



SAN DIEGO MIATA CLUB NEWS



VOLUME 5 NUMBER 4

APRIL 2000

A CHAPTER OF THE MIATA CLUB OF AMERICA

UPCOMING EVENTS



April 1 — Saturday
SDMC Annual Meeting
Election of Executive Board



April 7 — Friday
McKamey Autocross School



April 7 — 9
Autocross at the "Q" National Tour



April 8 — 9
Palm Springs Shopping Getaway



April 15 — Saturday
The Flowerun



April 22 — Saturday
Autocross at the "Q"



April 27 — Thursday
Monthly Meeting



April 29 — Saturday
Nethercutt Collection Run
Joint SDMC, SOCALM, VROOM Event



April 30 — Sunday
The Tax Relief Run



May 6 — 8
Search for Madonna II

FROM THE EDITOR

The Right to HAVE FUN!

It's that time again! The SAN DIEGO MIATA CLUB annual meeting is on Saturday, April 1. Time to elect a new board to guide the club for the next year. The problem is, very few members seem to show up at this very important event. We now get more people at the monthly meetings than we do when it comes time to elect the board.

All of the events, all of the merchandising, the monthly newsletter, etc. all come about as a result of work performed by an active group of members willing to spend some of their precious time creating FUN things for the rest of us to enjoy. As members of the SAN DIEGO MIATA CLUB, we should all make sure that we keep an enthusiastic board of directors in charge of this club to keep the FUN going!

STEVE WAID has announced he will not be running for another term as president, and VOODOO BOB KRUEGER is standing by the club tradition of serving no more than two elected terms. That means there will be at least two new board members decided upon at the annual meeting. For the first time, several members have openly announced their desire to be elected to the executive board (please see the candidate biographical profiles on page 7). Per the existing bylaws, nominations for elected officers are taken from the floor ONLY at the annual meeting. Additionally, recommendations were made by the current board to change the bylaws. The vote on these proposals, and possibly others put forth at the annual meeting, will take place on April 1.

If you want to have a voice in *how* the club is run, if you want to *help* run the club, there is only one way to do that. You MUST show up on April 1 and exercise your vote as a member of the club. You might also consider running for one of the elected board positions, or be willing to serve in an appointed position if you can.

If you do not show up at the annual meeting you cannot run for office, you cannot nominate someone for office, and you cannot vote for someone. Also, you will not be able to participate in the raffle to be held (please see page 9).

In the final analysis, each member of the SAN DIEGO MIATA CLUB holds the power to determine the road the club follows for the next year. We have some wonderful memories of the past four years; let's all help to make some more!

Take care, and HAVE FUN!

—ANTHONY WILDE

The following executive board positions (with *some* of their duties listed) are elected at the annual meeting for a term of one year:

President

- votes on board
- official club spokesperson
- presides over all meetings
- delegates duties to appointed positions

(Continued on page 2)



Vice-President

- votes on board
- acts for president in absentia
- prepared to handle president's duties at all times
- prepared to take on duties as delegated by president

Treasurer

- votes on board
- keeps records of and reconciles bank statements
- makes financial statements to the board
- advises the board on expenditures
- submits yearly financial report to general membership at annual meeting

Secretary

- votes on board
- records all meetings

The following are the current administrative positions. Administrative positions are volunteers. The president appoints volunteers to fill positions, usually those who have some talent or expertise in the area involved. These positions are non-voting board members.

Events Coordinator

- encourages members to participate and sponsor events
- coordinates times and dates with all club related events

Membership

- maintains membership database
- sends information to prospective members
- prepares membership cards for new/renewal members
- provides mailing labels for monthly newsletter

Newsletter

- writes monthly column for newsletter
- solicits and encourages others to contribute to newsletter
- produces newsletter

E-mail Postmaster/Webmaster

- maintains club e-mail listing and announcement listing
- maintains club INTERNET web page

Regalia

- maintains inventory of club merchandise
- sells merchandise
- places orders with vendors for replacement inventory

AUTOCROSS AT THE "Q"



The following autocross events are *tentatively scheduled* to take place in the parking lot of Qualcomm Stadium:

Friday, April 7.....National Tour

Saturday, April 8....."

Sunday, April 9....."

Saturday, April 22.....race day

Saturday, May 6.....practice day

Sunday, May 7.....race day

Sunday, May 21.....race day

To confirm autocross information, call:

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

Web page www.sdr-solo2.com

Rainer Mueller (760) 439-0067

John Godden (858) 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.

Newsletter Team

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and anybody else we can get.

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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. Where possible, please e-mail your submissions to the newsletter editor. Submissions can also be mailed to the club's post office box.

Submission deadline is the 15th of each month.

Editor reserves the right to edit all submissions.

The SAN DIEGO MIATA CLUB has established a dedicated World Wide Web Home Page at:

www.sandiegomiataclub.org

The club has a members-only electronic mail list for those members with e-mail capability.

Dedicated 24-hour voice message line: (619) 582-2448

SAN DIEGO MIATA CLUB
P.O. Box 23081
San Diego CA 92193

Note new club phone number & address!



MEETING PLACES

SDMC Annual Membership Meeting

Date: Saturday, April 1

Time: Picnic Starts at 10:30 a.m.

Meeting starts at 1 p.m.

Place: San Diego Automotive Museum

Hall of Fame Room, Balboa Park

Enter at the side door, to the left of the main entrance, and go up the stairs to the right.

The meeting will start promptly at 1 p.m.

Please remember to bring your

MEMBERSHIP CARD to receive a ballot.

One ballot per membership.

We will have entertainment, a birthday cake (we are four years old), soft drinks, and a raffle. Plan to take part in a photo swap and look at the club photo albums.

The meeting will be preceded by a picnic in the park starting at 10:30 a.m. Arrive later if you like but be aware that parking might be tougher to find in the later hours. Bring your own picnic lunch, blanket, folding chairs and have FUN!

Directions to Picnic: Take Park Blvd. To Balboa Park. Turn West (into the Park) on Presidents Way. Turn left into the very first parking lot on the left. Go all the way to the back of the parking lot. The picnic spot is located between Park Blvd. and the southeast side of the Aerospace Museum. Or you can park in the lot in front of the Automotive Museum and take the path between the Aerospace Museum and the Starlight Bowl down to the picnic site.

Palm Springs Shopping Getaway

Date: Saturday & Sunday, April 8 - 9

Time: 9:00 a.m.

Meeting Place: Deer Springs exit off I-15

Park-n-Ride at the North East corner

Event Coordinators: SUE HINKLE, SUE KESLER, ELINOR SHACK, and BARB TEMPLETON.

We're off to Palm Springs for shopping and the Fabulous Palm Springs Follies. Our drive to Palm Springs will take us on great Miata roads through the mountains with a stop for shopping and lunch in Idyllwild. The desert scenery will be at its peak during this time of the year and the weather should be delightful.

Rooms have been reserved at the Chase Hotel in downtown Palm Springs at a rate of \$89 per night, which includes continental breakfast. We've arranged a group dinner for Saturday evening and a trip to the showing of the Fabulous Palm Springs Follies featuring Frankie Laine.

There will be plenty of time for sight seeing, shopping and relaxing on this getaway to Palm Springs. Rooms are booking up quickly! Contact Sue Hinkle at (760) 735-9456 or Elinor Shack at (858)485-0278 for more information on this event. Hope to see you there!

The Flowerun

Date: Saturday, April 15

Time: 9 a.m. Come earlier if you want to have breakfast

Meeting Place: Perry's Cafe, 4620 Pacific Highway (at Rosecrans).

Thomas Map 1268 F4

Run Leader: WALLY STEVENS

wallymiata@juno.com or

(619) 232-2801, ext 313 or

home (619) 234-2858 or

mobile (619) 203-2801.

The Flowermeister will try to keep off of I-5, but we will parallel it and arrive at the flower fields at about 11. We will not have a reserved parking area but arriving before 12 we should be able to park in one area. The admission to the fields is \$4, and on that day they will have some music and events. The fields are at Palomar Airport Road east of I-5. We will lunch in the fields and walk around for an hour or two, or as long as you wish. There is minimal food at the flower fields so

be ready to bring picnic food for yourself for a late lunch. As of the newsletter deadline we are checking on availability of a nearby park for a picnic lunch after we view the fields. More info later on how the run will wind-up.

Directions to Perry's: Take Pacific Hwy from south; off I-5 and Seaworld Drive if you are coming from the north. It's on the north end of Old Town across from the trolley station.

Monthly Meeting

Date: Thursday, April 27

Time: 6:00 p.m.

Place: Boll Weevil

9330 Clairemont Mesa Blvd. (at Ruffin Road), San Diego (858) 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!

See Meeting Places (Continued on page 4)

UPCOMING NATIONAL AND REGIONAL EVENTS

St. Augustine Sizzle

April 14-16, 2000

The First Coast Chapter of the Miata Club of America is hosting the St. Augustine Sizzle in St. Augustine, Florida.

Full details and registration form are available at:

www.teeone.net/FCMCmiata/sizzle2.htm or

contact Kathy Garvin at (904) 879-7227

or kathy.garvin@jax.ufl.edu

Bruges 2000

April 29-May 1, 2000

10th Anniversary European Miata gathering in Bruges, Belgium

www.eunos.com/bruges

Six SDMC members have made plans to join the European Miata community at the celebration; make plans to go along!

SDMC Contact: Ed and Michelle Langmaid

(619) 278-1774 or ed1@cari.net

South 2000

June 1-4, 2000

The MX5 PASSION CLUB meeting will take place in the South of France.

www.multimania.com/mx5passion

3rd Annual Cool Weekend on the Coast

June 16-18, 2000

Eureka, California

Beat the summer heat! Visit the cool, green, gorgeous Northern California Coast. Drive through majestic redwoods, along the Pacific Ocean, and through beautiful villages on the most scenic roads a topless Miata can find in California. But do it with a bunch of other Miata nuts! Events include driving tours, autocross, awards banquet, a poker run, and plenty of time to socialize. Lots of cars basked in the 70 degree weather last year - entry is limited! Make your plans now by visiting our website at www.humboldt1.com/~beagle/Miata.html

or E-Mail Austin at calife@creality.com

Y2K 2 Alaska

June 17, 2000 (tentative date)

The MIDNIGHT SUN MIATA CLUB invites Miata club members to Fairbanks, Alaska for the longest day of the year.

Contact: Don (907) 456-3103,

donwookke@co.fairbanks.ak.us

Mazda MX-5 Manx Millennium Experience, Isle of Man

June 29-July 3, 2000

For information, call 08457-585833 or visit

www.steam.packet.com

Miatas in Paradise

October 24-27, 2000

MCA national event for the year 2000

Daytona Beach, Florida

Contact: Jenna (800) 832-3292 or

www.miata2000.com



Meeting Places (Continued from page 3)

Nethercutt Collection Run

Joint SDMC, SOCALM, VROOM Event

Date: Saturday, April 29

Time: 9:30 a.m.

Place: The Nethercutt Collection

15200 Bledsoe Street, Sylmar

RSVP Required: GERRY & JOHN CONN,

(714) 441-2552, connjb@earthlink.net

Once again (I think this is the 4th year we've done this one) John & I invite you to come along to view this fabulous collection of antique cars, hood ornaments, mechanical musical instruments and the Mighty Wurlitzer Theatre Pipe Organ assembled by famed collector and philanthropist J. B. Nethercutt and his wife Dorothy (co-founder of Merle Norman Cosmetics). This is a free, 2 hour guided tour. However, there are rules: You must be 12 or older, no shorts or jeans allowed, no flash photography or video cameras. Our group is limited to 50 so you must RSVP via e-mail or phone or you cannot join the tour. Specify your name, number in party and either phone # or e-mail. We will maintain an overflow list, reconfirm the week prior to the tour and fill any cancellations. We'll take a quick break for lunch right after the tour at some local fast food restaurants and then head for some great roads. Anyone wishing to come on the run only should be at the Nethercutt Collection by 12:00 noon.

Directions to meeting place: Exit I-5 in Sylmar (quickly after the I-5/I-405 interchange) on Roxford, turn right onto San Fernando Road, left on Bledsoe. From Highway 210, exit on Polk, turn right on Glenoaks Blvd, left on Bledsoe.

There will be a caravan leaving from Orange County at 8:00 a.m.

Directions for caravan from Brea: Exit Highway 57 at Imperial Highway. Go straight into the parking lot between Denny's and Hof's Bar and Grill. Meeting time is 8:00 a.m. There is a Starbucks, a donut shop and Denny's if you want to do breakfast **BUT** we **MUST** leave NLT 8:15 to arrive in Sylmar for a 9:45 check in time.

The Tax Relief Run

Date: Sunday, April 30

Time: Meet at 9a.m., depart at 9.30 a.m.

Place: Joslyn Senior Center in Rancho Bernardo Community Park
(Just South of North County Fair).

Run Leaders: PAULA & STEVE KENNISON

kennison@cts.com or (858) 271-8498

Are you stressed because of April 15 taxes?

Want some relief from that stress?

What better way to drain away your anxieties then to take a mellow ride in your Miata. Hey, the tax horror is over and if you're not in jail you can relax with a non-taxing ride that shares some good curves and great fellowship with your friendly Miata club members. Route will be from Joslyn Senior Center (no, I'm not making a statement here) to parts of Highland Valley Road and Bandy Canyon, through San Pasqual Valley and over to Bear Valley Parkway. Up the twisties to Lake Wolford and over the back way to Bates Nut Farm (not making a statement here, either.) We will spend about 1/2 hour for shopping and a pit stop before venturing up Mt. Palomar. We will then gather for lunch about noon or half past at "The Hideout Saloon & Steakhouse" located at the base of the Mesa Grande Grade. This will be a mellow event at a moderate pace, so don't be intimidated because we are doing Palomar or other twisty roads. Nobody will get sick on this run (I hope).

Directions: North or south bound on I-15 to Pomerado Rd (just south of Lake Hodges). West on Pomerado to West Bernardo Drive (it curves around and heads south). Right turn at stop light into Park entrance. Continue around Park parking road to Joslyn Senior Center parking lot. Look for the beautiful Silver 99 Miata with the black roll bar on it.

SDMC Club Merchandise

Need something to make your life a little less bland? How about some distinctive club merchandise to get things started?

- Club T-shirts
- Club Sweatshirts
- Static Cling Decals
- Club logo Pins

All items will be available at the Boll Weevil Monthly Meetings (4th Thursday of every month). If you want to pick up clothing items at a run or social event other than a Monthly Meeting, please E-mail BARB SHEV (mooncalf@aol.com) an order and Barb will be happy to bring your stuff along. She can also mail items to you — ask about postage costs.

CLASSIFIED ADS

Classified ad space is provided free of charge to members. Please include your name, telephone number and E-mail address (if applicable) with each submission.

For Sale: HKS Sport cat-back exhaust. \$25.

Free: Stock Miata '92 cat-back exhaust.

Robert "JT" Holland, robert@caliban.ucsd.edu or (858) 549-4011.

For Sale: ASAP, 1995 Buick Park Avenue, forest green, beige interior; excellent condition. It has been well maintained, 81,000 miles. \$8500.

Vicky & Larry Gilbert (619) 448-9457 or vgilbert@sdcoe.k12.ca.us

For Sale: 4 OEM steel rims in excellent shape from a 1990 base model Miata. \$100.

Richard Somerville (760) 753-5404 or rsomerville@ucsd.edu

For Sale: Simpson full face helmet. model RX-3, size 6 7/8. Nomex lining, both clear and tinted visors. \$65 or best offer.

Ken Tooker (619) 583-9020 or kntsd@hotmail.com

For Sale: '90 with 13k miles on "new factory motor." New radiator, fuel pump and battery. New "stock" exhaust system. Pirelli tires. Red with hardtop, 113k miles. \$6000.

Pete (760) 749-3470

For Sale: '97 M-edition (Marina Green). Has all the usual M goodies (leather, Nardi wood, premium sound system, a/c, etc.) and many extras, including ABS, factory remote alarm, real oil pressure indicator, front and rear skirts, luggage rack, free-flow air filter, and others. The car was purchased in Arizona, and driven in California. Very well maintained, with only 30k miles on the odometer. Photo can be e-mailed on request.

Asking \$16,795.

Mark Shusterman, emshusterman@usa.net or (619) 200-7160.

For Sale: Nearly new 15" Racing Tires - Full set of (4) BFGoodrich Comp T/A R1 205/50-ZR15 plastic bagged and ready to go. \$180 OBO.

Greg (619) 584-7174.

For Sale: '95 M edition (Merlot) like new condition, synthetic oils, a/c, cruise control, am/fm cass/cd player. Koni shocks, stainless brake lines, real oil pressure gauge.

I still have many goodies that came off my Miata: Sebring supercharger, J&S knock sensor kit, hard top (painted Merlot), tan tonneau cover and chrome style bar, an almost-complete collection of *Miata Magazine*. Plus many other useful items all for 90-97 Miatas. Call anytime!

Ken (760) 753-1502 or kene@hctimes.net.



Automatic Transmission Service

Those of us with auto transys often don't find clear maintenance schedules for the fluid. Here is the simple answer, and some how-tos. NEVER, ever, let anyone talk you into a complete fluid flush! Simply change your fluid once



a year, which is about 10-15,000 miles for the average Southern California driver. Change it twice a year if you drive aggressively, or more often if necessary.

There are three ways to change fluid:

- First choice is to pull the 10 mm bolts and drop the transmission pan, let it drain, clean the pan, replace the gasket and refill the 2 quarts (aprox) and you're back on the road.
- Choice two: pull the pan and install a drain plug kit or weld on a nut and make your own drain plug just like Toyotas have.
- I like choice three: I push a small diameter tube down the dipstick tube and suck out the fluid, about 2 quarts. This takes 15 minutes. You have several choices of pumps. I go for simple and went to the auto parts store and purchased a plastic gear oil pump. Take off the short hose and install clear radiator overflow hose to the suction side, long enough to reach down the automatic transmission fluid (ATF) dipstick tube. Cut the end off at an angle and make the tube one to two feet extra long so you can reach the can you are about to fill with the discharge. Be sure the tubing diameter is small enough to fit down the ATF tube. Also I prefer the clear tubing so I can watch things.

Note: If you have really dirty ATF, change it every 1000 miles. Replace two quarts at a time until you have diluted the fluid slowly into cleanliness. If you were to flush the entire amount out or change the fluid sooner than 1000 miles, you run the risk of hurting the tranny because the new ATF is highly detergent and might attack the band adhesives. Take your time and you can revive an ailing tranny from the varnishes that build up from too many heat cycles or just plain neglect of maintenance.

Call me if you have any questions or see me at an event.

—LARRY DENNSTEDT

(619) 284-4911 or larrydennstedt@hotmail.com

MEMBER PROFILE



ED ROSENTHAL

I've driven a few cars over more than a few miles, but now the Miata is my favorite mode of transportation. Over the years I have driven or owned MG, Triumph, Jaguar, Bug-eyed Sprite, Austin-Healy, Datsun Fairlady and a Fiat Bertone X1/9. The picture is of me driving my 1925 Model T Ford.

I got into the Miata family with a 1992 red A package, purchased in 1996 with less than 20,000 miles. Prior to that, I had a 1983 eight-cylinder Mustang convertible. Like so many sports cars, it too was red.

When my friends first saw the Miata, they were appalled! No back seat. At my age there is no need for any help from back seat drivers. And what about an accident? No problem—I have been driving close to seventy years without an accident. And, what if? I was convinced a serious accident in a Miata would result in toast.

Not so! On January 5th I was proceeding east on Highway 52 after turning off I-5. The weather was clear, track fast. Time, about 8:40 a.m. A four-door tan Mercedes started to pull in front of me. I was in the center lane. I took evasive action, pulled right, and went off the road, over the curb, and down an embankment. Stopped after a 180 degree turn, with my rear end (the car's, not mine) against a chain link fence. The air bag did not deploy. The seat belt did its job! Thanks to the seat belt and the sturdy Miata, this is a Member Profile and not an obituary. So the Miata came through for me. As for performance and handling, the X1/9 was closest to the Miata.

Although I am a dedicated non-joiner, I have enjoyed my Miata membership. It is a truly great group. I have been on a few fun runs and in a couple of parades. Since my years of driving have taken their logical toll, I no longer drive at night, and thus have not been to a meeting recently. I do miss the meetings; I especially love the way people ogle and fondle each other's Miatas.

Realizing after looking around at our Fun Runs that not all sports cars need to be red, I recently replaced my red Miata with a white. Hope to see you all out there soon. Give a wave or a toot.

—ED ROSENTHAL

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.



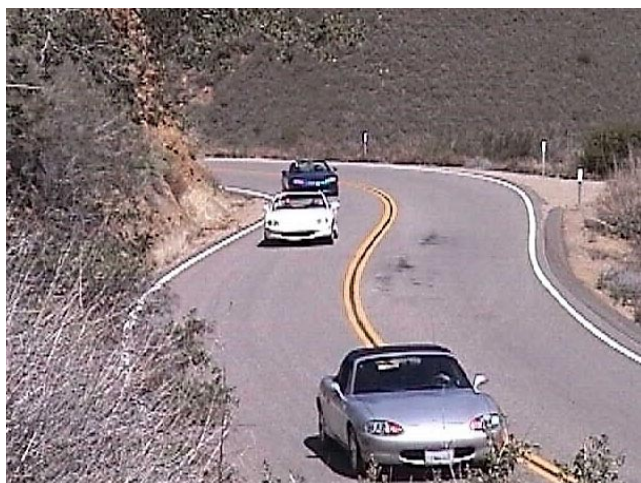


PHOTO: ED & MICHELLE LANGMAD



PHOTO: MARK BOOTH



Rain or Shine Ride To Borrego Springs

February 26, 2000



PHOTO: MARK & CATHY BOOTH

Elliot Shev presents a set of club magnetics to Robert Thompson as Tom Gould looks on.



PHOTO: MARK & CATHY BOOTH

A stop at beautiful Lake Cuyamaca during the run.

About the only thing that was not right on this run was the title. A beautiful spring-like San Diego day meant there was no possibility of rain on this Rain or Shine Ride to Borrego Springs. A nice sized group of about 25 Miatas were joined by a Pontiac Fiero with "Miata" emblazoned on the tail and a Honda S2000 for LAUREN and ROBERT THOMPSON'S first attempt at leading a run. By all accounts, they did a spectacular job in planning and execution. It didn't hurt that a perfect Miata day was sandwiched between the series of storms that blew through the county this past month. Smiles were the order of the day.

Hats off to Lauren and Robert! Wear those magnetics proudly!

—ANTHONY WILDE



PHOTO: MARK & CATHY BOOTH

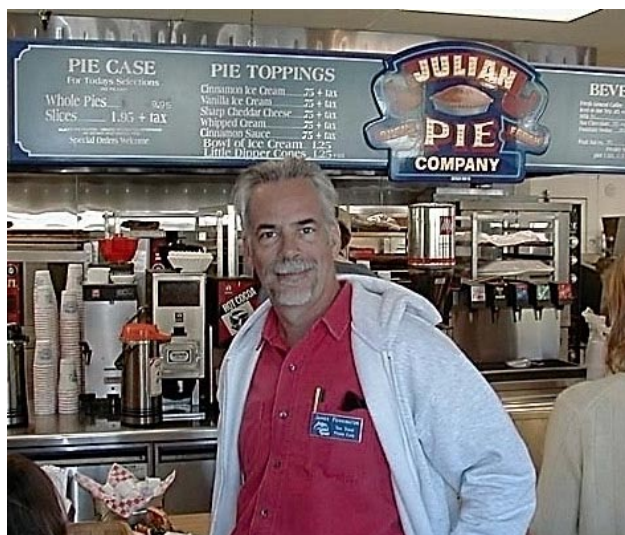


PHOTO: MARK & CATHY BOOTH

James Pennington seems to be quite pleased by the prospect of some fresh baked Julian apple pie.



Executive Board Candidate Biographical Profiles

Elections to the board of directors of the SAN DIEGO MIATA CLUB will take place at the annual membership meeting on April 1. The annual meeting, which is held at the San Diego Automotive Museum (see page 3 for details), is where the actual nominations and voting will take place in accordance with the bylaws of the SAN DIEGO MIATA CLUB.

The following are biographical profiles of members who have announced their intent to seek nomination and subsequent election to the board of directors. These profiles have been provided by the candidates for the purpose of letting the rest of the membership know about themselves and their qualifications, skills, desires, or goals as a member of the executive board. These profiles are *not* a requirement for nomination and election. Other eligible members may also seek nomination for election at the annual meeting. Additionally, candidates may be nominated for more than one office; however, they may only be elected to and hold a single office. *NOTE:* Listings are alphabetical, by last name, under the heading of the office for which the candidate has expressed a desire to be nominated.

—EDITOR

President

SUE HINKLE

"Yes little girl, you could be president" were my grandfather's words as General Eisenhower was sworn into office. Since that day, I have held a number of elected offices in business, charitable and social organizations. People volunteer because they want to and I would like the opportunity to serve SDMC as your president.

My decision to run for president of SDMC came last fall during our first regional event, SURF'N'SAFARI. Serving as Cochairman along with BARB TEMPLETON and a fantastic committee, our goal was to organize an event that would be long remembered by our members and visiting Miataphiles. The best reward was watching all the fun take place.

My husband JACK and my dream of owning a sports car became a reality in 1993 with the purchase of our red Miata. At the time, there was no Miata club based in San Diego and we spent our weekends driving with a few other Miata owners experiencing all the fun we could have with this great roadster. SDMC was formed in the Spring of '96 and we became members that August at MARK and CATHY BOOTH'S Twilight Run. Over the last four years, I have watched 129 Miata enthusiasts grow to 498 members. The commitment of previous boards, appointees and volunteers have made the SAN DIEGO MIATA CLUB the best club in the country - even before our regional event, SURF'N'SAFARI, we were recognized by other clubs as one of the best.

If elected, my goal will be to continue the enthusiasm - encourage more members to become involved with the club and to develop more activities and events. I will be open to new ideas and innovations as we move forward. Of course, the main focus would be doing what we do best - having fun driving our Miatas together.

ELLIOT SHEV

Having served in a variety of positions, including president of other volunteer organizations, currently serving as the treasurer of SAN DIEGO MIATA CLUB (SDMC), and being an executive in a \$50 million dollar company, I have a lot of experience to offer this club. As we have grown to well over 300 memberships, the need to organize and communicate effectively has changed. As president, I would encourage all our members to participate in creating events where our diverse membership can enjoy the focus of the club—having FUN in our Miatas. This means everything from runs, like the one to the Getty museum that BARB and I put together every year, to racing, and everything in-between, including social, fund raising, and driving events. And please don't forget the food. Yes, the food. . . those times when we get together and talk about our favorite topic, our Miatas, in some new-found place just introduced by a member who is putting on his or her first event.

I have been working on cars for over forty years and racing them for a little less than that. I have been involved in motorsports almost all my life, having owned many "hot" cars and sports cars, but taking a break from these while my children were teenagers. When we bought our first Miata, a 1995 Merlot Mica M-Edition, on April 1, 1995, it brought us back to the world of roadsters and wind-in-your-hair driving. Little did we know that this purchase would lead us to a whole new family of friends and fun. Barb and I joined the SDMC in July of '96 and attended our first event in August. Ever since then we have been involved in helping. We organized events, we owned the first "club" jackets, and held lots of tech days helping others learn about caring for their cars. I have spent many weekends helping many members work on their cars. I'm not sure who has the most fun, but I know I love it.

Vice President

SAL CAUSARANO

Having served as secretary of the SDMC for the past year, I would very much like to continue to serve the club as vice president for the coming year. My wife Geri and I have been actively involved in SDMC since joining in March 1998. Soon after becoming empty nesters we bought our first Miata for the sole purpose of traveling and having fun in a sports car. We have come to the realization that the car is probably 40% of the fun factor. Belonging to this club and coming to know the people in it is the other 60%. After two years the love affair continues with my wife, our children, SDMC and our Miata's. Geri has a '94 Montego Blue and I get to drive the '93 Classic Red.

I was born and raised in Long Island, New York, I was transplanted to San Diego in 1971. I graduated from State University of New York and Western Michigan University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Aerospace Engineering and later obtaining my Master of Science in Logistics Management from National University. I am a Naval Aviation veteran having served in the early 1970's. After getting out of the Navy, I decided to work in Naval Civil Service at Naval Aviation Depot, North Island where I spent 27 years. In 1998, I transferred to Space and Naval Warfare Systems Command (SPAWAR) where I currently work as a Logistics Management Division Director.

(Continued on page 8)



Although aircraft was my life's ambition, I turned to automobiles soon after separating from active duty. I bought my first sports car, a Mazda RX-7 in 1983, and the infatuation with the sports car continues. SDMC and the many friends we have made have become an important part of our life. Geri and I would like to see the SDMC continue to thrive and prosper, and grow in spirit. To work toward that goal, I would appreciate your consideration when you vote for vice president.

JEFF DODGE

My primary reason for running for vice president is to help provide an open board, that will discuss its ideas with the membership, in whatever way available, so as to keep a feel on the pulse of the club members. I have heard many good ideas, and I will keep an open mind as to exploring them, as well as informing the membership as to what is being considered. I think the possibilities are unlimited for this club. We have already grown to great proportions and diversity and I see no reason why we can't move forward to even better things in the future.

As to something personal about myself – well, I'm one of your elders, having been in the service through three wars, and happy to be alive to tell you. I have been driving sports cars since I was old enough to do so — from Jaguars, MGs and Healeys to Morris Minors. I have been involved with various car clubs and still am a member of the San Diego Jaguar Club. I might add that this club puts them to shame (don't tell 'em I said that).

In the last twenty-five years before retiring, I was the Director of the five Western states for BankAmerica Business Corp., or derivatives of them. I ended up working for BankAmerica Corp. not by choice, but through numerous acquisitions. My wife says she will keep me around until she learns to like me and I hope you will do the same.

Treasurer

MIKE SHACK

I would like to serve our club board as treasurer. ELINOR and I have owned sports cars for years. In 1984, we bought our 1950 MG TD and joined the San Diego MG T Register. Having been involved in various aspects of that club since (awards chair, program director, and vice president), I have seen programs that can be adopted by the SDMC (examples below). The infusion of new ideas and blood would be a great help to the club. Also, another red car on the board would certainly be appropriate.

With the success of the SURF'N'SAFARI, I suggest we try to institute a regional event in the west run by a steering committee from the clubs west of the Rockies. This committee could be formed by members of the various clubs and aid the local chapter hosting. They could make a boilerplate book available for such events (e.g. instructions for a car show, member regalia and artwork, rallies, vendors, prizes, banquet, awards, an auction whose proceeds help fund the events) to make it easier on the host club. We could visit various locations over time, and wouldn't have to drive the great distances to Orlando, Alaska, the Poconos, or Belgium to enjoy.

I also suggest annual mileage patches be given for tour miles in club sponsored runs that can be worn on our jackets to encourage people to attend club runs or functions - these would be awarded at an annual banquet.

Not all of my MGT experience can be transferred directly. After all, we are not ready for a tech session on installation of real seals to prevent oil leaks from paper seals, or how to hit a fuel pump with just the right screwdriver handle to maintain uphill speed!

I will gladly discuss any of these ideas individually.

Secretary

JIM BROKAW

I would be pleased and honored to be nominated and elected to our board of directors, preferably as secretary or treasurer. I toss my hat into the wind as a member of the "second majority"—the blues! ('94 Laguna Blue). CHARLENE and I have derived much pleasure from the activities and the camaraderie of the club over the past year, and I would like the opportunity to invest my time and energy in the club to help ensure that we continue our tradition of excellence. The goals of our club are clear and sustainable. We will continue to promote the Miata, enjoy good friends, good food, outstanding top-down driving, and help each other keep our roadsters on the road (maybe adding some goodies along the way). And we can do all of this without the needless pain and frustration of over-organization.

I am a Miata-thusiast, not a Miata expert. We have 14" wheels and don't have a turbo. But we keep the top down all the time, and are in it for the fun! Thank you for your consideration.

BARB TEMPLETON

WHO? You know, the other chairbabe for SURF'N'SAFARI. We all had a great time at our first regional event. SDMC folks sure know how to throw a party. My thanks again to the board and all the club members for having had the confidence in those of us on the committee. For five years prior to moving to San Diego in June of '98, JOHN (Wrong Way) and I were very active in the WINDY CITY MIATA CLUB. I was the First Babe in 1995 when John was president and newsletter editor. We had a busy, fun and fulfilling year serving the great folks in the WINDY CITY CLUB.

When John decided to join his company in Poway, he assured me that we would have a great life in California. We could drive our red Miata almost all year. As usual, he was right. This past year has been so enjoyable for John and me. Having everyone to our house to eat after the Puke-O-Rama II, hosting our first annual Basset Run, and keeping most of you well supplied with chocolate chip cookies has been fun. Thank you SDMC and SOCALM for the great times.

I am interested in running for secretary. I want to give back to all of you the enjoyment and fun that I have received as a member of the SDMC. One of the changes I would like to make is to post the minutes from our meetings in a separate folder on the website. This will give everyone an opportunity to read and enjoy what goes on at the monthly meeting.



RAFFLE at the Annual Meeting

In support of the San Diego Automotive Museum

The SAN DIEGO MIATA CLUB belongs to the San Diego Automotive Museum Car Club Council. Our club differs from most of the clubs in that we drive new cars and most members have little interest in the museum or automotive history. There is nothing wrong with this and the interest in the roadster revival will lead to its own group of enthusiasts with a nostalgic preference for vehicle preservation as the Miata ages into the coming decades.

My point is that our club does little for the Museum and, as the SDMC representative on the Council and member of the SDAM Board of Directors, I would like to help raise a little money for the Museum at the annual membership meeting, held in the Museum's Hall of Fame meeting room. We have used this facility, *free of charge*, for every annual meeting the club has held.

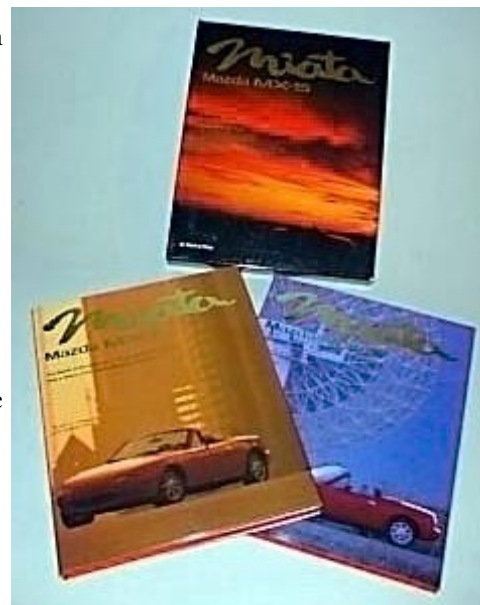
When Mazda donated a pre-production Miata (the 13th car off the line) to the museum back in November of 1992, the company donated several copies of the two-volume, slip-cased set of books "Miata, Mazda MX-5" by Yamaguchi and Thompson. The Museum library has a copy that it would like to use to raise funds. This is in mint condition, in the slipcase, with both volumes individually hand signed by BOB HALL (the 'George Washington' of the Miata), body designer Mark Jordan, and Mazda executive Rod Bymaster, all of whom were present at the Museum donation of the Miata. I think it would make a very nice addition to any M1 owner's memorabilia collection.

—WOODY WOODHOUSE

Additional items will also be part of the raffle in support of the San Diego Automotive Museum. All proceeds from the raffle will be donated to the museum in the name of the SAN DIEGO MIATA CLUB. Don't forget to bring those dollars for a chance to win some pretty neat items. How about a set of white gauge faces for an M1? That's just a hint of what will be part of the raffle.

As TOM GOULD pointed out in a past issue of the newsletter (SDMC News, Volume 3, Number 9, page 6), "Now consider this: *no more M1s*. We pre-99 Miatas are it—everyone that goes to its reward means one less on the road. Forever, amen."

As you can see, Miata owners really do have a connection with historic automobiles of the past. More and more, every day.
—EDITOR



Badges?

Have you been wondering where to get those nifty engraved plastic name badges that have been turning up on members at the latest events? They are available for a mere \$6 each, including shipping to your home from VICKY KRUEGER.

E-mail (voodoo@miata.net) or phone her (858) 486-4711. Then give her cash or put a check in the mail (the badges need to be paid for in advance). Lots of colors are available to match your Miata.

Club Rosters

The February 2000 edition of the club membership roster and handbook is available *free* to all members. You can pick one up at the monthly meeting or at most events from DAVE MARTIN of the *Membership Duo*. If you would like one mailed to you, contact Dave (619) 582-2448 or windwing1@juno.com about postage costs.

Aftermarket Goodies

Replacement Soft Tops

SDMC member STEVE SCHOCK of EuroParts in Rancho Bernardo is now able to order replacement soft tops for Miatas made from the original German Cabrio material. I don't know whether you are aware, but Mazda sourced the material for their tops from Haartz in Germany. It is the identical material that VW uses on their Cabriolet tops.

Steve has just bought a new top for his Laguna Blue Miata. He opted for a Dark Blue custom color with a glass defogger window.



Three basic top options are available:

- | | |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1. Zippered plastic window | \$325 (same as original) |
| 2. Non-zippered plastic window | \$275 |
| 3. Non-zippered glass window | \$395 (with defogger bars in glass) |

The prices quoted do not include a rain rail and are for Black tops only.

Other colors (Beige, Dark Blue (not quite Navy but close), and White are \$75 higher. EuroParts sells, as the name implies, O.E.M. parts for European automobiles such as Mercedes, Audi, VW, Porsche, BMW, SAAB and Volvo at 20% to 75% below franchise dealer prices.

—STEF GOULD

EuroParts
11315 Rancho Bernardo Road - Suite 127
San Diego CA 92127-1461
(858) 451-0020 or orders@europarts-sd.com
www.europarts-sd.com



Where the Hell is Boulevard?

Fun Run

March 4, 2000



PHOTO: RAY ACEVEDO

Fifty Miatas or so (salted and peppered with a Z3 and Honda S2000) braved the cloudy skies and mixed forecasts to answer the musical question, "Where the Hell Is Boulevard?" After whipping the group into shape with bullhorn and doughnuts, JEFF DODGE led the way onto Olde Highway 8, (except for a

wayward bunch who managed to miss the very first turn), and on through Alpine, over the 3000 foot mark on Highway 8 with the shortest viewpoint stop on record. Back on Olde 8, country folk in Guatay, Pine Valley, Buckman Springs (to freshen up), Boulder Oaks, La Posta and Live Oak Springs waved the cavalcade on — on to mysterious Boulevard.

The group split into two chilly groups, one to tour the kitchen of the Wisteria Candy Cottage, and the other half to a buffet bar-b-que lunch at The Burning Tree Restaurant, afterwards to trade places. The tour groups (more of a loiter than a tour — tight-fitting but dulcet-smelling quarters in a historic one-room schoolhouse) watched hand-made candy under labor-intensive construction and were treated to confectionery lore and ingredient samples. After tours, capacious lunches in a country atmosphere-decorated with an estimated 175 running feet of shelved cookbooks-and taking on cargo at the candy store, the pack assembled for a group picture, effectively doubling the local population.

Stomachs were full and the weather seemed warmer, so more driving was in order: Bankhead Springs, Jacumba and the Desert View Tower for a quick stop, then Highway 8 through the In-Ko-Pah (Native

American for Plenty Rocks Here) Gorge to the desert floor at Ocotillo. A left took the Miatas onto S2, later the Old Southern Overland Stagecoach Route (Miatas make the trip somewhat faster, one would imagine).

As the desert route led into Earthquake Valley, at-doo-doo-doo-doo-doo-Blair Valley, the first raindrops appeared on windshields. By the time the turn back up to the mountains at Route 78 was made, it was well and truly raining. Clumps of Miatas were to be seen in turn-offs all the way up Banner Grade, crews in the rain wrestling with boots and tops. Some reckless souls kept going, top down, to discover that the rain quietly bypassed the cockpit as long as forward progress was made, although the turn onto Wynola Road caused some re-thinking when traffic backed up around a few bends. The lead Miatas experienced light snow which stopped by the time the sweep car passed through Wynola. It was one of the club's slower passages along Wynola Road, but the lush and misty scenery wasn't all bad.

The rain had slackened by Santa Ysabel. Some pressed on toward the sunshine visible toward the west, some decided that a little reward was in order for getting wet and hit the pie purveyors. Drive-eat (repeat as desired), and educational, too.

—TOM GOULD



PHOTO: RAY ACEVEDO



PHOTO: CATHY BOOTH



PHOTO: RAY ACEVEDO



PHOTO: CATHY BOOTH

Steve Waid presents club magnetics to Jeff and Gloria Dodge for the WTHIB? run.



PHOTO: RAY ACEVEDO





Surf N' Safari

The beginning of a legendary event

By Alan Paradise

There has been a disturbing trend among automotive enthusiasts clubs the easy event. A decade ago, clubs would truly stage an event. However, over the past few years the majority of clubs have opted for attending easy-to-do gatherings, such as cruise nights and peoples choice shows. Miata clubs have not been exempt from this trend.

This past October, the San Diego Miata Club held an event that was anything but easy. In fact, it took nearly an entire year to bring the four-day event to a successful reality. The event was dubbed "Surf N' Safari," an interactive car and driver program designed to showcase the remarkable attributes of the region.

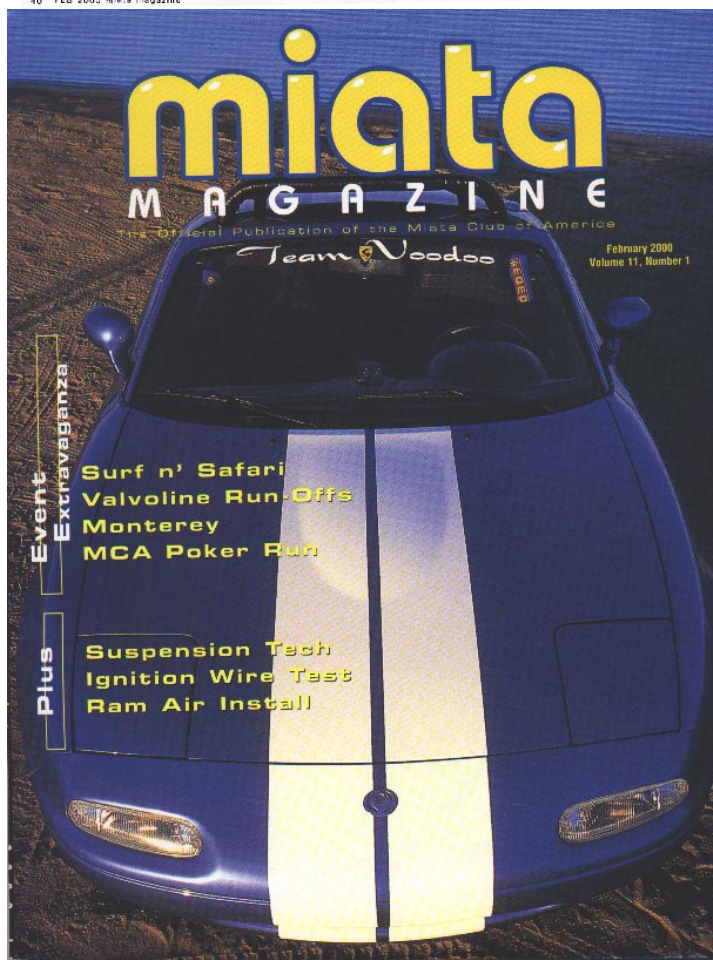
Event Co-Chairman, Sue Winkle and Barb Templeton, headed up a 20-person committee that planned one of the most ambitious event schedules imaginable. From high noon on



Standing point for the event was a special area of the Doubletree Carmel Highlands Resort. This grass registration hut was also the center for official schedules and information.

Every participant received a butterfly bag, filled with special goodies, including an event t-shirt.

40 FEB 2000 miata magazine



miata

MAGAZINE

The Official Publication of the Miata Club of America

Team Voodoo

February 2000
Volume 11, Number 1

Event Extravaganza

Surf n' Safari
Valvoline Run-Offs
Monterey
MCA Poker Run

Plus

Suspension Tech
Ignition Wire Test
Ram Air Install

MIATA MAGAZINE IMAGES USED BY PERMISSION

The Praises for Surf'N'Safari Just Keep Coming!

Fresh on the heels of last month's spread about SURF'N'SAFARI being published in a Japanese magazine, more published praises appear on this side of the Pacific.

Miata Magazine published their February 2000 issue with a four-page spread on SURF'N'SAFARI. The article, written by the new editor of *Miata Magazine*, Alan Paradise, was very positive and reflected well on the club. Praises were also heaped upon the co-chairs for the event, SUE HINKLE and BARBARA TEMPLETON.

The magazine also included a four page article about our own "nearly legendary" VOODOO BOB KRUEGER and his company, Team Voodoo. Bobs' own-voodoowagen, a '91 mariner blue, was showcased alongside fellow club member ELLIOT SHEVS' Cobra-esque '94 Laguna blue. In addition, Elliot scored a first for the SAN DIEGO MIATA CLUB, with his striped beauty gracing the cover of the magazine, the first SDMC car to do so.

Congratulations to everyone involved with SURF'N'SAFARI, the praises just don't seem to stop, and the memories never will.

Let's go surfin' now
Ev'rybody's learnin' how
Come on a safari with me
Come on a safari with me

Early in the mornin' we'll be startin' out
Some honeys will be comin' along
We're loadin' up our Woody with the boards inside
And headin' out singin' our song

{Refrain}

Come on baby, wait and see, yes
Surfer, surfin' safari
I'm gonna take you surfin' with me
Surfer, surfin' safari
Come on along, surf baby, wait and see, yes
Surfer, surfin' safari
I'm gonna take you surfin' with me
Surfer, surfin' safari



UPCOMING EVENTS

The Search for Madonna II

May 6 – 8

Again this year SDMC and SO-CALM members will venture north to the home of VROOM for a driving, eating, and sight-seeing weekend at the fabulous Madonna Inn in San Luis Obispo. As of this writing there are 25 rooms reserved under the group name of SAN DIEGO MIATA CLUB. That leaves only 5 of the group rate rooms. There are, of course, upgrade rooms available.

When: Saturday, May 6 - Sunday, May 7.

We will travel home on Monday, May 8.

Travel Agenda: Leave Oceanside at 7 a.m. on Saturday May 6. Will rendezvous with SOCALM participants north of the San Fernando Valley off of Highway 101. Arrive at the Madonna Inn about 1:30 p.m. VROOM members will take us on a late afternoon run in the area and have us back to the hotel in time for the banquet dinner. Sunday will be a less structured day with sight seeing options including Pismo Beach, Morro Bay, Cambria, the wine country, and, of course, Hearst Castle in San Simeon. Sunday events are still being planned. Dinner is open. We will head back home at 10 a.m. Monday morning.

What to expect: This is not a cheap weekend, but it is unique and eventful. The Madonna Inn rooms are \$107 per night and if you chose to upgrade it can go as high as \$218. The banquet will run approximately \$25 per person (5 courses, includes tax and tip), to be paid in advance. You will probably end up driving a total of over 800 miles for the three days. However, it is a HOOT. The Madonna Inn is like nothing you have ever seen, and of course the company (fellow Miata-philis) is without compare.

What to do: If this sounds like fun to you, then reserve a room at the Madonna Inn as soon as you can. Without the room, it just won't be the same. The Madonna Inn website at www.madonnainn.com has pictures of many of the 109 unique rooms. Each is different. Mention the SAN DIEGO MIATA CLUB group to get the group rate (\$107 instead of \$117). Then e-mail or telephone me so that I can put you on the Madonna Inn data base and e-mail list. The next 30 days are when things really start to happen!

—LAURIE and STEVE WAID

swaid@home.com or (760) 432-0727

Run to the Getty Museum and Brainstorm Open House

Saturday, June 10

Please mark your calendars for June 10, 2000 for a special trip to see one of the great masterpieces of art right here in our own back yard. Not only are the contents of this museum a treasure, the setting, the building, the landscape and the view are equally amazing and a treasure as well.

If you missed this trip the last two years, here is your chance to experience this phenomenal place, and if you did it before, plan to join us again; it's worth it, as you know! We have been given 50 automobile reservations by the Getty Museum. The normal parking fee of \$5 will be waived since we are a nonprofit organization. These reservations were made a year ago, they are hard to get! Also, we have reserved picnic tables for lunch at 1:00 p.m. You can pack a lunch and enjoy some friendly Miata talk or eat in one of the restaurants. Check it out on the web at www.getty.edu/museum and then RSVP, as space is limited to the first 50 cars.

Now for the SPECIAL event. We have all been invited back, by the owners, Roshan and Dali, to Brainstorm for cocktails and munchies after the Getty. Those who would like to visit Brainstorm and see what specials are in store for us there, we will caravan over at about 4:30 p.m. They are very close to the museum.

—BARB and ELLIOT SHEV

RSVP to (858) 679-0777 or mooncalf@aol.com

Fall Leaf Run 2000

Sunday, September 24

This will be a joint event with the UTAH MIATA CLUB in Provo, Utah. It will be a *minimum* five day event including travel days.

We attended this event last year and had a great time—the leaves were spectacular. There are a few differences in running in Utah. We encountered sheep & cattle right on the highways. Plus we had a couple of low level water crossings.

We will leave San Diego on Thursday, September 21 and begin the return on Monday, September 25.

If you are interested in attending this event please contact:

LAUREN or ROBERT THOMPSON

ltomp@mylineup.com or (858) 488-3764.

New Members!

Welcome to our newest members (since last newsletter):

GENE & MICHAEL CARTER

Bonita

1999 Emerald Green leather

BOB & JULI DAVIS

Chino Hills

1999 Emerald Green leather, 1992 Silver B

LARRY FIMON

Poway

1996 Montego Blue

CHRIS GUGLIEMUCCI

San Diego

1999 Red Leather

DENNIS & BEV LAUCK

Coronado

1991 Red

LOIS A. RICHARDS

San Diego

1997 Red

LYNDA STEPHENSON

San Diego

1994 Red

Renewing members (since last newsletter):

CHARLIE & LISA KILGORE

BOBBY KLEEMANN

HAMILTON LOWDER

JON MARTINEZ & JUDY POWELL

PAULA MUDARRI

DIXIE & MARTIN RATH

FRANK SHINE & STEPHEN DELONGE

As of March 18, 2000, there are 322 memberships consisting of 503 members (181 dual, 141 single).

Memberships by Miata Color:

90 Red

49 White

38 Black

25 Emerald Green

21 Montego Blue

21 Silver

13 Sapphire Blue

11 Mariner Blue

11 BRG

11 Starlight Blue

9 Laguna Blue

8 Twilight Blue

7 Merlot

6 Marina Green

4 Yellow

10 Unreported



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As we approach the final few days of "lap four," I pause to reflect on the year I spent as your president. Normally, what I would reflect upon would be the events that occurred. SURF'N'SAFARI was the club's first attempt at hosting a regional event and it was an unarguable success. But what comes to mind most often when I reflect back on the last twelve months are the personal relationships that have become stronger through this experience. I can't begin to mention everyone that I have gotten to know better, but I would like to share some examples.

Last year I was elected president and three others were elected to offices on your board. VOODOO BOB KRUEGER was re-elected as our vice-president and SAL CAUSARANO and ELLIOT SHEV were newly elected secretary and treasurer respectively. I had been a SDMC member for two years, so I already knew these men, even though Sal had been a member for but a year. But I got to really *know* them as we worked together with the rest of the administrative board.

Voodoo Bob Krueger, a "nearly legendary" icon in the world of Miatas, is someone who stated from the beginning that "My promise as your vice-president is to do nothing." Naturally, he couldn't keep his promise. He cares too much. Bob and I have spent a lot of time together and the thing that we both agree on is that, on many things, we would probably disagree as often as we agree. I like Bob. Why, you ask, when we spend so much time disagreeing? Because Bob is so capable of clearly explaining why he thinks the way he does. I have always enjoyed "debating" people on ideas. Bob articulates his ideas so well that he has even convinced me he was right a couple of times. I ordinarily don't like to admit that, but Bob can be very convincing. . .maybe it's the Voodoo. Truly, Bob and I have agreed to

disagree on many things, but the thing we do agree on is that we like and respect each other. This relationship was built through the trials and tribulations of working together with a common goal. . .to HAVE FUN!

The quiet man, Sal Causarano, is the guy with whom I most often agree. Sal and I just think alike. I assume that it's his high level of intelligence. . .at least that's what I think. Sal is a man of economy. He doesn't waste words and he doesn't waste time. He does a lot of listening (with GERI around, that is a must), processes the information, and then states his opinion. For me, Sal is an easy guy to like. He agrees with me.

Elliot Shev was, for me, the most difficult to get to understand. On the surface he and I are the most unlike one another. I am a tall (full-sized adult) Christian, and Elliot is a short (undersized) Jewish guy. Elliot is a high-powered executive in a fast-paced multinational corporation, and I am not a high-powered anything. I am a really nice guy and Elliot is...Elliot. When Elliot and I first tried to do something together, he spent much of the time telling me how "it couldn't be done" ... and that "it wouldn't work if somehow we could get it done" ...and "it's a stupid idea in the first place." But then I would look around and he had the job done. These days, whenever I buy something new for one of our Miatas, the first thing Elliot says is "I have an extra one of those in my garage; why didn't you say something? You could have had it for nothing." Then he helps me install the one I bought. That's Elliot. What I have come to know is that there is no one that does more to help people with their cars than Elliot. There are others who do a lot as well, but I have just seen too many different people at the Shev's getting things done on their cars to doubt what I say. The funny thing is that I *really* like Elliot. He makes me laugh...even when he's

yelling. He will go the extra mile to help anyone. I dare you to test this statement.

I wanted to let you know a little bit about my experience as president because the relationships that I have developed have been worth all of the time and effort spent "doing the club's business." There are many more I have gotten to know as well. ANTHONY "NEVADABOB" WILDE, ROBERT "JT" HOLLAND, MARK BOOTH, STEF GOULD, CINDY PALOMA, RAINER MUELLER, and more recently, GALE CHAN and DAVE MARTIN.

The SURF'N'SAFARI committee offered me, and others, a glimpse of how close your relationships with people can get when you work with them toward achieving a singular goal. JACK DILUSTRO, BARBARA TEMPLETON, and JUDY POWELL are three people that I did not know well before SURF'N'SAFARI. Now that SURF'N'SAFARI has come and gone, I feel like I know them very well and list them among the close friends that I have been fortunate to make while sitting in the president's chair.

Because this is "*only a car club*" and not a big corporation, you also get to know the spouses of each of these board and committee members. Whatever I do with the SAN DIEGO MIATA CLUB, LAURIE does as well. As with "the Borg" in Star Trek, the spouses are part of "the collective." I don't think of Voodoo Bob without my mind seeing VICKY. I never say "Sal" without "Geri." BARB SHEV is never overlooked when you discuss Elliot. And the beat goes on.

The neat thing about being an officer of the club is you get to know so many great people. You are most likely to intimately get to know the club members with whom you work most closely. This is what is sometimes perceived as a clique...this closeness. The term clique ordinarily carries with it a negative connotation. My experience is that being a part of "the clique" can be a *good* thing. I hope that you all get a chance to be a part of the clique. Wouldn't that be great?

My time as president of the SAN DIEGO MIATA CLUB and member of the board has given me many more close friends than I could have ever dreamed. "So what," you ask. Well, wouldn't you like to feel about your Miata friends as I do about mine? Run for office...volunteer...put on a run...do something for the club. The payback is worth it.

—STEVE WAID



PHOTO: TOM SPRAGUE

Former SDMC president Rainer Mueller (left) shows outgoing president Steve Waid how much fun you can have after retiring from one long year in office.

