



# NE & NW REGIONS

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**Craig Hodne, NE & NW  
Regions**

vp-n@badgerlandmiataclub.com  
715 281-6801

## Message From the VP

This will be my last missive as the VP for Northern Wisconsin. I am relinquishing the office to someone else at the upcoming Annual Planning Meeting. I am taking this step because I find I am physically unable to attend and participate in the events. You deserve to be represented by someone who shares your experiences and interacts with you on a personal level. I have enjoyed being your VP for the past two years and make this change with some reluctance.

Mary and I joined the club in December of 2009. We joined because of the car; we have stayed because of the people. We have made many friendships while participating in the club activities. We are not leaving the club, but will continue to try to contribute as best we can. In the nine years with this club, I have served four years as the Webmaster, prior to these two years as VP-N. I intend to continue actively promoting the club to Miata drivers I may encounter.

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## Annual Planning Meeting

The annual planning meeting is to be held on November 3 at Hall Mazda in Brookfield. The registrations for this event are pretty low at this date (Oct 23). This is an important meeting for the future of the BMC. The primary event calendar is created here and the input of membership is very important to a successful 2019 season. You should be there! I encourage you to become active in hosting events for the new season.

The Northern Region now has four dealer venues that need leadership. Now that the groundwork has been done, members are needed to step up do some planning. This year, the Holiday drive was organized by the RX Club, but ended up being lead by Don Gervais, our club president.. The BMC should take the reigns for 2019, and it would be great for a region member near to Fond du Lac take this event on.

Mike and Sandy Stratz were instrumental in planning the drive from Bergstrom Mazda in Appleton. If anyone wishes to work with them (or take over), I am sure they would welcome assistance.

The inaugural event from Fred Mueller Mazda was not without issues, I have learned. This drive was planned by one of the dealership personnel, and it didn't live up to the BMC level of preparation. We really need

someone in our region to assume this event and make it a good one. The potential is there.

The inaugural event from Cliff Wall Mazda was planned by Jack Mason, but health issues kept him from running it. Again, Dan Dahl stepped forward to run the event for Jack. Dan has been there for three of these events, and that is more than should be asked of any one member.



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## Winterizing Your Miata

Once again it is time to prepare the Miata for Winter storage. I mentioned this in my November newsletter of last year, and a few readers asked what it is that I do. The process follows pretty much outlined by Joe Menigoz, the club technical guru of long ago.

***Miata Hibernation (by Joe Menigoz)***

*As we all know winter is not far away. The*

*leaves are falling and your Miata has a sad look on its face. Let me give you some tech tips on winter storage. Your Miata will love you next spring if you treat it well this coming winter.*

*Starting your Miata for short periods in NOT recommended -- it only adds moisture to your exhaust system and also to your engine oil.*

*Now let's cover the preparation for final storage.*

- 1. Wash and wax your car and clean interior.*
- 2. Check anti-freeze. If replacing anti-freeze use 50/50 antifreeze and distilled water.*
- 3. Change oil and filter just before storage.*
- 4. Add STA-BIL fuel additive to gasoline, (directions on bottle) and fill fuel tank.*
- 5. Inflate tires to 50 psi if not storing on jack stands. This will keep your tires from forming flat spots.*
- 6. Loosen gas cap to relieve pressure on fuel system. After pressure is relieved, tighten gas cap.*
- 7. Remove battery. If battery is not being removed, DISCONNECT NEGATIVE battery cable. Dark currents will drain your battery if negative cable is not disconnected. Dark current is the power used by the radio/clock and the on-board computer when car is off with key removed from the ignition. Store battery in a cool location. Charge battery once a month or so with a 2 AMP trickle charger. Do not charge battery with a high AMP charger. Miata battery will be destroyed if high AMP chargers are used.*
- 8. To prevent rust to the brake rotors, remove wheels and spray some WD40 on cloth and wipe rotors on both sides.*
- 9. Place some steel wool in the tail pipe to keep out the mice and critters.*
- 10. Place a rag in the air intake snorkel located high left fender area under the hood, also to keep out the critters.*
- 11. Loosen the top latches to relieve the strain on the top.*
- 12. Roll down side windows a half-inch or so to remove the glass pressure on the top gasket seals.*
- 13. Place a bar of Irish Spring soap (cut up or shredded) in an open container inside the cabin. The mice hate it and your car will smell great next spring.*
- 14. Cover car with car cover or old sheet/blanket (to keep it warm during the COLD winter, poor baby!!)*

*PRAY FOR AN EARLY SPRING!*

*#####*

I deviate a bit, in that I make sure the fuel system is purged of fuel containing ethanol. My '99 wasn't really designed for use with alcohol-containing fuels, and the ethanol may be deleterious to some of the components in the fuel system. I attribute the alcohol to the leak developed in the fuel pulsation damper on my car a few years back. This year, I used ethanol-free fuel exclusively all year, so it is not an issue.

My '99 came equipped with 14" wheels, for which tires are difficult to find. I purchased a set of 16" wheels from a 2002 Miata and shod them with good quality rubber for summer driving. Those 14" wheels get mounted to the car for storage and the 16s are stored in a cool, dark place to protect them from deterioration.

Lastly, I purchased a battery maintainer to "float" the battery and maintain its charge while still in the car. In this way, any computer settings that are electrically maintained will not be disturbed.

The area where the car is to be parked is covered with plastic sheeting to minimize ground moisture from condensing on the underside of the car, and the car is covered with soft, fitted car cover.