

Miatatudes

A Slippery Slope...

by Mike DeLaurentis

Fellow SAMOANs,

At the spirited January meeting long time SAMOAN and Placerville resident, Denise Correia, asked if anyone had experience using snow chains on Miatas. It seems that some of our higher elevation members get to drive in the snow a few times a year. Coincidentally I had just read an article about snow chain/tire alternatives that morning and this is what I learned. There are two new products that can be used as an alternative to snow tires or snow chains.

The first is a pressurized can called Tyre Grip that is sprayed directly on tire treads. In tests this improved traction and breaking for a mile on level ground but its sticking quality faded quickly and it also proved worthless when driving up hill.

The second product is called AutoSocks. This device slides over the tire (a tire condom if you will) and worked fairly well. (It did not prevent tire social diseases however, so abstinence is still the best policy!) It provided traction up hill as well as on flat ground but was cumbersome to slip on and off – expect to get dirty and wet. It is designed for use on snow or ice and needs to be removed when the tire is on dry pavement.

So there you go. You needn't be afraid to drive your Miata in the snow as long as you are prepared.

No love for Hof Brau

by Mark Brooks

In an attempt to explore new meeting venues, the January SAMOA monthly meeting was held at HofBrau at Watt and El Camino. The room was markedly smaller than the room we usually occupy at Coco's, but smaller chairs and banquet-style tables allowed more people in a smaller space. The overall consensus from the group was that we should continue (for now) meeting at Coco's. Robin is still seeking feedback from people who attended the meeting at HofBrau, and is also accepting suggestions on new meeting locations. If you know of somewhere that may be able to accommodate our crazy group, provide separate checks, is fairly central to the Sacramento area, and has decent food, please let Robin know!

Valentine's Day

by Mark Brooks

- 110 million roses, the majority red, will be sold and delivered within a three-day time period.
- Valentine's Day is the big time of year for red roses; Mothers' Day means more pastel roses.
- California produces 60 percent of American roses, but the vast number sold on Valentine's Day in the United States are imported, mostly from South America.
- 15% of U.S. women send themselves flowers on Valentine's Day.
- Hallmark has over 1330 different cards specifically for Valentine's Day. Valentine's Day is big business. Consumers will spend an average of \$77.43 on Valentine's Day gifts this year.

Care Packages for deployed Soldiers

by Mike DeLaurentis

We want to thank all of you who have generously donated items for the monthly care packages the club is sending to deployed servicemen/women. We have a lot of magazines (although none of the good ones with centerfolds) and we have a lot of books. We had a lot of peanut butter crackers until we heard that they were possibly infected with salmonella so we destroyed them. I thought we could sent those to OBL but wasn't sure which cave to address it to.

In any event there are a few items in short supply so if you would like to donate just a few of each that would be great. They are:

Gatorade packages	Foot powder
Packaged mixed nuts	Chapstick
Bug repellent	Shaving cream
Fly paper	Lotion
Phone cards	Individually packaged handy wipes

And of course if you know of a service man/woman deployed to a combat zone please give us their name and address and we will put them in the cue for a package.

Thank you.

Mike & Helen DeLaurentis

mdelaurentis@hotmail.com 916-791-9418

Really Hung-Over Run Review

by Mike and Marlaina Wilson

It was a dark and gloomy morn. The fog, thick as a hog's head, hung on the moors. There was danger in the air....

Not really. I have just always dreamed of being a 19th century English novelist.

It was actually a chilly, but clear, Sunday as 23 Miatas and two O.T.M. carried their 45 passengers to a late morning assemblage at the purveyors of that liquid caffinated gold known as Tall, Grande and Venti, Star-lotsa-bucks in Natomas. The reason for all of us getting together was the annual Hangover Run. Or, as it was called this time, being 3 days away from New Years day, Really Hung-Over Run. Our Tall, Grande leader Robin taking the reigns as chief hair-of-the-dog (or is that hairy dog?) guiding us to a spirited run through Natomas, then West Sacramento where we hooked up with River Road. This is a beautiful stretch of scenic highway that a lot of us, myself included, don't utilize enough to truly enjoy the sights of the river, the foliage and some of the gorgeous homes lining the other side. Not many turns on this road, and at times, a bit uneven, but a great way to stretch out the legs of our little barchettas.

Through the navigation of a few turns and stop signs we wound our way through the farmlands and fields you normally only see as a patchwork quilt when flying into Sacramento Irrational, err, I mean, International Airport.



I know that everyone, who goes on a SAMOA run, normally has a place in the line of cars that they feel most comfortable with. Whether it's 6 cars or 26, the more 'spirited' drivers like to be up front, whereas the more leisurely oriented, like myself, like to hang back at the back of the pack. I like this spot for a few reasons. First, I don't

feel pressured to keep up. Next, I love to come to a curve or a slight valley and be able to see the snake of shiny cars in front of me. That has always been such a neat sight to see on these runs. And lastly, as much as I like to look at our line of cars, I also can't help but notice the people in the cars going by us in the opposite direction or waiting for us to go by, checking out these fabulous machines, with invariably a big smile on their faces. I don't think you can notice this so much when you're the second or third car in the chain, but when you know that these people just watched 20 or more cars go by them, it's a kind of "Look at Me!" moment and I can't help but get a smile on my face.



As we meandered through these lush fields we made our way into the Capay Valley. For those unaware of where that is, we weren't too far away from the Cache Creek Indian Casino. This casino is run by the little known tribe of the Nolutks. There must be a lot of members of that tribe as you hear that name repeated many times when you're inside the casino.

Our stop for the day was at a wonderful little eatery called the Road Trip Bar and Grill. It had been mentioned to us earlier by Robin and Jeanne, that this had a reputation as a biker bar, so we could only expect a dark, seedy place with a few pool tables and a jukebox containing songs about rambling and fighting, not necessarily in that order. To our delighted surprise the Road Trip Bar and Grill turned out to be a bright, clean and upbeat place with delicious

food and a very gregarious staff eager to please. This is definitely a stop you should make on your way to the casino, or further on to Clearlake or points beyond. Our sincere appreciation goes out to the proprietors of this establishment, Paula and Jerry Tackett. Although the staff worked their tails off, it was impossible to serve all of us at the same time, so patience was the true order of the day. I must say, it was well worth the wait.

During the run, the George's had given us the task of discovering a monument that had been pictured in the driving directions handed out at the beginning of the run, and then giving our best estimate of distance from starting point to its' location. There is a fascinating story behind this monument. The story was presented in written form to whoever wanted to read it at lunch. I won't go into detail but here's a brief synopsis: February 5th, 1856, nine miles above Sacramento, the steamer Belle's boiler burst. She had on board 50-60 passengers and crew. Only a few bodies were recovered and fewer survived to tell the story. Leonidas Taylor, who died in the explosion, and whose body was never found, is the name on the monument dedicated to all.

By show of hands during our lunch break, it was apparent that most of us had missed the monument, but some had seen it and the mileage estimates ranged around 10 miles, with the actual distance being 9.6 miles. Two couples, Terri and Bob Bacon and Jennifer and Mike Sipe, had the correct mileage and each was awarded with a bottle of wine.



After a while of great conversation and fun, some of us got back into our cars and played follow-the-leader on a very spirited (read "fast") run through some twisties going past the aforementioned casino, then turning around and heading back to our lunch spot. When we returned to the café, most everyone had left to enjoy the rest of their day. With some warm goodbyes we too went on our way and looked forward to our next get together.

Marlaina and I wish everyone Peace, Love and A Very Happy SAMOA New Year!

Treasure Trove

by Jeanne George

We welcome our 1st New Members of 2009

Wayne and Michelle Thomas

Memberships Expiring February 1

Carlson, Bob and Donna

Donner, Ross

Gingrich, JoAnne and Ralph

Masterson, Peg

McIntyre, George and Pat

Memberships renewed in January

DeLaurentis, Mike and Helen

Moe, Ron and Linda

Murray, Brenda

Rainbolt, Joe and Carol

Smith, Russell

Wilson, Mike and Marlaina

Wroth, Donald and Barbara

Zicker, Wes and Paula

We have had numerous requests by members who would like to purchase club attire. We were able to obtain a great deal on some merchandise and will begin carrying a limited supply of embroidered Tee shirts, Polo shirts and hats. Please see the article in this newsletter. The inventory should arrive by the February meeting. You can reserve an item by contacting me at jeanne@winfirst.com

February Birthdays

by Ron Petrich

Thanks to those of you who responded to my recent email asking for your birth date. With your help we are filling in the gaps and now have almost everyone's. There are still some hardcore non-responders, but we have a fix for that. We are going to declare February 30th as their honorary birthday.

Ellen Cutler February 15th
Michael Ehnstrom February 8th
Joanne Gingrich February 8th
Michael Gingrich February 25th
Ralph Gingrich February 8th
Sharon Howe February 10th
Jill Johnson February 12th
Margie Jurach February 5th
Dorothy McCamey February 18th
Angela Pokadko February 1st
Anne Steele February 24th
Michelle Thomas February 5th
Ann Vance February 16th
Susan Willett February 16th
Toni Wilson February 3rd

Tak Auyeung, Don & Dorothy Cottrill, Mike & Kathy Dugan, Joe Harvison, Meg Masterson, Martin Neft, Niki Draconetti, Sally Parker, Dennis & Mary Swaney, and Wesley & Paula Zicker either all flunked physics class when they were in school, or took way too many philosophy courses. They think that they can exist in the universe without ever being born. Hah!!! Have we got news for them. They have each been assigned February 30th as their birthday, which actually comes around 3.1416 times per year. We now know, for example, that Dennis has been a SAMOA member for nearly 60 years, and that Wes & Paula have the nicest looking 53-year old Miata on the planet. And the rest of you look mighty well preserved for being 90 to 200 years old. Have a great birthday everyone!

Upcoming SAMOA and Local Events



- Sunday, Feb 1 - Superbowl Sunday Run
- Thursday, Feb 12 - SAMOA Monthly Meeting
- Sunday, Feb 22 - President's Run
- Thursday, March 12 - SAMOA Monthly Meeting
- Saturday, March 14 - Chili Cook-off
- Sat-Sun, March 21-22 -Miatas at MRLS
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Chili Cookoff

by Vi Nicholson

Frank and Vi Nicholson are hosting a Chili Cook-Off for the SAMOANS on Saturday, March 14 at 3PM at their home at 8040 Cobble Court, Granite Bay. They are being coached on how to pull this event together successfully by Fran Rowell, who has done a wonderful job on the past Chili Cook-Offs. (Fran decided that her place is too small to handle the crowd...so Frank and Vi stepped in, so that their fellow SAMOANS wouldn't miss out on this tasty and fun event.)

And now.....for the details:

- There will be a run before the event, which will start about 1PM. Mike DeLaurentis will provide details on the run at a later date. (Bless you Mike. Arguably you are one of the best SAMOANS ever).
- There will be prizes for:
 - o the HOTTEST (edible) Chili
 - o the MOST Original Chili...(Is that too risky?)
 - o the Overall Favorite Chili
- And, there will be a game or two add some fun.

Attendees are asked to bring their special chili for the contest.

Or for those who aren't into making chili, but want to join in, you are MOST welcome and you can bring:

- a salad, or a dessert, or dip/chips
- or some condiments and/or some bread.

(Just let Frank/Vi know what you plan to bring)

Water and some soft drinks will be provided. If you plan to want something stronger.....it's bring your own.

All are encouraged to join in the fun.

Sign up sheets will be available at both the February and March SAMOA meetings, or you can email Frank/Vi at TheFolksGB@surewest.net, or call 916.797.2785, to sign up and let them know what you plan to bring.

***Exhaust control will be appreciated.**



Classifieds:

Aftermarket Montego Blue Hard Top from 1996 Miata - \$800 obo. Fran Rowell: Franrowell@aol.com

Stock suspension springs (front and rear) from 1994 Miata - \$40 obo, Mark Brooks: cagecko@comcast.net

Car worth more than \$5M found in deserted garage in UK

by Adi Damania

It is not often that one finds exotic cars in old country barns or abandoned garages anywhere in the world. But occasionally we do run across these finds and my story this time is about such a find recently unearthed. The nephew of Harold Carr, a reclusive Newcastle (UK) doctor found the 1937 Type 57S Bugatti Atalante in a garage after the good doctor died late year before last. The history of this car goes somewhat like this: It was originally owned by Earl Howe - first president of the British Racing Drivers' Club -and brought new to the UK with the right-hand-drive option. Earl Howe took delivery of the sporty two-seater Atalante Coupe after it was completed in 1937 and kept the car for eight years.

The car was produced in October 1937 (no 8 of the 17) with engine #439 and the optional Lockheed hydraulic brakes. The body was an all black factory made by coach builder Ventoux . The car had been ordered on Nov 22, 1937 by the London Bugatti agent Sorel in a batch of two cars (57604 and 57605) and the chassis was finished on Dec 22, 1937. The factory had promised the car for the beginning of February 1938, and it kept its promise: It was delivered on Feb 7, 1938 to Earl Howe.

After Earl Howe sold it, it changed hands a couple of time before Dr Carr bought the car in 1955 from Lord Ridley, a member of the Northumberland gentry. Dr Carr drove the car for the first few years, but in 1960 for some yet unexplained reason it was parked in his garage where it remained until his death.

Dr Harold Carr, a former British army surgeon, left the contents of a lock-up garage to his family when he died in 2007. In addition to the rare Bugatti, his nephew also discovered a classic Aston Martin, and a Jaguar E-type in the locked-up garage. The family was totally in the dark about this car collection as the doctor lived a reclusive life and did not see his relatives often and did not venture out much. However, we now that James Knight, international head of Bonhams' motoring department, knew about the car for he said: "I have known of this Bugatti for a number of years and, but like a select group of others, hadn't dared divulge its whereabouts to anyone. It is absolutely one of the last great barn discoveries."

The Atalante is incredibly original and, although she requires refurbishment, it is 'restoration' in the true sense of the word. The new owner should have a truly rewarding project.- and who will join a select list of distinguished owners - to play such an integral part in bringing this wonderful motor car back to life. The car has a remarkably low mileage with an odometer reading of just 26,284 miles.

The Bugatti 57S is a highly coveted car by collectors, with at least four thought to belong to the Musee Nationale de L'Automobile in Mulhouse, France. Others remain in the hands of private collectors. This classic car, thought to be one of just 17 built, is to be sold by Bonhams in Paris in February.

The doctor's nephew, an engineer from Newcastle, said: "We just can't believe it. Of course we're delighted and we're going to make sure the money is shared out among the family. It's a wonderful thing to leave behind."

Now, my plan it is buy a 1990 Miata in as pristine a condition and with the lowest mileage possible and store it in an old garage, suitably covered up of course. Then wait for 75 years.....and But before that, why wait 75 years? I am going barn hunting!



Changes, Champs and Chumps

by Jack Parker

Tis the time of the year when it is time to bitch and moan about the SCCA and their "Here is the schedule, no wait the schedule has changed and oh by the way did I mention that we changed it again" attitude. Sports Car Club of America should be renamed to Schedule Change Club of America. I had scheduled, in accordance with the race schedule posted back after the first of the year, the club championships. In the same vein, Rod scheduled the Shriners Concours. These were nicely packaged into one weekend of May 16 and 17. So the emails start rolling in. Schedule Change! The first race weekend gets moved to April 25-26 from the original March date. No problem here. On a side note the first changes only impacted our family schedule on a minor basis. So we change our plans. Mission accomplished and life moves forward. All is good.

NOT! The supposedly last schedule change has arrived in my email box. Shriners weekend is being moved to April 4-5 with the Concours now on April 5. Since this is a weekend our family is out of town the Club Championships are being shifted to the original Practice Event in Stockton, March 22 with Competition Sports Car Club sponsoring that event with the format much like it was last year with lots of runs and a free afternoon of fun. So get those beasts out and get them ready. I suppose mine will be out of the shop by then, I hope, with a new stronger clutch, a lighter flywheel, a supercharger belt that doesn't break, a new power steering belt that wont shred in a million pieces, a new airbox, one less seat and whatever ornamental crud I can jettison. Light is right.

Now on to the latest news for the Drivers Weekend Out on August 22-23. After letting me know that they really shouldn't let me reserve 10 rooms on that August 22 date, I get a call telling me that oh never mind yes we can do it after all. As Bill King used to say, "Holy Toledo". Can we not get our stories right. Anyway, ten rooms are reserved and should now be booked. Please call Janet at the Topaz Lodge reservations desk and tell her you are with the Miata group and would like to reserve a room. The cost is \$90. The number for reservations is 1-800-962-0732. If not reserved before August 1, she will let them go to the public. This promises to be an exciting run through the Sierras and good night of stories and refreshments. By the way, breakfast is included.

Now for events that have not been changed by the SCCA. Usually not worth noting but because of the move BACK to Coco's I should mention that we will be moving back to our original location after a general thumbs down on the last experiment. Same bat channel and time.

The Presidents Run is scheduled for February 22. This event is another Robin and Jeanne extravaganza complete with the usual pre run speech and complete instructions to an as yet unnamed location. The details are unnamed as well.

March 14, marks the return of The Chili Cookoff. This event will be held at the home of members' Frank and Violet Nicholson, 8040 Cobble Court, Granite Bay, CA 95746. It will include a run ably assisted by Mike & Helen DeLaurentis. The run will begin at 1:30 PM at a location yet to be determined. Participants can expect to arrive at the Nicholson's home at about 3:30 PM for the cook off. More details will be forthcoming. Please contact Frank and Violet at thefolksgb@surewest.net or Mike & Helen DeLaurentis at mdelaurentis@hotmail.com.

Finally, dust of those Other Than Miatas for the OTM III to be held April 11 at the towe museum. We will be meeting in the Towe parking lot at 10:00 for a meet and greet and stories about our cars. So whether it is a Cobra or a Kia, a Honda or a Hyundai or anything else other than a Miata bring it along. We will be touring the Towe Museum and going out to lunch.

So to rehash all the changes and upcoming events:

February 22	Presidents Run
March 14	Chili Cookoff
March 22	Club Autocross Championships (changed for May 16) Stockton
April 5	Shriner's Concours (changed from May 17) Mather Field
April 11	OTM III

If there are any questions do not hesitate to email me at culdad@svics.com.



IT'S TIME TO TUNE UP YOUR TASTEBUDS AND REV UP YOUR ENGINE

You're invited to join your fellow SAMOANS at a CHILI COOKOFF

When? Saturday, March 14 at 3PM

(Yes...There will be a run before the Cookoff...starting at 1PM from _____ and finishing at the Nicholson's at 3PM*.)

Where is the Cookoff?

Frank and Vi Nicholson's home
8040 Cobble Court, Granite Bay
Phone: 916.797.2785

What do I need to bring? You can bring either:

- A pot of your special chili to share
- A salad with dressing
- A dessert
- Some chips & Dip
- Chili toppings (onions/cheese) and/or some bread

AND...ALL need to bring a beverage or two of their choice. (We'll have water and some soft drinks, but if you have preferences or want to have beer/wine.....please bring what you like to drink.)

We will have a game or two to liven up the event and of course will have lots of time to try out the various chili dishes...so we can vote on the winners

Please sign below if you can join us. We sure hope so.

_____ will be there ready to "party" (Number in party) ____
We'll bring _____

Please give this form to Vi or Frank at the February or March meeting, **or** send an email to TheFolksGB@surewest.net **or** call 916.797.2785.....to let us know you'll be coming and what you plan to bring.

Please reply no later than Thursday, March 12.

***Details on the run to follow.**

LIMITED to stock on hand



2-ply Pima Jersey Polo Shirts 100% cotton embroidered with: **Sacramento Area Miata Owners Association** in black lettering. **All sizes \$10**

White or Red: large, X-large, 2X-large

Hunter Green: large & X-large

Burgundy: X-large



100% Cotton Jersey Tees embroidered with: **Sacramento Area Miata Owners Association** in black lettering \$10 for large or X-large, \$12 for 2X-large

White: large, X-large, 2X-large

Red: large, X-large, 2X-large

Black with red lettering: large or X-large



Brushed Twill Hat embroidered with: **Sacramento Miata Club** \$7 each
White with black lettering, Red with black lettering, or Navy with red lettering



Hooded sweatshirt \$18 black with red lettering. There is only one medium size and one size large.

To reserve an item contact Jeanne George at jeanne@winfirst.com or 916 359-2627