



Miata Meanderings

April, 2012

Official Newsletter of the Midstate Miata Club of New York

Visit the Midstate Miata Club on the Internet at:

www.midstatemiata.net

President's Message



I always seem to start off the first message of the year with how we should be looking forward to the year ahead, and recommending that everyone get their Miata's out on the road, blah, blah, blah. But this year I'll just start by saying WOW! Can you believe this weather? Granted, we have had other freaky years when I went golfing on New Year's Day, and I've had the car out in February for a day, but this is crazy. I've never gotten it out in mid March and kept it out. Talk about March Madness, if you haven't gotten your car out yet, you are really missing out.

I've already been out for a few long drives and ice cream stops, and through the grapevine I have heard that a lot of you were inquiring when the newsletter would be out, so you've gotten your wish, seems like everyone is itching to get started . . .

As usual we have a full schedule of interesting events planned for this year (thank you to all of you that contributed, those that attended the planning meeting and Burdick's Drivers Village in co-hosting the event). With hope, this beautiful weather will continue through the whole season, with no more bad weather. No more snow, no wind and hail storms, and let's not have any spring flooding like our Southern Tier friends had to deal with last year. Keep those fingers crossed.

A few notes to cover for those who did not make the planning meeting.

1.) The subject of the LLC was re-raised. When we had initially looked into it last year, it was difficult to tell whether or not it would provide what we needed. The consensus from the group agreed that it is worth our while to consult with a legal specialist, and to take another look. In doing so, Jay will see what other clubs in the area are doing, and Tom Cavanaugh has volunteered to gather and lead a committee to research further.

2.) In order to try and better deal with cancellations, the cancellation policy will be revised. All events will be clearly listed whether they are "Rain" or "Shine", and for last minute cancellations, when possible, area reps will communicate status changes, and the website will be updated with "event status" so it is easily referenced by all with internet access. So now more than ever, read your newsletter and check the website. Last year I hosted a few last minute add-on events, keep your eyes open for some this year. Area reps and members, if you have an event in mind that others may be interested in, and it does not conflict with an existing scheduled event, let us know. Perhaps we will list it in the newsletter and on the website calendar page.

It's a great start to the year so far, let's keep it up. The first event is coming soon; in preparation get out there and burn some carbon out of your engine. A coat of wax couldn't hurt either. . .

Lee Maddy

Welcome New Members

Deane Bergstrom



<u>Member</u>	<u>Where From</u>	<u>Miata</u>	<u>Area Rep</u>
Joanne Heckmann	Fairport	2006 White	Karen McKissock
Renee Betti & Bob Cushman	Frankfort	1992 Red	Denise Wargo
Bob & Angie Fisher	Liverpool	2001 Silver	Denise Wargo
Rob & Karen Sgarlata	Cicero	2000 Orange	Karen Abbott
Carl & Marianne Gielow	North Chili	2001 LS BRG	Karen McKissock
Jerry & Janet Compoli	Oneida	2008 Red	Karen Abbott

So it's done !!!!

Jay Cartini

I would like to thank everyone who attended the **planning meeting** and brought their ideas, comments and concerns for us to discuss. Thanks to them, and all those who sent in ideas and suggestions, we put together a fairly extensive list of events that will take us from the end of April to the middle of October.

The activity list should be complete, unless a date has to be changed due to venue conflicts. But other than that we should be good to go. If there is a change in a date, venue or event details you will be notified as soon as possible. The change will be available immediately on the website, and included in the newsletter. We will



have a few events that are "fair weather only". If there is a question as to whether the event is a go or not, the decision will be on the website as early as the day before.

If you have any questions just let me know.....

Thanks again.

PS and remember, **blue is better!!!**

MMC at the Glen

Lee Maddy



Sunday April 22nd - Back by popular demand; join us for the second year in a row, at "Opening Weekend at the Glen". Last year we were joined by members of the Central Pennsylvania PACE club; this year (weather permitting) our friends in the CNY Cobra Club will join us. It's a day of fun that we can all feel good about because, it's all for a great charity.

Proceeds from the track event benefit the Juvenile Diabetes Research Fund. Founded in 1970, JDRF has raised over \$1.6 billion for type 1 diabetes research.



Come do your part for worthy charity, and have a great time doing it. This is your opportunity to drive the track, no special equipment (roll bars, helmets, harness, etc.) required, just a little CASH.

Laps on the track are \$25 for 3 laps or \$50 for (6 laps plus 3 free- total 9 laps) PLEASE BRING CASH (credit cards and checks not accepted).

Schedule:

- 9:00 AM Syracuse members meet at the Fairmount-Tully's Restaurant parking lot
- 10:30 AM Rochester members meet at the Geneva McDonald's (462 Hamilton St.) (Park in the rear (bus parking area) and wait for Syracuse Group to arrive)
- Noon Southern Tier members should meet group outside the main gate entrance (on right far corner away from entrance booths) and wait for arrival caravan of Northern cars

Note: There are no meals scheduled for this event. You are responsible for your own lunch, either bring your own, or some food may be available at the track clubhouse or at food stands around the track.

After the track, on your own, feel free to travel home or partake of the many other local attractions (wineries, museums, etc.).

This will be a rain or shine event, and will not be cancelled unless the track is closed. Check the club website for last minute updates, and the track website www.theglen.com for more information.

Area Reps- please contact event coordinator by Friday April 20th with a head count.

ETC.



When Midstate Miata Club's **Oliver Blaise Jr.** began running 25 years ago, he never could have imagined how far his feet would take him. Blaise, now 65, has run marathons from Antarctica to China, and in October, he accomplished his goal of running one in each of the 50 United States. Gerry & Florence Acquilano

In all, the former Windsor superintendent has completed 62 of the grueling 26.2 mile races -- 30 since having open-heart surgery in 2005. Blaise began running for exercise, but the sport quickly became a hobby and eventually a lifestyle.

After a few years of being encouraged by other runners to increase his distances, Blaise ran the 1989 New Jersey Waterfront Marathon, which began on the George Washington Bridge and finished on the 50-yard line of the old Giants Stadium. "After I ran the first one, I was sure I'd never run again," Blaise said.

But it didn't take long for Blaise to get back at it, and after completing a handful of marathons along the East Coast, Blaise started to consider the 50-state plan. "It's pretty interesting," he said. "It gives you a reason to go somewhere you wouldn't normally have a reason to go. The running community is a pretty nice group of people. After eight, nine, 10, I started thinking it was possible. But I didn't think it was probable. "After you get to about

20, you start thinking, 'You know, I think I could do this if I just am persistent enough.' I got distracted when I started working on the continents, too. I got four of the seven. I went to Antarctica in 1999 so I would have that before I was older in case I can't get there again."

Blaise also tackled Europe with the London Marathon and Asia with the Great Wall Marathon north of Beijing. But finishing the 50 states was his top priority. Hawaii was saved for second-to-last and provided a beautiful vacation for Blaise and his wife Susan last September. On Oct. 9, 2011, he ran the Prairie Fire Marathon in Wichita, Kansas, to complete his quest. "I'm really proud of having finished it, because there are an awful lot of people who I know who started on the journey but did not complete it," Blaise said. "Sometimes, it's a personal decision, had enough, life itself gets in the way. But it's been a real joy for my wife and me to do all this traveling.

"We like to run, and we like to travel, so it's a combination of two things we value. We have taken a lot of pride in just doing it, and we've absolutely loved it." Blaise still hopes to conquer all seven continents and is considering running the Rio De Janeiro Marathon in Brazil in July to cross South America off his list. He would also like to run one in all 10 provinces and three territories in Canada, having knocked off two so far. "There's still a lot to do," he said.

Susan, who trained with Oliver for his return from heart surgery, has run the half-marathons at his past 12 races. The couple resides in Kirkwood and visits Florida every winter.

Gerry & Florence Acquilano



Florence took a nasty spill broke her hip, immediate surgery was administered for a partial hip replacement. She is home now recuperating, getting ready to get back to some "normal" life having been afflicted with rheumatoid arthritis just before this happened.

All is well; she is doing her exercises, getting around in the walker and cane. A few more weeks and you'll see her at a Miata function, as we've missed them due to our circumstances. We look forward to seeing you all again soon.

Gerry

Club Apparel

Tom Cavanaugh



Our club has an agreement with LANDS'END to provide clothing with our club logo.

The cost to you is \$5.95- \$8.50 for the logo, depending on the material of the item chosen, plus the cost of the item.

Once you click on our E-store weblink, which is available on our club website, you may order what you want at your convenience.

Although it's not necessary to order your club apparel, you have the option to establish an account with LANDS'END so that you may receive emails alerting you to sales during the year.

For example, LANDS'END will occasionally offer free logos and shipping through email notification. I usually

send Deane a note to broadcast to the club when free logos and shipping are available, but it's possible I might miss an offer. So it's to your benefit to sign up.

When ordering you will normally select the "MidState Miata" logo for most items of clothing. However, when ordering hats you will select both "MidState Hat Front" (state emblem) logo and "MidState Hat Rear" (this has text MidState Miata Club of NY) logo. You will only be charged for one logo.

Please note: The club logos provided are the *only authorized* club logos. Modifications are not allowed.

You may however, modify the thread color of your logo so that your club logo contrasts with your item of clothing. For example, white, silver, or red thread could be used on a black shirt instead of the standard black thread. To do this, click the "special requests" button in your LANDS'END shopping bag page.

As always, if you have any questions about ordering club apparel, please feel free to contact me via phone or email.

MMC Dues for 2012

Ronnie Sabella

Dues for 2012 will remain the same - \$30 per car. Payment is due by April 15. If you have already paid, thank you and, if not, please send your dues to: **Ronnie Sabella, 401 Swansea Ave., Syracuse, NY 13206. Make your check payable to Midstate Miata Club of New York.** Those members who have not paid by the end of the grace period will be dropped from the club.

Schedule of Events for the 2012 Driving Season

Sunday, April 22	Watkins Gen Opening Weekend	Lee Maddy, Tom Cavanaugh
Saturday, May 12	DeWitt Pancake Breakfast	Jim & Judy Williams
Saturday, May 26	Middlesex Dinner	Chuck Rischenole
Saturday, June 2	Marcellus Parade	Chuck Paul
Sunday, June 10	VFW Post 396 Car Show	(Info Only) Donald Spicer
Saturday, June 10	Hope Lake Lodge at Greek Peak	Tyler Wainwright
Wednesday, June 20	Log Cabin	Jim Reisdorf
Sunday, June 24	Cornell Plantation	Lee Maddy & Miriam White
Sunday, July 15	Watkins Glen Wine Festival	Karen & Ron McKissock
Wednesday, July 25	Log Cabin	Jim Reisdorf
Sunday, July 29	Progressive Dinner	Lee Maddy & Karen Abbott
Sunday, August 5	Batavia Center Street Grill	Chuck Rischenole
Sunday, August 19	Polo	Ed & Layne Keller

Saturday, August 25	Private Autocross for Miatas	Jay Cartini
Saturday, September 15	Outhouse Racing on Redneck Day	Nancy & Rich Marsden
Sunday, September 30	Hemmings Concours in Saratoga Springs	Chuck Paul
Sunday, October 7	Road Rally	Tom Cavanaugh
October 11 – October 14	Mass Miata Fall for New England	Info Only
Sunday, October 14	Sharon Springs/American Hotel	Jerry Willis
TBA	Holiday Party	Lee Maddy

Midstate Miata Club Officers for 2012

President: Lee Maddy

Vice President and Activities Chairperson: Jay Cartini

Communications Manager and Newsletter Editor: Deane Bergstrom

Treasurer: Ronnie Sabella

Membership & History: Bob Sabella