



4th of July - about more than just fireworks

by Mark Brooks

In the United States, Independence Day (commonly known as the Fourth of July) is a federal holiday commemorating the adoption of the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776, declaring independence from the Kingdom of Great Britain.

* In 1777, thirteen guns were fired, once at morning and again as evening fell, on July 4 in Bristol, Rhode Island. Philadelphia celebrated the first anniversary in a manner a modern American would find quite familiar: an official dinner for the Continental Congress, toasts, 13-gun salutes, speeches, prayers, music, parades, troop reviews, and fireworks. Ships were decked with red, white, and blue bunting.

* In 1778, General George Washington marked Independence Day with a double ration of rum for his soldiers and an artillery salute. Across the Atlantic Ocean, ambassadors John Adams and Benjamin Franklin held a dinner for their fellow Americans in Paris, France.

* In 1779, July 4 fell on a Sunday. The holiday was celebrated on Monday, July 5.

* In 1781, the Massachusetts General Court became the first state legislature to recognize Independence Day as a state celebration.

* In 1783, Moravians in Salem, North Carolina, held the first celebration of Independence Day in the country with a challenging music program assembled by Johann Friedrich Peter. This work was titled "The Psalm of Joy".

* In 1791 was the first recorded use of the name "Independence Day".

* In 1870, the U.S. Congress made Independence Day an unpaid holiday for federal employees.

* In 1941, Congress changed Independence Day to a paid federal holiday. The residents of Vicksburg, Mississippi, celebrated Independence Day for the first time since July 4, 1863, when the Siege of Vicksburg ended with a Union victory during the American Civil War.

-taken from www.wikipedia.org



Robins' Nest

by Robin George

Hello everyone. Hope everyone had a chance to listen to Mike DeLaurentis and myself on the big booming radio station KAH1 in the Auburn Hills. Every Saturday between the hours of 10:30 AM and 12 NOON there is a car talk show on the air. Mike and I met with the broadcasters and exalted in the virtues of the Sacramento Area Miata Owners Association. We impressed them so much that we MAY have the opportunity to participate in several of their



events next year. They bought the idea that we are a legitimate car club. Well damn it, we are!!! Most of the folks they cater to are into restoring classic cars (1972 and earlier) but we do similar plus drive them.

Several members have suggested some other places to hold our General Meetings. We are growing and we are also out growing our current spot, Coco's. What a great situation to be in. Please continue to check places out and letting us know. Remember: Room for 50 or more, separate checks, plenty of group parking for the club, friendly servers, good food and availability from 5pm to 9pm. Not much, we are an easy group.

Last month Ron Petrich organized a trip to the local ballpark to root for the Rivercats. Great game and weather. Plus we saw our name in lights. To quote a famous celebrity 'Jefferson, "We are moving on up."



If you didn't know, your Treasurer and I are spending a little WE time in San Diego. (No club funds are being used

unless we talk about club business over a nice steak dinner with a medium priced bottle of wine.) We are staying in the Gaslamp District where it is nonstop partying and just a fun place to be. This Thursday Jeanne and I will be visiting with the San Diego Miata Club at their monthly General Meeting. I will make sure I take note of their methods of madness and what they do to stir the pot. They used to have close to 300+ members but have dwindled down to 200+. Must be the gas.

(editors' note - "So, Robin, your gas scared off 100 members?")

Treasure Trove

by Jeanne George

WELCOME to these new members joining in June

Michael and Melyssa Ehnstrom
Rob and Jill Johnson
Glen Boire
Brad Grant
Dennis and Wendy Godfrey
Samantha Vance
Mike and Cindy McGuire
Dan and Judy Bloom

Memberships Expiring July 1

Bodenhamer, Mark & Deirdre
Chermak, Ray & Susan Willet
Dugan, Cathy & Michael
Hahn, JR & Susie
Herron, Bob
Leininger, Jan
McClure, Jim & Jackie
Neft, Martin & Niki Draconetti
Rowell, Fran
Sipe, Michael & Jennifer
Sneathern, Fred & Farrah
White, Richard
Wilkinson, Darlene

Memberships Renewed during June

Petrich, Ron and Mary Pat Pauly
George, Robin & Jeanne
Cowan, Clay and Barbara
Winney, Gary & Peg
McCamey, Richard & Dorothy

This month's news was cut-off on June 21. If you sent in payment after that date, it will be reflected in next month's newsletter. Robin and I headed to San Diego for a vacation.

Website Doings..

by Ron Petrich

Greetings Samoans and welcome to summer. I guess it was only a matter of time until the days started getting shorter, which only highlights the fact that change is constantly with us. Call it evolutionary, call it change for the sake of change, or call it progress. But nothing stays the same for very long.

Similarly, our SAMOA website is evolving as well. Some of the changes are subtle, some are overt, but all are meant to improve the product and make your site more interesting and one of which you are proud. This past month the look and feel of our website was enhanced (hopefully) with a new subtle background design employing the SAMOA text. I tried to make it appear subdued, so as not to distract from the textual and pictorial information on the site. Other aspects of the site were freshened with tables and additional pictures. The page listing our photo galleries underwent the most drastic change, wherein a thumbnail graphic helps to identify each gallery. I hope you like the changes, and if so say so. And if not, let me know, I won't be offended, I want to know what YOU want to see.

One of the most interactive aspects of www.sacramentoareamiata.org is our forum. I just approved the 144th member today. That is amazing growth in less than a year, and I hope that all of you who have subscribed take back something positive from the forum. For those of you who have not YET signed up (and I know there are many because about a third of the current members are NOT Samoans), you are missing out on a terrific community resource. In a nutshell, here is what our forum discusses:

General	Other Autosports Activities
Introduce Yourself	Technical & Maintenance
Miata Related Discussion	General Miata Maintenance
Other Automotive Topics	Performance Upgrades
Events	Wash & Wax
SAMOA Events	Classified
Other Events	Miatas For Sale
Autocross & Track	Miata Parts For Sale
Autocross Activities	OTMs For Sale
Open Track Experience	Wanted To Buy

A total of 390 topics and 2,825 messages have been posted since the inception of our forum. It has become a valuable communications tool for those who have subscribed. You really don't want to pass this by. Even if you never post to the forum, you can gain a wealth of information just by enrolling and being able to read the messages therein.

Finally, as I was updating the look and feel of the site this past month, I noticed that most, if not almost all, of the personal member web pages are either somewhat or extremely out of date. If you have personal information and pictures on a page, why not take a look at it this month. If the pictures and text are out of date, please send me updated information. It is relatively easy to update your page. Or if you do not now have a page, why not share a picture or two of your Miata(s) with the rest of your clubmembers. Just email me some jpeg images and a Word file and I will take care of the rest.

If ever any of you has a concern or a question about OUR site, please contact me or another of the BOO. And because I have the podium, I say GO CUBS!!!



Buyer Beware...

by Mark Brooks

It's no big news that gas prices are on the rise, and more and more people are putting more thought into their driving habits and gas mileage. If you're looking to squeeze a few more MPG's out of your beloved Miata (or whatever car you're driving), it's not rocket science... here are a few tips:

- Make sure your tires are properly inflated - this is VERY important! 32psi is a good starting point, but check your cars' owners manual for manufacturer recommendations.
- Replace your spark plugs, plug wires, air filter, fuel filter, and check your timing.
- Change your driving habits! Try keeping all your shifts below 4,000 rpm for a full tank.. you will probably notice a difference.
- Be VERY wary of gas additives and products that you add to your intake or exhaust that 'improve efficiency' to increase mileage. Most of this stuff is JUNK.

The best thing you can do is drive smoothly, keep it under 65 mph on the highway and avoid quick acceleration from light to light.

SAMOA Club Picnic

by Jeanne George

Sunday, September 21

SAMOA Club will celebrate its 18th Birthday with a picnic at the Windwalker Winery. The owners of Windwalker have graciously allowed us to use their facilities. This will be our 3rd year at this location. In addition to wine tasting, a BBQ lunch, meeting other members, and having fun, a bocce ball tournament will be offered for those interested. Or you can purchase a bottle of Windwalker wine and sit in the shade and watch the activities. The winery is located at 7360 Perry Creek Road, Somerset (530 620-4054).

Incahoots Restaurant from Plymouth will cater the event. Our menu will be sliced tri-tip on a French roll, green salad, potato salad, soda, water, and of course desserts. Lunch is planned for noon.

The day will begin with an organized drive to the winery (still in the planning stage), or you can drive there on your own.

The cost will be \$15 per person, payable in advance. At registration the day of the event, your money will be returned to you. Each active membership qualifies for two ticket refunds.

RSVP for this event is required by September 15. Contact Jeanne George at jeanne@winfirst.com to place ticket orders or call 916 359-2627. Send checks payable to SAMOA and mail to 1864 Bridgecreek Dr., Sacramento, CA 95833. Checks must be received by September 18th.

If you pay for tickets, but find yourself unable to attend, please notify me to cancel your attendance by September 18th for a full refund. No refund after the caterer is given the final headcount on September 18th.

Come out and enjoy the fun. Your Board of Officers (BOO) is working on additional ideas and plans which will be updated in future newsletters.

Happy Sappy Birthdays

by Ron Petrich

To all of our SAMOA members who celebrate their birthday during the month of July... we wish you a most happy birthday. You get to participate in a special raffle at the July club meeting... but only if you are there. Rest assured the prize will be special.

To the rest of you who may have a July birthday but who haven't told us so despite repeated pleas, too bad.

Just for the record, of 177 members at last count, 125 of you have been good enough to let us know 1) that you have in fact have been born, and 2) that is occurred sometime during a calendar year. The other 52 of you, what are you waiting for?

Gary Bechthold	July 19
Daniel Bloom	July 14
Jim Callaghan	July 5
Bob Carlson	July 11
Ron Crawford	July 16
Nick Csik	July 23
John Emelio	July 13
Jeanne George	July 23
Chris Allen	July 28
Carol Rainbolt	July 23
Fran Rowell	July 15
Sherri Rowland	July 10
Barbara Wroth	July 15

June Doings

by Jeanne George

At the June club meeting, a "large" size version of a check for \$14,025.31 was presented to Tamara Block, Executive Director from the Crohn's Colitis Foundation of America. The check was the result of this year's proceeds from Got Guts III at Thunderhill. Ron Petrich introduced the SAMOA sponsored event in 2006 to benefit those like himself that suffer from this debilitating disease. Despite the fact that SAMOA "sponsors" the event, all the work is done by Ron Petrich. He has acquired the amazing tact of arm bending and obtained many outstanding prizes which were available for the raffles to benefit the three events. With the help of a few volunteers, Ron has made this a successful event which has brought SAMOA recognition to the racing community and rose over \$43,000. I know that there are many new members that are not yet aware of this great event, but you will in the future. Ron just recently announced his intent to hold Got Guts IV in 2009. So let's offer Ron our support and help make next year's event even more successful.



The meeting was shorter than usual. It's hard to keep President Robin from dragging it out an hour, or maybe because Vice-president Mike wasn't there to egg him on. The group adjourned to the parking lot for SAMOA's annual swap meet. Many items were available for sale and many items changed hands. It was good to see the people mingling in the parking lot, although not all the attention went to items for sale. One big draw was JoAnne Gingrich's newly purchased red Mercedes Benz. Ralph told us of his goal to drive the car but JoAnne is reserving her permission. She impressed viewers with a display of the automatic retractable hard top and the way it tucked away and still left abundant trunk space.

June 16, Ron Petrich led a group of 30 to Raley's Field for a River Cats ballgame. Despite the I-5 Big Fix project, Ron managed to overcome the various road closures and got the group to the parking lot. Inside the ball park the group split to find their various choices of food and beverage. Food delights included: chicken strips, tri-tip sandwiches, hot dogs, burgers, and Sally Parker made a great effort of attacking a Dinger Dog. The group seats were located just beyond third base and offered us a good view of the game. The seats were in the shade and despite the heat of the day some people were caught off guard with the chill of the evening. Several opted to leave early because of the cold or needing to get to bed early. Those of us retired folk joked that we were staying to the end even though it was already past our bedtime.

There were many things to distract you from the game and its importance. The female crowd attire provided amusement to the men. The food sales people were a constant reminder that you could always eat more of something from candy, ice cream to that sugar overload of cotton candy. Robin tried hard to distract Mike DeLaurentis from his attempt to maintain a perfect score card of all the games activity. But Mike displayed his determination by moving away from Robin and saying he was "just being social able." The River Cats ended the game with a win around 10 pm, don't ask me the score, I was too busy enjoying all the diversions. We had a nice drive home and slept in late. Thanks again Ron, for organizing this group event for us.

Membership News

by Jeanne George

During May, SAMOA had a history setting 7 new memberships join the group. So far in June we have already broken the newest record with 9 new memberships as of June 21. I closed out my Treasure Trove on the 21st and then we left for San Diego. I received an email from Mike DeLaurentis that he signed up a new couple at the Scavenger Hunt on June 22. With our newest additions, we now have 111 memberships consisting of 177 members. We welcome all our new members and look forward to seeing you at the monthly meeting or an upcoming event.

Read all about it

by Mike DeLaurentis

These stories and more found at www.miata.net

IRVINE, Calif., June 4 /PRNewswire/ -- Among other quality findings in the 2008 J.D. Power and Associates Initial Quality Study released today, Mazda was noted as the most-improved brand, improving an impressive 22 percent, or 36 fewer problems-per-100 vehicles compared to 2007. Across the entire North American auto industry, quality has improved by six percent, or seven problems-per-100 vehicles.

IRVINE, Calif., June 3 /PRNewswire/ -- Mazda North American Operations today reported its best May in 12 years with 27,921 units sold in the U.S., a 4.2 percent increase over last year. Year-to-date sales are up 1.9 percent with 129,370 vehicles sold.

“Soaring fuel prices are driving customers to make sensible transportation choices; it’s a new marketplace,” said Jim O’Sullivan, President and CEO, Mazda North American Operations. “We’re finding more and more buyers are shopping for the stylish, fun-to-drive, and affordable to own and operate cars and crossover SUVs that we build.”

Quad County Run to Downieville

by Mike DeLaurentis

Join us on July 12 as we drive through four counties and make our way over beautiful Miata roads to the old Gold Mine town of Downieville. We will meet at 9:30 AM at the Newcastle Denny’s (681 Newcastle Road, Newcastle, CA 95658 916.663.2011) and will depart at 10:00 AM. Once in Downieville we’ll have lunch at Gallows Café & Pizzeria sitting in their river front dining room with a view of the Downie River. After lunch you can tour the town (providing you have ten minutes to spare) or head back down the hill.

Let us know if you have any questions: 916.791.9418 or mdelaurentis@hotmail.com.

Who’s got the Runs?

by Mike DeLaurentis

I am appealing to the wanderlust, the yearning to go somewhere different and the adventure in all of you SAMOAns. The calendar is looking a little bare folks so it’s time to look in the rear view mirror and make this the day you decide to plan a run. We’ve always said that if you have someplace you like to go there are at least 10-15 other SAMOAns who will also want to go but we need you to start the process by planning an event. It doesn’t have to be extravagant like a Scrabble Scramble or Got Guts – not that those aren’t fun; and it doesn’t have to be expensive like that Texas thingy going on in 2009; we seem to like to go anywhere as long as we’re in the company of other Miata-ites. As the old Nike commercial used to say “Just Do It”.

And thanks to Bob and Genny Paaue for doing it..... planning an event that is. Their June 22nd Scavenger Hunt was very well planned and those of us who dared go out in the heat and smoke had a great time. Dennis and Wendy Godfry and Dianne Loo chose this as their first SAMOA run – good choice folks. After the run Richard and Teri Dart from Newcastle came by to show off their 2000 SE (yes, it’s a Mahogany) and joined the club. Welcome.

As of now there are only two SAMOA events in July and one in August so there are a lot of open Saturdays and Sundays to fill in. If you have an idea but need help planning it contact Events guy Jack Parker, jsp@svics.com, and he will help.

And speaking of the August event if you haven’t already registered for SAMOA’s August 23rd Faux Olympics don’t delay. This will be fun – trust me. In fact if you have half the fun participating as the Olympic Committee has had planning you’ll be glad you came. We have taken Olympic events and added a twist so athletes and non-athletes can compete. The \$10/person entry fee covers the cost of the Olympic Stadium, equipment and lunch. Registration forms are on the website and will be at the July and August meetings. The registration deadline is August 16th but don’t wait until the last minute to register. It’s not nice to make your Olympic Committee worry about attendance!

Just do it!

Upcoming SAMOA and Local Events



- Thurs, July 10 - SAMOA Club Meeting
- Sat, July 12 - Quad County Run
- Sat, July 19 - Delta 50’s Bash and Roast
- Fri-Sun July 25-27 - Explore Oregon
- Sat July 26 - Loon Lake Picnic
- Sun July 27 - Miata Roundup (BAMA)
- Thurs Aug 14 - SAMOA Club Meeting
- Fri-Sun Aug 15-17 - Monterey Historics
- Sat Aug 23 - SAMOA Faux Olympiad
- Thurs Sept 11 - SAMOA Club Meeting
- Sun Sept 21 - SAMOA Birthday Picnic
- Sat Sept 27 - Miatapalooza
- Sat Oct 4 - Scrabble Scramble 2008

Italia, Bella Italia!

by Adi Damania

What I miss most about the fun of living in Italy is watching Grand Prix car racing on TV (after I wrote this I just found out that Fox40, bless their souls, will screen some of the GPs live from Europe – don't miss the British GP on July 6th). During the Grand Prix season I sat glued to the TV in Rome watching the races each Sunday afternoon. The first race in the calendar was always the Monaco Grand Prix, a race run on everyday roads in the Principality of Monaco. The rich and the famous of the European jet-set would all descend with their fancy yachts and moor them on the pier and then just walk up to watch the race from the grandstands, or just sit on the deck and watch it on TV while sipping a glass of chilled campari. And perhaps, just to add to the excitement, waiting for a driver to make a misjudgment and land his car in the sea!



But here in the U.S. none of the regular TV channels show these races live (until last week!) or dead which is what I miss the most, besides spaghetti ala vongole, and foccaccia di chipole. It is a great pity because Grand Prix racing today is the highest pinnacle in racing car design. The Grand Prix cars get their unbelievable lap speeds by their ability to corner very fast, by reason of advanced chassis design, improved tires, and advanced braking systems. On the other hand, engine design has not made as spectacular strides as chassis design. Nevertheless, today we can get the same power without using alcohol-based fuels, superchargers, and temperamental valve timing which was the norm in the 1950s and 60s.

Those were the times when Grand Prix racing circuits were not purposely slowed down with numerous curves and only short straights so that top speeds of the cars are never touched. Not even close. This was done gradually after Jim Clark, the famous Lotus driver, died in 1968 on the race track at Hockenheim, Germany. The very long straights, where 250 mph was possible, and the banked curves at Monza (Italy) were snipped off from the circuit. Drivers were made to wear fire-retardant suits, better helmets, fast removable steering wheels which made exiting a car less complicated in case of a crash, etc., etc. All these measures, although made it safer for the drivers, robbed the viewers in the crowds as well as on TV of the excitement as the fastest cars passed the slower ones on the straights going full blast. Instead, today we have cars just driving behind each other, rarely passing, through a series of bends and curves, like on a toy racing track. The top F1 drivers today are being treated like rock stars, a far cry from the time when drivers worked in the pits throughout the night with their mechanics, to see that the car ran fine and fast the next day exactly as they wanted it.

Take for instance, the French GP (won by Ferrari in 1 & 2 places) that took place last Sunday 22nd June at 10 AM our time and shown live by Fox40. The circuit had so many curves that even though I was sitting comfortably in my favorite chair my head was giddy! Also the circuit was very narrow and faster cars that wanted to pass had to nudge, push, and shove the car in front. This, for me, kills motor-racing. Why not provide long straights where the cars can go flat out and the faster ones can safely overtake the slower ones without contact? But wait, they will say. The cars will touch 300 mph and any miss-calculation at that speed can kill. But that in essence is the thrill of racing. If not, these GP drivers may as well sit in go-karts at Stockton's Hammer Lane, and bump in to each other till the rubber on their go-karts wears off.

Ciao, Ciao, until next time.

Expand your horizons!

by Mark Brooks

I don't know about most of you, but I'm a computer nerd. I love computers, gadgets, electronics and the almighty INTERNET! What an amazing tool.. and it's readily available at our fingertips almost everywhere we go! Some people seem to be 'afraid' of the Internet and computers for whatever reason, but there's no need to be. It's like being able to travel wherever you want, whenever you want - from the luxury of your desk. I recently got back in touch with a high school friend who now lives in Southern California, and it was through a website bulletin board (forum) like we have on the SAMOA site.

It's really interesting to see how people differ from one website forum to another - take, for example - www.miata.net and www.clubroadster.net. At first glance, they seem similar - they're both websites devoted to the Mazda Miata, and all the wonderful things that can be done to these great cars. But that's about where the similarities stop. One site (www.clubroadster.net) is geared towards the more "JDM" (Japanese Domestic Market) modifications and what's popular over there... they get into some pretty radical modifications ('radical' in comparison to our club's cars), and they tend to prefer a certain look. Whereas the folks on www.miata.net are the more subdued, 'traditional' Miata owners who may be a bit older and practical. It's funny when you read through the postings on each site, there's always a bit of banter and trash-talk about the other sites.. but when you think about it - we should all be happy that there's so many different outlets for us, and ways we can personalize our cars. Sure, what may be my taste may be something someone else thinks is ugly or stupid - but isn't that what makes the hobby so great? Everyone's car can be completely different. ... some people just need to open their eyes a bit and expand their horizons to see what else is out there besides what they're used to. Here are some photos taken from ClubRoadster.net. I encourage EVERYONE to go check out both of these sites if you're not familiar with them.



Events and More

by Jack Parker

Long time members, the Wilsons, recently emailed me with a great idea. They mentioned that there have been many events put on by members that have been a lot of fun in the past. These are runs to Breweries like Jack Russell up in the foothills above Placerville, a brewery run to, I believe, Healdsburg, runs to wineries like Lava Cap, Villa Toscana and many others. As you can see the Wilsons remember all the ones with a certain theme. But I am sure that many of our long time members can come up with others that were entertaining and fun so bring your ideas to the next meeting or email me at culdad@svics.com and we will publish them in the hope of stimulating new ideas or even reviving the old ones.

Events for July and beyond are coming up rapidly so here are some that are sponsored by our members.

Mike and Helen DeLaurentis always put on entertaining events and this one, by its description alone, should not disappoint. Here is what Mike has written about their upcoming run, **The Quad County Run To Downieville** on July 12.

Take a scenic drive with us through 4 counties and up twisty route 49, and have lunch and tour historic Downieville. Downieville, the county seat of Sierra County, is at an elevation of about 2,800 feet and at the confluence of the north fork of the Yuba and Downie rivers. Downieville's population is 325 but that could change if Mollie Higgins delivers or if Jack Carson isn't off to prison by then.

We will meet at the Denny's in Newcastle (681 Newcastle Road, Newcastle, CA 95658 916.663.2011) at 9:30 AM for a 10:00 AM departure.

Questions? Contact Mike DeLaurentis at 916.791.9418 or at mdelaurentis@hotmail.com.

Kathi Bell and Vince Weis have opened their home to the club for the annual Bethel Island 50's Bash. Here is what they have to say about the event which is being held on July 19.

The 21st annual **Bethel Island 50's Bash** will feature a classic car show, a hula hoop contest, and plenty of 50's music. There will be vendors selling car accessories, tee shirts, etc.

In addition to the bash there will be a weiner roast held at 3450 Stone Road, Bethel Island (weekend home of Kathi Bell and Vince Weis), which is walking distance from the Bash. This will be a joint event with the Delta Miata Club. Graeme Kinsey will plan and lead a run from the Sacramento area to the event. Details of the run to follow. Kathi and Vince do need an RSVP to plan the food. Contact them at (916) 422-5094 or klbell@cwo.com.

In addition Graeme has asked all participants to meet at McDonalds on Pocket Road in Sacramento.. The club will meet at the McDonalds at 8940 Pocket Rd at 8:45. Contact Graeme at graemeki@hotmail.com if you're going to join us for the run.

The Hunts have posted a new event to the website. Here is what they write about their Loon Lake Picnic Run on July 26.

Our plan is to take a leisurely - at times - drive through the foothills, ending at Loon Lake for a picnic lunch. We plan to meet at the McDonald's in Cameron Park (3356 Coach Lane, Cameron Park) at 8:30 AM with a 9:00 AM departure. Bring snacks and goodies to share for a picnic lunch, lawn/camp chairs, and plenty of sunscreen.

The ride is a type **A** - a blend. Please contact Randy or Pam Hunt at (530) 672-8985 or email us with any questions at rspjhunt@sbcglobal.net. An RSVP is not required.

Another event sponsored by Mike and Helen is the **Summer Faux Olympiad** on August 23. Mike and Helen's past "Olympic Events" have been very entertaining and at times hilarious so plan on joining them for this event. Here is what they write about this event.

Participate in Olympic games just as world class athletes are doing the same in China this summer. Our games, however, are designed so everyone can compete regardless of your athletic ability. Compete as a team or as an individual. The \$10.00 per person entry fee covers the cost of the game equipment, olympic stadium rental, and a barbecued lunch. Send your entry form and fee to SAMOA, 1864 Bridge Creek Drive, Sacramento, CA 95833.

You are guaranteed to have fun! For more information contact Your Irreverent Olympic Committee, Mike DeLaurentis, IOC Chairman at (916) 791-9418.

Don't forget to check updates for these on our website. The Bee also publishes some but not all of our events in their Drive section of the newspaper on Friday. You can also email me at culdad@svics.com and I will provide any information I can.

Future events to plan for are the SAMOA Birthday Picnic, which will involve a little fun twist of run to the site this on September 21. The annual regional event, Scramble Scramble will take place on October 4 with a starting location of Folsom. This event is a full weekend event and has brought members in from many other states over the years and will again this year. Our Weekend in Fort Bragg is scheduled for October 10-13 and is sponsored by Ralph Gingrich. This event features a long run up to Fort Bragg in some very interesting roads in the coastal range and beautiful scenery along the coast.

So get out and enjoy the cars, whether they are Miatas, Mazda 3s, or those sporadic OTMs that show up to the events. If you are new to the club get out on one of these runs and enjoy our comraderie which seems to be the main reason we go on these events. The people are great. The cars are fun and the weather, minus the smoke, is great. So get out and *Zoom Zoom Zoom*.

Miata Coupe...

by Mark Brooks

Something we'll probably never see here in the US - but I needed to fill some space here in the Newsletter. How many people knew that Mazda made a Coupe version of the Miata for Japanese customers? Pretty cool looking if you ask me - and I would imagine it'd sell pretty well here. Kind of reminds me of a cross between an RX-7 and a mini Aston-Martin.

what do YOU think?

email me at cagecko@comcast.net



Our Visit to San Diego

by Robin George

Our visit to the San Diego Miata Club. The SDMC <http://www.sandiegomiataclub.org/index.html> holds their meetings at Boil Weevils Restaurant in Northern San Diego. A small unassuming place that serves standard fare such as hamburgers, salads, BLT's, and French Fries. Jeanne and I arrived; we were the first, naturally. Soon the members started showing up. The first member we met was a gentleman from San Clemente, Bud. Talked to him for awhile till the others began arriving. Initially the attendance was rather sparse, but true to form the rush was on just before meeting time. We introduced ourselves to several members sitting around us and soon you could hear the murmur, "There they are, they have the white shirts on." I had sent an email earlier in the week expressing our desire to attend their General Meeting. Their President came over, David Streeeter, and introduced himself and welcomed us warmly. He introduced us to many more and asked if I wanted to say anything to the group. Well, did I? Of course, in fact I had written down a few notes while soaking up some ambiance in one of the local bars. Nothing like absorbing some of the local atmosphere while absorbing some local brew.



The meeting began a little after 7pm and we were introduced immediately. No warm up, no monologue, from their President, just here they are. We were call dignitaries from out of town. I told a couple jokes (they laughed) ribbed several of their members I was forewarned about (seems they do not like the color yellow). Then I exalted about the viability and the overall excitement of our

club. Invited them to check out our web page and join us whenever they can in Northern California. Mentioned the outstanding love we have for our most affordable sport car in the world. They asked some questions and I took some ribbing myself and threw it right back. I thanked them for their hospitality and warm greeting and Jeanne and I received a very nice round of applause. When I sat down someone shouted to their President, That's how a President should talk. (You'll understand in a minute). David then introduced the events person and they went over upcoming events for the rest of the meeting. Then they had their raffle in which they announced they raised close to \$200. Three donated prizes were raffled and end of meeting, BTW we have our Ron and they have their Steve. And they have a Mr. Autocross too.



It was a very interesting meeting. We are glad we went to see how we differ we are from another club. Not too much. Miata people are fun people and love to eat and gather. Every club has its personalities, its doers, its riders, and those who want to work behind the scenes. If you ever have the opportunity to visit with other clubs, do so. You'll have an appreciation when you leave.

BTW, SDMC has over 25 cars going to the big event in Dallas, Texas next year. Link: www.MiataWorldII.com

See everyone on July 10th. Don't forget to wear Red, White, and Blue.



Happy SAMOANS' at the Rivercats Game



One man's junk is another man's treasure...