



Renegade Miata

Annual Election of Officers and Planning Meeting
Saturday, February 7, 2026 Noon to 2:04pm

Minutes

- **Attendees:**

Via Zoom (Do to storm): Ernest Grasso, Mike Dietzel, Thomas Fedorka, Steve & Amanda Twaddle, Barbara & Jeff Seeger, Dan Fillingim, Dan Pierce, Chris Welbon

Election of Officers:

Nominees for Officer Positions were requested and the discussion was as follows. Barbara & Jeff Seeger offered to become Secretary (or Minister of Minutes). Barbara will be the primary with Jeff being a backup and a club officer. The remaining officers were willing to serve another year term. Ernie noted that all officers serve as "Club Directors". We need to re-submit the Non-Profit filing with the Secretary of State's Office (MA). Ernie & Barbara will work on this. There was also a discussion on Membership, which has traditionally been part of the treasurer's position. However, since Renegade Miata started using Motorsport Registration, Steve (VP) has performed most of the duties of Membership Chair, therefore all agreed to transfer this to the VP's position & Steve Twaddle. Ernie reached out to Charles C as he expressed an interest last fall, however he could not be reached. The officers were voted on as a slate. The voting for the slate of all four officers was unanimous.

- President – Steve Nominated **Thomas Fedorka**, seconded by Chris; Unanimous
- Vice President & Membership Chair – Ernie nominated **Steve Twaddle**, seconded by Thomas; Unanimous
- Treasurer – Steve nominated **Chris Welbon** and Ernie seconded: Unanimous
- Secretary –Ernie nominated **Barbara (& Jeff) Seeger** and Thomas seconded; Unanimous

2026-2027 Slate of Renegade Miata Officers:

- **President – Thomas Fedorka**
- **Vice President & Membership – Steve Twaddle**
- **Treasurer– Chris Welbon**
- **Secretary (Minister of Minutes) – Barbara Seeger (& Jeff Seeger as back up)**

Thomas nominated the Club Officers and Jeff Seeger as Club Directors, seconded by Ernie - Unanimous

Other Non-Elected Positions (No Change for 2026)

- Ernest Grasso AutoX Chair.
- Steve Twaddle – AutoX Co-Chair
- Amanda Twaddle Event Coordinator, Webmaster & Social Media coordinator.

Finances:

Thomas asked for an update of finances and membership:

Chris Welbon responded:

Membership:

Current Membership is 56 active enthusiasts. We now use Motorsport Registration so the Membership numbers come out of that system. A year or two ago, the club voted to do annual registrations through MSR, so once we have the Devens Contract we will put out the 2026 Annual (\$30, Per Person) Steve Twaddle will develop the new Membership page in the coming weeks.

2026 – 56 as of 2/7/26
2025 – 49 as of 1/26/25
2024 – 36 as of 12/31/23 (New & Renewal Memberships have started)
2023 – 38 Active Members (after a careful review of membership on 2/4/2023)
2022 - 55 Active Member (ESTIMATED)
2021 - 110 Active Members as of 2/7/21
2020 - 113 Active Members as of 2/9/2020
2019 – 105 Active members as of 2/9/19
2018 – 95 Active members as of 2/3/18
2016 – 120 active members as of 1/28/17
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

Finances:

2/7/2026 - \$19,424
1/26/2025 - \$20,837 (after legal fees for Bylaws and Tax meetings.)
2/17/2024 - \$20,621.63 (after paying Tax folks)
2/5/2023 - \$32,268
2/6/22 - \$32,724.38
2/7/21 - \$30,000
2/9/2020 - \$29,257

2/9/19 - \$29,658
2/3/18 - \$30,531.36
1/28/17 - \$32,913
1/24/2016 - \$30,768 (Before Insurance & Devens is paid)
2/22/2015 -\$23,895 (after Insurance Is Paid & Devens)
12/2013 - \$24,862
12/2012 \$20,000 (est after insurance paid)
12/2011 \$20,103 (est)
12/2010 \$22,579
12/2009 \$16,300
12/2008 \$9,251

Club Taxpayer ID #04-3782115

Discussion: Every year we start off strong, then have to pay Devens & Insurance which causes our bank balance to drop to approximately \$15,000. As we hold events our bank balance steadily increases to between \$20 & \$22K by November of the year. With only slight increases in costs (Devens & Insurance 3-4%) anticipated for 2026, we do not see the trend changing. The wild card here will be AutoX participation, which was down significantly in 2023 & 2024 do to virtually every event being a rain events. Overall attendance rebounded in 2025 to 35-45 drivers per event. Based on current costs, we calculate the "Break Even" at approximately 46 drivers. Let's hope that trend continues in 2025!!

Philanthropy:

Everyone agreed that **Loaves & Fishes** is worthwhile, and we'd continue to collect donations through AutoX Registrations at \$5 increments. Chris noted that of the \$5 collected, MSR charges a credit card fee of 2.6% (of approximately 13 cents).

MSR Credit Card Charges: Chris requested that the Club still donate the \$5, and subsidize the CC charge. Steve seconded and it was unanimous.

Charity Donation Increments: There was then a discussion on the amount and that most folks either do multiple increments or none at all. Ernie proposed that we increase the Loaves & Fishes donation to increments of \$10, Steve seconded and it was unanimous.

Sponsorships

Do to very little activity the last few years this wasn't discussed.

Website:

Amanda Twaddle purchased a new web hosting package for Renegade Miata Club in 2024 and the website has worked well. Amanda continues to maintain it an update as needed. Amanda has done a great job and no changes are needed at this time.

Devens AutoX Site:

Only slight increases of 2-4% in cost are expected in 2026. Contracts were actually ready to go out a few weeks ago and held up do to questions from neighbors. Devens is hoping to get these out in the next couple of weeks. We tentatively have a total of 9

dates for the season, 1 school and 8 events. The first event is scheduled for Saturday, April 4th. Sound restrictions remain in place again this year and will require constant monitoring and ejection of any vehicle who exceeds the 87db level on course, as of this writing, we don't see significant sound monitoring changes.

AutoX Discussion

We can't release the AutoX dates until the contract is in hand. We do have the dates, but it isn't a lock until the contract is signed. Chris Welbon noted that last year we paid for events in 3 – 3 event blocks which helped spread the costs out over the season nicely. He will work with Devens to make the same arrangements for 2026.

AutoX Instructors

All AutoX instructors are or should be Renegade Miata Members (no change from previous years).

MSR Registration

Steve Twaddle handled this for 2024 & 2025 and it worked well. Steve will continue to handle it for 2026 and will start by building the 2026 Membership link and Event Pages that will be released once Deven's contract is received.

Costs and Fees for 2026:

Chris brought up a discussion on fees/costs for 2025. It was clear that we are financially in good shape, but we ended the year down approximately \$1500. However, we still have a good cushion. Hopefully we have good turnout for 2026 and we break even.

For 2026, Deven's costs are expected to rise slightly from the \$1300 per event last year. The trash pickup fee increased from \$50 to \$150 (in 2025), however Renegade members police's the site and have never incurred a clean-up fee and we don't expect to. The insurance costs are expected to be basically the same at \$3200/year (+2-4%?).

2026 Fees:

After discussion, Ernie proposed that AutoX Registration **\$50 for Members and \$65 for non-members** to help get us closer to break even for the season. Some of the discussion was to drive folks to be Members by increasing the non-member costs. These increases should help the Club break even provided we have decent weather/attendance. This was Seconded by Steve. Unanimously passed.

Membership Fees & Associate Memberships

There was a discussion on Membership Fee of \$30/year and everyone was comfortable leaving that alone (it was raised in 2025). There was also a discuss on Associate Membership, where one Membership would cover 2 members of a household. In MSR it is hard to track memberships, drivers and participants at events. There are only 4-5 families that use the Associate Membership and 3 of them were participating in today's meeting.

Associate Memberships – Steve Proposed dropping Associate Members for 2026, and Chris Seconded. The result would be all folks would need to become a member and no longer “family memberships”. Motion passed unanimously.

Temporary Membership:

The cost differential between a Member and Non-Member is to provide a 1 day “temporary membership”. But the bottom line is the extra \$15 would provide “Temporary Membership for the day of the event”. This would also be in line with Non-profit requirements, Renegade Miata Bylaws, insurance requirements regarding event participation.

- **AutoX Event Fee \$50 for Members**
- **AutoX Event Fee \$65 for non-Members** (this charge includes 1-day Temporary Membership in the club.)

AutoX Season Sign Up Discount for Members

- Steve mentioned that there were only 5 Members who signed up for the AutoX Season discount last year. Does it make sense to continue in 2026?
 - There was also discussion that MSR will be offering “Season Waiver” options in 2026. If Renegade can use the Season Waiver it will simplify the Registration process for Steve. He'd still have to manually “re-enter” season registrants, but he was willing to continue this.
 - Chris Welbon will verify that Season Registration can be used with our Insurance carrier.
- It was determined that we'll offer a AutoX Season Sign up (8 events for the price of 7 = \$350) for 2025 – just like it was set for 2025.

AutoX Equipment Needs & Discussion:

- Ernie & Steve discussed the status of the tents and other equipment needed for AutoX.
- Radios- Replaced in 2025 and generally worked well.
- There is a concern with Perimeter Sound not being able to be heard at all times.
 - Ernie will Charge and use the older radios which didn't have an issue or loan some of his radios for sound.
- Tents – at the end of 2024, we had both tents badly damaged due to wind. We “Fixed” one from the parts of two and used a lighter duty donated tent, however this was awkward to use because the legs are angled.
 - Ernie will investigate purchasing 2 commercial quality tents for 2026.
- Cones – OK still have a full cart of brand-new ones.
- Cart wheels – after some blow-outs and failures last year during the season, Ernie purchased large replacements from Tractor Supply and Small replacements from Harbor Freight. Charles Comeau also welded one of the broken wheels, so we have 2-3 spares of both sizes – so we are good.
- Weight Buckets – Steve noted that at least two are missing handles and in bad shape.

- Ernie will purchase 6 new ones & covers from Lowes or Home Depot to replace them.
- Timing Light Weight Bags – all 4 of them are ripped and leaking sand.
 - Ernie will purchase either sandbags or weights that can be used on the timing tripods.
- Corner buckets – several are cracked and need replacement.
 - Ernie will purchase new buckets that we can label for the corners.
- Sound – PA – There is a loud hum both on the PA and the FM Converter. Dan Pierce will retrieve the sound equipment from Ernie in early April after the school to troubleshoot the problem.
 - Ernie noted that the PA system is at least 25 years old (could be blown capacitors) so we may need to purchase something if Dan can't eliminate the hum.
 - Ernie will grab the PA System, Cords, Microphones, Generator, and FM converter so Dan can set it up to determine the source of the hum.
- Timing Display – We had discussion last summer and Charles Comeau looked into building unit. It turns out he couldn't do it.
 - Commercially available units cost (Farmtek – 7" = \$949 and 10" = \$1,399 plus shipping and taxes).
 - After discussion, no one thought spending \$1K or more made sense. We'll re-consider in 2027. For now, we have the FM Converter, PA and the White Board.
- Live Timing Gavin Williams has the Live Timing mostly worked out so that should be working for 2026.
- Loaner Helmets – Our Existing 7 helmets are Snell 2010. Steve is concerned that these do not meet current standard. Ernie noted that in the past our insurance requires DOT Certified helmets. Regardless our loaner helmets are well used.
 - Chris will verify with the Insurance Company what the helmet standard is.
 - Barbara noted that SCCA is still allowing 2010 Helmets for 2026.
- Helmets: Matt Proposed that we purchase 4 open face helmets this year and more in 2027 for approximately \$800. Ernie Seconded – Unanimous.
 - Ernie will purchase 4 open face helmets once the season begins.
- Tents etc. - Ernie proposed allocating \$1000 to purchase the above, Chris seconded – Unanimous. (2 Tents = \$600+ (or one 10x15), 12 buckets = \$144, Weights for Timing = \$100, Fuel = \$8 and misc. other small items)

2026 Fee Summary:

- 2026 AutoX Event Member Pricing = \$50
- 2026 AutoX Event Non-Member Pricing (Temp Membership) = \$65
- 2026 Membership Fee = \$30
- 2026 Associate Membership Fee (No longer available)
- Member Season AutoX Sign Up (pay for 7, participate in 8 events) = \$350

2026 Autox Dates

Nine 2026 dates (Dates Still Tentative; All Saturdays):

1. 4/4, School
2. 5/2,
3. 5/16, (NER Porsche 5/17)
4. 6/20, (NER Porsche 6/21)
5. 7/4,
6. 8/1, (NCR Porsche 8/2)
7. 9/5, (NER Porsche 9/6)
8. 10/10,
9. 10/31

2026 PCA NCR AUTOCROSS DATES

1. Sunday April 19th
2. Saturday, May 23rd
3. Sunday, August 2nd
4. Saturday, September 12th
5. Sunday, September 27th

Non-Profit Filing

Ernie has maintained the Non-Profit Status with The Massachusetts Secretary of State's Office since 2005 (Prior to this the President made these filings). An update filing was made in November 2025 so the Renegade Miata Club is current in this filing. Ernie & Barbara will file an updated Officer Listing in March.

2026 Events & Meetings:

- February 7, 2026 – Annual Election of Officers and Planning Meeting (Chelmsford MA)
- May 31st, 2026 BBQ and Quarterly Meeting – Grasso's Chelmsford.
- June 26th (Rain date June 27th) – Back Road Tour, Lunch, Ice Cream and BBQ at the Twaddle's in North Sandwich NH.
- September 18-19-20, 2026 – Maine Lighthouse Tour – Rockland Maine (Ernie & Karen Grasso)
- November 15th, 2026 – Club Meeting and Banquet - Tentatively @ The Establishment in Chelmsford. Annual Banquet & Quarterly Meeting (Ernie & Steve)

Thomas Fedorka Proposed to Close the meeting at 2:04, seconded by All – Unanimous.

Meeting adjourned at 2:04pm