

## Fallen Timbers Village Again the Site for the Holiday Party

Believing that it's never wise to fix something that isn't broken, the club kept to its tried and true formula for the 2009 holiday event. The venue was once again the pleasant Fallen Timbers clubhouse, for which we have Dick Huffman to thank for making the arrangements. Unfortunately, Dick was ill and couldn't attend the party, but daughter Boo Finical and daughter-in-law Sherri Huffman were present to see to all of the details. It sure helps when you're a four Miata family!

Members pitched in with great appetizers, side dishes, salads and desserts to complement the baked ham and turkey breast main course. Thanks to Mary Jo Bish and Linda Myers for supplying the meat dishes and to Tom Thayer for the beverages and ice and MJ for the table centerpieces.

As usual, the festivities began with people sharing their holiday wishes and catching up on the news of the club, if they had not attended the last few events. It was good to see some newer members, as well as some of the "old folks" who had been absent for awhile. Although the weather was milder than some years, there was still a lot of talk about vacationing in sunnier climes.



(see **Holiday Party**, page 2)

## Happy New Year Dinner Meeting

**Date:** Saturday, January 9, 2010

**Time:** 7:00 pm

**Place:** Jing Chuan, 4424 Secor Road, Toledo

**Located on the east side of Secor, between Sylvania and Laskey Roads.**

Join us to celebrate the year of the ox at one of Toledo's best liked Chinese restaurants, featuring Szechwan & Hunan cuisine.

No long, boring business meeting - just plenty of good food and drink with some talk about our cars, past activities and event ideas for the upcoming year.

Please contact Tom or Fran Thayer at [sailor\\_t@msn.com](mailto:sailor_t@msn.com) or 734-854-3790 by January 4 to make a reservation.

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## (Holiday Party, from page 1)

After dinner, folks settled down for the featured events of the evening - the 50/50 drawing and gift exchange. The drawing, conducted by Sue Greeley and John Puszczewicz, extended throughout the evening, due to the inclusion of both the table decorations and a large number of Zoom-Zoom items provided by Mazda USA. These included nifty picnic and cocktail sets, flashlights, t-shirts and Miata models. Robert Christmas won the big cash prize and Kathy Kurtz managed to pick up several of the excellent Zoom-Zoom gifts.

The highlight of the evening was, of course, the always entertaining, exasperating gift exchange. The rules remained the same: each person receives a playing card, and as his/her card is drawn, gets to pick a gift. The choice can come from either an unopened gift or one that someone else has already picked. In the latter case, the person losing his/her present then gets a choice of either an opened or unopened gift. President Jerry Bish directed the action and kept everyone up-to-date on where the good stuff resided at any point in time.

Of course the usual pattern developed. The highly prized objects went round and round. True to tradition, they included restaurant gift certificates (Biaggi's and Panera Bread this year) and booze, with Baily's, Irish Mist, vodka and scotch being popular. Especially favored was a bottle of wine with opener, housed in a very neat wooden box. Boo really, really wanted this item for Todd (who missed the festivities due to work). She must have been a very good girl all year, since, when all the dust had cleared (to coin a phrase), she indeed ended up with the prize.

A special treat for all of the attendees was receiving a copy of the beautiful 2010 club calendar prepared by Teresa and Randy Raymond (go to [www.marbeeprinting.com](http://www.marbeeprinting.com) for all of your printing needs). The calendar features great full-color pics from recent club and regional events. Thanks to Randy and Teresa for providing another great memento of our activities.

One of the great things about this annual event is the cooperation of the members, both before and following the evening's activities. Many thanks to all the folks who pitched in to set up and clean up the clubhouse after the party. Happy Holidays to all!

# Happy New Year!

## Winter Event Calendar

Saturday, January 9, 2010	Dinner at Jing Chuan	Hosted by the Thayers
Saturday, February 20, 2010	NWOhio Miata Club Dinner	Hosted by the Rakers
Friday, March 12, 2010	NWOhio Miata Club Dinner	Hosted by the Himmeleins



Sue Greeley and Sherry Koral Show Their Spirit



Randy and Teresa Raymond Enjoy the Party



Charlie, Don and John Whose Last Names Won't Fit



Mary Jo and Jerry Bish - Are We Having Fun, Yet?



Sandy Tapola Thinks a Box of Cash is a Great Gift

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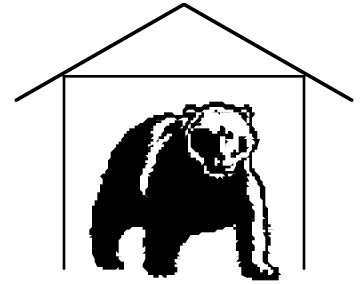


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Call or stop in and talk to Jeff, Brett or Dave and check the NWOHio Miata Club web site for the latest special deals.

## Griz's Garage - Let Your Inner Michelangelo Emerge

*by Keith Sommers*



Winter is a great time of year for you to modify your little bundle of joy. You are under no pressure to rush and can even learn new skills. How about adding a little bling. I know that when you were younger, you painted models and pictures with an artist brush. With this talent, you should let your inner Michelangelo emerge by turning the blank canvas of your brake calipers into things of beauty.

With a few items and a little know how you to could add some distinct personality to your baby. Before you begin the project collect the following items:

- o Dupli-color brake caliper spray paint in the color of your choice.  
(I suggest using a contrasting color that stands out and compliments your car)
- o Small can of Prep-All. (used to clean the grease and oil from the calipers)
- o Disposable towels
- o 1/4 and 1/2 inch artist brushes
- o 3/4 inch masking tape
- o Car jack (from your car)
- o Lug wrench (from your car)
- o Jack stand for safety (borrow or buy a set)

Since most of you probably don't have floor jacks and a complete set of jack stands you should finish one set of calipers before continuing to the next. I will use the left rear caliper as an example.

Jack the car and remove the wheel as stated in your owners' manual. Once the wheel is off, position the jack stand under the lower wishbone frame mount for safety.

Clean all of the dirt and grease of the caliper with a rag and Prep-All. You may have to do this procedure several times to make sure that the calipers are totally free of grease and dirt. The quality of the finished project depends greatly on the surface preparation.

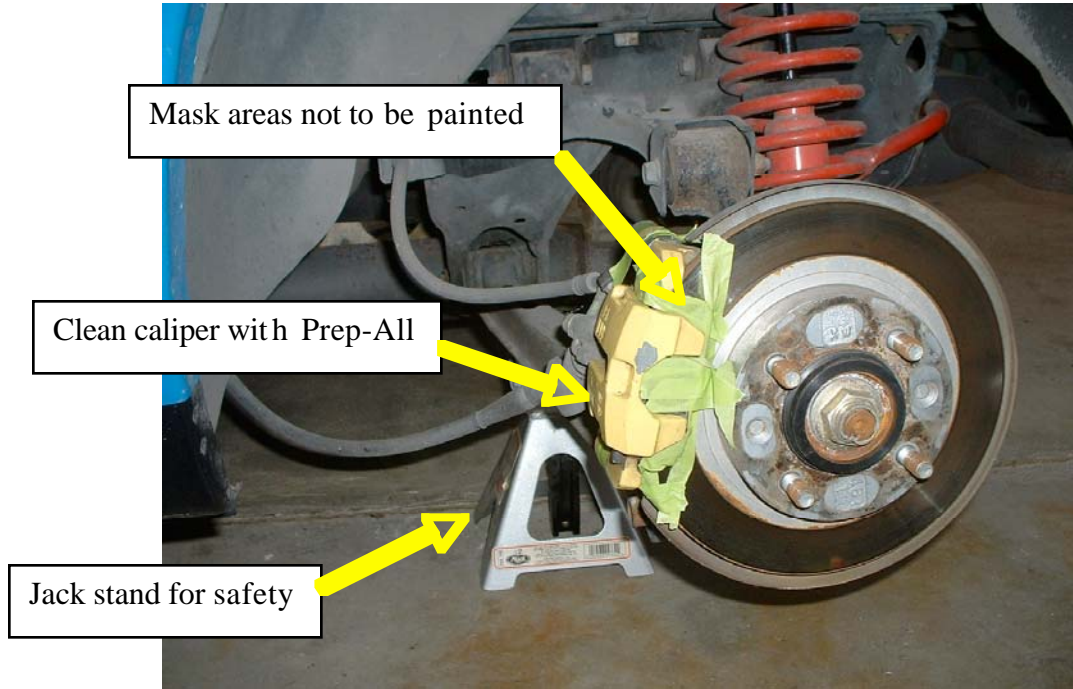
Cover all of the areas that you do not want to paint with the    inch masking tape. Clean the calipers one more time and make sure that they are completely dry.

Shake the can of paint to mix. Spray a small amount of the paint into the plastic cap of the paint can. Now is the time for your inner Michelangelo to emerge. Use the artist brushes to apply a small amount of paint to the caliper using long strokes. At first it will look like it is not covering. Let the paint dry and recoat. With each coat of paint the finish will start to become smoother and shinier. I put about 10 coats of paint on mine and it has held up very well for seven years.

Once the paint is dry and you have obtained the finish you are looking for, remove the masking tape and jack stand. Install the wheel as per your owners' manual and lower the car.

Complete the other calipers in the same manor. Now the hard part comes. You will have to wait for your baby to come out of winter hibernation to display your new masterpiece.

The materials to complete this project cost about \$15.00 and can be procured at most automotive parts stores.



**My Masterpiece**