



SAN DIEGO MIATA CLUB NEWS

Miata

VOLUME 2 NUMBER 7

JULY 1997

A CHAPTER OF THE MIATA CLUB OF AMERICA

UPCOMING EVENTS



July 4—Friday

**4th of July Parade—
Scripps Ranch**



July 13—Sunday

**Tijuana Estuary Run
and Olympic Training
Center Tour**



July 24—Thursday

Wheels 'n Meals
Boll Weevil



July 26—Saturday

**Tech Day with the
Members of VROOM
and SOCALM
Plus Side-Trip to
Jackson Racing**



August 3—Sunday

**Summer Barbeque
and Pool Party**



August 5—Tuesday

**Just Dings, Ltd.
Demo**



August 9—Saturday

Twilight Fun Run

Membership Renewal

If the month/year on your mailing label matches the month/year of this newsletter, this is the last issue of the newsletter you will receive unless you renew your membership. Don't miss a single issue...renew today!

From the Editor

A Revelation

You're driving down the highway, wind whipping through your hair, sun is shining brightly, but you notice that the engine sounds are strange and are coming from the wrong location. Then it hits you: you're in a VW. That revelation smacks me upside the head every day as I wander the freeways on my way to work. You see, my father recently gave me his 1981 VW Vanagon (and yes, I still speak to him). I had been looking for a second vehicle so I could save my Miata from the mindless rush-hour traffic and from the barn-sized sport-ute doors that frequent my parking lot.

So I took possession of this right-lane-dwelling vehicle, but in doing so started a journey into the nether region known as "air-cooled engine hell." The thing leaks fluids like a baby, and parts are stuffed under other parts, making repair procedures annoying at best. I finally got the valve covers to stop leaking oil, although the right side head still leaks a drop or two of oil, but that will wait for another day. My current task is trying to get the clutch master cylinder to stop leaking brake fluid all over the driver's-side foot well. Having the clutch pedal slip from under your foot during a shift is quite an interesting experience.

When I drive my Miata after the "van" experience, it is like another world has opened up. Think the Miata is under-powered? You won't after a stint in a VW. The van is 11 years senior to my Miata, but the driving experience is a generation in difference. Now I realize these vehicles were built for two entirely different purposes, but you take for granted what you have until you miss it. That is one place where the VW excels; it makes you appreciate all the things that are right about the Miata. Handling, power, and just plain fun are everyday characteristics that the Miata possesses right from the showroom floor.

I also seem to have become more useful to those who have large things to transport. Before, I'd always say, "If you can fit it in a Miata, we can take my car." That usually stopped the requests fairly quickly. But now I also have a means of moving large bulky objects without having to resort to some mental gymnastics as to how to fit them in the Miata. So, all things carefully considered, I've come out ahead in the day-to-day saga of four-wheel transportation.

Monterey 1997

The Monterey Historics are coming up soon. August 15-17 are the dates, and Carroll Shelby is to be honored this year. Expect to see plenty of GT350s, GT40s, 289 and 427 Cobras. Big blocks and big sound will be very prevalent that weekend. You'll need two things, though. The first is a room. The Motel 6 in Marina has some rooms set aside for the Miata folks (408-384-7210). The second are the tickets. You have to get both the gate tickets and corral passes from Barbara Beach. The usual tent and parking area are set aside for us once again, but Barbara is now required to guarantee at least 35 tickets to get the tent, so she needs to sell the gate tickets with the corral passes. If you are planning to attend, please have your check to her

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



before July 15. The cost of the corral pass is \$30 per person, and the gate tickets are \$30 for Saturday, \$50 for Saturday/Sunday, and \$75 for Friday/Saturday/Sunday (per person). If you wish to attend only one day, then Saturday is the big Miata day at the tent, with lunch, plaque and other goodies provided. Make checks payable to "Barbara Beach-Wolfson" (619) 631-1202 and mail your ticket requests to:

Barbara Beach-Wolfson
315 Buena Vista Dr.
Vista, CA 92083

So if you are planning to attend this extraordinary weekend, please get your checks to Barbara as quickly as possible so she can be assured of securing the tent.

See you on the twisties...

—ROBERT "JTBOB" HOLLAND

AUTOCROSS AT THE MURPH



The following autocross events take place in the "Qualcomm Stadium at the Jack Murphy Sports Complex" parking lot.

The schedule is still being called "tentative"

Sunday, August 3	race day
Saturday, August 23	practice day
Sunday, August 24	race day
Saturday, October 4	practice day
Sunday, October 5	race day
Sunday, October 19	race day
Saturday, November 1	practice day
Sunday, November 2	race day
Sunday, November 23	race day

Autocross information sources:

San Diego SCCA Hotline: (619) 441-1333
Cal Club SCCA Hotline: (818) 988-7223
Steve Hart: (619) 579-9093



Some historic Histories, 1995-1996.

Above left, BMW had its year. An early aircraft-influenced Voisin replica, above right. Right, some 60s examples heading for the grid. Above: Would you do this in your Bugatti?



PHOTOGRAPHS: TOM GOULD

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NOTICES

THE SAN DIEGO MIATA CLUB is an official chapter of the Miata Club of America. We are a nonprofit organization whose purpose is to promote the enjoyment of—and enthusiasm for—the Mazda Miata.

SAN DIEGO MIATA CLUB NEWS is the monthly newsletter of the San Diego Miata Club. Use of articles or stories by other MCA chapters is hereby granted, provided proper credit is given.

Submissions to the newsletter are welcomed and encouraged. Did you just add a new accessory to your Miata? How about writing a review and submitting it to the newsletter? Where possible, please send your electronic submissions to the newsletter editor, Robert Holland (robert@caliban.ucsd.edu). Submissions can also be faxed to the club's dedicated phone line or mailed to the club's post office box. Submission deadline is the 15th of each month.

Internet: The San Diego Miata Club has established a dedicated World Wide Web Home Page at <http://mmdshare.ucsd.edu/sdmc.html>. The club has also established a members-only electronic mail list for those members with E-mail capability.

Dedicated 24-hour voice/fax phone line:
(619) 670-7948

San Diego Miata Club

P.O. Box 2286
Spring Valley, CA 91979-2286



MEETING PLACES

4th of July Parade

Date: Friday, July 4

Time: 8:30 a.m.—*Don't be late*

Place: 9945 Cummins Place, Scripps Ranch—okay to call for directions: Diane Long (619) 566-6973

The club is participating as a group this year in the annual Scripps Ranch Parade. This parade is fun and crazy with baby carriages, lawnmowers, etc ending with a community picnic at Hoyt Park. Food stands at the park.

You Asked for It, You Got It: Olympic Training Center and Tijuana Estuary Encore

Date: Sunday, July 13

Time: 10:00 a.m.

Place: Under the big sign in the parking lot at the new K-Mart in Mission Valley, 8730 Rio San Diego Drive (there are a couple of sandwich places there to get lunch, including an Oscar's)

Run Leader: Jack Brandais

An encore drive to the Tijuana River Estuary park and US Olympic Training Center. We'll be doing things in reverse this time...going to the training center first (yes, picnic there) and tour, then cruise down to the Estuary for another tour. If you just want to join us at the Estuary, the tour is at 3 p.m.

Please RSVP—phone (619) 702-7347 or E-mail JHB@PROC2000.SANNET.GOV The tour folks would like to know how many are coming.

The Olympic Training Center is well worth the visit. The Estuary is a wilderness area just this side of the border. If you've never visited, it will be a treat. Guided tours will be at both. No charge (as far as I know) but donations are requested.

Wheels 'n Meals at Boll Weevil

Date: Thursday, July 24

Time: 6:00 p.m.

Place: Boll Weevil, 9330 Clairemont Mesa Blvd. (At Ruffin Rd.), San Diego (619) 571-6225

Some more great raffle prizes at this month's Wheels 'n Meals. Members Anthony Wilde and Robert Holland have donated a set of Crazy Red Italian Air Horns (I'll provide FREE installation to the winner!) and members Dwight & Jo Ann Fisher are donating some of the beautiful Miata Lithographs they won at Miata at the Ranch. Will this be your lucky night? See you there!

Tech Day, Pot Luck and Pool Party with VROOM and SOCALM

Date: Saturday, 26 July

Time: 10:00 a.m.—until everyone leaves.

Place: John & Gerry Conn's Home
1530 South Lovering Ave
Fullerton, CA. 92833
(714) 441-2552

Directions: Exit the 91 Freeway at Euclid Ave. Proceed North one block to the light at Baker, turn left. Lovering is the 4th street on the left—1530 is the last house on the left.

What to Bring:

- Potluck dish, drinks if you want other than soda which will be provided
- Swim suit and towel
- Something you want to install on your Miata and tools if you have some

The Schedule:

10:00 a.m.—Event starts in Fullerton

12:30 p.m.—Caravan to Jackson Racing

- Discount on parts and labor
- Dyno Miatas free
- Demo, display and sales of classy accessories from Huntington Beach.

3:30 p.m.—Return to the Conn's for food, socializing and work on your Miata.

Tech day is a time to become one with your Miata. It's the time to ask questions, and receive any number of answers. It's the day to install goodies. It's the time for swimming in the pool, relaxing, eating, smelling the roses and meeting some folks from other area Miata Clubs.

The Conns have invited members of SOCALM, VROOM and SDMC—they belong to all three clubs! You can just hang around the pool or get greasy.

If you are interested in a hotel, give a call and they'll help you locate something close and within your budget.

Summer Barbeque/Pool Party

Date: Sunday, August 3

Time: 2:00 p.m.—7:00 p.m.

Place: Frank Shine & Stephen deLonge's college-area home (619) 582-9280

Bring your favorite beach towel and folding chair—lounge by the pool, marinate your steak and/or vegetables for the two barbeques. Cups, plates, napkins, soft drinks provided—BYOB. R.S.V.P.'s will help us know how many bodies to plan for. *RSVP and call for directions before 9:00 p.m.*
Hope to see you there!

UPCOMING NATIONAL AND REGIONAL EVENTS



August 15–17, 1997
Monterey Historic Races
Laguna Seca Raceway,
Monterey, CA

Contact: Barbara Beach-Wolfson
(619) 631-1202

The Miata Event on Saturday will include corral pass (Miata-only parking), tent pass (shade—you'll need it!), breakfast, lunch and day long refreshments + other stuff. *Please help Barb in planning another great Miata event at the Historics by ordering your tickets by July 15th.* Send a check for \$30 per person for the event to:

Barbara Beach-Wolfson
1315 Buena Vista Drive
Vista, CA 92083

Race tickets are additional and should be ordered at the same time.

Three Day pass	\$75.00
Saturday and Sunday pass	\$50.00
Saturday only pass	\$30.00

September 12–14, 1997

8th Annual Gold Rush

Hosted by: SAMOA

Sheraton Hotel in Rancho Cordova.
3 days—\$90 per car, including some meals, Monte Carlo Night, competitive events—fun! Registration packets:
(916) 646-4435, www.miata.net/samoa

October 9–13, 1997

Hot Air Balloon Fiesta Trip

Albuquerque, New Mexico

Hosted by: SOCALM

Contact: DeLena Cozart (619) 624-9201

Coming in October

29th Slalom School

Hosted by: Lotus West

For all levels of driving skills—Lotus West provides professional instructors and a safe environment to push your car to see what it can do. Many club members who have gone to it and all thought it was well worth the time—a bargain too (under \$100). Four to six students per instructor. There will be one weeknight classroom meeting in the Los Angeles area, all-day driving on the following Saturday and Sunday. Watch for actual date—we'll let you know as soon as it's firmed up.






PHOTOS: TOM GOULD

Spring Picnic Tour to Bell Gardens

May 25, 1997

Bell Gardens in Valley Center is run by Glen Bell, Jr., the founder of the Taco Bell Empire. Mr. Bell created Bell Gardens to give people a chance to discover agriculture.

 The Gardens are used as an educational experience for local schools and a place of pleasure for local inhabitants. The students are able to see all the stages of farming. Bell Gardens has a vegetable stand, picnic grounds, hayrides, antique tractors, and a brand new train ride.

This was the San Diego Miata Club's second trip to the Gardens. Like all San Diego Miata Club fun runs, part of the excitement is the journey—the run started at Deer Springs Road in Escondido. There were 23 Miatas anxious to begin this run. We were lucky to never need to travel on a freeway. The run took us past Lawrence Welk's resort. We then hit the twisties for an extended period. The weather was awesome!

Rainer Mueller offered to be the sweep car. He needed to get his broom out at one point to round up a lost driver. After a series of pages, voice-mails, and phone calls we all made it to the far side of our favorite road, Couser Canyon Road.

Couser Canyon is one of the twistiest roads in the county. On this trip we were lucky enough to hang a u-turn at the end of the road and drive it in the other direction. Now that the group was back together again, we headed back down the road. Couser Canyon Road feels like two completely different roads when you drive it in both directions.

We arrived in Valley Center and proceeded to Bell Gardens. We were met there by David who helped arrange our visit and acted as our tour guide. David was kind enough to allow us to park on the grass near the picnic area. We set up our lunch under a huge oak tree and **And, oh yes, we got to drive there in our Miatas.**



Springtime meadow, oaks, picnic and fresh strawberries.

had a great time. David had a large tray of strawberries delivered to us. These were the best strawberries that any of us had tasted. At first, some of us thought that they had been soaked in sugar water. We then realized that they were just incredibly sweet!

David told some of us some stories about Mr. Bell. Besides founding Taco Bell, he was involved in Der Weinerschitzel, Del Taco, El Taco, and others. He is currently involved in a Mexican food chain in New Zealand. It is going so well there that he has been courted by the Australians to bring his ideas there. Mr. Bell is also interested in the local civic groups. He donates a portion of his produce to service and charitable organizations.

After the picnic, we were invited to take a tractor hayride. The hayride went through the Gardens and ended with a very special treat. Mr. Bell likes trains and has built a small-scale train track for the enjoyment of his visitors. I will never forget the look on Rainer's face as we sat in the small cars waiting for the ride to start. We expected this to be a rinky-dink event. We were surprised to find that this is a two-mile track. They must have spent a hundred thousand dollars building this track. There is a train station that holds the steam and diesel trains. The bridges were very impressive. There is a pond that holds three million gallons of water. The water is pumped through a





The month of May saw back-to-back train rides for Miata Club members.

waterfall for aeration. As we wound our way through the fields we saw, garlic, tomatoes, corn, strawberries, spinach, onions, and many other veggies. We later found out that the train conductor was brought in especially for us. We were the crash-test dummies. Our group was the third and fourth group to have ever ridden the train. It was a real honor to be treated to these inaugural rides.

If you choose to visit Bell Gardens, be sure to take a picnic lunch and plan to stay at least an hour. The farm is active from March through October with varying seasonal vegetables. Before you go, call a couple of Miata friends and take the Couser Canyon route. It is well worth the trip.

The time came to depart... We lined up and bade farewell to David and the staff at Bell Gardens. We took a quick trip to Bate's Nut Farm just down the road. This is a farm that sells food and crafts. They also have a very large picnic area available. Some of us decided to take a run to a local winery. To get to the winery we had to take a very twisty road past Lake Wohlford. The winery is Orfila Vineyards. This is a very nice, little known local winery within a mile of North County Fair. My favorites are the Sangiovese and the Tawny Port. I parked right next to a new Mercedes SLK, a surprisingly tall and odd-looking car. But that's another story.

I hope you all enjoyed this run. I challenge you to visit Bell Gardens at your leisure. We hope to put together another run to the Gardens in the early fall.

—TONY BEECHER

Campo Railroad Fun Run

May 10, 1997

We were forewarned of dusty trails so a few of us showed up unwashed at the Carl's Jr. parking lot in El Cajon for a Saturday fun run. Destination: Campo Railroad Museum. Winding down Lyons Valley on through Dulzura, Steve Hart led 30 Miatas through a few of our favorite roads. Tight turns, sunny skies, and shady thoroughfares made for a wonderful ride.

We got to the railroad just in time to purchase our tickets to board and hear the engineer howl, "All Aboard!" At first we grabbed the best seats for the view, but soon realized it was more fun wandering through the old railroad cars and catching the air at the caboose. The ticket takers gladly provided information about the local land and the cars we were riding in. As the steam locomotive was switched to the front of the train by Museum volunteers, we all got to flip our bench seats to the opposite direction. The train crawled along at a leisurely pace and provided a relaxing atmosphere to rebuild our strength for the next batch of twisties.

After every one had bought their wooden train

whistles and engineer's caps, we saddled up for the second half. On through Campo Valley and down Live Oak Springs—the gang finally met their fate at the country restaurant on Royal Drive. It seems that every time you crawl out of your car after you've been driving at high speeds, the world moves that much slower. In this case it wasn't our speed that made this out-back eatery feel slow, they were slow. Though they were expecting a large group, they were not prepared for a hungry group like us. But, what they lacked in motion they made up in technique. The food was delicious and a good time was had by all.

The wrap-up was a combination of familiar favorites. Old Highway 80, Japatul Road, Harbison Canyon. I regret to say that I had to miss the end, I hear it was a raving success. Thank you Steve and Yvonne for yet another fantastic day with our Miatas.

—NATALIA RISSOLO

San Diego Miata Club members enjoy back-country curves tout toot.



PHOTO: ANTHONY WILDE



Highway to Heaven

June 14, 1997

With threatening skies and dire predictions from the weatherman, 26 Miatas showed up at the North County Fair shopping center just outside of Escondido on Saturday morning, June 14 for the second "Highway to Heaven" run, once again led by RAINER



MUELLER. Rainer had issued an edict on the club's E-mail list that the run would go on "come hell or high water," and over 40 drivers and passengers held him true to his word.

The colorful group of Miatas headed north on I-15 until they reached the Gopher Canyon exit. Now the fun was about to start, and sunshine was starting to break through the clouds. Rainer led the group through one of his all-time favorite roads, Couser canyon. This road has become the Mecca of many of the club's runs.

With tires thoroughly warmed up the cortege regrouped on the bridge just before Highway 76. And from here we proceeded to climb from just over sea level to an altitude of almost 6,000 feet to the top of Mount Palomar and the home of the world famous observatory. On the way up, we were forced to drive through a heavy layer of fog, which was actually the clouds. At the top of the mountain, we broke through the clouds, and the group split into two, those that would eat first and those that would take the special observatory tour first.

The California Institute of Technology oversees the Mt. Palomar Observatory, and Rainer had again gotten the club an inside tour of the dome and 200" telescope, one of (if not the) premier astronomical viewing devices in the world. Our guide was a knowledgeable graduate student named Andrew.

While the first group viewed the telescope, the hungriest of the club's members, headed a few miles back down the mountain to Mother's Restaurant, a quaint vegetarian café which serves large portions of delicious food at reasonable prices.

After an hour, the first group returned from the telescope and those that had eaten headed up to the mountain top to take their tour, also guided

by Andrew. It was now time for the first group to eat.

The second group were fortunate to be following a gathering of alumni from Cornell University in Ithaca, NY (another one of the sponsors of the telescope). Because the folks at the observatory wanted to give the Cornell group the super-deluxe tour, our second group was able to see the telescope in action, rotating and tilting through its full range of motions, as well as having the entire dome rotate. It was quite a treat and we felt extremely privileged to experience these feats.

After the second group's tour was over, everyone rendezvoused at Mother's again. With the second group excitedly telling the first group about their experiences at the observatory, the first group was adamant that the second group had conspired to hoodwink them.

From Mother's we headed down the backside of Mt. Palomar with vistas of Lake Henshaw below us. After reaching Highway 76 again, we headed past the lake to a little-known road, Mesa Grande Road, which connects Highway 76 with Highway 79. This idyllic stretch of road was unknown to most drivers, except those that were on Rainer's first "Highway to Heaven" run in October 1996, but it quickly became a Miata favorite to many of the drivers.

The next stop was Dudley's Bakery in Santa Ysabel, where everyone stocked up on probably the best breads in Southern California. It was hard to resist the wafting aromas of freshly baked breads, and most of the Miatas were under a handicap with the additional weight of drivers and passengers munching on breads and their car trunks filled with the proverbial staff of life.

We were finally able to break the Sirens' spell and head west on

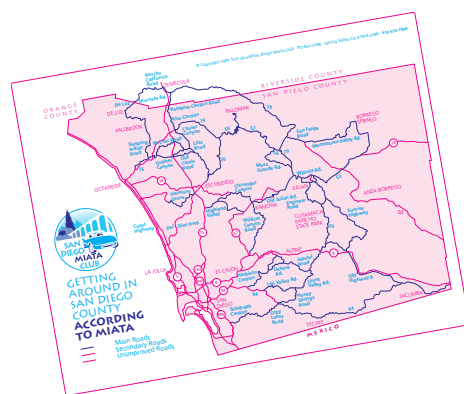


Highway 78 toward Ramona, but we again took another one of the club's favorite detours, the Old Julian Highway, which also leads into Ramona. The sunshine was now out in full. Good things happen to good people.

We passed through Ramona, the only city on our entire jaunt, and just west of town we again showed our disdain for conventional roads, and took Highland Valley Road back toward Escondido. Amazingly, this was the only road where we were hampered by any traffic, as there was a Hyundai putzing along, probably oblivious to the fact that there were still over 20 Miatas behind him.

The run ended only about one mile from where it started. There were smiles all around. We'll do it again.

—RAINER MUELLER



The San Diego Miata Club, as a public service, has compiled a San Diego County map showing our favorite roads in color. Those members who have not yet explored the kind of roads for which their car was made (in the friendly company of the club's regulars) can vicariously enjoy our runs with their own free copy. Here's the catch: you have to show up. Wheels n' Meals, a fun run, tech day, etc.



M i a t a a t t h e R a n c h

Below left, Jeri Jones helps Rainer Mueller get his Miata ready for the Ranch by applying Team Voodoo emblems to his rocker panels. At right and below, leafy lanes, slalom action and thoroughbreds combined with old and new Miata friends for a weekend to remember.



RAINER MUELLER



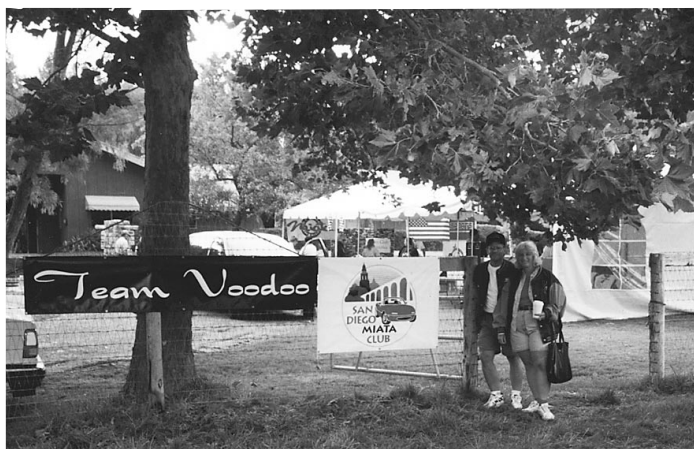
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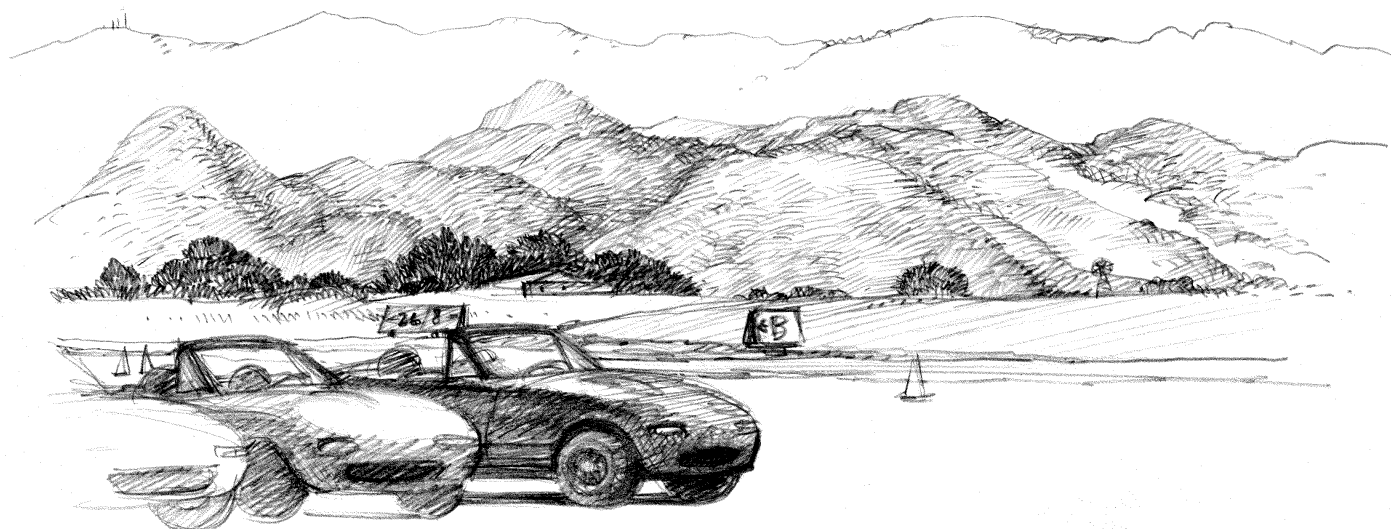
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ANTHONY WILDE



BOB KRUEGER



MARK BOOTH

MARK BOOTH



Above, Dunlop Dave explains it all. At right, JT and Stef motor through some cones, started by Voodoo Bob and critiqued by Dave. Slalom on Sunday: page 9 top left, Rainer makes a point.

MARK BOOTH



Top, pizza on Friday night, next, winners from winery tour, then Bob and Debbie step up for their prize/hug. At far right, some of the group paused on Alisal Road.



MARK BOOTH





MARK BOOTH



BOB KRUEGER



MARK BOOTH



MARK BOOTH



MARK BOOTH

Above, JT concentrates on the dart board. Below, Petra from the Netherlands communes with Tom Matano, while Cindy styles in her SDMC embroidered jacket.

Top right, a barbecue at the airport filled in between the Time-Distance Rallye finish and the Slalom start.

The ranch main barn held everyone for the Banquet on Saturday night.

Below, a lineup of 100 or so Miatas filled the corral for an aerial photo on Sunday morning



MARK BOOTH

