



MiataTudes

The Monthly Newsletter of the Sacramento Area Miata Owners Association—Volume 16—Number 3

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SAMOA
PO Box 392
Orangevale, CA
95662

www.samoa.org

SAMOA is a 501(c)(7) non-profit corporation organized in the State of California for the benefit of its membership. SAMOA Membership dues are \$24 for 12 months and include 12 issues of MiataTudes and one email account. Applications and checks should be mailed to SAMOA, PO Box 392, Orangevale, CA 95662.

March 2006

From Robin's Nest...

Hi Guys! As you know, we are entering a new year and have a new Board. We moved to a new place for our general meetings and may have to change again because of club growth. Coco's Restaurant has bent over backwards to accommodate us on all requests. They updated the outside lighting so our Miata's can be seen by all. At the last meeting I noticed uniformed security standing by the cars as we were enjoying ourselves. I'm really impressed by the enthusiasm the members have demonstrated at the meetings. It's very contagious and it fuels the Board members as they address you. Thanks.



As the weather gets better, we are going to be running all over the countryside. Ron Petrich ran a very successful Super Bowl run. And it was within the confines of the law. Those who went had a rare experience indeed. On the 26th of February I will be leading a run which I created many years ago called the President's Run. It will be a brief run to tune-up for a later President's Run Part 2. We will be eating at the establishment that will be catering our birthday party on October 1st. Let us know what you think.

Rod Gonzales is doing an excellent job as our Community Liaison. He has talked with all the local Dealerships in the area to see who was receptive to our club. He got some very interesting results. It's only fair we deal with those who want our business. That doesn't mean we won't attempt to find out what the issues are at those who give us the cold shoulder. But a person likes to go where they are welcomed. Hats off to Rod.

The events are starting to come together. We have plenty of year left so keep them coming. Let Ron know what you would like to do and we can work something out. Speaking of Ron, as I try to refrain from saying this too many times, he stepped forward and produced a great Newsletter. It's his first attempt for us which was very good and easy to read. But in order to have a Newsletter we need articles. Let's see some new articles from those other than the Officers. Please!!

At the February meeting I did a rather unscientific poll of the members. We went over the questions on the previous survey and developed it a little more. Only 13 members emailed me with a response when it was sent out and since I had a captive audience that night, why not.

The rough results were as follows: A monthly meeting with the same length and time was very acceptable, plus continued events such as the Birthday Party and Christmas Party. An emailed newsletter was preferred by 95% of the members. The raffle with automotive products as prizes should be continued. The overwhelming majority wants the runs to be a day event except an occasional overnight trip (i.e., Ft Bragg, Fresno, Tahoe). Food is the common denominator. Thank you for your opinions and thoughts and keep those cards and letters coming.

Robin George

Mike's Musings

by Mike DeLaurentis

Fellow SAMOANs, as of this writing we are 110 members strong – and what diverse and interesting members we are. Our membership includes educators, mechanics, lawyers, travel agents, CPA's, retired postal employees, engineers, bankers, communication specialists, small business owners, active duty military, state and county employees, stay-at-home parents, consultants, retirees, retailers, etc., etc., etc. We are, without a doubt, a microcosm of Sacramento and the State for that matter. I always enjoy sitting with and getting to know members when out on runs or at meetings and encourage you to do the same. It is fun to meet and visit with old friends but equally as nice to meet new ones.

When I was the President a few years ago I received emails from potential club members and when replying I always described the club as males and females, young, old and in-between, multi ethnic, working and retired, and all just a little nuts about our cars.

So enjoy your old friends and take the time to meet some new ones.



MEMBERSHIP

SAMOA membership dues are \$24 for 12 months and include 12 issues of Miatitudes, an email account, free annual picnic, and all the Miata miles and smiles you can muster. Your application and payment should be mailed to SAMOA, PO Box 392, Orangevale, CA 95841.



Events in March...

March 4—SAMOA Winter Olympics...Mike D.

March 9—Monthly SAMOA club meeting at Coco's Restaurant...

March 19—SAMOA Feeling Lucky Run...Robin George

March 24-26—Thunderhill Performance Driving School...Ken Freeze



What's Inside This Month

Robin's Nest - Page 1

Mike's Musings - Page 2

Event's Horizon - Page 3

Event Calendar - Page 4

Event Categories - Page 4

Membership - Page 5

TechnoBabble - Page 6

Classifieds - Page 6

Coming Events - Page 7

Past Events - Page 8

First Snow - Page 9

Something Free - Page 11

Sausalito Run - Page 11

We wish to thank the following businesses for offering SAMOA members discounts with presentation of their membership card

America's Tire Company
Mike Wilson (916) 331-3670
Ramps@dgweb.com

Automotive Unlimited
Darrell (916) 989-3325

Autozone
19th. & Broadway only
Glen (916)443-5479

Bob's Custom Upholstery
Roseville (916) 784-1442

Carquest Auto Parts
1945 Broadway only
Harold Taylor (916) 737-7280

Chevron Lead Hill
Roseville Auto Mall
Dan Driffill (916) 786-9888

The Clearwater Company
Skip Noyes (916) 852-1423

Crazy Red Italian
Dave DeNuzzo (916) 456-2277
Discount Tire Centers
Citrus Heights (916) 725-7337

Great Valley Mazda
Sacramento (916) 973-3240

Harbor Freight Tools
6964 65th. Street Sacramento
Dan Rasmussen (916) 393-7875

Kneisels Body Shop
Citrus Heights
Dave or Robert (916) 969-0788

Made in Japan / Made in America
10% off parts/labor on any work done
Rancho Cordova (916) 635-7444
Roseville (916) 773-0969
Sacramento (916) 349-8919
Sacramento (916) 486-4100

Mazda's Plus
Harold Brown (916) 421-5708

Midtown Framing & Gallery
Save 20% on any custom frame project and
Selected framed and unframed artwork
25th and J Street (916) 447-7558

Movado Body Shop
Sacramento (916) 482-7818

OK Tires of Sacramento
Sacramento (916) 331-2751

Seat Works
Carpet, padding, seat covers,
Soft top repair & installation
Sacramento (916) 483-7994

Towe Auto Museum
2200 Front Street
Sacramento (916) 442-6802



Event Horizon...By Ron Petrich

Wow!!! That was quite a gratifying reception you folks gave me at the meeting last month. Or maybe you were just starved for a newsletter, ANY old newsletter, and the February MiataTudes happened to fill the bill. I jest folks...I truly am grateful for the kudos. I enjoyed putting MiataTudes together, and I look forward to continuing to do so for the remainder of the year.

I know that this is supposed to be an events-related column, and I will eventually get there. But bear with me on the newsletter theme a while longer, because there is an events moral as well. I decided to do the newsletter for a number of reasons, primarily because [capital] I wanted to see a newsletter. There are secondary reasons as well. I was concerned that SAMOA would continue to bleed members if we did not eventually publish MiataTudes. I also wanted to see "if" I could do it. I had never published anything like it before, never used MS Publisher, and I never had to try to figure out how to print something in book format. And the process of publishing MiataTudes becomes substantially easier with each successive iteration...practice makes less imperfect. And this month I hope that we have reached the 12-page threshold (I don't know for sure as I write this but I am hopeful).

Kinda like putting on an event, wouldn't you say? Ah, it was only a matter of time until he got around to that topic, right? But it's true. Often we are tempted to sit back, enjoy the ride and let the others do the driving NOT because we don't WANT to drive, but because we don't want to fail or look foolish. I would wager that EVERY member who has led an event has felt exactly that way the first time around. Its natural, and nothing to feel guilty or be ashamed about. And face it, the only way to put those feelings to rest once and for all is to lead an event. We have some excellent tools for event leaders on the SAMOA website, and I would wager that everyone who has led an event would be willing to share their experiences.

As a matter of fact, for the APRIL MIATATUDES, I would like to see some submissions from club members describing the first event that they led...last year or ten years ago. Let's tell it like it is...or was...and build some event-leading inertia for present club members for the rest of this year. You don't have to be an accomplished writer (as evidenced by this column), and it doesn't have to be long. But all articles submitted WILL be published, and we'll be feeding two birds with one worm – we will spark someone to lead an event who would not have done so otherwise, and we will also be getting this newsletter up to 12 pages. Consider the gauntlet thrown.

Mother Nature cooperated this past month and we were finally able to stage a bonafide SAMOA driving event. I led eleven carsful (SP?) of intrepid SAMOANS to Napa and back on Super Bowl Sunday. The ride was eventful only in that those of

us who drove top-down almost froze our a**es off on the way there. It was so cold through the Berryessa hills that the gradually melting freeze created its own fog. But hardy souls that we are, we survived my rather sedate pace to eventually return to Winters for some pizza and liquid refreshment. Thanks to all who took part, and special thanks to Tom and Matt who joined us with their 2006 MX-5...and to Tom who penned a short article later in this newsletter.

Denise Correia participated in the SJVMC Coastal Cruise held the weekend of February 11th and 12th, and she wrote an interesting article which is accompanied by some spectacular photos of the coast. Graeme Kinsey, if he shows up at the March SAMOA meeting, deserves a round of applause for organizing events held two weekends in a row in February. That is, if he didn't get murdered in the Delta or get run over by a giant chowder-eating clam down in Santa Cruz. And finally, Robin recently led his first run as El Presidente on Sunday the 26th, and it was his first run in 5 years without an accompanying music CD.

Coming up we have our own rendition of the Winter Olympics, commonly referred to as the DeLaurentis Snow Job, and Robin George presents the Feeling Lucky Run later this month, much to the chagrin of poor Lucky. We have slots aplenty folks, for your future event ideas. Just drop me a line at events@samo.org and I will make sure that the entire civilized and uncivilized world is aware of it. If you want to discuss an event idea beforehand, contact any BOO officer. See you on the road, between the cones, at the track, and of course at Coco's.

Ron Petrich

Next Event—March 4th

The first annual SAMOA Olympic Games will be held on Saturday, March 4, 2006...Mike DeLaurentis has designed a wacky approach to Miata exercise and athletic endeavors...don't miss this event...details on the webpage...



A strange vehicle attempted to infiltrate our hallowed Miata parking grounds at the last club meeting...rumor has it that it really is not a Miata...first one with absolute proof gets 2 free raffle tickets.

Master Events Calendar

Sacramento Area Miata Owners Association

2006

CLUB	DATE(S)	DAY	EVENT TITLE	ORGANIZER	TYPE	CODES
MARCH						
SAMOA	Mar 04	Sat	Winter Olympics (SAMOA Version)	Mike DeLaurentis (916) 791-9418	S	\$ R
SAMOA	Mar 09	Thu	Monthly Club Meeting			-
SAMOA	Mar 19	Sun	Feeling Lucky Run	Robin George (916) 359-2627	A	\$
TEAM MIATA	Mar 24-26	Fri-Sun	Thunderhill Performance Driving School	Ken Freeze (925) 370-8262	S	\$\$\$ R H
APRIL						
SJVMC	Apr 01-02	Sat-Sun	Spring Fling Poker Run	Randy Ames (559) 431-0311	T	\$\$\$ R H
SAMOA	Apr 08	Sat	3rd Not Quite Annual Poker Run	Jack Parker (916) 698-2006	T	\$ R
SAMOA	Apr 13	Thu	Monthly Club Meeting			-
SAMOA	Apr 29	Sat	Coollest Sounding Miata Contest (Pt 2)	Mike DeLaurentis (916) 791-9418	A	\$
MAY						
	May 04-07	Thu-Sun	Mountain Miata Colorfest of North Carolina			\$\$\$ R H
BAMA	May 06	Sat	Jelly Belly Factory Run	Stephen Harris-Smith		-
SAMOA	May 11	Thu	Monthly Club Meeting			-
SAMOA	May 20	Sat	Stewart's Point Run	Graeme Kinsey	A	\$
JUNE						
SAMOA	Jun 08	Thu	Monthly Club Meeting			-
SAMOA	Jun 11	Sun	Shriners Hospital Concours d'Elegance	Rod Gonzalez (916) 443-7901	I	\$ R
SAMOA	Jun 19	Mon	Got Guts At Thunderhill Open Track Event	Ron Petrich (916) 454-1008	S	\$\$\$ R H
JULY						
BAMA	Jul 01	Sat	Scharffengerber Run	Stephen Harris-Smith		-
SAMOA	Jul 09	Sun	Gold Rush Run	Jeff Kilty (916) 798-2503	I	\$
SAMOA	Jul 13	Thu	Monthly Club Meeting			-
SAMOA	Jul 22	Sat	Run Around The Hills With Baddtaz	Dennis Dettloff/ Barbara Fenner (530) 644-7474	A	-
AUGUST						
SAMOA	Aug 10	Thu	Monthly Club Meeting			-
SEPTEMBER						
SAMOA	Sep 14	Thu	Monthly Club Meeting			-
SAMOA	Sep 24	Sun	Baddtaz Barbecue Run	Dennis Dettloff/ Barbara Fenner (530) 644-7474	A	\$ R
OCTOBER						
SAMOA	Oct 01	Sun	Annual SAMOA Picnic	Board of Officers		R
CLUB NW	Oct 08-08	Fri-Sun	Backroads to Bavaria IX	John Hewitt (380) 659-4248	T	\$\$ R H
SAMOA	Oct 06-09	Fri-Mon	Fort Bragg Trip	Ralph Gingrich & Fran Rowell	I	\$\$\$ R H
SAMOA	Oct 12	Thu	Monthly Club Meeting			-
NOVEMBER						
SAMOA	Nov 09	Thu	Monthly Club Meeting			-
SAMOA	Nov 11	Sat	6th Annual Teddy Bear Toy Run	Jack Parker (916) 698-2006	A	\$
DECEMBER						
SAMOA	Dec 14	Thu	Monthly Club Meeting			-

Key: \$ = under \$30 \$\$ = under \$75 \$\$\$ = over \$75. R = RSVP to event coordinator or event sponsor. H = hotel reservation required or recommended.

MIATA EVENT CATEGORIES



MILD: A relaxed scenic drive, slower paced, passenger-friendly, possible congested areas, several regroup stops. The main objective is to enjoy the scenery, eat and socialize.



INTERESTING: A drive with some intentional twisty roads, which allow the driver to enjoy the pace and the passenger to enjoy the scenery. It has a quicker pace, and usually ends with a meal and socializing.



A BLEND: This trip will allow the driver to exercise his/her driving skills on traditional Miata roads, within each driver's comfort level. Regroups areas. Passenger may miss some scenery. Ends with refreshments and shared stories of the road trip.



TRAVEL: Traveling some distance to meet, eat, socialize or visit locations. Often includes overnight stays or full day trips. Will entail a brisk pace with an emphasis on going directly, and may include freeways and faster direct roads, without regard to scenery.



ADVENTURESOME: Involves a quick, spirited pace. This run presents drivers with an opportunity to drive their Miatas to their individual safe limit. Will entail trips on back roads with lesser traffic, and lots of hills and curves. Motion sickness is not unheard of among passengers.



SPORTING: Includes track driving and autocross, with an objective of improving driving skills.

February Membership News by Jeanne George

In the last month I have sent out 50 email notices to memberships that had expired during the past six months. We are beginning to see the results of the work. We have had several former SAMOA members return to the club.

Previous notices advised members to go to the website and download an application. There was a problem with the information on the website regarding the correct SAMOA mailing address. Some membership renewals were returned to the senders, box closed—no order. We hope this problem has been corrected.

Starting this month, postcard notices went out to members whose membership expired Feb. 1. If you get one of the cards, there was a problem with your email address or we didn't get a response from you in the 3 weeks since your email notification. The card has your membership ID number. You can renew your membership by returning the postcard along with your check for \$24 to the address on the postcard.

A special thank you goes to Hugo Schmidt, the SAMOA webmaster. He has been great with helping both Fran and I get membership information to the website in the right format and correcting errors in the database.

SAMOA Meeting News by Jeanne George

January's monthly meeting was changed to Coco's Restaurant on Arden Way, which provides better parking. There are 42 parking spaces in the lot between Arden Way and the restaurant which allowed for the return of "Miata parking". In addition there is parking on the side and back of the restaurant. A separate room was available for the meeting. The manager and staff tried their best to accommodate our group of 48 members, despite two sick calls from their wait staff. The room was packed.

Ten former members returned for the first time in over a year, to see what the club was going to be doing this year. We welcome them all! A special welcome back to Barbara Fenner

and Dennis Dettloff aka BaddTaz; not only did they rejoin, they also calendared two events for summer. Members were greeted at the door, by the new Greeting Committee, Helen and Mike DeLaurentis.

President Robin decided to have his new Board of Officers (BOO) be introduced to the members. He requested they say something about themselves. There were some who were reluctant, then wouldn't give up the microphone. As many of you know, VP Mike DeLaurentis is never at a loss for words. One of the "promises" of the new BOO, was a newsletter by the first week of February. Good to his word, Ron Petrich stepped forward and released the Miatitudes on Feb. 1. Ron has also taken on the responsibility to maintain the samoa.org website with the latest changes regarding events. We thank Ron for both these projects.

The February meeting had its highlights. One of which was better seating for the members. I worked with the management and came up with 6 tables of 6 settings in addition to 16 booth seats. This allowed more room for people and a more comfortable and friendly atmosphere. There were 41 members present. February tends to be a low attendance meeting. Mike D reminded the men, that dinner that night did not qualify as a Valentine gift.

Coco's recently installed outdoor flood lights which lit the "Miata parking" area. Seventeen Miatas were lined in a row in "proper parking form". Many of the restaurant patrons were seen peering out the windows to get a look at the cars under the lights. One of the members had to leave early and left a hole in the Miata row. During the meeting commotion was heard from the back of the room. Ron Petrich indicated there was a Mustang trying to blend in, by backing into the vacant Miata parking spot. That became a meeting stopper as people watched, laughed, and made jokes. We invited the wayward Mustangers (nee Miataphiles) to join our meeting but they declined. After the meeting was over, members were seen checking out the special add-ons of those who have by those who wish to have.

See you at the March meeting.

Membership Update

Only one expiring membership at March 1—Ed Long & Chris Allen. Please make your payment to the club Secretary by the March meeting to insure the continuity of your membership.



...little known facts about the new 2006 MX-5...

The new MX-5 is technically no longer a Miata...the battery is in the engine compartment...the car only comes with 16" or 17" wheels...the hubs are 5-bolt, so existing Miata wheels will not fit...the new automatic transmission is a 6-speed and employs paddle shifters behind the steering wheel...and I want one...



TechnoBabble...by Jack Parker

Last month the first modification that SHOULD be done to your car was discussed. In case you missed the Pulitzer Prize winner it was decided that YOU were the biggest and best mod you could make to your car. For crying out loud, go to a driving school, Miata track day or an autocross. The best money you can spend on your car. This month we will talk about the second modification you should make to your car.

The unfortunate thing is that the second thing is usually the first that everyone makes. What produces the biggest influence on the looks of your car? Wheels. A nice new set of 17 inch flashy wheels produces some very nice visual images regarding your car. But the problem is that 17 in wheels are big. And with big comes heavy. The Miata was designed up until recently to have a very light set of wheels. Colin Chapman should be the first read everyone does right after buying your first Miata. Colin was famous for "adding lightness" to your car. Originally Miatas came with very light 14 inch wheels. Some weighed less than ten pounds. Your suspension, especially in the early models was designed to work with light wheels so adding a set of 17 inchers to an M1 will probably degrade

the ride so much that it will feel like a different car. And not a better one. Even the 99-00 Miatas were designed to have lightweight 15 inch wheels.

With those flashy new wheels come new tires. Be careful! The new tires you are buying may have just as great an influence on weight as the wheels. For example: a new set of Falken 615's, which are the latest and greatest performance tire for the money tire you can buy. They weigh around 22-23 pounds per tire. Put those with a set of 15 inch lightweight 10 pound wheels and each corner is going to weigh around 33 pounds. That is actually not bad. But buy a set of rather inexpensive Konig's which typically weigh around 15 pounds and you have 38 pounds at each corner. Suddenly ride is not what it used to be and that funny sound you hear is your tires hitting the inside of the wheel wells if your car is lowered or hitting the bumps at even the slightest bump. Going with a 16 or 17 inch wheel compounds the problem even more. Light is right.

I have two sets of tires and wheels for my cars. Kosei 10 pound wheels and Falken 615's which weigh 33 pounds. I have a set of Panaspport lookalikes (Rewinds) mated to a set of Kumho MX's. The Konigs weigh 13 pounds and

the MX's weigh 19. Imagine if the Falken's were on the Kosei's. 29 Pounds on a corner would be a tremendous weight savings and weight savings is less weight your little 110 horsepower engine will have to push around. Immediate horsepower gain.

So choose those wheels and tires carefully. Tire Rack has a great research tool where you can look up all the specs on tires including weight. Also ask the dealer how much your new wheel purchase is going to weigh. DO NOT trust the manufacture. They lie. My Konig's are listed at 11 pounds by the manufacturer but weighing them finds they actually weigh 13.2. But they look cool so it didn't matter. Find the right tire and wheel combo for your little beast that is not going to make your lightweight little car feel like a baby elephant on the road.



CLASSIFIED ADS

Pop-Ups For Sale

Pop-up OEM headlights pair with plastic brackets from a 1995 Miata Special Edition Mica Merlot in excellent condition available for only \$5. Contact Adi Damania by email: abdamanian@yahoo.com.

Motor For Sale

Miata 1.8 liter motor from a 2000 California car. This motor was purchased as a spare in April, 2001 from Maz-Toy Auto Recycling, 3611 NW Marine Drive, Troutdale, OR 97060. It has 8000 miles on it, is complete except for intake and exhaust manifolds, and is still crated from shipment. Price \$800 fob my garage. Contact Ron Petrich at freescopesdad@yahoo.com or (916) 454-1008.

Transmission For Sale

Miata 1.8 liter 5-speed transmission for a 1999 car. This transmission was purchased as a spare in May, 2002 from Mazda Recycling, 3636 Omec Circle, Rancho Cordova, CA 95742. It has about 55,000 miles on it. Price \$350 fob my garage. Contact Ron Petrich at freescopesdad@yahoo.com or (916) 454-1008.

Spring is Coming!

It's time to...

Detail your car
inside and out

Change your oil
and filter and all
other fluids

Check your tire tread
and pressures

Check your cooling
system for leaks—how
old is that radiator cap?

When was your last
alignment?

Lead an event!!!

Coming Attractions

Feeling Lucky?

March 19, 2006
by Robin George



March 19, meet in the parking lot of the Marketplace Shopping Center, located near Truxel Road and Interstate 80 (near Wal-Mart). The staging area will be in front of the Starbucks Coffee Shop. Please park several lanes away so we can organize the group together. Arrive between 9:00 and 9:30 am if you plan to get coffee and munchies. Actual departure time will be at 10:00 am.

This was my Hangover Run trip which was canceled by flooded roads and washed out areas. The run will be a leisurely trip along the river and various back roads. The trip will end at the Cache Creek Casino. There you can have lunch at one of the seven restaurants followed by gambling. Trip time is 2 1/2--3 hours (with bathroom stop) and about 91 miles driving.

For those up to a challenge, a group can adventure the twisty road of Highway 20 and return to Cache Creek Casino or continue to Williams (this is approximately an hour adventure).

Driving directions will be provided. Contact me at (916) 359-2627 or at robin@winfirst.com.

3rd Not Quite Annual Poker Run

April 8, 2006
Jack Parker



Been on a poker run lately? Did you know by the second check point that you were not going to win anything with a 3 of diamonds and a 4 of hearts? Me too. We the 3rd Not Quite Annual Poker Run is an entirely new kind of poker run where the winner is decided while you are eating lunch. No, french fries are not counted at wild cards. The other night while watching the travel channel, yes the travel channel, the World Poker Tour tournament from wherever was televised and they were playing Texas Holdem. This poker run will be decided by a mini tournament of texas holdem at lunch so everyone has at least a small chance of winning.

So come one and come all to the 3rd Not Quite Annual Poker Run and try your luck. April 8, 2006 is the date. The start time will be 9:30. The meeting place will be White Rock and Sunrise in the Costco Parking lot. I would say that it will be

in Mcdonalds parking lot but that would only confuse Mike. We will drive around the foothills of the gold country and end in Ione where the winner will take all. Five dollars per person is the buy in. This will be a relaxed run through the green hills of El Dorado and Amador County and give everyone a chance to look at the great scenery. See you on the 8th.

Got Guts?

by Ron Petrich



Shortly after praising my efforts for the production of the February newsletter, our president, Robin George, presented me with a copy of the February SDMC News, the newsletter of the San Diego Miata Club. Talk about a two-edged sword I thought. But rather than a primer on a well-prepared newsletter, Robin directed my attention to the SDMC page one article entitled *Steak and Beans Challenge raises \$11K for Habitat*. It seems that a social consciousness runs deep in Miatadom, as SDMC and SOCALM combined to raise big bucks for Habitat for Humanity International.

We at SAMOA have a history as well, as our annual picnic raffle has raised more than \$12,000 (and innumerable Teddy Bears) over the years for the Children's Receiving Home, which shelters at-risk children between the ages of two and seventeen. This year I have taken it upon myself, and the BOO has offered its overwhelming support, to raise money for another charity – The Crohn's & Colitis Foundation of America – via a track day at Thunderhill Raceway Park in Willows, California. The event will be held Monday, June 19, 2006, and is open to all track enthusiasts (even Miatas). The event will include regular track day activities plus a huge raffle, with prizes donated by a large number of vendors and businesses. Check out <http://www.gotgutsathunderhill.com> for more information.

But Got Guts? What is that all about? Well here's the deal. I was diagnosed with Crohn's Disease in 1993. It is a chronic disease without a cure. It is one of a family of diseases collectively referred to as IBD, or inflammatory bowel disease. Many experts believe that IBD is triggered by a defect of the immune system, and there may be genetic factors involved. It affects children as young as five, and also strikes adults and seniors. It can be a crippling disease which affects those afflicted as well as family, friends, co-workers and employers. CCFA, the Crohn's and Colitis Foundation of America (<http://www.ccfa.org>) was established in 1967 as a private, volunteer-driven organization with the goal of raising money to fund research into finding a cure for Crohn's disease and ulcerative colitis. And in the last (nearly) forty years tremen

Coming Attractions (continued)

(Got Guts continued...) dous strides have taken place. The National Institutes of Health has commended CCFA for "uniting the research community and strengthening IBD research." I know personally of at least a dozen members of the SAMOA and Northern California Miata community who are personally affected by IBD, and you may as well.

So I would like to challenge SAMOA and Miatadom to help me raise money for this cause. You want my money you say? Everyone wants my money...the government, the mortgage company, Safeway, Chevron...you name it. What's in it for me? Well, if you are a track junkie, you will get more than 2 hours of quality track time at one of the nation's premier road courses, instruction and lunch included. If you are a business owner or just an individual, your contribution of merchandise or services to our raffle will get you a nice tax deduction. And if you have ever bought a lottery ticket or participated in the monthly raffle at the SAMOA meetings, you have an equal if not better opportunity to win a significant prize at the GGAT raffle – WINNERS NEED NOT BE PRESENT TO WIN.

The event is limited to 70 drivers in 3 run groups, and the cost of \$210 (\$225 after June 1st) is extremely competitive. Raffle tickets are being presold and are \$5.00 each or 5 for \$20.00. All registration and ticket order forms are available at the website, or by mail. Just contact me at (916) 454-1008 or at freescopesdad@yahoo.com and I will send you the information. If you want more information or would just like to discuss this event, please give me a call or drop me a line. Thanks for listening.

SAMOA in *AutoWeek* Magazine, February 20, 2006, page 30...

Gutsy track day

» The Sacramento Area Miata Owners Association hosts an open track day at Thunderhill in Willows, California, June 19. You don't need a Miata to get more than two hours of track time for \$210 per driver (\$225 after May 31). Net proceeds of track events and raffle receipts go to the Crohn's and Colitis Foundation of America. See gotgutsatthunderhill.com for more information.



Past Events

Super Bowl Run February 5, 2006 by Tom Gorrell

A pre Super Bowl rally to Napa began on a crystal clear day, but a stiff chilly wind caused some to keep their tops up and heaters turned on. The braver souls, myself and my partner Matt included, did the run with top and windows down. Leaving from McDonalds in Davis on time, we enjoyed dry roads, lots of sun and the challenge of those twisty roads that pass by Lake Berryessa and into Napa. Those "watch out for falling rocks" signs had special meaning, as recent rains caused special challenges dodging those unexpected obstacles just around the next curve.

We all enjoyed a special treat passing by Winters High

School. The Charmin trees were in full bloom, bursting with "squeezeable" white flowers. The art of TPing is alive and well with the current high school generation.



While not yet official members, we enjoyed our first run with SAMOA, which we understand was also the first actual (not scheduled) run of 2006. The first was rained out, we are told. Our Nordic Green '06

Past Events (continued)

was the first "third generation" Mazda to make a SAMOA run. We're hoping to meet up with other '06 owners. In all, 15 members (and one dog) in 11 Miatas enjoyed this outing.

Superbowl Sunday Run - Part Deux by Rod González

After our break at the Soda Canyon Store, Tom and Matt left the group and headed out to Bodega Bay, Stinson Beach and on across the Golden Gate in their new '06 Nordic Green MX-5. The rest of us continued north on Silverado Trail back to Hwy 128.

One of the benefits of taking a drive this time of year is that the landscape is so green and lush. And now that the day had warmed up from the frigid windy morning temperature, all of that greenery made for an even more gorgeous top-down drive. The drive on Hwy 128 was exhilarating as we wound through the picturesque hills and valleys. There was little traffic that morning to impede our trip back to Winters; we only had to watch out for the occasional fallen rock in the road. The mild pace Ron set allowed us to enjoy the great scenery as well as the road. Once in Winters a few in our group split off to head home to make it back in time for the Superbowl, while the rest of us pulled into the Round Table Pizza for conversation and a pre-game nosh.

It was nice to see some of our newer members join us on this run, as it was to have some of the folks we haven't seen in a while. Thanks to Ron Petrich for organizing this year's Superbowl Run. We all had a great time.



All lined up in Davis and getting ready to go



Ron actually got us all to Napa in one piece...

COASTAL CRUISE

February 11-12, 2006
by Denise Correia

Denise Correia from SJVMC along with Margie Jurach from SAMOA and passengers Ellen Frosch and Karalene Brown traveled together from Folsom to Fresno on Friday. The girls were able to chat all the way on the radios while driving Hwy 50 to Sunrise then to Grant Line to 99 with a stop at Starbucks in Salida on their way to Courtyard by Marriott in Fresno. Saturday morning was gorgeous and the girls arrived early at Denny's near Hwy 99 and Jensen to meet the other Miata cruisers as well as visit with Denise's parents and brother and sis-in-law for a quick visit. About 9:00AM 18 Miatas lined up to caravan to the Coast. We drove along on Hwy 41 to Hwy 198 arriving for lunch in Paso Robles at biker hangout "The Oak Pit" with excellent BBQ. SoCalm and Vroom members joined us at Hwy 198 and Hwy 5 and also at the lunch stop. We gathered about 26 Miatas at one time during Saturday. The warm and sunny weather was perfect. Everyone was very social catching up after the winter. Bob Raus selected excellent backroads passing several wineries and many farms along tree covered roads. For a little excitement we drove by the Junior Pheasant Hunt. Guys in orange vests and guns picking up dead birds stood a moment to watch us pass AND no one in a Miatas was shot so I guess we were lucky. The Silver Surf motel in San Simeon welcomed us with smiles and clean comfy rooms at a

Our First Snow...by Fran Rowell... We moved to garden Valley 3 years ago and heard that once there was 2 feet of snow here and occasionally there is a dusting, but this is the first time we had seen anything but rain. It started snowing at dusk and by the next morning we still had some on the ground. Of course by noon it was pretty much gone. It had bent down the daffodils but they bounced back up before long. I know this is no big deal to you folks that live up in the higher foothills but it does give a different perspective to your landscape on these gloomy days. I drove up to Georgetown Monday and they still had lots of snow on rooftops and beside the road.

...And More Past Events (continued)

(Coastal Cruise continued) surprising price (\$35 per room). Of course, the girls took a walk on the beach across Hwy 1 from the motel (again, surviving the risky dash across busy Hwy 1) prior to cleaning up for very nice dinner in Cambria at Bramble's. Bramble's provided a private room with excellent food and a fireplace and efficient staff to serve our yummy dinner. A very brave Dale Bond was solo at a table of girls. The full moon over the high tide made for breathtaking views of the ocean with thundering waves pounding hillside rocks into white foam with 2-story tall spray. Timing for some of the SAMOans was slightly off and they missed the Hwy 198/Hwy 5 meeting stop so again lots of hugs and visiting with those lost folks. After dinner a few of us walked around Cambria which was very festive then back to our motel. Sunday morning we split the group for the drive home with some headed to San Luis Obispo (south) and SAMOans headed north again with perfect weather. The high tide on Sunday morning took away the Saturday beach with water coming up to the steps. The "girls" did go to Cambria for breakfast at Redwood Café. With full tummies and full gas tanks, we put the Beach Boys in the CD and turned up the volume as we drove topdown along Hwy 1 to see the newly arrived seals born at this time of year at Priedras Blancas then on to Ragged Point for a stop and walk and Rocky Point for lunch. Luckily we were through Monterey before the golf tournament ended arriving in Capitola about 4:00P on Sunday evening. We walked to town from Margie's home and did some wine tasting at Armida with more walking to see the sunset over the water then back to Margie's to clean up and drive to Shadowbrook for another excellent dinner. We took the cable car up to the parking lot after dinner then drove back to the house for port and chocolate in our jammies after dinner. Monday morning at 6AM we reluctantly left Capitola for work. Driving along Hwy 680 a beautiful Merlot Miata pulled up along us and honked. It was Bob and Donna Carlson cruisin' with us back to Sacramento on another day of perfect weather. My 811 miles round trip ended but I can't wait for next year to enjoy another wonderful Coastal Cruise. Special thanks the Lisa Asperger and Cindy Ames for making arrangement and Bob Raus for good roads.



Murder! In The Delta

February 18, 2006

By Graeme Kinsey



It was a dark and stormy night, perfect for a murder. Don and MeMe Wannabe hosted a New Year's Eve party to ring in 1925 at the Delta Daze Inn in Isleton. Gang members from the Delta, SAMOA and BAMA gangs attended, though all cleverly in disguise

with nametags that were, perhaps, role names and not their actual identity.

The Gang took over the entire B&B, with its ten charming and individually decorated rooms. With thick Chicago accents, the mob bosses discussed shipments, territory, recently whacked or missing associates while drinking and socializing with "ladies" wearing holiday finery. Bosses worked da bizz deals while ex-wives, molls, and "loving" widows accepted monetary offerings for liaisons later in the evening. Red and black feathers and wild red-fringed flapper dresses made for a festive New Year's spirit. Trigger-happy "protection", wearing zoot suits, fedoras and spats, closely watched their wayward wives. A body was discovered and we witnessed another murder before the party ended.

One gang member's moll said it was "A great icebreaker for a weekend." So much fun for two short days. As Al Capone agreed -- "It was a relaxing day of wine tasting, followed by a little murder. What more could one ask for? But, of course, the best part was when I pulled out a gun and shot the SOB who was doin' my wife! Watching his body, laying there with blood pouring from the bullet-hole in his forehead, was a sight to behold."

The Delta Daze Inn did a wonderful job of entertaining us and took care that we were well fed and comfy in our rooms. Friday evening we walked to dinner across Main Street from the hotel. On Saturday afternoon, Bill and Jill had arranged for a wine tour at California Cellars (its first public tour and Delta Miata Club gave Norm his first retail sale) as well as a tour of Six Hands winery not far from the hotel, where Peter gave us some excellent information about how wine is grown and made. We were driven by van so we could "taste" all we wanted. The rain stopped and we had sunshine for this lovely tour. Sunday breakfast was great fun with an entertaining awards ceremony.

Buy A Miata And Get A Free Club Membership...by Rod Gonzalez

Beginning last month, as an incentive for new Miata owners to join our club, we instituted a new membership offer. Anyone that is not currently a SAMOA member, or was a prior member, and buys a new MX-5 or previously owned Miata from a participating Sacramento area Mazda dealer will receive a free one-year club membership. I visited a number of Mazda dealerships to promote our membership offer. Most sales managers I talked with were very enthusiastic about our promotion and eager for our business. Currently, the participating dealerships in our membership promotion are:

Senator Mazda, 3655 Florin Road, Sacramento, CA 95823, (916) 427-1234.

Contact Tom Donovan or log on to www.senatorimports.com.

AutoWest Mazda, 100 Automall Drive, Roseville, CA 95661, (916) 786-6611. Contact Rich Estep for new cars and Bill Silva for pre-owned cars. Their website is www.autonation.com.

Folsom Mazda, 12565 Auto Mall Circle, Folsom, CA 95630, (916) 985-5900. Contact Paul Lazar. The website is www.folsomimports.com.

Our club really appreciates the sales staff at Senator Mazda, AutoWest Mazda, and Folsom Mazda in assisting us establish this program that will mutually benefit

both SAMOA and the their dealerships. Members can help spread the word by distributing the forms on this newsletter's back page. Club membership application forms are at the above Mazda dealerships. This offer only applies to new and reinstating* members. I hope to add more dealers in the weeks to come, so check each month's newsletter and the website for updates. Contact me at rod-noid@samoa.org or call (916) 443-7901 if you have any questions.

*This is a new and returning member recruitment offer and is not available to current members or those renewing their membership.

Is this who you want running YOUR Miata club?



SLOW AND TWISTY RUN TO SAUSALITO...by Adi Damania

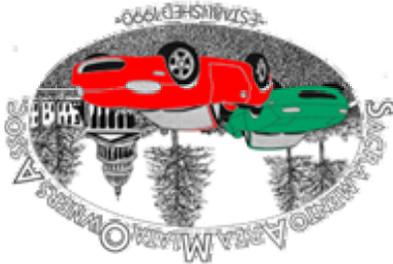
After being stood up at Winters Chevron for Ron's "Super bowl Sunday Run", Parvin and I decided to drive down to Sausalito in our 1999 10th anniversary "Blue Belle". If we were normal guys, and not Miata joint owners, we would have gone west on I-80, taken the Hwy 37 fork at Marine World and then hooked up with Hwy 101. But we had to do it the hard way, so we filled 'er up at the Winters Chevron (with Techron®) and went riding the twisties on Road 128 and 121 to Napa. The morning was crisp and the sun shine was nice and warm. And after the fork where 128 and 121 meet, there were no sweating cyclists to spoil the fun. So a good 40 mins of hard twisting and turning later we were in Napa. A quick PP stop at a Shell gas station on Hwy 29, and we were back in action. Only this time it was a nice spirited pace going south. A dark colored BMW "3" series was trying to goad us in to race but we knew better and stayed well away.

We arrived at Road 37 only to find bumper to bumper traffic going towards Hwy 101. With the sea-water level almost too close for comfort, we had to really concentrate on the road, thereby forgoing the observation of the very interesting bird life on the delta. A slight loss in concentration or a tire burst would have landed us in the drink for sure! Soon we had joined Hwy 101 still going south towards San Francisco. There were at least 4 lanes now, and cars coming down were overtaking us at very high speeds from both sides as we drove sedately in the second lane.

We took the historic Sausalito exit and found ourselves on Bridgeway Ave. We casually paraded around from one end of the road to another, turned around and return looking for a free parking spot. None could be had for the love of God. We ran into a couple of scalpers who demanded \$11 for 2 hours! Then we noticed a sign that said "Public Parking" so in we went and after some suspenseful moments found a parking slot in the shade. Hurray! We made it! After having securely pocketed the parking ticket, and locking "Blue Belle", we decided to take in the sights. Our first stop was the obligatory Tourist Info. Bureau, where we got a list of touristy places to see in Sausalito from a docent and a very good lesson on the history of the town's humble beginnings. As we strolled on the seaside promenade we saw members of the younger generation with huge ice cream cones and made a mental note to get one ourselves after lunch. Passing by windows where expensive leather goods and Italian pastries were for sale, we could not help noticing a number of very expensive Italian super cars gliding by with snarling engine exhaust notes. They seem to be doing not a lot more than showing off!

The view across the Bay was fantastic. We could clearly see the Bay Bridge, with the Sausalito to Pier 39 Ferry boats going to and fro. The Golden Gate bridge, although less than a mile away, was hidden from view. Finding a reasonably priced lunch is a problem in Sausalito. Those places that were within our reach, like delis, were invariably crowded and jam-packed. Having sat in "Blue Belle" for more than 2 hours under cramped conditions, we did not fancy a crowded short lunch. But the less crowded restaurants were rather on the expensive side with entrées priced at \$25 and upwards. Having spent a bundle on gas, and fearing an equally exorbitant parking bill, we opted to go for the friendly "chippy" (Fish 'n' chips) on the main road that had a decent place to sit and eat. Luckily for me, the boys even had my favorite ice cream flavor, rum 'n' raisin. We got the smallest cup and shared. All in all we had a good time for minimal damage to the wallet.

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MiataTudes



Are you interested in joining a Miata club
That offers driving and social events,
The opportunity to learn more about your car,
but moreover the camaraderie of other
Miata owners like yourself?

The Sacramento Area Miata Owners
Association meets the second Thursday of
Each month at Coco's Restaurant,
1830 Arden Way, Sacramento, CA
(that's just across the street from Arden Fair)
At 7:00 PM. Many members come early and
Enjoy a meal with other club members.

Join us for a no-obligation free tour.
And visit us on the web at www.samo.org.

Contact _____

At _____



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