

MIDSTATE MIATA CLUB OF NY “MIATA MEANDERINGS” NEWSLETTER

Volume 1, issue 4

WELCOME TO THE MMC OF NY JULY NEWSLETTER

Today's news includes:

- ✓ President's letter
- ✓ Upcoming July/August event details
- ✓ Post event reports
- ✓ Wench with a Wrench
- ✓ 'Refrigerator/Quick Reference' Event List
- ✓ Teaser list of Events

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Note from Ray Mosher

I'm writing this while on a camping vacation in Newfoundland. It's been a great trip. We've seen more sea ice and icebergs than I would have thought possible in June. In almost two weeks I've seen only four Miatas. No big surprise there as there has only been one day that I would even consider as Miata weather (it went below freezing the last two nights).

Being here has actually made me appreciate our weather. We get enough of a driving season to make it worthwhile to have such a car. But we also have six months of down time to enjoy other things that make us appreciate our driving season. So here's to the CNY summer driving season and the rest of the year to wait until the next one!

Ray Mosher
MMC President

A SPECIAL NOTE OF CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR VICE PRESIDENT,
ROSEMARY DEHOOG FROM MARY HUNTINGTON:

GRAND LADY AND MIDSTATE MIATA CLUB FOUNDER RECEIVES DISTINGUISHED AWARD

Rosemary DeHoog, VP of Midstate Miata Club, was honored June 3rd in Muskegan, MI with an induction into the Sports Hall of Fame. Her family from around the country attended her event. We are so proud of you Rosemary.



Visit the Midstate Miata
Club on the Internet at:
www.midstatemiata.net

CHANGES 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.

JULY EVENTS



MIDSTATE MIATA CLUB PICNIC

SUNDAY, JULY 16 (date change)

Event coordinator: Karen & Norm Abbott and Gerry & Mary Ann Knight

TIME: 12:00 NOON-??

WHERE: FILLMORE GLEN STATE PARK 1686 STATE ROUTE 38 MORAVIA, NY 13118

PRICE: \$7.00 PER CAR STATE PARKING FEE

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The MMC has paid to rent a pavilion for our club picnic, so we will be using the Fillmore Room and have access to 2 refrigerators, power outlets, and bathrooms for our convenience. The room is enclosed with tables and chairs and also outdoor picnic tables so we should be quite comfortable rain or shine. This is a State Park so there is a parking fee, plus swimming and hiking available.

Each area can coordinate plans for a caravan to reach the park, and there is an ice cream stand we can stop at when we leave if so desired.

The MMC will provide charcoal, aluminum foil, utensils, paper plates, plastic ware, napkins, and tablecloths. **Members are asked to bring their own food to grill, drinks and a dish to pass. Please bring your items in a grocery bag you can use to put your trash in to take home. State Parks require you to take your trash with you.** Also consider a blanket or beach towel to put on the picnic table bench if you so choose. The dish to pass can be family size; it does not need to feed the whole group. Because we do have access to refrigerators, we should be good with all kinds of food options. Beer and wine are allowed.

Suggestions are: Hamburgers, hot dogs, chicken, steak, grilled panini, crock pot food, macaroni salad, potato salad, coleslaw, baked beans, watermelon, jello salads, fruit salad, fruit tray, veggie tray & dip, potato chips/dip, chips/salsa, cheese/crackers/pepperoni, appetizers, cookies, cakes, pies, brownies, homemade treats. *Be creative, one year we had way too many brownies.*

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***No RSVP Required***

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## WAGNER WINERY DINNER & OLDIES NIGHT

FRIDAY, JULY 21<sup>S</sup>

Event Coordinator: Gail Wagner & Steve Wilson

Get out your white bucks, saddle shoes, bell bottoms and leisure suits and join us at Wagner's (Winery) Brew Pub for (optional on-your-own) barbeque dinner, (chicken, fish or ribs dinner), good local beer and live 50's, 60's 70's good-time, toe-tapping music by "The Tarps", a well-known local Ithaca oldies cover band that includes our own Miata Club member, Steve Ungberg on keyboards.

All Miata folks are invited to meet us at Ithaca Home Depot, 410 Elmira Road (Route 13) parking lot at 4:45 p.m. for a prompt 5:00 p.m. caravan departure via very twisty scenic backroads to Wagner Vineyards/Wagner Valley Brewing Company, 9322 Route 414-North on (east) Seneca Lake in Lodi or meet us at the Brew Pub by 6:00 p.m.

Food/drink will be on your own. Dinner is served 6:00-8:00 p.m. and music begins at 7:00 p.m. -10:00 p.m. There is also a \$3.00 cover charge for admittance. Leave on your own.

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***No RSVP Required Rain or shine event***

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## FINGER LAKES CHEESE FESTIVAL

SATURDAY, JULY 22<sup>nd</sup>

Event Coordinators - Lou & Carol Trelease

The Finger Lakes Cheese Festival takes place at the Sunset View Creamery in Odessa, NY on Saturday July 22, 10 AM to 5 PM. In addition to being able to taste and buy artisanal cheeses from the many Finger Lakes cheese makers, there will be tastings of beer, wine and cider. There will be vendors of homemade jams & jellies, baked goods, salsas, vegetables, and cheese related items; live music all day, and food for every palate. A self-guided tour of the farm and hay rides are available.

There is an entry charge of \$8 per person at the door. Advance tickets are on sale for \$5 on the website [www.flcheesetrail.com](http://www.flcheesetrail.com).

The Southern Tier chapter will caravan to Odessa from Vestal. Meet in the parking lot near the Big Lots at the Four Corners in Vestal. Be there no later than 9 AM. Please contact us if you plan to join us by Thursday, July 20. Any club members from other areas are welcome to meet us at the Festival.

Since the Festival is outdoors, this is a **SHINE ONLY** event.

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**Contact Lou & Carol Trelease by Thurs. July 20 SHINE ONLY**

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**LOG CABIN CAR SHOW & BBQ**

**WEDNESDAY JULY 26<sup>TH</sup>**

**RAIN DATE AUG. 9<sup>TH</sup>**

Event Coordinator: Ron McKissock

The Log Cabin Restaurant in Macedon is hosting its Wednesday night car show with over 500 cars and 200 motorcycles attending. We have reserved parking available to club members who wish to attend. Food is available in the restaurant and outside picnic area. Please let Ron know if you will be attending as we need a count to reserve parking no later than Monday, July 24th. **This is a NON-RAIN event.** Check out the Cruise night video: <https://www.logcabinny.com/cruze-night>

Watch the website for updates in inclement weather. The Syracuse Area will meet for a 3:30pm departure from the Doubletree Hotel at Carrier Circle. We will then drive to the Log Cabin.

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***No RSVP Required***

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## **AUGUST EVENTS**

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**POLO MATCH AND TAILGATE PARTY**

**SUNDAY, AUGUST 13**

EVENT COORDINATOR -Chuck and Mary Jo Paul

### **KEEP YOUR EYE ON THE BALL**

#### **KEEP YOUR EYE ON THE BALL**

Sunday, August 20<sup>th</sup> we will once again visit the Skaneateles Polo grounds for action packed polo complete with international stars and sometimes celebrity players.

We will meet at Bob's Barbecue on Route 281 in Little York between 1:00 and 1:30 to obtain food and either eat it there or bring it along to enjoy at the field. WE WILL DEPART PROMPTLY AT 1:30 for a leisurely ride to the field. The actual match starts at 3 but we need to arrive early to guarantee contiguous seating for our group. In the past many have brought food or drink to share but that is purely at your discretion.

The match lasts about 2 hours with breaks to replace divots (make sure it's a divot before you step on it.)

More information is available at the Skaneateles polo website or by calling Chuck Paul at 315 673-4432 (315 378-6018 from 12 noon day of event).

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***No RSVP Required***

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## **MIDDLESEX FAMILY STYLE ROAST BEEF DINNER**

**SATURDAY, AUGUST 26**

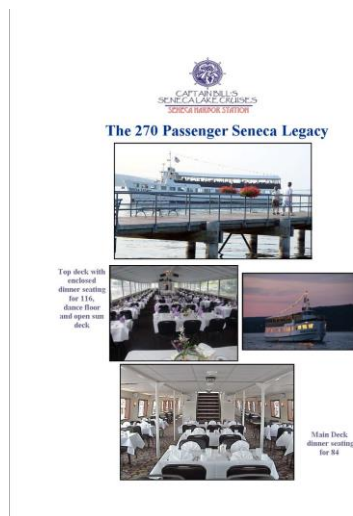
EVENT COORDINATOR -Chuck Rischenole

It's time again for our annual Middlesex Roast Beef Dinner. We will meet at Bill Grays 1225 Jefferson Rd in Henrietta at 2:00pm and will be leaving at 2:30pm on an approximately 1½ hour ride to Middlesex for dinner. Cost is \$11.00 pp 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. I would suggest that you get your pie dessert to go because we will be continuing on after dinner to Canandaigua for the required ice cream stop. For the members from Syracuse area who usually leave after dinner we will be doing the ride in reverse this year to give them the opportunity to see what they have been missing. If you have to cancel on the date of the event let me know at 585-704-9940 so you don't hold up the ride waiting for you. This is a rain or shine event.

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***Contact me directly only if you will be going at 585-223-7586 or  
candgr@gmail.com***

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## **Seneca Lake Brunch & Cruise**

**Sunday, August 27, 2017**

Event Coordinators: Gail Wagner & Steve Wilson

How about a relaxing summer Sunday afternoon brunch cruise on beautiful Seneca Lake?

We will all meet at Watkins Glen Harbor NO LATER than 12:00 noon for a 12:30 p.m. sailing departure. The cruise and brunch is 2 hours from 12:30-2:30 p.m. We have 40 reserved seats together on the top deck (covered) but the ship can accommodate 200 people.

The group discount which includes cruise, brunch (menu below), tax and gratuity cost is \$45.99 per person. A full-service cash bar is available on board.

Brunch buffet menu:

- Strawberry Bellinis
- Fresh Fruit
- Rolls & Doughnuts
- Pastries & Bread
- Fresh Garden Salad
- Strata with bacon
- Eggs and gorgonzola
- Breakfast Pizza
- French Toast
- Bacon & Pork Sausage Links
- Home Fried Potatoes
- Carved Roast Beef,
- Ham
- Soft Drinks, Coffee and Hot Tea

This is a rain or shine sailing event. (Let's hope it's a "shine".) ☺

**The Ithaca group will meet no later than 10:00 a.m. at Ithaca Kohl's Dept. Store parking lot** (next to Home Depot), 410 Elmira Rd. (Route 13) with a prompt 10:30 a.m. departure. All other Club geographic areas are welcome to meet us at Kohl's for a scenic backroads drive to Watkins Glen harbor or each geographic group can establish a time/place to meet in their area to caravan to Watkins Glen Harbor for a 12:00 p.m. arrival and rendezvous with Ithaca group there.

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*Any questions, contact Gail at 607-257-7445 or [gwtr3red@gmail.com](mailto:gwtr3red@gmail.com).*

**\*\*\*\*\*Your reservation and payment is required NO LATER THAN MONDAY, JULY 31<sup>ST</sup> with your check (no cash) made out to Gail Wagner and mailed to: Gail Wagner, 105 Iroquois Rd., Ithaca, NY 14850. NO REFUNDS AFTER JULY 27<sup>th</sup>.**

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### **OUR SPECIAL CONDOLENCES**

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Our most sincere condolences and prayers go out to Kevin Smith from the Syracuse area on the loss of his mother this week. He will be in our thoughts and hope he can accept our heartfelt sympathies on the loss of his loved one.

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## EVENT REPORTS

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### MARCELLUS PARADE

Event coordinator: Chuck Paul

### SUNSHINE AND TOOTH DECAY

What could sunshine and tooth decay have in common? Both were present at our annual appearance at the Marcellus Olde Home Days Parade. 26 Miatas took part in the parade with 9 of those taking part in a pre-parade scenic ride.

That ride included parade velocity due to 3 miles behind a piece of farm machinery. Oh well....you can't have beautiful farm scenery without plows. Thank goodness it wasn't a manure spreader! We did manage much higher speeds on 13 curves.

The **weather was perfect** for a parade and **many pounds of candy** were thrown at tiny tots (and some not so tiny) in the huge crowd. Thanks to all who participated. We are the first group "booked" each year. See you next June.

### LAKE PLACID WEEKEND



Event coordinator: Lee Maddy/Jim Williams

Lake Placid Weekend with the UMN (Underground Miata Network) June 2nd-4th

(Written by Warren Robinson)

This trip (lead by Lee Maddy & Jim Williams) combined 22 cars from the UMN (Underground Miata Network club) of Ottawa with 18 from our club for a great turnout of 40 cars. Our initial group of 14 cars met in Canastota at 2pm on Friday and under the leadership of Jim and Lee, we set out on our ride to Lake Placid. The weather forecast was shall we say, changeable, and from what I could tell, most packed for whatever Mother Nature might throw at us; from shorts and tees to knit hats and down jackets, we came prepared. Friday started cool but nice so it was top down as we took off to the north. Our route took us up some great back roads on the way to Tug Hill and Lowville, home of Kraft Cream Cheese and AMF bowling pins, then on to Croghan (no bologna!) where we made our first pit stop. By then it was getting chilly at the higher elevation, and the skies threatened, so the tops went up as we departed for points north. We picked up the beautiful Route



3 around Harrisville and drove past many scenic lakes including Star, Cranberry, and Tupper Lake, where we paused at Mickey D's before completing the trip to Lake Placid. There we checked into Art Devlin's Olympic Motor Inn which had 22 beautiful Miatas with Ontario plates waiting to greet us as well as several members from our Binghamton group. So now 40 strong, we met in the hotel lobby for a wine and cheese meet and greet; a great way to start off the weekend!

Saturday started with coffee and homemade doughnuts and muffins in the lobby and then we split into two groups. Half took a drive to Lake George and the others drove to the top of Whiteface Mountain. It was pretty cool starting out, so tops were up mostly. I heard later that the folks who went to Lake George experienced temperatures of 20 degrees and I thought I sure am glad I went to the balmy interior of Whiteface where it was always about 45. Then I realized they were from the UMN and talking in Celsius, so a little math later...68F and sunny in Lake George. From what I heard, they all loved the roads that took them there. Our trip up the mountain was cooler no doubt, but sensational as well. The Whiteface Memorial Hwy takes you almost to the top at around 4600 feet, and then a tunnel and elevator 27 stories to the top put us at 4865 feet. The view from the top was extraordinary AND we even got to see a little snow in the air on June 3rd! Thank goodness Miata trunks are large enough to accommodate all those sweatshirts, mittens, scarfs and down jackets. From there we zoomed down to the Village of Saranac Lake and everyone did their own thing, lunch, farmers market, and the Adirondack Carousel and gift shops. Then back to Lake Placid for the evening's main event.

We all gathered for cocktails and dinner at the Boat House directly on Mirror Lake where we had a wonderful meal and conversation with fellow members and our new Canadian friends. The view of the lake was lovely and we could see several swimmers (future Olympians perhaps?) traversing the length of the lake, practicing for an upcoming ironman competition.

Sunday a large group motored to the Wild Center in Tupper Lake. My small group had to get home so we found our own adventure driving to Long Lake with a stop at Hoss's general store, then on thru the chain of lakes to Inlet, Old Forge and eventually the Thruway (boo) at Verona.

Overall, a most successful and enjoyable trip!

- Warren Robinson



## MG EURO CAR SHOW/LORENZO PARK

Event coordinator: Bob Sabella

A total of thirteen Miata's representing all 5 of our club region's participated in show and tell at the M G's Car Club 14<sup>th</sup> annual EuroCar Show held at the Lorenzo State Park in Cazenovia NY, June 18<sup>th</sup>. The weather was warm but breezy, as over 300 various European cars such as Austin Healey's, TR's, MG's, Jaguar's, Maserati's, Morgan's, and the new Fiat Spider (aka Fiata) were on display. Our Miata's drew many visitors who in addition to owning a MG etc. also owned a Miata. Club brochures were given out and we may welcome some new members to our club. This is one of the premiere car shows in Central NY, and we are fortunate to be invited by the M G Car Club.



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## INVITATIONS FROM OTHER CLUBS

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### Field Days in CT.

August 20

### Nutmeg Club

All year long our significant others, children, families, neighbors, co-workers, fellow club members, etc., hear about and support (or put up with) our fanaticism for the vehicle that we love called the Miata. We have great fun in our vehicles. How about having great fun out of our vehicle on a late summer day with all those who have enjoyed the ride with us either figuratively or literally?

The Nutmeg Miata Club has reserved the date of SUNDAY, AUGUST 20, 2017 to have a get together at a place called Holiday Hill in Prospect, Connecticut. This facility offers us a 10:00AM to 5:00PM day filled with activities, food, scenic views, more activities, more food, etc., etc. for very reasonable all-inclusive ticket prices for adults and children(alcoholic drinks extra). The facility offers way too much to list here. Check out the website. <http://www.holidayhill.com>

Remember field days, remember summer camp, remember family reunions? This is all that and more. Can the NA's beat the NB's at horseshoes, volleyball, and bocce. How much unlimited popcorn, ice cream and soda can your child (or you) consume? Will you get an airbrushed tattoo, swim, canoe, play bingo or just relax? The total solar eclipse on the following day is also a cause for celebration, or, for those doomers, a cause for one last big hurrah.

All are welcome. Invite your friends, invite your family, and invite your neighbors. Bring the family minivan full. Miatas will have dedicated parking.

Ticket orders are being taken from now until August 7, 2017 but the sooner you send in your payment the sooner the tickets will be mailed to you. Do not RSVP to the Nutmeg Miata Club event area. Your payment will be your RSVP. The application will be on the MMC website in the calendar section.

Print out the Ticket Order Form. Fill it in COMPLETELY. Send WITH YOUR PAYMENT TO: Nutmeg Miata Club, Inc.  
c/o Karen Cotner, Treasurer  
29 Crescent Street  
Waterbury, CT 06710

### Operation Bullwinkle IV

October 7

### Vermont Club

Hello from the Vermont Miata club! For the last four years our club has been making an annual trip to Rangeley, Maine, from Burlington, Vermont, for the twisty roads, the great scenery, the spectacular foliage and the chance to spot Moose. Each year we stay at the same hotel, the Country Club Inn, which is a rustic, clean, friendly spot with magnificent views overlooking Rangeley Lake from high on a hilltop. Our room rate includes made to order breakfast and we have always enjoyed dinner in their superb Dining room. It really is the best restaurant in town and beyond. Once again we have reserved a block of rooms for October 7 of this year and we would like to invite other New England and New York state clubs to join us. Here is a link to the hotel: <http://www.countryclubinnrangeley.com/> .

And here is a link to our club event page with pricing: <https://www.meetup.com/Green-Mountain-Miata-Club/events/238955133/> . Hopefully some of you can make this part of your Columbus Day Weekend plans. My phone number is (802) 233-9060 and I'm Tom, feel free to call with questions.

If you are interested in these events, please contact your Area Rep to let them gather interest and determine if there are any groups planning to attend.

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## ***ICE CREAM NIGHTS 2017***

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### ***MMC ICE CREAM SCHEDULE, SYRACUSE***

***KAREN ABBOTT***

**Monthly: 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Thursdays @ 7:00pm**

**July 13-** Sweet Frog, Fayetteville Towne Center, Fayetteville

**July 27-** Big Dip, 216 No Main Street, No Syracuse

**August 10-** Sno Top, 315 Fayette St, Manlius

**August 24-** Vicki's Tasty Treat, 680 Old Liverpool Rd, Liverpool

**September 14-** Plank Road Ice Cream, 449 So Main St, No Syracuse

**September 28-** Carvel Ice Cream, 4322 E Genesee St, Dewitt (inside seating-park in Tops Grocery lot)

**OCTOBER 12<sup>TH</sup> 6:30** - Hafner's Garden Center, 7265 Buckley Rd, No Syracuse (inside seating)

### ***MMC ICE CREAM SCHEDULE, ITHACA***

***GAIL WAGNER***

**Monthly: 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of each month@ 7:00pm**

Ithaca, proudly "centrally isolated"! 2017 monthly Ithaca Ice Cream Night begins May 2017 on the first Wednesday of each month at 7:00 pm at Purity Ice Cream, 700 Cascadilla St., Meadow St. (Route 13), Ithaca, NY. Please park behind the I.D. Booth Plumbing/Heating Supply Company parking lot on Cascadilla St. as we have in the past. (Questions: Gail Wagner, Ithaca-area rep, gwtr3red@gmail.com).

**All ice cream nights will be held at Purity Ice Cream on:**

**June 7, July 5, August 2, September 6, October 4**

## **MMC ICE CREAM SCHEDULE, ROCHESTER**

**CHUCK RISCHENOLE**

### **SECOND AND FOURTH TUESDAY OF THE MONTH @ 6:30PM**

July 11 Lakeside Restaurant (6270 Lakeside Rd Ontario)  
& Orbachers (4793 Route 104 Williamson)

July 26 Wednesday 6pm Cruise Night Log Cabin (Route 31F Macedon)

August 8 MacGregors (759 South Main St Canandaigua) &  
Creamery (10 Parrish St Canandaigua)

August 22 Parker's (206 Main St Newark) &  
Coolees (5076 Route 31 Newark)

September 12 Colby's (Route 15 & 251 Rush)

## **MMC ICE CREAM SCHEDULE, BINGHAMTON -2017**

**BARB HUNSINGER**

We will continue meeting for ice cream on the first Monday of the month at Pop's Sugar Shack at 589 Conklin Rd, Binghamton, NY, 6:30 PM as we have in past years. (Questions: Barb Hunsinger)

In addition we will have ice cream at the following at 6:30 PM:

July 19 - Ice Cream Works, North Ave, Owego, NY (between Talcott & George St)

August 16 - Jones Humdinger, 1441 Front St, Binghamton, NY

September 20 - Suzy Q, Chenango St, Hillcrest, NY

October 18 - Tastie Cream, 2021 Vestal Pkwy, Vestal, NY

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## ***TECHNICAL TIPS – ‘WENCH WITH A WRENCH***

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**By Gail Wagner**



**A Shocking Discussion**

There are lots of things you want out of your Miata driving experience and one of them is a smooth ride. A key factor that contributes to this experience is your Miata's suspension. Suspension is literally what stands between you and the road so shock absorbers, struts, and springs at the bottom of your car are essential for overall performance and comfort.

In their simplest form, shock absorbers are hydraulic (oil) pump-like devices that help to control the impact and rebound movement of your vehicle's springs and suspension. Along with smoothening out bumps and vibrations, the key role of the shock absorber is to ensure that the vehicle's tires remain in contact with the road surface at all times (unless you're Steve McQueen ☺), which ensures the safest control and braking response. At rest or in motion, the bottom surface of your tires is the only part of your vehicle in contact with the road. Any time that a tire's contact with the ground is broken or reduced, your ability to drive, steer and brake is severely compromised (understatement). Despite popular belief, shock absorbers do not support the weight of a vehicle.

As mentioned, shock absorbers are basically oil pumps. A piston is attached to the end of a piston rod and works against hydraulic fluid in the pressure tube. As the suspension travels up and down, the hydraulic fluid is forced through tiny holes inside the piston. Because these orifices only allow a small amount of fluid through the piston, the piston is slowed which in turn slows down spring and suspension movement. Shock absorbers automatically adjust to road conditions because the faster the suspension moves, the more resistance they provide. The shock absorber (shocks) came into widespread use after WWI but examples of earlier hydraulic concepts began around 1908-1909. The *1927 Ford Model A* had shocks as optional equipment.

The following is a condensed and edited and amended (by me) article derived from *Moss Motors Miata* that I thought pretty much said it all about shocks. I hope you enjoy.

### Should I or Shouldn't I? That is The Question

When considering shocks, the first and most important question that needs to be answered is "Do I need new shocks and if so, how can I tell?" As always, there's that important distinction between "I need and I want"; if there's a visible leak from the shock shaft or if your car has started to give a harsh ride, then you are indeed in need of new shocks. If not, and you like the ride quality of your car, then save your money and just enjoy your car as it is. The Miata came with a really good suspension right out of the box (which is why we love 'em and why it's become as popular as it is) so unless you have a problem, leave it alone. Unless, of course, "you want" ☺ and you have decided you want to upgrade your suspension.

The next most important question to ask is "What are my driving objectives and driving style?" Your choices will be very different depending on how you answer. Broken down are some suggestions into some different categories to help you decide. These are purely suggestions based on experiences of enthusiasts and of professional installers. "Enthusiasts" drive fairly aggressively on the street (not me, of course ☺) and take the car to the track occasionally and have their own set of preferences. Installers do their best to listen to people to tailor the car preferred style and consider important factors such as daily ride quality, parts warranty history, and "repeatability", meaning that a year or two down the road, if the person needs to replace a damaged shock, can they easily source it or do they need to send it out for a "custom rebuild" replacement?

Note: if you're upgrading your shocks to a performance option, as some of you out there know, you may need to upgrade your springs as well as part of the suspension "system". The overriding factor in choosing a shock isn't just the shock itself but whether that shock and spring work well together as a unit. If there's not enough damping, then the ride will be harsh. This is what you feel with a worn shock when the damping has gone away. The same thing will happen if you decide to go with a higher performance spring (higher spring rate) without changing to a shock that can handle it. Don't make the mistake of trying to save money by upgrading the springs and not the shocks since it's a formula for unhappiness. A common misconception is that a higher performance (higher rate) spring will cause a harsher ride. That is absolutely not the case as long as the damper (shock) is up to the job.

### Types of shock absorbers

Although all shock absorbers do the same job, different types of vehicles and suspension designs require different types of shock absorbers which can appear radically different. No matter the application, all shock absorbers fit into one of three broadly defined types: conventional

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#### Conventional telescopic shock absorbers:

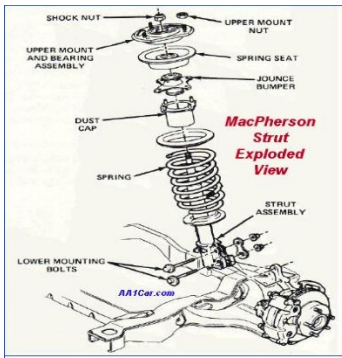
This is the simplest type of shock absorber and is generally replaced rather than repaired. This type of shock absorber can be found on both front and rear suspension systems and is relatively inexpensive.



**Bilstein B6 HD Shock**

#### Strut type shock absorbers:

Most Miatas have independent double wishbone suspension on all four wheels with a few exceptions and shocks are typically used, not struts, but I include it here just for information purposes. Although they do the same basic job, struts replace part of the suspension system and must be more ruggedly built to cope with greater loads and forces. Although most commonly seen on the front and rear of small to medium cars, larger cars are now tending towards strut-based suspension design. The strut category is further divided into sealed and repairable units. As the name suggests, sealed units are designed to be fully replaced, whilst repairable (McPherson) struts are able to be fitted with replacement strut cartridges. The major difference between shocks and struts is that a strut is a structural part of the car's suspension system where a shock is not. A strut is also a crucial part of the steering system and greatly affects alignment angles.



## **Basic Happy Street Driving**

If you just love your Miata the way it is and don't want to lower it or make handling changes, then leave the springs alone and install a good quality OE (Original Equipment) replacement shock. The OE shocks on most Miatas will work fine or you can find a reasonably priced replacement that will work well. There were certain models of the NA's, NB's, and NC's that came equipped with Bilsteins (brand name) so if you are happy with how the car rides and handles, stay with what came with the car. All of this is recommended only if you're keeping the stock springs.

## **More is More**



So, you want "a little more"... (like Gail ....) ☺

The labor to change shocks and springs as a package is the same as just doing either shocks or springs, so if you're going to upgrade your suspension, this is the time to do it. A popular package for enthusiastic street drivers (including those who do occasional track days) is where ride height is only slightly lowered and the springs and shocks work extremely well together to give both an excellent ride and a marked improvement in handling. The added benefit of this setup is that the shocks can be *adjustable* allowing further fine-tuning of the handling for personal driving style.

## **Lots More is Lots More - Especially Lots More Money \$\$\$\$\$**

So, you want to make a BIG difference in your Miata's handling or hey, you just wanna' be cool ....

At this level, the change in handling can be really dramatic (and also can get pretty expensive). You are now firmly in the "I want it" category ☺ and also the area of most debate if you read any Miata forums.

If you are considering or compete in auto crossing or just want to upgrade handling, then your best bet is to look at *coil overs*.

"Coil over" is short for "coil spring over shock". It consists of a shock absorber with a coil spring encircling it. The shock absorber and spring are assembled as a unit prior to installation and are replaced as a unit when the shock absorber has leaked. This provides damping without torsional loads. Some coil overs allow adjustment of ride height and preload. More advanced adjustable coil over systems use a threaded shock body along with an adjustable lower mount for ride height adjustment while an adjustment knob is used to adjust damping. Stiffness is changed by switching the spring for one with a different spring rate.

What coil overs do is to corner-weight (balance) your car. Each corner of the car is adjustable so the car is put on set of scales (one under each wheel) and adjusted using the driver's weight to achieve optimal balance. Don't be intimidated by this as it's something that is generally done once (by a pro) and then left alone, not something you play with in your garage at home! Ask your local alignment shops if they can perform this for you or search out a professional race team in your area. Koni and Bilsteins are good brand names.



Coil over for 1990-2005 Miata

### And Finally...

This is a lot of info to absorb but the bottom line is that the choices above are based on your taste and goals with your Miata. You should be the final judge of what works best for you or what you want your Miata to be.

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!*



## 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!!!



| Date        | Event                                         | Detailed article | Post event report | Resp                 |
|-------------|-----------------------------------------------|------------------|-------------------|----------------------|
| July 16     | Club picnic                                   | May 15           | July 25           | Karen A and Mary Ann |
| July 21     | Wagner Winery & Brewery w/Oldies music        | May 15           | July 25           | Gail                 |
| July 22     | Finger Lakes Cheese Festival                  | May 15           | July 25           | Carol & Lou Trelease |
| July 26     | Log Cabin Car Show                            | May 15           | July 29           | Ron M                |
| August 13   | Polo and Tail Gate Party                      | June 15          | August 17         | Chuck & Mary Jo      |
| August 26   | Middlesex Roast Beef Dinner <b>(NEW DATE)</b> | June 15          | August 30         | Chuck Rischenole     |
| August 27   | Seneca Lake Brunch/Cruise                     | June 15          | August 30         | Gail                 |
| Sept. 8     | Vintage Festival @ Watkins Glen               | July 15          | Sept. 15          | Ray                  |
| Sept. 16    | Palmyra Canal Days Parade                     | July 15          | Sept. 20          | Chuck R              |
| Sept. 23    | Bill Hodges Memorial Road Rally               | July 15          | Sept. 27          | Dale                 |
| Oct 4 or 11 | Lunch ride w/Niagara club                     | August 15        | Oct. 15           | Chuck R              |
| Oct. 22     | Apple Fritter Crawl                           | August 15        | Oct. 27           | Lee & Miriam         |
| Dec. 3      | Annual Holiday Party/brunch                   | Oct. 15          |                   | John & Elaine        |

## Midstate Miata Club Schedule of Events

### 2017 Driving Season

#### Refrigerator version

| DATE                | EVENT                                       | LEADER                        |
|---------------------|---------------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Friday, July 21     | Wagner Winery & Brewery w/ Oldies Music     | Gail Wagner                   |
| Saturday, July 22   | Finger Lakes Cheese Festival                | Carol & Lou Trelease          |
| Wednesday, July 26  | Log Cabin Car Show and BBQ (Macedon)        | Karen & Ron McKissock         |
| Sunday, July 16     | Club Picnic –Fillmore Glen State Park       | Karen Abbott & MaryAnn Knight |
| Sunday, August 13   | Polo and Tail Gate Party in Skaneateles     | Chuck and Mary Jo Paul        |
| Saturday, August 26 | Middlesex Roast Beef Dinner <b>NEW DATE</b> | Chuck Rischenole              |
| Sunday, August 27   | Seneca Lake Brunch/Cruise                   | Gail Wagner                   |

|                   |                                                  |                          |
|-------------------|--------------------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Friday, Sept 8    | Vintage Festival @ Watkins Glen                  | Ray Mosher               |
| Saturday, Sept 16 | Palmyra Festival Parade                          | Chuck Rischenole         |
| Saturday, Sept 23 | Bill Hodges Memorial Road Rally                  | Dale Nagel               |
| Wednesday Oct. 11 | Lunch/Ride w/Niagara Club to Spragues Maple Farm | Chuck Rischenole         |
| Sunday, Oct. 22   | Apple Fritter Crawl                              | Lee Maddy & Miriam White |
| Sunday, Dec. 3    | Annual Holiday Party/Brunch                      | John & Elaine Piston     |

[Additional events will be added as each local area flushes out addition fun venues and rides – please watch the website at midstatemiata.net for update](http://midstatemiata.net)

## Midstate Miata Club Schedule of Events

### 2017 Driving Season

Full details will be in the newsletters and on our website

#### Friday July 21

#### Wagner Winery & Brewery

Join us at Wagner's Ginny Lee Café for live oldies music by the Tarps, a local Ithaca band including Miata Club member, Steve Ungberg on the keyboard. Caravans or individual cars can meet at Home Depot in Ithaca at 5:00PM and leave for a drive at 5:15PM backroads to Watkins Glen. Food/drink will be on your own. 6:00-8:00PM at the Brewery Pub in Hector, NY. Event Leader: Gail Wagner and Steve Wilson

#### Saturday July 22

#### Finger Lakes Cheese Festival

The Finger Lakes Cheese Festival takes place at the Sunset View Creamery in Odessa, NY on Saturday July 22, 10 AM to 5PM. In addition to being able to taste and buy artisanal cheeses from the many Finger Lakes cheese makers, there will also be tastings of beer, wine and cider. There will be vendors of food & ice cream, cheese related items, a farmers market, musical entertainment, and tours of the farm.

Event Leaders: Lou & Carol Trelease

#### Wednesday July 26

#### Log Cabin Car Show and BBQ

The Log Cabin Restaurant in Macedon is hosting its Wednesday night car show with over 500 cars and 200 motorcycles attending. We have reserved parking available to club members who wish to attend. Food is available in the restaurant and outside picnic area.

Event Leaders: Ron McKissock

#### Sunday July 16

#### Club Picnic

The MMC will rent a pavilion for our club picnic at Filmore State park. Usually the room is enclosed with tables and chairs and also outdoor picnic tables so we should be quite comfortable rain or shine. This is a State Park so there is a parking

fee, plus swimming and hiking available. There will likely be a \$7.00 fee to enter the park. It will be partially subsidized by the club. What you'll need to bring details will follow.

Event Leader: Karen Abbott and Mary Ann Knight

### **Sunday August 13**

### **Polo and Tail Gate Party in Skaneateles**

Where else can you watch horses run and not lose your bet? A scenic drive, great barbecue, and hotly contested Polo match all on Sunday, August 13th. Join us for a day of polo with the Skaneateles Polo Club. Informal picnic on the grass, fresh air, beautiful scenery and a fun annual event.

Event Leaders: Chuck and Mary Jo Paul

### **Saturday August 26 NEW DATE**

### **Middlesex Roast Beef Dinner and Ice Cream**

It's time again for our annual outing to the Middlesex Fire House for their famous roast beef dinner. The cost is \$11.00 per person. For those who have not been there before the dinner is served family style at tables of eight and includes roast beef, real mashed potatoes and gravy, corn, salad, relish tray, rolls and butter, coffee or iced tea. This is an all you can eat so don't be bashful. The meal finishes with them asking what choice of pie you would like for dessert. I suggest you get the pie to go because we will be continuing on to an ice cream stop in Bloomfield. Each geographic group will establish a time/place to meet in their area to caravan to meet at the Middlesex Fire House.

Event Leader: Chuck Rischenole

### **Sunday August 27**

### **Seneca Lake Brunch and Boat ride**

How about a relaxing summer afternoon brunch cruise on beautiful Seneca Lake? Our destination will be at Watkins Glen Harbor at noon to proceed to boarding. The cost of the cruise and brunch is \$45.99 and will require pre-registration and payment to Gail Wagner. This is a rain/shine event and no refunds will be allowed. More details to follow in newsletter. Each geographic group will establish a time/place to meet in their area to caravan to meeting location.

Event Leader: Gail Wagner and Steve Wilson

### **Friday September 8**

### **Watkins Glen Vintage Races**

Don't miss the U.S. Vintage Grand Prix, one of the largest vintage racing events in the nation, featuring historic SVRA (Sportscar Vintage Racing Association) race cars from nearly every era, as Watkins Glen International celebrates its legendary history. See website for more details: <http://www.theglen.com/Tickets-Events/Events/2017/US-Vintage-Grand-Prix.aspx>. Event Leader: Ray Mosher

### **Saturday September 16**

### **Palmyra Canal Days Parade**

Palmyra has been celebrating Canal Town Days for the past 49 years. The club has been invited back to participate in their parade. We will begin the day at the Log Cabin in Macedon and proceed with a ride to Palmyra for lunch. After showing off our cars in the parade we will drive on to Canandaigua for the best ice cream around.

Event Leader: Chuck Rischenole

### **Sunday September 23**

### **Bill Hodge Memorial Road Rally**

Cars will meet at a pre-arranged location to participate in a memorial Road Rally for former member Bill Hodge. This is a rain or shine event which includes a timed drive with clues to reach the end location followed by lunch.

Event Leader: Dale Nagel

### **Wednesday October 11**

### **Lunch/Ride with Niagara Club and Spragues Maple Farm**

Details are unfolding. Stay tuned.

Event Leaders: Chuck Rischenole

### **Sunday October 22**

### **Apple Fritter Crawl**

Advertised as the shortest of all our Miata caravans (not counting parades of course), the six mile run is more about fall, the apples and which apple fritter is better. We stop at four orchards to enjoy the sights, and to taste test the apple fritters.

Event Leader: Lee Maddy and Miriam White

Back by popular demand we will be having a super Sunday Brunch for our Holiday Party.

Event Leader: John and Elaine Piston

***MMC Leadership team***

| OFFICE         | NAME            | PHONE        | E-MAIL                                                             |
|----------------|-----------------|--------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|
| President      | Ray Mosher      | 315-635-2584 | <a href="mailto:mosherrskl@yahoo.com">mosherrskl@yahoo.com</a>     |
| Vice President | Rosemary DeHoog | 315-446-3317 | <a href="mailto:rdehoog@twcny.rr.com">rdehoog@twcny.rr.com</a>     |
| Secretary      | Miriam White    | 315-637-0472 | <a href="mailto:white.miriam@yahoo.com">white.miriam@yahoo.com</a> |
| Treasurer      | Ronnie Sabella  | 315-463-9643 | <a href="mailto:ronnievs@twcny.rr.com">ronnievs@twcny.rr.com</a>   |
| Past President | Karen McKissock | 585-820-6010 | <a href="mailto:kmckiss1948@gmail.com">kmckiss1948@gmail.com</a>   |

| ROLE                     | NAME            | PHONE        | E-MAIL                                                                             |
|--------------------------|-----------------|--------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Membership/<br>Historian | Bob Sabella     | 315-463-9643 | <a href="mailto:rsabella@twcny.rr.com">rsabella@twcny.rr.com</a>                   |
| Activities Chair         | Jay Cartini     | 315-676-4776 | <a href="mailto:JPCartini@aol.com">JPCartini@aol.com</a>                           |
| Webmaster                | Lee Maddy       | 315-637-0472 | <a href="mailto:mrmiataman@yahoo.com">mrmiataman@yahoo.com</a>                     |
|                          |                 |              |                                                                                    |
| Area Rep/Syr             | Karen Abbott    | 315-299-6880 | <a href="mailto:KLDAbbott@hotmail.com">KLDAbbott@hotmail.com</a>                   |
| Area Rep/Syr             | John Piston     | 315-415-5770 | <a href="mailto:efrog22@gmail.com">efrog22@gmail.com</a>                           |
| Area Rep/Roch            | Marcy Edmiston  | 585-329-6967 | <a href="mailto:medmiston@mazdaofwestridge.com">medmiston@mazdaofwestridge.com</a> |
| Area Rep/S Tier          | Barb Hunsinger  | 607-785-5459 | <a href="mailto:bhunsin928@aol.com">bhunsin928@aol.com</a>                         |
| Area Rep/Ithaca          | Gail Wagner     | 607-257-7445 | <a href="mailto:gwtr3red@gmail.com">gwtr3red@gmail.com</a>                         |
| Newsletter               | Karen McKissock | 585-820-6010 | <a href="mailto:kmckiss1948@gmail.com">kmckiss1948@gmail.com</a>                   |

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