



Midstate Miata Club of New York

“Miata Meanderings”

Official Newsletter for September 2013
Visit the Midstate Miata Club on the Internet at:
www.midstatemiata.net

President's Message



Where the heck did summer go? (Or more accurately, did we have one?) Strange weather everywhere but I know it hasn't kept many of us from enjoying our Zoom Zoom time! There has been lots of time to drive the roads, connect with friends and eat ice cream. I hope every member has attended at least one Miata Club event this season or at least has one coming up. It feels like there's a lot of enthusiasm this year so keep up the good work. Thanks to all the Event Coordinators for making time to show the rest of us a good time!!!

I'm trying to keep my notes short this month to allow room for a report from Gail Wagner on changing the oil in her car. It is very enlightening, very light and something I think you will all enjoy- so please take the time to read it. In fact, Gail has volunteered to be responsible for a monthly section we can call Tech Talk. We're hoping that you will all feel comfortable in sending information or questions to Gail relating to our cars. We are hoping to connect her directly with an area Technical Rep from Mazda to get her information direct from the source if necessary, but your experiences will also be a great 'feed' for her ongoing column. We will officially begin the column next month.

There is a little tech news this month from Chuck Rischenole directly from Mazda dealers:

- Model and series availability – no change
- Exterior/Interior – no change
- Some changes with colors, packages and options

Thanks go out to Lee Maddy for his patience and perseverance making some of the website changes I asked for. There is now a separate Sponsor page that will grow with more sponsors soon. (Please try to patronize them if you can.) There's also a new tab under calendars for Pop up calendars where local area events can be posted in case folks outside the local groups would like to join. I hope to utilize this more next season. Our website and newsletter are the primary sources of information for members and are updated as any changes occur.

We will be providing all the sign up details for the Holiday Party in next month's newsletter but **Save the Date of Sunday, Dec. 8th** at 11:00AM at the Lincklaen House in Cazenovia. We will be adding a donation to Toys for Tots in the Central NY area, so please keep that in mind if you see any sales early.

Karen McKissock

Last month I may have implied that some Miata’s are more “special” than others due to a limited production run or color or manufacturers package designation. After some thought this “special” consideration is only as relevant as we, Miata owners, makes it. All Miata’s are “special”. It’s a “special” car that allows us, the driver (and passenger), to be at one with the road. To feel connected to the car, to feel the wind in our hair (or scalp for some of us), to enjoy the sounds that our little roadsters make, and to feel the outstanding handling characteristics that have made the Miata the bestselling sports car in history. So in short, all Miata’s are “special”, some, for whatever reason, are just more so than others.....

So as we pull into the parking lot at the Polo fields today something completely unexpected happened. One of our long time members, let’s call him Ed (Keller) made what could be considered an unbelievable error in judgment. He pulled his car straight into a parking spot instead of backing in like the rest of us. Now when this was pointed out to him, to his credit, he immediately had excuses and explanations as to why he did what he did. In fact, it was clear that he was in desperation mode as he continued to come up with any and every justification that he could.....But the bottom line is, through all of his arguments and rants, he was in the wrong, and deep down inside, where all Miata owners have to go to find themselves, he knows it. So next time you see Ed (Keller), give him a hug or a pat on the back and tell him “don’t worry, it’s OK, just don’t ever do it again”.

And for those of you that may have forgotten, *blue is better!!!*

Welcome New Members

Deane Bergstrom



<u>Member</u>	<u>Where From</u>	<u>Miata</u>	<u>Area Rep</u>
Karen & Bob Mikulski	Apalachin	12, GT Stormy Blue Mica	Joe Lamphere
Stephen & Lori Kankus	Marcellus	96, Red	Denise Wargo
Dennis & Beth Petrisak	Rochester	TBD	Steve Stewart

Ice Cream Schedule



Syracuse Area Ice Cream

Miriam White & Karen Abbott

All ice creams are on the 2nd or 4th Thursday of the month at 7:00 pm.

September 12 – *Skaneateles Drive In*, 1659 US Route 20 East, Skaneateles (inside seating)

September 26 – *Gannons Isle*, 1525 Valley Drive, Syracuse (inside seating)

October 10 – *Kimberly’s Ice Cream*, 8240 Cazenovia Rd, Manlius (inside seating)

Rochester Area Ice Cream

Steve Stewart

9/10/2013, **Papa Jack's**, 261 W.Main St. (Rte.96), Victor, food at Papa Jack's Grill next door.

9/24/2013, **Reads**, 3130 E. Henrietta Rd. (Rte.15A), Henrietta, food at Bill Grays, 1225 Jefferson Rd. (Rte. 252)

Binghamton Area Ice Cream

Joe Lamphere

We will have ice cream the first Monday of each month throughout the driving season (except for Labor Day) beginning April 1, 2013 and Pop' Sugar Shack on Conklin Road in Binghamton an 6:30 PM Other ice cream nights will be set up as members see fit.

September Events

Sunday, September 15, Run for the Colors

Chuck Rischenole



This is a benefit ride put on by the OASIS non-profit organization that has been created to help disabled vets regain physical and mental health through outdoor sports. For more information see their website at oasisadaptivesports.org. The ride will be through 80 miles of beautiful scenery starting in Honeoye and going through Livonia, Geneseo, Letchworth State Park, Nunda, Dansville, Naples and, ending with a bar-b-que dinner, music, and a tee shirt give-away at Sandy Bottom Park on Honeoye Lake. Donations are \$25.00 for car and driver & \$15.00 for additional passenger. There were only two Miatas at this event last year myself and Bill &

Nancy Lowe and we were greatly outnumbered by Corvettes so let's have a large turnout this year and show them what a real sports car looks like.

Directions We will meet at the McDonalds located on route 96 in Victor NY. For the local people take route 96 South past Eastview Mall and turn right at the first signal light look for s for the Hampton Inn sign. For those coming by the Thruway take exit 45 for Victor (this is the first exit after the tool booth) -- turn right on route 96 north and then left at the first signal light. **We will leave there at 10:30am** for a 1/2 hour ride to Honeoye NY to register for the event.

Contact your area rep if you are going. I will need a headcount from them by the end of August. This is a rain or shine event.

This is an annual event that is put on by OASIS Adaptive Sports organization to help disabled veterans participate in outdoor sports as part of rehab. It's about an 80 mile ride near Honeoye with a BBQ at the end.

Sunday, September 29, Road Rally

Coleen Welch



Instructions for the annual Road Rally event will be forthcoming by e-mail as soon as they are available. Hopefully, you will not need a Miata outfitted like the one in the picture to participate.

October Events

Magnus Ridge Winery Run & Lunch

Miriam White



Join us on Saturday, October 5 for a wine tasting and lunch at the Magnus Ridge Winery in Rock Stream on Seneca Lake. Magnus Ridge is a new winery with gorgeous views of the lake plus great wine. Lunch will be a pulled pork sandwich buffet served in their café reserved for us. Lunch is limited to 34 people so reservations are required! **Send an e-mail to your area representative today!** A wine tasting will also happen in one of their private tasting rooms.



Wine tastings alone are also available. Their large gift shop is a great place to wander and is filled lots of different gift ideas, so check your gift needs for friends and family before you come as you will probably see lots of things to buy! Or, sit outside and enjoy the view. After lunch we will meet up with the Massachusetts Miata Club for a drive through the countryside.



Lunch reservations: Price TBD, will include the wine tasting. Deadline to reserve is Sunday, September 22.

Wine Tasting Only: Send an e-mail to your area representative stating “wine tasting only” by September 22. Cost: \$3.00 per person

Drive Only: Just arrive at the meeting place.

This is a rain or shine event.

August Event Reports

Belhurst Castle Brunch Linda & Steve Stewart



By mid-July we had filled our allotted 40 reservations with 21 Miata's. We also had 8 members on waiting list. With last minute cancelations and additions from waiting list we ended up with 36 members and 19 Miata's. Saturday turn out to be a great Miata top down day for all involved. Belhurst Castle had setup a separate room for the group and provided excellent service.

The buffet featured breakfast, dinner entree items and deserts to die for. Needless to say no one went home hungry. The day also provided an opportunity for Rochester, Southern tier and Syracuse members to mingle and to get to know each other

better. In all it turned out to be a very delightful day.

POLO

Chuck Paul

POLO ANYONE? POLO EVERYONE! WELL, ALMOST. Fantastic weather highlighted this year's visit to the Skaneateles Polo grounds to watch a match between Saratoga and the hometown team, 12 cars left Auburn for a scenic drive, picking up four more along the way, including a Porsche Boxster who pretended to be just one of us.



Following a stop at Bob's Barbecue we headed for the Polo grounds where 10 more Miata owners were already consuming homemade Sangria. A huge crowd enjoyed watching a great match with the home team prevailing 6 to 3.

Stay tuned for next year.

Tour to PA 125 (tail- of- the dragon PA)

Harry Frisbie

On August 22, nine Miata's from our club took a day trip to central PA in the Pocono's, just so we could experience the thrill of driving on PA 125, also known as Tail- of -the Dragon North. It was 64 miles of 251 curves, hairpins, and whoop-de-dos, and that isn't counting the twisties on the return trip home.

We had a late lunch at the Heritage House, Orangeville, Pa., where the food and service was outstanding! After lunch, we drove north on some very scenic routes to finish out our day in Tunkhannoch, Pa., for homemade ice cream at the Shadowbrook resort and Golf Club.

For those who couldn't make it this time, don't worry, we all agreed it should be at the least an annual event on the Southern-tier tour list. If interest is there, we will do it together. Madam President and Mary Lou can tell you all about the trip in much more detail.

Until I see you again.....

ETC.

The Travails of Gail – Changing Her Motor Oil & Filter

Gail Wagner

Optimistic Introduction

On Sunday, I thought it would be fun to change the oil and filter in *Scarlet*, my beautiful True Red MX5 Miata. It's been a while since I've done the deed but now that She and I have really "bonded", I thought it would be wise and prudent to know I had a good oil filter with an anti-drain back valve and premium 10W30 oil in her crankcase belly rather than a who-knows-what-it-is filter and mystery motor oil that those speedy oil change places use to save on their overhead. None of that cheap inferior stuff for my classy girl.

Now, I freely admit I'm getting rather obsessive/compulsive about her upkeep, maintenance and after-market cool-factor accessories and she's gotta' last me until I either a) win the lottery, b) can afford a new Aston Martin

or, c) I'm too old to climb in and shift manually anymore (can that really happen?). Besides, who knows when any of those choices will be available but in case you were wondering, I prefer choice "a".

Part I - The Prep

Preparing for my automotive project, I pinned the hair up in a perky pile, slipped into my Calvins (and yes, there was something between me and my Calvins), buttoned up my pre-faded Ralph Lauren designer chambray work shirt, laced up the Ariat suede boots and popped in my emerald chip earrings. Well, let's face it. A girl's gotta' be well-dressed at all times even for a driveway oil change. Ya' never know who might be driving or walking by, right?

I then proceeded to assemble my *mise en place*: wheel chocks, filter wrench, plastic gloves to save the manicure, oil vacuum pump, paper towels, a plastic baggie to slide over the old oil filter so it wouldn't leak black oily goo all over everything (as in me) when removed, and an old empty plastic bottle for the used oil. I placed my new jug of Castrol GTX oil and the expensive "genuine Mazda parts" oil filter next to *Scarlet's* propped open jaws in the driveway and chocked the wheels. To use synthetic oil or not to use synthetic oil - that was the question. I decided to go for the real tried and true organic, dead dinosaur, hydrocarbon stuff. I guess I'm just an old-fashioned girl at heart.

So..... hey, I was ready. I was grinning. I was confident. I could do this. And, I was lookin' good..... I was Woman, Hear Me Roar. This would be easy and fun and a great brag to the guys at work. Well, I was soooooo wrong. The gods decided to play with Gail.

Part II - Piece of Cake, Right?

I looked under the bonnet (sorry, English sports car holdover term. "Hood" to most folks) and surveyed the innards of my target specie. Ah..... 1) there's the dip stick and, 2) there's the oil filler cap. No prob. I removed the filler cap and shoved the vacuum pump hose into the depths and pumped the canister handles until the satisfying site of brownish-black ooze emanated from the depths of my Girl slipping neatly through the hose into the vacuum can. 3) Okay, now where's the oil filter? (Embarrassed pause....) 3a) Okay..... now where the hell IS the oil filter? Don't panic. Get the manual. Uh, oh. No nice illustrated diagram of where it is located and I'm not in possession of an official Mazda factory repair manual to source (soon to be remedied). Now what? Run to the computer and Google-consult a Mazda MX5 chat-group. Success: the boys say it's underneath the motor behind the front cross member next to the driver's side wheel inconveniently hidden from view beneath a bolted metal plate, Stupid.

Okay, relax. Deep breath. I can handle this. I am Woman and I may not be roaring right now but I'm not whimpering either. I don't need to graciously accept defeat and call any AAA repair truck but I admit minor irritation is beginning to set in. So go drag out the floor jack, a drop cloth, the jack stands and a socket wrench to unbolt the plate. Find the right socket size from a box of myriad assortments, crawl under the chassis and have at it. No prob, right? Now, I admit right here that I'm not the most dexterous novice mechanic with the tools....I'm much better with small kitchen gadgets, computer keyboards and French chef knives. Needless to confess that I kept whacking myself in the face ratcheting the bolts off the cover plate while lying on my back under the car (see picture) with not a lot of work clearance but we got 'er done and the cover plate was removed. Okay, this is getting better, right? I am breathing normally again and the blood pressure has come down. Now for the oil filter removal. Slip a baggie over the filter to prevent the sludgy oil in the filter from running down the arm, the face, the whatever, then get the handy filter wrench and slip it over filter and baggie and twist it off. Easy peasey, right? Nope. The gods are toying with me again. Filter wrench is for a "D-cup" filter. I need an "A-cup" wrench size for my slim little girl. Damn. Now what? In reality my confidence was flagging and that \$30 oil change was starting to look mighty good. So out from under the car and back to the basement....must be

something I can use from tool heaven down there....Ah, eureka: a "redneck oil filter wrench": a big red-handled Rigid pipe wrench. Should work just fine. I am roaring once again, I think (I hope, I pray).

Back under the car with the wrench, Man, this is getting old. I'm gettin' old. Crawling under vehicles isn't as easy as it used to be in my 20's. Baggie goes back on the filter, wrench over baggie and remember "lefty-loosey/righty-tighty". The filter unscrews to my great relief and a big sigh but in the meantime, dirty black oil streams down my hand, down my arm, across my armpit. Sorry boys. The baggie didn't work as advertised. Damn. I catch dripping oil with some towels and wipe oil off myself as best I can. A little *Speedy-Dry* on the asphalt to soak up the oil drippings and we are good to go. Again. I'm trying to stay calm even with clenched teeth and pursed lips but not bad, not bad. A small victory. We got it off. We're doing okay and ready to push onward and upward to greater glory.

Part III - Press On Regardless

I get my shiny, new OEM "Genuine Mazda Parts" filter and lubricate the rubber gasket with fresh oil for a nice seal. I climb back underneath (oh, my achin' --- by now), I screw 'er in, hand-tighten and a tiny bit more. Ah, such a good feeling! The worst is over. Success. We have met the enemy(s) and they are ours! The gods be damned. Bolt the cover plate back on the undercarriage (and smack myself in the face a few more times with the wrench for good measure) and voila! Almost done!

I realize as I crawl out from under the car, singing "*The Little Old Lady from Pasadena*", an assemblage of neighborhood dog-walkers have gathered on the sidewalk next to *Scarlet* and me, pointing down and politely chuckling. "Yes, Hi Folks, I am really changing my own oil and no, Folks, there is no role reversal: Steve isn't cooking dinner tonight". Let's not make it a really bad day, okay?

Part IV - The Finish - 3 Hours Later.....The neighbors have departed, my red face is back to its normal color and as I unscrew the cap from my fresh Castrol jug and glug 4.5 quarts of new life's blood back into *Scarlet*, I smile, I'm confident. I can do this. I am Woman, Hear Me Roar.

Schedule of Events for the 2013 Driving Season

Saturday, October 5

Massachusetts Club Finger Lakes Meet at Watkins Glen

Event Leaders: Lee Maddy & Miriam White

Sunday, December 8

Holiday Party

Well, the 2013 Holiday Party is taking a little detour from our traditional style party and changing it up a bit. (We thought we might need some new tires this year) So save the date of Sunday, December 8th at 11:00AM. We will be having a beautiful Holiday Breakfast Brunch at the Lincklaen House (<http://www.lincklaenhouse.com/>) in Cazenovia. The cost will be \$18.00 per person including tax/gratuity. The party committee hopes you'll like the cost and central location and that you'll join us for good food and fun with friends. The dress code will be Holiday attire so we can continue the festive spirit we've always observed.

Midstate Miata Club Officers for 2013

President: Karen McKissock

Vice President and Activities Chairperson: Jay Cartini

Communications Manager and Newsletter Editor: Deane Bergstrom

Treasurer: Ronnie Sabella

Membership & History: Bob Sabella