about the radiator. Well there's always soap and water or just plain water. The secret is to remove the two fans from the engine compartment to make this task easier. Just four ten MM bolts and set them up out of the way. Now take your cleaning solution and really soak down the radiator. Let it set for a few minuets. Now wash the radiator with a high pressure stream from your garden hose from the engine compartment to the front of the car. Soap it down again, this time take a large piece of cardboard or something to cover the space between the engine and radiator and run the water the other direction, use regular hose pressure for this, you just want to move the dirt away not drive it into the radiator. When done soap down again and go from the engine compartment out the front of the car. Make sure that the water runs clear and you get all the cleaner off the radiator fins.

I personally like to do this when I change the anti-freeze, I take the radiator out completely, run water threw the radiator, (Kind of hard to run it threw the engine). Then I have little tools to remove the rocks and bugs from the fins then I straighten out the fins to let the air pass threw. **WARNING** if you do this be extremely careful not to puncture the water chambers. Radiators can cost from \$200.00 up to \$400.00+ to replace. A good washing should be enough for the average everyday driver. I hope that this information was helpful. So lets not forget about our up front friend the RADIATOR.

By: Tom Wood