



VOLUME 6 NUMBER 3

UPCOMING EVENTS



March 3 - 4
Autocross at the "Q"



March 16 - 18
National Tour Autocross
Championship at the "Q"



March 17 - Saturday
San Joaquin Valley Miata
Club's 7th Annual Saint
Patrick's Day Poker Run



March 22 - Thursday
Monthly Meeting



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



March 25 - Sunday
Puke-O-Rama 2001



March 26 - Monday
Laguna Seca Track
Event



April 14 - Saturday
Dam-O-Rama 2001



April 22 - Sunday
Run For The Magnetics



April 28 - Saturday
Annual Meeting

SAN DIEGO MIATA CLUB NEWS

MARCH 2001

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

It's That Time Again...

Every April at our annual meeting we have a lot of fun, eat cake (it's our birthday ya' know) and watch a fabulous collage of past events produced and acted out by the most fun loving group of Miatafiles I know. There is one other important duty that must be carried out that day and that is to nominate and elect four board members for the next year. We do this in April, as that is the beginning of our fiscal year.

Who can run for office? Who can be nominated for office? Who can be elected to office? Any member in good standing who lives in San Diego County can be elected to the board. Do you have the desire to guide this club to more fun for the next year? Do you have the time and energy to spare for the next year? Will you be the next SDMC member to take on a leadership role in our club?

It's easy to do. We have four elected officers, PRESIDENT, VICE PRESIDENT, SECRETARY, and TREASURER. Simply decide what function you would like to perform and prepare a brief bio for publication in our April newsletter. This is how you will let the other members know that you are interested in being nominated for that position at the annual meeting.

The four elected board members make up the executive board. A small band of appointed volunteers serve as the administrative board. Together, these two boards make up the Board of Directors for the SAN DIEGO MIATA CLUB.

The administrative board consists of our membership duo, our newsletter editor, our events coordinator, our Webmaster, and last but not least, our regalia gals. All these people, together, keep the wheels turning and the club running. In some cases, we have others who volunteer and help. Such is the case with the newsletter. ANTHONY WILDE has a small band of dedicated enthusiasts who make sure you get the best darn newsletter you can for \$25 a year.

Anyway, now is the time to get up and write a few words about yourself and why you would like to be considered for nomination for a leadership role in our club. The best way for the fun to continue is for every member to get involved and take his turn in guiding the club. If you have the desire, energy, time, and inclination, please consider running for office at the annual meeting. Don't forget, your bio must be submitted by March 15th.

I had better stop writing this message to you and get on with *my* bio.

See ya' round the next bend!

— ELLIOT

See Page 2 for more details.



Wanted: Fun Run Leaders

No experience necessary. Will assist or instruct if needed.

Compensation:

Two SAN DIEGO MIATA CLUB magnetics with your car color, plus mileage towards yearly mileage award.

Apply to:

GERI CAUSARANO
(760) 787-0624 or
events@sandiegomiataclub.org

SDMC is looking for fun loving members to lead FUN RUNS in order to enhance the excitement and enthusiasm of driving and eating. NO EXPERIENCE is necessary! Instruction or assistance will gladly be provided to applicant if desired. Applicant will be paid with two beautiful SDMC magnetics displaying the color of applicant's Miata, and of course mileage credit.

Applicants will also be paid back with the satisfaction of knowing that they have provided a day of fun, amusement and member camaraderie, not only for themselves, but for all participants.

If you feel you would like to fill the position described above please call or e-mail at your earliest convenience.

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

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

VOODOO BOB KRUEGER
voodoo@miata.net

DIANE LONG
djaws@san.rr.com

TOM SPRAGUE
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.



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.

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

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Executive Board

President
ELLIOT SHEV
(858) 679-0777
president@sandiegomiataclub.org

Vice President
SAL CAUSARANO
(760) 787-0624
vicepresident@sandiegomiataclub.org

Secretary
BARB TEMPLETON
(760) 751-8636
secretary@sandiegomiataclub.org

Treasurer
MIKE SHACK
(858) 485-0278
treasurer@sandiegomiataclub.org

Administrative Board

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

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

Club E-mail Postmaster/Webmaster
ROBERT "JTBOB" HOLLAND
(858) 549-4011
webmaster@sandiegomiataclub.org

Club Regalia
PAULA KENNISON & ROSALIND SCOTT
(858) 271-8498 or (760) 789-3872
regalia@sandiegomiataclub.org

Newsletter
ANTHONY "NEVADABOB" WILDE
(858) 693-8095
newsletter@sandiegomiataclub.org

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

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

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



UPCOMING EVENTS FOR THE MONTH OF MARCH

Autocross

Dates: Saturday, March 3, practice

Sunday, March 4,

TART championship

Time: 9 a.m.

Place: Qualcomm Stadium,

Mission Valley, west lot



National Tour Championship Autocross

Dates: March 16 - 18

Time: 9 a.m.

Place: Qualcomm Stadium,

Mission Valley



The National SCCA Tour is coming to San Diego for a Championship Autocross. Friday (the 16th) is registration and technical inspection day. The event has runs on both Saturday and Sunday, and the best runs from each day are combined for a cumulative best time. Call the information hotline, (619) 441-1333 for more details.

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. Over the last couple of years the net profits from this event have gone 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, let's 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.sivmc.net or call (559) 277-8809.

Monthly Meeting

Date: Thursday, March 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!

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.

Puke-O-Rama 2001

Date: Sunday, March 25

Meeting Time: 9:30 a.m.

for breakfast,

Driver's 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 or (760) 432-0727

This run qualifies toward Mileage Award.

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.

We will again split into smaller groups so that we will have fewer and shorter queue-ups. 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).

This is an EAT...DRIVE...EAT event. Marie Callender's will be opening early for us and will have its \$9.99 Sunday Brunch available. The Puke will end at Dalton's Roadhouse in San Marcos. 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.

Laguna Seca Track Event

Date: March 26

Aaron Tachibana of Sunnyvale, who arranges Miata track events at Laguna Seca and Sears Point, has secured Laguna Seca for Monday, March 26th. If you have the time and would like to try one of the best tracks in the country, this is your chance. The cost is \$225. For more information call Aaron at (408) 738-3290 or e-mail tach9@pacbell.net.



Dam Run III

The Dam-O-Rama 2001

Date: Saturday, April 14

Run leaders: JOHN & JOYCE RICHARDSON

As you are sitting in front of your power-diminished computer, freezing from turning your thermostat down to conserve natural gas, think back to last May and the hot time you had on Dam Run 2000. The chills diminish as you remember the fun and excitement of seeing the largest reservoir in Southern California and the long trek across the parched badlands of Hemet in 100-degree heat. You remember that the Run leader promised to have Dam Run III earlier in 2001.

Well...it's about to happen! Only a few short weeks until everyone's favorite time of year...Tax Time! And for many of you, the word "dam" will be on your lips as you add up all your tax dollars going to pay for this behemoth dam project. Two days before tax day (Saturday, April 14th to be exact), you'll have a chance to run out all of your frustrations on a fun and curvy run.

For 2001, we've combined three concepts into one run.

1. We'll see the Domenigoni Dam for the third year in a row and see how high the water line is. (This year we'll start out going south into De Luz).
2. We'll take the curviest roads in northern San Diego and southern Riverside Counties to get there (inspired by STEVE WAID'S Puke-O-Rama...only curvier!).
3. Since the run also happens to be the day before Easter, in the spirit of an Easter egg hunt, we'll divide our cars up into different colors for the run.

Imagine the excitement as you line up with your color of car and get to compete with all the other groups for the ultimate prize... the coveted "Dam"

trophy! Once and for all the superiority of one color will become apparent. Will it be white, or red, or possibly xanthic (yellow)? Only time and talent will tell.

The run will start in Old Town Temecula at 10 a.m., with an optional breakfast at Rosa's Cantina starting at 8:30. We'll head south into De Luz for some of the curviest roads in northern San Diego County. We'll then head into southern Riverside County and tackle some wicked turns in Sage before heading to the Dam in Hemet. The run will end at a shopping center in Temecula around 2-2:30 p.m. where we'll do lunch and decide the winner. We'll have potty and snack breaks along the way.

Bring a good appetite, a sense of adventure, and your tax forms.

Run for the Magnetics

Date: Sunday April 22

Meeting Time:

driver's meeting 8:15 a.m.
departure: 8:30

Meeting Place: Grossmont Center

Run Leaders: DEE & WAYNE JOHNSON
(619) 583-0976 or waynemg@pacbell.net

Wayne and Dee will be putting on their first event and hope that all of you will attend. We will be traveling east and south in the county and finish up at a nice picnic area with surprises. Please bring something to share. Sodas and kosher dogs will be provided. Bring cameras and binoculars. The start is at Grossmont Center, under the big sign.

Directions to Meeting Place: Take I-8 east to Grossmont Center Dr. off ramp. Turn left at the light and left into Murray Dr. Turn right into first driveway and left at the stop. Go straight and you will see us on the left side, in the gold Miata!

SDMC Annual Membership Meeting

Date: Saturday, April 28

Time: 10 a.m.

Place: San Diego Automotive Museum Hall of Fame Room, Balboa Park.

Enter at the side door, to the left of the main entrance, and go up the stairs to the right. The meeting will start promptly at 10 a.m.

Please remember to bring your MEMBERSHIP CARD to receive a ballot.

One ballot per membership.



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 more exploring.

What are we Searching for?

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

What 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. **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.rocdonna.homestead.com. See the theme for 2001, and get a flavor of things to come.
2. Or, go online to 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 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 5th and 6th. 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 sawai@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

Willow Springs Web Site:
www.willowspringsraceway.com

Danny McKeever's Web Site:
www.raceschool.com

If you can't make it to this one, our

next school is scheduled for Saturday and Sunday, October 6-7, 2001.

Kanazawa Roadster Club

Date: Sunday, June 10

We will be hosting a contingent from the KANAZAWA ROADSTER Club, from Kanazawa, Japan. They will be visiting our city for a few days and wanted to enjoy Miatas the way we do. In addition, some of our visitors might like to stay with SAN DIEGO MIATA CLUB members in their homes. If you would like to host a visiting Roadster fanatic, contact ELLIOT SHEV, president@sandiegomiataclub.org or (858) 679-0777.

Run to the Getty 2001

Date: Sunday, June 17

Coordinators: ELLIOT & BARB SHEV
(858) 679-0777 or moooncalf@aol.com

Still time to sign up. Date was moved a week to accommodate our Japan visitors.

UPCOMING NATIONAL AND REGIONAL EVENTS

Cool Weekend On The Coast

Date: June 16 - 17

Contact: Austin Dach calife@clrealty.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.

Northwest Miatafest, the Gathering 2001

Kent, Washington

PUGET SOUND MIATA CLUB

Date: August 10 - 12

Contact: John Hewitt info@nwmiatafest.com

The largest annual event in the Pacific Northwest!



San Diego Solo2 Classes

Last month's newsletter briefly described how to go about getting started in autocross (Solo2). Once you learn your way around the track (literally and figuratively), then you will probably want to start competing. To do so, you will need to be matched or classed with similar cars, just to keep everything fair.

As you can see in the results box from the January 21 event, SAN

 DIEGO MIATA CLUB members compete in several different classes. Of course, if you are competing with your Miata, then those classes that the Miata fits into will be of interest to you.

Keep it Stock

Most everyone who starts in autocross will begin in the stock classes. This is true for two reasons. First, it is where you learn how to drive your car to compete, and second, it is generally the cheaper way to compete in Solo2. Stock category cars must compete in their showroom configuration with only minor modifications allowed such as aftermarket shocks. Wheels can be changed, but they must be the same diameter that came on the car. You can change the front anti-roll bar, but the rear must remain stock. Other minor modifications are allowed as well, but these require a rulebook to reference.

Miatas are placed into classes by the Sports Car Club of America (SCCA), the national sanctioning body of Solo2. The early Miatas with the 1.6-liter engine (1990 - 1993) are placed into Stock Class C (C Stock). In this category, the 1.6 Miatas compete against the likes of Alfa Romeo GTV and Spiders, early Datsun Z cars (240, 260, 280), non-turbo RX-7s, some Porsche 944s, non-turbo Toyota MR-



2s, and even the classic Sunbeam Tiger.

The 1994 and later Miatas with the 1.8-liter engine are placed into Stock Class B (B Stock). The competition in this class includes the BMW Z3 (with the 1.9-liter engine), Lotus Elan, Elites, and Sevens, as well as the Porsche 914.

Be Prepared

The Street Prepared Class has been where you find many modified Miatas in recent years. The Miata was class C of Street Prepared (CSP). In 2000, three SDMC members were third, fourth and fifth in this class. Cost is a factor in this class, since just about anything except forced induction is legal. To do well in this class will take substantially more money to prepare your Miata to compete at the top level.

Continuous Improvement

Many of the local Miatas have moved into a new class for the 2001 season. This class is a San Diego Region modification of the SCCA's Street Touring and Street Modified classes. The regional class is Improved

Street (IS). This class allows certain modifications not allowed in the stock classes, while limiting the full range of modifications that are allowed in the street prepared class. Some of the allowed modifications include oil coolers, locking differentials, light flywheels and racing seats (although these may be required to have the ability to recline). In addition, any DOT approved tire and wheel may be used in this class. The Miata (all years) is positioned in the Improved Street 2 (IS2) class.

As with all of these classes, the final word on what is and is not allowed is the purview of the sanctioning organization and their regulations. The San Diego region supplemental regulations should be published very soon. These will have the complete specifications and allowed modifications for cars in the Improved Street Class.

Whichever class you decide to compete in (or if you decide to run in X class and not go for points), the most important thing to remember is, HAVE FUN.

— ANTHONY WILDE

AUTOCROSS AT THE "Q"



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

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

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.

January 21, 2001 Autocross Results

Congratulations to the following SAN DIEGO MIATA CLUB members on their performance at the SDAD Championship autocross. The event was sponsored by the San Diego Asebring Drivers (SDAD), and held at Qualcomm Stadium.

Class	Driver	Car	Place
BS	RAINER MUELLER	Miata	6th
ES	JOE KRAMER	Honda CRX	2nd
IS2	ROBERT HOLLAND	Miata	1st
IS2	STEVE WAID	Miata	2nd
IS2	BRIAN GOODWIN	Miata	3rd
IS2	STEVE KENNISON	Miata	5th
IS2	ELLIOT SHEV	Miata	12th
IS2L	BARBARA SHEV	Miata	3rd
IS3	MICHAEL CHIAPPETTA	RX-7	2nd
CSP	RON CHAPMAN	Honda CRX	2nd
CSP	MARA CALER	Honda CRX	3rd



PHOTOS: ANTHONY WILDE

San Diego National Tour March 16-18, 2001 Qualcomm Stadium ~ San Diego, California

Friday, March 16

- 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. Runs on Test & Tune Course, \$2 each.
6 - 8 p.m. Course open for walking.
Registration, Check-in, and Tech - Please bring your current driver's license, SCCA membership card, and Solo rulebook.

Saturday, March 17

- 7 - 8 a.m. Late check-in and tech (Pre-registered entrants only).
9 a.m. Heats 1 through 5 competitions.
7 p.m. Social

Sunday, March 18

- 9 a.m. Heats 1 through 5 competitions.
4:30 p.m. (approx.) Awards presentation (following heat 5).





BEN SOLIS

In 1989, a few years out of high school, I was living in Austin, Texas. I'll never forget the first time I saw a Miata. It was on 6th Street (Austin's version of the Gaslamp quarter, except three times as big) and it was cruising down the road. I knew that I wanted one, but being a paycheck-to-paycheck student I couldn't really afford it.

It took me seven years, a move to San Diego, a new job (Computer Systems Administrator for Federal Defenders of San Diego, Inc. for the last ten years) and a few "beater" cars to get one, but in 1996 I purchased a '93 C package Miata. That car was my pride and joy. She received a wash every weekend without fail, regular maintenance, and a membership in the newly formed SAN DIEGO MIATA CLUB. My friends all thought I was insane (or at the least VERY lonely) because I gave her so much attention. After my friend Sharon christened my car Marlene (in reference to Marlene Dietrich's famous eyes, think pop-up lights), they were convinced that I was delusional for referring to my car as Marlene. Then, one by one, I let them

drive her and they knew that I had reason to be so fanatical about my car.

In late 1997, as I was heading to an appointment, a careless 4x4 hit us, almost head on. The front end was flattened, the windshield shattered, and the hardtop cracked. I thank God that I had the foresight to put the hardtop on (it had been raining, heavily) that afternoon. I think it added to the strength of the vehicle. Not a scratch on me, except a sore finger from where the airbag had hit me. The seatbelt, the airbag, and Marlene did their jobs and protected me.

You can imagine my reluctance to get into another small vehicle. I tried many larger cars, but I couldn't forget my little roadster. Each time I saw one of the little buggers on the road, my heart jumped. Finally, after 4 years of wanting, waiting, and anxiety, I purchased a 2001 LS in Midnight Mica Blue. Already the obsessiveness is showing. I was ticked off to find that the dealer "prep" had left swirl marks, so as soon as the weather is better they will be gone! I've got new pedals on order as well as a gear shift knob. I hope to have my chrome fuel door soon (*thanks Elliot!*), and of course I'm looking at upgrading the proprie-

Then, one by one, I let them drive her and they knew that I had reason to be so fanatical about my car.

tary Bose system (any tips?).

When my roommate Paul and I attended our first meeting, he was shocked to find so many people in attendance. Of course the impromptu run the following week was the clincher for his understanding my obsession. A big change from his Ford F-150. You don't see those taking on the curves! Thanks for making me feel so welcome. See ya' on the road; top down, of course!

— BEN SOLIS

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. 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.

Badges?

Have you been wondering where to get those nifty engraved plastic name badges that have been turning up on members at the latest events? They are available for a mere \$6.50 each, including shipping to your home, from VICKY KRUEGER.

Either see Vicki 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.

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.

For the Mileage Awards program, how is the run mileage calculated? Do I lose miles if I leave the run early?

Mileage should start at the starting point of the run. If it is a destination run, the mileage should be calculated from the start to the destination and doubled. If it is a complete circular tour without the destination, it should be calculated from the start to the finish. In such a tour, people should be credited with the miles from the start to finish if they participated to at least the half way point, otherwise not credited unless they had a mechanical breakdown or other uncontrollable reason for not completing at least half the run (e.g., unforeseen complications in the Puke-O-Rama; do I have to describe further?).

— MIKE SHACK

Mileage Awards Tallymaster 2001

NOTE: Run leaders, please remember it is YOUR responsibility to report the total mileage of your run and a list of those who participated to the tallymaster. These should be sent in ASAP after the run so the records can be kept up-to-date.

New Members!

WELCOME to our newest members (since last newsletter):

BRAD W. BROWN
 Escondido
 1993 Black
 KELLY CARROLL
 San Diego
 1996 Montego Blue
 VERONICA & DENNIS DIDIER
 Chula Vista
 2001 Crystal Blue
 SHERI & MICHAEL FACER
 San Diego
 1999 Emerald Green
 CHRISTINE GIGLIO
 San Diego
 1999 Silver
 DAVE & AMY HINA
 Poway
 1990 Red
 SHAWN KELSON
 San Diego
 1992 Black
 LINDY PAYTON
 Imperial Beach
 Unreported
 MELODY & RUDY SANCHEZ
 Vista
 2000 Emerald Green
 MIKE & NANCY SCHOEP
 Poway
 1997 Marina Green
 MIKE WELLS
 San Diego
 1997 Red

5 Years Ago This Month

Sunday, March 31, 1996

The inaugural meeting of the SAN DIEGO MIATA CLUB was held at Angelo's Italian Restaurant. The meeting ended with the election of the first board of directors and the establishment of thirty-four memberships.

Membership Statistics

As of February 25, 2001, there are 337 memberships (135 single, 202 dual) for a total of 539 members.

Memberships by Miata Color:

91	Red
54	White
38	Black
33	Emerald Green
27	Silver
15	Sapphire Blue
13	Montego Blue
11	Marina Green
8	Mariner Blue
8	Starlight Blue
8	Twilight Blue
7	Laguna Blue
7	Mahogany
6	BRG
6	Merlot
6	Yellow
4	Crystal Blue
2	Evolution Orange
1	Midnight Blue
1	Eggplant (custom)
1	Teal (custom)
9	Unreported*

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

Renewing Members (since last newsletter):

MICHAEL & ARLENE ADCOCK
 HERMAN BREHMER
 BOB & LIZ BROWN
 THOMAS BUSCH-SORENSEN
 BRUAN & KRISTEN BYRNE
 SAL & GERI CAUSARANO
 THOMAS T. CHAN
 JOHN & GERRY CONN
 LARRY FIMON
 GIVEN & CHRISTINE HARRISON
 BRUCE & CHRISTINE HILL
 CHARLIE & LISA KILGORE
 JOHN ROBBINS
 JERED & HOLLY SCOTT
 WILLIAM & LINDA TALLIAN
 CHRIS & LISA THOMPSON
 CLAYTON WONG



Fun Run & Train Trip to Tecate, Mexico



Hopefully our 37 other compatriots have thawed out by now! The cold and rain didn't dampen the humorous spirits of the SAN DIEGO MIATA CLUB though!

Twenty-two shiny little Miatas (plus one Miata on steroids) started out on a partly sunny Saturday morning, and had a brisk little trip out to the San Diego Railroad Museum in Campo.

Then the fun really started! Rainer and Elliot started the laughter, and it went south of the border from there! Customs and INS had us detained in our own railroad passenger car. Even the *sweetness* of the female INS agent did not deter our fun!

After a rustic and scenic train ride to downtown Tecate, and an unexpectedly abbreviated "tour" of the Tecate brewery (our apologies) due to repair and renovation of equipment, (but we still got free beer!), we fanned out across the village of Tecate in search of food and treasures!

Anyone wanting good Mexican food should try Victor's in Tecate (free margaritas with lunch!). A hit at the Bakeria for homemade delicacies, a little other shopping, and off again back to Campo via the train!

We even got an armed escort out of Mexico (thanks Rainer, or was it Elliot?)!

We were told that the train has a first class section and we were all given the opportunity to view the car and hear about the service available. This sounds like it will be a fun trip for the future!

Participants earned 42 award miles. Although it was short in car run miles, we sure had a lot of fun.

— SCOTT & JOANNA LANGHOFF



PHOTO: DENNIS & MARYANNE GARON



PHOTO: SAL & GERI CAUSARANO



PHOTO: SCOTT & JOANNA LANGHOFF



PHOTO: SCOTT & JOANNA LANGHOFF



PHOTO: DENNIS & MARYANNE GARON



PHOTO: SCOTT & JOANNA LANGHOFF



PHOTO: DENNIS & MARYANNE GARON

Above and left — The day started out brisk, and that was not just the run to the Campo Railroad Museum.

Above right — The train ride provided comfort and a semblance of warmth inside the old railroad cars.

Left — People tried to keep warm as best they could. Some by sharing body heat, and some by sampling the product at the Tecate brewery.

Lower right — As with any SDMC event, there had to be a meal. That warmed many and prepared them for the return across the border.



PHOTO: DENNIS & MARYANNE GARON



Let's Go Borrego

Saturday, February 10, 2001



The Impromptu Run on January 14th (see the February 2001 newsletter) was such a hit we had to do it again and that we did and then some.

Some of the members started at North County Fair with BARB & ELIOT SHEV leading the way to Ramona to pick up the rest of the group. SAL & GERI CAUSARANO then led a group of 28 Miatas to Borrego via Old Julian Highway, Route 78, Wynola Road and S3.

The Desert Resort La Casa Del Zorro was expecting us for lunch, and what a great catered lunch it was, in our very own dining room. We celebrated six birthdays. BARB SHEV, JACK DI LUSTRO, GARY SCOTT, ROBIN FAIRCLOTH, PAULA KENNISON and BILL SHAFFER. Thank good-



PHOTO: DENNIS & MARYANNE GARON

The day was a mixture of sun and snow. At the circle in downtown Borrego Springs (left) it was sun, with some ominous clouds over the mountains. In Julian (below), a light dusting of snow kept the air brisk.



PHOTO: DENNIS & MARYANNE GARON

ness STEVE WAID only sang the infamous Happy Birthday song once!

After lunch we were off to the Salton Sea for a photo opportunity and a visit to the Oasis Station, the scene where the very first Miata advertisement was shot. After a brief stop, we were headed back home, with a potty stop at Christmas Circle in Borrego Springs, where most of us put the tops up for our anticipated wet climb up the mountain to Julian.

We did encounter rain, sleet, and slush on the way home, but not

enough to hinder us from stopping at the Julian Pie Company for dessert.

The day concluded when about a dozen die-hard members met for dinner at Nuevo Grill in Ramona to continue the amazing Miata camaraderie.

— SAL & GERI CAUSARANO



PHOTO: STEVE KENNISON

Paula Kennison shares some of the birthday greetings presented to her at the start of the run with Roz Scott.



Since this was a San Diego Miata Club run, there HAD to be food involved. A spectacular layout was setup by the staff at La Casa Del Zorro.



PHOTO: DENNIS & MARYANNE GARON



PHOTO: ROBIN & MICHAEL FAIRCLOTH

Miatas to the left, Miatas to the right. At the Salton Sea the weather was too nice to pass up a photo opportunity in the desert.

A Car is Just a Car, But a Miata is a Memory

Hundreds and hundreds of cars clustered at the San Diego International Auto Show last month, but the spotlight was brightest on six marvelous machines called Miatas.

SDMC members not only had a chance to view the new cars, but also to help others learn about the many reasons why it makes ultimate sense to own and drive a Miata. STEF GOULD was the impresario for the event, putting together an impressive list of members who volunteered to work with the professional Mazda folks to answer questions. One of the Mazda pros came over and asked politely, "do you have any questions?" Then, seeing the Club insignia all over, he answered his own query—"no, I guess you don't."

The Miatas on display were photo-captured by MARK BOOTH for the Club net and this article. Mazda also had its new Protégé MP3 up high on turntable. It is a bright yellow, but hard to confuse with an ordinary taxi. This Protégé was highlighted in last month's Car and Driver (page 78).

It was really neat to see how many other folks love the Miata. Wannabes were most predominant, but current owners and club members from other states came by to sit in the new models and marvel.

Most of the larger folks who sat down immediately reached for the tilt control on the steering wheel, only to find that was not to be. Others were concerned about getting golf clubs in the trunk, and were advised that all it takes is a little practice, just like on the golf course itself.

Headroom was a concern for a few, but some of our taller members demonstrated how it really works just fine. We probably helped sell a few cars, and definitely interested many folks in joining our club.

February 14 - 18 San Diego International Auto Show



PHOTO: MARK BOOTH

Elinor and Mike Shack discuss the Miata with an interested show attendee on the final day of the show.

One of the concept Miatas at the Mazda booth was this Aspen Silver beauty. It included 17-inch wheels, dual exhaust, body-color dash with aluminum trim, and a Sound Bar that surrounded the seats.



PHOTO: MARK BOOTH



PHOTO: MARK BOOTH

Custom black leather seats with cloth inserts and silver accents. The Sound Bar houses a total of 5 speakers.



PHOTO: ELLIOT SHEV

The other Miata concept was the Miata MM. It featured Mono Posto red paint, a hard tonneau over the passenger seat, 17-inch wheels and a custom fiber-glass hood. Under that hood was a Kenne Bell supercharger on the otherwise standard Miata 1.8-liter engine.



PHOTO: ELLIOT SHEV

One nice thing about it. The new Miatas are nifty, but on the other hand since you already have a Miata, you can relax and rejoice. And get ready for the next run.

Remember in school when you had that neat new shirt that you knew everyone else really wanted? To look as cool as you did? That was the feeling at the Show, as members of the SDMC roamed around the sparkling new Miatas and answered questions from the masses. Like the kids in the candy store, only we have the candy.

— TOM SPRAGUE



Grape Juice, Anyone?

You know who you are. You change your engine oil every three thousand miles, filter too. You make sure that the coolant is changed twice each year and the brake and clutch fluid never even gets a chance to begin to turn from looking like apple cider to root beer before it is changed. Same with the clutch fluid. You have changed the gear oil in your transmission and rear differential enough that you don't even mix up which one is which. You have kept all of your Miata's fluids in top shape. All except one.



Since the Miata service manual does not call out a recommendation for changing the power steering fluid, I and many others have NEVER changed it. My '90 Miata is approaching its eleventh birthday in June. It is still running the same fluid in the power steering pump that was put in there by someone in Japan back in 1990.

On the one hand, it's good that it still has the same fluid, at least I know the power steering doesn't leak! Every time I check it (at least I do check it), the level is within specification and has never required any fluid additions. The problem is, the power steering system is not sealed (like the air conditioner system is sealed), and therefore the fluid is subject to a number of factors that can degrade it, and subsequently the entire power steering system. Oxidation, dust, and moisture over the years have surely contaminated the fluid. Add to that microscopic metal particles from the power steering pump, bits of rubber from the hoses, and the heating and cooling effects, it is a wonder the fluid is still liquid.

The best thing to do is change this

fluid regularly, just as you would any other fluid. The 1991 service manual calls out automatic transmission fluid (ATF) DEXRON-II or M-III as the **only** fluid to use for the Miata's power steering system. The system capacity is listed as 0.85 quarts or 0.8 liters. What is not listed is how to change the fluid. I have conducted some research and consulted with automotive specialist (and SDMC member) LARRY DENNSTEDT to produce the following procedure.

HOW TO FLUSH A SYSTEM

1. Disconnect the rubber outlet hose that leads from the power steering rack to the cooling tube. Place the outlet hose end so that it will drain into a waste container.
2. Fill the pump reservoir with fresh fluid. Start the engine and continue filling with fresh fluid until the fluid coming from the pump outlet is running clean. **DO NOT RUN THE PUMP DRY** (without fluid). Shut off the engine.
3. Reconnect the line and fill the power steering reservoir with fluid to the correct level. With the engine OFF, slowly turn the steering wheel fully left and fully right several times to remove any air in the system.

If the fluid was particularly bad, Larry recommends repeating this procedure in about 1,000 miles. He also recommends regular changes between 15 and 20,000 miles.

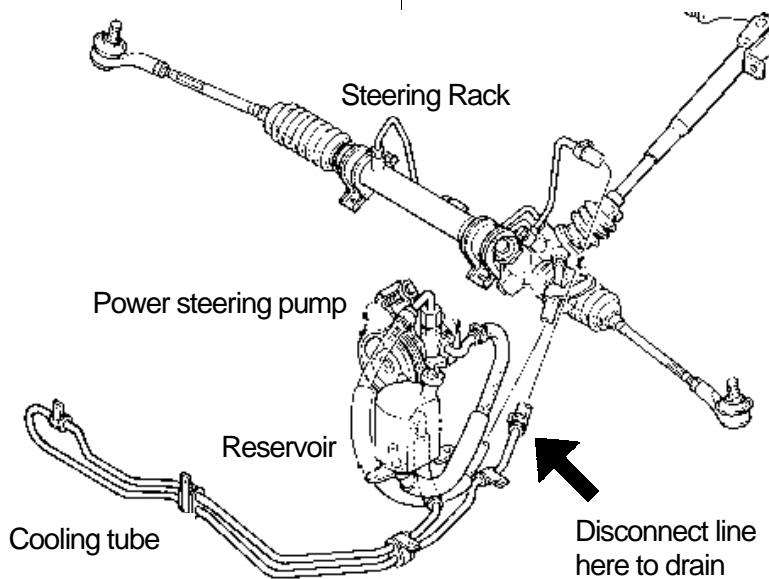
4. Start the engine and turn the wheel fully left and right again to check for fluid leaks. If the pump makes noise and the fluid foams, shut the engine off and let it sit for a couple of hours to allow the air to dissipate. **CAUTION:** Do not hold the steering rack fully turned for more than 15 seconds. Doing so will overheat the fluid and damage the pump.

While You're at it, Check the Hoses

A leading cause of malfunctioning power steering systems is hose residue in the system. Hoses slowly deteriorate from the inside. Small pieces of rubber break free and can plug the small passages inside the power steering pump and the steering rack.

Squeeze the hoses. If they feel stiff, hard, or spongy, replace all hoses in the system. If one hose is bad, it is safe to assume they are all in need of replacement.

— ANTHONY WILDE



Miata Roadster Wins the "Auto Color Award 2001" Grand Prix

Mazda Motor Corporation has received the "Auto Color Award 2001" Grand Prix from the Japan Fashion Color Association for the new "crystal blue metallic" color of the Mazda Miata MX-5 Roadster. This award is given to the best color design of all cars released in Japan between November 1999 and October 2000.

The Association listed the following points in making its selection:

- The beautiful and clear tone of the blue agrees with trendy fashion colors and, at the same time, makes the curved shape of the Roadster even more attractive.

- The charming color gives an impression of being fresh, sophisticated, and active, making it suitable for the new century of bright hopes.
- Using two types of luster, aluminum and newly-developed mica, has brought out the expression of the color. The color evokes the sports car's image and beauty.

The "crystal blue metallic" color was developed as the new Roadster's theme color to support the "youthful and stylish" image. Among the seven exterior colors available for the Roadster, "crystal blue metallic" is the most popular, accounting for about 23% of all Roadsters sold. This percentage is from sales since July 2000, when "crystal blue metallic" was used for the first time, to December 2000.

Originally introduced in 1989, the Miata Roadster continues to reflect the "oneness between car and driver" concept. The car features distinctive styling with its open air driving. Mazda has sold over 580,000 Roadsters worldwide since 1989. The Roadster was recognized recently as the world's top-selling lightweight, open two-seat sports car by Guinness World Records. With major changes in July 2000, the model enjoys strong sales throughout the world and continues to set new records. From April 1989 to December 2000; cumulative production is 584,992.



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: Almost new Eibach Pro-Kit Performance Springs (1K miles) and set of HP Tokico shocks (15K miles) taken off my '94 Miata. Eibach Springs offered at \$140 new \$240; Tokico shocks offered at \$100 for set. Ken (619) 562-9408 or kkeachusa@netscape.net

For Sale: '91 Red base package Miata (with better crankshaft), 114K miles, 5-spd, manual steering, roll bar, Eibach springs and sway bars, Tokico Illumina 5-way shocks, Torsen LSD (with 4.30 gears, out of a '99), 15" TSW wheels with Toyo Tires, Ultralon cover, CD. Great condition overall. Must sell, \$5,500 OBO.

Kevin (562) 433-7731 or lakkis@hotmail.com

Buying or selling your Miata or Miata accessories? You can do it for *free* on Miatamart—the MIATA FOR SALE Web site, run by SDMC member RAINER MUELLER. Check it out at www.miatamart.com

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 (\$310-new).

Stef (619) 297-4272 or stef@mazda.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

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

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

For Sale: Technalon 2 Miata car cover. Bought new in '95 from North Coast Tarpon 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. Yours for only \$65, OBO.

Jim (619) 298-0564 or jimthyden@cts.com

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

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

Vacation Getaways: Includes one week accommodations at a 5 star resort in places like, Grand Caymans, Orlando, Kona Hawaii, Aruba, and the list goes on.

Michael (760) 436-8311 or 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. I also have an alternator, starter, 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

