



Miata Meanderings

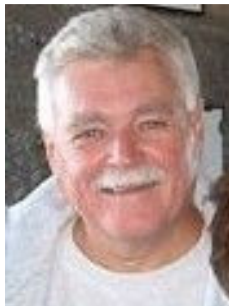
September, 2008

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



"Seems like the world would be a better place if everyone drove a Miata once in a while"

Brian Vance
Motor Trend
Logbook

I agree with Brian on his quote. With (at my last count) 108 cars in the club we have become, in my opinion, more of a social club than a car club. Which is great if the majority of the club is content with that. There are those I've heard from that prefer that we focus on the car. I think that is what Mr. Vance was thinking about when he drove a 2006 for a year's test drive.

As a club we have sometimes tried to outdo one another on events. A lot of work goes into planning those extravaganzas. Attendance at events is a good indication of how well the event is liked (excluding weather.). Is this also an indicator of who is focusing on the car vs. the event?

So when you plan an event keep in mind is this a car event or a social event or maybe both. If it's a social event make sure there is social interaction and respect for the participants. If it's a car event the Miata motor heads usually take care of them selves.

Zoom Zoom,

Jim Parsnow

September Events

SEPTEMBER 12 & 13 (AND MAYBE THE 14TH)
LAKE GEORGE WEEKEND WITH THE BIG APPLE MIATA CLUB

Jim & Judy Williams

The Big Apple Miata Club would be happy for our club to join them at Lake George in September. The group will stay at the Chelka Lodge on Lake George. A Saturday drive to the Adirondack Museum at Blue Mountain Lake is planned.

Sunday will feature a drive to Saratoga for touring, sightseeing and shopping. I was hoping to try some of the



scenic roads along Lake George and Lake Champlain on Saturday and perhaps visit Fort Ticonderoga. The Lake George Jazz Festival at a park overlooking Lake George will be a Saturday night treat.

The Chelka Lodge has very nice lakefront and lakeview rooms (\$135 per night for Friday and Saturday and half price for Sunday - \$125 per with AAA) Visit www.chelkalodge.com or call (518) 668-4677. This appears to be a very nice place to stay – There are also some larger suites and cabins for larger groups.

We will plan a nice scenic and sporty (non highway) route to Lake George leaving Friday in the mid PM. Reservations at the Lodge are the key. Call early and make reservations ASAP and then let me know you are booked. We can then share ideas and plan meals, routes and activities. Jim Williams 637-8988

September 21, Sunday, Watkins Glen Lap and Lunch

Tyler Wainwright



Want to sleep in and still get to drive the race track at Watkins Glen? Then get ready for Laps 'N Lunch. We will meet in Ithaca at the McDonalds restaurant on Route 13 for a driver's meeting at 10:00 am. The caravan will then depart at 10:15 for the scenic drive to Watkins Glen International. We will enter the complex at Gate 2 at around 11:00 am and will proceed to a parking and staging area near the Glen Club. There will be up to one hour of down time during which we can use the restrooms, visit the Pyramid Souvenir Shop, etc. Shortly afternoon we will assemble at the staging area behind the official pace car for three parade laps around the 3.4 mile race track. This is the same course driven by the IRL open wheel cars, and includes "the boot" which adds almost one mile of track not driven by NASCAR. Once we have completed three laps around the track we will return to the staging area, park and proceed to the Glen

Club for their lunch buffet. Plan on a deli menu featuring turkey, ham, salami, assorted cheeses, lettuce & tomato, breads & rolls, cole slaw, chips and cookies. Vegetarians can be accommodated if you let me know when you send me your check. The Glen Club overlooks the track where we can observe on-track activities as we dine Following lunch, around 2:00 pm, we will leave WGI and go for a drive along some local roadways that will include parts of the original racecourse through the hills around Watkins Glen. Our destination will be a nearby winery (Castle Griche comes to mind) where we can sample some local wines. Figure on being back on the road and heading home by 4:00 pm.

This promises to be fun day and a unique opportunity to enjoy our cars in a race track setting. I will need a head count prior to Sunday, September, 7th. You can reserve your place on the track (\$15 per car) and at the lunch buffet (\$16.50 per person including tax and gratuity) by sending me a check for the appropriate amount. Make the check out to "Tyler Wainwright" and send it to my home address at 2016 Alpha Circle, #15G, Cortland, New York 13045. I look forward to a great event with lots of Miatas on the track. Hope to see you there.

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

Jay Cartini



For the month of September, we will mix it up a bit.....

- September 10, 7pm, Vicky's Tasty Treat, Liverpool Shopping Center

- September 24, 7pm. Big Dip, 216 Main Street, North Syracuse

August Event Reports

Tappet Twirlers in Rome

Deane Bergstrom



Sunday, August 3 dawned bright and sunny. The daily afternoon rains were not supposed to appear until after 3:00 p.m. when the show was scheduled to close and the weather cooperated.

Most of the cars were old restored vehicles, hot rods, trucks and even two farm tractors. Sports cars were thin on the ground with the exception of two classic Porsches of the 356 vintage. One was beautifully restored and came complete with luggage on the trunk (engine) lid and picnic basket in the front.

Land & Water Cruise of Keuka Lake – The Esperanza Rose Experience

Cathy & Mike Neuner

It was a dark and stormy night, waves were crashing against the sides of the boat, there was a large boom and a bolt of lighting... and then I woke up. Was the weather really going to be as miserable as the weather forecasters were predicting? How much fun can you have being cold and wet on a boat? Oh well, we'll just have to play it by ear. Upstate weather men have been wrong in the past.

We had a good mix of versions sign up for the event.

NA - Deane's 1993 Red Miata, Our 94 M edition, Mark Vande's 95 Melot, and June Goodreau's 97 Green.

NB - represented by Ed & Layne Keller's 2004 Titanium Gray Mazdasport.

NC – Carl Khol's 07 Copper Red , and 2008s of Jean Donovan's Icy Blue, and Dave & Gawn Sacia's True Red.

We even had our own OTM (Other Than Miata), a silver Toyota Camry of the Chandlers who were guests of the Sacias.

Cathy & I started out from home "top up" since there were still a few sprinkles in the air but by the time we got off the Thruway heading into Geneva things were really starting to clear up. Could the weatherman been wrong?



No, not in Central New York. We all started showing up around 9:15 a.m. at the McDonalds just West of Geneva. June Goodreau even bumped into an exclub member who now drives a Honda Fit. She said she really missed her Miata and wished us well on the day's event. We handed out the route packets, had our drivers' meeting, put the "Tops Down" and started heading south a little after 10 a.m.. We drove down Rt. 14A and found a few interesting other roads that gave us some great views and twisty roads.



The caravan held together very well and we didn't lose anyone along the way down to Branchport. We pulled into the Esperanza Rose's parking lot right about 11:00 a.m. where we met Carl Khol & Jean Donovan with their cars.

We all walked down and boarded the Rose for the next part of the event. Our Captain, Bart Adams mentioned that he use to have a red Miata (another RED one) that he had to give up as his family grew.

We set off on the waters of Keuka Lake around 11:30 to what was perfect weather. The Sun, and the breeze on the lake made for idyllic conditions. As we cruised down the lake Captain Bart regaled us with facts about Keuka Lake and historic points of interest. Midway through the cruise we sat down for our luncheon while watching sailboats race across the lake.

We were back at the dock around 1:30 p.m. When we got back to our cars we all pretty much decided to break up and head our separate ways home by way of our individually favorite wineries.

I would like to thank all of the event participants, all the area reps, and all the other past event chairs for their support and feedback in getting Cathy & I through putting on our first event.

Oh yes, the weatherman WAS wrong. DFB Keuka Lake

(Our day started out with rain in Rome and it was raining when we returned home in the afternoon to the point some intersections were closed by police and flares set out to warn traffic of the dangerous water levels.

In between, the skies were blue with puffy white clouds, a slight breeze, and ideal temperatures over Keuka Lake for Mike and Cathy Neuner's scenic drive and Ezperanza Rose Experience. Mike has raised the bar for event guidance in that he provided a detailed list of the route directions, an overview map of the drive, brochures on Keuka lake and Seneca lake wineries , a map of the Finger Lakes Region, and a set of aerial shots with the route highlighted . This was 19 pages long. Also included was a handout on the Esperanza itself. This was topped off by a New York State tourism roadmap. All of this was contained in a packet handed out when we arrived at the meeting point in Geneva. I suspect Mike even arranged the pleasant weather.

After a detailed driver's meeting we were off on a scenic drive culminating in a panoramic view of the lake. Mike ran the event perfectly and we all enjoyed the boat ride and lunch.

The topper was that we were home by about 4 p.m. in the afternoon after a most pleasant day that did not require 4 thousand miles of driving and a return in the dark. DFB.)

July Event Report

White Water Rafting on the Black River

Denise Wargo

She was high, raging & fast. Due to the extensive rain this Summer (don't we all know that!), she was running at 47,000 gallons per square foot. She is the Black River. For those of you who went last year, your ride was tame to say the least. The River was running at least twice the volume.

Twenty Seven adventurous souls, including 13 MMC members, friends and family members, along with 2 shore sitters, gathered for the trip of a lifetime. The normal Class II and III rapids of the Black had swelled to IV and V's. Our three rafts maneuvered Suicide Rock, Knife's Edge and several other rapids. We rode over the dam,

affectionately referred to as the Rocket Ride. We took on "Cruncher", who had the last laugh with many of us, including myself. (My first "personal" tour of the river in three runs!)

I am offended that Mr. Cartini did not attempt to "save" me or several other members this year. Jay decided to take it all in from his seat in the raft, yet proving that his self-proclaimed "lifesaving" last year, was in fact a dunking by the ever powerful Cruncher having her=2 0way with him. Cruncher spit their raft out without giving them a chance to ride. I was assisted to shore by a Winter Wanderer! (And of course, the magnificent Chris Cole, Safety Kayaker). Our raft, guided by the amazing Alex, took an incredible ride in Cruncher and as the onlookers will tell you, the only survivor, along with Alex, was the mighty Andy Wargo.



Andy has had the ability to beat Cruncher on all three of his trips down the Black. The video tells all! We had it all on this run, sunshine, high, fast water, wind, rain and fun. It doesn't get any better than that.

Schedule of Events for the Remainder of the 2008 Driving Season

Jay Cartini

October 5, Sunday	Hyde Hall and Covered Bridges	Norm & Karen Abbott
October 19, Sunday	Road Rallye	Tom & Bev Cavanaugh
December	Holiday Party	Lee Maddy

Midstate Miata Club Officers for 2008

President: Jim Parsnow	Vice President and Activities Chairperson: Jay Cartini
Communications Manager and Newsletter Editor: Deane Bergstrom	
Treasurer: Lee Maddy	Membership & History: Bob Sabella