

SAMOA member meeting 03/08/2012

President Robin O'George opened the meeting at 7pm, introducing the Board of Officers, Vice President Ellen O'Frosch, Treasurer Jeanne O'George, Co-Secretaries Margie O'Jurach and Renee O'Araiza, Events Coordinator Diana O'Loo, Tech Advisor Mike O'Wilson, Media Director Ron O'Petrich, and Newsletter Editor Jennifer O'Sipe. Robin then introduced lifetime members Dennis O'Swaney, Skip O'Noyes, Ralph O'Gingrich, and David O'DeNuzzo, and past Presidents Mike O'DeLaurentis, and David O'DeNuzzo.

Robin reminded Diana that he can perform marriage ceremonies, to which Diana smiled politely.

Ron discussed the survey that is posted online, there are 70 responses to date, and the cut-off to respond is tomorrow, March 9th, he has paper surveys for those who don't wish to respond online. There will be a raffle drawing for one year of free membership.

Ellen announced that she has a card for Graham Kinsey (Sharon Howe's husband) for everyone to sign. Graham is battling cancer of the upper jaw, is currently receiving chemo-therapy, and so they will not be leading runs for a while. The card was passed around.

Robin announced that Terese Davis will be at the next member meeting in April to sign copies of her book '*Just Miatas*'. Jennifer mentioned that there have been articles in the past few SAMOA newsletters that were written by Terese. Ron noted that there are links from our SAMOA website to the page where you can order the book.

Margie told us about her wonderful trip to abroad to places like Hanoi, Cambodia, Thailand, and Bangkok. She got to pet a tiger, ride an elephant, see lots of temples, and talked with monks. Her experiences allowed her to learn a lot about their cultures and beliefs.

Renee provided the membership report: there are 125 memberships, 215 members, and 138 Miatas.

Treasurer Jeanne George said she had nothing new to report at this time other than her family is visiting her mom, she is 94, has 4 children, 12 grandchildren, 12 great-grandchildren, and 1 great-great grandchild.

Mike, our new Tech Advisor, said he enjoys working on Miatas, stated all improvements he does are to make the car run better, he has been a member since '97 and drives a '91 Red Miata. Mike showed the latest Road & Track with a rendition of the 2014 Miata. This is of course ever changing and the final product may be totally different. Mike discussed shocks and suspension, which does require replacement, how often, however, is up for debate. He provided a brief history of suspension, from none to leaf springs on through to shock absorbers and hydraulics. Miatas have shocks, not struts.

Mike discussed that the Auto Museum has the German car exhibit still, with the VW club through March 18th if you would like to come check them out.

Robin discussed the Elk Grove Mazda Grand Opening, April 18th with a ribbon cutting. They would like to have SAMOA participate. They have also invited us to have our June SAMOA meeting in their showroom, including a tour of the new facility.

Diana Loo reported that the Event Calendar is starting to fill up. Jack Parker talked about the OTM run on March 31st, leaving from the Starbucks in Folsom at 10am, RSVP required by March 24th.

Jack also reported that on May 20th is the Autocross at Mather Field, this is open to all, safe, classes for all Miata levels and driver levels, including separate women's class. Please RSVP to Jack Parker or online.

March 31/April 1st is Miata's at Mazda raceway.

April 20 & 21st is the SJVMC Spring Fling Poker Run, info posted on the SAMOA website.

The Ferrari Challenge at Infineon Raceway is 4/29, contact Ron Petrich for more information or if you are interested in going. Meet at the Chevron in Winters, cost is \$20 - \$25, food available for purchase or bring a lunch.

Miatas in MOAB V is 5/3 – 5/6, \$65 per person.

Rod reported on the Shriner's Hospital Concours d'Elegance (Now called Wells Fargo Concours) RSVP to Rod, Miata car club corral, charity event, awards given in the past for club choice, 'Zoom' award, and others. 10 am- 4 pm, meet earlier, proceeds to Shriner's Children's Hospital and the auto museum. On 6/10/12, deadline to register is Apr. 27th.

Sept. 8th & 9th is the 'Big Event', Olympic themed funkhana in Nevada City, 8 or 9 rooms left, book now.

Sept. 23rd will be the date for the SAMOA Birthday Picnic at Windwalker Winery, more details coming.

SAMOA Christmas dinner will be on December 8th at Vince's in Elk Grove, music/karaoke by Jason Carmel, submit your favorite Karaoke songs to get them played, all genre accepted.

Adi announced he is planning a run to Lake Berryessa, with lunch at Cucina Italiana, details will be posted soon on the SAMOA website.

Kathy announced that the Fort Bragg weekend is scheduled for the Columbus Day weekend, Oct. 5 – 8th. Best Western is offering the same rates, cottage and 6 rooms reserved so far, Abalone Festival happening that weekend, have to purchase a ticket to 'judge' and taste the abalone. See the website for more info.

Ralph is planning another run around the lake the last Sunday in June or the 3rd or 4th Sunday in July, check the website for updates, same as last year.

Skip announced he will be doing another run to Audubon Canyon Ranch, date TBD.

Jenn reminded us that Diana provided an article posted in the newsletter on 'How to Lead a Run', so check it out.

Ralph was presented a decal for putting on a run last year, as was Jack Parker for leading an event last year.

Ron told a bad joke, then discussed Miata's at Mazda Raceway, 4th time put on, track days, parade laps, car show, banquet, vendors selling and installing Miata goods, a few members are planning to go. Skip mentioned that his boss will have his spec Miata there, and will give rides on the track.

Jennifer announced that she is accepting articles for the newsletter, please send them in.

Ellen introduced new member Theresa, who owns a '03 black, and works a lot as a sales rep for Hunter-Douglas. Ellen also introduced Hai, who owns a '99 silver, and works at UCD as an eye Dr.

Dave D. compared the Miata to a VW Beetle, easy to care for and work on, just a little care and they can last a long time. He discussed that Miata's have coil over shocks, more costly than others since can take 3 – 4 hours to replace. Also, it's best to replace fluids, belts, and hoses every 30K.

Raffle winners:

Chocolates: Karen F

Wine: Paul Y, Karen F, Wes Z, Vince, Karen F, Jack P, Karen again, Rod G, Queta

Flashlight: Deb T, Karen F

Duffle Bag & flashlight: Jenn S, Kathy B

Car wash liquid: Rod G

Party mix: Steve G

Car Wax: Queta

Microfiber towel: Renee

Stainless steel bottle: Deb T

Black Bear Diner gift card: Alex & Jace D, Margaret

Pretzels: Chris & Diana

Beer: Renee

BBQ sauce: Mike D

Giardinara: Kaufman