

NOVEMBER 2011



SACRAMENTO AREA MIATA OWNERS ASSOCIATION

MIATA TATTLES

ROBIN'S NEST

ROBIN GEORGE

Hello everyone... Did everyone go trick or treatin'? Or did you act out your secret fantasy and run around as your favorite Super Hero? There was great weather and the holiday is more of an adult holiday these days than it used to be for the kids. Love the parties.

I was prompted to make sure everyone was aware of the upcoming events. First we have the Annual Teddy bear event run by Jack Parker. This is a very worthwhile event and widely supported

by our club. We filled up 3 large bins with many toys and stuffed bears one year. We made very many kids happy. Please attend and also enjoy the drive. (see article)

This year we are having our Christmas party at a new location. The food is excellent and if we get enough members to attend we will have the room all to ourselves. We hired a DJ and the dress is casual (California Casual...). We even have some more fun things planned promising to get everyone in a Christmas

spirit. Please contact Jennifer Sipe as soon as possible about attending. (see article)

We had the last General Meeting at a new location, Black Bear Diner. It seems it worked out for us. Everyone

was "Thumbs Up". We had our own room, large parking area, large flat TV screen for showing club pictures and events, hustling waitresses, and good food in abundance. I know, no matter



(Continued on page 2)

CHRISTMAS DINNER JENN SIPE

WHEN: DECEMBER 3, 2011
TIME: 6PM SOCIAL HOUR (NO HOST COCKTAILS, FULL BAR)
7PM DINNER
MUSIC & DANCING UNTIL 10 PM

WHERE: VINCE'S ITALIAN RESTAURANT, 8901 Elk Grove Florin Road, Elk Grove (916) 685-2161

MUSIC AND SINGING BY JASON CARMEL

ENTRÉE CHOICES:

STEAK OR CHICKEN MARSALA (\$25/PERSON)

BAKED LASAGNA (\$20/PERSON)

ALL ENTREES INCLUDE SALAD, BREAD, COFFEE, ICE TEA AND DESSERT

DRESS: CHRISTMAS CASUAL-OPTIONAL BEST CHRISTMAS SWEATER CONTEST.

RSVP TO: JENNIFER SIPE 916-685-1966 OR jsipe@surewest.net

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO SAMOA AND MAIL TO 1864 BRIDGE CREEK DR.

SACRAMENTO, CA 95833.

PAYMENT IN FULL MUST BE RECEIVED BY FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 25TH.

For registration form use the following link: [event_christmasparty2011](#)



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NEXT MEETING

Thursday, Nov 10, 2011

[BLACK BEAR DINER](#)

2700 El Centro Rd, Sacramento

(near I-80 and Watt Avenue)

916-641-2327

Come early for dinner, 6pm

Meeting at 7pm

ROBIN'S NEST continued

where we go it's going to be inconvenient for some members and ideal for others. It's only one night a month and we promise lots of fun and great prizes. Besides, it's a chance to catch up on the latest news about our fabulous Miatas. Good friends are priceless. (see article)



Last but not least are the upcoming elections. So far 3 people have stepped up for positions on the 2012 Board. Negotiations are

still in progress to complete a slate for the Board. But, by all means is anything written in stone until the elections in December? So step forward. It's fun and very rewarding. Let's continue the fine tradition of thiclub. You have made this a club of members that is run by members. It works.

Treasure Trove News

Jeanne George

We welcome our Newest Members

Craig and Jackie Hensley
Mike and Keren Feuz
Dennis and Linda Baer
Kevin Tyler
Chuck Coffman
Christopher Bark and Lowell Brown

Memberships Expiring November 1

Arnold, Kari
Correia, Denise
Gingrich, Michael and Kristen
Jurach, Tom and Anne
Phan, Thong
Reinhardt, Richard
Simpkin, Drew

Memberships renewed in October

Kelly, Richard & Carolyn Layfield
Russell, Rich & Denise
Parker, Jack & Sally
Tyer, Tom & Cameron
Hahn, John & Susie

SAMOA stats: 131 Memberships, 219 Members, 141 Miatas

November Birthdays

Ron Petrich

Renee Araiza – November 28th
Petula Clark – November 15th
Elisha Cuthbert – November 30th
Dave DeNuzzo – November 6th
Rico Estrada – November 25th
Bob Jensen – November 27th
Tom Jurach – November 21st
Burt Lancaster – November 2nd
Chuck Leininger – November 13th
Elaine Mackey – November 2nd







Claude Rains – November 10th
Will Rogers – November 4th
David Rowell – November 14th
Nancy Selman – November 7th
Astrid Senger-Gibbons – November 16th
Sammy Sosa – November 12th
Bonnie Spencer – November 24th
Mary Swaney – November 8th
Mary Ann Taylor – November 28th
Dennis Wierzba – November 7th

The Road Ahead

A look at upcoming events

by Diana Loo

The following is a list of upcoming events. There is room to squeeze in another run or two. If you have any ideas for a run, please contact me or anyone on the board. Also, if you have not done so, please contact the person organizing the event to confirm you will be attending.

DATES	EVENT
November 12, 2011 	Bottle Your Own Wine at Charles Mitchell Winery Bottling Zinfandel, Merlot and Cabernet Sauvignon... \$9.99 per bottle, \$6.99 per bottle if purchased by the case, plus cost of 75 cents for each empty bottle that you use...or bring your own. Endless pizza and salad for \$10 per person or free with wine case purchase...Please RSVP Diana Loo by November 9, 2011. Meet at the Park N Ride at Latrobe Road and White Rock Road in El Dorado Hills at 9:00 AM for a 9:15 AM departure. Diana Loo (916) 725-1576
November 19, 2011 	Teddy Bear Run November 19, 2011 marks the 11th annual Teddy Bear Run to benefit the Children's Receiving Home of Sacramento and their annual Holiday Toy Drive. We will meet at the Starbucks at 4332 Watt Avenue in North Highlands at 9:00. Driver's meeting will take place at 9:30 and we will leave Starbucks directly after that meeting. We will proceed to the Receiving Home, which is just a mile away, and drop off the toys and bears. A suggested list of toys for children at the home will be provided to make it easier to select your toy donation. We request that at least a teddy bear and an unwrapped toy from each participant be the donation. Remember that these children may not be home for the holidays and we are making every effort to at least provide them with a little joy during the holidays. We will be regrouping in a location in the area and then going on a fun ride into the foothills and then to a restaurant in Auburn, California. To make the job of the restaurant's job easier to plan for us, we would like a telephone call or email from each participant of their intention to attend and if you will be bringing a passenger by November 12. Any questions or RSVPs may be directed to Jack Parker at cultad@svics.com or 916 718 1545 .
December 3, 2011 	Christmas Dinner Vince's Ristorante in Elk Grove. Jason Carmel will provide the music and singing and if you wish, you can sing along with Jason or dance. Entrees are baked lasagna, chicken marsala or steak. Entrees include salad, pasta, bread, coffee, ice tea and dessert. Please download the registration form and submit it with your check at the next meeting.
December 10, 2011 	Wreaths Across America Join us for the sixth straight year of decorating our Veteran's graves as part of a nationwide program whose goal it is to lay a wreath at each grave in every Veteran's cemetery throughout the US. Details as to start time/place will follow. If you would like to donate a wreath or learn more about this Nationwide program you may do so by going to www.wreathsassacrossamerica.org . For questions about this event and to RSVP contact Mike DeLaurentis at (916) 791-9418, email luv2sail@surewest.net .
January 1, 2012	Hang Over Run – More to follow. so save the date.

In the Rear View Mirror

See what fun we had last month!

KIRKWOOD PANCAKE RUN

Mike and Jeanne Mulcahy

What a great day for a drive to Kirkwood!! The weather was absolutely perfect, a little cool and very fallish. With seven Miata's driving the back, twisty roads to the Kirkwood Inn, led by Jack Parker, the drive was fun, uneventful (that's a good thing), and just plain a great drive with fun people.

We drove through Plymouth and Fiddletown and on to Shake Ridge Rd., then to Hwy 88. We passed Cooks Station and stopped at Hams Station for a leg stretch. After passing Silver Lake we arrived at the Kirkwood Inn for an unforgettable brunch.

Mike and I have passed the Kirkwood Inn many times over the years and had no idea it was so special! Have you ever

heard of a pancake bigger than a dinner plate? Sure was a first for us! Several of us had other fare on the menu....of course, adding a pancake to go along with it. And, everything was delicious, did I mention that?

After our meal and lots of conversation, we took a different route home driving the Mormon Immigrant Trail, eventually coming out to Jackson Hwy.



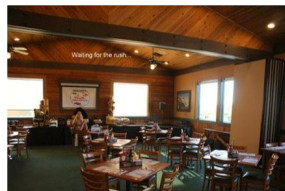
Thanks for a great ride Jack, nothing beats the twisties in a Miata! But, don't know if we can wait till next year for this

SAMOA OCTOBER GENERAL MEETING

Jeanne George

The October Miata meeting was held at a new location: the Black Bear Diner in South Natomas. The location was suggested to President Robin by SAMOA members Cat Black and Ken Johnson. They had visited the diner; saw the parking lot and banquet room, talked with the manager advising him of our group needs and were met with enthusiasm to have the Club meet at the facility. Robin and I had dinner there then met with the banquet manager and ironed out details. His greatest concern was feeding so many people off the menu at the dinner hours in addition to their other customers. He didn't want service to suffer for the group. Robin explained that members did not arrive at the same time and would be coming in during the two hours prior to the meeting. With that, the manager agreed and indicated his server plans.

The day of the meeting, Robin and I arrived at 4:15 to cone off the parking lot, oversee the room set up, coordinate details, set up the Club sound system, hang the banner, and Robin set up the television with a presentation of recent Miata events. Afterwards we enjoyed a hot meal (we are usually interrupted and eat cold food at each meeting). We were almost finished when the raffle team of Maureen and Randy Morris arrived, and I went to help carry in the boxes of prizes. Officers Ron Petrich, Diana Loo, and Ellen Frosch arrived and were soon followed by other



View from back of room

members. Vice president, Jenn Sipe and Secretary, Pam Hunt were traveling in Ireland.

Over 60 people arrived by the time the meeting started at 7 pm. Ellen Frosch, Tech Officer, wowed the crowd with an explanation of the 3 second time delay of filling your car with fuel at gas stations. With the visual help of her hand drawings, we were shown the process of fuel travel from the ground to your tank. Member, Rico Estrada who works at Elk Grove Mazda told the group about a new fuel system for cars that will be available. He handed out information regarding the specs and brought one of the vehicles with him.



View from front of room

Overall, the facility met the needs of attendees with a variety of food selections at a reasonable price. The service was good, the room was closed off to external noise and other customers, and we had control of the sound and air conditioning systems. The group voted overwhelmingly to have future meetings at this location. Those that traveled a little farther felt the benefits outweighed the additional travel time.

See you next month at the Black Bear Diner.

Photo Album



Air Museum



Kirkwood Pancake Run



Fort Bragg Weekend



As many of you know, I restored first generation Miatas for over 10 years. I finally retired when the economy tanked, but I did last a year longer than the Mazda dealership.

Buying Miatas, restoring them, and selling them is a whole different part of the Miata Community. There's a lot of competition for the good cars,,ya gotta be quick.

A perfect car for me was a solid, well running car with a decent body. I loved sending the scruffy ones to the paint shop and getting back something gorgeous. I have an excellent upholstery guy who will put on a new Robbins top (plastic window) for \$500. Transforming a car was the fun part. Dealing with Miata people and potential Miata was the fun part, too.

I'd like to tell you the story of my one and only '93 LE. This 93 LE was my most awesome Miata find. I combed craigslist and cars.net and autotrader every morning and I found a black Miata for sale in a neat area in the Napa valley. So I called and asked my questions. I asked what the interior was like and she said it was maroon leather (maroon?). A faint spark flickered in my Miata brain.

She and her husband had inherited this car from her eccentric brother. So we made an appointment, made her promise not to let anyone else look at it while we were on the way (3 hr drive), hopped in the car and were gone.

It was a beautiful day, traffic was light and the hills were green and fresh. We arrived at their place,,a gentleman's country place with an acre in a very wooded and shady neighborhood. There was the car. We didn't know it had a hardtop! It had been sitting in a barn for years and was dull black, but the body looked really smooth and straight. The interior was indeed maroon, but because of dirt. Under all that was an absolutely fabulous car. It was the red leather interior of a 93 Limited Edition, the most rare of all the 'specials'.

They had no idea what they had and were even talking about donating it. I could have gotten a killer deal, but I was stuck in my Kelley Blue Book mode (although not as an LE) and paid them a fair price.

It took weeks to clean it up, but it was absolutely perfect when we finished it. Thank heavens for the eccentric brother. He neglected it, but he kept it in a barn, covered and didn't drive it much. He didn't 'cotton' to the DMV, so the heirs had to straighten out the title. He'd just slap any old sticker he could find on it. It came complete with a red tonneau cover and a red boot cover, both in their original boxes.



We had our detailer, Bruce, buff out the paint and it was perfect! The seats cleaned right up, too, as well as the carpet and floor mats.



In my life I've only seen two other 93 LEs and they were both torn up and cut up and made into monster cars. They were ruined and there was no way to undo what had been done. This one was perfect!

I put it on Miata.net with a pretty high price on it, because it was truly a unique car and I was in no hurry to sell it. I had many calls on it and drove it and enjoyed it myself for a while.

Then one guy came down from Sacramento several times, (he's the one who talked me into joining SAMOA) and looked at it. He also liked the rare, beautiful and unique. He looked at it several times as well as my other cars. We couldn't agree on a price.

Then I had a local guy call on it, and he came out to see it. He was driving a little white Miata '90 B. The guy was a jerk...mostly because he was looking for a nicer car than the 'junkie' he was driving (his words not mine). He bragged that he never did anything to it, because it was a 'beater'. It was actually a nice little car and I might have bought it from him, but I certainly wasn't going to sell this special 93 LE to him. He would have ruined it. He offered a thousand less than the asking price and I turned him down.

I emailed my friend in Sacramento, who had been looking at it for so long, and told him about it. He said he would take it for that price. So it went to someone who really, really appreciated it.



After I retired from the restoration world, I wrote a book called "*Just Miatas, the Book*". We called our little hobby Just Miatas so we could have cards to pass out. That's a working title for now. I just got it copyrighted and have found an editor to work with. This was one of my car stories from the book.

Wish me luck with the book. Some of you might find yourselves or your cars in it.

WOODLANDER'S EXOTIC BRITISH ROAD MACHINE, ACQUIRED TO PRESERVE WIFE'S MEMORY – THE ASTON MARTIN V8 “VANTAGE”

by Adi Damania

Most people will perhaps never get a chance to see an **Aston Martin** car, much less drive it to work each day. David Paul is a System Administrator in the Department of Environmental Science and Policy at UC Davis. He lives in west Woodland. He lost his wife Catherine Morrison Paul, who was an economics professor at UC Davis, a little over a year ago to Leukemia. The Woodland resident was recognized around the world for her research into issues of productivity and efficiency in agriculture, and was a leading scholar of econometrics – a way of testing economic relationships through statistics and economic theory. David had met Catherine at Tufts University in Massachusetts prior to her move to California and UC Davis. They were married in 1998.

Catherine's work brought her to Britain many times over the years. She was an anglophile of sorts, and loved that country, especially the cars. She and David had often talked of buying an **Aston Martin** sports car (because of its sleek lines and powerful engine) but had never really got down to it because of their busy academic lives. Just when they were about to buy one she was diagnosed with the life threatening illness which was to claimed her life only 11 months later.

Grief stricken at the loss of his wife, David decided that he will go ahead and buy the **Aston Martin** they had always talked about to fulfill her dream and to preserve her memory. So earlier this year, when David saw an ad at the **Aston Martin**



dealer in Newport Beach for a merlot red and sand interior 2007 Vantage V8, he went to see it and bought the car on the spot. He drives the two-seater coupe to work each day in remembrance of his wife. The 2007 was the first year the Vantage V8 was offered in the U.S. with the automated manual shift.

The **Aston Martin** is an iconic British Car manufacturer not that well-known outside the exotic car circles until recently. In fact, the name recognition was considerably boosted as a result of an **Aston Martin** DB5 car which was a vehicle of choice for the British MI5 spy and secret agent James Bond, aka 007. They say Bond's creator, novelist Ian Fleming, had originally envisaged his British spy in a Bentley, but the Aston Martin was preferred by the film-makers for its enthrall-

ing combination of Italian design and British racing history and engineering. Leather, metal and suede lines the interior which smacks of quality (the Connolly leather smell as you enter the car is breathtaking!). The boot is large enough for two suitcases and there is a generous cargo rack behind the seats. The temperature control keeps the car's interior cool even though the V8 produces a lot of heat that is dissipated by louvers on the bonnet and the sides.

The **Aston Martin V8 Vantage** is a hand built sports cars manufactured in Gaydon, Warwickshire, England (each car carries a metal plaque that mentions the name of the master mechanic who carries out the final inspection of the vehicle). Let me tell you a little



about this car manufacturer. **Aston Martin** was founded in 1913 by Lionel Martin and Robert Bamford. The two had joined forces as Bamford & Martin the previous year to sell cars made by the Singer car company. Martin raced specials at Aston Hill near Aston Clinton, and the pair decided to make their own vehicles. The first car to be named *Aston Martin* was created by Martin in 1915 by fitting a four-cylinder Coventry-Simplex engine to the chassis of a 1908 Isotta-Fraschini, the Milano-based Italian manufacturer of luxury cars. However, production could not start because of the outbreak of WWI, and both Martin and Bamford joined the British armed forces. All machinery was sold to the Sopwith Aviation Company.

After the WWI the company was refounded and a new car was designed to carry the **Aston Martin** name. The company was revitalized with funding from Count Louis Zborowski, a racing driver who had married in to the wealthy Astor family. In 1922, Bamford & Martin produced cars to compete in the French Grand Prix race, and their cars set world speed



and endurance records at the Brooklands circuit in Surrey, England. Thereafter, the company went bankrupt a couple of times until 1926 when Bill Renwick, Augustus (Bert) Bertelli, and other very wealthy investors, including Lady Charn-

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wood, took control of the company and renamed it **Aston Martin Motors**, and moved it to the former Whitehead Aircraft Limited works in Feltham, England.

Financial problems resurfaced in 1932 and the company faced some difficult times. In 1936 the **Aston Martin** company decided to concentrate on road cars and from that year on the cars began to attract aristocracy and other well-to-do buyers. From the outset, car production had always been on a small scale. By the time WWII halted work in 1939 only about 700 road going **Aston Martins** had been made.

Aston Martin has previously used the "Vantage" name on high performance variants of their existing GT models, notably on the Virage-based car of the 1990s. The modern car, in contrast, is the leanest and most agile car in Aston's line-up. As such, it is intended as a more focused model to reach out to potential buyers of cars such as the Porsche 911, top of the line '8 Series' V12 BMWs, as well as other exotic sports and GT cars with which **Aston Martins** traditionally compete.

The V8 Vantage is powered by a 4.3L (4300 cc) 4-cam, 32 valve V8 that produces 420 bhp at 7,300 rpm. Notice the heavy use of struts to give body rigidity and eliminate shudder on an uneven road. The engine features race-style dry-sump lubrication, which enabled it to be mounted low and considerably back in the chassis for an improved center of gravity. The cylinder block and heads, crankshaft, connecting rods, pistons, camshafts, inlet and exhaust manifolds, lubrication system, and engine management are all **Aston Martin** original designs and the V8 engine was assembled by hand at the **Aston Martin** facility in Cologne, Germany. Also, since the V8 motor sits well back (close to the dash board) in the engine bay it gives this 2-seater car a almost even (49/51) front and back wheel weight distribution for extremely good road holding. Also, it endows the car with a longish nose which adds to the aesthetic appeal of the Coupe body. The long engine bay also leaves room to add 4 more cylinders, for the much more expensive **Aston Martin** Vantage V12, that recently won 5th and 6th place at the 24-hour race at the grueling Nürburgring race-track in Germany. The 6.0 liter V12 engine produces 510 hp but is not sold in the U.S. due to extremely strict emission and safety requirements. Only 1000 **Aston Martin** Vantage V12 have been produced for the rest of the world market @ \$200,000 each. The V8 Vantage gives about 12 mpg in the city, and 19 on the freeway, but does not bother David. It is the sheer pleasure of driving the car, and contentment in the thought that his late would have loved it, is reward enough!



The Vantage all-alloy V8 engine is front mid-mounted with a rear-mounted transaxle, giving a 49/51 front/rear weight distribution. Slotted Brembo brake pads on 14" rotors are standard. The car accelerates from 0 to 60 mph in 4.7 seconds



"C

topping out at 175 mph! The speedometer records speeds up to 220 mph! While tame at idle and driving in mode (C = comfort) around town, once you get about half way up the rev

counter the sound changes to that of an American V8 muscle and adds in a nice raspy Italian note. The V8 Vantage retailed in 2007 for about US\$110,000. **Aston Martin** planned to build only 3000 cars per year (just think, Toyota and its affiliates make almost 1000 vehicles in an hour!). Included originally was a 6-speed manual transmission and leather-upholstery for the seats, dash, steering-wheel, and shift-knob. A 6-speed sequential manual transmission with paddle shifters, similar to those on Ferraris and Lamborghinis, called "Sportshift" was introduced in 2007 as an option and that was what Paul wanted because he could also just leave the car in "D" automatic mode and the car shifts through the gears by itself or he could press the "S" mode and shift the gears upwards or downwards at will (there is no clutch pedal). Of the many distinctive features, the two door rear view mirrors on either side, retract and fold inwards automatically as soon as the engine is switched off. The rear tires are wider than the ones in the front. This is needed to handle the high amount of torque generated by the V8 engine and transmitted to the rear wheels.

Like a racing car, the engine roars in to life not by turning a key, but by pressing a button! Another distinctive feature is that the doors open upwards so that there is no chance for the lower part of the door to scrap the curb.



Every **Aston Martin** must have power, beauty, and a soul according to the manufacturer! That is evidently here in ample supply. On a curvy road, the Vantage moves confidently hugging the road like a go-kart despite its weight and size. For a more adventurous driver, it can go in to a opposite lock and slide progressively and return to its intended path with little fuss, all the while feeding its driver useful information about what's happening at pavement level. The 2007 **Aston Martin** V8 Vantage Coupe delivers exactly what you think it should. A seriously fast exotic sports car: rewards the driver on the promise made by its extra wide rear tires, gor-

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**SACRAMENTO AREA
MIATA OWNERS
ASSOCIATION**

1864 Bridge Creek Drive
Sacramento CA 95833

*Celebrating
the finest,
most affordable
sports car in the world!*



SUPPORT OUR TROOPS

Each month SAMOA sends care packages to our service men and women who are deployed to combat zones. We bring the items to each meeting and Mike and Helen DeLaurentis handle packing and shipping. Here is a thank you letter they recently received.

"Thank you for your package, it was utilized to make other Marines happy and of course I took one or two items. We really appreciate the time you took to think about us, we know that there is a busy life out there and it is a wonderful feeling to know that people do care about us and what we do. If you have any questions or anything you want to know about the service, let me know and I will answer what I can. Thank you so much and hope to hear from you soon, also on another note are you related to Giada DeLaurentis from the Food Network?"

Sgt. Jennifer Oliver, USMC

geous-looking engine, exhaust sound (past 4000 rpm), and svelte proportions. The V8 Vantage is pricey but it delivers the goods with a wickedly powerful engine, incredible driving dynamics, and a design that is as beautiful as it is original.

The car has twin lovely sounding stainless steel exhaust that produce a graciously subdued 'rorty' exhaust note. David said that people come up to him all the time asking him about the car; which is no wonder since so few are around. The door handles are designed to be flush with the body and have to be pushed on one side for them to come out to be pulled to open the door. The sound system, especially developed for the **Aston Martin** Vantage V8 by Alpine Electronics, is fantastic. Alpine has created a new sub-woofer technology that maximizes the interior acoustics of the car with surround sound. Alpine also equipped the car with a substantial 700 watt amplifier that employs Dolby Pro Logic II home cinema technology to bring surround sound to stereo music sources like a CD, iPod or FM radio. But wait, there is more! For \$7200 more one can order even a more versatile B&O sound system, but the V8 makes such a soul stirring sound who wants to listen to music while driving this beauty?

To conclude, I would say that the **Aston Martin** V8 Vantage is a supreme example of modern automotive design, a hand-crafted sports car that offers exceptional performance, outstanding agility and everyday usability. At the heart of every great sports car there has to be a great engine, and the V8

Vantage 380 bhp, 4.3-litre V8, was developed for both flexibility and outright performance. In their 2006 readership survey, readers of Car Design News voted the **Aston Martin** V8 Vantage as the best current production car design – said to be masculine and feminine (read that as sexy) as the same time. The Vantage was also voted one of Automobile magazine's 2007 "All Stars" for its performance, road manners, and design. While the V8 Vantage remains a rare and special car by any standard, the success of the model is highlighted by the completion of chassis number 10,000 – a specially ordered Onyx Coupe delivered to a well-known customer in USA in the first half of 2008.

I hope readers will join me in wishing David Paul well, and hope he enjoys **Aston Martin** ownership and pleasures for many years to come.

And yes, Mike, the color really is Mahogany Mica!

