

MIATATUDES

SEPTEMBER 2011

SEPTEMBER CLUB MEETING

7:00PM

Thursday, Sept 8th
Celia's Restaurant
9584 Micron Ave
Sacramento, CA
(916) 369-5681

Come early for dinner and
social hour at 6:00PM

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ROBIN'S NEST

Hello Everyone... We just finished a very exciting month with more to come. We have been running all over the countryside. One of our pleasurable events was the overnight trip to **Mt. Lassen National Park**. While several adventurous souls went with Ron Petrich on a surprising long hike, Jeanne and I enjoyed one of their spas (see picture). Trips like this are so nice. You get to know your fellow members and they in turn get to know you. Such a wonderful group we have. We had fun wherever we went. Later in the week the club went to a future club meeting place and home, **Greenhaven Estates**. Actually Vince Weis and Kathi Bell arranged for 10 members to show their vehicles to some well-deserving senior citizens. Afterwards we had a great dinner at the Freeport Inn. Mike DeLaurentis led a great group on a very "adventurous" trip to see **Forestiery Underground Gardens – Yosemite by Moonlight – Castle Air Museum**. The following weekend Ralph Gingrich hosted **Drive Around Lake Tahoe**, which took us through beautiful countryside.

This was also the month of a perennial favorite, "**Scrabble Scramble**". Members from the San Joaquin Valley Miata Club and Southern California Miata Club joined Denise Correia and fellow SAMOA's in a three day adventure around the hills of Sutter Creek and Murphys. A good time was had by all with car shows, U-turns, twisties and good food.

Please check out the picture section of the web page for visuals of the fun the club had this

Robin George, President



month. Ron Petrich, webmaster, has been able to also add videos to the picture section for each individual event. Don't be afraid to take pictures when you go on an event. Don't rely on one person because if he or she forgets their camera there will be no pictures. The web page has the room, take pictures!!!

Please don't forget we have officer elections coming up in office is candidates. the success great club your help it doesn't being an the current an office run for, about your desire to run or if you have any questions about that position and let's get your name on the ballot. If I can do it...



December. Every open and we need We need to keep of this active and going and with will continue. It hurt and it is fun officer. Just ask Board. If there is you would like to contact any officer

SUPPORT THE TROOPS UPDATE

This past weekend the SAMOA Scrabble Scramble 2011 was a successful event. A decision was made to have a raffle that would provide funds for the **Support the Troops** packages which Helen and Mike DeLaurentis prepare each month.

The attendees of the event were very enthusiastic and contributed \$345 for the worthwhile cause. Helen and Mike will use the funds to purchase the items for the boxes to be sent to troops in the combat zones. So far they have sent over 60 boxes of member donations with SAMOA paying

Jeanne George

for the postage.

If you have a family member or friend serving in a combat zone, please send their address to Mike and Helen DeLaurentis.

MORE INFO FROM SUPPORT THE TROOPS PROJECT Jeanne George

Thank You Note:

My Great nephew, Travis is serving in an area 40 miles from Baghdad. His duty assignment includes loading and unloading supplies from the cargo planes. He is one of the fortunate ones who are able to enjoy computer communication, Facebook entries and photos, and Skype communication with his family and friends. He celebrated his 21st Birthday last week with "Gatorade and water".

Last month Helen and Mike DeLaurentis sent him a SAMOA package. *"Please tell everyone from your club thank you for remembering us over here. It is a fight and battle, and it helps to know that people care and are thinking of us."*

Funds Raised at Birthday Picnic Designated for Troops:

The BOO voted and decided to help stock supplies for the **Support the Troops** packages. This year at the picnic we will be collecting monies for the combat troops. In addition, the water balloon toss will also help fund the program.

SAMOA stats: 126 Memberships, 210 Members, 137 MIATAs

TREASURE TROVE

We welcome our Newest Members

Jim and Patty Smith
 Thomas Kroger
 Tony and Jan Massara
 Bill and Stephanie Martz

Memberships renewed in August

Stewart, Jim and Barbara Jarvis
 Araiza, Renee
 Taylor, John & Mary Ann
 Best, Dennis & Rosemary
 Rowell, Fran & David
 Patterson, Ben & Ronnie
 Hoffman, Doug & Betty
 Schimmel, Sally

Memberships Expiring September 1st

Counter, Margaret
 Dozier, VJ and Bonnie
 Emelio, John
 Hahn, JR & Susie
 Hughhart, Steve & Gale
 Jurach, Margie
 Nelson, Gary/Donna
 Rossiter, Craig & Carol
 Watters, Peter

By Jeanne George

THE ROAD AHEAD

[SAMOA Events](#)

Where We Look at Upcoming SAMOA Events

Dianna Loo

We have some really big events for the remainder of 2011 – the SAMOA Birthday Party and Christmas Party. Plus some fun runs such as the Washington Fun Run, Pancake Run, Fort Bragg and Teddy Bear Run.

Also, we have events posted for 2012, yes 2012 OMG.

DATES	EVENT
September 11, 2011	<p>Washington Fun Run Join the McClures for a drive over their favorite Placer and Nevada County back roads and for lunch in Washington, CA. Meet at 9:00 AM at Newcastle Denny's, 681 Newcastle Road, RSVP no later than 09/7/2011.</p>
September 25, 2011	<p>SAMOA Birthday Picnic - September 25, 2011 This year we will celebrate the anniversary with a BBQ lunch and wine tasting at the Windwalker Vineyard and Winery. Owners Jim and Alanna Taff have again graciously offered us the use of their facilities at no cost to our Club. This will be our 5th year at this location.</p> <p>Activities will include wine tasting, a catered BBQ lunch, meeting other members, lawn games, water balloon toss, a Bocce ball tournament, and having fun. Or you can sit in the shade and watch. This is a great chance to meet other members, especially when your schedule doesn't allow for you to attend monthly meetings.</p> <p>We have contracted with JR's Texas Bar-B-Que and the menu will be brisket of beef, chicken, potato salad, cole-slaw, cowboy beans, cornbread, peach cobbler, soda and water.</p> <p>The day will begin with an organized group drive to the winery (starting location and time to be announced) or you can drive there on your own. Windwalker is located at 7360 Perry Creek Road, Somerset (530 620-4054). Plan to arrive around 11 am for registration and to get your wrist band. Wine tasting starts at 11 o'clock and lunch is scheduled for noon.</p> <p>The cost is \$15 per SAMOA member, payable in advance. The day of the event at registration \$10 will be refunded to each paid member(net cost of \$5 per member). The cost for non-members and guests is also \$15 each payable in advance, but with no refund.</p> <p>RSVP for this event is required by Wednesday, September 21st. You can order tickets at the monthly meeting or by mail. Contact Jeanne George at 916 359-2627 or jeanne@winfirst.com. Make checks payable to SAMOA and mail to 1864 Bridgecreek Drive, Sacramento, CA 95833. Payment in full must be received by Friday, September 23rd.</p> <p>If you pay for tickets, but find yourself unable to attend, please notify me to cancel your attendance by September 23rd for a full refund. No refund after the caterer is given the final count.</p>
October 1, 2011	<p>Better Late Than Never Pancake Run - The Pancake Run is on. Better late than never on this annual event to the location of the largest pancakes in the Sierras. We will leave from the usual location on Highway 16 in Rancho Murieta at Mar Sha Tes, located at 7238 Murieta Drive...There will be an 8:15 meet time, an 8:30 drivers meeting and a departure time immediately following the drivers meeting...Our route will take us through some of the interesting twisty roads of the Sierra Foothills up through Hams Station and on to Kirkwood Inn. The Inn is one of the most historic locations in mountains dating back to the 1850s. They also enjoy a very good reputation for their food. If you are new to the club, please be advised that this route is typical of my runs and involves a bit of spirited driving and if you know me you will again enjoy a fun route we have not taken in a while but will be familiar to you. So an RSVP would be appropriate by September 25 so I can print out enough direction sheets for everyone. Thanks and hope to see a large turnout for this <i>pancakeapalooza</i> on October 1st. Contact Jack Parker at (916) 354-0935</p>

THE ROAD AHEAD cont'd

October 2, 2011	<p>Brunch at Aerospace Museum</p> <p>Enter the McClellan Aerospace Museum of California, 3200 Freedom Park Drive, McClellan Park, CA 95652 at 10:00 AM. Enter through the west gate and park with the aircraft as directed. After parking everyone will pay the normal admission of \$8.00 per person and enter the Museum Theatre at 10:30 AM to socialize and enjoy a BYO brunch with the adult beverage of your choice. Then we will visit the rest of the museum. We have arranged for a guided tour for those that want it, or you can tour the museum on your own. To park with the aircraft you must provide CURRENT PROOF OF INSURANCE. This will be checked by museum personnel. If you do not provide proof, you must park in the regular museum parking lot. RSVP to Dennis Strassburger at (916) 402-1079 or at dstrass69@hotmail.com.</p>
October 7 - 10, 2011	<p>Fort Bragg</p> <p>We will make a run to Fort Bragg on Friday, October 7th, 2011 for a weekend stay. Those of you who cannot leave on Friday may also get together to organize a run starting on Saturday, October 8, 2010 (or just come on your own). We have a bloc of rooms reserved at the Best Western. 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.</p>
November 19, 2011	<p>Teddy Bear Run</p> <p>A fun run to who knows where with a stop at the Children's Receiving Home of Sacramento to drop off teddy bears and holiday presents for the kids. This is the 11th annual run. More to follow...</p>
December 3, 2011	<p>Christmas Dinner</p> <p>Vince's Ristorante in Elk Grove. Jason Carmel will provide the music and singing and if you wish, you can sing along with Jason or dance. Entrees are baked lasagna, chicken marsala or steak. Entrees include salad, pasta, bread, coffee, ice tea and dessert. Please download the registration form and submit it with your check at the next meeting.</p>
December 10, 2011	<p>Wreaths Across America</p> <p>Join us for the sixth straight year of decorating our Veteran's graves as part of a nationwide program whose goal it is to lay a wreath at each grave in every Veteran's cemetery throughout the US. Details as to start time/place will follow. If you would like to donate a wreath or learn more about this Nation-wide program you may do so by going to www.wreathscrossamerica.org. For questions about this event and to RSVP contact Mike DeLaurentis at (916) 791-9418 or by email to luv2sail@surewest.net.</p>



SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS by Ron Petrich



Here are the SAMOANs who are a year younger in September...

Warren Anderson Sept 24th
 Tak Auyeung Sept 31st
 Gundi Bechthold Sept 19th
 Jan Blixen Sept 31st
 John Blixen Sept 31st
 Ray Chermak Sept 15th
 Adi Damania Sept 3rd
 Terese Davis Sept 7th
 Helen DeLaurentis Sept 29th
 Mahogany Mike DeLaurentis Sept 26th
 Deidre DeNuzzo Sept 30th
 Robert Falconer Sept 25th

John Folsom Sept 23rd
 Ellen Frosch Sept 30th
 Ann Garvin Sept 15th
 Stew Lehman Sept 14th
 Sally Parker Sept 31st
 Elaine Phillips Sept 11th
 Denise Russell Sept 31st
 Richard Russell Sept 31st
 Michael Sipe Sept 22nd
 Jim Smith Sept 1st
 James Stewart Sept 19th
 Dennis Strassburger Sept 6th
 Vince Weis Sept 2nd
 Paula Zicker Sept 31st
 Wes Zicker Sept 31st



SAMOA 21ST BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 2011

By Jeanne George

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

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

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

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

The cost is \$15 per SAMOA member, payable in advance. The day of the event at registration \$10 will be **refunded to each paid member (net cost of \$5 per member)**.

The cost for non-members and guests will be \$15 each payable in advance, but with no refund.

RSVP for this event is required by Wednesday, September 21st.

You can order tickets at the monthly meeting or by mail. Contact Jeanne George at 916 359-2627 or

jeanne@winfirst.com

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

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

THANK YOU, MIATA PEOPLE

Or should I say, ninety nine reasons why Miata people are better than Triple A.

As many of you are aware, I ran into car trouble during the Forestiere-Full Moon Run, on Hwy 41 going from Fresno toward Oakhurst. I had my friend Kathleen with me, and Pam and Randy Hunt, as sweep, offered to wait with us. So we waived everyone on while I called for a tow truck from Triple A. Without going into details, let's just say that the tow truck did not arrive for many hours and I succumbed to the heat.

We have always said that Miata people are good people, and this is just another example of that fact.

A BIG HUG AND THANK YOU TO:

Pam and Randy Hunt—staying with us at the roadside

Kathleen Franklin—enduring the heat and insisting that I go to the ER

Denise Correia—the life line of communication; she put me in touch with Dale & Sheri in Oakhurst

Pam Hunt—you and Kathleen went into Oakhurst to get us more cold water

By Ellen Frosch

Pam and Randy Hunt—took turns taking Kathleen and I for a spin in their car to cool off
Dale and Sheri Bond—came out to check on us; Dale looked the car over and had Randy drive my car to Dale's auto shop; Pam took Kathleen in her car; Dale and Sheri took me in their truck
Sheri Bond—who has the ER Director in her cell phone and checked with him
Margie Jurach and Mike Sipe—who doubled back from Mariposa to meet up with us
Sheri Bond—sat with me in the ER until I could get checked in

Mike Sipe (I think) - took Kathleen into Mariposa
Margie Jurach—stayed with me until I was discharged from the ER
Mike Sipe and Margie Jurach—had passenger seats available, so they were able to bring Kathleen and I back to Sacramento the next day
Cady Smithline (Margie's daughter)—met us at Elk Grove and took Kathleen home
Margie Jurach—took me home to Cameron Park (There were also many good Samaritans who stopped and offered help.)

IN THE REAR VIEW MIRROR

Forestiery Underground Gardens – Yosemite by Moonlight – Castle Air Museum Event

By Michael DeLaurentis

A lot of people believe that the full moon causes odd things to happen. I've noticed that my customers get a little loopy around that time of the month and my oldest brother who used to own some Merry Maid franchises said both his maids and his customers were both pretty goofy when the full moon rose in the East. This year Sutter Memorial Hospital delivered 45 babies in a 48 hour time span and are calling that a record. So I think there is something to this.

And those of us who went on the August 13-14 event all agreed that this event had the most number of bizarre happenings they'd ever encountered. That is everyone except first timers Rick and Linda Gauthier who just figured that this is what a SAMOA event was all about. What troopers. I won't bore you with all of the weird details but here are most of the out-of-the-ordinary things that we experienced during the weekend.

- Early on the hotel reneged on its negotiated room price and after booking a half dozen or so at the negotiated price started charging more.
- 11 cars expected but 18 showed up
- The event planners left about 30 miles out of the directions
- We watched water pouring out of a Foster Farm's chicken truck. If they use ice to keep the frozen chickens frozen we all decided to switch to Tyson's for a while.
- We watched a trailer tire blow and come apart along the highway flinging rubber at us. We flagged down the driver to notify her and she pulled off the road – with part of her trailer on the exit ramp and part on the freeway shoulder.
- Ellen Frosch's car died along the route and she ended up in the hospital with heat stroke while waiting for AAA (see her article elsewhere in this newsletter). Fortunately the engine failure did not damage her Mahogany paint job (arguably the most beautiful color Miata has ever created).
- About 80 people showed up for dinner as opposed to the 60 the restaurant expected. Actually the restaurant was told about the increased number but figured that the two originally scheduled servers and one wait staff would suffice – it wasn't.
- Upon driving into Yosemite on Saturday night we realized a forest fire was going on. At each stop the smoke grew thicker and more uncomfortable to breath. Some fires were burning within a few feet of the road and my biggest fear was that the smoke would damage my Mahogany paint job (arguably the most, etc., etc., etc.)
- Due to the smoke many of the cars either turned back or didn't follow the leader so we were all scattered around Yosemite that night.
- Someone checked their fuel gauge for the first time that day when they were at Glacier Point and realized they were close to empty. AAA actually made it up there albeit not until 2:15 AM. My camera strap disconnected itself from the body and my camera fell to the ground. This is a new camera that I just purchased to replace my old camera which also took a dive on an earlier vacation this year. This one survived.



There were probably a few other weird and unusual things that occurred but thank goodness my memory has wiped them clean. The Forestiery Underground Gardens was a great tour. Sunday's drive to Castle Air Museum was uneventful and if you like to look at old airplanes you would enjoy it. Those of us who took the back roads – those much less travelled – back to Sacramento came upon a great restaurant where we stopped and had a really nice lunch.

And so we had some fun and some not so fun times. We all decided this event held the weirdness record and we probably will not do it again. Did I mention that I forgot to pack a change of underwear? Eeeeeewwwweeee.

FIRST TRIP TO YOSEMITE

By Diana Loo

The man in the moon was smiling down on Chris and I when we were packing the car at 6 am on Saturday morning. Little did we know that this would be the only time that we would see the moon like that this weekend. This was Chris' first trip to Yosemite and we were looking forward to a fun weekend.

Little did we know the adventure that was in store for us. We should have heeded the signs that were presented to us that warned us of the fate of the weekend.

We left Folsom around 6:30 am giving us ample time for getting lost and anything else that can happen. As we approached Prairie City Road we encounter our first mishap. Prairie City Road was closed for a triathlon later that morning. So, we decided to take Folsom Blvd and get on Highway 50, however when we got there, I could not find the on ramp due to all the orange cones directing traffic away from Folsom Blvd.

We did manage to get to Grant Line eventually only to encounter a delay by the freight train on Grant Line and Stockton Blvd. We thought our luck had turned for the better because we did not have to wait very long for the train and what else could happen.

Our luck only lasted until Galt, there was road construction at the designated meeting place (Burger King). We get off the freeway and the GPS stops giving me directions. We can see the Golden Arches (McDonalds) but no signs of Burger King. We had a nice tour of downtown Galt.



As we were getting ready to leave, it was fun to watch Mike's reaction as Miatas kept showing up. Mike was expecting 11 cars and ended up with 18 cars. The trip to Fresno was uneventful, thank goodness and the tour of Forestiere Underground Garden was really interesting.



We got to Mariposa, survived the morning, took a short nap and was ready for a fun and late evening. Dinner at China Station took forever; the restaurant was not prepared for

us. We were finally on the road to Glacier Point to see the moon.

We were at the end of the line of approximately 40 something cars. The drive was dark and we could not see much (image no street lights in the mountains). For reasons unknown to Chris and I, the group stopped so we tried to pull off at a safe location. The only place that I found was at the beginning of a line of cars that had pulled over. A few cars drove past us so I pulled out to follow them when it was safe. It turned out that they were driving down the mountain instead of up to Glacier Point. It took us a few miles to find a place to turn around. By the time we returned to the location where we stopped, there we no Miatias to be found. At this point we decided to go back to Mariposa.



Heading back to the hotel, I got lost and ended up in Yosemite Valley. Once there, I remembered to set the GPS for the hotel (it was a long day). I think Chris was a little worried about us getting back to Mariposa. Chris and I had a nice leisurely drive back to the hotel. The nice leisurely drive ended when I passed the driveway to the hotel. That is when we got egged. It was amazing how one little egg could find so many places in the Miatia that is hard to clean and get to.

We ended the night by going to our room to find out that the lock on the door to the adjoining room was broken and we found the door a jarred. As Chris was calling the Mariposa Police Department, I was showing the hotel manager the door. He told me that it was OK and that we were safe because he will be at the desk all night long. Also, I pointed out the bathroom door would not close.

We ended the weekend with me getting lost. I got to Folsom and for some reason, I could not remember how to get to Chris' house. I was only 1 block away. All in all, we had a nice time

SAMOA Scrabble Scramble 2011 – August 27th

By Jeanne George

It was a great weekend and a new venue for Scrabble Scramble. 21 Miatas enjoyed mild weather in Sutter Creek at the Sutter Creek Inn for the annual Sacramento Area Miata Owners Association sponsored "Scrabble Scramble". Of the 44 participants, again, the San Joaquin Valley Miata Club had a large turnout. The Southern California Miata Club members came from far away as Fontana, West Covina, Chino Hills and Cucamonga in order to drive some more in the Northern California Gold Country....perfectly logical for Miata lovers. Friday night party goes socialized in the hospitality suite with snacks and beverages. Others grabbed



their canvas goody bags with directions, maps, and game info plus their logo shirts and headed for dinner in town.

Saturday morning saw drivers shinning up their cars for the show and shine which was held in the back parking area of the hotel. Prior to leaving, drivers were required to vote for the favorite car.



The day looked promising for a run through the hills. The morning route from Sutter Creek took the group on some one lane canopy roads into beautiful historic Murphys for lunch at the local park. In the afternoon it heated up and many put their tops up and turned on their AC's. The roads were "quicker" going into Volcano for another tile stop and back to Sutter Creek.

The awards banquet was held at the downtown Twisted Fork Restaurant. Tri-tip, pasta and chicken breast were the choices at the buffet. The food was delicious and abundant. After dinner,



awards were handed out for various competitive categories. It was noted that drivers were able to practice their u-turns skills several times. But none were lost.

The car show winners were swept by the San Joaquin club. The Scrabble Scramble winner was Dick Johnson with the word "backfire" followed closely by Marci Jarvis. Diana Loo also was a winner.



Additionally a raffle was held for the benefit of our soldiers in harm's way. It brought in \$345, which will be used to pay for the costs of the items for the packages sent to the troops each month by SAMOA. We thank everyone for their contributions.



SAMOA AT GREENHAVEN ESTATES



SEE AND BE SEEN

DRIVE AROUND THE LAKE



**SACRAMENTO
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*Celebrating the finest, most
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Interesting Facts For All SAMOANS- Did You Ever Wonder.....

By Adi Damania

Q: Why do men's clothes have buttons on the right while women's clothes have buttons on the left?

A: When buttons were invented, they were very expensive and worn primarily by the rich. Since most people are right-handed, it is easier to push buttons on the right through holes on the left. Because wealthy women were dressed by maids, dressmakers put the buttons on the maid's right! And that's where women's buttons have remained since.

Q: Why do ships and aircraft use 'mayday' as their call for help?

A: This comes from the French word *m'aidez* -meaning 'help me' -- and is pronounced, approximately, 'mayday.'

Q: Why are zero scores in tennis called 'love'?

A: In France, where tennis became popular, round zero on the scoreboard looked like an egg and was called 'l'oeuf,' which is French for 'egg.' When tennis was introduced in the US in 1881, Americans (mis?)pronounced it 'luff' which of course became 'love.'

Q. Why do X's at the end of a letter signify kisses?

A: In the Middle Ages, when many people were unable to read or write, documents were often signed by a person with an "X". Kissing the "X" on the paper represented an oath to fulfill obligations specified in the document. The X and the kiss eventually became synonymous.

Q: Why is shifting responsibility to someone else called 'passing the buck'?

A: In card games, it was once customary to pass an item, called a buck, from player to player to indicate whose turn it was to deal. If a player did not wish to assume the responsibility of dealing, he would 'pass the buck' to the next player.

Q: Why do people clink their glasses before drinking a toast?

A: It used to be common for someone to try to kill an enemy by offering him a poisoned drink. To prove to a guest that a drink was safe, it became customary for a guest, when he/she did not trust the host, to pour a small amount of his drink into the glass of the host. Both men would drink it simultaneously. When a guest trusted his host, he would only touch or clink the host's glass with his own.

Q: Why are people in the public eye said to be 'in the limelight'?**A:** Invented in 1825, limelight was used in lighthouses and theatres by burning a cylinder of lime which produced a brilliant light. In the theatre, a performer 'in the limelight' was the centre of attention.

Q: Why is someone who is feeling great 'on cloud nine'?

A: Types of clouds are numbered according to the altitudes they attain, with nine being the highest cloud in the sky. If someone is said to be on "cloud nine", that person is floating well above worldly cares.

Q: In golf, where did the term 'Caddie' come from?

A. When Mary Queen of Scots went to France as a young girl, Louis, King of France, learned that she loved the Scots game 'golf.' So he had the first course outside of Scotland built for her enjoyment. To make sure she was properly chaperoned (and guarded) while she played, Louis hired a couple of cadets from a military school to accompany her. Mary liked this a lot and when returned to Scotland (not a very good idea in the long run since she was beheaded by Queen Elizabeth I of England in 1587), she took the practice with her. In French, the word cadet is pronounced 'ca-day' as the 't' is silent, and the Scots changed it into 'caddie' or 'caddy'.

Q: Why are many coin banks called "piggy banks"?

A: Long ago, dishes and cookware in Europe were made of a dense orange clay called 'pygg'. When people saved coins in jars made of this clay, the jars became known as 'pygg banks.' When an English potter misunderstood the word, he made a container that resembled a pig. And it caught on.

Q: Did you ever wonder why dimes, quarters and half dollars have notches (milling), while pennies and nickels do not?

A: The US Mint began putting notches on the edges of coins containing gold and silver to discourage holders from shaving off small quantities of the precious metals. Dimes, quarters and half dollars are notched because they used to contain silver. Pennies and nickels aren't notched because the metals they contain are not valuable enough to shave.

