



Renegade Miata Club

Annual Election of Directors & Planning Meeting - January 24, 2016

Minutes

- **Attendees:**
Derek White, Brian Doherty, Leah Hunor, Dan Fillingim, Ernest & Karen Grasso, Rob MacAlpine, Alex Moerlein, Carl Williams, Athena DeGangi, and Tom Fedorka
- **Location:**
The Grasso Residence in Chelmsford MA.
- **Autocross Discussion**

The meeting was called to order at approximately 1:10 by E. Grasso.

There were a couple of attendees enroute to the meeting, so in the interest of time, we began the meeting discussing AutoX, so that all attendees were present during the Election of Officers.

AutoX:

The 2015 Season went well and are looking forward to an Great 2016 Season. The Equipment should be in good shape. The AutoX committee will get together in March to go through and inspect all the equipment, radios, tents, computers etc. to make sure everything is in good working order.

The club currently utilizes a "Dos" (yes DOS) based system and we have at least one back-up computer (because you can't get them anymore for some reason!). We are sticking with this system because it has been extremely reliable. The only downside is the inability to obtain new "Dos" computers and the AutoX Results must be manually recorded and tallied because the system does not save the data. That, being said, it isn't a big deal because we have jobs set up to record the data that has worked well for 15+ years.

The only "equipment" we will purchase will be new Radio Batteries. Failing batteries is pretty much, that is the only issue we seem to have with any of the equipment. If we have a radio problem, it is normally reconciled by replacing the batteries. That has been the only real issue over the last two seasons as the original batteries (now about 12 years old) have given up. We'll look to purchase approx 10 new rechargeable batteries for a couple of hundred dollars.

Costs: The 2016 Deven's contract has increases by about 3% this year. The cost increase is for the Site, while the Portapotties and dumpster has stayed the same. We pay an additional \$10 per car for each car over 40. Cones were purchased last winter and everything else we expect to be OK.

There was a discussion on Eliminating the “Other Mazda” class because there appears to be only a couple of cars in the class. Rob suggested we keep it – after all we are a Mazda Club – and we don’t want to discourage other Mazda Owners from joining or participating. Everyone agreed.

We have tentative dates for the 2016 Season. These will be CONFIRMED over the next couple of weeks.

- **Renegade Events for 2016**

Autocross dates (As of 1/24/16):

1. Saturday, April 9th (School)
2. Saturday, April 30th
3. Saturday, May 28th
4. Saturday, June 18th
5. Saturday, July 23rd
6. Saturday, August 13th
7. Saturday, September 10th
8. Saturday, October 1st
9. Saturday, October 22nd

NCR Autocross Events (As of 1/24/16)

1. Sunday, May 15th
2. Saturday, June 12th
3. Saturday, July 31st
4. Saturday, September 3rd
5. Sunday October 8th

Board of Directors/Officer Election:

Denis Bustin expressed a desire to step down last season. At various meetings and autocross events volunteers for the Position of President requested.

E Grasso announced the Election of Directors and reviewed Officer Responsibilities for each position. He then asked members if there were any volunteers or discussion. There were no additional volunteers or comments beyond Tom Fedorka volunteering for President.

- President – Tom Fedorka
 - Nominated by E. Grasso, Seconded by Rob MacAlpine - Unanimous
- Vice President – Matt Neiman
 - Nominated by Rob MacAlpine, Seconded by Carl Williams - Unanimous
- Treasurer & Membership – Alex Moerlein
 - Nominated by Derek White, Seconded by Brian Doherty - Unanimous
- Minister of Minutes – Ernest Grasso
 - Nominated by Athena DeGangi, Seconded by Tom Fedorka – Unanimous.

Non Elected Club Positions:

- AutoX Committee:
 - Rob MacAlpine
 - Sheryl MacAlpine
 - Ernest Grasso
- Director of Philanthropy – Athena DeGangi

- AutoX Set UP Coordinators – Carl Williams & Mark Chambers (No Change)
- Social Media Coordinator – Derek White

THANK YOU!

The Club wishes to express gratitude to Denis Bustin for his 8 years and guidance as our President. Denis served as President from December 2008 through January 2016. With Appreciation & Gratitude – THANK YOU!

EXPENSES:

2016 Expenses – We purchased approx 250 Cones last year and at this point it does not appear that we'll need any specific equipment. The only purchased currently anticipated is for Walkie Talkie batteries. We'll purchase approx 10 at \$20-30 each. In March the AutoX committee will get together and go through the equipment and make sure everything is in working order and adjusted properly.

Devens Contract for 9 dates in 2016 - \$7,425 (Includes site, porta potties & dumpster fees – due March 1st) This is a slight increase over last season \$7,272 - (\$153 or approx 2%), therefore there is no pressing need to increase the fees. So there should be no issue this year.

Rule changes? – None needed.

Insurance

- Insurance through the same company we used before Northwest Insurance Center of Mercer Island WA. Alex assisted in setting it up with the same company we used last year. He has been in touch with the Insurance broker and is waiting for final rates, however he doesn't expect large increases.
 - UPDATE: [2/2/2016] Base Rate is \$480 (up from \$470) plus \$178 per event (up from \$175).
- **No Cost Changes at this time for 2016.** If Devens and/or Insurance goes up significantly the cost will rise in a \$5 increment to cover the changes. No changes in fees – we made a little money last year. Basically, utilizing the fees we cover our expenses and end up a little ahead. There are no significant changes in Insurance or Devens as things stand now.

- \$25 membership (No changes needed at this time)

- Renegade AutoX

- Members: \$30 pre-registered, \$40 the day of the event
- Non-Renegade Members: \$35 pre-registered, \$45 the day of the event

Memberships

- **Current membership:**
 - 2015 – 125 active members as of 12/31/2015
 - 2014 – 107 active members
 - 2013 120+/- members
 - 2012 100+ members
 - 2011 89 members
 - 2010 89 members
 - 2009 85 members
 - 2008 73 members

Club Status as Non-Profit:

During the late Spring the Renegade Miata Club was notified by a past President Will Martins that our Non-Profit Status in the State of Massachusetts had been Revoked by the Secretary Of State. This was due to an Annual Filing Requirement that the Officers were unaware of.

During the Summer, E. Grasso & D. Bustin worked to file the necessary paperwork and pay the associated fees to Re-establish our Non Profit Status. In September, the Club was reinstated as Non-Profit Organization in Massachusetts.

E. Grasso will file the Annual Report required to maintain this status for the next year. (Annual Filing Completed & Mailed on 1-27-2016).

However, more work needs to be done regarding the Club's Tax Status with both the IRS and the MA Department of Revenue. This is not an area that any of the Officers are familiar with. After much discussion, Brian Doherty agreed to help with the Club's Tax Status. A Sub-Committee comprised of Brian Doherty, Denis Bustin, Alex Moerlein and Ernie Grasso will research and file the appropriate forms. Hopefully, this can be done by the end of the 2nd Quarter to ensure the Club is in good standing in the eyes of the Government.

Meetings & Events:

March 5th – SmuttyNose Tour and Lunch (Alex Moerlein)

March 12th (Rain or Shine) – Club Meeting - Photo Scavenger Hunt & 1st Quarterly Meeting – Rob & Sheryl MacAlpine – Meet at Home Depot Marlboro @ 10am

June 5th – (Saturday) Quarterly Meeting and BBQ – Ernest & Karen Grasso - Chelmsford

June 26th (rain date July 10th)– “Misstriss Tour” Bring you “*other*” car to a Car Show around noon, then take a drive to a local restaurant for lunch with Club Members & Guest. (Location TBD – Tom Fedorka)

August 20nd (Rain August 21st) – Quarterly Meeting & Pool Party – Matt & Karen Nieman Newfields NH.

September 23-25th – 3 Day Maine Lighthouse Tour – Rockland ME – Grasso's

November 6th or 13th – AutoX Banquet @ Hopkinton CC. (Date to be confirmed)

November 12th or 5th – Woodstock NH Tour – 1 Overnight stay, tour and lots of driving on great roads. (Athena DeGangi & Carl Williams) (Once date for the Banquet is confirmed, this trip will utilize the other weekend.)

- **Sponsorships**

Amount: \$200 - Same benefits? Yes this will stay the same for 2016.

- **Website**

Suggestions for changes or improvements?

Discussion on multiple people having access to the site. Denis has been working with Derek White to “share” the logon/password for the site, but there is a program on Denis' computer that is used that can't be duplicated. Derek indicated that they are pretty close to setting up a way to both access & manage the website.

- **Other Business**

- **Social Media Coordinator** - Derek White has taken over the administration of the Renegade Miata Facebook Page. It has been working well over the past year – Thanks!

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New Non-Miata Classes for AutoX. Rob mentioned that he will be looking at creating a new class structure because of the number of participants. Awards went 10 deep which is too much. Changes will be announced prior to the season.

Giving Back to the Community - Philanthropy Director – Athena Degangi – has agreed to run a fund drive at each event in 2016. The proceeds will be donated to the Loaves & Fishes Food Pantry in Ayer. For 2015 – Renegade collected \$1400 (approximately the same as 2014, while in 2013 we raised \$1100). The amount wasn't more than the previous year simply because Athena missed one event due to a conflict. There was a lot of discussion on other ways to raise more funds for this worthwhile cause. Everyone agreed that it was a great idea to add a "Voluntary Donation" line on the AutoX registration form. Ernie will make the changes to the AutoX Registration form for 2016 to make this possible.