



VOLUME 6 NUMBER 6

SAN DIEGO MIATA CLUB NEWS

JUNE 2001

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

UPCOMING EVENTS



June 1 - Friday
**Cruisin' Grand
Wheels'N'Meals**



June 2 - Saturday
Run to the Renaissance Faire



June 9 - Saturday
**Track Driving Techniques
Seminar**
SOCALM/SDMC Event



June 10 - Sunday
Autocross at the "Q"



June 10 - Sunday
**Kanazawa Roadster Club
Fun Run and BBQ**



June 16 - Saturday
**Car Care Clinic
Tech Day**



June 17 - Sunday
Run to the Getty IV



June 23 - Saturday
Autocross at the "Q"



June 23 - Saturday
**SOCALM—Best of the
Bunch Charity Car Show**



June 24 - Sunday
Autocross at the "Q"



June 24 - Sunday
**SOCALM—Padres Game
at Dodger Stadium**



June 28 - Thursday
Monthly Meeting



June 29 - Friday
Miatas Go To Camp
SDMC at the MDA VIP Day



June 30 - Saturday
Ice Cream Social
4th of July Parade Pre-Planning

What a Year!

As I sit down to write this message, I find that I can not believe that another fun-filled Miata year has passed. It was certainly filled with week-end after weekend of enthusiast events and members earning those nationally sought-after SDMC magnetics.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the membership of the club for their vote of confidence in selecting me to lead the club for another year. With all that is on the calendar already, the year ahead will not only be fun, but a challenge in picking which events to attend. For example, at this writing, I am going to Willow Springs this weekend, but if I weren't, I would still have other fun events to choose from.

I would also like to thank our outgoing board members BARB TEMPLETON, our outgoing scribe, and MIKE SHACK, our outgoing treasurer. Barb did a wonderful job keeping all our records up-to-date during the last year. Thanks for your hard work! Thank you, Mike, for taking care of the checkbook for the past year and making sure all our funds were in order. I would also like to thank Mike for being the inventor of the Mileage Awards program, and our first mileage meister.

We have some new members on the board. JACK DiLUSTRO has been elected by our membership as our new scribe, or "ScribeSmurf," as he has been named. Congratulations to Jack! I look forward to working with Jack over the next year. Also elected at our annual meeting was our new treasurer, JIM BROKAW, or "MoneySmurf." Yes, this is the SmurfBoard. We all have blue cars; this is the color that rules. At least for this year.

One last item I would like to mention is run etiquette. Please review the membership handbook you received last month and note the part about Fun Run Tips. A lot of thought went into this, as well as the entire book. Please, if you are a navigator, read the directions and help the driver be prepared for "what's next" on the run. If you are making a turn, and you can not see another Miata in your rear view mirror, please wait in a safe place. Some other points are: stay on your side of the road, don't drive faster than you are comfortable, and if you always feel that the car behind you wants to go a bit faster than you, let them pass, or line up further back in the pack after a rest stop. Last, but certainly not least, watch your cruising speed. So far I have received about 587 opinions on this subject. That's over one for each member of the club! All I can ask is that we follow the rules of the road, the law, and use good judgment when on a run, or leading a run. One last request; please respect other members' opinions on this subject.

See you around the next curve...

— ELLIOT



Everyone Was A Winner!

A raffle was held at the annual membership meeting on April 28. The proceeds of the raffle, \$477, are to be used to help fund the purchase of mileage patches for the Mileage Awards program.

Items raffled were donated by SDMC members and by generous Miata-related businesses. The following table lists the items, who donated them, and the winner at the raffle.

When you purchase items or services for your Miata or OTM, consider supporting the vendors and businesses who support the SAN DIEGO MIATA CLUB.

— ANTHONY WILDE

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!

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Executive Board

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secretary@sandiegomiataclub.org

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treasurer@sandiegomiataclub.org

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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

Donor	Product	Winner
Good-Win Racing	Strut tower brace	DAVID BRYAN
Team Voodoo	Man's watch	DAVID BRYAN
Team Voodoo	Woman's watch	SUE PATTERSON
Metro Motorsports	99+ grille	JERRY BOSTER
Meguiar's	Quick Detailer	MARYANNE GARON
Meguiar's	Car Wash	STEVE KENNISON
Meguiar's	Gold Class	BOB PFIEFFER
Meguiar's	Endurance	EVERYONE
Geri's Bazaar	Geri Bag	ELINOR SHACK
Dave Turner	Tire gauge	EUNICE BAUMAN
Dave Turner	\$25 certificate	DAVE MARTIN
Mazda	Yellow backpack	JEANETTE HOLLADAY
Monster Flow	Monster Flow kit	BOB LOPEZ
Mark Booth	Voodoo knob & brake handle	BOB LOPEZ
Ian Dacary	Miata Magazine collection	GARY SCOTT
Barb Beach, Media Source	Intense Miata book	WOODY WOODHOUSE
Barb Beach, Media Source	Intense Miata book	LARRY HOSKINSON
Barb Beach, Media Source	Intense Miata book	MARK BOOTH
Barb Beach, Media Source	Five Year Book	New member 1
Barb Beach, Media Source	Five Year Book	New member 2
Barb Beach, Media Source	Five Year Book	New member 3
Barb Beach, Media Source	Five Year Book	New member 4
Barb Beach, Media Source	Five Year Book	New member 5
Coast Car Covers	\$50 certificate	MARK BOOTH
MM Marketing	\$25 certificate	SAL CAUSARANO
Dennstedt's	Free labor tune-up	MIKE SHACK
Dennstedt's & MM Marketing	\$25 certificates	JOHN BREEN
Allen's Wrench	Oil change	WOODY WOODHOUSE
Allen's Wrench	Oil change	SUE KESLER
Allen's Wrench	Oil change	DAVE MARTIN
Club member	M1 grill	MARK BOOTH
Club member	M1 bra	SCOTT LANGHOFF
Club member	M1 bra	CINDY PALOMA
SDMC	White hat	VOODOO BOB
Serious Automotive	\$15 certificate	KENNISONS
Serious Automotive	\$15 certificate	LARRY HOSKINSON
Serious Automotive	\$15 certificate	JIM BROKAW
Amercan Battery	Free battery	DAVID BRYAN
Brainstorm Products	15K service	DAVE MARTIN
Kesler's Kool Products	Swingin' license hanger	WOODY WOODHOUSE

Thank You to everyone who donated items for the raffle!



**Cruisin' Grand
Wheels'N'Meals****Date:** Friday, June 1**Meeting Time:** 7 p.m.**Meeting Place:** Tom's #23 on the Southwest corner of 5th Ave. and Centre City Parkway, Escondido. Meet for food before, during, or after Cruisin' Grand.

What is Cruisin' Grand?

Every Friday evening during the summer, street rods, hot rods, specialty cars, motorcycles, and vintage cars cruise and park on Grand Avenue in Escondido. Oldies music plays and the smells and sounds of horsepower abound.

SDMC will have a monthly Wheels'N'Meals on the first Friday of each month during the cruisin' season.

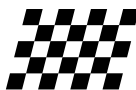
**Run to the Renaissance
Faire****Date:** Saturday, June 2**Meeting Time:** 8 a.m.**Meeting Place:** North County Fair, under the big sign**Run Leader:** PAULA MUDARRI(619) 224-4922 or lucykey1paula@cs.com

Paula invites all Miataphiles to join her as she ventures to the sights and sounds of the Renaissance Faire in San Bernardino on Saturday, June 2nd.

Costumes are optional. The gates open at 10 a.m. and we must be there for the opening...quite a gala. We must arrive in time to reserve our spot at the Boar's Head Inn for the Boar's Head Feast.

It is Wine Festival weekend, which will include a grape stomping contest and wine tasting. Included will be jousting matches, parades, and street performances. If you have never been to one of these, what better time than with your fellow Miataphiles?

Admission is \$17.50, but Paula is working towards a group discount. Discount amount to be announced. Make your plans now!

**Track Driving
Techniques Seminar****Date:** Saturday, June 9**Time:** 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.**Place:** Mazda North America Operations Headquarters
7755 Irvine Center Drive
Irvine, CA**SDMC Event Coordinator:**STEF GOULD, stef@miata.net,

(619)297-4272

This classroom seminar is for members who have driven on a track (or are considering it). Aaron Tachibana will be covering apexes, turn in, driving performance techniques, reading the lines, braking, shifting, etc.—all of the things he tries to cover at a track day but, because of time constraints, can only skim the surface of at the track. Aaron has been producing track days at Laguna Seca, Thunderhill, and Sears Point for the past five years and this year he will add the Pahrump Raceway in Nevada to these venues. There is no charge to attend this seminar.

After the seminar you have the option to adjourn to a local restaurant for lunch and continued camaraderie.

Please RSVP to Stef Gould. We need an accurate count for seating arrangements at Mazda Corporate.

Directions: Exit I-5 at Alton Parkway. Head west (toward the Irvine Spectrum). Turn right onto Gateway. Turn right into the Mazda parking lot.

Autocross**Date:** Sunday, June 10**Time:** 9 a.m.**Place:** Qualcomm Stadium,
Mission Valley, southeast lot,
SCAT championship.**Kanazawa Roadster Club
Fun Run****Date:** Sunday, June 10**Meeting Time:** 12:30 p.m.**Meeting Place:** Under the sign at North County Fair**Run Leader:** ELLIOT SHEV
(858) 679-0777president@sandiegomiataclub.org*This run qualifies toward Mileage Award*

RSVP is a must for food planning. Please let me know by June 5th. Cost of food will be shared (less than \$10 each) by those attending.

We will meet under the sign at North County Fair at 12:30 p.m. You will need to be well-fed and watered. You will now be ready for a leisurely run through east county, ending in Jamul for a BBQ dinner around 4:30 p.m.

We will take our visitors from Kanazawa, Japan on a tour of some of our favorite Miata roads in east and south county. Some members have volunteered to take our guests as passengers. The run will be more leisurely than challenging, and the run will conclude with a family style BBQ at DEBBY, BRUCE, and DUSTIN LEWIS' home in Jamul.

There will be four adults and one infant visiting us from Saturday evening, June 9th through Wednesday, June 13th. Saturday night and Sunday night they will be staying with members. Monday through Wednesday they will be hosted by Embassy Suites, La Jolla, as arranged by member SHERI FACER. A big thank you to Sheri for arranging this for our guests.

All the exciting details will be available at the drivers meeting being held at 12:15 p.m.

Car Care Tech Day**Date:** Saturday, June 16**Time:** 9 a.m.**Place:** The Shev palace

14425 Trailwind Road, Poway

Coordinators: BARB & ELLIOT SHEV(858) 679-0777 kingfish@teamvoodoo.com

This all-day event is open to those

Upcoming Events (Continued on page 4)



Upcoming Events (Continued from page 3)

wishing to learn and those wishing to do some detailing. Engine cleaning, as well as car show detailing tips and techniques will be available.

What to bring Besides you and your Miata...some money; there will be "contribute-to-the-pot" food available. All cleaning and polishing supplies that you may have, including clean towels, rags, orbital buffers, extension cords, and any portable canopies for shade.

Directions: I-15 to Rancho Bernardo Road and go East (Rancho Bernardo Road becomes Espola Road). Turn left on Trailwind Road and look for Miatas. The house is several blocks up the hill on the right. Watch your speed...25 mph!



Run to the Getty IV

Date: Sunday, June 17

Departure Time: San Diego 7:15 a.m.
SOCALM - 8:30 a.m.

Meeting Place: McDonald's at I-5 and Oceanside Blvd.

SOCALM: Sport Mart at Magnolia Street/Warner Avenue.

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

Reservations a must as space is limited.

We should arrive at the museum at 10 a.m. to enter as a group. If you were there last year, you can remember how cool this was!

We have been given 50 automobile reservations by the Getty Museum. The normal parking fee of \$5 will be waived as we are a nonprofit organization. These reservations were made a year ago—they are hard to get! Also, we have reserved five picnic tables for lunch at 1 p.m. You can pack a lunch and enjoy some friendly Miata talk or eat in one of the restaurants. There is a really nice one that requires reservations.

Autocross

Date: Saturday, June 23

Time: 9 a.m.

Place: Qualcomm Stadium,
Mission Valley, northeast lot,
TART practice



Best of the Bunch Car Show II
SOCALM

Date: Saturday, June 23

Time: 10:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Meeting Place: Star Lincoln-Mercury-Mazda,
901 S. Brand Ave., Glendale

Contact: Karen Thomas

sgvalley@socalm.org

The show entrance fee is \$35 per Miata for non-club members, and \$10 per Miata for club members. One raffle ticket will be given per entrant, but more tickets will be available for purchase throughout the day. A portion of the proceeds will be donated to Glendale YWCA and the Glendale Youth Alliance.



Autocross

Date: Sunday, June 24

Time: 9 a.m.

Place: Qualcomm Stadium,
Mission Valley, northeast lot,
TART championship



Padres Game at Dodger Stadium

SOCALM/SDMC Event

Date: Sunday, June 24

Time: 1 p.m.

Place: Dodger Stadium,



up north in the Evil Empire
SOCALM has organized a Miata group day at Dodger Stadium to view the Padres game against the Dodgers. Use the following link to get the form off the net. The form needs to be returned to Jim Killian at the stadium by June 11 in order to be in the Miata group. Checks will not be cashed and credit cards will not be charged until after June 11th when the tickets are processed. There is a \$3 handling charge "per order" (not ticket) for mailing to you.

June 10 is the last day to reserve your seat.

www.comewithme.to/socalm/dodgerday

Monthly Meeting

Date: Thursday, June 28

Time: 6 p.m.

Place: Boll Weevil

9330 Clairemont Mesa Blvd.
(at Ruffin Road), San Diego
(858) 571-6225



This event is the single best way to meet your fellow club members, ask questions, share stories, etc.

Don't miss the fun!

Miatas Go To Camp

MDA Camp VIP Day

Date: Friday, June 29

Meeting Time: 10 a.m.

Meeting Place: MDA office

8515 Gibbs Drive, San Diego

Coordinators: JACK & SUE HINKLE

(760)735-9456 or sportscarr@aol.com

Our club once again has been invited to attend the MDA VIP Day, which will be held at Camp Cuyamaca. VIP guests will be treated to camp t-shirts, a tour of the camp by one of the campers, and burgers will be provided by In-N-Out Burger. Please RSVP to Jack or Sue Hinkle.



Ice Cream Social

4th of July Parade

Pre-Planning

Date: Saturday, June 30

Time: 2 p.m.

Place: 9945 Cummins Place, Scripps Ranch

Hostess: DIANE LONG

(619) 566-6973 or djaws@san.rr.com

Bring your favorite ice cream or toppings. This will be a pre-planning party for the annual Scripps Ranch 4th of July parade. Let's come up with some more great ideas to defend our FIRST PLACE in the last two years' parades. This year we will be working on the first ever SDMC float for the parade.

Directions: I-15 to Pomerado/Miramar Road exit. East on Pomerado. Left onto Scripps Ranch Blvd., right onto Red Rock and right on Cummins Place.



FUTURE EVENTS

Scripps Ranch 4th of July Parade

Followed by Pool Party, BBQ & Fireworks

Date: Wednesday, July 4

Time: 7 a.m.

Place: 9945 Cummins Place,
Scripps Ranch

Coordinators: RSVP to;

Parade, DIANE LONG,

(858) 566-6973 or djaws@san.rr.com;

Party, BARB SHEV, (858) 679-0777 or
sapphire@teamvoodoo.com

The Scripps Ranch 4th of July Parade is a small community parade where almost anything goes. Anyone in the community with a special interest is welcome. There are the Boy Scouts and Cub Scouts, bands, the lawn-mower team, local dignitaries, etc. It is just a basic home town, have fun parade. We will be defending our FIRST PLACE for car clubs that we won the last two years.

The parade starts at 10 a.m., so we will be meeting between 7 a.m. and 8 a.m. to decorate our cars. We have some club decorations, but please bring some more, if you can, to share. We will leave for our parade position no later than 9 a.m., **so coming early is important.** The street to the meeting place will be closed off around 8:45 a.m. The parade is over around 11 a.m. The weather can be quite hot so to relieve our suffering BARB and ELLIOT SHEV invite all parade participants over to their home afterwards for a late afternoon/evening 4th of July Bar-B-Q and swim party. Their home overlooks Poway High School and the fireworks are spectacular from there.

RSVP is required. This is a BYOB event. We all split the cost for the food which should be less than \$10 per person.

Sprint Cars & Miatas at the PAS

Date: Saturday, July 14

Meeting Time: 1:30 p.m.

Meeting Place: McDonald's at I-5
and Oceanside Blvd.

Coordinator: RICH BEST

(619) 221-1974 or richbest@webtv.net

Join me for a fun evening of great Sprint Car Racing at Perris Auto Speedway (PAS). We will leave Oceanside for a quick run up to Capistrano to meet other race fans from SOCALM. Then it's over the Ortega Highway for some twisties on our way to the PAS for the best 1/2 mile dirt track in the West! S.C.R.A. 750-horsepower, ground pounding sprint cars will put on the show, and good food and beverages will be available there. Admission is \$15 and parking is \$4. Discount tickets (20% off) will be available if we purchase 20 or more in advance. Please contact me for more details. It wouldn't dare RAIN on this one! Would it?

More information at the meeting and in next month's newsletter.

Tech Day at Wheel Store

Date: Sunday, July 15

Time: 9 a.m. to noon

Place: Wheel Store

208 S. Coast Hwy, Oceanside
(760) 967-1336

Tech morning extravaganza at the Wheel Store. Joe Jordan has invited the SAN DIEGO MIATA CLUB to join him for education on tires, suspensions, and alignment. He will have industry experts available to discuss these elements in detail. This education should help us in choosing the correct tires for our cars and deciding what type of alignment we want.

Now for the important part, Joe will be providing continental breakfast for all of us. Food and information; what more could one ask for? We will be there from 9 a.m. 'til noon.

In the meantime, if you need tires, or an alignment, please call Joe for advice, and a quote. He has truly given our club great prices on Toyo tires.

UPCOMING NATIONAL AND REGIONAL EVENTS

Cool Weekend On The Coast

Date: June 16 - 17

Contact: Austin Dach,
calife@crealty.com

On the weekend of June 15-17, 2001, Cool Weekend On The Coast will be hosted by the REDWOOD COAST MIATA CLUB in Eureka, California. Full details and registration are available on the club's Web site at:

<http://rcmiataclub.tripod.com>

Registration is limited. Check-in opens 6 p.m. Friday evening. Events include the Great Drive to the Lost Coast, poker rally, Prairie Creek Redwoods run, "Miata Madness" autocross, coolest Miata competition, best Miata story, awards banquet with trophies for all winners, drawings for prizes, and more. Hotel accommodations at Best Western Bayshore Inn. Set in the natural beauty of the redwoods, rivers, and coastline of the north coast of California...Miata style.

Northwest Miatafest, the Gathering 2001

Kent, Washington

PUGET SOUND MIATA CLUB

Date: August 10 - 12

Contact: John Hewitt info@nwmatafest.com

The largest annual event in the Pacific Northwest!

West Coast Tour

Seattle, WA to Monterey, CA

Date: August 12 - 19

Event Coordinator: John Hewitt,
(360) 659-4248 or

John_Hewitt@mssl.wednet.edu

Starting at the conclusion of the Northwest Miatafest, the tour will meander down the highways and byways of the Western United States. We will link up with the best of the past while in Monterey. The dream-like weekend offers the Concorso Italiano, 28th annual Historic Automobile Races, and the famed Pebble Beach Concours d'Elegance.



April 22, 2001 Autocross Results

Congratulations to the following SAN DIEGO MIATA CLUB members on their performance at the Solo2 championship event. The event was sponsored by the Datsun Competition Club of San Diego (DCCSD), and held at Qualcomm Stadium.

Class	Driver	Car	Place
BS	MICHAEL PAGE	Miata	6th
BS	GORDON LONG	Miata	7th
IS2	BRAIN GOODWIN	Miata	1st
IS2	ROBERT HOLLAND	Miata	3rd
IS2	STEVE KENNISON	Miata	4th
IS2	STEVE WAID	Miata	7th
IS2	MIKE SCHWARTZ	Miata	9th
IS2L	BARBARA SHEV	Miata	2nd
CSP	RON CHAPMAN	Honda CRX	2nd
CSP	MARA CALER	Honda CRX	3rd
Novice	KEVIN HAYWOOD	Miata	8th
Novice	SCOTT PIKE	Miata	16th
Novice	BRIAN ANDERSON	Miata	23rd

AUTOCROSS AT THE "Q"



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

Sunday, June 10.....race day
 Saturday, June 23.....practice day
 Sunday, June 24.....race day
 Saturday, July 28.....race day
 Sunday, July 29.....CANCELLED

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 Solo2 card and number (\$15) and have a DOT approved helmet. Loaner helmets are available at the autocross.

Mara Caler Takes First Place at SCCA National Tour

Congratulations to SAN DIEGO MIATA CLUB member MARA CALER, who captured first place, in her division, at the Sports Car Club of America National Tour. The event took place at Qualcomm stadium on March 17 and 18.

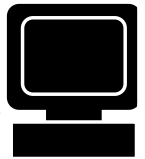
Driving her well prepared '84 Honda CRX, Mara competed in the C Street Prepared (CSP) Ladies division. Since there were only two competitors in this class, it was a head-to-head shoot out for two days. Mara held tough and brought home the trophy.

Mara's husband, RON CHAPMAN, didn't quite fare as well. Running in the CSP division, Ron was suffering from a case of food poisoning which affected his performance on the course.

Ron and Mara have a 1999 Silver Sport package Miata.

Online Resources

This is a friendly reminder about the SAN DIEGO MIATA CLUB e-mail list. Below are the mail addresses for mail services:



Post message:

SDMC-List@yahoo.com

Subscribe:

SDMC-List-subscribe@yahoo.com

Unsubscribe:

SDMC-List-unsubscribe@yahoo.com

List owner:

SDMC-List-owner@yahoo.com

SDMC mail page:

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/SDMC-List>

Mail can be delivered individually, or as a daily digest. Also, there is an "Upcoming Events" only list. Please email SDMC-Events-owner@yahoo.com for inclusion to this list.

— ROBERT "JTBOB" HOLLAND
 Webmaster/Postmaster

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 mere \$6.50 each, including shipping to your home, from VICKY KRUEGER.

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.

See Vicky at a monthly meeting or e-mail her at vicky@teamvoodoo.com.





The newly-formed Miata Owners Club has new leadership—and it's right here in San Diego.

Affinity Development Group, which has had a great deal of success managing other car clubs, has been selected to oversee the new organization. Affinity, located in Sorrento Valley, handled various car clubs through its association with Petersen Publishing. These include Hot Rod Power Club, Motor Trend Driver's Association, Petersen Sportsmen Society, and Team Ford Racing.

At our May meeting, Affinity representatives outlined their goal of "emphasizing member benefits" in the coming months. This includes such things as discounts and rebates, insurance, travel benefits including condo rentals and a tour to Formula One racing, improved relations with Mazda, a mechanism for input from club members on key items, and interaction with clubs in other cities across the country and the world.

SAN DIEGO MIATA CLUB members who signed up as subscribers to the new Miata magazine in recent months automatically become members of the Miata Owners Club. Others can join for \$29 a year, which includes the magazine and other perks as they are developed. The Web site is still being developed (www.miataownersclub.com), but it does have a form there now for joining the organization.

The address is:

Miata Owners Club
PO Box 910164
San Diego, CA 92191-0164

Phone number is (858) 643-9324.

Zoom-zoom

New Members!

WELCOME to our newest members (since last newsletter):

JEFF & JUDY DOUGLASS

Poway

2000 Emerald Green LS

NORM & DOLORES STEVENS

San Dimas

1997 STO (Twilight Blue)

MIKE & KAREN STILES

San Diego

1997 STO (Twilight Blue)

BONNIE & GARY WILLIAMS

Escondido

1990 Red

Renewing Members

(since last newsletter):

JIM & CHARLENE BROKAW

TOM ANDERSON

HAL CLARK & ROBIN WATERS

CHUCK & JEAN COLE

GEOFF FAHRING & XAVIER CASTILLO

MAGGIE & ALF HOPE

MICHELE PALAZZI

JIM PIERCE & ABBEY CHAMBERLAIN

MIKE THOMAS

Membership Statistics

As of May 26, 2001, there are 346 memberships (136 single, 210 dual) for a total of 556 members.

Memberships by Miata Color:

92	Red
52	White
43	Black
34	Emerald Green
27	Silver
15	Montego Blue
15	Sapphire Blue
10	Twilight Blue
9	Marina Green
9	Starlight Blue
8	Mariner Blue
7	BRG
7	Laguna Blue
7	Mahogany
7	Merlot
6	Yellow
5	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.

5 Years Ago This Month

June 12, 1996

The WHEELS'N'MEALS at the Boll Weevil, for the second month, features a "Tech Talk" about car covers by BRUCE HARMER of North Coast Tarpaulin Works. Bruce eventually buys a Miata and becomes a member of SDMC. North Coast (now Coast Car Covers) becomes a popular vendor among SDMC members.

June 19, 1996

Fifteen SDMC members descend upon the track at Malibu Grand Prix for some "driver training." This becomes a popular non-Miata-driving event, until the track closes a few years later.

June 27, 1996

The second WHEELS'N'MEALS of the month at the Boll Weevil features discussion and a vote on the club logos designed by TOM GOULD. Design number two, featuring the California Tower of the Museum of Man and the Laurel Street bridge, is overwhelmingly chosen.

Club Membership:

53 memberships and a total of 82 members.



New Events Coordinator

At the annual membership meeting on April 28, president ELLIOT SHEV announced the appointment of a new SAN DIEGO MIATA CLUB events coordinator.

A request for volunteers was published in the April edition of the SAN DIEGO MIATA CLUB NEWS. Elliot announced that after due consideration of all the applicants, STEVE WAID was appointed as events coordinator, since nobody else applied for the job.

Steve and his wife LAURIE have been active members of SDMC since they joined in early 1997. Laurie was club treasurer, with Steve serving as club president the following year. In addition, Steve was the event treasurer for SURF'N'SAFARI while being the most enthusiastic proponent of the event.

The ever popular Madonna Inn weekend and Puke-O-Rama are only two examples of the fun and exciting events that Steve and Laurie have continued to organize. This kind of unflappable enthusiasm makes Steve the perfect choice (remember nobody else volunteered) for the job. Contact Steve at events@sandiegomiataclub.org or (760) 432-0727.



PHOTO: STEVE & PAULA KENNISON

Steve Waid has worn many hats as a member of SDMC. He seems to relish being involved and keeping the club's enthusiasm going.

ONE MEMBER'S OPINION

As a solo driver 98% of the time, I feel kind of foolish sometimes stopping and waiting for the Miata that I have lost visual contact with behind me on a fun run. Especially when that Miata has a co-pilot and run directions. If the co-pilot is doing his/her job, I wouldn't have to stop and wait and then drive like a bat out of hell to catch up with the Miata in front of me, and hope that if there is another turn the driver in front of me will stop and wait until I have visual contact. As most of us know, members do not always stop and wait. I can vouch for that because it has happened to me more than once.

All of us who have planned and put on a run know how much work and effort goes into it. It is not easy to make up "Run Directions" and do the pre-run, sometimes doing it more than once to get every detail just right. I know because I still remember the pre-run I did a few years back for my run to Laughlin, Nevada, via the desert. Some of the run directions that I have seen lately are really outstanding. Lots of love and labor went into them for the members. Now my question is, "Are we, the drivers and co-pilots, making good use of these run directions?" My answer would be NO because as a solo driver I have to stop at every turn if I don't see the Miata behind me, even if it has a co-pilot and run directions.

I guess most of us have seen or heard of a driver with a co-pilot making a wrong turn on a run. I keep thinking that if the co-pilot was doing his/her job that it would not happen. To make matters worse, a Miata with a co-pilot would make a wrong turn and all of the other Miatas behind would make the same wrong turn (the blind leading the blind). How often have you seen this happen?

I would like for the co-pilots to start doing their job instead of just going along for the ride. The co-pilot's job is to inform, guide, and direct the driver at all times. The co-pilot should know at all times approximately where he/she is located on the run directions, no matter how many Miatas are in front of them.

I also think the co-pilot should handle the CB radio if the driver can't do it go-

ing through the twisties, etc. Talking about CB radios, they are not mandatory but I think all members should have CBs for their Miatas after being an active member for at least six months. I know that the new members would really enjoy the fun runs more knowing what is going on in the caravan by listening to the CB, even if they don't want to converse with other members.

As a solo driver, I always try to position myself behind a Miata with a co-pilot. It should be the responsibility of all solo drivers to do the same. I know we always stop and wait on each other if we are doing an impromptu run without any directions. When we have run directions it would be good if they were read, which could help keep us together on a run. I would like the run leader to remind the co-pilots at all drivers' meetings about their duties as co-pilots.

Semper Fi

— ART HAMILTON

Please heed Art's wise advice. All members should familiarize themselves with the "Fun Run Tips" found on page 5 of the April 2001 Membership Handbook. These guidelines have been proven to enhance the fun and safety of each run.

— EDITOR

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.

The anticipation was great as 50 Miatas pulled into the heart of Old Town Temecula on Saturday, April 14th. Machacas and delicious Huevos Rancheros were served for breakfast at Rosa's Cantina as we prepared for the day's run. This was the third Dam Run, with leaders JOHN & JOYCE RICHARDSON adding a new twist this year. Not only was this to be a run to the dam but also the first ever "Miata Car Color Contest."

The hype had been flowing for weeks, with different color teams vying for superiority. As the morning progressed, nine car colors were whittled down to six teams. STEVE WAID condensed the yellow, gold and purple cars into the "Wine & Cheese" team, while SAL CAUSARANO and the blue team picked up the black cars and created the "Black & Blue" group. RAINER MUELLER picked up the leadership of the white team, as JACK and SUE HINKLE took over the command of the red team. JOHN LIMA lent his impressive marketing skills to the leadership of the green team, while STEVE and PAULA KENNISON put together an impressive silver team.



The groups drew numbers from a hat for run position and were handed driving instructions along with the much sought after "Run Pictures & Trivia Questions." The teams were also given a private CB channel for consultation. The run started out at 10 a.m., heading north thru Old Town Temecula, but soon found a left turn light that would only let five cars through at a time. What better time for a photo opportunity? JIM and CHARLENE BROKAW took one of the most impressive Miata photos of all time as they captured 50 Miatas lined up by color on Rancho California Road. The run progressed



April 14 - Saturday
Dam-O-Rama 2001

quickly from there as the speeds increased on curvy Sandia Creek Road. The weather was cool and the scenery was beautiful.

In just over 40 minutes we were pulling into the Fallbrook Historical Museum. The teams met independently for strategy sessions as the docents from the museum came down to greet us. We were treated to a very interesting tour including a car museum, gem display, and an early Fallbrook house. Teams clamored to find the answers to the various trivia questions. Team leaders were seen conferring with the docents for their knowledge of the subjects. After an hour at this beautiful stop, we grouped up again by car color and were on our way.

We headed out of Fallbrook and turned left onto Route 76. In a few minutes we found ourselves on awesome Rice Canyon with fast curves and beautiful scenery. From there the route took us through the southern part of Temecula and then out to Auangua where we encountered Sage Road. This road was a Miata's dream. Fast curves along with short hills made this road a blast. After 20 miles of fun we encountered the wicked Red Mountain Road. This narrow, two lane nightmare would leave most drivers trembling, but the Miatas took it with ease.

Soon we were back on Sage Road and headed for the Dam Visitor Center. This was our third year at the center and this time we shared the place with the Model

A club. After a short stop and rabid questioning by team leaders we were on our way again. We then pulled up to the Dam overlook and anticipation mounted. What would the lake look like this year? Unfortunately only 2/3rds of us found out as they restricted the number of cars going up to the overlook. For us that made it...Wow! The lake was almost full, a far cry from the dirt and earth movers of our first run. Rainer took another one of his awesome panorama shots of the lake which can be seen at <http://sdmiata.homestead.com> (click on the Dam-O-Rama link).

Leaving the overlook, we headed to Oscar's restaurant in Temecula. After a yummy feast, we were treated to some of the best entertainment ever as the different teams competed in the Dam Talent Contest. Some teams decided to go with trivia questions while three teams gave us a show. The blue team and the red team did song and dance routines, while the cheese team did interactive comedy and magic. Unfortunately, the cheese team ended their routine by sticking their tongues out at the audience, which brought about hisses and boos. The independent group of judges gave the win and the coveted Dam Trophy to...the red team! The blue team came in second with a high score in the best-looking car category.

Join us again next year as we tour the Dam pumping plant and prepare for the "Revenge of the Cheese!"

— JOHN & JOYCE RICHARDSON



PHOTOS: JIM & CHARLENE BROKAW



Run for the Magnetics

We had 22 cars for a fun run and a picnic. The weather turned out great after several days of rain.

We started out at Grossmont Center and traveled to the top of Mt. Helix for a great view of the city. Then we headed east by way of Fuerte Drive and Chase Avenue. We had two queue-ups that supported surprises for the group. Wayne and I handed out candy bags and little magnetics to celebrate his birthday.

We continued out east, following Japatal Valley Road and Old Highway 80 to the rest stop at Buckman Springs. We then headed south on Buckman Springs Road to Highway 94 and west on 94 to the twisties of Honey Springs and Lyons Valley Roads, then back to 94, where we finished at Simpson's Nursery.

At the nursery, the gates were open and Mr. Smith was there to meet us and other members that came for the fun and food. STEVE WAID and BARB SHEV ran in the morning autocross at the Q made it as well. We all enjoyed the BBQing of SCOTT and JOANNA LANGHOFF and the food everyone brought. After eating, we headed off to the car museum.

Thanks to everyone for making our first run a good one!

— DEE & WAYNE JOHNSON
2000 Evolution Orange "Gold"

Vice president Sal Causarano had the privilege of presenting the rarest of San Diego Miata Club magnetics to Dee and Wayne Johnson for their run. The Evolution Orange magnetics are sure to catch your eye.



April 22 - Sunday
Run For The Magnetics



PHOTOS: JIM & CHARLENE BROKAW



Following the election of our Smurf Board at the annual meeting on April 28th, nine fellow Miataphiles cruised up to Allied Gardens in the bright sunshine to show off our little cars and exude some SDMC community spirit by supporting the Navajo community of San Diego at their Spring Festival and Parade.

Marching bands, a LOT of classic automobiles, and lots of happy people greeted us as we wound our way along the parade route through the neighborhood.

Kudos to JENNIFER ROTH, who transported Ms. Kathleen Cheatum, the Lieutenant Governor for the 21st Division of the California, Nevada, and Hawaii District of the Kiwanis, and DUSTIN LEWIS, who transported Ms. Christine Casman, the principal of Foster Elementary School. I had the pleasure of transporting Mr. John Pilch, president of the San Carlos Area Council.

Many thanks to STEVE & LAURIE WAID, BILL SHAFFER, JERRY BOSTER, EUNICE BAUMAN, and ART HAMILTON for coming out to play! We all received commemorative plaques from Gene Ellmore, the parade chairman, after the parade at the car show area.

I got a letter yesterday from Gene, thanking us for our support. They've already begun planning for the third annual parade on the 27th of April, 2002, and are looking forward to our participation again next year!

— SCOTT & JOANNA LANGHOFF
& "Mariner"



April 28 - Saturday
Navajo Community
Spring Fest Parade



PHOTOS: ART HAMILTON



O h my...! I've never seen so much Naugahyde outside of a '62 Buick! And all of it bright red!

And those copper tabletops and cast iron fixtures. Someone must have spent years visiting flea markets and old barns to gather enough



"collectibles" to decorate the motel dining room. Or perhaps they commissioned the

San Luis Obispo School of Blind Interior Decorators to do it for them!

To embark on this unique adventure, we left our quiet border town (Chula Vista) very early Saturday morning to arrive on time for the scheduled 7 a.m. departure from Oceanside. Although this was STEVE and LAURIE WAID's third time leading the Madonna excursion, it was our first, and we were excited to be on our way. We had spent the better part of Friday packing our Geri's bag, getting the car cleaned up inside and out, and filling the gas tank. We arrived in Oceanside about a half-hour early, and were surprised to see several Miatas already in the parking lot. Apparently we weren't the only ones excited to be there. After a quick potty break and an all-American breakfast at McDonald's, we ambled over to the parking lot for the drivers meeting, and to sign up for the mileage contest. We were asked to guess the miles we thought we would cover from Oceanside to the time we met for the banquet Sunday evening. We had no clue, but we did know that sometime during the trip our odometer would roll over 96k, so we decided just to use that figure.

And we were off! Our caravan of 20 Miatas and one Mercedes headed north, first traversing the scenic Evil Empire, with its pristine freeways and ever so courteous drivers. At various points along the freeway, four more



May 5 - 7
Search for Madonna
(Rocdonna) 2001



PHOTO: JIM & CHARLENE BROKAW

brave Miatas successfully "docked" with us. Our first pit stop was at the Flying R truck stop near Gorman, where a fellow searcher from SO-CALM joined us. We also met another group of SOCALM/SDMC members who had stopped en route to the vintage races at Buttonwillow.

After filling our gas tanks and emptying our other tanks, we were back on the road, now 25 cars strong. Our guest leader Jim Horvath did a great job, missing only one right turn as we traveled west through the Las Padres National Forest and along the Sierra Madre mountains. The roads were excellent, and so was the scenery, which included the snow-covered Mt. Pinos on the left, and later, the desert Carrizo Plain on the right. We arrived safely at our destination in time for lunch, and that was when we were introduced to the world-famous Madonna Inn, our base camp for the next two days. Following our run leader's recommendation, we split a Monte Cristo sandwich for lunch. Or was that a Mucho Crisco sandwich? It was heavy, to say the least.

More gas, and then back on the road, winding our way through the beautiful green countryside (watch out for the pedestrian, the dog, and the

bicycle) to scenic Morro Bay. From there we headed to Cayucos and then east on some more great twisties through the hills and Peachy Canyon. We finally returned, completely exhausted, to the lovely Madonna Inn, where we made ready for the much-anticipated room-hopping event.

Over the next several hours, we visited some pretty strange rooms, inhabited by some equally strange people. The following definition fits many of the rooms, and can be found in Webster's dictionary: Gaudy (n), ostentatiously or tastelessly ornamented: see Madonna Inn. If you haven't been on any of the Searches, you must sign up for the next one. The Madonna Inn is an absolute treat, and must be seen to be disbelieved! We followed the procession from room to room, where we saw more red Naugahyde, pink velvet, rock caves, rock waterfall showers, and even a guillotine. We sampled some great food, including barbeque sandwiches, cheeses, a little bit of chicken with lots of cole slaw, and



PHOTOS: STEVE & PAULA KENNISON

plenty of desserts, the best of which had to have been STEVE and PAULA KENNISON's selection of home-made truffles. All this we washed down with a choice of drinks, including several wines, two varieties of Margaritas (WALLY STEVENS' just about knocked my socks off), and even a piña colada. The wandering party continued into the wee hours, as the SDMC gang once again showed the locals that we know how to have FUN.

Sunday morning we gassed up again, and were led by Steve Vannatta in his flaming '40 Ford through the



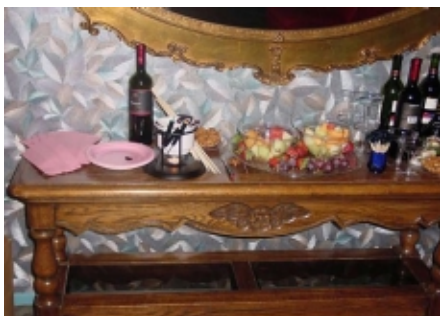


PHOTO: DENNIS & MARYANNE GARON

rolling green countryside, and past the pedestrian, dog and bicycle, to Morro Bay. After posing for group pictures in front of the famous Rock of Morro, we parked and toured the annual street rod show, where we thoroughly enjoyed an eclectic collection of antique cars, muscle cars, low riders, and bikes, and fell head over heels in love with at least 30 different cars.

After returning to San Luis (not Louie) Obispo for some lunch and yet more gas, we gathered at the old Madonna gas station for the main driving event. We were joined by a few more Miatas from VROOM and SOCALM, and were treated to a great run by Julie Stefanelli, in her stunningly beautiful '94 Laguna Blue C. After a challenging drive through some breathtaking countryside, we ended up at a barbeque and blues picnic at the historic Pozo Saloon, a rustic remnant of the California gold rush. From Pozo, we made our way back to the Madonna Inn for the main non-driving event. Members of SDMC, SOCALM and VROOM, all dressed in Miata casual, gathered in the "Round Room" for cocktails, followed by a wonderful feast of fine beast and bird.

As the dessert was being served, the presentation ceremony commenced. Jim Horvath and Julie Stefanelli each received a Team Voodoo hat, a SOCALM 10th anniversary T-shirt, a SOCALM pin and window decal, and a ZOOM ZOOM sticker in appreciation of their efforts in leading a run and helping us feel welcome in VROOM country. MIKE SHACK, JOHN TEMPLETON, DAVE HUNT

and JACK HINKLE were each awarded a Team Voodoo Chicken key chain, for letting their wives dress them up in such a degrading manner for the room hopping. DENNIS GARON, dubbed the Sheriff of Madonna, was awarded a hat and T-shirt as special recognition for his role as the Official Room Hopping Event Security Guard and Bouncer. KEN and KATHY ROBERTS, who provided a delicious selection of sweets in the Edelweiss Room, were declared the runners-up and each received a T-shirt and hat. The BROKAWs were lucky enough to win the mileage contest, and are now the proud wearers of matching Team Voodoo watches. Special thanks go to BOB KRUEGER and Team Voodoo for providing the wonderful gifts! At the end of the awards presentation, our leader was treated to a rousing standing ovation. Although the crowd called out for him to give a speech, true to his quiet and unassuming nature, he declined.

Early Monday morning we had to bid farewell to the Madonna Inn, and



Above— Sal Causarano looks for his insurance card when his Miata was "rolled."

Below— The damage is evident. Anyone have some ham and cheese?



PHOTOS: STEVE & PAULA KENNISON



PHOTO: DENNIS & MARYANNE GARON

The towering Morro Rock dwarfs the gaggle of parked Miatas.

we headed to the beautiful town of Solvang for a Belgian breakfast and some quick shopping. On the way to Solvang, GERI CAUSARANO's CANDIE was "rolled," fortunately sustaining only minor damage to her front grille. I can't comment further on this incident, as I understand that legal action may be pending. Leaving Solvang, we worked our way south, stopped at Ojai for lunch, and then navigated rush hour on the LA freeway system. After escaping the heat and the traffic of the Evil Empire, we made one final stop at Tom's Farms, and then headed back to our home on the border for some much needed rest. The event was a complete success and loads of fun. Thanks to the Madonna Inn and to VROOM for their hospitality, and thanks again, Steve and Laurie, for a wonderful run and great adventure.

Rock on!

— JIM & CHARLENE BROKAW
'94 Laguna Blue C package



PHOTO: STEVE & PAULA KENNISON



The Belt Syndrome

Episodes 1-6 (abridged)

Prologue: Miata owners may find some actual useful information here if you read long enough. Or skip to the epilogue now.

Episodes 1-6: First I want to thank JON MARTINEZ for setting up the weekend McKeever driving school at the Streets of Willow for SDMC and SOCALM on May 19-21. Even



though LOIS and I were there only one day (Saturday the 19th), we had a great time and learned a lot. As those who were there know, I had a multi-belted adventure. Back in the '60s, I carried a spare fan belt in our succession of VW buses and early Volvos, but until the 19th, I never needed a spare belt for the Miata. Early in the afternoon, on turn seven on the Streets of Willow track, I experienced a flapping sound, followed in one second by loss of power steering. I knew what had happened, and steering into the pits wasn't difficult. Yup, the drive belt for power steering and A/C was missing (hiding in the engine pan, actually.) Lois steered as two of us pushed the dead Miata from the pits to the garage. BARB SHEV volunteered to drive me to the nearest car parts store, conveniently located two miles east of the Willows tracks. As it turned out, this was the first of many visits to U-Save Auto Parts, each accompanied by a Miata belt purchase and increasing numbers of 75-cent soft drinks.

Getting back to the track with the power steering-A/C belt, I discovered soon enough that I was one belt short: I also needed the alternator/water pump belt. It was dark in there, especially since the cold-air induction intake is in the way. On early Miatas like our '93, the A/C belt is flat and the other belt is a V.

The failure sequence was fairly ob-

vious because the V-belt was severed and was lying in the plastic engine pan. The A/C belt was also there, but it was not cut through. The V-belt failed, and part of it no doubt got in the A/C belt circuit, which cut it and threw it off the pulleys. U-Save also had the V-belt in stock. I bought four soft drinks on this trip, and Barb remained cheerful as always on this reprise visit.

So the next two hours were spent borrowing tools and getting acquainted with the exact size and location of bolts, nuts and screws to:

- 1) get my cold-air induction system out of the way (that was easy),
- 2) locate and loosen the securing hardware on the alternator and power steering pumps, and
- 3) get intimately familiar with all the flesh-eating hose clips, sharp corners and who knows what else anywhere near the aforementioned accessories.

Thanks for tool loans and encouragement are due to TOM and STEF GOULD, RAINER MUELLER, and JAIME VILLACORTE. At the end of the two hours, I'd found all the necessary fasteners to loosen and swing the power steering pump and alternator enough to replace the belts, and I'd lost less than three fluid ounces of blood. Danny McKeever and his crew had gone home, and I was trusted to secure the garage at the track. A late afternoon convoy headed for our night's lodging at Essex House in Lancaster. But with Lois at the wheel, about two miles east of the track, we heard a snapping sound up front, we pulled over, and many helpful folks pulled over with us. As it turned out, we misidentified which new belt had broken, believing it to be the power steering-A/C belt. (I'd have known if I had been driving, as the steering wheel gets real stiff)

Anyway, after waving everyone away, we started out again, discovering rapidly rising temperature in less

than half a mile, resulting in steam and expelling some coolant. Lois stayed with the car as yet another helpful Miataite provided a ride two miles farther for visit number three of the afternoon to U-Save and Miata belt, 75-cent soft drink purchase, plus the 12 and 14-mm wrenches I would need to avoid borrowing tools again.

In 40 minutes the Antelope Valley Towing big flat tow truck had picked me up at the store and I returned to find that Lois had put the Miata's top up to ward off the sun. Bummer!

Anyway, AAA-Plus warded off extra mileage charges as tow driver John, who had spent a busy afternoon with SDMC members already, deposited us at the Essex House by 6:50 p.m. Sunday morning I got up early and, having memorized the territory enough to avoid serious further body punctures, removed the still-good A/C belt (it has to come off first), installed new accessory V-belt, and had the whole thing put back together in time for the "Committee of Four" to inspect the belts for tensioning. Thanks to Jon Martinez, ELLIOT and others for their advice. We concluded that Saturday's failure of the new V-belt was due to over-tensioning. I drove around the Essex House parking lot five times at 3000 rpm as a test hop...sort of like testing a new airplane by staying within gliding distance of the airport (which has paid off for me a time or two). No problem. So we checked out and then noticed a puddle of coolant under the radiator.

Seems the top of the Miata radiator is plastic, and Saturday's brief boiling episode had taken its toll. There was a seven-inch hairline crack across the back side of the plastic radiator top just behind the cap. An Auto Zone store two blocks away opened in 20 minutes and offered an aluminum-based radiator leak-stop solution, which eventually solved the problem. But I stopped at short intervals to cool

off and check on the coolant supply. (If you do this, wait at least 10 minutes and use a supply of towels to avoid getting scalded!) At our third stop (at 138 and I-15), no more water as needed; the leak was stopped. After getting home, I believe I've fixed the leak permanently by siphoning out the top coolant, roughing the area around the crack with sandpaper, and bonding two layers of extremely light (model airplane type) fiberglass cloth and thick CA glue. (SuperGlue is one brand). If this fix fails, I'll let you know. If you ever need a small piece of the light fiberglass, let me know and I'll supply some.

Epilogue: The lesson is to carry spare belts (they're cheap), necessary tools (also cheap) for your particular Miata, and maybe even figure out in advance where you'll have to position the tools while wearing an old long-sleeved flannel shirt and (like Jon does) a pair of latex gloves. Also feel the belt tension now so you'll know how much to tighten the things on the road. Both of my belts were gone before I did that. One other curiosity: Taking my own advice here, I tried to buy a spare set of belts at the Auto Zone store in Lancaster. They had the AC/power steering flat belt, but the belt they list for the '93 MX-5 is also a flat belt, and that's wrong! The '93 and earlier alternator belt is a V-belt. Having bought and installed two within 16 hours, I can vouch for it.

— DAVE MARTIN, White '93C

Power Steering and A/C Belt

1.6-liter—B63H-15-909 (no longer available from Mazda)

1.8-liter—BPE8-15-909 (being sold for 1.6 also, but NOT correct)

Available 1.6-liter substitute—NAPA 040378

Cult Brand?

We have the full regalia. We have our attention to colors. We have an unending urge to help out each other. Sounds like the real makings of a "street gang." But according to the April 16 edition of *Forbes* magazine, Miata owners are really one of America's leading "cult" organizations.

The article showed how Miata owners are truly a breed apart, loyal to their machines and each other. So much so, that the Reverend James S. Massie, Jr., a 58-year-old Episcopal priest in Pennsylvania, presides over a mass ceremony where 250 Miata owners take vows when he says, "By the power invested in me, I pronounce that you are....car and driver."

SAN DIEGO MIATA CLUB members JON MARTINEZ, JUDY POWELL, GENE and PINKY STANLEY were in that marriage ceremony at the 1998 Miata Mountain Madness National event on the racetrack at Pocono Super Speedway in Pennsylvania. Their three-year anniversary will be in July, and no doubt appropriate celebrating is in order.

The Reverend drives a white (naturally) 1996, with the Hallelujah Chorus blaring over his CD player. "It's just harmless fun," he says. "It's a spiritual endeavor." The article also carried a photo of Rev. White in a prayerful pose "worshipping his roadster."

Peter Warrick, a 53-year-old in Florida, owns 28 Miatas and credits his passion for keeping him alive after a heart attack in 1994. We can probably get by with one or two to keep us humming along.

Miata is linked with such brands as Krispy Kreme, Apple Computer, and Harley Davidson in explaining how people become attached to a product and support it to the extreme. "These people are psycho," is the way Frederick Aikins, Mazda's manager of product communication, says about Miata owners. Now, when a modification is on the drawing board, Mazda tests it with its customers first, the article said.

The story also pointed out that owner complaints forced Mazda to change the cup holder which was introduced with the 1999 model.

Miata is also especially only for special people. Only 18,299 Miatas were sold last year, according to *Forbes*. So it is nice to be among the elite...as long as we have at least one for each of us.

— 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: 1991 red Miata. 5 speed, air, PS, upgraded radio w/CD & upgraded speakers, alloy wheels, Dunlop tires w/approx. 10k. Serial number (GOOD) past crankshaft problems. Rear cockpit brace, Ted Kesler chassis braces, newer top & rear window. Recent shocks & clutch. Well maintained. Paint looks close to new. Interior excellent except seats show some sun discolor. 109k miles. \$5,600.

Michael, (760) 431-9444 or mjkeller@pacbell.net

For Sale: '97 Chrysler Sebring LX. Polo green/gray interior. 68K miles, new brakes. All power, auto trans, CD/cassette, cruise, 60/40 rear split seat. Meticulously maintained. Excellent Miata Support Vehicle. \$13K OBO. Anita (858) 496-1101 or anita.rosin@juno.com

For Sale: Cat-back exhaust, Jackson's best, gently used, \$300. Off a 1990 (new is \$499 plus shipping). I also have a starter, alternator and misc. engine, suspension, 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

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: 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.

Jeremy (858) 651-8509 (w) (760) 632-7848 (h) or jeremyw@qualcomm.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

