



MiataTudes

The Monthly Newsletter of the Sacramento Area Miata Owners Association—Volume 16—Number 5

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The Lusty Month of May, 2006

From Robin's Nest...

By Robin George

OK, I've been sitting here at the computer for several minutes staring at the blinking cursor, trying to come up with a clever theme for this issue of Robin's Nest. I suppose the best thing is to just start. I usually have a little idea running around in the back of my mind for a few days that comes to fruition when I finally sit down to write. However, this is a slow time of the year for the club, and there hasn't been much going on while we wait for our corner of the world to dry up. And my brain can only hold so much information and then I have to remove something in order to fit in the new material. We retired guys have our limits.

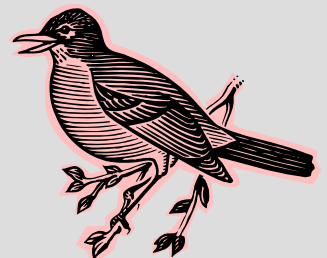


The day of our General Meeting this month was gorgeous. That's ONE day this month. The rest have been really soggy and not really built for the top down. But we shall persevere and before you know it life will be good. The enthusiasm of the group at the meeting was upbeat and we may have developed a group call sign thanks to Adi. Thanks to those who brought Bunnies for Mario and his Yamaha group.

As promised, in order to read this newsletter, current members will now require entering a password online. This is a benefit of membership in the club. In fact, I heard from several ex-members who are going to rejoin. You will have accessibility to all the secret codes, x-rated gossip and revealing pictures that detail the inner workings of the club. Look for them each issue. Speaking of the Newsletter, where are your articles? It won't hurt, Ron doesn't even read them when he inserts them (that's a joke, Ron).

Now for some cheery news. Today, gasoline broke the \$3.00 per gallon barrier for self-serve regular. Prices are expected to continue rising, although it's not clear when and where they will peak. The excuse: someone is thinking there might be a war in Nigeria. Based on the formula the oil companies use to determine the price of gasoline I'm going to ask my boss to double my salary today because it might cost me that amount to live next year. Wish me luck.

The gasoline situation does not bode well for a club based on the combustion engine. We as a car club must develop new and ingenious ways to conduct events. I imagine more "drive to" events than "drive around" events will be in our future i.e. Shiners Concourse, Scrabble Scramble, Birthday Party, Holiday Party and others.



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.

May Happenings...

May 6th... BAMA Jelly Belly Run & Tour... **May 7th...** CSCC Autocross (Stockton)... **May 11th...** SAMOA Monthly Meeting ... **May 14th...** Mother's Day



Mother's Day

Mike's Musings...

By Mike DeLaurentis

I occasionally look at www.miata.net and am always amazed at the wealth of information at that site. It was there I learned how to remove the teeth from my Miata as well as fix the heat damper to prevent hot air from coming into the compartment in spite of the fact that the temperature selector was full on cold. I used to think that an occasional tank of high octane was good for the engine but changed my opinion after reading pertinent articles on Miata.net. Other valuable information can be found in articles about maintenance, tires, cleaning products, suspension, and on and on.



- If you want to buy or sell a car or a part you can do it at this website.
- If you want to see what other clubs around the world are doing you can find links to them at this site.
- If you want to sound off on a topic or let the world know you can drop a V-8 into your Miata you can do so on the Forum.
- There are no fewer than 30 Miata related books and you can read about, and order them, off of the website.
- Would you like to see if there are any recalls affecting your make and model?
- What is a good price to set for the Miata you're trying to sell?

And finally if you want a little amusement try checking out these Miata television adds that you won't see here on TV: <http://www.mx5.co.nz/attitude/>.

Membership Updates

By Fran Rowell

Expired in April (now inactive):

Jim & Sandy Callahan
 Michael & Lisa Fry
 Tom Howard & Andrea Brown
 Kevin Wise

Expiring May 1, 2006:

Gary & Gundi Bechtold
 David Chin
 Clay & Barbara Cowan
 Rene & Mari Green
 Dee & Bob Jensen
 Roy & Mary Mena
 Toni Wilson

In order to maintain your active status on the Club's membership roster, be sure to get your renewals to the Club Secretary no later than the May meeting.

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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

Well it looks like the weather has finally turned in our favor, and we can get back to thinking about sunny, top-down days instead of Noah's Ark. Our tax returns are filed (well most of them I guess), and there is nothing to look forward to except increasingly warmer days and blue skies. It is what is called, in Miata parlance, as "no excuse" weather. Spring and early summer is probably the best time of the year for us. Last Sunday it got to be too much, so I posted a message on SamoaMail Friday evening that I was going to take a drive to Napa for some coffee...the usual route up past Lake Berryessa and back. Lo and behold, we had five Miatas show up at the Chevron station in Winters for a spirited ride in the country with nary another soul on the road. Afterwards we shared refreshments at the Round table back in Winters. It was splendid to say the least and shows that it really doesn't take much to convince a Miata enthusiast to hit the road on a moment's notice.



Just as this time of the year represents a reawakening in nature, it's also time to get those roadsters ready for the driving season. For me,



April is the month that I normally do a lot of preventive maintenance on my Miata. This weekend the cooling system gets flushed, the spark plugs get cleaned and re-gapped, the oil and filter get changed, and brake and clutch systems are bled. In addition, I'll put the car up on jack stands and do a complete inspection underneath. Some of the

things I will look for include obvious leaks, loose or broken suspension parts, signs of rubbing and chafing, and anything else that my eye may catch. Tires should also be examined while the car is up, as it's much easier to see the inside of the tires at this time. Check for uneven wear patterns, cuts, nails or other objects in the tread. Check tire pressures (cold). I will also make a thorough inspection under the hood, looking for anything that seems amiss, including fluid leaks, worn/frayed vacuum hoses, loose wiring, etc. All of the above generally takes about 3 hours to complete. But when I am finished I will be confident that my car will be ready for the increased driving that Spring and Summer bring.



I heard on the radio the other day that most of the ski resorts in the Sierra Nevadas are planning to close after this weekend. That means that a trip to the Kirkwood Inn for breakfast is in order. Of course,

the timing depends more upon when the snow melts on the Immigrant Trail Highway, but I'll be keeping a close watch on the Caltrans website and keep you posted. This will probably be an outing without a lot of advance notice (perhaps a week or so) and may not even make it to the "official" SAMOA event listing, but I will make sure to let everyone know about it via email. I'm sure Rod's mouth is already watering (hotcakes and sausage Rod?), and he is hoping that we don't go up the hill on an autocross weekend..



Our May SAMOA is a little sparse right now...as a matter of fact the **only hometown event** (hint hint) is our monthly club meeting on the eleventh. Everything else during the upcoming month is sponsored by another club or organization. June looks more promising though, with three SAMOA outings ... June 11 ... Shriners Hospital Concours ... June 17 ... Stewart's Point run ... June 19 ... GotGutsAtThunderhill. What that REALLY means, however, is



that six of the next eight weekends between May 1st and June 30th do not have any SAMOA events scheduled. So there are great opportunities here to be a hero (and of course to make me look good).

Elsewhere in this issue I have attempted to summarize the necessities of organizing and planning an event. The BOO is constantly striving to make it as easy as possible for each of you to step forward and successfully lead an event. With that in mind, we have moved the Event Leader form to the home page of our website, so you can more easily find it. But if the current article leaves you with remaining questions, don't hesitate to drop me (freesopesdad@yahoo.com) or anyone else on the BOO a line. We're here to help in any way that we can. Happy and safe motoring...

Next SAMOA Club Meeting

Our next monthly meeting will be held on Thursday, May 11, 2006 at Coco's Family Restaurant, 1830 Arden Way, Sacramento 95815. The restaurant is across the street from Arden fair Shopping Center. All Miata enthusiasts are welcome. Meeting starts at 7:00 PM, but come early for chow



The SAMOA BOO scaring up some new members...

Scribe Scribbles...By Fran Rowell

While working with our website database, I noticed several errors on our cars. I know several of you have purchased a newer Miata or added a second Miata but the data is just not there. I would like to get this updated and have emailed most of you. Those without email just let me know the year and official color of your car. Will the *Others* equal the Reds? Who knows?

Trivia question...Was Classic red produced in all years? If not, what year(s) were omitted? Please submit your answer to me at secretary@samo.org. The winner will be announced in the June MiataTudes.

CLUB	DATE(S)	DAY	EVENT TITLE	ORGANIZER	TYPE	CODES
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		-
CSCC	May 07	Sun	Autocross Part I	Tom Kubo (916) 847-8355	S	\$ R
SAMOA	May 11	Thu	Monthly Club Meeting			-
SAMOA	May 20	Sat	Stewart's Point Run	Graeme Kinsey (925) 685-8185	A	\$
JUNE						
SAMOA	Jun 08	Thu	Monthly Club Meeting			-
SCCA	Jun 10-11	Sat-Sun	Shriners Hospital Autocross	Ray Miller (916) 726-5833	S	\$\$ R
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 01-05	Sat-Wed	Mt. Shasta Weekend Getaway	Mike DeLaurentis (916) 791-9418	I	\$\$\$ R H
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						
CSCC	6-Aug	Sun	Autocross Part II	Tom Kubo (916) 847-8355	S	\$ R
SAMOA	Aug 10	Thu	Monthly Club Meeting			-
SAMOA	Aug 12	Sat	3rd. Not Quite Annual Poker Run	Jack Parker (916) 698-2006	A	\$ R
SEPTEMBER						
SAMOA	Sep 14	Thu	Monthly Club Meeting			-
SAMOA	Sep 23	Sat	Scrabble Scramble 2006	Denise Correia (916) 806-8707	I	\$\$ R H
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 06-08	Fri-Sun	Backroads to Bavaria IX	John Hewitt (360) 659-4248	T	\$\$ R H
SAMOA	Oct 06-09	Fri-Mon	Fort Bragg Trip	Ralph Gingrich (916) 721-4499 & 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 02	Sat	Holiday Party	Ralph Gingrich (916) 721-4499		\$\$ R
SAMOA	Dec 14	Thu	Monthly Club Meeting			-
<p><i>Key: \$ = under \$30 \$\$ = under \$75 \$\$\$ = over \$75. R = RSVP to event coordinator or event sponsor. H = hotel reservation required or recommended.</i></p>						

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.



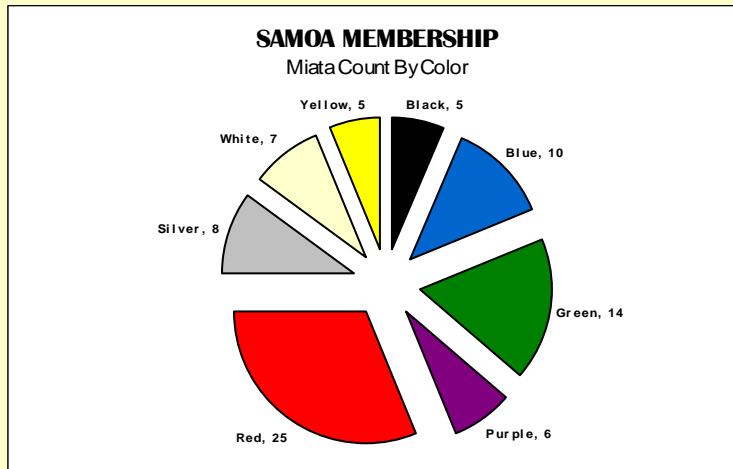
SPORTING: Includes track driving and autocross, with an objective of improving driving skills.

What Color Are You?

By Jeanne George

Remember in school you learned there were three basic colors, red, blue and yellow? Well not with the Miata. Not only are there eight different color categories, there are multiple colors in those categories. The SAMOA membership, as of April 30, is comprised of a total of 80 Miatas. Here is the breakdown:

5 Yellow... 1 Blazing Mica, 2 Sunburst, 2 Vivid Yellow... **7 White...** 2 White, 5 Crystal White... **5 Black...** 5 Brilliant Black... **8 Purple...** 1 Black Cherry, 2 Mica Merlot, 3 Mahogany Mica... **8 Silver...** 2 Highlight Silver Metallic, 5 Silverstone, 1 Sunbright Silver Metallic... **14 Green...** 1 Marina Green, 3 British Racing Green, 6 Emerald Mica, 4 Montego... **10 Blue...** 1 Laguna Blue, 1 Sapphire Mica, 3 Crystal Blue Metallic, 3 Mariner Blue, 1 Starlight Blue, 1 Twilight Blue Mica... **25 Red...** 1 True Red, 1 Velocity Red, 23 Classic Red...



May Membership News

By Jeanne George

My efforts to reach out to former SAMOA members to rejoin the club is working. As of April 23, there have been eight membership renewals that were inactive for 6 months to two years. In addition, fifteen memberships have renewed. Three new applications for membership were requested from the web page information, and three new memberships were signed at the April club meeting.

We welcome the following new members: Brenda Batchelor, Lynn and Dave Hellman, Tom Drennan, Joan and John Kastorff, Sheri and Brian Larson. We look forward to meeting you at future club events.

We also welcome Ellie Jenkins, our first new member to take advantage of the Free Membership Campaign for purchasing a 2006 Miata. Special thanks go to Rod Gonzales for all his hard work with the dealerships to get this program off the ground. Rod has visited numerous dealerships and twisted arms to get them to support the program. Although some dealerships think it comes from their pockets, and don't want to support the program, in fact Samoa covers the one year membership.

SAMOA membership on December 31 was 67 memberships with 110 members, now we have 77 memberships, 122 members with 80

Miatas. I changed part of the process to make things easier for members to renew. Instead of downloading an application from the web site, you can return a copy of your email notice or your post-card along with your dues. Nice and simple.

Leading My First Run

By Fran Rowell

For those of you that have never planned and led an event, there is hope for you and I am sure that by sharing some of my experiences, you will be less apprehensive about getting your feet wet. There is nobody, I repeat, nobody that has made more wrong turns, u-turns, detours, and been completely off track as me. Given the opportunity to go the wrong way, I most likely will.

The first event I did was to the Jack London Park. The ferry ride went well but the first turn into Napa Valley went bad. My buddy Ron Petrich pulled up beside me and asked if I knew where I was going. "No" was the reply, "But I know where I want to be". Thankfully he got me back on track but I sure lost all my confidence on leading a group for quite awhile.

After planning some shorter routes and having some successes I became once again, *leader of the pack* with no fear. I found out that everyone has missed a turn occasionally and that everyone takes it in stride. I have had events where everyone thought it was just part of the route. We can all be spontaneous.

Probably the most embarrassing time was when I was leading a run and apparently everyone but me knew I made a wrong turn. Suddenly, no one was behind me. When I realized what I had done and turned around, there they were, all 14 cars pulled over to the side of the road waiting for me to take the lead once again.

Now maybe a lesser woman would be discouraged by all this. What the heck, life is too short. You never know the thrill of victory if you never have felt the agony of defeat. I still plan events and the up side (in case you are worried about following me) is that no one has ever complained about it being too slow, no one has had a wreck, and no one ever has been left behind. Not everyone can say that!

If you are still worried about doing an event, here are some of my suggestions. Get with another person and do a team effort. Try a shorter well known route for your first one. Ask for help. That's why we have a club. Nobody expects you to do something spectacular. We all just enjoy the open road. If you are short on ideas, I have a bunch that I have yet to do, give me a call.

Our Deer Board of Officers, doing what they do best...hanging out in the garage and just talking about cars...



Land of Unfinished Business by Jack Parker

Over the course of the last couple of months at meetings, through email and just socializing I have gotten a question or six about tires. What am I running on the autocross (there's that word again) car?



What's the best tire for summer? What's the best all season tire? I don't want to spend a lot so what's the best tire for the money?

These are all great questions and I hope that the answers are not taken as gospel but just one of my opinions.

First, autocross tires are pretty much a limited accepted group. It seems that imitation is the way to go. So, who won national titles and what did they use? Falken Azenis 615 is considered the tire to use and the one on one of my autocross cars. The other set is probably the second most popular tire and that is the Kuhmo MX. Last years Street Touring (4 seaters) and Street Touring 2 (2 seaters) champs used them. But by far the most popular tires in both classes are the Falkens. They also happen to be the most popular tires in our region as well.

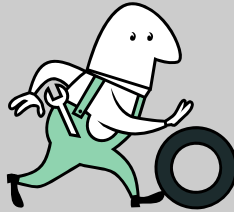
Secondly, the "best tire" for summer driving depends on a number of factors. Style is probably the most important. Petrich, Gonzales and myself are examples of a slightly more aggressive style. If would like to keep

up with Ron on the way to Napa then you will need a tire which is more able to handle that style. The Falken 615 or if you can find them the Falken 215 are good choices.



They are also very value priced running from mid \$60 to \$78 for the 615. Another great tire is the BF Goodrich G force T/A KD. But here we have a tire that for a 15 inch rim comes in at around \$130 a corner. Another tire that I really want to get a set of is the new Avon Tech M 500. They have been reviewed positively and again value priced at \$73. Other tires to consider are the Hankook Ventus Rs2 Z212. They are reasonably priced and very available. Another tire that I found to be quite good for the price is the Hankook Ventus HR11 h 405. Although a tire wear rating of 340 for this tire is high when compared to the others, for the price (\$47) it is pretty good. These are all tires that would be classified as "summer tires" and would fit a very aggressive style of driving.

All season tires to me reflect Detroit's desire to make all tire marketing easier for them. An all season tire, and this is my opinion only, is a tire that is generally o. k. bur not real great for any season. Like "jumbo shrimp" all season high performance tires are an oximoron. Probably better in the wet they should be called anything but summer tires. They generally have a harder compound (higher tread wear rating) of 300 and above. Summer tires are generally below 300. I have very little experience with "all season" tires as I just don't use them. If I take one of my cars out in the winter slop I just generally drive slower on my summer tires. One tire I would certainly stay away from in the rain is the Falken Azenis 215 or 615. Unless you like drifting stay away from those.



The best tire for the money. That is a relative question. There is an old saying in the motorcycle crowd concerning the cost of and need for helmets. If you have a ten dollar head buy a ten dollar helmet. The same holds true for tires, your only connection between you and road. After due consideration and research buy the best tire you can afford and then some. If you have a ten dollar body buy a ten dollar set of tires. Gotta love those Big O house brand no name tires. But they were on sale 4 for \$100.

As Autoweek says on their last page, "But wait there is more". Your first autocross is coming up on May 7 and I know a lot of you are going just to get some experience with car handling dynamics. I had a couple of questions last time about what to expect during the day. So here goes.



Before you leave the area of your house make sure you have plenty to drink at the course, have your tires pumped up to slightly below max pressure, we can let it out at the track, bring a hat and money to enjoy Jeannies Weannies.

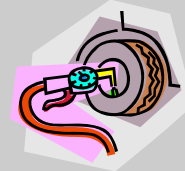
1. Get there about 1 hour early. No later than that. You don't have to check your tires or change them or anything real labor intensive so that should give you plenty of time. If you have to change your tires you are probably using R compounds and are better than me so get there later so you will not have time to prepare and I have a chance to beat you.

2. Go right to the registration table located near the timing trailer usually. You will need to sign a waiver, get a wristband, pay your fee (\$25-\$30) and if you don't have a set of numbers they can give them to you. Mention that you are new and they will help you. Ask about loaner helmets.

3. Walk the course with someone who knows what they are doing so ask Rod. If you can't find him ask me. I will be glad to help. Walk the course and ask questions about where your car should be at the beginning of each corner, at the starting line, braking and so on. Don't be afraid little grasshopper. The only dumb question is the one I can't answer because you know more than me and shouldn't be asking questions anyway.



4. Get your car on grid. Ask me or Rod or some guy with thousands of stickers on his/her car about tire pressures. As a beginner you should have them inflated above normal to avoid rollover, which I have never seen happen. If you run your tires around 30 lbs then inflate them to about 35 or so. We can adjust after your first run, unless you do too well and then we will put more air in them to give you less traction.



5. Damn it...ask questions because we are there to learn about your cars and have some legalizd fun. You are not going to run faster than the guys who have done this a lot so have fun doing it. Don't get overly stressed and just take it for granted that you are going to make mistakes and hit a cone or six and that is normal. So Just Have Fun.



Your fearless leaders...don't we look Important? We sure think so!

Coming Attractions

CSCC Autocross Sunday, May 7, 2006

The Competition Sports Car Club Presents **Nostalgia-Cross (Circa 1982)**. This is a two-lap format with at least 4 runs. The event is located at the San Joaquin County Fairgrounds. The entry fee is \$25. Gate and registration open at 8:00 a.m. - First car out at 9:30.

Run Work

1	2	AS, BS, CS, DS, ES, STU, ST2, BSP
2	1	CSP, DSP, ASP, FSP, OSP, Karts, Street Tire

Lunch and course walk

3	4	SS, All Prepareds, All Mods, Cobra, CSCC Miata* , BSPV
4	3	FS, GS, HS, STS, STX, SM, SM2

Contact Mr. Bob at 916-428-7640 or mrbob73@sbcglobal.net or Tom Kubo at 916-847- 8355 or kubo1@aol.com. The club website is www.csccautox.org.

All entrants must work. First run group is inverted. Back into line on grid so the first to arrive runs last and the last to arrive runs first. Tech is on grid for all run groups. Helmets and seat belts are required.

* **CSCC Miata Rules:** The Competition Sports Car Club allows special (Spec) Miata classes. A points system was developed for performance modifications to determine in which class you will run. Add up the points for the various performance parts you have added to your car. Contact Jack Parker at culdad@svics.com or Rod Gonzalez at rodnoid@samo.org for a point chart to help you determine your class.

Those running in the CSCC Miata classes, especially first-timers, should arrive no later than 10:00 a.m. to register and prep their cars for the event. Remember to remove as much stuff from your car before leaving for the event, as you will need to take it out prior to running anyway (no loose stuff is allowed in the cars). Also, while "Jeannie's Wienies" catering service is usually at these events, you may want to bring a lunch and some beverages (water/Gatorade, but no alcohol is allowed) just in case.

To get to the Fairgrounds take Interstate 5 to Charter Way east. Go right on Airport Way, immediately get into left lane to make a left turn into San Joaquin Fairgrounds. From Hwy 99 take Charter Way west to north end gate (about 4 miles).

Shriners Concours d'Elegance Sunday, June 11, 2006

CALLING ALL MIATAS! You'd better hurry if you haven't submitted your registration form yet for the 2006 Shriners Hospital Concours d'Elegance Miata Club Corral. **Entries must be postmarked no later than Monday, May 15th.**

As a club we will be allowed to display our Miatas, participate in the judging process, and enjoy all of the other wonderful vehicles and boats on display. All proceeds from this event will go to the Shriners Children's Hospital.

The cost is just \$25 and includes admission for 2 adults, a program and a goodie bag. The full registration package with details of all the weekend's events is available at www.shrinersconcours.com. Or if you just want to register for the Miata Club Corral, information and entry form is on page 8. You may also download the entry form and materials from the SAMOA website.

With a minimum of 10 cars entered, our club will be given three awards which we can use as we like. Last year, our members judged each other's cars and used the awards for "Club Choice", "Best Detailed", and "Most Personalized". We will use similar award categories this year.

You do not need to have a pristine Miata to display in the club corral. This is all for fun and to show our support for the Shriners Children's Hospital. For those in the club that choose not to display their car, \$10 each will get you a wrist band so you can come to the Concours and enjoy the day with your fellow club members.

Rod Gonzalez will again coordinate the club's participation in this event. Please let him know that you have registered, along with the year and color of your Miata for the official participant list, or contact him at rodnoid@samo.org or call (916) 443-7901 for more information.

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

Got Guts...again...and again June 19, 2006

The raffle prizes continue to roll in, and the driver list continues to grow. We have now collected more than \$6,500 in raffle prizes for this event, and more are still yet promised. More than 30 drivers have registered and paid, with 7 weeks still to go before we hit the track. Robin's magic bus is also approaching the break-even point. So don't be left holding the bag, out in the cold, with the doors all locked, or late again (aw heck, insert your favorite metaphor here).

If you plan to participate as a driver, remember you need a rollbar on your Miata and a helmet (2006 MX-5s WILL be allowed with the factory roll hoops). But get your registration in soon as some groups are starting to get tight, and the price goes up after May 31st. If you want to purchase raffle tickets, they are \$5.00 each and 5 for \$20.00. You do not need to be present to win. If you cannot make it to the track, just fill in your name and telephone number (with area code) and keep each stub. You can buy raffle tickets at each of our next 2 membership meetings (May 11th. And June 8th.), at the track, or online at the www.gotgutsatthunderhill.com. If you want to spend a leisurely day at Thunderhill with your fellow club members (and perhaps even experience the track from the passenger seat of one of the participants' cars, contact Robin George at president@samo.org to reserve your seat on the big yellow machine.





2006 Application for Concours Vehicle & Boat Registration

For Committee Use
Entry No.

Sunday, June 11, 2006
Nather Field,
Rancho Cordova

Owner(s) _____ Phone _____
 E-Mail _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____

SCCA Concours Car Information

Make _____ Model _____
 Bodytype _____ Year _____ Color _____
 Class Requested _____ Exhibit _____ Judged _____ Club _____
 Previous Awards or Comments _____

ACBS Boat Entries

Boat Name _____ Model _____ Manufacturer _____ Engine _____ Year _____ Length _____
 Previous Awards or Comments _____

Payment Method: Check Credit Card
 Check Payable to: Shriners Concours d'Elegance Check No. _____ Amount _____
 Charge my credit card: VISA MasterCard
 Card Number _____ Exp _____ V-Number _____
 Card Holder _____ Signature _____



Concours Registration (\$25.00 per vehicle)	\$ _____
Additional Admissions Tickets _____ at \$10.00 each	\$ _____
Night at the Races (\$30.00 per person)	\$ _____
Grand Marshal's Reception (\$40.00 per person)	\$ _____
The Tour (\$50.00 for 2 persons)	\$ _____
TOTAL @	\$ _____

Please send your completed registration to:
Registrar, Shriners Hospitals Concours d'Elegance
P.O. Box 21-4477
Sacramento, CA 95821

WAVIER OF LIABILITY - PROOF OF INSURANCE - REQUIRED

The undersigned, desiring to enter the Shriners Hospital Concours d'Elegance, does hereby tender his/her application. In consideration of the acceptance by the sponsoring group, Ben All Shriners, the sanctioning organization, Sports Car Club of America, the undersigned does hereby agree to release Ben All Shriners, Shriners Childrens Hospital, Sports Car Club of America, the A.C.B.S. as well as other sponsoring groups and their members, all other contestants and officials from any and all liability arising out of said event. Participants further agree to allow the use of their name, picture and picture of their car for publicity purposes, before during and after the show and do hereby relinquish any right whatsoever to dispose of said photographs to Shriners Hospital Concours d'Elegance. All publicity and advertising rights are reserved by the Shriners Hospital Concours d'Elegance. **WARRANT THAT THE UNDERSIGNED HAS PERSONALLY READ THE RULES AND REGULATIONS UNDER WHICH SAID EVENT WILL BE CONDUCTED AND WILL ABIDE BY ALL SAID RULES AND REGULATIONS. ACCEPTED ON ABOVE TERMS AND CONDITIONS BY:**

Insurance Carrier _____ Policy Number _____
 Owner Signature _____ Date _____
 Exhibitor Signature _____ Phone _____



SAMOA SCRABBLE SCRAMBLE SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 2006

Driver: _____ Passenger: _____
Street: _____ City: _____
State: _____ Zip: _____ Phone: _____
E-Mail Address: _____

REGISTRATION FEE IS \$60 PER CAR

Note: The registration fee includes participation in the car show, Scrabble Scramble, one T-shirt, lunch and awards dinner for two.

Please indicate the size of shirt you will need for the one (1) included shirt. All shirts are 50% cotton/50% polyester and will shrink minimally after washing.

M ___ L ___ XL ___ XXL ___

Optional additional T-Shirts are \$10 each. Please specify size and quantity.

M ___ L ___ XL ___ XXL ___ Total # _____ @ \$10 = \$ _____

Lunch Buffet (for two)

Dinner choices (must be pre-ordered); includes soft drink:

- # ___ BBQ Pork Babyback Ribs
- # ___ BBQ Chicken
- # ___ Beer-Battered Fish & Chips
- # ___ Fresh Garden Salad

Dessert Choices:

- # ___ Seasonal Cobbler
- # ___ New York Cheesecake
- # ___ Chocolate Fudge Cake

Refund Policy

Cancellations received prior to July 1, 2006: Full Refund

Cancellations received between July 1 and September 1st: \$22.50 refund (T-shirt will be sent with refund)

No Refunds after September 1st 2006. T-shirt will be mailed to you.

Send Registration Form and Check in the amount of \$ _____ payable to SAMOA to:

SAMOA Scrabble Scramble
c/o Denise Correia
P.O. Box 2283
Folsom, CA 95763

RECOMMENDED HOTELS:

Courtyard by Marriott

2575 Iron Point Road
Folsom, CA 95630
Phone: 916-984-7624
"Miata Club" special rate (\$89.99 rate – King/2Queen before July 31)

Residence Inn Suites

2555 Iron Point Road
Folsom, CA 95630
Phone: 916-983-7289
"Miata Club" special rate (\$109.99 before July 31)

Coming Attractions

Miata Bus Trip To Thunderhill

By Robin George

This is a chance for you to go as a group and visit the Thunderhill Raceway Park and see what Miatas can do. On June 19th, SAMOA is sponsoring a track day at Thunderhill. See the details in the newsletter article *Got Guts at Thunderhill* and also at our website at www.samoa.org. The track is located in Willows, approximately 80 miles and about 1 ½ hours from Sacramento. Not all of us are “trackies” but we would enjoy the opportunity to walk among, view, and absorb ourselves in the racing venue.

Well now we have the chance. For \$10 per person we can board a modern comfortable bus (happens to be yellow) and leave the driving and traffic to someone else. We will board at 8:30 am and arrive at the track around 10:00. We will spend a couple of hours wandering, drooling, viewing, and then arrive back in Sacramento around 3 pm. In addition, the club is hosting a raffle at the track at noon, and you are all invited to participate. To date, more than \$4,000 worth of raffle prizes have been donated. And if you are really adventurous, maybe you can wheedle a ride-along in the passenger seat of one of the participants (sessions are 20 minutes long...must be 18 or over to be on the track...helmet required). You can take your lunch or buy it there (the snack bar will be open for both sandwiches and hot

lunches). You can bring chairs for your own comfort; they do have bleachers for sitting as well. You do not have to be a member to attend, and children are welcome as well.

Contact me at robin@winfirst.com or at (916) 359-2627 to indicate your interest in attending. I will need to have a minimum of 25 people in order to cover the cost of the bus use. More information will be published as the event gets closer.

SAMOA Scrabble Scramble 2006

by Denise Correia

Mark your calendar for September 23, 2006 for the Scrabble Scramble in Folsom. During the morning car show we will have another new MX-5 (a 2007 this time) from Folsom Mazda to test drive. We are planning another great route. Mazda is sponsoring the awards dinner. Check the SAMOA website for details. www.samoa.org The cost is \$60 per vehicle and includes two lunches, two dinners, a t-shirt and chances to win great awards and prizes. The hotel is the Courtyard by Marriott in Folsom (916-984-7624). The hospitality suite on Friday evening will provide time for all of us to socialize with regional club members. Register prior to August 23, 2006 for a bonus t-shirt. Contact Denise Correia at (916) 806-8707 or deni@samoa.org for additional information, to volunteer for this event, or for a "no passenger" discount.

Other Articles & Words of Wisdom

I Always Wanted To Lead An Event But...

by Ron Petrich

That is a catchphrase that I would like to hear more of, because it implies that there is a body of members interested in getting involved in actually leading an event. So I'll take the high road here and assume that you potential event organizers are out there, just waiting for clarification. I will be the first to admit that we as a club have perhaps made the process a little confusing. Well, we are going to change that impression right now.

There are only two basic things you have to consider if you want to give in to your burning internal passion to lead a run. You have to come up with an idea for a run (the what, where, when) and then tell us about it. That seems like more than two things, but the W's are basically one thing – the run itself. And we have made the “telling us” part even easier.

There is a form buried in the innards (oops - almost used the b word) called the Event Notice form. That form is now available on the home page of our website. Just click on the here prompt under the heading **Thinking of Leading an Event?** right in the middle of the page. When you complete this form the information is automatically sent to the SAMOA Events Coordinator (that's me) via email. If I have any questions I'll contact you either by phone or email and we can fill in the blanks together.

For those of you that do not have access to the internet (you know who you are – you are the ones who still walk upright and have full use of your fingers and wrists) I have created a print version of the

form and included it in this newsletter. You can simply make a copy, fill it out, and mail it to me. My address is on the form.

There are a couple of things to keep in mind. Completeness of description is important for obvious reasons. When we post your event on the SAMOA website, people are going to want to contact you. So your phone number must be entered. If you do not mind your email address being published on our website and in MiataTudes, then please furnish it as well. Be specific as to the starting time and meeting location. The street address of a commercial enterprise (restaurant, business, etc) is necessary because the Sacramento Bee will not publish our notices without one. Ditto for your phone number and/or email address. Make sure you clarify both the meeting time AND the departure time. Supply a brief description of the route (ie foothills, coastal range) and name the ultimate destination. Finally if a meal or RSVP is involved, be sure to say so and give an estimate of the cost.

When I receive the information I format it for the SAMOA web page and post it on the calendar. I'll also send you a confirming email or phone call.

Our website also includes various resources to assist you in planning an enjoyable yet safe event. It is called the SAMOA **Fun Run Event Leader Kit** and it can be downloaded from the SAMOA site. From the home page click on events and then download leader pack. The kit is a 9-page PDF file that details the rules of the road, planning steps for a run, leader responsibilities, safety guidelines, a leader checklist, and a liability release form. Thanks to Bob & Genny Paauwe for their contribution to this kit. Although the content of this file appears daunting, it really is 90% common sense. The other 10%

will become second nature to you after you go on your first run. And I and the rest of the BOO are always available to help (that's why we get paid such outlandish salaries). Again, for those of you without web access, I will have a few sets to hand out at club meetings.

And that's all there is to it folks. If you have any questions, please give me a call at (916) 454-1008 or drop me an email to freescopecdad@yahoo.com.

A Profound Thank You By Mario & Cece Lavoie

Well we did it... we have our 3rd Children Receiving Home of Sacramento Easter baskets run under our belt. We want to thank everybody that participated and donated to this fantastic cause especially Roseville Yamaha and Jan and Gene, Dianne and one other member but I cannot remember is name old age I will make sure I have it for our next meeting and all that gave us Bunnies and toys at the meeting in such short notice. .

If you miss this year well we will have next year again it is a tradition that needs to keep on going. It is not about the candy and toys. It is about giving our time to kids that crave love and attentions. Just ask the people that made it to the Home on Sunday.

All of us including all the macho motorcycle men, all of us where crying and move by one little boy. He was so happy to see us, not the baskets but us. We spent about 3 hours at the Home and there are 130 kids at any given time and we only saw 2 other people drop by to bring things to their Grandchildren. This is why it is so important to all the kids. Again Thank You.

SJVMC Poker Run April 1, 2006 by Denise Correia

My sister, Renee, was happy to join me for a long day of Miata fun (also, she left her children with Daddy). Delighted to see the sun after so many days of rain, we left Easton about 7:45AM arriving at the hotel in Visalia about 8:15AM. After a quick registration, we spent time socializing. The driver's got maps and directions then everyone lined up. We were provided lots of snacks and goodies and bottled water for a glorious drive in a giant figure eight (at least that is what it looked like on the map) through the foothills near Sequoia and Kings Canyon Parks. After days of rain the cows and horses were immaculate and the trees, flowers, granite rocks sparkled in the sunlight. Amazingly perfect weather, we saw a rainbow and clouds but not rain the entire day of this well organized events. The streams were rapidly moving rivers framed by trees and flowers in vivid shades of green with splashes of purple, lavender, yellow, gold, blue.

We were provided a yummy lunch. Although it had been 50 years since I lived in Visalia, parts were familiar. We explored the downtown area during our break in the late afternoon. The dinner was an Italian buffet and the raffle was entertaining thanks to Ralph, Randy, Cindy and the "Ron and Don show". Renee was very lucky and we hauled off lots of great prizes. I won the prize for traveling the farthest to this event. Actual miles were about 722 round trip for the weekend. We are ready to sign up for 2007.

Rogue's Gallery



Just a sampling of the Easter treasures prepared by Mario, Cece, Jan, Gene, Dianne and others for the Children's receiving Home...



Delta Miata Club enjoying another sunny Northern California Day...



SJVMC Poker Run under sunny skies and in dark restaurants...

Classified Ads

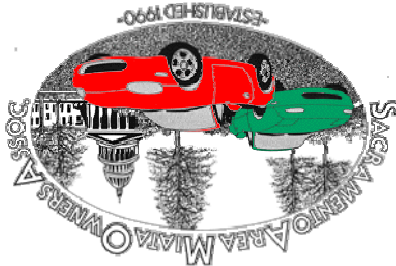
For Sale Pop-up OEM headlights pair with plastic brackets from a 1995 Miata Special Edition Mica Merlot in excellent condition available for only \$5. Contact Adi Damania by email: abdamanian@yahoo.com. (3)

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 free-scopecdad@yahoo.com or (916) 454-1008. (3)

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 free-scopecdad@yahoo.com or (916) 454-1008. (3)

1999 Miata For Sale OK its time to sell the beast ... back hurts ... jackson racing supercharger ... 65k on the clock ... kyb shocks with ground control coilovers ... fm sways ... sway bar brace ... 450 lb in front and 300lb in rear ... corbeau A4 seats ... supercharger upgrade ... water injected ... quick release steering wheel with original as well ... hard dog roll bar with padding and hard dog seat belt mount ... four point corbeau belts ... custom cat back exhaust by magna flow ... circuit 8s with kuhmo 712s ... brebmo rotors ... this car has been overly babied and pampered ... garaged and maintained by myself or crazy red ... asking 12k obo ... hate to sell but too many miatas ... call Jack Parker at (916) 698-2006. (2)

First Class Mail



PO Box 392 Orangevale, CA 95662

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.samoa.org.

Contact _____

At _____



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