



# Midstate Miata Club of New York

## “Miata Meanderings”

Official Newsletter for April 2014

Visit the Midstate Miata Club on the Internet at:  
[www.midstatemiata.net](http://www.midstatemiata.net)

### *President's Message*



Finally.....the checkered flag is flying and we're off to a promising season of fun rides, great venues, our 20th Anniversary Celebration and, last but not least, lots of ice cream! Our annual planning meeting was held on March 15th and it was great to see so many new faces in attendance. Members came well prepared to share their ideas and were ready, willing and able to volunteer to lead some new and exciting events for our enjoyment. Thankfully some of the oldies but goodies are still on the calendar due to their high level of interest and past successes. Thanks to everyone who either attended or sent their ideas in if they couldn't be there!!! It

takes a village, as they say. Also, we should thank the folks that volunteers to be Event Coordinators for this year's events. Without them we couldn't schedule the events. Big hug coming your way from all of us!

By the time you all read this I hope we'll have had a few warmer days than it is today here. I've heard of several folks who've reached their limits of separation anxiety and gotten their cars out of storage just so they can see and feel them even if they won't drive them yet. It's the small things that help us survive the winters. I know Gail, The Wench With a Wrench, is preparing some great articles to help us keep our cars in prime condition and give us suggestions on some 'how to do it's'. We won't lack for information with her in charge of our 'techy' stuff. Lee is going to create a new tab on the website to contain her articles for future reference in an easy to find manner as well as they will appear in the newsletter monthly.

I'd like to thank Lee Maddy for all his help revising our website during the last year. I hope you'll all visit it to see the changes such as we now have a **Photos** tab where we will begin to post all our pictures so current and new members can view them. We also have a **Business** tab to contain our club by laws (please read), Guest disclaimer form, Sunshine Club guidelines, Caravan Rules, etc. He has added a tab in the **Calendar** section for **Non-Club** event links we received for other sources, **Regional/local** events that may not be on the whole club calendar but which are open to all. **Ice Cream** schedules are also a tab in the Calendar section. I hope you'll all take a few minutes and take a look, especially at the Photos tab. This is a cool new feature that I hope you will all enjoy and feel free to provide your pictures to share as well. Just send Lee a disc, flash drive or your personal shared storage location for him to link to. If you have questions on how, please feel free to contact Lee.

In case you may have missed it we are now a 501 c7 corporation. This will help us shore up our liability and prepare for our Tax Exempt status. We have submitted the application and are awaiting a ruling. Stay tuned for the results.

Many of you are getting excited about the MMC 20th Anniversary Celebration on May 31st -June 1st and you should be. Rosemary DeHoog and I have been working hard to prepare a fun time with regional committees setting up venues with rides for Saturday and Sunday. At the dinner dance we will have entertainment, a great dinner and fun DJ for us to remember years gone by and to create some special memories to start the next 20 years. There is still plenty of room for more guests so if you change your mind and would like to join us, please contact me or Rosemary to let us know. There are currently 61 folks for breakfast on Sunday at the Ramada which will be followed by a great good bye for now send off before the rides home. Can't wait!!!

As Deane sends out this month's newsletter, there will be a couple extra attachments to share. One will be a financial comparison report that was shared at the planning meeting. The historical data is factual, the proposed budget for 2014 and 2015 are initial estimates. We've not done this before but will begin to use and refine this practice as a new corporation. I hope you'll find it interesting and I'd be glad to entertain any questions you might have.

I need to ask a favor of all of you. As a member it is your responsibility, and really important, that you reply to your Area Reps whether you are or are not attending events by the due dates. This enables us to decide if there is a need for caravan planning, let's the Event Coordinator know how many cars in total are coming and how many reservations to make if the venue requires it. It also lets them know who hasn't arrived by the designated time to leave so as not to leave without them. PLEASE be sure to follow this policy a little better this year. Thanks very much for your co-operation.

Last, but not least, I'd like to thank you all for being part of a club that has continued to thrive and grow (145 members now) for the past 20 years. This is no small feat by any means! I know we've all shared some extraordinary rides, bouts of unstoppable laughter, great food, long lasting friendships and, most importantly to some... lots of ice cream! *High five to another 20 years!!!*

*Get ready, get set, ZOOM!*

*Karen McKissock*

**Welcome New Members**

**Deane Bergstrom**



<u>Member</u>	<u>Where From</u>	<u>Miata</u>	<u>Area Rep</u>
Robert & Carol Denz	Greene	03 SS Blue	Joe Lamphere
Ken House & Carol Nightingale	Deposit	92, 96 Yellow, Black	Joe Lamphere
Norm & Mary Button	Hallstead, PA	Anniversary Blue	Joe Lamphere
Joyce & Jack Loss	Canandaigua	2007 Gray	Steve Stewart
Gary & Becky Severcool	Montrose, PA	Coming Soon!!	Joe Lamphere
Ross Miller & Carol Smith	Hamilton	01 Crystal Blue	Karen Abbott

## ***Ice Cream Schedule***

### ***Syracuse Area - Karen Abbott and Miriam White***



**Monthly: 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Thursdays @ 7:00pm**

**May 8- at 6:30** Jo-Le-Me Café, at Hafner's Garden Center, 7265

Buckley Rd, North Syracuse (inside seating)

**May 22-** Gannon's Isle, 1525 Valley Drive, Syracuse (inside seating)

**June 12-** Pete's Polar Parlor, 3345 Milton Ave, Solvay

**June 26-** Big Dip, 216 No Main Street, No Syracuse

**July 10-** Vicki's Tasty Treat, 680 Old Liverpool Rd, Liverpool

**July 24-** Sno Top, 315 Fayette St, Manlius

**August 14-** William's Farm & Ice Cream, 6545 Route 31, Cicero (corner of Whiting Rd)

**August 28-** Plank Road Ice Cream, 449 So Main St, No Syracuse

**September 11-** Kimberly's Ice Cream, 8240 Cazenovia Rd, Manlius (inside Seating)

**September 25-** Skan-Ellus Drive In Ice Cream, 1659 US Route 20 East, Skaneateles (inside seating)

**October 9- at 6:30 today** Carvel Ice Cream, 4322 E Genesee St, Dewitt (inside seating-park in Tops Grocery lot)

### ***Rockester - Steve Stewart***

May 5/13/14 - Hank's, 235 North Ave. (Rte.250), Webster, food in-house

May 5/27/14 - Lugia's. Manitou and Lyell Rd's., Spencerport, food at Bill gray's, Buffalo Rd.

June 6/10/14 – Colby's, Rte.251 and Rte.15, Rush, food in-house

June 6/25/14 – Log Cabin, 2445 Walworth Rd. (Rte.31F), Macedon, Cruise night, food on site

July 7/8/14 – Orbaker's. 4793 Rte.104, Willianson, food in-house

July 7/22/14 – Bruster's, 1041 Ridge Rd., Webster, food at Bill Gray's, 941 Hard Rd.

August 8/12/14 – Abbotts, Rte.96, Bushnell's Basin, food at Tom Wahl's Hitching Post Plaza, Rte.96

August 8/26/14 – Muir House, Water Front, Canandaigua, food at Charlie's, Rte. 5&20

September 9/9/14 – Papa Jacks, 261 W. Main St. (Rte.96), Victor, food at Papa Jacks Grill next door

September 9/23/14 – Pultneyville Deli Co., Lake Rd. Webster, food in-house

October 10/7/14 – Hanks, 235 North Ave. (Rte.250), Webster, food in-house

## ***Binghamton - Joe Lampkera***

We are going to continue having ice cream on the first Monday of the month (except Sept.) beginning in April through October. Our first Ice Cream night will be April 7th at Pop's Sugar Shack, Binghamton. We will be meeting there at 6:30 PM on the first Monday of the month during the driving season.

## ***Midstate Miata Club Dues***

***Ronnie Sabella***

Dues for 2014 will remain the same – \$30 per car. Payment is due by April 15th. If you have already paid, thank you. Please send your dues to Ronnie Sabella, 401 Swansea Ave., Syracuse, NY 13206. Make your check payable to “Midstate Miata Club of New York, Inc.”. An updated roster will be distributed to all club members at the close of the 2014 dues cycle. If payment is not received by May 15<sup>th</sup> you will be dropped from the membership.

## ***Teck Tips***

***Gail Wagner***

### ***“Wenck With A Wrenck”***

#### **Back in Action – Bringing Your Baby Back Out of Storage**

Hi, Miata Folks,

Yes, that’s me under there. Welcome back to Technical Tips. I hope you find this column fun and informative. As always, I welcome your comments and suggestions: [gwagner@ithaca.edu](mailto:gwagner@ithaca.edu)



Here’s a quick but important “labor of love” checklist to consider when you’re ready to bring your Miata out of storage in the spring:

- Check under the hood for evidence of rodents, as in chewed belts, hoses, wires or nests. They seem to love to snack on wiring insulation and can do some serious damage. Even so, hoses can crack or dry out on their own without the assistance of little furry critters. Also check for any loose wiring or loose connections while you’re under there.
- Reconnect the battery and make sure battery terminals are clean. Dab some plain old Vaseline on the terminal before reconnecting to prevent corrosion.
- Check all fluid levels to make sure there are no leaks and they’re at the recommended levels. This includes fuel, brake fluid/clutch fluid, coolant, automatic transmission fluid (if applicable) and engine oil. Check your plastic drop sheet if you put one under the car to make sure there are no puddles of lost fluid! If there is, find the source and correct the problem.
- It’s also a good time to check your owner’s manual based on your vehicle’s mileage to see if any fluids, spark plugs, air cleaners, etc. need checking or replacement.

- If you've covered the muffler or air intake, remove all the material before you start the car or you won't be able to start the car and you'll wonder why! You don't want a "duh..." moment, do you? ☺
- Check your windshield wipers to see if they are brittle or cracked and need replacement.
- Check COLD tire pressure (after you lower it off the jack stands, if applicable) and inflate or deflate to the recommended pressure located on a sticker inside the driver side door or owner's manual.
- Inspect your tires for any cracks, cuts or scrapes in the sidewalls or between tread rows. Check tire tread and replace if necessary. Do the "penny test" by inserting a penny upside down into the tread. If you can see the top of Mr. Lincoln's head, your tread is too worn, less than legal 3/32" and needs immediate replacement. (More on routine tire maintenance in future columns.)
- If you are mechanically inclined and a stickler for detail you may want to consider lubing your cylinders with a few drops of motor oil before starting the engine for the first time BUT you'll have to temporarily remove your spark plugs to do so. (Warning: Removing spark plugs is a bit tricky if you're not familiar and you'll need a few special tools but it's not that hard. (More details about spark plug/spark plug wire changes in future columns.)
- Check the brakes. There may be some rust on the rotors and you may hear some squeaks or squeals but this should dissipate after driving for a short time. If it doesn't... well, time to see your friendly mechanic. Hopefully, you didn't leave the parking brake on during storage and seized the brakes.
- Check the check list you left on the steering wheel (recommended in my October 2013 column) to see if there are any leftover maintenance issues that you need to address now.
- Wash your vehicle thoroughly to remove accumulated dirt and dust. (My personally recommended obsessive-compulsive detailing/washing instructions to follow in later columns this summer).
- Important: Be sure to change your oil and oil filter as soon as possible - I know, I know - even though you may have changed it prior to storage. It's all about moisture in your crankcase and you want to limit rust and corrosion as much as possible especially if your Baby is "mature". As I suggested in previous columns, I highly recommend buying and taking an OEM (original manufacturer's equipment) Mazda oil filter and some good brand-name motor oil to your mechanic to change for you or, if you're a masochist like me do it yourself (see above picture!). I like petroleum-based Castrol GTX but a very knowledgeable and sage mechanic/mentor/racing friend very highly recommends Redline brand 100% synthetic motor oil. Additional tip: when you check your oil fluid level, check your dip stick for any white liquid residue on the top of the stick which would indicate moisture in the motor oil (not good) and change the oil and filter immediately.
- AND FINALLY, before you commit to a long drive, consider a twenty-minute test drive around the block and at highway speed to make sure there are no remaining problems: Does the car pull to one side when braking? Does the brake pedal "fade"? Does the clutch pedal feel correct? Can you hear a miss in the ignition? Are any belts squeaking? How's the oil pressure? How's the engine temperature? How's the steering - lose and wandering?

**The bottom line: The better you take care of your Miata, the better it will take care of you. Safe and fun driving!**

### **DISCLAIMER**

*Please note these tips are not reviewed or approved by the Mazda Motor Corporation or any other corporation or entity other than the originator. The Midstate Miata Club of NY, Inc. does not accept any liability for damage or injury as a result of utilizing these tips and pointers. Please use common sense and always remember safety first!*

## **Land's End Gear for Midstate Miata Club Ray Mosker**



Use the link on our club web site to look at what's available and get on their mailing list. Once on the mailing list, you will get email notices of discounts such as "free logos".

When ordering, note that you can't change the logo, but you can change the thread colors. For example on the black shirt, the black thread would not show up, so we change the black thread to one that matches our car color. If you have trouble (which is not uncommon), call them.

Here is an update on the Land's End logo-wear. They have discontinued the hats that we have been getting and the ones they have now do not have room for the club logo on the rear. So I have made a change to the rear logo so that it will fit. The new rear logo now says "Midstate Miata Club of NY" instead of spelling out "New York". Here is the "new and improved" logo. Note that the rear logo comes free with the front one.



Any questions, feel free to contact me at [mosherrskl@yahoo.com](mailto:mosherrskl@yahoo.com) or by phone at 315-635-2584