



MiataTudes

The Monthly Newsletter of the Sacramento Area Miata Owners Association—Volume 16—Number 6

Board of Officers

President

Robin George
robin@winfirst.com

Vice-President

Mike DeLaurentis
mdelaurentis@hotmail.com

Secretary

Fran Rowell
franrowell@aol.com

Treasurer

Bob Carlson
bobcarlson711@hotmail.com

Events Coordinator

Ron Petrich
freescopesdad@yahoo.com

Technical Director

Jack Parker
cultad@svics.com

Media Director

Ron Petrich
freescopesdad@yahoo.com

Membership

Jeanne George
Jeanne@winfirst.com

Community Outreach

Rod Gonzalez
rodnoid@sbcglobal.net

Webmaster

Hugo Schmidt
hugoschmidt@yahoo.com

Summer Starts in June, 2006

From Robin's Nest...

By Robin George

Well, here we are, already a quarter of the way through 2006. The club is off to a good start this year. We have had several events and the weather finally dried up. Mike DeLaurentis and I have been finalizing the setup for the Birthday

Party and Denise Correia has been working on this year Scrabble Scramble. Ron Petrich's "Got Guts in Thunderhill" is becoming THE event of the year. I still need folks to RSVP me about going to the event on the Magic Yellow Bus. Please let me know if you plan on going. Contact me at robin@winfirst.com or president@samoa.org. See you at the general meeting on June 8th at Coco's.

This is a short article this month because I need to leave room for the plethora of member's articles. I'll babble away next month...



Photos from Ron's last Sunday run around Lake Berryessa...

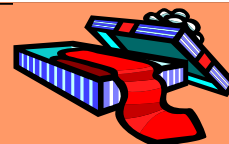


SAMOA
PO Box 392
Orangevale, CA
95662

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.

June Junkets... June 8th... SAMOA monthly meeting... June 10th... CSCC Autocross... June 11th... Shriners Concours... June 17th... Stewart's Point... June 18th... Father's Day... June 19th... Got Guts At Thunderhill...



Mike's Musings...

By Mike DeLaurentis

Has anyone noticed the plethora of award shows that continue popping up on television? Aside from the age old Emmys and Oscars there now appears to be one every other week for Rap music, Country Western Music, Videos, more Country Western Music, People of Color, People of no Color, Country Western Music, and Western Country Music, in what seems to be an attempt to stroke those tender egos of the entertainment industry.

However I think there is one award show whose time has come and that needs to be explored. This is an awards show for Terrorist Videos. (BTW if you're looking for an article on SA-MOA, Miata or cars this has nothing to do with any of those but we have plenty of articles about that stuff.) In the last few months these terrorist videos have been popping up everywhere with Osama bin Laden, his deputy Ayman al-Zawahri, Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, and the Italian terrorist Im-a Badda Assa, all recording new ones in April. And if a Terrorist Video Award (TVA) show does come to fruition here are a few categories that are a must.



1. **Best Face Mask.** Most of these yahoos take great pains to cover their faces which is really strange because why would you want to be in a video if no one can see you? I can't figure that out but then again being an infidel I guess I'm not supposed to. In any event I think the person who covers his face just enough that his evil beady eyes show through would score highest in this category.
2. **Shiniest Sword.** If you've had the misfortune of viewing these videos the goons in the back always have gleaming swords and so they should be rewarded for whomever's sword gleams the best. Some of them have automatic weapons whose gun metal gray or black barrels have no shine but

I think that as soon as they know they can be rewarded for a shiny weapon they will begin chroming their gun barrels. This will not only earn them an award but will also help the burgeoning chromium industry recently begun, allegedly by Halliburton, in the Middle East.

3. **Most Meanest Looking Goons.** Many of these videos have goons standing behind the speaker with their legs spread and arms crossed in a manner saying – "nanner nanner nanner!". I think the video with the most meanest looking goons deserves an award.
4. **Lighting.** Whether you are taking pictures with a disposable or an expensive camera lighting is the key to good exposure and creativity. The harsh lighting seen on most of these videos leaves a lot to be desired but, once again, will no doubt improve once "Cecil B. De Mullah" figures out he can get a little notoriety.
5. **Best Backdrop.** Some of Bin Laden's backdrops have been pretty good. For example the one that just played for it's millionth time on network TV with him walking through the bolder strewn countryside, walking stick in hand. But most of these videos appear to take place in a tent or some jail like room with very meager props. I see palm fronds, leather couches and wall hangings beginning to appear once someone knows they'll get some badly deserved credit.
6. **Best Script.** Are you as tired of "Death to America" as I am? I mean can they be a little more creative? I think they will be more creative once the authors, playwrights and script supervisors begin seeing their names inscribed on TVAs.



And here is the best part...you've got to be present to win and the TVAs will be held in some big tent and.....voila! We've gottem!

What's Inside

Robin's Nest	1
Contact the BOO	1
June Junkets	1
Mike's Musings	2
Member Discounts	2
Event Horizon	3
Next SAMOA Meeting	3
Event Calendar	4
Event Categories	4
Member Updates	5
Membership News	5
Multi Miata Families	5
Miata vs Competition	5
Nipples & Rubber	6
Speeding in Florida	6
Miatas and Hawaii	6
Open Letter to Time Magazine	6
A Good Miata Story	6
Still King of the Road	7
Free Club Membership	8
SAMOA Winter Olympics	8
Coollest Sounding Miata	9
Classified Ads	9
Shriners Concours	10
Got Guts At Thunderhill	10
Scrabble Scramble	11
Scrabble Scramble Form	11

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

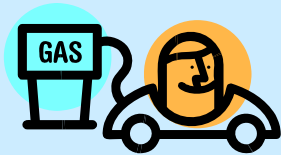
Part 1 - Summer Doldrums

The specter of increasingly higher gas prices seems to have taken the steam out of our event schedule. Or is it really the high price of fuel? I do know that no new events have been added to our calendar (other



than the holiday dinner) in the last 60 days, despite the onset of just perfect driving weather. And events that have occurred this year don't seem to have the sheer numbers (of participants) of past years' events. Rod has been pulling teeth to make the minimum number of 10 cars for the Shriners Concours, and it isn't even a driving event...just an investment of time. I'm not sure

where all of this is going to lead, both in the short (this year) term, or the longer term. High fuel prices are here to stay I'm afraid. So the question must be asked. Do you think clubs such as ours are at risk because people just don't want to drive recreationally (at all or as much)? Will our club evolve into something else ...wash, wax and meet to eat? ...an internet (virtual) club? Now I know why there are so many Starbucks coffee houses popping up ...we are never more than a mile away from the nearest caffeine fix. This certainly saves on gas, but has anyone calculated the price per gallon of a double trouble latte? Seriously, I think we must ask ourselves why interest in traditional SAMOA activities (and membership itself) seems to be down.



The high price of petrol doesn't seem to be keeping the true motorsports enthusiast at home however. A week ago I registered the 50th driver for Got Guts At Thunderhill, our track day which is coming up on June 19th. I expect to have at least 65 drivers when registration tops out. That seems to fly in the face of our unscientific but relevant sample (our events calendar) in the earlier paragraph.

But the question remains: do SAMOA members want to organize, lead and attend driving events? Well? Because if the interest isn't there, for whatever reason (and its not clear that gasoline prices are the sole culprit) are we deluding ourselves with this entity that we call the Sacramento Area Miata Owners Association? I really DO want to know, because I have an abiding interest in the continuing success (and existence) of our club. I know that I still sneak off to-

ward Winters and Napa on Sunday mornings, whether alone or with a few other Miatas. I also know that it will cost me about \$30 to indulge my wanton lust for sharp corners. But since I haven't had a Starbuck's double whammy whatever in more than a year, I guess I have banked a few barrels of gasoline for future runs.



As far as the calendar is concerned, the whole summer is just ripe for exploitation by enterprising members. We WILL be making a trip up to The Kirkwood Inn for hotcakes and bacon (sausage for Rod) sometime in late June or early July...I am informed by the California DOT that the Morman Emigrant Highway is STILL closed due to snow at the higher elevations. So that's one new run this summer. Do I hear more?

Part 2 - Ron's Rant (an Editorial Prerogative)

I was nearly run down the other day while out walking... yes walking, to my local post office, by an inattentive driver too busy with his phone conversation to notice a pedestrian in the crosswalk (me), crossing WITH the walk signal. And I can't believe how smug this driver was, honking his horn at me to get out of his way after I nearly became cattle feed. I must say that I agree with many who feel that the use of telephones while driving ought to be banned. Not banned for the reasons that Detroit Mayor Kwame Kilpatrick is promoting the outlawing of cell phones in his city. Mayor



Kilpatrick has made no bones about the fact that a cell phone ban in the Motor City would add thousands and thousands of greenbacks to the city treasury. I'm talking about the real dangers of cell phone use... ie. increased risk of accidents, property damage and bodily harm. A study undertaken in 2003 by the National Public Services Research Institute for the AAA reported an increase of 44.1% in accidents (over 2002) where cell phone usage was a contributing factor, in 12 states where statistics were compiled. That was three years ago. There are those who argue that it is not cell phone usage per se, but driver inattention that causes accidents. The Fatal Analysis Reporting System (FARS) is a census of police-reported fatal accidents occurring in the United States. In a recent analysis of fatalities involving cell phone use, the cell phone-using drivers were ALL in the striking vehicle. In these crashes, 75% of the drivers were engaged in conversations, 13% were dialing, and 12% were hanging up. Of those talking at the time of the accident, one-third had hands-free phones. I definitely agree that driver inattention causes accidents.

I guess I could go on and on citing statistics. And as a conservative politically I am the first one to defend the exercise of personal freedom and limits on government regulation. But like smoking, which is still legal in 50 states the last time I looked, overwhelming evidence says that it is bad and causes harm. Worldwide, since 1999 more than 46 countries have banned cell phone use while driving. Four states in the US currently ban them (19 other states have laws regulating their use), with others, including California, are considering legislation. A front-page story in the Sacramento Bee for Friday, June 26th described legislation recently passed by the state Senate banning all handheld cell phone use (handsfree phones will still be allowed under SB1613).

So please listen. I care about all of you that I share the road with. Please get off the phone when you get behind the wheel. You are increasing your chances of being involved in an accident if you don't. And to those of you who disagree, I wholeheartedly respect your right to do so. You are free to respond, and I will most certainly publish your comments next month.

Next SAMOA Club Meeting

Our next monthly meeting will be held on Thursday, June 8, 2006 at Coco's Family Restaurant, 1830 Arden Way, Sacramento 95815. The restaurant is across the street from Arden fair Shopping Center. All Miata enthusiasts are welcome. Meeting starts at 7:00 PM, but come early for chow & chat.

Master Events Calendar

Sacramento Area Miata Owners Association

2006

CLUB	DATE(S)	DAY	EVENT TITLE	ORGANIZER	TYPE	CODES
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 17	Sat	Stewart's Point Run	Graeme Kinsey (925) 685-8185	A	\$ 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 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						
CSCC	6-Aug	Sun	Autocross Part II	Tom Kubo (916) 847-8355	S	\$ R
SAMOA	Aug 10	Thu	Monthly Club Meeting			-
SAMOA	Aug 12	Sat	3rd. Not Quite Annual Poker Run	Jack Parker (916) 698-2006	A	\$ R
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 06-08	Fri-Sun	Backroads to Bavaria IX	John Hewitt (360) 659-4248	T	\$\$ R H
SAMOA	Oct 06-09	Fri-Mon	Fort Bragg Trip	Ralph Gingrich (916) 721-4499 & 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 02	Sat	Holiday Party	Ralph Gingrich (916) 721-4499		\$\$ R
SAMOA	Dec 14	Thu	Monthly Club Meeting			-
<i>Key: S = 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.

Membership Updates

By Fran Rowell

New Member:
Milton Dee
Lost Sheep



Returning to the Fold:
Ray **Chermak** & Susan **Willett**
JR & Susie **Hahn**

Memberships Expiring on June 1, 2006:

Jeff **Kilty**
Carole **LaDue**
Gene & Jan **Leininger**



June Membership News

By Jeanne George

Between Fran and I, we have been doing some membership record cleanup. I do the leg work, report to her, and she does the important record changing in the data base. As of this week, we have 78 memberships which include 125 members and 78 Miatas.

So far this year, 31 memberships were renewed which includes 10 former memberships being reinstated. We have 8 new memberships joining us. Our newest members to join are Mara and Milton Dee. We welcome them to the SAMOA club.

Just as a quick reminder, the SAMOA Birthday party celebration is in the organizing stage. The event will take place at the Windwalker Winery on October 1. There will be an organized driving event to the winery, some Miata games, bocce ball, wine tasting, and most important a BBQ



Multi Miata Families

By Jeanne George

We have several members who have more than one Miata in their family. Guess that saves the haggling of who gets to drive the Miata.

The family with the most Miatas is Carol and Joe Rainbolt, with three. Since space is one of the necessary factors, the Rainbolt's have the property and room for parking. Joe is the person to keep the Miatas well tuned, running, and on the road. They include a 92 Yellow Starburst, Carol's 94 Laguna Blue, and Joe's 95 Classic Red. In spring of 1999, while I was Events Coordinator, at a community event to raise funds for the Oroville Library, Joe's Classic Red was voted by the community as the best of the 34 SAMOA Miatas on display.

Genny and Bob Paauwe, not only merged their SAMOA friendship

into marriage October 2001, they brought their two Miatas with them. They include Genny's 93 Classic Red and Bob's 92 Silver Stone.

James Stewart, member since August 2003, has two Miatas: 96 Brilliant Black and 2002 Blazing Yellow Mica.

Maggie and Gus Gustafson have been members since August 2004. They have two Miatas; 94 Montego Blue and a 99 Sapphire Blue.

Former members recently returning to the Club are Susie and JR Hahn and Ray Chermak and Sharon Willett. Both families have two Miatas each. The Hahn's own a 92 Sunburst Yellow and 2003 Midnight Blue Mica. Chermak/Willett has a 90 Classic Red and 2002 Crystal Blue Metallic (ed note – Ray & Susan actually have 3 Miatas, although one is driven by Ray's son).



The most interesting response I received to my multi Miata request was from Jack Parker, SAMOA Tech guy. He currently (at the minute of my request) had a recent purchase of a 97 black and his 99 Red Classic. He had just sold his autocross car the week before. During recent years he has owned for varying periods of time:

two 1999's, one 1997, one 1996, and one 1992. Jack indicated to me, "confused?...so is our insurance agent and my wife...she never knows what to expect on the driveway".

If I missed anyone with more than one Miata, it's because your information isn't accurate in the database, in which case contact Secretary Fran.

Miata vs. The Competition

By Mike DeLaurentis

The June, 2006 Consumer Reports magazine compares the Miata to four other practical sporty cars and the Miata came out #1 of the pack. You can read the entire article by picking up the magazine but here are some of the highlights.

- The third generation Miata continues the formula that has worked since 1989; agile handling, lively performance and simple to use folding top from behind the wheel. Fun to drive....ride is relatively comfortable...impressive interior quality. Nicely finished interior. Excellent braking... quick steering....sporty handling. Above average reliability.
- The Solstice has bold, aggressive styling with good handling but its weight hinders its agility. Engine is coarse and noisy....gear ratios are too widely spaced...raising and lowering the top requires getting out of the car...tiny poorly shaped trunk is less useful when top is stowed. Interior has scant storage and gauges are difficult to see.

Expert • Independent • Nonprofit

ConsumerReports.org

Nipples And Rubber

by Jack Parker

This month I did a little reading, as usual, and found that there is a little known item that makes 94-97 year cars behave a little odd. Seems there is a little nipple attached to an unused vacuum connection on the backside of the fuel rail. If you have a car within this year range that is idling a little odd go to the firewall side of the fuel rail and look for a vacuum line connection and check the integrity of the rubber nipple covering it. If it is cracked or slightly porous there might be a leak that causes the idle to fluctuate. Simple solution is to replace the rubber nipple.



Second item I found while reading about, what else, autocross, is that there is a new tire that is being used by one of the top guys in Street Touring. The odd thing about this is that he is beating everyone in the rain and slop with a tire not thought of as a Street Touring tire. It is classified as an "Ultra High Performance Summer" tire by TireRack. The tire has a 320 UTQG rating which usually means its worthless as a competitive tire. How this translates to everyday use is that if this tire can beat the best drivers in the

country by wide margins, it must be a darn good street tire in the rain and slop. So the next time you are buying a tire and want a good rain tire that performs in the summer and has decent mileage expectations try the Kuhmo SPT.



Speeding in Florida

By Anonymous

A Florida senior citizen drove his brand new Corvette convertible out of the dealership. Taking off down the road, he floored it to 80 mph, enjoying the wind blowing through what little hair he had left.

"Amazing!" he thought as he flew down I-75, pushing the pedal to the metal even more.

Looking in his rear view mirror, he saw the highway patrol behind him, blue lights flashing and siren blaring.

"I can get away from him. No problem!" thought the elderly nutcase as he floored it to 100mph, then 110, then 120mph. Suddenly, he thought, "What on earth am I doing? I'm too old for this nonsense!", pulled over to the side of the road and waited for the Trooper to catch up with him.

Pulling in behind him, the Trooper walked up to the driver's side of the Corvette, looked at his watch and said, "Sir, my shift ends in 30 minutes. Today is Friday. If you can give me a reason why you were speeding that I've never heard before, I'll let you go."

The man, looking very seriously at the Trooper, said, "Years ago, my wife ran off with a Florida State Trooper. I thought you were bringing her back.

"Have a good day, Sir," said the Trooper.

Miatas and Hawaii

By Adi & Parvin Damania

Parvin and I were in Hawaii whole of last week (May 6-12). Unfortunately our "Blue Belle" was unable to fly with us on the Hawaiian Airlines direct jet service to Honolulu. So we had to rent a humble Ford Focus compact, although, for \$259 a day you could rent a Ferrari Mondial or a Lamborghini Gallardo or a Dodge Viper or a Chevy Corvette. There were no Miatas for rent, because if there were we would have got one. But that is not to say we did not see any. We saw plenty of Miatas in Hawaii. And no, we did not see much rust on them. The weather calls for a convertible (be careful not to drive under an ageing coconut tree). We saw from a ragged red 1990 with a surf board, a sand-covered black 1994, to a brand new cream colored 2006! Once you leave Honolulu, the roads twist a little, but huge tourist buses mean that one has to go slow. No chance for zoom zoom zoom. However, on the freeways you can really let go. Hawaii does not sleep till 4 AM, as we found "cruisers" going round and round our nice hotel on Waikiki Beach in their convertibles with "Jowean" (a mixture of reggae and Hawaiian music) blasting out of their probably cracked speakers. Incidentally we did not see any native Hawaiians in Miatas. It was always people from the mainland. The reasons should be obvious. All in all it was a fun trip, the highlight of which was a visit to Pearl Harbor.

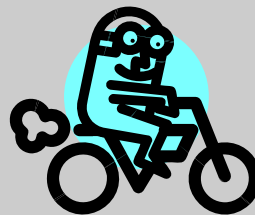


Open Letter To Time Magazine...

By Adi Damania

Sir:

Until now I was thinking that these ageing, bearded leather clad toughies with round black helmets riding low slung Harleys with fat tires were a bunch of eccentrics. But after reading your story [Time, May 8 2006] I am extremely glad and happy to know that they have formed the Patriot Guard Riders. For I too felt that we were not honoring our war dead in a befitting way. And to have members from Phelps' church picket a brave marine's funeral was just too much to bear. If the Patriot Guard wants me I am ready even at my age to buy myself a 1966 Honda Superhawk once again and ride with them to every funeral of a soldier in my state of California. The family that each fallen hero leaves behind should at least be assured that their loved one did not die in vain, and he/she has our respect and that we are indebted to them for their sacrifice for our nation and for freedom.



A Good Miata Story

By Adi Damania

This is a true story that happened between a Miata customer and Mazda Motors and its Customer-Care Executive. A Complaint was received by the Mazda in Hiroshima, Japan from an irate Miata owner in San Diego California: "This is the (...continued page 7)

(from page 6) second time I have written to you, and I don't blame you for not answering me, because I sounded crazy, but it is a fact that we have a tradition in our family that we have ice-cream for dessert after dinner each night. But the kind of ice cream varies so, every night, after we've eaten the whole family votes on which kind of ice cream we should have and I drive down to the local Ben & Jerry's store to get it. It's also a fact that I recently purchased a new Miata and since then my trips to the store have created a problem. You see, every time I buy a vanilla ice-cream, when I start back from the store my car won't start even though my battery is good. If I get any other kind of ice cream, the car starts just fine. I want you to know I'm serious about this question, no matter how silly it sounds "What is there about a Miata that makes it not start when I get vanilla ice cream, and easy to start whenever I get any other kind?"

The Mazda President was understandably skeptical about the letter, but sent an engineer from Japan to San Diego to check it out anyway. The latter was surprised to be greeted by a successful, obviously well educated Miata owner in a fine San Diego neighborhood. He had arranged to meet the man just after dinnertime, so the two hopped into the car and drove to the ice cream store. It was vanilla ice cream that night and, sure enough, after they came back to the car, it wouldn't start. The Engineer returned for three more nights. The first night, they got chocolate. The car started. The second night, he got strawberry. The car started. The third night he ordered vanilla. The car failed to start. Now the engineer, being a logical man, refused to believe that this man's car was allergic to vanilla ice cream. He arranged, therefore, to continue his visits for as long as it took to solve the problem. And toward this end he began to take meticulous notes: he jotted down all sorts of data: time of day, type of gas uses, Time to drive back and forth etc. In a short time, he had a clue: the man took less time to buy vanilla than any other flavor. Why? The answer was in the layout of the store. Vanilla, being the most popular flavor, was in a separate case at the front of the store for quick pickup. All the other flavors were kept in the back of the store at a different counter where it took considerably longer to check out the flavor. Now, the question for the engineer was why the car wouldn't start when it took less time. Eureka - Time was now the problem - not the vanilla ice cream! The engineer quickly came up with the answer: "vapor lock!!". It was happening every night; but the extra time taken to get the other flavors allowed the engine to cool down sufficiently to start. When the man got vanilla, the engine was still too hot for the vapor lock to dissipate.



Moral of this story? Even crazy looking problems are sometimes real and all problems seem to be simple only when we find the solution with cool thinking.

STILL KING OF THE ROAD

By Adi Damania

1999 10th Anniversary Mica Blue

"Blue Belle"

"Roadster for sale or rent, Vrooms to let fifty cents. No phone, no cruise control, I ain't paid my SAMOA dues. Ah, but two hours of pushin' Vrooms, Buys an eighty nine year coupe. I'm a man of means with no beans, King of the road."

IN THE MAZDA MIATA'S early years, after its sensational launch

in 1989, Buick also offered a two-seat roadster called the Reatta in 1990 and 1991. Mazda and Buick could have cosponsored a yacht race and called it the Miata-Reatta Regatta. But the Reatta flopped and died after only 21,751 units were produced may be because it was only offered with an insipid automatic transmission (only 3 owners coughed up humongous amount of money to custom convert theirs to 5 speed manual). On the other hand, the Miata, thankfully, went from strength to strength, becoming the roadster with most number of units sold ever. Mazda, now owned by Ford, recently introduced the third generation of the car under a slightly different name: the MX-5. The ever-popular Miata word was dropped. Whether this was due to it facing a new, more worthy challenger from General Motors, the Pontiac Solstice, or not is open to discussion. But some things don't change. The MX-5 Miata remains the quintessential low-priced roadster and the leader in its class.

Compared with today's appealing crop of roadsters, many of them far more expensive than the MX-5, an august group that includes the Nissan 350Z, the Porsche Boxster, the BMW Z4, now the Solstice and a "near roadster" in the Mini Cooper convertible, the MX-5 Miata doesn't have the highest horsepower, the fastest zero-to-60 time, the best stereo or the hottest styling. But with a base price for the low-end "Club Spec" version hovering around \$18K, the new Miata still offers the most fun per dollar on the road (all prices include destination charge, key charge, overcoat removal charge, transaction charge, and dealer charge).

The new MX-5 comes in five flavors, ranging from the Club Spec to the top-of-the-line Grand Touring, which has a base price of \$25K. On both the Grand Touring and the midlevel Sport version, which starts at \$23.5K, a six-speed short throw manual transmission is standard, as opposed to the standard five-speed on the lower-priced versions. Both manual transmissions offer slick shifting. But the extra gear ratios on the six-speed are handy on rolling hills. In my opinion, the six-speed manual is worth the extra money, but I would steer clear of the \$1,100 optional six-speed automatic with clutchless shifting. The automatic takes too much of the fun out of this car, unless of course you have never driven a stick shift or over 70!

The MX-5's steering and handling is more taut and precise than the older Miatas of the first and second generation. Some say the interior is slightly more spacious, which makes it a whole lot more comfortable than the predecessors. The seats are especially good and I am told persons over 5'9" and taller can fit in it without a severe case cramps. The trunk is slightly bigger (the battery has been shifted to engine compartment) and luggage for a long naughty week-end for two can be easily accommodated. The engine is now a 2.0 liter unit that is completely new, mounted way far back to maintain a 50:50 weight ratio on front and back wheels, and similar to my old 1991 Honda Prelude (it also sounds like a Prelude DOHC engine which I noticed when a wannabe SAMOA member turned up a couple of months ago for the Feelin' Lucky run to Cache Creek Casino). Another significant improvement is the convertible top, while somewhat noisy at highway speeds as always, is so simple that it can be raised and lowered with just one hand by the driver or passenger while you're sitting in the car (I tried this once with my previous 1994 white Miata and had to be laid up for a week with a bad back catch!). However, the new arrangement augurs well for me: One more chore I can pass on to the wife! The latches in my 1999 10th Anniversary Miata top are prone to flipping open at speed when the sun visor is lowered. This can happen at high speed with a whoosh sound as the air rushes in between the crack. Also a wailing sound like a wounded banshee emits when our Miata goes above 90 mph. (...continued page 8)

(From Page 7) Thankfully, the improved latches mean that we do not have to bother with this problem any longer.

Personally, I think the first generation styling with the flip up head lights has a certain impish charm not duplicated by the later body styles. In fact, I still miss our first Miata "HiHoney" which was a 1994 white C package with tan leather upholstery and top. And the twin flip up projector lamps headlights from the Moss Catalog on our second Miata the 1995 SE "Merlot Harlot" were so cute. So what's not to like in the third generation version of our beloved roadster? Just a few nits and picks. The driver's rear lateral vision is somewhat impeded by the newly designed convertible top. And yes, heated seats are not an option for the sake of my hemorrhoids.

Buy A Miata And Get A Free Club Membership

by Rod Gonzalez



Since the beginning of the year, the club has had a membership promotion where anyone not currently a SAMOA member that buys a new MX-5 or used Miata from a participating Sacramento area Mazda dealer will receive a free one-year club membership. This promotion is open to former members as well.

Currently, the participating dealerships in our membership promotion are:

Senator Mazda, 3655 Florin Road, Sacramento, CA 95823, (916) 427-1234.

Contact Tom Donovan or log on to www.senatorimports.com.

AutoWest Mazda, 100 Automall Drive, Roseville, CA 95661, (916) 786-6611.

Contact Rich Estep for new cars and Bill Silva for pre-owned cars. Their website is www.autonation.com.

Folsom Mazda, 12565 Auto Mall Circle, Folsom, CA 95630, (916) 985-5900.

Contact Paul Lazar. The website is www.folsomimports.com.

SAMOA appreciates the sales staff at these dealerships with assisting us establish this mutually beneficial program. Members can help spread the word by distributing the forms on this newsletter's back page. Now that this program has been going on for almost a half year, we would like to hear about your experiences. If you have purchased a new or used MX-5/Miata from the above dealerships, please let me know. Contact me by email at rod-noid@samo.org or give a call at (916) 443-7901 and tell me how your Miata purchase went. I look forward to hearing from you.



Past Events

SAMOA Winter Olympics

By Mike DeLaurentis

On March 4 the Olympic weather gods were on our side as it was sunny even though it had rained four out of the five previous days and



rain was in the next day's forecast as well. Nineteen SAMOA Olympians met at the Newcastle Denny's for a short ride to the Olympic stadium otherwise known as the DeLaurentis's yard and garage. This idea has been brewing for quite some time but Helen and I, along with Joe and Tammy Herz and former SAMOA Pres Rene', and Media Director Mari Green (a.k.a. the Irresponsible Olympic Committee), started refining

the concept last Fall. The final result was seven winter Olympic games, designed with a twist so anyone, regardless of their athletic ability, could compete. And compete they did. They curled, biathloned, bobsleighed, lugged, skated, skied, and for the grand finale they played hockey. We enlisted our neighbors Vi, Frank, Linda, and Derek, to officiate and they did a fine job keeping things under control, taking bribes and pretty much ignoring protests true to Olympic form.

As Olympic music played in the background the Olympic flame was wheeled into the stadium where it was handed off to President Robin George who lit the Olympic tiki torch (which later almost became engulfed in its own flame) claiming "Let the games begin". The Olympic venues moved from the back yard to the side yard to the driveway then inside the garage where food and drinks were served throughout the event. Notable moments were provided by crash helmeted Joe Rainbolt who along with teammate Robin George whizzed through the bobsleigh course and David "No Fear" Rowell raced down the luge



course with reckless abandon. Robin and Joe's bobsleigh time was bested by David Rowell and Dan Spengler who took the gold in that event. David also took the gold in the luge. Although somewhat sedate the curling competition ended in a run off with Fran and David Rowell taking the gold medal. The biathlon, a combination of skiing and shooting, was won by Clay and Barbara Cowan as Clay navigated the course in klutzy skis and Barbara played the role of the target. Clay repeated his gold performance in the skating competition and Joe Rainbolt took the gold in skiing. The day's final competition was hockey as teams paired off against each other in an attempt to score the most goals in three minute games. The fierce competition, and it was all of that, ended in a tie and a sudden death playoff game saw gold medals going to Team Pinot Noir comprised of Mario and Cece Lavoie, and Clay and Barbara Cowan. As it turns out Mario played college hockey and still has a mean slap shot which Bob Carlson and his broken toe can attest to.

Games were interrupted when credible sources advised the IOC that certain members were using performance (...continued page 9)

(from page 8) enhancing drugs. A predetermined random member from each team was selected to pass the “pea in the bottle” test. No, this was not the real Operation Golden Flow but a test to see who could toss a frozen pea into a glass jar. Some passed which added points to their team score and others did not resulting in penalty points being assessed to their team.



Team Zinfandel made up of Fran and David Rowell and Dan and Mila Spengler won the most medals. Team Pinot Noir, Cece and Mario Lavoie and Clay and Barbara Cowan, won the next most and Team Pinot Gris comprised of Robin George, Joe Rainbolt and Rod

Gonzales won the third most medals. Way to go. By the looks of it everyone had a good time...with the exception of Bob Carlson's toe.

Thanks to all who participated and thanks again to the Herz's and Green's for being part of the IOC. Summer Olympics – 2008.

Coollest Sounding Miata Contest – Part Deux

By Mike & Helen DeLaurentis

Two years ago we held a contest to determine who had the coolest sounding Miata exhaust system. We did this because at the time we (read Mike) wanted to buy a new muffler but didn't know which one sounded the best and figured this was a great way to find out. Shortly after that our radio needed replacing so the idea to do a second coolest sounding Miata contest, but this time to determine who had the best audio system, was borne. It took a little while but we finally did it last month on April 29.

April 29 started out as overcast and cool but as we departed the parking lot for our destination of Cool, CA in order to determine who had the Coolest sounding audio system the sun burned through the clouds and it was the start of a great day.

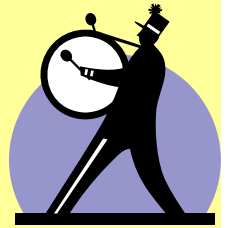
Getting through El Dorado Hills proved to be challenging with all of the traffic lights and some construction but we eventually regrouped on Green Valley Road and hung together for a full two miles until a cement truck decided to join the caravan. We let him pass then he returned the favor and once again we were together and enjoying the ride through great country scenery and lots of green hills which was not that surprising given this Spring's record rains. And those record rains did a number on the pavement but as I told a few SAMOAN's you should have seen the roads a few weeks ago before they were patched!

We made a pit stop at the Gold Hill Olive Oil Company on Gold Hill Road. They are now using olives from their own trees, as opposed to last time when they were buying the product, not that we could tell any difference, but the wide variety of olive oils and great gift shop is a constant. If you want to mix in a little olive oil tasting along with wine tasting while in El Dorado County we think this is a neat place



to do it.

Back on the road we saw more farms, animals, beautiful hillside homes, and pot holes until we rolled into Cool around noon. We took a few minutes to get organized then the professionally judged contest began. We are fortunate to have three professional musicians in SAMOA, Jim McClure, Jack Parker and Mac Wright. (You'll



be able to hear Mac along with the Ophir Prison Marching Kazoo Band again at this year's Sacramento International Jazz Festival over the Memorial Day weekend.) The three of them listened to the same music on each contestant's sound system and ranked them taking into consideration high, middle and low frequency, speaker rattle and any other miscellaneous quality their highly trained hears could discern.

Following this we held a People's Choice Award where each contestant was able to play whatever music best showed off their sound system and everyone in attendance voted.

After this we retired to the Main Street Bar & Grill for lunch and the award's ceremony. The professional judging and people's choice



voting were surprisingly similar with Ron Petrich winning First Place, and Rod Gonzales winning third place, in both categories. Mac Wright and Jim C took second place in the People's Choice and professional judged contests, respectively.

And so what started several years ago comes to a close. I can't think of anything else that may sound cool about a Miata that lends itself to a contest but if you can feel free to sponsor an event and contest as these last two have been fun.

CLASSIFIED ADS

For Sale - Winning Power racing brake kit. For front brakes only. Includes 11.5" drilled and slotted rotors, pads and adapter brackets for the front stock calipers. \$175 OBO. Contact Jim McClure at (916) 332-9490. (1)

For Sale - Hard Dog Hard Core single diagonal roll bar for NA (first generation) Miata. Asking \$250.00. Also a set of four (4) Kumho Victoracer tires (205/50-15) mounted on black 15x6.5 Rota Circuit 8 rims. Asking \$400.00. Contact Joe Rainbolt at joe.rainbolt@thomson.net or (530) 477-2208. (1)

1999 Miata For Sale - jackson racing supercharger, 65k, kyb shocks with gc coilovers, fm sways, sway bar brace, 450 lb in front and 300 lb in rear springs, corbeau A4 seats, supercharger upgrade, water injected, quick release steering wheel, hard dog roll bar and harness mount, 4-point corbeau belts, custom cat back exhaust, circuit 8s with kuhmo 712s, Brembo rotors, stainless lines, \$12k to start. Jack Parker (916) 698-2006. (3)

Coming Attractions

Shriners Children's Hospital Concours d'Elegance

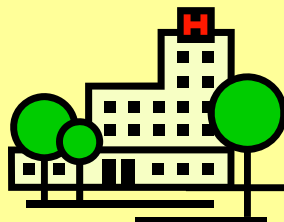
Sunday, June 11, 2006

by Rod Gonzalez

GOOD NEWS!

In an effort to attract more participants, the Shriners Concours d'Elegance Committee **has decided to extend registration** for the Club Corral **up to the day of the event.**

As a club we will be allowed to display our Miatas, participate in the judging process, and enjoy all of the other wonderful vehicles and boats on display. All proceeds from this event will go to the Shriners Children's Hospital.



The cost is just \$25 and includes admission for 2 adults, a program, and a goodie bag. You can get the registration package one of three ways:

1. Download it from the Shriners Concours website - www.shrinersconcours.com.
2. Download a "lite" version of it from our website - www.samo.org.award
3. Or come to the Thursday, June 8th membership meeting at Coco's and I will have copies there to hand out.

Regardless of which above method you use, **before you mail your check and registration**, be sure to **contact Marie Woods** at gpmarie@yahoo.com or call her at (916) 685-1615 and **let her know you plan to do a late registration** for the Miata 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. 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 wrist band so you can come to the Concours and enjoy the day with your fellow club members.

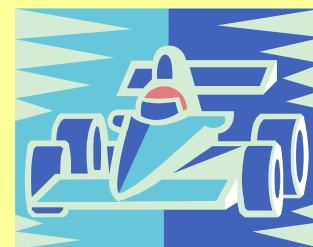
Please let me know that you plan to register, along with the year and color of your Miata for my participants list. I'm also looking for a volunteer with an OTM that can help transport an "Easy-up" and perhaps other items. You can contact me at rodnoid@samo.org or call me at (916) 443-7901.

So come on out and join the fun. Let's have a big SAMOA turnout for this event!

Got Guts At Thunderhill June 19, 2006

By Ron Petrich

There is both good and bad news to report about this event. And there is also **GREAT** news as well. Let's get the bad news out of the way first. Sadly, the novice (or beginner) driver group is full, and I cannot accept any more reservations for those drivers. On the bright side, there are still a couple of slots left in the intermediate group, and about 10 openings for advanced drivers. And it looks like we will have more than enough volunteer instructors on hand to satisfy demand. And of course the **GREAT** news is that it appears that Got Guts At Thunderhill will be a huge success. To date, more than 55 drivers have registered, with at least another half-dozen in the mail. I am also pleased to report that I have received nearly \$7,000 worth of raffle prizes, all of which will be disposed of at noon on track day.



But here is a real kicker. Lotus of Sacramento, the only California Lotus dealer north of San Francisco, will have two of their hottest sellers on display at the track, a 2006 Elise and a 2006 Exige, under their own tent. At a Miata trackday no less!!! They are also going to donate to the raffle, and make a charitable contribution to the Crohn's & Colitis Foundation. It is most interesting that Lotus of Sacramento actually contacted me and not the reverse. It is also sad that MazdaUSA and all of our local Mazda dealers have declined to attend. But hey, whatever works to make the event successful...



For those of you who would like to attend this event as a spectator, Robin George will be driving a bus to Thunderhill, leaving from the Natomas area at about 8:30 AM and returning at about 4:00-4:30 PM. The cost is estimated to be no more than \$10 per person, much cheaper than a half tank of gas, and much more relaxing. You are all welcome to come up, look around, check out the cars both on and off the track, have lunch, participate in the raffle, and perhaps even take a track ride in the passenger seat of a participant's car. Admission to Thunderhill is free, the snack bar will be open (sandwiches, hot dogs, hamburgers, drinks, etc.) or you are most welcome to bring your own lunch. The club has rented out the entire first floor of the administration building, which offers a great view of the track AND is air-conditioned.

Also, if you own a helmet in good condition (1995 or newer) and would not mind loaning it for a day, please bring it to our next club meeting on Thursday, June 8th. Make sure your name and phone number is on the helmet. It will be returned to you at the July club meeting.



Finally, raffle tickets will be on sale once again at the June SAMOA meeting. If you do not plan to attend the event, this will be your last chance to participate in the raffle and perhaps win one or more of the fabulous prizes. Winners **DO NOT** need to be present to win...just print your name and telephone number on each ticket and turn them in to me.

SAMOA Scrabble Scramble 2006

by Denise Correia

Mark your calendar for September 23, 2006 for the Scrabble Scramble in Folsom. During the morning car show we will have another new MX-5 (a 2007 this time) from Folsom Mazda to test drive. We are planning another great route. Mazda is sponsoring the awards dinner. Check the SAMOA website for details. www.samoa.org The cost is \$60 per vehicle and includes two lunches, two dinners, a t-shirt and chances to win great awards and prizes. The hotel is the Courtyard by Marriott in Folsom (916-984-7624). The hospitality suite on Friday evening will provide time for all of us to socialize with regional club members. Register prior to August 23, 2006 for a bonus t-shirt. Contact Denise Correia at (916) 806-8707 or deni@samoa.org for additional information, to volunteer for this event, or for a "no passenger" discount.

SAMOA SCRABBLE SCRAMBLE SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 2006

Driver: _____ Passenger: _____

Street: _____ City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____ Phone: _____

E-Mail Address: _____

REGISTRATION FEE IS \$60 PER CAR

Note: The registration fee includes participation in the car show, Scrabble Scramble, one T-shirt, lunch and awards dinner for two.

Please indicate the size of shirt you will need for the one (1) included shirt. All shirts are 50% cotton/50% polyester and will shrink minimally after washing.

M ___ L ___ XL ___ XXL ___

Optional additional T-Shirts are \$10 each. Please specify size and quantity.

M ___ L ___ XL ___ XXL ___ Total # _____ @ \$10 = \$ _____

Lunch Buffet (for two)

Dinner choices (must be pre-ordered); includes soft drink:

___ BBQ Pork Babyback Ribs

___ BBQ Chicken

___ Beer-Battered Fish & Chips

___ Fresh Garden Salad

Dessert Choices:

___ Seasonal Cobbler

___ New York Cheesecake

___ Chocolate Fudge Cake

Refund Policy

Cancellations received prior to July 1, 2006: Full Refund

Cancellations received between July 1 and September 1st: \$22.50 refund (T-shirt will be sent with refund)

No Refunds after September 1st 2006. T-shirt will be mailed to you.

Send **Registration Form and Check** in the amount of \$ _____ payable to **SAMOA** to:

SAMOA Scrabble Scramble, c/o Denise Correia, P.O. Box 2283, Folsom, CA 95763

RECOMMENDED HOTEL:

Courtyard by Marriott

2575 Iron Point Road

Folsom, CA 95630

Phone: 916-984-7624

"Miata Club" special rate (\$89.99 rate – King/2Queen) before July 31

Residence Inn Suites

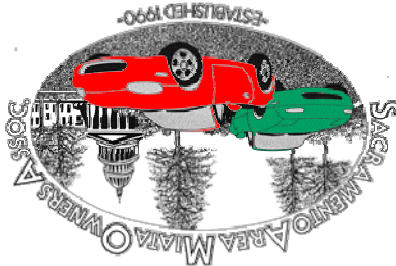
2555 Iron Point Road

Folsom, CA 95630

Phone 916-983-7289

Miata Club special rate (\$109.99) before July 31

First Class Mail



PO Box 392 Orangevale, CA 95662

MiataTudes



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 _____



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 _____