



GREETINGS! This special newsletter was developed to provide new and prospective members with some background information on our club, the Sacramento Area Miata Owner's Association (SAMOA). It is our hope that you find this overview helpful and that you will choose to join our club and participate in SAMOA activities.

SAMOA was founded in 1990 by Paul Kile, and Audrey Hall. Their vision was to establish a local Miata Club Chapter in the Sacramento area, and that first year, there were 13 charter members. SAMOA

was affiliated with the now-defunct Miata Club of America (MCA). MCA was established in 1987 and until it was disbanded in 2002 had over 65,000 members. Although MCA no longer exists, SAMOA is now under the aegis of the National Association of Mazda Clubs, with ongoing support from Mazda North American Operations.

Since its inception, SAMOA has grown from its original 13 members to a peak of over 250 members. Presently the club boasts nearly 100 memberships and almost 150 members. Most are from the greater Sacramento area, however, some come from as far away as Fairfield, Modesto, Oroville and Lake Tahoe.

SAMOA provides an environment where people who drive (or hope to drive) one of the finest sports cars ever made can get together and share common and unique experiences.

The Miata was created as part of a long-running tradition of lightweight, open-air, two-seat sports cars. It was introduced in the United States when the market for this type of vehicle had already declined. In spite of this, the Miata has thrived; and, more recently, has been the incentive behind the production of similar vehicles from other manufacturers. Tom Matano and his design team at Mazda were the driving force behind the design of this wonderful car, both the original model, the redesigned 1999-2005 NB Miata, and the newly introduced 2006 NC MX5.

Over the course of the year, SAMOA offers a wide variety of functions and events that members are encouraged to attend, including the monthly club meetings. The meetings are held the second Thursday of every month and provide a forum for club members to socialize, swap Miata stories, plan trips, talk with local Mazda dealerships and get the inside scoop on technical issues. There is also a monthly raffle with a multitude of fun prizes for participating members. Above all, we all look forward to meeting new members at our monthly meetings.

But you bought the car to drive it, right? SAMOA also holds weekend fun runs throughout the year, which are typically short trips to predetermined destinations that in the past have included the Sierra foothills, north coast, Napa Valley, Lake Tahoe and local area wineries. Also, there have been a number of overnight trips to such places as Fort Bragg, Lake Topaz, Yosemite and Harris Ranch. Any place that has a twisty, winding road is fair game for the Miata. These trips also provide a great opportunity to meet SAMOA and other regional Miata club members. In addition, SAMOA also sponsors autocross events and lapping days at area road racing tracks.

SAMOA's Gold Rush started in 1990 when Jim Jordan of Mazda, Barbara Beach of MCA, and Jim Luis from the former Honey Mazda in Shingle Springs, decided to hold a fun rally. That first year, over 120 Miatas attended the weekend event. It was one of the first of many Miata events of national or international import to occur. The weekend event usually included a Monte Carlo night, music and

dancing, fun run, time and distance rally, funkhana, aftermarket vendors, food and lodging, and raffle prizes galore. Proceeds from this event were given to a charity of SAMOA's choice. Over the years, Gold Rush attracted people from all over the world, including England, Germany, Holland, Australia and Canada. Our largest gathering was in 1994, when there were over 280 Miatas! Although Gold Rush has not been put on since 1998, SAMOA members are encouraged to think of new, exciting events and volunteer to help make those ideas come to life.

SAMOA members are a generous lot. Our annual picnic, held in the fall each year, has included a spectacular raffle which has raised nearly \$10,000 for area charities since 2000. The picnic is one of the high points of our annual calendar, and is free to clubmembers and spouses/significants. Our annual track day, Got Guts At Thunderhill, annually benefits the Crohn's & Colitis Foundation of America, and our annual Teddy Bear/Toy Run supports the Children's Receiving Home of Sacramento.

Also with your paid membership, you receive SAMOA's monthly newsletter, Miatatudes, an award-winning web page (www.sacramentoareamiata.org) and Forum, a membership card good for Miata discounts at various area retail and service establishments, and all of the fun and you can handle.

Feel free to contact any club officer if you have questions. If you are interested in other Miata clubs located throughout the world and have Internet access, you can log onto the Miata web page at www.miata.net. If you want to find out about local goings-on, check out SAMOA's web page at <http://www.sacramentoareamiata.org>.

For new members, on behalf of SAMOA, I'd like to welcome you to the club. I sincerely hope that you enjoy your membership and can partake in the club's many activities. We all look forward to meeting you at the next club meeting or event. If you are a prospective member, DON'T HESITATE -- JOIN NOW! Until then...

Happy Motoring!

Renee Araiza renluvsu2@yahoo.com

Margie Jurach tomargie@surewest.net

Sacramento Area Miata Owners Association Road Trip Meeting Locations

Each month, SAMOA members sponsor trips to various locations in, and sometimes out of, our beautiful state. Most are day trips or less, however occasionally a weekend or overnight event is planned. Provided below are the typical locations where SAMOA members usually meet as points of departure for our events.

Areas East of Sacramento (along HWY 50):

We meet at the McDonald's on the corner of Sunrise Blvd and White Rock Road. From Hwy 50, take Sunrise Blvd South and make a left at White Rock Road. The McDonald's will be on your right.

Areas North and East of Sacramento (along I 80):

We meet at the Carl's Jr. on Granite Drive in Rocklin. From I-80, take the Rocklin Road exit and go west. Turn right on Granite Drive. Carl's Jr is on the right.

Areas North and West of Sacramento (along I-5):

We meet at Starbucks in the new shopping centers in North Natomas. From I-5, take I- 80 eastbound. Take the Truxel Road exit, north. Make a left into the shopping centers. Starbucks is on the left.

Areas West of Sacramento (along I 80):

We meet at the McDonald's on Harbor Blvd in West Sacramento. From I-80, exit on Harbor Blvd south. McDonald's is on the right.

Areas South of Sacramento (along I 5):

We meet at the McDonald's on Pocket Road and I-5. From I-5, exit on Pocket Road east. McDonald's is on the right.

Monthly Club Meeting Location

Come out and join us for all of the latest club news, event information, and technical advice. It is held on the second Thursday of each month at Black Bear Diner, 2700 El Centro Road, Sacramento, CA 95833. The meeting starts at 7:00 PM, however our room is reserved for your dining and socializing enjoyment at 6:00 PM. Please check the website regularly, however, for any changes to the meeting location or time.



SAMOA MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Your annual membership dues are \$24. Please provide the following information, enclose a check for your membership dues and send to SAMOA, Attn: Membership, 1864 Bridgecreek Drive, Sacramento, CA 95833. If you have any questions, please contact Renee Araiza at renluvsu2@yahoo.com or Margie Jurach at tomargie@surewest.net.

Member #1:

Name: _____

Birthday (Month/Day): _____

Member #2:

Name: _____

Birthday (Month/Day): _____

Mailing Address:

Street: _____

City State Zip: _____

Telephone: _____ E-Mail: _____

Miatas Owned:

Miata #1 Color: _____ Year: _____ Name: _____

Miata #2 Color: _____ Year: _____ Name: _____

Miata #3 Color: _____ Year: _____ Name: _____

Membership automatically places this information on the club roster, which can only be released to other SAMOA members. Your information will never be given to vendors or other third parties without your expressed written permission.

Signature

Date

\$ _____
Amount Paid