

MIDSTATE MIATA CLUB OF NY MIATA / MX-5 MEANDERINGS



President's Letter, from Karen McKissock

Oh my gosh, hasn't it been a GREAT season for driving our Miatas so far?!!! Sure glad we aren't living in the South or Southwest part of the country this summer! It's been super great weather here for running around topless with the wind in our hair (or no hair). Loving every minute of it. And to think we have 10 more events on the calendar plus our annual Holiday Party...*Yahoo!* I sure hope you'll be able to take advantage of several more (if not all) of the rides and ice creams.

The door is still open to volunteer to help with our 30th Anniversary party next summer. Please call, email or text me if you can spare some time. Uncle Sam (Aunt Karen) wants **YOU!!!** Please see the Leadership Team contact information near the end of this newsletter.

Gotta go...taking a ride along the lake to get some ice cream. Had a big lunch so we don't need dinner... *but I always need ice cream.*

Please enjoy every day with your family and friends.

Keep Zooming!
Karen

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

Welcome to the Midstate Miata Club of New York!

We have many events planned this year, some with meals and ice cream. We ask all the new 2023 members keep your orange sticker on their ID badge for 2023, so the old hands can say, "Hi, and Welcome to the Club!"

NAME / CHAPTER	CITY / YEAR	COLOR
John & Princess Pritchard	Canasta	
Syracuse	2003	Black
Jay & Kathy Masters	Rochester	
Rochester	1994	Red
Jim & Julie Barnes	Towarda	
Binghamton	2009	Gray

Special note: Del Austin contacted us to let us know that Virginia suffered a stroke very recently but is now at home recovering. She has some residual affects but is doing well and making progress. If anyone would like to send a card I'm sure she'd appreciate it.

Their address is;

Del W. & Virginia H. Austin
2347 US Route 11
Kirkwood, NY 13795

30TH ANNIVERSARY IS ON APRIL 10, 2024
FOUNDED ON APRIL 10, 1994

Do you remember these early ads?

It seems fitting to recall some of the Miata's history as our Club approaches 30 years old.



Thank you Al & Merrilee MacWilliam

Refresh yourself, read the "[Caravan Rules](#)" before each event, as it will help reduce or eliminate delays in the departure time.

FUTURE EVENTS

Wednesday, August 2, Annual Log Cabin Cruise Night

Event Coordinator - Chuck Rischenole, Rochester Chapter

Come one, come all. Another of our events that has been on hold too long! This is a shine only event We will meet again for our annual visit to the Log Cabin Restaurant on route 31F in Macedon. Reserved parking spaces for the club, great food outdoors or indoors if you prefer. A great selection of hundreds of cars and motorcycles to look at and reminisce. Let your area rep know if you will be going to set up caravanning to the event.

Register with Chuck at candgr@gmail.com or 585-223-7586 or 585704-9940, no later than July 24, and your Area Representative.

Saturday, August 5, North Rose Model Railroad <—Date Change

Event Coordinator - Bill Lowe, Rochester Chapter

North Rose Railroad Company, 10336 RR Ave., North Rose, NY

Think model trains are simply for going in a circle beneath the Christmas tree? This is an event that will change your mind forever. For 15-years, Gary Poole has been transforming most of the first floor of an old kidney bean packing plant in Wayne County, NY into his model railroad empire. At the moment, it occupies roughly 15,000-square feet of space and includes about two-miles of track. Wind farms, urban and suburban scenes, construction sites, amusement parks and much more make up the highly detailed scenery that surrounds that Lionel-sized railroad track...all of it painstakingly created by Gary. He is so dedicated to this endeavor that he actually lives in a portion of the building housing his display.



An up-to-date video of this massive layout can be viewed on [YouTube](#). More images are [here](#).

For those in the Rochester area and points South and West of there, we will gather at the Walmart parking lot in Webster (1990 Brandt Point Road, Webster, NY....in Baytowne Plaza) at 10:30 am on Saturday, August 5th to begin the run to Gary's place. It is suggested that those coming from Syracuse and other points East plan their own route as they are encouraged to join in this event.

Along the way, we'll do lunch at Orbakers in Williamson...then on to the trains, planning to arrive in North Rose around 1 pm. Parking will be in the gravel lot to the right of the building housing the layout.

Register with Bill at blowe0542@gmail.com or 585-865-6158, no later than July 31, and your Area Representative.

Saturday, August 12, Northeast Classic Car Museum

Rain date, Sunday, August 13

Event Coordinator - Randy & Bev Wike, Binghamton Chapter

We will meet at the [Price Chopper](#) on Chenango Bridge Road, Binghamton, NY, in the rear parking lot. The entrance is on Route 12 just past the traffic light, near Route 12 and Chenango Bridge Road. We will meet at 10:00 am and depart at 10:15 am, departing onto Router 12 and heading north.



We will travel to the [Northeast Classic Car Museum](#), 24 Rexford Street, Norwich, NY, and arrive between 11:00 am and 11:15 am. Our group rate entrance fee is \$13 per person. Please wait until all members are present before entering the museum.

We will depart the museum for lunch between 1:00 pm and 1:15 pm on Route 12 south for the drive to [Dickey's Barbecue](#), 5698 New York 12, Norwich, NY.

I would ask any area representative who has members attending this event to give me a head count and list of names so i can inform the restaurant how many are coming by *August 9th*. My email and phone number are shown below. If there are any guest, be sure they have completed the [Guest Disclaimer Form](#).

Dickey's Barbecue has complementary soft ice cream. Or we can drive to an ice cream shop in Oxford, NY. More photos are [here](#).

I am looking forward to a safe run and seeing new and old friends.

Register with Randy rwike@stny.rr.com, 607-761-6404 or Bev at bkwike@stny.rr.com, 607-761-3483 and your Area Representative.

Saturday, August 26, Middlesex Fire Department Family Style Roast Beef Dinner

Event Coordinator - Chuck & Grace Rischenole, Rochester Chapter

After a 3 year hiatus, it's time again for the best roast beef dinner you will ever have at our annual Middlesex Roast Beef Dinner trip. We will meet at Bill Gray's 1225 Jefferson Rd in Henrietta at 1:45 drivers' meeting and at 2:00 pm A.I.S.M.R. departure time. For any new members that's "Ass In Seats, Motors Running".



There will be approximately a 1 ½ to 2 hour ride to Middlesex. It has been over 47 years the Middlesex Fire Department has been doing this dinner and I can guarantee that you will not leave hungry. For those who haven't done it before this is a fresh cut roast beef dinner with all the trimmings served family style at tables of eight. The cost is \$15.00 per person. After you have had your fill, they will ask you what pie you would like for dessert. I suggest you get your pie to go as we will be continuing on after dinner to Canandaigua for the required ice cream stop.

Register with Chuck or Grace at candgr@gmail.com or 585-223-7586 or 585704-9940 and your Area Representative.

Sunday, August 27, Western NY MG Car Show

Event Coordinator - David King, Rochester Chapter

We are invited to participate in the [Western NY MG Car Club's](#) annual Car Show. Many of us, of a certain age, were owners of MGs and former members of this club. We will be grouped together on the field among the other entrants and able to mingle and enjoy all the sports cars there. Food and beverages will be available to purchase. The show is on the Rush Fire Department field behind the fire house, 1971 Rush Mendon Road, Rush. This will be a rain or shine event. No drive will be planned for the Rochester Area group, but the other groups may organize rides. If we have at least ten cars we may elect to have a judging of our roadsters with a prize awarded. More details to follow in upcoming newsletters.

**WE NEED AN INTEREST COUNT SO WE WILL HAVE ENOUGH SPACE ON THE FIELD.
PLEASE LET ME KNOW IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN GOING BY 8/1. THANKS.**

Register with David by August 1 at doeskygato@aol.com or 585-3776461 or 585-662-7635 and your Area Representative.

Friday, September 8, Watkins Glen Vintage Weekend

Event Coordinator - Ray Mosher, Syracuse Chapter, Information Only

Every year, on the Friday after Labor Day, Watkins Glen celebrates the Grand Prix Festival. For those of you who are unfamiliar with racing and Finger Lakes history, in 1948, Watkins Glens hosted the first post-World War II auto race in the USA. Cars raced on the local roads including running straight through the middle of town. The racing continued each year until following a fatal accident in the 1952 race, after which the race moved to a dedicated track and later to its current facility now called Watkins Glen International (WGI).

The weekend after Labor Day, WGI hosts a weekend of Sportscar Vintage Racing Association (SVRA) vintage car racing. On the Friday, many of these vintage race cars come down from



WGI en masse, lap the 6.6 mile “old course” (which still exists pretty much as it did in 1948) and park on Franklin St for the evening. Spectators line the streets to celebrate a tribute to the return of these vintage racers to the village of Watkins Glen. During the day, a number of “tours” are held for the auto enthusiasts where you drive your car along a prescribed course, have a group lunch, do laps of the old course, park in a group and generally have a good time. One of these is the “Sporting Roadster Tour”. This is limited to sporting convertibles to which the Miata/MX5 certainly qualifies and a number of our

members participate every year.

Whether you come for the evening to watch the cars roar through town, see all the cool cars parked in town, spend the day on a tour, or attend the vintage races at WGI, it’s a great time. I encourage you all to check it out! See GrandPrixFestival.com for full details.

Register with Ray Mosher, Club Vice President, at mosherrskL@yahoo.com or 315-635-2584, 315-935-6281, or 315-591-2631 and your Area Representative.

Sunday, September 10, Apple Fritter Crawl

Event Coordinator - Lee Maddy, Syracuse Chapter

Apple picking time is approaching, and every year we have a HUGE turnout. Hopefully we can make this year another good one.

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. Last years winner was Deer Run Orchards, will it hold onto the trophy?

This is a rain or shine event.

Tentative Schedule:

Meet 10:30 AM at the Byrne Dairy Gas Station 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 Crowds) along the way.

No need to RSVP for the event, just show up if you want, and stay for as long as you like, however if you do register with me at mrmiataman@yahoo.com and inform your rep, then if something unexpected happens which cancels the event, we can contact you.

TBD - Some years Jay has also organized an invitation for us all, after the orchards, for special parade laps at the private road course club, [Pineview Run](#) in Lafayette. May be that will happen again? (And, as always, RAY... Watch out for deer!)

Register with Lee at mrmiataman@yahoo.com, or text my cell at (315) 952-7148, and your Area Representative.



Sunday, September 16, EXPLORATORIUM 2023 (NEW)

Event Coordinator - Darius Kasinskas, Rochester Chapter

Come and enjoy a great ride in the Finger Lakes while searching for answers to clues.

You will have a list of clues to identify something specific and a map that shows where each item is but not which clue is at which location. You plan your route from the map provided, and everyone can go their own way. None of the clues are difficult or tricky! A few items require walking as much as

100 feet to read letters on a sign. You can get the answer at some locations while sitting in your car. You can reach all clues via paved roads that are in good condition.



You will drive in the area roughly bounded by NY State Route 5 to the north, Canandaigua Lake to the east along its length, as far west as the village of Caledonia, and as far south as Conesus. The entire drive is under 100 miles. It is best with two people per car so that the passenger can help with navigation and spotting. However, you can do it alone. Gas, restrooms, and food are available at many locations along the way.

This event is NOT a road rally or a poker run.

Register with Darius at miata@kasinskas.com and your Area Representative.

Saturday, September 30, Ride with the Lehigh Valley Miata Owner's Club

Event Coordinators - Nancy Wildoner & Alison Schaefer, Binghamton Chapter

Do you like driving with your Miata friends on scenic roads? Do you enjoy meeting new Miata enthusiasts? Do you like eating lunch? You can do all three on September 30 on a joint drive with members of the [Lehigh Valley Miata Owners Club](#).

The route will begin near Binghamton and continue along a scenic path to Honesdale, PA. There we will break and meet our Lehigh Valley, PA counterparts. Afterwards, the caravan will drive approximately 30 minutes to end at [Frank's Place](#) in Simpson PA for lunch. Ice cream, though not part of the "official" drive is available at [McGee's](#), just down the road.

**** 10 Car Limit ****

Register with Nancy at nwildoner@gmail.com or 607-648-8774 and your Area Representative.

Sunday, October 1, Annual Bill Hodge Memorial Road Rally

Event Coordinator - Lee Maddy, Syracuse Chapter

Meeting Place: Byrne Dairy Gas Station in Lafayette NY (Rt. 20 & Rt. 81) – back of building

Meeting Time: 11:00 AM, cars will start departing at 11:30 AM

The annual Bill Hodge Memorial Road Rally will be held on Sunday October 1st, this year, and as last year's winner, I have the great honor of planning and running this year's rally. I am also excited to say that our friends in the [Ottawa Miata Club](#) are coming down for the weekend, and will be joining us for the rally on Sunday, so let's have a good showing of cars. I am hard at work on the planning, and hope to make this year's rally the best one yet.



For those who may not be familiar with what a road rally is, it is kind of a driving scavenger hunt. You are given directions to follow, and clues to answer along the way. The more questions you can answer, and photos you can identify, the better your chances of glory and bragging rights. You also get to engrave your name on the awesome one-of-a-kind trophy, and display it for a year for all to admire and revere.

Follow the instructions correctly, and your team will end up at the finish line, at the mystery restaurant where we will all gather, share a meal (a wide range of selections will be available for you to order off the menu), and share your excitement of the drive you just completed.



This event is for ALL club members, not just those from the Syracuse area. I welcome everyone from the other chapters to also join us, and win.

(Editor: I know I made it look as if this couple won the Polo match in the newsletter. They won the more prestigious Annual Bill Hodge Memorial Road Rally for 2022.)

Come to this event and not only meet some new club members, but also make some new friends from the Ottawa (Underground) Miata Club.

There was so much excitement from the Ottawa Club that they needed to limit their caravan to 13 cars. Unfortunately, due to size, I may also need to limit the turnout due to space restrictions at the restaurant. So, if you plan on attending, it is critical that you **RSVP** in advance, and early, to guarantee a coveted spot, no later than Thursday September 21st.

Join us for the fun, try something new, and make some new friends. Let us show our Canadian friends some hospitality, and by the end of the night you might just leave speaking with an accent?

Register with Lee at mrmiataman@yahoo.com, or text my cell at (315) 952-7148, and your Area Representative.....

Saturday, October 14, The FALL Gulick

Event is rain or shine.

Event Coordinator - Al MacWilliam, Rochester Chapter

First there was the "Full Gulick". Now here comes the "Fall Gulick", run through the same area during the colorful fall foliage of Western NY in October! Join us as we embark on one last run before winter storage!



During an hour and a half of driving, you will go left and right and up and down on the curving roads, followed by more lefts and ups and downs and rights. Come along for a fun tour of the road south from Bloomfield towards lunch in Naples with a trip to the [Olde Country Store](#) in North Cohocton.

Lunch will be at the [Redwood Restaurant](#) in Naples.

The Olde Country Store 1849 offers local food and craft items as well as imported German specialties and original hand-blown glass Christmas ornaments formed in molds used over 100 years ago. They have a variety of over 350 candies, such as Penny Candy, Candy Bars, and Nostalgic Old Fashioned Candies.

We'll meet at [Quicklee's Mobil Service Station](#) in Bloomfield at 10:15 am, at the corner of NY SR 444 and East Main. Miatas zooming by 10:45! The round trip, back to Bloomfield, will be about 66.5 miles.

Join us and avoid all the time you'd otherwise spend having to listen to others talk about how great it was!

Register by October 11th with Al at macwill77@gmail.com or (585) 392-7702, and your Area Representative.

Wednesday, October 18, Annual outing with the Niagara Club for a great ride and lunch

Event Coordinator - Chuck Rischenole, Rochester Chapter

We will tentatively meet at the McDonalds in Avon, 250 E, Main St. for a pit stop and drivers meeting at 8:30am and we will depart at 9:00 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 the ride to Sprague's and pit stop at the Burger King and gas station. The 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. Sprague's Maple Farm, Cuba Cheese Shoppe, Colby's Ice Cream & Bake Shop.



If you choose not to stop at the Cheese Factory Store just continue on route 305 south to Sprague's where we will meet up to go into the restaurant together.

There will be a new route for the return trip to Colby's in Rush as our final destination. No more three mile downhill ride from Stoneybrook Park to Dansville

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

Sunday, December 3, Annual Holiday Party

Event Coordinator - Full Name, X Chapter

EVENT COORDINATOR WANTED - Karen McKissock will provide guidance and support!

Holiday party time is FINALLY BACK!! We will be having a beautiful Holiday Brunch at the Springside Inn's "[The Point at Sand Beach](#)" facility located at **2924 Sand Beach Rd, Auburn, N.Y.** There will be a cash bar available, cost of the brunch is yet to be determined. There is a maximum capacity of 80 guests so we will number registrations as they arrive. We will number and hold any received after 80 are received and after the cut off date to be used in case anyone that has registered has to drop out.

We will be making donations to an area charity. If you would like to participate please bring an unwrapped toy or other gift for a child up to 12 years of age.

We will also continue our traditional gift exchange. To participate, bring a wrapped gift valued under \$10 to exchange. It has been a lot of fun and generates a lot of conversation and joking.

Also returning will be the Ugly Christmas Sweater contest. Let's kick it up a notch this year and see how over the top we can go. Lot's of fun and makes for great conversation!!!

RESERVATIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED NO SOONER THAN OCTOBER 1st
AND NO LATER THAN OCTOBER 30th

Should you need to cancel your reservation, please contact ???? ASAP so we can let other members attend. Karen can be reached at email or phone. Thank you.

Do you have any questions? Karen will answer them.

There are several rooms available upon request if you would like to spend Saturday or Sunday night. Call the Springside at 315-252-7247 or visit their [website](#) for room reservations.

P.S. There will be few Miata/MX-5s in attendance, but lots of Miata/MX-5 people!

Register with HELP WANTED at email or phone and your Area Representative.

TBD, WGI Pace Laps

Event Coordinator - Full Name, X Chapter

EVENT COORDINATOR WANTED - Gail Wagner will provide guidance and support!

Meet at [Watkins Glen International Raceway](#) no later than 11:30 a.m. Three or four laps following a pace car beginning at 12:00 noon for 20 minutes. Prepaid before the event, \$20. Experience the thrill of driving on a real race track at your own pace.

More information and registration form coming soon! Check out "[So You Want to be a Race Car Driver](#)" under [TECH](#) on the [Miata Club website](#).

Register with HELP WANTED at email or phone and your Area Representative.

POST EVENT REPORTS

Saturday, June 24, Exploratorium 2022 REDUX

Event Coordinator - Darius Kasinskas, Rochester Chapter

"14 locations, 14 clues, a day of fun!" All had fun on this mostly cloudy and warm Saturday. Members joined us from Syracuse and Binghamton, including from one south of Scranton, PA.



We enjoyed good food in banquet rooms at Roy's in Manchester for breakfast and Ray's in Canandaigua for lunch. In between, everyone went out independently to explore a 20 x 15-mile area north and east of Canandaigua Lake, trying to identify which clues matched the locations on the provided map. Clue names included "Side Swapper," "Two Reds and a Green," "Wheat Whittler" and "Robotic Stripper." "Big Round Thing" stumped a few! Of course, each clue had a more detailed description. At lunch, answers

were revealed, and historical notes about the locations were shared.

The Exploratorium 2023 on September 16 will be all new locations and clues in an area south of the Thruway, west of Canandaigua Lake, as far west as the village of Conesus, and as far south as Springwater. We hope to see you there!

Contact Darius at miata@kasinskas.com.

Sunday, July 16, Skaneateles Polo Club

Rain date, Sunday 23

Event Coordinator - Dale Nagel, Syracuse Chapter

This event was postponed from July 16 to the 23 due to rain. Watch for the report in the September newsletter.

Register with Dale at dalen262@aol.com or 315-706-8015 and your Area Representative.

Saturday, July 22, Ride to Old Ft. Niagara and lunch at the Wilson Boat House

Rain Date, is Sunday, July 23

This is a shine only event

Event Coordinator - Nancy Lowe, Rochester Chapter

Coming in August.

Register with Nancy at nanlowe53@gmail.com or 585-305-4410 and your Area Representative.

TECHNICAL TIPS

by Gail Wagner, the “Wench With A Wrench”
Midstate Miata Club of New York



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... ☺

Here’s some important mid-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 - 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 you and your tires are 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 the plastic 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, there was no 1998–2005) 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 – If you didn't change your motor oil and filter this spring after storage, do it now! I change spring. Change AT LEAST once a year no matter what type of oil you use, synthetic (recommended) or regular conventional.

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 along with brake fluid replacement**, 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 – Check in the glove compartment and release clips if you have one and replace.

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 plugs 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 [RaggTopp](#) 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!

p.s. Remember to check out my previous archived tech and tip columns on our Club website under TECH: or click [here](#).

Zoom Zoom Safely!
Gail

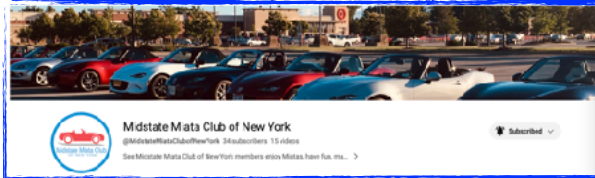
DISCLAIMER

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!

MEMBER STORY

Are you interested in telling your story? I know that there are many great stories out there! Send it along to me, John Amon, at John.N.Amon@gmail.com.

CLUB YOUTUBE CHANNEL



We will create a YouTube video at the end of the year to highlight special times at the ice cream nights.

Contact us for instructions on how to contribute your memories throughout the season.
MMCoFY@gmail.com

Be sure to subscribe and like. It is FREE! Money back guaranteed.

The following people have made submissions to be included in upcoming Facebook and YouTube videos. You could be a contributor also. Give it a try!

Amon, John & Susan
Becker, John & Dolores
Bellino-Havens, Ellen
Blodgett, Ted

Camacho, Ronald
Colucci, Tony & Joette
Kasinskas, Elisha & Darius
Lowe, Nancy & Bill

MacWilliam, Al & Merrilee
Ortiz, Edwin & Lydia
Schaefer, Alison

MIATA/MX-5 FOR SALE AND WANTED

If you have a Miata/MX-5 or item for sale or want a Miata/MX-5 or item and would like it to be in our newsletter, please send me the information. John.N.Amon@gmail.com. If you want the it to be on the website, also send the information to Lee Maddy at mrmiataman@yahoo.com. Include a heading, description, your name and contact information (phone, email, address), price, and a photo or two.

FOR SALE

Year and model 1991, Base Model
 Exterior and Interior color . Silver exterior with black interior
 Soft or hard top Soft Top
 Engine 1.6 L 4 cylinder
 Transmission 5 speed manual transmission
 AC or other major option . Kenwood AM/FM Radio with cassette player, no A/C
 Mileage 123,500
 Other major options Manual steering
 Price \$8,800 or best offer

General description One owner
 Always garaged
 Always licensed, insured, NYS Inspected
 Clean CarFax report
 I have most service record paperwork from day 1
 Hood has been repainted
 Soft top replaced once
 Newer daisy wheels that replaced the original steel wheels
 Fun daily spring, summer, fall driver

Owner must part with this car since I'm moving South and can't take it with me. I would like "Mickey" to go to someone who will love him as much as I have.



More photos on [Google Drive](#)

Contact Linda Spas at lspas39@gmail.com or (585) 747-8151

FOR SALE

FLOOR CREEPER

Used twice and just can't get down there anymore. Pad measures 11 in wide by 36 in long.

\$35.00



Contact Chuck Rischenole at candgr2gmail.com or 585-704-9940

LEADERSHIP TEAM

President	Karen McKissock	585-820-6010	kmckiss1948@gmail.com
Vice President	Ray Mosher	315-935-6281	mosherrskL@yahoo.com
Treasurer	Bev Wike	607-761-3483	bkwike@stny.rr.com
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Activities Chair	Jay Cartini	315-676-4776	JPCartini@aol.com
Membership/Historian	Bob Sabella	315-463-9643	rsabella@twcny.rr.com
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Sunshine Club	Christine O'Neill	585-880-6880	coneill1965@gmail.com
Past President	Ray Mosher	315-935-6281	mosherrskL@yahoo.com
Area Rep / Syracuse	Dale Nagel	315-677-9342	dalen262@aol.com
Area Rep / Binghamton	Barb Hunsinger	607-785-5459	bhunsin928@aol.com
Area Rep / Rochester	Nancy Lowe	585-305-4410	nanlowe53@gmail.com
Area Rep / Ithaca	Gail Wagner	607-257-7445	gwtr3red@gmail.com

CLUB INFORMATION

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

Website: Our Club has a [website](#). It also works on your phone!

Facebook: Our Club is also on [Facebook](#). There is a lot of information here, and there are updates most days.

YouTube: **NEW** Our Club has a [YouTube Channel](#). Take a look, like, and subscribe!

Maps: Ever wonder where Club members live? Check out this Club [map](#). Each Chapter has a map. [Syracuse Rochester Binghamton Ithaca](#)

Favorite Car Shops, Part Stores, Service Centers, and Stuff: The list is [here](#). Send additions and updates to John.N.Amon@gmail.com.

Deadlines: Submissions for the newsletter are due to the on the 24th of each month. John.N.Amon@gmail.com.

Events: When advertising your event, include details! Write it as an ad and remember to include that date and rain date if applicable, the meeting location and time, the distance of the drive, and maybe a photo or two. It does not need to be long but should include everything to encourage participation!

Flyer: You can print the [Club Flyer](#), it is a trifold with Club information and an application form.

Registration: To help gather the list of who is attending our events, we will require members to contact the Event Coordinator directly AND copy your Area Representative. You will only need to respond if you are planning to attend, but if you need to cancel at the last minute you need to let both the Event Coordinator and Area Representative know so they do not to hold up the ride waiting for you. Please pay close attention to the contact information 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.

Guest Waiver: Here is the [guest waiver form](#). If you bring a guest, you must print, complete, and give it to the Area Representative or Event Coordinator. Just one part.

Rules: [Caravan Rules](#) to consider before the event. We suggest you bring sunscreen, sunglasses, a hat, or a visor. Be sure you have a full tank of gas and your bladder is empty.

Reports: You should include what people enjoyed in your post-event report. Everyone enjoys hearing about the people and seeing people in or next to their Miata/MX-5s.

Hosting Events: For the more experienced people, there is a shorter checklist at this [link](#). Would you like to host an event? Not sure where to start? We have written this guide and have mentors who will help you. [This link](#) will take you to "Beginners Guide to Route Planning."

QR CODES FOR YOUR FAVORITE PLACES

Website



SCAN ME

Facebook



SCAN ME

YouTube



SCAN ME

Ice Cream
Schedule



SCAN ME

Membership
Application



SCAN ME

<i>REFRIGERATOR SCHEDULE 2023</i>

Date	Event	Coordinator
August 2	Annual Log Cabin cruise night	Chuck Rischenole
August 5	North Rose Model Railroad	Bill Lowe
August 12	Northeast Classic Car Museum	Randy & Bev Wike
August 26	Middlesex Fire Dept. Family Style Roast Beef	Chuck & Grace Rischenole
August 27	Western NY MG Car Show	Dave King
September 8	Watkins Glen Vintage Weekend	Info Only
September 10	Apple Fritter Crawl	Lee Maddy
September 16	EXPLORATORIUM 2023 (NEW)	Darius Kasinskas
September 30	Ride with Lehigh Valley Miata Owner's Club	Nancy Wildoner
October 1	Annual Bill Hodge Memorial Road Rally	Lee Maddy
October 14	The FALL Gulick	Al MacWilliam
October 18	Annual Outing with the Niagara Club	Chuck Rischenole
December 3	Annual Holiday Party	Help Wanted
TBD	WGI Laps	Help Wanted