

# SAN DIEGO MIATA CLUB NEWS



MARCH 2002

VOLUME 7 NUMBER 3

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

## UPCOMING EVENTS



March 2 - 3  
Autocross at the "Q"



March 15 - 17  
National Tour Autocross  
Championship at the "Q"



March 16 - Saturday  
Sahuaro Miata Club  
Second Annual Miata  
Roundup Car Show



March 16 - Saturday  
San Joaquin Valley Miata  
Club's 8th Annual Saint  
Patrick's Day Poker Run



March 17 - Sunday  
Planned Impromptu  
Run



March 23 - Saturday  
Puke-O-Rama 2002



March 25 - Monday  
Laguna Seca Track Day



March 28 - Thursday  
Monthly Meeting



March 30 - Saturday  
Tech Day in Ramona



April 27 - Saturday  
SDMC Annual Membership  
Meeting and Board Elections



May 4 - 6  
Search for Madonna 2002

## Time Flies When You're Having Fun

Where did the past year go? It can't believe another year is almost in the history books. Why? Because it's almost time for our annual meeting. Every April we hold our annual meeting, and we do have a lot of fun. We eat cake (it's our birthday ya' know) and watch a fabulous montage of events past. This is normally presented with a collage of your photos, organized by our new historian, DUSTIN LEWIS. Sometimes we have a slide show, and maybe even a neat video, produced by ANTHONY WILDE. All this starring the most fun-loving group of Miataphiles I know—us. While all the fun is going on, there is one other important duty that must be carried out that day, and that is to nominate and elect four board members for the next year. We will be doing this on April 27<sup>th</sup> this year at the San Diego Automotive Museum. Why in April? It's the beginning of our fiscal year.

Who can run for office? Who can be nominated for office? Who can be elected to office? Any member in good standing who lives in San Diego County, that's who. Will you be the next SDMC member to take on a leadership role in our club?

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

The four elected board members along with a small band of appointed volunteers, the Administrative Board, make up the board. This group of appointed volunteers consists of the membership trio, our newsletter editor, our events coordinator, our Webmaster, our club historian, and last but not least, our regalia gals. All these people, together, keep the wheels turning. Some even have others that volunteer to help them with their jobs. Such is the case with the newsletter. Anthony has a small group of copy editors that make sure you get the best darn newsletter in the world.

As this is my last term as president, the unwritten law of the two-year term is invoked, and I will not be submitting my bio for your review. I must say that it has been a rewarding experience being the president of this organization and it will be with a heavy heart that I turn over the meeting to our new president. This is not a hard group to lead. Everyone wants to have fun and all one has to do is point the way!

(Continued on page 2)



Anyway, now is not the time to go for a drive, it's time to get up and write a few words about yourself and why you would like to be considered for nomination to a leadership role in our club. Please, don't forget, it *must* be submitted by March 15th.

Drive safely, keep the shiney side up, and I'll see ya' around the next bend!

— ELLIOT

## Yahoo! We are a Group!

With the new Yahoo! Groups, there are new steps required to gain access to the forums. You are now required to register your e-mail address with a Yahoo ID.

Let's start from scratch. It comes down to a question: Do you have a Yahoo! ID? If not, then follow the instructions below (if you do have a Yahoo! ID, then look further down for instructions).

Ok, so you are on the list, but you don't know how to access the "Files" or "Calendar" section for the Yahoo SDMC-List group. Go to:

<http://groups.yahoo.com/convwiz>

There you have two choices: Enter your email address and password and click "Continue" (if you originally set one up with eGroups), or enter your e-mail address (the one you use for the SDMC e-mail list) and click "Continue." If you are new to the service, it will e-mail you an authorization code. When you get this message, follow the instructions and it will guide you in entering the authorization code for your e-mail address. Once done, you will now be instructed on creating a Yahoo! ID. This will allow you to bind your e-mail address with your Yahoo! ID.

Enter all the relevant information and you should hopefully create a Yahoo! ID. I say hopefully because Yahoo! has millions of users, and there is a strong chance that the Yahoo! ID

## MISSION STATEMENT

The purpose of the club is to promote the enjoyment of, and enthusiasm for, one of the world's most exciting sports cars — the Mazda Miata.

Owning and driving a Miata is one of life's great pleasures, and adding the company and camaraderie of like-minded enthusiasts only enhances the experience. Won't you join the fun as we enjoy the beauty of San Diego County from the seat of a very special little roadster?

**Let's have fun driving our Miatas!**

### NEWSLETTER TEAM

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

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

you choose will already be taken. So you persevere and you finally get a Yahoo! ID that links with the e-mail address you use on the SDMC-List group. Once done, all you need to remember is your Yahoo! ID and your Yahoo password to get access to the e-mail address linked to that address. Now what? Well, now you can access the "Files" and "Calendar" sections freely. Go to <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/SDMC-List/files/> and you will see all the files available for download.

Let's say you already have a Yahoo! ID and password, but you want to link the e-mail address used on "SDMC-List" to it. Go to

<http://groups.yahoo.com/>

On the left side of the screen, enter your Yahoo! ID and Yahoo! password and it will show you the e-mail ad-

Yahoo! Groups (Continued on page 7)

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### Executive Board

#### President

ELLIOT SHEV  
(858) 679-0777

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

#### Vice President

SAL CAUSARANO  
(760) 787-0624

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

#### Secretary

JACK DiLUSTRO  
(858) 484-2427

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

#### Treasurer

JIM BROKAW  
(619) 421-2110

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

### Administrative Board

#### Membership

DAVE MARTIN & GALE CHAN  
(619) 582-2448 or (858) 492-9227

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

#### Events Coordinator

STEVE WAID  
(760) 432-0727

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

#### Club E-mail Postmaster/Webmaster

ROBERT "JTBOB" HOLLAND  
(858) 549-4011

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

#### Club Regalia

PAULA KENNISON & ROSALIND SCOTT  
(858) 271-8498 or (760) 789-3872

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

#### Newsletter

ANTHONY "NEVADABOB" WILDE  
(858) 693-8095

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

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

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

### NOTICES

The SAN DIEGO MIATA CLUB is a non-profit California corporation. The *SAN DIEGO MIATA CLUB NEWS* is the monthly newsletter of the SAN DIEGO MIATA CLUB. Use of articles or stories by other Miata clubs is hereby granted, provided proper credit is given. Submissions to the newsletter are welcomed and encouraged. Where possible, please e-mail your submissions to the newsletter editor. Submissions can also be mailed to the club's post office box.

**Submission deadline is the 15th of each month.**

*Editor reserves the right to edit all submissions*

The SAN DIEGO MIATA CLUB has established a dedicated World Wide Web Home Page at:

[www.sandiegomiataclub.org](http://www.sandiegomiataclub.org)

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

SAN DIEGO MIATA CLUB

P.O. Box 23081

San Diego CA 92193



**Autocross**

**Dates:** Saturday, March 2

Sunday, March 3

**Time:** 9 a.m.

**Place:** Qualcomm Stadium  
Mission Valley, southeast lot.  
SDAD Saturday, practice.  
Sunday, championship event.



**National Tour Championship Autocross**

**Dates:** March 15 - March 17

**Time:** 9 a.m.

**Place:** Qualcomm Stadium  
Mission Valley



Once again, the National SCCA Tour is coming to San Diego for a Championship Autocross. Friday (the 15th) is registration and technical inspection day. The event has runs on both Saturday and Sunday, and the best run from each day is combined for a cumulative best time. Call the information hotline, (619) 441-1333 for more details.

**Planned Impromptu Run**

**Date:** Sunday, March 17

**Meeting Time:** 11 a.m.

**Meeting Place:** Westfield's Shopping Town-North County (formerly North County Fair), under the big sign on the west side of the mall.

**Coordinators:** SDMC members

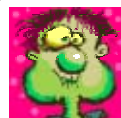
Where shall we go? That question will be answered as we gather for our first Planned Impromptu Run. We will meet at the appointed time and place, come to a consensus (hopefully), and take off for the twisties. No plans, no structure, no idea where we will end up! Oh, since this is an impromptu run, there is no mileage credit either.



**Puke-O-Rama 2002**

**Date:** Saturday, March 23

**Meeting Place:** ARCO Olympic Training Visitors Center, north parking lot, Chula Vista, CA



**Meeting Time:** Drivers Meeting 10 a.m.  
**Organizers:** STEVE & LAURIE WAID  
(760) 432-0727 and [swaid@cox.net](mailto:swaid@cox.net)

*This Run qualifies toward mileage award*  
The Puke-O-Rama traditionally provides the driving experience that is most likely to make a passenger ill. By providing a course made up of many of San Diego County's twistiest roads back to back to back, the Puke-O-Rama has become one of the Miata drivers' favorite events. This is a DRIVERS event. The 2002 Puke will include some roads that have not been included in the past, and yet many of our favorites remain...Wynola Road, Mesa Grande Road, Couser Canyon Road, and our "signature" stretch... Engineer Road.

In past years we have started the Puke in north San Diego County, making it inconvenient for south county participants. The 2002 Puke starts 44 miles south of last year's starting point; however, the end of the Puke will still be in San Marcos at Dalton's Roadhouse. We will start arriving at Dalton's between 4:30 and 5 p.m. As in the past, the Puke will be broken into smaller groups of 20 cars or less.

*Directions to Meeting Place:* Take Interstate 805 south to Telegraph Canyon Road east. Telegraph Canyon Road turns into Otay Lakes Road. Approximately 7 miles from 805, make a right turn onto Wueste Road. Proceed to the left turn into the Training Center.

**Laguna Seca Track Day**

**Date:** Monday, March 25

**Place:** Mazda Raceway at Laguna Seca (Monterey, CA)

**Coordinator:** Aaron Tachibana,  
[tach9@pacbell.net](mailto:tach9@pacbell.net), (408) 738-3290

**SDMC info/caravan:** STEF GOULD,  
[stef@miata.net](mailto:stef@miata.net), (619) 297-4272

If you have been thinking you'd like to drive on the historic Laguna



Seca track, now is the time! The day begins with a drivers' meeting and a lead-and-follow around the track. Instructors will be available to ride with you, give you a ride in their cars, or to drive your Miata with you as the passenger. You'll have the opportunity to drive over 100 miles on the track.

You must have a Snell 95 or later helmet, a 4-point (or better) roll bar and have your Miata tech inspected by a state-certified mechanic.

Cost is \$350. Contact Aaron ASAP

**Monthly Meeting**

**Date:** Thursday, March 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!*

**Tech Day in Ramona**

**Date:** Saturday, March 30

**Time:** 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

**Place:** The home of SAL & GERI CAUSARANO  
24308 Ysidro Drive, Ramona  
**Contact:** [wood-dust@cox.net](mailto:wood-dust@cox.net) or  
[geris-bazaar@cox.net](mailto:geris-bazaar@cox.net) or  
(760) 787-0624.



Have you been waiting to attend a Tech Day Event? Are you ready to install those Miata goodies you bought or got as a present? Well, wait no longer. Sal & Geri Causarano are hosting a Tech Day in Ramona... that's right RAMONA.

We are going to have the following vendors available to assist you with the Miata Accessories you need:

Ted Kesler chassis braces & other items. Geri's Bazaar deck bags, SDMC regalia, headlight adjustment & internal engine cleaning—Larry

Upcoming Events (Continued on page 4)



Dennstedt.

You will also be able to wash your car, wash your engine (the outside), change your oil, make whatever adjustments you need to.

We will also be able to have the following, as long as there is sufficient participation—windshield replacement & dent removal.

As always there will be coffee, muffins, bagels & lunch available. We know you think it's a long ride, but just think of the wonderful roads Ramona has to offer and, of course, the wonderful Miataphiles who will help you with all your projects.

So come out to where the air is clean (well, after you pass the chicken ranch anyway). It is not as far as you think—enjoy the ride.

*Directions from South:* Take Highway 67 north, right on Mapleview, left on Ashwood which will turn into Wildcat Canyon Road. Turn right on San Vicente Road, left on Gunn Stage Road, left on Arena Way, right on Del Amo, left on Sargeant. We are on the corner of Sargeant & Ysidro.

*Directions from North:* Highway 78 to Ramona. 78 turns left onto Main Street, right on 3rd. (just past Sizzler), 3rd turns into Old Julian Hwy. Follow Old Julian Hwy. to a "Y" in the road, bear right onto Vista Ramona Road. At the yield sign (end of the road) go left.

## FUTURE EVENTS

### One Lap of America Charity Event

**Date:** Saturday, April 13

**Contact:** Edd Hendricks,

[edd\\_fear@yahoo.com](mailto:edd_fear@yahoo.com)

This fun run and dinner will help SO-CALM member, Edd Hendricks, as he represents Miata Clubs in participating in the One Lap of America charity event. All the money raised through this dinner will go to the two charities his effort is supporting.

*Stay tuned for details!*



### Dam Run 4

"Revenge of the Cheese"

**Date:** Saturday, April 20

**Meeting Place:** TBA

**Meeting Time:** TBA

**Coordinators:** JOHN & JOYCE

RICHARDSON, [miatajuan@hotmail.com](mailto:miatajuan@hotmail.com)

Details in the April newsletter.



### Western Sierras 2

A Joint SDMC/SOCALM Event

**Date:** April 26 - April 29

**Place:** Shilo Inn

40644 Highway 41, Oakhurst, CA

**Time:** Saturday, 10 a.m

**Contact:** TOM WOOD,

[inlandempire@socalm.org](mailto:inlandempire@socalm.org) or

(909) 864-6271

We have arranged to spend Friday and Saturday night at the Shilo Inn in Oakhurst. On Saturday there will be a choice of two runs—one into Yosemite and the other exploring the historic towns along Highway 49. Both will be leisurely, with time to shop for antiques and crafts, take scenic pictures, or go hiking.

On Sunday, we will head south toward Kings Canyon/Sequoia. There will be opportunities for those who must return home to do so. The rest of us will drive into the National Park and gaze at the big trees before spending the night in Three Rivers. Then on Monday we will explore more twisties as we head home.

*Directions:* This is an extensive trip. Please contact Tom ASAP so we can put you on the mailing list for all of the information about hotel reservations and meals. For those interested, we will be setting up a caravan for the drive north on Friday afternoon.

### SDMC Annual Meeting

and Board Elections

**Date:** Saturday, April 27

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



**Time:** 10 a.m.

Enter at the side door, to the left of the main entrance, and go up the stairs to the right. The meeting will start promptly at 10 a.m. Please remember to bring your membership card to receive a ballot.

*One ballot per membership.*

### Danny McKeever's Fast Lane High



Performance Driving School

**Dates:** May 4 - 5

**Place:** Streets of Willow Springs

**Coordinator:** Robert Arance,

(661) 295-8140 x490 or [roberta@uvdi.com](mailto:roberta@uvdi.com).

This high performance driving school is open to drivers of *all* skill levels. You will be grouped according to your comfort level and track experience for maximum safety.

Entry fee includes:

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

Saturday and/or Sunday at the "Streets of Willow" track \$175 for one-day school (Saturday for Novice, all others either day) \$350 for two-day school

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

Monday on the 2 1/2 mile "Willow Springs International Raceway" track.

- \* \$200 for the day.
- \* Must have completed the two-day "Streets of Willow" school.
- \* Cars must have roll over bars and racing belts to participate on the



big track.

\* Monday event depends on having at least eight entries.

Payment, by check for the full amount, made out to Robert Arance, should be sent to:

Robert Arance  
25455 Via Dalia  
Valencia, CA 91355

Please RSVP to Robert ASAP...spots will be reserved with receipt of money.

Willow Springs Web site:

<http://www.willowspringsraceway.com/>

Danny McKeever's Web site:

<http://www.raceschool.com/>

**Hotel Info:** The group hotel room rate at the Park Plaza (formerly the Essex House, (800) 524-2924 or (661) 948-0961) in Lancaster, approximately 20 minutes from the track, is \$60 for a double or king, add \$10 for an extra person. Ask for the Willow Springs rate.

### The Search for Madonna 2002



**When:** May 4-6

**Coordinator:** STEVE WAID

[swaid@cox.net](mailto:swaid@cox.net), (760) 432-0727

On Saturday, May 4th, an SDMC group leaves San Diego County as a caravan and heads towards Frazier Park. This is the northern rendezvous point. From here we take a scenic and twisty route through the mountains to Highway 101 just North of Santa Maria and then head north to the Madonna Inn in San Luis Obispo. The Madonna Inn has 109 distinctly different and elaborately decorated rooms. Each participant will have chosen a room to his liking.

#### How to become a Searcher:

Go to the Madonna Inn Webpage and make your room selection. [www.madonnainn.com](http://www.madonnainn.com). Call the Madonna Inn and reserve your room. Be sure to say "Miata club" so that you can access the reserved block of rooms. Call or e-mail Steve with your room selection, by room name and number.

### Sahuaro Miata Club Second Annual Miata Roundup Car Show



**Date:** Saturday, March 16

**Place:** Tex Earnhardt Ford/Mazda,  
I-10 & Ray Road, Chandler, AZ

**Times:** Registration will start at 9 a.m.  
The show will start at 10 a.m. and last until 3 p.m.

**Contacts:** Ben Cleaves,

[bcleaves@earthlink.net](mailto:bcleaves@earthlink.net) or Theresa

Kernitzki, [tee-lee@qwest.net](mailto:tee-lee@qwest.net)

[www.sahuaromiataclub.org](http://www.sahuaromiataclub.org)

Last year's Roundup was a big success with 40+ cars entered. We are sure that we will surpass that number of entrants this year. This is a great way to get ideas to customize your Miata, or to just spend a pleasant afternoon talking about our great little cars.

The registration fee this year is \$20 per Miata entered, and you must be registered to be eligible to win the door prizes. Vendor registration fee is also \$20. Vendors will be provided with a table under the tent to present their products.

With 20+ winners being anticipated this year in both Stock and Custom categories, everyone has a good shot at a trophy. We hope to see you at the Roundup!

### San Joaquin Valley Miata Club's 8th Annual Saint Patrick's Day Poker Run



**When:** Saturday, March 16

**Where:** Old Town Clovis, CA

**Cost:** \$45 per car - includes:

Participation in Poker Run

Lunch for Two

Event T-Shirt (1)

#### Accommodations:

Best Western Clovis Cole

415 Clovis Avenue

Clovis, Ca 93612

(559) 299-1547

\$75 - Single or double occupancy

Mention Miata Event for the dis-

counted price

Block of rooms held until 2-15-01

**Contact:** Scott or Nancy Moore

(559) 692-2199 or [nmoore@sierratel.com](mailto:nmoore@sierratel.com)

### Okanagan Valley Miata Club



**Topless Sun Run**

**When:** May 24 - 26

**Where:** Kelowna, British Columbia

**Contacts:** Matt Scaife at

[miata\\_matt@hotmail.com](mailto:miata_matt@hotmail.com) or

Shelly, [service@kelowanamotors.com](mailto:service@kelowanamotors.com).

The maximum number of reservations has been reached. Check for cancellations.

### 2002 National Miata Event

**When:** September 19-22, 2002

**Where:** Hilton, Washington Dulles  
Airport City, Herndon, VA

Take the scenic routes to the nation's capital for the 2002 National Miata Event hosted by Mazda Sportscar Club of Washington D.C. and sponsored by the MIATA OWNERS CLUB. Come and spend quality time getting closer to your Miata and the road. Just a few of the activities planned: car-show, autocross, drag strip races, defensive driving school, race track tour (touring laps), funcanna, road rallies & scavenger hunt, dynamometer testing and much, much, more! And, MOC Members get \$25 off the registration fees! For further details and additional information regarding the 2002 National Miata Event check out the event Web site at [www.mscw.com/Miata2002](http://www.mscw.com/Miata2002) or phone (703) 278-8005.





PHOTO: MARK BOOTH

— MICHAEL HEINITZ

**M**ichael is one of the lucky ones. He has two Miatas. All for himself. Both red. One is a 1990, B package with some interesting modifications. The other is a radio controlled model. With the little one, Michael can do even more interesting maneuvers than with the big one (even though the larger one cruised nicely at 85 MPH on the Willow Springs raceway).

A confirmed autoholic, Michael loves driving and tinkering. For many years (while driving OTMs such as a Mustang convertible, Chevy S-10, Jeep Wrangler, and Geo Metro), Michael really wanted a Miata but couldn't afford one. He thoroughly enjoyed the MG Midget and Triumph his friends let him drive. So three years ago when the opportunity came along to get his current car, he jumped at the chance. But that was in Spokane, where there is no Miata club. He went on a few trips with the Seattle group, but says nothing can compare with the events of the SAN DIEGO MIATA CLUB...which we all knew.

Michael moved to San Diego and jumped right in with the Twilight Run and Julian run and found it was not just fun but also a great group of people. His '90 red is stock, except for the ubiquitous Voodoo knob, MoMo steering wheel, Koni shocks, Okuyama shock tower brace, roll bar, springs (which he lowered a bit) and sway bar that help when he does autocross or Willow Springs. Michael is also looking forward to Thunderhill in March. He says he loves to get out and "drive the Miata the way it was meant to be driven." He says Willow Springs was a wonderful experience, with plenty of track time and a chance to explore what his car could do.

As with most of us, he has a Miata "wish list." His includes the oil filter relocater kit, and maybe new seats and a hard top. The remote controlled car can really "zoom zoom" as well. It is made of a Lexan body with the red paint on the inside, so should there happen to be a mishap the paint does not get marred.

Like many other club members, Michael does all of his own work. You may also remember him at tech days as the guy installing windshields,

which is his day job to help pay for Miata things. With all the good care, Michael's car now has 130,000 miles and is still purring nicely. He changed the timing belt himself, so he did not face the crankshaft problem that some other '90 owners did. Asked how we are supposed to take care of our windshields, Michael says just "wash them on a regular basis," which probably means not as often as MARK BOOTH does, but more often than TOM SPRAGUE does.

— TOM SPRAGUE

*To be included in our ongoing series of Member Profiles, write a short (200-400 word) summary and e-mail it to:*

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

*You can also mail it to the Club P.O. Box. Please include a photo. We want to be able see your face. — Your photo will be returned.*

## Got Zoom?

zoom ----- T-Shirts  
Zoom ----- Sweatshirts  
ZOOM ---- Pins & Decals!

ZOOM, ZOOM, ZOOM...Get your SDMC Regalia directly from the Regalia Gals (ROZ & PAULA) at the upcoming monthly meeting.

Zoom on down and pick up a few great club items to show off your enthusiasm for the incredible Mazda Miata, and the SAN DIEGO MIATA CLUB.

Got special sizes, items you want? Call or e-mail ROZ or PAULA and let them know and they will personally hand deliver the items to you at the meeting.

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

New Members!

WELCOME to our newest members (since last newsletter):

JAMES & COLLEEN BONNETT  
Cardiff  
1996 Black

B JASON & JOY BRENT  
San Diego  
2002 Emerald Green

CLAY MCLENDON  
Coronado  
1991 SE (British Racing Green)

ROY & ELAINE MOORE  
Escondido  
2002 Crystal Blue LS

THOMAS SIMS & CHRISTIAN POHL  
Borrego Springs  
2000 Emerald Green

TOM & MARNA WOOD  
Highland  
1999 Twilight Blue Touring

Renewing Members (since last newsletter):

SAL & GERI CAUSARANO

RON BOUGHER

BOB & LIZ BROWN

BRAD W. BROWN

THOMAS & KATIE BUSCH-SORENSEN

BRIAN & KRISTEN BYRNE

VERONICA & DENNIS DIDIER

KOREN EMERSON

SHERI & MICHAEL FACER

BRIAN GOODWIN

GIVEN & CHRISTINE HARRISON

MARY & GREG HERD

TERRY W. MERRILL

SUE & RANDY PATTERSON

BARI RUSSELL

WALLY STEVENS

CLAYTON WONG

Yahoo! Groups (Continued from page 2)

dress linked to that ID. To add another e-mail address to that ID, click on the "My Preferences" link in the top right, click on the "Edit" button for the "E-mail Addresses" section and you can add as many as five additional e-mail addresses to your Yahoo! ID. Hopefully one of those will be the one you use for the Yahoo! "SDMC-List" group.

If you ever need assistance with your account or access, please email me at [jtbob@pacbell.net](mailto:jtbob@pacbell.net)

— ROBERT "JTBOB" HOLLAND  
Webguy - Postguy

CHRISTOPHER TAYLOR  
Died: February 16, 2002  
The members of the SAN DIEGO MIATA CLUB wish to express our sincerest sympathies to the families of VIRGINIA and Chris Taylor. We are saddened by the events of Chris' passing and our kindest thoughts are with Virginia at this unfortunate time.


Membership Statistics

As of March 4, 2002, there are 365 memberships (145 single, 220 dual) for a total of 585 members.

Memberships by Miata Color:

- 95 Red
- 49 White
- 40 Black
- 33 Emerald Green
- 33 Silver
- 18 Montego Blue
- 14 BRG
- 12 Sapphire Blue
- 10 Mariner Blue
- 10 Twilight Blue
- 9 Mahogany
- 9 Marina Green
- 9 Yellow
- 8 Crystal Blue
- 8 Laguna Blue
- 6 Starlight Blue
- 5 Merlot
- 3 Midnight Blue
- 2 Evolution Orange
- 1 Laser Blue
- 1 Eggplant (custom)
- 1 Teal (custom)
- 8 Unreported\*

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

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 **Calling All Candidates!**  
We will be publishing biographical profiles in the April newsletter for candidates seeking elected office at the SAN DIEGO MIATA CLUB annual meeting on April 27<sup>th</sup>. If you are interested in being considered for election, you are encouraged to submit a short (200-300 word) biographical profile. Include your name and a brief description of your qualifications, skills, desires, or goals as a member of the executive board. This is an opportunity for potential nominees to let club members know about their desire to serve the membership. However, a biographical profile is not a requirement for nomination and election at the annual meeting. Please send your profiles to the club post office box, or e-mail them directly to the editor at [newsletter@sandiegomiataclub.org](mailto:newsletter@sandiegomiataclub.org). Only profiles received by March 15 will be included in the April edition of the newsletter.  
—EDITOR  
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STEF GOULD coordinated a great seminar at Mazda headquarters in Irvine, with 100 Miata and RX-7 owners in attendance. Aaron Tachibana came down from Sunnyvale to advise everyone on how to get the most (for the least) out of their Miatas and RX-7s.

Interspersed with driving discussions were major topics of shocks, springs, sway bars, brakes, and tires. Regarding shocks, he discussed everything from OEM (they wear out in 20k miles) to \$4500 external reservoir custom single-body shocks with separate compression and rebound controls. His recommendation was KYB AGX as a good compromise for street and occasional racing. Also discussed at length were coilovers. They're noisy, but make a significant difference. Their big advantage is that they make corner-loading possible, to make your car handle in a neutral manner on the track. Look for single-body shocks with the coilover springs manufactured specifically for your car. The differences between progressive and linear springs were discussed at length too. He discouraged high-rate springs, indicating that the ride is hard, and the wheels don't stay in contact with the ground as well. Another big improvement comes from the correct (anti) sway bars. But, buy them from a knowledgeable source. He recommends 7/8" maximum on the front, and 5/8" maximum on the rear. Don't be too quick to upgrade your brakes to the monster six-piston calipers without significantly upgrading the master cylinder, or you'll have a hard time pushing on the brake pedal hard enough to stop. His recommendation for M1s is upgraded cross-drilled and slotted rotors (they sound neat when driving next to a wall-zzzrrpp) and upgraded pads. He sells a nice kit for \$525, which requires an upgrade to 15" wheels. When you install that front strut bar, make it a three-point bar. So all you



## February 16 - Saturday Suspension & Driving Seminar

M2 owners, buy some fancy new wheels and donate your old ones to us poor M1 owners. And *change the fluids!* The second most important suspension component is TIRES! He recommends Toyo T1S for street use and RA1 for racing. The most important suspension component? The one holding the steering wheel.

— BARRY BILLINGSLEY



PHOTO: BARRY BILLINGSLEY

Above— Aaron Tachibana discusses the reasons why a Miata handles the way it does, how to stay in control, and on track.

## AUTOCROSS AT THE "Q"



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

Saturday, March 2.....	practice
Sunday, March 3.....	championship
Friday, March 15.....	National Tour
Saturday, March 16.....	" "
Sunday, March 17.....	" "
Saturday, April 6.....	practice
Sunday, April 7.....	championship
Saturday, April 20.....	practice
Sunday, April 21.....	championship
Sunday, April 28.....	championship
Saturday, May 11.....	practice
Sunday, May 12.....	championship
Saturday, May 25.....	championship
Saturday, July 6.....	championship

To confirm autocross information, call:

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

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

Come participate or watch 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.

## SPEC MIATA RACING

The SCCA's California Sports Car Club saw its first field of Spec Miatas at the 2002 season opener at Willow Springs International Raceway. The February 23-24 event was both a national and regional race weekend. Drivers from across the country were on hand for a spectacular weekend of racing. The paddocks were full by Saturday morning and many spectators arrived for Sunday's racing.

Of the approximately 150 entries four Spec Miatas were entered and three made it to Sunday's "main event." The Spec Miatas ran in a mixed group with 26 other Improved Touring (IT) cars. The group had a clean, fast start. I was able to pass the next closest Spec Miata early on only to lose my position later in traffic. Unable to regain contact with the second place Miata I had to settle for dicing it up with some IT cars for the remainder of the race. Despite several tight passes I remained incident free and finished under the checkered flag in third place.

Interest in the Spec Miata class continues to grow. Four other Spec Miatas were attending the SCCA driver's school at the Streets of Willow Springs course the same weekend. Among these was an entrant from the Las Vegas region. All indications are that we will have eight Spec Miatas competing at the March 16-17 event at Buttonwillow Raceway.

— KEVIN HAYWOOD





## Events Don't Just Happen!

You have probably noticed that the SAN DIEGO MIATA CLUB is an active bunch of enthusiasts. In the past year we have cruised Grand, visited the Getty Museum, driven the Streets of Willow race track, been in parades, autocrossed, picnicked, had tech days, and more.

*Question:* How does all this happen?

*Answer:* People like YOU make it happen.

The easiest way to explain how an event occurs is to say that someone says to himself, "I am going to get in my Miata and go (insert what you enjoy here), and I am going to invite my Miata friends to join me." The next step is to call STEVE WAID, our events coordinator, and ask him to assist you in getting the invitation out. Steve is available at (760) 432-0727 or [events@sandiegomiataclub.org](mailto:events@sandiegomiataclub.org).

If you want to earn the always desirable SAN DIEGO MIATA CLUB magnetics in your car color, then the only requirement is that the event be a driving event. A caravan to an event does not qualify...such as the trip to the Getty Museum. However, if an indirect "run" to an event is put together, then the magnetics are earned. A recent example would be DUSTIN LEWIS' run to the Santee Drive-in last August. Dustin earned his magnetics that day, and we all got to watch movies too.

In 2001 several people earned their magnetics—WAYNE and DEE JOHNSON, BRUCE and DEBBY LEWIS, and TOM and DONA THOMPSON to name only a few. In November, new members NICK and SHARON PONCE led us on the Slots of Fun Run to earn their magnetics.

Ask the club to join you the next time you plan to do something fun. You'll enjoy yourself even more when you have fellow Miataphiles along for the ride!

## Time to Clean Out The Garage!

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



### Saturday, March 23

Sierra High School  
North Parking Lot  
5156 Santo Road  
San Diego 92124

### Saturday, April 13

U.C.S.D.  
Corner of N. Torrey Pines Road &  
Salk Institute Road (east side).  
Parking Lot #355  
La Jolla 92093

### Saturday, May 18

Montgomery High School  
3250 Palm Avenue at Hawaii Avenue  
San Diego 92154

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

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

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

## ONE MEMBER'S OPINION

Dear SAN DIEGO MIATA CLUB,

As you know, our family suffered a huge loss last November in Mom's passing. It is difficult losing a parent, as you know, but life goes on and the world keeps spinning. I've decided to make Mom's death a beginning, not an end. I am setting new goals and dedicating myself to making a difference. My first major step in this direction was to sign up for a 60 mile, three day, Breast Cancer Walk.

So this is my quest, my personal goal...to raise \$3,000, to train hard, putting in hundreds of training miles, and to walk with over 3,000 other people on April 12-14, 2002 in the Avon Breast Cancer 3 Day Walk. I would like your help to achieve my goal. Your tax-deductible donation would mean a lot to me and benefit a very worthy cause.

Thank you, from the bottom of my heart,

—DEBBY LEWIS

P.S. The enclosed donation form must accompany your check. Please remember to note my walker number 3142 on your check. You may also make your donation online at [www.BeThePeople.com](http://www.BeThePeople.com).

Please make your donation no later than March 15 to assure it will be posted to my account in time for the event. Thanks again!

P.S.S. Dad is thinking about selling Mom's automatic Miata and buying a newer, five-speed Miata for himself. Go Dad!



## Think About It

My friend CHRIS TAYLOR is dead. How did it happen? We may never know exactly. And what does it matter really? A moment's distraction, an instant's inattention, an unforgiving road, a Miata upside down, a good man gone. And a statistic for the never-ending debate over the value of a roll bar in your Miata. Chris won't be talking in that debate. He and VIRGINIA were going to get a roll bar, soon, he told me.

There are several roll bar manufacturers. The top two are perennially Bethania Garage (Hard Dog), and our own local builder, AutoPower. Roll bars come in many configurations and finishes, and cost \$250-\$400. Quality padding (SFI 45.1) is another \$30 or so. A true roll bar mounts to the car in at least four points, usually at the seat-belt towers and back beside the gas tank. Virtually all will fit under both Miata tops, and models are easily available to accommodate the M2's glass rear window. Do it yourself installation will take a long afternoon (4-6 hours), but is not difficult. Dave Turner Motorsports will install it for you, for about \$175. Actually, Dave can probably sell you an AutoPower bar installed; tomorrow. Just a thought.

— TED KESLER

## Wonder How Fast You Really Are Traveling?

Miataphiles who are also AAA members can have their speedometers checked at the Oceanside office (3330 Vista Way, 760/433-6261) April 4-6. The testing is scheduled for 9-1 and 2-5 on Thursday and Friday, and 10-2 on Saturday.

The five-minute test is free to members.

— TOM SPRAGUE

## Smogging "The Kingfish" – Epilogue

If you remember back to the January issue of our newsletter, I reported to you the issues I faced getting my car to pass smog. Part of this was caused by the lowering of the smog numbers by CARB, and part was caused by my after-market equipment. I advised that I would report back to you what I learned.



Since the last item I changed, and the only one that made a difference, was my Jackson Racing header, I focused my investigation on it. In my report to Moss Motors, who is the Jackson Racing distributor, I presented all the smog test information. I submitted that, since the oxygen (O<sub>2</sub>) sensor is only measuring the exhaust in two of the four cylinders, the data being sent to the computer is not as expected, thus creating a rich mixture. The response from Oscar Jackson was that the header was not at fault and that there must be something else wrong with the car.

Knowing that there is nothing else wrong with the car, I said that I guess I have no choice but to call in a referee to judge my car since the header is CARB certified, yet fails smog. This must not have been well-received by Moss Motors or Oscar Jackson, as they offered to refund my money and let me keep the parts. I gladly accepted and advised that I would carry out my own experiments and report the results. The amount of the refund covered a bit more than my out-of-pocket expenses, but not my time, that I expended during the 5 weeks I attempted to have the "Kingfish" smogged.

Now for the experiment; I reinstalled the Jackson CARB certified header and left all the other parts

original to replicate the last test that failed. I went to my friendly muffler shop and had an O<sub>2</sub> sensor adapter installed right after the collector where the four pipes join to become one. They plugged the hole where the O<sub>2</sub> sensor was originally located. I then relocated the O<sub>2</sub> sensor to the new position, which required a little extension to the O<sub>2</sub> sensor harness. Next, I took the "Kingfish" to the *same* smog shop and had the *same* tech test the car. The car sat for about 45 minutes prior to the test. As most of you know, cool is not good for a smog check, hot is the name of the game. The technician drove the car onto the dyno and ran the test without a pre-heat and it passed. Yes, it passed!

So the moral of the story is the if you are planning to buy an after-market header, please be on notice that if you choose the current Jackson Racing header you may have a problem passing smog here in San Diego. The *good* news is that Moss Motors stands behind their products 100% and will not leave you financially hanging. This is as always with Moss. They do always stand behind their products. Will Oscar make a change? Time will tell.

— ELLIOT

## 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](mailto:vicky@teamvoodoo.com).



I thought the idea of a wind stop might be nice, but the cost seemed too high for a tightwad like myself. So, I went to Home Depot, bought a piece of Plexiglas, and with a little Velcro, I have a wind stop that works well and, I think, looks pretty unobtrusive. The best size, I feel after a little experimenting, is 1 foot by 2 feet. It works well and stays put with Velcro attached to the cockpit brace, wedged against the snaps on the boot cover. For cars without the brace, it could be Velcro'd to the back of the seat. Since the plexiglas I bought only came in 2X4 foot pieces, I have enough left for three more. It took about an hour to cut, sand, and polish the edges.

— BARRY BILLINGSLEY



## 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:** 1990 Miata. 5-speed, 113K miles—engine has 50 K. Power steering, A/C, power windows, Red push button starter/ ignition feature, Black cloth seats—interior in good condition. Glass rear window on new top. New timing belt. Classic red with white Cobra style stripes. 14" steel wheels-195/60/14 mixed tires. New Sony CD player and door speakers. Optional—17" Konig Monsoons/ Kuhmo Ecsta's with 85% tread available. Have all maintenance records and title. \$3750 as is. Contact me for pics.

Jeremy, [jeremyw.qualcomm.com](mailto:jeremyw.qualcomm.com) (858) 663-7495

**For Sale:** 1997 VW Jetta. Black/black, five-speed, A/C, alloy wheels. 82k freeway miles. Original owner. \$7250  
Rick, (619) 702-8077

**For Sale:** 1995 Miata 14x6 Alloy Wheels (4). Used for autocrossing and have worn out Kumho 205/55x14 autocross tires. Wheels in excellent condition. \$200 for four.  
Robert (JT), (858) 549-4011, [jtbob@pacbell.net](mailto:jtbob@pacbell.net)

**For Sale:** Montego Blue hard top by SNUG-Top. Excellent, new condition. Includes rear window defroster, dome light and all wiring

to hook them up (we never got around to installing the wiring on our '96).

\$1250 OBO.

Karen, (619)220-8331, [kgoyette@cts.com](mailto:kgoyette@cts.com)

**For Sale:** Closeout on Miata wrapping paper. \$3 per roll.

Geri, [geris-bazaar@cox.net](mailto:geris-bazaar@cox.net), (760) 787-0624

**For Sale:** Trunk lid lift kits - fits all year Miatas. Factory blowout! \$20 each for San Diego folks that will pick-up or meet me, \$30 each to ship in US. No tax. Very simple installation! Lifts trunk lid automatically when the lever or key are used! Especially great for those with wings or luggage racks!

David, (760) 476-8754 [david.levy@airprime.com](mailto:david.levy@airprime.com)

**For Sale:** 1996 White Miata, black interior. Great condition with just over 50K miles. AM/FM/CASS. Asking \$7200.  
Larry or Vicky, (619) 303-8996.

**For Sale:** Direct from the "Best of the Best of the Bunch 2001" show car. The red 2000 Miata is being brought back to stock and all the aftermarket goodies are for sale at half of the original price. Remaining items for sale are: Moss Motors hard boot, JR strut brace, JR Autometer gauges, chrome side markers, Moretti headlights, Moretti taillights, chrome style bar, custom grille, custom hood, Mazdaspeed four-piece body kit, rear strut. Call for all the details.

Jack, (909) 236-8909

**For Sale:** 2000 Itasca Sundancer motorhome. 30 foot, C-Class, E-450 Triton V10, queen island bed, tan interior, Onan generator, slide-out, fully equipped, RV cover, many, many extras. Includes campground membership worth \$3000. Excellent condition, 4800 miles, MUST SACRIFICE. \$63,000.

Sal (760) 787-0624 or [wood-dust@cox.net](mailto:wood-dust@cox.net)

**For Sale:** Set of Eibach springs, only 1000 miles of use, \$250. Three sets of stock springs. Stock sway bars. Complete 1.6 engine with 80k miles. Damaged crank keyway but excellent compression. Five speed transmission for case or parts.

Larry, (619) 284-4911 or  
[larrydennstedt@hotmail.com](mailto:larrydennstedt@hotmail.com)

**For Sale:** 1990 1.6-liter engine, \$250. This engine has 154K miles on it but runs well. Also misc. parts from same car. Also have starter, alternator, and misc. engine, suspension, and body parts including doors, mirrors, rear fenders, lights and various interior parts. Some body parts recently repainted (red); in good condition.

Wally (619) 232-2801 ext 313, 234-2858, or  
[wallymiata@juno.com](mailto: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](http://www.miatamart.com)

