

# Miata Tudes



*editors note: yeah, I know it's not a Miata, but I took the photo, and I like it, so there.*

## ROBIN'S NEST - ROBIN GEORGE

Now is the time of year that we get very busy and have many choices for you. We have a show and shine at the State Fair. By the time you read this our participation would of pasted but it is worth mentioning. This event is a great opportunity to advertize our club and reintroduce the Miata to the public. Last year was our first time to be at the fair and it was amazing to see just how many fairgoers don't know what a Miata is. This year several members of BAMA and the Delta Club are also participating. Thank you to all the exhibitors.

Other events scheduled are Denise Corriea's immensely popular "Scramble Scrabble" on September 18-20. Easy, Lots of fun and good company. Contact Denise as soon as possible for dinner reservations and other event information. When you talk to Denise you will find her all giddy and

Do not forget to RSVP Jeanne George for our Birthday Party at Windwalker Winery on October 4. We need a head count for the caterer ASAP. (see story)

Another great adventure is the longest running out of town event established for the club: The Ft. Bragg Trip. Highly recommended.

Comment: I guess there are no ice skaters in the club.



Comment-----Topaz Lake Run: If you did not go on this run, you missed a great

opportunity to excise your Miata. I am a little biased as I assisted Jack Parker in pre-running this route several times. Each time was a blood pumping and white knuckling drive. We will keep this lonely stretch of road to ourselves OK? If you ever want to test your driving skills with no one around this is the area. If you want to look at beautiful scenery, this is the area. If you just want to get away, turn up your stereo, be one with nature, dodge little animals, and curse at the rare local (politely of course) this is the area.



Comment: At the last General Meeting, the sound reproduction was unhearable. The noise from the bar was flowing over into our meeting. (Raider football was on TV and three out of the four speakers were inoperable.) Making it extremely hard for you the attendees to hear the pithy comments of our spokespeople. We will work on the problem with the management and behind the scenes continue to search for a venue that meets our simple needs. Your tolerance and help is needed too.

Notice about the Miata Mailing List (AKA "The Big List"):

### From Dennis Swaney:

The Miata Mailing List, a.k.a. "The Big List", is being moved to new servers and will have a new address and administrator.

The list was started about 17 years ago by Andy Poling and has been hosted on his servers. For the last 15 years, Keith Tanner (of Flyin' Miata fame) has been the list administrator. It has been a good run but both Andy and Keith are stepping down.

However, the List Lives On, thanks to Ken Bogart. He has created a new home for the list on his servers and all current subscribers have been subscribed to the new list.

If you aren't a current subscriber, but wish to join the list, here is how to do so:

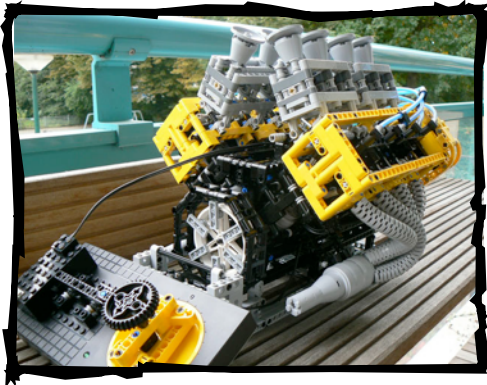
To subscribe, email: [list-subscribe@miatamail.com](mailto:list-subscribe@miatamail.com)

To subscribe to the digest, email: [list-digest-subscribe@miatamail.com](mailto:list-digest-subscribe@miatamail.com)

Once you are subscribed, To send a message to the list, email: [list@miatamail.com](mailto:list@miatamail.com).

LOOKING FOR A NEW HOBBY? HOW ABOUT LEGO? - MARK BROOKS

Well, apparently, Legos aren't just for 5 year olds anymore. This guy built a 32 valve, DOHC V8 out of LEGOs!!! Complete with working rocker arms, spinning flywheel, and headers. Next time someone tells me that I have too much time on my hands, I'll be sending them to look at [this!](#)



WHAT'S YOUR EXCUSE? MARK BROOKS

I can count on one hand how many regular contributors we have to the Newsletter every month... Ron, Jack, Robin, Jeanne, Mike, Adi, and sometimes myself ... okay, one and a half hands.

Is NOBODY doing anything with their Miata? - doubt it.  
Is NOBODY taking photos of their car (besides me)? - doubt it!

Am I the ONLY one who knows how to use a camera and post-processing software? - judging by the photo here, that was posted on the forum by "18psi", I'd say 'no' to that question too.



So, I implore you - if you do something with your Miata (drive it, wreck it, paint it, cover it in M&M's, photograph it, wash it, change the brakes, ANYTHING!), take pictures, and/or do a write-up for the newsletter! Don't get me wrong, I love reading the same stuff over and over each month just as much as you do... but some NEW content would be great!

UPCOMING EVENTS - MARK BROOKS

- Thursday, Sept 10: Monthly SAMOA Meeting
- Saturday, September 19: Scrabble Scramble
- Sat-Sun, Sept 26-27: Stewart's Point Run
- Sunday, October 4: SAMOA Birthday Picnic!
- Thursday October 8: Monthly SAMOA Meeting
- Fri-Mon, October 9-12: Ft. Bragg Run
- Sat, October 17: SAMOA Tech Day

And, as always, keep an eye on the [SAMOA Forums](#) for impromptu drives and get-togethers!

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS - RON PETRICH

The following SAMOA members, by virtue of driving Miatas for the past 12 months, have officially un-aged one full year on the date shown...

Gundi Bechthold	September 19 <sup>th</sup>
Nancy Cavanaugh	September 20 <sup>th</sup>
Ray Chermak	September 15 <sup>th</sup>
Toby Counter	September 21 <sup>st</sup>
Adi Damania	September 3 <sup>rd</sup>
Terese Davis	September 7 <sup>th</sup>
Mike DeLaurentis	September 26 <sup>th</sup>
Helen DeLaurentis	September 29 <sup>th</sup>
Deidre DeNuzzo	September 30 <sup>th</sup>
Robert Falconer	September 25 <sup>th</sup>
John Folsom	September 23 <sup>rd</sup>
Ellen Frosch	September 30 <sup>th</sup>
Steve Hartzell	September 4 <sup>th</sup>
Kenneth LaFler	September 30 <sup>th</sup>
Linda Langhofer	September 14 <sup>th</sup>
Stew Lehman	September 14 <sup>th</sup>
Becky Mickelson	September 19 <sup>th</sup>
Michael Sipe	September 22 <sup>nd</sup>
Dan Spengler	September 29 <sup>th</sup>
James Stewart	September 19 <sup>th</sup>
Allen Treadway	September 25 <sup>th</sup>
Norman Utley	September 26 <sup>th</sup>
Vince Weis	September 2 <sup>nd</sup>

RANDOM THOUGHTS - MIKE D.

When you change lanes do you try to drive in between the lane divider reflectors? It's a great challenge.

I don't know if it's the economy, late summer vacations or just general malaise but there seems to be a lack of interest in club activities. The Officers have noticed this and are concerned. I decided to write a newsletter article about this

apparent apathy - then I said "forget about it".

And finally - and this is for real - we have cause to celebrate. Chuck Leininger, son of long time SAMOAN Jan and her late husband Gene, has just been selected to the United States Marine Corps Judge

Advocate General program. Chuck, a USC grad, musician and attorney, melded his music and law interests and worked in LA for several years as an attorney in the recording industry. The economy caused Chuck to look for a new direction and that direction is the USMC. Chuck has been diligently working out over the last few months in order to pass the difficult physical entrance exam and did so. Following that his application was screened and he was recently notified that he was accepted. He has to report to Quantico on October 1. Best of luck, Chuck, and whether this becomes a long career or a brief stint we know it will be interesting and we hope to see you back here when on leave.



TREASURE TROVE - JEANNE GEORGE

**Welcome to our Newest Members**

- Debra and John Shepherd Sr.**
- John and Kathleen Castillo**
- Mary Jo Kapaun**
- Dennis and Rosemary Best**
- Kathleen McCarthy**
- Richard and Denise Russell**

**Memberships Expiring Sept 1**

- Counter, Toby and Margaret
- Crawford, Ron
- Csik, Phil and Genell
- Emelio, John and Merrill
- Hoffman, Doug and Betty
- Houghton, Rita
- Isett, Gregg
- Jurach, Margie
- Langhofer, Lauren
- Lusenhop, Kimberly and Paul Pouliot
- Parker, Bonni and John
- Syn, Kit and Genise
- Utle, Norman and Lori
- Watters, Peter

Reminder: membership must be current in order to attend the Birthday picnic

**Memberships renewed during August**

- Sandi Campbell
- Hunt, Pam and Randy
- Wright, Mac and Jean

**SAMOA stats**

127 Memberships, 209 members, 135 Miatas





## THE ERA OF THE TAILFINS - ADI DAMANIA



THE 1950s had to end sometime, and in Detroit the soaring tailfins of 1959 models put an exclamation point at the conclusion of an exuberant decade of unchecked optimism.

Inspired by aircraft of the 1940s, tailfins inched upward through the '50s to reach their zenith on the 1959 Cadillac. That car and many others presented a comic-book vision of travel — over the earth and through space — that was to evolve in the early '60s into less fanciful designs more attuned to the actual spacecraft that were by then putting Americans into orbit. “Tailfins embodied a feeling of prosperity and jet-age excitement,” said Jeffrey Leestma, president of the Automotive Hall of Fame here. Last weekend the Hall of Fame made tailfins the theme of its annual classic car show, which included 40 models.

Another collection of fins will command attention at the Meadow Brook Concours d'Élégance in Rochester Hills, Mich. A display called “Fins and Chrome: The Convertibles of 1959” featured 14 models, including one of each of the Big Three's car lines. GM and Chrysler involved in a game of one-upmanship in fins, and they grew to a huge extent by 1959. By 1963 or so the fins were completely gone (as will the shark-fin soup if the rate at which sharks are being killed just for their fins).

The cars chart the growth of the fins that sprouted on '48 Cadillacs. Harley Earl, the legendary GM designer, was inspired by the sight of a twin-tail P-38 fighter plane during World War II. It was a symbolic moment: a spark of inspiration passed from one of America's greatest practical designers, Kelly Johnson of Lockheed, to Earl, the man who brought Hollywood glitz to Detroit.

Tailfins gave customers an “extra receipt for their money in the form of a visible prestige marking.”. Fins moved down the GM line from Cadillac to the iconic 1957 Chevrolet. But by the late '50s GM had made plans to trim its fins even as Virgil Exner, the top Chrysler designer, pushed them to new heights with his Forward Look.

A GM designer largely responsible for the flamboyant '59 Cadillac, Chuck Jordan, recalled how Chrysler's 1957 cars influenced the GM models that followed. In interviews, he has recalled driving to a Chrysler factory where he stared at rows of big-finned Plymouths. In a 2006 interview with Motor Trend, he said: “I'm looking through the fence and all I could see were fins, fins, fins. And I thought, ‘Wow!’” Mr. Jordan and other young designers warned Earl that the company was about to be outfined, and GM's planned 1959 designs were tabled in favor of new ones — with bigger fins. Referring to the iconic Cadillac, he said: “The 1959 was like letting a tiger out of the cage — saying, ‘go!’ Then we got sobriety.”

Even station wagons grew fins, as did car-truck combinations like the Ford Ranchero and Chevrolet El Camino. Compact cars like the Rambler had fins, too. Soon, fins spread overseas. Mercedes-Benz got them, as did the Amphicar that doubled as a boat. In the Soviet Union, ZILs and Moskviches were not immune to the trend.

Fins evolved: the upright planes of the '57 Chevy became flatter, wider and more horizontal by '59, suggesting the wings of a dragon. Most of the fins of 1959 were accented with rocketlike taillights, their conical red lenses suggested frozen thrust. The Cadillac had a pair of thruster lamps on each fin; the De Soto had three apiece.

In “For the Union Dead” in 1960, the noted poet Lowell saw something sinister, even sinful, in the tailfin:

“...Everywhere, giant finned cars nose forward like fish;

a savage servility slides by on grease.”



**SAMOA CLUB PICNIC - SUNDAY  
OCTOBER 4TH - JEANNE  
GEORGE**

SAMOA Club will honor its 19<sup>th</sup> Birthday with a picnic at the Windwalker Winery. The owners of Windwalker Winery have again graciously provided the use of their facilities at no cost to our Club. This will be our 4th year at this location. Activities will include: wine tasting, a 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. Incahoots BBQ Restaurant from Plymouth will cater the event. The Board of Officers (BOO) has chosen the menu which will be sliced tri-tip on a French roll, green salad, potato salad, soda, water, and of course dessert. The day will begin with an organized drive to the winery (see details in another article) or you can drive there on your own. The winery is located at 7360 Perry Creek Road, Somerset (530 620-4054). Plan to arrive after 11 for registration and wrist bands. Wine tasting starts at 11 o'clock and lunch is scheduled for noon. 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 30. To order tickets, contact Jeanne George at 916 359-2627 or [jeanne@winfirst.com](mailto:jeanne@winfirst.com) Make your check payable to SAMOA and mail to 1864 Bridgecreek Dr., Sacramento, CA 95833. Checks must be received by October 1.**

If you pay for tickets, but find yourself unable to attend, please notify me to cancel your attendance by September 30th for a full refund. No refund after the caterer is given the final headcount on September 30th.

Come out and enjoy the fun.

**HEY MA, YOU HEAR THEY  
GOT THIS NEWFANGLED  
THING CALLED A  
"TELLYPHONE"? - MARK  
BROOKS**

Most of you have probably heard by now that we have these cool things called telephones.. then came the 'cordless phone', then came the 'cellular phone', followed by all this crazy stuff like the "Internet", "email", "Twitter", "Facebook", "LinkedIn" and other crazy, weird names.

So, what does all this crazy technology allow us to do, that we weren't able to do previously?

How about this: When I'm out in the garage, working on my '71 Dodge, or on the '94 Miata - I have my laptop in reaching distance.. and if I'm working on something (brakes, interior, installing a roll bar, re-doing the wiring on a 38 year old car, etc) that I've never done before, I can reach out to an audience of MILLIONS of other people, and quickly find several dozen (or hundred) people who have done the SAME thing I'm doing, and can share their insight to help me through it. Of course, this isn't such a good idea if you're planning on giving your cat a frontal lobotomy, but for something like replacing the springs on your Miata, or swapping out the rear end of a car you've never worked on before - it's invaluable.

Not to mention all the other applications - hobbies you may be interested in, you can find thousands of other people who are just as fanatic about collecting pink and green polka dotted ping-pong balls as you are, where to get the best deals, and how to tell a legit one from a fake. Personally, I'm a photography enthusiast, and I love using Flickr.com to share my photos and get feedback from other photographers. Flickr isn't just a crazy free-for-all of photos - it's categorized by groups,

subject, etc.. so if I want to get critiques of my photos of a frog statue, I can probably find a group of photographers who only like to shoot frog statues.

The Internet is not something to be afraid of. Heck, my 88 year old grandfather who lives on a tiny island off the Southern coast of England, uses a computer with a webcam to communicate with my mom, and he often sends me emails and photos. He's rebuilt his own PC a number of times, installing new mother boards, video cards and sound cards. Technology is something to be embraced, not feared.

So, with that, I ask - how many people who are reading this have been reluctant to go to the [SAMOA Forums](#)? If so- why? What's the reluctance? Are you afraid it's going to be difficult? It isn't. Are you afraid you're going to get spammed? You won't. It's just like walking into a room at Coco's or Tex Wasabi's, and seeing all the familiar faces that you're accustomed to, and being able to put a question 'out there', and come back in an hour, a day or a week, and see how people responded. It's a means of communication and interaction. Ron has now taken things to the next level and started a [blog](#). This is fantastic. It allows him (and anyone else who is registered to contribute to the blog) to post quick little articles and blurbs about things that have happened, hopefully things that people may find interesting. What's next? Twitter? Time will tell.

Personally, I'm a techno-junkie. I have an iPhone, and update my [Facebook](#) page, my own blog, and send emails all from the iPhone while I'm out and about all the time. I love it.

So - get out there. Check out the [SAMOA Facebook Group](#) or the [SAMOA Blog](#) ... heck, if nothing else, just check out the Forums on the SAMOA site... you might find that you like technology!

HELPFUL HINTS AND  
MANNERS FOR DRIVING IN  
A GROUP - ROBIN GEORGE

1. We found fewer people get lost out of the group if both the leader and last car (sweep) know the way and coordinate together to keep everyone together.
2. Drive in the position you are comfortable for everyone's peace of mind. Faster drivers near the front; those more comfortable going slower, towards the rear.
3. Allow the leader to see the last car after a turn or traffic light so he/she is sure everyone is together. The leader and the last car need to drive close to the centerline, all others drive close to the shoulder line.
4. The Sweep will let the lead car know when everyone has made the turn or though the Stop Sign/Light.
5. Make sure those behind know where to turn – If the group has made a turn and the car behind you will not see you and the others turning, wait for them to see you make the turn.
6. Try and pull into the traffic together. The last car pulls out to hold the place in traffic and the rest of the group pulls out together. It is also helpful for the last cars to hold a place for the others to get over to another lane on the freeway or on other main streets.
7. There may be times in cities or the interstate with heavy traffic, that we will have everyone go on their own to a regrouping stop.
8. If you need the group to stop and have no radio contact, let the others know by either holding up a fist if your top is down or flashing your lights. If that has not worked, when you get a place to stop, turn your turn signal on for some distance before, go ahead, and turn in. Someone will see you and stop with you.
9. Pay attention to the cars immediately in front and behind you so you will notice if they have signaled or radioed for a stop if they are in trouble. Help communicate to the leaders, if they cannot.
10. Remember that GMRS/FRS radio communication is far from perfect. Especially with route information communications, pass on messages between the leaders and sweep if they are not acknowledging. They probably did not hear the message.
11. If you get lost from the group and have no radio to contact the others, continue to the next pit stop or other regrouping stop in your route directions. A cell phone call to the leader can also help.
12. Please feel free to "do your own thing" but if you decide to leave the group, please make sure the drive leader knows you are leaving and whether you will be rejoining the group later or not coming back. We do not want to waste the time (and temper) of the group waiting for you if you are not coming or looking for you when you're not lost. If you communicate by radio, make sure someone acknowledges that you were heard. A cell phone may be the only way to get the message through, but service will be limited in the mountains.

Courtesy goes a long way