

MIDSTATE MIATA CLUB OF NY “MIATA MEANDERINGS” NEWSLETTER

Volume 2, issue 1

WELCOME TO THE MMC OF NY FEBRUARY 2018 NEWSLETTER

Today's news includes:

- ✓ President's letter
- ✓ Planning meeting note from Jay
- ✓ Upcoming event details
- ✓ Newsletter article due dates
- ✓ Ice cream schedules
- ✓ Schedule of events for this season

PRESIDENT'S LETTER



Note from Ray Mosher

As I write this, I'm on a ski vacation in Utah. It's hard to think about topless driving when the weather is more appropriate for four-wheel drive and heated seats. But we have already had a successful planning meeting which resulted in what I think is a great driving season planned. Thanks to all of you who had inputs. Some are favorites from previous years and some are new adventures. Please look at the events and put them on your planning calendar. If you have not already done so, please don't forget to send your dues into Ronnie. It won't be long before the snow is gone and we are motoring in the sunshine!

Ray Mosher
MMC President



Visit the Midstate Miata Club
on the Internet at:

www.midstatemiata.net

REMINDER FOR HOW TO RESPOND TO EVENT ATTENDANCE

To help streamline communications for gathering who is attending our events we will require members to contact **the Event Coordinator directly AND copy your Area Rep** to help them plan for caravans from your area. You will **only need to respond if you are planning to attend**, but if you need to cancel last minute you still need to let both parties so they don't hold up the ride waiting for you. Please pay close attention to the contact info and deadlines.

Event Etiquette

If you have RSVP'd for an event, the event organizer is likely expecting you to attend and will wonder where you are if you fail to show up at the appointed time and place. If you end up not being able to attend, please let the organizer know. Otherwise, the whole group may be

unnecessarily delayed waiting for you and it adds undue stress on the poor soul who is running the event. Also, if you contact the organizer on the day of the event, please don't use an email, use a direct phone call or text message. Thanks.

SPECIAL REMINDERS

1. ***Don't forget to get your 2018 membership dues to Ronnie Sabella at:***
401 Swansea Avenue, Syracuse, NY 13206
2. All members are reminded to watch our club website for updates throughout the year. There are Classified/For Sale items, calendar and updates, old newsletters, photos and more. You can find the website at:
<http://www.midstatemiata.net/>

HELP WANTED

Gail Wagner has suggested we have a 25th Anniversary party for our club to celebrate similar to the 20th Anniversary we did 5 years ago (which was a big hit). We are looking for volunteers to participate on a planning committee to help pull together a weekend event for this year. If you are interested in helping, please contact Gail at gwtr3red@gmail.com or me at kmckiss1948@gmail.com. We will be contacting the Geneva Country Club to find out their availability while we await your response.

FEBRUARY EVENT REPORT

2018 ANNUAL PLANNING MEETING

And it's Done! **By Jay Cartini**

I would like to thank everyone that submitted events and ideas and those that braved the elements and came out to help plan the 2018 driving season.

In addition to the planning meeting we had our annual club meeting in which a variety of topics were discussed. One of which is perhaps changing the planning meeting to the end of March. Even though we have been attending opening day at Watkins Glen which is normally in the 2nd weekend April, we didn't feel this would cause an issue with people's schedules. In addition, an idea was made to make the planning meeting a complete breakfast in the AM, then simply power through everything until we're done. Currently we do a continental breakfast, start the meeting, break for lunch, then finish the meeting. Either way would take the same amount of planning time, but the latter could reduce the overall meeting time in the long run.

Since the planning meeting a few more events have been added to the schedule for your driving pleasure. Please review the "event and teaser" list to make sure you have the most updated club calendar out there. The event listing is also posted on the website for easy reference as well.

Just in case anyone forgot.....*BLUE (& YELLOW) are faster!!!*

THERE ARE NO MARCH EVENTS PLANNED



NEWSLETTER DEADLINES

Event Coordinators should be prepared to submit their information per the schedule above in order to publish the newsletter in a timely fashion. Thanks!!!

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Coordinator</u>	<u>Pre-event article due date</u>	<u>Post event report due date</u>
15-Apr	Opening Day at Watkins Glen	Gail Wagner	3/1	4/24
12-May	DeWitt Rotary Pancake Breakfast	Jim Williams	3/15	5/26
2-Jun	Marcellus Ole Home Parade	Chuck Paul	4/26	6/23
10-Jun	Ride under and on the Erie Canal	Karen McKissock	4/26	6/23
16-Jun	Museum at Bethel Woods	Lou & Carol Trelease	4/26	6/23
17-Jun	MG Car Show	Bob Sabella	4/26	6/23
21-Jun	Run to Rudy's	Steve Bellenbacher	4/26	6/23
30-Jun	Bonnie Castle Car Show		4/26	6/23
8-Jul	Pancakes and Planes	Steve Bollenbacher	5/26	21-Jul
14-Jul	Finger Lakes	Dale Nagel	5/26	21-Jul
	Steamers		5/26	21-Jul
18-Jul	Log Cabin Car Show	Chuck Rischenole	5/26	21-Jul
22-Jul	Golf Outing	Dale Nagel	5/26	25-Jul

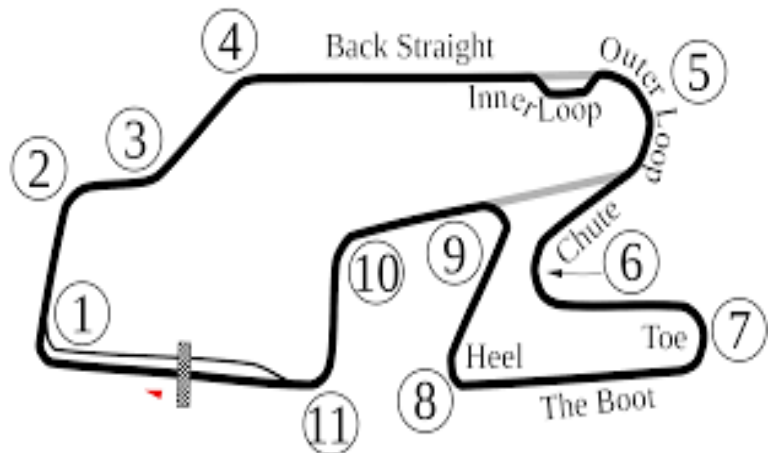
28-Jul	Middlesex Dinner	Chuck Rischenole	5/26	29-Jul
5-Aug	Club Picnic	Karen Abbott	6/23	8/25
12-Aug	Skaneateles Polo	Chuck Paul	6/23	8/25
25-Aug	Wolf Mountain	Jerry Willis	6/23	8/27
7-Sep	Watkins Glen Vintage Weekend	Ray Mosher	7/21	9/24
15-Sep	Palmyra Parade	Chuck Rischenole	7/21	9/24
23-Sep	Apple Crawl	Lee Maddy	7/21	9/26
30-Sep	Road Rally	Ray Mosher	7/21	10/1
6-Oct	Fall Foliage Run	John Piston	8/21	10/20
2-Dec	Holiday Party	John Piston	9/24	n/a
TBD	Spragues with the Niagara Club	Chuck Rischenole	ASAP	
TBD	Miata Mamas	Gail Wagner	ASAP	

APRIL EVENTS

WATKINS GLEN OPENING DAY

SUNDAY, APRIL 15

EVENT COORDINATOR -Gail Wagner and Steve Wilson



Do you have a secret desire to be a race car driver? Would you like to experience what it's like to drive around Watkins Glen race track? Woo-hoo! Here's your chance!

This is a rain or shine event: We will all meet at the Watkins Glen WalMart (515 E. 4th St.) at 10:15 a.m. on Sunday, April 15th. We will then proceed promptly at 10:30 a.m. to the Watkins Glen International Race Track Gate #3 (NOT main gate) at 2790 County Road 16) for car staging, individual signing of track liability waiver, cash payment of \$25.00 (CASH ONLY) for 3 laps* for our reserved "go" time of 11:30 a.m. (You may pay for additional \$25/3 laps, if desired.)

Our group track reserved time at 11:30 a.m. will take approximately 20 minutes behind a WGI pace car. We have been allotted a specific time for our group so we will need to be at Gate#3 and staged, paid and signed off or you snooze/you lose. **Important:** We will not be able to wait for latecomers or we will lose our reserved time slot.

*After our run, you are welcome to get back in line on your own for another \$25/3 laps and/or have lunch on your own and/or leave at your convenience.

VERY IMPORTANT: **Please try to line up with us at the track with “spirited” drivers at the front of the line and slower drivers at the rear so everyone may enjoy the track experience at their own pace,** although the track’s pace car lead pace was pretty slow last year.

Tip: You may want to read Gail’s TECH article on our Miata Club webpage “So You Wanna’ Be a Race Car Driver” before this event or check out YouTube videos of Watkins Glen International that explain how to approach each turn like a pro.)

***** Area Reps may want to lead their respective groups to the 10:15 a.m. WalMart rendezvous (please bring your two-way radios) or you can meet us there on your own.**

This is a thrilling and fun annual event. We hope you can make it!

ICE CREAM NIGHTS 2018



MMC ICE CREAM SCHEDULE, SYRACUSE

KAREN ABBOTT

Monthly: 2nd & 4th Thursdays @ 7:00pm

May 10- at 6:30 today- Heid’s Sweet Treats, 305 Oswego St, Liverpool (inside seating)

May 24- Gannon’s Isle, 1525 Valley Drive, Syracuse (inside seating)

June 14- Kenny’s Corner Ice Cream, 7575 Buckley Rd, No Syracuse, NY

June 28- Plank Road Ice Cream, 449 So Main St, No Syracuse

July 12- Pete’s Polar Parlor, 3345 Milton Ave, Solvay

July 26- North Pole Ice Cream, 620 E Genesee St, Chittenango (parking in back)

August 9- Sno Top, 315 Fayette St, Manlius

August 23- Vicki’s Tasty Treat, 680 Old Liverpool Rd, Liverpool

September 13- Big Dip, 216 No Main Street, No Syracuse

September 27- Carvel Ice Cream, 4322 E Genesee St, Dewitt (inside seating-park in Tops Grocery lot)

OCTOBER 11- AT 6:30 TODAY- SWEET FROG, FAYETTEVILLE TOWNE CENTER, FAYETTEVILLE (INSIDE SEATING)

MMC ICE CREAM SCHEDULE, ITHACA

GAIL WAGNER

Monthly: 1st Thursday of each month@ 7:00pm

Ithaca, proudly "centrally isolated"! 2018 Monthly Ithaca Ice Cream Night begins May 2018 on the first Thursday of each month at 7:00 p.m. at hometown Purity Ice Cream, corner [700 Cascadilla St./Meadow St. \(Route 13\)](#) in Ithaca. Please park behind the I.D. Booth Plumbing and/Heating Supply Company building on Cascadilla St. as we have in the past. (Questions: Gail Wagner, Ithaca-area Rep, gwtr3red@gmail.com). All are cordially welcome!

Dates: May 3, June 7, July 5, August 2, September 6, October 4

MMC ICE CREAM SCHEDULE, ROCHESTER

CHUCK RISCHENOLE

To be announced soon

MMC ICE CREAM SCHEDULE, BINGHAMTON -2018

BARB HUNSINGER

TIME: 6:30

Monday - May 7 - Pop's Sugar Shack , [589 Conklin Rd, Binghamton, NY](#)

Wednesday, May 23 - Big Dipper, 6935 Vestal Pkwy, Apalachin, NY

Monday - June 4 - Tastie Cream - [2021 Vestal Pkwy, Vestal, NY](#)

Wednesday - June 20 - Jones Humdingers, [1441 Front street, Binghamton, NY](#)

Monday - July 2 - Pop's Sugar Shack - [589 Conklin Rd, Binghamton, NY](#)

Wednesday - July 18 - Ice Cream Works - North Ave, Owego, NY (between Talcott & George St)

Monday - August 6 - Tastie Cream - [2021 Vestal Pkwy, Vestal, NY](#)

Wednesday - August 22 - School House Creamery - [17 Fox Farm Rd, Windsor, NY](#) Exit 77

Tuesday - September 4 - Pop's Sugar Shack - [589 Conklin Rd, Binghamton, NY](#)

Wednesday - September 26 - Suzy Q, Chenango St, Hillcrest, NY

TECHNICAL TIPS – ‘WENCH WITH A WRENCH’



By Gail Wagner

Back in Action 2018 - Bringing Your Baby Back Out of Storage

Hi, Miata Folks,

Yes, that's really me under there. Here's the annual quick but important "labor of love" checklist to consider when you're ready to bring your Miata out of storage this spring. This is a duplicate article I run every year in our first newsletter. I hope you find it useful either as a new MCC member or new Miata owner. In either case, congratulations!

Let's hope it's another early, warm, dry spring!

- Check your NYS inspection sticker for 2018 inspection date and jot it down on a calendar or your mobile device as a reminder. Somehow, I'm always running late on this.
- Check under the hood for evidence of hungry rodents, as in chewed belts, hoses, wires or nests. They seem to love to snack on wiring insulation and can do some serious damage. Even so, hoses can crack or dry out on their own without the assistance of little furry critters. Also check for any loose wiring or loose connections while you're under there.
- Reconnect the battery, if applicable, and make sure battery terminals are clean. Tip: If corroded with white crumbly stuff, make a thick paste of baking soda and water and remove the offending gunk with an old toothbrush. Dab some plain old Vaseline on the clean terminal before reconnecting to prevent corrosion.
- Check your spark plug wires (if you have them. Newer models have "coil packs" and not traditional spark plug wires.) Are they old, cracked, funky-looking? Time to replace.
- Check all fluid levels to make sure there are no leaks and they're at the recommended levels. This includes fuel, brake fluid/clutch fluid, coolant, battery (if applicable), automatic transmission fluid (if applicable) and motor oil. Check your plastic drop sheet if you put one under the car to make sure there are no puddles of lost fluid! If there is, find the source and correct the problem.
- It's also a good time to check your owner's manual based on your vehicle's mileage to see if any fluids, spark plugs, air cleaners, etc. need checking or replacement and do it.
- If you've covered or packed the muffler or air intake to prevent furry invaders, remove all the material before you start the car or you won't be able to start it and you'll wonder why! You don't want a "duh moment", do you? ☺
- Check your windshield wipers to see if they are brittle or cracked and need replacement.
- Check COLD tire pressure (after you lower it off the jack stands, if applicable) and inflate or deflate to the recommended pressure located on a sticker inside the driver side door or owner's manual and....
- Inspect your tires carefully for any cracks, cuts or scrapes in the sidewalls or between tread rows. Check tire tread and replace if necessary. I love "www.tirerack.com" for tire recommendations and on-line purchases. Do the Lincoln "penny test" by inserting a Lincoln penny upside down into the tread. If you can see the top of Mr. Lincoln's head, your tread is too worn less than legal 3/32" and needs immediate replacement.
- IMPORTANT: Even if the tire tread looks acceptable, check the tire manufacturer date on the outside of the tire. Tires over 5-6 years should be replaced due to interior degradation. Your tires could be extremely unsafe at any speed. (Read my column on "Tires 101" on the Miata website.)
- If you are mechanically inclined and a stickler for detail, you may want to consider lubing your cylinders with a few drops of motor oil before starting the engine for the first time BUT you'll have to temporarily remove your spark plugs to do so. (Warning: Removing spark plugs is a bit tricky if you're not familiar and you'll need a few special tools but it's not that hard, especially if I can do it.
- Check the brakes. There may be some rust on the rotors and you may hear some squeaks or squeals during your first outing but this should dissipate after driving for a short time. If it doesn't... well, time to see your friendly

mechanic or D.Y.I. It's always a good idea anyway to pull the wheels and check your brake pad thickness for possible replacement. Hopefully, you didn't leave the parking brake on during storage and seized the brakes. 😊

- Check the check list you may have left on the steering wheel (recommended in my "Winter Storage Tips" column) to see if there are any leftover maintenance issues that you need to address now before serious driving season.
- Wash your vehicle thoroughly to remove accumulated dirt and dust and use a good convertible top cleaner/reconditioner/waterproofing. I like *RaggTopp* products. (My personally recommended OCD detailing/washing instructions are located on our website.
- Important: Be sure to change your oil and oil filter as soon as possible - I know, I know - even though you may have changed it prior to storage. It's all about moisture in your crankcase and you want to limit rust and corrosion as much as possible especially if your Baby is "mature". As I suggested in previous columns, I highly recommend an OEM (original manufacturer's equipment) Mazda oil filter and some good brand-name motor oil to your mechanic to change for you or, if you're a masochist like me, do it yourself (see above picture!). You can use regular petroleum-based old-fashioned motor oil (I like Castrol GTX) but I have recently switched to 100% synthetic motor oil (Mobil One or Redline). Just don't combine the two types of oil together. Additional Tip: when you check your oil fluid level, check your dip stick for any white liquid residue on the top of the stick which would indicate moisture in the motor oil (definitely not good) and change the oil and filter immediately.
- AND FINALLY, before you commit to a long drive, consider a twenty-minute test drive around the block and at highway speed to make sure there are no remaining problems: Does the car pull to one side when braking? Does the brake pedal "fade"? Does the clutch pedal feel correct or goes to the floor too easily? Can you hear a miss in the ignition or a backfire? Are any belts squeaking? How's the oil pressure? How's the engine temperature? How's the steering - lose and wandering?

As always, I welcome your comments and suggestions at: gwtr3red@gmail.com.

The bottom line: The better you take care of your Miata, the better it will take care of you.

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!

EVENT SCHEDULE WITH TEASERS (MORE DETAILS TO FOLLOW NEARER THE EVENTS)

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Coordinator</u>	<u>Teaser (more details to follow)</u>
15-Apr	Opening Day at Watkins Glen	Gail Wagner	An annual MMC tradition. Play race car driver for the day around the historic race track.
12-May	DeWitt Rotary Pancake Breakfast	Jim Williams	Breakfast followed by a drive ending with ice cream.

2-Jun	Marcellus Ole Home Parade	Chuck Paul	One of our largest events with nearly 40 cars along a parade route followed by a stop at the park where you can eat sausage sandwiches, go on a beautiful countryside ride, followed by a traditional ice cream stop.
10-Jun	Ride under and on the Erie Canal	Karen McKissock	Ride through a culvert under the Erie Canal, then have lunch and a boat ride on the canal starting in Fairport through several locks.
16-Jun	Museum at Bethel Woods	Lou & Carol Trelease	The museum contains exhibits telling the story of the 1969 Woodstock Festival with a picturesque ride followed by lunch (at the site of the festival). Ride begins in Windsor NY
17-Jun	MG Car Show	Bob Sabella	European Car Show @ the Lorenzo Estate in Cazenovia
21-Jun	Run to Rudy's	Steve Bellenbacher	Drive up to Rudy's restaurant located on Lake Ontario in Oswego.
30-Jun	Bonnie Castle Car Show		Car show with free admission to benefit Children's Miracle Network Hospital in Alexandria Bay
8-Jul	Pancakes and Planes	Steve Bollenbacher	A short drive up to the Oswego County airport in Fulton to look at planes and participate in their pancake breakfast
14-Jul	Finger Lakes Steamers	Dale Nagel	Scaled down little trains that you can ride along a prepared track.
18-Jul	Log Cabin Car Show	Chuck Rischenole	Special parking @ the weekly car show. Fun, food and prizes available. Over 600 cars average along with numerous motorcycles.
22-Jul	Golf Outing	Dale Nagel	Details to follow.
28-Jul	Middlesex Dinner	Chuck Rischenole	Scenic drive to Middlesex to participate in their family style roast beef dinner. Ice cream afterwards.

5-Aug	Club Picnic	Karen Abbott	Come on out for a casual drive and then a club picnic in the beautiful Finger Lakes region. Each area will enjoy a scenic drive to get to Fillmore Glen State Park where we will have a rented an enclosed Pavilion with 2 refrigerators and electrical outlets. This will be a BYO picnic. Bring what you want to grill, and a dish to pass. It will be a nice opportunity to take a few hours to catch up with friends in the club, and get to know others you may not have met yet. With over 160 cars in the club we are never all together at one time. After our picnic, maybe we can even stop for ice cream. Look for more info in the upcoming newsletters, and mark your calendar so you don't miss it.
12-Aug	Skaneateles Polo	Chuck Paul	A cool drive, Bob's BBQ with a picnic at the field and a professional polo match.
25-Aug	Wolf Mountain	Jerry Willis	A scenic drive out to Hamilton for eary dinner at the Good Nature Farm Brewery then on to Wolf Mtn to get up close and personal with some wolves
7-Sep	Watkins Glen Vintage weekend	Ray Mosher	Info only. Contact Ray directly. Check the Glen's website for more information.
15-Sep	Palmyra Parade	Chuck Rischenole	Drive to Palmyra for lunch and participaton in their annual parade, then off the Canandaigua for ice cream.
23-Sep	Apple Crawl	Lee Maddy	Help determine which orchard makes the best fritter with a short, but magical ride through LaFayette NY
30-Sep	Road Rally	Ray Mosher	Try your luck and skill at one of the premier auto experiences in CNY. Bragging rights and a trophy are up for grabs
6-Oct	Fall Foliage Run	John Piston	A scenic trip through the Adirondaks.
2-Dec	Holiday Party	John Piston	The Point and Sand Beach in Auburn

TBD	Spragues with the Niagara Club	Chuck Rischenole	2nd year for a drive to Sprague's for lunch and ice cream at Colby's in Rush afterwards.
TBD	Miata Mamas	Gail Wagner	LADIES ONLY-drive to Elderberry Pond Farm and Restaurant.

MMC Leadership team

OFFICE	NAME	PHONE	E-MAIL
President	Ray Mosher	315-635-2584	mosherrscl@yahoo.com
Vice President	Rosemary DeHoog	315-446-3317	rdehoog@twcny.rr.com
Secretary	Miriam White	315-637-0472	white.miriam@yahoo.com
Treasurer	Ronnie Sabella	315-463-9643	ronnievs@twcny.rr.com
Past President	Karen McKissock	585-820-6010	kmckiss1948@gmail.com

ROLE	NAME	PHONE	E-MAIL
Membership/Historian	Bob Sabella	315-463-9643	rsabella@twcny.rr.com
Activities Chair	Jay Cartini	315-676-4776	JPCartini@aol.com
Webmaster	Lee Maddy	315-637-0472	mrmiataman@yahoo.com
Area Rep/Syr	Karen Abbott	315-299-6880	KLDAbbott@hotmail.com
Area Rep/Syr	John Piston	315-415-5770	efrog22@gmail.com
Area Rep/Roch	Steve Stewart	585-5869152	sastew1943@gmail.com
Area Rep/S Tier	Barb Hunsinger	607-785-5459	bhunsin928@aol.com
Area Rep/Ithaca	Gail Wagner	607-257-7445	gwtr3red@gmail.com
Newsletter	Karen McKissock	585-820-6010	kmckiss1948@gmail.com

THANKS TO OUR LOCAL DEALERS

BURDICK MAZDA

ONTARIO MAZDA

DICK IDE MAZDA

ROMANO MAZDA

MARKETPLACE MAZDA

WEST RIDGE MAZDA

MATTHEWS MAZDA