



Miata Meanderings

October, 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



Now this may come as a surprise to some of you (then again, maybe not). I'm not an expert about all things Miata. Sure, I know my way around a wrench and I can usually do my own projects. However, when I'm asked or need advice about Miata topics, I go online to **www. Miata.Net**. This is the best tip I could give to you about Miatas. Miata.Net has everything you could ever want to know about your Miata. After you register on the site the Miata world is opened for you to take advantage of. Best news of all, it's free! I give Miata Net my strongest endorsement and I hope you will check out this valuable resource to the Miata owner.

On to another subject, the local club bulletin board is pretty much a bust. So far, we have nine members who have joined and five messages since it opened in June. I'll let it go on until the end of October and if we don't get more of a response I will close it.

By the end of this month the '09 driving season will be coming to a close. Time to start thinking about winterizing and finding a spot for our cars to spend the winter. Yes, it's a bit sad now, but nothing puts a smile on my face like that first peak of a shiny red fender when I remove the car cover in the spring. It's our Upstate New York "Circle of Life" isn't it?

When life throws you a curve, hit the apex.

Tom C.

Midstate Miata Ice Cream

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

Jay Cartini



October 8, 6:00 pm Pete's Polar Parlor in Solvay

Southern Tier Ice Cream Night

Joe Lamphere

The southern tier group has a regular ice cream night. We meet the first Monday of each month at Pop's Sugar Shack on Conklin Ave in Binghamton. We have ice cream and also discuss the upcoming events for the month. We also decide on another ice cream night somewhere else later in the month.

October Events

Bill Hodge Memorial Road Rally

Tom and Bev Cavanaugh

The Island Tour

When: 12:00 pm, October 18th (Sunday)

Where: Burdick Mazda Parking Lot

Event Chairpersons: Tom and Bev Cavanaugh

Directions to Burdick Mazda:

Rochester/Utica: take Thruway to exit 36, take I-81N to exit 29N (RT481N), on 481N take exit 10, turn right at "T" and look for the large Drivers Village Kiosk and Burlington Coat Factory Store, we will be parked behind the store next to Burdick Mazda.

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

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

This year we will start at noon and plan to eat at our last stop at the end of the rally which will be Plainville's Nature's Fare Restaurant in Cicero. Hopefully, fresh air and the fun of the hunt will provide for a hearty appetite.

Once again, think of this year's rally as a "slowed rally". Attention to detail will be the key to winning. The route will be simple enough but you still need to pay attention in order to follow the route and collect the clues. In the spirit of the competition, please use your GPS *only as a last resort*, i.e. you get lost.

I highly recommend that each car have a driver AND a navigator/observer to help keep a sharp eye out as well as record the answers on the rally sheet.

So that's the scoop everyone. The first car should rollout at 12:25 pm.

This is a rain or shine event

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

September Event Reports

Watkins Glen Vintage Roadster Tour

Tom Cavanaugh

During the time of this event no wrong turns were made and nobody got lost in the Outback Steakhouse parking lot. OK, now that we have that out of the way, here is the report. Early Friday morning the main group of members including our Elmira member Don Lerario left Horseheads en route to Watkins



Glen. Thanks to everyone for being on time at 'O-dark-hundred in the morning. We had to leave early to make the drive, pick up the rest of our group, and be at the Tour's starting point by 8:00 am.

After picking up our tour packet with the directions, we were off. The first part of the run was pretty much running the back roads. Very twisty, fast, and lots of fun. Our first break was at Havana Glen Park. Jerry Willis found out that his new high tech FM receiving hearing aid allowed him to hear everything Linda said. Even when she was using the rest room 100 yards away. What? A little too much info? Sorry. I'll continue.

We left Havana Glen for our lunch stop at Knapp Vineyards. This time the roads were less twisty and more scenic. We arrived at Knapp and had a very nice lunch and then proceeded to the tasting room next door. Just a sip of this or that, then after collecting our commemorative bottle of wine, we were off again to the staging area for our "race". The roadster tour ended up being about 155 miles in length and we were just getting started with the rest of the day.

We arrived at our "Race" staging area in the parking lot at the top of Watkins Glen State Park. This allowed for about a thirty minute break before we were sequenced for our laps of the old Watkins Glen Race Circuit. Because the event at this point was out of our hands, we were split up for our laps. A quick run down into the town, a turn onto Franklin St, and then we were lined up on the grid for the start of the "race". It was pretty neat as the town of Watkins Glen had set up hay bales at the corners and it seemed like the whole town was on the sidewalks to cheer us on. Green Flag! We were off. Down the main street, a quick right-left and up the steep hill, you could really floor it going up that hill. (Unless of course you were following a MGB or the like) A quick right hander at the top of the hill and out through the countryside. A sharp right turn again, and down the short steep hill to the Old Stone Bridge. Once across, you were now officially a Watkins Glen "Stone Bridge Driver". No time to reflect on that honor however, as it was on to a swift uphill series of s-turns before a sharp off camber left hander which led to Archies Corner and the long straight away to the railroad tracks. Back in the day, the NY Central Railroad would stop the trains for this day only so that the race could go on. As it is now, the crossing is so bumpy that sanity requires you cross the tracks at a crawl. Now! Hammer the throttle again as you speed on a sweeping downhill right hander into the town. A left then a right, and back on to Franklin St and the cheering crowd. We cross the finish line to start the second and final lap. Total distance for a lap was 6.6 miles.

The lap times for all our club members were pretty consistent. That is except for one member who won't be named. (Here's a hint, it wasn't Bev and I, but he lives in my neighborhood and he drives a red Miata.) Anyway, for whatever reason, it seemed like in town he was going backwards at times, or like he made a quick stop. As impossible as it sounds, it was like he had picked up a passenger, but not too heavy a passenger, more like a female, if one had to guess. It was never really explained why this club member was slower than the rest of us, but not to worry, as it seems everyone in Watkins Glen got to fulfill their life's wish that day.

After the race we were corralled into the lower parking lot at Watkins Glen State Park. The group pretty much had free time until the Official Watkins Glen Gran Prix with the real race cars later that evening.

So the club members split off into groups to see what was going on in town. We met again for dinner at the Roosterfish Brewpub. After dinner some elected to stay for fireworks while other headed off for home. It was the end of a long day for club members. I hope everyone who participated had as much fun as Bev and I.

Working Farm Tour, Apple Orchard

Andy Wargo

Got Milk?

The weather outside was frightful to a Miata, but five hardy cars met in Auburn for a "lovely" drive down to the Cascade Grill in Moravia. Using wishful thinking, we could "imagine" the views of the colorful countryside and the lakes. Meeting five more cars from our Southern Tier at the Cascade, we enjoyed a nice, warm brunch. The Cascade provided good food, atmosphere and great service.

After grazing, and gaining another Miata, we mooved onto Sunnyside Farm in Venice Center, where we were met by Neil & Elizabeth Reijman for our tour. So much information, so little time! Some of our members will tell you, dairy farming has certainly changed over the years. The production and efficiency of this farm is amazing. Operating 24 hours a day, 3,200 milking cows yield 240,000 pounds or 28,000 gallons of milk per day. 3,400 heifers & calves, 18 of which were born the morning of our tour, are "ladies in waiting" for milk production. We had hoped to see a calf born while there, we watched a cow labor, but delivery was not yet to be. We met & pet Crumb, the pet baby bull, who is in training to pull a sleigh .. (We'll get back to you on his progress). It all makes you think when you drink your milk, about the process it goes through to get to your glass.

Now here is where I should say "what happens on the farm, stays on the farm", but I can't resist. 1) For those of you who believe that Tyler's biggest fascination is animals, you are quite mistaken - it is "poo", and with 3,000,000 gallons of manure in various stages at the methane digester, there was a lot of "poo" to fill his senses. 2) A certain someone mistakenly tried to get into the wrong Miata, dang those blue ones! 3) A particular lady, more than willingly, climbed onto a John Deere tractor equipped with an 8 row corm chopper - take it from a lady who was married in the bucket of a John Deere tractor, Christmas is coming Randy, be ready! 4) Cows entering and exiting the milking parlor orchestrated such precision, it made our Miata regrouping maneuvers look especially bad ... we definitely need practice .. it's not good to be shown up by the cows! 5) We are aware that we owe 10 car washes to remove the moo-ud ..

Four Miatas continued onto Owens Orchards for warm apple pie and cider. After purchasing apples, cider, doughnuts and Croghan Bologna, we called it a day to remember. For those of you who attended, we hope you enjoyed it as much as we did and we thank you.

Etc.

Damages

Lee Maddy



Thursday night's ice cream (on 9/10) started out to be another nice outing with good weather and large amounts of ice cream. So what could go wrong? Well in hindsight, it turned out to be one of the most expensive ice cream cones ever! The drive home was very dark, the top down, and Miriam was gazing up at the stars. We were almost home, near the 481S and thruway exit 34A interchange. Just like in a TV insurance commercial, a deer jumped into the road. It seemed like slow motion, I tried to swerve, I thought to myself what is that deer

thinking?, why is she still running into the road. I tried to mentally will her to stop and turnaround? According to Miriam I said "Watch Out", I slammed on the brakes, and BAM! Impact, and we were both showered in broken glass.

We are both OK, a little shaken up and very fortunate that it hadn't turned out worse. The car couldn't have done a better job at protecting us, but the damage is pretty substantial. Everything changed that night, thankfully the car's not totaled, and that's what insurance is for. Insurance has agreed to use all new OEM parts and the car's at Driver's Village Collision Center. It will probably take a couple weeks to fix, and then maybe I'll be able to smile again, top down before the first snow falls. But I don't think things will ever be quite the same, going forward.



(I had a similar encounter last year although it was with my OTM. The deer came out of nowhere on a back road and I had no time to react which resulted in front end damage to my car. These deer/car accidents are serious and unpredictable – DFB)

Future Event in 2010

West Penn Miata Club Miata Mountain Mania 2010

ALL INFORMATION AND REGISTRATION FORM ARE AT THE WEST PENN WEBSITE

www.westpennmiataclub.com/mani10



The West Penn Miata Club will again host a Miata Regional on June 24 - 27, 2010. It will be held at Seven Springs Mountain Resort in the midst of the Laurel Highlands. The area offers a beautiful landscape steeped in history with numerous attractions to tour. These include the newly renovated Bedford Springs Hotel, painstakingly bought back to its original splendor, the new Frank Lloyd Wright home, Duncan House, and two houses designed by his apprentices. Your MX-5 Miata will enjoy zoomin all the new twisty, windy, & curvy roads. We look forward to seeing you at Miata Mountain Mania 2010

OUR MOST IMPORTANT ATTRACTION - THE ROADS, WHICH ARE SURE TO PLEASE THE MOST AVID MIATA ENTHUSIAST

West Penn Miata Club, 3929 Murry Highlands Circle, Murrys ville PA 15668

Registration Limited to 125 Cars

Registration Fee

8-15-2009 to 1-31-2010 \$125 Per Person

2-1-2010 to 3-14-2010 \$140 per person

Registration Postmark will determine Fee

Includes Per Person

* Event Pin

* Event T-Shirt

* Twisty, Windy, Curvy Dance

* Lanyard with Name Tag

* Miata Mountain Mania 2010 Banquet

* Mountain Welcome Buffet

Includes Per Car

* Welcome Bag

* Panoramic Photo

Registration will not be confirmed until Check or Money Order is received

Confirmation will be by Email

Registration Fee Refund Policy: Full refund until January 24, 2010

After January 24 Refunds will be considered on a case by case basis

West Penn Miata Club 3929 Murry Highlands Circle, Murrysville PA 15668

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 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