



# Midstate Miata Club of New York

## “Miata Meanderings”

Official Newsletter for May 2016

Visit the Midstate Miata Club on the Internet at:  
[www.midstatemiata.net](http://www.midstatemiata.net)

### *President's Message*



At last I can see the light at the end of the tunnel....the sun has finally come out and the promise of spring is in the air! I thought it would never get here!!!

But it was a perfect opening weekend at Watkins Glen and awesome to drive the brand new track. Frankly, we've been going to opening weekend for years and can't remember a nicer day....it's always rainy or foggy or a nasty combination thereof. Thanks to the folks who organized it and to the 34 cars who participated. It was great to

have so many new members start their experience with this event.

If you are one of the members that doesn't get their car on the road until May, don't despair...there will be plenty of activities for you to join in. **All members should watch our website** ([www.midstatemiata.net](http://www.midstatemiata.net)) carefully for new events and updates to ones already on the calendar. Also, don't forget you can get apparel with our club logo from the website information and there is a Bulletin Board section which often has interesting items for sale. Lee Maddy is doing a great job of maintaining the website and has added change date status information to see if there's been an update recently. Check it out!!!

In order to have the best activities outcomes, we have updated our Event Coordinator Checklist to assist the folks who have so kindly offered to host an event for our enjoyment. It will be attached to this newsletter and will be available on our website in the Business section as well. Some key points are to:

- Plan early.
- Run the route and **document the directions** to be passed out at the Driver's meeting prior to the start of the drive. Every drive should have written directions so nobody gets left behind or lost.
- Prepare the 'information' article for the newsletter with a deadline to respond by and don't' forget to send the post event article to Deane Bergstrom afterwards.
- Be sure to have adequate 'potty stops' included
- Ask for help if you need it or haven't hosted an event before. We can easily team you up with an experienced host.

Before I forget, I'd like to welcome the new members who have joined us since last season. We look forward to meeting all of you and hope you will enjoy your membership and zooming along with all of us. This club is the best way to enjoy your car, make new friends and find a bunch of new ice cream stops. And to our existing members, please be sure to reach out to welcome new members when you see them at events. They can be identified by the red dot on their badges. Thank you.

One last thing to get us started off on the right foot...all members should try to make a bigger effort to RSVP to their Area Rep by the deadline whether you are attending an event or not. Often the Reps are scrambling at the deadline to reach out/remind folks that they need a response. Event Coordinators need to plan according to the number of cars and people that are attending as well as the leader of the caravans need to know who to expect to arrive at the starting point. It is an important expectation of our members and we hope to start out the year with renewed energy around this.

Let's make this a record year for attendance at events and see how much fun we can all have together.

**Zoom Zoom to all of you.**

***Karen***

***Thank You***

***Bob and Ronnie Sabella***

Ronnie and I would like to thank the Miata Club for the flowers, cards, kind thoughts, and prayers for our deceased grandson, Matthew Sabella. They are very much appreciated.



***Welcome New Members***

***Deane Bergstrom***

<u>Member</u>	<u>Where From</u>	<u>Miata</u>	<u>Area Rep</u>
Bob & Lynda Dobberstein	Fairport	2008 Gray	Marcy Edmiston
Jeremy Lenga	Endicott	2000 Silver	Joe Lamphere
Charlie Hartman	Canandaigua	2013 Gray	Marcy Edmiston
Roger Morton & Sue Fuller	Baldwinsville	2008 Blue	Karen Abbott

***Welcome Back***

Jennifer Barton	Elmira	2002 Yellow	Gail Wagner
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## May Events

### **Saturday, May 7, Rotary Pancake Breakfast/Dandelion Run/or Burdick Tech Day Jim Williams**



Spring is here for good! The “safety gear” is installed, all systems running smooth, tire pressure is ok, clean inside and out, polished, buffed, all waxed and shined up nice....so let’s buckle up tight. The 2016 driving season is heating up. Join the fun starting with the Dewitt Rotary Clubs famous Pancake Breakfast at Shoppingtown Mall in Dewitt, NY. **We will meet at 9: 30** and take the opportunity to shine and show off our beautiful cars to the big crowd that will be at hand. Our own proud Rotarian Judy Williams, has a block of discounted tickets for the pancake breakfast. There will be lots to eat and the price is right. (\$5.00 per person).

At 11:30 we will depart on a drive and tour winding along some fun back roads, alongside five lakes through beautiful Madison County, You will enjoy scenic views, waterfalls, winding creeks, beautiful lakes dandelions in bloom...great roads, tight curves.. Extraordinary zooming. The roads will be twisty as. Usual. After the run a tech day will be held at Burdick Mazda where we will have a car show and there will be new cars for us to test drive.

### **Saturday, May 28 - Middlesex Dinner Chuck Rischenole**



**Middlesex Fire Department ~  
Middlesex, New York**



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 desert. I suggest you get the pie to go because we will be continuing on to an ice cream stop in Bloomfield.

We will meet at the Log Cabin Restaurant on route 31F in Macedon and leave at 2:30pm. If you are going contact your area rep by May 21. If you decide to cancel please let us know at candgr@gmail.com, 585-223-7586, 585-704-9940. If you don't get a person leave a message. There have been times when we are delayed in starting out waiting for people who signed up and then don't show. If you have to cancel please let us know.

## **Friday, May 13-15, Mazda Miata ND Cup Racing at Watkins Glen (Information Only)** **Gail Wagner**

Watkins Glen International Race Track will host the North American Mazda Operations factory racing tour, “2016 Battery Tender Global Mazda MX-5 Cup presented by BG Goodrich Tires” on May 13-15.

This is a series of races for new, identical \$53K factory race-prepared, privately owned 2016 ND MX-5 Miatas at iconic tracks all over the U.S. (Info on car: [www.mazdamotorposrts.com](http://www.mazdamotorposrts.com)). The winner will receive a \$200K scholarship to further his/her racing career. This race will be sharing the track with a Trans Am race all weekend.

### **April Event Report**

#### **Watkins Glen Race Track Experience**

**Gail Wagner**

Our first opening season all-Club event of 2016 and wow, was it fun!

We had about thirty, shiny, top-down Miatas and lots of smiling faces meet at Watkins Glen International Race Track on a beautiful, sunny day for the Opening Weekend on Sunday, April 17<sup>th</sup>.

After lots of hugs and friendly camaraderie, we all settled in our cars and as wanna-be race car drivers, zoom-zoomed three laps around the track at, shall I say, a “spirited” pace behind the track’s pace car. The track was newly paved last fall with new red and white FIA curbing and was super-smooth and grippy.

Many of us went back for “seconds”, another three laps, and some of us opted for lunch in downtown Watkins.

From all reports, a really good time was had by all and I hope we can make this an annual event as turn-out and enthusiasm is always fantastic.

### **Ice Cream Schedule**



#### **Syracuse Area:**

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

May 12- at 6:30 today - Heid’s Sweet Treats, 305 Oswego St, Liverpool (inside seating)

May 26 - Gannon’s Isle, 1525 Valley Drive, Syracuse (inside seating)

June 9 - Pete’s Polar Parlor, 3345 Milton Ave, Solvay

June 23 - Kenny’s Corner Ice Cream, 7575 Buckley Rd, No Syracuse, NY

July 14 - Sweet Frog, Fayetteville Towne Center, Fayetteville

July 28 - Big Dip, 216 No Main Street, No Syracuse

August 11- Sno Top, 315 Fayette St, Manlius

August 25 - Vicki's Tasty Treat, 680 Old Liverpool Rd, Liverpool

September 8 - Plank Road Ice Cream, 449 So Main St, No Syracuse

September 22 - Carvel Ice Cream, 4322 E Genesee St, Dewitt (inside seating-park in Tops Grocery lot)

October 13 - at 6:30 today Hafner's Garden Center, 7265 Buckley Rd, No Syracuse (inside seating)

### ***Rochester Area:***

Ice Cream nights will be the 2nd & 4th Tuesday of the month starting at 6 pm

May 10 Dairy Queen 919 Hard Rd Webster & BRUSTERS 1041 Ridge Rd Webster

May 24 Cheap Charlies 8 Elm St (route 444) Bloomfield & Sharks 50 St Bloomfield

June 14 Log Cabin Restaurant, route 31F Macedon & Pulcini's Farm Market, 2471 route 21 Palmyra

June 28 Pultneyville Deli 4120 Lake Rd Pultneyville

July 12 Bill Gray's 2987 Buffalo Rd Gates

July 26 McGregor's 759 Main St Canandaigua & Creamery, 10 Parrish St Canandaigua

August 9 Carey Lake 959 route 441 Walworth & LONG ACRE FARM 1339 Eddy Rd Macedon

August 23 Colby's route 15 & 251 Rush

September 13 Bill Gray's 1225 Jefferson Rd & READS 3130 E Henrietta Rd (route 15A)

### ***Binghamton Area:***

We will continue meeting for ice cream on the first Monday of the month at Pop's Sugarshack on Conklin Ave, Binghamton, 6:30 PM, beginning April 4, 2016, as we have in past years. (Questions: Joe Lamphere)

In addition we will have ice cream at the following:

May 18 - Jones Humdingers, 1441 Front Street, Binghamton, NY

June 22- Big Dipper/Food, 6935 Route 434, Apalachin, NY

July 20 - Ice Cream Works, North Ave, Owego, NY between Talcott & George St

August 24 - C & G Ice Cream, Rte. 17C, across from Crestview Heights, Endicott, NY

September 21 - Treasure Ice Cream & Cafe, 3017 Watson Blvd, Endwell, NY - Inside

### ***Ithaca Area:***

Ithaca, proudly "centrally isolated"! We are meeting 2016 monthly Ice Cream Night beginning in May 2016 on the **first Wednesday of each month at 7:00 pm.** 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](mailto:gwtr3red@gmail.com)).

**All ice cream meets will be held at**

Purity Ice Cream - 700 Cascadilla St. /Meadow St. (Route 13), Ithaca, NY.

May 4, June 1, July 6, August 3, September 7, October 5

## Upcoming Events

**Sunday, June 19<sup>th</sup>, MG Euro Car Show/ Lorenzo Park**

**Bob Sabella**

The MG CAR CLUB OF CENTRAL NEW YORK has once again cordially invited the MIDSTATE MIATA CLUB to be special guests at the 2016 European car show on **June 19<sup>th</sup> (Father's Day)** at Lorenzo State Park in Cazenovia, New York. The show is from 9-3. Special on field parking arrangements have been made so the club's Miata's will be in the vicinity of the European car judging field, (the Miata's will not be judged) visible for all folks attending the car show to see our Miata's. There is no charge for attending event. There is no registering needed, just show up at the show entrance and you'll be directed to the special guest parking, and enjoy the show. Miata information for the event, there is no specific caravan to the show; everyone is on their own unless they choose to set up their own caravan. The car show is an all-day event and when it breaks up around three there will be no club drive after the event.

**Midstate Miata Club Name tags**

**Deane Bergstrom**



I have begun to provide new format name tags to club members. So far I have sent the new tags to all club officers, area reps, and selected members based on active participation in club activities.

This does not preclude any member from obtaining a new name tag either as a replacement or simply as an updated version. The name tag shown is the new format approved by the board at the spring planning meeting. It is 3.5 x 5 inches actual size. It comes with a replacement holder.

If you want one of the new ones I am backlogged so you will have to be patient awaiting the replacement.

## Teck Tips

**“WENCH WITH A WRENCH”**

**Gail Wagner**

**PCV Valves Suck, Really!**



Hi Miata Folks,

I'm pretty certain you've all heard of a "PCV valve" in your car but ever wonder exactly what it was and what it did or what you should do about it? Never fear, *The Wench* is here to explain all. ☺

What is it? The Positive Crankcase Ventilation system (PCV valve and hoses) was one of the earliest "green" auto emissions-control devices and became standard in all U.S. autos by 1968. Laws were passed to eliminate unburned

hydrocarbons from being vented directly into the atmosphere and so the old down draft tube that vented unburned gasses directly into environment was the first to go, replaced by the PCV.

The PCV is usually mounted in a grommet on the engine valve cover at the end of a hose or tube and can be either a straight or L-shaped plastic piece.

#### What it does:

Basically, the PCV system takes leftover combustion gases (called “blow-by”) from inside the crankcase (the oil pan and bottom of the engine) and routes them back into the engine intake manifold where they’re burned in the combustion chamber as a normal process instead of allowing hydrocarbons, a major source of air pollution, to escape into the atmosphere. Cool, huh?

The PCV is essentially a metered leak of air into the intake system sucking all of its input from the crankcase. A big air leak can’t happen all the time or your car wouldn’t idle worth a damn. So the valve receives a signal when there are greater fumes to scavenge. Ergo, throttle shut (at idle), not much fumes; throttle open (when you step on the gas), lots of fumes to suck back to the intake manifold for burning.

A second function of the PCV valve is to protect the engine in case of backfire which causes a sudden high-pressure pulse in the intake manifold. This forces the PCV valve closed so that the backfire flame can’t reach the crankcase where it could ignite flammable fumes and cause damage.

#### Does it need replacement and why?

The PCV system is seldom listed as a maintenance item but it can cause engine performance and emissions problems. Basically a one-way check valve, if the PCV doesn’t open and close as it should or if any part of the system fails, it can cause rough idle, sluggish acceleration, increased oil consumption or blow out gaskets and seals creating oil leaks.

Another problem is a lack of air flow to carry vapors from the crankcase. Without sufficient air flow, moisture contamination will remain and engine sludge build-up can be a result. A poorly maintained engine’s PCV system will eventually become contaminated with oil sludge. The clogged PCV system or a bad valve can increase oil consumption because pressure builds when the fumes from the crankcase aren’t allow to flow into the combustion chambers to be burned off. That additional pressure can force oil past seals and gaskets if the valve is stuck open. If there’s a leak in the system that will allow too much air into the engine, it will throw off the air-fuel mixture triggering the good, old “check engine” idiot light we all love to hate.

A hose or tube in the PCV system can become clogged from a sludge build-up or a vacuum hose may leak rather than the valve itself, so it pays to have the system inspected and tested for air flow and leaks. Rubber grommets or O-rings may deteriorate and leak. You can also spot a bad PCV if there is an oil spot on your air filter as it backs up due to system clogging.

Though it’s not listed in the owner’s manual maintenance schedule in most cars, the PCV system should be inspected periodically to make sure it’s still in good condition. Some automotive experts recommend replacement between 20,000 to 50,000 miles along with routine maintenance such as an oil change while others suggest PCV valves can last up to 80,000 miles or more. Shorter trips (under 10 miles) will cause the valve to fail sooner and under extreme conditions, a 30,000 mile replacement may be needed..

The good news is because of its low cost and ease of replacement, changing the PCV routinely is probably smart preventative maintenance.

Common symptoms indicating a sick PCV:

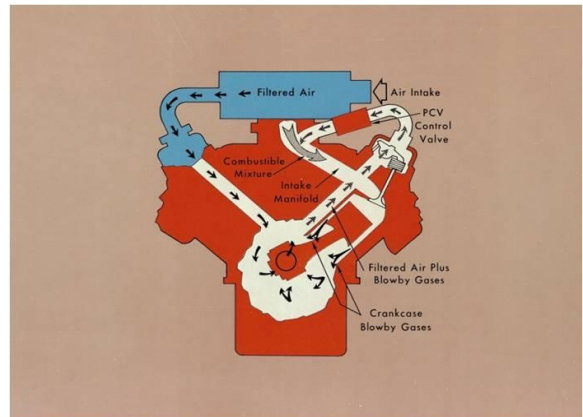
- Leaks in the engine compartment or around the PCV grommet on the valve cover
- Oil present in the air filter
- Leaks underneath your car
- A whistle, a whine or a low moaning noise from the engine (and later moans from the vehicle owner) ☺
- Car runs poorly (idles rough/poor acceleration)
- Worse gas mileage
- Possible diagnostic trouble codes (DTC) P0171 or P0174

On summation, if you suspect any of the above or your vehicle has developed an oil leak, have the PCV system checked. It could save you a lot of money.

Zoom Zoom Safely!

Gail

PCV Located on top of engine valve cover:



***DJSOLAJMER***

*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**



**Burdick  
MAZDA**



**Marketplace**



**mazda**



## Midstate Miata Club Officers for 2016

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**Midstate Miata Club**  
**Schedule of Events**  
**For the 2016 Driving Season**

<b>Event</b>	<b>Leader</b>
Saturday, May 7 - Rotary Pancake Breakfast/Dandelion Run/or Burdick Tech Day	Jim Williams
Friday, May 13-15- Mazda Miata ND Cup Racing at Watkins Glen (Information)	Gail Wagner
Saturday, May 28 - Middlesex Dinner	Chuck Rischenole
Friday, June 3 - Annual Ithaca Parade, 9pm	Gail Wagner
Saturday, June 4 - Marcellus Parade	Chuck Paul
Saturday, June 11 Geneva Car Show	Jerry Acquilano
Sunday, June 19 - Lorenzo Car Show	Bob Sabella
Monday, July 4 - Montrose PA Parade	Del Austin
Sunday, July 24 - Glenora Winery	Gail Wagner
Wednesday, July 26 - Log Cabin Car Show	Karen McKissock
Sunday, July 31 – MMC Club Picnic	Karen Abbott & MaryAnn Knight
Sunday, August 7 - Corning Museum of Glass	Gail Wagner
Sunday, August 14 - Oswego County Airport & Breakfast	Steve Bollenbacher
Sunday, August 21 - Polo & Bob's BBQ	Chuck Paul
Sunday, August 28 - Northeast Classic Car Museum	John Flederer
Sunday, September 11 - Oz Ride (Mathilda Gage House, Oz Museum & lunch)	The Abbotts
Sunday, September 17 - Palmyra Parade	Chuck Rischenole
Sunday, September 25 - Bill Hodge Road Rally	Gary Schoonmaker
Saturday, October 8 - Honesdale, PA Harvest & Heritage Festival	Lou & Carol Trelease
Sunday, October 16 - Cornell Ornithology Lab & Trail Walk	Gail Wagner & Local Reps Drive
TBD, Tech Day & New Member Appreciation	Marcy Edmiston
Sunday, December 4 - Holiday Party	John & Elaine Piston