



Vermont Miata Club



Hello All – hope this newsletter finds you well and that the “Miata” offseason was an enjoyable one. Donna and I joined the group late Summer last year and really enjoyed meeting all the other Miata Enthusiasts and participating in the Wednesday night ride and dine events. Although we had conflicts that didn’t allow us to participate in Operation Bullwinkle VI, we fell in line with the caravan of Miatas and journeyed with them as far as Lancaster NH before making our way back home. Below is the group at the stop in Danville



After the Miata’s were put away, the club didn’t rest awaiting for the next season. Huge thanks to Pat and Jeanne Kennedy for hosting the Holiday Pot Luck and Yankee exchange – it was good to see our Miata family around the Holidays, enjoying stories, eating, drinking and laughing.

After the Holiday season, a smaller group again gathered at the home of Pat and Jeanne to discuss the future of The Vermont Miata club. Tom, Marianne, Ed, Jane, Dan & Donna Gaffney have all been the glue behind the club, taking care of the paperwork, coordinating events,

manning the MeetUp site and all the other logistics that go along with a club like this. After many years of spearheading VMC, some members expressed interest in taking a lessor role and enjoying the club from the “Pilot Seat” perspective. Just coming into the group, I was happy to learn that it wasn’t a discussion on how to dissolve The VT Miata Club.

It appears that a lot of the concern was in administering our MeetUp site and not having control or support to enhance it or get at our information. Dan Gaffney researched an alternate solution of obtaining and hosting our own website, but wasn’t sure what was involved. He and Donna Rouleau volunteered to jointly tackle the creation of a website and see if it would benefit us. After countless hours in front of their computers (sometimes frustrating ones) and corresponding via phone and email they have delivered and transitioned our domain of VermontMiataClub.com from MeetUp to our own site hosted by Powershift in Stowe. With a friend of Tom’s (and former Miata Club member) “owning” our domain, they were able to get it released and purchased under the name of the VMC.

While still a work in progress, our new website is operational and has been designed to include functionality that was within MeetUp and desired by the organizers. Since going online, Dan has been dabbling with various features, such as photo albums to add value to the site. Currently Dan and Donna R are the administrators of the site.



Vermont Miata Club



With the new site, joining the club and/or renewing for the year remains simple, and now offers an online mechanism to pay. Yearly membership remains at \$25 /year, and is due in April. Recall that you are registering your Miata, so the \$25 covers the Pilot and Co-Pilot. VMC Name tags are available for purchase on the application form and would be a one-time fee. The Application can be filled in online or mailed to Dan (it's attached here for ease if you desire the mailing option). To access the members only section of the website you will need to establish credentials. Click on Join Us, provide a User Name and Password you desire and submit it. You will receive a confirming email from WordPress showing that it has been received. Dan or Donna will then approve it and you will get a notification accordingly.

WordPress Your registration has been received

From: WordPress <vtmiataclub@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 10, 2018 3:17 PM
Subject: Account Activated!

In addition to veering away from the MeetUp application, the group discussed various outings for the 2018 touring season. The weekly Wednesday night Ride and Dine will continue starting at the back parking lot of Staples in So. Burlington. Plan to arrive for 5:45, get a head count, arrange a destination and depart at 6:00. These rides normally meander around back roads and end at a restaurant, creamy stand etc.. based on the group's desire.

Dan Gaffney has put together a great itinerary for a Nova Scotia week long get away, and is

working on a day trip to Magog Canada to visit a lavender farm in July. Tom is back with an overnight stay in Rangeley, Maine for Operation Bullwinkle VII. We talked about other various day trips to explore areas of southern VT that Pat and Jeanne are working on. This is where help is desired from other members to introduce the group to your favorite roads, destination restaurant, scenic lookouts etc.. Even if you don't want to "lead" the pack, we can work with your suggestions and make it happen. Maybe a restaurant or creamy stand isn't your thing, and you'd like to see a BBQ cookout at a specific destination – let us know.

Another area where we are looking for help is to get more members equipped with CB Radios. During rides, we like to have the lead and sweep positions in communication and cars somewhere in the middle to help keep the pack together. Cobra 75 is the recommended compact unit and we operate on CB Channel 5 or 27.015 on a NASCAR type scanner.

As we continue to develop the website, an area that we are looking to establish is a sponsorship page. Although our overhead isn't unbearable, we are looking to help defray expenses while providing a way to work with local businesses that share our love for the little roadsters. If you know of any businesses that might be interested have them reach out via the contact us or email DRouleau23@Gmail.Com

Here's to getting the cars out of storage and back onto the roads. We hope that you will help us spread the word about VMC and introduce other Miata owners to whom we are!