



Thanksgiving

by Mark Brooks

The first recorded Thanksgiving ceremony was on September 8, 1565, when 600 Spanish settlers, under the leadership of Pedro Menéndez de Avilés, landed at what is now St. Augustine, Florida, and immediately held a Mass of Thanksgiving for their safe delivery to the New World; there followed a feast and celebration. As the La Florida colony did become part of the United States, this can be classified as the first Thanksgiving.

El Paso, Texas, has also been said to be the site of the first Thanksgiving to be held in what is now known as the United States, though that was not a harvest festival. Spaniard Don Juan de Oñate ordered his expedition party to rest and conducted a mass in celebration of thanksgiving on April 30, 1598.



Robins' Nest

by Robin George

Thanks to those who went on the Full Moon Run in October. I know it was short notice but sometimes those are the best. We had 8 cars with 13 people. The weather was perfect and the moon FULL. (see additional article) So let's try again. I'm going to run another Full Moon Run on December 12th. I'll finish with the details in a couple days. What I know for sure is that we will start at a different place and run a different route, but we use the same moon. Now of course this will be "weather permitting."

Any members have some ideas for the club to do? Now is the time to get your dates on the calendar for next year. Contact a Board Member to get the ball rolling. Next year (2009) promises to be even better than this year and 2008 was an eventful year. We had autocrosses, hangover runs, Christmas and birthday parties, we went to prisons, 50's bashes, track days, State Fair exhibits, Summer Olympics, scavenger hunts, broadcast on the radio, participated in other clubs activities, gimmick runs, and of course we have had our infamous packed General Meetings. The club is getting better and better and bigger and bigger. We have a lot of talent out there so get those ideas in. We are one of the most active clubs in the area. We don't just park and sit. We drive our vehicles and enjoy each other. Sometimes the

Miata becomes secondary next to the event.

Well, summer has been winding down and fall is among us. Time to start picking up leaves and cleaning up the pumpkin mess left over from Halloween. Did anyone dress up? I know you gave out candy because the candy wrappers ended up on my bus and kids are bouncing off the walls. Thanks!!

Thought I would add this old Irish rhyme:

***Here's to a long life and a merry one
A quick death and an easy one
A pretty girl and an honest one
A cold beer and another one!***

Web Updates

by Ron Petrich

In our continuing effort to provide an excellent web experience for SAMOA members, visitors and prospect members, we are contemplating a few updates in the coming months. One change has already taken place, and the rest will be discussed by the BOO at its next meeting, and implemented after that.

This month I added an online membership enrollment form to our site. So now prospective members have a choice of submitting their demographics electronically or (still) via paper form. This assists us in getting spellings, email addresses, phone numbers, etc., right the first time. It also allows a new member to get enrolled more quickly. To access this online form, just log onto our membership page and follow the link.

So what else is in the offing? Well, we are rethinking the current welcome page on our site. As you may recall, that page contains a message from our president, Robin George, as well as a short welcoming video. This site has remained unchanged since we went live with our site in 2007. It needs to be updated. We're not exactly sure how it will evolve yet, but you can be sure that higher resolution video will play a role, perhaps a multimedia presentation about the club, its members, our activities, etc... set to music. Anybody interested in putting something like this together?

In order to keep the site fresh, the look and feel next year may change slightly (colors, textures, etc). The content and core of the site will not change... everything that is currently available will remain so. But we need your input. What additions and/or enhancements do you want to see? Please let us know.

Treasure Trove

by Jeanne George

WELCOME to these new members joining during October

Ellen Frosch
John Soltesz
John Folsom
Al Angulo
Mark and Ellen Cutler
Richard Kelly and Carolyn Layfield

Memberships Expiring November 1

Black, Cat and Ken Johnson
Brooks, Mark
Correia, Denise
Dunne, Gary
Huckabay, Darrel
Jurach, Tom and Anne
Paauwe, Bob and Genny
Patstone, Walt and Cheryl

Memberships renewed in October

Somplack, Jon & Alice
Penfield, Larry & Barbara
Parker, Jack & Sally

At the October 9th monthly meeting I announced that the newest member, Ellen Frosch was our 38th new member which tied with the total of new members added to SAMOA in 2007. By the end of the meeting, three more people joined: John Soltesz, John Folsom, and Al Angulo. October mail in applications added Mark and Ellen Cutler and Richard Kelly and Carolyn Layfield. Our new membership count is 43 memberships that added 65 new people this year.

Many of the new members are getting information about SAMOA from the web page. Another big success has been this year's offer of a one year free membership to any new person purchasing any year Miata from any source. We welcome all of you!

October Birthdays

by Ron Petrich

Congratulations to the following members for surviving another year:

Cliff Benzel - 11/24
Genell Csik - 11/24
Dave DeNuzzo - 11/06
Jean Hayes - 11/07
Richard Holland - 11/04
Bob Jensen - 11/27
Doug Lockhart - 11/24
Kimberley Lusenhop - 11/20
George McIntyre - 11/15
CeCe Myers - 11/16
Frank Nicholson - 11/06
Astrid Senger-Gibbons - 11/16
Mila Spengler - 11/08
Mary Ann Taylor - 11/28

Happy November birthday to all of the above. If you have a November big day and we missed you in the above list, please contact the webmaster immediately so we can update our files. Right now our birthday records are up to about 85% coverage. If you are part of the 15%, why not let us know so we can help you celebrate.

Events and then some

by Jack Parker

The SCCA recently completed its 2008 autocross season. Although attendance overall was down from previous years the competition was just as intense as usual. SAMOA was represented by the usual suspects with Rod Gonzales, Darrel Huckabay and Jack Parker taking trophies this year. Also participating was Eric Vance in SM2, Tak Auyeung, Andrew Melicharek and Ken Johnson in STS2 while Martin Neft spent a few days in C Stock. Next year let's have an even higher profile in these great events.

The next event on the schedule is the 8th Annual Teddybear and Toy Run on November 8. As usual we will be meeting in Rancho Murieta at 7238 Murieta Drive at 9:30 with a 10:00 departure. We will be going on a short (1.5 hour) run up to Jack Russell Brewery for a barbeque lunch. Check the website for more details and a list of toys for the kids at the home.

As quoted from our website, the following information is available for our annual Christmas party. "Let the warmth of friendship take the chill from the air

and the spirit of the season make winter easier to bear. You're invited to the annual SAMOA Holiday Dinner on Saturday, December 6th at Lion's Gate Hotel. No-host Cocktails starts at 6:00pm. Please join your fellow Samoans for an evening of merriment." For more details please contact Gundi Bechtold at gundib@gmail.com or 916 784 3123. Also available on the website are a menu and sign up sheet that is downloadable and printable to send in.

That concludes the years events. As of this very moment there a lot of events in planning stages but none on the calendar. As usual if you have any ideas for future events give us a call and we would love to help you plan and organize an event of your choice.

Sunday Services

by Fran Rowell

One Sunday morning, the pastor noticed little Alex standing in the foyer of the church staring up at a large plaque. It was covered with names and small American flags mounted on either side of it. The six-year old had been staring at the plaque for some time, so the pastor walked up, stood beside the little boy, and said quietly, 'Good morning Alex.'

'Good morning Pastor,' he replied, still focused on the plaque. 'Pastor, what is this?'

The pastor said, 'Well son, it's a memorial to all the young men and women who died in the service.'

Soberly, they just stood together, staring at the large plaque. Finally, little Alex's voice, barely audible and trembling with fear asked,

'Which service, the 8:30 or the 10:30?'

Ft. Bragg Weekend

by Ralph Gingrich

Joanne and Ralph Gingrich would like to thanks the club and all the members that have helped with the Ft. Bragg weekend. We have a great time doing this event over the last six years.

This years was one of the best times in Ft. Bragg because of the group spend alot of time together. We went to Menfo Bestro Friday night and Saturday we went to Sharons By the Sea for lunch and then minuatare golf. The women beat the men and they also had more holes in one.

The dinner on Saturday was good and thanks for all the help in doing the dinner.

Sunday we went to winery by the ocean and had a very nice lunch. After lunch we all went shopping in Ft. Bragg and mindoceno. The jam and chcoloate shops we good as usual.

Joanne and Ralph say thank you to all members of SAMOA.

Gingrich News

by Ralph Gingrich

Joanne and Ralph would like everyone to know that the family has increased. Their son Mike and Christine Gingrich have purchased a 95 Miata on Saturday October 18.

Mike and Christine bought a red with black and tan interior. It is a 5 speed. Mike said that the body is in good shape and he has washed and waxed, till he is happy. He pulled the eye teeth and install a chrome style bar.

I know he wants to do some things to the car.. He will be doing some other things . I will also talk to them about joining the club, even though they live in Garderville, NV.

My Favorite Season

by Mike Delaurentis

Fall is my favorite season. Mild daytime temps, blue skies, crisp evening temps, leaves turning red and gold, and a great car to enjoy it all. And that is what Helen and I did this past weekend. After a great Sweetie Pies breakfast in Placerville and a quick stop at Apple Hill to pick up a few goodies; we drove over the Mormon Emmigrant Trail, Carson Pass, and Monitor Pass. We stopped in at the Markleeville Visitor Center for some local tips and checked out the Grover Hot Springs State Park (pass on this unless sitting in hot dirty water is your thing). We drove down to Walker, CA to visit my oldest cousin (82 and still very active and spry – hope I have some of those genes) and then returned over pretty much the same route enjoying the colors from the other side of the trees. What a fantastic view and we will try to turn this into a Fall colors run next year. Now if everyone could just have a Mahogany Mica (arguably the most gorgeous color Miata ever created) to enjoy the Fall it would be a perfect world.



Upcoming SAMOA and Local Events



Sat Nov 8 - Teddy Bear Run

Thurs Nov 13 - SAMOA Club Meeting

Sat Dec 6 - SAMOA Christmas Party

Thurs Dec 11 - SAMOA Club Meeting

Sat Dec 13 - Wreaths Across America

Look at all the open space! Want to help set up an event? Contact Jack Parker!

Wreaths Across America

by Jeanne George

Remember the fallen, honor those who serve, teach our children the value of freedom.

Wreaths Across America, is a nationwide December event which honors our Nation's fallen heroes. Wreaths adorned with red ribbons are placed on the graves of our fallen soldiers at National Cemeteries. Fifteen years ago, the Worcester Wreath Company of Harrington, Maine began by donating and placing wreaths at the Arlington Cemetery. Through sponsorship and donations the tradition has spread to include other National Cemeteries. Worcester continues to supply the wreaths for nationwide distribution.

Last year the Sacramento Valley VA National Cemetery was opened in Dixon, CA. Helen and Mike DeLaurentis invited Robin and me to take part in the wreath laying ceremony. We attended the ceremony and afterwards joined other volunteers by placing the wreaths on the gravesites. It was a very moving memorial.

We have decided to make this a SAMOA Miata event this year. We will meet in Davis and caravan to the cemetery in Dixon; time and location to be determined. We invite you to join us at the wreath-laying ceremonies to be held concurrently on Saturday, December 13th, 2008 at 9:00 am PST.

The program goal is to be able to place a wreath at each soldier's headstone. Wreaths Across America is raising money thru sponsorship of wreaths, and donations to help fulfill its mission. We would like to help the organization to achieve this goal. If you would like to purchase one or more wreaths to commemorate a deceased veteran, I will be placing a group order on Friday November 14. These wreaths measure 20" in diameter and feature a hand tied red velveteen bow. The cost is \$15. We will request the wreaths be delivered to the Sacramento Valley VA National Cemetery in Dixon for placement. Contact me at jeanne@winfirst.com to place your wreath order or mail your request and a check payable to SAMOA, 1864 Bridgecreek Dr. Sacramento, CA 95833. You can place your order and pay at the November 13th meeting.

Please join the DeLaurentis' and the George's for this memorable experience.

For more info: <http://www.wreaths-across-america.org>

** "Both the Arlington Wreath Project and Wreaths Across America profess no political or religious agenda - but rather wish to remember and honor our veterans during the holidays - a time of traditional family gatherings - and teach our children that we are able to do so, in peace, because of the many sacrifices made by our military men and women."



October Full Moon Run

by Jeanne George

Robin decided to host a drive under the October full moon; unfortunately it was occurring during the work week. After debating with himself, longer than it took to plan the drive, he sent out notice of the event to the members.

It was 75 degrees as we arrived at Mel's, the meeting destination. Not knowing what kind of response we would get, we were pleasantly surprised to find four Miatas in the parking lot. Inside we found Barbara and Don Wroth, Rod Gonzalez, Ross Donner, Cece Myers and Mario Lavoie had arrived early to have dinner. We visited, ordered coffee and chocolate to go and waited. Kit and Genise Syn arrived followed by Peter Watters, who arrived from South Lake Tahoe and was using the event as a diversion on his way home to the Bay area. At 7 pm we headed to the cars and a short driver meeting. Mark and Emily Brooks arrived and we were ready to leave.

With 8 Miatas, 13 people, and a small dog we lined up for the adventure under the moonlight. As we left, the night was pleasant and warm and the tops were down. Robin led the group along roads which soon got us out of the North Natomas area traffic and bright lights. Our route took us along rarely used roads near the Sacramento International Airport. There was no traffic and the moon was bright over our shoulders as we faced the head on arrival of the landing lights from the airplanes. It was a special sight to see the planes land next to us and see the lights of others backed up coming in for their landings. As we progressed further from the city, the dampness of the fields gave off a wet hay aroma. Driving at night can definitely bring surprises. While using the radios we were able to keep the group advised of upcoming obstacles. Some we encountered were a man walking his dog down the middle of their road, a large possum on a slow walk, and many large owls apparently disturbed by our headlights. We traveled along the levee and could see the many mansions brightly lit up. We arrived in Nicholas and decided to take a break. As soon as the cars stopped, trunks popped open as the group grabbed for their jackets. The coolness of the night had caught up to us. The return drive was just as enjoyable except now the moon was in front of us casting a glow across the fields. We certainly had the perfect night for this event. We arrived back at Mel's around 8:40 and were met by Ralph and JoAnne Gingrich. JoAnne was unable to get off work in time and wanted to have dinner and wait for the group. Some headed home and others stayed for pie and coffee. All indicated they enjoyed the event.



Why I love my Miata

by Adi Damania

My first taste of a sports car was seating in a 1948 MF TC roadster with wire wheels and a flat rectangular petrol tank at the rear of the two-seater. It now occurs to me that by today's standards it would be considered a death-trap in case of a rear-end collision!

My next rise was in a 1968 fire-red Triumph Spitfire with the front hood that lifted completely off together with the fenders so that one had an absolute unobstructed access to the 1500 cc 4-cylinder engine with twin-solex carbs.

My next brush with a roadster was a blue 1954 XK-120 Jaguar roadster. Why I wanted to buy but could not afford even though the price was only today's equivalent of \$500. But the year was 1964 and \$500 was a lot of money in Bombay, India at the time.

So, readers, what I am trying to get at is that from a young age I had this hankering for a roadster which fantasy could only be realized when I move to the U.S. 10 years ago. The Miata was just there and a used one was definitely affordable. Within a couple of years I moved up from a 1994 cream white first generation Miata to a Mica Ble 1999 10th Anniversary. In between for about 6 months only I had a 1995 SE Merlot Mica, which sadly, came to a dead end on one of SAMOA's runs.

I love my Miata because I know now that it is the roadsters that I had always dreamed of owning, and that, short of a lottery win, it will be the last roadster I will ever own, as Parvin is not too taken with open sportscars, or with any sportscar for that matter. She is a steady Mercedes 4-door Sedan fan. Which she may one day own, depending when I kick the bucket!

The Miata blends the unique thrill of driving a nippy little car with some of greatest road holding abilities that I have seen. Now, add to this rock solid reliability and trouble-free running and you have a winner! My Miata will soon complete 100K miles and I have not spent a single dollar on repairs. In fact I have not even changed the timing belt! The only expense so far has been a set of 4 Toyo Proxes tires, and a West Co. battery.

Every alternate Saturday we have maid service come in and do the house-cleaning, which an excuse for me to escape from the home for a good 3 hours; just me and my Miata and the open Yolo county roads. Sadly, it all came to a sticky end, last Saturday when I was stopped by a Davis (yes, all my 4 tickets so far have been at the hands of the DPD) patrol car and given a speeding ticket for going 60 mph in a 55 mph zone!! It came with an admonition from the officer that "If you want to go fast stick to the Freeways", like I did not know that! Duh!

Anyway, why are cars like the Miata, Porsche, Ferrari, Lamborghini, and Maserati, built at all if they cannot be driven with gusto on everyday roads? Do I have to go to a race track every time I want to really "drive" my car? The control in a modern sportscar like the Miata calls for higher speeds and corners that are marked for 35 mph can easily be taken at 60 mph. Will someone give us Miata owners a break? But I still love my Miata. I filled gas at the cheapest station in Woodland for \$3.55 for 89 Octane and got some many admiring glances, not only from young kids who giggled but also from their moms! "Nice Car" or "Love that Color" is what I usually get, which makes me very proud of my Miata. In fact I am afraid they must be murmuring beneath their breath, "what a nice car, but what lousy owner?"

Cheers till next time.



1968 Triumph Spitfire - the very last one made.

More Photos of the Full Moon Run

by Mark Brooks

