



MiataTudes

The Monthly Newsletter of the Sacramento Area Miata Owners Association—Volume 16—Number 4

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April 2006

From Robin's Nest...

Hi Gang:

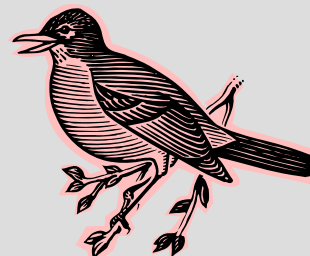
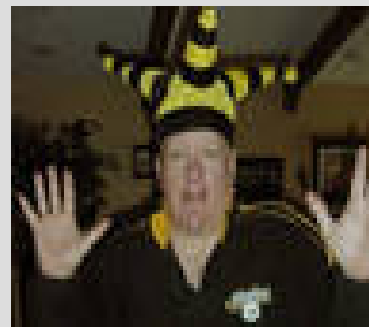
Believe it or not the weather is getting better. Really!! We now have a chance to get our "cute little cars" out of storage and exercise them. Don't forget to get out that box of cleaners, waxes, soft rags, Windex, and q-tips and most of all use them to get your car presentable for our many upcoming events. Future events include drive-bys, show and shines, picnics, tech days, and just a lot of fun things.

Board notes: We are looking into requiring a password for access to the newsletter online. This will allow only club members immediate access to the newsletter when it is published. It's your club and members should reap the benefits of their contributions. Besides we can put all kinds of secret stuff in each issue. Stay tuned for more explanation.

Radio use: I would like to see participants at event runs take advantage of the club radios. The club has purchased four CB radios and magnetic antennas for participants use. The radios are very helpful and assist the group if something unusual happens during the run. They also provide a source of warning to others if there are unplanned road conditions or objects in the road---on a recent event wild turkeys wandered in front of the vehicles. There is no requirement that you have to speak on the radio unless requested if the group gets split up. But those without a radio miss all the important banter and talk between the leader and the "sweep" car.

Speaking of the sweep, they are a very important piece of the run. They are the mother hen that keeps everyone together. I would like to see more members step forward and offer to do this service. They alert the leader if there are any safety issues at the back of the group or if members are in trouble. In addition, the sweep person alerts the leader when all vehicles have completed turns or cleared intersections. It's fun, just ask Rod.

See you at next month's meeting.



SAMOA
PO Box 392
Orangevale, CA
95662

www.samoa.org

SAMOA is a 501(c)(7) non-profit corporation organized in the State of California for the benefit of its membership. SAMOA Membership dues are \$24 for 12 months and include 12 issues of MiataTudes and one email account. Applications and checks should be mailed to SAMOA, PO Box 392, Orangevale, CA 95662.

April Events...

April 8th...3rd Not Quite Annual
Poker Run...**April 13th...**Monthly
Meeting...**April**

29th...Coolest Sounding
Miata Contest



Mike's Musings...

By Mike DeLaurentis

This BOO is approaching its first 100 days in office and since a lot of the media likes to make a big thing of a President's, Governor's, Mayor's, etc, first 100 days I thought I would do an assessment. First of all no one has resigned or threatened to resign so that is positive. Secondly no one has embezzled funds, entered the witness protection program, entered rehab, is under indictment, or has threatened bodily harm which also is a good thing. The BOO members still talk to each other and no one has been marginalized, ignored and/or sent packing. Finally we are all optimistic about the club's future and appreciate the member's input and especially those who have come forward and planned, or are planning, events which is the club's life blood. And so as we head into the next 100 days we're still having fun and hope you are as well.



Membership Updates

By Fran Rowell

Expired March 15, 2006:

Ed Long & Chris Allen

Expiring April 1, 2006:

Jim & Sandy Callaghan

David & Deidre DeNuzzo

Michael & Lisa Fry

Rod Gonzalez

Tom Howard & Andrea Brown

Graeme Kinsey (paid)

Rex & Sherri Rowland (paid)

John & Sheila Souza

Kevin Wise



In order to maintain your active status on the Club's membership roster, be sure to get your renewals to the Club Secretary no later than the April meeting (April 13th. At Cocos). Ed and Chris, we certainly hope that your renewal is in the mail and we see you at future club activities.



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We wish to thank the following businesses for offering SAMOA members discounts with presentation of their membership card

America's Tire Company

Mike Wilson (916) 331-3670
Ramps@dgweb.com

Automotive Unlimited

Darrell (916) 989-3325

Autozone

19th. & Broadway only
Glen (916)443-5479

Bob's Custom Upholstery

Roseville (916) 784-1442

Carquest Auto Parts

1945 Broadway only
Harold Taylor (916) 737-7280

Chevron Lead Hill

Roseville Auto Mall
Dan Driffill (916) 786-9888

The Clearwater Company

Skip Noyes (916) 852-1423

Crazy Red Italian

Dave DeNuzzo (916) 456-2277
Discount Tire Centers
Citrus Heights (916) 725-7337

Great Valley Mazda

Sacramento (916) 973-3240

Harbor Freight Tools

6964 65th. Street Sacramento
Dan Rasmussen (916) 393-7875

Kneisels Body Shop

Citrus Heights
Dave or Robert (916) 969-0788

Made in Japan / Made in America

10% off parts/labor on any work done
Rancho Cordova (916) 635-7444
Roseville (916) 773-0969
Sacramento (916) 349-8919
Sacramento (916) 486-4100

Mazda's Plus

Harold Brown (916) 421-5708

Midtown Framing & Gallery

Save 20% on any custom frame project and
Selected framed and unframed artwork
25th and J Street (916) 447-7558

Movado Body Shop

Sacramento (916) 482-7818

OK Tires of Sacramento

Sacramento (916) 331-2751

Seat Works

Carpet, padding, seat covers,
Soft top repair & installation
Sacramento (916) 483-7994

Towe Auto Museum

2200 Front Street
Sacramento (916) 442-6802



Event Horizon...By Ron Petrich

It's interesting that I suggested last month that we write articles about our first SAMOA outings, because yesterday's **Feeling Lucky** run that Robin led was nearly identical to that first run of mine with this club. It was on Saturday, February 27, 1999 that I took delivery of my 1999 highlight silver metallic (that's pewter to those of us in the know) Miata, and it was on Sunday, the next day, that Robin led his run up the river and through the woods. I'm actually freaked out by the similarities between that first outing and yesterday. I mean, I look exactly the same right? Back in 1999 we met at the very same Starbucks, on an awfully gloomy day, but with a LOT fewer other cars in the lot. The cast of characters were somewhat different as well...Hugo was there, Margaret was there, some little short guy who was our veep at the time was there...well maybe it wasn't so different after all. I was the proud new papa of the first 1999 that many clubmembers had seen. The evening before, even with the threat of rain, I washed, waxed, waxed and rewaxed that silver sucker until it shined brighter than my forehead. Then I moved it into the garage when it started raining and waxed it some more. The only downer to the whole weekend was that I had to keep the



top up on Sunday. Of course, the run itself was not without its moments. Out on the river road heading north, I thought I sensed a fairly harsh ride, and I thought to myself that something must be amiss. When we arrived at our halfway point, I

gingerly took a walk around. Nothing seemed out of place. I mentioned the harsh ride to someone, I don't remember who. But this much-more-knowledgable than me Miataphile simply smiled, went to his car, and returned with a tire pressure gauge. Sure enough, 45 psi or thereabouts on each corner. Once we hissed a few pounds from each tire, the ride was much more compliant. And this episode only reinforces my point...that the one constant in my relationship with my Miata for the last seven years has been the friendship, support and camaraderie of other SAMOA members. Thanks Robin, for your run yesterday (in bright glaring top-down sunshine), and helping bring back the memories.

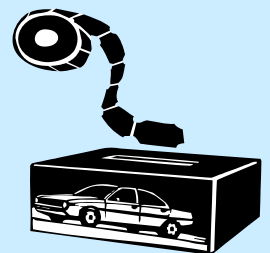
OK, enough maudlin sentimentality. Let's talk about what is coming up in the SAMOA and all publication date of coincides with the run, aptly titled Run because it the summer, au- Then, because he and therefore has the gift of eyes in the back of his head, Jack



next month or so with things Miata. The this April newsletter annual SJVMC poker Spring Fling Poker does not take place in tumn or winter. used to be a teacher

BadBack Parker has decided to bless us with yet ANOTHER poker run a week later. The winner of this event will no longer be allowed to be an underage member of his family, however. After we play like sardines at CoCo's on the thirteenth, we have yet another scheduled event on the last Saturday of April. Get ready to crank up your amps, tweet your tweeters and verb your reverbs, as Mike D's neighbors on April 29th are once again reminded why property values are so low in their neighborhood. And just to sweeten the April pot a bit more, I was informed yesterday that a certain club member who now has gone to the turbocharged dark side (think red MSM that used to belong to another club member) will lead us into temptation in the wine country sometime during the A month. Details to be leaked to the world when they become available...

Prizes for the GGAT raffle that will take place at the June 19th event have been coming in from a variety of sources, and believe it or not, many of them have absolutely nothing to do with auto racing. You who are lucky enough to attend our April club meeting will have the unique opportunity to purchase all of the winning raffle tickets. They are five bucks each and 5 for \$20. To check out what's currently available in the raffle, log on to <http://www.gotgutsatthunderhill.com/prizelist.html>. And my sources tell me that there will be many more vendors added to the list.



We also received some terrific news this week from MazdaUSA. They have agreed to support our Scrabble Scramble event for another year, meaning that it is now officially on the calendar—scheduled date is Saturday, September 23rd. Way to go Denise!



We have some beautiful Miata weekends to look forward to in the next several months. The weather has got to improve sometime, right? Why not take a look at our event schedule, find a weekend that looks lonely, and raise your hand? We would all love you forever, and you might even surprise yourself. Just contact me at events@samo.org with your event ideas. See you all on the road.

Master Events Calendar

Sacramento Area Miata Owners Association

2006

| CLUB | DATE(S) | DAY | EVENT TITLE | ORGANIZER | TYPE | CODES |
|--|-----------|---------|--|--|------|------------|
| APRIL | | | | | | |
| SJVMC | Apr 01-02 | Sat-Sun | Spring Fling Poker Run | Randy Ames (559) 431-0311 | T | \$\$\$ R H |
| SAMOA | Apr 08 | Sat | 3rd Not Quite Annual Poker Run | Jack Parker (916) 698-2006 | T | \$ R |
| SAMOA | Apr 13 | Thu | Monthly Club Meeting | | | - |
| SAMOA | Apr 29 | Sat | Coollest Sounding Miata Contest (Pt 2) | Mike DeLaurentis (916) 791-9418 | A | \$ |
| MAY | | | | | | |
| | May 04-07 | Thu-Sun | Mountain Miata Colorfest of North Carolina | | | \$\$\$ R H |
| BAMA | May 06 | Sat | Jelly Belly Factory Run | Stephen Harris-Smith | | - |
| SAMOA | May 11 | Thu | Monthly Club Meeting | | | - |
| SAMOA | May 20 | Sat | Stewart's Point Run | Graeme Kinsey | A | \$ |
| JUNE | | | | | | |
| SAMOA | Jun 08 | Thu | Monthly Club Meeting | | | - |
| SCCA | Jun 10-11 | Sat-Sun | Shriners Hospital Autocross | Ray Miller (916) 726-5833 | S | \$\$ R |
| SAMOA | Jun 11 | Sun | Shriners Hospital Concours d'Elegance | Rod Gonzalez (916) 443-7901 | I | \$ R |
| SAMOA | Jun 19 | Mon | Got Guts At Thunderhill Open Track Event | Ron Petrich (916) 454-1008 | S | \$\$\$ R H |
| JULY | | | | | | |
| BAMA | Jul 01 | Sat | Scharffengerber Run | Stephen Harris-Smith | | - |
| SAMOA | Jul 01-05 | Sat-Wed | Mt. Shasta Weekend Getaway | Mike DeLaurentis (916) 791-9418 | I | \$\$\$ R H |
| SAMOA | Jul 09 | Sun | Gold Rush Run | Jeff Kilty (916) 798-2503 | I | \$ |
| SAMOA | Jul 13 | Thu | Monthly Club Meeting | | | - |
| SAMOA | Jul 22 | Sat | Run Around The Hills With Baddtaz | Dennis Dettloff/ Barbara Fenner (530) 644-7474 | A | - |
| AUGUST | | | | | | |
| SAMOA | Aug 10 | Thu | Monthly Club Meeting | | | - |
| SEPTEMBER | | | | | | |
| SAMOA | Sep 14 | Thu | Monthly Club Meeting | | | - |
| SAMOA | Sep 23 | Sat | Scrabble Scramble 2006 | Denise Correia (916) 806-8707 | I | \$\$ R H |
| SAMOA | Sep 24 | Sun | Baddtaz Barbecue Run | Dennis Dettloff/ Barbara Fenner (530) 644-7474 | A | \$ R |
| OCTOBER | | | | | | |
| SAMOA | Oct 01 | Sun | Annual SAMOA Picnic | Board of Officers | | R |
| CLUB NW | Oct 08-08 | Fri-Sun | Backroads to Bavaria IX | John Hewitt (380) 859-4248 | T | \$\$ R H |
| SAMOA | Oct 06-09 | Fri-Mon | Fort Bragg Trip | Ralph Gingrich & Fran Rowell | I | \$\$\$ R H |
| SAMOA | Oct 12 | Thu | Monthly Club Meeting | | | - |
| NOVEMBER | | | | | | |
| SAMOA | Nov 09 | Thu | Monthly Club Meeting | | | - |
| SAMOA | Nov 11 | Sat | 6th Annual Teddy Bear Toy Run | Jack Parker (916) 698-2006 | A | \$ |
| DECEMBER | | | | | | |
| SAMOA | Dec 14 | Thu | Monthly Club Meeting | | | - |
| <i>Key: \$ = under \$30 \$\$ = under \$75 \$\$\$ = over \$75. R = RSVP to event coordinator or event sponsor. H = hotel reservation required or recommended.</i> | | | | | | |

MIATA EVENT CATEGORIES



MILD: A relaxed scenic drive, slower paced, passenger-friendly, possible congested areas, several regroup stops. The main objective is to enjoy the scenery, eat and socialize.



INTERESTING: A drive with some intentional twisty roads, which allow the driver to enjoy the pace and the passenger to enjoy the scenery. It has a quicker pace, and usually ends with a meal and socializing.



A BLEND: This trip will allow the driver to exercise his/her driving skills on traditional Miata roads, within each driver's comfort level. Regroups areas. Passenger may miss some scenery. Ends with refreshments and shared stories of the road trip.



TRAVEL: Traveling some distance to meet, eat, socialize or visit locations. Often includes overnight stays or full day trips. Will entail a brisk pace with an emphasis on going directly, and may include freeways and faster direct roads, without regard to scenery.



ADVENTURESOME: Involves a quick, spirited pace. This run presents drivers with an opportunity to drive their Miatas to their individual safe limit. Will entail trips on back roads with lesser traffic, and lots of hills and curves. Motion sickness is not unheard of among passengers.



SPORTING: Includes track driving and autocross, with an objective of improving driving skills.

April Membership News

By Jeanne George

I am now three months into the process of emailing membership renewal notifications. It is working very well. Many members have dropped me emails to thank me for the notification. Several former members have rejoined the club. Others indicated they didn't realize that they had been dropped from the membership.



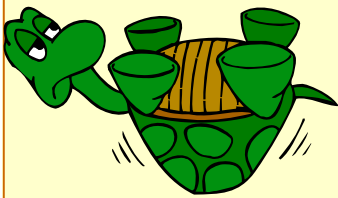
Fran, Ron, and I are all working on different aspects of getting the database information corrected and current. If you are not getting emailed information regarding events and club meetings, please contact Fran at secretary@samoa.org. She is the only one correcting the database and then passing the information to Ron.

The current officers are considering implementing a password protection of the newsletter. If you are a former member relying on reading the newsletter online, soon that may not be an option. If you are a non-member reading this, consider joining the club.

Quick Member Update

By Bob & Dee Jensen

Here goes. . . Our little Silver, Lic BOBNDEE, is asleep in the garage needing a new battery and two healthy people to carry. You see, Dee has had a bunch of problems with her back. She is doctor-ordered not to sit for long periods of time. This means no runs. In addition, she tires very easily, so we can't come to meetings. We do keep up with the SAMOANS via the MiataTudes on the net, and, while this may not be the feel good article of the month, we want to let our club know that we are still here, still sending our dues, and still loving the experience of being owners of the greatest little ride we've ever had. So go out on those runs, have a great time with Thunderhill, and we will be back and active as soon as the Great Rallymaster wills.



And Another Quick Member Update

By Ray Lassing

Actually, Ray sent me an email and a photo of his recent outing at Thunderhill, where he attended the Team Miata Thunderhill Performance Driving School in his new 2006 MX-5 Miata. Ray lives in Grass Valley and recently purchased his silver MX-5 at Autowest Mazda in Roseville. Unfortunately,

the dealer did not have any of the free SAMOA application forms available, so Ray, the resourceful person that he is, dropped me a line via email.



Ray also mentioned that he was interested in more track days and autocross. Well, to make a short story even shorter, I put Rod Gonzalez and Jack Parker in touch with him. Ray now has the forms he needs to activate his membership, and also

has links to both the SCCA and CSCC autocross websites. Ray, we hope you make the drive down the hill and join us at Coco's on the 13th.

Next SAMOA Event

By Jack Parker

3rd Not Quite Annual Poker Run

Been on a poker run lately? Did you know by the second check point that you were not going to win anything with a 3 of diamonds and a 4 of hearts? Me too. We the 3rd Not Quite Annual new kind of poker run where the winner is decided while you are eating lunch. No, french fries are not counted as wild cards. The other night while watching the travel channel, the World Poker Tour tournament from wherever was televised and they were playing Texas Holdem. This poker run will be decided by a mini tournament of Texas Holdem at lunch so everyone has at least a small chance of winning.



So come one and come all to the 3rd Not Quite Annual Poker Run and try your luck. April 8, 2006 is the date. The start time will be 9:30. The meeting place will be White Rock and Sunrise in the Costco Parking lot. I would say that it will be in Mcdonalds parking lot but that would only confuse Mike. We will drive around the foothills of the gold country and end in Ione where the winner will take all. Five dollars per person is the buy in. This will be a relaxed run through the green hills of El Dorado and Amador County and give everyone a chance to look at the great scenery. See you on the 8th.



TechnoBabble

by Jack Parker

Techno Tire Talk

Now that we have turned you into a great driver, you all went out and went to a track event or an autocross, ya right, and you are now show ready with your brand new set of light weight SSR Competition 15 inch wheels, what the heck do you put on them. I mean like do you really want to look like that Porsche Cup car at Sebring 12 Hours that had a flat 2 miles from the pits? Ran 2 miles on the rim at 75 mph. That live in-car camera was a great thing to watch. Got to love sparks. Anyway, what the heck tires do we put on that set of rims? What is the best performance tire?

In the United States, it seems that car manufacturers have figured out that the easiest route to increased sales is to make a tire "all season". In other words it doesn't work particularly well in any weather condition really well but will get by in all conditions by being o k. From reading, I have found that this condition is not the case in Europe for real car guys. People in Europe often have two sets of tires. One for winter and one for summer. This accomplishes having a great set of tires all the time. This becomes more expensive but safety has no price.

The Miata is best improved with a great set of summer tires. That is after you have attended a driver school, track event or have I ever mentioned autocross. Oh, thats right, I did once a long time ago. We now have a plethora, I'll have to look that word up to see if I used it right, of really great summer tires in sizes that the companies are making for our little cars. Now I am assuming you all have normally aspirated cars, I love using terms like that, and that scenario will be the situation I am looking at for tires choices. Falken, Hankook, Kuhmo, Goodrich, Yokohama/Advan, Avon and Michelin to name a few all produce tires that fit our cars. Now would be the time to look at the relative ratings of tires and relate them to performance. For our pur-

poses I am going to look at only one for right now. Since our cars are limited in speed and weight, those factors I believe to not be as important as stick. Does your tire stick to the road better than others. Autocrossers, have I mentioned that I like to autocross, look primarily at one rating on a tire. This comes right off the Tire Rack web site. "The U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's (NHTSA) Uniform Tire Quality Grade Standards (UTQG) were originated to provide consumers with useful information to help them purchase tires based on their relative treadwear, traction and temperature capabilities." This number also generally relates to the stickiness of a tire and in turn traction. And we like traction. The more the better. Related to traction is tire wear. The general concept is the greater the traction the lesser the treadwear. The lesser the number the softer the compound and greater the traction. Now there are other factors like sidewall flex, speed rating and tread pattern but those we will not concern ourselves with at this time.

For street tires the UTQC bottom limit for a streetable tire is about a 200 rating. This indicates a VERY soft compound and in turn less treadwear. But again the performance gains are incredible with such a tire. Once the tire rating (UTQC) gets much above 300 summer style driving traction becomes an issue. Now on to the tires.

BF Goodrich makes a great tire for our cars. The g-Force T/A KD. The treadwear rating is 200. On the Tire Rack website they usually get great reviews and (your mileage will vary) people have gotten as much as 60,000+ miles on a set. But guess what. They cost \$131 a tire. Now I have talked about bang for your buck. After buying those your buck may feel pretty banged. Another great tire is the Kumho MX. At a rating of 220 they are in the same ball park but cost only \$80. And they weigh 5 pounds less than the BFGs. Great reviews on the Tire Rack (www.tirerack.com) web site. So you can see that buying a performance tire is a bit more complicated than just finding the right size. I currently

own the Kuhmo MXs, Kuhmo 712s (UTQC of 300), Falken Azenis 615, Falken Azenis 215 and a set of really rock hard, although listed as "performance tire", Hankooks. I have my preferences and pretty much stick to them. Stop me and talk about tires sometime and I will make some recommendations. Generally that old addage, you get what you pay for, does not apply because you can find a lot of bang for your buck if you look around. That best tire is found when you do your research and ask around.

Classified Ads

For Sale Pop-up OEM headlights pair with plastic brackets from a 1995 Miata Special Edition Mica Merlot in excellent condition available for only \$5. Contact Adi Damania by email: abdamania@yahoo.com (2)

Motor For Sale Miata 1.8 liter motor from a 2000 California car. This motor was purchased as a spare in April, 2001 from Maz-Toy Auto Recycling, 3611 NW Marine Drive, Troutdale, OR 97060. It has 8000 miles on it, is complete except for intake and exhaust manifolds, and is still crated from shipment. Price \$800 fob my garage. Contact Ron Petrich at freescope dad@yahoo.com or (916) 454-1008. (2)

Transmission For Sale Miata 1.8 liter 5-speed transmission for a 1999 car. This transmission was purchased as a spare in May, 2002 from Mazda Recycling, 3636 Omec Circle, Rancho Cordova, CA 95742. It has about 55,000 miles on it. Price \$350 fob my garage. Contact Ron Petrich at freescope dad@yahoo.com or (916) 454-1008.(2)

1999 Miata For Sale OK...its time to sell the beast...back hurts...too many cars and too little garage and more on the way...LOTS of mods...its a 99 with jackson racing supercharger...65k on the clock...kyb shocks with ground control coilovers ... fm sways ... sway bar brace in place so no mount damage...very nice handling car with mods to suspension...450 lb in front and 300lb in rear springs although rides very nice...corbeau A4 seats...voodoo knob and ebrake...polished vent trims ... supercharger upgrade...water injected ... quick release steering wheel with original available as well...hood and trunk lifts...boost and a/f gauge on pillar...hard dog roll bar with padding and hard dog seat belt mount...four point corbeau belts...standard bose stereo system ... custom cat back exhaust by magna flow ... lsd ... originally an l s car ... fun track car ... circuit 8s with kuhmo 712s ... Brembo rotors ... stainless brake lines...this car has been overly babied and pampered...garaged and maintained by myself or crazy red...lets try 12k to start...hate to sell but too many miatas...(916) 698-2006 to see the car... Jack Parker

Coming Attractions

Monthly Club Meeting April 13, 2006

SAMOA members meet monthly on the second Thursday of each month at Coco's Restaurant, 1830 Arden Way, Sacramento, CA 95815, 916.922.6741. The meeting officially starts at 7:00 PM, but many members and guests arrive as early as 6:00 PM and enjoy a relaxing meal or other refreshment. Miata parking is on the side of the restaurant facing Arden Way. All current, prospective and former SAMOA members are welcome. You don't even need to own a Miata to attend our meetings—you just have to be an enthusiast. Contact club president Robin George at (916) 359-2627 if you have any questions or want more information.

Coolest Sounding Miata April 29, 2006 by Mike DeLaurentis

Two years ago we held the "Coolest Sounding Miata" contest to determine who had the best exhaust system. Greg & Rita Marshall won with a no-name muffler and Mack Wright took second place without a muffler! It turned out to be fun so we decided to do Part Deux and determine who has the coolest sounding audio system.

This event is designed for SAMOANs who: a) think their audio system is really great and want everyone else to agree; b) are looking to upgrade their audio system but don't know what to buy and are looking for ideas; or c) those SAMOANs who could give a hoot about audio systems but enjoy driving through the countryside and the company of good Miata friends. Ergo, this event is designed with everyone in mind.

We have arranged for three professional musicians to do the formal judging and they will be providing their own CD so each system can be equally judged. We will also have a People's Choice award where those of you who are competing can play whatever music you feel best shows off your system and everyone in attendance will vote. If this turns out like the first Coolest Sounding Miata Contest you'll have fun.

We will meet at 9:30 AM at the Park and Ride at White Rock and Latrobe Roads in El Dorado Hills. To get there, exit US50 at El Dorado Hills Boulevard/Latrobe Road south to White Rock Road (across from the post office).

So tweak your tweeters and warm up your woofers and let the contest begin. Lunch and awards will follow. No RSVP required...member cost will be limited to your lunch. Contact Mike DeLaurentis at mdelaurentis@hotmail.com or phone (916) 791-9418 if you have questions.

Shriners Concours d'Elegance Weekend Friday-Sunday, June 9-11

Calling all Miatas! This is the 13th Annual Shriners Concours d'Elegance, and the second year it will be held at Mather Field. As it did last year, this event will span the whole weekend with something for everyone:

Friday, June 9th will start off with a night of harness racing at Cal Expo. Cost is \$30 per person.

Saturday morning, June 10th will have two separate events:
\$ The Sports and Collector's Car Tour, which will run from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. and will lead participants on a scenic tour to a yet-to-be-determined location. Entry fee is \$50.00 per vehicle. The tour is open to all cars.
\$ The SCCA autocross at Mather Field runs from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Entry fee is \$25.00 per driver. This is open registration - no pre-registration is needed. Details are available online at www.sfrscca.org/solo2/Sacramento.

Saturday night, 6:30 p.m.-9:30 p.m. is the Grand Marshal's Reception honoring John White, held in the historic Sacramento Coca-Cola Ballroom. Cost is \$40.00 per person, and tickets are limited.

Then on Sunday, June 11th, the premiere event...

The 13th Annual Shriners Concours d'Elegance at Mather Field

...where hundreds of antique and classic vehicles, including those classic wooden speedboats, will be on display.

A \$25.00 entry fee will get your Miata and two people into the Concours. We will need a minimum of 10 cars registered to qualify for club entry. Our club had a great spot last year for our corral and every effort will be made to get the same one for this year's event. Entry forms must be postmarked no later than May 15, 2006 to reserve your spot in the SAMOA Club Corral.

With a minimum of 10 cars entered, our club will be given three awards, which we can use as we like. Last year, our members judged each other's cars and used the awards for "Club Choice", "Best Detailed", and "Most Personalized". We will use similar award categories this year.

You do not need to have a pristine Miata to display in the club corral (perhaps the more original, the better - hint, hint). This is all for fun and to show our support for the Shriners Children's Hospital. For those in the club that choose not to display their car, \$10 each will get you a (continued on page 8)

Coming Attractions

(from Page 7) wrist band so you can come to the Concours and enjoy the day with your fellow club members.

Rod Gonzalez will again coordinate the club's participation in this event. Please let him know that you have registered, along with the year and color of your Miata for the official participant list.

Event details, contact information for each event, and entry form, (along with pictures of last year's event and SAMOA's award winners) are available on-line at www.shrinersconcours.com, or you can download a "light" version (sans graphics) of the registration package from the SAMOA Events Web page.

Remember, all of these events are fund-raising activities. One hundred percent of all proceeds will go to the Shriners Children's Hospital. Come on out and join the fun. Let's have a big SAMOA turnout for these very worthwhile events!

Contact Rod Gonzalez at rodroid@samo.org or by phone at (916) 443-7901. RSVP is required.

Got Guts...again June 19, 2006 by Ron Petrich



By this time I'm sure you all have heard that we are hosting a track day in June at some track called Thunderhill. I would not be surprised if you had also heard that it is a fundraiser for the Crohn's & Colitis Foundation of America. What would surprise me, however, is if every one of our readers was aware that a huge raffle is being held during the event, that fantastic prizes are being offered, and that you do not have to go to the event to participate. The raffle is open to all, SAMOA members and not, juniors and seniors, men and women, boys and girls, Republicans and the other ones...well, you get the idea.

But before I plead, beg, cajole, demand and insist that you buy raffle tickets, I thought I would entice you...entice you by listing some of the fantastic prizes that have already been donated. This list is by no means complete, as more "stuff" is arriving at my doorstep every day, but it sure puts our monthly raffle to shame. Here is what I have in the bag as of March 22nd, in no particular order.

A complete set of Rota Grid wheels (16x7)...set of Goodyear F1GSD3 tires in 205/45-16...Ferrari, A Champion's View (book signed by Phil Hill)...3 leather baseball jackets...a free track day from TEAM Racing...2 free track days from Thunderhill Raceway...\$100 Sears gift certificate...4 \$50 Flyin' Miata gift certificates...VIP tour/tasting for 4 at Grgich Win-

ery...free subscription to Autoweek...2 free subscriptions to Grassroots Motorsports...4 complete NXT car care kits (buckets, sponges, wax, glass, interior, etc) from Meguiars...air horn kits from Thompson Automotive...12 free meals from In-N-Out Burger...2 3-day Super Tickets to the Monterey Sports Car Championships at Laguna Seca...several vintage Napa and Sonoma wines...and this is just a partial list.

Tickets cost \$5.00 each and 5 for \$20.00. As I said, you do not need to be present to win. If you cannot make it to the track, just fill in your name and telephone number (with area code) and keep each stub. You can buy raffle tickets at each of our next 3 membership meetings, at the track, or online at the GotGutsAtThunderhill website. See me at Coco's, I'll be the VERY friendly guy with his hands out.

Scrabble Scramble 2006 September 23, 2006 By Denise Correia



Mark your calendar for September 23rd for the annual Scrabble Scramble event in Folsom. During the morning car show we will have another 2007 from Folsom Mazda to test drive. We are planning another great route. Mazda is providing the awards dinner again. Check the SAMOA website for the registration form. Registration is \$60 per vehicle and includes two lunches, two dinners, a t-shirt and chances to win great prizes. The hotel is the Courtyard by Marriott. The hospitality suite on Friday evening will provide time for all of us to socialize with regional club members. Register prior to August 23rd for a bonus t-shirt. Contact Denise Correia for additional information or to volunteer for this event or for "no passenger" discount. 916-806-8707 or deni@samo.org

SAMOA Annual Picnic October 1, 2006

Hold the date of Sunday, October 1, 2006 open for the annual SAMOA picnic. This year our picnic will be held on the grounds of the Windwalker Winery, 7630 Perry Creek Road, Somerset, California, in Amador County.



More information about the details of the annual picnic will be made available as soon as possible. Stay tuned to this channel.



SAMOA Presents Got Guts at Thunderhill



**All Proceeds of this open-track event benefit the
Crohn's and Colitis Foundation of America**

Monday, June 19, 2006

IMPORTANT READ THIS: This is a non-competitive, open event intended for street-legal Miatas and other vehicles. All drivers and guests must sign liability waivers. Drivers must read and understand event rules and other guidelines. There will be informal driver instruction available for all drivers who request it. All drivers and passengers must be 18 years of age and must wear a helmet. No one under the age of 18 is permitted on the track or in the pit area at any time. All convertibles must be equipped with rollover protection. Style bars are not permitted. All cars must pass a self-administered technical inspection and be deemed safe for track activities. Please also remember that it is your responsibility to make sure that your family and guests understand and follow event rules.

You will not receive a mailed response to this form. You will receive an email or telephone notification with your group assignment. If you request a specific car number (see below), you must have magnetic or other numerals at least six (6) inches tall that can be affixed on both front doors of your vehicle. If you cannot provide your own numbers, you will be assigned, at random, numbers at check-in at the track.

PERSONAL INFORMATION

NAME: _____
ADDRESS: _____
CITY: _____ **STATE:** _____ **ZIP:** _____
PHONE: _____ **EMAIL:** _____
CAR MAKE: _____ **MODEL:** _____
CAR YEAR: _____ **COLOR:** _____

TRACK EXPERIENCE

| | <u>NOVICE</u> <u>Group C</u> | <u>INTERMED</u> <u>Group B</u> | <u>ADVANCED</u> <u>Group A</u> |
|--|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| How many track events have you participated in (circle one)? | 0-3 | 4-6 | 7 plus |
| Preferred Run Group? _____ | | Car Number? _____ | |
| Willing to Instruct? _____ | | Need Instructor? _____ | |

TECH INSPECTION

All participants must perform their own vehicle tech inspection. The SAMOA 2006 tech sheet must be used for this purpose. This sheet must be completed, signed and submitted at the time of check-in at the track. Bringing an inspected, track-ready car to the track IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY. ANY CAR FOUND TO NOT BE MECHANICALLY FIT WILL BE BARRED FROM THE TRACK UNTIL SUCH PROBLEMS ARE CORRECTED. NO EXCEPTIONS.

BENEFIT RAFFLE DETAILS

SAMOA will conduct a raffle of automotive and other items during the lunch break. Tickets for the SAMOA raffle are \$5.00 each (5 for \$20.00) and may be pre-purchased below. Raffle tickets will also be sold at the track up to the time of the raffle. If a ticketholder does not expect to be present at the track, simply let us know and we will fill in your name on the ticket(s). We already have your address and telephone number above. All prizes will be forwarded.

ENTRY FEES AND RAFFLE TICKETS (mark the appropriate items)

| | |
|---|---|
| On or Before 05/31/2006 \$ 210.00 _____ | After 05/31/2006 \$ 225.00 _____ |
| Raffle Tickets @ \$5.00 (5 @ \$20.00) _____ | Raffle Tickets @ \$5.00 (5 @ \$20.00) _____ |
| Total Paid _____ | Total Paid _____ |

Reservation for this event is immediately open to all interested drivers. Registration is not transferable. Two drivers desiring to share a single car must each pay the reservation fee and participate in different run groups. Your registration includes all track time, catered lunch and a supply of bottled water. We will honor cancellations for a full refund if notice is received on or before May 31, 2006.



PLEASE MAKE YOUR CHECK PAYABLE TO "SAMOA" and mail to Ron Petrich, 905 Sonoma Way, Sacramento, CA 95819. BE SURE TO INCLUDE THIS REGISTRATION FORM WITH YOUR CHECK. If you are pre-purchasing raffle tickets, the appropriate number of ticket receipts will be mailed to you two weeks before the date of the event.



CALLING ALL TRACK JUNKIES

By Bonni Weatherwax

Bonni Weatherwax, a former member of SAMOA and an all-around Miata enthusiast, operates an organization called **T.E.A.M. Racing**. That's insider lingo for Track Events Alotta Miatas. Although she is one of many organizers of track days, her events are among the best. They are cost competitive, safe and well organized. You will maximize both your track time and your grins if you feed your habit at a **T.E.A.M.** track day. She has a full schedule for 2006, as follows:

05/26/2006 - Buttonwillow
06/30/2006 - Thunderhill
09/01/2006 - Thunderhill
11/17/2006 - Thunderhill

She also has organized a full weekend of fun at the Fernley track east of Reno. That event is Saturday and Sunday, August 26th and 27th. For more information check her website at <http://www.team-racing.org> or email Bonni at bonni@weatherwax.net.

Miata Bus Trip To Thunderhill

By Robin George

This is a chance for you to go as a group and visit the Thunderhill Raceway Park and see what Miatas can do. On June 19th, SAMOA is sponsoring a track day at Thunderhill. See the details in the newsletter article *Got Guts at Thunderhill* and also at our website at www.samoa.org. The track is located in Willows, approximately 80 miles and about 1 1/2 hours from Sacramento. Not all of us are "trackies" but we would enjoy the opportunity to walk among, view, and absorb ourselves in the racing venue.

Well now we have the chance. For \$10 per person we can board a modern comfortable bus (happens to be yellow) and leave the driving and traffic to someone else. We will board at 8:30 am and arrive at the track around 10:00. We will spend a couple of hours wandering, drooling, viewing, and then arrive back in Sacramento around 3 pm. In addition, the club is hosting a raffle at the track at noon, and you are all invited to participate. To date, more than \$4,000 worth of raffle prizes have been donated. And if you are really adventurous, maybe you can wheedle a ride-along in the passenger seat of one of the participants (sessions are 20 minutes long...must be 18 or over to be on the track...helmet required). You can take your lunch or buy it there (the snack bar will be open for both sandwiches and hot lunches). You can bring chairs for your own comfort; they do have bleachers for sitting as well. You do not have to be a member to attend, and children are welcome as well.

Contact me at robin@winfirst.com or at (916) 359-2627 to indicate your interest in attending. I will need to have a minimum of 25 people in order to cover the cost of the bus use. More information will be published as the event gets closer.

So Did You Feel Lucky?

By Robin George

On Sunday, **March 19**, a group of 17 people in 13 Miatas arrived at the meeting location at Starbucks in Market Square near the new HOOTERS. After getting coffee and munchies the group was ready to go. Jeanne passed out the driving instructions and I began my speech. I forgot introductions, but was quickly informed of my mis-

take by several members.

This had been my Hang Over run which got rained out in January. I was concerned that it might get canceled again due to the recent rains. But the sun was out. Whoopie!!! It was chilly and windy but all the cars had tops down and the heaters turned on. We headed out and the drive led us down the Garden Highway. We got a great view of the swollen river and some really nice homes, just feet away from being inundated by the high water. No mowing lawns for them for awhile.

On Highway 99 to Marysville we saw six CHP's protecting our highways. One patrolman really got our hearts beating faster. He approached with his siren on, passed everyone from the back of the group, pointed his finger at Mario (the second car in line) and towards the side of the road. Ut oh, what did we do? Then he proceeded to take the next exit that was to our right. We were all bummed; he didn't want to look at our cars. Oh well, maybe next time.

The run ended at the Cache Creek Casino. Half the group headed to the casino area to try their luck at the tables and have lunch. The other half of the group tried their luck following me on the Highway 16 curves to Williams. At Williams we stopped for lunch and sampled some beer. It was nice to see the smiles. One member commented, "This is how an event should be run."

Presidential Run

By Robin George

On **February 26**, on a nice sunny day, 16 individuals in 10 Miatas met at the McDonalds meeting location in Rancho Cordova for an adventure. After people enjoyed some chat time we got down to business. Jeanne gave the passengers a sheet of paper containing six photographs to identify for a contest. They were instructed to zero out their odometers, and when the picture was identified, to write down the mileage. The person, who came closest to my mileage, would win a prize. After receiving driving instructions and introductions we were on our way. The trip covered some back roads and some familiar roads. Our adventure took us through Sutter Creek, Fiddletown, and ended in Plymouth for lunch.

My plan was to lead the group on some different roads which we had not traveled before. I think I succeeded. In fact one new road opened up, much to my amazement the day of the event; it had not been paved yet the week prior on my test drive. At one point wild turkeys wandered into the road in front of us. I lead the group over a one lane road, which was quite interesting. As we went higher in the area, we could see traces of the snow left from the previous week's storm and the air got much colder.

We ended the run in Plymouth and had lunch at the Incahoots BBQ, Pizza and Grill. We arrived earlier than we had planned due to less time at the bathroom stop and less regroup areas. But the staff was great about accommodating us. Everyone seemed to enjoy the food. Which is good, since the BOO is considering using this business to cater the SAMOA Birthday Party at the Windwalker Winery later this year.

Jeanne collected the photo contest sheets and tallied the mileages. It was close, but Genny and Bob Paauwe were the winners. For their efforts they won a bottle of wine in a wine bag. One member was heard grumbling that it should have been her, but she missed the last

photo. Just as the group exited the restaurant, it began to rain. Hurried goodbyes were said and people headed home in different directions. It was nice to get out and enjoy our cars for one of the first events of the year.

Zippy's Story

by Bonni Weatherwax

This is the story of how my favorite car of all time went from a mild street car to a Spec Miata / ITA racecar. It all started with an innocent "fun run" with my local Miata club. I learned that I was not the only one who likes to go fast in the twisty turns! Hanging out with these folks encouraged me to purchase and install a Hard Dog Hard Core double diagonal roll bar and I took Zippy to my first ever autocross with the SAMOA club. Of course, my inherent need for speed soon led me to Zippy's first track day at Thunderhill Raceway in mid-2000.

I was pretty slow at first, but close friends helped show me the ropes. I soon became addicted, and could not remove the smile from my face every time someone said "track." I began to add modifications, which taught me how to work on my car a bit, which was a very good thing because Zippy's toughest mod had to have been changing out the engine in 2002. One last difficult 'modification' was to improve the driver. I had become an advanced driver, but I was not yet good enough to compete. So I went to a race school in Southern California for three days back in September of 2002.

It was around that time that I decided I was going to race in the Spec Miata race class the following year. You remember those mods I spoke of? They all had to come back off, as the Spec Miata class does not allow much in the way of go-fast goodies.

Before I could even think of building Zippy into an SM racecar (and remove all those fun mods), I had to get a new daily driver. As much as I tried, I could not stay away from Miatas, and thus, Zippy got a little brother (1993 Classic Red) -- "Zipiter."

Once I was awarded my competition race license in both NASA and SCCA, it was time to get serious about Zippy's transformation into a Spec Miata racecar, as I wasn't about to shell out thousands of dollars to rent someone else's racecar any longer. First I took out the carpets, painted the floor, package shelf, etc., and installed an Autopower full (six point) roll cage. That install was almost as hard as the engine! I then added the prescribed SM suspension, wheels and tires, racing brakes, and the list goes on. This process, due to lack of a lot of time or money, took me a little over a year to complete!

To make a long story short, Zippy is now a full-fledged racecar. I raced the car for the very first time on June 25, 2005 at Thunderhill Raceway – the place where the whole journey began. Since then, Zippy has gone through some changes. The open differential finally exploded (literally – I still have it if you wanna see it), so I had to shell out another thousand bucks to buy the MazdaSpeed competition limited slip differential. This year I will be adding a class-legal cold air induction system, tune my air flow meter, and for my noggin, I will get a Hans Device (neck restraint system that had Dale Earnhardt been wearing one, he might be alive today) – just in case.

So to sum up? Racecar preparation – about \$5000. Driver safety equipment and licensing – about \$3000. Big huge grin on driver's face come race day – priceless.

Picture Gallery

Photos in no particular order about no particular topic - just presented for your viewing pleasure



Blue Angels performing their aerial magic at Mather Field



SAMOA Olympians basking in the glory of their medal finish



Denise leading the cheering throngs at the finish line (or was it really the starting line) of the 2005 Scrabble Scramble

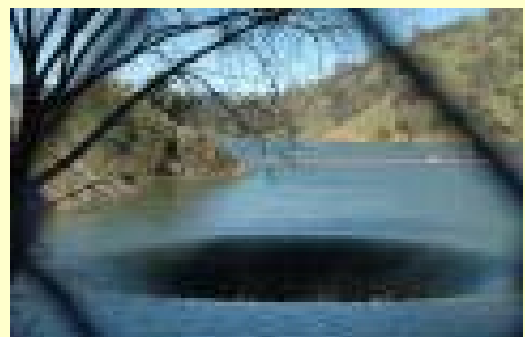


Photo needing absolutely no caption

First Class Mail



MiataTudes
PO Box 392 Orangevale, CA 95662



Are you interested in joining a Miata club
That offers driving and social events,
The opportunity to learn more about your car,
but moreover the camaraderie of other
Miata owners like yourself?

The Sacramento Area Miata Owners
Association meets the second Thursday of
Each month at Coco's Restaurant,
1830 Arden Way, Sacramento, CA
(that's just across the street from Arden Fair)
At 7:00 PM. Many members come early and
Enjoy a meal with other club members.

Join us for a no-obligation free tour.
And visit us on the web at www.samoa.org.

Contact _____

At _____



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