



# SAN DIEGO MIATA CLUB NEWS



VOLUME 4 NUMBER 12

DECEMBER 1999

A CHAPTER OF THE MIATA CLUB OF AMERICA

## UPCOMING EVENTS



December 5 — Sunday

**SDMC in the  
San Marcos  
Holiday Parade**



December 11 — Saturday

**SDMC's Holiday Party**



December 12 — Sunday

**Autocross at the "Q"**



December 12 — Sunday

**Christmas Card Lane  
Christmas Lights Tour**



December 16 — Thursday

**Monthly Meeting**  
A week early this month!



December 18 — Saturday

**BRAINSTORM Open House  
+ SDMC joins SOCALM  
on a Moonlight Run**



January 2, 2000 — Sunday

**Hangover Run**  
Annual Socalm/SDMC Run



January 8, 2000 — Sunday

**Rallye**



May 6-8, 2000

**The Search for  
Madonna II**  
Overnight to the Madonna Inn,  
San Luis Obispo

## From the Editor

### History! That's What It Is

I just found myself staring at my stack of SAN DIEGO MIATA CLUB newsletters on the shelf next to my desk. At over one inch thick, they date all the way back to May of 1996. This stack represents the historical record of a car club, and so much more. It has been said before, but I will repeat it here. Who of the 11 Miata enthusiasts at the first meeting in February, 1996 could have imagined what was to come? If I had known, I would have been there, but I was out of town.

The interesting things found while thumbing through the early editions of the newsletter: The first issue (May '96) was only 6 pages, had four photos in it and all were of Miatas. Not one photo had a club member (or anyone else for that matter) in it. The number of members was already approaching 40. For three consecutive months in late '96, we only showed three upcoming events on the front cover.

A year later, we already were up to 10 pages with 25 photos. Most of the photos were of members and their cars, smiling and enjoying the camaraderie of like-minded Miata owners. Club membership was up to 225.

Hopefully, you have noticed that the recent newsletters are even more impressive in size and photographic content. While the information is paramount, it has to look good too! STEF and TOM GOULD have been solely responsible for the club's graphic design since the beginning.

The core group of enthusiasts that started the SAN DIEGO MIATA CLUB wanted nothing more than to bring a group of people together who would *have fun* with their Miatas. The organization was loose in structure, purposefully, so as not to burden a small, dynamic group.

New people, with new ideas, joined the board at the first annual meeting in April '97. NATALIA RISSOLO (now MOORHEAD) became Secretary. Natalia was the first person elected to the board who was not one of the original founding members. In 1998 she was succeeded in her post by BARBARA SHEV (who joined in '97) and [then] very recent member LAURIE WAID became treasurer. After only two years, only two of the four elected board members were original club members. The third annual meeting, in April '99, took it one step further with only one board member being an original founder. ELLIOT SHEV was elected treasurer (after being defeated by BOB KRUEGER in the VP race, the club's *first* contested election). SAL CAUSARANO was elected Secretary, and STEVE WAID forged his way to President, the first non-founding member to be elected to the post.

What this short history lesson has pointed out, I hope, is the determination everyone has shown to not repeat the problems seen in other clubs in the past. The continuous influx of new people into the board has avoided the development of power cliques, keeping the dynamism strong. The effects of this dynamism were apparent at the *Surf N' Safari* event. Everyone jumped in and made it happen, and it was noticed by those who attended.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



So history is being held in your hands. In a few short years, I hope that my tenure as newsletter editor will be looked upon in a favorable light. I had some terrific people doing the work. The club no longer functions exactly as it did the first year or so of its existence. When you have less than 50 members, things are easy by comparison to having 500 members. Surely things with the club have changed, and will continue to do so. The only way we can remain a dynamic club that other people equate with FUN is to keep changing. The only way to keep things changing for the better is for more members to get involved in the operation of the club. From organizing a run or a Wheels'n'Meals, to running for the elected board, or a thousand other things, we should all take it upon ourselves to claim ownership of the SAN DIEGO MIATA CLUB. It's the easiest way to get your 15 minutes of fame.

Take care, and HAVE FUN!  
—ANTHONY "NEVADABOB" WILDE

## AUTOCROSS AT THE "Q"



Sunday, December 12 autocross, like all autocross events held at the "Q," is *tentatively scheduled* — *Call the hotline below to confirm the date.*

### 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

### President

STEVE WAID  
(760) 432-0727  
[swaid@home.com](mailto:swaid@home.com)

### Vice President

VOODOO BOB KRUEGER  
(858) 486-4711  
[voodoo@miata.net](mailto:voodoo@miata.net)

### Secretary

SAL CAUSARANO  
(760) 787-0624  
[wooddust@aol.com](mailto:wooddust@aol.com)

### Treasurer

ELLIOT SHEV  
(858) 679-0777  
[cranial@aol.com](mailto:cranial@aol.com)

### Membership

MARK BOOTH  
(619) 670-3789  
[markbooth@home.com](mailto:markbooth@home.com)

### Event Coordinator

GERI CAUSARANO  
(760) 787-0624  
[montegom@aol.com](mailto:montegom@aol.com)

### Webmaster & E-mail Postmaster

ROBERT "JTBOB" HOLLAND  
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### Newsletter

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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. The editor reserves the right to edit all submissions for length and content.

**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

## SOCALM EVENTS

### SOCALM's Holiday Party

**Date:** Saturday, December 4

**Place:** Francie & Paul Pollock's home,  
Northridge, [paul@web-cars.com](mailto:paul@web-cars.com)  
Potluck Dinner, gift exchange, and lots  
and lots of fun!

### BRAINSTORM Open House

**Date:** Saturday, December 18

**Time:** 1:30 p.m.

**Place:** Brainstorm Products (310) 815-9825  
2608 S. La Cienega, Los Angeles

A casual gathering with the cool people at BRAINSTORM. Light food and drinks will be provided, product installations may be discounted or free, and there will be raffles with neat prizes.

*Directions:* Exit the 10 Freeway at La Cienega and go South to the intersection of La Cienega and Venice Blvd.

### Heavenly Lights Run

**Date:** Saturday, December 18

**Time:** 4:30 p.m. for dinner and sunset  
viewing (restaurant is on the beach);  
run starts at 6:15 p.m.

**Place:** Duke's Restaurant on PCH at Las  
Flores Canyon in Malibu. (approximately 30 minutes from BRAINSTORM)

**Contact:** Mike Simmons, (818) 597-0223,  
[msimm@ucla.edu](mailto:msimm@ucla.edu), or Hal Jandorf, (805)  
495-4846, [jandorfHR@navair.navy.mil](mailto:jandorfHR@navair.navy.mil)

*Please tell us if you're coming for dinner  
so we can let Duke's know!*

A run for those that need a short break from the hassles of the holidays. We'll be driving some great roads in the Santa Monica Mountains—but with a difference—driving by moonlight. We'll see some great holiday light displays, two lakes, and sweeping views of lights from Santa Monica Bay to the Valley (weather permitting). Wear warm clothes! (SDMC caravan info—page 3)

### Socalm contacts:

President—K. Zack Broadbent,  
(714) 449-9280, [president@socalm.org](mailto:president@socalm.org)  
Club e-mail list: [socalm@avatar.com](mailto:socalm@avatar.com)  
Web site: [socalm.org](http://socalm.org)

## M2 E-mail List

The M2 e-mail list currently has  
 236 participants from  
across the Web —  
ranging from the  
"expert" to "just got my  
M2!" Inquire about M2-specific  
info, or just chat about your M2.

For more information, see the  
M2 Miata Fellowship Web site at:  
[members.xoom.com/M2MiataAdmin](http://members.xoom.com/M2MiataAdmin)



## SDMC in the San Marcos Holiday Parade

**Date:** Sunday, December 5, 1999

**Time:** 10:30 a.m.

**Place:** Palomar College, Parking Lot 9

**Coordinators:** Mary Ann Wallner at mwallner@mailhost1.csusm.edu and Diane Long at djaws@san.rr.com

The holiday parade will tie in with the City of San Marcos Tree Lighting and opening of Santa's Village at the Civic Center. The parade route begins at Palomar College, travels east on Mission Rd. to San Marcos Blvd. to the Civic Center. Television, radio and newspaper coverage is planned for the two-mile-long parade. We can decorate our cars however we want, play music for their enjoyment, and just have fun! (No Santas, they only want one Santa in the parade.) There will be plenty of time to decorate our cars—the parade starts at 1:00. If anyone will be bringing a child there is a waiver that has to be signed for them to participate. Please let Mary Ann know so she can get the forms.

*Directions:* Take SR 78 to Twin Oaks Valley Road and follow it North. Turn left on Borden Rd. This should run right into Parking Lot 9 at Palomar College. Please show up no later than 11:00.

## Holiday Party

**Date:** Saturday, December 11

Members who have paid for their reservations will be mailed party info.

Contact: Geri at montegom@aol.com

## Tour of Christmas Card Lane

Preceded by a meal at the Boll Weevil

**Date:** Sunday, December 12, 1999

**Time:** 4:30 p.m. — Boll Weevil or

6:00 p.m. — Mount Carmel High School parking lot, Rancho Peñasquitos.

**Place:** Boll Weevil, 9330 Clairemont Mesa Blvd. (at Ruffin Road) for food and then we'll head North at 5:30 to Rancho Peñasquitos.

**Run Leaders:** Jack and Sue diLustro; jdilustro@hotmail.com

Continuing with the SDMC's holiday festivities, a drive/walking tour of Christmas Card Lane is a special way for Miata families to enjoy this holiday display that has been featured in the newspaper and on TV. Over 200 homes decorate their lawns with huge Christmas card scenes. Several of them are

motorized and many are unique. If you haven't seen these displays, it is a must!

Following the drive through Christmas Card Lane, please join Sue and Jack for cider, hot wine and cookies at their home at 13904 Barrymore Street. If you wish to walk back to Christmas Card Lane after the drive-thru, Jack and Sue's house is only one block away.

**Rain or shine!** This will be a fun-filled evening. *Please RSVP—so that we can plan how much wine, cider and cookies to warm up.*

*Directions:* If you are planning on skipping a chance to eat before the run, meet at Mt. Carmel High. Take I-15 to the Poway/Peñasquitos Blvd. exit. Drive West 1.5 mi. to the school. (Rancho Peñasquitos Blvd. becomes Carmel Mountain Road at the Lucky/Stater Bros. Food Center at 1 mi.), continue straight (do NOT turn right), the school will be on the right at Sun Devil Way (1.5 miles). This is after the traffic light at Paseo Montaban (1.2 miles). There is a 7-11 on your right at this intersection.

## Monthly Meeting

**Date:** Thursday, December 16

**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. Don't miss the fun!

## Caravan to BRAINSTORM Open House and Moonlight Run\*

**Date:** Saturday, December 18

**Time:** 11:00 a.m. departure (*meet earlier*)

**Place:** Windmill—the former Pea Soup Andersen's, I-5/Palomar Airport Road

**Run Leaders:** Stef and Tom Gould, stef@miata.net

The caravan's first stop will be for lunch with SOCALM members, next we'll continue to BRAINSTORM (in Los Angeles), then it's on to Malibu for dinner and the Heavenly Lights Run. Optional overnight in Thousand Oaks, Sunday breakfast and fun run through the Santa Monica mountains led by dual club member Mike Simmons.

\* See page 2.

*Please RSVP for the Open House and/or the dinner and for motel information.*

## UPCOMING NATIONAL AND REGIONAL EVENTS

March 24–26, 2000 (*Note new date!*)

### Fourth Annual

### Miata Performance Driving School

Thunderhill Track in Willows, about an hour north of Sacramento—2½ days of training and special events, all aimed at enabling you to become a safer driver. Call (925) 370-6485 for an information packet and registration form. Registration is \$325.

April 29–May 1, 2000

### Bruges 2000

10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary European Miata gathering in Bruges, Belgium  
[www.eunos.com/bruges/](http://www.eunos.com/bruges/)

So far eight SDMC members have made plans to join the European Miata community at the celebration!

*SDMC Contact:* Ed and Michelle, ed1@cari.net

All rooms in the event's three hotels are sold out, but we have a list of others.

June 21, 2000 (*tentative date*)

### Y2K 2 Alaska

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

October 24–27, 2000

### Miatas in Paradise

MCA national event for the year 2000  
Daytona Beach, Florida  
Contact: Jenna, (800) 832-3292

## Business Directory

### Submit Listings Now

Would you like to be included in the Business Directory section of the Member Handbook—free of charge? E-mail stef@miata.net, or phone Stef at (619) 297-4272. Please use the following format:

category of listing  
business name  
brief description of your business  
your name, title  
street address  
phone, fax  
E-mail and Web page address





## Millennium Hangover Run

A Joint SOCALM/SDMC Run

Note: This run is Y2K compliant!

Date: January 2, 2000

Time: 10 a.m. departure

Place: San Mateo Campground Entrance

Run Leader: K. Zack Broadbent,  
(714) 449-9280, president@socalm.org

Doomsday believers would have us think that our digital infrastructure will melt down on January 1, while some religious fanatics believe that the end of the world is upon us. So, if we're going to be faced with that, why not do it with the top down and a stupid grin on our faces?

This run was the biggest single-event Miata fun run to ever hit Southern California, with attendance at 81 Miatas and three MR2s in 1999. As a part of the run's "Y2K readiness," we will break into smaller groups if attendance is big again. We will cruise through some hill-top residential neighborhoods and see some sweeping coastal vistas. Then we'll notch it up a bit as we zip (at the speed limit) along Ortega Highway. After a rest stop in Lake Elsinore, we'll get into some serious driving enjoyment, including a 27% downgrade and some awesome twisties. It's like driving your Miata on a roller coaster! The run will end in Temecula for lunch before 2 p.m.

**Bring:** Layered clothing, water, snacks, cash, be sure your brakes are in good working order.

**Directions:** Exit the I-5 at Cristianitos Rd, which is at the border of Orange and San Diego Counties. We'll line up on the side of the road at the entrance to the San Mateo Campground (on the inland side of the freeway).



PHOTO: DIANE LONG

Gale Chan modifies her trunk lock at a recent Tech Day. Page 5 of November '99 newsletter has information on the trunk release modification.



PHOTO: WOODY WOODHOUSE

## Coronado Vintage Race Weekend

October 21-24, 1999

For the third year in a row, vintage sports car racing came to the runways of Naval Air Station North Island and those who missed August's trek to Monterey got a chance to experience the best racing machinery of the past at speed, right in our own backyard.

This year the weekend kicked off with a Vintage Auto Expo in the convention center. Patterned after the Retromobile event in Paris, the Expo featured displays of classic and racing cars along with vendors offering a variety of items to separate the enthusiast from his money. SDMC's matchless organizer STEF GOULD had arranged for a club display in a prominent location near the entrance featuring the presidential yellow Miata and ELLIOT SHEV'S "Kingfish," and club volunteers offered information and applications to those who expressed an interest. Cars at the Expo ran the gamut from new SDMC member HOWARD SINGER'S Renault to exotic Duesenberg,

Delahaye, and Alfa-Romeo, along with Miller and Offenhauser racing engines. Vendors had models, rare books, photographs, artwork, memorabilia, and accessories for every taste and pocket-book. I had my eye on a full-scale reproduction grand prix Bugatti from Argentina that was exact in every detail, but the \$135,000 price tag forced me to settle for one in 1/24<sup>th</sup> scale instead. The Expo made a nice addition to the race weekend and I hope it will return and grow in size next year.

The weekend weather could not have been better and around 100 SDMC members were in attendance as racing cars took to the 1.6 mile road course on North Island's runways. Thanks to Stef, we again had reserved Miata parking directly behind the main grandstand with as many as 36 of our cars at one time dwarfing the next-largest grouping of a single marque. Vendor and food court areas were enlarged this year so there were adequate provisions for our "drive-eat-drive" group. As if the track food wasn't enough, more than thirty



PHOTO: MARK BOOTH







PHOTO: MARK BOOTH

SDMC members gathered for a delightful dinner on Saturday evening at The Field, an Irish pub in The Gaslamp Quarter. MIKE and DIANA PAGE provided an eat-drive experience by organizing an early morning Sunday breakfast and leading a caravan to the Car Club Corral.

As with most vintage race events, the paddock at Coronado was open to spectators and most racers seemed friendly and eager to share knowledge about their machines. Expressing interest in a 300SL gullwing Mercedes even got CATHY BOOTH, BARB SHEV, and CHARLENE BROKAW a ride around the paddock in the car. I've never even sat in a gullwing, but I was offered the chance to drive several laps around the large open area near our Miatas in the repro Bugatti that caught my fancy at the Expo. It felt like the real thing to me, shifts slicker than a Miata (no synchros to slow you down), and is now tops on my Christmas dream list.

With eight different race groups running morning practice sessions and afternoon races, the action on track was nearly non-stop, but during lunch break each day the Navy provided flyovers of vintage and current fighter aircraft—an added attraction for lovers of fast machinery.

Turning our attention back to the track, those whose sports car knowledge began with the Miata were getting an education. These events have something



PHOTO: MARK BOOTH

**Bless all here: Members enjoy a Saturday night Hibernian dinner at The Field. Right, SDMC's lineup in the Car Club Corral. Woody seems pleased with himself behind the wheel of the Bugatti replica, while SDMC babes assault the Woo-Woo Blonde Trophy Girl Special gullwing Mercedes (we're not making this up!).**



PHOTO: MARK BOOTH



PHOTO: WOODY WOODHOUSE'S CAMERA

**Opposite page, members signify and testify at the SDMC booth at the Vintage Auto Expo. Right, Quadzilla hits the track, digitally**



PHOTO: MARK BOOTH







PHOTO: WOODY WOODHOUSE

for every taste, from pre-WWII Alfas and supercharged MGs to great thundering V-8 powered Cobras, Corvettes, and Trans-Am cars. These last provided the closest racing of the weekend, with Sunday's final race producing a three-way battle among Camaro, Mustang, and Javelin that had spectators on their feet—the lead trading hands on every lap and the outcome in doubt until the final turn. While close competition is exciting, the real thrill for gearheads is seeing cars in action that normally rest silently in museums. It was hard to pick a favorite from the truly stellar entry of Ferraris, competition Jaguars, Allards, Cobras, and more—but we all came away with renewed appreciation for the engineering and esthetic purity that gave racing cars individuality in the days before aerodynamic aids and advertising turned them into look-alike rolling billboards. I was torn between Peter Giddings' Type 59 Bugatti, which is the only one of its kind currently competing in vintage events (and which handily won its race), and a jewel-like Moretti coupe that looked for all the world like a half-scale Ferrari from the early fifties.

Most SDMC members probably agree with ART HAMILTON, who was quoted in that Sunday morning's *Union-Tribune* as preferring his Miata to the vintage machinery. The Coronado race weekend's showcasing the history of sporting cars clearly indicates that our cars will have a prominent place in that history as time goes by. Meanwhile, we can enjoy the reliability and fun of our Miatas on the road until next year's Coronado vintage weekend.

— WOODY WOODHOUSE



PHOTO: ED LANGMAID



PHOTO: ED LANGMAID



PHOTO: BOB KRUEGER



PHOTO: WOODY WOODHOUSE



PHOTO: WOODY WOODHOUSE



PHOTO: WOODY WOODHOUSE



PHOTO: BOB KRUEGER







PHOTO: VOODOO BOB KRUEGER



PHOTO: WOODY WOODHOUSE

Something for everyone—From a young fan, above, to those of us obsessed with speed, skill and engineering. (Extra credit: How many Voodoo Bob Kruegers can you find hidden on these two pages?)



PHOTO: ED LANGMAID



PHOTO: VOODOO BOB KRUEGER



PHOTO: WOODY WOODHOUSE



PHOTO: VOODOO BOB KRUEGER



PHOTO: ED LANGMAID







## Tech Days Are Fun, Even for a Novice!

October 17, 1999

**T**oday was my first "tech day" experience, and I will start by saying it was not exactly what I expected— it was *better*!

I had a short list of wants for my Miata, and the entire time it took me to drive to DIANE LONG'S house I was wondering how I could possibly repay these people for helping me... Little did I know at that point how involved I would become.

I needed to have my "nose" fixed and "teeth" extracted. Once the proper tool was identified for the nose job, I had to do it— I removed the license plate holder that had made the nose job necessary, and I learned how to use the heat gun to coax the original shape back.

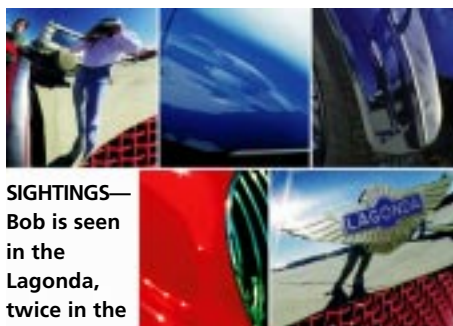
I went to this tech day thinking that I would be taking advantage of all of you. You made me realize that I had to do some things for myself! God bless ED LANGMAID for help with the teeth extraction— he did all of the hard stuff— but he made me remove the last piece. I had no idea about their weight until it crashed near my head!

I thank Diane for having us at her home, and I thank Ed for the license plate bracket alternative. Since I already have had a fix-it ticket for no front license plate, his invention is the answer!

Thanks again, and I hope that I can buy something that needs to be installed soon so I can come to the next one!

— PAULA MUDARRI

## Extra Credit Answers From Page Seven



**SIGHTINGS—** Bob is seen in the Lagonda, twice in the K3 MG (He's in the other MG, too, but it's not reproducible). And who is that winged being about to take flight? Could it be Pollo Volante?

## Postmistress Hits the Road!



Cindy Paloma, SAN DIEGO MIATA CLUB'S e-mail Postmaster since March 1996, has retired. Robert "JT" Holland took over as Postmaster in mid-November. Cindy— enjoy your well-deserved retirement!

## New E-mail List, New Postmaster!

I've accepted SDMC's Postmaster position, and I have just finished moving the mail lists onto Onelist.com so that CINDY PALOMA won't have to support the mail lists from her work, which will give her a much-deserved break after serving the club as Postmistress since its inception in March of '96.



The new list address is — SDMC-List@onelist.com.

The Events-only list is for you if you wish just a few reminders to keep you abreast of club events rather than the full list's chatter SDMC-Events@onelist.com .

In the "Subject" line of each message, there will be a [SDMC-List] tag, so you can set your mail programs to filter these messages into a folder if you so desire.

I've set the new list up so that attachments are stripped out, as some members can't handle them. There is a 5 mb space set aside to which members can freely upload pictures or files and then let other members know of their existence— uploaders can create their own folders in which to place files. Files should be uploaded to [www.onelist.com/files/SDMC-List](http://www.onelist.com/files/SDMC-List).

There is a calendar with details of upcoming events on the Web site at: [www.onelist.com/calendar/SDMC-List](http://www.onelist.com/calendar/SDMC-List). Also, there is an archive feature so that members can scan old messages. Archives can be seen at [www.onelist.com/archive/SDMC-List](http://www.onelist.com/archive/SDMC-List).

You can set up your own membership features, such as individual mail, or get a daily digest. Plus, you can put your membership on hold while away or unsubscribe yourself.

Don't have net access at the moment? Check out the "So You Want To Go Online" article\* for help in getting online. Those who don't have Web access or just don't want to bother with registering with Onelist.com can e-mail me at SDMC-List-owner@onelist.com — this e-mail address will become the address to use for future mail list requests.

— ROBERT "JTBOB" HOLLAND,

Webmaster, and new Postmaster

\*Reprints of the club's informative two-part article "So You Want To Go Online" are available from Stef Gould at club events.

PHOTO: MARK BOOTH





## SDMC Member's *Italia* Miata at SEMA



Left, Jack's *Italia*; above, Mazda's Miata-based concept car — the *Mono-posto*.

Mary, SERIOUS AUTO ACCESSORIES, Oscar Jackson and the MOSS MOTORS group. I heard that SDMC members ROBERT "JT" HOLLAND, VOODOO BOB and VICKY KRUEGER from TEAM VOODOO, and BRIAN GOODWIN from GOOD-WIN RACING were there as well, but I missed them.

All in all, we had a great time and even came home with a little bit of that hard-to-get Vegas money.

—JACK GOSNEY

The first week of November my 1997 Miata "Italia" was in the SEMA show in Las Vegas. SEMA stands for Specialty Equipment Market Association and is the largest aftermarket accessory show of its kind in the world. The show runs from Tuesday through Friday and is open to vendors, manufacturers, suppliers and buyers—the public is not invited.

Fellow SDMC member LENI METRO and our mutual friend, Dave Newmann from Phoenix, joined me on Monday morning and we detailed the car in the booth sponsored by HYPERCO SPRING COMPANY, which produces performance springs. Their springs have been on the last 35 Indianapolis 500 winners. Since they are just now getting into the street spring market, and did not have any product to sell or ship, the booth turned out to be a showplace for the car.

The desired effect was achieved when *Road & Track* magazine came by and obtained a release to do an article on the *Italia*. In addition, *Car and Driver* magazine will be using the *Italia* in their 2001 calendar. Mark Jordan of MAZDA advised Jim Simpson of SIMPSON DESIGN AND DEVELOPMENT (designers and manufacturers of the *Italia* kit) that plans are being formulated to feature the *Italia*, along with the *Mono-posto* (Miata concept car which stole the show at SEMA) on the cover of *Motor Trend* magazine along with coverage of the SEMA show—quite an exciting week! I understand Jim sold five more kits during the show.

While at the show, we met and talked to a number of people that SDMC members will be familiar with, including Roshan and Adan from BRAINSTORM, Joe from R-SPEED, Ingo from I.L. MOTOR-

SPORTS in Germany, and Barbara Beach and Phil Wolfson from *Miata Magazine*, as well as the new editor Alan Paradise. Also there was TEAM MIATA, THE KNOBMEISTER (Joe Portas) and wife,

## Aftermarket Goodies

### Deck Bags and Pockets

Do you need extra room in your Miata like I do? Have you been unable to reach your coat or sweatshirt when the weather changes?

I have had all the above problems since my husband gave me my beloved Miata. Since giving Candie up is not an option, who needs a station wagon anyway?—I designed some bags for the deck, behind the seat and in the trunk. They are all custom made to fit your car. 90-99, no problem. Roll bar, windscreen, nothing on the deck, no problem.

The bags are all water repellent and flexible enough to be folded up and not take up much room. The deck bags go for \$45.00, trunk bag is \$20.00, five-zippered pocket bag for behind the seat \$40.00, single behind the seat pocket \$12.00. All behind the seat pockets come with snaps so you can attach them to the existing snaps on your deck. Of course, 90-97 and 99s are all a little different and I will need that information in order for your bag to fit perfectly. The deck bags come with side handles and Velcro tie downs so your bag will not blow out of the car when it is empty. The bags come in all sizes and colors (as long as you like black). All prices include shipping and tax.

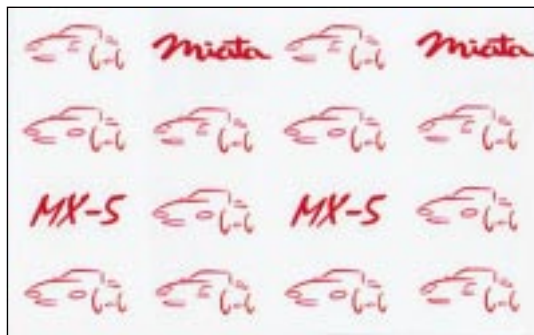
### Wrapping Paper for the Miata Enthusiast

Be the first on your block to have special, high-quality Miata wrapping paper.

Take a look at a roll of regular wrapping paper. Maybe you get 9 feet ...maybe just 108 inches. Not here, by golly. You get an incredible 30" x 20 feet of little red Miatas! (This paper works for any type of Miata from 1990 to 2000.)

Just in time for the holidays, but legal to use for any occasion—\$8 per roll.

Contact Geri at GERI'S BAZAAR for the deck bags, trunk bags, pockets and wrapping paper at [montegom@aol.com](mailto:montegom@aol.com), (760) 787-0624.





## Member Profile

STEPHANIE AND DAVE SHABESTARI

In 1982 I got my driver's license and my father gave me his car of a few years, a car that was remarkably similar to our Miata—a two-seat convertible with a dual cam 1.8 litre four, 5- speed, rear wheel drive and a battery in the trunk—1975 Fiat 124 Spider. It was British Racing Green with a tan interior and a real wood dashboard (I knew it was real, as it was constantly delaminating and warping). In the six years that I owned the car I replaced almost the entire body (I sculpted most of the new panels by hand in fiberglass), rebuilt the engine, suspension, and brake system, and restored the entire interior. The car was horribly unreliable, and was rusting from the inside out, but when it ran, it was really great.

I'm Dave Shabestari and my wife is Stephanie. We live in the Shadowridge area of Vista, where we've been since moving here in October of 1990 from Salt Lake City. We were both born and raised there, and went to school together. When we moved here in '90, we had both just graduated from the University of Utah, been married for two weeks, and been Miata owners for two months.

I work for Century 21 Real Estate in Oceanside as a graphic artist and MIS guy, and my wife is an administrator for a large law firm in downtown San Diego. No kids yet, but being in our early 30s, everyone is telling us to get with it in a hurry.

We are the original owners of our 1990 White A package Miata with air conditioning. Steph saw the Miata on the cover of an early 1990 issue of *Road &*

*Track* and had to have it. We purchased it from Ken Garff Oldsmobile in Salt Lake, and were told that it was shipped on a truck alone from the port in Oregon to us, and was the first Miata in Utah.

It was a daily driver for over nine years, but has only racked up 82,000 miles so far. Last year we purchased a third car, and the Miata went into a rented storage unit all by itself, rather than have to sit outdoors on our driveway. We drive it a couple of times a month, but now as club members, hope to use it each weekend.

The car is almost 10 years old now. We put in a Kenwood CD player and new speakers about five years ago, and had the rear window replaced two years ago. It's had three sets of tires, it's on its second set of brake pads, and has a new battery and timing belt. Otherwise, nothing has gone wrong with the car. It still runs perfectly and looks excellent. I hope to replace the seat covers soon, but that's really all it needs.

That's about it on us and the Miata. Feel free to contact me with any questions or interests. Having grown up in Salt Lake, we're avid skiers, but refuse to ski the local slush. We head to Tahoe at least once each winter, and Salt Lake a couple of times, if anyone would like to join in...

### Current Club Membership Statistics

As of November 21, 1999, there are 322 memberships consisting of 498 members.

Memberships by Miata Color:

- 93 Red
- 50 White
- 38 Black
- 22 Silver
- 21 Montego Blue
- 20 Emerald Green
- 13 Sapphire Blue
- 12 Mariner Blue
- 11 Laguna Blue
- 11 Starlight Blue
- 10 BRG
- 8 Twilight Blue
- 7 Merlot
- 4 Marina Green
- 4 Yellow
- 8 Unreported

## New Members!

Welcome to our newest members (since the last newsletter):

### Al & Carol Criqui

San Diego  
1999 Black Leather

### Annette & Larry Dennstedt

San Diego  
1994 White C

### Michael Dunnigan

Point Loma  
1991 Mariner Blue

### Eileen Fore

Thousand Oaks  
1996 Black PEP

### Alex Garcia & Danielle Bourgeois

San Diego  
1991 White B  
1999 Emerald Green Leather

### Ken & Marquita Keach

El Cajon  
1994 Laguna Blue C

### Danny Lawrence

San Diego  
1996 M (Starlight Blue)

### Jeff & Kim Penta

La Mesa  
1999 10th AE (Sapphire Blue)

### Eric & Diane Seilo

Irvine  
1990 Red

### Howard & Rima Singer

La Jolla  
Unreported

### Scott Viets

El Cajon  
1994 M (Montego Blue)

Renewing members (since last newsletter):

### Jon & Connie Braisted

### Jim Bray

### Rudy E. Garcia

### Ron & Nancy Gelinas

### G.B. Heinemann & C.E. Wengenroth

### Anne C. Henry

### Rick Keach & Maiga Berzins

### Kevin Lakkis

### David & Leanne Lynn

### Greg & Chris Maiser

### Terry W. Merrill

### Natalia & Jason Moorhead

### Bonnie Nicholls

### Dave Okamoto

### Carole A. Orlen

### Richard Ransburg & Elizabeth Douglass

### Daniel W. Reichel

### Bengt Spetsmark

### Partick & Viona Van Hoose





## The Fountain of Youth

**T**he older I get the more often I find myself wanting to just sit in my easy chair and not bother. As part of the club leadership, there are times when the business of the club is not necessarily matching up well with the purpose of the club, that being to have fun. Sometimes what is done behind the scenes to ensure that the membership is having fun is work that is not fun. *But*, then something happens like last weekend that makes it all worthwhile. I have drunk from the fountain of youth. I am PUMPED!

All that is necessary to bring me back to life is a quick injection of club member enthusiasm.

Sunday, October 14<sup>th</sup>, a day that will live in... no that's not right. In many ways, I wasn't looking forward to it. Sure, I was going to be able to drive TRAVL LT on the autocross course, but I was leaving home at O-dark-hundred, as MARK BOOTH would say, which equated to 5:30 a.m. I knew I wasn't going to get back home until way after dark because SDMC was acting as co-organizer of the event with the Southern California Autocross Team (SCAT). I had agreed to be on the protest committee, whatever the heck that is. I knew it was going to be a long day and that I would be pooped by the end of it.

My revival began early. SCOTT ROSIN (a club member for about seven months) had spent the previous week organizing workers from the club to help at the event. When I arrived at the "Q" there were already three Miatas there and their drivers were already out in the dark somewhere helping set up the course. Within the next half hour the Miata count had tripled. Maybe this wasn't going to be so bad after all.

The course was laid out in less than an hour. JIM BROKAW showed some terrific soccer skills, being able to position cones accurately, and never use his hands. Some might call that lazy, not me, I was envious. JIM and CHARLENE have been members for about six months, and there was Jim getting me out of my funk. I actually had fun working, and I hadn't even driven my car yet.

By 8 a.m. there were about 15 Miatas lined up over in what had become the SAN DIEGO MIATA CLUB car corral. SAL and GERI CAUSARANO were now busy setting up the SDMC hospitality suite, their 25-foot house trailer.

From that point forward it was no longer only the San Diego Region SCCA Solo II Championship Racing, it was the SAN DIEGO MIATA CLUB ALL-Day Party with San Diego Region SCCA Solo II Championship Racing. The presence of the club was monumental. What I am going to describe is no exaggeration. Twice during the day, individuals who have autocrossed other makes of cars for years were seriously admitting that they were going to find themselves a Miata not only because it is a great car to autocross but because they wanted to have a reason to join SDMC. Now how do you think that makes your president feel? I just dropped my age by ten years.

I observed a young (maybe 20 years old) new Miata owner, Alvin, who happened by the autocross and saw our hospitality suite and all of the Miatas, having modifications and improvements explained to him by the nearly-legendary VODOO BOB KRUEGER. We had Jim Langer from RACING BEAT come by and eat one of the BBQ hamburgers that Sal was cooking up. New members, less than two weeks, came by to see what the heck was going on. I had to hand out recruiting cards because none of us had thought about bringing club applications. I dropped another five years.

When it was my turn to drive, Jim Brokaw rode with me. I will give him the credit for encouraging me to have the best day of driving I have ever had, and I had the enjoyment of a friend to talk to and analyze what I was trying to do to improve. What a blast! At the same time, STEVE KENNISON was having his first autocross experience in his '99 "un-painted." If you didn't get a chance to read his e-mail journal of his experience, just ask him. It is just what I would have said last January when I drove my first time. Only difference is that I didn't try to drive my first lap backwards like Steve did. Ask him. I dropped another five years.

My adrenaline rush lasted all day. At the end of the day, ANTHONY WILDE rode with me for the fun runs. We just kept going, and going and going. We must have had close to ten more laps, but I didn't want it to end. Yes, I was pooped, but it was "good pooped."

Now I remember why I do all the un-fun business of the club. It's so that we keep bringing in new members who want to be a part of all the fun that this club generates. The small part I play in keeping the club's operational requirements in line allows me to experience the ultimate high of staying young with all of you.

As the club continues to grow, we sometimes have leadership positions open up that get filled by new blood. As of this writing, CINDY PALOMA, our club e-mail Postmaster, has stepped down after contributing her skills and energies in the position since the club was founded in February of 1996. In March of 1996, Cindy was elected the first club Vice President. As you can see, Cindy has been here since the start. Although basically quiet, I know her to be one of the funniest people with whom to spend time.

Cindy Paloma is an example of the people that have made the SAN DIEGO MIATA CLUB what it is today. Members like Cindy cause others to volunteer their talents to the pool. Who will step forward next?— who's next to make me feel even younger?

—STEVE WAID

### Wanted— Membership Person

Volunteer needed with database skills and strong attention to detail. Some of the tasks performed by the membership person include: maintain the club's membership database (add new members, delete non-renewal members, keep member data current, etc), create labels for membership cards and mailings, provide membership information for newsletter publication, and club e-mail list. If interested, call Steve at (760) 432-1727 or e-mail swaid@home.com

