

# Robin's Nest

By Robin George

April 2013



SACRAMENTO AREA MIATA OWNERS ASSOCIATION

MIATA T U D E S

Our season starts. Thanks to the members, the events calendar is starting to fill up. I'm about to add a new one which will be in an area we normally don't visit too often.



In April, we will be on display at the California Auto Museum for the whole month. Please visit and you are eligible for free admittance being a member of this club. There will be several cars on display representing our club.

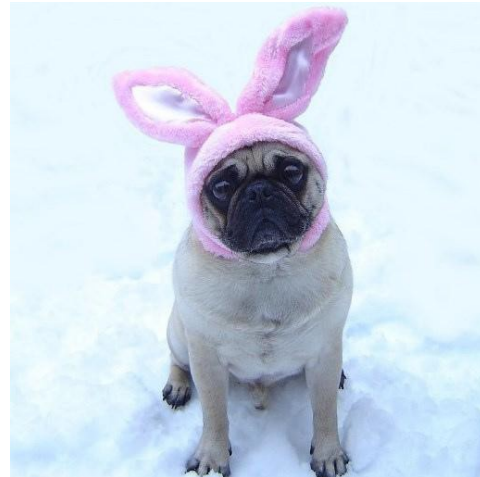
On Sunday I attended a car show at Fountains attended by EuroSunday with my Jaguar. These are the same people who invited us to the Toy Run at Shriner's Hospital last year. In talking with the person in charge of the facility and marketing for Fountains in Roseville ( <http://www.fountainsatroseville.com/> ) they asked if we would like to feature the club at one of their First Friday's at the Fountain. The date they have available is July 5th if we are

Today (26th) there was a little impromptu run through the foothills. SIX old retired men exercised their Miatas like the young bucks they are. It was fun. Nuff said. Zoom zoom

If there is anyone who wants to participate in the event, "Hair in the Wind" please let me know. It will be a great event for the club and the community. We have over 30 riders with more than a month till the event. (see article in this newsletter).



interested. I must let them know if we can do it by next week. The display time is from 4:30-4:45 to 9:30ish. The show is from 6-10pm. The pedestrian traffic starts at 5:30 so all cars need to be placed by then. They have slots for 36 cars. We will be the only club represented. Think we can do it? Let me know ASAP.



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## NEXT MEETING

Thursday, April 11, 2013

[BLACK BEAR DINER](#)

2700 El Centro Rd, Sacramento  
(near I-80 and W El Camino Avenue)

916-641-2327

Come early for dinner, 6pm

Meeting at 7pm

# Who's New

by Ellen Frosh

Each month Miatatudes will include a welcome to the new members that have joined our club. We will also include some fun facts and a picture when available. If you see these folks on a run or at a meeting, please take the time to say hello.



Name	Joined	Miata	Fun Facts
Catherine Kauffman	3/1/2013	1991 Red	
Nathaniel Clariza	3/2013	1993 Red	Car Name Rosana
Richard Derr 	3/2013	'08 Silver	Retired Civil Eng with USAF McClellan; loves driving
Alejandro (Alex) Valenzuela	3/2013		Hoping to become a mechanic; interested in all forms of racing; enjoy even the shortest of drives; rather athletic

## Paraprodsokians

Paraprodsokians are figures of speech in which the latter part of a sentence or phrase is surprising or unexpected; frequently humorous. Winston Churchill loved them. I will be sharing a few as filler in this and future newsletter. Here are a few:

- You are never too old to learn something stupid.
- Knowledge is knowing a tomato is a fruit. Wisdom is not putting it in a fruit salad.
- Where there's a will, I want to be in it.
- In filling out an application where it says, In case of emergency, Notify: \_\_\_\_\_. I put "DOCTOR".
- You do not need a parachute to skydive. You only need a parachute to skydive twice.



## From Our Members

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### Samoans Will Travel

Here is a newsletter opportunity to show us where you have been, contribute to the newsletter and let your picture do the talking (writing). Just take one of the magnets or a copy of the newsletter or something with the SAMOA logo with you when you travel and take a picture of the logo that includes where you are. Send the picture to the newsletter editor at [jenn524.js@gmail.com](mailto:jenn524.js@gmail.com). Easy as that!

### New Orleans & Mississippi River Adventure

by Margie Jurach

In New Orleans I enjoyed Beignets, shrimp po-boy sandwiches, muflettas and fantastic charbroiled oysters. One evening I saw a traditional jazz performance by Leroy Jones in Preservation Hall. Preservation Hall was established in 1961 to preserve and protect one of America's truest art forms - traditional New Orleans Jazz.

Between Civil War battles and deadly hurricanes, life in The Big Easy sometimes has been anything but. However, it is the city's unfailing spirit that makes it a true American jewel. The birthplace of jazz, the city's music scene is among the nation's best. Bourbon Street, the French Quarter, Mardi Gras, spectacular cuisine and a laid-back attitude are only part of New Orleans. It is a patchwork history of the city that has lent it the personality it enjoys today. The city was founded in 1718 by the French who named it after the Duke of Orleans. The 1763 Treaty of Paris turned the city over to the Spanish and despite its distance from much of the fighting, it played a significant role in the Revolutionary War as supplies and weapons were smuggled into the county via New Orleans and the Mississippi River. By 1803, the Louisiana Purchase gave the city to the United States. New Orleans was no stranger to war, and during the War of 1812, it was the site of a battle to fend off 11,000 British soldiers. Unknown to the Americans, the war had ended more than two weeks earlier. Because Union forces brought New Orleans under the control of the North during the Civil War, major battles were not fought in the city and both its unique culture and architecture faced no serious damage. Hurricane Katrina struck a blow but also one that the city has responded to with its undaunted and defiant spirit. The hurricane itself did not do much damage to the city, but the broken levee did catastrophic damage. It is the defiant spirit that makes New Orleans the vibrant, exciting and eclectic place it is today. And the Big Easy moniker? That likely stems from the Prohibition era when the city openly violated the 18<sup>th</sup> Amendment and a speak-easy was found on every corner. New Orleans has never been known to follow the rules.

After touring the fabulous city of New Orleans, I boarded The American Queen Steamboat for a

fabulous 10 day cruise up the Mississippi River. After unpacking and going through the safety drills, that evening I saw a performance by The Herb Reed Platters remembering the great songs of the 50's and 60's made popular by The Platters. The next day I toured Oak Alley Plantation. It has been called "The Grande Dame of the Great River Road". The plantation takes its name from the canopy of 300 year old oak trees stretching for a quarter mile from the home to the Mississippi River, creating a gorgeous, shaded alley. Originally it was an early 19<sup>th</sup> century sugar cane plantation where they made sugar and rum.

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The next day I took a "Hop on/Hop off bus tour of St. Francisville, LA. St. Francisville bounced between countries during its two centuries of history before becoming part of the United States. Founded in 1809 by the English, it is perched on a narrow ridge above the Mississippi River, earning the town the description of being "two miles long and two yards wide." The town's importance as the center of commerce for the surrounding plantations made it a key port for steamboats during their heyday. In fact, the settlement of Bayou Sara below St. Francisville's bluffs was the center of the action before the Civil War and at one time was the busiest river port between New Orleans and Memphis. Eventually, fires and constant flooding wiped Bayou Sara off the map. A handful of structures were brought to the top of the ridge and survive today. The town's location also put it at the center of a bone of contention regarding the boundary of the 1803 Louisiana Purchase. France, England and Spain all laid claim to the land. In fact, in 1810 the town served as the capital of the Republic of West Florida, an independent republic set up by settlers who resented Spanish rule. The experiment lasted less than three months before St. Francisville officially became part of the United States once and for all. St. Francisville owes much of its prosperity after the Civil War to large numbers of Jewish immigrants fleeing persecution in Germany who settled in the area when others were leaving the economically devastated region. That night I saw a wonderful jazz band that played Dixieland Jazz. It reminded me of all the years I volunteered at the Sacramento Jazz Jubilee.

The next day was Natchez, Mississippi. Named after the Natchez tribe of Native Americans, its importance as the southern end of the Natchez Trace, a road built to return pilots of keelboats back north, made it a key jumping off point for settlement. Natchez was a wealthy city and a major port for the loading of cotton bound for New Orleans, St. Louis and Cincinnati. The city recovered from a tornado in 1840 which killed 269 people and had more millionaires per capita than any other city in the United States prior to the Civil War. Natchez survived the Civil War intact and today has some of the most extensive examples of antebellum homes in the country. Natchez has produced many notable citizens, ranging from CNN journalist Campbell Brown, country music singer Mickey Gilley to 1960 Miss America Lynda Lee.

Then I went to Vicksburg, MS. Vicksburg has been the site of several bloody battles. The French were the first inhabitants and by 1719 had built Fort Saint-Pierre on the bluffs above the Yazoo River to protect their fur trading post from Native Americans. That theory was put to the test on November 28, 1729, when the Natchez waged a battle against the fort and many of the plantations in the area and several hundred people were killed. Although the French retained control, the colony never fully recovered.

The Choctaw Nation helped the French eventually defeat the Natchez and the Yazoo. Several years later, the Choctaw laid claim to the area. The Spanish were next, and by 1790, a small military outpost had been founded. Americans took over the small fort eight years later and the area grew quickly.

It was an honor to take a guided tour through the Vicksburg Battlefields of the Civil War. Vicksburg's prosperity came to a horrific end during the Civil War. After a siege lasting 47 days, Union General Ulysses S. Grant finally forced the surrender of Confederate General John C. Pemberton on July 4, 1863, with more than 37,000 soldiers either killed or wounded. The day before, General Robert E. Lee lost the battle of Gettysburg in a dark time for the

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Confederate States of America that became recognized as the turning point of the Civil War. While July 4 was known as Independence Day across America, the citizens of Vicksburg viewed that date as a day of defeat and did not celebrate the 4<sup>th</sup> of July again until 1945. But Vicksburg's place in history is also owed to less deadly events. Few people know that local candy store owner Joseph Biedenharn made history on March 12, 1894 when he bottled the first batch of Coca-Cola in the city.

Then I went to Baton Rouge, LA and learned all about Huey Long. Baton Rouge is the capital of LA since 1849. French explorer Sieur d'Iberville discovered the area in 1699 when he found a pole covered by bloody animals that was a boundary marker between two Native American hunting grounds. A military post developed on the site in 1719. The city has had a patchwork history and many masters, having been under the control of France, Britain, Spain, Louisiana, the Florida Republic, the Confederacy and the United States. The push to establish the city as a hub for river traffic came under the direction of French Canadians driven from their property in the north by the British. The group was known as Cajuns and their unique cultural influence is a key component of the area today. The Union army controlled Baton Rouge from 1862 until the end of the Civil War. Former United States Vice President John C. Breckinridge fought to recapture the city for his new country, the Confederate States of America, but failed. After the war, the city even lost its status as state capital until 1882 when the honor was stripped of New Orleans and once again given to Baton Rouge. Despite regaining capital status, Baton Rouge played second fiddle to a much larger New Orleans to the south. Hurricane Katrina changed that dynamic by creating an influx of more than 200,000 new residents in a very short period of time.



I visited the "White House" of Louisiana (The old Governor's Mansion). Huey Long had it build as a small replica of the White House in Washington, D.C. because he just knew he was going to be elected President in 1936 and wanted to feel comfortable when he was elected and moved into the White House. Well, it never happened, because in 1935 he was assassinated. Also, took a tour around the city to see many of the beautiful sites and plantation homes of Baton Rouge.

The trip was a lot of fun on the riverboat and very interesting and educational. I'd recommend it to everyone. But, of course, it's always good to get home.

Please enjoy some more of my pictures:



## You Know What They Say About Fools...

- It's better to keep your mouth shut and be thought a fool than to open it and leave no doubt. -- *Mark Twain*
- However big the fool, there is always a bigger fool to admire him. -- *Nicolas Boileau-Despréaux*
- [Politicians] never open their mouths without subtracting from the sum of human knowledge. -- *Thomas Reed*
- He who lives without folly isn't so wise as he thinks. -- *François, Duc de La Rochefoucauld*
- The ultimate result of shielding men from the effects of folly, is to fill the world with fools. -- *Herbert Spencer*
- Sometimes one likes foolish people for their folly, better than wise people for their wisdom. -- *Elizabeth Gaskell*
- Looking foolish does the spirit good. -- *John Updike*
- Let us be thankful for the fools. But for them the rest of us could not succeed. -- *Mark Twain*
- A fool sees not the same tree that a wise man sees. -- *William Blake*
- A fool must now and then be right by chance. -- *Cowper*
- It is better to be a fool than to be dead. -- *Stevenson*
- The first of April is the day we remember what we are the other 364 days of the year. -- *Mark Twain*

<http://wilstar.com/holidays/aprilfool.htm>

Over the next few months Miatatudes will feature a number of situations titled:

### They Walk Among Us

Submitted by Adi

- I couldn't find my luggage at the airport baggage area and went to the lost luggage office to report the loss. The agent there smiled and told me not to worry because she was a trained professional and said I was in good hands. 'Now,' she asked me, 'Has your plane arrived yet?'
- My colleague and I were eating our lunch in our works canteen, when we overheard an admin girl talking about the sunburn she got on her weekend drive to the beach. She drove down in a convertible, but said she "didn't think she'd get sunburned because the car was moving."

## The Road Ahead

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A look at upcoming events by Diana Loo

The following is a list of upcoming events. If you have any ideas for a run, or you need help organizing a run, please contact anyone on the BOO and we will be more than happy to help you. Also, if you have not done so, please contact the person organizing the event to confirm you will be attending.

The SAMOA Events Calendar is filling up. If you want to organize an event, please do so soon so that we can get your event on the calendar too. If you plan to participate in these events, please use the RSVP for that event. This helps the organizer plan and organize the event.

Events Coordinator-Diana Loo-Christianson-Idi4tennis2@gmail.com

<b>April 1-30</b>	<b>Miatas at California Automobile Museum</b> SAMOA members will display their Miatas in the Museum for the month of April. The Museum is located at 2200 Front Street, Sacramento. 95818 If you are interested in displaying your Miata, contact Robin George 916 359-2627 or <a href="mailto:robin@winfirst.com">robin@winfirst.com</a>
<b>April 6, 2013</b>	<b>Peanuts Museum Tour</b> In October, 2009, Mike and Helen DeLaurentis led a drive and visit to the Charles Schulz Museum in Santa Rosa, California. Since that time nearly 3 and 1/2 years ago, Snoopy has shot down the Red Baron, Charley Brown has actually won a baseball game, and Pig Pen has taken a bath. So to honor these historic events we are heading back to the Museum for a return visit. We have reserved a docent-led museum tour, personal time to see all the attractions, and have lunch in the Warm Puppy Cafe. We will meet at the McDonald's in Davis (4444 Chiles Road) at 8:00 AM and depart at 8:30 AM. We will take a leisurely drive through the Lake Berryessa area, Silverado, St. Helena, and on into Santa Rosa. Our route one way is about 80 miles and should take us a bit less than 2 hours. The tour is scheduled for 11:00 AM. Our cost is \$10 for adults, and \$5 for seniors 62 and older or children 4-18 (those 3 and under are free). The museum has asked that we pay in lump sum for the entire group, so each car's fees will be collected at the starting point in Davis. The museum has not put a limit on the number in our group, but they have asked for a head count in advance so they can assign docents to us for the tour. Meet at the McDonald's in Davis (4444 Chiles Road) at 8:00 AM and depart at 8:30 AM. The tour is scheduled for 11:00 AM. Our cost is \$10 for adults, and \$5 for seniors 62 and older or children 4-18 (those 3 and under are free). The museum has asked for a head count in advance so they can assign docents to us for the tour. Please contact Ron Petrich at <a href="mailto:freescopesdad@comcast.net">freescopesdad@comcast.net</a> or (916-454-1008) for more information.
<b>April 26 - 28</b>	<b>Miatas at Mazda Raceway</b> Please go to the following website for more information <a href="http://www.miatasatmazdaraceway.com">http://www.miatasatmazdaraceway.com</a> .
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## The Road Ahead continued

<p><b>May 4, 2013</b></p>	<p><b>The Dammed Run</b>          Join Ray &amp; Carol Bauer on a trip to Lake Oroville and the Oroville Dam, where a tour guide will take us through the visitor's center. We will also view the lake from a 46-foot viewing tower, and tour the museum. We will then proceed to the old Bidwell Bar Suspension Bridge and Toll House and take part in the Bidwell Bar Day festivities. This notice will be updated when the start location, time, route and other details have been determined. Please contact Ray or Carol Bauer at (916) 801-7114 for more information.</p>
<p><b>May 18, 2013</b></p>	<p><b>Hair in the Wind</b>          This event is being organized by SAMOA member, Ralph Gingrich and is sponsored by the Society for the Blind, National Federation of the Blind, and the Lion's Club. Robin George will be organizing the touring part. He is looking for SAMOA volunteers willing to take passengers for a ride in their Miata. A pre-planned route will be designed and instructions given to each driver. You will pick-up your passenger at 1238 S St., drive the route, and then return to the starting location to pick up the next passenger. The number of trips you will make will depend on the number of Miata volunteers and registered passengers who sign up. To volunteer your driving services for this event, please fill out the RSVP form, or if you have questions contact Robin George at <a href="tel:9163592627">916 359-2627</a> or <a href="mailto:robin@winfirst.com">robin@winfirst.com</a>. If you are bringing a passenger to the event and plan to eat, please indicate on the RSVP form the number attending, because Ralph needs to know how much food to have available.</p>
<p><b>May 19, 2013</b></p>	<p><b>Sonoma Historic Motorsports Festival</b>          This weekend event is Sonoma Raceway's (formerly Infineon Raceway) version of the Monterey Historics. It will take place on Saturday and Sunday, May 18 - 19, 2013. We plan to attend on Sunday May 19th. Since racing starts early, we will plan to arrive early as well. We will meet at the ARCO/AM/PM/Burger King in Winters at 7:00 AM and depart promptly at 7:30 AM (this is slightly earlier than in past years' trips to Infineon for the Ferrari Challenge). We expect to arrive at the track at about 9:00 AM. Bring your own refreshments or buy food and drink at the track. Please go to our website for more information on the event. Please complete the RSVP form so we have a good idea as to the size of our car caravan.</p>
<p><b>June 2, 2013</b></p>	<p><b>Our 6th Annual Club Autocross Championships</b>          The event is open to all skill levels, beginner to full time racer, with a class for every car in the club including a separate women's class. Complete rules and event details will be published when they become available.</p>
<p><b>June 22, 2013</b></p>	<p><b>Kirkwood Pancake Run</b>          We will leave from the Local Bean Coffeehouse (7238 Murieta Drive in Rancho Murieta - formerly Mar-Sha-Te's) at 8:30 am with the intention of getting to the Kirkwood Inn around 10:15. The ride back will be over the beautiful Mormon Emigrant Trail with great views of the Sierra and Jenkinson Lake.</p>
<p><b>July 10-15, 2013</b></p>	<p><b>Run To Explore Oregon (and back)</b>          Join Lee and Diane Galati on this event. SAMOA members are invited to the Explore Oregon event by the <a href="#">Willamette Valley Miata Club</a>. We will leave early Wednesday afternoon (July 10th) from the Black Bear Diner (SAMOA meeting location). Specific details of time and route will be posted in the future.</p>
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## The Road Ahead continued

<p><b>August 10, 2013</b></p>	<p><b>Bethel Island Fifties Bash</b>  Vince Weis and Kathi Bell are hosting this event. Return of the Bethel Island Fifties Bash Miata Delta weenie roast and bocce tournament! Mark your calendars for August 10, 2013 for a fun-filled day on the Delta, looking at classic cars, hula hooping and otherwise celebrating the 50's. Further details will be posted later.</p>
<p><b>August 16-18, 2013</b></p>	<p><b>Monterey Car Week</b>  Although events take place during the entire nine day period running from Saturday August 10th to Sunday, August 18th, the bulk of activities take place during the three-day period of Friday - Sunday August 16–18. More information about the corral (and how to sign up) will be published as soon as it becomes available.</p>
<p><b>August 24, 2013</b></p>	<p><b>OTM IV</b>  OTM is back! After a few years of rest, here is your chance to see what the club members drive when they aren't driving their Miatas. Details will follow but the plan right now is to meet at the Starbucks located at 1860 Prairie City Road in Folsom. We will meet at 10:00 AM and trade stories of all these great Bugattis, Ferraris and Konigseggs. After all the lies we will drive off to Relish Burger Bar in El Dorado Hills. This event is for all who want to show off those classics and not so classic Other Than Miatas. Everyone is welcome to join in and come with us for lunch. RSVP to jack parker at <a href="mailto:culdad@svics.com">culdad@svics.com</a>.</p>
<p><b>August 31/September 1, 2013</b></p>	<p><b>Return to Lassen Park</b>  Ron Petrich will lead us on an overnight trip to Lassen Volcanic National Park on the Saturday and Sunday of Labor Day weekend. Our trip will include an overnight stay in Chester, California, and a full day on Sunday to explore the park. This is the last weekend in 2013 that the trail to the Lassen Summit will be open to visitors. Start getting in shape so you can treat yourself to a panoramic view of the central valley and the north Sierra Nevada. Link to the park's website. More details including hotel and route information will follow.</p>
<p><b>September 14, 2013</b></p>	<p><b>Picnic at Lake Tahoe</b>  Time for a late summer picnic fun at Carol and Ray Bauer's private association beach property on Lake Tahoe. The event is limited to just eighteen (18) cars because of parking space restrictions, and all RSVP's will be accepted on a first come, first served basis. Additional details related to departure point and time, routing and estimated travel time will be posted here.</p>
<p><b>September 21, 2013</b></p>	<p><b>Bear To Bear Not-a-Rally</b>  Three groups stage out on three UN-timed routes converging at the destination approximately simultaneously. Buddy system allowed on request. We will start at the Sacramento (Natomas) Black Bear monthly meeting restaurant. We will break into three tour groups and stage out at one-minute intervals. We will proceed to the Black Bear Restaurant in Willows, CA by these three different routes, and meet for lunch. Each participant may [optionally] return to the original Black Bear by any of the three original routes, or a route of his/her own choosing. Optionally, Thunderhill Raceway in Willows is hosting SCCA club races this weekend, and the track is open to the public. More event details will be forthcoming. Please call Joe Conley at <a href="mailto:joe_conley_ii@yahoo.com">joe_conley_ii@yahoo.com</a> (858) 395-0139 for more information.</p>
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## The Road Ahead continued

<b>September 22, 2013</b>	<b>SAMOA Birthday Picnic</b> Join your fellow SAMOAN's at our annual birthday picnic. It will be held once again at Windwalker Vineyard in Fairplay. Wine tasting at 11:00 AM, catered lunch at noon, games and fun after. More details to follow.
<b>October 11-14, 2013</b>	<b>Fort Bragg Weekend</b> This annual event is a big favorite. We will make a run to Fort Bragg on Friday, October 11th, 2013 for a weekend stay. Those of you who cannot leave on Friday may also get together to organize a run starting on Saturday, October 12th, 2013 (or just come on your own). We have a bloc of rooms reserved at the Best Western. This is the Columbus Day holiday weekend so our special rate (the same as last year!) will be available the nights of October 11th to October 13th (checking out Monday the 14th ). This event allows you to either find your own fun in this beautiful coastal area, or participate in a run down Highway 1 for lunch returning over back roads on Saturday and/or a picnic lunch on Sunday at the stunning grounds of the Pacific Star Winery . The Friday run will leave from the McDonalds off of the Mace Blvd exit in Davis. We will meet at 8:00 a.m. and leave promptly at 8:30 a.m. This will be a leisurely drive with several rests stops. We will stop at the Napa Valley Olive Oil Manufacturing Company to buy picnic lunch supplies and stop again for a picnic along the way. Telephone the motel directly at (707) 964-4776 to make your reservations. Because this a holiday weekend, it is a good idea to reserve well in advance. Be sure to mention you are with our group. The proprietors of the Best Western know us as the Miata Club. Please either call or Email Vince or Kathi at (916) 422-5094 or vlweis@sbcglobal.net as you make your reservations for the trip so we will know how many cars/people are coming.
<b>December 7, 2013</b>	<b>SAMOA Christmas Dinner</b> Jenn & Mike Sipe will organize this event to be held at Vince's Restaurant in Elk Grove. More details to follow. Contact 916 685-1966.
<b>December 14, 2013</b>	<b>Wreaths Across America</b> Mike will lead members on an organized Miata drive to the National Veterans Cemetery in Dixon. Attendees will participate in the ceremony to decorate our Veteran's graves as part of a nationwide program whose goal is to lay a wreath at each grave in every Veteran's cemetery throughout the US. <a href="http://www.wreathscrossamerica.org">www.wreathscrossamerica.org</a> More details to follow. Contact Mike DeLaurentis 916 791-9418

### It Can Happen to Any of Us! by Adi Damania

My neighbor was working in his yard when he was startled by a late model Miata that came crashing through his hedge and ended up in his front lawn.

He rushed to help an elderly lady driver out of the car and sat her down on a lawn chair and then called 9-1-1.

On arrival, after a few minutes, the police sergeant took one look at the elderly lady and said "Driver's License and Insurance please!" She replied "I don't have a driver's license". "And why is that?" countered the police officer. "Well" she replied proudly. "I'll be 97 next month, and I am now old enough that I don't even need a driver's license anymore. The last time I went to see my doctor, he examined me thoroughly and asked if I had a driver's license. I told him yes and handed it to him. He took scissors out of the drawer, cut the license into pieces, and threw them in the waste basket, saying, "You won't need this anymore," so I thanked him and left!"

## The Road Ahead

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### HAIR IN THE WIND! **SAMOA VOLUNTEER DRIVERS NEEDED**

By Jeanne George

Saturday, May 18, 2013

10:00 am-2:00 pm

Society for the Blind

1238 S Street

Sacramento, Ca 59811



This event is being organized by SAMOA member, Ralph Gingrich and is sponsored by the Society for the Blind, River City Chapter of National Federation of the Blind, and the Lions Club District 4C5.

Ralph, who has enjoyed the Miata driving experience for many years, is no longer able to drive due to vision loss. The Society of the Blind was instrumental in training Ralph to make the necessary adjustments in his daily life to deal with his visual impairment. Ralph became an advocate for the National Federation of the Blind, and has traveled to Washington DC to present agenda items to California Senators and Representatives. He is a mentor for the Society of the Blind Senior Impact Program, Braille students, and is currently the Events Coordinator for a Support Group. He is a Lion and arranges for speakers and the collection of eye glasses. Ralph came up with the idea to incorporate his enjoyment of the Miata and provide an opportunity for other visually impaired individuals to enjoy the experience of a ride in a Miata. Ralph will be organizing the registration of the passengers.

For those interested, the Society of the Blind will be providing tours of their facility, showing the accommodations and the training they provide to those in need of their services. Tri-tip and chicken sandwiches, chips and beverages will be available for purchase through the National Federation of the Blind. You can contact Ralph at 916 721-4499, 916 223-2513, or [rkitman@surewest.net](mailto:rkitman@surewest.net)

**Our President, Robin George will be organizing the touring part.** He is looking for SAMOA volunteers willing to take passengers for a ride in their Miata. A pre-determined route will be designed and printed instructions given to each driver. The passengers will receive a Braille copy of the instructions or a large print copy based on their visual capabilities. You will pick-up your passenger at 1238 S St., drive the route, and then return to the starting location to pick up the next passenger. The number of trips you will make will depend on the number of Miata volunteers and registered passengers who sign up.

To volunteer your driving services for this event, please fill out the RSVP form, or if you have questions contact Robin George at 916 359-2627 or [robin@winfirst.com](mailto:robin@winfirst.com)

If you are bringing a passenger to the event and plan to eat, please indicate on the RSVP form the number attending, because Ralph needs to know how much food to have available.

Current SAMOA volunteer Drivers: 25

Current registered passengers: 31

## Tech Talk

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### Getting a Grip

In a perfect world, in which stores like Tire Rack and Discount Tires Direct would like you to think in which we live, you would have at least two sets of wheels and tires. One for summer and one for the other 9 months of the year. I get a little crazy when someone asks which tire is the best handling tire. This, invariably, is a person who ventures out once a month on a club run at an average speed of 40. The idea is to keep up with the crowd of haves. The ones which "have" the latest tire that is the hot one to have. Never mind that the hot tire is meant for high performance driving and not 40 miles per hour. The more you get to know me you will find that I am a bang for the buck and the right tool for the right job kinda guy. This meaning you don't put Hankook RS-3 tires on a daily driver and leave them on for the winter because they are the hot tire. All season is

basically a euphemism for primarily not really great in any season. But that is exactly what a lot of us need.

### Uniform Tire Quality Grade (UTQG) Rating

This rating system is a system by which each manufacturer conducts tests on their tires independently of any government agency or independent testing facility. The tires are generally rated against each manufacturers own products. It is anything but "uniform". A 200 rating on a Toyo is not really the same for a Hankook 200. So that rating should be accepted with a certain degree reticence. A 140 rated tire is a softer compound and less durable than a 300 rated tire. A 180 rated tire may not be any different than a 200 rated tire from another tire company. And even then the tires will vary between the different sizes of the same model and manufacturer. Case in point...The 195x50x15 Toyo R1R is mysteriously different than the 205x50x15 to the point that it is the only banned R1R in Solo competition. All other sized R1R sizes are legal.

Generally speaking you can divide up the rating system thusly:

- ◆ 0-139 Track and Autocross only tires
- ◆ 140-220 Extreme/Maximum performance dry weather tire...very autocross and track focused
- ◆ 221-320 Very high performance dry weather tire...less focused and good for canyon bombing and the like
- ◆ 320+ All season performance tire good in rain

Much above 400 and you are looking at all season lower performance economy tires for OEM applications Ratings tend to be up to 600-700. If you don't ever push your performance level then these are just fine. Economical and round. Michelins all season Defender series tires are rated at 820.

But there are exceptions. Michelin, among others, tends to be a conservative company. You look at all their tires and there is very little design variations in the tread. They are very

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traditional looking tires. And they tend to be their own masters when it comes to ratings. For example:

- ◆ Michelin ps 3 320 max performance
- ◆ Michelin ps 2 200 max performance
- ◆ Michelin super sport 300 max performance

Also air temperature affects tire performance. For example from my own experience. A Dunlop Z1 Star Spec likes temperatures on the low side of 90 degrees. For optimum performance they run best when tire temps are below 115 degrees. Hankook RS-3 tires like it above 90 degrees and tire temps between 120-140. So as you can see even with highest performance tires there are differences in brands because of tread compound. Obviously, around Sacramento, a summer tire like the RS-3 would be a great choice.

### **Current Hot Tires**

BF Goodrich has entered the Max Performance arena with the Rival. Tests have shown these to be good all round autocross and track focused. Day to day usage is not a great idea unless you are not concerned about longevity. Their tread design reflects the typical motorcycle tire with a slight wrap around design.

Dunlop Star Spec ZII is a new tire which is proving to be a better hot weather tire than the ZI Bridgestone RE 11a has not been out long enough but word is that it is also very good. But the ZII and the BFG are already proving to be great. The jury is still out on these tires as they have not been out very long.

Research is your friend. The best resource for tire and wheel information is as usual:

<http://www.tirerack.com/about/techcenter.jsp>

Great tests and reviews by actual users. Make sure you compare users with equal cars to a Miata. Don't read user reviews from a 2013 Viper using soft compound tires and expect the same results for your cars.

### **Tip of the month:**

No matter how you look at it, all micro fiber cloths are not created equal. You can go to O'Reillys or Pep Boys or Autozone and get a bagful of "micorfibre" cloths at a bargain price They are pretty good at removing crap from the inside of your car, detailing wheels and cleaning the seats but for detailing the outside of your cars they are just too coarse and wear out very quickly making them even worse. Griots.com makes really fluffy soft micro fibers. They are a bit pricey but they work great on the exterior and you don't have to worry about scratching the car with those terry cloth or pseudo micro fibers.

Mothers has just put out a great product for removing cone marks, er, road grime. Its called R3. I just used it to remove some old stickers off the race car and it is amazing. It got the three year old Hoosier stickers off and the glue came right off. You can get it at most auto stores like Autozone or Pep Boys. I found it at Amazon because I am too lazy to go shopping and the nice UPS man dropped it on my doorstep.

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## What to Do With Left Over Easter Eggs

### Creamed Eggs on Toast (or as my sisters and I called it “eggs ala fart”)

- 8 hard boiled eggs
- 2 tablespoons and 2 teaspoons butter
- 2 tablespoons and 2 teaspoons all-purpose flour
- 2-2/3 cups milk
- 1/8 teaspoon ground white pepper, if desired
- Salt to taste

#### Directions (Makes 4 servings)

1. Peel the eggs and separate the yolk from the white
2. Chop the whites of the eggs. In a separate bowl smash the yolks of the eggs with a fork.
3. Melt butter in saucepan, add flour until it forms into a ball. Slowly add the milk and stir until the sauce comes to a boil.
4. Stir the white pepper, salt, and chopped egg whites into the sauce; stir until the eggs are heated.
5. Pour the creamed mixture over toast or English muffins and sprinkle with the egg yolk.



### Pennsylvania Dutch Red Beet Eggs

- 1 1/2 dozen hard boiled eggs
- 2 (15 ounce) cans beets, with juice
- 1 cup cider vinegar      1 cup sugar      1 teaspoon salt

#### Directions:

1. Peel the hard boiled eggs
2. Place the eggs in a pan with the other ingredients and let come to a boil.
3. Remove from heat, cover and let stand overnight (or up to three days) in the refrigerator.



### Delicious Deviled Eggs

- 1 dozen egg, boiled      1 tablespoon mustard
- 2 tablespoons white vinegar      3 tablespoons sugar
- 1/3 cup Mayonnaise

#### Directions:

1. Hard boil eggs and peel. To make eggs peel easier I peel them while they are still hot under cold running water. Cut eggs in half lengthwise and remove egg yolks.
2. Combined rest of ingredients together. Add eggs to mixture and beat with mixer until smooth.
3. Stuff egg yolk mixture back into egg white halves.
4. Sprinkle with paprika if desired.
5. Garnish with black or green olives, parsley or green onion.



# Treasure Trove News

By Jeanne George



## We Welcome Our Newest Members

Nathaniel Clariza  
Catherine Kauffman  
Richard Derr  
Alex Valenzuela

## Memberships Renewed in March

Johnson, Patrick  
Damania, Adi and Parvin  
Caldwell, Teresa  
Kinsey, Graeme and Sharon Howe  
Davis, Terese and Jimmy Carter

## Memberships Expiring April 1

Barden, Christy  
Carlson, Bob and Donna  
Cline, Bruce  
Galati, Lee and Diane  
Gonzalez, Rod  
Gust, Steve and Susan  
Johnson, Rod and Rita  
Neville, Doug and Susan  
Pike, Gary and Lynda  
Rowland, Sherri and Rex  
Y'Barra, Paul

## April Birthdays

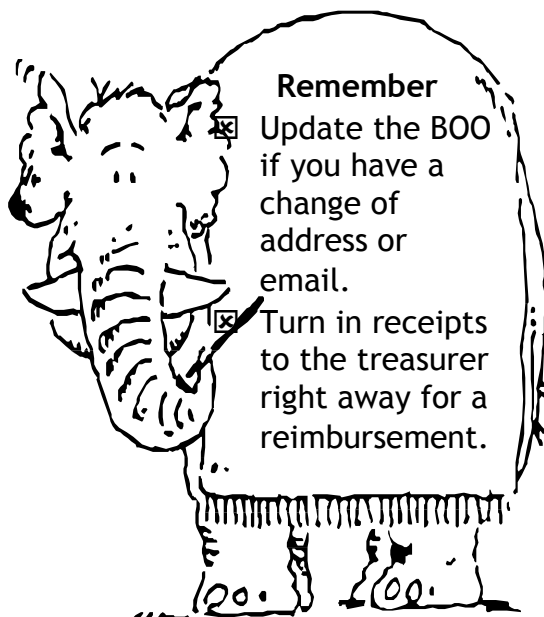
### Ron Petrich

April Halliday - April 2<sup>nd</sup>  
Sam Rang - April 2<sup>nd</sup>  
Nathaniel Clariza - April 6<sup>th</sup>  
Pamela Hunt - April 7<sup>th</sup>  
Sercan Ceyhan - April 9<sup>th</sup>  
Diana Loo - April 11<sup>th</sup>  
Gennet Paauwe - April 11<sup>th</sup>  
Kathi Bell - April 16<sup>th</sup>  
Mike Feuz - April 18<sup>th</sup>  
Sheila Souza - April 28<sup>th</sup>

## Where did the saying "April showers bring May flowers originate"?

This is a popular rhyme often heard around springtime, and can be traced back to the mid 1500s. In 1557, Thomas Tusser in his work "A Hundred Good Points of Husbandry" wrote, "Sweet April showers, do spring May flowers."

<http://libraryquestions.blogspot.com/2011/04/where-did-saying-april-showers-bring.html>



### Remember

- Update the BOO if you have a change of address or email.
- Turn in receipts to the treasurer right away for a reimbursement.

### SAMOA stats:

**130 Memberships**  
**213 members**  
**145 Miatas**

## SACRAMENTO AREA MIATA OWNERS ASSOCIATION

1864 Bridge Creek Drive  
Sacramento CA 95833

*Celebrating  
the finest,  
most affordable*



### MEMBERSHIP BADGES

Any member may purchase a personalized SAMOA membership badge. An order form and complete order instructions can be found on our [website](#)

### PERSONAL WEBSITE

Each SAMOA member is entitled to a personal page on our web site. You can include up to a full page of biographical or other personal information, and up to three (3) color photos. Contact the [webmaster](#) to set up and/or update your page.



### April Facts

- Anglo-Saxons called the month Eostre monath or Eastremonath. The name of the Christian Festival of Easter comes from this word.
- There is uncertainty of how this month got its name it has been suggested that it may come from Roman word 'Aprilis' meaning 'to open', or it may come from Aphrodite, the Greek name for the goddess of love
- It is the fourth month of the year in the Gregorian Calendar and is one of four months to have 30 days. The month was originally the second month of the Roman calendar until King Numa Pompilius added January and February in around 713bc.
- April's birthstone is the diamond. It's birth flower's are the daisy or the Sweet Pea (Lathyrus Odoratus). picture left.
- In the USA a list compiled by the Social Security Administration in 2009 found April to be the 353rd most popular girls name.
- It is International Guitar Month. It is also the National month for Poetry, Mathematics Awareness, Sexual Assault Awareness, Volunteers and Arab-American Heritage.
- The average global land and ocean temperature for April in the 20th century is 13.7°c, 56.66 F
- April 1st was used to celebrate the Birth of Christ Up until 350 when Pope Julius I declared that Christ's birth would be celebrated on December 25.
- April starts on the same day of the week as July in all years.