

Bio of the Northcoast Miata Club 2011: the WebDude

Daryl Baker

I live in Lorain County and became addicted to Miatas in 2008. While I was recovering from surgery, I spent all my time on the Internet, (since I couldn't walk), and eventually found a 2004 Black Cherry Miata with only 3034 miles on it. Having just gotten my daughter through college, I figured it was time for something fun and new to do. And a Miata was the answer.

We had no idea what a car club could really be about, other than getting together and looking at other cars, but they're all the same car, right? What's so special about that?

So, not knowing anyone in the NCM Club, we signed up for the River Run on Memorial Day weekend, showing up in Columbus looking for someone who looks like a Miata driver. And that's when we met Coop. WOW! We had a weekend we will never forget. Now, every year I recruit cars to go along 'to the River'. Rollin to the River, yeah....

We drive our car about 7500 miles each year so far. This year we made it to 13 states in our Miata. And we take lots of pictures when we are traveling. We don't take our Miata on the highway, we go all backroads. It takes longer to get there, but the journey is so much more fun. We have found great times, just leaving in the Miata, without any agenda or even a destination—a true road trip.

We love technology, but we still love our paper roadmaps too. The first thing we learned about zooming in the Miata is *compactness*. Every discussion for the first year was... 'we need to travel with less stuff.' The second year was about getting those newer, better, smaller, simpler, convenient, stowable, things we learned in Year One. Year Three tested the 'Miata Travel - 101' theory with a 17-day adventure to Oshkosh thru the Midwest and down the Mississippi River and then across the Ozarks back home.

My LIFE: Pretty simple. Work, repair it, make it better, rebuild it, make it shiny; I'm a craftsman. My hands show the results of hard work for a long time. My career is about hands-on skills and feeding the world. Come to think of it, so are my hobbies. Gardening and honeybees are great for the soul. And Sports Cars Are Good For The Heart.

I don't know anything about computer programming, and don't play video games. I like to write stuff but I don't have time to do much of it. I'm pretty organized and collect lots of information (my wife disagrees), and {apparently!} go to extremes when I research Stuff (I was even called a 'Miata-Nut'). I think most people just don't know how to find Stuff. Anyway, they gave me this website and a license to 'do whatever you want'. I thought I took over a pretty cool site when I started, and quickly I changed everything I could figure out how to change. When I'd really messed it up, I'd call my daughter, Rachel, to straighten it out. Sometimes when we're brainstorming, we discover things we want to do on the website that we haven't done before. That's when it really pays to have kids. *Somebody* knows **somebody** that does "that." It just takes time, something I never have enough of. So, anyway, I'm learning about webduding the old-fashioned way. THAT'S ME!