



Midstate Miata Club of New York

“Miata Meanderings”

Official Newsletter for November/December 2012

Visit the Midstate Miata Club on the Internet at:

www.midstatemiata.net

President's Message



First I'd like to thank everyone that responded to my inquiries about what “worked and didn't work” as well why people thought attendance was so low this year. I tried to acknowledge everyone's responses, however if I forgot to respond back to you, I apologize.



There were a lot of good suggestions raised, which I will share with the other board members, and we will as try to incorporate for the planning meeting next year. Speaking of the planning meeting, it's never too early to start thinking about an event you would like to see, or host next year. And if you can't attend the planning meeting, let a board member, or your Rep know the specifics, so they can raise it at the meeting. Remember, the more specific you can be with the dates and details, the more likely everyone may be interested in attending, and will select your idea for an event next year.

So another year is just about over, and many of us will be putting our cars into storage, if you haven't already. But remember there is one more club event scheduled, yes it's the Holiday Party.

Since I'm the event coordinator, here's my opportunity for more shameless self promotion. The party will be on Saturday December 1st, and the details are in the newsletter as well as on the website. Check the website for updates on the list of attendees. This year's party is in Geneva, and cocktail hour will start at 5:30 PM (an hour earlier than other years) so if you don't want to get a room for the night, depending upon where you live, you may still be able to arrive home at a reasonable hour. It's at a nice venue, and I have tried to keep the price reasonable, so hopefully we will have a large turnout. Hope to see you there...

Lee Maddy

Welcome New Members

Deane Bergstrom




<u>Member</u>	<u>Where From</u>	<u>Miata</u>	<u>Area</u>
<u>Rep</u> Paul Hansen	Macedon	95 Red	Karen McKissock
Gary Johnson & Terry Crammer	Manlius	01 Red	Denise Wargo

October Event Reports

Burdick Car Show

Jay Cartini



On Saturday, October 6, we met at Burdick Mazda to show our support for the dealership.  Matt Bell, the service manager, acted as master of ceremony for the day. There were 15 cars in attendance, and we were strategically parked inside the mall around the old clock. The day started out with rain, but by mid afternoon the clouds had disappeared and the sun was out.

Special thanks to Burdick for putting on the event. They had refreshments all day, supplied us with lunch vouchers, washed the cars as they entered the mall, and raffled off a variety of prizes at the end of the day.

We can look forward to Burdick Mazda continuing to provide us with dealer service (with a 10% discount), offsetting the cost of the planning meeting, and continuing to do events like this in the future.

Thanks to all that attended and made the event a success.

Bill Hodge Memorial Road Rally

Tom and Bev Cavanaugh

The Roar to the Shore... It wasn't a bad day for a rally, cool and cloudy with some breaks of sun. We had thirteen cars attend this event. As was promised, this year's rally had less questions and more navigation. After a driver's briefing, the cars rolled off at 12:30 disappearing down NY Rte 31. It wasn't too long after the first car left that the rally master got his first "where did I go wrong" phone call. Everyone (OK most of) the teams made it to the shore of Lake Ontario at Rudy's Parking lot before turning around and heading to the finish. All the cars did make it to the finish line at the Euclid Hotel for dinner and awards. Kudos to all the participants.



About the awards. This year's *Blue Max Award* goes to Chuck Rischenole who drove solo and made very few mistakes and completed the course.

The rally's *Magellan Award* goes this year to Joe and Joyce Lamphere who explored quite a bit of undiscovered territory along the route.

And the *SUNY Morrisville College Award (Chicken Anatomy and Aerodynamics)* had two winners this year...Sue Mosher and Jackie MacDavitt.

And finally, the **2012 Bill Hodge Memorial Road Rally Winner** is new club member **Colleen Welch**. Colleen and her navigator Mark Bowdish had a winning score of 98 points out of 100. Colleen may have been a bit of a ringer as she told me later that she has participated in SCCA type road rallies in the past. Congratulations Colleen. Well Done.

So that's it for this year. How about it fellow club members? Do you have what it takes to challenge next year's road rally? Come on out and try it. It's a fun day with your sports car that I think you would like if you gave it try. See you next year.

Sharon Springs/American Hotel

Jerry Willis



The weatherman said rain in the morning clearing up between 9 and 11 o'clock then sun to break out. So some of us thought maybe we would luck out by washing our cars for the event. Wrong! It rained pretty steady for about the first hour then started to taper off. We started out with 10 cars then picked up two more along the way for a total of 12 cars and 22 people.

All in all it was a pleasant ride with some foliage. We arrived at the Sharon Springs American Hotel for lunch where the accommodating owners had blocked off an area for our cars in their filled to capacity parking lot. With great atmosphere and a wide variety of interesting food that everyone seemed to enjoy, the warm sun returned allowing the group to explore around the small historic town shopping, viewing historical plaques, old architecture and the long-closed sulfur springs spa.

Eight Miatas with tops down then retraced our trip route back and enjoyed some homemade ice cream at a local creamery along the way where a question and answer session ensued as to the original definition of the word Miata. (no matter what Tom Cavanaugh says, I'm almost positive it must be the Japanese word for ice cream!)



Fall for New England Miata Event

Bob Sabella

The Mass Miata Club hosted this year's regional event Oct. 11th – 14th. Marlborough, Mass. was the event center that had proximity to Boston, Cape Cod, Plymouth, and Vermont to name a few destinations for guided runs/tours.

Seven Miatas among the 124 cars in attendance represented our club. Miatas from as far away as Oklahoma, Mich., Canada, and the eastern states enjoyed both sunny (cool, but tops down) and rainy (tops up) days.



Scheduled and self-guided tours with activities including a lobster eating contest with our own Judy Williams the winner. She will have to tell you the total lbs. she ate to win.

If you have never attended this type of event, it offers fun filled days, seeing old friends and making new ones. Put this on your list of things to do with your great fun car the Miata.

September Event Report

Drive to Honesdale, PA

Lon & Carol Trelease



On Saturday morning, September 29th, 10 Miatas & their owners met at the shopping plaza in Windsor. The day was overcast but the temperature was pleasant with no rain, so we were able to drive with tops down.

Country roads to Honesdale were rural & scenic, with fall colors in evidence. At one point we surprised some turkey vultures in the road and almost had one in the car with us! Upon arriving at the Hotel Wayne, the manager gave us a tour & short history of the hotel.

During lunch, three separate local Miata owners stopped in to see who owned all the Miatas parked outside and told us how thrilled they were to see them! They don't see many Miatas in Honesdale. The pumpkin cheesecake was a fine ending to an enjoyable lunch and made up for the lack of an ice cream stop on the drive home. (The only one closed the week before.) On the way home the sun came out and everyone said they enjoyed the drive.

ETC.

Winter Storage Tips

Tom Cavanaugh

On the subject of storing our cars, here's what I do to prep my car for the winter break. Perhaps your routine is similar. All the steps assume the vehicle will be parked inside.

Step one, on a relatively warm day **do not go for a ride**, but instead, get out your favorite cleaning stuff and clean your car. Don't forget to vacuum the interior as well. Check for old food bits and crumbs as nothing ruins a spring drive out like a lost piece of Big Mac. Next, drive to your local auto parts store and purchase four quarts of oil, an oil filter, and a bottle of fuel stabilizer like Stabil for example. Next, drive to a gas station near your home. Checking the bottle's label, add the correct amount of fuel stabilizer to your gas tank, then fill your tank with as much gas as it will hold. ***These steps will accomplish two things, adding fuel stabilizer at fill up will mix it with the gas to keep the gas fresh and eliminate varnish in your fuel system while it's not in use. Filling the tank to the top will mitigate the possibility of water condensation in your gas tank while it is in storage.*** Before you drive home fill your tires with forty pounds of air, this will keep your tires from flat spotting. Remember to reduce your air pressure next spring to the recommended pressure.

Step two, drive home and change the oil and filter. If you are not mechanically inclined, take the car and have the oil and filter changed for you. You can ask them to fill your tires while you are there. ***The reason we change the oil and filter before we put the car away is we don't want to leave the old contaminated acidic oil in the engine for the time the car is in storage.*** After you change the oil you will want to use the engine as little as possible so this should be your last stop prior to parking the car at its storage spot.

Final steps, after I position the car, I leave the car in first gear, but I do not use the emergency brake. This keeps the rear brake pads from sticking to the rotors. I leave the top up and latched to keep it stretched for easier operation in the spring. I crack the windows about a half inch or so to keep the window from sticking to the seals. The next step is very important, I stuff the intake opening and exhaust pipe with rags to keep rodents from using my car as a winter home. This happens more often than you would think. As a matter of fact, after I purchased my current Miata, one of the first things I did was check the air filter. Sure enough, in the bottom of the air box were at least twenty acorns left behind by the previous winter's "occupant". Don't forget to write a note to yourself to remove the rags in the spring. Put the note on driver's seat so you won't miss it. Now disconnect the battery. Some people use a trickle charger to keep the battery charged while the car is in storage. I have found that is not necessary as long as the battery was fully charged and disconnected before storage. So those are the steps I take every fall to ensure I have a trouble free start in the spring.

December Event

Holiday Party

Lee Maddy



The Holiday Party will be held this year at the "Cobblestone Restaurant" on Saturday December 1st.

This wonderful Italian Restaurant is housed inside a restored 1825 farm house, originally built as a tavern and stage coach stop in the 1700's. It lies between Rochester and Syracuse in the Finger Lakes Region in Geneva NY. To find out more about the restaurant go to www.cobblestonegeneva.com



Save the date, and mark your calendars. More information regarding times, cost and menu options will be relayed as the date approaches.

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