

## SAMOA General Meeting

July 9, 2009

Tex Wasabi

With his usual humor. President Robin George opened the meeting at 7pm. Immediately Robin asked us “why are we here?” There was a silence with a few comments, but no enthusiasm! Robin got us going and gave us the obvious answer: “we are here to eat, drink, gossip and celebrate the finest sports car ever made – The MIATA”. He also welcomed us to Tex Wasabis and mentioned how great they are treating us. They even put up curtains to block the sun from our eyes during the meeting! If you have any issues with Tex Wasabis, please mention them to Robin. Robin then introduced the Board of Officers: Mike DeLaurentis- vice-president, Pam Hunt – Secretary Jeanne George – Treasurer, Ron Petrich – Media, Jack Parker–Events coordinator, Bob Bacon – Technical and Mark Brooks-Newsletter. He also introduced lifetime members Skip Noyes and Dennis Swaney and past presidents Cat Black, Dave DeNuzzo and Mike DeLaurentis and Steve Hartzell.

Elk Grove Mazda was again gracing us with their presence. They brought a nice new Miata for us to drool over and several employees: Rob Martinez, General Sales Mgr, Melina Rodriguez, Technical Advisor, and Jim Davis, Master Technician.

Last meeting Robin challenged Elk Grove Miata to a “Tech-Off”. We offered our own brilliant Technical Advisor, Bob Bacon to go against their own Master Technician, Jim Davis, in a series of questions to rate their knowledge of Miatas and their problems. Well, tonight it happened. We provided an impartial Judge- our own Dave “Crazy Red” DeNuzzo and our Vice-President, Mike DeLaurentis, provided a very detailed set of “technical” questions. Answers were scored on a one to five basis, with one being a bad answer and five being a brilliant one! With out going into the details of the questions, at the end of the seven question series, it was a tie at 20 apiece. VP Mike provided the last, very loaded, question which I neglected to get down in it’s entirety, but any SAMOA member will have a clue when I mention the “arguably best color for a Miata”. Needless to say, Jim of Elk Grove had no clue what it was about, and Bob, of course, had the right answer. So we claimed bragging rights to the best Tech Advisor, for now!

Robin mentioned that the Mazda web site has a some interesting things on it to look at, including a spot called “My Mazda” that can be customized to your choices. The site has trip ideas and a lot of good tips.

### **Officer Reports**

#### **Secretary – Pam Hunt**

We continue to change numbers – up and down. We now have 202 members, 123 memberships and 132 Miatas! She also had SAMOA decals available to any member, and handed out membership cards to the new members that were present.

### **Treasurer – Jeanne George**

Jeanne had been continuing in her goal of providing the membership with inexpensive, stylish SAMOA clothing. The club finances are doing well too!

### **Media- Ron Petrich**

Ron mentioned that last month he had several jokes for us and we booed him! So tonight he will tell us a true story! He also wants members to check on the website on a regular basis. There have been several surveys on there for club activities and he would like more responses. Currently, there is one for those who are interested in golf, and also on track days. There is also a link to the Monterrey Historics, an annual car event held in Monterrey. Mazda will be sponsoring a car corral this year. Check it out on the web page.

Back to his “true” story, it’s about a frog and I liked it so much I decided to reproduce it in its entirety, so here it is...

A frog is outgrowing his lily pad and decides to make some home improvements. He doesn't have the money, so he hops to the bank to borrow some. At the bank, he takes a seat at loan officer Patricia Black's desk and explains his dilemma. "I want to upgrade my lily pad, maybe add another window, but I don't have the cash. Can you lend me the money?"

"Maybe. What can you offer as collateral?"

"Well," says the frog. "All I have is this paperweight. You shake it up, and it snows on the little village. Cute, huh?"

"Hmm . . . I'll have to speak to my manager." She enters her manager's office.

"Mr. Bitterby, I've got a frog at my desk who wants to borrow money for lily pad improvements. But all he can offer for collateral is this glass paperweight." Mr. Bitterby takes the paperweight, hefts it in his hand, looks at her and says, "It's a knick-knack, Patty Black, give the frog a loan."

### **Events Director – Jack Parker**

Jack mentioned that events are still light on the calendar this summer-get out there and plan something!

7/25 – Ice Cream fun run. Join Bob and Genny Paauwe on a run that will end with sweet treats! Check out more information on the web site.

8/1 – CAMBER Cruise. The California Auto Museum is sponsoring a special car show and cruise, ending in a BBQ and music. Check out [www.CamberCruise.org](http://www.CamberCruise.org).

8/15- Drive and skate. Have a hot August drive followed by some cool ice-skating. Meet at Denny at noon for a nice drive and end up in Roseville at the ice skating rink. If you don't skate, you can cool off and watch for free!

8/22-23 – Drivers Weekend. Jack Parker is leading a trip through the Sierras to some special unseen roads, ending up at Lake Topaz for the night.

The State Fair is coming up and again offers us the opportunity to show off our cars and spotlight our club. We had a tent there last year and will do so again if we get enough interest from the club.

Mike DeLaurentis met up with the Le Bois club from Idaho during their trip down here. A couple of their members are old SAMOA members and they were able to enjoy some time cruisin' with them. By the way, Le Bois is French for "The Trees".

BAMA is also sponsoring a Roundup on July 25<sup>th</sup> in San Francisco. They have had several hundred cars show up and is only \$5.00 per car. Check out their website.

Activities coming up later this fall include our 19<sup>th</sup> birthday party to be held on October 4<sup>th</sup> at WindWalker Winery.

### **Vice-President – Mike DeLaurentis**

We have a visitor tonight who is looking to see a 1991 Miata in primo shape. It is silver and black and has lots of highway miles-169,000. Check it out in the parking lot. Scott is asking \$3500 but will take \$3000 from a SAMOA member.

Mike also has three bottles of Chardonnay wine from the special order we did from Mazda. It's \$22 a bottle and has a special, signed label.

If you are interested in getting a name badge, Mike has the forms available.

Guests visiting tonight are Wayne and Sheryl, longtime friends of Mike and Helen. They are here from Phoenix.

One new members present is the son of one of our former members. Austin Self has a 91 red and is working on getting his license!

Tom Cavanaugh from Rocklin is another new member. He recently bought a new Miata from Elk Grove Mazda and found out about the club from the brochure that Elk Grove is placing in each new car. Ron Petrich designed the brochures and Elk Grove Mazda is graciously placing them in the cars for us!

Fred and Priscilla Reither from Rocklin are also new members present tonight. They recently bought TWO Miatas – one for each of them. They are enjoying their time with all the kids out of the house. The cars are a red 97 and 99 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary blue.

Skip from El Dorado Hills is another new member. He likes to golf and fish and has a 94 Miata.

Mike mentioned that we are still supporting our troops overseas and if you don't have time to shop for items, give Mike and Helen the cash and they will purchase things that are needed.

Crazy Red had one last thing! His work seems to go in streaks and lately he has been replacing a lot of cars seats. He has an extra set of leather seat covers for a 1999 or 2000 Miata that he is willing to sell for \$445 a pair and \$200 for labor. See or call him for details.

Raffle

T-shirt – Cindy

Hat – Neil

Ratchet Set-Jim

Chair umbrella – Neil

Car wash – Jean

Tools-Betty

Wax – Doug

Mug - Ron

T-Shirt – Judy

Cooler – Ron

Microfiber towels – Diane

Pass to Auto Museum -Joanne

Tool kit – Doug

Wine – Skip

Swirl remover – Fran

Chair umbrella – Ron

Hat – Fran

Mug – Terri

Mug – Mike

Tire Gauge - Ross

Tire Gauge -Ron

Tire gauge – Cat

Wine – Jackie

Bottle opener – Doug

Invisible glass – Betty

Oil change from Elk Grove Mazda – Doug

Wine – Skip

Hat – Rod

Cooler - Jackie

Oil change from Elk Grove Mazda – John

Tools-Ross

Screwdrivers- Terri

Auto Safety kit-Betty

Oil change from Elk Grove Mazda – Judy

Starbucks card - Ross

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 pm.