

# MIATATUDES

SACRAMENTO AREA MIATA OWNERS ASSOCIATION

JULY 2011

## Robin's Nest

The weather is great finally. Is everyone running around with their tops down? This month we are having our General Meeting and annual Swap Meet at another local restaurant, Logan's Roadhouse. This restaurant is located off of Interstate 80 and Truxel Road. They have a separate room for us and a varied American menu. In addition, we will have a swap meet in the parking lot of the same facility. Usually the items are few and small but this is a chance to get out among the Miatas and drool. Bring your Miata chairs and we'll enjoy the outdoors and each other. If you have anything you



think that someone else would want, bring it.

By now the club will have had two fine runs: one by Adi and Parvin Damania and one by Mike and Marlaina Wilson. From the members who participated they were great enjoyable runs. Thank you for designing and conducting the activities. If you like an area or activity create a run and let us enjoy it too. Check the calendar often.

Coming up is our fourth California State Fair Show and Shine. It's a chance to show

people what a Miata looks like who would otherwise not know. I'll always remember the young teenager trying to impress his girlfriend about the great looking Ferrari's. This time we have our exhibit early in the fair and on a weekend. Great exposure for the club. If you are interested in spending a day at the fair and enjoying the sights let me know as soon as possible. Spots fill up fast.



### Inside this issue:

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## July Meeting – New Date & Location

Wednesday, July 13<sup>th</sup> at Logan's Roadhouse on Truxel Road, Sacramento

# Treasure Trove News by Jeanne George

## We welcome our Newest Members

Bob and Lynn Wiedman  
 Bill and MaryEdna Menezes  
 Ruthie Gilley

## Memberships renewed in June

Bacon, Bob and Terri  
 Boire, Glen  
 Falconer, Bob

## Memberships Expiring July 1<sup>st</sup>

Arakelyan, Edward  
 Budmark, Jack/Denise  
 Cavanaugh, Tom & Nancy  
 Chermak, Ray & Susan Willet  
 Dugan, Cathy & Michael  
 George, Robin & Jeanne  
 Hiltcher, Ron  
 Lavoie, Mario & Cece Myers  
 Leininger, JanChuck  
 Lochrie, Tom/Robin Fischer  
 McClure, Jim & Jackie

Mitchell, Kathleen  
 Morris, Maureen/Randolph  
 Nichols, Jeff/Dawn  
 Petrich, Ron & Mary Pat Pauly  
 Reynolds, Martha  
 Rousey, Micah  
 Rowell, Fran  
 Senger-Gibbons, Astrid/Bob Peake  
 Sipe, Michael & Jennifer  
 Spence, Scotty/Sue  
 Street, Jerry

**SAMOA stats: 139 Memberships, 222 Members, 148 Miatas**

### LOOKING AHEAD IN OUR EVENTS CALENDAR

The months ahead are filled with many fun and exciting events. Please check the [SAMOA Events](#) page of the website for more information on the following upcoming events:

DATE	EVENT	LEADER/ORGANIZER
July 17	State Fair Show and Shine	Robin George
July 23	Castello di Amorosa	Pam Hunt
July 30-31	Overnight to Lassen Volcanic Park	Ron Pietrich
Aug 11	Club Meeting	SAMOA
Aug 13-14	Forestiere/Yosemite/Castle Run	Mike DeLaurentis
Aug 19-21	Monterey Week	
Aug 21	Drive Around the Lake	Ralph Gingrich
Aug 26-28	Scrabble Scramble	Denise Correia
Sep 8	Club Meeting	SAMOA
Sep 11	Washington Fun Run	Jim and Jackie McClure
Sep 25	SAMOA Birthday Picnic	Jeanne George/Jennifer Sipe

## SAMOA Support the Troops Program

*By Jeanne George*

As we celebrate this 4th of July, let us be reminded of the freedoms we are able to enjoy as a result of our Founding Fathers efforts. No matter what you do: toasting a beer, picnic, bbq, fireworks or just spending time with your family and friends we have the military troops to thank for their commitment to our safety. Not only do they endure the hazards of war and weather but they are away from their families.

Summer 2008, SAMOA members Pam (Secretary) and Randy Hunt's son was assigned to Iraq. In October, then Vice-president Mike DeLaurentis made the suggestion to the Board of Officers (BOO) as a way to recognize the efforts of our Troops. Ask Club members to

donate items and SAMOA would pay the postage to send packages to the men and women fighting in combat areas. It was approved and donated items came in from members while others contributed cash which Helen used to purchase phone calling cards and additional items.

55 packages of items have been prepared and mailed by Helen and Mike since the first package was mailed November 2008. We would like to thank them both for all their time and work.

As a reminder, you can drop off your

donated items at the monthly meetings. Cash donations are appreciated and Helen uses it to purchase items in bulk and distribute in multiple boxes.



Photo by Dylan Hunt with SAMOA decal on military vehicle, Iraq 2008

## JUNE 25 SHOW AND SHOOT

*By Maureen and Randy Morris*

Mike and Marlaina Wilson led our caravan to Murphy's: 2 white Miata's, 2 copper red, 2 silver, 1 blue, 1 true red, and of course, Mike DeLaurentis's mahogany one :)

After a short break in Jackson, we continued on to Murphy's, arriving at the park around noon. The cars were awesome, each one showing a real pride in ownership and absolutely perfect. We all lived days

past. Food, music and booths added to the atmosphere.

Afterwards, some of us went to downtown Murphy's and ate lunch at the historic Murphy's Hotel, founded August 20th, 1856. Murphy's was also hosting a wine tasting festival, but we managed to tour the shops (and buy things!)

Congratulations to Jim and Jackie who were celebrating their 51st

wedding anniversary with us. May you enjoy many more?

Thank you, Mike and Marlaina. We loved the country roads and driving our Miata's



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## SAMOA ANNUAL BIRTHDAY BASH

*Picnic on Sept 25, RSVP by Sept 21*

Twenty-one years ago on October 13, 1990, a group of 13 Miata enthusiasts from the Sacramento area gathered at Carmichael Park. That group founded SAMOA (Sacramento Area Miata Owners Association). This year we will celebrate the anniversary with a BBQ lunch and wine tasting at the Windwalker Winery. Owners Jim and Alanna Taff have again graciously offered us the use of their facilities at no cost to our Club. This will be our 5th year at this location.

Activities will include: wine tasting, a catered BBQ lunch, meeting other members, lawn games, water balloon toss, a Bocce ball tournament, and having fun. Or you can sit in the shade and watch. This is a great chance to meet other members, especially when your schedule doesn't allow for you to attend monthly meetings.

We have contracted with JR's Texas Bar-B-Que and the menu will be: brisket, chicken, potato salad, coleslaw, cowboy beans, cornbread, peach cobbler, soda and water.

The day will begin with an organized group drive to the winery or you can drive there on your own. Windwalker is located at 7360 Perry Creek Road, Somerset (530 620-4054). Plan to arrive around 11 am for registration and wrist band. Wine tasting starts at 11 o'clock and lunch is scheduled for noon.

The cost is \$15 per SAMOA member, payable in advance. The day of the event at registration \$10 will be refunded per member. Non-members and guests will cost \$15 each payable in advance, with no refund.

**RSVP for this event is required by Wednesday, September 21. You can order tickets at the monthly meeting or by mail. Contact Jeanne George at 916 359-2627 or [jeanne@winfirst.com](mailto:jeanne@winfirst.com).**

**Make checks payable to SAMOA and mail to 1864 Bridgecreek Dr., Sacramento, CA 95833. Payment in full must be received by Friday, September 23.**

If you pay for tickets, but find yourself unable to attend, please notify me to cancel your attendance by September 23 for a full refund. No refund after the caterer is given the final count.



# RUN TO UPPER CLEAR LAKE

By Adi & Parvin Damania

On a beautiful June 18<sup>th</sup> Saturday morning seven (lucky seven?) Miatas gathered at the McDonalds in Davis for a leisurely run to Upper Clearlake. The run, led by Adi & Parvin Damania (veteran SAMOAns), included 9 other SAMOAns in six other Miatas. Things appeared good for a start since all seven Miatas were of different colors! There was of course Adi & Parvin's 1999 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in Mica Blue color, Lon & Barbara's 2008 normal dark blue with a custom number plate "LONS QT", Jim & Barbara in their 2001 Yellow Special Edition, Paul Y'Barra in a 2000 Twilight Blue (Ok, we had shades of blue), Sally in her 2010 red, John & Mary Ann in their 2004 Titanium (is that a color?), and lastly but not the leastly, founder member Skip Noyes in his 2004 silver, who very kindly agreed to be the sweep.

One lady driving an old Subaru (has to be from Davis) came in to the McDonalds parking lot (she is a regular morning customer at the clown's breakfast den) and told me "Aha, I see it's been quite a while since your car club met". She thought McDonalds in Davis was our regular meeting place! I politely told her "our car club meets every week end for some event or another; we meet here in Davis only when our runs start on the west side of Sacramento."



After the usual sign up sheet fill-in-the-blanks, introductions, and a summary of the run, the group started exactly at the stroke of 9 AM. After about 30 minutes of warm up on the busy I-80 West and then 113 North to Woodland, the group joined I-5 North and took the famous Road No. 16 going towards Cache Creek Casino at the last Woodland exit. It was a perfect day for some top down *Miatying* and all the cars had theirs tucked away (two of them literally as they disappeared in to the trunk electronically). Soon the traffic thinned as the group left Esparto on Hwy 16 and flew past the "Road Trip" Harley hang out and proceeded towards Cache Creek Casino (CCC). Things went pretty sedate up to the first rest stop. Lots of "for sale" signs for cherries, fresh large brown eggs, and goats and bucolic cows grazing in the valley. While I, in the lead car, watched the road Parvin did her part admirably by watching the rear-view and the visor mirrors and constantly gave me feedback as to whether the rest of our pack were keeping up or not. Based upon her intelligence I would temper my speed so that "no Miata was left behind".

As the seven multi-colored Miatas were all parked at the CCC gas station, two other Miatas were seen coming on over from Hwy 16 up the ramp to the Casino. All of us thought they must have read about the run and were joining the group at the CCC stop. But our elation was short-lived as both the Miatistas made a bee-line for the Casino rather than turning in our direction! The losers (at the tables, of course) did not know what they were missing (a run with the magnificent seven)! In the mean time, some dudes were inflating tractor inner tubes at the gas station. Adi & Parvin were puzzled as to what use these monstrous black doughnut inner tubes would be put to. But we were just about to find out.

After a 30 minutes rest, the group started again and went rapidly through small villages like Brooks, Guinda, and Rumsey. The Cache Creek was in spate due to the excess of recent late spring rains California has had this year, and there were a multitude of white water rafters being bussed to and fro enjoying a couple of miles of great white surf! And among them were our dudes with their economical rafting gear, the black tractor inner tubes!

We have observed, on past trips by ourselves, deer, elk, and foxes on either side of Hwy 16 going about their business. But on this day an unfortunate deer and a not so savvy fox were seen, but as part of a road kill massacre, which also included couple of skunks, a dozen squirrels, and a rabbit or two. A flock of turkey buzzards were having a field day with a choice of pickings! Any way our group of Miatas left Hwy 16 and turned on to Hwy 20 which is not as twisty as Hwy 128 (the Miata Valhalla Road), but it does have some fast sinewy curves and a convenient passing lane where we waved good bye to a huge motor-home and a truck towing a boat.

Soon the group was skirting the Clear Lake (the biggest natural lake in California according to Professor Skip). It was a clear blue sky, a warm morning orange sun, and the blue waters of the lake dotted with water fowl and the sprinkling of boats (power and sail) as well as the odd jet-ski. The road is only 3 feet above the water level! The next 20 miles or so had so many speed limit changes that Adi, as the leader, just decided to stick to the average of 45, 35, 30, and 25 which was 33 mph. The fuzz was nowhere to be seen. A very considerate oil tanker saw this group of beautiful shiny sports cars in his rear view mirror (the size of a tennis racquet) and just pulled over in a turnout. Each one of us honked in appreciation of this gesture (perhaps the tanker driver had a Miata tucked away somewhere and understood the frustration of a bunch of guys just out to have some fun on a Saturday morning!)



Soon we arrived at Main Street, Upper Clear Lake and parked in front of the historic Blue Wing saloon/bar/restaurant/hotel. Since not all could find a shaded parking slot, down or up went the tops. After about 30 minutes of browsing through about a dozen antique shops selling everything from old bottles, paintings of Indian maharajas, and bathroom fixtures to solid rubber wheels of stage coaches that plied in the area over 170 years ago, the group gathered in front of the Blue Wing! A beautiful road side clock had a date of 1854 on it and still kept perfect time. Alas, the recession has hit the antique trade extremely hard and the elderly lady shop-owners were just happy to have a lengthy conversation with you even if you did not make a purchase.

At 12 noon, just like in the movie “High Noon”, the drivers and their passengers stepped in to “Blue Wing” saloon. A long table set for 12 was laid out for the “car club people”. Parvin was missing and after about 20 minutes we became worried that she may have hitched a ride to the “Robinson Rancheria Casino” that we had passed only 5 miles back. But when she came she explained that she was detained by one of antique shop owners who was extolling about the virtues of her Toyota MR2. Parvin was obviously not buying any (the story, I mean, not the antiques) and said she kept on nodding her head just to humor the poor lady. Everyone knows the Miata beats the MR2 hollow in every department, right fellas?!



As other patrons for lunch trickled in they could not contain themselves without making a mention about those “beautiful shiny Miatas parked outside”! Soon lunch orders were placed (specials included freshly BBQed pork ribs or grilled Tilapia or a Japanese dish which I could not figure out), with the waitress fumbling at first as to which were the couples that required a separate check and the others, who were on their own. The wine list was extensive, with some local wineries on the periphery of the lake given top billing. The dessert was also excellent.

Skip also informed the group that there were several HOT springs underneath the lake, which explains why sometimes the lake is shrouded in mist during winter time. The separate checks arrived, and to our surprise, a 18% tip was already itemized, which we were told was standard practice when there is a group of more than 10. After the dessert we said our good-byes and each one of the Miatas headed home or wherever but in a different direction. The run leaders got a positive feed-back on the whole. The group of seven was just right and we remained together 95% of the time. And as they say, a good time was had by one and all.



# SAMOA July Events

## Monthly Meeting - Wednesday, July 13, 2011

Please note the change in day and location for our meeting on July 13. The meeting is at [Logan's Roadhouse](#), located at 3698 North Freeway Boulevard, Sacramento, CA 95834 (916) 419-8100. This location is just north of I80 east of Truxel Road. This will be our swap meet meeting. Our meetings start officially at 7:00 PM, but please come an hour earlier and join us for an informal dinner or other refreshments. After the meeting we will go to the parking lot to mingle.

## SAMOA at the State Fair – July 17, 2011

We are going to the state fair again but this time it will be on a Sunday. Please check the web site for more information or contact Robin George at (916) 359-2627



## Castello di Amorosa – July 23, 2011

The event is a tour of the Castello di Amorosa and a tasting of their wines. The tour is about 1 hour and the wine tasting another 45 minutes or so. The cost for the tour and wine tasting is \$32.00 per person. The property is a 14<sup>th</sup> century 107



room Tuscan style castle. We will go somewhere for lunch after the wine tasting. This event is still in the planning stage, please check the website for more information or contact Please RSVP with Pam Hunt at (530) 672-8985 or [rspjhunt@sbcglobal.net](mailto:rspjhunt@sbcglobal.net).

## Overnight To Lassen Volcanic National Park - July 30-31, 2011

We will depart at 9:00 AM Saturday morning from the [Starbucks](#) at 4819 Granite Drive, in Rocklin. Our [route](#) will take us north on Highway 49 to Graeagle, north on 89 and 70 to Chester. We will stop for lunch in Graeagle. We should arrive in Chester between 3:00-4:00 PM. Saturday evening we will all be on our own for dinner and entertainment. Join other couples or strike out on your own. Chester has a multitude of both casual and fine dining establishments. Click [here](#) for a list of restaurants.

On Sunday morning, we plan to leave for the park at 8:30 AM. The park offers a diverse mix of things to do from [hikes](#), scenic drives, and interpretive displays. We will meet back at 3:00 PM for the drive back to Sacramento which will take us south on Highway 89, west on Highway 70 (Feather River Canyon) to Oroville and south to Sacramento.

## July Birthdays

by Ron Petrich

### CANCER – July 1-22



You like to know what's going on in the lives of everyone in the galaxy. However, you tend not know know what's going on in your own. If you are lucky, your friends will tell you. Cancerians only get dressed because they have to, and their fashion sense can only be described as "erratic." You are more likely than any other sign in the zodiac (except Pisces, who does not iron) to iron your clothes by sleeping with them sandwiched between the mattress and box-spring. Likewise, you can stretch one pair of underwear out for almost a month. Your home is like your very own Biodome, and you can remain indoors for months at a time. Despite your need to be everyone's savior, you need no social interaction. SWAT teams often show up, mistakenly thinking there's a hostage situation. A

Cancer is like a walking Ladies' Home Journal, quick on the draw with shortcake recipes and helpful hints on how to talk to your teen. Whether they know it or not, they are all born with an exceptional talent for cross-stitch. So much for buying the world a Coke - they would breast-feed the world if they could. This trait is not gender-specific. You will never excel in sports because you have to rest for fifteen minutes every time you breathe. You do not mind, since you plan to conduct your career from the comfort of your own bed. You maintain your questionable health through a steady diet of Ho-Ho's and beer. You also imbibe a great deal of Pepto-Bismol in order to confuse your numerous ulcers. People walk on you often. Actually, not often - all the time. If you think someone is screwing you, you're probably right. The most entertaining thing about this is that you like it. You strive to be a doormat. Cancerians coin their own words to describe philosophical concepts. This is why it is no surprise that George W. Bush is a Cancer. Cancerians have minimal influence over their friends, even though they show up with homemade soup to remedy every minor or major tragedy. However, they wield their power through the fact that they know what everyone is thinking at any given time. This is why they are never invited to parties. Cancerians claim to be "tactful". The word for this is actually "shiftless". Cancerians are always appointed to take their drunken, drooling friends home. These friends are usually Pisceans.

### LEO – July 23-31



You will grab attention in any way you possibly can. Self-immolation is not out of the question. You like to kiss mirrors a lot. Genghis Khan was a Leo, and so is Barney the Dinosaur. People still love Lucy, but less because she was a Leo. Leos will interrupt conversation to talk, and they will place themselves bodily in the way of someone who is trying to leave before the Leo is finished saying what he or she needs to say. All Leos want parades on their birthdays. Leos never marry because no one is good enough for them. If they do marry, they keep their spouses locked under the bathroom sink. They need physical affection at all times; unfortunately, they can't find any because everyone thinks they are

irritating punks. This is why so many of the people arrested for necrophilia are Leos. A Leo uses himself as an example of the Overman in order to describe philosophical concepts. Some Leos decide to be homosexual even if they aren't, because they think this gives them shock value. It actually means that neither gender will want to hook up with them. In actuality, anything besides a romantic evening with themselves is considered a step down for the Leo. Leos open doors by screaming at them. They expect their Clappers to applaud when they enter a room. Leos are said to resemble lions. This means that they are loud, have cleft upper lips and slimy noses, and s\*\*t under trees as they walk. They snack on monkeys while watching "Entertainment Tonight". Humility frightens Leos. That is why Jesus was a Capricorn, Buddha was an Aries, and so forth. However, "radical cult leader" is not out of the question. Leos like to start fights with Aries. They will stomp and bloody each other regardless of whether or not they are in public. In fact, the Leos usually prefer it. You will see these fights taking place at bars, sporting events, fashion shows, or Taco Bell. If you are a clever Capricorn, you will sell tickets. Don't worry about hanging posters--Leo will take care of that in advance. Aquarians hang posters of rock stars on their walls. Scorpios hang posters of famous disasters on their walls. Capricorns hang posters of great mathematicians on their walls. Pisceans hang posters of unicorns on their walls. Leos hang posters of themselves on their walls.

Now that everyone has been properly chastised and humiliated, on to the birthdays...

Chris Allen – July 28<sup>th</sup>  
Edward Arakelyan – July 4<sup>th</sup>  
Tak Auyeung – July 32<sup>nd</sup>  
Christy Barden – July 32<sup>nd</sup>  
Bob Carlson – July 11<sup>th</sup>  
Sue Carter – July 3<sup>rd</sup>  
Judy Cummings – July 24<sup>th</sup>  
John Emelio – July 13<sup>th</sup>  
Jeanne George – July 2<sup>nd</sup>  
Rod Johnson – July 22<sup>nd</sup>  
Anne Jurach – July 15<sup>th</sup>  
Richard Kelly – July 23<sup>rd</sup>

Jeff Nichols – July 16<sup>th</sup>  
Sally Parker – July 32<sup>nd</sup>  
Garry Pederson – July 27<sup>th</sup>  
Diva Puccinelli – July 16<sup>th</sup>  
Carol Rainbolt – July 23<sup>rd</sup>  
Craig Rossiter – July 24<sup>th</sup>  
Fran Rowell – July 15<sup>th</sup>  
Sherri Rowland – July 10<sup>th</sup>  
Denise Russell – July 32<sup>nd</sup>  
Richard Russell – July 32<sup>nd</sup>  
Paula Zicker – July 32<sup>nd</sup>  
Wes Zicker – July 32<sup>nd</sup>

# Mt. Lassen Scouting Run

by Ron Petrich

Today's scouting run was by far the weirdest run I have been on for quite some time. The intent of the run, to drive up to Graeagle to both scout the route and arrange for our lunch stop, sounded like a lot of fun when I suggested it to Robin last Saturday (06/25). What's not to like? A weekday jaunt on some great roads into the high country with two like-minded (ie aggressive) drivers on a nice early summer sunny day. Not! Someone forgot to tell Mama Nature that it was summer. In her defense, she did allow us a great drive up the hill, just not so great on the way back.

Robin and I met at 8:30 AM at the designated run meetup location, the designated Starbucks in Rocklin, and we departed promptly at 9:00 AM. We followed the route exactly. Although traffic was heavy through Auburn and parts of Grass Valley, once we headed up slope traffic thinned out and the drive became much more enjoyable. This is a great route. Highway 49 is well maintained, very scenic, and has a great mix of tight twisties and gentle curves. Robin and I were able to spec out a pit stop location about 52 miles out from the departure point, just before the entrance to the National Forest lands. The route takes us through Downieville, Sierra City and a couple of other burgs only identified by a cabin or 2. A left turn at Bassetts on Gold lake Highway takes the route up to about 6,400 feet (and plenty of snow in meadows and on the sides of the road) before dropping down into Graeagle at approximately 4,500 feet. Such a marked difference – they were playing golf at Graeagle Meadows. We had lunch at the Graeagle Restaurant (aptly named huh) before turning around and heading back.

The increasing clouds gave us only slight pause. It is almost July after all, and although thunderstorms are always possible in the high country, a major winter storm seemed unlikely. Well, we were certainly in for a shock. Although we weren't faced with snow, we drove home in a monsoon all the way home through Grass Valley, Marysville and into Sacramento. A little over 2 hours up, and about 3.5 coming home. At least the rain washed any residual winter gravel off the road, so conditions should be spectacular on the 30<sup>th</sup>.

So for those signed up for our Lassen weekend, rest assured that the route will be most enjoyable and the sights will be spectacular.

## The Lava, Water and Snow Run Oregon 2011

This run began Sunday of Memorial Day weekend in Rancho Cordova with a group of cars from throughout California. A sizeable contingent from SAMOA joined the run for the day, led by Denise and Ellen. The snow began the first day as we drove through Grass Valley, on to Downieville, through the mountains and into the Feather River Canyon, ending in Chico, where we experienced the last of warm weather for awhile. The Bacons, Sipes and Hunts spent the night in Chico at the "Grateful Bed." We joined them for a wonderful dinner at the Sierra Nevada Brewery (warning to future diners: the Greek flatbread is NOT the light entrée it sounds like from the menu description. AND as Bob discovered some of the sausage is REALLY spicy!)



The next day we left with the ongoing group to visit Lassen National Park. We entered through the south entrance and visited the steam pots. There was an incredible amount of snow on the

ground. We took photos of us with the car, planning ahead for Christmas cards. After lunch at the new south entrance Visitor Center, we exited the park and drove local roads to the north



entrance to visit the Loomis Museum there.

We left Lassen and spent the night in Weed. It was snowing on Mount Shasta, so much so that we could not see the summit.

The following day began with a serious driver's meeting. It was not at all certain we could get to Crater Lake because of the weather. We unanimously decided to give it a go and were pleased to discover that, while it began snowing at about 4500 feet, the snow was not sticking. We made it into the Park and up to the Rim Village. Most folks decided to have lunch at the store and village center, but Vince and I walked to the

Lodge, from which there is usually a view of the Lake. The food was great, but a huge snow bank obscured the view. Even after we walked to the lake viewpoint outside, we discovered that falling snow obscured the view. We were glad it was not our first visit, since it would have been disappointing to have gone so far to see the lake and not see it.

We stopped at the Steel information center on our way out of the park. There is an interesting film on the formation of the lake and its discovery first by native Americans and later by white settlers.

Although there is a 6,000 foot plus pass going out of the park; and, although it was snowing, we encountered no difficulty getting up and over to spend the night in Cottage Grove. This probably gave us all a false sense of confidence in the weather the following day!

There was little inclement weather forecast as we left Cottage Grove...just a little precipitation. We enjoyed our drive to (and in some cases through) the covered bridges of Lane County. It rained on and off, but for the most part cooperated and eased up at our various bridge stops. We headed off to Bend without a care. Although unpredicted snow began to fall, we were confident in our ability to get over Willamette Pass, which is, after all, 1,000 feet lower than the pass we had traversed the day before. Unfortunately, as we near the summit, the snow began to stick. A couple of cars in our eleven car group spun out (fortunately, without injury to occupants or damage to the cars.) This cause all of us to have to stop and soon there were eleven Miatas in a row, all stuck in the snow.

One driver had cell service and tried to call AAA. Goodness knows where the call center was, but he was in the middle of first describing where Oregon is located, then the two nearest towns, then Willamette Pass, etc. when a passing trucker told us a snow plow was enroute and could probably get us out. The snow plow came by shortly thereafter, but initially added to our woes by creating a berm of snow we needed to get over to get to the path cleared. Fortunately, Charlotte and Charlie, who had joined us at Lassen were from snow country (Gardnerville, Nevada) and reminded us that



reverse is a lower gear than first and that we should be able to BACK out over the snow berm to get onto the snowplow cleared area. We did. A couple of cars more deeply stuck in the snow had to be pushed, but eventually all eleven cars made it off the summit and down the mountain both without the assistance of a tow truck and unscathed.

Events of the day made us more cautious. The following day we first stayed close to our home base in Bend as we visited the Newberry Crater. We climbed the Lava Butte for

beautiful views of the surrounding countryside. After an informative stay at the visitor center (and for some a walk through the nearby lava trail), we made a brief stop and the High Desert Museum and returned to Bend for lunch. After lunch we headed off to Sisters. The original plan was to drive to and on the scenic Aufderheide Highway. Most travelers decided to spend the afternoon in Sisters. A group of us decided check out accessibility to the Aufderheide. Although we all made it safely over the Santiam Pass, all but one car decided to turn back. It was snowing and our theory was that conditions would only be worse later in the day for getting back to Bend.

One car did proceed to the Aufderheide and was able to drive to its summit where snow there caused it to turn back. Mark and Jamie made it safely back to Bend and were able to give us good intelligence for our route the following day when we would be leaving the group.

On Friday, as the rest of the group headed north to the Columbia River Basin, we headed west through Sisters and over Santiam Pass. What a difference a day makes! It was sunny and beautiful as we crossed the Pass. We turned on to the Aufderheide and enjoyed a great drive to what we believe was the summit. There we encountered snow that looked passable, but since we were not sure it WAS the summit and didn't want to get stuck while driving alone, we turned back, stopped for a picnic lunch and then proceeded to the coast at Florence. Where the weather was gorgeous. After a rest stop at Mo's on the Siuslaw River, we headed south down the 101 to Bandon.

It was positively balmy in Bandon so we extended our stay there to two nights. Our hotel overlooked the beach and the third lowest tide of the year brought out a host of clammers. We enjoyed a full day almost completely "out of the car" before making the long drive back to Sacramento on Sunday.



We did take one detour at the Avenue of the Giants, but otherwise just concentrated on getting home! It is a trip we will long remember.

## FUN AROUND TOWN

### (Free Concerts, Free Parking and No Over Priced Food)

The Sacramento area is a wonderful place to be during the summer. During the evenings as the sun is painting the horizon a beautiful reddish color, the delta breeze is gently blowing and there is music in the air. Did you know that there are free concerts all over the Sacramento area from Thursday to Sunday Nights?

These concerts are a lot of fun. Last week, Chris and I went to the concert at Fair Oaks and ended up having 10 other people joining us. As we walked around we saw other people we knew. Neal and Elaine Mackey were making root beer floats.

Most of the local community parks are offering free concerts that are sponsored by the local merchants. These concerts are more of a place for friends to gather with coolers packed with food and drinks to share with friends. Some of the concerts have vendors selling food and drinks. The music ranges from big band music to good old rock and roll. Some of the bands are from the Sacramento area so they may appear at all or most of the concerts that are offered. Most events are dog and kid friendly.

The park in Old Fair Oaks draws about 450 – 800 people and a few chickens every Thursday night. The concert starts at 7 pm and ends at 9 pm. But, people start arriving at 5:30 to claim their area for them and their friends. There is even a small dance area. <http://www.fairoakschamber.com/wp-content/uploads/2009/05/2011FOConcerts.pdf>

On Friday nights at Cesar Chavez Plaza has a 15 week schedule. The performances are from 5 pm to 9 pm. The bands reflect a broad spectrum of musical acts including blues, punk, country, rock, soul, pop, reggae and hip hop. The following is the website for their schedule. <http://www.sacramento365.com/event/detail/35287>

El Dorado Hills concerts for July are tribute bands (Tom Petty and U2) and one band that plays rock and roll. The concerts are on Friday night at the El Dorado Hills Community Park.

[http://www.edhcsd.org/news\\_and\\_announcements/archive/2011/06/fridayNightFlyer.pdf](http://www.edhcsd.org/news_and_announcements/archive/2011/06/fridayNightFlyer.pdf)

Roseville has their summer concert series at Royer Park on the third Sunday of the month until September 18, 2011. The lineup for Roseville are local bands such as Mumbo Gumbo and Mick Martin <http://www.rosevillemusicinthepark.com/>

Carmichael has 18 concerts at the Danny Bishop Memorial Pavilion for the performing arts at 5750 Grant. The range of music is from big bands, blues, and rock and roll. The concerts are on Saturday and Sundays

<http://www.carmichaelpark.com/pdf/EVENTS/General%20Sponsorship%20Flyer%20Updated.jpg>

West Sacramento has their free summer music concert series on Tuesday nights from 7:00 to 8:30 pm at the River walk Park in West Sacramento. The line-up for the concert was not post at the time of this writing.

[http://cityofwestsacramento.org/city/depts/pcs/not\\_used/harmony.asp](http://cityofwestsacramento.org/city/depts/pcs/not_used/harmony.asp)

This could be a SAMOA event for someone to host. A late afternoon drive ending at one of the parks with a picnic dinner. Hint Hint.