



SAN DIEGO MIATA CLUB NEWS



VOLUME 3 NUMBER 7

JULY 1998

A CHAPTER OF THE MIATA CLUB OF AMERICA

UPCOMING EVENTS



July 4—Saturday
4th of July Parade
Scripps Ranch



July 11
Project Car Tech Day



July 16 – 19
SDMC at the Ranch
Moss Motors 50th Anniversary



July 18—Saturday
Autocross
Qualcomm Stadium parking lot



July 23—Thursday
Monthly Meeting



July 25—Saturday
**Sky Diving in Miatas?
Fun Run**



August 1—Saturday
**4th Annual
3-Miata-Club Tech Day
and Pool Party— Fullerton**



August 8—Saturday
Twilight Run
joint run with Socalm



August 30—Sunday
Pool Party & Potluck
*Note date change



September 7—Monday
Muscular Dystrophy
Miatas Kick-Off the Drive

From the Editor

Hot Fun in the Summertime!

Whew!! Now that summer finally seems to be here, the events are coming fast and furious. Seems like there is something to do every week in the upcoming months, so there should be something for everyone. When the club was young, a scant two years ago, many of us felt obligated to attend every event. Now, with the growth of the membership, it is a reasonable bet that there will be a good turnout each time we get together. You don't need to make every event to have fun, fun, fun!

4th of July Parade

Scripps Ranch will be the place to be on July 4th. For the second year the club will be participating in the annual parade. Come help us celebrate the holiday and have fun as well. It is the 28th edition of this community parade. One of the favorite units in the parade is "The Society for the Preservation of the Middle Class." Their lawn mower (wheel barrows, fertilizer spreaders, etc.) drill team is a sight not to be missed. Hopefully we won't be right behind them, they are an act too hard to follow.

Moss Motors 50th Anniversary Festival

In mid July (16–19) we have the trek to Solvang to help celebrate Moss Motors' 50th anniversary. Last year, Moss hosted the "Miata at the Ranch" event. This year they are combining Miatas with their ancestral cousin, British roadsters (as well as other British cars), to mark half a century in business. The venue is the same as last year, the beautiful Flag is Up Farms, about an hour north of Santa Barbara. This should prove to be a fun event again this year.

25th Anniversary of the Monterey Historic

The 25th Anniversary of the Monterey Historic races is August 14–16. The featured marque, celebrating their 50th anniversary, is Porsche. Monterey is going to be packed. If you are planning to attend but haven't reserved a room... it may not be too late!

Once again a special Miata event is being planned for Saturday. Barb Beach is selling a ticket package that includes: a Saturday race ticket, corral pass (preferred Miata-only parking), continental breakfast, gourmet lunch and refreshments, trackside, in the "Miata Tent." To attend the special Miata festivities and socialize in the shade of the Miata Tent purchase your race tickets* in the above combo pack. Tickets are \$70 per person and *must be purchased no later than July 15, 1998*. Send your ticket order with a check payable to Barbara Beach to:

Barbara Beach
1315 Buena Vista Drive
Vista, CA 92083

By purchasing your race tickets through Barbara you not only will not only save Laguna Seca's service fee, but also help Barbara reach her quota of race tickets that she must

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



sell in order to have the privilege of renting a tent from Laguna Seca!—

*However, if you plan to attend all three days of racing, purchase the 3-day “super” ticket direct by calling Laguna Seca at (800) 327-7322, or order online at: www.laguna-seca.com. (The Miata tent tickets are \$35 per person from Barb when race tickets are purchased separately.)

Barb is also organizing a Saturday night dinner at Tarpy's Roadhouse (\$30 per person, including tax and tip)—a complete dinner including your choice of baby back ribs, meatloaf or a vegetable plate entrée, some yummy side dishes, finished off with apple pie and home-made maple ice cream! The dinner must be prepaid, order it from Barb along with your Saturday Race Combo tickets (with a separate check for the dinners).

Torrey Pines Concours d'Elegance

Beautiful automobiles will again be on display on Sunday, October 18. This time

closer to home, as the Torrey Pines Concours d'Elegance takes place once again on the golf course at Torrey Pines Lodge. The event will feature Alfa Romeo this year. The venue rivals Pebble Beach for beauty (both natural and automotive) but at a much more reasonable price.

Coronado Speed Festival

Speaking of reasonable prices, if you can't make the Monterey Historic in August (and even if you can), the Coronado Speed Festival will be back in November. Many of the same cars that race at the Monterey Historic will be at Coronado. Last year, the admission was a paltry \$15 for two wonderful days of automotive overload. Stef is working on a Special SDMC Package for this event. Stay tuned!

Top down, sunshine, good friends, great events. Should be a great time, hope to see each of you.

Take care and HAVE FUN!

—ANTHONY WILDE

S O C I A L M E V E N T S

Stars & Stripes Run

Date: Sunday, July 5

Time: 10 a.m.

Place: Federal Building, Wilshire at I-405

Run Leader: Zack Broadbent,
(714) 525-9065, racerzack@aol.com

Socalm Social

Date: Tuesday, July 14

Time: 6:30 p.m.

Place: Hof's Bar & Grill, (714) 990-4944
1639 E. Imperial Hwy, Brea

Coordinator: Gerry Conn,
connjb@earthlink.net

Miata Only Parts Dismantler, Petersen Auto Museum Event

Date: Saturday, July 25

Time: 10:30 p.m.

Place: Sport Imports, 7054 Laurel Canyon
Blvd, North Hollywood, (818) 765-3333

Coordinator: Samuel Gelerman
VRLAW@aol.com

Socalm Social

Date: Tuesday, July 28

Time: 6:30 p.m.

Place: Recardo's Mexican Restaurant
1230 E. Katella, Orange, (714) 633-0330

Coordinator: Kathie McClelland
KMIATACAT@aol.com

Driving School

Date: September 12–13

Place: The STREETS OF WILLOW SPRINGS,
Lancaster, CA

Coordinator: Jim Tipton, (818) 880-6568
jmtipton@pacbell.net

Projected cost: \$300, includes continental breakfast and lunch both days.

A two-day driving school on the STREETS OF WILLOW SPRINGS open to anyone with a Miata, from serious performance drivers to novices that have never been on a track. This is a driving school, not just time on a track. The instructors will be covering skid pad work, techniques of car control, threshold braking, heel and toe, and more. There will also be plenty of track time to work with your newfound knowledge. Space for 45 cars.

A non-refundable deposit of \$150 is due by July 15th.

Socalm contacts:

President—K. Zack Broadbent,
(714) 525-9065, racerzack@aol.com
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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, Anthony Wilde. 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. Editor reserves the right to edit all submissions.

Internet: The SAN DIEGO MIATA CLUB has established a dedicated World Wide Web Home Page at <http://www.sandiegomiataclub.org>. 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: Saturday, July 4

Time: 8 a.m.— DON'T BE LATE

Place: 9945 Cummins Place, Scripps Ranch— okay to call for directions:

Coordinator: Diane Long, (619) 566-6973
djaws@thegrid.net

SDMC's second year participating in the annual Scripps Ranch Parade— it's fun and crazy with baby carriages, lawn mower drill teams, etc. ending with a community picnic at Hoyt Park. Prizes will be awarded at the park. Bring along your own picnic or take advantage of the food stands at the park for lunch.

"Project Car" Tech Day

Date: Saturday, July 11

Place: Shev's home, cranial@aol.com

Lend a hand installing anti-sway bars, shocks and ??? on the project car.

Caravan to Moss Motors 50th Anniversary Festival

Date: Thursday, July 16

Time: 8:30 a.m., Leaving promptly at 8:45

Place: Pea Soup Andersen's parking lot, East side of I-5 at the Palomar Airport Road exit, Carlsbad

Caravan Leaders: Mark & Cathy Booth, (619) 670-3789, markbooth@home.com

We will stop in Orange County— meet us at 9:45 a.m. in the Sportmart parking lot located on the west side of I-405 at the Magnolia St./Warner Ave. exit in Fountain Valley.

Rather than doing the freeway the entire way, we will drive through Malibu Canyon to our lunch stop at 11:45 a.m. (depending on traffic) at Coco's in Calabasas (located on the south side of Highway 101 at the Las Virgenes exit). There are gas stations near Coco's and everyone will have a chance to fill up before we head out on the final leg of our caravan at approximately 1 p.m. We plan to arrive in Buellton about 3 p.m.

Remember to bring along your CB radios.

* If you are planning to join us, **please RSVP**. This is extra important if you plan to join us at either the Orange County or LA (Coco's) stop points.

Monthly Meeting

Date: Thursday, July 23

Time: 6:00 p.m.

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

The Monthly Meeting is the single best way to meet your fellow club members, ask questions, share stories, etc. Don't miss the fun!

Skydiving in Miatas? Fun Run

Date: Saturday, July 25

Time: 9:00 a.m.

Place: Northwest side of I-15 at Deer Springs exit, north of Escondido

Jump Coordinators: Cath & Jim Phillips, (909) 767-0404, pupsnjumps@aol.com

Run Leader: Diane Long, (619) 566-6973
djaws@thegrid.net

This Fun Run will take off through oak-shaded twisties, along avocado-covered hills, and up over the Santa Rosa Plateau to arrive in time to watch our more crazy members try skydiving.

Bring: a picnic lunch or buy it at one of six fast-food restaurants.

* *Read the article by Cath on page 7.*

Cath Phillips is coordinating this event. Her husband, Jim, will teach the skydiving part— a team effort that is sure to be fun! **If you plan to jump, please RSVP to Cath.**

The price of the jump is \$199 and \$75 for a video. Jumps are set up for 12:30.

4th Annual— Three-Miata-Club Tech Day

Date: Saturday, August 1

Time: 10:00 a.m. until dark

Place: 1530 S. Lovering Avenue, Fullerton

Coordinators: John & Gerry Conn, (714) 441-2552, connjb@earthlink.net

Directions: Exit 91 Freeway in Fullerton at Euclid. North to Baker (light).

Turn left. Lovering is on your left.

Bring: Towel and swim suit, something to install in your car, tools, a potluck dish, **RSVP** with dish that you'll bring.

The Conn's have invited members of all three area Miata clubs: VROOM, SDMC, and Socalm for a regional tech day. Spend the day working on your car, eating, watching others work on their cars, eating, swimming, eating, helping others work on their cars, and eating. It's a great opportunity to meet some members from other clubs, learn more about aftermarket products.

Arrive early as Mike Pennington from MEGUIARS will be giving a talk about car care starting at 10 a.m. From 1-3 p.m. Rick, from CUSTOM AUTO DETAILING, will demo the proper way to clean your car.

UPCOMING NATIONAL AND REGIONAL EVENTS

July 16-19, 1998

Moss Motors 50th Anniversary Festival

Flag Is Up Farms, Santa Ynez Valley, CA
Free, if you arrive in a Miata or a British sports car! (800) 472-9445

Rallies, Funkhana, Hayrides, Jackson Racing's DynoJet, Bar-B-Q, Karaoke night, lots of shopping and prizes

July 18-19, 1998

Cool Weekend on the Coast

Redwood Coast Miata Club, Eureka, CA

Two-day Autocross and/or a fun run on the 18th, Poker Rallye on the 19th.

Contact: Austin, calife@reninet.com or (707)-826-9006 for a registration packet

July 31-August 2, 1998

Deals Gap '98

Smoky Mountains, TN-NC

Run the gauntlet of Deals Gap twisties— 318 turns in 11 miles.

Web site: www.dickson.net/doc/dealsgap/gap98.shtml

August 8 or November 28, 1998

Buttonwillow Raceway Driving School

School includes skid-pad exercises, threshold braking exercises, cornering techniques, skid recovery, etc. 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. The cost is \$150. Helmet, and safety inspection are required.

Buttonwillow Raceway, (805) 764-5333

August 14-16, 1998

25th Annual Monterey Historic Races

Laguna Seca Raceway, Monterey, CA

<http://miata.net/calendar.html>

Please read the editorial, page 1.

September 18-20, 1998

"Rock Around the Clock"

SAMOA's 9th Annual Gold Rush

Sheraton Hotel, Rancho Cordova, CA
Driving events, speakers, dinners, fun!
(916) 646-4435 or mcmxv@pacbell.net
Web site: www.samoa.org

November 13-15, 1998

Coronado Classic Speed Festival

San Diego Miata Club is planning events to enhance the historic race weekend

November 18, 1998

Laguna Seca Track Day

Aaron Tachibana, LeanAngle1@aol.com

May 6-9, 1999

**Miata World '99 Register today!—
Lone Star Miata Club's national event is
already over three-fourths full!**

Register online: www.miata99.com



Miracle Mile of Miatas— a Top-Down, Back-Country Grand Tour

May 31, 1998
They ran out of sausage.
That is the only negative
I can think of in the after-
glow of the Miracle Mile of
Miatas— a Top-Down, Back-Country
Grand Tour.

May 31st dawned a little gloomy
(just enough to keep us cool!) as we
gathered in the parking lot of good
ole Kearny High School. After lots of
camaraderie and counting, the offi-
cial coordinators of the fundraising,
BOB and DEBBIE LLEWELLYN, an-
nounced that we had raised around
\$2,300 for Children's Hospital, not
counting the \$3 each for breakfast
and the quarters spread out liberally
as we walked the red carpet area.
Then MARK and CATHY BOOTH, coor-
dinators of the hospital portion of
the event, led a total of 49 Miatas,
one BMW, and one motorcycle
parade into the Children's Hospital
parking lot, filmed by Channel 10
and cheered by the crowd already enjoy-
ing the breakfast.

When the radio "personalities" Ken
and Cynthia from KBST threw out a
question to the crowd, it was our own
BOB BROWN who answered the quickest.
He was then interviewed on air and won
4 tickets to a Padres game and to
Disneyland. Then our illustrious presi-
dent emeritus Mark Booth was inter-
viewed on air and got to talk about his
favorite subject, the SAN DIEGO MIATA
CLUB. Both representatives made us



PHOTO: CRAIG JAMESON

proud. Pictures taken included our
youngest member EVAN JAMESON wear-
ing his Miata jacket while getting a big
hug from the Children's Hospital Healthy
Bear.

After a quick and sticky breakfast
(pancakes, no sausage), we headed back
to the Kearny parking lot to pick up
some new cars, lose a few that had to
miss the run, and head off via the free-
way to Rancho San Diego for our last pit
stop and queue-up before heading into
the "back country."

I have to admit to a case of nerves
that morning. I figured my job was to
keep saying "Slow down, Steve." That
was just part of it. I also was kept
busy on the CB trying to keep 49 cars
together. We ran quickly through the
Steele Canyon area, up to Lyons Val-
ley Road, then on to the twisties as
Lyons Valley becomes a more chal-
lenging task. Queue up points were
tricky with that many cars but the CBs
helped keep us together! We were a
bright rainbow ribbon stretched along
a mile or more as we hustled through
the hills, surrounded by lots of late
wildflowers, a wet spot in the road,
and an occasional cow peering
peacefully as the long line of Miata-
crazed sunseekers wound through
the territory. After passing under I-8,
we continued on to Highway 79 past
beautiful Cuyamaca Lake. Campers
and fisherman stopped to look as we
continued on, slowed by an occa-

sional van or Camry. The day was gor-
geous, with bright sun filtering through
the trees. As we took the turn onto Engi-
neer Road, the road now began to
require total driver concentration with
the 180 degree turns and narrow width.
Passengers got to glimpse a few moun-
tain cabins but mostly we just watched
the road. Maintaining a calm stomach
became more difficult. When the 12 or
so miles of Engineer Road turned into
Boulder Creek Road, we could relax
some, at least until we reached Eagle

PHOTO: BRAD BROWN





PHOTOS: LAURIE WAID

Peak Road outside of Julian, and then, of course, on to Miata-famous Wynola Road in Julian.

All of us were ready for a break by the time we reached MENGHINI WINERY in Julian, a pastoral setting with a large park area for picnicking and rest. Talk of Engineer Road dominated the conversation. With lots of new members on the run, they were getting a real taste of what a run is all about. The cars parked in the field were inspected by the new members, with lots of discussion of the "toys" and accessories available.

After our lunch break and a chance to sample the wonderful Menghini wines, a few folks decided that Julian was calling them—for pies and shopping. The rest of us took over for a spirited run back through Wynola Road, over Old Julian Highway to Ramona, then back to "civilization" by way of Highland Valley Road

from Ramona to Rancho Bernardo. Those who finished had time to reminisce at the community park as a great day wound to a close.

The total run was 122 miles of the

best of San Diego scenery and roads. It was fun planning, fun running and fun remembering. It truly was a grand tour of our great roads.

—LAURIE WAID



PHOTO: LAURIE WAID



PHOTO: BRAD BROWN





PHOTOS: BRAD BROWN

Fun Run to See Experimental Aircraft

June 6, 1998

Richard Scherschel led us to the Experimental Aircraft Association's hanger complex at Brown Field. The EAA's members gave us a warm welcome. Dave and Lois Martin, members of both SDMC and EAA, prepared a lavish lunch and gave us a super tour of the exotic handmade aircraft (and one vintage TR-3). Brad Brown documented our presence by climbing atop a hanger *and* the control tower.



If you have ever thought of making a skydive—now is the time!

Jim and I finally got to make a run with the club a few weeks ago on the Miracle Mile fund-raiser for Children's hospital. We had a blast with you guys. We mentioned to some of you that we would like to do a skydive/Miata run and several of you seemed interested. We have set this up for July 25th.

Let us tell you a little bit about making your first jump. You will be doing a tandem jump, which is a skydive where you are in a dual harness system *firmly* attached to a *very* experienced jumpmaster. The jumpmaster actually wears the parachute and is in total control of the jump. You will have about a 35-40 minute class with my husband and then you will be geared up for your jump. You and your jumpmaster (we are lining up as many as needed!) will once again go through everything that is about to happen on the jump, then you will get on our Turbo Otter that will take you up to 12,500 ft. On the ride up, the jumpmaster will hook your harness to his and prepare you for the exit.

Video and still photos are available and recommended for your jump; it truly is a once in a lifetime experience! At the door your jumpmaster will say: "Ready, Set, GO!" — and out you will go for an incredibly intense 45-50 seconds of freefall. At 5,000 feet you can pull the ripcord, if you don't the jumpmaster will, (I guarantee that!) and you will be suspended under a 400 square foot parachute which you and your jumpmaster will steer to the ground. You will have approximately 3-4 minutes under the parachute. You and your jumpmaster will "flare" the parachute in for a soft landing! HONEST!

The price of the jump is \$199 and \$75 for the video. Anyone just wanting to watch the fun is more than welcome!

I hope this sounds like fun to some of you. Tandem skydiving is a very safe way to make your first jump— all of the responsibility is on the jumpmaster. You are there to enjoy an incredible experience.

Diane Long and Stef are going to actually lead the run. I am organizing the skydiving part of it, my husband is teaching the skydiving part and jumping with you. A team effort that is sure to be fun!

—CATH PHILLIPS



Jim and Cath on a tandem jump

Aftermarket Goodies (aka "the money hole")

Welcome. Beginning this issue, this column will be dedicated to bringing you information on aftermarket items for your Miata.

This month's featured item is a woodgrain dash kit manufactured by DEAN MICHAEL ENTERPRISES. Dean is a Miata owner (twice over) who wanted a better (and less expensive) dash kit than what was available aftermarket. Well, he came up with a winner—the factory look at a reasonable price. He is making it available to other Miatafans.

The kit is made from plastic, the same simulated wood material used in all



PHOTO: PHIL DAOUST

high-priced American cars. And what really sets it apart from other dash kits (the flat "stick on" type) is that it is *contoured* to fit over the entire dash and console area. Another desirable aspect is that it is simply held in place by double faced tape, and can easily be removed to clean or work on the radio, or transfer to another Miata. This two-piece kit is available in Teak (dark grain), Burl, or Carbon Fiber. You can buy the dash alone for \$68. or both the dash and console set for \$120. At this price, the full set is less than half what you'd pay for any other dash set on the market. And the best looking at any price, according to club members who've seen them.

(Check out the dashes in Elliot and Barb Shev's '95 M Merlot or this author's '96 M QUADzilla and see what you think!)

To save you money, this kit can only be purchased directly from the manufacturer! The phone number of DEAN MICHAEL ENTERPRISES is (800) 859-2310, if you are interested. The prices stated herein are for Miata Club members only, so be sure to mention your club affiliation. (Prices are, of course, subject to change.) In my opinion, based on value, aesthetics, and construction, this item is a 10!

Until next time, save your nickels and dimes, you never know when you'll find something *you just gotta have for your baby!*

—PHIL DAOUST



Dullsville to Wowsville

OR— HOW TO TAKE A NASTY CASE
OF OXIDIZED PAINT AND RESTORE IT

June 14, 1998

Tech day at the Shev's in wonderful uptown Poway was attended by about 32 cars and 45 to 50 SDMC enthusiasts.

The planned event was to demonstrate how any of us could learn to keep our prized possessions looking better than new.

Now for the techy stuff. The plan was to pass along valuable information that some club members have to others so that caring for your car is easy and rewarding. It really isn't hard once you know the tricks!

We started out by selecting the most wax-challenged (the 90's term for neglected) car that showed for the event. It was a landslide vote for Lou and Ruth Starks' 1990 Red. I am not sure when it was detailed last— this was clearly going to be a challenge. Even the waxmeister and his crew had their doubts and started with a few excuses preparing the crowd for possible failure.

The process of detailing your car consists of washing, cleaning, polishing and waxing in this order.

The starting point is always washing the car. This is not a step, it is just how you start. Always wash your car with car wash soap as directed. *Never* use dishwasher or laundry detergents. They strip the car's finish. (In this case it would have been OK, but not on a waxed car as it would strip the wax.) The other helpful hint I can pass along is *not* to use a nozzle on the hose, which helps the water sheet and run off the car.

For best results the next steps should be done on a cool surface, preferably in the shade. These products do not work well on warm surfaces. If you must do it in the sun, only do a small area at a time, like a square foot.

Lou's Miata was going to need a five step process. The first process being to remove all the fallout contaminants on the surface of the paint. This can be felt by placing your hand in a plastic bag and running it over the surface of the paint. You will feel tiny bumps on the surface. These contaminants can be easily removed by the use of CLAY MAGIC. This is all done by hand.



PHOTO: BRAD BROWN



PHOTO: STEF GOULD

Above: JT gives a lesson in filling a rock chip.

Below: Lou, and the crew, with his "new" Miata.



PHOTO: BRAD BROWN



First spray the area to be worked with FINAL INSPECTION or QUICK DETAILER and then rub lightly with a piece of the clay. This smooths the surface in preparation for cleaning/polishing.

Since this car was so bad (sorry Lou), we next applied MEGUIAR'S MEDALLION PAINT CLEANER. This is a nonabrasive cleaner designed to remove heavy oxidation. (Just a note: all the products used at this tech session are Meguiar's chemical cleaners and polishes, no abrasive compounds.) This will not be needed on most reasonably cared-for cars.

This was applied with a 10" orbital buffer with a foam pad and removed by hand with 100% cotton terry towels. All products should have their own clean pad. Do not mix products on the application pads. I used a WAXMASTER buffer purchased at Costco for about \$40. They are sold all over town for more, so check there first. There are many brands and types available, even one from Meguiar's (www.meguiars.com). They also come in different sizes. I like the big one as it covers more area. Do not get a rotary buffer. They require a lot of practice to use and can damage your car very

quickly if not used correctly. The orbital type does a nice job and is fairly forgiving for us weekend waxers.

The next, or third step, is the step where most of you will start. This is the application of MEGUIAR'S SWIRL REMOVER #9. (Don't try to figure out the method behind the numbering system for Meguiar's products; there isn't one.) This will be applied by orbital buffer, sparingly as a little goes a long way. Make sure you apply this in both directions, left to right and up and down. After applying to the whole car, remove it by hand as before, with 100% cotton terry towels.

This step will remove all small scratches and swirl marks in your finish. It is also a polish but doesn't take the place of step four. After this step the car is looking pretty good. But don't stop—it will get better.

The fourth step is a very important step. This step should be done a couple of times a year even if your car care is up to snuff. This is because MEGUIAR'S SHOW CAR GLAZE #7 is not only a fantastic polish, it is food for your paint. The glaze nourishes your

paint with the oils it needs to keep its good looks and life. Apply this sparingly as with the other products.

Apply with a clean sponge pad. This product does NOT dry, so you can start removal after applying to the entire car. Remove with, you got it, a clean 100% cotton terry towel. It is hard to remove as it contains lots of good paint food. So be patient and wipe in circles until it is off. Go over it again to make sure it is off. Look at it glow!

Wow, what a shine. It is really looking good now. Now for the final step, protecting all your hard work, wax it. We used MEGUIAR'S GOLD CLASS WAX. I also highly recommend MEGUIAR'S #26 YELLOW WAX. Again, apply with a clean sponge pad and when it dries a bit, remove it by rubbing in circles with a cotton terry towel.

The weather forecasters are saying that, for the most part, the rainy weather is behind us. Time for everyone to break out those chemicals and buffers and make your baby shine! If you have any questions, I am at cranial@aol.com. Good cleaning!

—ELLIOT L. SHEV

Project Car

The day started out with the introduction, to the assembled masses, of the newly acquired "project" car. This purchase has been in the making for well over six months as Phil and Elliot have been on the hunt for the right car to acquire for the sole purpose of fun racing. To get it there, it

becomes a *project*. It will need work, as it has 96,000 miles on it. So we can all learn by working on it. Also, those who wish can join the club at the Q and try it out. Register with the SCCA and get a number, put it on the car and give it a whirl! The car belonged to a club member, so it had a life in the club prior to

Phil and Elliot purchasing it.

It is a '94 B Laguna Blue. Phil and Elliot added a bit of elbow grease to shine it up and a pair of neat white stripes down the middle to give it that great Cobra look. If anyone needs help putting on stripes, *we're busy*.

—E.S.



PHOTO: STEF GOULD

Voodoo Bob and the sacred Chicken lay some good ju-ju on the project car. Right, SDMC members gather for a photo at the unveiling of the project car.



PHOTO: BRAD BROWN



Member Profile

VICKY and VOODOO BOB KRUEGER



PHOTO: ANTHONY WILDE

Descended from a long line of working class drunks, current San Diego Miata Club vice-president Voodoo Bob Krueger was born in Pittsburgh and raised in a small town just outside Cleveland. He later moved to California in search of a decent nickname, where thanks to a shift knob, he finally found one. Sometimes, even the worst of us gets a break.

Those who know Voodoo Bob well, however, know that the *real* reason he moved to California was because he discovered, while imprisoned at the helicopter annex of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station, that Tustin has better bars than Ohio does.

Hey! Wait a minute...who's writing this, anyway? OK, OK, my "good" personality will take over this profile now, if you don't mind.

Whatever the reason, it's a move that sure has worked well for me. While biding my time at General Atomics, my employer for the first 25 years of my life in San Diego, I not only met, wooed, and married my wife Vicky, but I also established what is by far my longest-standing friendship...with fellow SDMC member Woody Woodhouse. Not only is Woody directly or indirectly responsible for about 90% of what I know about cars, but he is also the guy with whom I shared lunch hour walks for over ten years. It was during one of those walks on a beautiful, sunny Southern California day in 1988 that we discussed the world's need for a rebirth of the affordable roadster, preferably made by some Japanese car company this time so that it would be reliable as well as fun. We both vowed that if they

built it, we would buy it. Little did we know that Bob Hall had whispered these same words in Yamamoto-san's ear nearly ten years before we spoke. The very next year our dream came true when the Miata was introduced.

Big deal...someone made a car and I bought it. So what? Well, as most of you know, the Miata has a way of infiltrating and taking over your life...of owning YOU. Yeah, I thought I was just buying a car. I even thought, "How cool—this thing's so cheap I won't even have to worry about keeping it perfect. I can beat it to death, get it dinged... whatever." Uh-huh.

There's something I should straighten out right here, by the way. You've probably seen my "FROM VK" license plate. Well, I have to admit that I didn't actually buy the car; Vicky bought it for me with her very own money as repayment for asking me to get rid of my 4WD truck and drive a Dodge Caravan for three years while she was, incidentally, driving around in a red Corvette. That plate is my way of publicly saying "Thanks, Vic!" That's why "VBOB" is on the daily beater. Had she known how deeply she would eventually get dragged into "Miatadom," she probably wouldn't have offered.

We got the VoodooWagen in June of 1991 (It took Woody a little longer, but he too finally loosened his grip on enough bucks to get one in 1995). By the time I took delivery, I was already a member of MCA and Socalm...didn't want to miss out on my first shot at Mazda's sky box at Monterey in August. Barbara Beach noticed my enthusiasm and asked me to participate in a focus group at Mazda when I had had the car for only a month.

Long-time Miata owners like the Starks and the Beechers, who were there, probably wondered who the hell the new guy was, but I was excited! I was INVOLVED!

The next thing I knew, I found a group of Miata enthusiasts on CompuServe and we conspired to persuade the head sysop to form the first Miata-specific forum section in the online world—Miataville. Then I decided that the stock shift knob wasn't all that great, and I thought I could make a better one. So I discussed it with my Miataville cronies, and next thing I knew a dozen of them wanted one too. Someone said, "Why don't you call Andy Cork?" Some 2000 knobs later, I'm still not sure I understand the Voodoo phenomenon but, hey, it got me that nickname!

Always the rabble rouser, a few years later I found myself and about a dozen others around a table at Stuff Pizza planning the emergence of a new organization—the San Diego Miata Club. Less than two months later, we held our first meeting and signed up 34 cars. Now, just over two years later, we are the fastest-growing Miata club in the world and the largest in California with over 240 memberships. It just keeps getting better and better! And I am even MORE involved.

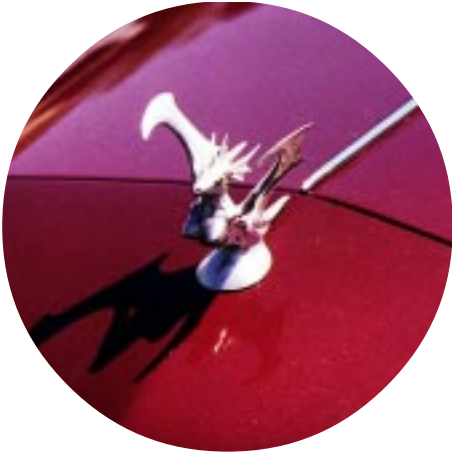
Through it all, the little lady who just wanted to make up for my having to drive that lump of a van has occupied my passenger seat, even though she's not a convertible fan (in the 13 years she has owned it, she has never once removed the top from her Corvette, and yes, it is removable). She focuses on the horizon while I tear up Wynola Road so she won't get sick, and she bundles up when the top's down so she won't get burned, and still she manages to laugh and be more friendly than I am on one of my good days when we arrive at our destination. She holds dinner until I'm through inspecting Voodoo Knobs or talking to Mark on the phone. She waits to start that rented movie while I make one last call to a retailer or answer just one more E-mail.

So thanks, Vic, for everything. For the car that sometimes seems to rule my life, for the love, the patience, and the willingness to go out with me again and again to hit the twisties with the best group of friends I've ever had. And thanks to all those Miata friends for making it even more fun to own this car than I ever imagined it could be.

—VOODOO BOB



Muckenthaler Concours



PHOTOS: TOM GOULD

May 17, 1998
Members of Socalm and SDMC rendez-
voused at the Muckenthaler Cultural
Center in Fullerton to view over 200
historic and vintage automobiles. Precise
driving and pinpoint navigation made for
a simultaneous arrival of north and south
contingents. (Note the nubile hood
ornament!)





Blues Night Out

A couple of weeks ago an invitation for an impromptu get-together was announced on the club E-mail list. Sixteen members (sixteen members, and only two Miatas!) gathered at BB's Cafe in Oceanside for a really great fish dinner.

The food was very good, but the real treat was listening to club member GIVEN HARRISON as he entertained us with some blues and other assorted tunes. Many thanks also to LARRY READ, who showed up and gave a surprise walk-on performance, both solo and with the band. Really great stuff!

Vic and I had a great time! Sometimes it's nice to get together and do things with Miata friends that don't involve the cars. When we take the Thunderchicken, Vic does all the work while I just sit there and cruise in comfort. It's kinda nice for a change. I can even have all the beer I want!

Given will be playing with his two friends at BB's Cafe most Fridays in July, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Mark, the owner, has a fish fry on Friday evenings, so perhaps some club members might enjoy an evening of tasty fish along with a couple of sets of Louisiana blues and ragtime music featuring R.J Flood on guitar and vocals, Dan Byrnes on blues harmonica, and, Given Harrison on upright bass and guitar. If that sounds like fun to you, head for : BB's Cafe, 1938 South Coast Highway, Oceanside — It's on the east side of the street, just north of Vista Way (Hwy 78). —VOODOO BOB KREUGER

New Members!

The following are the new members since the last newsletter:

Jerry Cisinsky

San Diego
1993 Red

Mike & Melene Daniels

San Diego
1999 Twilight Blue Touring

Mark Hamilton & Liz Ouellette

Carlsbad
1997 Red PEP

Ted & Sue Kesler

Chula Vista
1993 White

Gail Look-Yan

San Diego
1995 Black Leather

Terri & Dale Mc Alevy

San Diego
1996 Red

James Mette

San Marcos
1991 Red Base

Phil Rector

Carlsbad
1993 Black C

Ed Rosenthal

San Diego
1993 Red

John & Barbara Templeton

Valley Center
1993 Red B

Greg & Karen Thomas

San Diego
1991 BRG

AUTOCROSS AT THE MURPH



The following autocross events are *tentatively scheduled* to take place in the parking lot of the "Qualcomm Stadium at the Jack Murphy Sports Complex."

Saturday, July 18 race day
Sunday, August 2 race day
Saturday, August 22 race day
Saturday, October 17 race day
Saturday, October 31 race day

To confirm autocross information call:

San Diego SCCA Hotlines (619) 441-1333
(800) 360-4454
Web page <http://www.sdr-solo2.com/>
Rainer Mueller (760) 439-0067
John Godden (619) 538-6165

The following members have renewed since the last newsletter:

Tony & Mary Beecher

Mark & Cathy Booth

Jack & Sue diLustro

Gordon T. Frost, Jr.

Joe & Diane Garrison

Grant Goodman & Maricela Elizondo

Tom & Stephanie Gould

Bob & Karen Hall

Art Hamilton

Bob & Meredith Hatstrup

Robert Holland

Tony & Mary Igar

Cynthia S. Jones

Jerilyn J. Jones & Sean K. O'Connor

Bob & Vicky Krueger

Bob & Debbie Llewellyn

John F. Maginnis

Michael Martin

Rainer & Marianne Mueller

Cindy Paloma & Keith Muller

Larry & Diane Peetoom

Paul & Francie Pollock

Richard Scherschel

Ruth & Lou Stark

Ralph & Chris Vasquez

Anthony Wilde

Joe & Leine Williams

There are now 248 memberships consisting of 361 members.

81 Red
56 White
29 Black
14 Montego Blue
12 Silver
9 Laguna Blue
9 Mariner Blue
7 BRG
7 Merlot
6 Starlight Blue
5 Twilight Blue
4 Marina Green
2 Emerald Green
2 Yellow
6 Unreported





PHOTO: BRAD BROWN

Rainer's Ramblings

One of the things that has come up recently about the SAN DIEGO MIATA CLUB is the quantity and quality of varied talent among our membership.

Well, first off, you gotta realize that people smart enough to buy a Miata in are pretty smart people to begin with. That's a given. . . Harrison.

Start with this newsletter. . . the writing and photography are by various club members, it's edited by ANTHONY "NEVADA BOB" WILDE, the layout and graphics are by STEF and TOM GOULD, it's printed by SEAN O'CONNOR, and finally it's collated, addressed and stamped (in an extremely ritualistic manner) by an anonymous group of devotees. All club members, even the devotees.

And don't you think you're presently holding the consistently finest example of a monthly newsletter you've ever seen? I'll bet you read it cover to cover, not even missing one single solitary word. . . I'm right, aren't I?

Next. . . take a look at some of the events we've held recently.

Have you ever seen a bunch of guys smile as much as when LOU STARK assisted ELLIOT SHEV and MARK BOOTH in attacking Lou's oxidized red Miata with a plethora of lotions and potions. True devotees. . . Lou was smiling because by losing he was winning. . . you know. . . good news, bad news. The good news is that Elliot and Mark were going to make his car look like new. The bad news is that his car was voted most likely to need their treatment.

BARBARA SHEV played grandma most of the day. . . she's too young to be doing that!

And can you say "Project Car?"

PHIL DAOUST and ELLIOT purchased MATT CARROLL'S 1994 Laguna Blue. A couple of white stripes were laid on the Miata with such precision that surveyors came by to fine tune their instruments. Top that off with a monster "Team Voodoo" white decal on the windshield, and you've already got a car that looks at least 20 mph faster than anything this side of a true Monster Miata.

After two years of nothing but "guy runs," a bevy of lady drivers and copilots led by MICHELLE LANGMAID decided it was time for a "Ladies Run." She pulled it off! And better than the view from Cannon's in Dana Point was fact that although this was billed as a shopping run, including a stop at all those stores where men don't belong, they didn't go shopping! More true devotees.

Over Memorial Day, BOB and DEBBIE LLEWELLYN with MARK and CATHY BOOTH raised over \$2,500 for the San Diego Children's Hospital. The club even got some TV exposure. Then LAURIE and STEVE WAID led the Miatas over roads that were previously undiscovered by the club. Film at eleven. A feast for devotees.

All these runs are graced by magnetic club logos supplied by JERI JONES as a reward for run leaders. She also has produced banners for events and the club's autocrosser's numbers.

"JT" BOB HOLLAND has continually been adding some treats to the club

website (www.SanDiegoMiataClub.org to those so inclined). The latest is a video of the club when they were accosted by PBS host Huell Howser at Lake Henshaw during a run. A video on the Internet, too cool. . . techno devotees only.

RICHARD SCHERSCHEL came up with a great idea of the club "sponsoring" a section of roadway. This is where we promise to pickup the trash on the roadside every once in a while in exchange for a sign which proclaims that the SAN DIEGO MIATA CLUB would clean up this section of roadside every once in a while. VOODOO BOB suggested Couser Canyon, Wynola Road, and Highland Valley Road. A nice choice. . . but a little much, even for a devotee.

And finally, coming up (in a manner of speaking. . . or coming down more precisely), we've got a couple of members who insist on convincing the rest of our good club members to jump out of a perfectly good airplane. CATH and JIM PHILLIPS have conspired to brainwash some of our devotees that this is a good thing. They call it skydiving, as opposed to the more familiar Miata skydiving. They say it's exciting and thrilling. Not me. I'll continue to sedately skydrive my Miata, thank you.

Oh, oh, maybe I shouldn't have told you. . .

Please disregard what you've just read.

—RAINER MUELLER, El Presidente

