



VOLUME 5 NUMBER 12

UPCOMING EVENTS

-  December 2 - Saturday
Autocross at the "Q"
-  December 3 - Sunday
Tech Day at the Causarano's
-  December 9 - 11
SDMC/SOCALM Driving School
-  December 15 - Friday
**Christmas Card Lane
Holiday Lights Tour**
-  December 16 - Saturday
**Run to Julian for a Victorian
Christmas Tea**
-  December 17 - Sunday
Autocross at the "Q"
-  December 17 - Sunday
SDMC Holiday Party
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-  December 28 - Thursday
Monthly Meeting
-  January 1, 2001 - Monday
Autocross at the "Q"
-  January 1, 2001 - Monday
Millennium Hangover Run II

Want to Earn Your SDMC Magnetics?

See Page 4 for More Details!

SAN DIEGO MIATA CLUB NEWS

DECEMBER 2000

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Only 25 Days 'til Christmas? I Want a Recount!

I hope you all had a wonderful and fulfilling Thanksgiving. This year has really gone by fast. It seems that it was just yesterday that we voted for President of the United States. As of this writing, we still don't have one; hopefully, by the time you read this we will. All kidding aside, this year is almost over, and taking a peek in the rear view mirror, it sure was fun!

The number of weekends void of a scheduled event were certainly few. It seems that most of those were filled in with impromptu runs, rounding things out to a very full schedule. Here's a sprinkling of the highlights we all enjoyed this past year.

We started out in January with the annual Hangover Run. The big Brainstorm event in February was accompanied by the Laughlin Overnight Getaway. In March we had the WTHIB run, lots of autocross, and the amazing Puke-O-Rama! April started out with the annual meeting, followed by McKamey Autocross School, the Palm Springs Shopping Getaway. The Flower Run and the Nethercutt Collection Run rounded out this busy month. May had us searching for Madonna again, and we found our way to the Best of the Bunch car show. We can't forget the Dam-HOT-Run. Hang on, on second thought, maybe I can. It was really hot, but fun! June took us to the Getty, Irwindale Speedway, Dromo One, and a memorable day at MDA Camp. July started out with a bang as we won another first place in the Scripps Ranch July 4th parade, followed by our first cruise night in Escondido, Dennstedt's tech day, and the amazing Murder Mystery Fun Run. What a month! August hosted the 6th annual Twilight Run (I can't wait for the 7th), more Cruisin' Grand Ave., Dinner with the Stars, the Monterey Historic Automobile Races, my grandkids' arrival from Okinawa with parents in tow, and the Miles of Miatas for MDA. September started out with the MDA Telethon making me the proud presenter to MDA of proceeds of all your hard work, \$10,000. What a club! This was followed by more Cruisin' Grand Ave., the Train Races, and the Utah Fall Leaf Run. October saw Phil Wolfson's 50th birthday party, the SURF'N'VERSARY, and the Kooky Survivor Rallye. Which brings us to last month's Post Honeymoon Run, the Hearst Castle Run, and all the while autocross events almost every month.

Well, next up is December and as you can see by the column at the left, we still have more fun before the year is over. Tech days, Willow Springs, holiday parties, autocross, and the fun just keeps on coming.

Can you believe this? And this is just some of the things we did. The diversity of our membership allows each of us to have the opportunity to share special places in our lives with the other 500-plus members, and them with us. This is what is so great about this group. I know I have gone to places and done things I never would have done on my own. Wow, I can't wait until next year!

BARB and I wish all of you and your families the best for the holidays and a safe, healthy, prosperous, and happy New Year filled with all your dreams.

— ELLIOT



SDMC Holiday Party

When: Sunday, December 17

Time: 6 to 10 p.m.

Place: Harbor Inn, Naval Submarine

Base in Point Loma, San Diego

Price: \$27 per person

Menu: Buffet Style—appetizers at 6 p.m. and dinner at 7 p.m.



Hors d'oeuvres station, dessert station, coffee station, no-host bar, two salads, prime rib with red roasted potatoes and fresh steamed vegetables or stuffed chicken breast with rice pilaf and fresh steamed vegetables.

Optional Gift Exchange: To participate in the gift exchange, you need to bring a wrapped Miata-related or driving-related gift (not to exceed \$25 in value). The idea is, you bring a gift and you take a gift home.

Directions: The Harbor Inn is conveniently located at the "very end" of Rosecrans Street in San Diego and can be reached from I-5 north or south or off the I-8 Freeway. To pass through the guard posted at the entrance to the base, please identify yourself as part of the SAN DIEGO MIATA CLUB.

Questions: Call MARY ANN WALLNER, (760) 722-8375 or mwallner@csusm.edu

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.

Either see Vicky at a monthly meeting or phone her at (858) 486-4711. You will need to give her cash up front, as the badges need to be paid for in advance. Lots of colors are available to match your Miata.

MISSION STATEMENT

The purpose of the club is to promote the enjoyment of, and enthusiasm for, one of the world's most exciting sports cars — the Mazda Miata.

Owning and driving a Miata is one of life's great pleasures, and adding the company and camaraderie of like-minded enthusiasts only enhances the experience. Won't you join the fun as we enjoy the beauty of San Diego county from the seat of a very special little roadster?

Let's have fun driving our Miatas!

Got Zoom?

zoom ----- T-Shirts

Zoom ----- Sweatshirts

ZOOM --- Pins & Decals!

ZOOM, ZOOM, ZOOM! Get your SDMC Regalia directly from the Regalia Gals (ROZ & PAULA) at the upcoming monthly meeting.

Zoom on down and pick up a few great club items to show off your enthusiasm for the incredible Mazda Miata, and the SAN DIEGO MIATA CLUB.

Got special sizes, items you want? Call or e-mail ROZ or PAULA and let them know and they will personally hand deliver the items to you at the meeting. ROZ SCOTT & PAULA KENNISON (760) 789-3872 or (858) 271-8498 regalia@sandiegomiataclub.org

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NOTICES

The SAN DIEGO MIATA CLUB is a non-profit organization.

The *SAN DIEGO MIATA CLUB NEWS* is the monthly newsletter of the SAN DIEGO MIATA CLUB. Use of articles or stories by other Miata clubs 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

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

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



UPCOMING EVENTS FOR THE MONTH OF DECEMBER

Autocross

Date: Saturday, December 2

Time: 9 a.m.

Place: Qualcomm Stadium, west lot
Mission Valley
SDAD Championship

Tech Day at the Causaranos

Date: Sunday, December 3

Time: 10 a.m.

Place: Home of GERI & SAL CAUSARANO
24308 Ysidro Drive, Ramona,
(760)787-0624 or e-mail

wooddust@aol.com or montegom@aol.com

Are you looking for a time and place to work on your Miata, assistance in installing that new "goodie" you just bought, or do you just want to spend time with friends and watch the crazy things Miata owners do to their cars?

Well, Sunday, December 3, is the day for you. Sal & Geri Causarano are hosting a Tech Day at their home in Ramona (Planet Pluto). We have three garage bays and lots of outside work area to accommodate the average Tech Day project. Sal has arranged for Mike from Dent Man to do dent removal for those that are interested. Mike offers a 15% discount to SAN DIEGO MIATA CLUB members. Sal & Geri are also considering asking JJ Windshields to come out and do windshield replacement for those in need. He replaced Little Red's windshield a couple of months ago and we are going to have him replace Candie's, her third. Windshield replacement ranges from \$130-150, depending on the type of windshield you choose.

Do you have a project you would like to do? Any and all suggestions will be appreciated. Please either call or e-mail Sal & Geri to ask questions or make recommendations and to reserve a time for dent removal and/or windshield replacement.

As usual, we would not expect anyone to go through the trouble of visa renewal, refilling air tanks, or whatever other preparations are needed to come up to the best driving roads in the county without offering coffee, bagels, donuts, hamburgers, hot dogs, salads, and soda.

We hope this will turn out to be a productive and, as usual, FUN day.

Directions to Planet Pluto: Highway 67 to 3rd Street in Ramona (the Sizzler is on the corner). Turn right onto 3rd Street. 3rd becomes Old Julian Highway. At the intersection of Old Julian Highway and Vista Ramona, go straight onto Vista Ramona. Follow the road up and down and around to a yield sign. Turn left onto Sargeant. The Causarano's are on the corner of Sargeant and Ysidro. The address is: 24308 Ysidro Drive.

SDMC/Socalm Driving School

Date: December 9-11

Place: Willow Springs Raceway

Contact: JON MARTINEZ, (949) 361-0838
or jontronics@home.com

Christmas Card Lane Holiday Lights Tour and More!

Date: Friday, December 15

Time: 7 p.m. Preceded by dinner at
5 p.m. or later at Doubletree Hotel

Place: DoubleTree Carmel Highlands
Hotel, Rancho Penasquitos (I-15 at
Carmel Mountain Road). Queue up in
church parking lot across the street
from the hotel.

Run Leaders: SUE and JACK DiLUSTRO,
(858) 484-2427 or jdilustro@hotmail.com

The second annual Christmas Card Lane drive/walking tour in Rancho Penasquitos is a great way to enjoy the holiday season. The display of over 200 homes decorated with huge Christmas/holiday card scenes has been featured in newspapers and on TV for several years. If you haven't seen these displays, it is a must and the perfect way to get in the holiday spirit.

We will start the evening at the Doubletree Carmel Highlands Resort in Rancho Penasquitos. Meet in Mulligan's or Terraces restaurants for pre-run dinner anytime after 5 p.m. Pasta dinner special or burgers, club sandwiches, etc. start at \$5.75.

If you can't make dinner, queue up at the church parking lot, across the street from the hotel, at 7 p.m. We will then caravan to Christmas Card Lane at Carmel Mountain Road/Twin Trails Drive and begin the one hour tour. Bring your CBs so we can *oooh* and *aaaah* and describe our favorite scenes to each other.

Following the drive-thru tour of

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

RAIN or SHINE - This will be a fun-filled evening. Please RSVP so we can plan how much wine, cider, and cookies to warm up.

Directions: Take I-15 to Carmel Mountain Road exit. Go west to the first traffic light and then turn right on Rancho Penasquitos Drive. Turn right into the Doubletree Carmel Highlands Hotel parking lot. This is where we had the SURF'N'SAFARI event.

Run to Julian for a Victorian Christmas Tea

Date: Saturday, December 16

Meeting Time: 11 a.m.

Meeting Place: Costco Shopping Center
San Marcos on Nordahl (by Dalton's
Roadhouse).

Run Hostess: MARY ANN WALLNER
(760)722-8375 or mwallner@csusm.edu

Please join me for a run to Julian on December 16th. I thought it would be fabulous to organize a Miata run through some of the same beautiful east county roads that were driven during the SURF'N'VERSARY run. Starting time is 11 a.m. and we would finish in Julian around 1:30.

The cost for the Christmas tea is \$14.50 per person excluding tax and gratuity. The menu will include finger sandwiches, savorys, nut breads, scones with whipped cream and jams, and a selection of desserts. To find out more you can log onto <http://www.juliantea.com>.

Plus, we have a wonderful additional stop in Julian. Valorie Ashley, a friend of mine, has opened a bed and breakfast inn in Julian at one of the historical homes just down the street from the tea house. If anyone is interested (besides myself) in staying there overnight, please let me know so that I can include you in my reservations. Space is limited so don't wait. Here is Valorie Ashley's Web site

December Events (Continued on page 4)



December Events (Continued from page 3)
information: <http://www.villadevalor.com>.

We have worked out a deal and the approximate cost would be \$55 per person, but that might change depending upon the number of people who want to stay. DON'T WAIT.....TIME'S A WASTIN'...RSVP SOON!

Autocross

Date: Sunday, December 17

Time: 9 a.m.

Place: Qualcomm Stadium
Mission Valley

SDMC Holiday Party

When: Sunday, December 17

Time: 6 to 10 p.m.

Place: Harbor Inn, Naval Submarine
Base in Point Loma, San Diego



☞ See Important Details on Page 2

Monthly Meeting

Date: Thursday, December 28

Time: 6 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!

FUTURE EVENTS

Autocross

Date: Monday, January 1, 2001

Time: 9 a.m.

Place: Qualcomm Stadium
Mission Valley

Millennium Hangover Run II

Joint SOCALM and SDMC Run

Date: 01-01-01 (Monday, January 1, 2001)

Time: about 11:01 a.m. (optional lunch beforehand), 1:01 p.m. (run only)

Lunch: Walnut Grove Restaurant,
26871 Ortega Highway,
San Juan Capistrano, (949) 493-1661
www.sjc.net/dine/walnutgrove

Run Meeting Place: C. Russell Cook
Park, behind Orange County Health
Services, southeast corner of Rancho
Viejo Road and Calle Arroyo, San
Juan Capistrano.

Contact: K. ZACK BROADBENT,
president@socalm.org (714) 449-9280

A Need for Future Events

Hello, fellow Miata enthusiasts, this is your friendly (pushy) Events Coordinator. It is that time again when I must ask to have dates filled.

We have very little in the way of events planned after the first of the year and I would really like to fill the calendar. How about we start 2001 with your favorite place? There are lots of things to see in our wonderful San Diego County. We have the most wonderful roads around—proof being that part of the new Miata brochure was shot on our own Mesa Grande Road.

Do you have someplace you would like to show off? Do you just know of some wonderful roads you would like to drive, but not alone? Do you enjoy the banter on the CB radios as we lose each other while driving those favorite roads?

Our club not only likes to take day drives, but if you have an overnigher (e.g. Madonna Inn) that you would like to take the club on, just let me know and I will carve the date in stone.

There is only one way to earn those wonderful magnetics you see on other cars. You must lead a run. The run must be available to the entire club. It must also be written up for our newsletter.

We have lots of new members and many have expressed interest in leading a run, but are not sure about how to go about it. First, you can check out the section of the member handbook on planning a fun run. This will give you a general idea of what is involved, and how to go about it. This information is also available on the club Web site. You can also ask any board member for assistance and they will be more than willing to help.

So step up and be in charge—YOU CAN GO WHEREVER YOU WANT AND AT YOUR OWN PACE. Remember, when you lead a run you decide where and what time it will begin and end.

Who is going to be first?

— GERI CAUSARANO
Events Coordinator
(760)787-0624
events@sandiegomiataclub.org

AUTOCROSS AT THE "Q"



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

Monday, January 1, 2001.....practice day
Saturday, January 20.....practice day
Sunday, January 21.....race day
Sunday, February 11.....practice day
Sunday, February 18.....race day
Saturday, March 3.....practice day
Sunday, March 4.....race day
Friday, March 16.....National Tour
Saturday, March 17..... " " "
Sunday, March 18..... " " "
Sunday, April 8.....race day
Saturday, April 21.....practice day
Sunday, April 22.....race day
Sunday, June 10.....race day
Saturday, June 23.....practice day
Sunday, June 24.....race day
Saturday, June 28.....practice day
Sunday, June 29.....race day

To confirm autocross information, call:

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

Web page

www.sdr-solo2.com

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.

UPCOMING NATIONAL AND REGIONAL EVENTS

Fifth Annual Miata Performance

Driving School at Thunderhill Raceway
March 23-25, 2001

The school will be held at the Thunderhill track in Willows just off I-5, about an hour north of Sacramento. Two-and-a-half days of training and other special events, all aimed at enabling you to become a safer driver and to help you get every ounce of performance out of your Miata.

This year, besides the instructors and all the track time, there are plans for adding a skid pad and decision tree to make things more interesting and fun.

You can register via the Internet by going to the Thunderhill Miata Performance Driving School Web Site at <http://www.teammiata.com/thunderhill/school.htm>. Fill out the on-line form, print it out, and send it in with your check.



NEW MEMBERS!

WELCOME to our newest members
(since last newsletter):

BILL & CHARLETTE KNEPPER
Spring Valley
2001 Crystal Blue

GARY & JAN O'HARA
Escondido
2001 Emerald Green LS

WALLACE PALMATIER & PAUL BARCHUS
San Diego
2001 Crystal Blue

MIKE & ANDI SCHWARTZ
San Diego
1994 Red R

BILL SHAFFER
San Diego
1997 STO (Twilight Blue)

BRANDT & JANICE ZIEGLER
Santee
1997 M (Marina Green)

Renewing members (since last newsletter):

DALE A. DEL FIERRO
ANNETTE & LARRY DENNSTEDT
EILEEN FORE
RON & NANCY GELINAS
ANNE C. HENRY
DAMON T. JOHNSON
RICK KEACH & MAIGA BERZINS
HOWARD KUZMINSKI
KEVIN LAKKIS, TOYO TIRES
SCOTT & JOANNA LANGHOFF
DAVID & LEANNE LYNN
PAUL & JEAN MCKEIGHAN
JEFF & KIM PENTA
RICHARD RANSBURG &
ELIZABETH DOUGLASS
JOHN & JOYCE RICHARDSON
DAVID & STEPHANIE SHABESTARI
BENGT SPETSMARK

Membership Statistics

As of November 25, 2000, there are 337 memberships (139 single, 198 dual) for a total of 535 members.

Memberships by Miata Color:

93	Red
53	White
40	Black
29	Emerald Green
25	Silver
15	Sapphire Blue
14	Montego Blue
10	Starlight Blue
9	Marina Green
9	Mariner Blue
9	Twilight Blue
7	BRG
7	Laguna Blue
6	Mahogany
6	Merlot
5	Yellow
3	Crystal Blue
2	Evolution Orange
1	Eggplant (custom)
1	Teal (custom)
10	Unreported*

* Unreported means a member does not have a Miata at this time.



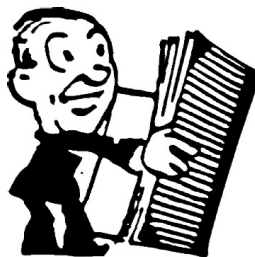
Membership Handbook

A new edition of the MEMBERSHIP HANDBOOK is being prepared for distribution. The handbook is a valuable resource for every SAN DIEGO MIATA CLUB member. It contains a plethora of club information, including the history of the SDMC, tips on how to plan fun runs, how (and why) to plan a tech day, and proper e-mail etiquette. The handbook also contains a MEMBERSHIP ROSTER and MEMBER'S BUSINESS DIRECTORY. We need your help to ensure the directories are up-to-date.

The MEMBERSHIP ROSTER lists each member's name, Miata year, the all-important Miata color, license plate, and city of residence. In addition, each member's contact information, telephone, and e-mail address are listed for the private use of other members. *A member's contact information is NOT published if the member indicated they did not wish to share that information on their most recent membership application/renewal.* If you have moved, changed Miatas, changed your e-mail address, or have other changes since your last membership renewal, contact either GALE CHAN or DAVE MARTIN (the membership duo) to update your information. You can e-mail both Gale and Dave at membership@sandiegomiataclub.org or call the club message line at (619) 582-2448.

In addition, a MEMBER'S BUSINESS DIRECTORY section of the handbook is set aside for members who may have a product or service that may be of interest to other club members. This listing is provided as a service to and for members at no charge. To have your business listed, please send information, using the following format, to membership@sandiegomiataclub.org or to the club post office box (address is on page 2 of this newsletter).

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



"Y'all come back and see us." I could hear all three laughing as the door closed behind me.

#5

A group of five people are gathered outdoors in a paved area, possibly a parking lot. On the left, a woman wears a red Harley-Davidson t-shirt, blue jeans, and sunglasses, holding a red fire extinguisher. Next to her is a woman in a green shirt and black pants, holding a water bottle. In the center, a woman in a floral shirt and light blue jeans is looking at a large white sheet of paper, likely a map. To her right, a man in a green vest and blue jeans is also looking at the paper. In the background, another person wearing a tan hat is partially visible. The background shows a building with large windows and a wooden structure.

PHOTO: CHARLENE & IIM BROKAW



DUBOIS: MICHELLE & EDI ANOMALID



PHOTO: VOODOO BOB KRUEGER

The Corvettes of Bob Paterson and Noel Park lead the field as group 4 takes the green flag.



October 21- 22
4th Annual Coronado Classic
Speed Festival



PHOTO: VOODOO BOB KRUEGER

1953 Allard J2X of Bob Lytle exits turn 11.



PHOTO: VOODOO BOB KRUEGER

Two-time Indy 500 winner Rodger Ward in Rug Cunningham's 1959 Porsche 356.



PHOTO: DAVID "WOODY" WOODHOUSE

Above— Geri & Sal Causarano brought their "home away from home" and placed it next to the Start/Finish line. With such a prime location, and food, it soon became the hub of SDMC activity.

Right— For the fourth year, the San Diego Miata Club presence in the Car Club Corral was unrivaled.



PHOTO: DAVID "WOODY" WOODHOUSE

David Love's beautiful 1958 250 Testa Rossa enters turn 4.



PHOTO: VOODOO BOB KRUEGER

An unusually gloomy San Diego skyline presides over the start of the group 6 race.



PHOTO: VOODOO BOB KRUEGER



ANTIA and SCOTT ROSIN were married on October 21. November 4 - Saturday **Post Honeymoon Run** After the wedding they headed off to Yosemite for their honeymoon. On November 4th, Anita and Scott celebrated with their Miata friends the only way they could, with a run followed by food!



The day began at Kit Carson Park with more than twenty Miatas decorated with wedding pom poms (silver, of course). With Anita's white veil blowing behind, Scott led the wedding party along the twisty roads east toward Santa Ysabel. A stop at Dudley's was a requirement, being it was so close. The most colorful wedding parade around continued north on Highway 79 and then west toward an SDMC favorite, De Luz Canyon.

The spirited driving left everyone rather hungry. Not to worry...BARB TEMPLETON had been cooking for days and was ready for the hungry horde. Casa Templeton took on the look of a full-blown wedding reception, including a double-layer wedding cake.

Twists and turns all day, food and fun in the evening; memories for a lifetime.

Congratulations, Anita and Scott!



PHOTO: SCOTT ROSIN



PHOTO: DIANE LONG

Anita shows her bauble to Sue Kesler, Paula Kennison, and Dee Johnson.



PHOTO: DIANE LONG

John Templeton helps Barb with the festivities in the only way he knows how.



PHOTO: DIANE LONG

After a wonderful meal at the home of Barb and John Templeton, Scott and Anita cut the wedding cake. The usual result soon followed.



PHOTO: DIANE LONG



PHOTO: DIANE LONG

The message on the back of Scott's shirt says it all!





PHOTO: MARK BOOTH

Veterans Day Parade

November 11, 2000

When I first read GERI CAUSARANO's e-mail on the night of 9 November looking for cars to transport dignitaries for the Veteran's Day parade, it occurred to me, as it did to everyone else, this is certainly a last minute request from the parade committee. Most of the members (including me) had already made plans for Saturday, 11 November, plus there was a threat of rain for that day. The natural inclination was to say "too late."

But, then I read president ELLIOT SHEV'S e-mail encouraging all members who possibly could participate to do so, not only for our club but to honor those who serve our country. I sent an e-mail to Geri telling her to count me in. Being a proud veteran myself, I wanted to do my part to help—as I know was the same feeling of most of us.

The next day was Friday, 10 November, which happened to be the 225th Birthday of the U. S. Marine Corps, so I was making my rounds celebrating with active, Reserve, and former Marines. It was great seeing so many of my old Marine friends again. I called Geri Causarano when I arrived home to find out how

many members we had for the parade. She said that apparently I hadn't read her e-mail yet; and that, we had a total of three Miatas.

Needless to say, I was deeply disappointed. She gave me the names of LOU STARK, NICK SANDIN and myself—that was it for the parade. I told Geri that I would try to put something out and see if we could get more members to attend. She said to go for it, which I did.

That night I also received an e-mail from RUTH STARK asking me to look out for Lou at the meeting point. Early the next morning (11 November), the day of the parade, I received a call from TED and SUE KESLER saying they would be at the meeting place with both of their Miatas. I left for the County Administration building (the meeting place) around 0830 to check in with the parade coordinator, and then began the long wait to see how many Miatas would show up.

Lou Stark was the first, then about forty-five minutes later Ted and Sue Kesler and LYLE MELTON appeared, then Nick Sandin about fifteen minutes later. Then we were all surprised when JERRY BOSTER arrived because we weren't expecting any more members. We now had a total of seven Miatas staged for the parade—not bad for such a late start on short notice.

After about 30 minutes or so just milling around and making car-talk with each other, we finally got the word to drive to the pick-up area for the dignitaries. We had decided that we would drive to the pick-up area by car color—red, white, and blue—except that we would let Sue

lead with Rose (the name of her Sunburst Yellow Miata). The only problem was that Sue made a wrong turn in the parking lot, and the Corvette Club got ahead of us. That actually worked to our advantage, as our club had the honor of carrying some big names in the parade.

As many of you know by seeing the evening news, Sue



PHOTO: MARK BOOTH

Kessler had the honor of driving Mayor-elect Dick Murphy, Ted Kesler drove Congressperson-elect Susan Davis, as well as Rep. Bob Filner on his second trip around. Lou Stark had the double honor of driving County Supervisor Bill Horn on his first trip and Mrs. Semper Fi (Semper Fidelis, the Marine Corps motto, which is Latin for "Always Faithful") on his second.

Lou, you lucky son of a gun! I didn't even get a chance to take pictures of you two. I understand that she had on a red gown, and wanted to ride in a red car, so I was out of luck anyway with my 10AE.

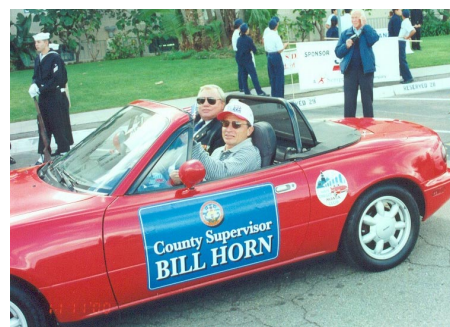


PHOTO: ART HAMILTON

I didn't have a chance to drive any of the better-known dignitaries in the parade, but I sure had lot of fun. It was also a great surprise to see our own MARK BOOTH and his lovely wife CATHY along the parade route taking pictures, and they blew their horn at me later on the way home.

I had no idea that I was supposed to write this article, so I didn't take notes. If I left out any important details, I hope you will understand. All in all, I would say the weather was good and we all had fun, and if we are called on earlier next year, I am sure we will have a better showing.

Semper Fi

— ART HAMILTON



PHOTO: ART HAMILTON



Big Guys, Small Cars

And in the beginning... well, even though our favorite cars were designed in Tustin, they obviously weren't drawn by anyone in my family. We're what you might call "full-size adult Americans" and Miata



interiors are just plain too small. In my attempts to get really comfortable I've found or invented some neat mods that increase the cockpit dimensions, improve visibility, and may add some safety and performance as well. Let's run through them from top to bottom, literally.

Sun visors block the top few inches of the windshield. Fortunately, they can be removed in about ten seconds. Grab the chrome part at the end of the visor and pull and wiggle straight down, hard. This will leave a bracket with a hole in it, and you can replace the visor at any time. If you'd rather remove the bracket and visor altogether, there are plates available (Knobmeister) to cover the leftover hole. There is even a kit to put a light in the space (Miata.net).

The stock rear-view mirror is in the perfect spot to block the right hand two-thirds of the windshield. Remove it and you can actually see through the whole windshield, but not where you've been. However, auto parts stores and junkyards have replacement mirrors that glue to the windshield. Get one with a metal plate to glue on. After you've decided where (lower than stock, you'll be looking out OVER this one; and be sure to allow for adjustment of the mirror) mark the attachment point with a grease pencil or tape on the OUTSIDE of the glass. That's the hard part. The easy part is going to your local auto glass store and having them glue it on. REALLY! The glue sold in auto parts

stores DOES NOT WORK. Don't even try. Spend the five bucks at the glass shop. Actually they did mine for free, but I have a really honest face.

The seats can be lowered. Some people have altered or removed the floor brackets or seat frame. Risky business and could be permanent. You can change the seats tilt by adding spacers (washers) where the seat frame bolts to the slide. An easy mod is to remove the seat, then the bottom seat cover, and take an electric carving knife to the foam. Go really slow with this until you get exactly the shape you want. The seat cover will stretch enough to fit the new shape. Use tie wraps (zip ties) in place of the metal hog rings to re-attach the cover. You can also add lumbar support to the stock seats. At the seam between the seat back and side bolster there is access to a pocket you can fill with foam or a towel. Clever, these Tustinites!

The parking brake lever can be removed. You won't have any right knee clearance problems but you'll also be without a brake. Easier to just bend it to the right (within reason). This doesn't seem to hurt the handle or its operation. I usually just pad it with a towel for long highway trips. On the door side you can get two extra inches by removing the arm rest/door pull assembly completely. A simple pull handle made from a belt or purse strap can be attached using the stock bolt. The stock assembly can be re-installed in minutes. The window crank can also be realigned to change its resting position.

In cars with power steering you can gain leg clearance with a smaller steering wheel. You will also have no air-bag. I like airbags, I also like sushi. Your choice. Don't try a smaller wheel with manual steering, the increased steering effort will make you a parking lot menace.

Here's a one hour mod to raise the

steering wheel nearly an inch. Remove the metal cover under the wheel. There are two bolts in a U-bracket holding the steering column to the dash. These bolts pass through grey-colored pot metal spacers in the bracket. These spacers can be gently tapped loose and turned over. This will raise the wheel 3/8 inch or so. The spacers may also be replaced with washers above and below the bracket. This will raise the wheel nearly an inch. Club members have tried both methods with equal success.

We've gone top to bottom, let's get to the foot of the matter. Lose the fancy floor mats. They may look cool but can raise your feet an inch. If you like them that much, at least make sure they're firmly attached to the floor. A shifting mat can interfere with the pedals. Think about it!

Speaking of pedals, (yeah, this is why I wrote this article; it's a commercial) that shelf next to your left foot is really a pedal. A dead pedal. It doesn't do anything, it's dead, get it? Actually it serves a good purpose. Remove it and you'll see what I mean. Without it your left foot is flopping around under the clutch between shifts and can't help to brace you when you need it. The stock pedal isn't well placed for some of us, though, and it can't be modified. To solve this problem I created a two position adjustable pedal that mounts to the stock floor studs and gives an inch (or so) more forward room. This leg extension drops your left knee an equal amount. You may actually be able to get your hand between the wheel and your knee. That can be a much better feeling than you might think. Drive the car! Big Guys, Small Cars, Cool!

— TED KESLER





November 11 - Saturday
Impromptu Run

Weather report...check; coats...check; antifreeze...check; boots...check; tire chains...check; thermal underwear...check; snow skis...check; goose down gloves...check; avalanche beacon...check...okay Let's go!

A quarter of a dozen clean and sparkly Miatas joined forces to tackle the hills of Palomar and show Ronald Van Kelst and his girlfriend, Kathleen (Miata enthusiasts from Belgium) the wide range of scenery and Miata curves in San Diego County.

First stop was Bates Nut Farm for shopping and looking at the animals. It was perfect top-down weather. Then we headed up to Mt. Palomar but something was very strange. There were no other cars! Could they have blocked the roads for a film shoot? Was there a deadly chemical spill? Were the roads icy? Nope, nope, nope. There were no other cars because our buddies, the CHP, had told people not to go to the mountains because of the snow.

Whoopee! Well, the roads were clear of snow and other cars so we had the time of our lives! The vistas from the turnouts were spectacular! The fall leaves were beautiful! The fresh smell and the land covered with white powder warmed the sole and the jackets and heaters warmed what was left.

We arrived at the observatory, took photos, toured the place and headed down the mountain towards Mesa Grande. Let's go to the desert! We took a left turn past the lake and went to Borrego Springs, visiting the park headquarters and then doing Mexican food for lunch. Photographs of cacti were important on this Miata adventure before heading to Julian. PIE STOP (does anyone have that for a license plate yet?). After the traditional apple pie, we headed home. It was a great day to show off our playground to friends from afar.

This may be the first annual "It Just Snowed and it will be Beautiful up There" impromptu run. You are invited next year! Bring your woolies.

— ED and MICHELLE LANGMAID



Above— Sometimes the scenery is rather interesting if you go slowly enough to see it.

Below— Ronald Van Kelst came all the way from Belgium to see snow in San Diego.



PHOTOS: ED LANGMAID

CLASSIFIED ADS

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

For Sale: Three tires from my 2000 Miata, with only 15,000 miles on them, Yokohama 185/60R14 I would like \$20 each, or all three for \$50.

Dixie (858) 277-9444 or mrath@cts.com

For Sale: DeLane Custom Hitch for '99 Miata, never used, all hardware, cost \$200, sell \$150. Three G-Force racing (autox) tires, 205/50/15, used, but still have lots of runs, \$25 each, '84 Honda engine, 1.5L, carb, transmission included, \$200.

Ron (760) 803-5172 (day) or
(858) 391-1367 (evenings)

For Sale: Almost new Sunbrella car cover for an M1 ('90-'97) Miata. Bought new from North Coast less than a year ago, this cover has been used outside the garage only once. It's UV resistance is as good as new and over four years of the transferrable five-year warranty remain. Real life expectation?...probably 7-9 more years. Why am I selling? I ordered a WeatherShield cover to test this newest of car over fabrics. North Coast's club price for the

Sunbrella cover is \$234; my price to you, \$125, with the receipt (for the warranty). The absolute top-end of car covers for less than Ultralon at wholesale. The downside? It has the Team Voodoo logo silkscreened on each side. I paid extra for that - thought it was an upside. Downside or upside? You decide.

Bob (858) 486-4711 or voodoo@miata.net

For Sale: White '93C, standard: leather, power steering & windows, cruise, a/c. Extras galore including Racing Beat CAI, Borla exhaust, Brainstorm anti-sway bars, Tokiko HP shocks, Dunlop SP 8000 tires (10k miles), Autopower roll bar and more. Always garaged, complete maintenance records. Price negotiable.

Dave (619) 582-0797 or windwing1@juno.com

For Sale: '91, Red, 109k, new rear window, Tokico shocks, great condition, very well cared for: \$5,000.

Natalia (619) 287-7582.

Vacation Getaways: Includes one week accommodations and possibly a rental car, from \$250 and up. Places like Grand Cayman Islands, Kona Hawaii, Orlando, Palm Springs. Other exotic locations are available.

Michael (760) 436-8311 or mik_lyn@prodigy.net

For Sale: Moss light kit for console (tan) \$20. Mazda bra for M1 black (brand new in box - used once) \$40. Miata Script grille (stainless steel) \$10. Red Ultra ignition wires, \$35.

Tom (949) 366-0322 or tomt3@home.com

For Sale: Rod Millan header for '90-'93, it has been sleeved for easy removal when you do the clutch, good condition, \$140. 1990 alloy wheels which have been chrome plated, plus chrome hub caps, \$275. Stainless steel Miata logo sill plates, \$15. Jackson Racing kevlar clutch, with about 30k miles of use, fits '90-'93, \$125. I also have an alternator, starter, a/c compressor, Tokico shocks and misc. mechanical and body parts including windshield, doors, mirrors, rear fenders and bumper. All recently repainted (red), in good condition.

Wally (619) 232-2801 ext 313, 234-2858 or wallymiata@juno.com

For Sale: 14" OEM aluminum wheels from a '91 Miata w/tires, only \$140. That's only \$35 each wheel; what a deal! OBO.

Alex (619) 275-0819.

For Sale: Men's 12-speed bike, call for details, \$40. Pac Bell Caller ID telephone, \$40 OBO.

Richard (619) 286-2412 or rscherschel@home.com

