

# INSIDE PACE

FOR PACE MIATA CLUB MEMBERS ONLY\*

WHAT THE WORLD NEEDS NOW IS LOVE...



# Sweet Love. It's the only thing that there's

## just too little of... except for Miata lovers!

It's no denying that our Club demographic is overwhelmingly upper-end baby boomers. However, we highly doubt that even the youngest of our members would not recognize the classic sixties tune, *"What the World Needs Now..."* by Jackie DeShannon.

So, how appropriate that we mention our love for the Mazda Miata. Although the sixties seem so far in the past, it's also hard to believe our beloved Miata has been in production for more than thirty years (2019).

Most Miata owners, like many in our Club, treasure their vehicles and care for them like their own children. Some have owned only one, some, a short list of models beginning in 1989. Some use them as daily drivers, some of their cars see only the light of day on the most beautiful of days.

Whichever category you fit in to, know that you are the heartbeat of PACE Miata Club. For that reason PACE has continued to grow and thrive as years pass. The fun and excitement we experience at the various drives, luncheons, and holiday events just keep on coming.

Sandy and I would also like to mention in this Valentine issue that long-time members Luann Snyder and Jeff Elligson have officially tied the knot. They will hopefully remain members for years to come. When you see them at the next event please be sure to congratulate them. In the meantime, enjoy your Valentine's Day and take someone you love out for dinner! **O**

Happy Valentine's Day, **Sandy and Joe**

### Lyrics

#### **What the world needs now is love, sweet love**

It's the only thing that there's just too little of  
What the world needs now is love, sweet love  
No, not just for some, but for everyone

#### **Lord, we don't need another mountain**

There are mountains and hillsides enough to climb  
There are oceans and rivers enough to cross  
Enough to last 'til the end of time

#### **What the world needs now is love, sweet love**

It's the only thing that there's just too little of  
What the world needs now is love, sweet love  
No, not just for some, but for everyone

#### **Lord, we don't need another meadow**

There are cornfields and wheatfields enough to grow  
There are sunbeams and moonbeams enough to shine  
Oh listen, Lord, if you want to know

#### **What the world needs now is love, sweet love**

It's the only thing that there's just too little of  
What the world needs now is love, sweet love  
No, not just for some, oh, but just for every, every, everyone.

Songwriters: David Hal / Bacharach Burt F

# MY LOVE FOR A LITTLE RED MIATA

**A HUSBAND'S AFFECTION FOR SPORTS CARS BECAME PART OF THIS COUPLE'S LOVE (FROM NEXT AVENUE MAGAZINE, LOUISVILLE, KY)**

*In honor of Valentine's Day, insidePACE presents this story she wrote about her late husband George and their mutual love for cars.)*



Our little red car was purchased on a Sunday afternoon in 2002 in Bristol, VA. George and I were out for an afternoon drive. Looking at new cars was always a favorite pastime for him. He read *Car and Driver* and *Consumer Reports*; a car buff, he knew cars and their history. I usually went along for the ride, but I did have opinions. When we were living in Massanutten, VA, I told him if we were to get another sports car, I would like a Miata. In the late 1960s, we had a British Racing Green Sunbeam Tiger roadster with a V-8 engine. We had difficulty driving the roadster as it was hard to downshift and push the clutch in at the same time. We sold it when we were expecting our first child.

On that Sunday in 2002, we were in our "just looking" mode. And at a dealership, there sat a shining new red Mazda Miata. We parked and walked up to the car and began to look it over. A salesman came out immediately to "sell us on the merits of the car." It was an automatic, 5-speed, with a black top and black interior. We said we were thinking about buying a Miata in the future, but wanted a 6-speed, manual transmission. *(cont'd)*



The salesman immediately perked up. "We have a new 2002 on the back lot. It is being cleaned and serviced," he said. "A young man bought it, but he did not like it and wanted to trade it for a truck. If you will follow me, I will bring it out."

Hook, line and sinker, we bit, and with encouragement from me, the car was ours. I followed "it" home. Yes; that's right: with the top down, George drove off the lot! We always said this was his "midlife crisis," so of course, he was the one to drive it home. He also claimed it was his 70th birthday present. That was a small price to pay for our new red sports car.

## **Sporty, Fast and Fun to Drive**

We enjoyed this beauty. She was red and pristine, looking as though she had never left the car lot, with a 6-speed manual transmission, a tan interior with a tan top. She was sporty, fast and fun to drive. An interesting note: a Miata with a tan cover is most often a 6-speed manual. The 5-speed automatics have the black tops.

When we moved to the Episcopal Church Home in Louisville, Ky., folks in our neighborhood often commented on us driving around with the top down. We were "so cute," they said. Someone even asked me if I worried about my hair blowing and getting messed up. My response was, "If you are worried about your hair, do not buy a convertible!"

Later, we had a red Honda CRX SI two-seater. Seldom did I ask about what automobile we would purchase. George would do the homework and we would go pick it up!

George's history with cars started early. He bought his first roadster in 1961. He was driving a baby blue Sunbeam Alpine Roadster when we met in 1962. George liked to drive in gymkanas (a type of obstacle course) and the car was equipped with a competition clutch for racing. There are a few issues with the Miata, though. Driving on the interstate is not easy. Getting up close and personal with the 18-wheelers can be disconcerting. You can see under their trailers and it makes you feel quite vulnerable. That's why in town, and on winding back roads, are some of the best places to enjoy the ride.

George died in 2014 and I became the owner of our little red baby (we never named her). As the result of a couple of recent falls, though, it became increasingly difficult for me to get in and out of the Miata. I could only fold myself up so much; bending to get in became more difficult and hard on my knees.

In September, I bought a Subaru Crosstrex; it's my fifth Subaru. The little red Miata was my final sports car. *(cont'd)*

## Hard to Give Her Up

Looking back, it makes me smile to say that my trips with her were always an adventure. I never got tired of spending time riding around in the Miata.

I looked forward to warm, sunny days taking her out for a short spin, mostly within 15 miles of my house. We would go to church, the post office, Kroger, the beauty salon, Home Depot and visits to the doctor. With me, as you can see, she led an exciting life! *(cont'd on page 13)*



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## HOW MX-5 MIATA PROVIDED ONE COUPLE A NEW WAY TO CONTINUE THEIR ADVENTURES (REPRINTED FROM INSIDE MAZDA MAGAZINE, 2019)



*In honor of Valentine's Day, we researched Miata-based love stories. In the process, I discovered this endearing article about our own, Brian and Carol Piersol. Although you most likely have read and reread this article in the past, I couldn't resist including it in our 2022 Valentine's Issue of insidePACE. I hope you enjoy reading it again.*



Nearly 8 years ago, Carol Piersol's Multiple Sclerosis progressed to the point where she could no longer engage in the activities she and her husband Brian once enjoyed doing together.

*"My wife rarely asks for anything," Brian Piersol explained. "But one day a friend had come to our house with their MX-5 Miata and took us out for a drive. My wife loved it so much that when she came back, she said 'I think I'd like to have an MX-5.'"*

Brian set out in pursuit of the perfect MX-5 for the two of them. Completely unaware of how popular the car was, and how many clubs there were in the U.S., Brian and



Carol joined a MX-5 Club and began participating in local drives and events.

Four years later, Brian purchased a newer MX-5—a Copper Red 2011—to celebrate his retirement and continue fulfilling Carol's wish. The two decided to take their MX-5 on a adventure of a lifetime: a 2-month, 22-state road trip.

*"Even though she's unable to walk, we wanted to take a road trip," Brian said. "It made the packing a bit tricky because her scooter sits perfectly in the trunk and doesn't leave much more space. We added a stainless steel luggage rack to the trunk for our suitcases and chair for her mobility seat."*

After months of planning and researching the most incredible roads in the US, Brian connected all the pinned locations to form a route that would nearly circumvent (*cont'd*)



the country. Brian's precise planning kept drives to 3-4 hours, accounting for



Carol's inability to travel long distances and need to get up and stretch regularly. As a result, it made for an incredibly relaxing pace and allowed them to see sights they'd otherwise zoom by.

From May 12, 2017 to July 5, 2017, Brian and Carol embarked upon their once-in-a-lifetime journey that took them to over 35 cities stretching from Pennsylvania to California. Among the many highlights of the trip were driving with the top down in

a snow storm up Pike's Peak and cruising along the Avenue of the Giants, a world-famous scenic route through the redwoods in Northern California.

Not only did the trip allow them to connect with family along the way, including Brian's daughter in L.A., the trip also provided Brian and Carol with an opportunity to meet other Miata enthusiasts while attending an event hosted by the Utah Miata Club. The *(cont'd)*





couple initially got connected to the Utah Miata Club when its president attended a four-day event, Buggies and Bridges, hosted by the couple's local Pennsylvania Miata club.

"People in the Miata Clubs are constantly talking about this trip and how much they



wished they could do something like that," Carol said.

Carol serves as the events chairwoman for their local Miata club, which they describe as *"just an enjoyable bunch of people that all have one common denominator – they love the car. They love the MX-5."*

Dreaming of future trips, Brian would someday love to take the car out on the Atlantic Coast Highway in Norway. But before that, he plans on taking Carol on a trip to Europe in April, to visit Amsterdam, his mother's home city, and then embark on a cruise. During his planning, Brian was once again able to experience the unique power of the Miata as a "door opener" to new people and experiences.

Within just a few days of contacting different Miata clubs in Europe, Brian received word that clubs in both Amsterdam and Copenhagen would meet the couple at the port of their cruise ship and host them for the day.

*"It's like a family. It's really like a family,"* Brian explained. *"They don't even know you and within two days this guy says, 'Oh, yeah, give me the date. We'll pick you up and we'll take you here and we'll take you there to lunch.' It's just cool."* ○





## Happy Valentine's Day from Membership

We are presently enjoying the weather in sunny Florida. We wish you the best for a most enjoyable Valentine's Day and will update you with member stats when we return.

*That's all for now, and remember to "Fly Miata,"* **ROD & NINA SLENKER**

## What's PACE been up to lately?

SATURDAY, JANUARY 8



### PACE Annual Polar Bear Run ... a salty and tasty event!



Some Club members who were not opposed to brave the cold, but were opposed to subjecting their sports car

babies to road salt agreed to cut the run but not the food. The Annual Polar Bear Run was slightly diverted from the cold to the warm and toasty John Wright Restaurant for a delicious lunch and drinks.



Oh well, although we love to drive our cars, we are always up for food and fellowship.

As always, we had a great time.

# What's Next?

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 2022

## PACE Cabin Fever Luncheon Event

Jim Smith and Charles Wear have organized our *first* PACE Cabin Fever event for 2022 at **Nonna Rosa** 363 S. 7<sup>th</sup> St. Akron, PA, 717-588-2290

**Begins at 1:30PM stay 'til 4PM**

Order off the menu. Enjoy cocktails and wine. Ample parking is located at the rear of the restaurant. Please RSVP by Friday, February 11. Email Jim Smith at [jfsmithrn462@gmail.com](mailto:jfsmithrn462@gmail.com) or call 717-371-6655

# Nonna Rosa's

RISTORANTE ITALIANO

Est. 2010



## NON-PACE EVENTS

**Blue Strad Miata Tuscany Tour,  
Tuscany, Italy**

**May 1, 2022**

Contact: Brian & Carol Piersol,  
717-665-5999 or  
[paceevents@gmail.com](mailto:paceevents@gmail.com)

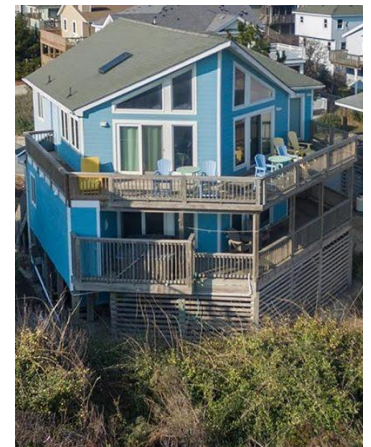
## Outer Banks, NC Opportunity

**MAY, 2022**

Join us for sun, fun, wild horses and Miata-owner good times at GONE TO SEA in Corolla NC.

We have two (2) openings remaining. Check out the link below and zero in on bedroom #4 and bedroom #5. Secure your room for the week for only \$470.77.

Please contact Leslie [fioreles@gmail.com](mailto:fioreles@gmail.com) for further information.



<https://www.villagerealtyobx.com/outer-banks-vacation-rentals/ose13-gone-sea>



# PACE INFORMATION

**Website:** [pacemiataclub.org](http://pacemiataclub.org)

**Facebook:** [facebook.com/PACEMiataClub](https://facebook.com/PACEMiataClub)

**Membership:** \$30/year

Rod Slenker, 717-755-9805 [rslenker43@outlook.com](mailto:rslenker43@outlook.com)

## PACE STORE

**Official provider: PACE Miata Club**

**Embroidered Clothing:** Hersh Wellman, [hwaprods@aol.com](mailto:hwaprods@aol.com)

**PACE Logo Clothing:** E-Town Sporting Goods

59 College Avenue, Elizabethtown, PA, 717-367-6633

B&T Sportswear: 240 Locust Street, Columbia, PA, 717-684-5191

**PACE Lapel Pins:** \$3ea/2-\$5 and Magnetic Decals

717-203-2971 [michaelcory@epix.net](mailto:michaelcory@epix.net)

## PACE OFFICERS

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# **SNOW MUCH FUN...** submitted by

Luann Snyder





# Yes, you can plan a run. But why should you?

It is necessary to invite new and longstanding members to support the Club using their time and talent to organize our next event.

By doing so, you will be helping to fill our calendar with fun and exciting trips that only you can and add your personal touch. Plus, for first-

timers, the VISA card\* adds a nice touch incentive.

And, don't forget, any day of the week can be an "event" day (even if it's last minute.)

Lastly, we are here to help. Contact us by phone or email. We and will walk you through the process and promise to make it fun from 1<sup>st</sup> through 6<sup>th</sup> gear! The phrase, "Zoom-Zoom" has never meant so much. Contact us today. 717-795-4468, [j\\_sgolesh@hotmail.com](mailto:j_sgolesh@hotmail.com)



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## Hard to Give Her Up *(from page 5)*

In later years, she spent winters in my daughter and son-in-law's garage; it protected her cloth top from the weather. And then she ended up staying there for nearly a year. Out of sight, out of mind! Not really. It should have made it easier for me to give her up because I was driving her less and less.

With the car title in my hand, I had butterflies in my stomach as I drove to the county clerk's office. Giving up our little red car was one of the hardest things I have had to do since George died. I was losing a part of him again. Letting go of the feeling of being a free spirit was hard. But the reality is that I will lose other parts of my independence

*Judith completed her undergraduate degree in Early Childhood Education from the University of Alabama. In 1988, Judith moved to Louisville, KY and worked at the national offices of the Presbyterian Church (USA) as the denomination's coordinator for Refugee Resettlement. Always in search of a new creative outlet, Judith joined the "Feet to the Fire" writers' workshop in 2015. With Angela Burton as the Chief Motivator, the group meets weekly at The Episcopal Church Home in Louisville. Judith has three children and seven grandchildren and she writes stories for them.*

*(Editor's Note: Last year, Next Avenue featured a story on the Feet to the Fire Writers' Workshops, based in Louisville, KY, called **Where Older Adults Write Their Own Stories**. One of the writers profiled was Judith Conn. **O***

