

MIDSTATE MIATA CLUB OF NY

"MIATA MEANDERINGS" NEWSLETTER

Volume 3, Issue 9 - December 2019

PRESIDENT'S LETTER



Note from Karen McKissock

So Zoom, Zoom season has come to a close only to be replaced by another kind of joy and happiness...the holidays (and snow). It was a great year to add a number of new members, welcome back some 'old' ones and to spend time in our favorite vehicles at some awesome events.

It was all made possible by our many volunteers who coordinated the events, the Area Reps and Board members and your fellow club members. My appreciation goes out to all of you and I hope we see more new faces next year. I've already been getting suggestions for things to do next season and will bring them up at our annual planning meeting in March. More details will follow with when and where we will meet and I hope to see LOTS of you there.

So...here's my wish for you to have a Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah and good Kwanza. See you next season.

Karen McKissock

MMC President



Visit the Midstate Miata Club on the Internet at:

www.midstatemiata.net

NOTICE: Deadline for the February newsletter is January 27th, Monday. This includes all post event reports, new events and updated upcoming events. Please sent them to John.N.Amon@gmail.com

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.

CLUB LOGO APPAREL

While the driving season is drawing toward its end for this year, the holiday season is fast approaching. If you are jealous of other members you see wearing clothes with the club logo, there is no need. Club apparel can be ordered through Land's End. You go through the club website and follow the "Club Apparel" link, http://www.midstatemiata.net/club_apparel. Then select the "Our e-store web link" that will direct you to Lands End. Once you select your item(s), make sure you adjust the thread colors to contrast the item. (Not much point in black thread on a black fleece.) Don't be shy about calling them for help and make sure they know what you want. If you want to save some money and aren't in a hurry, get on their email list to be **notified** of sales. They periodically offer free logos and/or free shipping.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Membership renewals are due before May 1st, 2020 and are \$30 per household. If there are no changes to your membership you may just mail a check. If there are any updates you should use the form on the Club membership page or you may enter the address shown below to get that form and mail the form and your check. Please make out your check to "Midstate Miata Club of NY " and mail it to the following address.

Ronnie Sabella (treasurer)
401 Swansea Ave
Syracuse, NY 13206

http://www.midstatemiata.net/yahoo_site_admin/assets/docs/MMC_Brochure_2017v2.22353905.pdf

ANNUAL PLANNING MEETING

The 2020 Annual Planning Meeting will likely be is near the end of March 2020. Everyone is invited to attend. The event will take place at Burdick Drivers' Village, 5885 Circle Drive East, Cicero, NY 13039, on the second floor. The entrance is right next to the Mazda service entrance on the southwest end of the building.

POST EVENT REPORTS FOR DECEMBER

Sunday, December 8th Annual Holiday Party

Event Coordinator – John Piston

On Sunday, December 8th, 66 Midstate Miata Club members enjoyed a wonderful holiday party at The Point at Sand Beach in Auburn. Following some socializing (with a cash bar) we were treated to a scrumptious buffet. After a brief welcome by our president, Karen McKissock, we enjoyed some fun and games, an ugly sweater contest (won by Dave Kuhn), drawing for 10 great door prizes donated by Moss Motors, our annual white elephant gift exchange and, of course, the grand finale (always a treat to have Jay Cartini emcee): thanking (with gifts) our event leaders, board members and all else who contributed significantly to our club's operation and activities. We also donate to the Cayuga/Seneca Community Action Agency's Christmas Elf program which provides gifts to children in needy families. Our contribution over filled the large box they provided. Very heartwarming, indeed. If you missed the party this year put it on your calendar for next . . . Sunday, December 6, 2020.







TECHNICAL TIPS – ‘WENCH WITH A WRENCH’



By Gail Wagner – Midstate Miata Club of NY

Hello Miata Folks,

While this month's column isn't devoted to our Miatas as they are probably all peacefully sleeping in storage until their spring re-awakening, I was thinking about winter driving and maintenance of my OTM (Other Than Miata) which happens to be an all-wheel drive Mazda CX-3 SUV.

I have gleaned some general tips that I hope you will find interesting and useful. As I researched this topic, I learned a few good things myself. ☺

DRIVING & MAINTENANCE TIPS FOR YOUR "OTM" (OTHER THAN MIATA)

Buying a car, whether new or used, is likely to be the most expensive transaction you will make besides buying a house or condo. With car average prices hitting in the \$30K range and prices for most used cars remaining high due to demand, not to mention those of us on fixed-incomes, these factors lead up to one thing: we are holding onto vehicles longer than ever.

I have enumerated some tips to get the longest possible life out of a vehicle, whether it's your Miata or your DD (daily driver), in winter (or summer, actually).

Think about starting your engine. Especially in cold weather, starting produces the most wear on your engine's internals. It is claimed that 95% of an engine's wear is caused by the first 10 seconds of starting after a cold start – i.e., it produces the wear equivalent of 500 miles of travel with a warm engine! (Sikorsky, Drive It Forever).

To understand why, during a cold start, there is no wear-reducing film of oil between the engine's bearing surfaces. So microscopic particles of metal are deposited into the oil. This wear diminishes as oil reaches internal engine components but the film of oil on engine bearing surfaces can be displaced in as little as 6 second after shutting off the engine. So "cold" doesn't actually mean "cold to the touch".

So...to minimize wear, reduce the times you start a cold engine unless necessary and never start an engine just to hear it run, to "circulate the oil", or warm it up. Start it and drive off immediately. Your vehicle manual will state this fact if you don't believe me.

If you possibly can, avoid short trips in cold weather. To function at peak efficiency, your engine needs to be at its peak operating temperature. The amount of time necessary to reach this operating temp varies by driving style and outside temperature but the bare minimum under warm conditions is between 5 and 10 miles.

Driving shorter distances in cold weather can cause condensation inside an engine leading to potential internal corrosion and formation of engine oil sludge (yuck) as contaminants that would normally be burned off at normal operating temp are trapped in the oil, ultimately settling to the bottom of the oil pan as deposits and sludge.

A winter tip: I know this will be hard but try not to turn on the cabin heat until the coolant has reached its normal operating temp because doing so will prolong the time it takes for the engine to reach peak operating temp.

You probably know this but NEVER ignore a warning light. Our cars are wonders of design and engineering for the amount of info potential displayed. Generally speaking, a yellow light means something is wrong and needs to be looked at by a mechanic ASAP while red lights mean pull over and stop as soon as it's safe to do so. It can be a very expensive lesson to learn that warning lights, especially red ones, are there for a really good reason (ask me about my red alternator light on the Thruway in a snowstorm in the middle of nowhere between here and Buffalo!).

Oil Changes: Here's a goodie: Don't rely solely on mileage or judge oil change intervals. Motor oil traps all kinds of nasty bits that's bad for a car's engine (sludge, varnish, sulfuric acid, hydrochloric hydrobromic acid, etc. etc.) none of which will benefit your engine if left too long. That said, most manufacturers have now recommended oil change intervals based on time as well as mileage but generally as a good rule of thumb, don't go any longer than 12 months between oil changes no matter what type of oil you use (conventional or synthetic).

Here's another one that is universally ignored: brake fluid changes. As I mentioned if you read my "Storing Your Miata for Winter" articles, brake fluid is hygroscopic, meaning it attracts water. The more H₂O brake fluid absorbs, inevitable over time, the lower the brake fluid's boiling point becomes and the more the risk of corrosion of internal braking components. Always follow brake fluid replacement guidelines in your manufacturer's owner's manual but as a general rule, change brake fluid every three years even if you aren't replacing worn pad, rotors, etc. Black brake fluid is a bad, bad thing.

Beware of mechanics using impact guns. As I understand it, most modern cars have factory torque values for lug nuts on your wheels or bolts in the 85-95 pound-foot range. A ½"-drive impact gun can spin these on with a force of over 500 pound-feet of torque, potentially causing damage to wheels, break wheel studs, and damage lugs, hubs, brake rotors and drums. And chances the average owner can be able to remove over-tightened lug nuts with a wrench by the side of the road is between slim and none! AAA to the rescue! It is recommended that when taking your car in for service for tires/wheels, always ask if their power impact wrench has a "torque limiter" socket adapter attachment that limits the amount of torque applied by power to tightening (not loosening) your lug nuts, etc. The limiters come in different torque sizes that will match your factory-torque tightening specifications. Ask to see it!

Winter floor mats are a good thing. (I love WeatherTec brand mats. Expensive but good looking, come in colors and last forever. They make SUV cargo-area mats too.) Rubber-channeled floor mats are a great way to keep carpets dry (or replace carpet mats), keep road salt from shoes and boots from leaching through carpeting and eating sheet metal or electrical components (control modules and electrical connectors) underneath or causing rust holes on the floor pan eventually over time.

Keep your daily driver clean in winter as well as summer. Weekly car washing is a good thing to minimize buildup of dirt, mud and road salt. Be sure to remove bug guts and bird droppings as they can etch and permanently damage paint. Brake dust is corrosive and can etch your expensive alloy wheels so don't let it accumulate either.

Of course, as I hound you with your Miata, be sure to keep up with manufacturer's maintenance schedule religiously: transmission fluid, air cleaners, differential fluid and coolant checks all changed at varying recommended intervals. Shock absorbers and suspension parts can wear out over time. And as a bonus, adhering to a manufacturer's maintenance schedule with retained receipts will make your vehicle easier to sell if the time comes. Certainly impresses prospective buyers! ☺

And finally, as winter sets in, carefully examine your snow tires. (I'm not a fan of all-season radials for winter driving. Period.) Make sure they are in good condition just like your summer tires, not over 7 years old and ready to be mounted on your car for safe snowy driving.

I hope this has been helpful and food for some thought. As I always say about our beloved Miatas at the end of each of my columns, "Take care of your car and it will take care of you" AND will last longer without major repairs.

Have a Safe Winter Driving Season North OR South!

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!

FUTURE EVENT FOR 2020

Dear Miata Enthusiasts,

In 2015 you helped us celebrate the 20th Anniversary of the [Underground Miata Network](#) by attending Canada's Capital Miata Meet - 2015.

2020 will be our 25th Anniversary and we will be celebrating once again by hosting [C2M2-2020](#)! We would like to extend a special invitation to you to join us again in **Ottawa from 13-16 August, 2020**. It would be a great opportunity to meet old friends and make new ones.

Details of the event are on our web site at UMN-C2M2-2020.COM.

Please share this email with other members of your club.

David Waung

Canada's Capital Miata Meet 2020
13-16 August 2020

MMC Leadership team

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