



## **Patriot Day**

*by Mike DeLaurentis*

Please join this FLY THE FLAG campaign.

On Thursday, September 11th, 2008, an American flag should be displayed outside every home, apartment, office, and store in the United States. Every individual should make it their duty to display an American flag on this seventh anniversary of one our country's worst tragedies. We do this in honor of those who lost their lives on 9/11, their families, friends and loved ones who continue to endure the pain, and those who today are fighting at home and abroad to preserve our cherished freedom.

In the days, weeks and months following 9/11, our country was bathed in American flags as citizens mourned the incredible losses and stood shoulder-to-shoulder against terrorism. Sadly, those flags have all but disappeared. Our patriotism pulled us through some tough times and it shouldn't take another attack to galvanize us in solidarity. Our American flag is the fabric of our country and together we can prevail over terrorism of all kinds.

So fly an American flag of any size on 9/11. Honestly, Americans should fly the flag year-round, but if you don't, then at least make it a priority on this day.

God Bless America!



## **Job opportunity...**

*by Mark Brooks*

As much as I enjoy working on this newsletter every month, it's a bit more work than I anticipated when I took it over, and cannot dedicate the time necessary to produce the caliber of Newsletter to which we've become accustomed. I think with the impending BOO elections not too far around the corner, we've got a great opportunity to offer the Newsletter Editor role up to someone new. Of course, it will be important for the new Editor to be familiar with various applications to do the appropriate photo editing, cropping, layout, fonts, etc - and the ability to export to a recognized file format. It does take a fair amount of time and effort to create a presentable product - I usually spend between 8-10 hours putting it together and doing the tweaking necessary. If this is something you'd be interested in trying out and showing us (the BOO) what you can do - please contact any of the Board Members.

## **Robins' Nest**

*by Robin George*

We had quite the weekend last weekend. First we had the Summer Faux Olympics' on Saturday. This event has been the brainchild of Mike DeLaurentis our illustrious Vice-President. He put together a committee of sadists. All they needed were victims. And victims they got. 30+ Mike and I were able to put grown adults through a series of embarrassing events to test their skills. They were game and performed brilliantly. We found the club has quite a collection of athletes. Of course there are different degrees and we have them. Lots of fun and a good lunch. Check the comments from the participants in following columns.

The other event we attended last weekend was the State Fair. Not only did we attend but we were requested by Towe Museum to exhibit several of our clubs cars at the fair. Ten of us met at Coco's and went by caravan onto the fair grounds. We were placed into a covered area in front of the racing grandstand (placed a couple of bets myself). Rod Gonzales served the morning elixir of orange juice and champagne while we gave our cars the last buff. Throughout the day lots of people stopped and looked, asked questions, and guys tried to impress their girlfriends with their lack of knowledge. According to several of them we were displaying Corvettes, Lotus's, Toyotas, and cute little cars. We made sure we set the record straight. Some fairgoers thought we were selling the cars and were asking what their prices were. There were a couple of dealerships on the fairgrounds. Ask Denise what she was offered. As the day wore on it got hotter and uncomfortable. But the participants stuck it out and we were able to stay until 6:45 when we made our grand exit. We have been invited to join the fair again next year, but with a promise of a better date and we'll better prepared. This venue is a great way to meet the public and get the word out.

If there is a point to this column it's to show the club has many many types of events and we love doing them. Keep those ideas coming and lets continue to have fun.

BTW, if you want to be on the inside and lay the groundwork for more fun events then think about running for an office.

## Treasure Trove

by Jeanne George

### WELCOME to these new members joining in August

John and Mary Ann Taylor  
Sandi Campbell

### Memberships Expiring September 1

Crawford, Ron  
Dillon, Mike & Sandy  
Houghton, Rita  
Isett, Gregg  
Jurach, Margie  
Lydell, Kaitlyn  
Watters, Peter

### Memberships renewed in August

Martin Neft and Niki Draconetti  
Pam and Randy Hunt  
Mac and Jean Wright  
Fran Rowell  
Dan and Mila Spengler  
Toby and Margaret Counter  
John & Merrill Emelio  
Bonni Weatherwax & John Parker

## SAMOA Birthday Event

by Jeanne George

### SAMOA Club Picnic: RSVPS Deadline is September 15!!!

On Sunday, September 21, SAMOA will hold its annual picnic at Windwalker Winery, 7360 Perry Creek Road, Somerset (530 620-4054).

BBQ lunch at noon: Incahoots Restaurant from Plymouth will cater the event. Our menu will be sliced tri-tip on a French roll, green salad, potato salad, soda, water, and of course desserts.

The day will begin with an organized drive to the winery (still in the planning stage), or you can drive there on your own.

The cost will be \$15 per person, payable in advance. At registration the day of the event, your money will be returned to you. Each active membership qualifies for two ticket refunds.

RSVP for this event is required by September 15. Contact Jeanne George at [jeanne@winfirst.com](mailto:jeanne@winfirst.com) to place ticket orders or call 916 359-2627. Send checks payable to SAMOA and mail to 1864 Bridgecreek Dr., Sacramento, CA 95833. Checks must be received by September 18th.

If you pay for tickets, but find yourself unable to attend, please notify me to cancel your attendance by September 18th for a full refund. No refund after the caterer is given the final headcount on September 18th.

Come out and enjoy the fun. Your Board of Officers (BOO) is working on additional ideas and plans which will be updated on the web site.

## September Birthdays

by Ron Petrich

Congratulations to the following members for surviving another year:

Gundi Bechthold	19th
Ray Chermak	15th
Toby Counter	21st
Adi Damania	3rd
Richard Dart	1st
Terese Davis	7th
Mike DeLaurentis	26th
Helen DeLaurentis	29th
Deidre DeNuzzo	30th
Melyssa Ehnstrom	18th
Robert Falconer	25th
Elanora Drake	26th
Gerald Garner	21st
David Lask	21st
Wendy Godfrey	18th
Kenn LaFler	30th
Michael Sipe	22nd
Dan Spengler	29th
Richard Steele	1st
James Stewart	19th
Vince Weis	2nd



Whew!!! That's a lot of birthdays, must be extremely cold in the winter time where you come from. Of 179 active members, we have birthdays for 139 of you. That leaves 40 members who must be very, very sad indeed because you do not have a birthday. To find out who you are, just open the member name and address listing on our web page and check to see if we have yours listed. If not, just drop me a line at [freesopesdad@comcast.net](mailto:freesopesdad@comcast.net) so I can your birthday to the database and we can help you get older.

## Web Notes

by Ron Petrich

It's the time of the year when our listing of remaining events this year starts to get a little thin. So to keep the calendar page looking more like an event listing and less like my front lawn, I've taken the liberty to start adding 2009 activities to the list. So far I have added each of our monthly meetings for next year, and also 2 other events that I know the dates for. Super Bowl Sunday is February 1st in 2009, so I have added our annual run to Napa on that day. Secondly, I have already received confirmation from Thunderhill that we have been awarded April 20th (a Monday again) for Got Guts at Thunderhill IV.

So if you plan on leading a club activity in 2009 and already have picked a date, please let me know what it is, and I will put it on the web calendar. Hopefully this will inspire a lot of copycats and egotists who want to win the great prize we will be awarding next year to the member who leads the most events. Just send the info to me at [freesopesdad@comcast.net](mailto:freesopesdad@comcast.net) and I will take care of the rest. Thanks.

## Upcoming Events

by Jack Parker

### SAMOA Club Picnic Celebrates 18 years of Fun

Sunday, September 21, we will honor our Club's Birthday with a catered BBQ lunch at the Windwalker Vineyard. The owners of Windwalker have graciously allowed us to use their facilities. This will be our 3rd year at this location. In addition to wine tasting, lunch, meeting the members, and having fun, a bocce ball tournament will be offered for those interested. Or you can purchase a bottle of Windwalker wine and sit in the shade and watch the activities. The winery is located at 7360 Perry Creek Road, Somerset (530-620-4054).

Incahoots Restaurant from Plymouth will cater the event. The menu will be sliced tri-tip on a French roll, green salad, potato salad, soda, water, and of course dessert. Lunch is planned for noon.

The day will begin with a poker run starting from the Costco Parking lot on Whiterock and Sunrise Blvd. We will meet at the MacDonalds at 9:30 AM for a cruise through the wine country of Amador County picking up cards for your poker hand. Buy in for the poker is ten dollars per hand with the winning hand given the choice of a list of charities to which the money will be donated. The poker run should be concluded by 11:30. For information on the poker run contact Jack Parker at [culdad@svics.com](mailto:culdad@svics.com) or 916 3540935

This year the cost will be \$15 per person, which will be refunded to you at registration on the day of the event. Each active membership qualifies for two ticket refunds.

RSVP for this event is required by September 15. Contact Jeanne George at [jeanne@winfirst.com](mailto:jeanne@winfirst.com) to place ticket orders or call 916-359-2627. Make checks payable to SAMOA and mail them to 1864 Bridgecreek Dr., Sacramento, CA 95833. Checks must be received by September 18th.

If you pay for tickets, but find yourself unable to attend, please notify me to cancel your attendance by September 18th. for a refund. No refund after the caterer is given the final headcount on September 18th.

Come out and enjoy the fun. Your Board of Officers (BOO) is working on additional ideas and plans which will be provided

in the near future.

Contact Robin George at (916) 359-2627 or [robin@winfirst.com](mailto:robin@winfirst.com) for more information

### Scrabble Scramble

The Scrabble Scramble 2008 is scheduled for October 4, 2008. We have registration forms available on the website for download. Although we have set an August 29th deadline to have responses for potential attendees you may still enter but time is important for ordering t-shirts and making dinner reservations. We have a new route which I think you will like very much. Dinner is an Italian buffet. We will be based in Folsom again this year.

A block of rooms is reserved at the Marriott Courtyard and also the Residence Inn. Breakfast is included at the Residence Inn. (Courtyard \$99, Residence Inn \$109 (1 bedroom suite, \$149 two bedroom suite) The registration package will contain your car number for the car show, car show ballot, name badges, t-shirts, scrabble game sheet, maps and directions.

For more information contact Denise at [correiadenise@yahoo.com](mailto:correiadenise@yahoo.com).

### Weekend in Fort Bragg.

Its time to reserve your hotel room for this great weekend event sponsored by Ralph Gingrich and Fran Rowell. October 10-13 the club will spend the weekend on the coast of California cruising the roads and having the usual great time. We will be staying at the Best Western in Fort Bragg where the rooms have been set aside at 95.99 plus tax. Please make your reservations soon. We will again have the cottage for fun and games and dinner on Saturday night of the event.

For the trip up one group will be starting at the McDonalds off Mace Drive in Davis on Friday, October 10 at 8:30 in the morning. Vince and Kathy will do the honor of leading us with the usual lunch and winery stops.

The hotel phone number is 1-707-964-4776, so make reservations soon. September 15 is the deadline to make reservations to get the discounted hotel rate. If you have questions contact Ralph at 916 721 4499 or

[rkitman@surewest.net](mailto:rkitman@surewest.net). or you may contact Fran at 530 344 1913 or [franrowell@aol.com](mailto:franrowell@aol.com)

Other events on the schedule include the Weekend at Topaz Lake sponsored by our own Graeme Kinsey and Delta on September 6-7, Teddy Bear Run on November 8, Miatapalooza, sponsored by BAMA on September 27 and our annual Christmas Party on December 6. These events can be located on our website, expertly maintained by Ron Petrich, at <http://www.sacramentoareamiata.org/calendar.html>.

For help with future events or planning next years events contact Jack Parker at [culdad@svics.com](mailto:culdad@svics.com). The club is only as good as the members want it to be. So gather your thoughts and ideas for those runs for 2009 and get them on the calendar.

## Upcoming SAMOA and Local Events

- Sat/Sun Sept 6-7 - Weekend at Lake Topaz
- Thurs Sept 11 - SAMOA Club Meeting
- Sun Sept 21 - SAMOA Birthday Picnic
- Sat Sept 27 - Miatapalooza
- Sat Oct 4 - Scrabble Scramble 2008
- Thurs Oct 9 - SAMOA Club Meeting
- Fri-Mon Oct 10-13 - Weekend in Ft. Bragg
- Sat Nov 8 - Teddy Bear Run
- Thurs Nov 13 - SAMOA Club Meeting
- Sat Dec 6 - SAMOA Christmas Party
- Thurs Dec 11 - SAMOA Club Meeting

## 2008 SAMOA Faux Olympics

by Jeanne George

On Sunday August 23, the SAMOA athletes arrived at the designated meeting place. All of them eager, excited and anxious about the adventure they were to embark upon. Like lambs being led to slaughter, they followed Pam and Randy Hunt to Olympic Park in Loomis. When they arrived, true to slaughter form, Robin, Mike and Helen directed them to parking spaces. Next they were herded to registration for check in, assigned their team, and given their team "uniform" which consisted of a colored yarn string tied to their wrist. This uniform identified the teams of Classic Red, Crystal White, Mahogany Mica, Brilliant Black, BRG (British Racing Green), and Montego Blue. Robin advised the teams to gather together.

Robin announced that the Opening Ceremonies would commence and the Olympic music began. The crowds cheered as the Olympic Committee and judges paraded in. Frank and Vi Nicholson carried the all important black Miata banner followed by Sharon Kenny and myself carrying the sacred SAMOA banner. Mike and Helen carried a white board with the colorful Olympic rings, followed by Alan with the Olympic Torch. The events were photographed by John Kenny.

The athletes were led to the following events where they would compete.

**Balance Beam:** Each team picked a representative. The contestants placed a Styrofoam I-beam on their head and Robin led them through an obstacle course which included stepping over horseshoe pit walls. They were timed and 5 second penalties were added for touching the beam.

**Broad Jump:** One male and one female from each team were required to jump over a laminated poster of Pamela Anderson in shorts and white crop top. Several of the men forgot their mission and had to be reminded to jump not stare at the Broad.

**Javelin:** One member from each team threw a small broom between a cone marked course with greatest accuracy and distance rewarded.

**Discus:** The judges demonstrated this event by throwing a Frisbee between a cone marked course for distance. However, when the first individual stepped forward they were informed that they had to use a dry tortilla instead.

**Shot Put:** This event required the team representative to shot put a water filled balloon between a cone marked course for distance.

**Basketball:** This was a team event. Each team had a ball thrower, a catcher with a bucket, and the remaining teammates retrieved golf ball sized rubber balls. The idea was to catch the most balls in the bucket after they were bounced off a wooden board in two minutes.

**Drug testing:** An alarm was sounded when the judges heard rumors regarding doping violations. Each team was to provide a "drug free" teammate to pee in a bottle. Standing several feet away the individual threw five frozen peas into a bottle. Marlaina Wilson was the winner of this task. She managed 3 peas in the bottle, it never was determined if that meant she passed or failed.

**Biathlon:** This event required an individual armed with a squirt gun to run to an area and attempt to shoot two water bottles off some large rocks. Then proceed to two other locations to shoot more water bottles and return to the starting point.

**Relay Race:** This team event required each member of the team to fill a sponge full of water, hold the dripping sponge over their head, walk slowly around an obstacle course, wring out the sponge in another bucket and return to the start point. The team with the most water in the other bucket was the winner.

**Blind Volleyball:** This event pitted teams against each other in traditional volleyball. The difference being, white sheets were hung over the net, preventing them from seeing the opposing team.

Here are comments I collected from some of the athletes.

Fran Rowell: The only individual event I was in was the broad jump. I enjoyed the volleyball game the most. The balance beam was the most fun to watch. I won one bronze medal. It was a most enjoyable day with plenty of time to mingle and visit with others.

Ron and Linda Moe participated in the Javelin, relay, basketball, volleyball, and discus. We enjoyed the Basketball and enjoyed watching others perform the Basketball and balance beam. We won two medals and had a great time.

Ron Petrich: I did the shot put and javelin events. I enjoyed the basketball and the pentathlon was a riot. I won 5 gold medals. It was a great Olympics, from the opening ceremonies to the feast afterwards. It was obvious that much creative thought and effort went into it, and the IOC is to be commended

Terri Bacon: I participated in discus (AKA tortillas). Most enjoyed basketball and the opening ceremonies.

Enjoyed watching others perform balance beam and relay-although all were fun to watch. Won bronze (relay) and silver (basketball). Great fun. The IOC has nothing on the SAMOA Committee!

Bob Bacon: I participated in balance beam and biathlon? (Squirt gun event). Most enjoyed the volleyball.

Enjoyed watching others play basketball. Won bronze (volleyball) and gold (balance beam). We should have some kind of special award for the people who put it all together. That had to have been a lot of work.

Sally and Jack Parker: Jack did the javelin and Sally did the Balance Beam. We enjoyed the blind volleyball and enjoyed watching others perform the discus. When asked did you win any medals and how many? "Sally too many and Jack not enough. We continue to enjoy the innovation and entertaining and amusing events that the delarentis' come up with...the organization was amazing and the whole event was a lot of fun... can't wait for it to start snowing in 2010"

Carol and Joe Rainbolt: Joe did the Broadjump, Biathlon, Shotput and Carol the Discus. Joe enjoyed the Discus event and Carol enjoyed the Volleyball. Carol enjoyed watching others perform Volley ball. Joe won 5 medals and Carol won 4. It was really great fun. I hope we do this again next Olympics.

Pam and Randy Hunt: Here are Randy's and my responses to your questions. Randy did the Javelin and I did the Balance Beam. We both liked watching the Basketball. Randy liked watching the Blind volleyball and I the Basketball. Randy won 2 medals and I won 3. It was a kick! Even funnier to watch the

## Olympics - continued

people in the park watching us-the kids faces were amazing. It looked like they wondered what these crazy adults were doing!

Cece: participated in the Broad jump. I enjoyed the Volleyball. It was fun watching the sponge to bucket. I won 3 Gold as team effort. The day was filled with surprise events and we all did our best to win. The balance beam was great fun to watch also. Great Hamburgers, we all worked up an appetite. Thanks you all, for your hard work and planning.

Barbara Cowan: selected for Balance Beam. I enjoyed the Balance Beam and it was fun watching the other events. I won a medal for the Balance Beam. It was good to be silly for a day

Clay Cowan: did the Broad Jump, Javelin Throw. I enjoyed Volleyball/Basketball. I enjoyed watching the Basketball/Discus. I won 2 medals. Great fun, as always

Jan Leining: did the tossing of the broom. I can't remember exact names of the events. No favorites - all were fun. I won a Bronze - volleyball. The creative & clever interpretation of the names was great. The committee did a wonderful job. I need to get to work on my athletic abilities.

Jackie McClure: I did the tortilla toss. I enjoyed the relay sponge race and liked watching the blind volleyball. The drug test was hysterical. I won two silver medals. Food was delicious and hamburgers were great. The parade was great.

Jim McClure: I did the Broad Jump, but got distracted and was a little late on my effort. I enjoyed the relay race and I thought the blind volleyball was terrific. I didn't win any medals but it was fun to watch. I really liked the Olympic team uniforms.

For those of you that attended, it seems you had a great time. You can find pictures of the various events in the Photo Album section of the web site

## Beijing takes dogs off menu for Olympics

A big thanks to Vi and Frank Nicholson for buying, cooking and serving our Olympic lunch. We had hamburgers and the usual stuff to go along with them along with a few turkey burgers and veggie burgers and cake for desert. Had you gone to China, for those other Olympic games, you might have had something else on the menu:

Beijing takes dog off the menu for Olympics Fri Jul 11, 12:40 AM ET

BEIJING (Reuters) - Beijing has asked hotels and restaurants in the city to take dog meat off the menu for the duration of next month's Olympics and September's Paralympics. Dog is eaten not only by the large Korean community in China's capital but is also popular in Yunnan and Guizhou restaurants.

A directive from the Beijing Food Safety Office issued last month ordered Olympic contractor hotels not to provide any dishes made with dog meat and said any canine material used in traditional medicated diets must be clearly labeled. Concerned that canine dishes might offend animal rights groups and Western visitors, Beijing said restaurants expected to be popular among foreign visitors must stop serving dog meat "to respect the dining customs of different countries."

The directive "advocated" that all restaurants serving dog suspend it during the Olympics but made no mention of the many popular establishments with donkey on the menu.

Criticism from Westerners caused the dog meat-loving South Koreans to ban canine dishes for a period of time during the 1988 Seoul Olympics.

We spared a dog at OUR Olympics.

Mike



## Another Monterey Weekend

by Ron Petrich

The third weekend of August, heck the entire third week really, constitutes the holy grail of automobiledom for the car enthusiast. It is the week of the Rolex Monterey Historic Car Races at Laguna Seca, the Pebble Beach Concours d'Elegance at, where else, Pebble Beach, the Concorso Italiano, the Quail, and numerous automobile auctions, shows, tours and rallies. The market value of all the Porsches, Ferraris, Lamborghinis, Bugattis, BMWs, etc etc etc on hand in and around Monterey/Carmel probably exceeds the gross national product of at least half of the G8 member countries. Its just unbelievable what one sees constantly passing on the streets of Monterey.

The events really started this year on the second weekend, when the Ferrari Club of America conducted a car show and held their Ferrari Challenge races at Laguna Seca, in conjunction with the Monterey Pre-Historics. Although these races are not per se a part of the big car weekend, their timing this year attracted lots of attention. Most of the action usually starts on the following Thursday, however. And that is when I arrived in town, having left Sacramento at 9:00 AM Thursday morning.

The track at Laguna Seca is open to the public on Thursday, with no admission charge and free parking. At this point some race participants are still arriving. Most of the day is filled with press conferences, test and tune sessions, and rookie (to Laguna Seca) driver qualifications. This is the day four years ago that I wrangled a track ride in the passenger seat of a Ferrari Enzo that was volunteered by its owner to the Make-A-Wish Foundation. But that's another story altogether. I arrived at the track at about 1:30 PM, just when the historic TransAm cars (Mustangs, Camaros, TransAms, Javelins, etc) were taking to the track for practice. Talk about loud!!! And following this practice group were the historic CanAm cars. Think McClaren, Shadow, Porsche, Ferrari, etc., probably the coolest and most advanced race cars ever built... the Porsche 917 developed as much as 1200 horsepower in its ultimate form. Following this outing at the track, I drove back to Monterey, checked in to my hotel, and met some other Miata enthusiasts for dinner down on Cannery Row... where of course another impromptu exotic car show was taking place. Just outside Bubba Gumps members of the Lamborghini Club were parked for a round of photography. There were at least twenty Gallardos and Murcielagos in the corral, including the amazing Reventon, which takes its design cues from the F22 Raptor jet fighter. Simply amazing...

Friday morning its out early to head down to Marina, on the coast a few miles south, to take part (read drool) in the car corrals at Concorso Italiano. This year the event, which ostensibly is a celebration of Italian style according to their website, was held at the Marina airport, and included the usual assortment of Italian cars, motorcycles, boats, food and fashion, as well as a display of vintage aircraft. Non-Italian marques such as Porsche, BMW, Mercedes and others also had corrals at CI, and presented as much eye candy as the Ferraris and Lambos. It took most of the day just to soak it all in, and of course we ran into Jay Leno prowling about, as we have in each of the last five or six years. He gives his best to SAMOA by the way. It was also here in the Japanese car corral (mostly NSXs and RX-7s) that I got my first up close and personal look at the new Nissan GT-R that has taken every auto magazine by storm. In fact there were two there parked side by side, a black and a gray, and it was the gray one that Jack Parker and Robin George played bumper tag with on SR88 near Kirkwood on

August 12th. But I got closer than they did, as the owner let me sit in it.

Friday afternoon and evening is taken up by one of the least publicized but most enjoyable events of the weekend. It's the Pacific Grove Concours Car Rally. Anyone can sign up, but the event is limited to 200 cars, all of which are interesting from a performance or sports perspective. The list of entrants runs the gamut from an early fifties MG-T? to a late model Corvette, from a Ferrari F-40 to a 1958 Cadillac Eldorado convertible. Participants line up on Lighthouse Avenue, the main drag in downtown Pacific Grove, two abreast, starting at about 3:00 PM until the rally starts at 6:00 PM. During this period the street is just one long lovefest of cars, with owners anxious to show anyone whats under the hood, in the trunk, or even under the car. The rally route winds along Ocean Avenue in Pacific Grove, to seventeen mile drive past Pebble Beach, stops in Carmel on Ocean Boulevard, and then heads back to Pacific Grove for a bbq dinner. All along the route the local police and Highway Patrol have every intersection blocked to the rally participants can continue unimpeded, and locals wave and cheer to our honks and revs along the route. It really is a blast.

Saturday I had promised Mike Hagerla that I would be at the race track at the 7:00 AM opening to help with the Miata corral. Many of you may remember the heydays of our participation at the Monterey Historics, when Barbara Beach and the gang from Mazda would put up a tent and help subsidize our corral celebrations at turn 5. That support has been missing for the last few years... until this year. Through Mike's efforts, Mazda ponied up enough money for a tent, breakfast coffee and goodies, and a delicious lunch for all of the corral participants. And the turnout this year was amazing. There were at least fifty Mazda vehicles in the corral, mostly Miatas, and one strange looking black convertible with an M that looked more like an H on the hood. And the races were as enjoyable as the corral, with everything from 191X steam powered race cars to mid-eighties Formula one racers. A highlight took place at noon, when Mario Andretti, the guest of honor throughout the weekend, drove his 1978 JPS formula one car, the same one he took the world driving championship in, once again. And of course, Saturday evening in Monterey was another street car show as exciting as Thursday and Friday.

Sunday was sleep-in day, at least until 7:30 or so. Breakfast, and then back to Laguna Seca for the second day of races. Sunday is not as hectic at the track as Saturday, and the Mazda corral reflected this, with no more than a half dozen cars parked there. But it made access to the various racing teams in the pits easier. Of course another Jay Leno sighting was in the cards, as well as several other historic figures in racing, namely Phil Hill, Bobby Unser, Bob Bondurant, Alain de Cadenet, Mario again, and others. And these guys are approachable as well, and I was able to shake a couple of hands and tell them how much we appreciate their legacy and continued participation. And Jay again promised to show up at one of our meetings at Coco's. I think he mentioned September.

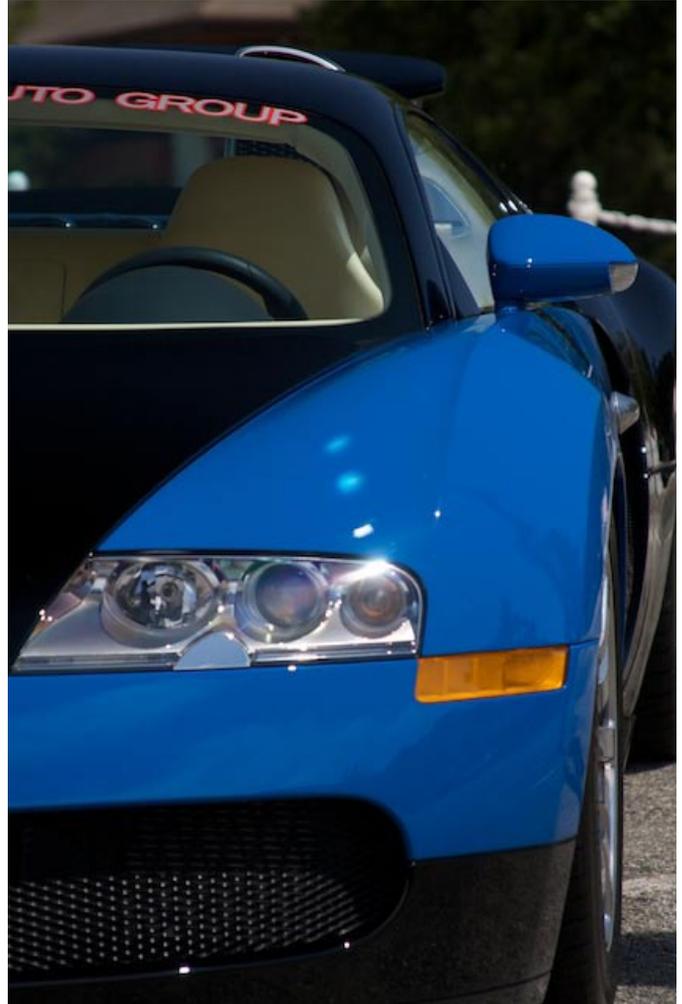
Of course the OTHER big event on Sunday is the grand Pebble Beach Concours d'Elegance out on the golf course. But attending the Concours vs the races is an either or proposition. Someday I will cash in a CD and buy a ticket, just to see what the fuss is all about. But I'll leave that for

## Monterey - continued

a future year.

Sunday at mid-afternoon, with some regret that the weekend was about over, I packed up and headed back to the Sacramento valley. The good news is that I just beat the crowds, the bad news was that I was heading back to 100+ temperatures. Was I relieved when I discovered that the Delta breezes had once again blessed Sacramento with delightful temperatures.

If you have spent any time in Monterey and Carmel during this weekend in years past, you know what great fun it is. If you haven't ever gone, please consider it. I think our large turnout in the corral on Saturday might provide Mazda with an incentive to host us once again, and that would be a great thing. One thing to remember however, is to make your hotel/motel/B&B reservations early. I have already made mine at the local Pacific Grove B&B where I've stayed for the last two years. January 2009 is NOT too early, and you can always cancel three weeks out if plans change. I hope to see some of you there, first-timers or repeat offenders, next year.



## Loon Lake

by Pam Hunt

As this was our first run that we planned, we were somewhat nervous and worried if anyone would show up! A surprise early arrival were Robin & Jeanne George. Robin wanted to go for a ride to get Jeanne out of the house after her accident, but, more importantly, he wanted to show off his new brand new self installed supercharger!

Also in attendance were guests John and Joanie Jokerst who saw the announcement in the Sac Bee & called and asked if they could go on the run. John and Joanie are relatively new owners of a white 2003. They fit in wonderfully and were a lot of fun!

All in all, we had 9 Miatas on the run and one OTM (starting, anyway) in the run. Not a bad turnout.

At the drivers meeting, we forgot a few items that other more experienced leaders contributed some safety recommendations. We also forgot take pictures and forgot to call for trip OD resets as we left the parking lot. Will we remember this next time? Maybe, or not. Anyway, no major disasters until we got to Loon Lake.

At our drivers stop at the Crystal Basin Ranger Station, there was a family with four little boys running around taking pictures. Wouldn't you know, they wanted to have their picture taken in front of a Miata. Wouldn't you know it, they picked the Mahogany, arguably.... Well, you know the rest...

As we approached the area, we noticed that the air looked a little clearer. We have actually been to this site at Loon Lake many times. At these prior times, the parking lots were mostly empty, maybe a dozen or so boat trailer / pickups were there and the picnic tables mostly empty. Of course, Murphy was with us. We rolled unsuspecting into the boat launch / picnic area and it is more crowded than we had ever seen before. Not one picnic table was available. We talked to the ranger lady about the closest available alternate site, she didn't know of one. From previous trips, we knew of some at French Meadows Reservoir – but that was some 3 hrs away. As we all know, Miata runs are first about driving the fun roads, but a close second is food. It is well known, but often unsaid that it is not safe to withhold or delay food from Samoans. So, in somewhat of a panic, Pam saw one older gentleman occupying a picnic table by himself and she sweet talked him into sharing the table in exchange for free access to food. Sidney from Foster City was our savior of the day. Parking was also an issue, no open spaces, so some resourceful participants spied some unused RV spots and filled them with Miatas stacked 3 or 4 deep. A brief discussion with a very nice campground host (Cliff), we got the OK on the parking situation. All in all, we met some very nice people. It's amazing what bribery with food will do!

After we had finished eating, there was, as usual, a lot of food left. We Samoans like to plan on plenty to eat; heaven forbid that we don't have enough food. As there were approximately 50 boy scouts getting ready to head out on a camping trip sitting right next to us, Vince went over and asked if they were hungry! Think you can guess the rest? Wrong! Other than the chips and cookies, our food was too "spicy and different" for their tenders stomachs. Very little was eaten by the kids, so we were left to finish the job ourselves!

Lessons learned: Even with quite a few pre-runs, things can still go wrong. If we do this run again, mid May might be a better prospect for not being crowded out.

Many thanks to all who participated to make our first run a success



## Miata goes for a swim

by Adi Damania

Melissa Campasino was lying in her bikini on a beach in Florida on June 26th getting a nice tan when she received a frantic call from her neighbor Kim Taylor back home in Stewartstown, PA (population: 1752). From Taylor's voice, Campasino knew something was dreadfully wrong. But what? Taylor said something about a happening at Campasino's home, but assured her no one was hurt. She managed to stammer a few more words, saying that a red car had gone into Campasino's yard. After more silence, Campasino heard Taylor blurt out that she thought she had put the emergency brake on. Campasino could not make head or tail and thought it was a joke. Next, Taylor told her neighbor about a car hitting her fence. And the car and the fence all had somehow something to do with Campasino's sea-water pool.

"She was telling me this very slowly. I finally said what, what, what about five times," Campasino said and then the line went dead. Campasino's imagination began to run wild as you can imagine.



Gordon's Towing Service lifts the car from the pool. The pool is salvageable. The car's fate is in question. Can the Miata be baked in a giant oven?

She had no idea what to expect. After a few more minutes, Melissa Campasino called again and finally pieced together what had happened -- Taylor's red 1993 Miata had rolled downhill after she parked it and got out, so that it went through a garden and ramped into the air, crashed through a fence and landed in the deep end of Campasino's in-ground pool. "She kept saying, 'I could have sworn I put on the emergency brake,'" Campasino said. "It was hard to get angry with her because she was so upset. What could you do? We were on a holiday in Florida."

Melissa Campasino next tried to explain what happened to Dan, her husband. Dan wasn't amused. In fact he was starting to get fired up. After all, the fence was damaged and the oil and fuel may have leaked into the pool, he fumed! He eventually cooled down when their daughter, Ashley, called from their home.

Taylor had called Ashley Campasino at her workplace at Hooter's in New York at 11:30 a.m. Ashley rushed to her mother's PA home to see what had happened. She called her mother in Florida. All her mother remembers is Ashley giggling

and promising to send a few photos over her camera phone.

"Sure enough, there was a car in our pool," Melissa Campasino concluded.

The patrol-officer and the tow truck driver estimated the car was going 40 mph before it hit the water. The Sheriff wanted to see Kim Taylor's driving license!



Police and the tow truck driver estimated the car was going 40 mph before it hit the water.

Melissa Campasino later learned that Kim Taylor was screaming and chasing the Miata all the way down the hill until it splashed down (not unlike the AAA Insurance ad where more or less the same thing happens to a 1960s MGB owner, whose handbrake had failed). On behalf of Miatatudes I tried to interview Kim Taylor but phone, but could not reach her for comment. I am sure Mazda would like to get hold of her Miata, just so they can know what happens when one of their cars is pickled in sea-water for a few hours. If the car can be made to run in a couple of days or so it would be a feather in Mazda's cap.

Melissa and Dan Campasino were thankful no one was hurt. They also figured if it hadn't been for the pool, which will be repaired soon, the car would have smashed into their home! The couple, after a couple of beers, sat down and looked at the pictures on a computer screen. "We just sat and laughed and laughed," she said. "And then we went out for more drinks." What the heck! It is not everyday that a red Miata lands up in your pool!

### UPDATE

The Campasinos' swimming pool has been cleaned thoroughly and the fence has been repaired, but there's still no word on how the dip in the salt water swimming pool has affected the 15-year old Miata (the insurance Co. is looking at the car). I wonder what a red Miata that had been submerged in brine smells like after it dries out? I also wonder if the leather or cloth upholstery would have any bearing on the odor? Well, in the meantime, the Miata owner's daughter, the buxom Ashley, is selling pictures of the sub-marine Miata on the internet and blogs are full of barbed references to women drivers, which I shall not repeat here. Suffice to say that my Miata has a good emergency brake and a water-tight insurance policy. Period. Ciao, Ciao till next time.

*editors note - apparently Kim Taylor hadn't seen Mike DeLaurentis' Miata/handbrake mishap from a couple months ago - if she had, this might not have happened!*