



VOLUME 6 NUMBER 2

# SAN DIEGO MIATA CLUB NEWS

FEBRUARY 2001

## UPCOMING EVENTS



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



February 11 - Sunday  
**Autocross at the "Q"**



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



February 18 - Sunday  
**Autocross at the "Q"**



February 22 - Thursday  
**Monthly Meeting**



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



February 24  
**Sahuaro Miata Club  
Miata Roundup Car Show**



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



March 25 - Sunday  
**Puke-O-Rama 2001**



April 28 - Saturday  
**Annual Meeting**

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

### Future Fun...Memories Past

**O**samu Nakayachi, President of the KANAZAWA ROADSTER CLUB, and a small contingent of his membership are planning a visit to San Diego. That's right, on June 10<sup>th</sup> we will be the hosts to a group from Kanazawa, Japan.

This isn't the first time we have hosted out-of-town guests. Remember the fun we had two years ago when our friends from the SAHUARO MIATA CLUB joined us for some whale watching, driving, and, of course, eating? Or, on a grand scale, SURF'N'SAFARI?

Well, I do, and we did it like everything we do in SDMC. Our guests enjoyed their stay and left with fantastic memories of their time here. I know that we will make this June 10<sup>th</sup> a day that our new-found friends will never forget.

We need to do some planning. Not only do we need to plan the day, but some of our friends may want to stay with some of us. They refer to this as "home stay." We need some volunteers to help put this together and to open their homes.

If you are interested in heading up this special day, please contact me. If you would like to have some of our guests stay with you, please let me know this as well. We will also need to organize taking our new friends on a run. Not just any run, a SAN DIEGO MIATA CLUB run! Since they will not have Miatas to drive, we will need a contingent of members willing to take a passenger on this special run. Maybe the navigators can work together to plan a B-B-Q at a member's home or something. Just an idea. Well, let's have the event coordinator plan this. I will make sure that our event coordinator knows this.

The next long-term event that needs planning is our holiday party. In order to secure a venue for December we must do it now. If you are interested in being part of planning our next holiday party let me know.

We need to come up with something new and different for this year. Got a good idea for a place? Got a good idea for entertainment? Got a good idea for food? Then please share your ideas with me, even if you don't want to be in charge of organizing this.

This month is the fifth anniversary of the beginnings of the SAN DIEGO MIATA CLUB. On Sunday, February 11, 1996, eleven Miata enthusiasts gathered for a run organized by RAINER MUELLER. Afterwards, while having dinner at Stuft Pizza in Carmel Mountain Ranch, they discussed forming a Miata club in San Diego. The rest, as they say, is history.

See you at the next event!

— ELLIOT



## 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)

## 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

ANTHONY "NEVADABOB" WILDE - Editor  
[newsletter@sandiegomiataclub.org](mailto:newsletter@sandiegomiataclub.org)  
VOODOO BOB KRUEGER  
[voodoo@miata.net](mailto:voodoo@miata.net)  
DIANE LONG  
[djaws@san.rr.com](mailto:djaws@san.rr.com)  
TOM SPRAGUE  
[tspraguepr@aol.com](mailto:tspraguepr@aol.com)

Copies by SEAN O'CONNOR  
SIGN UP (858) 486-6771

Original design by  
STEF and TOM GOULD

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

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### Executive Board

#### President

ELLIOT SHEV  
(858) 679-0777  
[president@sandiegomiataclub.org](mailto:president@sandiegomiataclub.org)

#### Vice President

SAL CAUSARANO  
(760) 787-0624  
[vicepresident@sandiegomiataclub.org](mailto:vicepresident@sandiegomiataclub.org)

#### Secretary

BARB TEMPLETON  
(760) 751-8636  
[secretary@sandiegomiataclub.org](mailto:secretary@sandiegomiataclub.org)

#### Treasurer

MIKE SHACK  
(858) 485-0278  
[treasurer@sandiegomiataclub.org](mailto:treasurer@sandiegomiataclub.org)

### Administrative Board

#### Membership

DAVE MARTIN & GALE CHAN  
(619) 582-2448 or (858) 492-9227  
[membership@sandiegomiataclub.org](mailto:membership@sandiegomiataclub.org)

#### Events Coordinator

GERI CAUSARANO  
(760) 787-0624  
[events@sandiegomiataclub.org](mailto:events@sandiegomiataclub.org)

#### Club E-mail Postmaster/Webmaster

ROBERT "JTBOB" HOLLAND  
(858) 549-4011  
[webmaster@sandiegomiataclub.org](mailto:webmaster@sandiegomiataclub.org)

#### Club Regalia

PAULA KENNISON & ROSALIND SCOTT  
(858) 271-8498 or (760) 789-3872  
[regalia@sandiegomiataclub.org](mailto:regalia@sandiegomiataclub.org)

#### Newsletter

ANTHONY "NEVADABOB" WILDE  
(858) 693-8095  
[newsletter@sandiegomiataclub.org](mailto:newsletter@sandiegomiataclub.org)

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

## Calling All Candidates!



We will be publishing biographical profiles in the April 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. However, 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 at [newsletter@sandiegomiataclub.org](mailto:newsletter@sandiegomiataclub.org).

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

*Please note the date changes from the announcement in the January newsletter. The deadline for submissions has been extended until March 15.*

—EDITOR



## Let's Go Borrego

**Date:** Saturday, February 10

**Meeting Places & Times:**

9 a.m. North County Fair

10 a.m. Sizzler in Ramona

**Run Leaders:** SAL & GERI CAUSARANO

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

*This run qualifies toward Mileage Award.*

Come join us for a midwinter fun run out to the desert to enjoy the scenery, twisties, and each other's company. We have arranged for a buffet lunch at beautiful La Casa del Zorro in Borrego Springs. Lunch will consist of soup, salad, deli sandwiches and soft drink for \$15.25, which includes tax and gratuity. Many of us ate at the resort on January 14 and were very pleased with the food, service, and atmosphere.

Please RSVP to Sal or Geri **no later than** February 5th if you will be joining us on the run and if you will be joining us for lunch. We will be stopping at Santa Ysabel on the way home, where we will have pie/dessert and then into Ramona where the run will officially end or continue for those so inclined.

**Directions to Meeting Places:** Take I-15 to North County Fair Shopping Mall, exit Via Rancho Parkway and meet under the North County Fair sign at the west side of the Mall (you can see the sign from the freeway).

Ramona Sizzler is located at the corner of 3rd and Main streets (Highway 67).

## Autocross

**Date:** Sunday, February 11

**Time:** 9 a.m.

**Place:** Qualcomm Stadium,  
Mission Valley, west lot,  
DCCSD Practice

## San Diego International Auto Show

**Date:** February 14 -18

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

**Coordinator:** STEF GOULD,

(619) 297-4272 or [stef@miata.net](mailto:stef@miata.net)

SDMC has, once again, been offered the chance to "work" Mazda's exhibit alongside their salesmen at the San Diego International Auto Show. Mazda recognizes our enthusiasm for their products and



hopes that some of it will rub off on the general public! Your "job" will be to talk to the public about Mazda, the Miata, and the SAN DIEGO MIATA CLUB.

If you'd like to help out at Mazda's exhibit please contact Stef Gould with your first and second choice of day/shift. There will be three shifts per day Wednesday-Saturday. Morning and afternoon on Sunday. Shifts will be 4 hours long- Morning (10 a.m. - 2 p.m.), Afternoon (2 p.m. - 6 p.m.), Evening (6 p.m. - 10 p.m.). I will do my best to assign shifts based on your preferences on a first-come basis.

[www.autoshowusa.com/sandiego/index.html](http://www.autoshowusa.com/sandiego/index.html)

## Autocross

**Date:** Sunday, February 18

**Time:** 9 a.m.

**Place:** Qualcomm Stadium,  
Mission Valley, west lot,  
SCAT Championship



## Monthly Meeting

**Date:** Thursday, February 22

**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!*

## 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. Once again this venture is open to anyone who is brave enough to join us! 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! Please RSVP me when you have secured your room.



## Sahuaro Miata Club Presents Miata Roundup Car Show

**Date:** Saturday, February 24

**Time:** 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

**Place:** Earnhardt Mazda/Ford  
7300 W. Orchid Lane

Chandler AZ (I-10 & Ray Road)

**Contact:** Glen Swensen (480) 496-5803,  
[grswensen@earthlink.net](mailto:grswensen@earthlink.net)

The SAHUARO MIATA CLUB is pleased to invite you to the "Miata Roundup" Miata Car Show in Chandler, Arizona. Miata and Mazda merchandise will be available, along with a 50/50 raffle and door prizes. Come join us for a fun-filled day with food, drinks, lots of good looking Miatas, as well as interesting Miata enthusiasts!

Many great restaurants and motels are located in the immediate vicinity. We hope to see you there.

## There's Something Fishy About This Run!

**Date:** Sunday, February 25

**Meeting 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)

*This run qualifies toward Mileage Award.*

We will head west to the ocean, south through Del Mar, across Torrey Pines State Beach, to La Jolla for a stop at the Stephen Birch Aquarium. REAL FISHY! After viewing underwater life, it's up to Mt. Soledad's twisties, 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.

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. *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!





## Puke-O-Rama 2001

**Date:** Sunday, March 25

**Meeting Time:** 9:30 a.m.

for breakfast,

Drivers Meeting at 10:45,

First Group Out: 11 a.m.

**Meeting Place:** Marie Callender's restaurant in Escondido. Located on the southwest corner of 13th Street and Centre City Parkway.

**Run Leaders:** STEVE & LAURIE WAID, plus some friends. [swaid@home.com](mailto:swaid@home.com) or (760) 432-0727

Each year "The Puke" gets improved. This year we will provide new and improved heavy-duty commemorative Barf Bags. Last year's bags failed under continued use.

The mission of the Puke-O-Rama remains the same... "provide the venue that is most likely to make a passenger ill." This is done by driving as many of San Diego County's twistiest roads back-to-back. Can you say... San Pasqual Valley, Bandy Canyon, Highland Valley, Old Julian Highway, Wynola Road, Farmers Road, Cuyamaca Highway, Engineer Road, Pine Valley Road, Mesa Grande, Mt. Palomar, Couser Canyon, and more? We will again split into smaller groups so that we will have fewer and shorter queue ups... We Keep Moving! There will be an independent drivers take off first for the free spirits... no leader. Then as many groups as necessary with car counts under 20 (last year we had three groups). Then there was the Daffodil group. The Daffodil group is made up of drivers and passengers who wish to cruise at a speed that allows for the enjoyment of the Daffodils that are blooming at this time of year. Led by the lovely Laurie Waid, driving a daffodil yellow Miata, this group claimed to have the most fun last year.

This is an EAT...DRIVE...EAT event. Marie Callender's will be opening early for us and will have it's \$9.99 Sunday Brunch available. This is a fabulous value, so mark your calendars now. The Puke will end at Dalton's Roadhouse in San Marcos at about dusk for an early dinner opportunity. Some will be looking forward to the chance to re-load. This all-day event will be another unforgettable



time with your fellow Miataphiles. If you don't like to drive and you don't like to eat... don't come.

**Directions to Meeting Place:** If traveling north on Interstate 15, exit at Centre City Parkway and proceed north to 13th Street. If traveling south on Interstate 15 or east on Highway 78, exit Interstate 15 two exits south of Highway 78 at the 9th Street/Auto Parkway turn off. Go east on 9th to Centre City Parkway and then south to 13th Street.

## 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.

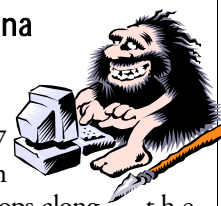
The Madonna Inn in San Luis Obispo is "Search Central" for this three-day Miata event. The search area includes the Central California Coast with such notable search sites as Morro Bay (car show all weekend), Cambria, Pismo Beach, San Simeon, Hearst Castle, wineries, Pozo Saloon, and many roads for further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

**What are we Searching for?**

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

**What do can you 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 you have to do to become a Searcher?**

1. Go to the official Web site of the Search for Madonna (Rocdonna) 2001 [www.rocddonna.homestead.com](http://www.rocddonna.homestead.com). See the theme 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 WAID, (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!

## McKeever High Performance Driving School

Willow Springs Raceway

**Date:** May 19 - 21



This high performance driving school is open to drivers of *all* skill levels, from the novice who just wants to learn how to be a safer driver to the weekend racer who wants to shave a few ticks off his lap times. You will be grouped according to your comfort level and track experience for maximum safety. A short *Driving Clinic* on the wet skid pad will be open to non-participants on Saturday.

Entry fee includes:

- High performance driving manual
- 5x7 group picture
- Lunch each day
- Certificate of completion
- Classroom instruction
- Individual ride-along instruction
- Approximately 150 - 175 track miles per day

Saturday and/or Sunday on the "Streets of Willow" track.

\$175 for 1 Day School

\$350 for 2 Day School

Limited to a maximum of 30 drivers each day (two 15-car run groups). No roll over bar or racing belts required. Helmets and driving suits available for use. Teenagers are welcome with signed parental consent form.

Monday on the 2½-mile "Willow Springs International Raceway" track.

\$200 for the day

You must have completed the 2-day "Streets of Willow" school. Cars MUST have roll over bars and racing belts to participate on the big track.

If you don't want to use your Miata for the school, Danny's race prepared Toyota Celicas are available for \$450 per day plus your entry fee.

Make check payable to SAN DIEGO MIATA CLUB and send to:

Jon Martinez

155 Avenida Adobe

San Clemente CA 92672

Questions: (949) 361-0838 or

[jontronics@home.com](mailto:jontronics@home.com)

Willow Springs Web Site:

[www.willowspringsraceway.com](http://www.willowspringsraceway.com)

Danny McKeever's Web Site:

[www.raceschool.com](http://www.raceschool.com)

If you can't make it to this one, our next two-day school is scheduled for Saturday and Sunday, October 6-7, 2001.

### San Joaquin Valley Miata Club's 7th Annual Saint Patrick's Day Poker Run

**Date:** Saturday, March, 17

**Location:** Clovis, CA

The SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY MIATA CLUB would like to invite you to our annual charity poker run. The last few years, with your help, we were able to donate money to local charities. Over the last couple of years the net profits from this event went to the Marjaree Mason Center, a shelter for victims of domestic violence.

The event fees include the poker run, t-shirt, and lunch for two during the drive. Each year we also have a very nice raffle, which has been well supported by the Miata vendors in the past. This is a low-key, lets have fun, and get to know each other event. After the poker run, there will be an "all you can eat" buffet style dinner. The fees are \$45 for the poker run, \$16 for each dinner, and \$15 apiece for extra t-shirts.

Clovis is known as "The gateway to the Sierras". There are also many rustic antique shops within walking distance of the hotel. The Clovis Cole Best Western will be the hub of activity. Rates are \$70 single or double occupancy. Call (559) 299-1547 for reservations and mention the "Miata event" for the discounted room rate.

You can get more information and a registration form from our web site at [www.sjvmc.net](http://www.sjvmc.net) or call (559) 277-8809.

### Fifth Annual Miata Performance Driving School at Thunderhill Raceway

**Date:** 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 [www.teammiata.com/thunderhill/school.htm](http://www.teammiata.com/thunderhill/school.htm).

Fill out the on-line form, print it out, and send it in with your check.

### Cool Weekend On The Coast

**Date:** June 16 - 17

**Contact:** Austin Dach [calife@creality.com](mailto:calife@creality.com)

The 2001 Cool Weekend will be hosted by the REDWOOD COAST MIATA CLUB in Eureka, California, on the weekend of June 16-17. Registration opens 6 p.m. Friday evening. Events include the Great Drive, rally, autocross, Coolest Miata competition (and trophies for winners), best Miata story, awards banquet, drawings, prizes and more. Set in the natural beauty of the redwoods, rivers, and coastline of the Northcoast of California. Web site and registration page to be posted soon.

### Miata a "Guy" or a "Chick"? Just Ask Clack and Click

Is your Miata a "chick" car or a "guy" car? Click and Clack (Tom & Ray Magliozzi), in their nationally syndicated *Wheels* newspaper column, reported January 20 that their readers' poll showed Miata was one of five definitely "chick" cars—along with the Dodge Neon, VW Jetta, VW Cabriolet and new Beetle (how many other cars come with a flower vase as standard equipment?). Interesting to be grouped with three VWs.

The top five "guy" cars in their survey were Dodge Viper, Ford F-150 Pickup, Chevy Camaro, Chevy Corvette, and Ford Mustang. Ugh.

If you would care to offer some comments on this selection, you can go to [www.cars.com](http://www.cars.com), click on the Car Talk section and let them know. They might even accept photos or video. Could be fun, and perhaps let the world know more about the No. 1 Car Club in America.

— TOM SPRAGUE



**S**an Diego has a rich history of autocross and solo racing. Due in no small part to our incredible weather and superb facilities, we have enjoyed year-round competition for decades. Originally, what we now call Solo2 was called autocross and over the years a number of car-specific clubs formed to host occasional events. As time passed and club members changed cars, the distinction between cars became less important and the focus changed to racing.



In the early '90s, the active Solo2 clubs came together to merge with the San Diego Region of the SCCA in order to hold larger, more uniform events. However, the clubs have remained intact and are very active on a social basis as well as competitively. Solo2 clubs are responsible for hosting the events and as a reward for that effort and commitment to our sport, only club members are eligible for the annual points awards.

## How to get started

So... you have decided it's time to get out of the chair and have some real fun. This page will tell you what you need to know to "sit down, strap in, and take the ride of your life." It's easy; just arrive early in the day and we will help you get off to a good start. There are some basics that you should know:

- ✓ Your car needs to be in reasonably good condition and have good tires and working seatbelts.
- ✓ You must have a valid driver's license. Sorry, no learner's permits.
- ✓ Money! Entry fee is \$25 for non-SCCA members and \$20 for SCCA members. Since we run 10 or more events a year, the \$55 SCCA fee is repaid if you plan to race a lot.
- ✓ You must purchase your car number for the year at a cost of \$15.
- ✓ You must wear a helmet with a SNELL rating of 1990 or later. If you do not have one, there are loaner helmets available at no cost at each event.

## A little knowledge goes a long way

The event is divided into 6 run groups. A run group consists of a number of car classes with the hope that each run group will have about the same number of cars. You must drive in the class you signed up for and classes compete in a designated run group. To simplify your first day we recommend that you enter what we term the X class. This allows you to drive with any run group and you do not have to be concerned with what class your car belongs in.

All events are work-run events. This means that in addition to driving your laps, you must also help with the event by working for a run group. Work assignments range from timing & scoring to course workers. For your first few events you should sign-up for a course worker position. In fact, many drivers like to work the course prior to their runs so they can see the "line" of other drivers. Workers are called over the PA system a few minutes prior to the end of each run group. Be sure to tell the worker chief that you are new so they can pair you with a more experienced worker and provide you with instructions. It will be important for you to arrive as early as possible for your first few events.

## Sign-up

As you drive in the gate of the Solo2 area, you must sign-in and put on the wristband that the gate worker gives you. If you arrive so early there is no gate worker, ask someone where you can get your wristband. The sign-in is a waiver that must be signed by everyone who enters the area.

Find a place to park your car and then walk to the registration area. This is not always easy to spot, so ask someone if you don't see it.

You must purchase your car number for the year before you can fill in the sign-up paperwork. There is always someone at registration for this purpose. Ask anyone at the registration table to show you whom you need to see.

Typically, there is a supply of Novice

Handbooks available for purchase as well as the current SCCA rules. The rules are a good idea and the handbook has lots of information for first time drivers that you might find helpful. The rulebook is \$10 and the handbook is \$1. While we always try to have a supply of these on hand, we often run out during the year and cannot always obtain more.

Before you fill in the registration card you will need to sign-up for a work assignment. This is found on a clipboard near where you found the registration cards. Write your name, car number and class in the position you want. Remember that the work group you sign up for must be different from when you run!

We ask that you not sign-up for the work group that immediately follows your run group as this tends to slow down the process of getting workers to their positions.

The yellow card is for novice drivers; this will be the card you will probably be filling out. The green card is for PAX entries (a special indexed time class) and the white card is for non-novice class entries. Fill in all the information on the front; the back is for the tech inspector. You may use the Novice card for your first three events; after that you must use one of the other cards.

Take your registration card, driver's license, annual car number card, and money to the registration table and wait for the next available worker. He will check your form, driver's license, and car number card and then hand you back your registration card. You're now ready to go to tech!

## Tech Inspection

Tech is for your safety as well that of others around you. It is a simple safety check of your car that will check your tires, steering, brakes, battery tiedowns, wheel bearings, helmet (if you have one), seat belts and throttle return spring(s). Stock cars should have no problems at Tech but if your car has been modified, make sure you have two return springs on your throttle.





Before you drive to the Tech area, remove all loose items from the interior of your car as well as the trunk. Remove your hubcaps or alloy wheel centers (if they simply pop off). This is a good time to check your lug nuts to insure they are tight.

When you arrive at Tech there might be a line of cars. When you get to the front of the line, turn off your engine and park the car. Open the hood and trunk, hand the worker your registration card, and have your helmet available if you have one.

After the worker finishes with your car, he will put a sticker on your windshield. The worker will keep the registration card. Drive your car back to your parking place. You are now ready to walk the course!

### Check out the Course

No one has a chance to drive practice laps at a regular event. The only way you can get any idea of what the course will be is to walk it! At 8:30 a.m. and again during the lunch break, there is a special course walk for new drivers. This walk is conducted by an experienced driver who will show you the fast way around the course and provide driving tips. Take the walk; it really helps! Feel free to ask questions and remember the only dumb question is the one you didn't ask.

### Listen to the PA for Your Work and Run Groups

Workers are called a few minutes before the end of the active run group. Walk to the timing trailer as soon as you hear your work group called. Run Groups are also called a few minutes prior to the end of the current Run Group. Drive your car to the grid as soon as you hear your Run Group called. Do not put your car in line if there are still cars going on course for the current group. Wait near the back of the line.

For your work group you must report to the Worker Chief, who is typically the person with a small crowd around them by the trailer. Be sure to tell the chief that you are new and you need some instructions. Working the course

## 2000 San Diego Region Solo2 Class Results

Congratulations to the following SAN DIEGO MIATA CLUB members on their performance in 2000. We will be cheering you, and other SDMC members, in 2001.

Class	Number	Driver	Solo2 Club	Total Points	Place
<i>Stock Class</i>					
BS	99	Rainer Mueller	SDAD	870.470	3
<i>Street Prepared</i>					
CSP	139	Ron Chapman	DCCSD	864.320	3
CSP	74	Robert Holland	SDAD	849.903	4
CSP	391	Mara Caler	DCCSD	846.950	5

The complete list of class winners and placing can be found at [www.sdr-solo2.com](http://www.sdr-solo2.com).

is easy and is more about common sense and paying attention than technical knowledge.

### Ask for an Instructor

At your first two events you are allowed to have a instructor ride with you. Take advantage of this! Instructors will get you on a fast track to better times and reduce the frustration many first time drivers feel. The time to ask for an instructor is when you put your car in "grid". Park the car and walk to the timing trailer and ask the workers to page an instructor for you. Please keep in mind that events move at a fast pace, especially around the trailer. If an instructor does not arrive within a few minutes, ask again! There are more instructors available later in the day, so sign-up for run group 3,4,5 or 6 to ensure an instructor will be available.

### Is it Over Already?

Not really. If you are like most drivers you will want more time on the track. If time permits there are fun runs held after all normal class runs are complete. These are \$1 per lap and drivers often get 5 or more fun runs at an event.

### Any More Questions?

We are sure there are lots more questions, but the place to get answers is not here but at the event. Don't hesitate to ask other drivers (we were all first time drivers once). If they don't know the answer to your question, they can often point out someone who does.

### Ask lots of questions

It won't take long before you are one of

the veterans ready to help other new drivers!

— This information was used by permission from the San Diego Region Solo2 Website.

## AUTOCROSS AT THE "Q"



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

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.







After a typical fun-filled SAN DIEGO MIATA CLUB run, you will usually hear someone say “Pie Run,” and we end up taking over a nearby food establishment.

At the Monthly Meeting in December, which was the week between Christmas and New Years, most everyone had their fill of holiday pies. After the meeting (and of course most of us had enjoyed our dinner at the Boll Weevil as well), KATHY AND KEN ROBERTS decided to call for a “Doughnut Run!”

The newly-opened Krispy Kreme doughnut shop was only a few blocks from the Boll Weevil, so twenty or so Miatas caravanned over. Nothing like some hot and sticky doughnuts to top off the evening!

With a 45 minute wait in the drive-thru, the Miatas quickly parked and disgorged the occupants to invade the unsuspecting establishment. It is amazing how many dozen Krispy Kreme doughnuts can be packed into a Miata.



PHOTOS: ROSALIND SCOTT





## New Mileage Awards Program

The new year always brings with it new ideas. The SAN DIEGO MIATA CLUB is no different. We have instituted 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 are instituting 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 are based on your participation in club runs. For each run in which you participate, drivers will be credited the amount of miles designated by the run coordinator. 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 runs will be eligible for credit toward 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 run coordinators after the completion of their runs. At regular intervals throughout the year the current mileage levels for the point-gathering members 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

## New Members!

**WELCOME to our newest members (since last newsletter):**

ERIC & NANCY ABAD

Chula Vista  
1992 Yellow

RON BOUGHER

Spring Valley  
1997 M (Marina Green)

JOHN & LINDA BREEN

Escondido  
1997 Black

MARIE CHEN & CLINT PUSEY

San Diego  
1999 Silver

ANDREW DELERY

San Diego  
1994 Black

CRAIG J. DUNNE

Fallbrook  
1990 red

CHARLES GONZALEZ & MASON ATCHLEY

San Diego  
2001 Emerald Green LS

WILLIAM HYDE

Cypress  
1991 White

DUSTIN LEWIS & VIKTORIA WELLINGTON

Jamul  
1990 Red

ROBERT MCALLISTER

Santee  
Unreported

CAROLYN NESPOLO & JIM DAVIDSON

Ramona  
1999 Silver Touring

DEB ROSS & BOB PFEIFFER

San Diego  
2000 SE (Mahogany)

DONALD SHAW

San Diego  
1991 Red A

BEN SOLIS & PAUL NARDIN

San Diego  
2001 Midnight Blue Mica

## Membership Statistics

As of January 27, 2001, there are 333 memberships (134 single, 199 dual) for a total of 532 members.

Memberships by Miata Color:

91	Red
55	White
37	Black
37	Emerald Green
27	Silver
15	Sapphire Blue
13	Montego Blue
10	Marina Green
8	Mariner Blue
8	Starlight Blue
8	Twilight Blue
7	Laguna Blue
7	Mahogany
6	BRG
6	Merlot
6	Yellow
3	Crystal Blue
2	Evolution Orange
1	Midnight Blue
1	Eggplant (custom)
1	Teal (custom)
8	Unreported*

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

## Renewing Members (since last newsletter):

RICHARD ACKERMANN &

CATHERINE TALLEY

KOREN EMERSON & JOSH VERRELLI

VICKY & LARRY GILBERT

RICK & DEBORAH GREEN

TERRY W. MERRILL

CAROLE A. ORLEN

ALLAN & LINDA PABIAN

SUE & RANDY PATTERSON

MICHAEL SIMMONS

WALLY STEVENS

JIM & TIGER THYDEN

TED & TAMARA TIMMONS

ROY & MARY TWEEDIE

PATRICK & VIONA VAN HOOSE

BOB & KATHY WELTY





## Hangover Run 4 The New Millennium

Monday, January 1, 2001

"Each moment in history is a fleeting time, precious and unique. But some stand out as moments of beginning in which courses are set."

— Richard M. Nixon

**F**or Southern California, that moment has to be when we started the year 2001, the twenty-first century, and the Third Millennium with the Hangover Run on 01-01-01.

When I realized that the fourth Hangover Run would be on New Year's Day, I knew that it had to be something special. It was my dream that the run would have at least 101 cars ("101 on 01-01-01"). I really have to thank everyone for *surpassing* that dream. We not only set a new record for a normal fun run with 107 total cars coming from seven different clubs (Miatas from SOCALM, SDMC, Sahuaro, SAMOA, and Lone Star, and 16 RX-7s from the San Diego RX-7 Club and SoCal7s), we also set a record for the most Miatas (90) on a fun run! It was great to see some people having come from far away, such as Terye and Royce Van Sanford from the Sahuaro (Arizona) Miata Club and Bill and Billye Preston from the Lone Star (Texas) Miata Club. The run was so special, we had a Ferrari as our sweep car – Enzo, Jr. (my Miata) leading the pack with Enzo, Sr. (Tony Willson's Ferrari) as the tail. How cool!

The day began with most of us eating brunch at the Walnut Grove Restaurant. While I had checked with the manager



PHOTO: BARB SHEV

**Zack gathers the group together for the first SOCALM and SDMC run of the new millennium.**

and owner about hosting a large group a month beforehand, apparently no one bothered to tell "Charity" (the hostess/manager on New Year's Day). So, they were a little overwhelmed by our numbers. Nonetheless, everyone who wanted to eat was served with enough time to get to the starting point of the run. Most everyone even had time to sign the *Miatas Across the World* banners, finally back in Southern California after 20 months of roving around the world.

I am proud to say that I now hold the title as the *First Person to Give Bad Directions in the Third Millennium*. Somehow, I directed everyone onto the wrong street to get to the starting point of the



PHOTO: ED LANGMAID

**With so many Mahogany Miatas in attendance, you might have thought it was the Diana Ross fan club.**

run. It was just a block off, but that caused all of my lefts and rights to be reversed. My apologies to everyone who drove in bewildered circles. I *did* promise that the run would be memorable.

The day was picture perfect and I tried to keep the pace fun without being on the edge. While on Ortega, my girlfriend Tori had to ask the question, "So, what would happen if a Sport Utility Vehicle was raised by a family of sports cars?" Yup, a brand new Mazda Tribute was driving as our unintentional leader. The Tribute did pretty well, but I was glad



PHOTO: BARB SHEV





when he finally moved over and let us zoom-zoom past.

Stopping in Lake Elsinore, we had a minor bathroom boondoggle when the first cars at McVicker Park found the doors locked. Somehow, I never considered that the restrooms would be closed. Luckily, a set of restrooms a short walk away was open, and everyone felt relief.

The second leg of our run was outstanding, starting with a scenic tour of Lake Elsinore. Then we got into the “real” driving, taking Clinton Keith Road to Tenaja. This is the route of the now-famous 27% downgrade, and as Tori and I rolled downhill, I threw up my hands like on a roller-coaster. It was great to see everyone behind me doing the same.

After the downgrade, we ventured onto some roads that are new to the Hangover Run. Twisting back uphill, we drove in a large circle on Los Gatos and Vista Del Mar roads. Tori and I started joking about how there were so many cars, we might actually see our tail. But, of course, there were over four miles between the intersection of Los Gatos and Carancho (the starting and ending point of the circle). It would be impossible that we would see our tail – *wrong!* Just as we approached the intersection along Carancho, there were a bunch of RX-7s and a lone Ferrari crossing our path on Los Gatos. Amazing!

The run continued onto De Luz Road, one of the coolest roads in the known universe. Tree-lined, De Luz Road passes horse ranches, crosses over streams, and curves through the rugged back areas of Camp Pendleton. The sun was brilliant, maybe even a bit blinding at times, but cast some spectacular shadows with spotlights of intense color. Our Mazdas paraded through this symphony of nature, adding to it with the spirited roar of twin-turbos, superchargers, dual exhausts, and engines tuned with love.

For many of the San Diego folks, the run ended in Fallbrook. Even though we were driving at the pace I expected, we got a typical “on time” (late) start at the beginning of the run. So, with daylight fading and Interstate 15 nearby, several people decided to head home.

The rest of us continued the magic of the day, driving into the twilight towards



PHOTO: BARB SHEV

Temecula. Our group was so impressive on the road, we actually gained a dusty black & tan Miata in Fallbrook. I'll bet that the San Diego Miata Club will have a new member soon!

The warmth of our heaters offset the brisk air as we again ventured up into the hills, the sunset painting the sky with fiery pastels. Stars began to twinkle above us as I claimed the title of the First Person to Give *Multiple* Bad Directions in the Third Millennium (all part of my Evil Emperor plan, no doubt). At 12.4 miles, I indicated a right onto Calle Cuero. Of course, by “right” I meant “left.” With the night upon us, I decided to hold the lead cars and wait for the rest of the pack to catch up. Otherwise, some of you might still be lost. It only took five minutes before we were again an unbroken chain, and we headed for the finish line.

The run ended with a core group of ice cream fanatics descending upon an unsus-

pecting Baskin Robbins. I have no guilt for mobbing the place since they discontinued the “Snowman Sundae” before I could have one. As we ate our ice cream (with nearly every Miata owner buying an ice cream that contained chocolate of some kind), we basked in the afterglow of the day.

I can't think of a better way to usher in the new year, century, and millennium than driving with 105 other Mazdas (+1 Ferrari) in Southern California. This is what the Miata and RX-7 are all about: the pure enjoyment of driving. I hope that this run stands out in everyone's mind as a moment of beginning, setting our clubs onto a course filled with adventure.

While the Hangover Run 2001 is now but a moment in history, my memory of it – and all of you – will stay alive for a lifetime.

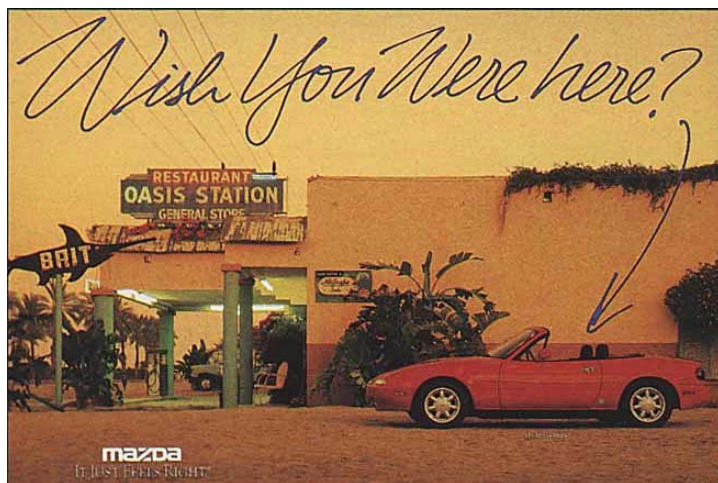
— K. ZACK BROADBENT



PHOTO: BARB SHEV







The late 1989 or early 1990 Mazda print ad showing the then-new Miata at Oasis Station.



PHOTO: MARK BOOTH



The Miatas are just as good, if not better, looking than before. Oasis Station, however, is not weathering the years quite as well.

PHOTO: MARK BOOTH



PHOTO: MARK BOOTH

The day was finished off in SDMC style, with a meal at Nuevo Grill in Ramona.

## Impromptu Run

Sunday, January 14, 2001



Let's do an impromptu run- is that what you say?  
Fourteen cars met on a warm winter day.

Highland Valley and Wynola Road were the curvy distraction  
Borrego Springs was the intended attraction.

The snow, the crisp air, the beautiful scenery was incredible  
A pampered lunch at La Casa del Zorro was most edible.

Then off to the Salton Sea to find the famous Oasis Station  
Sand, sun and open road was the orientation.

History was made at this place a decade past  
And fourteen Miatas brought back memories that surely will last.

Back to Borrego and over the mountain was certainly fun  
To that quaint little town in the Valley of the Sun.

Let's have some Tex Mex ! One member bellowed  
So Nuevo Grill is where we mellowed.

Three counties, snow, sea and sand is what we dubbed this run.  
Be certain to catch the next event, for you never  
Know what this club will do for fun.

— SAL CAUSARANO



PHOTO: MARK BOOTH



PHOTO: ED LANGMAD





## Time to Clean Out The Garage!

If you've been saving the oil drained out of your Miata (or OTM), now is a good time to recycle it. The City of San Diego has the following recycling events coming up:



### Saturday, February 10

Balboa Park, parking lot at the corner of Park Blvd. & Presidents Way.

### Saturday, March 3

Mira Mesa High School  
10510 Reagan Road  
@ Mira Mesa Blvd.  
San Diego 92126

### Saturday, April 7

Serra High School, north parking lot  
5156 Santo Road  
San Diego 92124

### Saturday, May 19

Montgomery High School  
3250 Palm Ave. @ Hawaii Ave.  
San Diego 92154

Collection events are from 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

They will accept a maximum of 10 gallons of used oil (Please transport in a sealable container), antifreeze, oil filters, and automotive batteries.

These events, sponsored by the City of San Diego, are open ONLY to residents of the city. For more information, call (619) 235-2105. If you are not in the city of San Diego, please contact your city's environmental affairs department or the county agency for similar events in your area. Most auto parts stores and repair shops will also accept used oil for recycling.



## Information Alert: 1999 and 2000 Miata Owners

Back in June of 1999, Mazda issued a technical service bulletin (#002/99) for certain VIN numbers of 1999 Miatas (and some Proteges) with regard to problems with the #4 main thrust bearing. This information was published in the SAN DIEGO MIATA CLUB NEWS in November 1999 (SDMC News, Volume 4, Number 11, page 4).

Well, it now looks like Mazda has increased the VIN number range for this problem, right into the 2000 models! If your 1999 or 2000 Miata has a VIN number BELOW (last six digits) 155947 and your Miata has more than 20K miles on it, I highly recommend you have a factory authorized dealer measure the end play on your Miata's crankshaft. It could be new engine time!

— MARK BOOTH

The following information was taken from the new Mazda Technical Service Bulletin (TSB). Included is most, but not all, of the information in the TSB.

TSB #014/00R

Issued 10/04/00

Revised 11/29/00

### Subject

Rattling Noise from engine.

### Applicable Models

1999-2000 Miata 1.8L with VIN's lower than JM1NB353\*Y0155947

### Description

A rattling noise may be heard from the engine when depressing the clutch or when revving the engine. In extreme cases, customers may experience noise at all times. This concern can be caused by improperly machined number 4 main cap of cylinder blocks which may result in premature wear of the thrust bearing. Customers having this concern should have their vehicle repaired using the following procedure.

### Repair Procedure

1. Verify customer concern.
2. Using a dial indicator, measure and record the crankshaft end play. Rotate the crankshaft 180°, and again measure and record the crankshaft end play.
  - If end play is 0.3mm or more, proceed to STEP 3.
  - If end play is less than 0.3mm, refer to the Workshop Manual for further diagnostics.
3. Replace the applicable part per the Workshop Manual:
  - Miata - Partial Engine.



## Aftermarket Goodies Mazda Chrome Fuel Filler Door

When the 2001 Miata was introduced, some sharp-eyed enthusiasts spotted an extra jewel in the sales brochure. A chrome plated fuel filler door was included by Mazda as an option. The fuel door has the added advantage of fitting all 1999 and 2000 model year Miatas as well!

Why would anyone want a chrome fuel filler door? Well, why would anyone want alloy wheels or a nice, shiny shift knob (from Team Voodoo, of course)? Because it enhances and personalizes each of our roadsters to reflect what each one of us envisions a roadster to be. A chrome fuel filler door gives the left rear corner of the Miata just a bit more flash. It harkens back to the days of chrome bits on every part of your auto.

The Mazda chrome fuel filler door is a snap to install, as you can see from the accompanying photos. The installed door is flush mounted, just like the original, and uses the same fuel door release.

Installation time? About 10 minutes. You could probably do the install faster than it takes to fill up your Miata at your next fuel stop. And, since this is a Mazda part, it carries a 12 month limited warranty.

If there is a downside to this item, it must be that it does not fit '90 - '97 Miatas. Don't be tempted to try, the curves of the newer M2 ('99 - '01) body are different than the earlier M1. Not to worry, Tommy Grimes (aka Parts Dood) of Finish Line Performance ([www.miataparts.net](http://www.miataparts.net)) has already engineered a similar item for the M1 cars. It should be available sometime in April. Check the Finish Line Web site for more information.

If you have an M2 Miata, you could purchase this item from any Mazda dealer for the retail price of \$108. You could visit one of the Mazda dealers who offer discounts to SAN DIEGO MIATA CLUB members and pay 10-15% less. Better yet, SDMC president ELLIOT SHEV has made a deal with Cush Mazda in Escondido for a special "bulk buy" of these beauties at \$75, plus tax (\$81 total). A minimum of

10 fuel doors are required for this smokin' deal. Elliot will be collecting orders (and money) from those members who "just got to have one" until the February monthly membership meeting on Thursday, February 22. So, e-mail Elliot at [president@sandiegomiataclub.org](mailto:president@sandiegomiataclub.org) or call him (see page 2), or see him at most any event this month. Don't miss out on this chance to have one of the coolest items Mazda has made since the Miata itself.

— ANTHONY WILDE



The stock fuel door is just fine, if you want it to disappear into the rear quarter panel.



The fuel door and simple instructions come in the box from Mazda. As with all Mazda options, there is a 12 month limited warranty.

To get one of these fine looking fuel doors, at a great price, you will need to get the money to Elliot Shev before February, 22.

\$75 plus tax (\$81) will have your M2 Miata looking sharp.



Remove two screws that hold the fuel door to the body.



Remove the filler cap and retainer. Place a rag in the spout to prevent fuel vapors from escaping. Remove the three screws around the fuel filler neck.



Place the new fuel door, install the three screws. Remove rag, install filler cap and retainer.



Now that is a nice looking fuel door!

PHOTOS: ELLIOT SHEV





## Blowing Steam

There are lots of things our reliable little Miatas can accomplish, but running without coolant is not one of them.

Arriving for a late afternoon business meeting one day last month, I noticed steam either coming from the front of my Silver '90 or the tailpipe of the car in front of me. Hoping it was the latter, I pulled into the parking lot and found—alas—it was me. Popped the hood, and saw fluid sprayed around the engine compartment. Checked hoses, but all seemed intact.

Looking under the car, fluid was puddling in two spots—under the radiator, and at the rear of the engine. Which confused me a bit (which is not all that hard to do). Wanting to get home to my garage 12 miles away so I could do more probing, but not anxious to drive the



freeway after dark with fluid leaking, I decided to take a chance. Filled up a “designer water” bottle from a nearby swimming pool, topped off the radiator, and started for home. Halfway home, pulled off and again topped off. Surprisingly to me, each “filling” took only half a bottle or so.

At home, I could see the front of the radiator was wet, but the fluid dripping on the floor at the back of the engine led me to think perhaps the engine block plug had come loose. But then how did the water get to the front of the radiator and on the underside of the hood?

I decided it had to be the radiator and the water at the rear was merely channeling backwards under the engine. Being a one-car, one-person household, I wanted to get up and running again as quickly as possible. I figured I better try something close to home where I could make it with one fillup.

Steve at Miramar Radiators said the top plastic tank on the Miata fre-

quently goes after eight or nine years, and he could replace it quickly for me. Just made it to his shop when Silver started hissing, and found out he didn't have a tank but did have a full rebuilt radiator. Two hours later, I was up and running again.

Two club members offered me their old radiators, and another offered help with the installation—the usual fine response. But I figured it was a good time for a flush as well, and the shop had the means of disposal, which I didn't, so decided to let them do the job for me. They also cleaned up the engine compartment, so it looks and smells much better.

Interestingly enough, there was no advance warning. No garage drips, no steam and no smell until it quit. The temp gauge never went past its regular range until the very last trip to the shop, and then went up only slightly.

As Willie Nelson sings, “I’m on the road again.”

—TOM SPRAGUE

## 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:** Racing Beat Type V “Euro” Style Bar with padded black cover. Color covers (tan, blue, dk green, red, or silver) available from Racing Beat. Excellent condition. \$187 (\$210-new).

Stef (619) 297-4272, [stef@miata.net](mailto:stef@miata.net)

**For Sale:** 1993 Miata, Red, 116K miles, base model, A/C, excellent condition, very well cared for, aftermarket extras too numerous to mention here. \$6500.

Sal (760) 787-0624 or [wooddust@aol.com](mailto:wooddust@aol.com)

**For Sale:** '99 Miata. White with tan leather, full power, chrome factory wheels, 2” stainless steel roll bar, new KYB adjustable shocks, Flying Miata sway bars, new BFG Z-rated tires. Always garaged, dealer maintained, 25k miles, excellent condition. \$19,400 OBO.

Jim (760) 741-5840 or [jim@pacificinteriors.com](mailto:jim@pacificinteriors.com)

**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. Alpine 7525 AM/FM/Cassette & remote control. Detachable face, CD changer controls, superb tape playback quality, super tuner with 24 presets & auto volume adjust. Installation available if needed (Free - but, you pay for parts). \$225. Also, matching 6 CD changer available for additional \$175. 3 additional disc cartridges.

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. \$125 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 yours for only \$80, 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)

**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)

