

SAN DIEGO MIATA CLUB NEWS

VOLUME 6 NUMBER 8

UPCOMING EVENTS



August 3 - Friday Cruisin' Grand Wheels'N'Meals



August 4 - Saturday Fifth Annual Miles of Miatas for MDA



August 11 - Saturday San Diego Twilight Fun Run



August 17 - 19
Monterey Historics
and Concourso Italiano



August 23 - Thursday Monthly Meeting



August 25 - Sunday
Conn's Tech Day, Pool
Party & Pot Luck
Joint SOCALM/SDMC/
VROOM Event



August 25 - Saturday **Drive In Movie Run**



September 8 - Saturday
Nethercutt Collection
Tour and Run



September 8 - Saturday Autocross at the "Q"



September 8 - Saturday SDMC at Autocross



December 1 - Saturday

SDMC Holiday Party

San Diego Automotive Museum

AUGUST 2001

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Discounts or Despair

ne of the benefits of being a SAN DIEGO MIATA CLUB member is your access to the many vendors that provide club discounts. You know, those vendors listed on the back page of this newsletter that offer us a discount for their parts and services. Have you taken advantage of these? I have and have been satisfied, but not always on the first try, and that's what I would like to talk about.

Not too long ago, I received an e-mail from a member who made a strong request to have one of the club discount vendor's back page listing removed from the newsletter. The complaint was serious enough that I thought that I should look further into this. The situation involved poor service and possible damage to the member's car. I was originally under the impression that the vendor would not work with the member to resolve the issue, and involving possible damage, I was very concerned and initially authorized removal of the vendor from our newsletter, as printing time was getting near.

After further investigation, it was discovered that our fellow member never contacted the service provider for corrective action. How could I admonish the vendor or ask for further assistance, when the member who had the problem didn't go back to the person who could do something about it, the vendor? The board discussed this and found there was no action to be taken by the club.

More recently, another member had an issue with a different vendor. This time, the member requested that the vendor not be so enthusiastically promoted by the leadership of the club due to the circumstances around this member's issue. As we looked into the matter, we discovered more information. Our fellow member did, in fact, contact the vendor and the vendor corrected the error. Upon further analysis, it seems that our fellow member only brought part of the problem to the vendor's attention. The member was still upset about that issue not brought to the vendor's attention, and therefore, is not happy with the vendor.

I personally had a situation with a vendor that is highly regarded by many club members. They worked on my car and only after a long trip did I realize the error they made. They corrected the error when I brought it back, but it did cost me some money also. I did not stop recommending this vendor nor do many know of this issue.

All of us recommend places to do business because, for whatever the reason, we like them. Because we like them, we think others will too and freely recommend them. This is the best advertising any vendor can get. We also know, from read-

(Continued on page 2)

President's Message (Continued from page 1)

ing our e-mail, that when a fellow member asks for a recommendation, there are a lot of them. Many of the ones you see recommended you may not like, but someone else did. I know, because it's in the e-mail as a recommendation.

As an example, from personal experience, I would never use or recommend Amato's Body Shop in Sorrento Valley. Why? I went there for a few reasons. They are close to my work, convenience. They come highly recommended by other club members, personal testimonial. My insurance will pay them, easy for me. So I went to Amato's to get my car repaired and was told by Mr. Amato himself that he won't work on Miatas because we are too picky for him. He didn't know me from Adam, but because he had a bad experience with one of us, he thinks we are all the same. I never had a chance to show how picky I could be! So now I tell anyone who will listen not to patronize his shop and recommend the one who has always taken care of me...Poway Valley Collision. No special discounts, just good work.

The moral of the story here is that people make mistakes, all of us. If you deal with a vendor and have a bad experience, please go back to the vendor and make sure you explain the issue in precise detail as to why you are unhappy. Give the vendor a chance to make it right. If that vendor will not resolve the issue, within reason, then the board needs to know about it. Then we can contact them to see what the issue is and make a decision whether or not the club will continue to promote that vendor. Let's face it, a bad job at a discount is still a bad job, and none of us want that. Conversely, one bad experience does not necessarily make a bad vendor.

Until the next event...

— ЕЦІОТ

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? of a very special little roadster?

Let's have fun driving our Miatas!

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

New Club Roster

he latest edition of the SAN DIEGO MIATA CLUB membership roster is now available online. The roster has been converted to Adobe PDF format just like the online version of the newsletter. SDMC members can access the FILES section of Yahoo! Groups (see page 2 of the July SDMC News) and download the file and print it out for their personal reference.

The big advantage to having the roster online is that it can be updated regularly, so members can have an upto-date roster. The Yahoo! Groups location makes it available only to SDMC members. If you do not have access to the Web, printed copies will be available at monthly meetings for \$1 per copy.

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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 AUGUST

Cruisin' Grand
Wheels'N'Meals
Date: Friday, August 3

Meeting Time: 6 p.m. to eat Leave for cruisin' at 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.

Fifth Annual

Miles of Miatas for MDA

Date: Saturday, August 4
Meeting Place: Boll Weevil
9330 Clairemont Mesa Blvd.
(at Ruffin Road), San Diego
Meeting Time: 9 a.m.

Coordinators: JACK & SUE HINKLE

RSVP to sportscarr@aol.com or

(760) 735-9456

This run qualifies toward Mileage Award Last year's event raised over \$10,000 with only 43 cars participating and we even signed up two new members. "Miles of Miatas for MDA" will begin its 100-mile serpentine course at the Boll Weevil Restaurant, which again will be hosting registration. We will then continue on a scenic drive through the seaside, mountain, and desert landscapes of San Diego. The run will conclude at historic Bell Gardens, where a sumptuous Santa Maria-style barbecue dinner will be served. Participants can really race, Hot Wheels that is, win prizes in the raffles, receive awards, and try their luck at a 50/50 drawing.

Participants will receive two event T-shirts for raising over \$100 and will be provided a raffle ticket for every \$50 raised. Additional raffle tickets can be purchased at \$1 each or 15 for \$10. Cost of the BBQ dinner will be \$11 per person and checks can mailed to the Hinkles at 733 S. Kalmia St., Escondido, CA 92025.

San Diego Twilight Fun Run

Date: Saturday, August 11

Meeting Time: 2:30 p.m. for late lunch,

run starts at 4 p.m.

Meeting Place: T.G.I. Friday's 2991 Jamacha Road, El Cajaon (Rancho San Diego)

Run Leaders: MARK & CATHY BOOTH mbooth@cts.com or (619) 670-3789 home, (619) 990-5520 cell.

This run qualifies toward Mileage Award
The 7th annual running of the San
Diego Twilight Fun Run. A LEISURELY ride along some of San
Diego's East County roads during the
late afternoon/early evening hours.
That special "twilight" period when
the hot summer day slowly gives way
to a comfortable summer night!

Instead of the traditional "Drive-Eat-Drive", this will be "Eat-Drive-Eat." We will be on the road through the dinner hour, so be sure to grab a bite before the run starts. Meet at 2:30 p.m. at T.G.I. Friday's for a late lunch. If you are running late, some "fast food" choices are available in the same parking lot.

The run will start at 4 p.m. (Please be prepared with plenty of fuel to travel the 110-mile route.) The run will finish back near the starting point at approximately 8:30 p.m.

Directions: Take your favorite route to Highway 94 east. Continue on Highway 94 into La Mesa. (Watch those signs carefully, Highway 94 east merges off to the right near the Spring Street exit.) Stay on Highway 94 east

all the way into Rancho San Diego. The T.G.I. Friday's is in the Albertson's/Target/Edward's Cinema shopping center parking lot at the corner of Highway 94 and Highway 54 (Jamacha Road).

Monterey Historics and Concourso Italiano

Dates: August 17-19

Place: Mazda Raceway at Laguna

Seca, Monterey, CA **Contact:** Andrea Beach

(760) 631-1204 or arsktaker@aol.com
Miata Magazine and the MIATA
OWNERS CLUB have events planned for the Concourso Italiano, on Friday,
August 17, and at the Historic Automobile Races on Saturday, August 18.

Monthly Meeting

Date: Thursday, August 23

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!

Conn's Tech Day, Pool Party & Pot Luck

Joint SOCALM/SDMC/VROOM Event

Date: Saturday, August 25 **Time:** 10 a.m. until?

Place: JOHN & GERRY CONN'S,

1530 S. Lovering Avenue, Fullerton (714) 441-2552

Bring: Towel & bathing suit, pot luck dish to share, and something to install on your car. Soda will be provided.

It's that time again. Come join us for a regional tech day. Plan on spending the day working on your car, eating, watching others work on their cars, eating, swimming, eating, helping others work on their cars, eating,

Upcoming Events (Continued on page 4)



Upcoming Events (Continued from page 3)

socializing, or eating—you get the picture! If you've got something you want to install on your car, something you've been thinking about installing, or just want to swim (and eat), this is the event for you. You can get lots of free advice, help installing, (lots of good food) and a great opportunity to get to know one another better. There will be no run but we'll be working on getting something going like dent removal or detailing advice.

Directions: Exit 91 Freeway in Fullerton at Euclid. Go north to the light at Baker, and turn left. Lovering is the fourth street on the left; we are the last house on the left.

Drive-In Movie Run

Eat - Drive - Watch a Movie **Date:** Saturday, August 25

Meeting Place: Chicken Pie Diner, 14727 Pomerado Road, Poway.

Meeting Time: 4 p.m. Run Leader: DUSTIN LEWIS

This run qualifies toward Mileage Award

After eating, we will enjoy a short early evening run that will ultimately take us to the Santee Drive-in just off of Highway 67. This is the third year that SDMC has done the summer drive-in gig. It has been enjoyed by all.

Things to bring: Fold up chairs...it is sometimes more comfortable outside the cars. Snacks. Sweatshirts...you never know. FM radio (boom box) to play the sound if you decide to sit outside the car.

Directions to Meeting Place: The diner is in the Target Center, closest to the corner of Pomerado Road and Ted Williams Parkway. Take Ted Williams Parkway from Interstate 15 East to Pomerado Road. Outback Steakhouse is visible on the corner and the Chicken Pie Diner is right behind it in the parking area.

FUTURE EVENTS

Autocross

Date: Saturday, September 8

Time: 9 a.m.

Place: Qualcomm Stadium, Mission Valley, west lot, DCCSD championship

Nethercutt Collection Tour and Run

SOCALM/SDMC/VROOM

Date: Saturday, September 8 **Meeting Time:** 9:45 a.m.

Meeting Place: The Nethercutt Col-

lection/San Sylmar

15200 Bledsoe Street, Sylmar, CA

(818) 367-2251 RSVP REQUIRED

JOHN & GERRY CONN

(714) 441-2552 or

connjb@earthlink.net

(Provide names, phone number, and number of people.)

Once again, we invite you to join us for the 2-hour-and-15-minute guided tour of this fabulous collection belonging to J. B. and Dorothy Nethercutt. The beautifully-restored antique, classic, and special interest automobiles are displayed in an exquisite recreation of an opulent automotive Grand Salon of the 1920's and 1930's.

Rules: Yep, they have rules. No smoking, jeans, shorts, flash cameras, video cameras, or children under 12. We are limited to 50 people. First 50 RSVPs get on the guided tour. We'll maintain a waiting list and re-confirm with everyone the week before.

If you can't live with those rules, or have done this tour before, make the drive up, because in addition to the guided tour, they have opened the Nethercutt Museum across the street from San Sylmar that houses over 100 specialty restored autos, a research library, and periodic lectures. It is a self-guided tour enhanced with information about each vehicle. It is open

from 9 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. You can do that while the other group is touring. After the tour, there will be a short break for lunch and then a fun run on some great roads. If you'd like to join us for the run only, meet at the Nethercutt Collection at 12:00 (noon).

Directions: Exit the 5 freeway in Sylmar (quickly after the 5/405 interchange) on Roxford. Turn right onto San Fernando Road, left on Bledsoe. From the 210, exit on Polk, turn right on Glenoaks Blvd, left on Bledsoe.

SDMC at Autocross

You've never autocrossed before, or don't even know what it is. Want to know? Want to try? Want to have fun?

We have talked about this, but now we have the date and many of the details. This is for everyone. Members who autocross...members who don't... but especially for members who thought they might like to try, but haven't done it yet.

Saturday, September 8th at Qualcomm Stadium, west lot, the SAN DIEGO MIATA CLUB will set up early with our Hospitality Suite (SAL and GERI CAUSARANO'S motorhome). We will have snacks and food available all day, culminating with dinner (BBQ) and an awards ceremony after autocross shuts down.

What is this all about?

This is the opportunity for anyone to participate in autocross for the first time in an "intimidation-free" environment. Your fellow Miataphiles who autocross more regularly will be there to lead you through the perceived "minefield" of registration, course-walking, teching, and any desired instruction so that you can just sit back and enjoy the experience with good friends.

The venue is a regularly-scheduled SCCA event, run by DCCSD



(Datsun Competition Club of San Diego). That means that there will be all kinds of other cars and drivers. However, Miatas will be the car of choice for us. The SCCA provides novice run groups and we will be supporting that with Miata instructors.

Cost: For a first-time driver, you will need to buy your SCCA annual number...good for the balance of 2001 - \$10. To participate - \$25. Paper numbers to put on your car - \$2. Fun runs at the end of the day (time permitting) - \$1 per lap. Food costs to be determined at the event (approximately \$10 each has been the norm).

This will be an all-day event. First time participants will be encouraged to arrive between 8 and 9 a.m. so that we can give you plenty of time to receive information and instruction.

What do you need to bring, besides some money?

- 1. Lots of sunscreen.
- 2. Shade if you have some.
- 3. Your Miata...duh!
- 4. Extra wind in your tires. Add tire pressure to about 40 lbs, then we can take some out.
- 5. Fold-up chairs.
- 6. Friends, if you have any.
- 7. Water
- 8. Sweatshirt for the evening.

We will have awards for those autocrossing for the first time, those who don't do it very often, and those who do. Make plans to be there, whether you drive or not.

Loneliest Highway Run

with Fall Leaf Run Option

Date: September 15 - 26

(Adding the Fall Leaf Run will change the dates to September 15 - 28)

Run Leader: BOB KITTERER,

(858) 755-2316 or <u>bkitterer@aol.com</u>

Mileage: 3,444 miles.

Drive Information: This run will be following most of US Route 50 from Placerville, CA (near Sacramento) to

just short of Pueblo, CO. This is a very low-population area with surprisingly wonderful scenery. It also contains a number of lesser known, less popular or out of the way but beautiful National Parks. The return portion will go south to Albuquerque and then west on or near Interstate 40. An optional route has been added for those wanting to do the Fall Leaf Run in Utah. This option will take us through three additional National Parks and then we will meet with other club members in Provo, UT on Friday, September 28.

Cost: In addition to gas, food, and lodging there are several other costs or fees. Motels look like they are going to be in the \$65/night +/- \$5 range. This is for accommodations that have at least a AAA two-star rating. Entrance fees for the National Parks and Monuments are going to be \$78 (\$120 Fall Leaf option). You will be better off getting a National Park Pass for \$50 or if you are over 62 a Golden Age Passport.

3rd Annual Fall Leaf Run

A joint Utah Miata Club & SDMC event **Dates:** September 27-October 2

Coordinators: TOM & STEF GOULD, stef@miata.net, (619) 298-8605

Last year the trip and scenery, not to mention the leaves and Utah club members, were fantastic! We decided we wanted to do it again. We'll leave on Thursday, September 27 with an overnight in Las Vegas, with option to see Cirque du Soleil's "Mystére." On Friday, we'll drive to Provo, Utah through spectacular scenery. Saturday will be a day-long fun run and dinner with the Utah club. On Sunday will be the "Fall Leaf Run," including the Mt. Nebo Loop scenic highway. Monday we'll start our return trek to California, returning on Tuesday, October 2. E-mail or call Stef to RSVP and for motel info.

UPCOMING NATIONAL AND REGIONAL EVENTS

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!

Make summer plans now to visit the beautiful Pacific Northwest. No national event means here's your chance to take in a regional gathering. Consult your local/regional clubs in regard to forming caravans. Registrations are filling fast. (Limit: 350 cars) www.nwmiatafest.com

West Coast Tour

Seattle, WA to Monterey, CA

Date: August 12 - 19

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

John_Hewitt@msvl.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 dreamlike weekend offers the Concorso Italiano, 28th annual Historic Automobile Races, and the famed Pebble Beach Concours d'Elegance.

Flyin' Miata's 4th Annual Open House

Grand Junction, CO

Date: August 17 - 19

Contact: teri@flyinmiata.com or

(970) 242-3800

Join Bill, Teri, Turbodog, and the rest of the folks at Flyin' Miata for a weekend of fun and games! Some of the

features include: Dyno Runs

Car Care Clinic

Winery Tour

Scavenger Hunt

Scenic Drives

and lots of hanging out and having fun!



— CONRAD AND LINDA SANKPILL

Conrad's Viewpoint:

t was 1989 and I had just suffered Lathrough the celebration of my 50th birthday. I was starting to experience shallow breathing and audible sighs whenever a motorcycle came into view. Linda had visions of the paramedics picking me up on the side of one of the rural South Texas roads near our home. One day she mentioned that she had read that Mazda was bringing out a true roadster and that she thought she might like to buy one. She knew that in my distant past I had driven an MGA, Jaguar XK150, Austin Healy Sprite, and had misspent much of my youth trying to make flathead Ford V8s run faster. I was immediately intrigued.

After some research and a little sketchy information provided by our local Mazda dealer; we placed an order...never having seen one and relying mostly on press reports about the quality and performance of a prototype! The dealer laughed at our request for an early fall delivery, saying he would take a deposit and put us on a waiting list with one restriction—we would take whatever color (1990 choices were red, white, and blue. Silver became available later in the model

year) came in when our number (I think it was 8) came up. A client of mine got the first delivery, a red one. I was really starting to wish this was going to be my car instead of Linda's. In March, we were called and told to pick up our new white Miata.

Over the next year I found more and more excuses to drive Linda's Miata while she drove my National Car of Texas, a customized 4wd Suburban with off-road tires and running boards. We were forced to sell the Miata a few years later, while we took an eighteen month "time out" to travel the US and Canada in a motorhome, ultimately settling in San Diego to be near Linda's ailing mother. We were Miata-less until July, 2000 when I drove past Cush Mazda in Escondido and spotted my first Evolution Orange LS. An hour and a half later I drove home in it, followed by the sales person driving my soon-to-be-sold Blazer. Linda was smiling.

Linda's viewpoint:

All the above is true. Except you must know by now that fabulous 1990 A package white was always supposed to be Conrad's. It kept him off a motorcycle. Also, when he brought home the 2000 EO I was

thrilled with a new chance at Zoom-Zoom, but...I wasn't totally positive about the color. Conrad fell in love with the gold at first sight. It took me a little longer. Of course, that color made the sporty car "distinctive," and as BARB SHEV says, "It kinda grows on you." Today I wouldn't trade it for anything.

Conrad found SDMC on the Internet and went to his first meeting in August 2000. Our first run was the "Twilight Run"...and we were hooked. So now we've met fantastic friends, have gone on twisty roads we never would have found alone, and have even tried autocrossing and high performance schools. Yep. We're obsessed and loving it.

This summer Conrad plans to retire from being a stockbroker, which probably means he'll just have more time to spend on the road. I'm a retired broker myself, but over the last few years I found my second career as a romance novelist. Now I'll just have to find a way to keep my editor's deadlines from interfering with the Miata fun. Hope to see you all on the next run!

To be included in our ongoing series of Member Profiles, write a short (200-300 word) introduction and email 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.

Wanted: Help for Club Historian

A volunteer is needed to give assistance to the SAN DIEGO MIATA CLUB Historian.

If you have the time to give and would be willing help out, give EL-LIOT SHEV a call, (858) 679-0777 or e-mail, president@sandiegomiataclub.org.

New Members!

WELCOME to our newest members (since last newsletter):

DANA K BEZERRA

La Jolla

2001 Silver

TERRY & SANDY COOPER

Escondido

2000 Red

JOHN & KATHY DAWSEY

La Mesa

1997 **Black**

Tom Deutsch

Irvine

1999 Red Leather

MARTIN ENGELMAN & MYOUNG JA KIM

Rancho Santa Fe

1994 Red

CHUCK & DIANE GRAHAM

Poway

1994 White A

DESIREE HERRERA

La Jolla

1992 Red B

SALLY ORR & MORRIS HILL

San Diego

1996 M (Starlight Blue)

BOB PEARCE

Tustin

2001 SE (British Racing Green)

SAMUEL RAMEY

San Diego

2001 Silver LS

H SAM SAMUELSON

Chula Vista

1990 Mariner Blue

FREDERICK N. SCOTT

Imperial Beach

2000 Emerald Green Sport

MATTHEW TANS

San Diego

1995 Montego Blue

PAT WALKER

Lake Elsinore

2000 Silver

JERE A. WINANS

FPO-AP

1994 Red

Renewing Members (since last newsletter):

TONY & MARY BEECHER

RICHARD BEST

MARK & CATHY BOOTH

GALE CHAN

GREG & KRIS DUNLAP

BILL EDOM & SHERRY LUDWIG

ALAN & DEBBIE ELSTER

GORDON T. FROST, JR.

STEF & TOM GOULD

JAMES W. HIND

LARRY & JEANNIE HOSKINSON

CRAIG & JESSICA JULIAN

STEVE LAMB

BOB & DEBBIE LLEWELLYN

DAVID & DAWN MILNE

GERONIMO G. OMABTANG

MURDOCK & NORMA PAYNE

WALTER & JANICE PENNINGTON

JENNIFER ROTH

CONRAD & LINDA SANKPILL

O.D. SMITH & MARTHA JOSLIN

RUTH & LOU STARK

WOODY & MAGGI WOODHOUSE

Membership Statistics

As of July 28, 2001, there are 355 memberships (145 single, 210 dual) for a total of 565 members.

Memberships by Miata Color:

97 Red

52 White

41 Black

36 Emerald Green

29 Silver

17 Montego Blue

14 Sapphire Blue

9 BRG

9 Mariner Blue

8 Marina Green

8 Starlight Blue

8 Twilight Blue

7 Laguna Blue

7 Mahogany6 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

August 10, 1996

The first Twilight Run of the SAN DIEGO MIATA CLUB was held. MARK and CATHY BOOTH reprised the run they devised the previous year for SOCALM. Thirty four Miatas started out for the twisties amid a regional power blackout (imagine that!) that put a stop to the pre run eating and snarled traffic at the beginning of the run. Once out of "civilization" the Miatas enjoyed the run up to Mt. Laguna and back down, chasing the setting sun.

Four Wheels'N'Meals events were held at various locations around the county during the month of August. Since ANTHONY WILDE was the only person to make it to all four (imagine that!), and there was limited turnout, it was decided to settle on the monthly event at the Boll Weevil. Currently, additional Wheels'N'Meals events are held whenever there is one organized, such as the current Crusin´ Grand event.

Club Membership:

72 memberships and a total of 108 members.



The Ice Cream Social started with the best part, ice cream and root beer floats. Then the decorating got started.



Some people didn't stop decorating with just their Miatas.



About Bill blode managerith Under Same

Above—Bill Hyde poses with Uncle Sam. Right—Uncle Sam, aka Gary Lynn, was a big hit with the parade viewers and the judges.

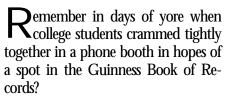




The ultimate "float" was built during the Ice Cream Social. Several creative and industrious members created the first San Diego Miata Club float to haul the headlight "drill meister" Anthony Wilde—below.







Well, how many gaily-decorated Miatas do you think can cram together in the back end of a cul-de-sac in Scripps Ranch?

The answer is more than 40, and quite a sight (and site) it is.

DIANE LONG was the hostess with the mostest lavishly decorated cars in front of her house getting ready for the annual Scripps Ranch 4th of July parade. Red, white, and blue were the predominant colors, in carefully-crafted creative schemes. We had banners and streamers, glitter and gleaming, huge flags, and waving flags on windshield wipers as members of SDMC showed off their talents and their machines.

It was another great example of member helping member, as ideas and tape and crepe were exchanged with great enthusiasm. It was hard to not look great.

The impetus was winning the Best





РНОТО: MARK & CATHY BOOTH



Ideas for the next Team Voodoo hats?



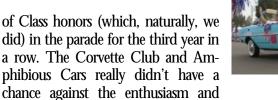
July 4 - Wednesday Scripps Ranch 4th of July Parade Followed by Pool Party, BBQ & Fireworks

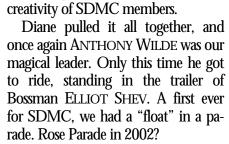












After the event, with the cheers still ringing loudly in their ears, participants adjourned for a sojourn. Boss and BARB SHEV opened their Poway home for a traditional Fourth of July pool party and barbecue. Fireworks from Poway High School capped the event.

What a wonderful way to help us all remember what a great country this is and how fortunate we all are. Oh, say can you see.....

— TOM SPRAGUE







Enjoying the quiet by the pool after another First Place victory. Ho-hum.









June 10, 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 Southern California Autocross Team (SCAT), and held at Qualcomm Stadium.

Class	Driver	Car	Place
IS2 IS2 IS2	ROBERT HOLLAND STEVE KENNISON MIKE HEINITZ	Miata Miata Miata	1st 4th 5th
SM	HOWARD KUZMINSKI	Miata	3rd
CSP CSP	RON CHAPMAN MARA CALER	Honda CRX Honda CRX	1st 4th
FM	LARRY DENNSTEDT	Lola FF	3rd
Novice Novice Novice Novice	KEVIN HAYWOOD GREG ORTH DAVID ANDREWS VERONICA DIDIER LINDA SANKPILL	Miata Miata Miata Miata Miata	1st 20th 43rd 49th 51st



Congratulations to the following SAN DIEGO MIATA CLUB members on their performance at the Solo2 championship event. The event was sponsored by the Triple A Race Team (TART), and held at Qualcomm Stadium.

Class	Driver	Car	Place
IS2	ROBERT HOLLAND	Miata	1st
IS2	STEVE KENNISON	Miata	3rd
IS2	KEVIN HAYWOOD	Miata	4th
IS2	STEVE WAID	Miata	5th
IS2	JIM BROKAW	Miata	6th
IS2	Mike Heinitz	Miata	7th
Novice	SCOTT PIKE	Miata	2nd

SDMC at Autocross

Saturday, September 8th is the SDMC at Autocross day (see Page 4 for information). In order to plan and prepare for the event, I am asking for some assistance. As with anything, this is not a commitment, it is an attempt to get an idea of interest.

- 1. Please contact me if you are a "Regular Autocrosser" and would like to help with the instruction to autocross "first-timers."
- 2. Please contact me if you would

- like to help in setting up and running the "hospitality suite." Read this as helping feed the masses.
- 3. Please contact me if you are thinking that you would like to try autocrossing for the first time.
- 4. Please contact me with anything that you think would be pertinent to making this event a bleeping success.
- STEVE WAID <u>events@sandiegomiataclub.org</u> (760) 432-0727



While preparing his white M1 for running in the SCCA Spec Miata road racing events, Kevin Haywood is gaining experience at the autocross events. In just a few events, Kevin garnered the top spot in the Novice

AUTOCROSS AT THE "Q"



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

Saturday, September 8	championship			
Saturday, October 7 or 13	practice			
Saturday, October 20	championship			
Sunday, November 11	championship			
Saturday, December 8	practice			
Sunday, December 9	championship			
Saturdayd, December 22	practice			
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 SAN DIEGO MIATA 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.

Purist's Lament:

Another Fall From Stock

or over two years, we held firmly to our resolve to keep our '94 Laguna Blue C in stock condition. We successfully resisted the temptation to add chrome vent rings or white gauge faces, to bolt on a cold air induction system, to "upgrade" to larger wheels, or to add an air horn or flashing center brake light. Okay, so we did add Kesler's front subframe brace, a nice new grille, a real leather shift boot, and an Oris windstop. It still remained stock; we only updated it with some necessities that Mazda should have included in the first place. The same goes for the only real performance upgrade to date - the Team Voodoo shift knob that stands proudly in the center of our cockpit.

Over the past several months, we've tossed around the idea of rectifying another design deficiency by Mazda. After driving in a handful of autocrosses and two days on the Streets of Willow, we concluded that Mazda should have provided a roll bar as a standard safety feature. Also, the lure of the big tracks at Willow Springs and Laguna Seca is proving irresistible (see Stef's article in the May newsletter), and they require roll bars.

We knew that our shocks needed replacing. The ride just wasn't as solid as it once was, and the suspension seemed to bottom out more often than it should. We began our research on Miata.net, and read every product



Jim and Charlene displayed part of their Miata passion recently at the Del Mar Fair.

review we could find. We also checked manufacturers' and vendors' web sites to learn more and to get a feel for the prices. Along the way, we realized that if we wanted to enjoy the full benefit of the upgraded shocks, we would also need to upgrade the springs. Ultimately, I had to concede another fact: while our stock suspension allowed us to take some very dramatic pictures of the car as it keeled way over while going around hard corners, it certainly wasn't helping my autocross times. New sway bars would fix that. Time for more research. After a few weeks of indecision, we finally settled on the following shopping list: KYB AGX shock absorbers, Flyin' Miata performance springs and sway bars, and KYB shock boots.

Installation was time-consuming, but straightforward. I used JTBob's article in the garage section of the SDMC Web site, with just a couple of exceptions. Instead of separating the

upper and lower A-arms on the front shocks, I compressed the springs while still in the car and maneuvered the shocks out. Next time, I'll do it JT's way and I'll probably need fewer stitches. However, on the rear, I took out the bolt that joins the hub to the upper A-arm, and the shocks were very easy to remove and reinstall. The sway bars were simple and took less than an hour to install, using the directions provided by Flyin' Miata. The finishing touch was a four-wheel alignment at Lutz Tires. The car is now 1.3 inches lower and drives great.

Stock? Why would anyone want to keep a Miata stock? The suspension upgrades have greatly improved the car's handling and agility, providing an added safety margin that is well worth the cost. This is a no-brainer. At least that's the story I'll give to Charlene when the credit card statements arrive. And we still need a roll bar....

— JIM BROKAW



The Brokaw's rare Laguna blue and tan leather can be found at the "Q" for autocross.

Best of the Bunch Award Winners

— San Diego Miata Club members noted by SMALL CAPS —

OUTSTANDING MIATAS IN SHOW

Victoria Bakker, 2001 Emerald "Kodora"

Bob Pierce, 2001 BRG

Bill Bryant, 2000 Evolution Orange

Bob Knowles, 2000 Highlight Silver

ART HAMILTON, 1999 Sapphire 10AE

Glenn Swenson, 1999 Classic Red

BILL SHAFFER, 1997 Twilight STO

Klaus Knappe, 1997 Twilight STO

PHIL DAOUST, 1996 Starlight "Quadzilla"

Rod Goodman, 1995 Brilliant Black "Rodster"

Don Minkoff, 1995 Merlot

ZACK BROADBENT, 1994 Classic Red "Enzo, Jr."

Donna Sinkway, 1994 Brilliant Black

BARBARA TEMPLETON, 1993 Classic Red

BARI RUSSELL, 1993 Crystal White "QT"

JON MARTINEZ, 1992 Sunburst Yellow "Pollinator"

Cyndy Hoberman, 1992 Classic Red

ALEX GARCIA, 1991 White

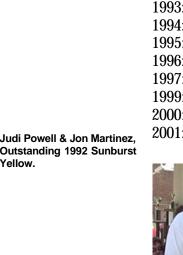
Anthony Pearson, 1991 Classic Red

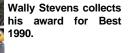
MICHAEL HEINITZ, 1990 Classic Red

Ralph Alder, 1990 Classic Red



Outstanding 1992 Sunburst Yellow







1990: WALLY STEVENS, Classic Red

1991: STEF GOULD, BRG

1992: LAURIE WAID, Sunburst Yellow

1993: JACK HINKLE, Classic Red

1994: Dan Dwyer, Classic Red

1995: Phyllis Weiter, Classic Red

1996: Oscar Cairoli, Brilliant Black

1997: Barry Rosenberg, Classic Red

1999: Aaron Covino, Classic Red

2000: Bruce Brandt, Emerald

2001: Robert Franssen, Brilliant Black



Steve Waid presents Jack Hinkle with Best 1993.

Best M1 (1990-1997):

LAURIE WAID, 1992 Sunburst Yellow

Best M2 (1999-2001):

Robert Franssen, 2001 Brilliant Black

Special "Most Mileage" Award:

Jim Killian, 1990 Classic Red - 233,323 miles



The lovely Laurie Waid is awarded the Best M1 (1990-1997) for her 1992 Sunburst Yellow.

TROPHY WINNERS

People's Choice:

Marty Souter, 1997 Brilliant Black

Dealer's Choice:

1st place: JACK GOSNEY, 2000 Classic Red 2nd place: Marty Souter, 1997 Brilliant Black 3rd place: JON MARTINEZ, 1992 Sunburst Yellow

Best Sponsored:

Patrick Langdon, 1992 Silver Stone

Best Appearance Package:

1st place: Marty Souter, 1997 Brilliant Black 2nd place: JACK GOSNEY, 2000 Classic Red 3rd place: LENI METRO, 1991 Classic Red

Best Performance Package:

1st place: JACK GOSNEY, 2000 Classic Red

2nd place: Bill Wilner, 1995 Amethyst "Pepe Le Pew"

3rd place: Marty Souter, 1997 Brilliant Black

Most Unique:

Marty Souter, 1997 Brilliant Black



Leni Metro picks up his award in the Best Appearance Package category.

Best of the Best of the Bunch: JACK GOSNEY, 2000 Classic Red





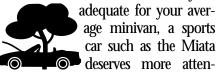


DTO: TOM WOOD

Keep Your Cool

s the summer temperature creeps higher, the temperature gauge on your Miata might seem to inch higher as well. Unless the needle moves all the way to the right side of the gauge, indicating a severe overheating problem, you have some time to perform some engine cooling system maintenance that should help your Miata, and you, keep cool during the warmer months ahead.

The Miata service manual calls for replacing the coolant at thirty months or 30,000 miles. While this may be



tion to such a vital area. Most knowledgeable Miata owners change their engine coolant at least annually, and some are obsessive enough to do it twice a year. It's cheap and relatively easy to do, but here are a few helpful hints.

Use the Right Coolant

Your Miata came from the factory with a mixture of Ethylene Glycolbased anti-freeze/coolant and water mixture. The "green stuff" in your radiator and expansion tank is the kind of coolant you should use when you perform maintenance on the system. This type of coolant uses silicates as corrosion inhibitors to protect the various delicate metal parts of the cooling system. The silicates will be used up over time while protecting the cooling system. That is why you need to periodically change the coolant.

The newer "extended life" antifreeze/coolants are orange in color and (despite advertising claims) should not be mixed with silicate coolants. The mixture of these coolants, even in small amounts, has been demonstrated to reduce the effectiveness of the coolant and the entire cooling system.

The "so-called" environmentally safe and non-toxic coolants should also be looked at with a jaundiced eye. These solutions are based on propylene glycol instead of ethylene glycol. These solutions may be slightly less poisonous to humans, as well as pets, but their performance characteristics are also lower than ethylene glycol-based solution. In reality, a quality ethylene glycol anti-freeze/coolant solution is a better value and, when properly handled, not a toxic or environmental issue.

Coolant Mixture

The standard ratio for a coolant mix of anti-freeze/coolant and water is 50/50. While this will give the best overall freeze protection, it does not offer the best overall heat protection.

Water is much better at removing heat from an engine than is ethylene glycol. You should not run pure water, however, as most race cars do. A street car's cooling system needs the anti-corrosive (silicates) and lubricating properties found in the coolant. In Southern California, a mixture of 70% water and 30% coolant is a good ratio to use. You could even use a little less coolant and more water if your Miata tends to run on the hot side, and you will be changing the coolant every six months. Less than 10% coolant would not be advisable, for the reasons mentioned previously.

Distilled Water

Use of distilled water is highly advisable when mixing with coolant. Tap water contains minerals which will form mineral salts on the surfaces of the cooling system. Over time, this will clog the tiny passages in the cooling system and can lead to overheating. The distilled water does not contain these minerals (they are distilled out) and therefore cannot form the

mineral salts.

We are talking DISTILLED WATER here, not soft water, not filtered water, not mountain spring water, just plain distilled water. You can purchase it by the gallon at the grocery store.

Clean the Outside of the Radiator

As much as we talk about keeping the inside of the cooling system clean, the outside of the radiator is just as critical for cleanliness.

The movement of air through the fins on the radiator transfers heat from the engine coolant and "radiates" it to the surrounding air stream. For the radiator to do this efficiently, the metal fins should be clean and free of rocks, bugs, birds, and general road grime. Part of the cooling system maintenance should include removing these obstructions in the radiator and washing the fins with a good detergent. Carefully straighten any bent fins on the radiator.

Grilles are for Cooking On

Many Miatas have a metal grille in their mouths, either for appearance or to provide protection to the radiator and air conditioning plumbing. The protection of these items from rocks and other road debris is valid, as one good hit can puncture the radiator or the a/c condenser. This protection must be weighed against the effect of the grille blocking part of the cooling air stream from flowing through the radiator.

Some of the early Miata grilles blocked nearly 40% of the area of the radiator opening. Higher flow grilles soon became available, and they do offer better air flow to the radiator than the early units. Even so, if you experience higher than normal engine temperatures on hot days, or at sustained freeway speeds, consider removing the grille during these times.

Mazda issued a Technical Service Bulleting (TSB) recommending that Miatas with automatic transmissions should not use a grille (or even driving lights) that would impede the air flowing through the radiator.

Get Hosed

The top radiator hose should be replaced often. It carries the coolant when it is at its highest temperature, leaving the engine flowing toward the radiator. This high temperature accelerates the degradation of the rubber hose. Thus, the top radiator hose is the one most susceptible to failure.

Replace all radiator hoses every other year.

Put a Cap on it

The radiator cap on all 1990 to 1997 Miatas is designed to hold the cooling system at a pressure of 11 psi. Starting with the 1999 Miata, the cap is rated at 16 psi. The boiling point of the coolant is raised when it is under pressure, thereby allowing the system to work more efficiently.

When the pressure in the system reaches the rating for the cap, the spring loaded valve on the cap opens and allows some of the coolant to flow to the expansion tank to relieve the pressure. When the system cools, the pressure goes down and the coolant from the expansion tank is drawn back into the radiator. Thus, the system remains stable and constant.

If the radiator cap does not hold the system to the pressure it is rated for, it will allow coolant flow to the expansion tank more readily. In a severe case, the expansion tank could overflow and loss of coolant could result. This loss of coolant would reduce the ability of the cooling system to function effectively. Bill Cardell of Flyin' Miata notes that every Miata radiator cap they test fails. The best bet is to replace the cap yearly as part of the cooling system maintenance. The 16 psi cap can be used on all year Miatas and can be purchased for around \$10.

— ANTHONY WILDE

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.

UPDATE: We now have SDMC logo hats in stock. These come in various colors to match (or accent) your Miata. Red, black, green, silver (gray), dark blue, light blue, and yellow (as if anybody would want one). The hats are \$12 from the Regalia Gals.

Don't forget the ladies tank tops too!

Badges?

ave you been wondering where to get those nifty engraved plastic name badges that have been turning up on members at the latest events? They are available for 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 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.

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: Strut brace for '90-97 Miata, 6061 T-6 aircraft aluminum (highest stiffness to weight ratio), excellent condition \$40. New Porterfield brake pads for 90-93 Miata, \$110 (list \$143)

Stef, (619) 297-4272 or stef@miata.net

For Sale: 180mHz Power Macintosh 8500 with 64mb RAM, 2.0gb hard drive, CD-ROM, and 3.5" floppy drive. Includes Apple extended keyboard, Kensington TurboMouse trackball, 28.8k Global Village platinum modem, Epson Stylus Color 800 printer, all cables, various software, and manuals.

Best, not-completely-ridiculous offer. Bob, voodoo@miata.net or (858) 486-4711.

For Sale: 1999 Miata factory 15"X6" wheels with Michelin Pilot 195/50R15 tires with approx. 17K miles on them. Comes with lock and lug nuts. Great condition. \$699

Call and leave a message Alex, (619) 275-0819 or alextgarcia@earhlink.net

For Sale: Jackson cat-back exhaust. Like new, \$300. 1990 1.6-liter engine. This engine has 154K miles on it but runs good, \$250. Also five-speed transmission, \$200 and misc parts from same car. (Leather steering wheel, license plate surround, etc.). 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

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

wallymiata@juno.com

mik_lyn@prodigy.net