



MiAdiTudes

Just this once, in honor of our prolific contributor you-know-who

The Monthly Newsletter of the Sacramento Area Miata Owners Association—Volume 16—Number 9

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Back To School (finally) - September, 2006

Robin's Nest

By Robin George

School has started and mercifully the heat in our region has toned down. Remember to watch out for the little ones. They are really confused this time of year. We have had a rather sparse events month. I'm sure that meant everyone was going on vacations and otherwise out of town. We left for three weeks ourselves for the hot and



muggy east coast. We are so lucky we only have earthquakes, fires, and out of control legislators. The humidity was terrible and wet. Jeanne and I visited many battlefields in Pennsylvania and Virginia. Everything was very very green. And through our Congresswoman did a private tour of the White House and the Nations Capitol. Fantastic!! The picture is of me standing in front of my car security system. You just tow it behind. We only saw 4 Miatas and they weren't in very good shape. We have several great events coming up so make so you get your reservations made and the organizers notified. We will be sending out emails and ads in our newsletter plus arm twisting at the general meeting. I look forward to seeing everyone and your wonderful autos that haven't been driven much lately. It's time to get out and enjoy ours cars.

MiataTudes September Poll - Pick Jack Parker's New Car



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.

September Sprints...

September 10th. Picnic at Matanzas Creek Winery... September 14th. SAMOA

Monthly Meeting...

September 23rd. Scrabble Scramble... September 24th. Baddtaz Barbecue Run...



Mike's Musings

By Mike DeLaurentis

You know the old phrase; time flies quickly when you're having fun. Many times it is said tongue in cheek but in the following context, it is genuine. Elections! National, State, County, and local elections are coming up on November 7 so if you are not registered to vote do so now. You will soon start seeing registration tables in front of your favorite stores and you will probably see the forms attached to campaign literature that is about to flood our mailboxes. If all else fails you can call your county election offices and request that registration forms be mailed to you. A lot of folks have made sacrifices to protect our freedom and ensure that we have the right to vote so make sure you exercise that right. You also forfeit your right to complain about elected officials and their sometimes goofy legislation if you fail to vote.



If you are like most citizens and have no idea who those school board, or sewer district or fire district candidates are or what they stand for, you really do owe it to yourselves to dig around a little so you can make intelligent selections. I have a few acquaintances in our area who always seem to be in the know so I generally ask their opinions. And then of course there is the major Sacramento Newspaper that I irreverently refer to as the "Sac BS". Depending on your politics you can either vote for or against everything the SACBEE recommends. It seems to work.

And then there are those propositions! OH.....MY.....GOD! When Helen and I moved to CA the last time in 1990 (we've lived here five different times) and were preparing to vote in that year's elections, we dutifully read all of the literature on that year's batch of propositions then discussed what we thought we read. Holy confusion Bat Man. Some of the commercials and glossy mailers were out-and-out lies

which meant we really had to read the finest of fine print to figure out what the proposition was all about. It sort of galls me that our elected officials can't create and pass needed legislation but then again it is nice to know that citizens can be heard through the initiative process.

Finally there is another election coming up in December and it will be to elect SAMOAs next year's Board of Officers ... AKA the BOO. SAMOA's By-Laws contain term limits that preclude an officer from serving more than two consecutive years in one office and we have one officer, Bob Carlson, who will term out as Treasurer. That position will be open so we will definitely need someone to replace Bob who has done a great job of re-organizing and safeguarding our accounting records. At this time I don't know if any other BOO members intend to step down or continue but regardless I ask you to give some thought to becoming part of the Club's leadership. It is a lot of fun and as stated in the beginning, time passes quickly when you're having fun.



We'll have more to come on SAMOA's elections and in the mean time let's enjoy the fall weather in our Miatas.

HELP WANTED

Writers, Reporters, Artists, Photographers, Advertisers

To contribute to MiataTudes. Top pay and fringe benefits. Work only required on weekdays and weekends. See the BOO for more details.

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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

The month of August seems like a blur in the rear view mirror, as I spent much of it living out of a suitcase in at least six different states and two countries. I'm finally back from the travel wars and looking forward to the slate of late summer and early fall events on the SAMOA schedule.

The mythical Mary Pat and I embarked on a trip to Buffalo, New York early in the morning of August 10th. Of course, you remember that this was the first day of expanded security precautions at all of the nation's airports. Our flight out that morning was scheduled to leave at 5:50 AM, so of course hardly anyone at all was aware of the latest round of restrictions on carry-on baggage. Even the toothpicks holding my eyes open were confiscated as they were deemed too deadly for martini olives. Luckily, the wine we were bringing back East as a bribe to my mother-in-law was spotted early in the baggage line, and I was able to get them back to the car in the parking lot... instead of having to drink all three bottles between the check-in and the security gate. So, knowing the rest of my day was going to be relatively sober, I decided to play a game and look for Miatas in the course of the trip. And this time I decided I would wave to all of them, despite the fact that I had no car. You will be happy to know that I spotted my first one almost right away. As we were nearing Mono Lake in the first hour of the flight I noticed a 1993 LE traveling south on US395. I waved furiously from seat 6F, but the driver somehow missed me, which either means he was concentrating on the road or he just doesn't like me. I'm sure it was the former right? Right???



Buffalo in summer is a wonderful place. The snow is almost melted, there is no major league baseball, basketball, hockey or football to distract, and hot wings are aplenty. We spent a couple of days in Canada on the shore of lake Erie (where I'm sure Jesus learned to walk on water), and let me tell you, it is easy to get into Canada, but hard to get back in the

States. We were stymied on one trip back across the Peace Bridge, probably because I look like a terrorist. The customs officer asked me why my hat said "Got Guts" and what I had the guts to do. He didn't buy my explanation about Thunderhill, CCFA or racing until I showed him my SAMOA ID card...then all was right with the world again. By the way, gas in Fort Erie, Ontario was C\$1.19 per liter, which equates to \$4.06 per gallon in US dollars. Ouch, no wonder bridge traffic is so heavy heading into Buffalo.

I spent most of the following week on the shore of Long Lake near Rhineland, Wisconsin, fishing for Walleye and drinking Hamm's (ie cheap) beer. We caught enough to feed ourselves for 3 days, and I was even able to bring some home for a fish fry the following weekend. For those who have never indulged, Walleye is, to me anyway, the best tasting fish on the planet, battered and fried in beer in an iron skillet. But I am sad to report that I saw no Miatas in the state of Wisconsin, despite a long round-trip drive between Long Lake and Chicago. I did see a rusted-out Pontiac however.



So what does all of this have to do with Miatas and upcoming events? Be patient, gentle reader, your reward is at hand. No sooner

did I land back in Sacramento when I cleaned the Miata, packed it with goodies, grabbed four hours sleep, and set off at an ungodly hour early Saturday morning for Monterey and the Rolex Historic Races at Laguna Seca. Mike Hagerla, a fellow track junkie, owner of 57 Miatas and a long-time BAMA member, organized a corral for Mazda cars at the track. I don't know the exact turnout, but Miatas numbered between 30 and 40 cars in the corral. I had a fantastic time, and we were treated to watching a 2006 Toyota Formula 1 car set a new track record during its demonstration laps. I want one!



We even ran into What's His Name at Laguna Seca

Finally, this past weekend I spent some time back in Phoenix helping my mom and dad celebrate their 60th wedding anniversary. Its an amazing achievement, most amazing because they did it without ever owning a Miata. What's up with that? Happy anniversary folks.

So that was August. I'm sure your stories and vacation exploits are at least as interesting, and probably more so. Why not drop me a note for the next MiataTudes and let the rest of the club know where you've been? In the meantime, our calendar has some really interesting and varied events on tap in the next couple of months. On September 10th I am leading a group to Matanzas Creek Winery on the far side of Sonoma. Bring a picnic lunch and join us. The following Saturday, September 23rd is our annual Scrabble Scramble run, and I'm told the signups this year are the highest in three years. There is still time to enroll for this event. The following day, September 24th Baddtaz is hosting his annual barbecue run in the Sierra foothills. And of course, October 1st marks SAMOA's annual club birthday party and picnic. Ralph Gingrich and Fran Rowell lead an intrepid group to Fort Bragg over the Columbus day weekend, departing either Friday, October 6th or Saturday, October 7th. Somewhere in there we will cram a couple of club meetings as well. Finally, several of us were bitten with the bug to return to Laguna Seca for more racing activities. So on the weekend of October 20th and 21st its back to Monterey for the Monterey Sports Car Championships, which include a Star Mazda race, an IMSA GT3 Cup race, a Speedworld Challenge GT race, and culminates with a 4-hour ALMS (American LeMans Series) season finale. Tickets are available at www.laguna-seca.com and accommodations in the area are still available.

We are hard on the season's best driving weather in the next couple of months, and the SAMOA calendar, despite the great events mentioned above, still resembles a slice of Swiss cheese. There are some empty weekends in both September and October just ripe for YOUR event. If you have an idea please give me a call. We'll help you plan it, market it and execute it, and then we'll write about it in a future issue and tell the world how wonderful you are for leading it. How's that for a win-win plan? Contact me or any member of the BOO at the emails listed on page 1, and we will help you make it happen. See you next month.

Next SAMOA Club Meeting

Our next monthly meeting will be held on Thursday, September 14, 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. The meeting starts at 7:00 PM, but come early for chow & chat.

| CLUB | DATE(S) | DAY | EVENT TITLE | ORGANIZER | TYPE | CODES |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|---------|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|------|------------|
| SEPTEMBER | | | | | | |
| SAMOA | 10-Sep | Sun | Matanzas Creek Winery Run | Ron Petrich (916) 454-1008 | A | \$ R |
| 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 | | | - |
| - | Oct 20-22 | Fri-Sun | Monterey Sports Car Championships | Ron Petrich (916) 454-1008 | T | \$\$\$ R H |
| SJVMC | Oct 28-29 | Sat-Sun | Coastal Cruise II | Denise Correia (916) 806-8707 | A | \$\$\$ R H |
| 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 | | | - |
| <p><i>Key: \$ = under \$30 \$\$ = under \$75 \$\$\$ = over \$75. R = RSVP to event coordinator or event sponsor. H = hotel reservation required or recommended.</i></p> | | | | | | |

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 Ron Petrich

The following folks recently joined or renewed their memberships in the last month:

Jim & Sandy Callahan
Scott & Dani Kastning
Seth Nagao
James Stewart
Vince Weis & Kathy Bell

Sorry to say, RM & LJ Gauthier, Maggie & Gus Gustafson, Mark & Annette Lawler, Frank O'Connor & Kim Edwards, and Mac & Jean Wright have been placed on the inactive list. We haven't heard from you or your wallets yet, and we hope the lapse is temporary.

Finally, the following memberships expire on September 1st but you can maintain uninterrupted membership status by getting your check in by the next club meeting on September 14th:

Toby & Margaret Counter
Ron Crawford
Mark & Ellen Cutler
Harry Griffith & Yvonne Hatstrup
Margie Jurach
Cliff & Anita Lantz
Rick Netherwood
Larry & Barbara Penfield
Fred & Sandy Stuessy

Thanks, Remembering, MX-5s, Intakes, Outtakes and General Nonsense

By Jack Parker

It seems that I have not been very consistent lately, for many different reasons, but mostly because I have not been very consistent. Well today we will make up for it with some serious stuff and mostly ramblings and rants.

First and most importantly, the autocross community and generally car people have recently lost a member of the car fraternity. Bill Fleig recently passed away unexpectedly and will be greatly missed by many of us who have had the pleasure of meeting Bill. You may have read the obituary in the Bee recently that outlined his dedication to the automobile world and the accomplishments he attained. He, along with several others, was instrumental in reviving the autocross sport in the Sacramento area and was a two time past national champion in the sport and was expected to be competitive this year at the nationals. He will be missed by many.

Secondly, sometimes when you least expect it and need it the most, a little glimmer of light appears in your life. Well one day it was a light at the end of a tunnel that wasn't a speeding freight train. I was feeling like crap and was mostly spending lots of quality time



watching daytime television (Jerry Springer is hilarious) when Sally, my wife, brought this envelope in to me. I opened it and found a lot of little pieces of encouragement and signatures and messages from a lot of you in the club. Believe me, it was a day I needed a card like it. It was a very sweet thing to do and it was the highlight of my month. Thank you for your thoughts and kindness.



Now, enough of that. Intakes. Just recently replaced a Racing Beat intake with a Monster Flow intake. Big difference in lower end. My seat of the highly scientific pants dyno is usually quite accurate. This is what I was looking for and it was very pleasing. The sound is cool as well, that is if you can hear it over my neighborhood disturbing exhaust. Mike, the next exhaust contest I am ready for. Anyway, any person who knows the difference between and left and right handed screw driver can put one in and it only took ten minutes. They also come with an available but extra cost heat shield. They are now available for 94-05 Miatas in carbon fiber, rotomolded plastic and polished surfaces.

More seat of the pants stuff. Recently every car magazine know to the free world has been comparing the MX-5 (come on it's a Miata) to the pardon the term, Solstice. Most of the time the Miata comes out on top performance wise but some other-than-traditionalists find the Solstice more progressive in styling and therefore a better car. I hope those guys are golfers and try to put clubs in the back. Anyway, had a chance to drive them both. Found the Miata to be lighter feeling and more agile mostly, although Great Valley's idea of a test drive is limited. They both felt very heavy compared to past iterations of the Miata, most notably the 90-97 M1s. My general overall impression is they were both great touring cars with a de-emphasis on great performance as compared to previous models of the Miata. I found my 99 supercharged car to be more fun. Want to go wine tasting and/or breakfast in the foothills? Probably the Miata will be more fun to be seen in. You can also bring some wine or art home with you. If you want to really create something special to look at, wait for the retractable hardtop version but test drive it some place other than Great Valley. They don't know the product. The salesperson couldn't find reverse on the six speed. Very impressive knowledge. But then again some things just never change.

Speaking of intakes, which I was a while back, the 06 MX-5 has a supercharger available for it from the old BRP people now known as www.stageonetuning.com. Not a whole lot of info on it other than it takes only two hours to put it in. So those of you interested in carrying around that extra weight a little quicker check with these people. Not CARB legal yet.

Last bit of nonsense and rants. The last chance for you to go out and flog your cars on an autocross course is September 9 and 10 at the venerable San Joaquin Fairgrounds off Charter Way in Stockton. If you are interested let me know or check with <http://www.sfrscca.org/solo2/Sacramento/> to find more details. Again I, health willing, will be out at the track early eager to help all who show.

So see you at the meeting, I hope, with my new toy. It's the big black thing in the parking lot. Kind of a Miata on steroids. Go White Sox.

The End Of A Love Affair

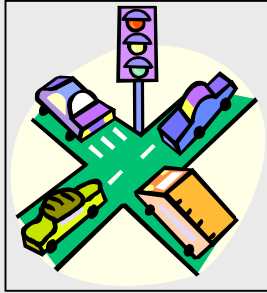
By Ron Petrich (reprinted with permission)

Americans love their automobiles, but not as much as they used to. Nearly seven in 10 drivers enjoy getting behind the wheel, while the rest think it's a chore. In 1991, nearly eight in 10 said they liked driving.

The biggest reasons for dreading the road: traffic and the behavior of other drivers. Only 3 percent point to high gas prices. "Other drivers get on my nerves," said Steve Heavisides, a 45-year-old teacher from Vernon, Conn., who had just returned home from a short drive.

"There was a woman who could have gone right on red and she was just sitting there talking on her cell phone. People don't pay attention and that gets on your nerves." About one in four drivers thinks of his or her car as "something special" instead of just a "means of transportation," according to a poll released Tuesday by the Pew Research Center. Nearly one in three thinks it has "a personality of its own."

Americans have been loving their cars for about a century, buying increasingly bigger, faster and more expensive cars while the rest of the world moves toward economy and efficiency. But the new poll suggests that driving is becoming more of a burden for many. The



souring attitudes evolved as many Americans moved farther from central cities, generating longer commutes and more congestion. By 2001, the U.S. had more personal vehicles (204 million) than licensed drivers (191 million). Urban drivers endured an average of



47 hours of rush hour traffic delays in 2003, a threefold increase from two decades earlier. The worst problems were in Los Angeles, where the average driver suffered almost 100 hours of traffic delays. That's about four full days of waiting for the car in front of you to move. "I sit there in traffic when it should take half an hour, now it's taking an hour and 15 minutes," said Stacy Baglio, 36, who drives 28 miles to her sales job in northern New Jersey. "People are weaving in and out of traffic. There is no common courtesy whatsoever."

Pew conducted the survey of 1,048 drivers from June 20 to July 16. It has a margin of sampling error of plus or minus 3.5 percentage points. The results were compared with a Gallup poll done in 1991. The new poll's results were consistent among drivers of cars, pickups and SUVs. There were few regional differences among drivers, although northeasterners were more likely than drivers in the rest of the country to have "shouted, cursed or made gestures to other drivers" in the past year. The key to rediscovering automotive bliss: Zen out. Too many people think of driving as competition, says Leon James, co-author of the book, "Road Rage and Aggressive Driving." Happy drivers think of traffic simply as part of the process of getting from one place to another, kind of like the process of taking a shower to get clean, he said. "Americans are nice people," said James, a psychology professor at the University of Hawaii. "But there are certain areas that have to do with games and competition, where we become less nice to each other."

Jennifer Geisinger seems to have it figured out. The 31-year-old Realtor from suburban Minneapolis said she loves to drive her 1999 Honda CRV. "It's something about being in control and getting out on the road," Geisinger said. "I don't have a sports car and I don't speed. But I love my car." Geisinger also has something in common with 68 percent of all drivers: "Oh I sing, of course," she said, adding that her stereo plays country, opera and Broadway show tunes.

Annoying Bumper Stickers

By Anonymous

1. God is my co-pilot, but the Devil is my bombardier.
2. I don't have a license to kill. I have a learner's permit.
3. I wasn't born a bitch. Men like you made me this way.
4. Keep honking while I reload.
5. Taxation WITH representation isn't so hot, either!
6. Madness takes its toll. Please have exact change.
7. 5 days a week my body is a temple ... the other 2, an amusement park.
8. EARTH FIRST! We'll strip mine the other planets later.
9. Your child may be an honor student but you're still an idiot.
10. Save the whales! Trade them for valuable prizes.
11. Whitewater is over when the First Lady sings.
12. Jack Kevorkian for White House physician.
13. My wife keeps complaining I never listen to her ... or something like that.
14. Sure you can trust the government! Just ask a Native American.
15. Alcohol and calculus don't mix. Never drink and derive.
16. Stop repeat offenders. Don't re-elect them!
17. Horn Broke....Watch for finger!
18. I'm not deaf, I'm ignoring you.

SamoaMail

By Ron Petrich

Have you ever needed to get the word out quickly but weren't sure how? Was your Events Coordinator just being lazy and unresponsive? When you looked to the clouds and yelled *Miata* at the top of your lungs, did no one but your neighbors hear? Well, there is a better way to communicate with your fellow Samoans and Miata enthusiasts. Its called SamoaMail, an unmoderated news list sponsored on the internet at Yahoo Groups. And its free!!!

SamoaMail currently has more than 100 members, many from our club, some from other clubs, but all Miata enthusiasts. To join, simply log onto <http://groups.yahoo.com>. If you have a Yahoo account sign in...if not follow the directions to create a new account. Once logged in, type *Samoamail* in the search box at the Yahoo Groups home page, then click on SamoaMail when it appears on the next screen, and then click the Join This Group box. You can choose to receive individual emails of all postings, receive a daily summary, or receive no emails at all (if you choose this notification method, you will need to log onto the SamoaMail site to read the postings). Once the group's moderator approves your request to join (this screening process helps cut down on spammers), you will receive an email notification that your membership has been approved.

Coming Attractions

Matanzas Creek Winery Picnic Run

September 10, 2006

By Ron Petrich

On Sunday, September 10, 2006 we have been invited to have a picnic lunch at the Matanzas Creek Winery near Santa Rosa, California. The winery was a raffle donor to *Got Guts At Thunderhill*, and as a small thank you for their donation I am going to lead a tour to their winery. The route is already mapped out, the roads are custom made for our Miatas, and the pace will be comfortable for all.



We will meet at the McDonald's Restaurant in Davis, 4444 Chiles Road (Mace Boulevard exit off I80), at 8:30 AM, and depart promptly at 9:00 AM. We will travel through Winters and pick up additional Miatas at the Chevron station there between 9:20 AM and 9:30 AM. If you plan on meeting us in Winters please be outside IN YOUR CAR and ready to go, as this will basi-

cally be a regroup stop only. We'll travel to Napa on SR128 and SR121, make a pit stop at the Soda Canyon store, and then take a scenic route across the Napa and Sonoma valleys to the winery. Our return trip will be via a slightly more northern route, but end up back in Davis through Winters.

Wine tasting at Matanzas Creek is \$5.00, but is refundable if you purchase wine or other items. The grounds are beautiful and well shaded, and parking will be plentiful. So pack a picnic lunch, bring a couple of folding chairs and a pair of wine glasses. Please send me an RSVP no later than September 7th so I can give the winery an estimated count. Contact me at (916) 454-1008 or via email at freesopesdad@yahoo.com.

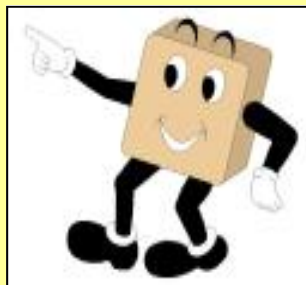


SAMOA Scrabble Scramble 2006

September 23, 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 Club Celebrates 16 years of Fun

October 1, 2006

By Jeanne George

On October 13, 1990, the owners of 13 Miatas met at Carmichael Park for a get together. That group of people began what is now the Sacramento Area Miata Owners Association.

Sunday, October 1, we will honor our Club's Birthday with a catered BBQ lunch at the Windwalker Vineyard. Windwalker owners, Arnie and Paige Gilpin have arranged the use of their facilities for our club members. In addition to wine tasting, bocce ball will be offered for those interested. Or you can buy a bottle of wine and sit in the shade and watch the activities. The winery is located at 7360 Perry Creek Road, in Somerset (530 620-4054).



Incahoots from Plymouth will cater the event. Lunch will be tri-tip on a French roll, green salad, potato salad, soda, water, and of course CAKE.

For those of you who want to caravan to Windwalker, meet at the McDonald's at White Rock & Sunrise at 10:00 AM for a 10:30 AM departure and a pleasant drive up to Windwalker. Or you can join the group at the winery. Lunch is scheduled for noon.

Each active membership qualifies for two tickets to this event. Additional tickets can be purchased at a cost of \$15 each. **RSVP is required for this event. The deadline to respond is September 22. Contact Jeanne George at jeanne@winfirst.com to place your ticket requests or call 916 359-2627.** At the July & August meetings a sign up sheet was distributed, if you signed up, you do not need to email me.



If you sign up for this event and find yourself unable to attend, please notify me to cancel your attendance. If you cancel after Sept. 29 the club will have to pay for your meals. Come out and enjoy the fun.

Monterey Sports Car Championships

October 20 - 21, 2006

By Ron Petrich

Each year Mazda raceway at Laguna Seca is able to set aside six or seven weekends for unrestricted professional racing. These events not only include the Rolex Monterey Historics, but also CART, motorcycles, PRO-MX5 and Pro-Spec Miata, (continued on page 8)

Coming Attractions (continued)

and other series. This fall, the annual racing season culminates with the Monterey Sports Car Championships. It will be held Friday – Sunday October 20 – 22, 2006. The centerpiece of this three-day weekend of racing is the American LeMans Series Race starting Saturday afternoon, and finishing under the lights four hours later. Friday consists of practice for all four of the races, qualifying and racing for Star Mazda (open-wheel racers powered by Renesis rotary engines) and ALMS are conducted on Saturday, and qualifying and racing for IMSA GT3 Cup and SPEED World Challenge Touring (includes Protégé)



and GT races are held on Sunday. Although there are no car corrals available to us, many Miata enthusiasts plan to attend. For more information log on to the Laguna Seca website at www.laguna-seca.com and follow the link to this event. Prices are moderate, parking is free, and hotel accommodations are readily available. There is also a link discussing this event on the Miata Forum (California section) at forum.miata.net. I'm leaving Sacramento at 5:00 AM Friday, October 20th and spending a couple of overnights in Pacific Grove. Contact me if you are interested in attending, want more information, or just want to whine about the wasteful consumption of fossil fuel.

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Fort Bragg Weekend October 6th – 8th, 2006 By Ralph Gingrich

Yes, we are going back to Fort Bragg over the Columbus Day weekend. This event has been the longest-running event of the club and is a good one to attend.

We will leave from McDonald's in Davis (on Chile's Road at the Mace Boulevard exit from I80) on Friday or Saturday, October 6th. or 7th. at 8:30 AM. Vince Weis is working on a new route for the event. We will stop for a picnic lunch and he will have a place for us to pick up the food. Please email either Ralph or Fran at the phone numbers listed below and let them know which day you are leaving.

We will be putting on a Saturday night dinner. Fran Rowell and Ralph Gingrich are working on a menu for this now. It will include salad, main entree, and dessert. Last year it cost \$10.00 per person and we are working to maintain that price.

For reservations call the Best Western hotel at (707) 964-4776. The nightly rate is \$89.00 plus tax. We have already booked the cottage so we have a place to cook, play games and talk. The cutoff date to secure this room rate is September 13, 2006. If you have any questions please call Ralph Gingrich at (916) 721-4499 or Fran Rowell at (530) 344-1913.

Past Events

Monterey Historics by Denise Correia

I left Capitola on Saturday morning (topdown in the fog) to drive Hwy 1 to Laguna Seca raceway to watch the races for the first time. Nothing prepared me for the size.....lots of people, lots of gorgeous cars. I expected the smell of gas and oil in the pits but I didn't expect



so very many lovingly restored and beautifully maintained ancient race cars. The open wheel versions were even older than I am. Shining aluminum, bright colors, polished wood, oiled leather straps, skinny spoke tires, wide low slick tires, tall open driver & passenger, low caged one driver only a couple inches

from the asphalt, had me spinning in my attempt to see it all on just a few hours. Lotus, Cobra, Shelby, and more from Italy, England, Germany (all over the World) lined up to race. The formula race was screaming tires and roaring engines at 200+ mph passing by in the blink of an eye with stripes and stickers all blurred. The beautiful restored antiques were slower. Considering the million plus price tag on most of the cars, the risks were high. These open wheeled early versions were amazingly proficient while still doing what they were designed to do 70+ years ago. I spent lots of time in the parking lot. Cars driven to the event included Miata in ever color, nearby Porsche and BMW, Corvettes, Mercedes, Cobra, Lotus, Ferrari, lots and lots

of Mini Coopers including the tiny vintage versions and the shiny new models were all on display.....these cars were driven to the

event by car lovers, many from great distances. I heard French, Italian, German, English with Australian or British accents, while walking in the crowds. I touched cars, sat in the new MX5 hard top, sat in a Mini Cooper, and watched people. Of course it was fun to socialize with other Miata club members

as well as our very own Ron Petrich, Sharon Howe, and Graeme Kinsey during this event. If I have another chance to attend, I'll do it. The early morning fog to the perfect sunny afternoon helped to make it an overall great day for me.



First time at Monterey Classics By Doug Lockhart

I had a wonderful time at the corral and the races. The people in the paddock area were very friendly and eager to talk about their cars. It was fun to watch these one of a kind cars race on the track. We just happened to be in the grand stands when the old classic American muscle cars started going around the track. It was about that time I wished I had some earplugs. Those un-muffled V8 cars are very loud!

Just before lunch my date and I were walking towards a food concession when I heard this car wailing around the track. You could here it pop back through the turbo before the corners. It a riot to see people stop and listen, and hustle over to the fence to see what it was. It was the Toyota F1 car trying to make a track record. It was amazing to watch this car. So fast!

My date enjoyed the races so much that on the drive home she told me that she wanted a 95 M Miata, and wanted me to keep an eye open for her. The next morning I found one in Auburn. She ended up buying it so we may have another potential member.

Monterey Historics Revisited

By Ron Petrich

For the first time in six years I did not totally immerse myself in the spectacle that has come to be known as “The Monterey Weekend”. It wasn’t that I did not want to be there for 4 days running, but family and other obligations precluded the full monty this year. However I was afforded the opportunity to spend Saturday, August 19th at Laguna Seca for one day of historic racing. Thanks to the tremendous efforts of Mike Hagerla (AKA MiniMe), a good friend, fellow track junkie and BAMA member, Miatas were again allowed to park in the corral area near turn 5 at the track. In addition to 35-40 NA, NB and NC private Miatas, Mazda USA also was on hand with 3 or 4 of the new 2007 retractable hardtop versions.



Beyond the corral parking, our tickets allowed us unlimited access to the paddock areas where all of the participants’ cars are parked. These drivers run the gamut from “mom and pop with an old race car” teams to well funded corporate racing promotions. But they all have several things in common ... a genuine love of racing, a desire to preserve these fine automobiles, and a resounding willingness to tell their story to the racing fan. Each and every driver, owner, mechanic and gopher that I spoke to was friendly, courteous and eager to chat. Besides the paddock area, the grounds were also filled with vendor booths, food courts, souvenir stands, and manufacturers’ presentations. MazdaUSA had a large tent with many historic Mazda race cars on hand, including its LeMans-winning 787B rotary-engined car from 1991.



Each year a different make of automobile, each with a storied racing heritage, is named the featured “marquee” for that year’s races. In past years this mantle has passed to Ferrari, Ford, Alfa Romeo, Porsche and others. This year Cooper was featured. The Cooper Car Company was founded in England in 1947 by Charles and John Cooper and in the late 1950’s and early 1960’s enjoyed considerable success with its rear-engined single-seat race cars. Sir Jack Brabham won two World Championships in 1959 and 1960, at the wheel of Cooper For-

mula 1 cars, but it was when Brabham entered the Kimberly Cooper Special in the 1961 Indianapolis 500 that had the biggest impact on the racing world. Brabham finished ninth in the race, but it was the first time that a rear-engined car had ever raced in the Indy 500 This started the move to rear-engined designs that eventually lead to the demise of front-engined race cars completely. In addition to Sir Jack Brabham, Sir Stirling Moss and Bruce McLaren also drove Cooper race cars. To those who are not hard-core racing fans, Cooper is probably best known for the Mini Cooper version of the Mini which became popular in the 1960s and was very successful in racing. John Cooper modified the Mini with an uprated engine, better brakes and special paint, and Mini Cooper S rally cars won the Monte Carlo Rally in 1964, 1965 and 1967. They also finished first, second and third in 1966, but all three cars were disqualified on a technicality. In 2002 BMW produced the modern iteration of the Mini Cooper, and of course you know the rest. At Laguna Seca, more than 400 original and current production Mini Coopers graced the infield. During the lunch hour, many of these owners were allowed to take demonstration laps on the track. Can you imagine 400 or more Miatas doing the same if and when Mazda is named the featured manufacturer?

We were also treated to a remarkable demonstration of current Formula 1 technology on Saturday. Ricardo Zonta, test driver for the Toyota Formula 1 team, not only set a new track record at Mazda Raceway Laguna Seca with his demonstration laps in the 2006 Toyota TF106 Formula 1 race car on Friday, but he lowered the time again on both Saturday and Sunday. On Friday, Zonta did one warm-up lap on the 11-turn, 2.238-mile Mazda Raceway Laguna Seca before setting a new lap record of 1:07:587 at an average speed of 119.206 mph. The previous record was held by Helio Castroneves with a time of 1:07.722 set at the CART Honda Grand Prix of Monterey in 2000 with an average speed of 118.969 mph. On Saturday, Zonta put down a best lap of 1:06.596 and on Sunday he went out on slick tires for the first time instead of the grooved tires normally used in Formula 1, dropping the lap time to 1:06.309 at an average speed of 121.504 mph.

All of this might make the actual historic racing seem a little bit redundant, but that would be far from the truth. On Saturday, 7 different groups of cars, classed by era, size output, practiced and raced. Practice laps were run in the morning, and the races, each 10 laps long, took place in the afternoon. There were several nadirs along the way, but the high point that I remember most was the historical TransAm race, consisting of 1965 – 1971 Mustangs, Camaros, Javelins and other similar cars. These unmuffled V-8’s have got to be the loudest cars on the planet, and are cars that most of us can relate to readily.



Next year I hope to again participate fully in the Monterey experience. No more experimenting with fishing trips, weddings or other obligations. Its time to get back to reality. I plan to be fully immersed from sunup Thursday until Sunday afternoon next year, when the featured marquee will be historic Indianapolis Roadsters. I am looking forward to a more significant Miata presence in 2007 as well, as Mike has promised to organize next year’s corral with a food tent, Saturday barbecue, and Asilomar accommodations. Hopefully MazdaUSA will also jump on board and help us make it another memorable Monterey experience.

Straddling the Line: Deals Gap, Tennessee and North Carolina

By Genny Paauwe

When most Americans conjure up images of the Appalachian Mountains, we think of a remote, forest-covered landscape where inbred clans live in leafy hollows surrounded by gaggles of children and scraggly dogs, all to the tune of the “Deliverance” theme song. While we did see a couple of people who looked like stereotypical Appalachian-Americans, our recent trip to that part of the world was quite 21st century.



Part of that trip was spent driving Highway 129, a remote and twisty ribbon of pavement that straddles Tennessee and North Carolina state lines to the south of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park. This uninterrupted stretch of road is also known as “The Tail of the Dragon” in reference to the

318 turns sandwiched into just 11 miles of roadway. The Deals Gap Motorcycle Resort and many other motorcycle and sports car clubs (including Miata clubs) have made the area famous and for many a “must drive.”

That included us! Our adventure began in North Carolina, where we caught the eastern entrance point to Hwy. 129. Soon after, we stopped for Deals Gap souvenirs at Wheelers 129 Performance motorcycle shop. The owner, with grease-covered hands, was interested in where we were from and what kind of sports car we were driving on the Dragon. We had to admit that while we were both Miata owners from California, we were planning to tear up the pavement in a rented Dodge Stratus. He agreed that a Miata would have been more fun, but at least we were there to experience this legendary road.

Further along, we turned our heads just in time to catch a glimpse of the Cheoah Dam. It was impressively mini-Hoover-like with a glassy lake above that reflected the green forest.



The social hub of Hwy. 129 is the Deals Gap Motorcycle Resort.

Growling with motorcycles, the resort has motel-like lodgings, a snack bar, gift shop and a whimsical road bike novelty called “The Tree of Shame.” The tree has been decorated with motorcycle pieces and parts that were casualties of accidents along Hwy. 129. Spread around the base of the tree all the way to the highest branches are wheels, exhaust pipes, mirrors, fenders – anything you can image falling off of a bike. While it seems funny to see this oddly decorated tree, it’s a reminder that The Tail of the Dragon has whipped many a rider from his horse. Fortunately, the road’s curves require slow turns, so most riders walk away from accidents. But, further toward the Tennessee state line, signs caution drivers to stay in their own lane and warn that crossing the yellow line is a death sentence.

Going from North Carolina into Tennessee was unceremonious. A “Welcome to Tennessee – The Volunteer State” sign snuck up on us and provided little in the way of a pullout to take a celebratory photograph. As we sped west for Knoxville, a red Miata roared toward us,

the driver intent on the road, clearly exercising the vehicle and enjoying himself. Finally, we caught up to a slow Harley driver with his woman in tow, which slowed us down some (yes, even in a Stratus!).

We rounded a corner to see a photographer snapping a shot of the biker and his babe. Further on, another roadside shutterbug snapped more photos. We later found out that these people are in business and sell photos online, allowing riders and drivers to commemorate their day on the Dragon.

At an overlook point, we met up with a friendly writer fellow who was visiting the area from Pennsylvania in his green 1999 Miata. He said he often drove to the area during his frequent business trips, finding it a good place to compile his thoughts. Certainly, the views from Hwy. 129 were spectacular, with distant ridge after ridge of hazy mountains, endless forest and dammed rivers far below.



We snaked our way west, enjoying the last bits of this notable wilderness road before we rejoined civilization near Alcoa, TN.

While our afternoon driving The Tail of the Dragon would have been more enjoyable in our own Miatas, just being able to see what the hubbub was all about was a treat. Rest assured, Northern California roads like Mosquito Ridge, parts of Hwy. 49 and the Silverado Trail are strong competition, though. Still, there’s something about being able to get a sweet southern iced tea in the Appalachian Mountains served by people who really mean, “Y’all come back, ya hear?”

For more information on Deals Gap and The Tail of the Dragon, see www.dealsgap.com. Websites where you can see photos taken of vehicles and bikes (sometimes includes wrecks as they happen!) are www.killboy.com and www.zeefoto.com.

Want Ads

FOR SALE - 1991 Mazda Miata, Special Edition -British Racing Green, original owner, 84,000 miles, 5 speed, excellent condition, new Robbins top, ABS, AC, new AM/FM/CD player. Asking \$9400.00. Serious inquiries only. Call Bob Shank at 916-204-5168 or email at bbubba@comcast.net. (1)

FOR SALE – Serious Auto CD Caddy. This single-din in-dash device holds 4 CD’s. It fits in the empty slot above or below the factory radio slot. Like-new condition. Black. \$25.00. Contact Ron Petrich (916) 454-1008 or freesopesdad@yahoo.com. (1)

FOR SALE – Flyin’ Miata 99-05 single exit sport muffler. Like-new condition – only used for 5,000 miles and none in the past 4 years. \$150.00. (FM currently sells them new for \$378.00). Contact Ron Petrich (916) 454-1008 or freesopesdad@yahoo.com. (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. (2)

Vintage Value of a Miata

By Adi Damania

1999 Miata "Blue Belle"

I was thumbing through the catalog that Sotheby's, the auctioneers to the rich and the famous, regularly sends, after verifying my bank balance of course, to find a lovely cream colored 1928 Mercedes-Benz SSK. The car will be auctioned at Monterey on August 17, 2006. The history of the car is as follows for all you investors and classic-car lovers: A woman, to please her husband had bought the car by the German car-maker or reputed in chassis form only. In those days you bought an expensive Rolls Royce or a Mercedes-Benz such as this one and could select a bodymaker of your choice to complete the car. So on August 2, 1928 the chassis of the car with the engine on it (the chassis and the engine was designed by Doktor Ferdinand Porsche himself) was delivered from Stuttgart to Carrosserie (bodymaker in plain English) J. Saoutchick in Paris, France, where the spectacular torpedo roadster body was fitted. The car was finished in a lovely cream color with matching leathery upholstery. On delivery of the car to the generous and amorous lady who in turn presented it to her husband with a "Ta-dah!!!" no doubt.

But men in those days were as fickle as ladies, and the poor woman was mortified when the husband rejected the car totally as too outlandish! The car was then sold to Frederick Henry Bedford J., a wealthy American, who drove it a little and finally his grand daughter inherited the car but chose to loan it to a museum where it stayed for decades. The owner thinks now may be a good time to sell, what with global warming and war strengthening our very existence. The engine is a type "S", six-cylinders in line, water cooled, 6789 cc, developing 180 hp with a supercharger. Now imagine 180 hp in a two-seater roadster in 1928!!! The car is valued by Sotheby's at 4-5 million dollars!

Which has got me thinking about buying a new crystal cream colored 2006 Miata with leather upholstery and all options and loaning it to the Towe Museum in Sacramento. So say with inflation, by 2076 it might be worth about \$150 million don't you think? Wouldn't it be a nice package for my heirs?

SAMOA Birthday Picnic Fund Raiser

By Mike DeLaurentis

In year's past we held a large raffle with many gifts in conjunction with our annual SAMOA birthday picnic and the money that was raised from selling raffle tickets was donated to a local charity selected by the BOO. This year we are trying something a little different. You are asked to put \$10 in an envelope along with a note saying what your favorite charity is if you write a check make sure it is payable to SAMOA). You may submit more than one envelope but a minimum of one per car is requested. At the picnic we will draw one envelope and all of the money collected will go to that charity in SA-



MOA's name, with an explanation as to why they were chosen, and of course with your name disclosed.

We ask that the charity you select is legitimate such as *The American Cancer Society* and NOT something like the *Ron Petrich Please Pay For My track Days Memorial Foundation* or the *Fran Rowell Horse Feed and Shoes Fund*.

We will collect the envelopes on October 1 before the run and at the picnic for those of you who drive separately. If you cannot make it to the picnic but would still like to participate then bring your envelope to the September 14 meeting. Thanks in advance.

Mike DeLaurentis, Executive Director
Mike's Miata 50,000 Mile Checkup Fund

You Might Be A Racer If...

By Ron Petrich

... You think the primary purpose of wings is to PREVENT flight ... You take your helmet along when you go to buy new eyeglasses or check out cars ... You feel compelled on a road trip to beat your previous best time ... You are happiest when your street car's tires are worn to racing depth and the wear bars are showing ... When something falls off of your car, you wonder how much weight you just saved ... When you hear 'overcooked it', instead of food you think 'off the track' ... You change engine oil every other week ... You sometimes hear little noises from your passengers when you get on the throttle right after turning in ... You thoroughly enjoy showing the tailgater behind how to drive around a highway off...ramp ... Your racing budget is one of the big three mortgage, car payments/maintenance, dating ... Your email address refers to your race car rather than to you ... You walk proper lines through the grocery store ... You've been known to yell "It means 'check your mirrors' dammit!" at your television ... You've paid \$4.00 a gallon for gas without complaining ... You buy new parts because you don't know where you put the spares ... You bought a race car before buying a house ... You bought a race car before buying furniture for the new house ... You're looking for a tow vehicle and still haven't bought furniture ... You find that you need a new house because you've outgrown your garage and the neighbors are threatening violence if you park one more vehicle on the street or in the front yard.



BAMA hosted MiataPalooza 2006 on Saturday, August 26, 2006 at Candlestick Park. More than 10,000 Miatas were present. Here is a photo showing just a small portion of this vast number of attendees. Next year it will be held at Laguna Seca.

First Class Mail



Miata Tudes
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.samo.org.

Contact _____

At _____



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