

MIDSTATE MIATA CLUB OF NY

"MIATA MEANDERINGS" NEWSLETTER

Volume 4, Issue 2 - March 2020

PRESIDENT'S LETTER



NOTE FROM KAREN MCKISSOCK



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

OK...it's time to defrost our brains and get ready to plan our 2020 calendar. Jay has done a really nice job of planning to upgrade our format for the meeting so it should be a more pleasurable and efficient time. Thanks to Jay! I'd like to encourage all members to consider attending this year and to bring or send ideas to your Area Rep. if you cannot join us. We will, of course, include many of our 'good old faithful' events that have become annual favorites. John Amon will have the feedback from the survey which has been coming in with some 'pearls' to help us increase attendance at our events. I'm really looking forward to seeing the outcome. Thanks to John for taking on this task and introducing us to new technology.

Last, but not least about the planning meeting, please use and bring a copy of the Planning Template with the details of your event (as best you know at the moment). We flush the rest out after the meeting.

In general, I'm looking forward to seeing more of you this season

as we implement some of the survey ideas. We can't wait to get the car out...especially with the nice weather the last couple days.

Please RSVP to Jay and your Area Rep ASAP (as soon as possible) so we have a good count for the caterer. Thanks

Karen McKissock
MMC President

Well it's that time of year again!

By Jay Cartini

That's right, it's been almost a year and it is once again time to dust off the maps, go through the junk drawer and find all those pamphlets, and find the box that has the road atlas, yes indeed, it's planning time again.

We're going to mixing it up a little bit this year.

What remains the same: We will be meeting in one of the upstairs conference rooms at Drivers Village. The date will be March 14. We will start at 9am and hopefully be wrapped up by 2pm-ish.

Now the new: We are doing a full blown breakfast this year. Which will start shortly after 9am. We will do the general membership meeting during breakfast after everyone gets seated. Once we're done gorging ourselves the planning portion will begin.

So be prepared. Have whatever information you can gather for planning purposes. This includes what the event is, the date, if it's weather sensitive, the route, meeting places, times, blah blah blah, you get it. Now I know some of these things will be estimates and will all likely change, but the more information we have the better.

Remember, it is better to volunteer than to be volunteered. The club is only as successful as our events, and our events are only successful because of you, the members. So don't be shy, don't be afraid, step up and put something together, it's not as tough as you think.

If you can't make it get me all the information you can so we can put it on the board, discuss it, and decide on it.

Remember, blue is better.

In preparation for the Annual Planning Meeting please use the planning template linked below from our website or the document being sent with this PDF. If you cannot attend please send a completed form to your Area Rep by March 10th.

http://www.midstatemiata.net/yahoo_site_admin/assets/docs/2017_Midstate_Miata_Club_Planning_Template.8465858.pdf

The 2020 Annual Planning Meeting will take place at Burdick Drivers' Village, 5885 Circle Drive East, Cicero, NY 13039, on the second floor. One entrance is right next to the Mazda service entrance on the southwest end of the main building.

Saturday March 14, 2020 from 9am until 2pm-ish!

Enter the street address in your GPS, 5885 Circle Drive East, Cicero, NY 13039.

NOTICE: Deadline for the April newsletter is March 20th, Friday. 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

We are about to start the driving season and it is a perfect time to update your wardrobe. 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

Area Representatives

We have four areas in the Midstate Miata Club of New York and four hardworking Area Representatives. You can contact them anytime with any questions that you have. Their contact information is always on the last page of the Newsletter.

Their areas, names, phone numbers, and email address are listed here also.

Syracuse	Dale Nagle	315-677-9342	dalen262@aol.com
Rochester	Steve Stewart	585-586-9152	sastew1943@gmail.com
Southern Tier	Barb Hunsinger	607-785-5459	bhunsin928@aol.com
Ithaca	Gail Wagner	607-257-7445	gwtr3red@gmail.com

Important Club World Wide Web Sites

Here are a couple websites that you should know about.

Our Club has a website that most of you know about.

<http://www.midstatemiata.net/>

Our Club also has a Facebook page that most of you do not know about.

<https://www.facebook.com/MidState-Miata-Club-of-New-YorkInc-264163837256529/>

Membership Poll

Have you completed the poll to tell the Midstate Miata Club of New York Board of Directors what you think?

The poll will close on March 8, 2020 at 7:00 am. Please take a few minutes to complete the poll at the link below. Either click the link or copy and past it into your favorite web browser. Tests have shown that it will only take about 5 minutes or so of your time. You do not need a Google account to participate.

<https://forms.gle/VYkWLTeyBfmYpu287>

ICE CREAM NIGHTS 2020



MMC ICE CREAM SCHEDULE, SYRACUSE - 2020

DALE NAGLE

Every other Thursday starting May 14th

May 14 - Heid's, Liverpool. 6:30 PM

May 28 - Gannon's, Syracuse. 6:30 PM

June 11 - Byrne Dairy, LaFayette. 7:00 PM

June 25 - Pete's Polar, Solvay. 7:00 PM

July 9 - Plank Road, N. Syracuse. 7:00 PM

July 23 - Sno Top, Manlius. 7:00 PM

Aug 6 - Hickory Hill, Baldwinsville. 7:00 PM

Aug 20 - Vickie's, Liverpool. 7:00 PM

Sept 3 - Big Dip, N Syracuse. 7:00 PM

Sept 17 - Zem's, Canastota. 7:00 PM

Oct 1 - Carvel, Dewitt. 6:30 PM

Oct 15 - Sweet Frog, Fayetteville, 6:30 PM

MMC ICE CREAM SCHEDULE, ITHACA - 2020

GAIL WAGNER

Monthly: 1st Wednesday each month @ 6:30 pm, ice cream only

Ithaca, proudly "centrally isolated"!

Monthly Ithaca Ice Cream Night begins in May on the first Wednesday of each month 7:00 p.m. at Purity Ice Cream, corner of 700 Cascadilla St./Meadow St. (Route 13) in Ithaca. Please park next door behind the I.D. Booth Plumbing & Heating building on Cascadilla St.

All Miata Club members are cordially welcome to join us!

(Questions: Gail Wagner, Ithaca-area Rep, gwtr3red@gmail.com).

Dates: May 6, June 3, July 1, Aug 5, Sept. 2 and Sept. 30 (no October)

MMC ICE CREAM SCHEDULE, ROCHESTER - 2020

STEVE STEWART

MMC Rochester Ice Cream Nite Schedule

6:00 PM 2nd & 4th Tuesday of the month, light dinner & then ice cream

May 12 Colby's, Rt. 15 & 250, Rush

May 26 Five Guys 405 Commerce Drive, (North end of Walmart/ Kohl's plaza, Rt. 96) Poppa Jacks Ice Cream, 261 W. Main St., Victor

June 9 Orbachers, 4753 Rt.104, Williamson

June 23 Bill Grays, 941 Hard Rd., Webster
Bruster's, 1041 Ridge Rd., Webster

July 14 Colby's, Rt.15 & 205, Rush

July 28 Charlie Reidels, 3141 County Rd. &
Rt. 5 & 20, The Creamery, 10 Parrish St.
Canandaigua

Aug.11 Bill Gray's, 2987 Buffalo Rd., Gates
Lugia's 4719 Lyell Rd., Spencerport

Aug.25 Colby's. Rt. 250 & 15, Rush

Sept.8 Tom Wahl's, Rt. 96 Bushnells Basin
Pittsford

Sept.22 Five Guys, 1100 Jefferson Rd. Reads,
3141 E. Henrietta Rd. (15A), Henrietta

MMC ICE CREAM SCHEDULE, BINGHAMTON -2020

BARB HUNSINGER

Most begins at 6:30 PM, three at 4:30 PM identified with an asterisk

MONDAY	May 4	Tastie Cream, 2021 Vestal Pkwy, Vestal, NY
WEDNESDAY	May 20	Old School House, 17 Fox Farm Rd, Windsor, NY
MONDAY	June 1	Double Scoop, RT 17C - just pass Crestview Heights
WEDNESDAY *	June 17	Bob's BBQ & Ice Cream - 5290 RT 281 Homer, NY 4:30 PM & Super Cream Dairy Bar - 75 N West St, Homer, NY
MONDAY	July 6	Frosty Joe's, 8 Track Drive, Binghamton, NY
WEDNESDAY	July 22	Ice Cream Works, 14 George St, Owego, NY
MONDAY *	August 3	Backyard Ice Cream, Susquehanna, PA 4:30 PM
WEDNESDAY	August 19	Suzy Q's, Chenango Street, Hillcrest, NY
TUESDAY	Sept 8	Tastie Cream, 2021 Vestal Pkwy, Vestal, NY
WEDNESDAY *	Sept 23	Big Dipper - Ice Cream & Chicken BBQ 4:30 PM

By Gail Wagner - Midstate Miata Club of NY



Bringing Your Miata/MX5 Out of Storage

Hi, Miata Folks,

Yes, it's time again to think about getting our Miatas out of storage and back on the road for some top-down fun. But....before you do, make sure your Miata is road-worthy and ready to give you hours of trouble-free driving pleasure. I usually aim for out of storage on or about April 1st but only after I am assured of a couple of good rain storms to wash away any residual road salt from the (hopefully) last and final snow storm of the season.

Remember, most of our Miatas are oldies but goodies and in order to keep them running smoothly and trouble-free, a bit of extra (and on-going) attention is required of these older cars.

Please don't neglect checking out my annual "labor of Miata love" checklist (see below) when you're ready to bring your Miata out of storage this spring. Let's hope it's another early, warm, dry spring and wonderful, warm summer driving season! So far, it hasn't been too bad of a winter. Yea, Global Warming!

I hope you find this check list useful as a continuing Miata Club member or as a new member and Miata owner. This is an annual column I run every year in the spring.

BRINGING YOUR MIATA OUT OF WINTER STORAGE

Check your NYS inspection sticker for 2020 inspection date and jot it down on a calendar or your mobile device as a reminder. It's so easy to forget! Maybe it's a good time to get your oil and filter changed too.

Check under the hood for evidence of hungry rodents, as in chewed belts, hoses, wires or nests. They seem to love to snack on wiring insulation and can do some serious damage. Additionally, hoses can

crack or dry out without the assistance of little furry critters. Also check for any loose wiring or loose connections while you're under there.

Reconnect the battery, if applicable, and make sure battery terminals are clean. Tip: If terminals are 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. Throw away the toothbrush! ☺

Check your spark plug wires if you have them. Are they old, cracked, funky-looking? Time to replace. (Newer models have "coil packs" and not traditional spark plug wires and hardly ever need replacement.)

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.

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 now. Tip: if your brake fluid has not been changed in a couple of years, think about replacing it perhaps during annual inspection. It does break down after a while. Fresh is always better!

If you've covered or packed the muffler or air intake to prevent furry invaders over the winter, remove all the material before you start the car or you won't be able to start it and you'll wonder why! You don't want a "duh moment", do you? ☺

Check your windshield wipers to see if they are brittle or cracked and need replacement.

Check COLD tire pressure (after you lower it off the jack stands, if applicable) and inflate or deflate to the recommended pressure located on a sticker inside the driver side door or owner's manual and....

Inspect your tires very carefully for any cracks, cuts or scrapes in the sidewalls or between tread rows. Check tire tread and replace if necessary. 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 and less than legal 3/32" and needs immediate replacement. Tip: I love "www.tirerack.com" for tire recommendations and on-line purchases. And....

SO IMPORTANT: Even if the tire tread looks acceptable, check the tire manufacturer date on the outside of the tire. Tires over 6-7 years should be replaced even if they look OK on the outside due to interior degradation. Your tires could be extremely unsafe at any speed. (Read my column on "Tires 101" on the Miata website to find out how to check for tire manufacturer's date.)

If you are mechanically inclined and a stickler for detail, you may want to consider lubing your cylinders with a few drops of motor oil before starting the engine for the first time BUT you'll have to temporarily remove your spark plugs to do so. (Warning: Removing spark plugs is a bit tricky if you're not familiar and you'll need a few special tools but it's not that hard. If I can do it so can you. ☺

Check the brakes. There may be some rust on the rotors and you may hear some squeaks, squeals and scraping noise during your first outing but this should dissipate quickly after driving for a short time. If it doesn't... well, time to see your friendly mechanic or D.I.Y., A.S.A.P. It's always a good idea to pull the wheels and check your brake pad thickness at the start of the season for possible replacement. Hopefully, you didn't leave the parking brake on during storage and seized the brakes. ☺

Check the check list you may have left on the steering wheel (recommended in my "Winter Storage Tips" column) to see if there are any leftover maintenance issues that you need to address now before serious driving season.

Wash your vehicle thoroughly to remove accumulated dirt and dust and use a good convertible top cleaner/reconditioner/waterproofing. I like RaggTopp cleaner and conditioner products and so do Audi and MBW manufacturers as they recommend this product for their convertible vehicles.

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 last summer. It's all about moisture in your crankcase and you want to limit rust and corrosion as much as possible especially if your Miata/MX5 is "mature" like my '06 NC. As I suggested in previous columns, I highly recommend an OEM Mazda oil filter or the Mobil One oil filter (both have oil anti-drain back valves in the 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!). Tip: You can use regular petroleum-based old-fashioned motor oil (I like Castrol GTX) but I have recently switched to 100% synthetic motor oil (Mobil One or Redline) which I feel is better for your engine's moving parts. Just don't combine the two types of oil together. Additional Tip: When you check your oil fluid level if you see any white liquid residue on the top of the stick which would indicate moisture in the motor oil (definitely not good), change the oil and filter immediately. I'm not kidding.

Wash and wax your car as soon as you can after taking out of storage. Your Miata's finish has accumulated dust and?? while languishing in storage that can affect the paint finish. Tip: Check out my column of detailing your vehicle on the Miata Club website.

AND FINALLY, before you commit to a long drive, consider a twenty-minute test drive around the block and at highway speed to make sure there are no remaining problems: Does the car pull to one side when braking? Does the brake pedal "fade"? Does the clutch pedal feel correct or goes to the floor too easily? Can you hear a miss in the ignition or a backfire? Are any belts squeaking? How's the engine temperature? How's the steering - lose and wandering? If you notice any of these conditions, have them checked immediately, if not sooner, by a qualified mechanic.

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

p.s. Remember to check out my previous archived tech and tip columns on our Club website under TECH: www.mistatemiata.net

See You on the Road and 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!

OTHER CLUB 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

OFFICE	NAME	PHONE	E-MAIL
President	Karen McKissock	585-820-6010	kmckiss1948@gmail.com
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