

Midstate Miata Club of New York

“Miata Meanderings”

Official Newsletter for June 2015

Visit the Midstate Miata Club on the Internet at:

www.midstatemiata.net



President's Message



Wow! Did we skip spring and jump right into summer this year? Not that I'm complaining!!! The hotter the better for me! It sure has opened up the season for driving our recreational vehicles early. Of course we deserved it after the stinky winter we had. I hope it continues to the end of October.

Well, first I want to apologize for a couple balls I dropped in the last month or so. We had put the Rochester Air Show on our calendar and Bill and Nancy Lowe did the research and legwork to provide logistics information for that event.

After hearing a couple concerning things like if we participated we'd have to caravan to be inside the gates no later than 8:00AM and that we'd have to provide constant 'guards' around the cars as we'd be in the middle of the crowds where people could be up close and personal with them. The final concern was that once we got parked we'd need to stay until it ended around 5:00-5:30pm. So I made an executive decision to take it off the agenda, however I didn't share that decision with all of you.

Also, I have not completed my sponsor drive as planned. It's merely a factor of time right now. Ron and I have sold our house and are moving into an apartment (with 2 car garage) in a couple weeks and have been cleaning out 30 years of 'stuff'. It's a lousy excuse but it's the state of reality we're in right now. I promise to get back on track in June. If you need anything or have a concern, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Finally, for this month, I hear the membership renewal is going well and the numbers appear to show early growth for this year again. Thanks to Bob Sabella for continuing the annual drive to make us a bigger organization of car fans and fun people.

Please review this month's newsletter to find details about our upcoming events and I hope to see lots of you at them.

Always open to talking with you.

Karen



<u>Member</u>	<u>Where From</u>	<u>Miata</u>	<u>Area Rep</u>
Joe & Joeanna DeBlaere	Honeoye	95 Blue/Green	Marcy Edmiston
John & Pat Gaines	Groton	97 Green	Joe Lamphere
Rob & Marian Russell	Binghamton	96 Red	Joe Lamphere
Mark & Marie Black	Rochester	07 Red	Marcy Edmiston
Tim & Tracy Wells	Watkins Glen	07 True Red	Joe Lamphere
Jerry & Desiree Watkins	Conesus	97 Green	Marcy Edmiston

Ice Cream Schedule



Syracuse -2015 (Updated) Monthly: 2nd & 4th Thursdays @ 7:00pm

June 11- Pete’s Polar Parlor, 3345 Milton Ave, Solvay

June 25- Sno Top, 315 Fayette St, Manlius

July 9- Big Dip, 216 No Main Street, No Syracuse

July 23 - William’s Farm & Ice Cream, 6545 Route 31, Cicero (corner of Whiting Rd)

August 13 - Vicki’s Tasty Treat, 680 Old Liverpool Rd, Liverpool

August 27 - Plank Road Ice Cream, 449 So Main St, No Syracuse

September 10 - Formerly known as Jo-Li-Me Café, at Hafner’s Garden Center, 7265 Buckley Rd, No Syracuse (inside seating) the new name has not been announced yet

September 24 - Sweet Frog, Fayetteville Towne Center, Fayetteville

October 8 - at **6:30 today** Carvel Ice Cream, 4322 E Genesee St, Dewitt (inside seating-park in Tops Grocery lot)

(Questions: Karen Abbott)

Rochester: Carvel Ice Cream, 4322 E Genesee St, Dewitt (inside seating-park in Tops Grocery lot) The Rochester Group is going to try something different this season so that more of the members in our group will have an opportunity to attend. Our first time out will be on Saturday May 16 leaving from Karen & Ron's home 1250 Lake Point Dr. located off the North end of route 250 in Webster. We will be leaving at 1:00pm for a drive

to Kroney's in Hamlin for lunch and then on to Lugia's in Spencerport for ice cream. **(Questions: Chuck Rischenole)**

June 13 - 1:00pm Starting point Bill Grays Jefferson Rd Henrietta

Destinations Charcoal Corral & Colby's

July 18 - 1:00pm Starting point Webster Park at Holt & Lake Rd Webster

Destinations Rudy's & Reese's Dairy Bar

August 15 - 1:00pm Starting point Bill Gray's Jefferson Rd Henrietta

Destination Scooters & Cruisers

September 19 - 1:00pm Starting point Log Cabin Restaurant route 31F Macedon

Destinations Log Cabin & Sharks

October 10 - 1:00pm Starting point Log Cabin Restaurant route 31F Macedon

Destinations Peppermints & Colby's

Ithaca Area Ah, Ithaca – “centrally isolated”: 50 miles from Binghamton and Syracuse and 90 miles from Rochester. We are beginning a local monthly ice cream night and will meet at the locations below for ice cream and/or food at 7:00 p.m. on the **first Wednesday of every month**. No reservations required; just show up. Rain-or-shine. Indoor seating at both locations. **(Questions: Gail Wagner)**

June 3 - Cayuga Creamery, 8421 State Route 89, Interlaken

July 1 - Purity Ice Cream, 700 Cascadilla St. & of Meadow St. (Route 13) Ithaca

August 5 - Cayuga Creamery, 8421 State Route 89, Interlaken

September 2 - Purity Ice Cream, 700 Cascadilla St. & Meadow St. (Route 13) Ithaca

October 7 - Cayuga Creamery, 8421 State Route 89, Interlaken

Binghamton: 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 as we have in past years. In addition to our regular schedule we will also meet as below. **(Questions: Joe Lamphere)**

Supplemental

June 17 Big Dipper/Food 6935 Route 434, Apalachin, NY

July 22 Ice Cream Works North Ave, Owego, NY between Talcott & George St

August 19 C & G Ice Cream Rte. 17C, across from Crestview Heights, Endicott, NY

September 16 Suzy-Q's 1110 Chenango Street, Hillcrest, NY - Inside

October 10 Tastie Cream 2021 Vestal Parkway W, Vestal, NY – Inside

June Events

Saturday, June 6, Marcellus Old Home Days Parade

Chuck Paul



EVERYONE LOVES A PARADE (at least in Marcellus) While we're not sure why.....but many Miata drivers like to be in a parade and many Marcellians like to watch Miatas in a parade.

Please join us on Saturday, June 6th at 2:45 at the Sunoco Convenience Store, corner of Lee-Mulroy (Route 175) Road and Pleasant Valley Road in Marcellus.

Bring wrapped candy to toss to youngsters (we have three dentists in need of work) and join our caravan. The parade lasts for about 45 minutes ending in beautiful

Marcellus Park where those who wish can dine on sausage sandwiches or chicken or other typical fare.

After a short break we will depart for a scenic ride which will include a run through "13 curves" and ending at "Sweeties" for homemade pie &/or ice cream. The challenge is to have at least 30 Miatas in the parade in which case the treat is on me.

Any questions.....cpaul@twcny.rr.com or 315 673-4432. Day of event 315 378-6018.

Sunday, June 21, MG Euro Car Show/Lorenzo Park

Dennis Bromley/Sue Beck



The MG CAR CLUB OF CENTRAL NEW YORK would like to cordially invite the MIDSTATE MIATA CLUB to be special guests at our 2015 European car show on June 21st (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 that your club's Miatas will be in the vicinity of the European car judging field....visible for all folks attending the car show to see your Miatas strutting their stuff even though they are not European! There is no charge for attending the event as our guests.

There is no registering needed...just show up at

the show car entrance and you'll be directed to your special guest parking.....and enjoy the show.

Miata protocol 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 assembly/ 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. Food offerings will be made by Limp Lizard at the Lorenzo grounds.



Pray for excellent weather, enjoy your ride to and from the show.....and ENJOY THE DAY!

June Event Reports

Pancake Day

Deane Bergstrom



Hungry Midstaters gathered in DeWitt for the annual kickoff event – Pancake Day. Jim and Judy Williams were our hosts for this event and provided us with discount tickets to the pancake feast. Following the breakfast Jim lead the group on a merry ride through dandelion country and all were awed by the glorious sight of a bazillion dandelions dancing in the sun.

Waterfall Tour

Deane Bergstrom and Ray Mosher



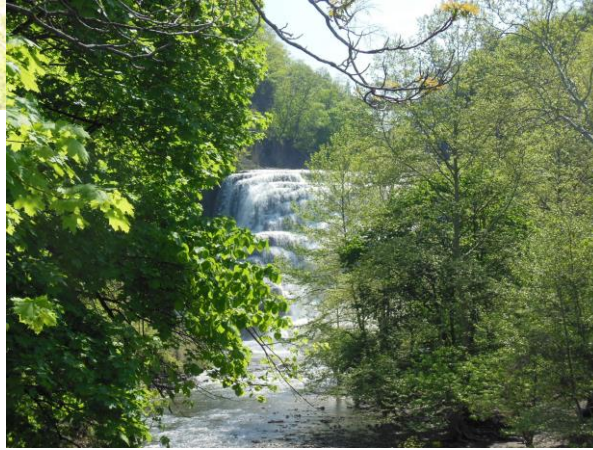
Deane - We all gathered at the fire station in Skaneateles for the Waterfall Tour led by Ray Mosher. It was a top down day and a smiles up day as we toured to our first stop at New Hope Mills.

I recall another event where the mostly original cadre of Midstate Miata Cub members journeyed for a pancake event complete with pancake tossing and watching, first hand, the production of New Hope Flour. It was sad to see the old mill in such a state of disrepair but it did bring back good memories of days gone by.

Ray - We had great weather and a huge turnout for our fourth Wine and Waterfall Tour.

We met in Skaneateles and motored to New Hope Mill and Ludlowville Falls before stopping at Ithaca Falls and meeting up with the Southern Tier group. Our group now swelled to over 20 cars, we then rolled onto Taughanock Falls followed by a great buffet lunch at Wagner Vineyards. We tasted some wine and beer and got back into our cars for the trip to Montour Falls. En route we stopped at Hector Falls and Aunt Sarah's Falls. We ended up at Havana Glen where we walked up the small gorge to Eagle Falls and enjoyed the shade and cool water there. Thanks to all those who participated and made a great topless day!





July Event

Saturday, July 4, Montrose 4th of July Parade

Joe Lamphere

We have to cancel our participation in the Montrose Parade on July 4, 2015. The roads in and around Montrose are in such bad shape that Del Austin, chairman of the event, has ask me to inform you of this.

We hope to be able to do this next year, if the roads improve. They are ok for tractors and SUVs but not for Miatas. We don't want to chance someone damaging their car on these roads.



TECHNICAL TIPS – “WENCH WITH A WRENCH”

Gail Wagner

More Miscellaneous (Miata) Ramblings



Hi, Miata Folks,

If any of you are past readers of *Road & Track Magazine* as I have since the mid-1960's, you may remember its monthly column, “Miscellaneous Ramblings” by past editors including Peter Egan or Tony Hogg, two of my favorite writers of that magazine. This month I'm stealing their editorial banner to use for this month's

column in order to corral a catch-all of stuff I wanted to pass on to you that may be of interest.

Rain, Rain, Go Away: When It Rains, Does It Drain?

This is kinda' a big one I've been wanting to write about for some time. In fact, last year I talked to a Club member who experienced this problem. Apparently it wasn't very fun finding 2 inches of standing water in his Miata after a rainstorm because the rear rain drains were clogged with dirt, leaves and debris and backed the water into his passenger compartment and trunk.

Miata soft tops meet the car body on the inside and even though it's a pretty tight fit, some water actually comes inside the car where it is captured by a "rain rail" similar to a house gutter that directs the water downward toward drains and exits under the car outside. These drains can eventually become clogged with gunk over time impeding the flow of rain water drainage especially if your car experiences a heavy downpour (certainly possible in the eastern U.S.!).

Mazda even has an official Tech Bulletin for the 2006-2007 NA model recommending a drain filter to the drain valve assembly to prevent debris or other yucky stuff from clogging the drain (Google: Mazda Service Bulletin #09-001/07 4/17/2007). Most Miata drains include a rubber one-way valve that allows water to drain down and out but prevents dirt and debris from coming up.

What I'm sayin' is that I think it's a pretty good idea to check out your drains and they're pretty easy to check and clean out periodically. I suggest the following: partially lower your convertible top and place a medium size cardboard box underneath it to partially hold up the top so you can peer down into the drain area which is located behind the two seats. Either aim a stream of water below the rear convertible top window when washing your car in the driveway or use a large pitcher or small bucket of water with a pour spout and pour directly into the "drain trays" you'll see there and watch to see if water pours out beneath and ahead of the car's rear wheels onto the ground. If it's really slowly trickling or not draining at all, "Houston, you have a big potential problem". You can try reaming the drain tubes yourself (some of the Miata chat sites recommend (get this) a trombone cleaning brush, a thin, flexible wire with a small nylon brush at both ends used to clean trombones for about \$7.00 available at music stores or take your Miata to your friendly mechanic and have the drains checked and cleaned and filters installed if needed. Yes, it's a p.i.t.a. but good insurance to prevent miscellaneous smelly mold growth embedded forever in the carpets!

Timing Chain/Belt Replacement Go read up about this one for sure. *Miata Gurus* who are much wiser than moi suggest replacement at 60,000 miles as good insurance. Belt failure will not hurt your car's engine (the Miata engine is a non-interference engine, meaning that the pistons will not crash into the valves) but will definitely leave you dead-in-the-water someplace and unable to drive. Big Tip: Make sure your mechanic (or you) know what you're doing. Failure to install the belt properly if you have a short-nose crankshaft assembly can be catastrophic. Really. See next topic item #3.

Short Nose Crank Wobble/Failure I admit this is a scary one for those of you with older model Miatas and I don't mean to scare, just make you aware. Apparently it's a common problem that can possibly cause really big problems so get this checked out ASAP if you suspect you might have any of the following "symptoms". The crankshaft pulley spins your alternator and water pump and/or air conditioning and power steering if you have those too. The pulley is attached to a gear on the crank that turns the timing belt and camshafts (yeah, I know we're getting technical here but this is heavy stuff you should know).

1. Verify if you have an older model Miata: the short crank engine uses a four slot pulley (see below). You can count the slots; if there's eight slots, you don't have a short crank and you can sigh relief and skip reading the rest of this. While all engines can fail if the crank bolt gets loose, the short-nose crankers are more likely to fail.
2. Diagnosis: Does your car seem to drive much slower than usual, then there could be an issue. You can drive another Miata and compare. Does the crankshaft pulley wobble? When the pulley bolt is really loose, the pulley will seem to wobble. You can *Google* "Miata short-nose crank wobble" on *YouTube* and you'll see some great examples if you're unsure.
3. Important: Improper timing belt kit installation, i.e., not torquing the crank bolt properly will cause the bolt to come loose allowing the crank gear to wear away the keyway which effects the alignment of the timing belt. (Blah, blah, blah more tech stuff, I know.) Camshaft timing retardation and engine power is then diminished causing a small vibration which can wear away the keyway on the crank causing the wobble. Not a good thing; potentially, an expensive thing. Keep reading:
4. Bottom line: If wobbling is ignored, the nose of the crankshaft can actually break off. Then what? Well, how about crankshaft replacement \$3,000.00+ or replace with a used engine \$600.00 - \$2500 depending on who does the labor. Or weld the crankshaft to repair the gap or weld the pulley gear in place with a risk of failure again. Cost unknown but you can bet that it ain't cheap.



Long Nose Crank

Short Nose Crank

Power Retractable Hard Top Q & A

At the request of a MMC member, I researched some information about the care and feeding of Miata retractable hard tops. I posed my questions to Marcy Edmiston, the owner of *Mazda of West Ridge* in Spencerport, NY, who is also a Club member. She kindly answered my questions with information

she received from the Mazda factory rep who visited her dealership recently and I have printed them here. (Thanks again, Marcy).

Q. Can the operation of lowering and raising the top be stopped in mid-cycle, say to work on the third brake light?

A. Yes. It can be stopped by either releasing the switch midway while either opening or closing or by turning the ignition off at the point you wish to stop the top.

Q. Is there any gears that should be lubed IF you can stop the operation in mid-cycle? Is there any other regular maintenance that should be performed by the owner or by a mechanic?

A. There are no specified maintenance intervals or procedures per Mazda related to the hard top.

Q. What are some of the things we should be looking out for as a sign of trouble with the operation of the top?

A. There are no common issues related to the hard top that we normally see. There are also no applicable service bulletins on the later models.

Q. Can an after-market smartTOP box be installed if the top can be stopped half-open? See below:

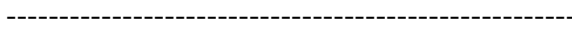


(The smartTOP roof control unit allows opening or closing the convertible top while driving at slow speeds. It works similar to power-windows and opens or closes the roof automatically at the touch of a button. It is not necessary to stop the vehicle and pull the handbrake to operate the roof.)

A. I would recommend against the use of any aftermarket control module for a couple of reasons. The use of the top while the vehicle is in motion at any speed, even low speed presents a safety hazard. Also, the hardtop is already controlled by a factory computer module called the power retractable hardtop control module. This module is connected via the high and low speed CAN network to many other modules on the vehicle. Use of any aftermarket electronics could potentially damage not only the hardtop module but also any of the other modules on the network.

Q. Can the top be adjusted and if so how?

A. There are only a couple of adjustments specified by Mazda. I've included an attachment with the available adjustment procedures from the service manual. (Note from Gail: This manual is available on the Internet. I'm assuming she meant adjustments made by qualified Mazda mechanics.)



And finally....., on a personal note, I want to thank those of you who attended our first-ever Ithaca area ice monthly cream night on Wednesday 5/6 which I am hosting for us "centrally-isolated" Ithacans. We had 14 beautiful Miatas show up including a contingent all the way from the Binghamton/Vestal/Elmira group lead by rep Joe Lamphere! Thanks to all for attending and we hope to see you next month.

I hope you enjoyed this month's column and don't forget to wave to your fellow Miatas when you pass them on the highway! Zoom-Zoom and Drive 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!

Miata Gear for Sale



We hope you'll enjoy this new addition to the monthly newsletter and that you'll find it helpful if you want to buy or sell Miata gear. If you have something to sell, just send me the info (member name, email, description, price, etc.). Please contact the owner via email if you want to purchase something.

- 1) MazdzSpeed/AEM cold air intake - fits 2009-2015 MX-5. Never used -still in original box. Original price \$312 plus shipping. Asking \$275.
- 2) RoadsterSport II stainless steel dual exhaust - fits 2006-2015 MX-5. Used about 3k miles. Current price \$299 plus shipping. Asking \$200.

David King, 53 Edenfield Road, Penfield, NY, 14526
 Phone 585-377-6461
 E-Mail: doeskygato@aol.com

(The Midstate Miata Club of New York is not responsible for the condition of any items for sale and does not warranty or otherwise endorse any such sales.)

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



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Area Representatives

Name/Area	Phone Number	E-Mail
Karen Abbott/Syracuse	315-299-6880	KLDAbbott@hotmail.com
Denise Wargo/Syracuse	315-253-6757	wargoweed@aol.com
Marcy Edmiston/Rochester	585-352-5995	medmiston@mazdaofwestridge.com
Joe Lamphere/Binghamton	607-754-3159	Jlamphere@stny.rr.com