



Miata Meanderings

June, 2009

Official Newsletter of the Midstate Miata Club of New York

Visit the Midstate Miata Club on the Internet at:

www.midstatemiata.com

President's Message



Happy 20th Birthday Miata!

It was 20 years ago this June that Mazda began shipping the Miata to dealers for sale to eagerly awaiting buyers. The new sports car was a phenomenal hit. Buyers were lining up to pay as much as double the sticker price just to be the first to own one. Arguably, the only other new car to have as much impact on the public was the Mustang in 1964. I can personally attest that to own a Miata in the summer of '89 was like being a Rock Star.

The Miata was no flash in the pan however. For 20 years now the Miata has endured and become the iconic example of the modern sports car. Mercury's Capri, Alfa Spiders, MGF's, Toyota MR2's, and numerous other sport cars have come and gone. So why has the Miata thrived while other sport cars are no longer around? I believe it's because the Miata is one of the few cars that was developed by engineers and not factory bean counters. A few examples: The Miata has double wishbone suspension and not cheap struts, it's a proper front engine rear wheel drive sports car and not a cobbled up FWD car like it's contemporaries, it has disc brakes on all four wheels which in the time period it was developed were only used on supercars like Ferrari's, Porsche's, and Vettes. In short, our cars were built for performance first and foremost. The fact that Mazda was able to build the Miata with high end components and still be affordable is remarkable. Add the Miata's legendary reliability to the mix and it's no wonder why the Miata is still going strong while other cars are historic footnotes.

For most of us however, owning the Miata is not about the sum of its parts. It's the experience of bonding with a vehicle like no other. Maybe it's the drive during the fall when the leaves are almost fluorescent, the cozy cockpit just for two. Or perhaps... Pointing the nose, hitting the apex of the curve with ease, and blasting down the road to the next curve. It could be something as insignificant as throwing the top down like an escape valve on the way home from work. Our car brings smiles. Our car is fun!

On the 20th Birthday of the Miata I feel I am very fortunate to own such a great car. I bet you guys probably feel the same way.

When life throws you a curve, hit the apex.

Tom Cavanaugh

It's true, time goes by too fast, and before you know it, our club is 15 years old! Yes, your Midstate Miata Club of New York is celebrating its' 15th anniversary this year.

Formed April 10, 1994 with approximately 10 Miatas in the driveway, we met at Barry English's home in Binghamton, NY. This was the startup of the Southern NY Miata Club. Due to the various areas the members came from, the name was changed to The Midstate Miata Club of New York. This was done only after a long debate of another suggested name. The Miata Owners of New York State shortened to MOONYS. I won't go into detail as what logo was suggested (you can guess from the name)

The club was given support and seed money from Corey North Gate Ford / Mazda dealer in Binghamton. Their support was instrumental in getting the club formed.

Our first caravan met in Greene, NY and traveled to Francesco's Restaurant in Halstead, PA. (Thus began the need to have food at each event) Ten Miata's 4 red 3 blue, 2 white, and 1 silver made the trip.

Currently we have 5 of the charter members in the club, Barry Grabow, Tyler Wainwright, Bob Sabella, Janet Calp, (with their original cars) and Rosemary DeHoog (on her 2nd Miata)

The first planning meeting was held at the Holiday Inn, Cortland, NY, on January 15, 1995. The club scheduled 9 events for that year. In 2009, the club has plans to do 21 events, not counting ice cream nights. We have done over 209 "official" activities since the formation of the club.

Financially, the first year the club's expenses were \$325. In 2008 expenses were \$2,618. Growth is costly.

With members joining the club from the former Rochester Club, our area coverage increased and now is from Watertown to Northern PA. and Rochester to Utica. Over the years we had members join from NYC, Buffalo, and Albany. Our current membership is approximately 110 cars from a pool of 269 Miatas since the club was founded.

Sadly, with their passing, our club lost two notable members, Nate Levine, the first club member to join in 1994 and Bill Hodge aka Doctor Motorhead our first Miata Meanderings Newsletter Editor.

The club past and current 7 presidents are, in order, Barry English, founder, Aldo Bloom, Bob Sabella, Tyler Wainwright, Rosemary DeHoog, Jim Parsnow, and Tom Cavanaugh.

The National Event in Dallas this year is celebrating the 20th anniversary of the Miata. The little fun car was introduced in 1989 as a 1990 and sold for about \$13,000 but some dealers were getting \$5000 or more over sticker price the first year. The price for the 2009 MX5 Miata Grand Touring with all the bells and whistles today is \$29,197 plus \$670 destination charge. The cost to put a smile on your face has increased but without a doubt well worth it.

As we start our 16th year, the club will continue to be one of the most active car clubs in the state due to the support of its membership and the car that's fun to drive - MY MIATA.

June Issue of

Miata Meanderings

Effective with the June edition of the newsletter, the monthly newsletter will be published using electronic mail. The exception to this new policy will be those members that do not have an ISP or other e-mail capability or have specifically requested hard copy will receive a hard copy edition by surface mail.

While the electronic version will be in full color, the hard copy newsletter will be in black and white to save my wallet.

June Events

I scream, you scream, we all scream for ice cream

Jay Cartini



For the month of June, we will return to a place that everyone seems to love, Geddes Bakery Gelato on Main Street in North Syracuse. Since the weather and the length of the days are swinging into our favor, the meeting time will be the normal one **7:00 PM....**

- June 11, 7:00pm
- June 25, 7:00pm

Saturday, June 6, Marcellus Olde Home Days Parade

Chuck Paul

Saturday, June 6th is the date for the Marcellus Old Home Days Parade. Again this year the Midstate Miata Club has been invited to attend. We have typically had about 22 cars parading two abreast on the one mile parade route past thousands (?) of parade watchers.

As in the past, we will meet at 2:45 behind the Sunoco Mini-Mart at the corner of Route 175 (Lee-Mulroy Road) and Pleasant Valley Road. We typically throw candy into the crowd...I will try to have some available or you may bring your own.

For those who wish to eat before the parade there will be food vendors ¼ mile from our meeting point with lots of great food (can't you just smell the sausage, peppers & onions?). After the parade we will "rest" in beautiful Marcellus Park for a short time to allow anyone interested the opportunity to visit the aforementioned food booths and then we will depart for a scenic drive ending with homemade pie and ice cream at Sweetie's.

There will be no calls from "callers" and there is no need to notify us of your attendance but a quick call (315 673-4432) or e-mail (cpaul@twcny.rr.com) is always appreciated.

Parade day calls for directions or weather issues can be made to (315) 378-6018.



Sunday, June 7, Victor Car Show

Tom Cavanaugh

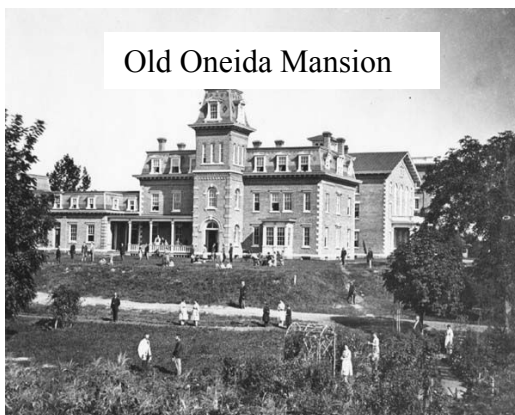


Shown at the left is **Gerry Acquilano**, the host of past and present Victor Car Shows. Although Gerry will not be there this year due to health reasons our club president Tom Cavanaugh will take over.

Details on this event including a required head count will be provided by e-mail and the area reps.

Sunday, June 14, Oneida Community Mansion House

Karen and Norm Abbott



Old Oneida Mansion

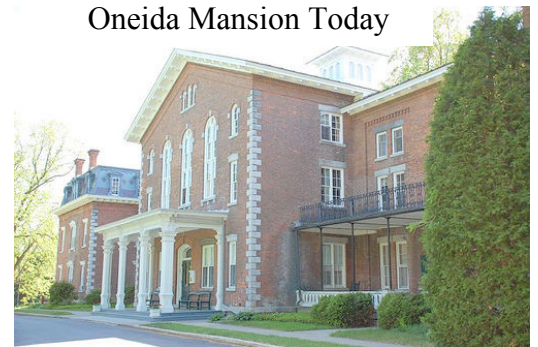
Join us for a drive and a tour of the Oneida Community Mansion House, a living museum. Built brick by brick in stages beginning in 1861 by the utopian Oneida Community (1848-1880), the 93,000 square foot Mansion House testifies to the Community's core belief in the possibility of personal perfection. In plan and decoration it reflects popular architectural styles of the mid-19th century, but its large scale epitomizes the needs of a society that lived as one family with more than 300 members.

For 33 years under the leadership of John Humphrey Noyes, the religiously based Perfectionist Community challenged contemporary social views. They developed a work ethic and well of industriousness

so deep it flowed into one of the most impressive manufacturing companies of the 20th century. Succumbing to internal and external pressures, the community disbanded in 1880 and formed a joint-stock corporation, Oneida Community Ltd. Eventually changing its name to Oneida Ltd., the company achieved worldwide recognition for the tableware it produced.

We will meet at the Doubletree Hotel on Carrier Circle and have Brunch there. Brunch includes Coffee, Tea, Juice, Omelet and Waffle Station, 6 Hot Breakfast Items, 6 Hot Dinner Items, Chocolate Fountain, Dessert Table, etc. Price is \$15.00 per person including tax.

Oneida Mansion Today



- 10:00 Meet at Doubletree, Collect Money
- 10:30 Eat Brunch
- 12:00 Meet at cars, DEPART
- 1:30 Arrive at Mansion House
- 2:00 Tour (1-1 ½ hr.)
- 3:30 Depart for drive home (maybe ice cream)

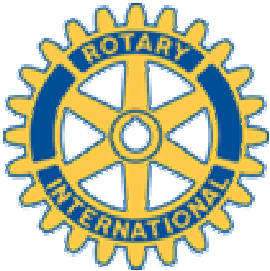
- Price Per Person
- \$5.00 Mansion Tour

- \$15.00 Brunch
- PLEASE BRING CASH FOR PAYMENT

May Event Reports

May 9, DeWitt Pancake Breakfast and Drive

Jim & Judy Williams



For Pancake Day and Drive was sunny and warm as 19 Miatas arrived at 10 a.m. Lee and Miriam had our club banner up for all to see. Jay Cartini pulled up in some sort of SUV with the radios, a bull horn, and a big appetite. The forecast was 0/50 and we all hoped the rain would hold off until the late afternoon,

The Rotarians put on their usual great feast. We all felt a bit fat as we dazzled the big crowd on our way out of the Shoppingtown Mall. Clouds started to threaten as we headed up into the hills of Pompey and down into Fabius. Suddenly, the sun broke out and we soon realized why Miriam had nicknamed this early spring drive the “Dandelion Run”. The golden fields of “*Teraxacum Officinale*”.

We enjoyed some fun roads around the Kettle Lakes near Tully and past Song Mountain. Kettle Lakes are glacially formed, fresh water lakes with no inlet or outlet streams. Walden Pond is America’s most famous kettle lake. We then traveled the East shore of Otisco Lake and through the hills and valleys of South Onondaga to the always fun and sometimes haunted Thirteen Curves.

As we headed into the pretty village of Marcellus, Mike and Cathy Neuner, claiming an equipment malfunction, brazenly attempted to hijack the caravan. FCC regulations and the rules of good form were violated by someone up front in a red ’93 (*that would be me – Ed.*) We quickly and smartly regrouped and had a great drive along Nine Mile Creek into Camillus.

Ice cream followed at Friendly’s. The day had no rain, good zooming, and a big colorful group of Miatas and dandelions.

Remember “It’s all about driving”

Upcoming Events

August 30, Forever Plaid (Update)

Cathy Neuner

It appears that we would have enough people (we need at least 10) to get the group rate of \$21 for center seating and \$19 for side seating at the Theater. If we all wanted to sit together in a block, I'd have to have a better count and names of interested people and to know people's preference for center or side seating. The theater has 122 center seats and 92 side seats with 6 wheel chair and companion spots. When I called last week they have sold 20 seats for this performance so far. I don't know what future sales may be. Single tickets just went on sale May 11. The box office manager suggests getting tickets ASAP if the group wants sit be together.

As soon as I know how many want to go, I can order the tickers and then would need a 25% or say \$4.25 per ticket (non-refundable) within 30 days to pay them as a down payment. The remained is due by August 7th.

Once again this is for the Sunday matinee performance of "Forever Plaid" at 2:00 on August 30. The Cortland Reparatory Theatre is in Dwyer Memorial Park, with picnic facilities overlooking Little York Lake, on Rt. 281 between Homer and Preble NY. That's the same road a Bob's Barbeque.

Please have people contact me at home at 488-5311 or email at cwneuner#twcnny.rr.com with questions. I'll keep track of interested people then go ahead and order tickets when I have enough names/seating preferences.



People can also get more information at the theatre's web site: www.cortlandrep.org or calling their box office at (607) 756-2627 or toll-free 800-427-6160.

If you are interested in this event please contact Cathy at (315) 488-5311 or email cwneuner@twcnny.rr.com. This will help in securing a group rate and with reservations.

Forever Plaid is an off-Broadway musical comedy written by Stuart Ross in New York in 1990 and now performed internationally. The critically acclaimed show is an affectionate revue of the close-harmony "guy groups" (e.g. The Four Aces, The Four Freshmen) that reached the height of their popularity during the 1950s. Personifying the clean-cut genre are the Plaids. This quartet of high-school chums' earnest dreams of recording an album ended in death (literally and indeed, symbolically) in a collision with a bus filled with Catholic schoolgirls on their way to see the Beatles' American debut on *The Ed Sullivan Show*. The play begins with the Plaids returning from the afterlife for one final chance at musical glory.

The songs they sing during the course of the musical include: "Three Coins in the Fountain"; "Undecided"; "Gotta Be This or That"; "Moments to Remember"; "Crazy 'Bout Ya, Baby"; "No, Not Much"; "Sixteen Tons"; "Chain Gang"; "Perfidia"; "Cry"; "Heart and Soul"; "Lady of Spain"; "Scotland the Brave"; "Shangri-La"; "Rags to Riches"; and "Love is a Many-Splendored Thing".

The original cast included Jason Graae (Sparky); Stan Chandler (Jinx); David Engel (Smudge); and Guy Stroman (Frankie). The musical opened May 20, 1990 at Steve McGraw's in New York City after engagements at The West Bank Cafe, The American Stage Company and The Wisdom Bridge Theatre. Musical arrangements, vocal arrangements and musical direction were by James Raitt; the show was written, directed, and choreographed by Stuart Ross.

The play was produced as a motion picture for release on November 15, 2008 starring David Hyde Pierce and written and directed by the show's original creator Stuart Ross.

September 10 – 12, Watkins Glen Vintage Roadster Tour

Tom Cavanaugh

KNAPP



The event starts on Friday morning around 8am on Sept. 11th in the town of Watkins Glen. Our group will meet in town and proceed on the Knapp Sporting Roadster Tour which includes, a "rally" throughout the Finger Lakes country side with a stop for lunch at the Knapp Winery (previous years included a free tour labeled bottle of wine), a simulated "race" through the town of Watkins Glen on the old GranPrix track, free reserved parking in town for GranPrix Festival, and Fireworks that night. Here's a website with more info:

<http://www.grandprixfestival.com/roadster.html>

Too make the event more enjoyable, I have arranged for the Big Flats Country Inn and Suites in Horseheads to set aside 12 rooms for us for Thursday Sept 10 and Friday Sept 11th, (6 deluxe /125.99 per night, and 6 suites/\$145.99 per night) This rate reflects a discount of \$34 per night per room. Considering how difficult it would be to arrange accommodations during the festival, this is a good rate.

The phone number to the hotel is: 607-739-9205. Be sure to mention you are a member of Midstate Miata Club to get the discount.

Regardless of whether you plan to stay at this hotel ***PLEASE BE AWARE*** the main concern is to make your reservation to attend the Knapp Vineyards Sporting Roadster Tour ASAP through Watkins Glen Promotions.

Every year the quota fills up fast so please call as soon as you have made a decision to attend. The phone number is: (607) 535-3003 email: promotions@watkinsglen.com

December 4, Holiday Party

Lee Maddy

The Holiday Party this year will be on the evening of Friday, December 4th. To be held at the Genesee Grande Hotel <http://www.geneseegrande.com/> (1060 East Genesee Street, Syracuse, NY13210). Cocktail hour starting at 6:30 PM (with cash bar), Dinner to be served at 7:30 PM. (Dinner Menu-TBD) The Genesee Grande Hotel is located in the heart of Syracuse's historic University Hill neighborhood .Close to both Syracuse University, shops, theatre, and the downtown area.



A block of ten rooms have been reserved at a discounted rate of \$99.00 per room. These rooms will only be held until thirty days prior to the event, so don't delay. Call the hotel (Phone: 315-476-4212, 1-800-365-HOME), mention the "MidState Miata Club" group and reserve your discounted room in advance.

Check the newsletter and website for dinner details as the event approaches

Schedule of Events for the 2009 Driving Season

<u>Day/Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Coordinator</u>
Sunday, April 26	SCCA Autocross/Dinner @ Steak & Lube	Jay Cartini
Saturday, May 9	DeWitt Pancake Breakfast/drive	Jim & Judy Williams
Saturday, May 30	Winery & Waterfalls	Ray Mosher
Saturday, June 6	Marcellus Olde Home Parade	Chuck Paul
Sunday, June 7	Victor Car Show	Gerry Acquilano

Sunday, June 14	Oneida Community Mansion	Karen Abbott
Friday, July 10	Go kart racing @ Cherry Valley	Jay Cartini
Sunday, July 19	Old Forge Boat Tour	Gerry Willis
Wednesday, July 22	Log Cabin car show	Jim Reisdorf
Sunday, July 26	Opera (La Traviata)	Rosemary DeHoog
Sunday, August 2	Club Picnic	R. Sabella/T. Cavanaugh
Wednesday, August 12	Log Cabin car show	Jim Reisdorf
Sunday, August 16	Polo	Chuck Paul
Sunday, August 23	Tubing @ Marathon	Janet Calp
Sunday, August 30	Cortland Reparatory Theatre	Mike & Cathy Neumer
Thu-Sat, September 10-12	Watkins Glen historic race	Tom Cavanaugh
Sunday, September 20	Train ride	Herb & Sherry Skogland
Sunday, September 27	Working farm tour/apple orchard	Andy Wargo
Sat-Sun, October 3-4	Letchworth overnight	J. Williams/J. Reisdorf
Sunday, October 18	Road Rallye	Tom Cavanaugh
Friday, December 4	Holiday Party	Lee Maddy

Midstate Miata Club Officers for 2009

President: Tom Cavanaugh

Vice President and Activities Chairperson: Jay Cartini

Communications Manager and Newsletter Editor: Deane Bergstrom

Treasurer: Lee Maddy

Membership & History: Bob Sabella