



SAN DIEGO MIATA CLUB NEWS



VOLUME 2 NUMBER 8

AUGUST 1997

A CHAPTER OF THE MIATA CLUB OF AMERICA

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Membership Renewal

If the month/year found 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

So you want to go online...

OK, you just bought a new computer and you've heard a lot of the club members talking about Web pages and E-mail lists, and you want to get in on some of that action too. You're ready; you want to INTERACT! But what do you have to do? Do you have the right hardware? What about software? Where ARE all these resources you've heard so much about?

In this, the first of two planned articles on this subject, we'll try to deal with the first two of these issues—the hardware and software requirements for you to become one of the approximately 70 percent of San Diego Miata Club members who have active E-mail accounts and World Wide Web access. In the second article, which will appear in next month's newsletter, we'll take on the subject of just where to find all these Miata-related resources that you've heard so much about.

Hardware

First, you'll need a computer, of course. Any Windows-based PC or Macintosh should be able to get you online. For best results, you'll probably want to have at least 16 megabytes (MB) of available random access memory (RAM). You can get by with 8MB, but the newer versions of client software like to have more, and you may have to use virtual memory, which will slow you down, to make them work at all with 8MB of RAM. Macs and Windows PCs are not the ONLY machines that will get you online. You could, if you have one, use a Sun workstation and a UNIX-based browser, but in most cases, Web browsers are updated more frequently in the Mac and Windows versions, and these are the most common choices for home machines anyway, so why not just roll with the flow and save a LOT of money in the bargain?

In addition to your computer and its peripherals (monitor, printer, keyboard, mouse, etc.), you'll need an available telephone line and a modem. Slower modems will work, but the commonly-accepted minimum modem speed for use with Web browsers these days is considered to be 28,800 bytes per second (bps). Even this is beginning to change as 56,000 bps modems are becoming more available; many now consider 33,600 bps to be the practical minimum speed for effective Web browsing. As for phone lines, take it from someone who's been there...if you have a second line in the house, hook IT to the modem! If you don't yet have but can afford a second line in the house GET ONE! If you have only one line and that's all you want or can afford, use it, but do so at your peril. I can't tell you how many times my household erupted into war because my significant other forgot to yell "Can I use the phone" before just picking up the receiver and summarily terminating an online session.

Another option that's just emerging into the marketplace are the services that are being offered by cable TV companies. Southwestern Cable's "Roadrunner" and Cox's "Cox@Home" offer connection speeds through your Ethernet port or card that rival those that commercial entities are used to getting with their T1 connections,

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Just Dings Ltd.

All you did was drive your pride and joy (the one you hand wash every Saturday) to the grocery store for milk. Alas, when you came out of the store you discovered that some bozo had slammed his car door into yours, leaving a small but nasty ding where once there was perfection.

A frantic call to the body shop reveals that a repair job will set you back about \$400.00 and you have to



leave your baby with strangers for four days. OK, so you're obsessed with your Miata, but not \$400.00 obsessed. You'll live with the ding.

You might not have to—JUST DINGS, LTD. specializes in paintless ding removal—which means they repair minor dings and small dents without sanding, painting or filling. JUST DINGS,

LTD. can remove the dings on your car while you wait and for much, much, much less than a traditional body shop might charge.

JUST DINGS, LTD.'s paintless ding removal technicians are trained an average of 4 to 6 months and utilize special tools and techniques which enable them to eliminate those irritating dings from your vehicle. These special tools allow them to access the damaged area and remove the dings from the inside, thus preserving the original paint and finish.

For more information on paintless ding removal, you can contact JUST DINGS, LTD. at (619) 569-3464. Located at 3747 Convoy Street, San Diego. Be sure to show your current membership card when you take your vehicle to JUST DINGS, LTD. to receive a 10% club discount.

Member Profile

JOHN LEUKEN-MAGINNIS

Hi folks! Just thought I'd make my entrance here. I'm John Maginnis. I actually joined you folks in June, but the black buggy was in the body shop. An 18-wheeler maneuvered itself into my left hindquarter at about 2 mph. Ah, HELLO! Duh!

Two years ago I bought a '90 white. Wow! I'm an ex-MGB owner and had been without a ragtop for 10 years. Three months ago I traded the '90 for a black '94 with more gadgets and horse-

power. (The only thing I've done so far is to put on a K&N filter-charger.) Even happier now. I'm having fun driving again! Want to go somewhere?

During the day I work in La Jolla. I help people shop for commodity trading advisors. People who have much much more money than me. But then, I'm happy drivin' the buggy on the weekends.

I've had a chance to meet some of you at the Olympic Training Center run. Had a blast! I'm easy going and "right off the shoulder," and I look forward to meeting everyone. Introduce yourself to me. I'm the Black '94 with the HUGE parking lot ding on the door. Mean people (who hit and run) suck! Ah, I mean, "Always be honest."

—JOHN

John smiles after his first run with SDMC— last month's *You Asked for It, You Got It!* run to the Olympic Training Center and Tijuana Estuary.



PHOTO: CATHY BOOTH

To be included in our on-going series of Member Profiles, write a short (200–300 word) introduction and mail (or E-mail) it with a photo (your face should be large enough to be recognized) to the Club P.O. Box or give it to a board member at an event. — Your photo will be returned.

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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

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 along whatever you want to eat, your favorite beach towel and folding chair—lounge by the pool while your steak and/or vegetables are marinating for the two barbeque grills.

Cups, plates, napkins and soft drinks provided. R.S.V.P.'s will help us know how many bodies to plan for.

RSVP, call for directions before 9:00 p.m.

Just Dings, Ltd. Demo

Date: Tuesday, August 5

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Place: Just Dings, Ltd.
3747 Convoy Street (south of Balboa)
San Diego, CA 92111

Contact: Stef Gould (619) 297-4272 or E-mail at tomgould@adnc.com
Watch JUST DINGS LTD.'s technicians demonstrate paintless ding removal on a lucky club member's Miata. We will draw straws for demo dent removal!

Come see why members Mark Booth, Voodoo Bob Krueger and Stef Gould, who have had JUST DINGS smooth out dents over the past few years, think they're magicians! We have recently recruited JUST DINGS, LTD. for our Club Member Discount List. Show your current membership card when you take your vehicle to them to receive a 10% club discount.

Twilight Fun Run

Date: Saturday, August 9

Time: 3:00 p.m. for pizza,
run starts at 4:30 p.m.

Place: Pizza Hut,
3637 Avocado Blvd., La Mesa

Run Leaders: Mark & Cathy Booth
(619) 670-3789

Now in its third year, the original San Diego Twilight Fun Run! This one's a bit different and is *very* relaxing! A *leisurely* ride along some of our best East County roads during the late afternoon/early evening hours. You know, that special "twilight" period when the hot summer day slowly gives way to a comfortable summer night.

Arrive at 3:00 p.m. for pizza. The run will start at 4:30 p.m. and will finish back near the starting point at approximately 8:30 p.m.

Directions: I-805 south to Hwy. 94 east. Continue on Hwy. 94 into La Mesa. (Watch those signs carefully, Hwy. 94 east merges off to the right near the Spring Street exit.) Stay on Hwy. 94 east and exit at Avocado Blvd. Turn left at the stop sign. Proceed over the highway and make a right turn into the Rancho San Diego Village Shopping Center. The Pizza Hut is straight ahead.

Miata at the Movies

Date: Sunday, August 10

Time: 6:00 p.m.

Place: North County Fair mall under the large sign parallel to I-15

Run Leaders: O.D. Smith & Sheila Cannon
Fun Run to Ramona via Highland Valley Road, then cruise down Wildcat Canyon to Santee. We should arrive at the Santee Drive-In around 7:30 p.m. The cost for the movies is \$5.00 per person; *Air Force One* starts at 8:30 (sundown). Bring a jacket and/or blanket, munchies (they have a snack shop), and have fun!

Wheels 'n Meals at Boll Weevil MDA Raffle

Date: Thursday, August 28

Time: 6:00 p.m.

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

Moss Motors has generously agreed to donate some great Miata goodies for our August Raffle with the understanding that 100% of the monies collected will be donated to the Muscular Dystrophy Association. (Complete details about the club's participation at the MDA Telethon will be in the September newsletter.) Everyone please mark your calendars now so you're sure not to miss this special MDA Raffle. Thanks in advance for your generous support of this great cause!

SDMC at MDA Telethon

Date: Monday, September 1

Time: 8:30 a.m.

Place: The new K-Mart in Mission Valley,
8730 Rio San Diego Drive

Members Sue and Jack Hinkle and their son Jason have arranged for the club's participation at the Muscular Dystrophy Association's Labor Day Telethon. We will caravan to the "fishbowl" in downtown San Diego, park at a nearby lot, and then staff the pledge lines for an hour or two. More info next newsletter.

UPCOMING NATIONAL AND REGIONAL EVENTS

August 15–17, 1997

Monterey Historic Races

Laguna Seca Raceway, Monterey, CA

Contact: Barbara Beach Wolfson

(619) 631-1202

Cobra is this year's featured marque.

The Miata Event on Saturday will include corral pass: Miata-only parking, and tent pass: providing breakfast, lunch, day-long refreshments and much-needed shade.

August 24, 1997

Orangewood Children's Home Charity Run

Hosted by: SOCALM

Contact: Kathie (714) 644-4345 or

E-mail KMIATACAT@AOL.COM

Meet at 11:00 a.m. T.G.I. Friday's in Orange, 3339 The City Parkway East

Bring school item(s), \$10 total cost, for a young child or teen, then drive leisurely through the back country with a stop at Tucker Wildlife Sanctuary. Run ends at a Mexican Restaurant in Orange.

August 30–September 1, 1997

Sports Car Olympics

Hosted by: NCCSCC

Contact: Tamara Hull, tsh@resmith.com

Boreal Ridge ski area (Northern California) Autocrosses, Funkana, Rallies, Featured marque—Miata

September 6, 1997

Run to the Stars

Hosted by: SOCALM

Contact: Zack (714) 525-9065

This will be a slow, scenic run through the residential streets of Beverly Hills.

We will follow one of the many "Maps to the Star's Homes." The run will start in Westwood, wind past famous homes and end in Hollywood for early dinner.

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

Coming in October

29th Slalom School

Hosted by: Lotus West

Watch for actual date—we'll let you know as soon as it's firmed up. This school is highly recommended by *every* club member that has attended!



"You Asked for It" Run

July 13, 1997



PHOTO: CATHY BOOTH

It was a usual bright and sunny San Diego day as 23 Miatas and one Corvette headed out from the swanky Mission Valley Kmart for a reverse running of last winter's "Places You've Never Been" drive, this time titled, "You Asked For It, You've Got It."



The destinations were the Arco Olympic Training Center, in Chula Vista's Eastlake area, and the Tijuana Estuary Visitors Center, in Imperial Beach. This time, we went east, then south, then west, stopping at the Olympic Center first; on the earlier drive, we went the other way.

Along with the usual greetings came close inspection of member DEE ROBIDER's Corvette, which is trying to replace his loaded Mariner Blue. It tried to drive on its back a few months ago. Dee's impressed with the 'Vette, but he's longing for another Miata. Fittingly, he volunteered to ride shotgun for the group as far as the Olympic Center. Oh, ANNA and CRAIG JAMESON came by with the sport-ute but didn't take the run.

After loading up on goodies (some even purchased their fare at Kmart's lunch counter), we headed east, past Qualcomm Stadium and north to Highway 52, and further east towards Santee. By the way, if anybody (besides MARK BOOTH) actually read the directions on the E-mail list the week before the run, they noticed that I put Santee to the west... wouldn't that make the real estate agents happy!

We flew over a mountain pass into the Santee valley and ended up on the Route 52-125 construction merry-go-round, surviving without tickets or blown suspensions, queuing up again

Above, walking the Olympic walk, while Miatans in their summer plumage visit the estuary, below



PHOTO: MARK BOOTH

at the 7-11 store at Maplevue and Highway 67 in Santee (it's almost as fancy as the Mission Valley Kmart!). We tried our best to leave TONYA ZALENSKI and her friend ADAM as they dashed into the 7-11 for supplies, but they were able to make it back in line before we were all gone.

After cruising over such winding-curvies as Dehesa and Japatul roads, we ended up at the Olympic Center for lunch and a tour. A bit quiet at Olympic Center, with the rowing team just having left for a tournament, but lacrosse and soccer fields were active.

The first stop was a movie... which didn't leave a dry eye in the house (wow, those athletes are so brave, so proud, so American!). Tours were lively, even though one of the guides said it was OK to pick oranges off the trees and the other guide said it was not allowed. The authorities were not alerted.

Another high point of the Olympic Center, at least for the shop-a-holics, was the SALE. They're blowing out all that old Atlanta stuff and other souvenirs, so if you need cheap, patriotic t-shirts, bags or Christmas gifts for the next 20 years, head on down to the Olympic Training Center! The tent is

open! Cash, check or charge accepted! I noticed several members leaving with rather large bags, including VICKY KRUEGER. Good thing the Miata only has limited trunk space. Our Olympic athletes thank you!

Off it was, through more traffic, down to the Tijuana Estuary Visitors Center for another tour (by the way, Mark Booth caught my second mistake in the directions; CATHY, tell Mark to stop reading so much... we'll get there!). We were all pretty fried by this time, even though many of us had used the Official SPF 100 Miata sunscreen. Ranger Fred and tour guide Hal were a bit overwhelmed with us, and the birds didn't cooperate too much (maybe it was because everybody was chatting so much!). But we got a history of the estuary, another movie, more tears and more walking.

After the Estuary, it was a quick trip up the Strand into Coronado. I could have sworn that some of you were planning on stopping at Marie Callender's for some pie, but everybody seemed to follow me onto the bridge. [Actually ten pie-eaters stopped, and stayed for dinner.—Ed.]

Anyway, about 125 miles and a lot of walking later, everybody headed back home. All in all, a fun day.

Also along on the run were: BONNIE ALONSO and friend STEVE FELDMAN; KEN BARTON; PHIL DAOUST; KEN EVORY; TOM and STEPHANIE GOULD (with hot new tires); ART HAMILTON; JT BOB HOLLAND; CYNTHIA JONES; JERI JONES and SEAN O'CONNOR; BOB and VICKY KRUEGER; FRED LERNER; JOHN LEUKEN-MAGINNIS; BOB and DEBBIE LLEWELLYN; CINDY PALOMA; RICHARD SCHERSCHER; BARB SHEV; FRANK SHINE and STEVE DELONGE; O.D. SMITH and SHEILA CANNON; RUTH and LOU STARK; STEVE and LAURIE WAID; ANTHONY WILDE; and me, your drive leader.

—JACK BRANDAIS

SOMEONE SAY PIE? Waiting for the rest of the gang. It's an island, right? Can't get lost.



PHOTO: MARK BOOTH



Scattered Fallout from Steve & Frank

We were inspired (well OK, Frank is doing most of the writing here!) to share some of our recent experiences and purchases regarding our wonderful little recreation machine. (This may or may not be the first in an occasional series in this newsletter; your responses are very welcome!)

Moss Interior Lights

There is life after dark! We got a set of these installed at the RANCH in the existing console cutouts. What a difference at night in our '94 (only ONE measly stock interior light that year!). We also did the trick that NATALIA and JASON told us about (thank you again!): pry out the existing dash light with a screwdriver, and *flip it over* before snapping it back in! Puts the light right up where you need it, not down on the floor. (Do the Japanese have a thing about complimenting a passenger's shoes at night??)

Mazda-trained Mechanic

We were told about this guy by a fussy fellow Miata owner, not yet a member. (He also owns a B2200 Pickup, and formerly owned an RX-7.)

Prior to purchasing our car off a wretched used-car lot (another day's story!), we took it up to Dennis Allen, at ALLEN'S WRENCH (760) 744-1192, at 1620 Grand Ave. in San Marcos, (south off 78 on Rancho Santa Fe Road, left on

Grand). His shop is *immaculate*, and he is calm and patient (just what we needed!), and he works with his son Denny and a few others. He thoroughly checked out the car, gave it a clean bill of health, and invited us to call or stop in anytime. This shop is **HIGHLY RECOMMENDED** (even by people like us who don't live anywhere near him!)

Super Shifting

We're just out of warranty on our '94, so we decided to drain the transmission fluid out (overnight), and refill it with Red Line MTL. (See *Miata Magazine*, Fall '96, p.31). The specification is for 2.1 quarts, so we bought 3 (at Bob Detmer's in Allied Gardens—the cheapest in town @ \$7.00—of *course* we checked!) Dennis appreciated the extra, “just in case” he spilled some, so that the transmission would still be full. We also decided at the same time to try the tip (from *Miata Magazine*, Winter '96, p.19) to put 90cc of transmission fluid down the shift turret hole. Dennis used a big hypodermic-style syringe to get in only 50cc (that's all it would hold, he said!). End result: shifting action is *much* improved!! Still a touch of notchiness, but far better than before. We are left wondering if it was the fluid change, the turret fill, or BOTH. We invite your comments!

Cheap Parts

We met Rick De La Fuente at MIATA AT THE RANCH. He got stuck at a table scrunched in the corner behind the

Moss “Big Top” tent. He said he'd be happy to get us any factory or after-market Miata goodies at *below* advertised prices. We gave Rick a list of items that weren't available there, or that were sold out. We got a phone call from him Tuesday morning with prices, and ordered shortly thereafter. We got our stuff 5 days later via UPS, no tax because it's out of state. Rick is at CONROE MAZDA in Conroe, Texas (where?), and you can reach him at (800) 9-CONROE. Be advised that Rick's a real nice guy, and will give you the best prices he can scrounge up...but call when you have some time, because he'll chat your ears off (if he's not pressed for time) in what we assume is a form of Texas hospitality!

Bar-B-Que Sunday August 3!

Lastly, thanks to ALL of you wonderful people! As I told Steve after the 4th of July party (Thanks, BARB and ELLIOT!) “we bought a used car, and got an extended family!” We look forward to having many of you at our home on Sunday August 3, 2-7 p.m., for our Pool Party and Summer Barbeque!

Please RSVP, shine5@bigfoot.com or (619) 582-9280 for address and directions, anytime before 9:00 p.m.
—FRANK SHINE & STEPHEN DELONGE

Miata at the Ranch revisited: A few of the thirty-some members of SDMC who participated in the national event at the closing banquet.



PHOTO: JOYCE WELLS



but they aren't cheap at some \$40 or so per month. But if you can afford it, having this type of service, now that it's available, sure beats sitting around waiting what seems an eternity for a busy, graphics-laden Web page to download. Other options, although not particularly practical ones for the home user, are ISDN and T1 connections. These are even less cost-effective than the cable services and require the installation of special lines, so they are usually reserved for businesses or other large institutions.

OK, a computer, a modem (or cable service), and a phone line (or ethernet port or card)...is that it? Yeah, pretty much, as far as the hardware goes. Cool! You're ready to go online, right? Well, not quite. Now you need some software and an Internet service provider (ISP).

Connection Software

The first bit of software you'll need is that which connects you with your ISP or proprietary service (CompuServe, America Online, etc.). The proprietary services provide their own software with their signup kits, so all that's generally required there is to follow the instructions for installation and first-time use and then pray the stuff works as advertised. You don't usually even have to ask for this stuff, let alone pay for it. I get sent about a dozen CDs each year from CompuServe (to which I already subscribe) and AOL (to which I used to subscribe). Even much of your online time with these services can be had for free these days, as they try ever harder to effectively compete with the recent emergence and dominance of independent providers who will get you on the Web and receiving as much E-mail as your mailbox can handle for extremely reasonable flat-rate monthly fees.

If you decide to go with an ISP, you'll need to sign up with one of the many providers. We'll talk more about this next month, but there are any number of these available these days...some at the local level (like my provider, ADNC), and some at the national level (like AT&T and others). Some of these services are free or nearly free or provide unlimited access.

While this sounds like a great deal, you must keep in mind that when something has no cost, it suffers from increased demand. In other words, you may find it difficult to get on and actually USE the services where you supposedly get something for nothing. A more common pricing plan is some fixed but large amount of monthly online time for somewhere in the neighborhood of \$20. My provider offers 350 hours of access for \$22/month. Unless you are SICK, that should be enough time to get you by—after all, 350 hours a month is over 10 HOURS A DAY!

When you sign up with a provider, it will provide the software you need to make an online connection in the form of a "starter kit" if you ask for it. Subscribers who are transferring from another provider generally don't need this software, so if you need it, it's important that you don't just assume they will send it to you, but make a specific request that they do so. They will also send instructions for how to install and use this software on your computer, along with telephone numbers that will get you online with them. If you use a Mac, this package will generally include a small program called Free PPP (which facilitates a "point-to-point protocol" —PPP —connection), MacTCP or TCP/IP (which you probably already have as part of your system software), and perhaps a basic Web browser and freeware version of a mail reader. Other software that you may want or need, such as a fancier Web browser, news readers, and FTP (fixed transfer protocol) file downloaders, is generally available for download at your provider's Web site. If you use a Windows machine, the log on software utilizes Windows Sockets, otherwise known as Winsock. This is provided with Windows 95, and is usually supplied with the "starter kit" from the service provider when running earlier versions of Windows. The service provider will include step-by-step instructions on setting up your computer, or they may even have a setup disk that will do most of the work for you. When you check out the various service providers, be sure to ask how complete their startup software is for your computer.

Client Software

Software programs like Web browsers are called "client" software, and the two most popular client packages at this time are Netscape's Navigator, currently in version 3.01 for the Mac and 4.0a for Windows, and Microsoft's Internet Explorer, version 4.0 beta 2. Both of these programs are extremely capable, graphics-oriented packages that support modern World Wide Web features like frames, tables, etc., and have pretty much superceded earlier, less capable browsers like Mosaic and Lynx (which is a text-only UNIX browser). The choice between these two is a purely personal one. They are both excellent products. Netscape is free to students and educators, and can be downloaded from a number of Netscape's own and mirror sites on the Web. For those who are not involved in academia, it is a commercial program that can be purchased at your favorite software outlet or, again, downloaded. If you download it and do not meet the criteria for a free copy, you are expected to be honest enough to pay for it. In other words, it is provided in the same way as a "shareware" product. Internet Explorer is included with later releases of Windows 95, but the latest version can be obtained from Microsoft's web site at <http://www.microsoft.com> and is currently free for everyone.

Both Netscape Navigator and Internet Explorer have modules that support E-mail, but as with all composite products, they are not generally considered to be as capable or flexible as a stand-alone E-mail product. Perhaps the most popular, and certainly among the most capable, mail reader is Qualcomm's Eudora. Freeware versions of Eudora are available at a number of Web sites, probably including your provider's, but the more fully-featured "Pro" versions like 3.0 and higher are commercial products that can be had for about \$60 from your favorite software retailer.

OK, so you've got your hardware all set up, you've signed up with an ISP and installed the access software, and you've located and installed your Web browser and E-mail reader. What else? That's really about it, unless you want

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The members of our club are the most amazing “on time” people! (We needed to meet at my house by 8:30 a.m., no later than 9:00 for the parade.) I had just finished my newspaper at 7:45 a.m. and was heading out to ready my red for the 4th of July parade when the first Miata appeared on my street. I think there were already three by the time I took my top down. I still needed to

4th of July
Eighteen
Miatas showed
their colors at
the Scripps
Ranch 4th of
July Parade,
followed by
BBQ in Poway.



PHOTO: MARK AND CATHY BOOTH



PHOTO: LAURIE AND STEVE WAID



PHOTO: MARK AND CATHY BOOTH

wash my windows. By the time I was finished the count was up to eight. You could hear each one as they turned the corner. The Miata sound is unmistakable.

Then we all got into the decorating mode. MICHAEL CARRILLO and ANDREA PULIDO passed out bubbles and everyone agreed that using the air conditioning ducts was the best way to make the bubbles fly. Flags, red, white and blue crepe paper and leis were passed out to make the cars more festive.

By the time we were ready to move on to the staging area for the parade we had 18 cars and at least 30 people. We had to go on Pomerado Road and then wind up to the cul-de-sac for the parade. We actually all made it. Didn't lose a one. We had about one hour to kill and TONY and MARY BEECHER went home and brought back sodas. It was getting a little hot.

We positioned ourselves in line behind the vintage cars to join the parade. MARK guided the lead cars in order (red, white and blue). We went two side-by-side and really looked great. Thanks to JACK and SUE HINKLE (red), STEVE and LAURIE WAID (white with a great rocket!) and finally our only BLUE, thanks to JOHN O'HARA.



PHOTO: JASON MOORHEAD

They win the best decorated for this year. Mark was our sweep with a BIG flag brought by FRANK SHINE. NATALIA RISSOLO and JASON MOORHEAD walked beside the cars and passed out candy. Thanks for endearing us to the kids.

We passed by the judges on Scripps Ranch Blvd and they announced us as the 'Scripps Ranch' Miata Club. I'll need to work on that but I had to pay big bucks for that announcement. We got a third place ribbon.

It was really great... but we need to work on 2nd place for next year. We all had a ball. We drove back to my cul-de-sac and walked to the picnic in the park. Maybe lunch at my house next time.

Some went on a “brisk” run led by ROBERT 'JT' HOLLAND to Wynola Road/Julian. Afterwards we all had a great barbeque at BARB and ELLIOT'S. It was a fantastic day. Hope we can do it again next year!

—DIANE LONG



PHOTO: ANTHONY "NEVADABOB" WILDE



to use a stand-alone news reader to access the thousands and thousands of news groups out there and an FTP program for file transfers. Again, these utilities are generally available for download from your provider's Web site if you feel you require them. They perform functions, however, that are far less popular than either E-mail or Web browsing, and their functions are also integrated into Netscape Navigator and Internet Explorer, so perhaps you're just as well off, for now at least,

to let Cindy Paloma know your E-mail address, so she can add you to our member-only mailing list, and go surfing on the Web. Where do you want to surf? What's out there...especially about the little car we all love so much?

THAT we'll tell you next month.
—"VOODOO" BOB KRUEGER
ROBERT "JTBOB" HOLLAND



Robert 'JT' Holland runs an autocross event at the Murph.

New Members!

The following are the new members since the last newsletter:

Ken & Barbara Barton

La Mesa
1991 White B

Bob & Meredith Hattrup

El Cajon
1997 M (Marina Green)

Ralph & Chris Vasquez

San Diego
1991 White A

Jamie E. Zuieback

San Diego
1994 White R

The following members have renewed since the last newsletter:

Jack Brandais

Greg & Kris Dunlap

Alan & Debbie Elster

Brian Goodwin

John Harvey

James W. Hind

Anna & Craig Jameson

Dale Lee

Paul & Francie Pollock

Steven Schock

Joe & Leine Williams

Takashi Yamamoto &

Karen Kodama

There are now 146 memberships consisting of 220 members.

- 51 Red
- 30 White
- 17 Black
- 11 Montego Blue
- 9 Mariner Blue
- 6 BRG
- 6 Merlot
- 5 Laguna Blue
- 5 Silver
- 5 Starlight Blue
- 2 Yellow
- 1 Unreported



Static-cling decals are available in most car colors. See Stef Gould at an event.

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 3race day
- Saturday, August 23practice day
- Sunday, August 24race day
- Saturday, October 4practice day
- Sunday, October 5race day
- Sunday, October 19race day
- Saturday, November 1practice day
- Sunday, November 2race day
- Sunday, November 23race day
- Saturday, December 13practice or race

Autocross information sources:

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



The Need for Speed?

Many of you, at one time or another, have possibly dreamed of adding a Supercharger, Turbo or other high-performance enhancement to your Miata. And, of course, some of you have actually done it and are very pleased with the results. I, too, have lusted after the extra horses that these goodies produce. Unfortunately, I just never seemed to manage to work the expense into the budget and, now, with over 74K miles on the odometer, my Miata is not as good a candidate as it once was for a forced induction system.

Well, after reading JON DEMB's article "The Intended Mission" in his regular column (TechnoTudes) in the July 1997 issue of *Miatatudes*, the official SAMOA newsletter, I'm not bummed anymore! All of a sudden I think of my (basically) bone-stock Miata as a little Rotary Rocket (minus the Rotary) and here's why (quoting Jon's article)...

"While browsing through some old issues of the Miata magazine, I read with interest the performance figures of some of these supposed hot performers from the 50's, 60's, and 70's. As the figures below show, The Miata handles itself quite well."

Jon continues, "The 90-93 1.6 liter Miatas turned in 0-60 times of 9.5 seconds. The 94 and newer 1.8's turn in a time of 8.8 seconds. Compare these times to the cars below:"

1956 Porsche Speedster	10.3 sec
1967 MGB	12.2 sec
1974 Alfa Romeo	11.0 sec
1959 Austin-Healey Sprite	20.8 sec
1959 Mercedes-Benz 190SL	13.3 sec
1960 Triumph TR-3	11.4 sec
1960 Austin-Healey 3000 (6 cyl.)	11.2 sec
1964 Porsche 911 (6 cyl.)	9.0 sec
1965 Jaguar E type (6 cyl.)	7.4 sec
1967 Lotus Elan	8.0 sec
1947 MG TC	22.0 sec

Jon goes on to say, "As you can see, these legendary cars were faster in our minds than on the streets. Even the beloved original '79 Mazda RX-7 could only do 0-60 in 9.2 seconds!"

Hey, I owned an original 1979 RX-7 and I've always remembered it as a pretty fast car. Certainly, I remembered it as much quicker than my Miata. Sure, over the last 3-4 years I've read various 0-60 times for the Miata but, until I read Jon's column, I never really put the figures into perspective. It didn't sink in. Give or take a few tenths of a second, my Miata of today is just about as quick as my RX-7 of yesteryear!

Funny thing...the very next time I took my Miata out for a spin, it felt faster! Not that I've ever felt that the Miata was slow. The seat of my pants has always told me that my Miata was a quick and nimble little roadster. However, this time, the cognitive portion of my brain was in full agreement with my butt! YeeeeHaw!

Sounds silly, I know. Please excuse my excitement. Perhaps (most?) of you have already realized this. For those that haven't, take a good look at the numbers above and, while the information is still fresh in your mind, take the Miata out for a spin. Tell me that it doesn't feel just a little bit faster!

My thanks to Jon and SAMOA for the great article!

SDMC at MDA Telethon

The details are not finalized yet, but members SUE and JACK HINKLE are working on plans for club members to lend a hand at the annual Muscular Dystrophy Association Telethon on Labor Day, September 1. Included in the plans is a San Diego Miata Club Caravan to the MDA Fishbowl on Labor Day morning.

Also, Moss Motors has promised to donate some great prizes for our August 28 Wheels 'n Meals raffle. They are doing this with the understanding that 100% of the monies collected from that raffle will be donated to MDA.

Again, not all of the details have been worked out at press time. Please plan to attend the August 28 Wheels 'n Meals to get the most up-to-date information. We will also keep you posted via the club's electronic E-mail list.

Watch for more info in the September issue of the newsletter, which we hope to get out about a week early.

July Raffle

Wow! We had 37 Miatas in attendance at the July Wheels 'n Meals! We also had a LOT of great Miata goodies for the raffle. We raised about \$150, money which will be used toward our next "club stuff" project (most likely, silk-screened T-shirts). My sincere thanks to everyone who donated prizes (in parenthesis) and congratulations to all of the winners:

Crazy Red Air Horns (JTBOB HOLLAND and NEVADABOB WILDE) won by ELLIOT and BARB SHEV (who swapped prizes with STEVE and LAURIE); Miata Lithographs (DWIGHT AND JOANN FISHER) won by WOODY WOODHOUSE, ANNA and CRAIG JAMESON, and PHIL DAOUST (who generously gave it to yours truly...thanks again Phil!); Miata Bra (ZACK BROADBENT) won by ANNA and CRAIG JAMESON; Cup Holder (IAN DACANAY) won by WOODY WOODHOUSE; Spark Plugs (FRED LERNER) won by JIM HIND; Trunk Release (FRED LERNER) won by RICHARD SCHERSCHEL; Rubber Antenna (JOYCE WELLS) won by SUE and JACK HINKLE; License Plate Frame, Zymol Wheel Cleaner, Zymol Japon and 303 Protectant (all donated by KATHIE MCCLELLAND and TONYA ZALENSKI) and won (respectively) by JOYCE WELLS, STEF GOULD, STEVE and LAURIE WAID, and ART HAMILTON.

Logo Pin Update

The club logo lapel/hat pins have been ordered. If all goes well, we will take delivery of them around mid-August and will have them for sale at the August Wheels 'n Meals. Pins will be \$3 each and will be available in 3 different car colors (red, mariner blue and white). Yet one more reason to be sure to attend the August 28 Wheels 'n Meals! Hope to see you there!

Until next month—keep that top down!

—MARK

