

MIDSTATE MIATA CLUB OF NY

"MIATA MEANDERINGS" NEWSLETTER

Volume 5, Issue 7, September 2021



President's Letter from Karen McKissock, September 2021



Time flies when you're having fun...right? Well, it's hard to believe our summer is coming to an end but it's great to see some new events being suggested! Keep them coming please.

However, having said that I'd like to remind everyone that things are sliding back to a potential 'shut down' scenario due to the continuing threat of the newest COVID strain. It's very disappointing that we haven't been able to get control of it and/or stop the spread but given that we haven't I'd like our membership to take special care to get vaccinated (and boosters), wash your hands, wear masks and use social distancing during all our club events. If possible, let's try to only plan for outside activities, which should be possible for our remaining scheduled events. I'm sure none of us would like to be responsible for causing sickness or death for any of our Miata friends or their families. It's easy to forget how far reaching the ramifications go with this monster. Caring for our great-granddaughter 3+ days a week keeps it in the front of our minds

constantly. OK, that's the end of my preaching but please help keep each other safe.

Next, we have been having some discussion about our club radios. Our new VP, Del Austin, has done a great job of rustling the names of radio holders and each radio identifier. There is a report at the end of this Newsletter. As a result, we now have a pretty good idea of our assets. It has raised the question of if we might need to purchase a few more to provide more safety when riding in larger groups. I will be sending along an invitation to a Zoom meeting for a general membership discussion. It will be in a separate email from your Area Rep so please keep an eye out for it. If you never used Zoom, we could send you very easy set up instructions, thanks to John Amon. Please let me know and we'll get you the information. It's really important to get feedback from our members, so please try to carve out about an hour to attend. Plus, it would be great to see your faces!

In case you're wondering about the annual Holiday Party it's up in the air for a bit longer until we get closer to the date and know more about where we'll be with the virus. As soon as we can feel we have enough information to make a decision we will let you all know. I really don't want to cancel again this

year but don't want to have it outside...just kidding about that. Stay tuned and stay safe.
Zooming (but lonely)

Karen McKissock, MMC President

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

Welcome to the MidState Miata Club of New York!

WELCOME
NEW MEMBERS

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
Leslie & Ray Brown	Pittsford	Rochester	2000	Green
Dawna Fetter	Odessa	Ithaca	1995	Black
Pat & Patti Bincoe	Kirkville	Syracuse	2019	Red
Ashley Schulte & Nick Hopper	Fairport	Rochester	1990	Red
Janice McCready	Fairport	Rochester	2006	Red
Charles & June Lockwood	Camillus	Syracuse	2016	Soul Red

IMPORTANT CLUB WORLD WIDE WEB SITES

- 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 533 followers. Members' posts are [here](#) on Facebook. **Our thanks to Tim Wells for all he has done over the years. Welcome to Elisha Kasinskis as she takes over the responsibilities.**
- 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](#).

CLUB APPAREL

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

ICE CREAM NIGHTS

The schedule for all four Chapters' Ice Cream nights is on [this shared spreadsheet](#). **The schedule is updated each month. Note new day and date for Ithaca Chapter.**

NEWSLETTER DUE DATES

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

REMINDER, HOW TO REGISTER FOR EVENTS

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 Representative** 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. When an accurate or advanced headcount is required, please do not just show up for an event. Register ahead of time with the event coordinator and your Area Representative. Guests must bring this completed [form](#).

POST-EVENT REPORTS

Saturday, July 31, Oxford Veterans Run B

Event Coordinator – Jim Lamb, Binghamton Chapter

We Salute Our Veterans For the past several years, pre virus, Jim Lamb from Binghamton area Mid-State Miata Club of New York has put together a nice Miata run to Oxford, New York, to the New York State Veterans Home. Jim is a US Navy Vet, retired Binghamton police officer, and is involved with putting on a Christmas show for the Vets. Last year because of the virus, there was no event. But this year they were going to try something different, A PARADE! Not a car show as in past years. This was to be a parade complete with flags, motorcycles, antique cars, Rods, and eight decked-out Miatas thanks to Jim. And the nicest part was to have the Veterans sit outside on the lawn and the patio watching as the parade passed by them. The parade drove around the complete establishment twice. The Vets had their cameras and tablets out taking pictures. It was an incredibly special Miata day for all of us.



What made the day, even better after all the rain, was the ride to get to Oxford. Tops down, cool weather, plus sky with cotton ball white clouds. And the topper was on the ride home, some of us discover a new ice cream place. Hoppie's in Oxford. Incredible tasty food, fast service, Perry's ice cream, and a cheesecake. Well, all

I can say is that I fought my wife over the piece she took home. And one of the best soft ice cream sundaes I have had in a long time.

I can see a Miata run shaping up now in my mind that ends in Oxford, NY. Thanks, Jim for letting us show the Oxford Vets that we honor them and have not forgotten them.

More photos are [here](#) from Bob Gingell. Contact Jim at jimlsr@stny.rr.com or 607-723-6931 and your Area Representative.



Sunday, August 8, Hard Cider Crawl

Event Coordinator – Ray Mosher, Syracuse Chapter

It was a hot and sunny morning when seven Miatas zoomed away from the Lafayette Byrne Dairy – Cool Breeze scoops installed. The zooming continued along the back roads to Awestruck Ciders in Sidney – almost no traffic – a farm tractor and a milk truck barely slowed us down. At Awestruck, we tasted and waited and ate and waited some more. My personal favorite is the Vanilla/Habenero cider (only available on site). With tummies and growlers topped off, we headed back north via a different route to Beak & Skiff Cidery. Libations flowed and lively discussions followed. We then went our separate ways home.

Thanks to all who came out for a great day (and to Miriam for the photo)!



Contact Ray at mosherrsli@yahoo.com (the last character is an L, not i) or 315-635-2584 or 315-935-6281 and your Area Representative.

Sunday August 15, Relaxed Track Laps Event at Pineview Run

Event Coordinator – Gail Wagner & Steve Wilson, Ithaca Chapter

What a beautiful day and what a beautiful venue, [Pine Run Auto & Country Club](#)!

This scenic, private track in Lafayette hosted our group of 14 Miatas (one of which was from the [Delaware Valley Miata Club](#)) for an amazing and spirited five laps around a 1.1 mile, 14-turn track. Breath-taking to say the least!



We were taken out in groups of three following a pace car, one of who was our own Jay Cartini, Miata Club Activities Director, a founding member of this track in his screaming yellow Alfa Romeo 4C.

After all of our rides were completed with smiling faces, we all enjoyed socializing and a sub sandwich lunch under a covered open-sided pavilion overlooking green hill vistas and the front straight of the track as some of the pace cars and members drove at speed to show us what was possible with a little practice!

Thanks to all who enjoyed the day and the unique driving experience!

Lots more photos are [here](#) from Del Austin and Gail Wagner. Contact Gail at gwtr3red@gmail.com or 607-257-7445 or (607) 227-8877 and your Area Representative.

FUTURE EVENTS

Sunday, August 29, Polo!

Event Coordinator –Dale Nagel, Syracuse Chapter

Because Chuck Paul has hosted this in the past, and he approves, we're planning a polo afternoon. Polo starts at 3:00 at the [Skaneateles Polo Club](#), 783 Andrews Rd, Skaneateles. Ahead of that, we will met at [Bob's Barbecue](#) on Route 281 between Homer and Little York. You can arrive early at Bob's and either eat there or get something to go to eat later at the polo grounds in Skaneateles. We will depart Bob's at 1:00 sharp (you know the rules) for an approximately 45 minute drive to the Skaneateles Polo Grounds. We can tailgate prior to the start of the match at 3:00.

Also, I will lead a caravan for those interested from Lafayette to Bob's. We'll meet at [Byrne Dairy](#), Route 20 Lafayette at 11:15 for an 11:30 departure. We'll take a short scenic drive to Bob's and arrive there at about 12 noon.

The polo match will be held shine and dry field only If it is a sunny day but polo is canceled due to poor field conditions, we'll still hold the event IF the parking/tailgate area is not too wet. We'll all still meet at the polo grounds and tailgate. Just no polo. We're going to give this a try since it is a 100% outdoor event with social distancing possible. Let Dale know if you plan to meet at LaFayette Byrne Dairy or Bob's Barbecue. No need to reply to Dale if you plan to meet at the polo grounds.

As always, other Chapters can meet in their area and either make their way to [Byrne Dairy](#), [Bob's Barbecue](#) or the [Skaneateles Polo Club](#). If you decide to do this, be sure to let Dale and your Area Representative know you will meet the Syracuse Chapter at Byrne Dairy, Bob's (*inform Dale and your local area representative*) or at Skaneateles Polo Club (*inform you local area representative only*).

Register with Dale Nagel at Dalen262@aol.com, or 315-706-8015 or 315-677-9342.

Sunday, September 12, Fly and Drive In Pancake Breakfast

Event Coordinator –Roger Morton, Syracuse Chapter

A Welcome to MIATA's at the [Oswego County Airport](#) in Fulton.

Hosted by the [EAA Chapter 486](#), Experimental Aircraft Association, our entrance gate is just N/E of the main entrance to the airport, 2623 Rte 176, Fulton. Just drive toward our building on the gravel lot to the gate, we'll get you in.

Pancake Breakfast, blueberry pancakes, sausage, eggs, potatoes...

Sunday Sept 12th between 7:30 & 11:00

If you've never been here before, we started later this year. There will be airplanes, airplane pedal cars and of course other Miatas (including at least one blue one!). We'll park the Miatas on the breakfast side where they can easily be admired. Grassroots sports cars meet grassroots airplanes!

If you can drive a Miata you can probably learn to fly; there's even a couple "top down" versions. See you there, Roger Morton (the guy with the light blue Miata)

Register with Roger Morton at aaa486chapterbiz@gmail.com, or 315-638-2673 or 315-447-9719.

Sunday, September 12, Laps & Lattes

Non-Club Sponsored Event, For Information Only

[Pineview Run Auto & Country Club](#), 2250 Case Hill Road, Lafayette, NY 13084, (315) 960-2566

[Laps & Lattes](#) is open to the public one Sunday every month until October from 9:00 a.m. until 11:30 a.m. Part car show, part driving experience, allows guests a chance to show off their car and optionally, for \$10.00, drive spirited lead-follow laps around this private track. You may purchase additional \$10.00 laps if you wish.

Make a reservation if you intend to drive laps (315-960-2566) or just show up for car show, coffee and pastries in a beautiful country setting and watch others drive the track.

Rules: No passing, lead-follow laps at reduced speed, no helmets required, no roll bars required.

Saturday, September 18, 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 September 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 **August 22, 2021 (new date)**.

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, of the Avon Rotary or Nancy & Bill at nanlowe53@gmail.com or (585) 305-4410 or (585) 865-6158.

Sunday, September 19, Apple Fritter Crawl

Event Coordinator –Lee Maddy, Syracuse Chapter. Rain date is September 26.

It's been another difficult year, but at least we've been able to get out and about a little, and with the Covid-19 resurgence, things are always subject to change, so watch the website for updates, and for communication from your rep.

Apple picking time is approaching, and every year we have a HUGE turnout. Hopefully we can make this year another good one, remember to bring your masks. Rules are always changing and masks may again be required at the orchards.

As always, this event is less about the drive, more about Fall, apples, and which apple fritter is better. So, join us this year, see your friends and cast your vote. This is a rain or shine event.

Tentative Schedule:

Meet 10:30 AM at the [Byrne Dairy](#) (back corner of parking lot) in Lafayette NY (Rt. 20 & Rt. 81) (to the left of McDonalds), we will depart at 11 AM. The total event will travel down route 20 for a total trip of 6 miles, stopping at 4 apple orchards (Subject to change due to Covid regulations) along the way.

No need to RSVP, just show up if you want, and stay for as long as you like, or feel comfortable.

Some years Jay has organized an invitation for us all, after the orchards, for special parade laps at the private road course club, Pineview Run in Lafayette.

Maybe that will happen again? (And, as always, RAY... Watch out for deer!)

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

Contact with Lee at mrmiataman@yahoo.com or (315) 637-0472 or (315) 952-7148 or (315) 383-2454 and your Area Representative.

Saturday, September 25, 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 is fine.**
- **Send a check made out to *Midstate Miata Club of NY* for the track time and the form below in gray.**
- **COVID 19: Note lunch at Seneca Harbor Station will be held in a covered open-air dining deck but MAY be evaluated for cancellation depending on COVID-19 information by September 25th.**

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 of meal choices](#))

Steak Sandwich	# _____	Burger	# _____	Fish Sandwich	# _____
Chicken Sandwich	# _____	Turkey Panini	# _____	Caesar Salad w/Chicken	# _____

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

Saturday, October 2, Salmon River Falls

Event Coordinator – Jerry & Linda Willis, Syracuse Chapter. Rain date is October 3

Fall colors, country roads and waterfalls. Shine or sprinkles only

Repeat 2020 drive, mostly zooming Oswego County through winding backwoods roads along some lakes and ponds and small family farms. Up to and back from the spectacular 110 ft Salmon Falls gorge with about a 5-minute walk. Meet 12:30 PM with departure 1:00 PM at the Mirabito Convenience Station, corner of I-81 and Bartell Rd in Brewerton. Travel approximately 40 minutes to pitstop, then about 30 minutes to falls. Plan about 45 minutes at the falls, then about 30 minutes drive to the pitstop. Finally, travel about 35 minutes back to I-81 in Central Square. Approximately 90 miles round trip. It should take about 4 hours, including stops, plus an optional ice cream stop at the end.

[Salmon River Falls](#)

Register with Jerry at o_lake_676@hotmail.com or 315-676-3072 and your Area Representative.

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

Event Coordinator – Chuck Rischenole, Rochester Chapter. This is a rain or shine event.

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

YES, IT IS BACK ON THE EVENT LIST

It's time again for the annual ride with the [Niagara Miata Club of Western NY and Southern Ontario](#) to [Sprague's Maple Farm](#) in Portville. If you haven't been there before, take a look at their lunch menu on their website.

The date is correct. It is on a **Tuesday**. If you will be joining us please let your area rep and myself know you will be attending. I will need confirmation and the number attending **no later than October 6th** at email or 585-223-7586.

We will meet at the McDonalds in Avon 250 E, Main St. for a pit stop and drivers meeting at 8:30am **and will depart at 9:am A.I.S.M.R.** (I will explain for any new members). This will be approximately a one hour ride to meet up with the Niagara Club for their ride to Sprague's. Their drive will include a stop at the [Cuba Cheese Shoppe](#) in Cuba NY. If you have never been there before this is one of those "if we don't have it you didn't need it" stores for cheeses. The Niagara Club uses the FRS radios Channel 5 for communication on their rides so if you still have one stashed away in a drawer or box somewhere bring it along. After lunch we will do a return trip with [Colby's Ice Cream & Bake Shop](#) in Rush as our final destination. I can guarantee you good food, good ice cream, and some great roads.

If you have to cancel going please let me know so we are not delayed waiting for you at 585-704-9940.

[Sprague's Maple Farm](#), [Cuba Cheese Shoppe](#), [Colby's Ice Cream & Bake Shop](#)

Register with Chuck at candgr@gmail.com or 585-223-7586 and your Area Representative.

Sunday, October 17, 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 or 315-676-4776 and your Area Representative.

Friday - Sunday, October 22 - 24, 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](#).

NOTE: The registration has been CANCELED. The main pages of the website all appear to be normal, it is only when you go to the registration page that you get the 'paused' message. If you are planning on going to this event then you should watch the website and/or phone them directly.

Sunday, December 5, 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 - 31, 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 (the last character is an L, not i) or 315-635-2584 or 315-935-6281 and your Area Representative.

UPCOMING PLANNED EVENTS, NO DATES SELECTED YET

TBD, Midway Drive-In Movie

Event Coordinator – Ray Mosher, Syracuse Chapter

Register with Ray at 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.

TECHNICAL TIPS – ‘WENCH WITH A WRENCH’



By Gail Wagner – Midstate Miata Club of NY

Hello Miata Club Folks,

It's the Seat Belt Wench here this month. ☺

I hope everyone is having a great summer and lots of topless fun with their Miatas. I mean top-down fun in their Miatas. ☺

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

Recently, I was surprised to notice that the driver's side seat belt of my 2006 Miata was sporting a bright orange tag at the base of the seat belt connection stating **REPLACE SEAT BELT**. This was a new one on me. This warning tag pops out normally after a collision. It should be obvious to all of us that seat belts should be replaced if the belt fabric is visually frayed or torn but mine looked



perfectly fine, just 15 years old. ☺

Little did I know there's much more to this taken-for-granted part and installation than meets the eye. After a bunch of on-line research, I was enlightened by the following information about seat belts which I will share with you what I gleaned from several reputable sources.

I am a safety-minded kind of gal, so needless to say, I immediately ordered a new OEM

Mazda seat belt/retractor/pretensioner for about \$125.00 + shipping and my husband and I set to work installing it.

Some Seat Belt Background

When is Seat Belt Replacement Necessary?

A seat belt's primary purpose is to prevent serious injury or death in the event that a vehicle is involved in a crash. Inertia-reel seat belts were first mandated in all cars in 1968. Later "pretensioners" were added to some vehicles in 1983 by Mercedes and installed in all vehicles after 2008 even though the NHTSA (National Highway Traffic Safety Administration) has never mandated them.

It seems essential for individuals to know when exactly their vehicle may need a seat belt replacement. The truth is that even the slightest bit of damage or wear and tear on a seat belt could increase the potential for the safety device to not work as it is meant to during an accident. That is why it is recommended for vehicle owners to have their seat belts professionally checked at least once a year to detect the less obvious signs of malfunction.

Seat belts, like car seats and air bags, are considered by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration to be single-use items. Seat belts are designed to work just once in a crash -- protecting and immobilizing a passenger. Some safety experts

even advise having seat belts inspected and possibly replaced after 10 to 15 years of use! So, add that to your yearly spring maintenance checklist!

Seat Belt Pretensioner

One of the most critical situations in which you should have your seat belts repaired or possibly rebuilt by a professional is after a crash has occurred. Most of the time, vehicles year 2001 and up have a pretensioner portion of the seat belt that is designed to permanently lock and tightened if an accident/collision or impact occurs. Once a car experiences a collision, the seat belt's pretensioner tightens any slack in the belt to keep the passengers in their seats fighting against the powerful force of collision impact, i.e., not only from forward forces but also from sliding underneath a slack belt. It is estimated that pretensioners save an average of 12% of lives very year.

Here's the good part I wasn't aware of: guess how the pretensioner does that??? Early pretensioners were mechanical using a spring to automatically tighten the seat belt in case of collision. NOW with newer technology along with airbags, retractor pretensioners are deployed with..... an explosion!

Yup... the seat belt retractor pretensioner mechanism over your head in vehicles after 2008 is fired by an electronic control unit sensing the vehicle crash, essentially causing a small explosion that snaps the seat belt taut along with the airbag simultaneously deploying and prevents the passengers from sliding underneath the seat belt and preventing very serious injury.

Besides deployment of the pretensioner, there are less serious damage to a seat belt that could interfere with the belt performing as it should in the event of a collision. Any small cuts, fraying, or tears in the webbing of the belt may appear to be minor; however, these issues should definitely be addressed by a professional and are most likely signs that the seat belt is simply old and in need of seat belt webbing replacement. Aside from the overall appearance of the seat belt ensure that the retractor and the belt buckles are working as they should.

You may want to consider having your seat belts tested or possibly rebuilt after 10 to 15 years of use. Some experts recommend this time frame due to the fact that even if your vehicle has never been

involved in a crash, you can never be certain your safety devices will work correctly as they get older. It is always best to be proactive regarding your safety before an accident occurs.

Seat Belt Repair

If you think that your seat belts may need a replacement, there are many on-line companies that service seat belt repair or replace. Some companies even offer seat belt webbing replacements in custom colors, to add a unique touch to your vehicle's interior. Due to the type of pretensioner I had in my car, I choose to replace just to be on the safe side

Seat Belt Installation

I do not recommend this for the faint of heart ☺ or someone with limited mechanical skills as there's more to it than you would imagine. After ordering the new seat belt/retractor/pretensioner that comes as a single unit (note; my shipping container said hazardous material inside), we set to work removing



my Miatas's center console, both side door scuff plates, two rear side plastic panels and one large plastic back panel to get where the seat belt was bolted to the frame below and an upper attachment point.

After very carefully unbolting the seat belt (a feat in itself trying to maneuver around my after-market roll bar), we re-installed the new seat belt unit and retraced our steps re-installing the panels, scuff plates and center console. Whew! Four hour job.



What to do with my undetonated old seat belt pretensioner? Happily, my local car dealer agreed to take it free as they have hazmat companies who pick up their hazardous waste regularly.

So, for me, an interesting exercise and some gained knowledge about the workings of Miatas and vehicles in general.

Who knew? ☺

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.

FAVORITE CAR SHOPS, PARTS STORES, OR SERVICE CENTERS

Alloy Wheel Repair	Will come to you in some areas
Berg Racing	General auto service on most makes and models
Carl's Auto Seat Covers & Upholstery	Serving the Rochester area for over 50 years now
Flyin' Miata	Making your Miata as fun to drive as possible
J&R Upholstery	Auto upholstery and convertible top installation and repair
Moss Miata	Provides you with the best parts and service at competitive prices
MX5things	Unique accessories for your Mazda Miata MX-5 (ND)
Panorama Collision	Where quality is not an accident
Rev Limiter	Gauge Faces and other electronics
Vision Hyundai Webster Body Shop	For Body Repair That Excels
Webster Auto Clinic	General Mazda Miata (and other) repairs

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

MEMBER STORY

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 or (585) 617-4334

Where's The Signal Light

Have you ever found yourself at an intersection with the top down looking over the top of the windshield to find the signal light, or when the top has to be up scrunching down to look through the windshield to find it? Well your problem is about to be solved. Take a look at [Light in Sight](#) for their Traffic Light Viewing Lens. This is a wide angle [Fresnel Lens](#) that you place near the top of the windshield inside the car in line with the driver's line of sight. With this in place you could be sitting almost under the signal light and still be able to see it. Cost is \$20.00 with free shipping and well worth it. If you have any doubts check it out in my car,

Chuck Rischenole

.....

Cool Shirts

I have shirts from both of these companies and like them both. [Trendy Sweety](#) has the shirt I was wearing and many other items, including custom work with your car on the items. [Thompson Automotive](#) has the shirts and many special Miata parts. The holidays will soon be upon us, if anyone is looking. Hint, hint!



Del Austin

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New Nose Job

After 10 years of commuting to work (that's 130,000 miles), and retiring recently, I decided it was time to treat my 2011 MX-5 to a much needed and well deserved nose job. Thanks to guidance from Ron McKissock for recommending the [Vision Collision Center at Vision Hyundai](#) of Webster and to Frank Sackett, the body shop manager. He took very good care of my car and they did fantastic work.

It's difficult to see from the pictures, but there is a remarkable difference and the nose looks brand new. They blended the colors beautifully into the hood and fenders. *Bravo!*

P.S. I redid the aftermarket grill myself. The jury's still out on whether I change it a bit.



OLD, Lots of hazing on headlamps and small white spots



NEW, Showroom ready!

Nancy Lowe

How I Fell in Love with Driving My Miata

I told my husband Darius that when we replaced my 12-year-old 230,000-mile Hyundai Sonata that I wanted a smaller car, basic transportation, and probably a used vehicle.

What we bought was a 2021 Miata from a dealership in Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio, near Akron.

I've never owned a sports car before, but I enjoy riding around exploring with Darius in his 2000 Jeep Wrangler. I drive it sometimes, but for me, the cars I have had are about transportation, not the joy of driving and having fun (not that I haven't had fun going off-road with the Jeep!). That is a large part of what drove my thought process for replacing my Sonata. We don't really need a family sedan anymore, and with most vehicles depreciating in value (and frankly, me being thrifty in my spending!) I thought it made sense to purchase a used vehicle.

Darius had other ideas. He urged me to get something "*fun*."

I wasn't in a hurry but knew it would be smart to at least look at a vehicle before mine suddenly died.

A few years ago, Darius remarked about Miata's and how they are in demand, looked fun, and had a solid reputation. A neighbor purchased a used convertible Miata a couple of years ago, and it's been enjoyable watching her tool around in it. It projects fun and enjoyment.

So, the seed was planted.

In April, we thought it would be fun to test drive a Miata, in part for something to do after being in lockdown for so long. We drove an automatic transmission Miata at Ontario Mazda, saying we were not serious, just looking. We liked the car but wanted to try a manual shift. With the pandemic and the computer chip shortage, there were only three new Miata's in Rochester at the time. A couple of weeks later, a manual shift Miata arrived at another dealer, and we test drove it. I liked it, but we wanted a different color combination. However, the dealer told us they could not order any cars and did not know when they could order them again.

I was ok waiting all summer before we could order a car and be sure it was what we wanted. I wasn't in a hurry. However, Darius found a Miata with the color combination we wanted in Ohio, and we picked it up a couple of weeks later in mid-May. He did all the research for deciding on the options, found the dealer and the car, and managed most of the purchase process until we got to the dealership. I get to have the fun part; *driving it!*

I drove the Miata most of the way home from Ohio. It was a nice day; I had the top down and the radio playing. I fell in love with driving it; now I know why they call it a "*driver's car!*" I wanted Darius to enjoy it as much as I did though and so reluctantly offering to switch drivers in Jamestown. It was hard to give up the car by then, but I think he was grinning as much as I was as he drove it. Now, I'm protective of it, and it's hard to pry me from behind the wheel of my new baby!

Here is a video of me arriving home with '[Something New, Something blue](#)'.

How did you fall in love with driving your Miata?

Elisha Kasinskas



Caravans, Radios, and Safety

We would like to take this time to cover a subject that does not get talked about too often!

Caravans, club radios, and safety...these three things go together on all our club rides. Whether it is a group of three cars or 15 cars, all three come into play.

First, the Caravan must stay in contact with its **lead car** (Event Coordinator.) and we do this with our club radios. Each area rep has at least three radios and they should be placed in the caravan as follows: LEAD CAR, MIDDLE CAR of group, and the TAIL CAR. Why? Turns, traffic lights, stop signs, and car breakdowns. A caravan of more than 12 cars in a heavy traffic area should be broken up into two groups.

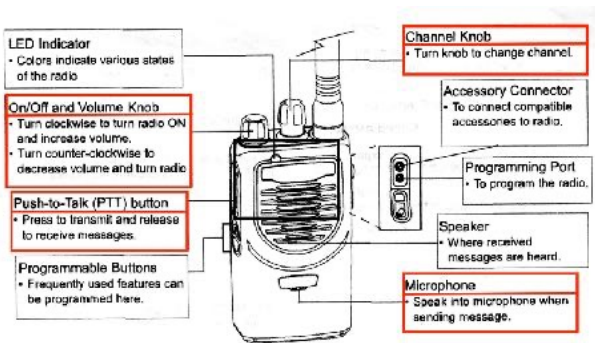
The **middle car** is responsible to communicate to the front and last cars if there becomes too much distance between cars for the radios to be able to function. If this occurs please try to communicate with the first car to slow down and let everyone regroup.

The **last car** in each group should have a radio! And this is important, (the last car through a traffic light should **always** radio the lead car "ALL CLEAR") to be sure we don't lose anyone

The most important word here is "SAFETY".

At the start of all club runs, the Event Coordinator, or the Area Rep will have the club radios and will call a (DRIVERS MEETING). They will explain the destination, routes the ride will take, distribute directions and the plans for the day, (hopefully an ice cream stop). If you are Co-Pilot (passenger) you maybe asked to take control of a club radio. Believe me when I say it is a very important job, and it is asked of you because the person asking feels you are capable of handling that important job. So, to help you out, I have attached several photos of a club radio and what you and all members need to know to make it work!

1. The outside top knob on the left is the on-off- volume knob. When car is moving in a group, it should be turn on all the way, it is your volume button.
2. Middle knob is your channel selection knob. The Event Coordinator at the drivers meeting will state what channel to be on (most times channel one!) The antenna is on the right.
3. Very important, note in the picture the **MICROPHONE Placement**. It is not the big grill; it is the little opening under the letters **BPR40**.
 - 3.1. Speak loudly, remember you are in a Roadster probably with its top down, and the wind is a factor, so hold it close to your mouth, but not touching it!
 - 3.2. The push-to-talk is on the left side, and yes you have to **PUSH IT only to talk!** Remember, **KEEP THE RADIO ON WHEN MOVING, HAVE IT ON THE CORRECT CHANNEL**
 - 3.3. You are then only required to do three things, **LISTEN, PUSH, AND TALK !**
4. And enjoy your ride, especially if you are helping with the radios, knowing you are taking part in making it a **SAFE RIDE!**



Del Austin

MIATAS & MIATA ITEMS WANTED & FOR SALE

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. If you would like the item to be on the website, please also send Lee Maddy the information. 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@twcnny.rr.com or (607) 793- 4191 or leave message (607) 273-3054. (Editor



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REFRIGERATOR SCHEDULE 2021

Date	Event	Coordinators
August 29	Polo!	Dale Nagel
September 12	Fly and Drive In Pancake Breakfast	Roger Morton
September 12	Cars & Lattes	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 17	Bill Hodge Memorial Road Rally	Jay Cartini
October 22-24	East Coast Miata Reunion, New Jersey Motorsport Park CANCELED	Non-Club Sponsored Event
December 5	Holiday Party	Looking for a Volunteer
January 20-31	2022, Caribbean Cruise	Ray Mosher
TBD	Midway Drive-In Movie	Ray Mosher
TBD	Club Picnic	Looking for a Volunteer