



SAN DIEGO MIATA CLUB NEWS



VOLUME 4 NUMBER 6

JUNE 1999

A CHAPTER OF THE MIATA CLUB OF AMERICA

UPCOMING EVENTS



June 5—Saturday

**Miata 'n' Stuff
Swap Meet**



June 6—Sunday

**Miatas in the Philippine
Independence Parade**



June 12— Saturday

Tustin Thunder



June 12—Saturday

Ice Cream Social
4th of July Parade Pre-Planning



June 13—Sunday

Run to the Stars 3
Joint Run with SOCALM



June 19—Saturday

**Custom & Classic
Car Show**
Benefiting the Access Center



June 24—Thursday

Monthly Meeting



June 26—Saturday

Powder Puff Run



July 4—Sunday

4th of July Parade
Scripps Ranch



July 17 —new date

**Miatas at the Getty,
One More Time**



July 31—Saturday

MCRD Museum Run

From the Editor

Miata World '99

Miata 10th Birthday Event

May 6-9, 1999

Nearly 40 San Diego Miata Club members in 24 cars made the trip to Dallas. Travelling in small groups, or individually, the members trekked the nearly 1500 miles from San Diego to Dallas. The longest distance travelled had to be one of our members as well, as BOB "SKIPPY OYSTER" HALL flew in from his home, down under in Sydney, Australia.

The first group of party goers left on May 1st, directly from the kickoff event at the Mazda Design Center (page 6). Other groups took a few days to explore the Southwest on their way to Dallas, (check SUE HINKLE'S travelogue on page 8). Still others made as direct a trip as possible in order to minimize the travel time, but this still meant 2½ days of driving *each way*!

Thankfully, everyone made the trip safely, although member WALLY STEVENS had a wayward accessory belt make Swiss cheese of his radiator while travelling near Abilene, and had to leave his Miata in Thurber, Texas (a quaint little town with a historical smokestack, a great restaurant, and a total population of five). Wally hitched a ride with Hussein Tejani, manager and part owner of the Ramada Inn in Midland (if you're ever in Midland stay at Hussein's place; he gives great deals to Miata club members). Hussein drove Wally back to Midland (over 100 miles) to pick up replacement belts and help install them. No radiator was available at the dealer there and they found the radiator too damaged to be drivable, Hussein gave him a ride to Dallas where they arrived at about 11:30 p.m. The next day, BILL HYDE gave Wally and the new radiator he bought from the DEALER ALTERNATIVE booth at the event a ride back to Thurber (200+ miles round trip) and assisted with the installation.

Those of us who stayed behind, were kept abreast of the goings on with electronic post cards to the club E-mail list from members JON MARTINEZ and JUDY POWELL, ED and MICHELLE LANGMAID as well as SAL and GERI CAUSARANO.

Once everyone made their way to the stomping grounds of J.R. Ewing, the real fun began. The center of attention seems to have been the events at Texas Motor Speedway. The vendor area was set up in the NASCAR garage area with plenty of room for everyone. Hot laps were offered around the track, under very controlled circumstances. Reports are that everyone left the track with wide grins plastered on their face, even those who had a bit of trouble with the chicane!

The door prize for this event was a 10th Anniversary Edition Miata. Even though SDMC members outnumbered every other non-Texas club, it was indeed a couple from the hosting Lone Star Miata Club who drove away in the blue beauty.

The *Surf 'N' Safari* event was promoted by enthusiastic club members and many people have signed up to come and visit San Diego in October. We may not have a speedway, but they don't have our climate and fantastic Miata roads.

Take care and HAVE FUN!

—ANTHONY WILDE



SOCALM EVENTS

June 26—Saturday

Bi-Annual Socalm Meeting

Place: 4th floor, event room at the Petersen Automotive Museum Wilshire & Fairfax, Los Angeles.

Time 11:00 am to 12:30.

There is free underground parking at Petersen (a \$4.00 value) for all meeting attendees. Entrance to the meeting is free, \$5 admission to tour the museum.

After the meeting (at 1:00 pm.) we are scheduled to eat lunch at Hot Wings Cafe—incredible Buffalo chicken wings.

Socalm contacts:

President— K. Zack Broadbent,
(714) 525-9065, racerzack@aol.com
Club E-mail list: socalm@avatar.com
Web site: socalm.org

Hey Dudes!

SURF'S UP AT SURF'N'SAFARI!

Just wanted to advise about the awesome food comin' your way at Surf'N'Safari's Luau Feast and Beach Party— First off — there's a Hawaiian-style Whole-Roasted Pig *plus*

Paradise Chicken
Island Ribs
Mahi-Mahi
Mixed Fried Rice
Fruited Cole Slaw
and a Tropical Fruit Display!
Soft Drinks and Coffee are included too!

This is just one part of Surf'N' Safari. Don't miss this *totally fun* Miata event!

Sign-up Now!

—Kahuna Bob

October 7–10, 1999

Surf'N'Safari

San Diego Miata Club's *way-cool* regional event. Register now as this event is sure to be a sell-out. \$99/person includes a banquet dinner, beach luau, lunch at Wild Animal Park, vendor corral, fun runs, tours, and more!

www.sandiegomiataclub.org

Contact: Sue, (760) 735-9456 or sportscarr@aol.com



AUTOCROSS AT THE "Q"



There are no autocross events scheduled at the Qualcomm Stadium parking lot during the months of June or July.

For autocross information call:

San Diego SCCA Hotlines (619) 441-1333
(800) 360-4454

Web page www.sdr-solo2.com
Rainer Mueller (760) 439-0067
John Godden (619) 538-6165

Upcoming Events in August

Miles Of Miatas for MDA

Sunday, August 1— JACK and SUE HINKLE are organizing the 3rd Annual Miles of Miatas for MDA. This year's event will be a sponsored fun run with plenty of Miata roads, good food, and many surprises. Our goal is to raise \$1 per mile/per car and to have more cars than ever before. Sponsor sheets will be available at the monthly meetings, in the July newsletter, or from the Hinkles.

Save the date for a day of fun, good eating, and, most of all, bringing Miles of Smiles to Jerry's kids and those affected with Muscular Dystrophy.

5th Annual Twilight Run

Saturday, August 7— Cathy and Mark Booth will once again lead a relaxing run on quiet, scenic, backcountry roads with fantastic sunset views.

5th Annual SOCALM/SDMC/VROOM Tech Day and Pool Party

Saturday, August 14— The annual Tech Day at the Conn's home in Fullerton. They've got a couple of fun things in the works besides the usual eating, swimming, and, oh yes, working on your Miata. Look for more details in the July newsletter but start collecting those goodies to install, hunting for the ultimate water pistol to bring along (for the pool, not washing the cars!) and figuring out a great pot luck dish. Sodas will be provided.

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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 for the newsletter? Where possible, please E-mail your submissions to the newsletter editor. 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 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

Miata'n'Stuff Swap Meet

Date: Saturday, June 5

Time: 9-11 a.m.

Place: Rancho del Dos Perros,
563 Kirks Way, Ramona

Host: Phil Daoust, (760) 789-7416,
bearschili@aol.com

This promises to be a good day to get some of those priceless (no, not worthless) Miata parts or accessories out of your garage and into someone else's, at SDMC's first annual MIATA swap meet. Everything from style bars, tonneaus, top boots, fancy gear shift knobs, to performance items including a supercharger will be on the tables for some old fashioned horse trading. (That's just from two members—*What have you got to add?*) If the item is too big to bring, bring a picture or index card with particulars, we'll have a bulletin board.

A special prize will be awarded to the weirdest Miata-related item for sale! A Miata run out Old Julian Highway to Viejas for lunch will follow at 11:30.

Have nothing to swap? Don't need anything for your car? Bring your wax, I've got shade if you want to shine up ol' paint!

Directions from 67 North: 67 becomes Main St. when you enter Ramona. Remain on Main Street until just past The Sizzler.* Turn Right onto 3rd St. for .7 mile, then Right onto Keyes St. for .3+ mile to Kirks Way, turn Right to 2nd house on right (look for old glory)

Directions from 78: upon entering Ramona make a left onto Main St., (at ARCO station) go .8 mile (just past The Sizzler) and follow directions above from*.

Philippine Independence Parade

Date: Sunday, June 6

Time: 8:30 a.m. for breakfast (provided)

Place: San Diego County Administration Building, Pacific Coast Highway,

Coordinator: Geri Causarano,
(760) 787-0624, Wooddust@aol.com

The parade celebrates the 101st anniversary of Philippine independence from Spain and is designed to bring San Diegans of all cultures together. There will be a corral set up for our Miatas. Breakfast will be served at 8:30 a.m. and the parade will kick off at 10:00 a.m.

We'll transport approximately 20-25 dignitaries. They will be sitting in the passenger seats, *not* on the decks of the cars. The North County Corvette Club and the Antique Automotive Club will

also be participants in the parade. After the parade there will be a fair with over 100 vendor booths and entertainment; *and* we will be treated to a traditional Filipino lunch. The parade will be televised on channel 17.

Tustin Thunder '99

Date: Saturday, June 12

Time: 8:00 a.m., *sharp*; leaderless caravan

Place: McDonald's, I-5 at Oceanside Blvd.
Tustin Thunder location— Marine Corp Air Station, Tustin (east of the 55 Freeway on Edinger Avenue)

Anyone who likes the sights, smells, and excitement of auto racing with great grandstand viewing, this is it!— Three days (June 11-13) of vintage sports car, NASCAR, and shifter kart racing for a very modest price. There will be a large concourse with lots of vendors: cool car stuff, food, etc. There also is a custom car show which itself is worth the trip.

Ice Cream Social

4th of July Parade Pre-Planning Party

Date: Saturday, June 12

Time: 3 p.m.

Place: 9945 Cummins Place, Scripps Ranch— I-15 to Pomerado Road, Left onto Scripps Ranch Blvd., Right onto Red Rock and Right on Cummins Place— I'm at the end of the street

Hostess: Diane Long, (619) 566-6973,
djaws@san.rr.com

Bring your favorite ice cream or toppings. This will be a pre-planning party for the annual Scripps Ranch 4th of July Parade—it's crazy with baby carriages, lawn mower drill teams, etc. Let's come up with some great ideas! Shopping for the parade goodies is on the agenda.

Run to the Stars 3

Joint Run with SOCALM

Date: Sunday, June 13

Time: 9:00 a.m. meeting,
run departs no later than 9:30

Place: The Federal Building,
Wilshire Blvd., Los Angeles

Exit the 405 Freeway (north of the 405/10 interchange) at Wilshire Blvd. Head East toward Westwood. The first light after you exit the freeway is Veteran, turn right there. The Federal Building will be on your right (you can't miss it).

Run Leader: K. Zack Broadbent,
(714) 449-9280, racerzack@aol.com

UPCOMING NATIONAL AND REGIONAL EVENTS

July 16-18, 1999

Cool Weekend on the Coast

Eureka, California

REDWOOD COAST MIATA CLUB presents a weekend of fun runs, autocrosses and rallies. Saturday dinner \$27. additional Registration \$45 per/car (one breakfast), Autocross \$10 per/driver (1st timers), \$15 others. Poker Rally \$5 per player
Contact: Austin at (707) 826-9006 or calife@crealty.com

July 30-August 1, 1999

3rd Annual Deal's Gap Run

The Gap, known for its extreme number of turns and switchbacks (318 in 11 mi.) is located in the mountains of North Carolina and Tennessee. This is largest "non-event" for Miata enthusiasts on the East coast! No registration fee.
www.dickson.net/doc/gap/index.shtml

August 27-29, 1999

Monterey Historic Races

Monterey Peninsula, California

The featured marque is Auto Union. Audi will bring the legendary Auto Union Grand Prix cars of the 30s along with its own racers. That's, of course, in addition to the usual nearly 400 of the finest historic race cars. In honor of the Historics 25th anniversary there will be a display of past Monterey Cup-winning cars.
www.laguna-seca.com/hist.htm

The same weekend— Pebble Beach Concours, Concours Italiano, and various historic and classic auto auctions.

October 7-10, 1999

Surf'N'Safari

See Page 2

April 29-May 1, 2000

Bruges 2000

10th annual European Miata gathering in Bruges, Belgium.
www.eunos.com/bruges/
SDMC Contact: Ed and Michelle,
(619) 278-1774 or ed1@cari.net
All rooms in the event's three hotels are sold out, but we have a list of others!

June 21, 2000

Y2K 2 Alaska

The MIDNIGHT SUN MIATA CLUB invites Miata club members to Fairbanks, Alaska for the longest day of the year.
Contact: Don, (907) 456-3103,
donwoodke@co.fairbanks.ak.us



One of the things that makes LA so special is the fact that it is the entertainment capital of the world. This run will pass some of Hollywood's most famous landmarks, homes of the stars, and even some notorious murder spots. Most of the run is slow and scenic: however, there are some twisty sections along the famous Mulholland Drive.

Bring plenty of water, sunscreen, and \$2 for parking at the run's end—which will be in Hollywood for lunch (there are pizza, Mexican, Greek, and fast food all nearby). The run, including our rest stops, will be about 4 hours long.

Custom & Classic Car Show

Benefitting the Access Center

Date: Saturday, June 19

Time: 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Place: Balboa Park Administration Building parking lot (Old Naval Hospital) 2125 Park Boulevard

Come join club members as we support the Access Center (helping the handicapped live independent lives). You don't have to have a "show car" to participate—just give your Miata a bath and join the fun! There will be celebrity pizzas, food booths, and entertainment. Register before June 10 for \$10, day of show entry is \$15.

Contact The Access Center, (619) 293-3500, during business hours
E-mail: cmcgrow@accesscentersd.org.

Monthly Meeting

Date: Thursday, June 24

Time: 6:00 p.m.

Place: Boll Weevil
9330 Clairemont Mesa Blvd.

(At Ruffin Rd.), San Diego
(619) 571-6225

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

2nd Annual Powder Puff Run

Date: Saturday, June 26

Time: 2:30 p.m.

Place: Veterans Affairs Building
8810 Rio San Diego Drive,
Mission Valley

Run Leaders: Laurie Waid, (619) 673-4141
swaid2@san.rr.com, and
Michelle Langmaid, (619) 278-1774,
ed1@cari.net

Although all are welcome, this is run designed with the ladies in mind—Drive, Eat, Shop, Drive, Shop, Eat. It should be renamed "Men On the Right Side, Please, Run." This fun run will travel East to the Herbal Gardens for an afternoon espresso, a visit to the nursery, and of course shopping. After this relaxing stop, the run will continue on some twisties to Viejas, where, you guessed it...more *shopping* at the new outlet mall. Men, the casino is across the street for your entertainment, unless you prefer to shop. We will regroup for dinner by the fountain and a spectacular laser show, "Spirit of Night Fire," beginning at 9:00 p.m. This is a long evening, the run will officially end when we reach Viejas. Men—this is no "sissy" run. There will be plenty of fun roads for your enjoyment.

Ladies, everyone of you is expected to RSVP, grab those Miata keys and lets go shopping!

Run to Warner Springs Gliderport

April 24, 1999

I thought the gliderport run went well, but then LOIS and I were leading it. We left Spring Valley almost on time with 17 cars, including MARK

BOOTH'S. (He had to leave the run after a few turns to go to work.)

After a nice stop at Descanso, where the proprietor showed us pictures of his two cars he restored (a Model T Ford and a '76 Rolls—both drivers), we continued north on State 79 toward Julian. As we got higher, the weather turned from partly cloudy to overcast—and then we were into the cloudbase in Cuyamaca Park. Those of us who are pilots were ready to log instrument time for a few minutes, but the rules for that say that you can't log it if you can see the ground. The Miata isn't tall enough for that, so we couldn't. Horizontal visibility got low enough for me to slow to 45, though. At this point the run got pretty chilly, but the heater works well in these cases. We cycled the headlights on and used a few wiper blade swipes during this leg of the run.

As planned and right on time (totally a coincidence, I'm sure), we arrived at the intersection of northbound 79 and eastbound 78 just outside Julian, where, as planned, we were joined by the SHACKS and the CAUSARANOS, bringing the car count to 18. Thence eastward down the hill to join Wynola Road for the famous run around Julian. At this point I warned everybody that this might be a record-slow Wynola assault because the road was wet from the melted snow, but I had no idea! Has anyone else ever made a Wynola Road run behind a fully loaded *cement truck*? We set a record for sure.

Between Tom's Chicken Shack and Warner Springs, we saw some patches of blue sky, and the possibility of flying improved quite a lot. Our hosts at the airport, Brett and Karen Willat, were ready for us with a much-appreciated well-heated office, and the first flights were soon underway. TOM and STEF GOULD fit well enough in the back seat of a Schweizer 2-32 glider, but VOODOO BOB and KEN CORN were forced to use some moves I've seen before only on the professional wrestling channels to settle in back there. Two tow planes—

Everyday Window Care

I like to keep a bottle of Meguiar's #18 Plastic Cleaner/Polish in the trunk of my Miata for quick and safe cleaning of my Miata's rear (plastic) window. I try to keep my top down all of the time, but these darn rain storms we've been getting lately have caused me to have more top-up days than I like. The #18 works great to quickly clean the plastic window before lowering the top for that drive home from work.



Well, my five-year-old bottle of #18 finally ran dry and I didn't have any luck finding the product in my local automotive stores. I did, however, find a product called "Plexus" at the local Dixieline hardware store. For \$5 I figured I would give it a try.

All I've got to say is WOW! My Miata's plastic window never looked so good! You can read all about the stuff here:

<http://www.plexusplasticcleaner.com/> — I can't recommend it highly enough.

—MARK BOOTH

P.S. You should *never* use traditional window cleaners (Windex, etc.) on your plastic rear window.





ALL PHOTOS: SAL CAUSARANO



PHOTO: DAVE MARTIN

Glider neophytes tried on their sailplanes for size; more experienced members tried out the controls, with various forms of encouragement offered by the earthbound.



PHOTO: DAVE MARTIN



PHOTO: PILOT, BY REMOTE CONTROL

a Piper Super Cub and a scruffy-looking but serviceable former cropduster did the towing honors, yanking the gliders up about 3000 feet before the instructor or somebody pulled the red knob to

release the glider end of the 200-foot rope with a snap.

Mike and Elinor Shack were among the first to fly together, Mike was surprised to find he really enjoyed the

experience; he admits to some acrophobia. Most pilots have a touch of acrophobia, I told him, but we don't experience it in aircraft.

WOODY WOODHOUSE brought along his glider logbook showing he had soloed and also flown a single-seat Schweizer 1-26, most recently in 1968. Flying with Chief Flight Instructor Polly Ridgeway, Woody found he was a bit rusty, but he enjoyed the hop and got Polly's signature in his book.

While all this was going on, most of us were huddled in the warm office or on the leeward side of the building; a stiff westerly breeze and a temperature around 50 made us realize how wise we were to turn down the high-priced-catered-lunch-in-a-tent-outside option for this run.

Not one to miss all the fun, I rented a single-seat Schweizer and demonstrated the day's shortest flight: exactly 3 minutes from takeoff to 600 feet behind the towplane into the landing pattern, and a touchdown and rollout to the tiedown spot beside the runway. A total of 14 of us flew.

Then a gaggle of us left for the Julian Pie Company in San Isabel, where we followed hot cider with warm pie. Then, individually, we sneaked over the horizon to put our tops up just in time to find the lower, warmer air on the way home.

—DAVE AND LOIS MARTIN

New owners of SDMC magnetics!



101 Miatas

May 1, 1999

In a recent discovery at Disneyland, the original Walt Disney concept for *101 Dalmatians* was found—a time capsule containing valuable line sketches signed by Walt himself—that proves that the original movie was not going to be about dogs at all. In fact, Walt

Disney had intended to tie the movie into his futurist concepts of travel. The line sketches show the famous Autopia of Tomorrowland, filled to capacity with small, open-air, two-seat cars, all running about having fun. In fact, the only concept that stayed with the movie from these original sketches to the canine-based film was the name of the evil character: Cruella (Cadillac) deVille.

Life always does imitate art, especially in Los Angeles. And so, just as if Walt really had predicted the Miata, SOCALM and Mazda hosted a party to celebrate the Miata's 10th Anniversary

and kick off MIATA WORLD '99. Including the Anniversary Edition car brought by Mazda, there were 101 Miatas with 154 people in attendance at the Mazda Design Center in Irvine. The star of the event was, of course, the stunning Sapphire Blue 10th Anniversary Edition. Costarring was Tom Matano, fresh in from Japan. Tom has a gift—no, not only with automotive design, but with the weather. In the days leading up to the Party, it was cloudy and raining. Yet, with Tom's help, the May 1st event had beautiful weather. Not even Mary Poppins could have been sunnier.

Also at the event from Mazda were Alan Childers, Jim Jordan, Fred Aikens, Peter Aylett, and Stephan Gallon. Mazda really showed some great support for the event, providing a continental breakfast and an Anniversary Miata Travel Mug for all attendees. In addition, the design studio was set up with displays showing concept sketches, competitor's products, clay models, and paint samples.

The Anniversary Party was also the official start to "Miatas Across the World," an idea that was originally created by Tom Matano. Years ago, Tom started talking about the idea of "Miatas Across America." Different concepts were floated by various people, but the idea just seemed to fizzle. Then, Bill Wright and the folks in BAMA picked up the concept and started promoting it. As the concept gathered steam, Bill Wright contacted Alan Childers to discuss having an event in Irvine prior to Miata World '99 in Dallas.

It was at this point that SOCALM came into the picture. Alan and I worked on the framework for the Irvine event, and SOCALM embraced and extended the "Miatas Across America" idea. We created two banners. The first banner is the map banner, and it will track where the banners have been. The second banner is the signature banner, and will commemorate all of the people that participated in "Miatas Across the World." These banners are to travel from club to club, promoting friendship and "Miataitude" in celebration of a decade of roadster fun. Photos and information about where the banners have been will be posted on miata.net as well as in *Miata Magazine*.

At the same time, Joe Portas (aka The Knobmeister) joined the group and made some cool door magnetics. These magnetics also have a companion log book created by Bill Wright, and will also travel around the world. Tom Matano drove his own personal Miata on the first leg of the magnetics' journey.

Of course, no Miata event would be complete without some sort of driving. After all, that's why we all have a Miata! To honor the Miata's birthday and serve as the first leg in the Western Cattle Drive to Dallas, SOCALM planned a 140-mile drive that highlighted some of the most scenic roads in Southern California. 70 of the cars at the event headed out on this trek, including Tom Matano and Alan Childers.

We initially drove through the suburbia that is Orange County, including some expensive hilltop communities such as Lemon Heights and Anaheim Hills. After our first rest stop, the group headed for Texas (led by BAMA) broke away and began their long drive east. The rest of the group continued on



PHOTO: RAINER MUELLER



PHOTO: RAINER MUELLER

Tom Matano signs Rainer's trunk at Miatas Across America kick off at Mazda R&D. Pinky Stanley watches as Elliot Shev signs the MAA banner while the crowd enjoys breakfast.



PHOTO: RAINER MUELLER



through Riverside County, passing by Lake Matthews on the way to Lake Perris. If there is one constant in all of the runs that I have planned, it is that Riverside County has potholes that can swallow several Miatas in one gulp. True to form, 0.6 miles of our path in Riverside County was under construction with potholes and gravel everywhere.

The smiles didn't seem to fade, though, as some of the roads in Riverside County are also much fun. Gavilan Road comes to mind, especially since the local farm workers—their jaws dropped—watched us cruise by. We stopped for lunch, our group having dropped to 46 cars. At the start of the day, Classic Red had been the dominant color by far (as it should be). When we got to lunch, White cars outnumbered red by one.

The run continued back into Orange County past Lake Elsinore on Ortega Highway. We paused in San Juan Capistrano, and pressed onward to Pacific Coast Highway, cruising along next to the water in Laguna Beach. Even though there was a lot of traffic, everyone was relaxed and enjoying the scenery. We ended in Newport, just a few miles from where we started, for lots of laughs over good Italian food.

The Party and Fun Run included people from Phoenix, Salt Lake City, San Francisco, Las Vegas, San Diego, and all over the greater LA area. This was also a true West Coast event, with people from SOCALM, SDMC, SAHUARO, BAMA, SAMOA, SJVMC, and VROOM.

Finally, a few people should be recognized for their efforts with this event. I would like to thank Alan Childers, Tom Matano, and the team from Mazda for their support. I also want to thank Bill Wright for helping to get everything started. Finally, I want to thank all of the volunteers who helped to make the event a success: Joe Jordan, Dennis Feria, Scott & Kris Sanders, BILL & BARI HYDE, Albert Tong, Katie Roth, PAUL & FRANCIE POLLOCK, GENE & PINKIE STANLEY, BARB & ELLIOT SHEV, Jaime & Jeanne Villacorte, STEF GOULD, Barry Rosenberg, Phyllis Weiter, and Bill Wilner. I hope I didn't miss anyone.

Happy motoring!

—K. ZACK BROADBENT

Marilyn and Candie Do Dallas

May 1, 1999

We met up with the Langmaids and Marilyn for our trip to Dallas. Candie and Marilyn enjoyed racing alongside each other for 1850 miles. Our girls love all the twisties and Marilyn was smiling the entire way.

We met some very unusual people on our trip. At one of our stops we asked a very kind lady to take a picture of all six of us—she was very impressed with our *Corvettes*. We just smiled for the picture and thanked her. Another young man pulled alongside of us on the road and loved our *Lamborghinis*. I never really thought the girls looked like anything but Miatas—very happy ones at that.

We spent two nights in Albuquerque, New Mexico, where our girls got to sleep in a very cozy garage. Our rooms were nice too.

After a very exhilarating drive, we arrived in Dallas on Wednesday, but the activities did not officially start till Thursday. We gave our girls a bath and they both went to bed early.

There were already a number of Miatas there with their owners. The cars looked tired but you could tell they were looking forward to the festivities.

Friday morning brought the beginning of the "PARTY." The activities were held at the Texas Motor Speedway, a mere 19 miles from the hotel. The only problem with the distance was that the road was too straight.

The Texas Motor Speedway is very impressive—the track was a dream for our members who ran "hot" laps (as opposed to cold laps?) There were funkhanas, autocross, partying, a scavenger hunt, a time/distance rallye, partying, and enough tours to keep everyone busy for at least two weeks. Unfortunately, the event was only three days and there was not enough time to do everything.



PHOTOS: MARK BOOTH

PJ Carlson, Barb Shev, Robert 'JT' Holland, Dunlop Dave, Stef Gould, Jon Martinez and the "mystery guest" of Miata World '99, Bob (aka Skippy Oyster) Hall, gather in the hotel lobby/bar. This proved to be a good place to have friends sign the 10th Anniversary book just published by Barbara Beach.



Phil Wolfson (Miata Magazine), Peter Egan (Road & Track), Barbara Beach (Miata Magazine), and Gary Fischman (Miata.net)..



We saw two very unique cars, one was teal blue, and the other changed colors depending on how the sunlight hit it.

Our girls were very impressed with all their new friends. The most impressive thing I have ever seen was over 300 Miatas spelling "I Love Mom" (love was in the shape of a red heart). What a wonderful picture for Mother's Day.

Sunday morning outshined anything from the whole weekend. The Miata World '99 committee had us line our cars up on the speedway. We were actually on the track—in our special cars—lined up just inches from each other (not

what we would normally do). There were over 400 Miatas on the track (see photos). Have you ever seen that many together before? Pictures were taken from the highest point of the speedway. I cannot imagine that the pictures will be disappointing.

Our hosts then bid us farewell at brunch and most of us started our trips home. When is the next national event, and will the SAN DIEGO MIATA CLUB be the largest contingent at that one also?

How come the trip home always seems longer than the trip there?

— GERI CAUSARANO

The Trek to Dallas!

May 7-9, 1999

Registering for Miata World '99 was only a dream last July for JACK and me, but as the year progressed, excitement and enthusiasm began to build for the big trip to Dallas. For several months the thought of canceling crossed our minds many times, with reservations mounting about traveling in the Miata for 3,000-plus miles. But on May 1st the trip became a reality as three red Miatas headed for Texas. RUTH and LOU STARK chose the



PHOTO: ASSOCIATED PRESS

Once again the red cars prove to be the heart of the Miata community!

Right: "Build your own sandwich" lunches were held in a huge NASCAR garage on Friday and Saturday.

Below right: Another garage held the vendors. Kansas City member Dick Carlson poses for a photo with Voodoo Bob Krueger and Vic "Mama Voodoo"

Below: Barb Shev and Stef Gould relax at the Dude Ranch bar-b-que dinner.

Bottom: The entrance to the Texas Motor Speedway.



PHOTO: MARK BOOTH



PHOTO: MARK BOOTH



PHOTO: BARB SHEV



PHOTO: MARK BOOTH



northerly route of I-15 to I-40 while we and BARB and JOHN TEMPLETON headed for the stretches of desert around the Salton Sea. Attempting to stay off free-ways, we headed for our first destination: Sedona, Arizona. Traveling on the CA 78 to I-10, and then to routes 60, 71, 89 and 89A in Arizona, with blue skies in all directions and zero traffic, it was a most enjoyable Miata drive. The scenery was breathtaking. Our group spent two nights in Sedona, where we were joined by JON MARTINEZ and JUDY POWELL on the second day. The red-rock splendor of Sedona was a postcard of memories as

we traded our Miatas one afternoon for pink jeeps.

On Monday morning, we found ourselves packing up the Miatas for the second leg of the trek to Dallas. With parkas on and heaters blasting, John "Turn Around" Templeton led us up the switchbacks of Oak Creek Canyon to Flagstaff and along the Mogollon Rim through high elevation plateaus for our next destination— Santa Fe. The temperatures were in the high 30s and low 40s and the winds were knife cutting. We braved the elements with the tops down, as any Miata enthusiast would do.

Stopping for lunch in Show Low, Arizona, we saw five or so Miatas zoom by — probably SOCALM members.

As we entered New Mexico, a trucker's advice for staying off the free-way provided 136 miles of perfect Miata roads: gentle curves, blended hills— made for "fast" cruising. Jack sulked that night that it was Sue's turn at the wheel and he missed the thrill. John thought that the \$75 for fast laps could possibly be refunded— what could top this? The scenery was incredible and the driving was, to say the least, an E-ticket! Upon our arrival in Santa Fe, the clouds



PHOTO: MARK BOOTH



PHOTO: BARB TEMPLETON



PHOTO: MARK BOOTH



PHOTO: MARK BOOTH



PHOTO: CATHY BOOTH



PHOTO: MARK BOOTH



PHOTO: MARK BOOTH



opened up and to our disappointment the tops had to be put up. Our two-night stay in Santa Fe found us at a lovely Bed and Breakfast, passing the time (not so regrettably) in an authentic adobe private residence that we all thoroughly enjoyed. A day was spent in Santa Fe visiting galleries, enjoying Santa Fe cuisine and experiencing a little snowfall. (The shopping-impaired males had thoughts of the 136 previously-mentioned miles and how soon we could get back to business!— see top right photo on page 9 if you need further explanation.)

Wednesday morning we were again

off for Texas with hopes of reaching Wichita Falls. Black clouds and the smell of rain in the air kept the tops up, but as we approached the Texas border we once again found a little sun and down came the tops. Little did we know that major rain was just ahead. As we approached Amarillo the skies blackened with every mile; in fact it started to look a little scary! Quickly, we all checked the weather stations on the CBs— the forecast for high winds, heavy rains with golf-size hail was most unwelcome to the three reds, one white and one yellow Miata. The storm

seemed to be following us, and when the winds picked up we all knew that the clouds would open with a vengeance. Well, it began to pour Texas size (I never saw rain drops that big in my life) and we all headed for the first exit to, once again, put the tops up. We made it to Wichita Falls, the rain ceased, and we were joined by a Miata straggler in blue from BAMA who had traveled alone from Colorado.

Thursday, the last push to the Big D, everyone was anxious to join up with all the other Miatae for the big birthday bash— now a group of 6 Miataes, we had

Robert 'JT' Holland, on the track, posted the top speed in his group.

Michelle Langmaid works the southwest corner. SDMC members provided the bulk of volunteers who worked the "hot laps." We were singled out by Miata World '99 as having the most enthusiastic and helpful club members!

The Banquet dinner, Lou Stark at the Surf'N'Safari booth and Jack Gosney's Italia-bodied Miata gets pride of place at the Brainstorm booth.



only 183 miles to go—tops down with the sun shining, we were off. During our travels we stayed in touch with other groups from the club who traveled on different days and took different routes. We all knew that we would be arriving in Dallas around the same time and knew that some of our members had arrived on Wednesday evening. About nine miles from the event location we pulled off and mounted our California flags and headed to the Harvey Hotel. As we approached the hotel we began to see other Miatas— red, white, BRG, yellow, 10th anniversary— *and then we saw*

a sea of Miatas parked in the hotel lot! We made it— we were at Miata World '99!

Miata World '99 was a terrific event — there was something for everyone. Meeting folks who love their Miatas as much as we do was the best part. The Lone Star Club put on an event that was first class. Some of us participated in a time/ distance rally and a scavenger hunt. Lou, John, Jon, and Jack just loved running on the Texas Motor Speedway and auto-crossing. Sunday morning, 450 Miatas drove to the Speedway for the last time for a photo shoot on the track. What a sight— Miatas in every color carefully

lined up bumper to bumper for a photo memory of the fun spent in Dallas.

Saturday night's big finale, of course, was the drawing for the beautiful 10th anniversary model that was prominently displayed outside the hotel's main ballroom. Richard Beattie, president and chief executive of Mazda Motors of North America, had the honors of presenting the keynote speech and the keys. Even the presentation was special as he asked all 900 event participants to stand. It was so thrilling as he randomly asked those with 400 in their registration number to sit down, then those with 100, then 1-99,



PHOTO: ED LANGVAID



PHOTO: MARK BOOTH



PHOTO: MARK BOOTH



PHOTO: MARK BOOTH

Richard Beattie announces the winner of the 10th Anniversary Miata.



PHOTO: SAL CAUSARANO

The winners with Tom Matano and Dave DeNuzzo, the Crazy Red Italian



PHOTO: ELIOT SHEV



PHOTO: MARK BOOTH



etc. Finally only those with registration numbers between 10 and 99 were standing, then those with 40s and 70s "I forget now who's still standing," the president of Mazda said. "Oh, did I call 70s? No? Oh, then you can sit down!" It was hilarious. So, to end your suspense—registrants number 44 from Dallas won the car. A very special moment.

Finally, it was time for us to once again pack up the Miatas and head for

home, saying good-bye was hard for all of us—we are sure glad that we didn't cancel, and the 3,000 mile drive was a piece of cake—that is, if you love the cold, wind, rain, hail, snow, desert heat and Texas dust storms! It's rumored—or hoped—that the millennium event will be in Washington State. You can bet that at least three *red* Miatas will do it again! And YOU should too!

—SUE HINKLE



PHOTO: MARK BOOTH

ON THE ROAD Some scenes along the way: Club members memorialize Bob's wild ride (see opposite) at the 4K; Candie samples some of the roads and scenery. Robin and Petra, (from the Dutch MX-5 Club) and Barb Shev make the bar scene in Tombstone and Mama Foo Foo, er, Voodoo makes sure VBob stays awake with some help from the Confederate Air Museum in Midland.



PHOTO: ED LANGMAID



PHOTO: ELLIOT SHEV



PHOTO: ELLIOT SHEV

Mile Thirty-Seven— The Ballad of Voodoo Bob

Gather 'round me pilgrims and I'll tell
y'all the story—
When Voodoo Bob looked out and seen
the shining face of Glory:
'Crost the border doin' eighty headin' for
that Texas heart,
Four Miatas and an OTM, we were haulin'
right smart.
We're on the way to Big D to lay down some
good voodoo.
The Team is up ahead, Mama V is in the
rear-view.
The road is clear and dry, ol' sun is shinin'
bright,
White line to the left, and some sagebrush
to the right.
Borla's growlin' purty and the mill is sweetly
revvin'
As our little band of Miatas come to
Mile Thirty-Seven!

"Pollo hear me now for I'm a-goin'
in the ditch—
"West-bound fast-lane is callin' me
to switch,
"Drivin' in the dirt with that bridge
a-gettin' big—
"And now comin' on fast is a mighty big rig!
"Thought me and Miata was goin' head-on,
"But Pollo said, 'Later—yore born to hang,
old son.
'Pollo's got you safe in his ever-lovin' hand,
'But you sure looked like a zombie
a-plowin' through the sand."
That ol' Mile Thirty-Seven; like to be
the road to Heaven,
As the Miata cut a dusty trail—
at Mile Thirty-Seven!

The driver of the big rig was smokin'
eighteen wheels,
But Voodoo Bob was back across and
showin' him his heels.
Mama Voodoo and his friends were
a-peerin' through the dust—
Thought Bob's time had surely come—
as to all of us it must—
But we was seen to cheer as he made it safe
and sound,
And next thing you know we was once
again east-bound.
A bead (or two) of sweat showed up under
the Voodoo cap,
'Cause Mile Thirty-Seven weren't no place
to take a nap!
That ol' Mile Thirty-Seven; like to be the
road to Heaven,
As our little band was long gone from Mile
Thirty-Seven!

—TOM GOULD



Rallye in the Rearview

(From the Wiener's Circle)

May 15, 1999

I'd never done a gimmick rallye before, and thus didn't know what to expect when I showed up. But I can say that if raising funds for noble causes is always this much fun, a lot more of my money will end up in the hands of those causes!

BRENDA BREEN, along with CARLA and KEN TOOKER, sent us scouring 120+ miles of backroads throughout the county to count the number of curvy road signs,



discover the speed of ostriches, and find the locations of Our Place and Our Way. A couple dozen more difficult to describe (and even harder to find) landmarks filled the day. The route by which to locate them was definitely a *Miata road*. The amount of effort required to host such an effort is not easily imagined, but it was clearly a labor of love.

My route to the checkered flag/blue ribbon/gold medal (pick your metaphor) was complicated by the fact that the weekend of the rallye was *also* the weekend of the East San Diego County Junior Fair livestock auction. My freezer needed more barbecue fodder, but I wanted to go driving... So Chris and I had to split forces—she went to the fair, and I got to go rallying.

This of course left me without an aggravator. Er, I meant navigator... so I asked Rachel Lathrop, the daughter of my best friends, if she might deign to co-pilot Windy for this event. Although she is busy



PHOTO: GREG MAISER'S CAMERA

nearly every weekend winning blue ribbons at equestrian events, I was in luck—her schedule had an open Saturday!

As a rallye rookie, I certainly didn't expect to win. Heck, I was figuring I'd get *last* place, since I never looked for any of the landmarks. But Rachel somehow managed to find almost every one of them. That young lady is the best rallye partner I could imagine! I never had to ask for a direction change, or wonder where we were. Because of our devious rallye organizers, we darn near missed Park Road in Santee, but Rachel kept me on track. "Greg, it's at one point one miles, turn *here!*" (C'mon, let's have a show of hands—how many people drove right past it, *and* missed the barn landmark?)

All in all, it was a great day. We all had a great time, the format of the rallye didn't leave room for anyone to get lost, the Leukemia Society raised a few precious dollars, and I got a whole bunch of cool prizes just for letting a cute teenager ride along with me!

Thank you Brenda. Thank you Ken and Carla. Thanks to the many volunteers helping at the checkpoints. And of course thanks to all of the generous sponsors who provided all the loot!

—GREG MAISER

Crankshaft Failure

I just finished talking with another 1990 Miata owner with crankshaft failure.

That's got to be at least 10–12 owners from the San Diego area that I've spoken to about the problem in the last three years. Like most of the others, this person had recently had the timing belt changed at a local dealer.

Not trying to be an alarmist, but I strongly encourage every member with a '90 or early '91 Miata to educate themselves about the possible perils involving the early-model crankshaft design. A good place to start is the article on the Web found at: www.miata.net/garage/crankshaft.html [or ask Stef Gould for a reprint of our November '96 newsletter].

Those with VIN numbers ending in 209447 or higher should be safe. That is the VIN number at which Mazda changed the crankshaft to a beefier design.

—MARK BOOTH



Rallye Recap

The final tally of funds raised from this event benefiting The Leukemia Society was \$652! Thank you all for your participation. Here is a list of the winners of the rallye:

1st place – GREG MAISER & Rachel Lathrop (89 points of 99 possible points) Miata Chair/cooler— donated by KEARNY MESA MAZDA, oil change/lube donated by JOHN HINE MAZDA, and a gift certificate to GIOVANNI'S ITALIAN RESTAURANT

2nd place – RAINIER & MARIANNE MUELLER (85 points) tie breaker A case of oil— donated by PEP BOYS in Clairemont and a \$20 gift certificate to APPLEBEE'S RESTAURANT in El Cajon

3rd place – JOHN & JOYCE RICHARDSON (85 points) Mazda model car from KEARNY MESA MAZDA and an oil change/lube, donated by JOHN HINE MAZDA

Lowest points – ROBERT & LAUREN THOMPSON— 39 points, but they had fun getting them!

1 pedicure donated by FOR NAILS ONLY
1 Large Pizza donated by BALBOA PIZZA

Door prizes and Raffle Stuff—

Gift certificates to ITALIAN VILLAGE and PANINI'S CAFE and a massage certificate donated by PHIL MADRID/Massage Therapist (a volunteer at a checkpoint)

There was also a raffle drawing for prizes donated by INSTANT OIL CHANGE, APPLEBEE'S RESTAURANT, MC P'S BAR & GRILL in Coronado, POR FAVOR MEXICAN RESTAURANT & CANTINA in El Cajon, GIOVANNI'S ITALIAN RESTAURANT, FILIPPI'S RESTAURANT, MATES INTERNATIONAL in Lemon Grove and masseuse Ellen Aurther at APPLIED HEALTH.

Other stores and people who donated merchandise for the rallye: LUCKY MARKETS, CECILIA, EINSTEIN BROS. BAGELS, GIOVANNI'S ITALIAN RESTAURANT and KINKO'S of Mission Valley.

A special thank you again to Ken and Carla Tooker for assisting me in this event. Also, thank you to Dan, Phil, Chris, Bob, and club members ART HAMILTON and PHIL DAOUST, who assisted at the checkpoints! It seems to be unanimous among the club that it looks like we will be holding this event next year too! Thank you all for your participation. See you all out on the Miata roads!

—BRENDA BREEN





of service and Mary retired the same year.

We have lived in Sylmar, Lancaster, Green River, Utah, Cypress, and since November, 1997, in a house we built in Lake La Quinta.

We bought our BRG Miata in 1994 and

have been members of SOCALM since July, 1994. We recently joined the SAN DIEGO MIATA CLUB and attended our first event in January.

We enjoy driving the Miata at club events. Roy is a licensed pilot and flies single-engine planes in California and Mexico. Roy also rides a 1993 Harley Davidson Low Rider. Mary enjoys gardening, decorating our home and buying things for our grand-daughter, Rachel.

We love to travel and now that we are retired we have the time to do more traveling.

Member Profile

ROY AND MARY TWEEDIE

We were born in Ireland, Roy in Belfast and Mary in Bangor. We were married in Belfast, Ireland on October 10, 1959 and have two sons named Geoffrey and Erik. We emigrated to America on August 1, 1963 and traveled from Southampton to New York, our port of entry, on the *RMS Queen Mary*.

Roy is an electrical engineer and Mary is a beautician; we are both licensed in California. We are both citizens. Roy retired from Southern California Edison in 1996 after 28 years

The following members have renewed since the last newsletter:

Brenda Breen

David & Lori Bryan

Robert L. Clarke

Bruce & Leigh Harmer

Dave & Pamela Hunt

Robert T. Hyland

Doug Kvandal

Randolph M. Mahuex & Wendy R. Harrison

Kathie McClelland

Marlo & Ron Miller

Gerhard Roosli

David & Isabel Shapiro

Richard & Sylvia Somerville

Peggy Swearingen

Mike Thomas

There are now 307 memberships consisting of 469 members.

Memberships by Miata Color:

99 Red

54 White

34 Black

19 Montego Blue

18 Emerald Green

17 Silver

12 Laguna Blue

12 Mariner Blue

10 BRG

8 Sapphire Blue

8 Twilight Blue

7 Merlot

5 Starlight Blue

5 Marina Green

2 Yellow

1 Hunter Green

4 Unreported

New Members!

The following are the new members since the last newsletter:

Richard Allsopp

San Diego

1999 Silver PEP

Lisa T. Ballance &

Robert L. Pitman

San Diego

1999 Twilight Blue Leather

Jeff & Lisa Benedict

El Cajon

1991 BRG LE

300th Membership!

Gail & Rob Binkert

Escondido

1999 Emerald Green Leather

John Bolt

Chula Vista

Unreported

Jim & Charlene Brokaw

Chula Vista

1994 Laguna Blue C

Bob Flood

San Diego

1995 M (Merlot)

John D. Lima

San Diego

1999 Emerald Green Leather

Jim & Dawn MacKay

Encinitas

1994 M (Montego Blue)

Mary J. Martin

Escondido

1999 Silver

Leni & Donna Metro

Petaluma

1991 Red Base

Ken Motonishi

Orange

1994 M (Montego Blue)

Mark & Dianna Sortino

Escondido

1999 Emerald Green Leather

Tom Sprague

San Diego

1990 Silver A



From the Pulpit

On April 17th, I was elected your President. Since then, I went on a business trip to San Antonio, missing the Monthly Meeting and DAVE and LOIS MARTIN'S Run to the Warner Springs Gliderport. LAURIE and I went to the Pre-Anniversary Social in Irvine, attended the MIATAS ACROSS AMERICA send off the next day, went on the SOCALM fun run the same day, missed the Autocross at the 'Q' on Sunday because my front brakes were gone, went to the "Impromptu Tech Day" that DAN and JACKIE BREE put together with the help of JOHN LAWLER, missed out on that little shindig in Texas, and Rallyed for the Cure with BRENDA BREEN and KEN and CARLA TOOKER. And I still haven't done anything. I told you this was a great job. I couldn't be more proud to be president of an organization that accomplishes so much and still achieves the club's ultimate goal of having fun while we do it.

When I participate in an event and get to meet new members or potential members I always get asked questions. In one way or another they always say, "It sounds like I could do something every weekend with this club." This is said incredulously, as if it's "too good to be true." I am always proud to say "you're right." Another question that gets asked a lot is, "What is this Team Voodoo thing?" I always answer the question with part fact, part legend, and part embellishment. My favorite story is one that I have heard, supposedly true, that took place as RAINER MUELLER was gassing his car in Oceanside. As Rainer put the gas in his car, the station attendant noticed his Team Voodoo logo and asked "Team Voodoo...that's the International Racing Team isn't it?" Rainer answered, "Yes it is!...and I am one of their drivers." The attendant was justifiably impressed. Now, I don't know if this really happened, but it makes for a great story. I think that we must have the "Nearly-legendary" VOODOO BOB KRUEGER write the true story of Team Voodoo for one of our newsletters. We must be able to explain what this Pollo stuff is all about.

Last month I introduced you to our three new elected board members.



PHOTOS: DAN BREE

Although BOB, ELLIOT, and SAL are key players in the success of SDMC, they are by no means the only positions that the club relies upon.

Our Event Coordinator, GERI CAUSARANO, holds a position that is critical to the success of an organization of our size. There was a time when the club was small and coordinating events could be done in a fairly casual manner. Now that we are larger and have Fun Runs, Tours, Charity Fund-Raisers, and plain old social events, we must not only ensure that the timing is coordinated but also that the policies governing our events are followed. Many times in our zeal to plan an event we can overlook some key requirements that must be adhered to in order for everything to flow smoothly. Charity events in particular require some initial attention to the details outlined in our *Membership Handbook*. Geri is the one that is responsible for keeping our events on-track. You and I just get to enjoy the results of her hard work.

ANTHONY "NEVADA BOB" WILDE is our newsletter editor. There is little question that our newsletter is consistently one of the finest that you will find from any organization. Anthony is part of a newsletter team whose relentless efforts to produce a quality product is too often taken for granted. And for this they get paid...



Dan Bree hosted a Tech Day in his new warehouse, a one-time-only event, before his company moved into the space.

absolutely nothing. They are able to take amateurish writings and turn them into cogent literary works (notice how well written my message appears). We are so fortunate to have volunteers like Anthony and the rest of the team.

In coming months I will be introducing you to other key members of our club. Many you recognize, but likely are not aware of what they accomplish.

Well, as luck would have it, I now actually have to do something. As I am writing this message, the Curve-O-Rama looms on the horizon. This is the run that makes driving a thrill, and the next newsletter will undoubtedly review it. After that, I just get to show up and enjoy what you guys have planned for me. Check out the "Upcoming Events" section of this newsletter. What more could you ask for?

— STEVE WAID

