



Who's the Fool?

by Mark Brooks

April Fools' Day is about more than playing jokes, tricks and pranks. That's just the most fun part of the day! Check out why we're all so mischievous on April 1st.

In the 16th century, France celebrated the New Year just like we do today, except they partied on April 1st. In 1562, Pope Gregory changed the calendar to the one we use today and from then on, the New Year began on January 1st. Lots of people didn't know about the new calendar, or they ignored the new calendar and kept celebrating on April 1st. Everyone else called them April fools and played tricks on them.

In France today, April 1st is called Poisson d'Avril, which means April Fish. Children tape paper fish to their friends' backs and when the young "fool" finds out, the prankster yells "Poisson d'Avril!" In England, tricks can only be played in the morning. If a trick is played on you, you are a "noodle." In Scotland, you are called an "April gowk," which is another name for a cuckoo bird. In Portugal, April Fools' is celebrated on the Sunday and Monday before Lent. Pranksters usually throw flour at their friends.

Did you successfully pull off an April Fools Prank? Let me hear about it! Shoot me an email at cagecko@comcast.net and I may include it in next month's edition of Miatatudes.



Robins' Nest

by Robin George

Have you checked the WHEELS section in the Sacramento Pravda...oops I mean Bee recently? On March 21, 2008 our club took almost one column to highlight all the events we have scheduled. We are arguably (Mike's word) the most active car club in the Sacramento area. And from what I've heard that is being planned this year we are going to be that way all year long. Thanks everyone for your hard work. Now it's up to the membership to get out there and participate. Let's swamp the events. Tax our organizational skills and get out there and show your support. I want to thank those who attend our General Meeting each month. Sometimes the meetings get out of hand but most of all they always end up FUN. Come and meet your fellow enthusiasts. You can hear us ramble and you can add your two cents too. We don't judge. I apologize for last months off the wall Irish Jokes plus the consensus of the group is they were bad. I got the reaction I wanted and you got to groan. I can do it again? But I think self-preservation is the better part of valor and by your critique, it wasn't very good. Besides I don't want you to throw anything. We have a new PA system which works very well for our uses. Its wireless so no one is safe. Don't be afraid to speak to the group. The more you talk the less I talk. Hint hint.. I write this and the above part of this Nest sitting in the Tahoe Donner Ski Lodge Bar while a group of kids from Natomas Charter School run around in the snow. Elevation 7061 feet. This is a nice perk of the school bus job other than sitting in a ski lodge where you can't drink or ski. But I get paid watching the NCAA's on TV and playing on this computer. The weather was gorgeous and the air clean. Cough cough!! Tomorrow I get to watch my son drive my car at the SAMOA autocross championships in Stockton. I'll be driving too, but it will be rewarding to watch him as the bug bites him and I ruin his life to the world of autocross. To be continued...

WOW... what a great time. There were roughly 2 groups of 30, which comprised all types of vehicles and styles. We even had Drifters. They were a different group to say the least. Their object was to drive the car sideways as far as one could and burn as much rubber off their tires as possible. They also enjoyed striking as many cones as they could without getting kicked off the course. We all intermingled and checked out our vehicles and talking about manly things. They awed at our ability to speed though the course and we awed at their ability to make noise, smoke and kill cones. Maybe awed is to strong a description, it more like we looked in disbelief. Check out the other autocross articles and pictures in this newsletter.

See you at the next general meeting on April 10, 2008 (Incidentally, the day after the Tech Advisor's birthday!)



SAMOA Faux Summer Olympics

by Mike DeLaurentis



"The Thrill of Victory, the Agony of Defeat". The blaring trumpets playing the Wild World of Sports them song. I can hear it now. And you will too when you attend SAMOA's own version of the Summer Olympics on August 23.

The Olympic Committee is hard at work selecting and refining the games you will compete in ensuring that they are challenging, but simple enough that even the non-athlete can compete. The Broad Jump, Balance Beam, Shooting, Javelin, Shot put, Boxing, and others are all under consideration.

The \$10.00/person entry fee covers the rental cost of the Olympic Stadium; generous supplies of liniment, Advil and Aleve; medals; and a BBQ lunch. Please send your checks, made out to SAMOA, to Jeanne George, 1864 Bridgecreek Drive, Sacramento, CA 95833 or better yet give her the check at the next meeting or event you attend.

You are guaranteed to have fun or your money may be cheerfully returned.

Your Olympic Committee.

Great Opportunity!

by Robin George

Great news!!!!

At a special session of the Board of Officers this week a proposal was voted on and approved. It was proposed that the club buy a basic Miata to work on. At each general meeting we will discuss what we had done to the vehicle and those in attendance will suggest on what to do next. This would give everyone an opportunity to see and hear first hand on how to work on their vehicle. It will be an ongoing project in progress. Negotiations were finally concluded with a local body shop for a place to store and permit us to work on this vehicle. They were very generous and will even assist if need be. They have also given us permission to have members attend as the work progresses. Members will provide the labor and many vendors have graciously agreed to supply parts. One magazine has shown interest in publishing our progress.

This project will take the better part of the year and when finished it will be offered for sale. The monies from this project will fund the next vehicle to work on. The board believes this project will take us to a full service club where we not only own and drive our Miata's but we are able to understand and be involved in the maintenance of the Miata. Please join us in this fantastic evolution of SAMOA.

OTM (Other Than Miata) Run April 5th

by Jack Parker

Get those Other Than Miatas out of the garage and join everyone for some coffee and cars on April 5 at the Starbucks on Prairie City Road in Folsom. We invite any and all who want to show off the pride and joy in that garage. This event is open to all members who have something other than a Miata and to all who just want to see what we all have. Cobras, Shelbys, Mopars, trucks, PT Cruisers, motorcycles and all the Ferraris can come out and enjoy the day. Starbucks is located at 1860 Prairie City Road in Folsom. The event will start at 10:30 with lots of car talk and gawking and we will then head on out to go see a car show in Loomis on some back roads. Any and all are invited. For information contact Jack Parker at culdad@svics.com or 916 698 2006.

Treasure Trove

by Jeanne George

WELCOME to these new members joining in March

Robert and Jean Hayes

Nick Csik

Larry Hamilton

Memberships Expiring April 1

Coleman, John & Susan

Gonzalez, Rod

DeNuzzo, David & Deidre

Gray, Deni

Howe, Sharon

Kinsey, Graeme

Stevenson, Steve

Stuessy, Sandra & Fred

Towan, Jim & Renee

Memberships Renewed during February

JoAnne and Ralph
Gingrich

Memberships Renewed during March

Sherri & Rex Rowland



New Event Notice

by Jack Parker

This is a marvelous opportunity. Mazda has announced that they will be sponsoring an event to take place in Tokyo, Japan to commemorate the twentieth anniversary of the launch of the Miata in 1989. Details as of yet are sketchy but a website has been set up to make available to all Miata owners, an all expenses paid trip to the unveiling of the all new Twentieth Anniversary Edition. The new car will be painted in one of the most beautiful colors in Miatas twenty years. It will be a nostalgic reminder of past years with a look to the future. Starting on April 31, the first 100 verified Miata owners to register on www.mazdasmostbeautifullycoloredcar.com will receive this trip. The only thing you need to do is show proof of ownership of a Miata. Go for it guys!

Hotcars and Hotcakes June 7

by Jack Parker

We are going on our annual trip to Kirkwood Inn to enjoy those tiny little hotcakes. I am sure that one hotcake could probably feed a small undeveloped nation for a week. We will meet at Mar Sha Tes, located at 7238 Murieta Drive in Rancho Murieta. We will meet at 8:00. An 8:15 drivers meeting will take place with a departure of 8:30. We need the extra time because the Inn stops serving breakfast at 11:00. We will be taking a route that goes through Volcano for a short pit stop and then a trip up Rams Horn Grade, which is always fun and then onto Shakeridge Road to Kirkwood. We will return by way of Omo Ranch Road through the Shennandoah Valley wine region and should be home by 2:00. Contact Jack parker at culdad@svics.com or at (916) 698-2006.

Bridgeport Run - March 29

by Mike DeLaurentis

According to the weather guessers the rain was supposed to stop on Friday night and Saturday, March 29, was supposed to be overcast but dry. They got that one wrong and no one can attest to it more than Robin and Jeanne George who left their home in Sacramento with their top down.



By the time they got to Roseville it was sprinkling and by the time they got to the Newcastle Denny's, our rendezvous spot for the Bridgeport Covered Bridge run, it was raining. They didn't quite look like drowned rats by the time we saw them but they also didn't look like happy campers. I was silently thinking that if only one or two cars showed up we would cancel for the day

and reschedule for later in the Spring when the weather would be better however when I mentioned it to first timer Ken LaFler he said "No way, we're going". How could I say no to such an enthusiastic participant?

Much to our surprise nine other cars arrived not the least bit intimidated or put off by the rain and so we had an event. We had several first timers and a few veterans



and as usual we had a good time. The route is really a good one, if I don't mind saying so myself, and if you're interested in running it just ask and I'll send you the directions. It has a nice balance of open roads, curves and hills meandering through the countryside with plenty of horses, cows, goats to look at and an occasional deer or two.

Pulling into the South Yuba River State park onto the old Virginia Turnpike we were met by Howard Voshell, longtime docent and very interesting guide, who gave us a tour of the park including the private Kneebone cemetery; the 146 year old Covered Bridge thought to be the longest arch/truss single span covered bridge in existence; the wagon barn containing old wagons dating back to the 1800s; and the visitor center. The weather cooperated as it remained dry as we roamed the park but no sooner did we get back into our cars and start climbing out of the South Yuba River Canyon the rain returned and lasted until we got to Nevada City and lunch at Lefty's Grill – a good place to eat, not fast, but good.

This park offers a lot in hiking, fishing, summertime swimming, panning for gold, and even has the country's only wheelchair-accessible wilderness trail.



I truly thank all of you SAMOANs and visitors who came out for this run in the inclement weather and urge you to follow the route again when the pavement is dry.

Mike DeLaurentis

Reflections in a Rearview Mirror

by Jeanne George

Wednesday this week was a sunny but cool morning. I was driving to visit my Mom at the Care Center to help with her physical therapy.

I was the third car in line stopped for a red light and no one was behind me. It was getting warm in the car so I glanced up to my temperature gage located above my rear view mirror. That is when I noticed movement in the mirror. A large white object was headed towards me at a high rate of speed. My reaction was that I hope that vehicle slows down. But as I watched, it wasn't. I braced myself for the obvious hit I was going to incur. I watched in horror as the vehicle was still coming at me, moments later I saw the vehicle attempt to swerve to miss me. But he didn't react in time. He hit the rear bumper and the side of my PT Cruiser. The force sent my vehicle forward. I remember jamming hard on my brakes to keep from hitting the car in front of me. I smacked my head hard into the head rest and was shaken up.

As I turned off my car, thoughts ran through my head of what I needed to do. I got out of the car and walked to the back. I heard the man talking on his cell phone, telling someone "I just hit a lady", and cussing. When he got close to me he said, "I'm sorry Miss I was rushing to my next job and wasn't paying attention. I never saw you stopped." Well at least he didn't call me madam. We went to our cars to get our information. I heard him talking to someone (his boss) and mentioned yes he had a camera phone. I had a camera in my car so I took pictures, including the fact there were no skid marks. His big company truck had minimal damage done to it.

While gathering my registration, I remember thinking, Thank you Dad for teaching me to always leave extra space behind the car in front of me. Your advice to me as a seventeen year old paid off. Then I started to chuckle, Thanks Mom for always telling us girls to "wear clean underwear when you leave home, you never know when you might be in an accident." These thoughts had me laughing and I then called Robin, my rescuer.

I went to the doctor the next day and she told me I would be hurting more over the next several days. The fact that I saw what was coming and braced for it was going to make it worse. I am recovering from injuries, and am amazed at how many areas can be affected.

I am fortunate that I wasn't hurt worse; the worker's company insurance will pay the \$6000 damage to my car and the rental bill. But what makes me mad is to have my record broken of 40 years of accident free driving. I'll never be able to exceed that record again.

2008 SAMOA Club Autocross Championship

by Jack Parker

March 22 marked the crowning of new class and overall club champions for 2008. Fifteen competitors showed up at eight o'clock in the morning to walk the course set up by the Competition Sports Car Club.(CSCC). CSCC had set up a run group just for us and everything worked well during the event with the exception of a few minor glitches that set up reruns for a few competitors. Hey, just more practice.

The first runs produced some interesting results as everyone was driving the course for the first time. Class I, novice drivers with very few modifications to their cars saw new club member Nick Csik (pronounced CHICK) turn in a 46.443 to be the leader. Class II, novice drivers with more modifications to their cars) was close with Clay Cowen and his ancient tires posting a 44.017 followed closely by Jim Burgess with a 44.333. Class III (experienced drivers with fewer modifications) saw defending club champ turn in a top time for the first of 42.623. Class IV (hideously modified cars) was interesting in the fact that Jack Parker went off course and had to back up to get back on course providing new meaning to the term late breaking. Jack turned in a 46.953.



Second runs in Class I saw Nick hold his lead as no one improved their times. In Class II Clay Cowen ran the top time so far in the club with a 42.354 putting the pressure on his class as well as for overall. Class III saw no one improve. Class IV leader Jack Parker turned in a 39.833 to take top time at that point for overall.

Third runs saw things start to heat up a bit as Eric Vance came from out of nowhere to post a class leading 46.371 thereby putting pressure on Nick. In Class III no one improved with everyone remaining status quo. Class IV saw Jack improve his time to 38.979.

Last runs were exciting as leaders were threatened as competitors were getting comfortable and pushing their cars hard. With Eric leading Class I it put pressure on Nick. Nick



responded with his best time of the day and came out of nowhere again and produced an eye popping 42.975. Great job for your first day on track. In Class II Robin George (el presidente for life) got his bald tires (Robin, that means they are broken in) to produce a 42.920, good enough for second place behind Clay's top time. Class III saw all competitors run their best times. Andrew cranked out a 42.603 for first and Darrell Huckabay ran his fastest time of 43.362 for second. In Class IV, Jack ran a fastest time of the day for the overall win and giving Russ Smith a first in Class IV

Thanks to all for competing. I know I had fun. Many thanks to Ross Donner for volunteering to keep stats for the day. That was greatly appreciated and made the event run very smoothly. Let's get more cars out for the 2009 event. How about a ladies class for next year. You gals know you like to drive fast!



Times from the Autocross event in order:

Driver	Class	Time
jack parker	IV	38.547
clay cowen	II	42.354
andrew melicharek	III	42.603
robin george	II	42.920
nick csik	I	42.975
jim burgess	II	43.196
darrel huckabay	III	43.362
mark brooks	II	44.063
rod gonzales	III	44.730
eric vance	I	45.320
russ smith	IV	45.768
tak auyeung	II	46.757
doug lockhart	I	47.103



Shriners Hospital Concours d'Elegance

by Rod Gonzales

There's less than a month left to register for this year's Shriners Concours MX-5/Miata Club Corral.

This is the 15th Annual Shriners Hospital Concours d'Elegance Charity Event, A Classic Celebration to Benefit a Classic Cause, and it will be held Sunday, May 18th at Mather Field in Rancho Cordova. This year's event marques are Corvette, Jaguar, Alfa Romeo, and the Ford Model T.

The Shriners Hospital Concours d'Elegance, sanctioned by the Sports Car Club of America, is one of the Sacramento area's premiere automotive events where hundreds of antique & classic vehicles, sports cars, muscle cars, and street & custom rods will be shown and judged. All proceeds from this event will go to benefit the Shriners Hospitals for Children.

Your very own Sacramento Area Miata Owners Association received an invitation to participate with a number of other area car clubs in the Concours Club Corral. The club entry fee is only \$40.00, which will get your Miata and two people into the Concours Club Corral. Your entry fee not only includes a spot in the club corral, but also two lunch tickets, two drink tickets, an event program, and a gift package.

With a minimum of 10 cars entered, our club will be given three trophies, which we can award as we like. Last time, our members judged each other's cars and used the trophies for "Club Choice", "Best Detailed", and the "Zoom-Zoom" award (for most personalized). Similar trophy categories will be used this year, and club trophy winners will participate in the Shriners Concours Award Ceremony.

You need not have a pristine Miata to display in the club corral (you should see some of the British Car Club's entries). This is all for fun and to show our support for the Shriners Hospital for Children.

I will once again coordinate our club's participation in this event. Contact me at rodnoid@sbcglobal.net or call 916-366-1670 to request a registration package. I will also have them available at the April membership meeting. Event details and registration package are available on-line directly from the link on our events web page:

http://www.sacramentoareamiata.org/event_shrineconcours2008.html

Please forward your completed registration form with a check in the amount of \$40 made payable to Shriners Concours d'Elegance to Rod Gonzalez, 2905 Gwendolyn Way, Rancho Cordova, CA 95670. Visa and MasterCard payments will also be accepted; space is provided on the entry form. Entry



forms must be received no later than Monday, April 28 to reserve your spot in the SAMOA Shriners Concours Club Corral. Confirmation letters will be mailed shortly thereafter.

As in previous years, this event will span the whole weekend with something for everyone including the SCCA Sacramento Chapter's Shriners Charity Event Autocross on Saturday at the Mather Police Training Facilities. Autocross run group schedule and details are on-line at: <http://www.sfrscca.org/solo2/Sacramento/Cup20085.htm>. Run on Saturday, show on Sunday! Information on more weekend events is available in the registration package and from the Shriners Concours web site at www.shrinersconcours.com.

This is a great Show 'n' Shine event that will promote our club, allow us to enjoy the company of classic cars and show our support for this very worthwhile community charity event. Remember, all proceeds will go to benefit the Shriners Hospital for Children.

So come on out and join the fun. Let's have a big SAMOA turnout for this event!

Upcoming SAMOA and Local Events

- Saturday April 5 - OTM Run II
- Thursday April 10 - SAMOA Monthly Meeting at Coco's.
- Monday April 21 - Got Guts at Thunderhill III.
- Sunday May 4 - Ferrari Challenge at Infineon Raceway in Sonoma
- Thursday May 8 - SAMOA Meeting at Coco's.
- Sunday May 18 - Shriners Concours d'Elegance Charity Event
- Saturday May 22 - Club Autocross.
- Saturday June 7 - Hotcars and Hotcakes - Kirkwood
- Thursday June 12 - SAMOA meeting at Coco's
- Monday June 16 - Sacramento RiverCats game

Be Careful What You Wish For

by Fran Rowell

A Government Employee sits in his office and out of boredom, decides to see what's in his old filing cabinet. Poking through the contents and comes across an old brass lamp.

"This will look nice on my mantelpiece," he decides, and takes it home with him. While polishing the lamp, a genie appears and grants him three wishes.

"I wish for an ice cold diet Pepsi right now!" He gets his Pepsi and drinks it.

Now that he can think more clearly, he states his second wish: "I wish to be on an island where beautiful nymphomaniacs reside."

Suddenly he is on an island with gorgeous females eyeing him lustfully.

He tells the genie his third and last wish: "I wish never to have to work ever again."

POOF!

He's back in his government office

A Coastal Cruise

by Pam Hunt

A trip to the coast of California in January seemed somewhat crazy, but we really needed to get out of the house. Our Miata needed exercising and we needed to escape! We met up with Denise Correia and William and Terri and Bob Bacon at Mel's in Jackson and started our trip with a wonderful breakfast. It was still raining, but that didn't put a damper on our feeling of freedom. We headed down hwy 49 with the windshield wipers going and looking forward to meeting up with SJVMC in Fresno for their annual Coastal Cruise.

Our cruise down 49 was great – even with the rain. That road is always a great Miata road and that day it was no different. We spent the day heading through rain, some breaks in the weather and fortunately no snow to drive in. There had been a good amount of snow the previous day, but the roads were only wet and sanded. We got into Fresno in the afternoon and checked into our motel. We met up with a few people from SJVMC for dinner and, after dinner, went to get gassed up for the next day.

It would seem that getting gas would be a non event, but we managed to make it something out of a Three Stooges movie. We had a bit of difficulty getting out of the parking lot out to the main road, and did several loops through the gas station at Costco and the surrounding parking lot before we finally found our way to freedom. Tired from all that excitement, we headed back to the motel to get ready for the big day!

Saturday dawned amazingly clear and we were surprised to be able to have our tops down for the days drive! We met up with about 20 other cars from several clubs including SJVMC, BAMA, SLO Miata, San Diego and, of course, SAMOA. After the drivers meeting we headed out. We expected the driver over to the coast to be somewhat bland in comparison to the beautiful mountains we have here in the Sierra foothills, but it wasn't!

We left Fresno heading Southwest and found that Ron Branam, our leader, had planned a wonderful drive. The route through the Lost Hills oil field was amazing. I had never seen so many wells – there were well over a thousand and most of them active. Many of the major oil companies have well fields down there and there were gathering pipelines and plants and all the other associated stuff. Then came "wild" part. We had a roller coaster ride through the San Andreas fault area. It was really like riding a roller coaster! There were two sections of road where the bumps were continuous and stomach dropping-what a kick!

We stopped in Atascadero for lunch and met up with a few more cars from San Diego. At one point, Randy was asked by another patron of the restaurant if we were a bowling team! He said no, we were a car club. The guy asked what kind and of course Randy replied "Miata"! The amazing response was "never heard of them"! We got a good laugh out of that.

We continued on after lunch and made it to San Simeon by late afternoon. We checked in and enjoyed a nice bottle of Merlot with the Bacons while relaxing before dinner. The group got together for dinner at a nice Mexican restaurant on the coast, but by that time it was raining again. It continued to rain for the rest of our trip.

Sunday dawned wet after a windy and very wet night and we grouped up to head up the coast to Monterey. The drive was somewhat treacherous as there were many rocks on the highway –some of them fairly large. The weather had caused many small slides during the night and the road crews were having a hard time keeping them all cleaned up. We made it through, though, with no one having hit anything of consequence.

We met up for lunch at the Fishermans Wharf in Monterey and enjoyed a large bowl of clam chowder and lots of sourdough bread. We were entertained during lunch by a group of sea lions who had taken over a pier near the restaurant. We enjoyed them playing around and also were amazed by a group of pelicans that were hanging around. Talk about big birds! After lunch we split up and headed for home. It was still raining, but it didn't change the fact that we had a wonderful weekend with a wonderful group of people. Miata people are great!