

# Miata Tudes

## Robin's Nest

*Drop Tops and Egg Tricks...*



Hello everyone. The convertible season has arrived. We have had some gorgeous weather on the last three events. Two scheduled and one impromptu. In addition, for the next several weeks there are events planned for everyone. Show and shines, wine runs, romps through the hills, show up and drive, and instructional. Members have been stepping up and are asking other members to come along on their favorite runs. This is what makes our club special from other car clubs in the area. We also have a unique event planned for May 9<sup>th</sup>, a Detail Clinic. For those who signed up earlier they will be treated to learning how to get that lasting shine on their Miata and getting rid of that embarrassing door ding. They will learn from the professionals. This is the right time of the year to get their Miata's ready for all of the events coming up this year. They will be able to pamper and treat their Miata to an all day makeover. In addition, they will be rubbing elbows with their fellow SAMOAN's and enjoying fine cuisine.

You have made the Sacramento Area Miata Owners Association one of the best Car Clubs in Northern

California. We display our cars, we drive our cars, we work on our cars, we bristle when someone uses the word "cute", some (even though they will not admit it) sleep with their cars. In addition, each year gets better thanks to you, "the Member". I can't say enough for your Board. They work on many things behind the scenes to make various aspects run smoothly and are willing to explore many different avenues for the membership. Moreover, it shows. It is very rewarding to see the smiles on our participants.

Please check out an event of your choosing and attend the event. The organizer did it just for you. Tell them how much you appreciate their efforts (I do not pay them enough as it is). If you do not see an event that appeals to you, think of an area you would like to visit and let us know. I am sure there are many who think the way you do and would like to visit that garden spot also.

See egg trick: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qfPIWNh2rEI>

Vote on Logo: <http://www.sacramentoareamiata.org/>



Just for Ron..

"Buy Me Some Peanuts  
And a Final Resting Place"

Chicago's Bohemian National Cemetery unveiled its ivy-covered, Wrigley Field-inspired mausoleum Wednesday, giving departed Cubs fans a fitting place to have their remnants interred. The most popular payment option, no doubt is the one better known as Wait'll Next Year.

-Associated Press, Seattle Times



## SO WHAT'S THE BIG DEAL ABOUT THE AUTO INDUSTRY - JACK PARKER

Just recently, the Discovery Channel, Speed and HDNet had some interesting documentaries concerning the automobile, its origins and the future demise of said industry. Coupled with the outpouring of editorials from publications such as Road and Track, Autoweek, Sportscar, Automobile and Car and Driver got me to thinking that the solution may be right in front of us and we are too blinded by "the crisis" to see such obvious remedies.

The view from I sit is often clouded and sometimes obscured by my rather narrowly focusing eyeballs. That of course is when they are focusing at all. But from here I can see the that the auto industry must make some changes. So I am declaring myself a candidate for Car Czar of the World. Not just the United States, but the world. These solutions are so obvious that you are going to wonder aloud why the hell didn't you think of them first.

The auto industry is relying on marketing and manufacturing strategies that have been around since the early 1900s and since the last time I checked, this is the age of computers, cell phones, HD tvs, digital cameras and the inter-web that Al Gore invented and supplies us with You Tube, Facebook, My Space and heaven help us all, Twitter. Thank you Al! But all these industries have figured out a way to make all their products seem sooooo important to us earthlings that we can not live without a new one every time the current one of these gizmos and dohickies or websites becomes obsolete. And it seems that ten year olds know more than anyone about the workings of all of them way better than me.

So here is a point by point plan for saving the auto industry.

1: Have you ever seen the documentary about Cubans and their love of cars. Not just any cars but the ones they drive every day and can not get parts for because THEY WERE ALL BUILT IN THE USA ABOUT FIFTY YEARS AGO. Or worse yet they were built by the Russians last week. Laws of supply and demand work here famously. We have cars. The Cubans need cars. The solution: Invade Cuba. They will love us for it.

2: When I was growing up, at around age ten, I discovered that every September, the dealerships would present their new cars to the public. We would rush down there after school and collect brochures about Corvettes, Bel Airs, Chargers and whatever else Detroit had come up with.. Ten year olds love cars. We need a larger market. Solution number 2: Lower the driving to ten. What ten year old wouldn't love a car. A whole new market. You could even sell them at Toys R Us.

3: No offense to you tree huggers out there but your Prius', Insights and Hybrid Camrys are ugly. If you are going to build a slow, efficient car why do you have to make it ugly too?. Most people hate ugly cars. Solution 3: Give Ford to the Aston Martin design team. Give Chrysler to Fiat/Alpha/Maserati/Ferrari. Give Chevy to VW/Porsche/Audi. Of course all manufacturing would be done in the states. But who wouldn't want to own a 150 MPG Aston look-a-like.

4: The cell phone makers have this one figured out already. They get you to sign a two year contract included in said document is an early termination clause. Give it up early and they charge you your first born child and your left leg. You do this willingly because you want to talk, text and take pictures. The auto industry can not seem to get people to keep coming back. Solution 4: Verizon and A T & T will hence forth be pricing cars like they price cell phones. They practically give you the phone and then charge you to use it. And we love it that way because we keep coming back for more. Give cars away and charge the a users dollar a mile to use it. If you do not like the car after say, six months and you decide to change car companies, Verizon or A T & T can charge you an early termination fee of say the entire retail price of the car.

5: Computer companies like Apple have got it great. They have created an environment where you can not wait for the next generation of processor to appear in a new computer. The average life of a generation of Macs is about 6 months as it seems. Solution 5: Since our cars are soon to be all electrical components much like a computer, let Apple do the marketing and let them create a world of car loving, blogging, forum loving and techno geeky customers ready for every new upgrade. So every six months the auto makers come up with an upgrade to your car that you just can not live without.

There. That was easy wasn't it. Bet you are wondering why you didn't think of it first.



## ON THE SUBJECT OF EVENTS - JACK PARKER

**Picnic D'Art Winery - May 2, 2009**

Mike & Marlaina Wilson will lead a very leisurely drive. Over the past few years they have become friends with a couple of wonderful people, Dave & Helen, who own the D'Art Winery in the Lodi area. The run will end at their winery, where they will welcome us to picnic, party and wine taste. There is a large grassy area that will accommodate Bocce Bal, and we can use their barbecue to grill whatever we want to bring.

Meet at the Starbucks at 1160 Exposition Boulevard (just west of Capital City Freeway near REI and Costco) at 10:00 AM for a 10:30 AM departure. There will be a nice drive along the Sacramento River to Highway 12 and then Lodi. There is ample parking for all who choose to attend. Bring your own food, cold if you prefer, or something to put on the grill.

After the picnic, there are 30 some additional wineries to explore in the Lodi area, or a fantastic chocolate retailer called Chocoholics. The winery's website is [www.dartwines.com](http://www.dartwines.com). For more information contact Mike & Marlaina Wilson at (916) 331-3670.

**Ferrari Challenge Races - May 3, 2009**

Once again Ferrari North America is hosting the Ferrari Challenge Series races at Infineon Raceway in Sonoma. These races take place over a three day period, and this year will take place on May 1-3, 2009. Although it has not yet been announced if the Corse Clienti F1 and FXX cars will be present, there will be a full complement of F430, 360, 355 and historic challenge racers participating. In addition, the paddock is open to the public, presenting an opportunity to get up close and personal with both race cars and drivers. Ron Petrich plans to lead a group of interested enthusiasts on a spirited drive to Sonoma on Sunday, May 3rd. All are welcome to join in the drive and attend the races... you do not need to be a SAMOA member to join us, so tell your friends as well. There is a nominal fee at the track... in 2008 it was \$20 per person.

We will meet at the Chevron station in Winters and depart promptly at 8:00 AM. Our early departure will allow us to arrive at the track by 9:30 AM for a full day's enjoyment. Our meeting place is located just west of the intersection of I505 and SR128 in Winters, which is 7 miles due west of Davis.

An RSVP is not required. You may bring your own food and refreshments, or buy your lunch from one of the vendors at the track. For more information about this racing series, go to [www.ferrarichallenge.com](http://www.ferrarichallenge.com). For more information call Ron Petrich at (916) 454-1008.

**SAMOA Detail Clinic - May 9, 2009**

SAMOA will hold its first annual **Detailing Clinic** on Saturday, May 9, 2009. Coincidentally, this date is the weekend before the Shriners Concours d'Elegance club corral, so it is an appropriate time to learn about how best to make your Miata shine as it never has before. The event is free to all SAMOA members and their families, but **you must RSVP to Ron** in order to attend and participate in the drawing to select a car for a free detail. Please RSVP as soon as possible so we can adequately plan for enough parking, hookups and food for everyone.

We will have a professional detailer conduct the clinic. It is Mike Morris, owner of **Mose Auto Detailing** in Sacramento. A lucky SAMOA member will be chosen at random in a drawing of all those who RSVP for this event, and his/her car will be the lucky beneficiary of a professional external detail. This will include washing, claying, polishing and wax of the paint, complete wheel/tire cleaning, and detailing of all other exterior areas. Our maestro will show us the proper way to perform these tasks, and the proper tools, chemicals and waxes to use. The use of the popular Porter Cable random orbital buffer will also be demonstrated. This entire process is one that many detailers charge \$200 - \$400 for, depending upon the size of the car and how much work may need to be done to restore a finish. But Mike has agreed to donate his services in exchange for the referrals and good will it will provide.

But you don't have to just stand around and watch Mike do his magic... you can if you want to, but we will have plenty of hoses available for your use as well. Just bring a bucket and some rags, your favorite car soap and wax products, and have at it. For those who want to use a buffer, electrical hookups will also be available. In addition to Mike Morris, we are also arranging to have **dent removal services available** on site as well.

The clinic will take place at the South Natomas Unified School District headquarters, 1901 Arena Boulevard, Sacramento, in and adjacent to their school bus maintenance shop. There is enough indoor and outdoor shaded parking to accommodate 30-40 Miatas. Thanks to our SAMOA president Robin George for securing this venue. A **free BBQ lunch and refreshments** will be provided to all (nominal fee of \$5 for guests). There is no cost to attend. For more information contact Ron Petrich at [reescopesdad@comcast.net](mailto:reescopesdad@comcast.net) or leave a voice message at (916) 454-1008.

**Shriners Hospitals Concours d'Elegance - May 17**

The 16th Annual **Shriners Hospital for Children Concours d'Elegance** Charity Event, **A Classic Celebration to Benefit a Classic Cause**, will be held at Mather Field in Rancho Cordova on Sunday, May 17th.

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

The \$40.00 entry fee will get your Miata and two people into the Concours club area. Your entry fee also includes two lunch tickets, two drink tickets, event program, and a gift bag. Additional guest wristbands are available for \$10 each at the time of registration.

With a minimum of 10 cars pre-registered for this event, our club will be given three trophies which we can award as we like. As before, our members will judge each other's cars and use the awards provided for "Club Choice", "Best Detailed", and the "Zoom-Zoom" Award (for most personalized). The three club winners will participate in the Shriners Concours Award Ceremony.

You do not need to have a pristine Miata to display in the Concours club area. This is all for fun, to show our support for the Shriners Hospital for Children, and to promote our club.

Contact Rod Gonzalez at [rodroid@sbcglobal.net](mailto:rodroid@sbcglobal.net) or call 916-366-1670 to request a printed registration package, which will also be available at the March and April membership meetings, or you have any questions. Event details and entry form are also available on-line at [www.shrinersconcours.com](http://www.shrinersconcours.com).

It is recommended, however, that you download the complete registration package, with instructions, directly from the website

Please forward your completed registration form with a check in the amount of \$40 made payable to Shriners Hospital for Children Northern California to Rod Gonzalez, 2905 Gwendolyn Way, Rancho Cordova, CA 95670. Credit card payments will also be accepted...space is provided on the form. Entry forms must be received by Rod no later than Monday, May 4, 2009. Participant confirmation letters will be mailed shortly thereafter.

All proceeds from this event will directly benefit the Shriners Hospital for Children, Northern California. For more information contact Rod Gonzalez at (916) 366-1670 or [rodroid@sbcglobal.net](mailto:rodroid@sbcglobal.net)

Two new events, in the planning stages by Robin and Jeanne George are to take place on May 31, The Meet, Greet and Eat event and on June 6, The Full Moon Eve Run. Details on both of these events are not available but check the website soon.

### MY MIATA AND ME AFTER MY FALL AND SUBSEQUENT SURGERY - ADI DAMANIA

At the outset let me be blunt and say that if you fall and break a limb, or in my case a shoulder, you can forget about driving the Miata (especially a stick shift – which mine is) for at least 6 months.

It was Valentine's Day, cloudy and cold with a prediction of rain in the afternoon. What drove me to climb an eight feet tall ladder, to chop off the parasitic mistletoe that was killing one of the pear trees, will remain a mystery. But it will suffice to say that it was rather quixotic to try to do the job that is best left to landscapers. I had finished trimming as many growths of mistletoe as I could possibly reach and decided to climb down when the ladder suddenly gave way below me and I fell head first with my right shoulder hitting a stout root jutting out of the tree at the grass level. There was a sharp noise of cracking bone and excruciating pain and I knew at once that I had broken something big-time. I tried to get up but could not, nor could I get the cell phone out of my pocket to dial Parvin. Anyway, a passing lady in a boxy Scion stopped her car when she heard my shouts of "Help! Help!". She dialed 911 and also Parvin who came running. Once the paramedics arrived I just closed my eyes, I could combat the pain better that way, and let them do their stuff. They drove me very gently to the ER of Woodland Memorial Hospital three blocks away.

X-Rays and a CAT scan revealed a very bad fracture of the ball and socket joint of the right shoulder. When they showed me the graphic pictures on the monitor of my ER bay, I nearly fainted. The nurse told me "You have really done a number on this one!" They pumped me with pain killers intravenously and Parvin took me home in a groggy state with my arm in a sling – I barely made it to my bed and was fast asleep in less than 15 seconds.

For the next few days I remained at home while Parvin went to work at UCD. The surgery for shoulder replacement was scheduled for March 11. One day, soon afterwards, as I sat brooding over my sudden change in lifestyle, I decided to go to the garage to see if I could start the Miata. Opening the door was easy, but getting behind the wheel was extremely difficult. I

tried to insert the key in the ignition with my right hand. My right hand just would not move. So starting the car was abandoned. Next I wanted to see if I could move the stick shift with the clutch depressed. With great effort and pain I managed to put my right hand over the shift knob with the help of my good left hand, but that was all – I could not make my right hand move anything.

On the week-ends I request Parvin to take me for a drive. To sit in the passenger seat is a project. I had to slid in backwards and then drag the door towards me with my right foot till I can grab it with my left hand and slam it shut. Then wearing the seatbelt by myself was next to impossible. If your right hand is non-functional there is no way you can put the seat belt on. Parvin had to reach out with her right hand, pull the belt out sufficiently for me to extend my left hand and grab the buckle. Inserting the buckle in the clamp was another frustrating exercise using my left hand only – so Parvin invariably helped me out there too! The sport suspension on my 1999 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary is rather hard, and despite the sling, I had to wince in pain as we went over every pot hole in the road on the short drive to the Capay valley. It is now over a month and 3 weeks since my surgery on March 11 and right now I am still uncertain if I will ever drive again. .... Every time I ask the doc when I can get back in the driver's seat of "blue belle" he makes a face! Let us see how it goes next month. ....



DEMOGRAPHICS AND  
MORE DEMOGRAPHICS -  
RON PETRICH

The club has reached some significant milestones in the last month or so. As of this writing our membership count is up to 129 memberships, 214 members, and 136 Miatas. This is fantastic. Our club has grown steadily in the last 2 years, and, despite the economic slowdown, our growth shows no signs of abating. Maybe clubs such as ours actually do better in difficult times, as folks look to cheaper and more economical outlets for fun and entertainment. Or maybe we as a club are just offering something better these days. I'm sure our free first-year membership offer has helped, but I also like to think that the latter is true... we are offering a better club product! More events in general, more diverse events in particular, and a broader spectrum of members getting involved in club activities. Bravo to the BOO for orchestrating this, but also a bigger bravo to you, the membership, for becoming active.

One sign of health in a club such as ours is diversity. I don't mean car colors, or where our members live, whether they are married or single, use Comcast or Hotmail, what month they are born in, or if they are of normal height or just club VP height...oops. But we can tell a little something about the average length of membership of our rank and file. So lets look at the roster as it stands today, and take a look.

Of our 129 active memberships, the average tenure is currently about 3 1/2 years. The median term, however, is just 1 1/2 years. This means that there is a few members who have been with SAMOA for quite a long time, and a LOT of members who are relative newcomers. This makes sense, as we have seen a fairly rapid growth in membership in just the last 2 years. And in fact, 21 (16.3%) members have been with us for less than 6 months, and 36 more (27.9%) for between 6 and 12 months. That's 44.2% of the club new in the last year. Now we have to see what we can do to retain these newcomers. I have every confidence that most, if not all of them will find something rewarding in the club, and will stick around for years to come. Heck, they may even see a new Board of Officers take over in 10 years or so.

*Web Stuff...*

Some additions to our website this month may be of interest to you. A video link to Robin and Mike's [in]famous egg trick is on the home page. If you missed the April meeting at Tex Wasabi's, take a look... or not. And if you were at the meeting, well, I guess you can just skip it.

A few weeks ago Robin sent out a global email with image files of several proposals for a new and updated SAMOA logo. Member Jim Burgess crafted the images. The problem with our existing logo is that it is not a high definition image, so when it is blown up larger than a postage stamp it starts to look very grainy. Jim's proposed logos retain their sharpness. We have placed a link to a voting poll on the home page of our site. As of this writing, 49 of you have voted, with 21 (43%) wishing to retain the existing logo, 20% opting for logo #3, and some of you looking for something else altogether. These results pretty much mirror the straw poll taken at the April meeting, I am told. If you haven't voted yet, however, please do so. You also have an opportunity to leave a comment as well.

Also added to the web page is a survey regarding track days. The link to the survey is on the events page. Many existing and new members have approached me in the last couple of months about why Got Guts At Thunderhill was cancelled, and also why the 2 proposed SAMOA track days for 2009 will not happen. Well, to paraphrase Senator Hillary Clinton's husband, it's the economy dummy. Feedback from the almighty marketplace indicated that there just was not much interest. And attendance at the 3 track days that I have attended this year bear that out... kind of. Attendance has been adequate, but not at the levels of past years. And attendance at most recent events in April has been downright awful. Sooooo... this survey, while not overwhelmingly scientific, is an attempt to gauge your feelings and intentions. Please respond honestly, as we hope to use the data to determine if we should sponsor a track day in the fall or next spring. It would be great to have a significant number of drivers from within our own ranks. We will publish the results to all those who participate, as well as in the June and/or July newsletter(s).

*Finally, since I will miss the May meeting...*

It's not that the man did not know how to juggle, he just didn't have the balls to do it.

What did the grape say when it got stepped on? Nothing - but it let out a little whine.

The little old woman who lived in a shoe wasn't the sole owner - there were strings attached.

Pencils could be made with erasers at both ends, but what would be the point?

When fish are in schools they sometimes take debate.

Biologists have recently produced immortal frogs by removing their vocal cords. They can't croak.

In 2020, when Boy George had become too old for the rock music circuit, he decided to take advantage of his notoriety to enter politics and was duly elected as governor of Tennessee. As part of the duties of his new office, he was touring the state's prison facilities, when lo, there behind bars was George Lucas! Lucas had fallen from his fame and wealth, become a drunk, and ended up unknown, in jail, after killing a man in a bar-room brawl. Governor George immediately offered to commute the filmmaker's sentence, but insisted that one of his dreams was to have been in one of the Star Wars films. Fulfilling this dream was the quid pro quo that would need to be paid. Lucas reluctantly agreed, but only with the additional stipulation: as he could now only work when well lubricated, he must be supplied with the finest whiskey Tennessee had to offer. The first day on the set, prison guards escorted Lucas to the Governor, who held out a glass of clear amber fluid. The director asked the governor, "Pardon me Boy, is that the shot I need to shoot you?"

Editor's note: Even with Ron being absent from the meetings, he still manages to torture us with these horrible jokes. ugh.

## SUPPORT THE TROOPS PACKAGES - JEANNE GEORGE

Last November as Veteran's Day was approaching, Vice-president Mike DeLaurentis suggested to the BOO (Board of Officers) to start a program to send packages to our troops overseas. The BOO approved the idea and agreed to pay the postage. Each month members have been bringing donations to the monthly meetings. Mike and his wife, Helen package the items and mail them. Packages have been mailed each month since December. The generosity of SAMOA members' contributions resulted in 2 packages being sent in April.

If you would like to make a voluntary contribution, a list of approved items are listed on the SAMOA web page. Many items are basic personal needs that the troops are unable to readily obtain or are scarce. In addition, Mike is looking for names of soldiers to send future packages to. If you have a family member or friend overseas, please send their name and address to [mdelaurentis@hotmail.com](mailto:mdelaurentis@hotmail.com)

Mike and Helen are out of the country but will be back for the May meeting. Thank you to all of you that have donated items and have made this project a success.

## MAY BIRTHDAYS - RON PETRICH

The following members are ordered to celebrate their birthdays during the next month... or else...

Some guy named Robin George May 14<sup>th</sup>  
 Kristen Gingrich May 22<sup>nd</sup>  
 Rod Gonzalez May 8<sup>th</sup>  
 Brad Grant May 19<sup>th</sup>  
 Susie Hahn May 1<sup>st</sup>  
 Doug Hoffman May 21<sup>st</sup>  
 Dee Jensen May 28<sup>th</sup>  
 Rob Johnson May 30<sup>th</sup>  
 Mike McGuire May 23<sup>rd</sup>  
 Linda Moe May 29<sup>th</sup>  
 Skip Noyes turns 100 on May 13<sup>th</sup>  
 John Parker May 9<sup>th</sup>  
 Valerie Seymour May 12<sup>th</sup>  
 Jennifer Sipe turns 21 on May 23<sup>rd</sup>  
 Byron Yerzy May 11<sup>th</sup>  
 Elizabeth LaFler May 11<sup>th</sup>  
 Don't forget to hit Robin up for a free drink at the meeting.

## ROBIN AND JEANNE EVENTS - JEANNE GEORGE

Robin and I have added 2 new events to the Club's calendar. Our plans are not finalized in time for the newsletter deadline but will be sent to Ron for posting on the web page.

**Meet, Greet and Eat Event, Sunday May 31.** We are going to try something new with this. People have indicated to us they are unable to attend the monthly meetings but would like to meet and talk with other Club members. We will meet at a restaurant and have lunch. Plain and simple, your route to the restaurant will be of your own choosing.

**Full Moon Eve Run, Saturday June 6.** The moon will be at it's fullest on Sunday night. But we figure it is more convenient to do the drive Saturday night, therefore the Eve. We will meet and drive to area somewhat away from the city lights. Plan to bring your Miata chairs and enjoy the moonlit spring night.

For those of you that missed the April meeting, a video of Robin and Mike's successful egg trick is posted on the SAMOA web site.

## SAMOA ATTIRE INVENTORY - JEANNE GEORGE

SAMOA attire is still available. We have Tee shirts for \$10, Polo Shirts for \$10, and hats for \$7. The shirts and polos are embroidered with "SACRAMENTO AREA MIATA OWNERS ASSOCIATION" in black thread. The hats have "SACRAMENTO MIATA CLUB".

Large size: polos-white, Tees-white, red, or black (with red writing)  
 X-large: polos-white, Tees-black  
 2 X-large: polos-white or red, Tees-white or black  
 Hats: white or blue with red & white lettering  
 Medium: hooded sweatshirt, black with red lettering \$18

If you are interested in purchasing any inventory, contact me and I will reserve it for you. I receive sales notices from our supplier weekly, so if you have a special request let me know and I will hold it for a sale. This week 3 members were able to purchase \$60 windbreaker jackets for \$16 on a closeout special that ended today. [jeanne@winfirst.com](mailto:jeanne@winfirst.com) or 916 359-2627.

WHERE HAVE ALL THE PEOPLE GONE? - JEANNE GEORGE

The SAMOA Club began with a group of 13 Miata enthusiasts meeting at Carmichael Park in October 1990. Of those 13, only 2 remain members of the club today. During the next eighteen years over 700 dual and single memberships consisting of over 1,100 members have joined the Club and then left.

Of the people that joined during the first 8 years, only 9 memberships are remaining:

- 1990: Skip Noyes, Dennis Swaney
- 1992: Dave DeNuzzo, Richard & Dorothy McCamey
- 1993: JoAnne & Ralph Gingrich
- 1996: Fran Rowell
- 1997: Robin & Jeanne George, Joe & Carol Rainbolt
- 1998: Genny Paauwe
- 1999: 7
- 2000: 5
- 2001: 3
- 2002: 3
- 2003: 4
- 2004: 3
- 2005: 3
- 2006: 12
- 2007: 16
- 2008: 46
- 2009: 18

TREASURE TROVE - JEANNE GEORGE

**Welcome to our Newest Members**

- Mike Dillon and Sandy Arnold-Dillon
- Rod and Rita Johnson
- Steve and Cindy Hartzell
- Neal and Elaine Mackey
- Leonard and Connie Gaetz
- Willie and Jim Tenney
- Sheila and John Souza
- Ken and Elizabeth LaFler

**Memberships Expiring May 1**

- Cottrill, Don and Dorothy
- Cowan, Clay and Barbara
- Eldridge Jr, Stanley
- Harvison, Joe
- Jensen, Dee and Bob
- Loo, Diana
- Nicholuson, Frank and Vi
- Nield, Gary
- Titus, Vicki
- Wilson, Toni

**Memberships renewed in April**

- Ed Long and Chris Allen
- David and Deidre DeNuzzo
- Rod Gonzalez
- Gary and Lynda Pike
- Bob Falconer
- Gary and Gundi Bechthold

**Notice:** The SAMOA dues increase notice last month was an April Fools article.

- 128 SAMOA memberships
- 4 memberships who don't own Miatas
- 212 members
- 135 Miatas



Editor's note...

Where have all the members gone? My guess is that they saw the hippie with the ponytail, sweatervest and bunny ears, and ran for the hills.



RAMBLINGS OF A GRUMPY OLD MAN -  
MIKE DELAURENTIS

(I ran out of time to write something for the May newsletter so I decided to dust off an old one that I enjoyed creating and hope you enjoy reading. Mike)

Has anyone noticed the abundance of award shows that continue popping up on television? Aside from the age old Emmys and Oscars there now appears to be one every other week for Rap music, Country Western Music, Videos, more Country Western Music, People of Color, People of no Color, Country Western Music, and Western Country Music, in what seems to be an attempt to stroke those tender egos of the entertainment industry.

However I think there is one award show whose time has come and that needs to be explored. This is an awards show for Terrorist Videos. (BTW if you're looking for an article on SAMOA, Miata or cars this has nothing to do with any of those but we have plenty of articles about that stuff.) In the last few years these terrorist videos have been popping up everywhere with Osama bin Laden, his deputy Ayman al-Zawahri, Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, and the Italian terrorist Im-a Badda Assa, all recording new ones almost every other month. And if a Terrorist Video Award (TVA) show does come to fruition here are a few categories that are a must.

1. **Best Face Mask.** Most of these yahoos take great pains to cover their faces which is really strange because why would you want to be in a video if no one can see you? I can't figure that out but then again being an infidel I guess I'm not supposed to. In any event I think the person who covers his face just enough that his evil beady eyes show through would score highest in this category.
2. **Shiniest Sword.** If you've had the misfortune of viewing these videos the goons in the back always have gleaming swords and so they should be rewarded for whomevers sword gleams the best. Some

of them have automatic weapons whose gun metal gray or black barrels have no shine but I think that as soon as they know they can be rewarded for a shiny weapon they will begin chroming their gun barrels. This will not only earn them an award but will also help the burgeoning chromium industry recently begun, allegedly by Halliburton, in the Middle East.

3. **Most Meanest Looking Goons.** Many of these videos have goons standing behind the speaker with their legs spread and arms crossed in a manner saying – “nanner nanner nanner!”. I think the video with the most meanest looking goons deserves an award.
4. **Lighting.** Whether you are taking pictures with a disposable or an expensive camera lighting is the key to good exposure and creativity. The harsh lighting seen on most of these videos leaves a lot to be desired but, once again, will no doubt improve once “Cecil B. De Mullah” figures out he can get a little notoriety.
5. **Best Backdrop.** Some of Bin Laden's backdrops have been pretty good. For example the one that just played for it's millionth time on network TV with him walking through the bolder strewn countryside, walking stick in hand. But most of these videos appear to take place in a tent or some jail like room with very meager props. I see palm fronds, leather couches and wall hangings beginning to appear once someone knows they'll get some badly deserved credit.
6. **Best Script.** Are you as tired of “*Death to America*” as I am? I mean can they be a little more creative? I think they will be more creative once the authors, playwrights and script supervisors begin seeing their names inscribed on TVAs.

And here is the best part...you've got to be present to win and the TVAs will be held in some big tent and.....voila! We've gottem!