

Time to “Winterize”?

by Mike Selvy

Our Miata winter driving and storage season is upon us and I needed a quick confirmation from the Gold Eagle Company, manufacturer of STA-BIL Fuel Stabilizer, that I was using the correct product to protect the fuel for “Blue”, my ‘94 Laguna Blue Miata. My call was connected to an answering machine and I recorded my question. I assumed, wrongly, that my call would never be returned.

Within minutes, I was pleasantly chatting with a guy and getting my confirmation that the STA-BIL Fuel Stabilizer in my possession was indeed the correct product for automotive use. Only one STA-BIL Fuel Stabilizer product is produced and it is good for all applications. Many of you, as I did, have probably seen the STA-BIL Fuel Stabilizer product touted for small engine use and have perhaps have over looked its use in the automotive arena. I have used the STA-BIL Fuel Stabilizer product for the past two years without any noticeable problems and have been pleased with the results. However, I wanted to make certain that there was not an automotive specific product being sold unbeknownst to me. My chat confirmed that the familiar red STA-BIL Fuel Stabilizer was indeed the correct product to use for my Miata. I also discovered that I was the second Miata owner who had called that morning inquiring about the same product. Apparently, it’s a small world when you own a Miata!

Our car talk continued and my contact regretfully informed me that he too, at one time, owned a convertible. Not revealing the car’s nameplate, he stated that his love affair with top down driving came to a halt to save his marriage because his wife did not like the wind in her hair.

Being a Miata owner, I conveyed my sympathy and got back to discussing our Indiana winters. I informed him of how the majority of us do not drive our cars daily in the winter, albeit a few do, and how the rest of the club members are getting their Miatas ready for winter hibernation. But, if you’re like me, I do keep “Blue” ready to roll when the roads are dry and keep her inside when it’s nasty outside. In fact, there’s nothing like a winter drive to The Strawberry Festival at Plant City, Florida or visiting the Florida Keys if we get a break in the winter weather locally.

The company has a web site full of product information highlighting frequently asked questions, other products, and car tips at www.goldeagle.com. In any case, remember that STA-BIL Fuel Stabilizer will stabilize fresh fuel up to 15 months when used as directed. Promptly treat fresh fuel. STA-BIL will not stabilize stale fuel. STA-BIL’s shelf life is 2 years and 1 ounce will treat 2.5 gallons of fuel. STA-BIL keeps good fuel molecules from breaking down into bad gum and varnish.

After all, I wonder if my phone contact’s mystery car could have been a Miata. If you call, make sure you begin your conversation with the fact that you are a Miata owner and...

It is a small world when you own a Miata!

Need A Gift Idea For Your Miata?

It’s that time of year again and in the spirit of gift-giving, why not get your favorite car some things to make life more pleasant for it (and for you)? Here is a short list of things that can make your car’s life experience more fulfilling, along with some really neat toys (and as we all know, toys are always good).

The Absorber – Is this the best thing for drying the car? They do a great job drying the car, last forever and clean up in the washing machine. An Absorber will last at least two years with moderate care and are available everywhere for about ten dollars.

Air Horns – Probably the most fun for the dollar. These run about sixty dollars for a set and anybody can install them in less than an hour. In addition to being great fun to honk when you drive through an underpass, they will get the undivided attention of the bozo driving an SUV while eating lunch and talking on their cell phone who doesn’t see you.

Leatherman Crunch Tool – Leatherman makes a lot of multi-purpose tools but the one to keep in the car is the Crunch tool. It comes with a vise-grip tool along with the usual assortment of knife and screwdriver blades. Pretty much indestructible and comes in a nifty case which makes it handy to store in one of the pockets on the back of the seats. It’s out of the way, but indispensable when you need it.

Microfiber Towels – These towels apparently leave no lint whatsoever and are excellent for glass cleaning and other tasks. About two dollars each.

Flashlight – Most of you are saying “Of course I’ve got a flashlight in the car”. Maybe so, but are the batteries any good? It might be time for a fresh set of batteries. If you don’t have a flashlight, buy one with a fresh set of batteries, but leave the batteries in their package until you need the flashlight. Batteries corrode over time and it would be particularly upsetting to get the flashlight out of the glove box and find out that the batteries you put in two years ago have self-destructed. Also, you might consider the LED type flashlight. Batteries seem to run these things forever. Don’t want to deal with batteries? If you surf the internet, watch TV, or read any of those in-flight magazines that are stuffed into the air-line seats, you have probably seen the magnetic flashlights that “never need batteries”. Don’t be on the side of the road in the dark!

Riddlee Rallee Ree Answers:

1. Forty-Niners
2. Paralegals
3. One step forward, two steps back.
4. Right between the eyes
5. Forget and forget
6. Tennis shoes
7. Scrambled eggs
8. Three Musketeers
9. Excuse me!
10. One Word