



# MiataTudes

The Monthly Newsletter of the Sacramento Area Miata Owners Association—Volume 16—Number 10

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October, 2006

## Robin's Nest By Robin George

As the hot months of summer are subsiding, our members are becoming more interested in venturing out in their Miatas. Frequently check the [samoa.org](http://samoa.org) web page for the latest events added to the fall calendar. There should be something for everyone.



I write this article in a "mindless haze" as a result of Friday's wind, sick little kids on my bus, and decongestants. We are now a few days past the 2006 Scrabble Scramble. If the smiling faces Jeanne and I saw at our tile stop at Mt. Aukum Winery were any indication, the participants had a good time. It is amazing the level people will trust you. Some of you were willing to follow my directions to park closer to the edge of the road for your photo to be taken, while others were convinced I would lead them over the edge. Some of you ventured into the various wineries for a tasting of the vine. Others were ready to head for the barn. Oh by the way, the dead deer at the entrance to the winery was not our joke to you. It was there when we arrived.

As my health failed that day, I headed home and to bed. I'm sorry that I missed the awards dinner. Mostly I don't believe Jeanne when she says the illustrious Vice-president could touch the ceiling. He needs more duties assigned to him. With all kidding aside, I want to thank Mike for stepping forward and performing the MC duties that night. A big thank you goes to Denise and the many volunteers that helped make the event the success that it was.

Those attending the event may have noticed the new SAMOA yellow sandwich board. It was placed by the hospitality suite, at registration in the parking lot, and in front of the St. George Hotel in Volcano. The graphic art work on the sign board was a new design of David Chin. Thank you David for the many contributions you give to the Club and for making the signs. I wanted something different to identify our Club at monthly meetings and events. I found the sandwich board at a banner shop and got a price quote. I planned to get approval from the Board at the following day's monthly meeting. The next day, while Secretary Fran Rowell was on her way to the BOO meeting she stopped at the banner shop and attempted to purchase the board. But the owner told her "some tall guy with a pony-tail had inquired about it". Fran figured he must mean Robin.

Next on the calendar is the Birthday Party at the Windwalker Winery. We have 88 people planning to attend the event. I'm not sure if the draw is the wine tasting or the bocce ball. I look forward to meeting many of the newer members and those members who are unable to attend monthly meetings.

**SAMOA**  
**PO Box 392**  
**Orangevale, CA**  
**95662**

[www.samoa.org](http://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.

## October Activities...

October 1st. SAMOA Birthday Picnic... October 6th. to 9th. Trip to Fort Bragg... October 12th. SAMOA Monthly Meeting... October 14th. Bear Republic Brewery Run... October 21st. Calaveras Big Trees Revisited... October 28th. Disc/Frisbee Golf Tournament...



## Mike's Musings

By Mike DeLaurentis

We recently purchased a new car replacing Helen's 1993 Honda and in this go around tried using a broker as opposed to buying from a brick and mortar dealer. What a nice experience it turned out to be.

We started by going to a dealer to drive a few models to see which "fit" best. We had already decided on a manufacturer so it was a pretty easy decision at that point since the sedan didn't have a comfortable driving position but the SUV did. Next I did some on line research at the company's website figuring out which options we wanted and of course what color. Then I used a few pricing websites, Edmonds and USAA, to obtain the vehicle and option MSRP, list and invoice costs. Another valuable piece of information that I came across was what the average buyer was paying for this vehicle in the area surrounding our zip code. With that I called two brokers, recommended by SAMOANs who purchased vehicles from them in the past. I told the first broker, who was in Los Angeles, the year, make, model, color, and options that I was interested in and he said "yes we have that in stock – here is the MSRP, here is the list price, here is my cost." That was it. There was no bickering, there was no pass offs to the sales manager then to the finance manager nor was there any attempt to sell me something that I didn't want. I was breathing hard.

I next called the brick and mortar dealer where we took the test drive. He told me he would need at least another \$800 to \$900 more to sell me the car. He tried to sell me on the advantages of buying from him (he could get me in the free car wash line ahead of the putzes) but none of it resonated with me. I then called the other recommended broker, who was in Sacramento. I once again described the car and he too gave me the MSRP, list and his cost. I compared that with the other broker plus the statistic on what other people were paying for this car in this area and it was, in my estimation, a great deal. I told him I'll take it. Sight unseen. He and I had never met, we were e- introduced via email by former SAMOA President Rene Green and

he also came recommended by Toby Counter who purchased a car from him. It was that easy. A week later we drove into Sacramento, he spent some time demonstrating the car, we gave him our check, and we were on our way.

I've always had fun buying cars, bargaining with salesmen, playing their game, becoming outraged with their outrageous prices, and all of that stuff. But going this broker route was slick. There are other no/low hassle ways to purchase cars these days such as through credit union sales and CarMax and maybe I'll try them next time. But this worked very well. I recommend it.

## 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](mailto:bbubba@comcast.net). (2)

**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 [freescopecdad@yahoo.com](mailto:freescopecdad@yahoo.com). (2)

**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 [freescopecdad@yahoo.com](mailto:freescopecdad@yahoo.com). (2)

**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](mailto:joe.rainbolt@thomson.net) or (530) 477-2208. (3)

**FOR SALE** - Genuine Miata Bra keeps front end clear of dings. Never installed or used. Retail is \$149.50. I will sell for \$75. Contact Gary at [faygray@sbcglobal.net](mailto:faygray@sbcglobal.net) or 916-663-1554. (1)

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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

## Media Horizon...

By Ron Petrich

I usually have this article written long before I sit down to cut and paste this newsletter together. This month, however, I am at a loss for the written word. It's not for lack of work, event-wise, as the month of October is chock full of interesting runs and activities. So instead of boring you with odd tidbits about my past life (lives...I really don't remember how many times I was up on the mother ship) with the aliens, I'll switch gears and talk about something different. Related...but different. Hence, the revised title of this article...

When I jumped into this newsletter gig last January, it was primarily because we did not have a newsletter editor at the time. Someone either volunteered, or nothing went to press. Sooooooo... here I am. The first issue that I produced, in February of this year, frankly terrified me. I had never done this before. I had been critical of past editors. I didn't know the first thing about Microsoft Publisher, or any other tool. But with the help of Robin, Mike, Fran, Jack, Jeanne and Adi, that issue got off the ground with a tidy 8 pages. In March I received enough copy to stretch MiataTudes to 12 pages, and have been able to keep it there, mainly with your help. In retrospect, it was not nearly as difficult as I originally thought, and I now eagerly look forward each month to crafting a new issue. I look forward to the articles that I receive from my regular contributors, and the first-timers as well. If you like the product so far, I'll continue to produce MiataTudes next year as well.

Please continue to make our newsletter a true club publication, and keep those articles coming.

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## Versatility With A Capital M

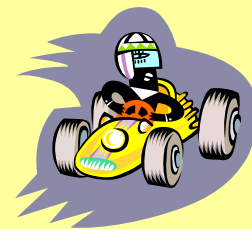
By Jack Parker

Over the course of many months there have been questions about the versatility of the Mazda Miata when it comes to competition. For those of you who have never heard me mention the "A" word, let me introduce you to what has become likely the most prolific car in regards to classing in the world of autocrossing. Several club members, after or before meetings have posed the question of what their car's class is if they should come out for an event. Most of the answers result in the class distinction most commonly appropriate in this club, and that is the regional class of ST2. But occasionally there is someone who has done something that will kick them up a class and that what has got me started with this column topic of versatility. And our little cars are, if nothing else, the champions of versatility.

Now everyone who buys a car usually likes to buy one pretty much left alone. Recent case in point. The 97 recently purchased by the author, that's me, was pretty much a stocker. Oh, the last person to own it had done some things that didn't make it any faster but at least kept it pretty much bone stock. The exact car that I was looking for. A stocker. But to what stock class did it belong. 90-97 stock cars all belong to E stock. 99-05 bone stockers belong in C stock and the odd car out here is the Mazdaspeed which belongs to B stock. All these classes may use race tires in competition. Now that is basically one car with 3 different possible class designations. The cars in this class that SCCA has determined to be equal are the RX-

7s, CRXs and MR2s. But the fun does not end there.

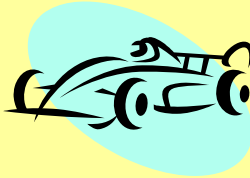
You may have decided to alter your precious vehicle to make it go faster or handle better. Goodbye to the stock class. The regional class of ST2 is for cars that are normally aspirated, no engine work, but lots of other modifications like springs, shocks, intakes, differentials, wheels, tires, shock bars, seats, harnesses and sways. If you have not placed a differential in the car it qualifies for the National class of STS2. These classes are for street legal touring cars with two seats. You would be competing against, once again, the RX-7s, CRXs and MR2s of this world. BWTM (but wait there's more).



Take all the mods that were legal in the previous classes and add ecu changes, race tires, engine swaps, remove the tops, lighten the car in a variety of ways and open the engine in a machine shop and get the class designator of CSP. And renders your little beast not street legal Thank you CARB and the NON OP designation from the DMV. This one again gives the priveledge of competing against the RX-7s, CRXs and MR2s of the world. That's six classes so far.

Street Modified 2 (SM2), for two seaters with a more liberal modification list including all that was before plus a turbo or supercharger of your choice puts you in with not only the above cars but opens up the class for Corvettes, which by the way routinely lose against the Miata. Light, great handling and a decent horsepower to weight ratio beats those guys a lot. That also a lot of times puts your cute little auto on a trailer. Bye the way, while doing research I found that North Carolina, along with several other states, allows you to do anything you want to your car and doesn't care. And registration is cheaper. Load up the van, here I come. Just kidding honey. Well maybe not. Sure am going to miss that lady.

This brings us to a series of classes where combinations of weight, displacement, size of the wing, (yes they get big), engine mods, body changes (i.e. carbon fiber, fiberglass replacements, front window removal) all result in being placed in appropriate classes such as E Modified, A Modified, D Prepared, Open Street Prepared and the nebulous X Modified where the only thing keeping you from a divorce is the size of your wallet. It gets pricey.



That's eleven classes that can compete against everything from other Miatas to Corvettes and home built. And still be competitive. So, I guess the reason for all this rambling was that in spite of all the competitors out there ranging from the S2000, the Elise, the Solstice, the Z4 to sordid others, we have a most amazing and versatile little auto. So see you on the twisties, that is if I can ever quit seeing knee doctors, and keep the roll bar side up.

### Next SAMOA Club Meeting

Our next monthly meeting will be held on Thursday, October 12, 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.

## SAMOA Master Events Calendar

| CLUB            | DATE(S)   | DAY     | EVENT TITLE                       | ORGANIZER                                   | TYPE | CODES     |
|-----------------|-----------|---------|-----------------------------------|---|------|-----------|
| <b>OCTOBER</b>  |           |         |                                   |   |      |           |
| 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    | \$\$ RH   |
| SAMOA           | Oct 06-09 | Fri-Mon | Fort Bragg Trip                   | Ralph Gingrich (916) 721-4499 & Fran Rowell | I    | \$\$\$ RH |
| SAMOA           | Oct 12    | Thu     | Monthly Club Meeting              |   |      | -         |
| SAMOA           | Oct 14    | Sat     | Bear Republic Brewery Run         | Rod Gonzalez (916) 443-7901                 | I    | \$ R      |
| -               | Oct 20-22 | Fri-Sun | Monterey Sports Car Championships | Ron Petrich (916) 454-1008                  | T    | \$\$\$ RH |
| SAMOA           | Oct 21    | Sat     | Calavaras Big Trees Revisited     | Denise Correia (916) 806-8707               | A    | \$        |
| SAMOA           | Oct 28-29 | Sat     | Frisbee/Disc Golf Tournament      | Mike DeLaurentis (916) 791-9418             | M    | \$        |
| SJVMC           | Oct 28-29 | Sat-Sun | Coastal Cruise II                 | Denise Correia (916) 806-8707               | A    | \$\$\$ RH |
| <b>NOVEMBER</b> |           |         |                                   |   |      |           |
| SAMOA           | Nov 09    | Thu     | Monthly Club Meeting              |   |      | -         |
| SAMOA           | Nov 11    | Sat     | 6th Annual Teddy Bear Toy Run     | Jack Parker (916) 698-2006                  | A    | \$        |
| SAMOA           | Nov 19    | Sun     | 5th Annual Chili Cookoff          | Fran Rowell (530) 344-1913                  | I    | R         |
| <b>DECEMBER</b> |           |         |                                   |   |      |           |
| SAMOA           | Dec 02    | Sat     | Holiday Party                     | Ralph Gingrich (916) 721-4499               |      | \$\$ R    |
| SAMOA           | Dec 14    | Thu     | Monthly Club Meeting              |   |      | -         |

*Key: \$ = under \$30 \$\$ = under \$75 \$\$\$ = over \$75. R = RSVP to event coordinator or event sponsor. H = hotel reservation required or recommended.*

**Don't Forget The Holiday Party Coming December 2nd - Pick Up Your Sample Menu At The SAMOA Picnic**

## 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 new and renewing members were added to the list of potential future BOO members this month:

John & Merril **Emelio**  
 Gary **Dunne**  
 Randall **Hunt**  
 Mark **Lawler** & Annette **Miller-Lawler**  
 Bonnie **Weatherwax**  
 Darlene **Wilkinson**  
 Mac & Jean **Wright**



Mark & Ellen **Cutler**, Harry **Griffith** & Yvonne **Hatrup**, Margie **Jurach**, Cliff and Anita **Lantz**, Rick **Netherwood**, Larry & Barbara **Penfield** and Fred & Sandy **Stuessy** have been placed on inactive status, pending communications from them. We hope you contact us soon.

The following memberships expire on October 1st but uninterrupted active status can be maintained as long as we get your renewal by October 12th.

Jack & Sally **Parker**  
 Connie **Plourde**



## Membership News

By Jeanne George

I would like to introduce several new members who joined SAMOA in July, August, and September. Taking advantage of the Free one year Membership for a new Miata purchase was: Pamela and Randall Hunt, and Seth Nagao. Two former members rejoined the Club following their recently purchased new Miatas: Bob Herron and James Callaghan. New members to join SAMOA are Gary Dunne and Merril and John Emelio. Former member Bonni Weatherwax rejoined.

We extend a welcome to all of you. We hope to meet some of you at the Birthday Party on October 1 or at future events. SAMOA added 22 new memberships this year. We welcomed back 14 former members. In addition, 39 memberships were renewed.

## SAMOA Elections

**2007 BOARD OF OFFICERS - Thursday, December 14, 2006**

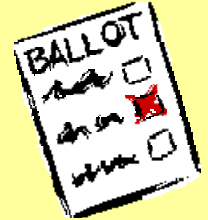
By Rod Gonzalez

It's that time of year... A change in seasons, getting out the boxes of Holiday decorations, and our annual club elections. Once again, I have been asked to chair the election committee. That means I either do it very well or they can't find anyone else with my masochistic tendencies. Oh well, now for the formalities...

The SAMOA Bylaws, Article 5, Section 5.01, Election of Officers states, "The chair of the nominating committee shall make its report before notice of the voting meeting is sent out. This report must be published no later than two months in advance of the election." With that said, here is my report.

Of the seven (7) Board of Officers (BOO) positions up for election, the following members have stepped forward to run for the 2007 board:

| OFFICE             | MEMBER           |
|--------------------|------------------|
| President          | Robin George     |
| Vice President     | Mike DeLaurentis |
| Treasurer          | Jeanne George    |
| Secretary          | Fran Rowell      |
| Events Coordinator | Open             |
| Technical Advisor  | Open             |
| Media Director     | Ron Petrich      |



Article 5, Section 5.02 of the Bylaws states, "Names may be placed in nomination at any time up to the actual casting of ballots at the annual business meeting." The casting of ballots will be held at the general membership meeting Thursday, December 14, 2006.

### Candidate Eligibility:

Candidates shall be active members for the last six (6) months prior to elections (membership began on or before June 14, 2006).

### Voting Eligibility:

You must be an active member for three (3) months prior to the election date to be eligible to vote (membership began on or before September 14, 2006). Each membership is entitled to one (1) vote. Individual memberships shall consist of one person entitled to one vote. Combined memberships shall consist of all persons per household entitled to one vote per household.

Please contact me if you wish to run for a 2007 BOO office. We still members to run for the Events Coordinator and Tech Advisor offices. This could be your chance to demonstrate your true leadership qualities, or maybe you're just in it for the money (the BOO gets to vote for their own pay raises). Feel also contact me at [rod\\_noid@samo.org](mailto:rod_noid@samo.org) or at (916) 443-7901 if you have any questions regarding this year's SAMOA BOO election.

## Goodbye Folsom Mazda

by Rod Gonzalez

If you haven't noticed, you'll see that we're down by one on our free membership participating dealers list. Unfortunately, Folsom Mazda is no more.

That's because on Thursday, September 14, long-time car dealership mogul Cal Worthington finalized the sale of his Folsom Imports-Mazda dealership in the Folsom Automall to People's Folsom Lake Chrysler-Jeep-Hyundai dealership owner Gary Hamner as reported by Mark Glover in the Friday, September 15 Sacramento Bee Business section ("An auto icon gives up his keys"). Glover further re-

ported that Hamner will convert the Folsom Imports store into Folsom Lake Hyundai and that the Mazda name will no longer appear on the dealership.



Bummer... Just when Paul Lazar, Folsom Mazda Manager, was supposed to provide a new 2007 MX-5 (possibly a new retractable hard-top model) to preview at the beginning of this year's SAMOA Scramble Scramble.

And, speaking of Paul – he's gone as well. Paul left Folsom Mazda several weeks ago right after the intended change of ownership was first announced. We're not sure where he went, but wherever he is, we wish him the best of luck and send him our appreciation for his enthusiastic support of our club and our membership promotion.

Those familiar the auto trade know that sales, purchases, take-overs, and personnel changes among car dealership owners is not an uncommon occurrence. Nothing personal – that's just the car biz...

In the meantime, we still have two Mazda dealerships participating in our "Buy a Miata, Get a Free Membership" promotion: Senator Mazda on Florin Road in Sacramento, and AutoWest Mazda in the Roseville Automall. Details on this promotion are in this newsletter and on our website, [www.samoa.org](http://www.samoa.org). Please help support these dealerships by referring prospective new MX-5 Miata owners to them.

## Buy A MX-5 Miata Get A Free SAMOA Membership

By Rod Gonzalez

As an incentive for new Miata owners to join our club, we have a new membership offer... Anyone that is not currently a SAMOA member or was a prior member and buys a new 2006 MX-5 or previously owned Miata from a participating Sacramento area Mazda dealer will receive a free one-year club membership.

Area Mazda dealerships participating in this free membership offer are:

|  |  |
|--|--|
| <p><b>Senator Mazda</b><br/>3655 Florin Road<br/>Sacramento 95823<br/>(916) 427-1234<br/><a href="http://www.senatorimports.com">www.senatorimports.com</a><br/>Contact: Tom Donovan</p> | <p><b>AutoWest Mazda</b><br/>100 Automall Drive<br/>Roseville 95661<br/>(916) 786-6611<br/><a href="http://www.AutoNation.com">www.AutoNation.com</a><br/>New Cars: Rich Estep<br/>Used Cars: Bill Silva</p> |
|--|--|

These dealers are very enthusiastic about our promotion. They also welcome current members to come in and check out the new 2006 MX-5 and look forward to our continuing business. But this free membership offer only applies to new and prior members renewing their membership. Membership application forms are at the dealerships. More dealers may be included in the weeks to come, so check each month's newsletter and



this space for updates. Contact Rod Gonzalez at [rodnoid@samoa.org](mailto:rodnoid@samoa.org) or call (916) 443-7901 if you have any questions.

## Have You Ever Wondered What MAZDA Means?

By Adi Damania

The name MAZDA derives from Ahura Mazda, a God of the earliest civilizations in West Asia, viz. Zoroastrian. The Mazda Car Co. interpreted Ahura Mazda, the God of Wisdom, Intelligence, and Harmony as the symbol of Eastern and Western civilizations, and automotive culture. MAZDA incorporates the achievement of the world of the auto industry. The name MAZDA also derives from the name of the founder of the Mazda Motor Co., Mr Jujiro Matsuda (pronounced "Matsda"). This above information has been gleaned from the Mazda website and confirmed to me by Zoroastrian scholar Dr Noriko Katsuki of the Chuo University, Tokyo, Japan. (so there – ed.)



## Gasping For Air

By Graeme Kinsey  
(Reprinted WITHOUT Permission from SacBee)

I certainly remember my first smooch. After talking on the phone and realizing she was alone at home, I walked quickly the couple of miles over to her place. We had a movie-screen style kiss within seconds of my arrival – you know, the long, lip-pressing romantic type. Only problem was, no one told us it was OK to breathe through our noses while kissing. We were both so inexperienced (we were maybe 11 or 12 at the time), we held our breath. Well, as I was almost out of breath from the walk, the kiss wasn't so long. But it was beautiful.



## Miata Memories

By Jeanne George

Our fearless, usually mild mannered Media Director, Ron Petrich, has been sending out numerous requests to stimulate people to write articles for the newsletter. One of those requests even provided a topic to use: Miata related experiences. Being one to feel sorry for his need to keep begging, I decided to share a few of my experiences. Otherwise know as, filling up the blank spaces.

In March of 1997 Robin convinced me to attend a Miata meeting, even though we didn't own one. Robin had wanted one since they first came on the market. I finally agreed to get him one for his 50<sup>th</sup> Birthday which wasn't until May. I knew going to the meeting could lead to no good. We arrived at the Round Table Pizza place on Madison Avenue in Orangevale. We were greeted by David De-

Nuzzo (aka Crazy Red), then President of SAMOA. He introduced us to other members and soon Robin began collecting information. During the meeting David asked if there were any questions. Robin stood up and indicated we were going to purchase a Miata but wondered about the advantage of manual vs automatic. David and others laughed, after which David took a poll of the group. There were only two Automatics; well that took care of that decision. After the meeting we were told to look at the various Miatas parked in back of the restaurant to get some ideas. There were 18 that night with many different after market products. Robin was like a kid in a candy store.

The next day he convinced me to go for a test drive. He found a used red and told me to get in and check it out. Having never driven a manual in my life, I asked what the third pedal was for. To which both he and the salesman laughed. The following day Robin went to several dealerships. Meanwhile, I keep reminding him, that he had to wait until May. He found a 1996 Montego Blue with only 120 miles on it being offered at an "I can't walk away from it price". Robin got his Birthday present early.



In 1999 Robin took office as President and I was the Events Coordinator. Our term followed a El Nino year which rained out many events. We decided to shake up the group and try some new things. To start off the year, Robin created the New Year's Hangover Run. Owners of 28 Miatas showed up in the fog for this event, most with tops down. For February he established the President's Run. For March I organized a "passenger swap" event. This event had 23 Miatas and 19 passengers playing the swap game. We set up 5 exchange stops. At each spot the passenger picked a playing card and went to ride in the Miata with the matching card. I was fortunate to get to ride with Ralph Gingrich as he drove his brand new 1999 white. JoAnne rode in Robin's Miata and saw all his fancy aftermarket stuff. One man I rode with was a speed demon and a tailgater. After getting out of his car alive, I told Robin I wouldn't complain about his driving again (but that only lasted a few months).

Robin's and my proudest accomplishment was an event we organized to help raise funds for the Oroville library. The community made posters and announced the SAMOA Miata car display which drew their largest attendance ever. We arranged for our members to display their Miatas and the public voted for their favorite one. The day of the event, Robin and I were shocked as 34 Miatas arrived at the meeting spot. We created quite a spectacle as the line of Miatas wandered the back roads to Oroville. The event raised over \$4000 in used book sales, at 25-50 cents each and a bake sale.



Our favorite events to attend were organized by Genny Penfield (now married to Bob Paauwe). She arranged photo contests to identify historical landmarks---the ones we tend to drive by and one was cemeteries in the Gold Rush towns. You worked in teams of two cars and each team was assigned a different color and different directions. At each marker you looked for your color and then followed those directions. You would find another teams color but rejected the urge to hide their color.



I hope you enjoyed these thoughts. For new members and "seasoned" members, I hope it gives you a nudge to help plan an event, contact Ron Petrich, our Events Guy, and watch the people come.

## A Miata Journey By Genny Paauwe

The first time I saw it it was a bit rough.  
Paint was faded, the tires bald,  
I just had to have it, warts and all!  
First day of cleanup I found various things:  
Pens, pencils, golf tees, golf balls and CDs.  
And one big scratch across the back.

The boot was missing, front plate MIA,  
No need for an ashtray, all I wanted to smoke  
Was the tires, anyway!  
After a wash, after a wax,  
Things were looking up – this car was a catch!  
Detailed the interior, everything looked all right!

Within a week it had new tires,  
A boot was ordered, I felt inspired!  
Soon thereafter new plates arrived.  
Within a month it was decided  
The name Red Rover would be my handle.  
What else for a car that was a ruby red scandal?

Within a year a hardtop did follow,  
As did sheepskin, hood lift kit and  
Racing Beat intake – a lovely sound it did make!  
Within a few years the club did grow.  
We drove over hills, we drove over dales,  
Eventually, I drove over a man who told me some tales.

He drove a silver, parked next to my red.  
We became friends, dated over rallies, instead.  
Told me sweet things that went to my head.  
He said he loved me, wanted me to be his wife!  
How could that be? Such a special man in my life.  
I did marry that man, with Miatas, we were rife!

Nine years later the car is a jewel.  
My life is better, despite the cost of fuel!  
This little car, it means so much.  
It was love at first sight, thank you very much!

Author's note: Bob and Genny Paauwe have been married 5 years and their Miatas are parked side-by-side in the garage when they are not being driven.

## My Most Memorable Mazda Miata Event By Mike DeLaurentis

A few months ago Ron Petrich asked all SAMOANs to write a story about their most memorable event. I've been thinking about this and it was difficult deciding because there have (continued on page 8)

(from page 7) been so many. Jenny and Bob Paauwe's Mystery Runs were always so well thought out and educational as were their Scrabble Scrambles; Bad Taz's Runs Around the Foothills took us places we'd never seen before – or since; our first Bodega Bay run when the rogue wave came up over a hundred yards onto the beach wiping us out; Robin George's second Presidents Day run to Forrest Hill and then on to Mosquito Ridge Rd. - my first run and which took at least a month to wipe the grin from my face; our own July 4, 2005 run to Mt. Shasta was as much fun planning as it was attending; our recent SAMOA Faux Winter Olympics and many more. All of the U-turns and oops-es, changing course in mid-stream, closed roads, etc; were all very memorable.

But there is one event that stands out and about which I have been wanting to dispel some rumors for some time. And that was Ron Petrich's second event at Thunderhill, April, 2002. To me this was like adult go karts. What a rush I had from driving around the course not quite as good as Mario Andretti but probably having as much fun. I would never claim to have been the best rookie on the track that day but I didn't think I was the worst either. OK, so that's debatable. However, as legends have a way of growing, some rumors also have grown and been embellished over the years and I would like to set them straight once and for all.



1. I was accused of driving with my windows up. Well, if you had all of the other cars passing you with their whiney engines and loud mufflers you too would raise your windows. Plus Rush Limbaugh was particularly interesting that morning and I was having trouble hearing him.
2. I was accused of using my turn signals on the track. Well, just once....and what's wrong with being safety conscious?
3. They accused me of running my air conditioner while on the track. Hey – it was a very hot day and driving in excess of 50 M.P.H. causes those little engines to run warm.
4. Some say I was listening to the radio. Wrong again. It was the CD player. The new Yanni CD just came out and I just had to hear it.

So there. Once and for all time let's put this stuff to rest.

I learned a lot about my car and about driving that day and I'll remember these lessons forever.

1. Wear racing gloves. The steering wheel became pretty hot which caused my palms to sweat and I didn't have as tight a grip on the wheel as I needed. Wearing gloves would have aided the grip and been safer than steering with my knees....especially through those turns.
2. Wear your sun glasses INSIDE your helmet. I think they would have fit better and I never could bend them back to their original shape.
3. Racing shoes. I think the racing shoes that a lot of the folks wore looked silly but they were probably better than those shower shoes I had on.

So there it is. My most memorable event among many, many memorable events; lessons learned and dispelled rumors.

## My First Miata

By Rick Wood

The reason I bought our first '92 Miata was to protect the other drivers out there. My 16 year old daughter's first car was an '88 Firebird. She couldn't see anyone around her because she sat too low in the seat, so she just drove like no one was there. She changed lanes when ever she wanted to without looking (because she couldn't see them she figured no one was there). So I got her the Miata and now she notices everyone else, thus keeping everyone safe from her. And I liked her car so much I went out and bought myself one. I've always had large V-8 cars and trucks and I like driving my Miata a lot more and I can park it anywhere.



## Funny Thing Happened On The Way to a Beetle

By Jack Parker

A few years ago we were in between sports cars and I was beginning to convulse so we went out shopping for a "family" car. This vehicle was supposed to be a commuter with aspirations to become one of our kids' inheritance. We shopped and shopped and did the circle at the Roseville Auto Chaos and Circus several times. We were hot on the trail of a Honda Civic and a VW Beetle. Salesmen being salesman and me the buyer being me, which can sometimes not be a pretty sight, just ask the family, went around and around and when everyone got sick of each other we told the salespeople that we needed to go think about it. So as we were driving out of the merry-go-round of the Auto Mall I noticed the BMW/Mazda dealer on the corner and sitting there for the world to see was the British Racing Green Special Edition Miata. Hugo, you might remember that one. So I told the boss to stop the car and let me out, I was having a bad case of sportscar envy.



After doing a price, feature, do you know what this is mambo with the dreaded salesperson, he asked me if I would like a test drive. I, being of sound mind, well not maybe sound, but at least I have some semblance of a mind, said no, not really. Just kidding. I said of course and proceeded to jump in. A bit premature. Needed the license and a sworn affidavit that he could have at least my second born (Sally would not surrender the first born) if I didn't return in a timely manner. We did not establish the timely manner time length. He gave ME the keys and said have a great time. Imagine that. Imagine, a salesperson trusting me to have a good time. The first place I went was to the Wendys down across the street from the Auto Circus. Picked up J B, my son, and proceeded to find a way to have a good time. By the way the on ramp to 80 at Eureka Road can be taken at over 70 with no problem. About thirty minutes later and a salesperson sweating profusely, oh incidently he knew I had done some track events and was an autocrosser, I returned the unused portion of the BRG and said, you guessed it, "we would think about it". Slam duck on the Miata. Found a paper and the best deal in town and drove there. Car ended up in the garage that night and on an autocross course the following weekend. By the way racecar spelled backwards is racecar. The car ended up finding its way to



Crazy Red very soon after and a pleasurable long lasting relationship was begun. Just because we needed to "think" about the Beetle. And the rest they say is history.

## More thoughts on the "new" Miata (not the one with the retractable top)

By Adi Damania

First, a disclaimer: I am a Miata (my wife pronounces it as "Mee-atta") third-time-lucky owner and a confirmed lover of the marquee and the particular breed of sportscar it represents. So the opinions expressed herein must be weighed against the reality that the 2006 MX-5 is an exceptional sports roadster, one certainly worthy of carrying on its predecessor's well-earned reputation. Unless, of course, you have spent much time and mileage exceeding 100,000 behind the wheel of the first generation model and tasted its subtle pleasures.

The best way I can explain the transformation of the old "Miata" into the new "MX-5" is to count the ubiquitous cup-holders. In December 1989, Mazda introduced its roadster as a 1990 model with no cup-holders; today, the new MX-5 has four, though it still has only four cylinders and two seats. An increase in cup holders by itself is not a bad thing, to tell you the truth. But it is indicative of a confused philosophy behind the car's first major redesign in 17 years. While more muscle and car is the mantra of Detroit's typical way of delivering year-to-year improvements (and thereby ruining the reputation of several early successes like the Thunderbird, Mustang, etc.), the Miata always served another less gluttonous master.

A sizable contingent of buyers, including those of the female gender and the elderly, are attracted to the car's diminutive size and weight, factors most crucial in authenticating any sports car adhering to the 1960s British roadster role-model. But if the purists claim that more is less - and I count myself among their numbers - others just want to physically fit into the car. If you are over six feet tall (which includes my boss and Parvin's female colleague at work), that could pose a slight challenge in the Miata. However, there are ways to get around it - remove the driver's seat and replace it with a couple of pillows, one at the bottom and one as a back-rest; just as one worthy seven footer has done! This innovation has its own advantages, viz., if the assenger ever pukes on one of them twisty roads you will still have a spare seat!

So the MX-5 has grown fatter and is about two inches longer than the previous model. Its wheelbase has been stretched 2.5 inches. Thankfully, the car still feels small, nibble, and any weight increase is nomi-

nal. Give Mazda whatever credit you think it deserves for this engineering feat, but if ever there was a time to shed a few of the car's 2,500 pounds, this was it. Too bad, as I had hoped Mazda might try to make some serious inroads on the BMW Z-3 or the Lotus Elise's lowest-in-class curb weight of 1,984 pounds. Instead, the hedonistic engineers in Hiroshima opted for more power, replacing the trusty Miata's venerable 1.8-liter 4-cylinder DOHC engine with a new 2-liter unit that makes 170 horsepower, an increase of 28 over the old one. This 20 percent gain means the front-engine, rear-drive MX-5 is now fast enough to satisfy those who regarded the Miata as an accessory for female secretaries and trophy wives. In a 0-to-60 test, Road & Track magazine clocked the MX-5 at 7.0 seconds! Wasn't that kind of timing reserved a decade or so ago for Italian exotics and American equinistic vehicles?

To further entice those looking for a more masculine car, the MX-5 has adopted some design elements from the new Wankel-engined RX-8. While flared fenders certainly make the baby in Mazda's lineup look more grown-up and aggressive, they ignore a fundamental reason the Miata was a brilliant success. Strange as this may sound, it was popular precisely because it wasn't much to look at - a sort of the ugly duckling syndrome in reverse. The first generation Miata was considered cute when it initially came out at the end of 1989; young ladies would and did put their arms around it! But its real visual appeal came from what it wasn't - it was not plain, pretentious or extroverted. Simple and functional in and out, it never made the kind of polarizing statement that so many sports cars adopt. In a Miata, you actually had a chance of talking your way out of a speeding ticket by pretending that it was just another glorified go-kart to the officer of the law.

The original car's smooth, curved design and minimalist interior are still effortlessly contemporary today. By contrast, the MX-5 is trying hard to be hip (much like "Seinfeld's" Elaine Marie Benez now trying to be the "New Old Christine"). Note that the "Miata" badge has disappeared from the car, leaving the sort of alphanumeric label resembling my computer password. Once out on the road, however, the car's styling eccentricities and miscues are forgotten. The new suspension is wonderfully balanced and the steering is quick. The shift action of the manual transmission is as perfect as ever if not better. None of the driving dynamics that made the Miata a favorite of auto-crossers (and that means you, Jack) and track racers (And you, Ron) were forgotten in the redesign. Make no mistake, the MX-5 is still a whole lot of affordable fun - just not enough to make me dump my 1999 for the newer version. You see I like the Miata badge on my car. To summarize the car in a few words (they always say at Miaditudes that my articles are too long), it is new and improved, but not necessarily better.

## Past Events

### Matanzas Creek Winery Run

By Bob & Terri Bacon

September 10th was a perfect day for a run to Matanzas Creek Winery, and a great introduction to a SAMOA style trip. Nine cars followed Ron as he led us on a well-planned route over the back roads of the wine country. As promised, we went at a fairly leisurely pace, with a little zooming occasionally, just to keep us challenged. In our car, Bob probably thought he had it best as the driver, but Terri, riding shotgun, had the chance to enjoy the view as we climbed over surprisingly high passes and dipped down into pleasant little valleys.

We stopped along the way at a country store and deli to pick up some great sandwiches for our lunch and then zipped along past miles of grape vines heavy with ripening fruit.

When we arrived at the winery we unpacked our picnic lunches and enjoyed excellent wine and good conversation in the great outdoors. Thanks, Ron, for a great trip! What a wonderful way to spend a September Sunday.

By Rick Luttrell

My 24,820<sup>th</sup>, rounded off to the most acceptable digit, day on earth began with the thought, "I hope this day (continued on page 10)

(from page 9) ends with only pleasant memories”. I was not disappointed.

On Sunday, September 10<sup>th</sup> I joined the SAMOA club picnic run to Matanzas Creek Winery, led by Ron Petrich. The day began with a pleasant, top down, drive to Davis. The group gathered at McDonalds where some of us opted to feed on the health foods offered at this establishment. The weather was at it's best, the rules of the road were outlined, and the group departed on a journey that was perfectly orchestrated for Miata owners. The route Ron had planned offered the both the pleasure of traveling in an open air car, and the exhilaration of piloting a well engineered machine. Having previously traveled most of the route mounted on a two wheel motorcycle I did not expect to realize a new excitement from this trip. My expectations were all wrong. Ron led the group, varying the pace in such a way that each participant most likely felt some excitement. I did observe a couple of waggles from Ron's car while negotiating some rough surface corners. The winery was very nice, and the picnic area was a great venue for group interaction. The visit at this location was very enjoyable, except for the brief drive through the “Designated Miata Parking” cow pasture. Not at all desirable for a triple black vehicle. This day was well organized, and the route extremely enjoyable. Also, I very much appreciated the opportunity to visit with some very nice Miata people. Ron, thank you for your efforts in conducting a very memorable day.

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## Behind the Scenes

By Jeanne George

As you read this article, the 2006 SAMOA Scrabble Scramble is history. This is a regional event for the SAMOA Club. Organizers have been pleased with attendance for 4 years now and hope to continue into the future. As we attend an event of this type, people fill the gas tank, drive to the starting point, get the instructions, drive the route, eat lunch, go to the awards dinner, and then head home. Most of the time the feedback indicates everyone had a good time, a chance to meet new people, and travel some new back roads. BUT we wonder if participants are aware of the people “behind the scenes” and their task(s) to organize an event of this type. Unless they previously volunteered, it is unlikely participants know. Here is some information about the volunteers and their efforts for the 2006 Scrabble Scramble.

Denise Correia was the Chairperson for the 2006 Scrabble Scramble and also the 2005. Despite a number of obstacles, she made this event a success. In 2005 she learned from the early leaders. Genny Paauwe was the creator and chair for the first two years. Denise relied on guidance from Mike DeLaurentis who also remained involved this year. It was the confidence she gained from her 2005 experience that made Denise contact this year's officers and indicate her interest to Chair this event again. She began the project by working with me to obtain the required insurance permit. She contacted Mazda to obtain financial support. The Mazda contact person had changed but we have Mazda to thank for sponsorship of the award dinner. In addition, Mazda provide many gift items which were used for awards. Denise then twisted the arm of Skip Noyes to help her design a driving route. During one of Skip's 12 preruns, Denise made contact with a restaurant, got a quote for the lunches, and reserved the date. Next she contacted Yager's, reserved the dinner location, and a price quote. She contacted a Folsom dealership getting a commit-

ment for a 2007 Miata convertible hardtop to be displayed at the Residence Inn. Next she lined up volunteers. In addition, she checked pricing for the t-shirts and put together “tackle boxes of necessities for her tile stop workers”.

Then things began to fall apart. During a prerun, Skip and Denise found the lunch stop was now an empty building. After a little investigation she learned the owner closed up and left town the week before. She scrambled to find a new lunch location for 50+ people on short notice. The change required the driving route be redesigned. Next she was informed of a change of ownership at the dinner location. The new owners were initially very cooperative but later were not willing to honor the original meal pricing. Next she heard rumors about the pending sale of the Folsom Miata dealership. She was assured there was a 2007 Miata on order and would be available for the event; however, the week prior she called again to be told “the deal is off”. The Sunday prior to the event, ten volunteers agreed to meet Denise and Skip to review and prerun the “final” route. We were asked to check the mileage and directions. Skip had changed the first section of the route three times to accommodate road repairs. Now on what was assumed to be the “final” route these roads were being prepared for paving. The volunteers persuaded the leaders not to change the route again, hoping the road crews would complete the project. They almost finished.

Skip Noyes spent 12 days checking his route, adjusting for road conditions, checking travel times and distance, while trying to select the “best Miata roads” with the “best views”. When Skip hit a pothole which bent two of his rims, he changed the last portion of the “final” route. He even continued with another prerun after his expensive mishap. Gundi and Gary Bechthold: helped with registration documents. They sent you out of the parking lot after your first tile stop. Gundi made the name badges and SAMOA labels for the water bottles. Ron Petrich helped carry boxes of prizes and registration materials for Denise. Helen DeLaurentis ordered the plaques, picked them up, and delivered them to Denise. On Friday night, in the hospitality suite, Robin and I helped Denise finalize the registration packages with the food tickets, T-shirts, and various product samples. Afterwards, Denise was greeting the many out of town guests. David Chin designed and printed a new SAMOA logo for the Club's recently purchased yellow sandwich board, which you will see at upcoming events and meetings.

Tile Stops were covered by David Chin in Ione near the train at the park. Skip Noyes was hanging out on a corner until run off by a grumpy old lady who didn't want him or any other cars on her property. Kevin Wise and Ron Petrich were your parking directors and provided tiles before and after lunch at the St. George Hotel. After lunch you found Helen and Mile DeLaurentis relaxed at the Wind-walker Winery. A little further along the route was Fran and Tom Rowell in a shady spot at Pioneer Park. Next was the “climbing” adventure to find Robin and me at the Mt. Aukum winery. Hopefully you enjoyed having your photo taken near the vineyards and the hill-side view. At the last stop near Poor Red's you found Rod Gonzalez. Many of the volunteers greeted you at Yager's prior to the awards dinner. Mike DeLaurentis took the role of MC for the awards presentation. His favorite part was showing everyone how he could touch the ceiling.

A special thanks goes to all those that made this event a success. If you attended, I hope you enjoyed yourself. If you were not able to attend in 2006, I hope you will try the Scrabble Scramble in 2007.

## Coming Attractions

### Fort Bragg Weekend

**October 6<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup>, 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 meet at the McDonald's in Davis (4444 Chiles Road at the Mace Boulevard exit from I80) at 8:00 AM on Friday AND Saturday, October 6, 2006 AND October 7, 2006, and leave promptly at 8:30 AM each day. Anyone wishing to join the group enroute should plan to be at the Markley Cove Marina and Store (at Lake Berryessa on SR128) by 9:15 AM either day (this is the first planned pit stop). Vince Weis has put together 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.

### Bear Republic Brewery Run

**October 14, 2006**

**By Rod Gonzalez**

Join us as we embark on a Fall run through Napa and Sonoma wine country to lunch at the Bear Republic Pub & Brewery in Healdsburg. The Bear Republic Brewery is known for its Racer #5 IPA, Red Rocket Ale and Hop Rod Rye hand crafted beers, and great food that includes specialty burgers, signature sandwiches and savory pasta dishes. Information on the Bear Republic Brewpub and menu are available online at [www.bearrepublic.com](http://www.bearrepublic.com). We'll meet at the McDonald's Restaurant, 4444 Chiles Road in Davis (off Mace Blvd., south of I-80) at 9:00 a.m. for a 9:30 departure. We will stop briefly at the Winters Chevron (on Hwy 128 at I-505) around 10:00 AM to take on some more folks. RSVP is required by September 12, 2006. Member cost reflects the price of lunch at the brewery. Please contact me at [rodroid@samo.org](mailto:rodroid@samo.org) or (916) 443-7901 to RSVP or if you have any questions.



### Calavaras Big Trees Revisited

**October 21, 2006**

**By Denise Correia**



Meet at the El Dorado Hills Park N Ride lot, 4640 Post Street (near White Rock and LaTrobe Road) in El Dorado Hills, at 9:00 AM for a 9:15 AM departure. We will travel an interesting route to the Calavaras Big Trees State Park near Arnold, where we will walk through the

trees and have a picnic lunch. Be prepared with a jacket and comfortable walking shoes, as the weather is somewhat unpredictable at this time of year - we have even encountered early snowfall on this run in the past. It is a day full of driving with a potential early dinner stop in Sutter Creek. Contact Denise Correia at (916) 806-8707 or at [denise.a.correia@intel.com](mailto:denise.a.correia@intel.com) for more information.

### SAMOA Disc/Frisbee Golf Tournament

**October 28, 2006**

**By Mike DeLaurentis**

It used to be called Frisbee Golf but now is called Disc Golf. We used to play with Frisbees but now you can spend hundreds of dollars purchasing a variety of discs for long drives, short drives, putting, etc; you can purchase disc golf shoes for that "extra grip"; and you can compete in professional tournaments. Whatever the name and whatever you choose to throw or wear we're going to do it on October 28 and hope you join us. If it has been a while since you've thrown a frisbee start practicing your technique. Are you a back hander? Under hander?

We will meet at the El Dorado Hills Park N' Ride at the intersection of Latrobe Road, White Rock Road and Post Street at 9:00 AM for a drive to Pioneer Park and a Frisbee/disc golf match. Lunch and awards will follow at the Placerville Roundtable Pizza on Main Street. Wear hiking boots or walking shoes as the course is a bit rugged. Bring your own frisbee or disc(s). Ample parking and clean washrooms are available at the park. RSVP is not required. Contact Mike DeLaurentis at (916) 791-9418 with any questions.

### Sixth Annual Teddy Bear/Toy Run

**November 11, 2006**

**By Jack Parker**

Stay tuned for details but the date is set for November 11th. This event will benefit the Children's Receiving Home of Sacramento.

### SAMOA Chili Cookoff

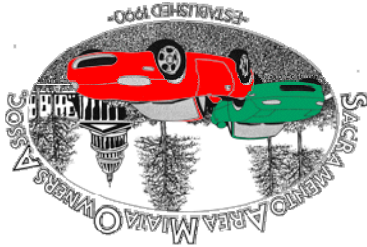
**November 19, 2006**

**By Fran Rowell**

It's that time of year again to dust off that crock pot and dig out those chili recipes you have been meaning to try out. The 5<sup>th</sup> annual SAMOA Chili Run and Cookoff will start out at 1:00 PM on Sunday, November 19<sup>th</sup> at the El Dorado Hills Park and Ride, at the corner of White Rock Road and Post Street (4640 Post Street) in El Dorado Hills. Take the Latrobe Road exit south to White Rock Road and turn left. We'll wind our way through the foothills to enjoy the fall colors then stop at one of the local wineries before we head to my house in Garden Valley. This year I am going to have a panel of judges to pick the winning chili although tasting is permitted by all. If you don't make chili then call me at (530) 344-1913 and you can pick from salad, bread, dessert, or beverage to bring. We've all had a good time at this event in the past so come and join in to do a little driving, lots of socializing, and plenty to eat.



**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](http://www.samo.org).

Contact \_\_\_\_\_

At \_\_\_\_\_



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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](http://www.samo.org).

Contact \_\_\_\_\_

At \_\_\_\_\_