



# SAN DIEGO MIATA CLUB NEWS



VOLUME 4 NUMBER 8

AUGUST 1999

A CHAPTER OF THE MIATA CLUB OF AMERICA

## UPCOMING EVENTS



August 1 — Sunday  
**MDA Fun Run**  
Fund-Raising Event



August 7— Saturday  
**Twilight Run**



August 7- 8  
**Autocross at the "Q"**



August 14 — Saturday  
**Tech Day at the Conn's**  
Joint Event—  
VROOM/SDMC/SOCALM



August 26 — Thursday  
**Monthly Meeting**



August 28 — Saturday  
**Southeast County Run  
and Pool Party**



September 6 — Monday  
**MDA Telethon**  
SDMC Helps to Man the Phones



October 7-10  
**Surf'N'Safari**  
SDMC Regional Event



October 16-17  
**Eastern Sierra Trip**  
Joint Event— with SOCALM



October 23-24  
**Coronado Classic Speed  
Festival**  
and RetroMobile, USA

## From the Editor

### U Betta Cappa

**T**he weather is great, the road is twisty and your Miata is humming along. Life is good. Nothing can take that smile off your face. Nothing except the fact you didn't replace the valve stem cap on one or more of your tires the last time you checked the air pressure.

You do check the air pressure regularly, don't you? Those seemingly insignificant items, be they the stock plastic caps or the spiffy logo ones with either Miata script or a prancing chicken, are actually very important.

Take this scenario, for instance. You and your Miata are cruising right along, say 65-75 mph, when suddenly there is a pothole in the road. A quick twitch on the steering wheel and you almost clear it, but *WHAM*, not quite. The car slews left and then right and you realize that a tire has blown. Within a few seconds the episode is over and you are safely off the pavement.

As you prepare yourself mentally to change the tire you may find yourself thinking that even a good jolt like that shouldn't blow out an expensive high performance tire, should it? The answer is an unequivocal maybe. Just maybe the tire didn't "blow out" in the normal sense of the term.

If the valve stem did not have a cap on it, here is what could happen. At 70 mph there is a lot of centrifugal force working at that part of the wheel. The core of the valve stem is held closed partially by a spring in the core and partially by internal air pressure in the tire. If you hit the pothole with the valve stem at the bottom of its rotation, the impact of the pothole, added to the already significant centrifugal force, can overcome the spring and air pressure, and *presto*, the valve is open. The centrifugal force alone may now be sufficient to keep it open. The end result is much like a blowout. The air escapes from the tire so quickly that, coupled with tire distortion at the moment of impact and the lateral load on the tire (you were trying to steer around the pothole, remember?), the tire bead will unseat itself from the wheel rim and all of the air is gone, instantly.

No, this is not an everyday occurrence, but just once in a lifetime is one time too often, especially if it is due to having left that little insurance policy (valve cap) off.

Most anyone can deal with a slow leak, even at speed, but a fast leak is no fun at all. The worst part is you will have unnecessarily ruined a tire, a wheel, your slacks (changing the tire), your shorts (death defying ride) and your day. The time saved leaving off those two-bit caps is definitely not worth the possible consequence!

— ANTHONY WILDE



PHOTO: ED LANGMAID



## SOCALM EVENTS

### "All That Jazz & More"

#### Mountain Lakes Fun Run

**Date:** Sunday, August 8

**Time:** Depart at 10:00 a.m.

**Place:** Ontario Mills Mall, Starbucks' Coffee (next to Mobil station, 4<sup>th</sup> Street exit off of I-15)

**Run Leader:** Sherri Fairbanks, (909) 396-2383

Enjoy the Big Bear Run? Here's a run you won't want to miss! Historic Route 66 which follows I-15 through Cajon Pass will take us through the Upper Mojave to a scenic overlook of Lake Silverwood. Then it's up the mountain through shady pines to Lake Gregory where we will take our second break. Finally, we're off to Lake Arrowhead, a famous mountain resort, which is hosting the International Jazz Festival. The run will end with lunch at Garibaldi's Grill overlooking the lake. Enjoy the afternoon at the Festival, shop at quaint stores & factory outlets, or take a ride on the Lake Arrowhead Queen ferry. Those who spend the evening can enjoy "Hot Summer Nights" with their favorite ice skating stars at the Iceoplex Ice Castle nearby. Star gazers can star watch at the new Mountain Skies astronomical observatory only a few minutes from the village. Make your reservations early as this is bound to be a popular tour.

#### Socalm contacts:

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

## AUTOCROSS AT THE "Q"



The following autocross events are *tentatively scheduled*. Please call the hotline below to confirm the time and date of each event.

**Naval Training Center—Prebble Field**  
Saturday, August 28 . . . . . Practice  
**Qualcomm Stadium Parking Lot**  
Saturday, August 7 . . . . . Championship  
Sunday, August 8 . . . . . Championship  
Saturday, September 25 . . . . . Championship  
Sunday, October 10 . . . . . Championship  
Saturday, October 23 . . . . . Championship  
Sunday, November 14 . . . . . Championship  
Sunday, November 28 . . . . . Championship  
Sunday, December 12 . . . . . Championship

#### For autocross information call:

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

Come participate or watch our club members race at the autocross (timed event). To participate you need to register for a Solo II card and number (\$15) and have a DOT approved helmet. Loaner helmets are available at the autocross.

Events are open to the public at no charge however to enter the pit area you must sign a release and waiver form at the entry gate. You will be given a wristband which must be worn at all times. There is no seating provided so bring a lawn or beach chair!

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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[markbooth@home.com](mailto:markbooth@home.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 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 15<sup>th</sup> 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

## HEY DUDES! SURF'S UP IN SAN DIEGO!

Hurry! Sign up now for the first

### Surf 'N' Safari

October 7 – 10 at the  
DoubleTree Carmel Highland Resort

- Beach Luau
- Wild Animal Park
- Poker Rally
- San Diego Sightseeing
- Banquet Dinner
- Historic Julian "Apple" Run
- Wine Country Fun Run
- Lobster Run to Mexico
- Miata Zoo
- Vendor Mall
- Event T-shirt
- Optional: Sailboat Racing, Paragliding, Skydiving and Hot Air Ballooning

Hang with the San Diego Miata Club for this way-cool event! Only \$99.00/person.  
[www.SanDiegoMiataClub.org/surf.html](http://www.SanDiegoMiataClub.org/surf.html)  
Contact: Sue Hinkle (760) 735-9456, or [sportscarr@aol.com](mailto:sportscarr@aol.com)



San Diego,  
Home of Miata  
Magazine!



## Meeting Places

### Miles of Miata's for MDA

**Date:** Sunday, August 1

**Time:** 9:00 a.m.

**Place:** MDA District Office,  
3914 Murphy Canyon Rd., San Diego

**Coordinator:** Sue Hinkle, (760) 735-9456,  
[sportscarr@aol.com](mailto:sportscarr@aol.com)

Three years ago the SAN DIEGO MIATA CLUB held its first fund-raising event for the Muscular Dystrophy Association in support of club members Jack and Sue Hinkle's son, Jason, who is afflicted with Freidricks Ataxia, a neuromuscular disease.

For this year's 100-mile fun run the Hinkles have obtained sponsorships from Cush Mazda (\$1,000) and Barona Casino (\$2,500). The event will kick off at the MDA office: drivers will register, turn in their sponsor sheets and donations. Event T-Shirts will be given to drivers and passengers who raise \$100 or more.

First run stop will be at the Barona Casino, who will host a continental breakfast for us; and drivers can draw a 5-card poker hand. Drivers will have the opportunity to draw one more card just before dinner.

The run will be a leisurely drive through San Diego County ending at a surprise location for a buckboard BBQ with all the fixins. The run will end around 4 p.m., dinner will be served at 5 p.m. (Cost for dinner is \$8 per person).

Awards for the top fund-raiser, 2 highest poker hands and lowest poker hand. Drivers and passengers can also participate in raffles and event guessing games that will be included in the run packets.

**RSVP to the Hinkles** so that they can make arrangements with the Casino and the dinner location.

### San Diego Twilight Fun Run— Once Again for Lynn

**Date:** Saturday, August 7

**Time:** 1:30 p.m. for lunch (optional),  
Driver's Meeting at 3:00 p.m.

**Place:** Oscar's Restaurant  
29375 Rancho California Rd., Temecula  
*Please arrive with a full tank of gas*

**Run Leaders:** Mark & Cathy Booth,  
(619) 670-3789, [markbooth@home.com](mailto:markbooth@home.com),  
Cell Phone: (619) 855-5020.

This year's Twilight Fun Run is dedicated to the memory of our friend, and fellow Miata enthusiast, Lynn McClelland. Lynn passed away on August 9, 1998, one day after last year's run. This tribute is not intended as something sad, but, rather,

as a joyful celebration of how Lynn lived her life and how she continues to live in each one of us.

This will be the 5<sup>th</sup> Anniversary running of the Twilight Fun Run—a leisurely and relaxing ride along some great San Diego County roads during the late afternoon/early evening hours. You know... that special "twilight" period when the hot summer day slowly gives way to a comfortable summer night! A perfect time to enjoy some top-down driving!

Arrive early (1:30ish) and enjoy some of Oscar's wonderful food. The drivers' meeting will start at 3:00 p.m. in Oscar's banquet room. The run will end at approximately 8:30 p.m. in southeast San Diego County (the Rancho San Diego area). There will be restroom and leg-stretch breaks along the route. A dinner stop is NOT part of the run. A "fill up" at Oscar's is recommended. Various fast food places are available at the end of the run.

*Directions to Oscar's:* Take the Rancho California Road exit off of I-15 in Temecula. Head east on Rancho California Road—Oscar's is on the right, just past "The Pond." If Oscar's parking lot is full, use the lot down near The Pond or the Target parking lot across the street.

### 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Tech Day, Pool Party and Pot Luck, plus 1<sup>st</sup> Annual SOCALM Swap

Joint event SOCALM/SDMC/VROOM

**Date:** Saturday, August 14

**Time:** 10:00 a.m. until ?

**Place:** John & Gerry Conn's  
1530 S. Lovering Avenue, Fullerton  
(714) 441-2552, [connjb@earthlink.net](mailto:connjb@earthlink.net)  
*Bring:* A pot luck dish, swimsuit, towels and something to put on your car!  
Sodas provided.

If you've got something you want to install on your car, something you've been thinking about installing or just want to swim and eat, this is the event for you. You can get lots of free advice, help in installing, lots and lots of good food, and a great opportunity to get to know one another better.

And, if you don't already have something to install on your Miata, Jaime and Jeannie Villacorte can help you solve your woes. They'll be holding the first-ever SOCALM "Let's Go to the Swap." We'll have an area where you can swap and sell your unneeded Miata accesso-

## UPCOMING NATIONAL AND REGIONAL EVENTS

August 27–29, 1999

### Monterey Historic Races

Monterey Peninsula, California

*The historic race; this year featuring the Silver Arrows of Auto Union.*  
[www.laguna-seca.com](http://www.laguna-seca.com)

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

*There will be a Miata tent (see July's newsletter, page 4)—\$70 including a Saturday race ticket. Contact Barbara Beach, (760) 631-1202 by August 13.*

September 10–12, 1999

### Sizzle On the Beach!

Treasure Island, Florida

Friday reception, Saturday picnic, Saturday dinner and one event T-shirt.

Registration \$65/person, \$99/couple;  
4-hour defensive-driving school, \$30.

Contact: Jonathan, SUN RIDERS MIATA CLUB,  
(727) 784-5529, [jonathan@sunriders.com](mailto:jonathan@sunriders.com)

September 16–19, 1999

### Ascutney Mountain Miata Rally

Ascutney Mountain, Vermont

Contact: Jack Reardon, MASS MIATA CLUB,  
(508) 393-2195, [miatajack@aol.com](mailto:miatajack@aol.com)  
Autocross, Funcanna, rallies and the best food around. Registration—\$295

September 24–26, 1999

### 11<sup>th</sup> Italian Mazda MX-5 Meeting

Contact: REGISTRO ITALIANO MAZDA MX-5  
E-mail: [mxcinque@tin.it](mailto:mxcinque@tin.it)  
Fax: +39.011.8998059

October 7–10, 1999

### Surf N' Safari

See pages 2 and 8 for information about SDMC's *way cool* regional event.

October 7–9, 1999

### Gathering of the Green [BRG] IV

Deals Gap/Blue Ridge Parkway  
(Eastern Tennessee and North Carolina)  
Breakfast, Bar-B-Q lunch, Sunday  
Brunch and event T-shirt, \$60/person  
Contact: Don, (231) 972-2167,  
[ddiget@centuryinter.net](mailto:ddiget@centuryinter.net)

October 10, 1999

### 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Meeting of the Eunos Roadster in Japan

Miyoshi city, Hiroshima, Japan

This event will be largest Miata event ever held in Japan—1000 Roadsters will meet at MAZDA's Miyoshi test circuit.

Contact RCOJ at [rcoj@avanti.co.jp](mailto:rcoj@avanti.co.jp)





## MDA Summer Camp

June 25, 1999

**M**ARIANNE and I had a great time today. Although we arrived a little late, we took some of my favorite roads to get out to Cuyamaca: Highland Valley, Old Julian Highway, and Wynola Rd., and on the way back it was Wynola again, Mesa Grande, and Highway 76. What a beautiful day! Sorry you working stiffs had to miss it!

On the way into camp we saw ART HAMILTON and the DODGES who were already leaving, but as we rounded the next bend, we knew that when we saw a good thing, follow it. And so we followed the huge "In-N-Out Burger" portable hamburger stand to the camp.

When we arrived, at the camp we were greeted by SUE HINKLE and BARB TEMPLETON, who presented us with neat MDA Summer Camp '99 tee-shirts designed by a couple of the talented girls attending the camp. A quick change into the uniform-of-the-day and we watched as the kids finished an elaborate game of Hide-and-Go-Seek with the Marines. These active-duty Marines had spent the entire week getting to know these remarkable MDA kids! There was approximately one Marine assigned to each camper.

Camouflage face painting was the order of the day. Jason Hinkle, as usual, was surrounded by a bevy of beautiful women — that guy's got the touch! (The lesson line forms right behind me...) He was the one without the camouflage face paint.

The "burgermobile" proceeded to supply all of us with tasty cheeseburgers and we had a picnic out among the trees



Sue and Jason Hinkle

in beautiful Camp Cuyamaca.

Next the kids went on to play wheelchair soccer with a 30" diameter soccer ball. But we "snuck" away to devour Jason's 28<sup>th</sup> birthday Julian pie— black-berries and apple— a delectable delight!

Then the kids were treated to a wild animal show by noted North County conservationist, Bob Farner. He brought a coyote, a several owls, an opossum, and even a couple of snakes. The kids (and I) were thoroughly mesmerized by his fascinating show. And then the next order of the day was swimming.

Wow, these kids get a full day of fun, and all the money the SAN DIEGO MIATA CLUB raises stays right here in San Diego county to help these kids go to this camp for one week every summer. Hopefully next year you'll get an opportunity to join us.

We got to meet many of the kids, as well as the movers and shakers of the San Diego MDA group, and as you can imagine, Sue is one of top movers and shakers— and wouldn't you know it— she was recently named MDA volunteer of the year!

The entire day was an uplifting experience for us! We hated to leave the kids and the mountains on such a beautiful day to return home. Thanks, Sue, for inviting us!

— RAINER & MARIANNE  
MUELLER



Campers with their active-duty Marine pals.

## The Ladies on the Left— Men on the Right

### Hot Night at Viejas

June 26, 1999

**I** just wanted to drive the car! STEVE always gets to drive. Maybe that's because it's his car, but I really wanted a chance to drive, so I had to find a way. I didn't want to just drive with him on some twisties— I wanted all my girlfriends to be there too. So MICHELLE LANGMAID and I decided to plan a ladies run.

Michelle handled all the dirty work— picked a good meeting place in Mission Valley, contacted Viejas for discounts and special parking, scheduled FOOD (a very important part) and found out about Summers



Past Farms, so that we had a cool, convenient potty and refreshment stop along the way.

Steve and I pre-ran the run twice. The first time we ended up not speaking to each other— after 32 years of marriage, we still try to boss each other to death. The second time we took Michelle and Ed with us. Things went more smoothly and we got a little taste of the fun to come, and lunch at Viejas.

When the day arrived, I picked up my guest (my son's mother-in-law Kathy, a sweet, but not too brave, soul) and we headed for Mission Valley. Steve's date was ELLIOT SHEV, driving the *Kingfish*, the racing car, while BARB took a friend in *Sapphire*. The "babes" arrived at Mission Valley in great style, prepared for the day. Several other husbands joined their wives (probably hoping to give "instruction" on how to handle the twisties). ART HAMILTON came without a lady, but we promised him ice cream. The THOMPSONS brought their whole family, some in a van later, to enjoy the evening. We had around 25 cars including several new members.

There aren't many good ways to get to Flinn Springs without going on the freeway, but we tried to find them. We went through a beautiful area of Del Cerro and ohhhed and ahhhed at the lovely homes. We traveled most of Mission Gorge Road, waving at the gawkers and enjoying the smiles of the truckers. We even passed the "Home of the Iowa Porker" which harkens back to the first





PHOTOS: ED LANGMAID

Laurie Waid explains the route the Powder Puff Run will take at the drivers' meeting. Below, Stevie and Ellie volunteered to run sweep.



ladies run last year. When we reached Flinn Springs, everyone enjoyed a cold drink and a short break before we headed south of I-8 to hit Dehesa Road, past some wonderful green golf courses, then head into the twisties at Lyons Valley Road. At this point I scared my passenger, my friend, to death. She is not used to a convertible, whining away in second gear, gliding into the curves and accelerating out at breakneck speed. Too bad. This was my chance and I wasn't going to miss it. Of course, our little trouser, *TRAVL LT*, handled it like a dream. We had a few OTMs slow down everyone else's dash, but we stayed together pretty well, considering. By the time we all met up again at Viejas, the drivers were all smiles and the passengers (mostly husbands) were a little more sympathetic to the feelings of a passenger...its hard to sit there with no control and stay quiet while you watch your life flash before your eyes.

Viejas' marketing assistant Annette Arehart greeted us warmly with specially designated parking, discount coupons and our dinner tickets. Some went directly to the Casino to try their hand at the tables and slots. Others headed straight for the shopping—another form of addiction. Still others were starved, and headed straight for the food—a reasonably-priced tasty chicken dinner from the Twelve Oaks Café. We spent a leisurely few hours waiting for the evening show, *The Spirit of Nightfire*, in the fountain area. Since we had specially reserved seats, many of us spent an hour or more before the show at 9 p.m. sitting in our seats enjoying the fountain, lights and music. It was cool and interesting to



The Miata folks enjoy *The Spirit of Nightfire* show at Viejas. Right, Sal Causarano had to dress the part when he took over driving for Geri!



watch what they could do with the water and lights.

The preview was mild compared to the spectacular show at 9 p.m. The multimedia presentation, with water, lights, lasers and music was a great ending to a wonderful afternoon and evening.

A large group of folks were even energetic enough to go have pie after the show...always room for pie in this group.

A little downer: the BROKAWs, JIM and CHARLEEN, had a mechanical difficulty during the trip— (from a non-technical person, it broke). Charleen wanted to know why it had to happen when she was driving. Our able bodied "babes" Steve and Elliot assessed the problem and the Langmaids got them home—and back to Viejas for the evening, so they were able to have a little fun even with the car "broke." It is now back up and running fine! We appreciate Summers Past Herb Farm and Viejas' hospitality and hope to be able to visit them again... Ladies driving!

— LAURIE WAID







## 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade

### From the Host's Perspective

**H**ouse sort of clean, decorations almost ready, I'm ready to hit the day. Wake up at 5:30 and get the newspaper. I don't go anywhere 'til the newspaper is read and the coffee is drunk! Now the shower. Whoops, better get the OTM's off the street while there is still parking. Take my daughter's car over to Vons. Parking lot full. Find side street and walk home. Need to get the sodas and ice and then park my OTM. Arrive at Vons, no parking. Park illegally and rush to find sodas and ice (milk too, we're out). Hear announcement over the loud speaker. "Vons customers, the cash registers are down, it will be 5 or 10 minutes 'til they are up again." OK, I can handle this. I bring my sodas and ice up to the front and start pacing. They ask if I had heard the announcement. I say yes and keep pacing. They finally let people buy their newspapers and coffee and let them go, no cash registers yet. I offer \$20 and would put back the milk. Keep pacing. Finally they tally my basket full of stuff. I run to see the price of milk—\$2.15 for half a gallon, you got to be kidding! Anyway, \$21 and I'm out of there. Now, home, put the milk away, the sodas in the garage and the ice in the cooler. Take the OTM to another side street and walk home.

Finally into the shower. By then I needed it. Actually, from this point on I don't remember too much. I said hi to



PHOTO: ANN RUNDALL

KATHIE MCCELLAND from SOCALM and said she was only 20 min early for the 8:30 time that was also 1/2 hour early. She helped me put out the decorations and then I remembered I hadn't put the



PHOTO: TOM SCHULTHEIS

sodas in the ice chest yet! People started arriving and the next time I looked the cul-de-sac was FULL! Full of the most beautiful cars in the world. Decorate, decorate, decorate. WOW! CATHY PHILLIPS, WOW, donuts! Thanks...just got my energy back. What do you need? Oh?



PHOTO: CATH AND JIM PHILLIPS

OK, a phillips screwdriver. Some PVC pipe? Water and a sponge for the clingey things? Then I think, "Hey, what about *my* car?"—I better get the flags on my windshield wipers!

Anthony then quietly comes up to me and says "Are you going to lead to the start of the parade? I say "Yes, why do you ask?" Then he pointed to my car in the driveway at the end of the cul-de-sac and then the cul-de-sac FULL of Miatas and says "How are you planning on getting to the front?" Ummmmmm? We had the drivers' meeting and then I called a potty stop. Ten, maybe 25 people in the house and two bathrooms; OK you can use mine but I didn't clean it— please don't trip over the cats or the litter box! I finally help everyone find everything in the house and come out to hear "Hey Diane, we're all waiting for you!" While I was in the house all of the Miatas had turned around and were headed out of the cul-de-sac. Two deep on the right and one deep on the left. They had made a 'very small' corridor for me to go down. Boy did I feel like a Queen, but I'd knew I better not hit any of them. We were *finally* off! What a great day. What a great parade. What a great bunch of people! I'll be back next year. Nothing could stop me.

—DIANE LONG



PHOTO: CATH AND JIM PHILLIPS





## A First On the Fourth

July 4, 1999

**T**he final Fourth of July celebration of this century turned out to be truly grand and glorious for the SAN DIEGO MIATA CLUB. It started by dawn's early light with a colorful collection of cars spaced out in Diane Long's cul-de-sac, and culminated with a spectacular fireworks show viewed from the Poway estate of BARB and ELLIOT SHEV. In between there were gigantic happenings of fun and frolic for the 4<sup>th</sup>.

Judges agreed that our group was the best (naturally) by awarding first place, in the car club division, of the



annual Scripps Ranch Parade. From the venerable '90s to the sparkling '99s, each of the 37 cars was festooned with colorful and imaginative decorations to complement the good looks

of the drivers and passengers.

TED KESLER created a huge flag pole on the back of his car to carry the club colors, which provided a mobile exclamation point to our entry.

The pre-parade anti-carbo loading in the form of donuts, fruit and drinks was provided by CATH PHILLIPS, GORDON LONG and DIANE LONG. ART HAMILTON volunteered to serve as official taster to make sure all was fit for consumption—it was!

The round-up also gave our talented automotive engineers a chance to demonstrate their skills, as one car alarm kept going off. (No names, please, to protect the chagrined, but it was green). The solution in engineering terms—leave the door open and the alarm will not arm.

ANTHONY "NEVADABOB" WILDE had the unenviable task of trying to create mild confusion out of simple chaos as the field marshal/drum major. He had an inflatable red, white and blue baseball bat instead of a baton, and it seemed to work magic. It took some doing (ever think you could get 37 cars, plus the neighbor cars also in the street, in one cul-de-sac?) Eventually he had us all lined up and the group snaked out



PHOTO: RAINER MUELLER



PHOTO: ART HAMILTON

briskly to the starting point. Since our entry was near the end of the parade, we got to watch the rest of the world go by and cheer for our favorites.

Barb Shev even ran out and handed a club application card to a dealer-owned Miata carrying a civic dignitary to try to add to our membership roles. (The passenger was sitting on top of the back—obviously not very well trained.)

The start of our pack was lined with red, white and blue cars in keeping with the occasion, and then came the greens, blues, silvers and two yellows. The imagination of the decorations ranged from great to truly outstanding. The crowd really loved the wiper-flag waving caper, and the headlight covers winking at the cute kids on the curb.

Post-parade, some headed for the nearby Scripps Ranch park for a picnic with the Heroes band, others went for pizza and assorted snacks. Then it was off to the Shev manse for food, frolic and festivities, including water sports and imbibing of selected fluids to replace those lost to the noon-day sun.

It was capped off by a grand view of the Poway city fireworks, and the entire day certainly went off with a bang.

RAINER MUELLER collected digital images all day and evening, and presented them on a truly spectacular Web Site ([www.mainstreet-data.com/sdmc](http://www.mainstreet-data.com/sdmc)) for those unfortunates who could not be there and for those fortunates who want to relive how great they looked.

Diane Long was imitating the Energizer bunny as she organized the entire event, and despite the tortuous task, says she is already looking forward to next year. As are we all.

— TOM SPRAGUE



PHOTO: ART HAMILTON



PHOTO: DIANE LONG



PHOTO: DIANE LONG







PHOTO: BOB LLEWELLYN

## Hey Dudes! Don't Miss SDMC's Surf'N'Safari Event

October 7, 1999 kicks off the first *Surf'N' Safari* regional Miata event in San Diego. \$99 per person registration\* includes a banquet dinner, a beach luau, admission to the Wild Animal Park, an event tee-shirt, vendor corral (Miata accessories sold and installed), fun runs, tours, and more!

Hosted by the SAN DIEGO MIATA CLUB, the event includes admission to the world-famous San Diego Wild Animal Park. A portion of the proceeds will go to the San Diego Zoological Society.

Hotel accommodations are available at the Doubletree Carmel Highland Resort for just \$99 per night. Reservations: (619) 672-9100; ask for the SAN DIEGO MIATA CLUB Event's special room rate.

Come hang with the SAN DIEGO MIATA CLUB during *Surf'N' Safari*. October 7, 8, 9 & 10, 1999. *Registration is filling up fast — don't miss out!*

A special note of thanks to all those club members who helped us promote *Surf'N' Safari* at the National Miata Event in Dallas. The excitement demonstrated by our club members certainly provided additional incentive to have Miata enthusiasts from all over the world join us for a fun weekend in San Diego.

*Space is limited!*— registration is first-come, first served. Sign-up online, [www.SanDiegoMiataClub.org/surf.html](http://www.SanDiegoMiataClub.org/surf.html), or call Sue Hinkle at (760) 735-9456.

—BOB LLEWELLYN

*\*Registration for members of the San Diego Zoological Society is \$85 per person.*



PHOTO: MIKE SHACK

## That "Dam" Run

July 10, 1999

A line of cars slowly proceeded along Front Street. The cool mist of the morning had cleared as the first car went under the old town entrance. Established in 1858, the sign said. Could this be a key discovery? The first car pulled up in front of the old building. It looked



deserted. MR. STEVE WAID, the leader of the rag-tag pack of adventurers, let out a big "Hello." To his amazement, the place suddenly came alive. The wrought iron gate swung open and Steve and his crew proceeded to enter the weathered stucco structure known as Rosa's Cantina. To everyone's delight, a smiling, middle-aged fellow named Mike greeted them with a question. "What'll ya have," as he pointed to the wooden menu on the wall. "Machaca and Huevos Rancheros are my specialties," he exclaimed proudly. Steve's crew eagerly ordered large plates of delicious Mexican food and found cool seats on the veranda. Small talk of the impending venture could be heard at the various tables.

The day's adventure would be led by JOHN and JOYCE RICHARDSON. John, who was known by friends as "Juan," had planned out the day's route with his daughter

Breanne earlier in the week. "Welcome to the first annual 'dam' run," shouted John, as people gathered out front of the cantina for the drivers meeting. "We'll be heading east into the badlands of Sage and then into Hemet, where we'll encounter a majestic sight."

John handed out directions and a page of trivia questions. The drivers meeting was quickly concluded and the vehicles queued up. The line of noisy chariots reverberated along the storefronts as the pack proceeded out of town. They would head east along the 79<sup>th</sup> route through the ghost town of Aguanga and then into the badlands of Sage. The road would soon become twisted with the drivers yelling out "Yee Haw" as they proceeded vigorously down the steep canyons.

The crew would quickly come upon the dam visitor center on the outskirts of Hemet. Large pipes and huge equipment were displayed in the front of the building. The crew was greeted by representatives of the Metropolitan Water District.

They were led on a guided tour of the site where tales of the huge reservoir were told. "Over 260 billion gallons of water will fill this lake when it is full," shouted a tour guide.

DONNA RAMSEY was in awe of the huge mastodon found at the site. "He's dam big," she exclaimed, referring to his size in relation to the dam.



PHOTO: TOM GOULD





The raspy automobiles would soon be on their way to the dam overlook. Three dams could be seen in the distance as people exclaimed “dam, dam, dam.” BARB SHEV showed some Miata items to others but suddenly saw a bulldozer coming from behind. “I’ll be dammed if I don’t move,” she screamed as the large Cat drew closer. Luckily she moved in time. Steve Waid had returned to the site with his Amphibian car. “Where is the dam water?” he exclaimed as his vehicle crested the main dam. He didn’t realize it would take five years to fill the lake.

RAINER MUELLER encouraged everyone to get going by yelling “It’s dam hot, let’s eat!” The group drove quickly to Tyler’s Taste of Texas in Hemet where they all had a gigantic Texas sized lunch. After huge plates of ribs and steaks it was time to head up the mountain for dessert. The weather had clouded up and became cooler, to everyone’s delight. The stoplights of Hemet soon became the mountain twisties as the group headed for the little town of Idyllwild. After a race with a Z3 BMW and a wrong turn, the entire group finally made it to the top.

Ice cream, stuffed bears and incredibly hot “hot sauce” awaited the adventurous souls that had made it the entire way. The day was almost over as John called for all of the trivia sheets. It was soon apparent that ELINOR SHACK was the winner of the trivia contest. She was presented the first annual “dam cup” for her outstanding skill at answering the questions. The run was over. It was a “dam” fine day!

—JOHN RICHARDSON



PHOTO: MIKE SHACK; MAGIC: JOHN RICHARDSON

**“Where is the dam water?” he exclaimed as his vehicle crested the main dam.**



PHOTO: MIKE SHACK



PHOTOS: RAINER MUELLER / JOHN RICHARDSON

**The Richardsons present the first annual “Dam Cup” to Elinor Shack, winner of the trivia contest .**



PHOTO: JEFF DODGE







ED LANGMAID, WITH APOLOGIES TO CLAUDE MONET

## Miatas Do the Getty and BRAINSTORM

July 17, 1999

**B**ARB and ELLIOT SHEV led, for the second time, a group of 50 Miatas to the J. Paul Getty Museum.

Bright and early Saturday morning the first group met in Carlsbad. After the drivers briefing, about 30 cars headed north to meet the balance of the Miatas in Fountain Valley.

Not long after we made our way onto the freeway, a passing admirer in a



Firebird lost control of her car and did a 360 plus a 180 in the lane right next to us. While this scared the heck out of a bunch of

Miata folks, no one was hurt and no damage was done.

We made it to the Getty at 10:00 a.m., our target arrival time. It was really neat to see all the cars at the toll both. After parking on the third sublevel, we all headed for the tram up to the museum.

At the main entry there is a really nice book shop, information center, and a place to rent an audio tour guide. This is highly recommended. All were off to fill their senses with the sights, sounds and smells of the Getty.

The buildings, the art, the gardens, the fountains and the views can each take you in and absorb your day at the Getty. You simply cannot enjoy this venue in one visit.

Plans were made for those who wished to picnic to meet at 1:00 p.m. in the picnic area. For those who wished to dine indoors or outdoors, the Getty has both. The food is good and items are available for all budgets.

After a day of art, we left the Getty for the second part of the run, the BRAINSTORM open house.

Roshan and Dali, owners of BRAINSTORM, opened their shop for us to visit and wonder what to buy next for our toys. Not only did they provide refreshments and information, all items purchased there were offered at a 10% discount and installation was free.

This got my attention, as a pair of BSP sway bars found their way into my car. Installed that is. Such a deal they had for us! Thank you BRAINSTORM for the

special treat. I know Barb had a good time buying some interior jewelry for our 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, also. I even bought a new item for the *Kingfish*. If you haven't been, go. They have really nice accessories and a great staff to help and install.

To top it all off, BRAINSTORM held a raffle. TREVOR and MELISSA ROGERS won a set of white gauge faces for their car. Thanks BRAINSTORM!

Sounds like fun? Sorry you missed the event? Now's the time to mark your calendars— we booked it for June 10, 2000. Don't miss it next year!

—ELLIOT SHEV



PHOTO: JEFF DODGE



PHOTO: ANTHONY WILDE



PHOTO: MARK BOOTH







PHOTO: JEFF DODGE

## Emergency Stuff to Keep in the Trunk

With a little forethought, and some good packing skills, I have shoe-horned a number of things into our Miata, just for emergencies:

First, I keep a 6' 0" beautiful blonde. She can flag down pretty much any assistance we need. Beyond that, a cell phone, an inverted relocated (into lower trunk well) deflated spare, a cigarette lighter-powered air compressor, AAA first aid/safety kit including flare, flash-light, gauze, Band-Aids and the like, tire gauge, jumper cables, a what to do in case of an accident pamphlet, and a "help me" sign. A spare hat, sunscreen, chapstick, wet naps, sinus medicine,



Immodium (for *true* emergencies), stocking cap for cold weather top-down driving around Brentwood, jacket or sweatshirt, a travel pillow, folding chairs, nail clippers, tweezers, ibuprofen, the car cover, 2-4 detailing rags, Meguiar's Quick Detailer, spray bottle of distilled water, glass cleaner, plastic window polisher and clean diapers in case I scare myself (or to award to others who scared themselves). On club runs, we also carry a cooler with soda and sometimes beer. Oh, and a couple boxes of Good & Plenty. (You shouldn't drink on an empty stomach.) That's about it. Minus the cooler, with all this stuff in the car, we can still get nine bags of groceries in the trunk, and keep up with RAINER MUELLER in the turns.

— JEFF HOLLADAY

P.S. Except for keeping up with Rainer, all the rest of it is absolutely true. Who says the trunk is too small? Don't believe us? We'll prove it to all doubters on our next run.

### And another thing...

My tip, (stolen from CINDY PALOMA), because I keep the Miata covered with a NORTH COAST TARPULIN Ultralon car cover, I always have several large trash bags stuffed in tiny places in the trunk to put the cover in if it gets wet, to keep clean stuff clean or dirty stuff contained. Just the thing to put a flat tire in before putting it in my passengers lap!

—STEF GOULD

Everyone got a lift from BRAINSTORM's open house.



PHOTO: ANTHONY WILDE



PHOTO: ANTHONY WILDE



ries and parts to fellow Miata owners. Search your garages for car stuff that has been gathering dust. Just about anything goes: extra tires, shop tools, soft boots, oil filters, OEM parts removed for aftermarket goodies...the list is virtually unlimited. If you have something to swap, contact Jeanne Pandes-Villacorte, (714) 838-6208, or [jppandes@earthlink.net](mailto:jppandes@earthlink.net). She'll compile and announce the list of stuff as the date approaches.

Schedule of events:

**10:00 a.m.** Krispy Kreme donuts/coffee

**11:00 a.m.** Dent Doctor will give a demo and stay to remove dents—they will explain their costs during the demo.

**11:30 a.m. – 'til the end of day** (whatever that time turns out to be)—work on your car, eat, work on your car, eat, visit, eat, help someone work on their car, eat, swim, eat, detail your car, eat.

**12:00 - ?** Let's Go to the Swap

*Directions:* Exit the 91 FWY in Fullerton at Euclid. North on Euclid to Baker (about 0.5 mile), drive west (left) on Baker about 4 blocks. Turn left on Lovering, it's the last house on the left.

## Monthly Meeting

**Date:** Thursday, August 26

**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!

## Mystery Leader Fun Run in East County & Pool Party

**Date:** Saturday, August 28

**Time:** 10:00 a.m. — at leave 10:30

**Place:** Family Foods parking lot,  
Sweetwater Springs Blvd. at Austin,  
Spring Valley (South of Highway 94)

**Run Leader:** Mystery leader!

A run through the Southeast county. *Bring:* your suits (or not) for a pool party and Mexican buffet at the Kesler's in Eastlake, after the run.

BYOB, donations toward the cost of the buffet gladly accepted.

**Please RSVP by Wednesday August 24th.**  
Ted & Sue Kesler, (619) 421-8472,  
[RNNAWAY@aol.com](mailto:RNNAWAY@aol.com)

## Aftermarket Goodies

### Geri Bags

**L**ooking for extra luggage space in your Miata? Need things to be out of the passenger's way and yet handy to both of you? Just want a great bag right behind your seat?

After our trip to Dallas when we had so much stuffed behind the seat in the deck area of the car, I decided there had to be a better way to travel in our beloved Miatas. I have designed soft duffle bags that fit behind the seats and are totally accessible to the driver and passenger. Whether you have a roll bar, cockpit brace, or nothing at all in that area, I can custom-make a bag to fit your Miata. I also have made some pockets for behind the seat of the car that snap onto the deck where your boot attaches and pockets for the trunk to store wax, Windex, towels, California duster, etc.

I have decided that black is the most practical color and the bags are made of durable cordura with heavy-duty zippers. The tie downs are custom-placed on the bags—especially for *your* car. The cost—\$40 for the deck bags, various prices for other bags depending on their size. If you would like to order, either call me at (760) 787-0624 or E-mail at [Montegom@aol.com](mailto:Montegom@aol.com).

— GERI CAUSARANO

## RetroMobile USA

**October 21-23**

**F**irst came the croissant, and now comes the RetroMobile, another tasty European tradition brought to America. The European automotive spectacular known as "RetroMobile" will make its first appearance in the United States October 21 through 23 in San Diego, in conjunction with the third annual Classic Speed Festival, Coronado.

"The atmosphere and ambience of San Diego, coupled with the enormous success of our historic Speed Festival, is ideal for a RetroMobile-type exhibition," said Steve Earle, president of General Racing Ltd., the event organizers.

RetroMobile USA will retain its European flair but with some distinctly American accents added. The expo will offer a wide range of automobile memorabilia, rare parts and services and accessories, all of which will be available for purchase—a collectors' dream!



PHOTO COURTESY—RETROMOBILE USA

Above, an Auto Union supercharged V-16 Silver Arrow was featured in this year's RetroMobile in Paris. [Audi is bringing the largest collection of Silver Arrows ever displayed in the United States to this month's Monterey Historic Races (see page 3 for Historic race details), there is a chance they will make the trip South!]

There will also be art exhibits, historical and even some modern displays from major automakers and car clubs. The SAN DIEGO MIATA CLUB has volunteered to help staff the first RetroMobile ever held in the U.S.—watch for details.

RetroMobile will be held in the downtown San Diego Convention Center, from 5 p.m. to 10 p.m. October 21, and from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. October 22-23. Admission is \$5.





## Mazda Formula Races at Irwindale Speedway

July 17, 1999

**T**hanks to everyone from SDMC who followed me up to the Irwindale Speedway for the Mazda Star Formula Races.

The day was terrific. Over 40 Miatas from SOCALM and SDMC showed up to take advantage of the special package



offered SOCALM (and by SOCALM to SDMC) by the Irwindale Speedway: free exhibition corral parking,

free admission for two and a parade lap during the opening ceremony! The Speedway's officials were impressed. They said no other car club responded so well on such short notice (one week). That says a lot about this great collection of people. I must add that I'm proud to be associated with all of you.

The forty-plus Miatas made a very impressive sight as we took a slow parade lap around the half-mile oval. ZACK BROADBENT, president of SOCALM (and a member of SDMC), was in the lead. As we crossed the start/finish line, he was directed to the infield for an interview. He gave a good accounting of the history of the Miata and the reason for our clubs' existence. As the default spokesman for the San Diego chapter (I think I got drafted into the position: Karen Thomas, the event's organizer from SOCALM said, "He is," pointing at me), my name was mentioned—although I did not hear in what context. That was quite a moment for me and *maybe* I won't let it go to my head.

The Formula Mazdas were the first feature of the night. In my opinion, they gave the best performance. The racing was hot and heavy. Starting from fifth place, a young, twenty-one year old Sara Senske outraced everyone on the track. She fought ferociously up to fourth then third. In the final laps she wobbled a bit on the exit of turn three, but refused to relinquish her podium finish to number twenty-six. Given a few more laps, I do not doubt she could have won.

Next up were the 3100-pound stock cars. Only seven were entered in what turned out to be a rather uneventful race. The winner, Dusty McDonald in the colorful number 94 led the race from the get go to the checkered flag.

Finally, the spec-trucks made their presence known: in a huge way. Thirty fire-breathing, fuel spitting ground-pounders roared around the track. On lap ten, numbers twenty-two and fifty-eight tangled on the back straight. Slamming into the wall at one hundred miles an hour, they came quickly to a halt forcing four or five others to slam headlong into them. The race was immediately red-flagged with race trucks swarming all over the infield after swerving to avoid the tangle of twisted, smoking

metal stretching from the wall across the width of the track. The driver of number twenty-two was the only injured driver. He was rushed by ambulance to a nearby hospital with a dislocated knee. He will be OK.

Nine laps later, a spinning truck caused another multi-truck pileup in turn three. No one was hurt, thankfully. The race ended with only half the original field finishing.

All I can say is... What a day!

—SCOTT ROSIN

## Aftermarket Goodies

### Fly Your Colors!

**C**lub member BRUCE HARMER'S NORTH COAST TARPAULIN WORKS is offering a new service to San Diego Miata enthusiasts! For an introductory price of only \$7.50 per logo, you can have your choice of the SAN DIEGO MIATA



CLUB logo or TEAM VODOO's "Pollo Rampante"



silkscreened on the car or cockpit cover of your choice. You don't even have to buy a new cover, unless you need one, of course. (Remember, NORTH COAST gives wholesale pricing to club members). The logos can be silkscreened on your existing cover.

Also new from NORTH COAST is a full-coverage mechanic's mask for those of you who only trust your baby's maintenance to yourself. Made by Colgan Custom, the premier manufacturer of quality car bras, these masks cover both front fenders and the upper portion of the front fascia—including the headlights! Constructed of sturdy bra vinyl lined with a soft flannel-like backing, and featuring covered bendable tabs for anchorage, they won't scratch your paint and will probably outlast the car! They even feature a tool pocket on each side for easy access to those 10, 14, and 17mm wrenches. Available by special order (less than one week shipping time), custom Miata mechanic's masks are only \$39 for club members.

NORTH COAST TARPAULIN WORKS  
(619) 275-7100  
1229 Morena Blvd  
San Diego, CA 92110

*Have you got a new item or idea to share with the club? This space is your forum. Just write it up and submit it to the editor, Anthony "NevadaBob," (619) 693-8095 or NevadaBob@miata.net.*



PHOTOS: VODOO BOB KRUEGER





## Member Profile

TOM CHAN

**M**y membership is unique in that GALE CHAN and I are probably the only father/daughter duo in SDMC. I think she's trying to fan the embers of my 1967 BMW days into a roaring Miata flame. I've driven her Miata and it's what you guys say it is. It's easy to see why that lil' puddle jumper has such loyal/ardent/fanatical/worshipping adherents. It is truly the Cult Car of the 90's—oh yeah. By the way, I've read all the club *News* since Gale became a member, and I nominate it as the best club news of any kind in existence. Obviously the news staff works hard and comes up with a dilly. I guess they're journalists at heart.

I like in particular the tech/aftermarket articles wherein savvy members pass on the goodies to less mechanically-inclined members. Those gurus have researched the projects and zeroed in on the nitty-gritty with the precision of brain surgery. The article about the tire-trailer shows club members go to great lengths to get things right. Most people would have dropped the project due to the hassle involved, but not RAINER MUELLER. The tougher it gets, the tougher he gets going. I wonder if he's an ex-Marine? I would call him True Grit. He has the trailer to show for it.

On a mechanical note, I did the tune-ups and maintenance on the '67 BMW as it was a very simple car in those days. There were no imbedded systems—electronics, complicated smog stuff, fuel injection, turbo-supercharger, and “you can't touch this cuz it would affect that” stuff. It did have a smog pump and deactivating it increased HP by five horses. Tune-up and timing was by ear—to see what setting gave the best revs, and that was it. Nowadays cars are much more complicated and require computer input

to lead the way. However, the aftermarket stuff for the Miata should provide endless fun for the shadetree mechanic. You could jazz up your car with every conceivable gadget and it would cost more than the car itself. Come to think of it, some of you people might've done just that. Well, what's money for?

Of course I've read the member profiles and that guy from Switzerland taking a leave of absence to indulge in his Miata fantasy in sunny California shows the power of the *SDMC News*. He's really far out and a true diehard. You can't help but admire people who go all out to do things they love most, and damn the torpedoes. My wife would kill me if I did that. And there's JACKIE BREE, who doesn't join anything, but is out there winning her racing stripes. Even my own daughter Gale is sorta in a Miata Nirvana—wow, a new gear shift knob, what next? Gotta be a rollbar that also serves as a Big Bass boom bar. You guys are having too much fun!

One thing I have on you people in San Diego is that the Thunderhill Driving School is just one hour from our house. I wonder if they would let me drive our Lincoln Town Car on their course? I've a problem with that sofa-on-wheels in the turns, but my wife Sandra just loves it. I'm 79 years old and we recently celebrated our 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary. Letting the wife choose the family car contributes to a happy marriage but not to driving bliss. It's not inconceivable that there might be a Miata in our future. Yeah, on to geriatric bliss!

P.S. After reading the March 1999 SDMC *News*, my hunch that Rainer Mueller was an ex-Marine was borne out. The double-spread centerfold is truly awesome and proves what I said about *SDMC News* earlier. I enjoyed the Camp Pendleton Tour and Champagne Brunch Run through your article and even had to take a few TUMS for my imaginary eating frenzy acid reflux. Also, the PMO escorts reminded me of my Military Police days during World War II. Did the escorts wear chrome helmets/yellow scarves like we did in the old days? And in the Mini-Tech Day at DIANE LONG'S I noticed a mechanic in jumpers/hat with long hair who vaguely looks like my daughter Gale. Hmmm—moving up from shift knob to oil filter relocation. Well, she had a lot of help from savvy members/gurus.

## New Members!

The following are the new members since the last newsletter:

### Jan C. Brown

San Diego  
1990 White A

### Mick & Jan Keenoy

St. Louis  
1992 Yellow A  
1991 BRG SE

### Barry Kershaw

San Diego  
1996 M (Starlight Blue)

### Barbara C. Lemaire

Encinitas  
1996 Montego Blue Leather

### Jim & Rebecca McQuestion

Escondido  
1999 White Leather

### Walter Pennington

Dallas  
1999 Black Leather

### Lynn & Gail Trimble

San Diego  
1999 Emerald Green Leather

The following members have renewed since the last newsletter:

### Ian Dacanay

### Greg & Kris Dunlap

### Alan & Debbie Elster

### Dwight & JoAnn Fisher

### Leonard & Lois Garth

### John & Catherine Godden

### James W. Hind

### Anna, Craig & Evan Jameson

### Ed Roesenthal

### Steven L. Schock

### Michael & Elinor Shack

### Ruth & Lou Stark

### Ken & Carla Jean Tooker

### Woody & Maggi Woodhouse

### Jamie E. Zuieback

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





## From the Pulpit

Last Sunday was my birthday. My beloved wife, the first Babe, she who is to be obeyed, made arrangements for us to go up to Buena Park after my afternoon of Auto-cross on Saturday. We checked into the Knotts Berry Farm Hotel and in the lobby there were, it seemed like, hundreds of people wearing bright yellow T-Shirts with the message on the back that said "The Johnson's Family Reunion." I spoke with one of them and asked how many there were. He said, "I don't have a clue." I was impressed and noticed how much fun they were having together. The next morning as Laurie and I were preparing to enter Knotts Berry Farm for the day, we noticed a young family of four. You know, the typical "Father Knows Best" set up. Mom, Dad, Brother, Sister— all wearing bright yellow T-Shirts so that they would be able to easily spot one another inside the park. As we went on in, I chuckled and thought—"they have no idea."

You probably are now wondering what this anecdote has to do with us. Not a thing. I just thought it was funny and wanted to tell someone.

As summer has really arrived, I have caught myself turning on the air condi-

tioning in my Miata to take the edge off of the heat. JOHN and JOYCE RICHARDSON put together the Dam Run and discovered why Dam and Hell seem to go together so often in conversation. They led an enthusiastic group to see the three dams and it was "hotter than Hell," or at least so I have been told. John and Joyce are now proudly sporting their new SAN DIEGO MIATA CLUB magnetics, a reward for their efforts in putting together a successful "Eat-Drive-Eat-Drive-Eat" event. Who will be next?

In each of my monthly preachings, I have attempted to profile one of the members of our board. Many people do not know that the board is made up of not only the four elected directors; that there are other appointed positions that act in an advisory position and their votes are included when decisions are made. One of these positions is that of the Club E-mail Postmistress, aka CINDY PALOMA. Cindy, a lady of exquisite taste (drives a WHITE '92), has been in this position since the BIG BANG (the start of SDMC). The tremendous growth and enthusiasm of our club is largely driven by our very large and active Club E-mail list. Cindy monitors not only the additions and deletions to the club list, but has helped establish "the rules" and etiquette for the use of the list.

The Club E-mail list has allowed us to be a very spontaneous group. The spontaneity is most visible in the form of impromptu events. When an opportunity for fun pops up suddenly, the immediacy of E-mail allows for instant contact and response. Laurie and I have experienced these impromptu events first-hand. It is what helps make the SDMC special. That means that Cindy, who is *also* special, provides a special service for a bunch of special people who happen to love a *special* car. I think



PHOTO: ANTHONY WILDE

**Robert 'JT' Holland, SDMC's Webmaster, discusses the finer points of engine modification with Cindy Paloma, SDMC's Postmistress, at BRAINSTORM's open house. Below, the Waid's 4<sup>th</sup> of July Miata.**

I'm preaching again.

So, be ready. Besides the scheduled events that you will find in this newsletter, the summer is when you find more incentives to be serendipitous and spontaneous. More weekday evenings beckon for exploring. Some destinations that can be reached in less than an hour, with the top down, are all over San Diego County. The Ferry Landing on Coronado, Lake Cuyamaca, The Viejas Fountain Show, the Zoo, any beach, and many many more. Don't miss the opportunity and don't forget to put your idea out on E-mail.

—STEVE WAID



PHOTO: CAHTY PHILLIPS

There are now 302 memberships consisting of 462 members.

Memberships by Miata Color:

- 96 Red
- 51 White
- 34 Black
- 21 Montego Blue
- 19 Emerald Green
- 17 Silver
- 12 Mariner Blue
- 11 Laguna Blue
- 10 Sapphire Blue
- 9 Twilight Blue
- 9 BRG
- 6 Starlight Blue
- 6 Merlot
- 3 Marina Green
- 3 Yellow
- 1 Hunter Green
- 4 Unreported

