



## President's Letter .....

How in the world are we already going into August?! And how are we already into the second half of 2025? Jeepers this year is flying by...and so is our driving season. But there's good news that there continues to be more events being added later this year. Please read your club emails, watch our website and read our newsletter each month to find out what's happening. And thanks to everyone who is submitting more opportunities for us to have fun with our Zoom Zoom cars. New ideas are always welcome.

And thanks to Elisha Kasinskas for our Facebook marketing and to Bill Lowe for our YouTube video coverage of events. We are seeing new memberships resulting from their efforts so thank you both!

To follow up on our Holiday Party status we shared in last month's newsletter, we held a meeting with Board members and Area Reps to discuss the path forward using the survey data and comments and here are some highlights:

- We decided to look into a Year End Wrap Up to include the whole club on Saturday, October 25 to be held in a central area, keeping it fun and more casual.
- Once we find a location we will decide on whether to cater or have a dish to share.
- Possibly incorporate a Halloween theme with decorated cars (maybe).
- Realizing some members will have stored their Miatas by then we will include OTMs (Other than-Miatas – for our newer members).
- We will reconvene soon to monitor our progress and continue to discuss what to do with the Holiday Party option and it's possibilities. For instance, it was discussed that we would need to work with a venue that has more open minimum reservations and that we may have participants "pre-pay" to get a solid response with which to proceed or not. Stay tuned...

Okay, changing to an update on a former member, Harry Frisbie, who recently passed away. See below for a tribute to Harry from his great friend, Del Austin. I can't think of how anyone else could have better described Harry who was a wonderful, fun loving man, loving husband and a jewel of a member in our club for many years before he and Mary moved to Florida. Here's contact information for Mary: Mary Frisbie 4237 Emerald Bay Dr. Jacksonville, FL 32277.

So signing off for another month, but please feel free to call, email, Zoom call me anytime.

Zoom on...

Karen McKissock, 585-820-6010, email: [kmckiss1948@gmail.com](mailto:kmckiss1948@gmail.com)

### **A loving tribute to Harry Frisbie**

There comes a time in one's life that we reflect on the roads we have traveled in life. There are all types of people that will travel that road with us, family, friends, and foe. But in one's life, there is someone that travels a road with you that will travel it forever in your mind with your thoughts. They make an impression that you will carry to your grave. So was the impact that one Harry Frisbie made on us. His laugh, his love of cars, and especially his Miata. The open road or a curvy road was his palate! His love of teaching his friends, his driving skill, and his love of learning theirs! I, least of all, will remember every time I enter a curve what he taught me. His love of sitting around after a day on a track talking with and learning from his fellow Miata drivers. His ability to reach all who know him with his laughter and knowledge of a car impressed us all. I for one will never get into my Miata again and will not think well of my dear Miata friend. I pray that our God is ready for Harry Frisbie, and has his car ready for him because he is about to teach God how to drive a curvy road!

- Del

# Welcome New & Returning Members . . . . .

## ***Welcome to the Mid-state Miata Club of New York!***

We have many events planned each year, some with meals and ice cream. If you recently joined the Club, please keep your orange sticker on your ID badge for 2025, so the old hands can say, “Hi, and Welcome to the Club!”

<u>NAME</u>	<u>CHAPTER</u>	<u>YEAR</u>	<u>COLOR</u>
Joe & Donna Aquilino	Rochester	2022	Soul Red Crystal Metallic
Paul & Michelle Walsh	Rochester	2024	Aero Gray
Ben & Raquel Bondoc	Syracuse	2019	White

If you are considering joining our Club, we have several places where you can learn about what we do. We have a [website](#), [Facebook page](#), and [YouTube channel](#). When ready, you should fill out page two of the [Membership Brochure](#).

**NOTE:** To find the full detailed schedule of events for 2025 you can go to our website:

<https://www.midstatemiata.net/calendars.html>

## From Bill Lowe, YouTube Coordinator . . . . .

Everyone is encouraged to share with me whatever pictures or videos you capture while out there on the road. I can then edit it into a video that will help bring attention to the club through the power of YouTube. The videos will be geared to bringing in those Miata owners who are not yet club members.

You can all our club videos at:

[https://www.youtube.com/results?search\\_query=midstate+miata+club](https://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=midstate+miata+club).

On the page that opens, click on “Videos” between the words “Shorts” and “Unwatched” to the left above the picture for the first video. This way YouTube will show you only the club video.

All of you are encouraged to shoot lots of video and pictures of every club outing you attend. Then send them to me along with a description of the event by uploading your files to this Internet address: <https://www.dropbox.com/request/yloCBAwqpD9s8IU32qjD>. I can use them to edit a video about the event as my time permits and then post it to our YouTube channel. If you need to reach me, my email address is: [blowe0542@gmail.com](mailto:blowe0542@gmail.com). I promise to try to do better at getting the videos out but remember, “Don’t yell at me... I’m just a volunteer!” -Bill

# Refrigerator Schedule - 2025 .....

Date	Event	Coordinator
<b>August 1, Fri</b> <b>**Sign up by July 29</b>	Zooming to Women's Rights	Merrilee & Al MacWilliam
<b>August 3, Sun</b> <b>**Sign up by August 1</b>	Skaneateles Polo	Dale & Cathy Nagel
<b>August 14, Thur</b>	Caravan to Ottawa	Lee Maddy & Miriam White
<b>August 16, Sat</b> <b>**Sign up by August 12</b>	"Al" at the Wheel	John Amon
<b>August 23, Sat</b> <b>**Sign up by August 9</b>	2022 Exploratorium "Rerun"	Darius Kasinskas
<b>September 6, Sat</b> <b>**Sign up by August 30</b>	Trip to Labrador	Debbie Bogan & Chet Wilk
<b>September 14, Sun</b>	Apple Fritter Crawl	Lee Maddy & Miriam White
<b>September 20, Sat</b>	Apple Cider Crawl	Ray Mosher
<b>September 21, Sun</b>	The Final Gulick	Darius Kasinskas
<b>September 28, Sun</b> <b>**Sign up by Sept. 24</b>	Bill Hodge Memorial Rally	Lee Maddy & Miriam White
<b>October 4, Sat</b>	Drive to Belmont Falls <b>**CANCELLED**</b>	Darius Kasinskas
<b>October 8, Wed</b>	Drive with the Niagara Club	Chuck Rischenole
<b>October 18, Sat</b>	Last Call '25	Merrilee & Al MacWilliam
<b>October 25, Sat</b>	Year End Wrap Up	Leadership Team

Our 2025 schedule will not include the Marcellus parade. We will not be scheduling a Cruise Night at the Log Cabin in Macedon either. It is closed for food and the parking lot is in poor repair. We'll keep an eye on it for 2026. Members are encouraged to find a location close to their chapter.

# Ice Cream Schedule of 2025 .....

**Syracuse Chapter:** Dale Nagle, dalen262@aol.com, 315-677-9342

Date	Time	Location
Aug 7 Thur	6:30 pm	Pete's Polar, Solvay
Aug 28 Thur	6:30 pm	Vickie's, Liverpool
Sept 11 Thur	6:30 pm	Sno Top, Manlius
Sept 25 Thur	6:30 pm	Plank Road, N Syracuse
Oct 9 Thur	6:30 pm	Carvel, Dewitt
Oct 24 Fri	6:30 pm	TBD

**Rochester Chapter:** Nancy Lowe, nanlowe53@gmail.com, 585-305-4410

Tuesdays	Time	Location
August 12	6:00 pm	<b>NEW!</b> Mulconry's Irish Pub & Rest., 17 Liftbridge Ln E, Fairport (Need head count for dinner), Lift Bridge Ice Cream, 6 N Main St, Fairport
August 26	6:00 pm	Krony's, 500 Hamlin-Clarkson Townline Rd., Hamlin. Lugia's Ice Cream, 4719 Lyell Rd, Spencerport, OLD dinner location
September 9	6:00 pm	SALT, 7408 Pittsford Palmyra Rd, Fairport (Need head count for dinner), Chill & Grill, 616 E Main St, Palmyra
September 23	6:00 pm	Tom Wahl's, 283 East Main St, Avon, NY & Colby's Ice Cream & Bake Shop, 7272 W Henrietta Rd, Rush (on SR 250)

**Binghamton Chapter:** Barb Hunsinger, bhunsin928@aol.com, 607-785-5459

Date	Time	Location
Mon, Aug 4	6:30 pm	Jones Humdinger, Upper Front St, Binghamton
Wed, Aug 20	6:30 pm	Scoopy Doopy, 45 Lewis St, Binghamton

**Ithaca Chapter:** Gail Wagner, gwtr3red@gmail.com, 607-257-7445

**Gail will contact Ithaca Chapter members for dates and locations.**

# How To Register For A Midstate Miata Club Of NY Event Summer 2025 .....

There are several ways to register for an upcoming Club event:

1. The current Club newsletter, no matter what month, has events listed for the current month and the next month with instructions on how to register.
  - You can find the current newsletter on the Club website: [www.midstatemiata.net](http://www.midstatemiata.net)
  - Click on "Newsletters" at the top of the homepage page and scroll through to find your event and info to register.
2. If the event is beyond the current or next month listed in the Club newsletter, go to the Club website: [www.midstatemiata.net](http://www.midstatemiata.net)
  - Click on "Calendar" at the top of the homepage for a list of all published summer events.
  - Scroll down and find the event you want. There will be a description of the event and a name of the event coordinator with their email address or phone number to contact and sign up. Be sure to wear your name tags to the event!
  - Important: If you decide NOT to attend, please also let the coordinator know so they don't wait for you at the meeting place or wonder where you are before starting out.
  - Also, if you decide to take a friend to an event who is not a club member, you need to get a "Guest Disclaimer (liability) Form" from your rep or on the Club website (click on "About" at the top of the homepage) and give it to the event coordinator when you get there. This is to protect our Club from liability.

## Future Events . . . . .

### Friday, August 1- Zooming to Women's Rights

Event Coordinators - Merrilee & Al MacWilliam, Rochester Chapter

This is a rain or shine event.

Rochester Chapter Members will meet in Webster and caravan together for about an hour ride to the Women's Rights National



Historical Park in Seneca Falls. If there is interest in this event in other Chapters we will meet up with those

people/groups there, then tour the National Park. Following this, we will take a brief ride to Suffrage Park, then the Elizabeth Cady Stanton home. Next stop will be lunch, then a visit to the National Women's Hall of Fame. From there we will follow a different route back to Williamson for ice cream. Here is a short video made on our event pre-run in June. <https://youtu.be/lmiYEhJEPd4?si=5yfx5LfEBq31eZnc>.



If you can join us please contact Al at [macwill77@gmail.com](mailto:macwill77@gmail.com), or (585)

392-7702 by July 29, as I need to give the restaurant a head count for lunch. Also let your Area Rep know you are going.

### Sunday, August 3 - Skaneateles Polo & Barbecue

Event Coordinators - Dale & Cathy Nagel, Syracuse Chapter

This will be a shine and dry field only event.

**\*\*Sign up by Friday, August 1** - Let us know if you plan to attend and where you will meet us: Byrne Dairy, Bob's or Polo grounds. The Skaneateles Polo Club usually announces if the match is canceled on their Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100057079405561>) on Saturday afternoon or Sunday morning. I will email those that have notified me they are planning to attend if the match is canceled as soon as I know.

Back again this year! Polo starts at 3:00 at the Skaneateles Polo Club, 783 Andrews Rd, Skaneateles. You have several options to join in the fun.

- Cathy and I plan to lead a caravan from the Syracuse area. We'll meet at Byrne Dairy, Route 20 Lafayette at 11:15 for an 11:30 departure. We'll then take a scenic drive to Bob's Barbecue on Route 281 in Little York and arrive there at about 12:30. You can either eat there or get something



to go to eat later at the polo grounds in Skaneateles. We then will depart Bob's at 1:30 for an approximately 45-minute drive to the Skaneateles Polo Grounds on Andrews Road. There we can tailgate prior to the start of the match at 3:00.

- Your second option is to meet-up with us at Bob's Barbecue on Route 281 in Little York at 12:30.
- The third option is to meet at the polo grounds at 2:15.

Area reps should try to coordinate caravans from their area to the Skaneateles Polo Grounds or to Bob's in Little York or to Lafayette Byrne Dairy. This has been a great, well attended event with twenty to thirty cars in past years. Unfortunately, the last few years have been wet and we were lucky to even get in a ride. Assuming we get a sunny day, there will be plenty of time to sit and talk with your fellow club members and enjoy watching the polo match. On top of that, you get to fix divots on the field at halftime. Just watch out for the land mines!

Contact Dale Nagel, [dalen262@aol.com](mailto:dalen262@aol.com), (315-706-8015) with any questions, and let us know if you plan to meet at Lafayette Byrne Dairy or at Bob's. No need to reply if you plan to meet at the polo grounds. Let your Area Rep know if you are going.

## **Thursday, August 14 - Caravan to Ottawa Regional C2M2 Event**

Event Coordinators - Lee Maddy & Miriam White, Syracuse Chapter

Lee Maddy will be running a caravan to the Ottawa Regional Event C2M2-2025, being held in Ottawa, Canada August 14-17. If you have registered for the event, and would like to join us to caravan up to Ottawa, please complete the following online form: <https://mrmiataman.wufoo.com/forms/miataottawa-c2m22025-drive/>



Please join us for the drive. Let us know where and when you will meet us, or if you will be driving separately.

Brewerton:

- Meeting Place 1: Circle K Gas Station, 5565 Bartell Rd, Brewerton, NY 13029
- Meeting Time: 10:00 AM. Departing at 10:30 AM.

Mexico:

- Meeting Place 2: Fastrac Gas Station, 3364 Main Street, Mexico, NY 13114 (This location is near the intersection of Rt 104 and Rt 3, making it convenient for Rochester members to join us and is adjacent to a Dunkin' and McDonald's)
- Meeting Time 2: 11:00 AM. Departing at 11:30 AM



## **Saturday, August 16 - AI at the Wheel: A Smartly Designed Event!**

Event Coordinator - John Amon, Rochester Chapter

Have you ever wondered what kind of event an Artificial Intelligence (AI) app would dream up? Join us on August 16 and find out! We'll go behind the scenes and share how it all came together. All Miatas are welcome—any year, any model. No tech skills needed, and no fancy gadgets required. I used AI to help with the planning, but it won't have anything to do with the actual event. Just show up, relax, and enjoy the drive with fellow Miata fans! It'll be a great event and we hope to see you there.

We'll head south from Spencerport on roads the AI thinks we will like in our MX-5s. The first part will be mostly sweeping turns and hills. After lunch, we'll first go east, and then three-quarters of the way around Conesus Lake on scenic and twisty roads. The finish, as always, will include ice cream.

I'll send an outline of how I worked with ChatGPT to develop this route, including our discussion. ChatGPT provided most of the turn-by-turn directions.

If you use the REVER app, I'd happily share the route with you. You can follow along on your phone or the MX-5 Connect Infotainment System. The traditional paper turn-by-turn directions will be available to everyone. Just let me know, and I'll send a link to the route.

Start: Behind McDonald's in Spencerport, 44 Nichols St, Spencerport at 11:00 am.

Finish: In Mendon for ice cream at ~4:00 pm.

Contact John Amon at [John.N.Amon@gmail.com](mailto:John.N.Amon@gmail.com) or 585-617-4334 for more information. Contact John and your area representative to **register by August 12**.

## **Saturday, August 23 Exploratorium 2022 Rerun**

Event Coordinator - Darius Kasinskis, Rochester Chapter

This year's Exploratorium is a repeat of the 2022 event, using the same clues and answers from that original adventure. If you missed it, or want another try, now's your chance!

Enjoy a scenic drive through the Finger Lakes as you individually explore new roads and solve a mystery-style challenge! The drive covers about 80 miles on paved, good-condition roads. The area is bounded by the Thruway (north), Canandaigua Lake (west), and extends about halfway to Seneca Lake (east). Best with two people per car, but solo drivers are welcome. This is not a rally or poker run—it's just for fun!



You'll get:

- A map showing all locations.
- A list of clues, each describing something specific found at one of those locations.
- No information about which clue applies to which location.

Your mission is to match each clue with the correct location. You plan your own route. Each Miata can go a different way! Most answers are visible from the main roads; a few may require a short walk (up to 100 feet). Some clues are easy, some a bit more challenging, but none are tricky or hard to understand.

8:00 am – Breakfast & Start: Ray's Restaurant, 2510 Rochester Rd, Canandaigua, NY 14424.

2:00 pm – Lunch & Wrap-Up: New Countryside Family Restaurant, 17 Clifton Springs Plz, Clifton Springs, NY

**Register by August 9.** Email Darius at [miata@kasinskas.com](mailto:miata@kasinskas.com) and notify your Area Rep.

Come out and enjoy the back roads, good company, and a little adventure!

## **Saturday, September 6 - Trip to Labrador Hollow Unique Area**

Event Coordinators - Debbie Bogan and Chet Wilk, Syracuse Chapter

**This is a rain or shine event.**

NATURE LOVERS BEWARE. You may find it hard to leave this place. Our excursion into Labrador's natural setting provides ample opportunity to view a variety of wildlife and vegetation that will keep you spellbound... Maybe it's too much of a stretch, but some may find it intriguing.



We will meet at Byrne Dairy, 5829 State Rte. 20 Lafayette, NY at 10:15am. After a driver meeting, we will depart at 10:30 for Labrador Unique Area. Travel seventeen minutes (10.80 miles via CR-3 and Rt-91). We will take the accessible boardwalk to the pond and back to parking lot. This is about a 20-minute walk.



Then we will travel to Tinker Falls about five minutes away and for those who wish, hike to the falls. We will spend about 30-45 minutes there. If there are no bathrooms open, we will travel to Circle K, 5755 Rt 80 Tully, NY (15 minutes, 7 miles via Rte-80 and Rt-91) for a potty break. From there, we will travel to the Hollywood Restaurant, 27 Groton Ave Cortland, NY (15 miles, 25 minutes via Rt 11 south). Watch for a large bird's nest overhead and cows in the fields.

Reservations are at the Hollywood for 1:30. Please be advised that they normally don't do separate checks for parties over four. The Hollywood is a trip back in time, with the iconic statue of Marilyn Monroe, movie posters of Clark Gable, Humphrey Bogart, John Wayne, etc. It's a fun place to eat. Food is tasty and reasonably priced, and the wait staff is friendly. There is ample parking in their adjacent parking lot.

After lunch, around 3:00pm, we will head to Super Cream Dairy Bar, 75 N. West St. Homer, NY, for their delicious homemade ice cream. Then head home around 4:00 via Rt-281 and US-11 (23 minutes, 20 miles), to savor the memories of a wonderful day with wonderful Miata club friends. Please join us!

**RSVP to Debbie Bogan, [dybogan@twcnny.rr.com](mailto:dybogan@twcnny.rr.com), by August 30** if you plan to eat at the Hollywood and contact your Area Rep if you plan to go.

## **Sunday, September 14 - Lafayette Apple Fritter Crawl**

Event Coordinators - Lee Maddy & Miriam White, Syracuse Chapter

**This is a rain or shine event.**

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 year's winner was Deer Run Orchards. Will it hold onto the trophy?



### **Tentative Schedule:**

Meet at 10:30am 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 four apple orchards (subject to change due to crowds) along the way.

No need to RSVP for the event, just show up and stay for as long as you like. However, if you do register with Lee Maddy at ([mrmiataman@yahoo.com](mailto:mrmiataman@yahoo.com)), also inform your area rep so that we can contact you if the event is canceled.

## **Saturday, September 20 - Apple Cider Crawl**

Event Coordinator - Ray Mosher, Syracuse Chapter

Details about this event will be in the September Newsletter.

## Sunday September 28 - Annual Bill Hodge Memorial Road Rally

Event Coordinators - Lee Maddy & Miriam White, Syracuse Chapter

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

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

This year's annual Bill Hodge Memorial Road Rally will be held on Sunday September 28, and as last year's winners, we have the great honor of planning and running this year's rally. We are 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 similar to 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 menu selections will be available for you to order), and share your excitement of the drive you just completed. This event is for ALL club members, not just those from the Syracuse area. We welcome everyone from the other regions to also join us.



Come to this event and not only meet some new club members, but also make some new friends. If you plan on attending, it is NOT critical that you RSVP in advance, but it would be helpful if you **respond by September 24** so I know how many packets to print, and to guarantee yourself a coveted spot. Please join us for the fun, and try something new.

Just show up, or pre-register with Lee at [mrmiataman@yahoo.com](mailto:mrmiataman@yahoo.com), or text my cell at (315) 952-7148.

## Past Event Reports . . . . .

### Saturday, June 28 - Great Country Roads from Spencerport to Avon and back to Spencerport

Event Coordinator - John Amon, Rochester Chapter

A week before the Great Country Roads event, the weather forecast predicted cool temperatures and rain, with heavy rain on the way. As the event drew closer, the prediction improved. The day of

the event was a beautiful day, sunny and warm. That just goes to show you not to worry too much too early.

We headed south through suburban farms and small villages. The shade from the trees was nice. As we traveled, the farms became bigger, the trees fewer, and the views more panoramic. We drove some really nice MX-5 roads! /YKYK

The first stop was at the Abbey of the Genesee. This is where the Monks make 15,000 loaves of Monk's Bread per week! Plus lots more goodies. Judging by the bags everyone was carrying, we bought a lot of bread, candy, biscotti, cookies, and books. They have a beautiful church. Not your traditional church, but made of wood and stone. Very simple and unadorned.

We were then off to Lakeville and Leisure's Restaurant for lunch in the air conditioning. The outside temperature was approaching 90°F, and inside was cool and dry. Nice food was provided, and lively discussions, jokes, and puns were enjoyed by everyone.

After that, we headed north through Geneseo for ice cream. More sweeping curves brought us to Brockport and Pinkies Ice Cream.

After finishing ice cream, or maybe melted ice cream, we drove along the Erie Canal to finish our 103-mile trip. You know the canal has been in use for 200 years, right?

Goodbyes were said, and everyone headed home, full of good food and ice cream, with plenty of bread and happiness in their hearts.

## Sunday, June 29 - Drag Race Day

Event Coordinator - Al MacWillam, Rochester Chapter



Beautiful weather allowed top down cruising for the nine Rochester Chapter members, driving seven Miatas, as we caravanned to South Butler Nostalgia Dragway. We were met at the track by cars from the Syracuse and Ithaca Chapters. This was the first Club activity (other than ice cream)

that two of our new members had participated in! The racing was hot and loud with a new track MPH record being set while





we were there! After a BBQ lunch at the track we ran John Gingerich's Favorite Miata Road and continued on to ice cream in Williamson. From the participants' response this may have to become an annual event! View a video of the event here, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=894IJS6PkT0>.

## **Saturday, July 12 - Tour of the Mount Morris Dam.**

Event Coordinator - Bill Lowe, Rochester Chapter



Thirteen Miatas carrying twenty-two people formed up at the McDonald's on Spencerport Road in Rochester and headed out on a forty-one mile trip to check out the largest structure of its type east of the Mississippi River. The Mt. Morris Dam was built between 1948 and 1950 to ease

devastating flooding the Genesee River had caused in the Rochester area periodically in previous centuries. Since then it has saved estimated billions of dollars in potential flood damage.



Once at Mt. Morris, those who were able took a walk down a very steep grade and got to stand atop the thousand foot long dam that is taller than a twenty-four story building.

Everyone also enjoyed the informative signs, displays, and a video in the thankfully-air conditioned Visitor Center. Leaving the dam we drove back through Mt. Morris a short four or five miles to Brian's USA Diner for a lunch that everyone rated top notch.

Then we loaded up once more for a fifteen mile trip over more delightful country roads during which we happened to go near Geneseo where the National Warplane Museum's air show was in progress. That gave the unexpected treat of seeing the Air Force F-35 Panther fly over us very low and with a thunderous roar as the pilot made turns into the field for several show passes.



Our drive ended with the inevitable stop for ice cream...this time at Tom Wahl's restaurant in Avon, NY. Despite temperatures reaching near 100 degrees that day, everyone agreed we had an excellent adventure. After all, what can top a day spent with good friends as we share the joy that is owning and driving a Miata???

## Sunday, July 13 - Midstate Miata Club Picnic

Event Coordinator - Ray & Sue Mosher, Syracuse Chapter

The 2025 edition of the club picnic was held at Filmore Glen State Park. Instead of a catered event like the last two years, it was BYO, with the club providing a charcoal fire for grilling. The weather was very cooperative and several groups travelled in caravans to the event.



A few hearty souls climbed the steps and were rewarded with some lovely waterfalls. It appeared that only the picnic organizers swam in the pond. The rest of you missed out! The water was cool, but refreshing. Thank you all for coming out and making it a great day!

If anyone has feedback on this year's event, please let Ray or Sue know, or pass it through your Area Rep. We would love to hear your comments.



## Saturday, July 26 - The Warfield Loop - A Hot Day, Cool Cars, and Great Company

Event Coordinator - Darius Kasinskas, Rochester Chapter

Three red, a white and three blue (okay, one was gray) Miatas brought thirteen members to the Canandaigua Pier on a warm and beautiful day. With lake views and friendly conversation all around, we even joined in singing Happy Birthday to a stranger's relative, much to everyone's delight.

From there, we quickly cruised through the Lakeshore Art Festival and headed to Warfield's Restaurant in Clifton Springs for a delicious lunch.



Then the real driving fun began: a 52-mile stretch of scenic countryside that showed off the best of summer in the Finger Lakes.

As the afternoon wore on, the sun cranked up the heat to nearly unbearable levels. Our plan to finish with ice cream at Scoops in Canandaigua was thwarted by heavy traffic, long lines, and no





parking. The phrase of the moment quickly became “anyplace with A/C,” and we found our way to the Cheshire Creamery, where we cooled off and shared great conversation in comfort. Thanks to everyone who came out and made it such a memorable day! Event video: <https://youtu.be/sZR42McxbPk>

## Technical Tips .....

### Wench With A Wrench

Gail Wagner

**“Jumping Jack Flash, It’s a Gas, Gas, Gas !”**  
**Gasoline, Octane and Ethanol**



Hi Miata Folks,

Here’s a “burning question” (sorry about the pun). What octane\* grade of gas to use in your Miata/MX5: regular, premium, 10% ethanol, or “pure/clear” (no ethanol). There’s lots of controversy and lots of opinions but I’ll give you some research I’ve uncovered and let you make your own personal decision. (\*Definition: Octane, a hydrocarbon component of gasoline, is a colloquial word for “octane rating”, a standard measure of the perfor-

mance of engine fuel.)

As for me, I’ll tell you what I feed *Scarlet*, my red NC 2006 towards the end of this article just to keep up the suspense and maybe you’ll keep reading. ☺ My apologies to *The Rolling Stones* for using their song title references. (Guess what I’m listening to while writing this article.)

Regular or Premium? The answer varies depending on the year of your Miata/MX5 and any after-market modifications you may have made. *Moss Miata*, my premier go-to Miata parts guru, suggests the following: the latest NC-ND Miatas (2006 +) should use premium 91-octane or higher, while earlier NA’s and NB’s (1989 - 2005) unmodified Miata’s can opt for good, old, regular, less expensive, 87-octane stuff.

Moss Miata asserts that if you have modified your engine timing or are running any forced induction (turbo or supercharged) on NA’s or NB’s, then you should probably be running premium. The higher the octane number, the more compression the fuel can withstand before detonating (igniting).

Therefore, fuels with a higher octane rating are used in high performance gasoline engines that require higher compression ratios.

### **“Can’t You Hear Me Knocking...”**

#### **Engine Knock**

Using lower octane fuel than recommended in your owner’s manual may reduce your miles-per-gallon (mpg) and reduce engine torque (look up “engine torque” if you don’t know what it is - too long to explain here but important). Using lower octane than recommended also causes an increased engine temperature that could result in damage when driving in extremely hot summer weather. Higher engine compression ratios will, however, make gasoline engines subject to engine-knocking if lower octane-rated fuel is used, also known as detonation. (Definition of Engine Knock: When fuel is improperly ignited using low octane fuel in a high compression engine, it causes a fireball-like explosion that can interfere with the engine's cycles and can even damage engine components – as in possibly bending a connecting rod or burning a hole in the top of a piston.) These premature detonations are the source of the "pinging/knocking" noise you may hear while your engine is running.

That said.... if your engine “knock sensors” (required by the EPA in 1996) are working fine, then 87-octane shouldn't be a problem. BUT, the engine will detect knock from the 87-octane gas and will retard the ignition timing automatically, reducing the effective compression of the engine, thus giving you less power per stroke but keeping the engine protected from pre-detonation. Cool, huh?

It's better to use premium 91 or 93-octane in higher compression engines but 87-octane won't hurt it if the knock sensors are functioning. You will reduce your mpg though and increase nasty emissions. If knock sensors stop working, you should get a check engine light. If you have a check engine light and you don't know why, I wouldn't use anything below 91-octane.

But Dear Intrepid Miata Folks, not to worry. Government regulations say all cars sold in the U.S.A. must be capable of running 87-octane in case of an emergency. Because of this, if you insist on running regular 87- octane in your 2006+ Miata/MX5 for whatever reason, your engine computerized knock sensor will automatically retard the timing when a distinctive metallic pinging knock can be heard that will prevent possible engine damage. You'll hear it and then I recommend it's a good idea to start switching to the premium stuff soon unless you expect to sell your car in the near future to someone you don't like very much.

### **“Play With Fire”**

#### **Compression Ratio and Octane**

NC's and ND's (2006+) Miata/MX5 engines have a higher “compression ratio” than earlier models by design and are recommended to run on 91+ octane gas. (Another Motorhead Geek Alert: Definition of “Compression Ratio”: the ratio of the maximum to minimum volume in the cylinder of an internal combustion engine). High compression ratio is desirable because it allows an engine to use more energy from the air-fuel mixture due to its higher engine temperature/heat efficiency. And because internal combustion engines are heat engines, higher efficiency is created because higher

compression ratios permit the same combustion temperature to be reached with less fuel. As Spock would say, “Fascinating.”

Remember, octane doesn’t give your engine more power, it allows your engine to produce the power it was designed to produce and reduces emissions.

### **“You Can’t Always Get What You Want But If You Try Sometimes...You Get What Ya’ Need”**

#### **Regular 87 or Premium 93 Octane?**

Most gasoline manufacturers start with nearly the same basic ingredients and then formulate their own additives to achieve octane rating and fuel injector cleaning. That said, it’s been recommended by many that you don’t jump around from one brand to another, if possible, as you’re effectively unbalancing that formulation, possibly resulting in a drop in fuel economy (more on fuel economy later). Use your own judgement, but *Moss Miata* as well as other automotive experts now recommend not using the “cheap-no-name” stuff as it may cause your Miata to run poorly, i.e., crusted deposits on your valves causing them to not close and seal properly. Personally, me and *Scarlet* run “no-name” premium 91-octane *ethanol-free* and she has never experienced any problems, but hey, it’s your choice of no-name or brand name. Frankly, my dear, *Scarlet* and I don’t give a damn.

You can always check your owner’s manual for octane recommendation. I suspect Mazda engineers know which fuel rating will provide the best performance, less emissions, best mpg and reliability. At a dealership years ago before the NDs (2015+) came out, I stared into the face of a Mazda factory rep and asked his personal opinion about NC’s and octane rating and he said “Yes, use premium 91-octane”. Okay, okay, I get it - right from the Factory Mouth.

Older Miata’s (1989 to 2005) were designed to run solely on 87-octane. Running higher octane than recommended does not increase horsepower or mpg on any stock Miata. Here’s a good one: *Moss Miata* asserts that if you are running a completely unmodified NA (1989-1997) or NB (1999–2005), “treating” your car to premium gas will result in a slight degradation of performance and fuel economy as well as a loss of wallet-economy.

Here’s a tip and I know you probably already know this, but, ahem... I can’t say I personally practice it all the time: If you want to increase mpg and make your gas money go further, use the right grade of gasoline, reduce hard gas pedal “jack rabbit starts” and avoid high rpm shifting that burns fuel. Not much fun admittedly, but practical, I suppose.

### **“I Can’t Get No ...” Non-Ethanol-Added Gasoline)**

#### **Ethanol**

What the heck is ethanol anyway? Ethanol is a renewable, domestically produced alcohol fuel made from biomass plant material, such as corn, sugar cane, or grasses. The “E” indicates the per-

centage of ethanol by volume (E10, E15). It's a volatile, flammable, colorless liquid with a slight chemical odor used as an antiseptic, a solvent, or a fuel and due to its low freezing point, is the active fluid in post-mercury thermometers! Commonly called ethyl-alcohol, drinking alcohol, or simply alcohol, it's also the principal alcohol found in your margarita or pale ale, produced by the fermentation of sugars by yeasts.

So, for purposes of this article, I'm discussing the fuel use of ethanol, although beverage use is a lot more fun, so don't get the two confused if you're personally consuming internally.

If you're into saving our planet from certain death, doom, and destruction, using ethanol fuel can reduce oil dependence and greenhouse gas emissions by burning "cleaner," although opinions differ when factoring in actual methods of ethanol production and greenhouse gas emissions. You decide. And, of course, thanks to U.S. oil shale and fracking production, we aren't totally dependent on oil imports for domestic gasoline production anymore. Ethanol fuel use in the U.S. has increased dramatically from about 2.0 million gallons in 1981 to about 14.0 billion in 2022 per the U.S. Energy Administration, thanks to certain environmentalists and the Corn Lobby, a powerful agribusiness in the U.S.

## **Start Me Up**

### **Some Ethanol Facts**

Most of the gasoline sold in the U.S. contains up to 10% ethanol—the amount varies by region—and all auto manufacturers approve blends up to E10 (and up to E85 in "flex-fuel" vehicles) in their gasoline vehicles but "pure" ethanol-free gasoline is still available at gas stations if you look around. As of 2011, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency began allowing the use of E15 in model year 2001 and newer gasoline vehicles. Many car manufacturers have put out warnings and are using them to void car warranties. Note that your owner's manual will indicate the maximum recommended ethanol content.

Since ethanol contains about two-thirds as much energy as "pure" non-ethanol gasoline, vehicles will experience approximately 3% to 4% fewer mpg on E10 and 4% to 5% fewer mpg on E15 than on 100% pure gasoline, so sez' the E.P.A. (although we all know their new vehicle mpg ratings have not been very trustworthy in reality). Reports of 6% to 10% mileage drops by owners have been reported according to "Road & Track Magazine" but then again, it's conceded many factors cause accurate mpg checking to be difficult.

Important fact here: Ethanol is hygroscopic – that is, it aggressively attracts and absorbs water including water from the air. When ethanol absorbs enough water, contamination can occur in the gas tank and affect engine performance. One of the reasons fuel stabilizer additives (such as *Sta-Bil*) are strongly recommended for vehicle winter storage is that long-term storage can cause fuel separation if you use ethanol gasoline and if the engine sucks in the H2O layer, guess what? Not a good thing. Best to winter-store or long-term store your Miata with a tankful of non-ethanol gas. I also add *Stab-Bil Storage Fuel Stabilizer Fuel Treatment* additive, just in case.

Another fact: Ethanol is alcohol and alcohol can cause corrosion in the fuel system especially in older cars, marine engines, lawn movers and such. Metal parts rust and plastic parts become deformed or cracked.

**“...But It's All Over Now”**

**Are There ANY Benefits to Using Ethanol-Blended Gasoline? Well.....**

Okay, I'll try to be unbiased here with some additional facts and a few personal caveats. Sorry, I can't help it. I've given you my opinions and you all know what opinions are worth. The decision is yours. *Scarlet* and me are going to remain “pure.” I'm sticking with non-ethanol high-test when I can find it.

- Ethanol is a renewable source. There's a debate about how much water and energy it takes to produce ethanol and there's the ethics of using a food source for fuel causing higher prices for corn world-wide.
- Ethanol gas has a higher octane rating so it supports a higher compression ratio and more aggressive ignition timing (yes, but your mpg will suffer).
- Ethanol makes good racing fuel. (NASCAR is running E85, a good politically astute decision, but interestingly, it does make a difference in fire suppression on the racetrack).
- Ethanol is said to reduce gasoline consumption for reductions in greenhouse gasses and less dependance on imported oil (The U.S. is no longer dependent on oil imports).
- If your knock sensors are functioning, then 87-octane shouldn't be a problem. The engine will detect knock from the 87-octane gas and will retard the ignition timing automatically, reducing the effective compression of the engine, giving you less power per stroke but keeping the engine protected from pre-detonation.

• **THE WENCH'S ADMITTEDLY SUBJECTIVE SUMMARY:**

I believe it's better to use 91 or 93-non-ethanol fuel in 2006+ Miata's but 87-ethanol won't hurt it if the knock sensors are functioning. If they stop working, you should get a check engine light. If you have a check engine light and you don't know why, I suggest not using anything below 91-octane. And, again, 87-octane is the fuel of choice and okay for earlier Miata's up to 2005.

I hope you enjoyed this article and don't forget to wave to your fellow Miata/MX5's when you pass them on the highway!

Zoom-Zoom and Drive Safely,  
Gail, *Honky-Tonk Woman*

*DISCLAIMER*

*Please note these tips and opinions are not reviewed or approved by the Mazda Motor Corporation or Moss Motors/Moss Miata any other corporation or entity other than the originator. Nor do these entities accept any liability for damage or injury because of utilizing these tips and pointers. Please use common sense and always remember safety first.*

## For Sale .....

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 the information to Lisa Cantone at [lisacantone@gmail.com](mailto:lisacantone@gmail.com). If you want your ad to be on the website, send the information to Lee Maddy at [mrmiataman@yahoo.com](mailto:mrmiataman@yahoo.com). Include a heading, description, your name and contact information (phone, email, address), price, and a photo or two.

## Looking for a **NEW** or **PREOWNED** Miata?

If you are considering another vehicle I have a \$500.00 voucher available for any vehicle purchased at Bob Johnson Mazda. Call me at 585-704-9940. - Chuck Rischenole

## Chrome Style Bar Covers by IL Motorsport

They can be seen at [MossMiata.com](http://MossMiata.com) for the 2006-2015 NC, and are listed for \$114.99 plus shipping. They are Moss part #904-515. They install with double-sided tape; just peel and stick. These were only used a couple of years and are in very good condition, perfect from one to two yards. Big mark down - \$50.00. Contact: David King, [doeskygato@aol.com](mailto:doeskygato@aol.com), 585-377-6461, Penfield.

## 2001 Mazda Miata LS

### Approximately 70,000 Original Miles

- ★**Engine:** 1.8-liter DOHC inline-four engine with 142 horsepower and 125 ft-lb of torque
  - ★**Transmission:** 6-speed manual transmission with a limited-slip differential
  - ★**Wheels:** 16-inch wheels
  - ★**Safety:** Dual front air bags, passenger side deactivation switch, four-wheel disc brakes, seatbelt pre tensioners, and engine immobilizer
  - ★**Comfort:** Leather seating, glass rear window with defroster, and cruise control
  - ★**Audio:** AM/FM Bose audio system with CD
  - ★**Other features:** Power windows, door locks, and mirrors, remote keyless entry, and fog lights
- Asking \$9,500 (negotiable).**

Email Elena at [EleMiata2001@gmail.com](mailto:EleMiata2001@gmail.com)



## Kenwood TK-3200 (LMR) UHF radio

The opportunity to be more in-the-loop during your next club drive! Kenwood TK-3200 (LMR) UHF radio with Li-Po battery pack, charger and operating manual. Like new condition. Club frequency pre-set on Channel-1. Thoroughly tested and ready to go, \$75.00 (plus shipping if necessary). Contact: Bill Lowe, 585-865-6158 or [blowe0542@gmail.com](mailto:blowe0542@gmail.com).



## Flyin' Miata Gas Pedal Extension

\$20 plus \$10 Shipping & Handling. Will deliver to a club event. Contact: Bill Krause, [WillRevRacing@yahoo.com](mailto:WillRevRacing@yahoo.com), 315-952-2319



## Set of 4 wheels and tires from a 2025 MX-5 Grand Touring

\$1000 O.B.O. Expected delivery March/April 2025. Local pickup only Liverpool N.Y. Contact: Bill Krause [WillRevRacing@yahoo.com](mailto:WillRevRacing@yahoo.com) 315-952-2319



## Miata ND3 Jinba Ittai License Plate Frame

Aluminum with white primer, yellow face and blue letters. \$20.00, \$10 Shipping & Handling each. Will deliver to a club event. Contact: Bill Krause, [WillRevRacing@yahoo.com](mailto:WillRevRacing@yahoo.com), 315-952-2319.





## Member Stories . . . . .

Are you interested in telling your story? Club members have many interests. We are always interested in learning about things that you are doing. I know that there are many great stories out there! Send it along to Lisa Cantone at [lisacantone@gmail.com](mailto:lisacantone@gmail.com).

- Any interesting Miata story
- Your favorite route
- A trip that lasted a week or more
- An upgrade that improved your Miata
- Your other car (toy)
- A repair you did
- How you volunteer your time
- Other hobbies or interests you have

***Let's put our thinking caps on and start writing a piece!***

## Leadership Team . . . . .

President	Karen McKissock	585-820-6010	<a href="mailto:kmckiss1948@gmail.com">kmckiss1948@gmail.com</a>
Vice President	Jay Cartini	315-430-3014	<a href="mailto:JPCartini@aol.com">JPCartini@aol.com</a>
Treasurer	Bev Wike	607-761-3483	<a href="mailto:bkwike@stny.rr.com">bkwike@stny.rr.com</a>
Secretary	Miriam White	315-637-0472	<a href="mailto:white.miriam@yahoo.com">white.miriam@yahoo.com</a>
Membership	Kevin Smith	315-420-3823	<a href="mailto:ksmith03@twcnny.rr.com">ksmith03@twcnny.rr.com</a>
Newsletter	Lisa Cantone	607-592-4367	<a href="mailto:lisacantone@gmail.com">lisacantone@gmail.com</a>
Webmaster	Lee Maddy	315-637-0472	<a href="mailto:mrmiataman@yahoo.com">mrmiataman@yahoo.com</a>
YouTube Coordinator	Bill Lowe	585-305-4410	<a href="mailto:blowe0542@gmail.com">blowe0542@gmail.com</a>
Facebook Administrator	Elisha Kasinskas	585-737-5425	<a href="mailto:ekasinskas@hotmail.com">ekasinskas@hotmail.com</a>
Past President	Ray Mosher	315-935-6281	<a href="mailto:mosherrskL@yahoo.com">mosherrskL@yahoo.com</a>
Area Rep - Syracuse	Dale Nagel	315-677-9342	<a href="mailto:dalen262@aol.com">dalen262@aol.com</a>
Area Rep - Binghamton	Barb Hunsinger	607-785-5459	<a href="mailto:bhunsin928@aol.com">bhunsin928@aol.com</a>
Area Rep - Rochester	Nancy Lowe	585-305-4410	<a href="mailto:nanlowe53@gmail.com">nanlowe53@gmail.com</a>
Area Rep - Ithaca	Gail Wagner	607-257-7445	<a href="mailto:gwtr3red@gmail.com">gwtr3red@gmail.com</a>

# Club Information . . . . .

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

**Favorite Car Shops, Part Stores, Service Centers, and Stuff:** The list is [here](#). Send additions and updates to **Karen McKissock for the near future**.

**Deadlines:** Submissions for the newsletter are due on the 24th of each month.

**Events:** When advertising your event, include details! Write it as an advertisement and remember to include that date, and rain date if applicable, deadlines, the meeting location, including address, 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 Brochure](#); it is a trifold with Club information and an application form. There is a short form for returning members.

**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 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 standing next to their Miata/ MX-5s.

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