



# Midstate Miata Club of New York

## “Miata Meanderings”

Official Newsletter for March 2016

Visit the Midstate Miata Club on the Internet at:

[www.midstatemiata.net](http://www.midstatemiata.net)

### ***President's Message***



Happy, Happy New Year! It feels good to be getting back in touch with all of you and to begin thinking Zoom, Zoom! Before we know it we'll be putting the tops down and feeling the sun on our faces again. Can't wait! (Well, really, Ron and I cheated and went to Florida for January so we felt the sun a lot, but didn't have Miata with us. Boo Hoo!!!) I hope this first newsletter of the year will get us all thinking about another fun season of driving, friendly encounters, eating and ice cream.

Speaking of the new season, I hope you'll all read the article with details for the annual planning meeting. This is a critical activity that enables us to provide a lot of options for the 2016 events that, hopefully, provide something for everyone. Please try to join us and bring your ideas. If you cannot join us, please use the template that comes with this newsletter to submit your events and either mail or email back to Jay Cartini before the meeting.

Chuck Rischenole found a great lead on a license bracket for the new models that doesn't require drilling any holes. Here's his note to me and now to you:

*If anyone is considering the purchase of the new ND and isn't thrilled about having holes drilled in the front cowl to mount the license plate there is an alternative solution. **James Barone Racing.com** has developed a plate holder that attaches where the front tow bolt would go. No drilling of holes required. Here's the link to the page: [http://www.jamesbaroneracing.com/shop/index.php?main\\_page=products\\_new](http://www.jamesbaroneracing.com/shop/index.php?main_page=products_new)*

Soon you will be hearing about some great new changes to the club such as having 3-5 local events for those of us can't get to some of the events that are long distances from home. This way members will get more opportunities to have fun closer to home and get to know your local group a little better. More good stuff to come...stay tuned.

A quick business request requires a **response for all of you by March 1<sup>st</sup>**. Please provide your vote to your Area Rep by then. We are asking to make a change in Membership dues that will change our By-laws. The change is highlighted below:

- **Section D. Dues and Membership Term.** Annual membership dues of \$30.00 shall be submitted to the Treasurer by new members as a condition of membership, along with a completed application for membership. Thereafter, payment of the \$30.00 annual dues shall be paid to the Treasurer on or before the last day of the month of **April May. Late renewals will be \$35.** A submitted application for membership in the months of October, November or December shall pay 100% of the regular amount

which will cover those members through the full year following. Any change in the dues amount must be approved by at least 1/3 of the Club Membership. Dues shall be collected by the Club Treasurer for deposit into the Club's bank account.

In the meantime, I hope you'll enjoy the lack of winter so far and that you'll try to put the Annual Planning meeting on your calendars. Please let your Area Rep know if you plan on coming.

It will be great to see you soon. And don't forget...this is your club and if you have any ideas or concerns you can always reach out to me.

***Happy zooming,  
Karen***



### ***Welcome New Members***

***Deane Bergstrom***

<u>Member</u>	<u>Where From</u>	<u>Miata</u>	<u>Area Rep</u>
Dave & Kim young	Rome	2010 Blue	Denise Wargo
Mike & Maryann Masuicca	Oswego	1991 White	Denise Wargo
John Strong	Walworth	2001 Silver	Marcy Edmiston
David Jack	Rochester	2000 Green	Marcy Edmiston

### ***Welcome Back***

Gerry & Mary Ann Knight	Clay	2002 Laser Blue Mica	Karen Abbott
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### ***Annual Planning Meeting March 5, 2016***

**The annual planning meeting for 2016 will be held on March 5, 2016 at Burdick Mazda in Driver's Village, Cicero NY. The meeting will begin at 10:00 a.m. and should finish by midafternoon. If you plan to attend you must let your area rep know by Feb. 27**





This is the center courtyard. Go up the escalator and to the left at the top. Turn right and look for Miataites. If all else fails, go to the Mazda dealer and they will direct you to the meeting rooms.

The last page of this newsletter is a form to be filled out for a proposed event. Please print and complete one for each event, but you may submit as many events as you wish.



## ***Midstate Miata Club Dues for 2016***

Dues for 2016 will remain the same – \$30 per car. Payment is due on or before April 30th. Please send your dues to Ronnie Sabella, 401 Swansea Ave., Syracuse, NY 13206. Make your check payable to “Midstate Miata Club of New York, Inc.”. An updated roster will be distributed to all club members at the close of the 2016 dues cycle. If payment is not received by May 15th you will be dropped from the membership. (*An update to the dues policy may be forthcoming – Ed.*)

## ***TECHNICAL TIPS – “Wrench With A Wrench”***

***By Gail Wagner***

### **Back in Action – Bringing Your Baby Back Out of Storage**



Hi, Miata Folks, Yes, that’s really me under there. As always, I welcome your comments and suggestions at: [gwagner@ithaca.edu](mailto:gwagner@ithaca.edu)

Here's a quick but important "labor of love" checklist to consider when you're ready to bring your Miata out of storage in the spring.

Puxatawney Phil says it gonna' be an early spring. Let's hope so! ☺

- Check your NYS inspection sticker for 2016 inspection date and jot it down on a calendar or your mobile device as a reminder.
- Check under the hood for evidence of 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. 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 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 the muffler or air intake, remove all the material before you start the car or you won't be able to start 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.
- Inspect your tires for any cracks, cuts or scrapes in the sidewalls or between tread rows. Check tire tread and replace if necessary. I love "[tirerack.com](http://tirerack.com)" for tire recommendations and on-line purchases. Do the Lincoln "penny test" by inserting a 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.
- 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 sparks plugs is a bit tricky if you're not familiar and you'll need a few special tools but it's not that hard.
- Check the brakes. There may be some rust on the rotors and you may hear some squeaks or squeals but this should dissipate after driving for a short time. If it doesn't... well, time to see your friendly mechanic. It's always cool 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 left on the steering wheel (recommended in my October 2013 column) to see if there are any leftover maintenance issues that you need to address now.
- 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 obsessive-compulsive detailing/washing instructions are located on the MMC website under “Tech”.
- 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 buying and taking 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 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 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? Can you hear a miss in the ignition? Are any belts squeaking? How’s the oil pressure? How’s the engine temperature? How’s the steering - lose and wandering?

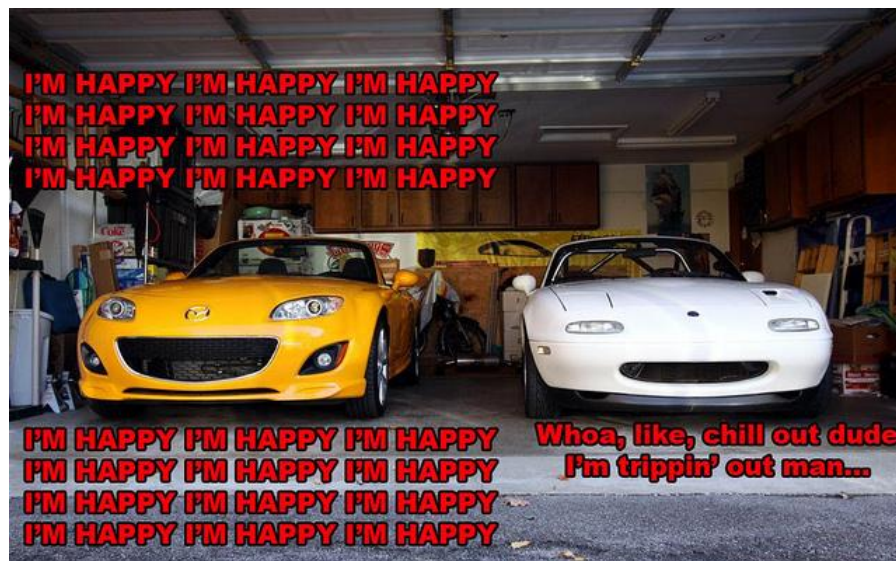
**The bottom line: The better you take care of your Miata, the better it will take care of you.**

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!*



We now have three sponsors for the Midstate Miata Club. They provide service and discounts to club members so pay them a visit



**Mazda of West Ridge**

**Marketplace**



**mazda**



**Burdick**  
MAZDA



## Midstate Miata Club Officers for 2016

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Secretary: Miriam White  
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### Area Representatives

#### Name/Area

#### Phone Number

#### E-Mail

Karen Abbott/Syracuse  
Denise Wargo/Syracuse  
Marcy Edmiston/Rochester  
Joe Lamphere/Binghamton  
Gail Wagner/Ithaca

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## Midstate Miata Club Event Planning Template

Please come prepared to share this information and leave a copy

<b>Name of Submitter</b>	<b>Name of Event</b>
<b>Target Date(s) for Event</b>	<b>Destination Location</b>
<b>Alternate Date(s)</b>	
	<b>Start/meet time</b>
<b>Volunteer Hosts/Event Coordinator(s)</b>	<b>Start location</b>
	<b>Rain or shine or Shine only event (Y/N)</b>

Describe the day with enough detail to distribute as our initial "teaser" to help members decide if they want to participate:

<b>Additional questions</b>	<b>Yes/No</b>	<b>Estimated cost</b>
Will there be a planned drive included?		
How long will the entire drive be?		
Is this an overnight event?		
Will there be food (purchased or brought-circle one)?		
Will there be hotels/motels needed? (This should be considered if it's a long day for those travelling from extremes of the region even though it may be a 1 day event e.g. the Holiday Party)		
Do you need any help planning (i.e. mentor)?		