



VOLUME 6 NUMBER 1

# SAN DIEGO MIATA CLUB NEWS

JANUARY 2001

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

### UPCOMING EVENTS



January 1- Monday  
**Autocross at the "Q"**



January 1- Monday  
**Millennium Hangover Run II**  
Joint SOCALM & SDMC Run



January 20 - 21  
**Autocross at the "Q"**



January 25 - Thursday  
**Monthly Meeting**  
And Quarterly Board Meeting



January 27 - Saturday  
**Fun Run & Train Trip to Tecate, Mexico**



February 10 - Saturday  
**Let's Go to Borrego**



February 14 - 18  
**San Diego International Auto Show**



February 23 - 24  
**Laughlin Getaway**  
Joint SOCALM/SDMC Event



February 25 - Sunday  
**There's Something Fishy About This Run!**



April 28 - Saturday  
**Annual Meeting**

### What's Next?

Last month I had the pleasure of reminiscing about all the really neat runs and events we did through the year. I don't know about you, but I really enjoyed re-living those events as I wrote about them. Why, you ask? Because they were fun to participate in, they made me feel good, and I got to spend time with my fellow Miata enthusiasts, that's why. I can only hope that you all experienced the same feelings I did when you read what I wrote.

It's kind of like when I read ART HAMILTON's article about the Veteran's Day parade in our December newsletter. I am sure that those who participated, on very short notice and thank you, had a memorable experience participating and coming close to people that who would otherwise never come close to, forget about meeting, and sharing their Miatas with, while honoring, our military past and present.

Very cool, isn't it? Participating in things that others create and share with us. Doing things that we would never dream of doing. Every year when BARB and I do the Getty event, I am amazed that the 50 spots are filled in a few days. It's not a car event, yet those who want to share another art form jump at the chance to do it with the club. It's really cool to arrive at the Getty in a line of 50 Miatas. You should see the looks we get.

Looking at the year 2001 calendar, other than autocross, it looks like there are lots of open dates for you to plan an event. It is a chance to earn a set of the widely-sought-after SDMC magnetics to adorn your favorite car. It's a chance for you to share a day, a weekend, a week, or whatever with your fellow club members.

Planning a run is simple. Think about something you would like to do with some of your fellow members, coordinate a date with GERI, our events coordinator, and let the fun begin. Think it's too much work? Ask for help from the board or any member who has produced a run in the past. Refer to the member handbook, or the club Web site, for helpful hints and guidance.

Like I said, I have been to places I never thought about going to, sometimes because I didn't even know they existed. I remember when the Bree's took us all to a calliope museum. Why did we go? So we could drive our cars, eat, and do something different. And, yes, it was interesting and fun. We should do this again as we have many new members who have never been there. Who would like to lead us?

Some of us do the same runs every year, adding a few new twists in the road and a few different things, hoping that we can improve on what we did before. This year will see "The Search for Madonna III," The Getty IV (on a Sunday this year), "Puke-O-Rama III," MARK and CATHY BOOTH's "Twilight Run VI," and I hope, "Murder Mystery Run II." There will be two more dates up at Willow Springs where you can really let it hang out. Try it; the fun is contagious!

I am looking forward to attending your next event. Where did you say we were meeting?

— ELLIOT



## New Mileage Awards Program

The new year always brings with it new ideas. The SAN DIEGO MIATA CLUB is no different. We plan to institute a new award which will be available to all members of the club, just for participating. In order to encourage increased participation and to foster a sense of friendly competition, we will institute a program of rewarding our members for their participation in club runs.

The award will be based on the total miles accumulated in one year. The miles that you will accumulate are based on your participation in club runs. For each run in which you participate, you will be credited the amount of miles designated by the run coordinator. Not the driver? Don't worry, navigators will accumulate their own miles.

Only officially-published SAN DIEGO MIATA CLUB or SDMC joint runs will count toward mileage. The newsletter will indicate which run will be eligible for credit towards the mileage award on the upcoming events page. This would *not* include impromptu runs. No miles will be accumulated for the following: not participating in club runs (you **MUST** sign in with the run coordinator at the starting point of each run), driving an OTM on the run, or not completing the run. Partial mileage may be credited for runs not completed, subject to the run leader's discretion.

Run leaders will be responsible for reporting the total mileage of their runs and the names of those who participated. A club member will be appointed to keep tally of the accumulated mileage as submitted by each run coordinator after the completion of their run. At regular intervals throughout the year the current mileage levels for each member will be published.

At the annual Holiday Party, awards will be distributed for those who participated in the year's events. The award will consist of an embroidered patch which can be proudly displayed on the sleeve of a SAN DIEGO MIATA CLUB jacket. The patch will list the year it was earned and the number of miles accrued.

Get involved, plan a run, participate in the runs, and earn your own SDMC mileage award, magnetics optional. More details as the year unfolds.

— MIKE SHACK

Mileage Awards Tallymaster 2001

## 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!

## NEWSLETTER TEAM

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STEF and TOM GOULD

Folding, labeling, stamping performed by members of the board, newsletter team, and anybody else we can get.

## Quarterly Board Meeting

The board of directors of the San Diego Miata Club will hold its quarterly meeting immediately following the regular Monthly Meeting on Thursday, January 25. This meeting is open to the entire membership.

Any SDMC member wishing to add a subject to the agenda or to have the board address an issue, please notify BARB TEMPLETON, club secretary, (760) 751-8636 or [secretary@sandiegomiataclub.org](mailto:secretary@sandiegomiataclub.org)

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### Executive Board

#### President

ELLIOT SHEV

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[president@sandiegomiataclub.org](mailto:president@sandiegomiataclub.org)

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#### Club E-mail Postmaster/Webmaster

ROBERT "JTBOB" HOLLAND

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(858) 693-8095

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To send e-mail to all members of the board:

[board@sandiegomiataclub.org](mailto:board@sandiegomiataclub.org)

## NOTICES

The SAN DIEGO MIATA CLUB is a non-profit California corporation. 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](http://www.sandiegomiataclub.org)

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

SAN DIEGO MIATA CLUB

P.O. Box 23081

San Diego CA 92193





## Autocross

**Date:** Monday, January 1  
**Time:** 9 a.m.  
**Place:** Qualcomm Stadium, Mission Valley, west lot, DCCSD practice



## Millennium Hangover Run II

Joint SOCALM and SDMC Run  
**Date:** Monday, January 1 (01-01-01)  
**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](http://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](mailto:president@socalm.org) (714) 449-9280

*This run qualifies toward Mileage Award.*

When we get to the end of this run, everyone will say that it was the best run they have done for the year, the 21st century, and the Third Millennium! (Oh yeah, it's also the very first run of all of those). This is the first time in the 4-year history of the Hangover Run when we'll actually be driving on January 1, so let's honor the unique date by getting 101 cars to attend. (101 on 01-01-01) How cool would that be?

Lunch before the run is optional and has "first come, first served" seating. So, we'll be at many small tables. Just identify yourself as being with the Miata Club and they'll seat you with the rest of us. The food is inexpensive & good in a family atmosphere. The good news is that being at several small tables means that we won't have to hassle with one big check and everyone will get his food faster. Plus, you don't need to arrive right at 11:01 a.m. since the seating will be open.

Be prepared for a touring-oriented run. The roads we'll be driving are best en-

joyed at a relaxed pace. But, when I say "relaxed," I don't mean "funeral." The goal will be to enjoy the scenery (mostly sweeping roads, not really tight twisties) at a fun speed. The pace will be enjoyed by all, I promise. The run also includes a short 27% downgrade, a signature part of every Hangover Run. We'll end in Temecula at I-15, about 45 minutes from central San Diego.

*Directions to Lunch & Meeting Places:* from I-5, exit at Ortega Highway (74).

*For lunch:* Go east on Ortega. Walnut Grove is on your right hand side just after the light with Del Obispo. Do NOT go to Walnut Grove if you only want to come for the run!

*For the run:* Go west on Ortega. Turn right at the light with Rancho Viejo. Turn right at the stop sign at Calle Arroyo. Turn left at the Orange County Health Services. There is plenty of parking, despite how it looks when you first turn in.

## Autocross

**Date:** Saturday, January 20  
**Time:** 9 a.m.  
**Place:** Qualcomm Stadium, Mission Valley, west lot, SDAD practice



## Autocross

**Date:** Sunday, January 21  
**Time:** 9 a.m.  
**Place:** Qualcomm Stadium, Mission Valley, west lot, SDAD Championship



## Monthly Meeting

### Followed by Quarterly Board Meeting

**Date:** Thursday, January 25  
**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.

A quarterly board meeting immediately follows the membership meeting.

*Don't miss the fun!*

## Fun Run and Train Trip to Tecate, Mexico

**Date:** Saturday, January 27

**Time:** 8 a.m., sharp, for driver's meeting. We'll leave very shortly thereafter. For those of you who care to join us at the San Diego Railroad Museum, the train leaves at 10 a.m.



**Meeting Place:** Meet at the Terra Nova Plaza parking lot, east of I-805 at "H" Street in Chula Vista behind the Jack in the Box restaurant. It's at the corner of east "H" Street and Hidden Vista Drive.

**Run Leaders:** JOANNA & SCOTT LANGHOFF, (619) 470-7860 or [marinerusn@aol.com](mailto:marinerusn@aol.com)

*This run qualifies toward Mileage Award.*

Join JoAnna and Scott on an energetic little run and rustic train trip to the quaint Mexican village of Tecate! Why? Just because we can!

We'll cruise through some of the scenic South County back roads to Campo, pull a few "G's" in the process, and enjoy a clanky train trip to Tecate, Mexico.

While in Tecate, we'll tour the modern beer brewery, sample a few of their wares in the beer garden, and have an opportunity to "wing it" and shop, dine, or relax in the Village Square until it's time to ride the train back to Campo!

**The cost:** (you knew it wasn't free!) Presently \$35 per person for adults, \$15 per person for youths (age 2-12). If we get more than 74 persons, I can get the cost down to \$27 and change for adults.

Thirty-five folks in twenty-two cars have already expressed interest in this run. I would ask that all RSVP to me via e-mail or phone to allow me to generate an accurate roster. Reservations and payments will be accepted up to and including the morning of the event. Checks payable to Scott are preferred.

What to bring:

- 1) Yourselfes!
- 2) Warm clothes for the morning!
- 3) An interest in the history of railroads in San Diego County.
- 4) Your CB radio tuned to Channel 13; our callsign is "Mariner."
- 5) A spirit of adventure!





## FUTURE EVENTS

### Let's Go to Borrego

**Date:** Saturday, February 10

**Time:** 9 a.m.

**Meeting Place:** North County Fair (under the sign)

**Run Leaders:** GERI & SAL CAUSARANO, (760) 787-0624, [montegom@aol.com](mailto:montegom@aol.com) or [wooddust@aol.com](mailto:wooddust@aol.com)



### San Diego International Auto Show

**Date:** February 14-18

**Place:** San Diego Convention Center  
111 W. Harbor Drive, San Diego

**Contact:** STEF GOULD, (619) 297-4272 or [stef@miata.net](mailto:stef@miata.net)



### Laughlin Getaway Joint SOCALM and SDMC Run

**Date:** February 23 - 24

**Place:** Harrah's Laughlin

**Coordinator & RSVP:** BARI RUSSELL  
(949) 588-1531 or [barirussell@earthlink.net](mailto:barirussell@earthlink.net)

So here we go again! February 23rd and 24th, the rates are \$25 a night. Once again this venture is open to anyone who is brave enough to join us! We have 20 non-smoking double rooms. The booking is listed under SSOC224 or SOCALM. If all else fails, try Bari Russell. If you would rather have a king or smoking room, you must request this when you book and have them add it to our group booking. Please call (800) 447-8700 and reserve a room to your name and credit card. For those who are interested, we will meet for buffet breakfast Saturday morning around 9 a.m. at the hotel, and then maybe do a little excursion around the desert looking for scorpions and snakes. For you new members, this is a laid-back weekend, you get there whenever and do whatever. So get those coins together and don't miss out! We only have this room rate until January 22nd. Please RSVP me when you have secured your room.



### There's Something Fishy About This Run!

**Date:** Sunday, February 25

**Time:** 9 a.m., Drivers meeting 9:15

**Meeting Place:** McDonalds on

Via de la Valle, one block east of I-5 on



the South side.

**Run Leader:** RICH BEST (619) 221-1974  
or [richbest@webtv.net](mailto:richbest@webtv.net)

We will head west to the ocean, then south through the town of Del Mar, across Torrey Pines State Beach, and into La Jolla for a stop at the Stephen Birch Aquarium. REAL FISHY! After viewing underwater life, it's up to Mt. Soledad's twisties and then across Mission Beach, Ocean Beach, Sunset Cliffs, then over Point Loma and around San Diego Bay for a taste of our underwater friends at the San Diego Fish Market, and of course MMM, MMM FISHY!

After lunch, we can stroll through Seaport Village and check out the shops. Aquarium prices are \$8.50, or a *prepaid* group rate \$7 if we have more than twenty people. Please R.S.V.P as soon as possible for this to happen. Aquarium parking \$3, secure lot. Lunch ranges from \$6 to \$26.95, a little pricey but well worth it for fresh FISHY and other seafood treats. *Note:* non-seafood items also available. Fish Market parking is free on Sunday. This is my first run and I hope you can all join me for a real good (and dare I say it?) FISHY TIME!

### Search for Madonna (Rocdonna) 2001

**Date:** May 5 - 7

The search begins at 7 a.m., May 5th in San Diego County, with stops along the way to rendezvous with other searchers as we continue the trek north.

The Madonna Inn in San Luis Obispo is "Search Central" for this three-day Miata event. The search area includes the Central California Coast with such notable search sites as Morro Bay (car show all weekend), Cambria, Pismo Beach, San Simeon, Hearst Castle, wineries, Pozo Saloon, and many roads for further exploring.

**What are we Searching for?**

FUN...and we are going to keep searching until there is no more.

**What do I expect?**

*Fabulous food.* No one will starve. The Madonna Inn has some of the finest eating that you will ever find. Other eating selections in the area will be plentiful.



Saturday night will consist of a "Room Hopping, Food Eating Menagerie." A Sunday night banquet will be available for the whole group. *Lots of driving.* Not only is the Madonna Inn over 350 miles from San Diego, but also the fun runs on the roads in the area will be plentiful. *Lots of options.* Although there will be some specifically planned activities, you are not required to do any of them. There will undoubtedly be splinter groups that will go off to experience their own kinds of fun. Hearst Castle...wineries...beach...sleep...whatever. But we always come back to the Madonna Inn. Some people will not be able to stay Sunday night. Can you say WORK? They, unfortunately, will be leaving the search sometime on Sunday.

**What do I have to do to become a Searcher?**

1. Go to the official Web site of the Search for Madonna (Rocdonna) 2001 [www.rocdonna.homestead.com](http://www.rocdonna.homestead.com). See what the theme is for 2001, and get a flavor of things to come.
2. Or, go online to [www.madonnainn.com](http://www.madonnainn.com) and browse the 119 unique room selections. The base rooms are reserved at the Miata club rate of \$117 per night. There are upgrade rooms available...you'll see what I mean. Select the room you would like. You had better choose several with a preference order. Some rooms might already be reserved.
3. Call the Madonna Inn at (800) 543-9666, and reserve your room for Saturday and Sunday nights, May 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>. Be sure to mention that you are with the Miata club group.
4. Call STEVE or LAURIE WARD, (760) 432-0727, or e-mail them at [swaid@home.com](mailto:swaid@home.com) and let them know that you have reserved your room. Give them the room number and room name. This information becomes an integral part of maintaining a separate e-mail group for up-to-date searcher's information and hype.
5. Sit back and wait until May. The anticipation will become almost intolerable.

Yabba Dabba Do!



## New Members!

WELCOME to our newest members  
(since last newsletter):

JERRY & HEATHER BAKER

Del Mar

2000 Red Leather

KEVIN & KAREN HAYWOOD

Valley Center

2000 Emerald Green Leather

DICK & JEAN VILMURE

San Diego

2000 Emerald Green

## Renewing members

(since last newsletter):

DAVE & LOIS MARTIN

K. ZACK BROADBENT

DIANA CARMEL & ERIC SEILO

AL & CAROL CRIQUI

MARCIA J. DOHT

RUDY E. GARCIA

JOSEPH & GISELLE GIGLIELLO

RICK GREEN & DEBORAH ORWEN

KEN & MARQUITA KEACH

JOSEPH & JOYCE KRAMER

DAVE OKAMOTO & NANCY RONEN

MICHAEL & SUSAN PASTERKIEWICZ

DANIEL W. REICHEL

JOYCE WELLS

## Calling All Candidates!

We will be publishing biographical profiles in the March newsletter for candidates seeking elected office at the SAN DIEGO MIATA CLUB annual meeting on Saturday, April 28. If you are interested in being considered for election, you are encouraged to submit a short (200-300 word) biographical profile. Include your name and a brief description of your qualifications, skills, desires, or goals as a member of the executive board.

This is an opportunity for potential nominees to let club members know about their desire to serve the membership. A biographical profile is not a requirement for nomination and election at the annual meeting.

Please send your profiles to the club post office box, or e-mail them directly to the editor.

Only profiles received by February 15 will be included in the March edition of the newsletter.

—EDITOR

## Membership Statistics

As of December 21, 2000, there are 323 memberships (130 single, 193 dual) for a total of 516 members.

Memberships by Miata Color:

90	Red
52	White
36	Black
31	Emerald Green
25	Silver
15	Sapphire Blue
13	Montego Blue
9	Marina Green
9	Mariner Blue
9	Twilight Blue
8	Starlight Blue
7	Laguna Blue
6	BRG
6	Mahogany
6	Merlot
5	Yellow
3	Crystal Blue
2	Evolution Orange
1	Eggplant (custom)
1	Teal (custom)
8	Unreported*

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

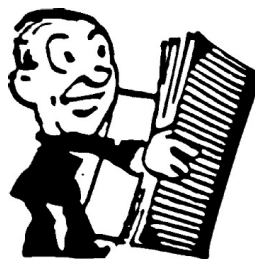
## Membership Handbook

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 MEMBERS 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 telephone and e-mail address is 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](mailto:membership@sandiegomiataclub.org) or call the club message line at (619) 582-2448.

In addition, a MEMBERS 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](mailto: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





## MEMBER PROFILE



— DONA & TOM THOMPSON

I guess I learned most of my mechanical abilities growing up in upstate New York. My mother says I was a strange child because I would take things apart and then put them back together again. I was rebuilding carburetors and transmissions before I had a driver's license. In my teenage years my friends and I lived to work on our cars. One of my first big projects was to put a 283 Chevy V8 in my '49 Ford. Doing so really pointed out all the differences between Chevy and Ford. Everything worked differently. But overcoming the challenges just made the final result all the more fun.

I moved to Southern California in January of 1977 and landed a job running a small manufacturing company in City of Commerce. Surprisingly, being an alumnus of Rochester Institute of Technology is what got me the job. I earned my BS degree attending night school at Cal State University, Dominguez Hills. In 1982 the mid-life career crisis hit and I was enticed by a fellow graduate of Cal State to get into selling computer systems for Xerox Corp.

I guess it was around that time that I bought my first sports car — a Fiat 124 Spyder. It, of course, broke down constantly, but it was cute and was an absolute blast to drive. If you owned a Fiat (Fix It Again Tony) you had to be able to handle the repairs yourself 'cause no commercial operation would touch them. When I sold that car a few years later I urged the fellow buying it to not trust it very far from home, and to be certain not to use it for daily transportation.

I met my beautiful wife DONA at a class on how to start and run your own business. Those of you who know Dona know that she is a full-time, part-time student, constantly attending classes. She has quite a collection of certificates! We were married in 1988 in Laguna Beach and now live in San Clemente. I still sell computer systems

to manufacturing companies and Dona is a Director with a local medical provider.

It was early in 1997 when my second mid-life crisis hit. I had managed to save up the great sum of \$15,000 with which I intended to buy a new Harley or maybe put a down payment on a sports car. I figured my options regarding a potential sports cars were; Boxster, Corvette, or Miata. With either the Boxster or Corvette I would need to spend the 15K for down payment and then have car payments for the next 5 years. With the Miata I could likely pay cash for a slightly used one and use the monthly car payment money for goodies.

Such was the state of things when I one day found myself way up in Puente Hills early in the afternoon of a rather nice winter day. I happened by the Mazda dealer there and drove a new Miata for the first time. Pity the poor salesman, as he was hanging on for dear life as I "tested" the car's cornering ability on a freeway on-ramp. Wow! Did that thing stick! I was hooked!

So now I knew what I had to have, but I could not see buying a new one — remember, the plan was to pay cash so that I could spend what would otherwise be car payments on goodies. One thing was clear in my search for a used Miata — I wanted any color EXCEPT red. It seemed that every Miata I saw on the road was red. And I didn't want to be just another RED Miata.

A few days later, while on my way to Home Depot, I found myself driving on the freeway within a stone's throw of Irvine Mazda. Why not make a little side trip just to see what they might have on the lot, I thought. A couple of hours later I was driving home in my '94 Black & Tan.

Once safely tucked in the third bay of our garage (having re-shuffled the two motorcycles), I began surfing the 'net looking for "goodies" for our new baby. It was shortly thereafter that I discovered that there were such things as Miata clubs. I followed a couple of links and discovered that there were two clubs in my area. One was centered in north Orange County, and one in San Diego County. The Internet provided me access to the SDMC Web site, which offered mass volumes of technical data and write-ups on all of the runs and other activities of what looked like a really active club. The SOCALM site, on the other hand, offered only contact information. Since we lived pretty much exactly half way in

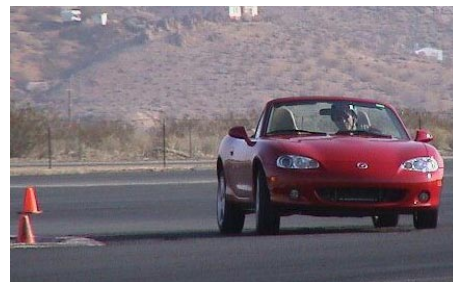
between, and since whenever we took our baby out for a drive it was usually in eastern San Diego county (much better Miata roads) anyway, we decided to send in our \$20 to SDMC.

A couple of days later we got a call from MARK BOOTH, welcoming us to the club, but warning us that we could not hold office since we lived outside San Diego county. Not a problem, said I. I've been there and done that, and all I want is to hang out with like-minded people and have a good time driving my new toy.

Little did we realize at the time just how much we would become a part of this wonderful "extended family." We are now approaching our fifth year of membership with SDMC and have just acquired our second Miata. This time a brand new one, and this time a RED one (sorry, Steve). For three months last summer I really felt separation anxiety by not being out there with you all. It was certainly a challenge holding out for the 2001's to be released. But now we're back with the "family" and again enjoying that drive-eat-drive thing that we do so well.

— TOM & DONA THOMPSON  
2001 Red LS — ZOOM 2

*To be included in our on-going series of Member Profiles, write a short (200-300 word) introduction and e-mail it to: [newsletter@sandiegomiataclub.org](mailto:newsletter@sandiegomiataclub.org). You can also mail it to the Club P.O. Box. Please include a photo, we want to be able see your face. — Your photo will be returned.*



Tom and Dona participated in the recent SDMC driving school at Willow Springs. Tom in the new 2001 Miata and Dona in the Mercedes SLK.

PHOTOS: CHARLENE BROKAW



## 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 or  
[regalia@sandiegomiataclub.org](mailto:regalia@sandiegomiataclub.org)

## UPCOMING NATIONAL AND REGIONAL EVENTS

**Fifth Annual Miata Performance Driving School at Thunderhill Raceway**  
March 23-25

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.

## SAN DIEGO MIATA CLUB Jackets

The jackets in the picture belong to SDMC members JACK GOSNEY and LENI METRO. These guys consistently win just about every car show they enter. Part of their winning style is their cool embroidered club jackets. To dress like a winner you can order a jacket for yourself from two club approved embroidery shops. You can choose the car color, interior color, the color of the word MIATA, and the color of the stitching used for your name. All logo words except "Miata" are in logo blue. Contact the Regalia Gals, Paula and Roz, ([regalia@sandiegomiataclub.org](mailto:regalia@sandiegomiataclub.org)) for an SDMC order form for either vendor.



### Beeds Embroidery

13248A Poway Road, Poway  
(858) 748-0415, [beedsemb@pacbell.net](mailto:beedsemb@pacbell.net)

\$140 (single) or \$125 (in a group of 6)  
(Port Authority w/ front, back logo and name)  
Jacket, same as above with leather sleeves  
\$160 (single) or \$145 (in a group of 6)

### TCB Embroidery

8924 Carlton Hills Blvd., Santee  
(619) 562-2320, FAX (619) 562-3510

\$155 (single)  
(Port Authority w/ front, back logo and name)

All jackets - XXL plus \$3, XXXLG plus \$4, and XXXXLG plus \$5

## Elsewhere in Miataland

Have you heard of Zaino Brothers' car polishes? Ben Cleaves of the SAHUARO MIATA CLUB published an enthusiastic review of their products in the November issue of Desert Trails. He says the process of application is time consuming but worth it. Information is available at [www.zainobros.com](http://www.zainobros.com). Incidentally, Ben first heard about the products on [Miataforum.com](http://Miataforum.com), which exists for Miata owners to share information.

In the December issue of Desert Trails, an expanded tabloid edition with numerous pictures and red accents on the cover, the Tech Tips writer Ed Chabot describes his experiment with removing the passenger seat of his Miata to create cargo space. He discovered that he could do it in only two-and-a-half minutes, using a short 14 mm socket on a wrench. Headrest speaker cables can be unplugged by leaning the unbolted seat toward the console (he cautions that care should be taken not to hit or rip anything). Suggestions for using the space include large coolers for club events and the family dog!

Sahuaro club members are excited about being newly-sponsored by Earnhardt Mazda in Chandler. They are even printing the newsletter, as well as offering numerous perks to members.

MiataMania, newsletter of the HOUSTON AREA MIATA CLUB, reprinted an article from the MX-5 Journal that lists the possible derivation of the name Miata. There are guesses that include old German, random computer generation, Japanese, and Italian! The bottom line seems to be...Nobody knows! (Please see the SDMC News, Volume 3, Number 9, Page 1 for the details on the Miata name— Editor).

— LOIS MARTIN







## November 18 - Saturday SDMC Tour of Interesting Aircraft at Brown Field

**T**wenty-seven Miatas gathered on this Saturday morning for a short run from Rancho San Diego toward Brown Field. Mike Fisher of Experimental Aircraft Association, Chapter 14 invited us for lunch and a tour of the aircraft at the chapter's three-hangar facility.

Run leaders DAVE and LOIS MARTIN, longtime Chapter 14 members, devised a route that included a few twisties, a quick visit to the tiny and obscure Lower Otay County Park that had us all passing each other, and a stop at the Arco Olympic Training Center on Lower Otay Lake. The view from the Olympic center on this clear day was grand, and many SDMCers couldn't resist souvenirs at the Visitors' Center shop. Lack of time to take a tour and view the promo movie gave us an excuse for return solo visits. Mark Booth defied doctor's orders and climbed the hill opposite the visitors' center for a spectacular photo of our group as we left.

Trekking south through a new six-stop-sign, east Chula Vista development soon had us near San Diego's Brown Field and close to the Mexican border. But not before twisting our way to the mesa top and through a Saturday morning gauntlet of eager used car part shoppers at the roadside auto recyclers. Hold onto your loose Miata parts!

Then lined up and parked on an unused taxiway near the Brown Field control tower, we were soon in line for Chapter 14's famous every-Saturday \$3 lunch. This day the fare was a generous Mexican plate plus a soft drink, followed by ice cream cones for dessert. (If the eat segments of our eat/drive/eat events were all priced like this, we could afford a lot more gasoline for the drive parts.)

After lunch, Dave described some of the homebuilt airplanes based at Chapter 14. One new fiberglass airplane was being prepared for its initial flight the next day. (The flight test was successful.)

Mike and Margaret Fisher, who prepared lunch, invited us back. We'll probably take them up on it.

— DAVE MARTIN



At the pre-run drivers meeting, Dave Martin held everyone spellbound with the details of the upcoming trip.

PHOTO: ELIOT SHEV

The striking 2001 Crystal Blues are starting to make their presence known at club runs.



PHOTO: MARK BOOTH



PHOTO: ELIOT SHEV

Once everyone was parked on the flight line, there were some aircraft to be inspected. Oh, and some pretty tasty tacos were cooked up just for the occasion by the EAA members.



PHOTO: MARK BOOTH



PHOTO: MARK BOOTH

Leaving the Olympic Training Center provided too good a photo opportunity to pass up. The twinkle is real.

### Badges?

**H**ave 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 \$6.50 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.





## Tech Day With Sal & Pal Gal

There are many more neat-looking Miatas tooling around San Diego doing many more neat things nowadays.

It is all the result of the Tech Day December 3, hosted by SAL (Our Pal) and GERI (His Gal) CAUSARANO at their palatial manse somewhere in the back Rocky Mountains.

About three dozen cars of varied vintage and a combination of colors were on hand with their intrepid keepers. Work included dent removal, brace additions, fuel injector cleansing, balky radio fixing, washing and polishing, CB calibration, brake adjustments, accessory installation, and on and on. Many of the cars (and drivers) were being prepped for upcoming off-road events that would test the machines (and drivers) beyond normal limits.

Miata guru MARK BOOTH was on hand with his newly-installed pace-maker, which seemed to be running smoothly and did not require any adjustments from VOODOO BOB. Although VB seemed willing to try. While Mark was still a bit restricted in his activity (until early January), he was, as usual, able to help out with information and suggestions, which helped many Miatafiles.

TED (Big Guys Drive Cool Small Cars) KESLER had an OTM that stimulated a bunch of interest—a five cylinder Volvo. It's not that they lost one cylinder, but that Volvo actually made it that way. It also has lots of room in the back to carry things like jacks and ramps and braces. It also accelerates quickly, which some Miata drivers like.

STEVE WAID was the early presider at the barbecue, but turned the cooking over to BARRY KERSHAW and gave lessons in how to supervise other people working on Miatas. Steve would not divulge all of his secrets, but it seems that having a comfortable chair close to the action where one can comment and critique is a very big first step.

About the food. This was, after all, a Miata event, which meant plenty of delightful consumables—bagels, muf-

December 3 - Sunday  
Tech Day at the Causarano's



PHOTO: DIANE LONG

fins, cream cheese, chips and dip, burgers and dogs, soft drinks, taquitos. With Geri at the controls, you never want for sustenance.

Geri also had some of her handiwork on display, and the Club regalia was laid out to tempt folks with items for their holiday shopping list.

All in all, another great Tech Day. Words heard most frequently as the sun slowly set in the Ramona roominess were "I hope we have another Tech Day really soon. These are great." Which they are.

— TOM SPRAGUE

## From the Host's Perspective

It was a beautiful day in Ramona. The air was clear (although STEVE WAID may have called it smelly), the sun was shining, and SDMC members were coming in force to work on their Miatas.

TED KESLER stood ready to install chassis braces and "dead pedals" and LARRY DENNSTEDT adjusted headlights. Yes, they are adjustable.

There were members washing cars and engines with our power sprayer and members taking "baby teeth" out. It was a bevy of activity.

Mike from the "Dent Man" showed up later than anticipated (he missed the turn in Ramona and ended up in Santa Ysabel. I think he really wanted to go to Dudley's for bread). Nonetheless, Mike and his assistant did a great job working on one car after another, removing a myriad of dents. Mike was really amazed at the number of cars that showed up and the members were likewise amazed at the "Dent Man's" reasonable prices. By the way, the "Dent Man" is listed in

the Local Business Discounts section of this newsletter.

ROZ & PAULA (The Regalia Gals) were out on the back veranda manning the Regalia table, and Geri's Bazaar was open for business. Geri put Steve Waid to work at the barbecue (as long as he was in the back of the house and I was out front, he could not accuse me of any assassination attempts).

Geri & I had never hosted a Tech Day before. We had a lot of fun, and based on member responses, the members had a great time.

So make sure your shots are current, your oxygen tanks are filled, and your passports are valid, because we are certain we will hold another Tech Day in Ramona.

— SAL (your pal) & GERI CAUSARANO

## 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, July 28.....	practice day
Sunday, July 29.....	race day

### To confirm autocross information, call:

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

Web page

[www.sdr-solo2.com](http://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.





December 9 - 11  
SDMC/SOCALM Driving  
School at Willow Springs

Can you say MIATA SMILE? What a great weekend! I don't know if Danny McKeever and his instructors caught their smiles from us, but they had just as big a smile on their faces as we did. They are a great bunch and great teachers. They really love what they are doing. They only grip tight on the door support when they have just taught you how to make a turn and you are blazing out of it (makes you think about the next turn real quick).

As a novice, I have to let you know that this is not for the too feint of heart, but if you have any desire to improve your driving skills, this is the place to be. It's just a lot of fun and you will never know it until you try.

I would like to thank JON MARTINEZ for setting up all of this. He did a fantastic job. And I would like to thank all of my fellow Miataphiles for making this a really special weekend. We are such a great family when we travel together (we have finally mastered a four Miata drill team down the freeway. Thanks Elliot).

WOW, WOW, WOW! What more can I say?

— DIANE LONG



PHOTO: CHARLENE BROKAW



PHOTO: DIANE LONG'S CAMERA

Both Diane and her Miata seem to smile a little more after Diane found confidence both on and off the track.

Ditto to DIANE's comments and a great big THANK YOU to JON MARTINEZ for setting this up, I know we will be back for more. As Jon so aptly put it, this stuff "gets into your blood."

Of course, those of us who enjoy "spirited" driving were left with an almost permanent grin from lots of seat time trying to scrub ALL of the tread from our tires; but what surprised me was that even DONA, who is not what anyone would call an aggressive driver, said she really enjoyed day two, when she could begin to feel comfortable that she had actually learned something about how to handle her car. For what I am certain is the very first time in her life, she began to *enjoy* hearing her tires squeal. Who knows? She may even now be ready to go on one of Rainer's notorious runs.

I was impressed with the awesome job done by Danny McKeever and his crew. They did an expert job of accommodating all comers, from the more experienced racers to the just plain timid, and making all feel comfortable.

I personally loved chasing that Boxster all over the track (running counter-clockwise) on Sunday. Maybe it was just the driver, but the Boxster was unable to break free of the wrath of my Miata. In fact, I could have overtaken him in the corners if they had allowed that. In the straights all he could do was just stay ahead. Just testimony to what great cars we have.

I also witnessed some interesting performances from some of our other club members. Ask BARB SHEV to show you some of her new moves on the next run. Who would ever suspect Barb of being such an aggressive driver? And of course our fearless leader learned a few tricks of his own.

I am confident that we all came away much better drivers, and even if we never again drive on a racetrack, we learned a LOT about how to handle our cars.

When we do this again I hope to see even more SDMC Miatas out there. Or maybe we could do a Miata - Boxster challenge event.

— TOM THOMPSON

Here is what I learned at Willow Springs. I learned the difference between using up your brakes and literally burning up your brakes. The former requires that you install new brake pads, while the latter additionally involves turning your rotors, because they partially melted into your now-crumbling-and-completely-cooked pads, which, once (finally!) cooled, emit that skull-shuddering sensation that metal-on-metal braking produces so well.

I also learned a lot about the construction and vulnerabilities of the upper femur and its supporting structures, and their relationship with a proper seat restraint system—or rather, lack of a proper one. Two trips to the hospital, three nearly-sleepless nights, and *lots* of Motrin later, I can tie my shoes without grimacing.

Among the many driving techniques taught, I managed to find one more; how to pick up two cones and deposit them back onto the track, halfway down the course, at speeds ranging from 35 to 50 mph. I just haven't figured out exactly *where* my car carried those cones for so far!

Just two days at Willow. But what a great two days. I was goofy-grinning the whole time, and even now, just thinking about it. I'd surely do it again. I'll just make sure I don't slide in the seat next time!

If you haven't been to one of these schools, go...Go...GO! It's worth every penny, and more!

— JOHN LIMA



PHOTO: ELLIOT SHEV

After a long day at the track, everyone was ready for some good hearty food.







PHOTO: DIANE LONG

Once the caravan from San Diego got moving, it was a quick three hour drive to Willow Springs, plus a couple of pit stops.



PHOTOS: CHARLENE BROKAW

A group hits the tack for some seat time.



PHOTO: CHARLENE BROKAW

Jim Brokaw used his prize from the "Murder Mystery Run" to attend the driving school.

Diane Long and Stef Gould watch from the pit wall as Howard Kuzminski gets ready to go out for another session on the track.



PHOTO: ELLIOT SHEV



OK, here's my story and I'm sticking to it.

On Saturday morning when we first got out on the track, Danny had split up the groups into beginners and advanced. Unfortunately, there were only a couple of advanced people in the advanced group. Even though I kept catching up to everyone fairly quickly, I knew that I would have to wait until the straightaway to pass. In order to not intimidate the other drivers that didn't have much track time, I would creep up on them slowly so as not to make them do something that would cause a spinout. One such time I came up behind Lucie Edwards, but before I even got close, she spun out, and rather than the usual spin out off the track, she spun back on to the racing line. I had to pitch my car sideways to avoid hitting her. So there we were sliding sideways in tandem a couple of feet apart. No harm, no foul, but very close.

By Sunday everyone had greatly improved and I could relax knowing that I was out on the track with experienced drivers.

— JON MARTINEZ



PHOTO: ELLIOT SHEV

By all accounts, Jon Martinez put together a successful weekend event. Good job Jon!



PHOTO: CHARLENE BROKAW







## December 15 - Friday Christmas Card Lane Holiday Lights Tour & More!

Oh sure, most of the folks came to ooh and awe at the marvelous decorations blazing around the 200 homes on Christmas Card lane. But the added attraction of about three dozen colorful Miatas cruising the streets certainly added to the festivities.

It was the second annual holiday-cheer event led by JACK and SUE diLUSTRO, viewing the decorated front yards in the Rancho Penasquitos neighborhood, which has become a San Diego County institution. There were sleds and Santas and snow and cartoon characters, many of which moved to music in the background. It was a neat display of creativity, with poems, large cutouts, cute concepts and quippy sayings on the decorations.

Many of the Miatas were gaily—indeed, some might say gaudily—decorated, with flashing lights, Santa caps,

stuffed animals and assorted other holiday regalia.

After an hour or so of top-down excitement on a December evening, the hot cider (for the drivers) and hot wine (for the passengers) at the diLustro manse were especially welcome. Along with cookies and cake and lots of talk about car-things. Sue was her usual most gracious hostess, and Jack kept the pots on the stove stirring.

The evening started at the DoubleTree Resort on Carmel Mountain Road for food (this is the SDMC mantra, remember), where Jack had arranged for special fare for a special group. It was then across the street to the church parking lot where the line-up began. And in the keeping with the holiday spirit, Jack limited his drivers meetings to only two.

Our little group driving down the crowded streets did bring lots of attention. One observant pedestrian said, “Must be some kind of a car club. They are all little convertibles.” Well they certainly are little convertibles, but it is

much more than a “Car Club.” It is a way of life. And as Jimmy Stewart says in the memorable 1946 Christmas movie classic, “It’s a Wonderful Life.”

— TOM SPRAGUE



PHOTO: MARYANNE GARON



## December 17 - Sunday SDMC Holiday Party

A hundred or so SAN DIEGO MIATA CLUB members and their guests partied the night away at the submarine base on Point Loma. While the Harbor Inn location on Ballast Point was splendid, the awe inspiring view of boats in the harbor participating in the Parade of Lights set the mood for a festive evening.

With a slide show of the past year’s events projected in one corner of the room, and holiday music coming from another, the party goes mingled while awaiting dinner. Some members were dressed rather formally, while others opted for comfort in their attire.

After the tasty meal, MARK BOOTH conducted the gift exchange. Quite a number of imaginative gifts found enthusiastic homes.

The party swung into high gear when the dance music began in the adjacent room, with a panoramic view of Coronado and the entrance to San Diego bay.

Another fun party, more memories for the scrapbook.



PHOTO: DIANE LONG



PHOTO: DIANE LONG



PHOTO: DIANE LONG







PHOTO: DIANE LONG



PHOTO: DIANE LONG



PHOTO: DIANE LONG



PHOTO: DIANE LONG



PHOTO: JOHN TEMPLETON



PHOTO: JOHN TEMPLETON



PHOTO: JOHN TEMPLETON

The only unanswered question of the evening was... "What bet did Steve Waid lose?"



PHOTO: DIANE LONG



PHOTO: DIANE LONG



## Mother Goose Parade

I received a phone call from former SAN DIEGO MIATA CLUB member Jerry Cisinsky on 17 November 2000 stating that the Marine Corps League would be participating in the Mother Goose Parade on that Sunday, 19 November, and that they needed another car to carry one elderly member in the parade.

I already had plans for that Sunday, and this was a one-day notice. I did some quick thinking to see how I could modify my plans and still do the parade. I told Jerry, "OK, I will do it." It is hard to say no to a fellow Marine when they ask for help. Jerry was very happy that I said yes and gave me some of the particulars.

I was asked many years ago to join the Marine Corps League, and I decided not to, because they have their monthly meeting on the same night that we (SDMC) hold our monthly meeting. I think that is the reason that Jerry dropped out of SDMC. He is now a board member in the League and is still trying to get me to join. I told him as soon as they change their monthly meeting date, I will reconsider.

The meeting place for us was at the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Hall in El Cajon. I decided to arrive early (0845) in lieu of 1030, which I am glad I did, because the police had most of the streets blocked off in preparation for the upcoming parade.

When I pulled into the VFW parking lot, I spotted Jerry's red Miata by the main entrance, all decorated with flags. I pulled into the space next to him and decided to get started decorating my Miata. Jerry and a few members of the league came out of the hall about fifteen minutes later, and he thanked me for showing up with such a short notice, then introduced me to members of the League whom I did not know.

As I was decorating my Miata, Jerry was giving me the details on how we were to be positioned in the parade. Then I noticed a couple of limousines pulling into the parking lot, and all of these beautiful young ladies getting out in their lovely gowns. I ran to my trunk to get my camera, but by the time I was ready to take their pictures, most of the ladies were

already in the hall. I did get a few shots off, and was told that these young ladies were the "Queen and her Court."

We were all standing around just shooting the bull when I saw "Ms. Semper Fi" walking toward us. I didn't get a chance to see her in the Veterans Day Parade held the week prior (11 Nov) and club member LOU STARK had the honor of driving her in his red Miata. I understand that she had on a red gown and wanted to ride in a red Miata, so Lou lucked out. Of course, I was envious of Lou! (See my article in the December Newsletter).

As Ms. Semper Fi was walking near the entrance, I took a few pictures of her. I then introduced myself, and told her how I heard so much about her, but missed her in the Veteran's Day Parade.

I finally decided to go inside for coffee, but then I saw the breakfast display table. Wow, I couldn't believe my eyes. All that food on the line. This was no continental breakfast, this was like a buffet that you would see in some big restaurant. There were four or five cooks behind the line to give you anything you wanted, except ice cream! I just had to get a plate, because the price was right. Yes, all the food and drinks were free.

After I went through the line, with my plate stacked, I was looking for a place to sit. I spotted an empty seat across from Ms. Semper Fi and all the other beautiful young ladies, and I walked over and asked, "May I join you lovely ladies?" Ms. Semper Fi said "have a seat", and there I was surrounded by beautiful ladies. Man-O-Man, was I in seventh heaven? Lou, eat your heart out! During breakfast, I had a chance to converse with Ms. Semper Fi. Her name is Kyla Doyle and not only is she very attractive, with a beautiful personality, she is very intelligent. She has a masters degree and owns her own business. She resides with her husband at Camp Pendleton. After breakfast I asked her if she would come outside and have her picture taken with members of the Marine Corps League, and of course she said that she would love to. While having our pictures taken, Sheriff Bill Kolender asked if he could be included, and I said "Why not?"

There were lots of local celebrities who

I saw at the starting point, too numerous to mention, but the Grand Marshal of the parade was Bob Breitbard, the founder of the Hall of Champions at Balboa Park. I also learned that the Mother Goose Parade has grown so much that it is now the second largest parade in the Western United States, after the Rose Parade. This parade has ten chapters or divisions, and each division has up to eighteen entries. We were in the first division, so when we were finished with the parade, there were still a lot of divisions or chapters at the starting point.

I am still amazed at the big turn out for this parade. And I always thought that the Mother Goose Parade was for kids!

I really enjoyed driving in the parade and waving to the crowd. I also heard lots of compliments on my Miata, like "nice car" and "I like your car." I also heard a few "SAN DIEGO MIATA CLUB" and I was wondering how they knew; then I remembered that I had my club magnets on the side of XAE Miata.

The parade was great and we all had fun. When we returned to the VFW Hall, we went inside to have a cold drink (still no ice cream) and say good by to Ms. Semper Fi and members of the Marine Corps League. Then I went home to change clothes and was off to my next event, and more fun to be had.

Semper Fi

— ART HAMILTON



PHOTO: ART HAMILTON'S CAMERA

Art gets to uphold the honor of the Marine Corps by being photographed with Ms. Semper Fi.



## The Extra Mile

In the 1984 Bill Murray-Dan Aykrod movie "Ghostbusters", the oft-heard cry was "Who you gonna call?"

In Miataville, the answer is easy. When you have a concern about a brake, a tire, a top, a clutch, a radio, a battery, a clank or a clunk, the answer is to call the folks in the SAN DIEGO MIATA CLUB. Sooner rather than later, you will have a solution.

But this request was a tad different. A Miata owner in San Francisco was faced with an immediate job move to San Diego, and had no knowledge of the area and its various districts, houses, prices, freeways, etc. How to get some information? A posting on the Miata network seemed like one logical place to try.

Now you know how we like to help each other—even those in San Francisco. Within 36 hours of the message being received in San Diego, the happy Miata owner had enough responses to rent a home with a big garage for the little one about five blocks from the new office at a price that was within budget. It is close enough to bike or jog to the job and save the Miata for fun weekends.

So at our next SAN DIEGO MIATA CLUB meeting, when you see Shawn Paula Kelson, be sure to offer a big howdy and welcome. And find out the color of her Miata!

—TOM SPRAGUE

## Sew-N-Sew

We all know GERI CAUSARANO is quite handy with needle and thread, as evidenced by the nifty work we have seen. But did you know our Miata guru MARK BOOTH is also accomplished in that area? In his earlier days, when his interest was magic, Mark (always devoted to details) wanted to make sure the props were right so decided to sew them himself. He learned how to use the sewing machine, so CATHY can devote her energies to other areas.

The question is: If we can call Geri a seamstress, what can we call Mark? A seamster?

—TOM SPRAGUE

## 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 if 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 overnighter (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. Re-member, 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  
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## 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:** I have to clear out the garage. Set of 15" Fittipaldi chrome 5-spoke star wheels, includes center caps, \$250 for the set. Stock 1990 exhaust in great condition, \$25. J&S Knock Sensor, \$250. MSD Boost Control, \$85. All are in great condition.  
Jeremy (858) 651-8509 (w) (760) 632-7848 (h)  
or [jeremyw@qualcomm.com](mailto:jeremyw@qualcomm.com)

**For Sale:** Genie 2" diameter, stainless steel, cat-back exhaust system with resonator and oval exhaust tip. It is in very good condition and comes with a money back guarantee to club members. \$150 OBO. Fits the M1 only.  
Howard (858) 270-0143 or [forzowie@juno.com](mailto:forzowie@juno.com)

**For Sale:** Technalon 2 Miata car cover. Bought new in '95 from North Coast Tarpaulin and I've hardly ever used it, MAYBE three times. Great shape, original box. It's got the special pockets for the mirrors to fit in and the reinforced cut-out for the antenna. I paid \$140 and I'll take \$100 OBO.  
Jim (619) 298-0564 or [jimthyden@cts.com](mailto:jimthyden@cts.com)

**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](mailto: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 (858) 391-1367 or [rdracer@earthlink.com](mailto:rdracer@earthlink.com)

**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](mailto:mik_lyn@prodigy.net)

**For Sale:** Red factory original hardtop perfect condition \$1,000. 1990 alloy wheels which have been chrome plated, plus chrome hub caps, \$275. Stainless steel Miata logo sill plates, \$15. 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](mailto:wallymiata@juno.com)

