

# MAZDASPEED

## Miata tudes

### How did "Valentines Day" come about?

by Mark Brooks

Legend has it that Valentine was a priest who served during third century Rome. There was an Emperor at that time by the name of Claudius II. Emperor Claudius II decided that single men made better soldiers than those that were married. With this thought in mind he outlawed marriage for young men in hopes of building a stronger military base. Supposedly, Valentine, decided this decree just wasn't fair and chose to marry young couples secretly. When Emperor Claudius II found out about Valentine's actions he had him put to death.

Another legend has it that Valentine was an imprisoned man who fell in love with his jailor's daughter. Before he was put to death he sent the first 'valentine' himself when he wrote her a letter and signed it 'Your Valentine', words still used on cards today.

-courtesy kaboose.com



### Robins' Nest

by Robin George

Hello Fellow Miataphiles,

Well is everyone wet enough? All this rain is getting rather tiresome. If you're like me, my Miata does not venture into the humidity over 90%. Caveat: *Unless there is a compelling reason.* On February 3rd we have a reason!! Ron Petrich is organizing and leading a run though the twisties of Winters and Napa before the big game (Superbowl). Do join him before you see history in

the making. If you can't get out in the wetness in your Miata, take your OTM to the Towe Museum. All club members are also Museum members. Check out their collection. The exhibits get better all the time.

Please also check out our site, [www.samo.org](http://www.samo.org) - there are new events scheduled and lots of good

information being added constantly. Many members have contacted the Board about events and new things to do with their Miata's. This year is going to be a busy one. So check out the webpage and the forum. Our webmaster, Ron Petrich, works hard to keep it up to date and does an outstanding job. His creation is a major reason for the resurgence of



this fine club. His "Got Guts in Thunderhill" is going to be better than ever. It's still not too late to sign up and/or enter their raffle! Check out the webpage:

[http://www.sacramentoareamiata.org/event\\_ggatiii.html](http://www.sacramentoareamiata.org/event_ggatiii.html) In addition, Mark Brooks is trying

his hand at creating a newsletter. I'm looking forward to his product.

I wish to thank those who went on the Redneck Prehangover Run. It was a rather mundane trip around the Sacramento levees. But it was a chance to flap our lips and throw peanuts at each other. Logan's Roadhouse in Natomas took good care of us.

See you soon!

## For Sale!

by Mike DeLaurentis

I have a car for sale - no not the Miata, but an OTM. And I am struck by how different it is selling an OTM from selling a Miata. The last time I sold a Miata it was a 1999 Emerald Mica. I was selling it because I came across a low mileage, reasonably priced 2000 SE with arguably the most beautiful color (read Mahogany) Miata ever offered. I had to have the 2000 SE but was a bit concerned about how long it would take to sell the 99. I hung a For Sale sign on the 99 and parked it in the parking lot at Sudwerk's which is where we used to meet and which, arguably, was the best place we've ever met - but don't tell that to Coco's, OK?

When I came out of the SAMOA meeting a young couple was looking at my 99. I popped the hood and trunk and told them all about the car. I handed them the keys and suggested they take it for a spin. They declined the test drive because, as they said, they had an alcoholic beverage that night and thought they shouldn't drive it. How responsible I thought. We talked a little longer and they said they would get back to me.

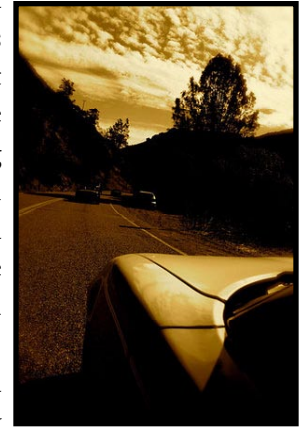
The next morning they called and said they would buy it. They hadn't driven it, and they didn't even try to bargain. It couldn't have been easier. The car almost sells itself.

That is not the case of the OTM I'm currently trying to sell. It is advertised on Craig's list along with well over 1,000 other cars and I've got For Sale signs in the windows. No doubt I'll put an add in the Penny Saver, the SAC BS and if none of that works will leave it at the car sale lot at Sierra College some upcoming weekend. The local Ford dealer and Car Max made ridiculously low offers so I'll have to work at this a little harder.

Selling cars has never been a real fun thing for me. Year's ago I was trying to sell a 1965 Mustang that had some terminal rust in the rear wheel wells. I actually never thought I could sell it with that rust so I left it parked throughout the Christmas season in a heavily shopped mall in Torrance, CA with the doors unlocked hoping someone would just steal it. That didn't work either.

In the late 1970's, while living in El Centro, CA, I was trying to sell a Mazda RX-3 with the rotary engine. A farmer came out to look at it as he needed a car for his college aged daughter. He asked how many cylinders "this here Mazder" had. I told him it didn't have cylinders and gave him a high level explanation of the Wankel

engine. He looked confused then asked how many pistons it had. I told him that it didn't have pistons but had three chambers, tried re-explaining the rotary engine and even brought out a book I had about the Wankel engine. He scratched his head and asked how many spark plugs it had. I told him "four" and he said "OK" thinking that he now understood. He bought it!



So if you know of anyone who needs a low mileage, 06 Taurus carefully driven and maintained by your favorite VP let me know as I'll give them the family discount and can stop worrying about how long it is going to take to sell this OTM.

## Treasure Trove

by Jeanne George

### WELCOME to these new members joining in January

Barbara and Donald Wroth

### Memberships Expiring February 1

Carlson, Bob & Donna  
Gingrich, JoAnne & Ralph  
Ricamara, Anthony

### Memberships Renewed during January

DeLaurentis, Mike & Helen  
Moe, Ron & Linda  
McIntyre, George & Pat  
Murray, Brenda  
Noyes, Skip  
Rainbolt, Joe & Carol  
Smith, Russell  
Wilson, Mike & Marlaina  
Zicker, Wes & Paula







### Our most recent vacation

by Vi and Frank Nicholson

What was your last vacation?

Our last vacation was in August/September 2007. It was a 8 day bus tour in Nova Scotia with close friends in August. Then in early September, Frank and I traveled on to England to spend some time with family. We saw lots of lovely scenery in Nova Scotia and especially liked Prince Edward Island. The tour guide and driver were great too and the choice of lodging very good. We traveled with Caravan Tours...nice folks and reasonable too. Our only comment was it would have been MUCH more fun to have made the trip in our own car...the Miata or the Lexus. We don't think we're ready for bus trips quite yet and Nova Scotia is easy to navigate. So, if you go there, we suggest you rent a car.. allow about 2 weeks in the summer or fall and enjoy.

England, with family and a bit of sight seeing was again very special. We rented a car there and find the driving challenging, but fun. Of course, Frank being from England, driving on the "other" side of the road comes easy to him. England is beautiful and the people are very open and friendly.

Certainly worth using vacation time...and the best part is, they can understand us "Yanks".

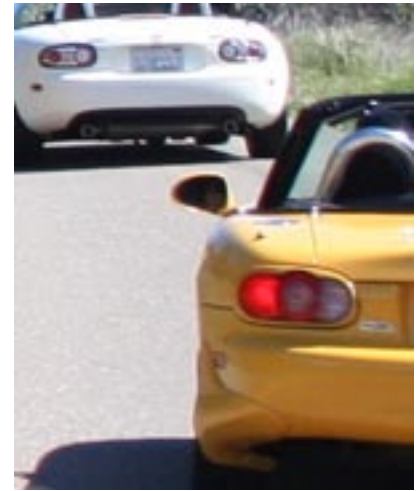
### Member profile...

George & Pat McIntyre

We are the owners of a 2007 Miata MX-5 Highland Green Grand Touring. I have been interested in Miatas for two years after I sold my last Morgan +4. I have been a Morgan owner for 40 years. I have restored two Morgans from the ground up and have owned seven Morgans some were rare models such as a 47' 4/4 Drophead Coupe the last 68' +4 Competition made. I no longer care or want to do repairs or even know what's under the hood (bonnet). I'll leave the mechanics to the pros. So on your scale of 1-10, I consider my self as a -1. Not from the lack of know how or tools, but



just too "damn" old to crawl under, into, around a car. I am a standing member of the Moss Motors "gee... I have to get that cool gadget club." I have purchased a bra, dash cover, car cover, and a few more items for looks and protection. I consider myself a "spirited senior driver" but enjoy cruising with the top down any time of the year. My wife and I joined SAMOA to be part of various events and to meet other Miata enthusiasts. We have attended one event and enjoyed the camaraderie of Miata owners.



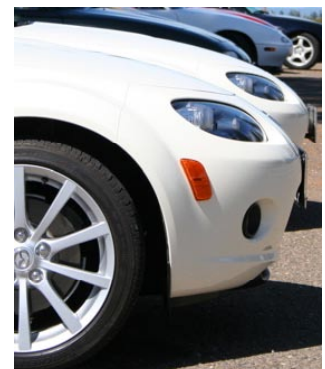
### Talk to me!

by Mark Brooks

With this being the first edition of "Miatatudes" under my belt, I have a few observations..

- 1: Ron was working his tail off to put the newsletter together every month!
- 2: Getting participation and input from our members is of critical importance if we want this Newsletter to be successful.
- 3: I don't have enough stuff in my head to create all the articles myself (no individual person does!)

Conclusion: There are over 100 members in our club, many of whom come to the meetings at Coco's. We need YOUR help to make this Newsletter great! Please contribute some articles, suggestions or criticism!



## Events or No Events, That is The Question

by Jack Parker

Sitting here on January 28, and looking over the calendar. Feeling neglected and alone, there must be something that is coming up. Continued searches of the calendar have turned up, alas, nothing. For two months, February and March there are no events. Makes the old task of writing about events very simple indeed.

February 3, is the only event scheduled and by the time you read this, knowing Mr. Petrich, I would hazard a guess of unless the monsoon season extends into February 3, the Superbowl Run has already been held. If you read this before that date then join us in the Republic of Davis at 4444 Chiles Road in the MacDonalds parking lot. We will meet between 8:00 AM and 8:30 AM and depart promptly at 8:45 AM. We will return in plenty of time to watch the Giants get their arse kicked by a gimpy legged Tom Brady and view all the commercials, not to mention the Puppy Bowl on the Animal Planet network.

There are a number of events in the planning stages. We have had rumors of various events taking place in the very near future. Some new planners and some of our oldest and most experienced planners are doing events in the months ahead. So please keep watching the website or the forum for announcements.

Keep in mind that the club is only as interesting and varied as you, the members are willing to make it. Take a minute to think about a place you would like to share with the club members and give an event a try. We are always looking for new places and events to make the club more fun. If there is a need for help in planning a run, give me a call or email and I will be glad to help in any way I can.





Changing Tires on the Mazda MX-5 Miata

## Summer Olympics

by Mike DeLaurentis

The Summer Olympics will be held in China this year in August. If you're not already in training you are not likely going to qualify. But do not fret as you all have an opportunity to compete in the SAMOA Faux Summer Olympics on August 23. Your Olympic Committee has already met and is hard at work trying to top the wildly successful (or maybe just wild) SAMOA Faux Winter Olympic games that were held in 2006. More to follow but it is never too early to get in shape and fine tune those muscles or begin thinking of original ways to bribe judges if getting in shape is too hard.

### Upcoming SAMOA and Local Events

-  Sunday February 3 - Superbowl Sunday Run (you'll be home in time for the Superbowl!)
-  Thursday February 14 - SAMOA Monthly Meeting at Coco's.
-  Thursday March 13 - SAMOA Monthly Meeting at Coco's.
-  Fri - Sun March 21-23 - Driving School at Thunderhill Raceway (great way to get ready for Got Guts III !)
-  Saturday April 5 - OTM Run II
-  Thursday April 10 - SAMOA Monthly Meeting at Coco's.
-  Monday April 21 - Got Guts at Thunderhill III.
-  Saturday May 3 - Texas Holdem Poker Run.
-  Thursday May 8 - SAMOA Monthly Meeting at Coco's.
-  Saturday May 18 - Club Autocross.

**“Long story ... to make it short, I broke a cardinal Parker car rule...”**

*Jack Parker on the SAMOA forum*

## The world's cheapest car unveiled in India (will it pose a threat to the Miata? I doubt it)

by *Adi Damiana*

Indian automaker Tata Motors has finally unveiled the Tata Nano -- its already legendary \$2,500 car (may be you could buy one with the IRS bonus check which Bush wants to send all of us!). As expected, the car that Tata claims will change the face of not only the Indian car market, but the global auto industry will be a four door, five seat hatch, powered by a 30 HP Bosch 624 cc four stroke engine mounted out back and mated to a CVT. That makes the Nano the first time a 2-cylinder gasoline engine will be used in a car with a single balancer shaft. The Nano's also expected to get 54 US miles per gallon (wow, this means I can go from Woodland to a SAMOA meeting at Arden Way and back on just one gallon of gas!). Yes, but will it blend? By the way -- are we the only ones happy to see a Tata Nano sporting what looks like a bra above? Also -- how long do we think it'll take before Apple files a lawsuit over the name?

Speaking at the unveiling ceremony at the 9th Auto Expo in New Delhi, India, Chairman of Tata Motors, Ratan N. Tata mentioned observing families in Bombay riding on two-wheelers - the father driving the scooter, his young kid standing in front of him, his wife seated behind him holding a little baby with another on the way. It led him to wonder whether one could conceive of a safe, affordable, all-weather form of transport for such a family that costs just a little more than a motorbike? Tata Motors' engineers and designers gave their all for about four years to realize this goal. Today, indeed they have a true People's Car (just like Hitler's Volkswagen?), which is affordable and yet built to meet safety requirements and emission norms, to be fuel efficient and low on emissions. It is obvious that this is purely a city commute car. You cannot to go the airport to fetch your dowager aunt arriving from a safari holiday in Kenya!

### **Stylish, comfortable**

The People's Car has a roomy passenger compartment with generous leg space and head room. It can comfortably seat four persons (Indian, not American!). Four doors with high seating position make ingress and egress easy. Yet

with a length of 3.1 meters, width of 1.5 meters and height of 1.6 meters, with adequate ground clearance, it can effortlessly maneuver on busy roads in cities as well as in rural areas. Its mono-volume design, with wheels at the corners and the power train at the rear, enables it to uniquely combine both space and maneuverability, which will set a new benchmark among small cars.

When available later this year, the car will be available in both standard and deluxe versions. Both versions will offer a wide range of body colors and other accessories so that the car can be customized to an individual's preferences.

### **Fuel-efficient engine**

The People's Car has a rear-wheel drive, all-aluminum, two-cylinder, 623 cc, multi point fuel injection petrol engine. This is the first time that a two-cylinder gasoline engine is being used in a car with single balancer shaft. The lean design strategy has helped minimize weight, which helps maximize performance per unit of energy consumed and delivers high fuel efficiency. Performance is controlled by a specially designed electronic engine management system.



### **Meets all safety requirements**

The People's Car's safety performance exceeds current regulatory requirements. With an all sheet-metal body, it has a strong passenger compartment, with safety features such as crumple zones, intrusion-resistant doors, seat belts, strong seats and anchorages, and the rear tailgate glass bonded to the body. Tubeless tires further enhance safety.

### **Environment-friendly**

The People's Car's tailpipe emission performance exceeds regulatory requirements. In terms of overall pollutants, it has a lower pollution level than two-wheelers being manufactured in India today. The high fuel efficiency also ensures that the car has low carbon dioxide emissions, thereby providing the twin benefits of an affordable transportation solution with a low carbon footprint.

(For more information: [www.tatapeoplescar.com](http://www.tatapeoplescar.com) )



## Media Musings

by Ron Petrich

As I write this article something strange was occurring outside my office window... or perhaps not occurring. Its not raining. In fact, yesterday, Monday, we were blessed with a glorious sun-filled day, perfect for heading back to the office. When the weather is so bad that the sight of the sun, for just one brief day, causes us all to stop, look, reflect and bask, you know the target audience is a car club full of convertible lovers. At least the rain makes us value the sunny days that are sure to come, and hopefully we won't complain as much about that super bright (and hot) sun that appears every day during the summer. We are a tough crowd eh? But rain or shine, a Miata is a Miata (and sometimes it's a Honda or a Corvette), meant to be driven. That's why God invented rain tires and windshield wipers. Oops, in the time it has taken me to pen this first paragraph, guess what? Its raining!

How do you folks like the present look, feel and content of our site? I keep asking because no one sends me any suggestions. No one sends me any complaints either,

so that is either a good sign or we are all brain dead. I will assume the former. Do you think the club of the month is a good idea? Has anyone translated last month's COTM from French to English? When was the last time you logged onto the SAMOA Forum? Or better yet, posted to the Forum? We have 110 registered members, but only about 25% have ever put pen to ink (so to speak) and posted. Don't be afraid, it is a great communications and learning tool, we have a great supportive membership, and we want to hear from you. The Forum has a great classified section, and there are many more readers than just the 110 who have signed up. So, if you want to sell a Miata, some parts, an OTM, why not post your want ad there? Its free and might pay off with a quick sale. The website also has a classified page, but is less dynamic than the Forum. However, if you want an ad posted on the website, just email me all of the particulars. If its a car, I need a description (color, year, mileage, condition, options, etc.), your full name, telephone and email, the city in which the car is



located, and of course the price. That's it. Send me that and I'll get it posted within a day. You can leave it up as long as you want to.



Another feature that we have built into our site is a personal page for each member. About one-fourth of our current membership

has used this feature. But it is also free to all of us, takes me just a little time to set up, and allows you to tell the rest of us a little about you and your car(s). There is no set limit to how much you can write. Send me a sentence or 10 paragraphs. Pictures too, the higher the resolution the better. And for those of you who already have a page up on our site, take a look and see if its up-to-date. If not, I'll be glad to freshen it for you.

I hope to see you all on Sunday for my annual Super Bowl Run. I'm from Chicago, and last year I did not bring any luck to my Bears by rooting for them during the run. So this year, the highest bidder will get me to cheer for the team they want to lose on Sunday afternoon.

## Football... what a JOKE ...

by Ron Petrich

God asks Peyton Manning first: "What do you believe?" Peyton thinks long and hard, looks God in the eye, and says, "I believe in hard work, and in staying true to family and friends. I believe in giving. I was lucky, but I always tried to do right by my fans."

God can't help but see the essential goodness of Manning, and offers him a seat to his left.

Then God turns to Tony Romo and says, "What do you believe?" Tony says, "I believe passion, discipline, courage and honor are the fundamentals of life. I, too, have been lucky, but win or lose, I've always tried to be a true sportsman, both on and off the playing fields."

God is greatly moved by Tony's sincere eloquence, and he offers him a seat to his right.

Finally, God turns to Brett Favre: "And you, Brett, what do you believe?"

Brett replies, "I believe you're in my seat."

## Technically Speaking....

by Mark Brooks

As the newly elected (as if there was anyone else interested in running?) Tech Advisor for 2008, I figured I'd take some time to introduce myself and tell you about my 'experience' that qualifies me to be your SAMOA Tech Advisor.

I have been a "car guy" for as long as I can remember – my first car was a 1973 Plymouth Duster with a 318 cubic inch V8. I was 17 years old, and blew up 4 rear ends, a transmission and the engine in that car. I replaced each of them myself and I still remember rebuilding the engine myself over Easter vacation when I was a Senior in High School (good thing I was taking an auto machinist ROP course at the time!).

After high school, I went to Wyoming Technical Institute in Laramie Wyoming to learn auto body collision and refinishing repair. Even though I had gone to school and graduated in the top of my class, I still had to start out at the "bottom of the ladder" at the first shop I worked at. This meant working in the detail shop – after the cars had been painted, it was up to me to colorsand them, buff and polish them so the paint had the same exact texture as the factory paint on the adjacent panels. I became the shop's expert on buffing/polishing black cars (as most of you probably know, black is the most difficult color, since it shows all flaws). By the time I got done with them, they were flawless. At one point, I ended up having to drive to John Madden's house in Blackhawk to buff/polish his wife's black Mercedes convertible a week after we had painted it (because they



were unable to bring the car to the shop to have it done). I went on to work at some of the more well known collision repair shops in the East Bay

area (Pleasanton and Walnut Creek). The shops I worked at were authorized repair facilities for Mercedes-Benz, Porsche, Jaguar, Volvo, BMW and Range Rover/Land Rover. During this time, I also autocrossed my 1990 Honda Civic Si (I think the class was "CSP"?) with SCCA and had a blast (and got proficient at removing the orange scuffs from my paint)...

I worked in this field for nearly 7 years before deciding that I didn't want to do manual labor as a career. Unfortunately by the time I left the body shops, I had worked on so many cars for other people that I was pretty burnt out on cars. That was around 1996.

About 5 years ago, the fire within was reignited when I found a car for sale – a 1971 Dodge

Dart, it had the same engine/drivetrain as my first car. Since I bought it, I've put in a bigger engine, better transmission, bigger rear end, better suspension, bigger brakes, and have been slowly restoring the body/paint (very very slowly) to it's original color.



Then, a year or so ago, I picked up my 1994 Miata, and have added a Hard Dog rollbar, Flyin Miata springs, and several other goodies. I've participated in a few track events at Thunderhill, and have really enjoyed getting my hands dirty working on the car. Now, my wife and friends have been harassing me to get my Dodge Dart finished and to stop putting so much effort into the Miata (blasphemy!)..

So – I've got a broad range of automotive experience, from American muscle cars to Imports; getting my hands dirty rebuilding engines to making the paint look pretty, and a lot of stuff in between. However – I certainly don't 'know it all', so there may be times I defer to my predecessor, Jack Parker – or other members of the group. But I can say that I will do my best to help you out with your technical questions and problems and try to steer you in the right direction! - Mark

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## **SAMOA Attire**

*by Jeanne George*

The new SAMOA embroidered clothing collection has been a big hit. We only have a few items remaining in our inventory. If you are interested, contact me at [jeanne@winfirst.com](mailto:jeanne@winfirst.com) or call 916 359-2627.

### **Men's ¼ zip fleece lined Sweatshirts \$20 each**

1 large, Black with red lettering  
1 X-large, Navy with red lettering  
1 X-large, Ash with red lettering

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4 X-large, Berripink with black lettering  
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### **Baseball Caps \$9 each**

1 black with red lettering  
5 tan with black lettering

Robin continues to watch for sales from the company and passes the savings along to the members. If there is something you would be interested in special ordering, let us know. We will obtain pricing for those items.