

# MIDSTATE MIATA CLUB OF NY

## "MIATA MEANDERINGS" NEWSLETTER

Volume 5, Issue 6, August 2021



### President's Letter from Karen McKissock, August 2021



I hope this newsletter finds you all zooming around topless....I mean tops down. Even though we've had a fair amount of rain there's been plenty of time to get out and enjoy your cars. My letter's short and sweet this month but a couple of messages as follows:

#### **HELP WANTED**

**HOLIDAY PARTY:** We need a volunteer to replace Mary Lou Reisdorf, our Vice President, as she'd like to take a hiatus for the rest of the year. She has been in the club for many years but wants some time off. Of course, we'll honor her wishes but will miss her role on our leadership team. However, that decision requires us to backfill her role as Vice President. For details of the role please refer to the club by-laws in this [link](#) in Article VI Section C.

Mary Lou was also instrumental for several years in planning the annual Holiday Party. This is a pretty well-established process that fundamentally needs someone to receive the registrations/checks

and confirm the menu at the venue. We already have it booked and will likely repeat everything we've done in the past. Lou or I will be glad to assist if someone will volunteer to be the Event Coordinator.

**FACEBOOK:** In addition, we need someone with Facebook experience to maintain our club page. There will be a helpful handoff to make a smooth transition, so if you're interested please raise your hand or we will forfeit the page.

Please send your applications for any of these jobs to me as soon as possible. Just kidding, just let me know and we'll talk or if you have questions first please call me at (585) 820-6010. The club can only continue with membership participation.

OK, that's it for now. Hope to see you all soon.

**Karen McKissock, MMC President**

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## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

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### Welcome to the MidState Miata Club of New York!



We have dozens of drives planned, some with meals and ice cream. We ask all the 2020 and 2021 members to keep your orange sticker on their ID badge for 2021 so the old hands can say *Hi* and *Welcome to the Club*.

Name	City	Chapter	Car Year	Color of Car
Richard & Paula Burgin	Penfield	Rochester	2006	Black

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## IMPORTANT CLUB WORLD WIDE WEB SITES

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- Our Club has a [website](#) that most of you know about. **Now it works well on your phone too!**
- Our Club also is on [Facebook](#), with 523 followers. Members' posts are [here](#) on Facebook.
- You can print the [Club Flyer](#), the trifold with Club information and an application form.
- Here is the [guest waiver form](#). If you are going to bring a guest then you must print and complete the form. Give the completed form to the Area Representative or Event Coordinator.
- Every wonder where members live? Check out this [map](#), **now with data from June 2021**.

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## CLUB APPAREL

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The Club apparel is [here](#) on the Club Website.

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## ICE CREAM NIGHTS

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The schedule for all four Chapters' Ice Cream nights is on [this shared spreadsheet](#). The schedule is updated each month.

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## NEWSLETTER DUE DATES

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Submissions for the newsletter are due to the newsletter editor on the **twenty-fourth, 24th, of each month**.

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## REMINDER, HOW TO REGISTER FOR EVENTS

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To help streamline communications for gathering who is attending our events we will require members to contact **the Event Coordinator directly AND copy your Area Rep** to help them plan for caravans from your area. You will **only need to respond if you are planning to attend, but if you need to cancel last minute you still need to let both parties so they don't hold up the ride waiting for you**. Please pay close attention to the contact info and deadlines. Guests must bring this completed [form](#).

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## POST-EVENT REPORTS

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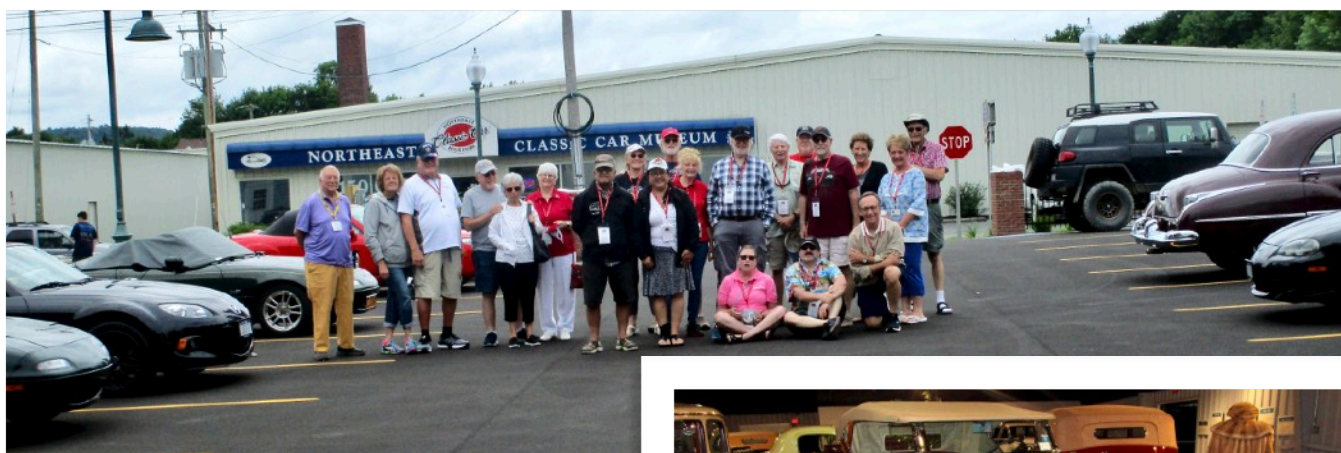
### Saturday, July 10th, Northeast Classic Car Museum

Event Coordinator – Del Austin, Binghamton

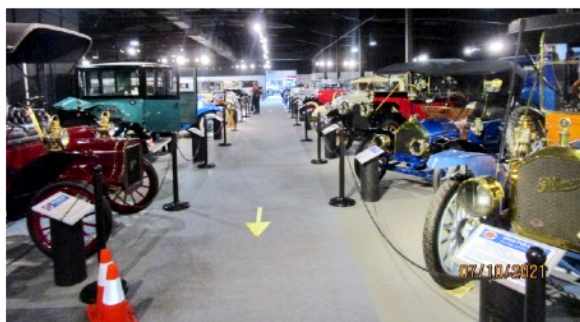
#### WHAT MAKES A GREAT MIATA DAY?

When you add 18 Miata, and 23 members from three of our four areas of our club, you have something special! Thanks to Gail Wagner from Ithaca, Lee Maddy from Syracuse, and the Binghamton group, you know you have something very special. It does not happen to often, and was wonderful to see and to spend Miata time with old friends!

18 Miata's met at the Northeastern Classic Car Museum in Norwich, New York, and would you believe all at about the appointed time. For over one and a half hours we went back in time to 1915 to 1960's. Names like Auburn, Packard, Cord, Duesenberg, Studebaker, Hupmobile took us back in time, even into our teenage years, with names like Plymouth, Chrysler, Desoto. All 200 cars were in pristine condition. Some worth over a million or more! Talk about time warp. If you are into cars the museum is a must summer stop!



Right on time all driver were at the wheels of their Miata's. Perhaps they were hungry, and if they were, they were in for a treat. We set off for



of all places, (that was if our leader could find the parking lot to the WILD OWL restaurant). We were told the food was very good, and the reviews were spot on, food and service are outstanding. We will be back!

After very good conversations, and full bellies, we found our cars, (that's another story). We were off to Gillian's Island for good ice cream and more good conversation.



Some of our members from Ithaca and Syracuse had left for home. The rest of us took RT80 east, to RT8 south, and RT23 back to Norwich to RT12 and home. You might ask, "why RT's 80, 8, and 23 when you were on RT12 at Gilligan's". Well, remember is was a very sunny day, tops down, and the fore noted road are full of 20, 30 mph S and U curves, hills and beautiful views of farms and valleys laid out before us. And is that not what driving this wonderful car is made for, and what great memories are made of? July 10, 2021 WAS GREAT MIATA DAY! For friends, a great Miata car, and a sunny curvy roads, that is what this day was planned for. Virginia and I hope July 10 added up to a Miata memory for you too! I have to thank the State of New York for the nice renovations to the above mention roads. Very nice paving job! Thank you!



More photos by Del can be viewed [here](#) and even more by Frank Cecelin are [here](#).

[Norwich Northeast Auto Museum](#). Lunch at the [Columbus Public House](#) in Sherburne - Columbus ,NY .

Contact Del at [virdel2347@aol.com](mailto:virdel2347@aol.com) or (607) 217-5794 or (607) 242-6178 or (607) 242-4092.

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### **Wednesday, August 21st, Log Cabin Cruise Night**

Event Coordinator – Chuck Rischenole, Rochester Chapter

Thank you Mother Nature for a perfect day for the [Log Cabin Cruise Night](#) event with sunshine and mild temperatures. A total of 14 cars attended. 13 from the Rochester Chapter and Tyler Wainwright representing Syracuse. For those who may not be aware of it Tyler was one of the "Founding Fathers" when the club was started in April 1994. It was a night of seeing old friends again, talking cars, eating, and looking at some great cars on display. A big hit of the evening was seeing Nancy Lowe's new paint job, you could not tell what was new and what was original! This was a also a special night for me, after having 2 hips, and 2 shoulders replaced and cataract surgery on both eyes in the last 2 1/2 years I finally got clearance to drive the MX5 again and what a perfect way to do it being with old friends and meeting new ones. A special thanks to Dave King for helping me put this event together.



Contact Chuck at [candgr@gmail.com](mailto:candgr@gmail.com) or 585-223-7586 and your Area Representative.

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## FUTURE EVENTS

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### Sunday, August 8th, Hard Cider Crawl

Event Coordinator – Ray Mosher, Syracuse Chapter

Rain date is August 15

Meet at 10:00 for a 10:15 departure. Leaving from the Byrne Dairy in Lafayette (just off I-81).

- Drive 1.5 hours on back county roads to Awestruck Ciders in Sidney.
- Taste ciders and eat pub food at [Awestruck](#).
- Drive 1.5 hours on similar roads to [Beak & Skiff Apple Hill Campus](#), 1911 Tasting Room and Distillery near Lafayette.
- Taste ciders, food is available.

This repeats a drive run in 2020.

Happy to have any from Binghamton group do their own drive and meet us at Awestruck Ciders around noon.

The rain policy is that it will proceed unless the forecast is for a total washout. We will proceed with showers.

Ray will likely reschedule for the following Sunday if August 8th is necessary.

Register with Ray at [mosherrskl@yahoo.com](mailto:mosherrskl@yahoo.com) (the last character is an L, not i) or 315-635-2584 or 315-935-6281 and your Area Representative.

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### Friday & Saturday, August 13th - 14th, Miata Only Track Day at Pineview

Non-Club Sponsored Event, For Information Only

*According to their Facebook Page this event is 'probably postponed until 2022', be sure to call before attending.*

[Miatas Only Time Attack Facebook Page](#)

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### Sunday August 15th, Relaxed Track Laps Event at Pineview Run

Event Coordinator – Gail Wagner & Steve Wilson, Ithaca Chapter

**SUNSHINE DATE ONLY**

How about FIVE pace car-led track laps and a box lunch at beautiful Pineview Run Auto & Country Club in Lafayette, NY for only \$35.00 per person?

**August 15th 11:00 p.m.-1:00 p.m. will include five pace car-led laps of 5 cars at a time and then a box sub sandwich lunch under a covered outside picnic area for only \$35.00 per person!**

This is a private member car and motorcycle track south of Syracuse and a great opportunity to get another taste of a track with our Miatas. See [Pineview Run](#).

Mark the date on your calendar but watch for a separate write up as final details and RSVP become available for this event to be distributed ASAP to all members.

Register with Gail at [gwtr3red@gmail.com](mailto:gwtr3red@gmail.com) or 607-257-7445 or (607) 227-8877 and your Area Representative.

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## Wednesday & Thursday, August 25th - 26th, Niagara PCA HPDE at WGI

Non-Club Sponsored Event, For Information Only

This is a fully instructed event (open to all levels of drivers) and coming up on August 25 & 26. Niagara Porsche Club of America (PCA) accepts all makes of cars and have Miatas attend our events frequently. We would welcome some Midstate Miata Club of NY members at our events. The PCA Driver Education Program is designed so that participants can improve their driving abilities and acquire a better understanding of vehicle dynamics and driving safety. You will have an opportunity to drive your car at speed for two sessions; one in the morning and one in the afternoon. Convertibles require a roll bar.

Our August 25 - 26 Event (Midsummerfest Traditional HPDE) is a two day, fully-instructed event. At this event, we accept all levels of drivers, including beginners with no track experience. The cost is \$540 and includes 4 on track sessions per day (25 min. or so each) and usually 3 classroom sessions per day.

Within this event, we are also offering an "Intro to High Performance Driving" that is one day (will be August 26) for \$150. This opportunity enables folks to get acquainted with the HPDE experience with a much lower commitment. It provides for a ride with a qualified instructor for 1 session, 2 abbreviated track sessions driving their own car (with an instructor), and 2 abbreviated classroom sessions. We believe this to be a great deal!

Current (Snell 2015 or newer) helmets are required for all track participants, regardless of car. We have four helmets that can be borrowed if the participant does not have their own. More details are [here](#).

Even if you don't go this year, that is a lot of great reading on the website!

You will find more information in the links below.

[Driver Education Flyer](#) & [Niagara Region Porsche Club of America's Driver Education Introduction Page](#)

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## Saturday, September 18th Rally in the Valley

Event Coordinator –Nancy & Bill Lowe, Rochester Chapter

Avon Rotary is going on the road again, and MMCoFNY is invited!

Running on Sept. 18, Rally in the Valley, is the Avon Rotary's improved second annual adventure on wheels, will be more compact than last year's, yet still challenging. Expect to see new sights in a scavenger hunt as you follow clues to picturesque Genesee Valley locations you might never have visited and, if you are lucky, pick up a prize or two. On your return to the Avon finish line, stick around for our gala shindig at Oak Knolls Manor, featuring a catered buffet, games and prizes. Deadline to register is September 1, 2021.

For more information and to buy tickets for the rally, just the shindig, or a T-shirt follow the link below.

[Rally in the Valley, Avon Rotary Charity Event](#)

Register online. More information is available from Robert Mellen at [rgmellen@verizon.net](mailto:rgmellen@verizon.net), of the Avon Rotary or Nancy & Bill at [nanlowe53@gmail.com](mailto:nanlowe53@gmail.com) or (585) 305-4410 or (585) 865-6158.

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## Sunday, September 19th Apple Fritter Crawl

Event Coordinator –Lee Maddy, Syracuse Chapter

Rain date is September 26

Annual tour of four Lafayette orchards. Enjoy apple cider and fritters. Total drive, about 6 miles. (Not a typo!) Help the club decide which orchard has the best apple fritters in town. This is a very short drive and we will be stopping at three or four orchards that also sell apple fritters.

And may include laps at [Pineview Run Auto & Country Club](#)

Register with Lee at [mrmiataman@yahoo.com](mailto:mrmiataman@yahoo.com) or (315) 637-0472 or (315) 952-7148 or (315) 383-2454 and your Area Representative.

## Saturday, September 25th Watkins Glen Private Laps & Lunch

Event Coordinator – Gail Wagner & Steve Wilson, Ithaca Chapter

**Sunshine ONLY Event**

Rain date is October 3



**Watkins Glen International Race Track (3 pace car-led laps), 2790 County Road 16, Watkins Glen, NY.**  
**and Group Lunch (optional) at Seneca Harbor Station, 3 North Franklin St., Watkins Glen, after laps**

**Meet NO LATER THAN 11:00 a.m.**

**Gate #2** (main gate) for car staging and individual handing in of track liability waivers (see below)

**BRING YOUR OWN PEN & FACE MASKS**

**\*\*\*\*\* LAPS MUST BE PREPAID TO THIS EVENT and lunch selection made (if attending)**

**BY FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 10th \*\*\*\*\***

- **All individual liability forms signed off and everyone staged by 12:00 a.m. READY TO GO.** No waiting for latecomers. [Assumption of Risk, Waiver and Release of Liability, Adult](#), and [Waiver and Release of Liability, Express Assumption of Risk, Indemnity and Hold Harmless Agreement, Adult](#). Each person at the track must sign their own forms.
- **Miata Club on-the-track reserved time is 12:00 p.m.** and will take approximately 15-20 minutes behind three WGI pace car placed in front.
- **WARNING: There is NO FAST DRIVERS UP FRONT/SLOW DRIVERS IN THE REAR GROUPING as a pace car will lead, a pace car in the middle of our group and a pace car at the end of our group so speeds may be slow for everyone. No lagging behind/speeding up allowed or consequences for drivers by WGI.**
- **MASKS must be worn at all times when dealing with track personnel. (Except when driving cars.)**
- **Guests welcome IN YOUR CAR (masked).** Please bring a signed [Miata Club Guest Disclaimer](#) for Club event insurance purposes.
- **Area Groups may want to arrive together. Arrange with your Area Rep.**
- **Optional lunch at Seneca Harbor Station Restaurant** in Watkins Glen at approximately 1:00 p.m. **PLEASE CHOOSE LUNCH SELECTIONS** (see below and menu attached). Individual checks will be presented after lunch. Cash or credit card.



**RETURN THIS FORM WITH YOUR CHECK for \$20.00 and optional lunch selections:**

**By Friday, September 10th (Ticket good for rain date 10/3/2021, if announced)**

**\$20.00 discount ticket price per car, check made out to and mailed this sheet with check to:**

**MIDSTATE MIATA CLUB OF NY**

**Gail Wagner, 105 Iroquois Road, Ithaca, NY 14850**

**NAMES ATTENDING** \_\_\_\_\_ **Attending Lunch? Yes No**

**LUNCH SELECTION:** ([see this linked menu for discription](#))

**Steak Sandwich # \_\_\_\_\_**

**Burger # \_\_\_\_\_**

**Fish Sandwich # \_\_\_\_\_**

**Chicken Sandwich # \_\_\_\_\_**

**Turkey Panini # \_\_\_\_\_**

**Caesar Salad w/Chicken # \_\_\_\_\_**

Register with Gail at [gwtr3red@gmail.com](mailto:gwtr3red@gmail.com) or 607-257-7445 or (607) 227-8877 and your Area Representative.

### **Saturday, October 2nd, Salmon River Falls**

Event Coordinator – Jerry Willis, Syracuse Chapter

Rain date is October 3

Repeat of the cool trip to Salmon River Falls. Watch for details!

#### [Salmon River Falls](#)

Register with Jerry at [o\\_lake\\_676@hotmail.com](mailto:o_lake_676@hotmail.com) or 315-676-3072 and your Area Representative.

### **Wednesday, October 13th, Sprague's Maple Farms with the Niagara Miata Club**

Event Coordinator – Chuck Rischenole, Rochester Chapter

Trip from Rochester to Sprague's Maple Fame for lunch, maybe their famous turkey dinner!

#### [Sprague's Maple Farm](#)

Register with Chuck at [candgr@gmail.com](mailto:candgr@gmail.com) or 585-223-7586 and your Area Representative.

### **Friday - Sunday, October 22 - 24th, East Coast Miata Reunion, New Jersey Motorsport Park**

**Non-Club Sponsored Event, For Information Only**

Join the first Miata Reunion to be held on the East Coast, at New Jersey Motorsports Park. The Miata Reunion is an annual celebration of the MX-5 Miata, offering a weekend of fun activities and social interaction for Miata lovers, including quality Miatas-only track time at a fantastic venue for hard-core track enthusiasts.

Information & Registration is [here](#).

### **Sunday, December 5th, Holiday Party**

Event Coordinator – **Looking for a Volunteer**

Details to follow.

Register with **Looking for a Volunteer** as Event Coordinator – **Looking for a Volunteer** and your Area Representative.



## January 20th - 31st, Caribbean Cruise

Event Coordinator – Ray Mosher, Syracuse Chapter

This is something new. Tired of winter here in CNY? Go south. When I retired a few years ago, I vowed to never spend an entire winter here. With 2020 being the horrible exception, it has worked. For 2022 it will be the “Cruise to St Somewhere” and you are all invited.

The cruise departs from Cape Liberty (Bayonne), NJ on Jan 20. It is the 11 night [Southern Caribbean Cruise](#) with [Royal Caribbean](#) on [Anthem of the Seas](#). Ports of call are San Juan, St Martin, St Johns, St Lucia and St Kitts (hence the St Somewhere moniker).

We have sailed on this ship and have been to each of these ports before and can confirm a good time. Sailing from New Jersey means no having to fly to the port; you can just drive there the day of the cruise, no worries about schlepping luggage and a couple of sail days each way to lounge on board. The Anthem is amazing – with bumper cars, indoor skydiving, a surfing wave, climbing wall, great shows and food.

Fares vary by room type. Recently the fare was \$895 per person for an interior cabin (with a virtual balcony), \$1,113 for an outside cabin and \$1,419 for a balcony. With \$392 in taxes and port fees and discounts, that is \$1,937 for two people in an inside cabin. Fares change daily and there are often sales. We paid a total of \$2,632 for our balcony cabin. Add in about \$300 in tips plus whatever else you choose to spend on optional drinks, casino chips, upgraded meals, port excursions etc.

Watch for more information as we get closer to the event date.  
Feel free to ask questions of Ray or Sue Mosher.

Register with Ray and Sue at [mosherrskL@yahoo.com](mailto:mosherrskL@yahoo.com) (the last character is an L, not i) or 315-635-2584 or 315-935-6281 and your Area Representative.

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### **UPCOMING PLANNED EVENTS, NO DATES SELECTED YET**

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#### **TBD, Bill Hodge Memorial Road Rally**

Event Coordinator – Jay Cartini, Syracuse Chapter  
It maybe schedule from early to mid October

Register with Jay at [JPCartini@aol.com](mailto:JPCartini@aol.com) or 315-676-4776 and your Area Representative.

#### **TBD, Midway Drive-In Movie**

Event Coordinator – Ray Mosher, Syracuse Chapter

Register with Ray at [mosherrskL@yahoo.com](mailto:mosherrskL@yahoo.com) (the last character is an L, not i) or 315-635-2584 or 315-935-6281 and your Area Representative.

#### **TBD, Club Picnic**

Register with [Looking for a Volunteer](#) as Event Coordinator – [Looking for a Volunteer](#) and your Area Representative.

By Gail Wagner – Midstate Miata Club of NY



### MID SUMMER MAINTENANCE REMINDERS

Hello Miata Club Folks,

It's the *Maintenance Wench* here this month. ☺

I hope everyone is having a great summer and lots of topless fun with their Miatas.

My topic for this month is, “*Don’t ask what your Miata can do for you, ask what you can do for your Miata*”, to paraphrase a famous quote. ☺

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#### Here’s some important summer maintenance suggestions to consider

You might want to use this column as a check-list to make sure you’re up-to-date with Miata maintenance. Your friendly owner’s manual is a good reference too. (Tip: I always write what maintenance I have completed in the back page of my owner’s manual with the date and keep a folder with receipts from major maintenance purchases like brake pads, inspections, etc. Or create a spreadsheet with all your maintenance completions.)

- **TIRE PRESSURE/ROTATION — Check tire pressure monthly.** Correct tire pressure should be in your owner’s manual or on a sticker on the

inside of your driver’s side door. **Rotate your tires every 2,000-3,000 miles.** Rotating tires prevents uneven wear and is good for fuel economy not to mention helping to make your tires last longer.

- **TIRE REPLACEMENT — THIS IS A BIGGIE, FOLKS. Important: Tires 7-10 years old have expired and should be replaced regardless of how much tread is left. Tires can degrade from the inside out unseen.** (Tip: Read my previous columns about tires in our Club website, [TECH](#) archive.) The tires are the most important thing between your butt and the road. Make sure they’re safe!
- **TIRE ALIGNMENT — Every couple of years at least.** Even if you don’t buy new tires and have alignment and tire balancing done then, have your alignment checked on your current tires. It will improve handling and help prevent early tire wear.
- **TIRE LUG NUTS — Check monthly.** If you have a torque wrench and a socket set, check your tire’s lug nuts and tighten to spec, usually about 80 ft.\*lbs. of torque or have your mechanic check them. This can be easily overlooked if you have had your tires replaced or rotated recently.

- **ANTI-FREEZE/COOLANT — Mazda recommends flush and replacement every 30,000 miles.** Antifreeze, also known as coolant, keeps the engine and its components from freezing or overheating. The chemicals in antifreeze eventually break down and lose their engine-cooling protective properties. Driving a vehicle with a faulty engine cooling system can result in overheating, cylinder head gasket failure, engine block failure, or cylinder head warping. Read \$\$\$\$\$\$.....

- Note: If you have an NC Miata (2006-2015), keep an eye on your plastic coolant reservoir. If it starts to turn brown or green or is leaking, replace ASAP as it is able to crack, leak and overheat your engine. Big trouble. (See my Archived article about Coolant Reservoir replacement for NCs.)

- **POWER STEERING FLUID REPLACEMENT —** If never flushed and replaced and you have at least 55,000 miles, think about it. Power steering fluid does break down eventually and can cause “gunk” to accumulate in the power steering lines affecting steering. The fresh fluid color should be translucent cherry red (not dark brown or black) just in case you see any that has leaked on your driveway. At least check it once a month to see if it needs topping up. Use the correct stuff per your manual.

- **NYS INSPECTION STICKER — Depends. ☺ Make sure you know when your inspection is due.** (Tip: I try to get mine done at the beginning of summer every year regardless of due date so I can remember.) It’s also a good safety check if you use a good repair inspection shop as they check brakes, lights, tires, horn, etc. You can ask them to check fluids, battery, belts, etc. too.

- **AIR FILTER — Replace after 60 months or 60,000 miles.** The new “permanent” filters are nice. You just take them out and vacuum occasionally. Worth the added expense, I say. If you don’t wrap your air filter in aluminum foil during winter storage or long-time un-use, you’d be surprised what critters, leaves, dirt, etc., can accumulate in there.

- **TIMING BELT — ?????** Well, the jury is still out on this. ☺ Are you a reasonable gambler? Some say replace after 60,000 miles BUT reported

failures appear to be few and far between and it doesn’t hurt the engine if the belt does break as it’s “non-interfering”; you’re just unable to drive the car until it’s replaced. Replacement is expensive, like \$600+. (Tip: It’s recommended that you replace the water pump, a relatively inexpensive part, if you do replace the belt since it’s buried “down under there”).)

- Note: The Miata NA (1989-1997), NB (1999-2005, there was no 1998) have a timing BELT. NC (2006-2015) and ND (2015-present) have a timing CHAIN that does not need replacement, although the chain tensioner can fail.

- **OIL CHANGE — 5 mo./5K.** If you didn’t change your motor oil and filter this spring after storage, do it now! Some Miata diehards (like me) recommend every 6 months or whether using conventional or 100% synthetic oil. Engine lubrication, especially for older cars, is so important. I change spring and fall. Change AT LEAST once a year no matter what type of oil you use.

- **ENGINE OIL — Check Monthly.** Checked your dipstick lately? It’s your engine’s life’s blood. Top up per the dipstick markings but don’t mix conventional motor oil with synthetic oil and make sure per your owner’s manual it’s the correct specified grade. Use conventional or 100% synthetic. “50/50 blend” is a waste of money, in my opinion. I personally prefer 100% synthetic. More expensive but you don’t have to change it as often as “they” say it has more good additives to keep older engines running smoother and longer.

- **BRAKE PADS — Depends.** This is obviously important. Brake pad thickness will be checked during your yearly spring or summer annual auto inspection but it’s recommended that they be **replaced every 2-3 years**, especially if you are a “spirited” driver and do hard driving/hard braking, lots of up and down hill driving, high performance track days or lots of stop and go driving. If your brakes are squealing, then it’s definitely time!

- **BRAKE FLUID/CLUTCH FLUID — Check monthly and completely replace every 2-3 years.** Brake and clutch fluid (same fluid) are located in the same little plastic reservoir under the hood. Clutch fluid is for manual shift

transmissions, not automatic transmissions. It's recommended you have your brake fluid flushed and replaced with fresh fluid every 2-3 years since it does break down eventually. Toss partially used cans of brake fluid after 2 years at the latest if you add it yourself; it degrades because it attracts water (hygroscopic), even in a partially-used, closed container on your garage shelf. (Tip: I mark the date I opened the bottle with a magic marker so I know how old it is. If you are a "spirited" driver who hard brakes a lot or someone who does high performance track days, it's recommended that you use higher temperature DOT 4 brake fluid indicated on the bottle as opposed to DOT 3 for normal driving or use one of the new combo DOT3/DOT4 brake fluids.)

- **DIFFERENTIAL FLUID — Drain and replace every 30,000 miles** per Mazda's factory recommendation. Be sure to use the right kind per your owner's manual.
- **TRANSMISSION FLUID (ATF) — Drain and replace every 30,000 miles per Mazda's factory recommendation.** Be sure to use the right kind per your owner's manual.
- **PVC VALVE — Replace every 20,000 – 50,000 miles. If you normally drive short trips, change every 30,000 miles.** (Tip: See my past TECH article about PVC valves in [website archives](#)).
- **FUEL FILTER — Replace every 60,000 miles.** (If it's plugged, believe me, you'll know, i.e., lack of power driving up hills and bucking!)
- **CABIN FILTER — Trick Question.** There is no interior cabin filter for NA, NB, NC, or ND Miatas, but many other vehicles do have them that need periodic replacement.
- **SPARK PLUGS & SPARK PLUG WIRES — Check monthly (if you have these; newer models do not). Replace about every 30,000 miles.** When was the last time you had these changed? Check spark plugs and spark plug wires (cracks, breaks, broken covering) if you have these for older Miatas and just the spark plugs for the newer models which have "coil packs" in place of wires that do not need regular replacement.
- **RAIN DRAINS — Check periodically.** These are the little holes under your convertible top that drain

rain water and car-washing water down and away from the car. They can plug with dirt, grit, leaves, etc. Plugged drainage holes will allow water to back up INTO your interior cabin or trunk floor. (Tip: Run a garden hose on the back of your car with the top securely up and then with the top half-way folded down (have someone hold it or put a box under it to hold it from falling down). Have someone peek underneath the back of the car to make sure water is draining properly.)

- **ENGINE HOSES — Check monthly.** Take a quick peek at all of your engine hoses and hose clamps to make sure there are no leaks, cracks, breaks or any have come loose. Only takes a minute. Replace as necessary; new hoses are cheap insurance AND they come in cool colors now. ☺
- **BATTERY FLUID/REPLACEMENT — Check monthly and/or depends.** Do you have a battery that requires adding water or a closed battery system? Unscrew those battery caps with a rag and top off with distilled (not tap) water if the cells look low on fluid. How OLD is your battery? Some have a date printed on top. Clean corroded battery terminals (that gunky white stuff) with a toothbrush and a paste made with water and baking soda, cleaned off with a rag or paper towel. Please use rubber gloves, protective glasses and protect paint and clothing. This is acid gunk. (Tip: You can have battery life tested and checked free at many auto supplies stores.)
- **WASH/WAX — AT LEAST once a season.** To preserve your paint, especially on our older Miatas, your car should be hand-washed and waxed in spring after storage and ideally more often in mid-summer and just before storage. I'm talking "by-hand" here. Don't forget to condition leather seating if you have it with a quality leather preservative product. Clean and condition your convertible top with quality convertible top cleaner/conditioner products like *RaggTop* or equivalent, to help it last longer and protect from harmful UV rays deterioration. Yes, it's time consuming but so good for the soul!
- **TREE SAP, DEAD BUGS AND OTHER PAINT-RUINING PROBLEMS — Check every day!** Tree sap, dead bugs and bird droppings can be ruinous on paint and clear coat. Wipe acidic bird droppings and dead bugs ASAP with a damp



paper towel. Tree sap can be effectively removed with a few drops of hand sanitizer (i.e., *Purell*). Let it sit for a minute on the sap to soften and then wipe off with a wet paper towel to thoroughly

remove the sap. Then wash with a little soap and water and then dry with a dry paper towel. I have not found a sap-removing commercial automotive product yet that really works as well as this.

I hope this has been interesting and useful info.  
Take care of your Miata and it will take care of you!

Zoom Zoom Safely!

*Gail*

p.s.s. Remember to check out my previous [archived tech and tip columns](#) on our Club website.

#### **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 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.*

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#### **FAVORITE CAR SHOPS, PARTS STORES, OR SERVICE CENTERS**

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|                                    |                                                                          |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <a href="#">Alloy Wheel Repair</a> | Will come to you in some areas                                           |
| <a href="#">Berg Racing</a>        | General auto service on most makes and models (Rochester).               |
| <a href="#">Flyin' Miata</a>       | Making your Miata as fun to drive as possible                            |
| <a href="#">J&amp;R Upholstery</a> | Auto upholstery and convertible top installation and repair (Binghamton) |
| <a href="#">Moss Miata</a>         | Provides you with the best parts and service at competitive prices       |
| <a href="#">MX5things</a>          | Unique accessories for your Mazda Miata MX-5 (ND) or Fiat 124 Spider     |
| <a href="#">Panorama Collision</a> | Where quality is not an accident                                         |
| <a href="#">Rev Limiter</a>        | Gauge Faces and other electronics                                        |

Do you have a favorite place? Let me know. [John.N.Amon@gmail.com](mailto:John.N.Amon@gmail.com) or (585) 617-4334

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#### **MEMBER STORY**

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Would you like to tell a story to the other Club members? If you are interested, please email, text, or call me at [John.N.Amon@gmail.com](mailto:John.N.Amon@gmail.com) or (585) 617-4334

Does anyone have anything to share?

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## MIATAS & MIATA ITEMS WANTED & FOR SALE

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If you have a Miata item for sale or wanted a Miata item and would like it to be in our newsletter, please send me the information. [John.N.Amon@gmail.com](mailto:John.N.Amon@gmail.com). If you would like the item to be on the website, please also send Lee Maddy the information. [mrmiataman@yahoo.com](mailto:mrmiataman@yahoo.com). Include a heading, description, your name and contact information (phone, email, address maybe), maybe the price, and a photo or two.

### FOR SALE

New in-the-box Progressive anti- sway bar for NC Miata (2006-2015 models) with hardware from [Good-Win Racing](#). Paid \$205 sell for \$175. Local pick up best Ithaca area.

Text call Phil Cornell at [pcornell@twcny.rr.com](mailto:pcornell@twcny.rr.com) or (607) 793- 4191 or leave message (607) 273-3054. (Editors Note: Phil's last name has been corrected).



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## LEADERSHIP TEAM

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|                       |                   |              |                                                                    |
|-----------------------|-------------------|--------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|
| President             | Karen McKissock   | 585-820-6010 | <a href="mailto:kmckiss1948@gmail.com">kmckiss1948@gmail.com</a>   |
| Vice President        | Mary Lou Reisdorf | 585-455-7044 | <a href="mailto:reisdorf@yahoo.com">reisdorf@yahoo.com</a>         |
| Secretary             | Miriam White      | 315-637-0472 | <a href="mailto:white.miriam@yahoo.com">white.miriam@yahoo.com</a> |
| Treasurer             | Ronnie Sabella    | 315-463-9643 | <a href="mailto:ronnievs@twcny.rr.com">ronnievs@twcny.rr.com</a>   |
| Past President        | Ray Mosher        | 315-935-6281 | <a href="mailto:mosherrskL@yahoo.com">mosherrskL@yahoo.com</a>     |
| Membership/ Historian | Bob Sabella       | 315-463-9643 | <a href="mailto:rsabella@twcny.rr.com">rsabella@twcny.rr.com</a>   |
| Activities Chair      | Jay Cartini       | 315-676-4776 | <a href="mailto:JPCartini@aol.com">JPCartini@aol.com</a>           |
| Webmaster             | Lee Maddy         | 315-637-0472 | <a href="mailto:mrmiataman@yahoo.com">mrmiataman@yahoo.com</a>     |
| Area Rep / Syracuse   | Dale Nagel        | 315-677-9342 | <a href="mailto:dalen262@aol.com">dalen262@aol.com</a>             |
| Are Rep / Rochester   | David King        | 585-377-6461 | <a href="mailto:doeskygato@aol.com">doeskygato@aol.com</a>         |
| Area Rep / Binghamton | Barb Hunsinger    | 607-785-5459 | <a href="mailto:bhunsin928@aol.com">bhunsin928@aol.com</a>         |
| Area Rep / Ithaca     | Gail Wagner       | 607-257-7445 | <a href="mailto:gwtr3red@gmail.com">gwtr3red@gmail.com</a>         |
| Newsletter            | John Amon         | 585-617-4334 | <a href="mailto:John.N.Amon@gmail.com">John.N.Amon@gmail.com</a>   |
| Sunshine Club         | Christine Kuhn    | 585-880-6880 | <a href="mailto:coneill1965@gmail.com">coneill1965@gmail.com</a>   |

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**REFRIGERATOR SCHEDULE 2021**

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| Date          | Event                                                   | Coordinators             |
|---------------|---------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| August 8      | Hard Cider Crawl                                        | Ray Mosher               |
| August 13-14  | Miata Only Track Day at Pineview (postponed until 2022) | Non-Club Sponsored Event |
| August 15     | Relaxed Track Laps Event at Pineview Run                | Gail Wagner              |
| August 25-26  | Niagara PCA HPDE at WGI                                 | Non-Club Sponsored Event |
| September 18  | Rally in the Valley                                     | Nancy & Bill Lowe        |
| September 19  | Apple Fritter Crawl                                     | Lee Maddy                |
| September 25  | Watkins Glen Private Laps, rain date is October 3       | Gail Wagner              |
| October 2     | Salmon River Falls                                      | Jerry Willis             |
| October 13    | Sprague's Maple Farms with the Niagara Miata Club       | Chuck Rischenole         |
| October 22-24 | East Coast Miata Reunion, New Jersey Motorsport Park    | Non-Club Sponsored Event |
| December 5    | Holiday Party                                           | Looking for a Volunteer  |
| January 20-31 | 2022, Caribbean Cruise                                  | Ray Mosher               |
| TBD           | Bill Hodge Memorial Road Rally                          | Jay Cartini              |
| TBD           | Midway Drive-In Movie                                   | Ray Mosher               |
| TBD           | Club Picnic                                             | Looking for a Volunteer  |