

# History of the Road Kill Rally

*assembled by Lisa Kramer - 2010*

The banner on our web page proclaims the Northcoast Miata Club to be "Home of the Road Kill Rally". For newer members (and older members who may never have taken the opportunity to participate) the Road Kill Rally (RKR) is a scavenger hunt on wheels.

When John & Donna Garsteck and Jeff & I decided to revive the Roadkill Rally we realized that a lot of new members have joined the club since our last Roadkill Rally so a description of the event that is so near and dear to our club is in order.

Luckily I found a copy of the unofficial newsletter for the 2002 Roadkill Rally. This newsletter was created by "Both Beths", Beth Gajewski and Beth Kramer, and it did a wonderful job chronicling the rallies from the first through the 11<sup>th</sup>. Here are the contents of that newsletter:

**roadkill** *n.* An animal or animals killed by being struck by a motor vehicle.

**rally** *n.* A competition in which automobiles are driven over public roads and under normal traffic regulations but with specified roles as to speed, time and route.

The definitions that you see above are the ones that you will find in dictionary.com. Each word, when it stands alone, has a very specific meaning. However, when the two words are paired, you enter into the Northcoast Miata Club dictionary.

**Here is what Roadkill Rallye means to us** (note that we use the British spelling): this is an event that will team you with other Miata club members to compete for valuable prizes by completing a predetermined list of events, as captured on film, by members of your team, within the allotted time frame and to the specifications indicated in the rules for each photo opportunity.

**This event has been held annually since our club's first birthday in June of 1991. We thought it might be appropriate to share some of the NMC Roadkill history in order to whet your appetite.**

## 1991

Our very first Roadkill Rallye was designed as an event to celebrate the Club's first birthday. Rallye master, and inventor of the Roadkill Rallye was Jim Flynn. Jim has since been extradited to Florida. The event started at Hudson Square. The ending party was held at charter member Kathy Lyle's house and included burgers, dogs, munchies and beers. Participants included 18 Miatas, a Buick, a Chrysler, and an Austin Healy (Miata imposter). The highlight of the event was the first time that an RKR team got a picture of a topless woman in a topless car. Winning team included Beth Kramer, Katy from Warren and two young ladies from Parma.

## 1992

Details are sketchy on this one, but driving from memory, Jim Flynn launched Roadkill Rallye II from a department store parking lot in Euclid. A new feature for this year's RKR was a T-shirt in gaudy yellow. Some of the assigned events during this RKR included bungee jumping, interrupting a wedding and getting a picture of the RKR team with the wedding party, and going to a hospital, lying your way into the maternity floor and getting a picture of the RKR team with a brand new baby. Finishing point was a bar in Parma and boxes of pizza.

### 1993

This was Jim Flynn's RKR Swan song. Shortly after hosting this rallye, he accepted a job in Florida and headed out of town. The starting point for this rallye was the pool area of Meadow Wood Park. Two dozen Miatas took part in this event. Some of the same picture opportunities from previous years were included. There were wedding pictures that included RKR teams. And this year the topless women in a topless car were actual NMC members. Before you get too interested in looking for the scrap books to sneak a peek, we might as well tell you that the sun visors were strategically aligned so as not to give away too much exposure. In the 1993 rendition, there was a second day of RKR. Many of the same group met on Sunday for a mystery tour of the area around Milan/Huron.

### 1994

The RKR was delayed until August in order to give new rallye master, Jane Schweitzer time to plan the event. Again this year the RKR started at the Meadow Wood Park, and 6 teams were launched. RKR IV T-shirts were grey with yellow and red graphics. The event finished at The Winking Lizard in Peninsula and first place honors went to Jim & Joyce Simmelink and Charlene & Charlie Brock. Jane had set up some "double dare" items that all seemed to involve getting into locked buildings like the Indian's or Brown's locker rooms or Malley's Chocolate Factory which was shuttered for summer break. Another team "attempted to buy" a Rolls Royce for \$220,000.

### 1995

This year's RKR was hosted by Don and Bea Miller, with assistance from Beth & Chuck Gajewski. The rallye once again started at Meadow Wood Park, and this year ended with a barbeque dinner at Don Bea's house. In order to "kill" time while dinner sizzled, each team wrote a poem or essay that described the events of their day. After dinner, since Don was preparing to put in a new lawn, he has us all park our cars in the formation of the capital letter "M" and stood on a step ladder to take a panoramic photo. The winning team included Dave & Pat McCuen, Bruce and Rickie Greer, Jane Schweitzer and Andy Messner. There is an interesting photo of this winning team that shows their "sunny side up". Or maybe it was their "moony side".

### 1996

The RKR this year was hosted by Jane & Andy and Al & Karen Butler. Twenty-four cars participated, grouped into 8 teams of 3 cars each. Participation provided you with a lovely purple T-shirt with a teal and silver graphics and a delicious catered meal at Greenwood Village club house. The theme for this RKR was modes of transportation, which led to a variety of pictures including those of a submarine, an Amish buggy, earthmover, hot air balloon, etc. Trophies were provided by Sudyk Trophies and other prizes included Miata accessories donated by Performance Buyers Club. Winning team included: Laura-Lee Sales and Shirley Siciliano, Jeff Incorvia & Stacey Starr and Beth & Chuck Gajewski.

### 1997

This year the RKR teams enjoyed a day of fun in the sun, an RKR T-shirt and a post rally party at Greenwood Village. Twenty-two cars took part in this year's event. Rallye masters included Jane & Andy, and Beth & Chuck. Beth Sudyk (now Paddock) provided the trophies for this event. Winning team included: Beth Sudyk & Sandy Manjura, John & Peg Baird, and Dave & Jennifer Teetor. Al Butler provided the theme for this rallye, it was "phobias" and led to people

taking pictures of things that they were afraid of...spiders, snakes, coffins, heights...the original "Fear Factor".

### 1998

This was the year RKR "went Hollywood". Hosted by previous year's winners, Beth Sudyk and Sandy Manjura, the theme was based around Hollywood items. A memorable moment was when Beth and Sandy arrived in a limo, dressed for a Hollywood premier. The party room was decorated with tinsel curtains! The trophies for this event (provided by Sudyk Trophies) were quite lavish, and first place trophies were approximately 4 feet tall. The winning team was captained by none other than Beth & Chuck Gajewski.

### 1999

Rallye Masters for this year's event were John James and Bruce & Sandy Barter and the theme was sports-oriented. We started at Greenwood Village and ended in Chagrin Falls. The winning team for this year included: Jennifer & Dave Teetor, Rob Post, Blair Judson and Beth & Chuck Gajewski. They won with a roadkill named "Art Model's Ravens"

### 2000

This was our Rock n' Roll Roadkill. Rally Masters, John James and Ralph & Penny Cummings set the theme by handing out tie-died RKR T-shirts (still a favorite of many a member) and a CD with all the songs used as clues. The theme was music-centric. Entertainment at the closing ceremonies included Karaoke. The winning team included: Beth (Sudyk) Paddock, Sandy Manjura, Mark & Sandy Opperman, and Mike & Linda DePietro.

### 2001

After much promotion, the 2001 rallye turned out to be based on the year: 2001, Space Oddities. Rallye Masters, John Baird and Mark Opperman, gave us T-shirts, innovative trophies, dinner and a bottle of home-brew. The clues for this rallye were all based on the movie that has a name similar to our theme. Winners for this year's rallye included: Ken Visoky, Bill & Sue Fairman, and Carol and Dwayne. We also learned a lot about various members' arts and crafts experience while waiting for the judging.

This ends the wonderful summary that both Beth's (Beth Gajewski and Beth Kramer) put together in 2002 to pay homage to RKR's past and to promote their 2002 rally. What follows is what I have put together based on old issues of Exhaust notes.

### 2002

The 12<sup>th</sup> annual RKR was a Both Beth's Production. The theme of the Rally was palindromes – a word, phrase, number or other sequence of units that can be read the same way in either direction. Examples are "MOM", "DAD", "TOT", "YO BANANA BOY", etc. The year 2002 being a palindrome made the theme appropriate. Thirty five cars comprising 9 different teams participated in the rally this year. The start off point was Cascade Auto Group and the ending point was the Chalet in the Metro Parks. The winning team was made up of Janine Centorbi & Steve, Edie & Diana Genshock, Dave & Mary Abbhul, and Suzzane Wojcik Mike Burley

### 2003

The 13<sup>th</sup> annual RKR was also a "Both Beth's Production". Since it was the 13<sup>th</sup> running of the RKR they chose the theme "superstition and luck". Participants had to take pictures of their

group with things like, the pot of gold at the end of the rainbow, throwing a coin into a wishing well, team members blowing out birthday candles, etc.

2005

Mike and Linda DePietro hosted the Road Kill Rally in 2005. The event started at Cascade Mazda and the clues were all based on ice cream stores.

2006

This year's Rallye was hosted by Both Beths. The theme was Black & White. T-shirts were, you guessed it, black and white. The event was kicked off at Cascade and ended at Ridgefield Party Center in North Ridgeville. The winning team included Bob & Betty Belding, Jeff & Lisa Kramer, Dave & Pat McCuen, and Denny & Alicia Moeller. Bribing the judges with the best \$3.00 bottle of wine they could find and performing their own version of the Three Dog Night song, "The Ink is Black" is what put the winning team over the edge.

2010

That brings us to this year's rally: we hope that learning (or reminiscing) about rallies past will inspire you to join us for this year's fun.