



# Midstate Miata Club of New York

## "Miata Meanderings"

Official Newsletter for October 2012

Visit the Midstate Miata Club on the Internet at:

[www.midstatemiata.net](http://www.midstatemiata.net)

### President's Message



Sometimes it is difficult to decide what to talk about in my column, and other times a subject is so prominent that it can't be avoided. Unfortunately in this case, it is the latter. I had hoped that I would not need to talk about this again this year, but unfortunately I must.

The subject is club participation and the canceling of events. As Treasurer of the club for many years, it was my job to always be concerned with making sure everyone was "getting their money's worth". It was important that the club was meeting the needs of the membership and giving back to its members.

However now as President, I feel even more responsible for making sure that the members are happy, and that the club activities are enjoyable and well attended. I don't mean to offend anyone, but I have to ask some hard questions, because as President of the club, it's my job, and if I don't ask, no one else will.

Currently I am feeling very humbled by the poor attendance at events these past few years and very disappointed in the seemingly lackadaisical attitude that has been shown by the club membership over time, especially when responding back to the reps inquiries. In past years, we could usually count on there being at least 8-15 cars at an event. However this year, although we have one of our largest memberships, we have also been left to wonder if anyone is going to attend.

When it comes to benefits like club discounts, there's only strength in numbers if those numbers will actually show up. We have already cancelled several events this year, and unfortunately there may be more cancellations to come . . . This troubles me, does it trouble you?

The club's leadership, area reps, and event coordinators try their best to supply a large selection of different and interesting activities throughout the year that people say that they want, and will attend. However, it seems that we have had to cancel more and more events due to lack of participation. I have to ask, what are we doing wrong? Are there too many events? Are they the wrong events? If so, what event do you want?

We commonly need advance commitment for events because a restaurant is evolved. Are people unwilling to commit, thus they don't let the reps know they plan on coming? Or are people just not interested in eating at events anymore? Was the price of gas, food or the economy the problem? Was an event too expensive? When food is involved we try to keep the prices down when possible, and we always make sure that all costs are clearly mentioned in advance so there are no surprises.

We try to keep you informed via emails, the newsletter, the website, and by the local reps contacting you directly. However, I hear some people say that "nobody reads the newsletter or looks at the website". If so why not? How do you feel about being contacted by the reps? Are you contacted too much, or to little? Are you not

contacted at all? Does the way they contact you (i.e. phone, email, etc.) need improvement or change, if so how? Do you have a recommendation?

Were there events that you wanted to attend this year but were unable to? If so, why? Were any of the events too far away?

We have had many new members join this year. If you are new to the club, did you attend an event, and if so, did you feel welcomed by other members? Are there beneficial things from other clubs, that you have been a member, which might be incorporated here?

We work very hard to try and supply events for you to enjoy, and we hate having to cancel events. If you want to help, it's simple. Please participate. Let your rep know, in a timely fashion, what event(s) you are going to attend.

Also, please help me get a better handle on what is and is not working, so we can try to make the club better for you. Do you have any comments or recommendations? I want to hear your thoughts, so please send me an email at mrmiataman@yahoo.com

***Lee Maddy***

## **Welcome New Members**

## **Deane Bergstrom**



### **Member**

Paul Hansen

### **Where From**

Macedon

### **Miata**

95 Red

### **Area Rep**

Karen McKissock

## **Ice Cream Schedule**

**Syracuse Ice Cream Schedule - All are at 7:00 P.M. on Thursday night. Please note time change effective September 13:**



**July 26 – 7pm - Hickory Hill Ice Cream, 3451 Route 31, Baldwinsville**

**August 9 – 7pm - Sno Top, 315 Fayette St, Manlius (see the new cygnets!)**

**August 23 – 7pm - Plank Road Ice Cream, 449 South Main Street, North Syracuse (parking in rear)**

**September 13 – 6:30pm - Skan-Ellus Drive In, 1659 US Route 20 East, Skaneateles (inside seating)**

**September 27 – 6:30pm – Gannons Isle – 1525 Valley Drive, Syracuse (inside seating)**

**October 11 – 6:30pm - Kimberly's Ice Cream – 8240 Cazenovia Rd, Manlius (inside seating)**

**Rochester Ice Cream - All are at 6:00 P.M.:**

Wednesday, June 20th, Log Cabin, Rte 31 F, Macedon

Tuesday, July 3rd, Papa Jack's, Rte 96, Victor

July 17th, Lugia's Ice Cream, Manitou Rd., Spencerport

Tuesday, August 14, Chill & Grill, Rte 31F, Palmyra

Tuesday, August 28th, Muir House, Lake Waterfront, Canandaigua

Thursday, September 13th, Lickety Splits, Fairport

Tuesday, September 25th, Hanks, Rte250 North of 390, Webster

**Binghamton Ice Cream:**

We are going to meet for ice cream on the first Monday of the Month, (except for Labor Day) for the rest of the driving year. We will meet at Pop's Sugar Shack, Conklin Rd., Binghamton, NY at 6:30 PM. We will have other ice cream nights as the need arises throughout the year.

**October Events**

***October 6, Burdick Car Show***

***Jay Cartini***



This just added..... **Burdick is back!!!** There will be a car show at Burdick Mazda, on Saturday, October 6 from 11am-4pm. The show will be inside, so weather is not an issue.

Matt Bell, the Burdick Mazda service manager, is putting this together. They want to rekindle the relationship between club members and the service department.

They will have refreshments on hand and will try to have at least one of every Mazda model on hand for us to test drive while we're there. They will be promoting this in their advertising campaign in the weeks leading up to the event, and are taking it very seriously.

It would be nice for us, on a go forward basis, to show our support. Remember, they supplement the cost of our planning meeting every year and ask for very little in return. This is the least we can do for them. I told him at least 20 cars would most likely be there.....Let's try to make it happen.

## **Sunday October 7, Bill Hodge Memorial Road Rally Tom and Bev Cavanaugh**



The Roar to the Shore (and hopefully back)

**When:** 12:00 pm, October 7th (Sunday)

**Where:** Best Buy, Clay, NY Parking Lot

**Event Chairpersons:** Tom and Bev Cavanaugh

**Directions to Best Buy, Clay NY:**

**Rochester/Utica:** take Thruway to exit 36, take I-81N to exit 29N (RT481N), on 481N take exit 12, turn left at "T" and look for the Wegmans/Best Buy Plaza on the right after you cross the bridge, we will be parked in front of Best Buy.

**Binghamton:** take I-81N and follow previous directions.

It's time once again to reset the odometers and practice a little Zen as we travel throughout the countryside looking for that mythical last check point.

This year we will start at noon at Best Buy which has a Burger King and a gas station within a short walking distance and navigate to the finish line at...?

Once again, think of this year's rally as a "slowed rally".

Attention to detail will be the key and this year you will be tested more on your navigation skills rather than finding clues. Don't worry, it will still be fun and mostly easy. For the new members of the club, it's interesting to note, no NC owner has ever won this rally, could this be the year?

I highly recommend that each car have a driver AND a navigator/observer to help keep a sharp eye out as well as record the answers on the rally sheet. So that's the scoop everyone. The first car should rollout at 12:25 pm.

**This is a rain or shine event**

**Any questions? Please call Tom or Bev Cavanaugh at (315) 303-4866**

## **October 14, Sharon Springs/American Hotel**

**Jerry Willis**



**Jerry Willis will lead an event to the American Hotel and surroundings in Sharon Springs on October 14th so please call your area rep by September 30th if you are interested in attending.** The group will meet at the McDonald's in Fayetteville at 9:30 in the morning for a 10:00 departure.

Once the playground of Vanderbilts, Roosevelts and Rockefellers, Sharon Springs was a bustling society watering hole in the mid-

19<sup>th</sup> century.

The American Hotel was built by Nicholas LaRue of Esperance in 1847 to cater to the glitterati of the time: Oscar Wilde gave porch-side readings; Ulysses S. Grant stayed at the former Pavilion Hotel. Eventually, the gentry began to build their castles in Newport, the Adirondacks and Bar Harbor and take the waters while in Saratoga Springs for the races.

Sharon Springs then languished briefly, but a new group started to come to town for the healing chalybeate, magnesia and sulfur waters: wealthy Jewish families who were not welcome in Saratoga; By the mid '60s, however, the town went into decline with fewer and fewer visitors coming to the grand hotels, many of which declined into tear-down state. The American struggled along as a hotel until the mid-50s and then was used as a religious retreat until its closure in 1989.

The American Hotel stood vacant, abandoned and in deplorable condition until Doug Plummer and Garth Roberts saved it from almost certain demolition when they bought it in 1996. Five years and hundreds of thousands of dollars later, the American reopened as a hotel and restaurant. The excitement at its opening has ushered in a revitalization and new excitement in Sharon Springs; new businesses have opened up, new hotels are planned.

## **September Event Reports**

### ***Run For The Colors***

### ***Chuck Rischennole***



On Sunday September 16th myself and Bill and Nancy Lowe participated in a road rally put on by Oasis Adaptive Sports.

This is a nonprofit organization located in Honeyoe that is providing instructions, equipment, and support to severely injured veterans to participate in outdoor recreation experiences. They currently include archery, skiing, sailing, and horseback riding and are working on future projects to include kayaking, cycling, golf, Nordic skiing, fly fishing, and firearms.

Check out their website at [oasisadaptivesports.org](http://oasisadaptivesports.org) This is an annual event and I have asked them to send me information on next years rally to see if we could consider it for our next season's event schedule. The drive was about 80 miles long over great roads and a cookout at the end of the ride with live music. As a bonus I got to talk with two other Miata owners that were there and they were very interested about joining the club This rally is usually held the second Sunday after Labor Day weekend so keep the date in mind.

### ***From The Middle of Nowhere***

### ***Gail Wagner***



The Second Annual "From The Middle of Nowhere Miata Owners' Group" met on Sunday, September 16th for an informal get-together organized by Club member, Dawn Fetter.

There were several Club members and some non-club owners from the Ithaca area, seven in all, who met as we did last year same time and

enjoyed the beautiful fall top-down day driving to the A&W Root Beer drive-in restaurant (*left*) in Cortland.

After chili hot dogs and root beer served 1950's-style by car hops carrying trays set on our car windows we followed Gail Wagner & Steve Wilson "the long way home" back to Ithaca via Route 90 through scenic farm county, rolling hills and lots of fun curvy roads. Thanks, Donna, for organizing a really great afternoon with Miata Ithaca-area locals.

## Etc.

### **Magnetic Club Logos**

**Chuck Rischenole**

The club has available additional sets of the logos that are available at \$25.00 per set. Contact Jay Cartini to purchase a set. To those of you who currently have them and those who are interested in getting them here is a suggestion. If you use that self-adhesive return address labels on your outgoing mail put one on the back side of your logos. If you should happen to lose one the person who finds it may be kind enough to send it back to you

## Upcoming Events

### **Holiday Party**

**Lee Maddy**

It's not too early to start thinking about the end of the year Holiday Party. The event will be held this year at the **"Cobblestone Restaurant" on Saturday December 1<sup>st</sup>.**

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 Fingerlakes Region in Geneva NY. To find out more about the restaurant go to [www.cobblestonegeneva.com](http://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.



## **Schedule of Events For The Rest Of The 2012 Driving Season**

Saturday, December 1

Holiday Party

Lee Maddy

President: Lee Maddy

Vice President and Activities Chairperson: Jay Cartini

Communications Manager and Newsletter Editor: Deane Bergstrom

Treasurer: Ronnie Sabella

Membership & History: Bob Sabella

## **Midstate Miata Club Officers for 2012**