

SAN DIEGO MIATA CLUB NEWS



AUGUST 2002

VOLUME 7 NUMBER 8

UPCOMING EVENTS



August 2 - Friday
Cruisin' Grand
Wheels'N'Meals



Saturday - August 3
Dyno Tuning at Team
Godspeed



August 10 - Saturday
6th Annual Miles of Miatas
for MDA



August 16 - 18
Monterey Historic
Automobile Races



August 17 - Saturday
Run to the Getty Museum



August 22 - Thursday
Monthly Meeting



Saturday - August 24
Tech Day at the Conn's



August 24 - Saturday
Debbie Does Santee
Drive-In



August 31 - Saturday
Luau Run to the Lewis'



October 12 - 13
Coronado Classic Speed
Festival



Sunday - December 15
SDMC Holiday Party

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Ideas

"The best ideas come after you think you've run out of them" - Author Unknown

This is my third president's message, and the main theme for the article has been escaping me all month. When is that "best idea" going to show up like the statement above says? I know, after the newsletter goes to print. Bummer!

I must admit there has been a great deal happening in the SAL & GERI household over the last few months. Our first Miata (Candie) has been sold to a fellow club member (DUSTIN LEWIS). It was a bittersweet farewell seeing her go. If it wasn't for "Candie," we never would have found SDMC. Selling "Candie" to Dustin assures us that she will be well taken care of and we will see her occasionally. We are again a one Miata family. "Woodstock," our new Vivid Yellow LE Miata, is no longer the garage queen and will be making his appearance at many events.

In addition, our RV, more affectionately known as the "Hospitality Suite," has been sold. Lack of use was the main factor in our decision to sell the RV. We will always remember the great times we had with the hospitality suite at autocross events and the Coronado Speed Festival. The up-side to this story is that it gives us more cash for road trips, playing with SDMC events, and possibly buying more toys for "Woodstock"—but don't tell Geri.

Speaking of events...it is almost August, more than half the summer is behind us and not much has occurred in the way of events since the Search for Madonna in early May. Except for a few impromptu runs, The 4th of July Parade and BBQ, and the Sahuaro weekend, scheduled events have been "slim pickins." I am assuming the reason behind a rather slow calendar is that we are all pretty busy doing other things. It was rather disheartening to have cancelled a major planned event a few weeks ago (Brainstorm Tech Day) due to a lack of response. I must admit this was the first cancellation of an event that I can remember in my 4-1/2 years as a member.

On a much brighter note we do have a rather more robust calendar for August. However, September, most of October, and November look rather light in the events department.

Geri and I always look forward to the Twilight Fun Run, which this year is on July 27, hosted by MARK and CATHY BOOTH. Of course, the Twilight Run will be past history by the time you get this newsletter. But, rest assured a good time was had by all and, as usual, all who attended will look forward to the next Twi-

(Continued on page 2)



President's Message (Continued from page 1)

light Fun Run.

As I mentioned, we have some exciting stuff planned for August. The ever-popular "Must Attend" event is the Mile of Miatas for MDA on August 10, followed by the Getty museum on August 17 and, of course, one of my favorites, Debbye does Santee drive-in on August 24.

I firmly believe that one of the main attractions to SDMC is the diverse activities and events that are offered for the members' enjoyment. These events do not just happen. They are planned and presented by you and for you. Conversely, if you do not plan or schedule an event, we consequently have a lull in the calendar.

As I stated months ago, I am always open to ideas and suggestions. If you have any ideas on how to entice members to plan or schedule an event, or if you would like to plan or schedule an event yourself, please contact STEVE WAID, our Events Coordinator, or myself and we can assist you in making it happen.

Well, there you have it. I have finally managed to bring this article back to its theme...or lack thereof. "IDEAS"—if you have one—SOCK IT TO ME!

Take Care of one another out there. See you at the next event—soon I hope!

— Your Pal SAL



PHOTO: TRAVIS GILL

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!

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If you have recently been to the SAN DIEGO MIATA CLUB web site (www.sandiegomiataclub.org), you probably have noticed a new banner advertising SERIOUS AUTO. This new program is called the Serious Auto Affiliate Program. When a club member (or whoever) clicks through that link and buys something, SDMC gets a 3% commission on the purchase. The Board felt this is a win-win situation for the club in that it costs us absolutely nothing and we may be able to gain some revenue from the transactions. The Serious Auto Affiliate Program is successfully being used by many other Miata clubs around the country. So, if you are planning to purchase something from SERIOUS, please click through the SDMC web site link.

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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



**Cruisin' Grand
Wheels'N'Meals**



Date: Friday, August 2

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 Pkwy., Escondido.

Cruisin' Grand in Escondido started earlier this year. Beginning with the first Friday in April, every Friday night through September is the time to go to see hot rods, street rods, vintage cars, muscle cars, music, and on the first Friday of each month...Miatas.

**Dyno Tuning at Team
Godspeed**



Date: Saturday, August 3

Time: 7 a.m. with some instruction, the first car will start the first of its three runs at 8 a.m.

Place: Godspeed Dyno Works
612 South Tremont Street
Oceanside

RSVPs: RAINER MUELLER,
(760) 419-8268

I've arranged August 3 as an exclusive date for SDMC members to have their Miatas dynoed. Bart Grande of Team Godspeed (www.teamgodspeed.com) in Oceanside has set aside this day exclusively for us. The day begins at 7 a.m. with some instruction; the first car will start the first of its three runs at 8 a.m. We'll run as long as it takes to get done, probably 6 p.m. or sooner. If we have some extra time, we'll do some sophisticated tuning. The day will be limited to the first 15 cars that sign up with me. The cost is \$75, which includes lunch catered by To's Mexican Food. This is a first-class operation, using a state-of-the-art—read about it on Bart's Web site. And Bart really knows his stuff. All he does is dyno cars. He doesn't sell anything. The results you get will be totally unbiased. If you are interested in learning your Miata's true engine/

exhaust/fuel performance statistics, this is way to do it. This is a first come, first served event. Please send me your name and I'll put you on this list. And if you have any questions, please ask.



**6TH Annual "Miles of
Miatas For MDA"**

Date: Saturday, August 10th

Meeting Time: 9 a.m.

Meeting Location: Boll Weevil
9300 Clairmont Mesa Blvd.
(at Ruffin Road), San Diego
(858) 571-6225

This run qualifies toward mileage award.

Time to Get In and Be Moved for our 6th annual "Miles of Miatas for MDA." Coordinators JACK and SUE HINKLE have been busy organizing the run and gathering raffle items in an effort to make this our biggest fund raising event in club history. Miata vendors have generously donated some wonderful items in support of the event. Goodies have arrived from Flying Miata, Coast Car Covers, Mazda, BBS, Absolut, Hard Dog, Moss Motors, and more is on the way.

This year's event will be kicked off at our favorite meeting place, the Boll Weevil Restaurant. Rick Hackley, owner of the Boll Weevil, has volunteered to provide coffee, juice, and donuts to the group and will have plenty of bottled water and fruit for you to take along with you on the run. Registration begins at 9 a.m. and we are hoping to be on our way by 10 a.m. MDA staff will be on hand to collect sponsor sheets from members who have obtained donations for the event. Members raising \$100 or more will receive two event T-shirts (one each for the driver and co-pilot) and will be given one raffle ticket for each \$50 raised. You'll even have an opportunity to buy a square on our 50/50 race board. Raffle tickets can be pur-

chased for \$1 each or 15 for \$10. BBQ dinner cost is \$13 per person.

Last year our club raised over \$12,000 with only 40 Miatas participating. Members can participate in several ways; sponsor donations, raffles, and the 50/50 Miata Race Board, or by just showing up to have fun with the rest of us. We are hoping to beat last years record and once again make club history. Our goal is to have 100 cars participate in this year's event, and with the abundance of spirit and enthusiasm in our club we can meet this goal. Join us and other club members for a ZOOM ZOOM day, you'll be glad you did.

RSVP to the Hinkles - Checks for dinner (\$13 per person) can be made payable to Sue Hinkle and mailed to 733 S. Kalmia St., Escondido, CA 92025.



**Monterey Historic
Automobile Races**

Date: August 16-18

Place: Mazda Raceway at Laguna Seca
Tickets/Questions: Andrea Beach

(760) 631-1204, arsktaker@aol.com
Mazda invites you to join Miata Owners Club and Miata Magazine for Monterey Weekend 2002 at Mazda Raceway at Laguna Seca. The event will be held August 16th-18th. Visit www.miataownersclub.com or check the ad in the July issue of Miata Magazine for complete details and information as well as a schedule of events. This is the weekend of a lifetime...see why people keep coming back...some for 29 years! Space is limited...act now and enjoy Monterey weekend 2002!

**Run to the Getty
Museum**



Date: Saturday, August 17

Meeting Times: 7:15 a.m. - McDonald's,
8:30 a.m. at Sport Mart

Meeting Places: McDonald's at I-5
and Oceanside Blvd. and Sport
Mart at Magnolia/Warner Avenue

Upcoming Events (Continued on page 4)



August Events (Continued from page 3)

in Orange County.

Leaders: RANDY & SUE PATTERSON
(760) 63-0109 or rpatters1@cox.net

The Getty Museum is truly a wondrous place. Don't miss out. For those who have been before, you know there is no better way to visit the museum than with a group of friendly Miataphiles.

The route will be the same as in the past, with the same sort of run plan. If it ain't broke don't fix it. We will be leaving from McDonald's, located at I-5 and Oceanside Boulevard, at 7:15 a.m. From there we will be traveling north to meet up with our friends in SOCALM. We will meet at the Sport Mart located on the west side of I-405 in the parking lot at Magnolia Street and Warner Avenue, exiting Fountain Valley/Huntington Beach at 8:15, departing at 8:30. This should put us at the museum at 10 a.m. to enter as a group.

There are several options for eating at the Getty. Once again the picnic tables will be available if you wish to bring your own food. The picnic tables are open to anyone who wishes to use them (they no longer reserve them). In addition, there are a variety of restaurants at the museum to choose from.

Upon arrival you are free to explore the museum as long as you wish.

Please RSVP if you are going to attend, as there are only 50 openings.

Monthly Meeting

Date: Thursday, August 22

Time: 6 p.m.

Place: Boll Weevil

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

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

Don't miss the fun!



Tech Day at the Conn's

When: Saturday, August 24

Time: 0900 `til food is gone

Where: John & Gerry Conn
1530 S. Lovering, Fullerton
(714) 441-2552



Bring your bathing suits, towels, pot luck dish (please RSVP, (714) 441-2552 or connjb@earthlink.net with what you're bringing, (we have a gas grill) and of course something to put on your car! This is always a fun day with plenty of lessons to be learned, food to be eaten, and always sunshine to enjoy. We'll provide sodas and, of course, Krispy Kreme donuts for the early arrivals.

Directions: Exit 91 freeway at Euclid, go north to Baker, go west on Baker to Lovering which is the 4th street on the left. 1530 is the last house on the left.

Debbye Does Santee Drive-In

Date: Saturday, August 24

Meeting Time: 4 p.m. for early dinner.

Meeting Place: The Chicken Pie Diner, 14727 Pomerado Rd., Poway

Run Leaders: VIKKI WELLINGTON & DUSTIN LEWIS (619) 447-0930 or d2bjamul@sdcoe.k12.ca.us

This run qualifies toward mileage award.

Meet for dinner and then a short run in the cool of the evening will take us to the Santee Drive-in for a double feature. What will it be this year?

Bring folding chairs and a portable radio (drive-in sound is now broadcast by FM radio for those that have not been lately). You will also want to bring a sweatshirt just in case.

Luau Run to the Lewis'

Date: Saturday, August 31

Meeting Time: 3 p.m.

Meeting location: Rancho San Diego, Carls Jr. Parking lot (by Target) off of Jamacha Road.



Coordinators: DEBBYE, BRUCE,

VIKKI & DUSTIN

d2bjamul@sdcoe.k12.ca.us

Run Leader: ED DITTMAN (Debbye's dad and Dustin's grandpa).

This run qualifies toward mileage award.

Ed will earn his magnetics as he leads the group on a run to the Lewis' Rancho in Jamul. Location for the Luau is 3285 Beaver Hollow Road. Luau time is 5 p.m. Come for an evening of Hawaiian Island fun, food, and games.

FUTURE EVENTS

Coronado Classic Speed Festival

Dates: October 12-13



The Coronado Classic Speed Festival is a spectator racing event organized by General Racing, Ltd (Steve Earle)—the same organization that puts on the Monterey Historics. Many of the same classic autos that race at Monterey also participate in the event in San Diego. This is an opportunity to watch historic autos with racing heritage compete. You can also wander through the paddock and talk to the drivers and mechanics as they prepare their cars for competition. There will be a Concours d'Elegance, static military display, vendors, and Chrysler will offer test drives of their newest models.

Edelbrock Tour

Date: Saturday, October 19



Place: Edelbrock factory and museum in Torrance, California.

Contact: ROBIN & MIKE

FAIRCLOTH, HawkinLady@aol.com

The Edelbrocks have been making performance parts since the 1950's. The name is synonymous with "going fast." It is likely that we will be able to see Vic and Camee Edelbrock racing at the Coronado Speed Festival the weekend before.

The Edelbrock tours are from 10 a.m. to approximately 1 p.m. starting with Camee Edelbrock or Vic Edelbrock talking about the history of the



company. Then the guides split the tour into groups and you drive to their manufacturing plant; then come back to see the shock building, exhaust building, and their distribution center, all in Torrance. The tours are a lot of walking; then back to the museum for lunch and a goodie bag.

There also is an Edelbrock Sportswear room where they sell clothing.

This is a rare opportunity, and we will be limited to 120 people. SO-CALM has been invited to participate as well...after all, it is in their backyard.

Please make reservations with Robin Faircloth. Even though there appears to be plenty of time, you don't want to be left out. Make plans and reservations today.

3rd Bi-Annual Hearst Castle/San Simeon Run



Dates: November 8 – 10

Meeting Time 9 a.m.

Drivers Meeting 9:30 a.m.

Meeting Place: Madonna Inn Parking Lot, San Luis Obispo, CA

Contacts: BARI RUSSELL,

barirussell@earthlink.net

(949) 588-1531 or (714) 856-9890

BILL HYDE, wnhyde@earthlink.net

(714) 525-5831 or (714) 225-1319

Mark your calendars, because you don't want to miss this Miata adventure that tours one of the world's most famous mansions, set in California's most beautiful region! Even more exciting, we get to ZOOM ZOOM on some of the best Miata roads in the country! Bill has assured me there will be ample potty stops this year!

Room Booking:

SOCALM Miata Club Group Reservations: (800) 544-4866 (Sean)

Motels: Nov. 8 - Motel 6 San Luis Obispo South, Property 1373, Reservation Number 131713

Nov. 9 – Motel 6 San Simeon, Property 1212, Reservation Number 131002

I have blocked 20 rooms at both properties—all queen beds and all non-

smoking. You need to request smoking rooms and ask them to be added to our group. In San Luis we have ten 1-bed rooms and ten 2-beds. The rates are quoted to how many people in the room, not beds! The rooms in San Luis Obispo, including tax, are \$50.59 for a single and \$57.19 for a double. At San Simeon we also have 20 rooms—all double queens. The rates are: \$61.03 for a single and \$71.93 for a double. AARP members bring your cards for 10% off. When you call for reservations please ask for Sean, but anyone in Group Reservations can help you. You *must* tell them the reservation is under SOCALM, and give the property number, and the reservation number. Please contact Bari Russell when you have made your reservations or if you have any problems.

San Diego Miata Club Holiday Party



Date: Sunday, December 15

Location: San Vicente Inn (San Diego Country Estates), 24157 San Vicente Road, Ramona, CA 92065

Hosts: MIKE & ROBIN FAIRCLOTH, (760) 789-5171 or

hawkinlady@aol.com

Dinner will be served buffet style. Once summer is over, there will be more information to relay regarding cost, menu, directions, etc.

UPCOMING REGIONAL AND NATIONAL EVENTS

The Greater Cincinnati Miata Club's Midwest Miata Gathering

Dates: September 7 - 9

Place: Cincinnati, Ohio

There is no registration fee nor are there any charges for events put on by the members of GCMC. There is an admission charge to the park where the event is held (\$3 will cover the whole weekend) and some activities (like the dyno Session) have charges related to what the service provider requires. Participants are, of course,

required to provide for their own food and lodging...but, there are club members who would host guests if given some warning.

While there is no fee, registering helps the organizers know how far to stick their necks out and bust their buns for the guests coming. The Gathering has grown each year and is sure to do so again this year. It's a good time on low bucks with no limit to the activities available.

Additional information and directions are available at:

www.miatagathering.net

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 Sports Car 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! 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 or phone (703) 278-8005.

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.

Contact STEVE WAID, events coordinator at events@sandiegomiataclub.org.





— VERONICA and DENNIS DIDIER

Why Not?

Veronica and Dennis Didier are proud owners of two Miatas. Hers is a crystal blue '01 LS, and his is a blazing yellow '02 SE. Veronica found her dream car at the San Diego Auto Show last year. She announced she was in love and just had to have one of the crystal blue Miatas. But, the Miata had to carry two golf bags. It did.

Both Veronica and Dennis have had long love affairs with cars. Veronica's heart was originally taken with her 1972 Karmann Ghia. Her crowning moment was delivering a fully decorated Christmas tree in the Ghia—and the Ghia was not a convertible. She really liked driving the Ghia around the back roads of San Luis Obispo County. The heater was great for ankle warming.

Dennis' first "cool car" was bought slightly used in 1961. It was a white 1960 Chevy convertible. The car went like gangbusters, but only in a straight line. He hankered for something that handled better than the Chevy and found a 1962 (yes, there were '62s) red MGB on a used car lot in Norfolk, VA while in the Navy. It was like new and it could go around curves.

He slalomed the car and dreamed of racing. Dennis and the B watched many races on the "other coast."

In 1969, Dennis traded a super stereo and \$1,000 for an E Production MGB from a member of the SCCA here in San Diego. Off to Riverside for driver training and the fun of going really (well, sort of) fast. Dennis raced the B for two seasons before an altercation with the turn six wall at Riverside. After spending way too much money to repair the B, he sold it and turned to desert racing on motorcycles.

Just so you'll know, Veronica was given a 100cc Hodaka Super Rat dirt bike for her engagement. Dennis believed that she could really hurt herself on a diamond. She didn't hurt herself, but got the diamond anyway.

Zooming then went into a long period of hibernation. But in 1992, they bought a new, red Nissan 300ZX. Living only a mile from Otay Lakes Road, they spent sunny days scaring themselves in the Z car. After the Z, they both resigned themselves to regular cars—you know, lots of doors and power windows, many cup holders, arm rests, etc.

But after the car show, Veronica brought home her new '01 crystal blue baby. The Didiers immediately,

like three days later, joined SDMC. They went on runs, attended the meetings, talked a lot about "her" car. Veronica started autocrossing with Dennis being the unhandiest pit crew in recorded history. He felt that since he had raced before, it was her turn. That lasted for about three months, when at Veronica's urging, Dennis strapped on the brain bucket and was hooked again.

But the crystal blue was "her" car. Dennis had a Buick (see above). The fourth Thursday in April, on his way to teach, he thought he saw a yellow Miata in the showroom of Westcott Mazda. He drove to work, making a note to check after class just to see if it was the '02 yellow SE. After teaching his class, he stopped at Westcott and sure enough, it was the SE. This was the same day of the monthly SDMC meeting and he told the sales manager he had to close the deal, completely, in 35 minutes. Westcott made the deadline and Dennis showed up at the meeting with the BYM (Blazing Yellow Mica).

Veronica found out that he had bought the car the same time as the rest of the membership. For those of you who were at the meeting in April, there were a few anxious moments. But, after about 10 minutes, Veronica came out to the car and gave Dennis his yellow SDMC ball cap. As the newly-elected Secretary of the SDMC, how could she refuse the addition of a new Miata to the Club?

As to the Why Not? title...a friend asked Veronica why they had two Miatas. Her response: Why Not? So which car do they take to events? It's about taking turns, unless Dennis whines. And they stand in the garage and argue over the merits of blue vs. yellow.

New Members!

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

WALT ARNOLD

San Diego

2001 SE (British Racing Green)

MAL & JUDY BEVINGTON

San Diego

2000 Emerald Green

MICHELLE CORMANY

Spring Valley

2001 White LS

JOHN & KATHRYN HEANEY

San Diego

2002 Black

DALLAS & MICHELLE KLASSEN

San Diego

2002 Silver

LOU & WENDY LOPEZ

Escondido

2002 SE (Titanium)

RICK & NADINE SAIA

San Diego

1991 Silver B

ANNE & ANNA STALMER

San Diego

1999 Emerald Green

SCOTT SWANSON

San Diego

1999 Emerald Green Leather

KENNETH YOUNG

Spring Valley

1990 Black

Renewing Members

(since last newsletter):

RICHARD ALLSOPP

TONY & MARY BEECHER

RICHARD BEST

ERIK BLATTER

MARK & CATHY BOOTH

GALE CHAN

MICHAEL CHIAPPETTA

& LAUREN JACKSON

TERRY & SANDY COOPER

JEFF & JUDY DOUGLASS

BRUCE FURBUSH

& ROSEANNE MEYERHOFF

LEONARD & LOIS GARTH

BUFFY HERGENRADER

DESIREE HERRERA

JAMES W. HIND

JACK & SUE HINKLE

ROBERT HOLLAND

& CAROL SCHWARTZ

LARRY & JEANNIE HOSKINSON

WALLY & CAROLE JEWELL

CRAIG & JESSICA JULIAN

BARRY & NANCEE KERSHAW

BOB & DEBBIE LLEWELLYN

BOB MAGHAN

RAINER & MARIANNE MUELLER

SALLY ORR & MORRIS HILL

CINDY PALOMA

MURDOCK & NORMA PAYNE

SAMUEL RAMEY

FRANK RIMMER

& CHARM JOHNSON

JENNIFER ROTH

FREDERICK N. SCOTT

MICHAEL & ELINOR SHACK

RUTH & LOU STARK

KENNETH & JENIPHER TUCKER

MILEAGE AWARDS PROGRAM

At the monthly membership meeting on July 25, the following SAN DIEGO MIATA CLUB Mileage Awards patches were presented.

| <u>Name</u> | <u>Award Level</u> |
|-----------------|--------------------|
| ERIC ABAD | 500 Miles |
| HAVEN BLEVINS | |
| TOM GOULD | |
| DAVE HUNT | |
| WALLY JEWELL | |
| JON MARTINEZ | |
| RANDY PATTERSON | |
| NICK PONCE | |
| SHARON PONCE | |
| JUDY POWELL | |
| WALLY STEVENS | |
| DONNA THOMPSON | |
| TOM WOOD | |
| ROBIN FAIRCLOTH | 1000 Miles |
| ELINOR SHACK | |
| CHARLENE BROKAW | 1500 Miles |
| SAL CAUSARANO | |

Membership Statistics

As of July 28, 2002, there are 391 memberships (158 single, 233 dual) for a total of 624 members.

Memberships by Miata Color:

| | |
|----|------------------|
| 98 | Red |
| 56 | White |
| 44 | Black |
| 38 | Silver |
| 31 | Emerald Green |
| 20 | Montego Blue |
| 16 | Yellow |
| 16 | BRG |
| 11 | Sapphire Blue |
| 11 | Twilight Blue |
| 10 | Crystal Blue |
| 9 | Mahogany |
| 9 | Mariner Blue |
| 8 | Marina Green |
| 7 | Laguna Blue |
| 6 | Starlight Blue |
| 5 | Merlot |
| 5 | Midnight Blue |
| 4 | Titanium |
| 2 | Evolution Orange |
| 1 | Laser Blue |
| 1 | Teal (custom) |
| 5 | Unreported* |

* Unreported means a member does not

**Local Business Discounts
Keep Growing**

If you check out the back page of the newsletter, you will notice the Local Business Discounts section has a couple of new entries. Two new discounts this month, and both are the result of SAN DIEGO MIATA CLUB members taking the initiative and asking a business to consider offering a discount to the club.

Thanks go to JERRY CISINSKY and MARY ANN WALLNER for adding value to your SDMC membership. See the back page for the Express Tire in Poway and Union 76 station in San Marcos.

— EDITOR



SDMC members put their creative juices into overdrive for the annual Scripps Ranch Fourth of July parade.

There were flags of all sizes—tiny, small, medium, large, and HUGE—fluttering over the gaily decorated cars. There were red, white, and blue streamers, stuffed animals, Beanie Babies, colorful quilts, a big make-believe firecracker, pinwheels, a large Winnie the Pooh, at least one live dog—well, you get the idea.

No, you might not get the idea if you weren't there. For the first time, we had MISS SAN DIEGO MIATA CLUB seated in the first row of cars. This was a mannequin creatively and carefully crafted by LOIS MARTIN. The sight was a delight as the hand on her right turned and waved and she smiled the Miss America look as we rode down the streets.



Drivers and navigators also were decorated with patriotic images scattered throughout visible body parts.

The ever-popular flags waving on the windshield wipers once more made a big hit, as did the headlight drill—up, down, up, down, up, down and honk. Quite a delight for club members and parade viewers as well. Those cars with mechanically challenged headlights chimed in with the



July 4 - Thursday
Scripps Ranch 4th of July Parade



July 4 - Thursday
4th of July BBQ and Pool Party. Fireworks Too!



honks.

We had nearly half a hundred cars lined up in rows of red, white and blue, which brought the appropriate oohs and aahs from the crowds lining the streets. The cars with other vibrant colors brought up the tail end of our long line of march, providing a very impressive exclamation point to our throng.

Watching the parade go by while waiting for our turn to join in provided an opportunity to see what other car clubs were doing. And they were doing just fine. The Corvette Club was especially neat, with a large coterie of noisy cars carrying family members from far across the United States. Their names and city locations mounted on the sides of the cars made a very impressive display, indeed.

The Model A Club was out in force, with a string of highly polished cars and their trademark A-oog-ah horns.

The day began at 0 Dark Thirty, as the military say, outside the home of





PHOTO: TRAVIS GILL

DIANE LONG, the day's impresario. Decorations and donuts, coffee, bagels and cornbread were provided, as members came well prepared to cover their steeds and satisfy their needs.

ANTHONY WILDE once again served as our grand marshal, riding in the SDMC trailer, which originally was designed to carry racing parts for ELLIOT SHEV. It was a truly impressive sight.

How did we do in the competition? Was there really any doubt? Yes there was, as the competition seemed tougher this year than ever before. But the judges knew what they were doing when they honored us with first place in the Auto Club category for the fourth year in a row. Clairemont Neighborhood Cruisers took second place, the Model A's were third and the Corvettes finished fourth on the Fourth.

After the parade, it was off to the Shev manse in Poway for an unparalleled pool party, with the traditional Fourth of July food and hi-jinks by club members. The fireworks display from Poway High capped about 14 hours of a truly memorable event.

— TOM SPRAGUE

Below— Normally this is a view of the parade that only Anthony Wilde can see while riding atop the SDMC float. Miatas as far as the eye can see. Red, white, blue in endless rows.



PHOTO: DIANE LONG



PHOTO: TRAVIS GILL



PHOTO: ART HAMILTON



PHOTO: JIM BROKAW



PHOTO: TRAVIS GILL



PHOTO: ANTHONY WILDE

Below— After the parade everyone was ready to cool off. The exuberant water volleyball games helped to work up big appetites for the BBQ feed. The fireworks capped a fun-filled day.



PHOTO: DIANE LONG



DAVID LEVY had a memorable experience June 9th at the Mazda Raceway Laguna Seca, in Monterey, CA. Here he shares some of the delights with us.

— EDITOR

Mazdaspeed Cup 2002

It was such a fantastic time at this event! My wife and kids attended with me and also had a great time.

A true once in a lifetime experience, since 30 years ago I was introduced to the sport when I used to sit on the hillside and watch SCCA races with my father. A few years later, I was able to be a little bit more “part of the action” by crewing for a pro race team. And now to actually race on this historic track...AMAZING!

The weekend started out by getting the car unloaded and set up under one of three HUGE tents provided by Mazda. All 74 competitors were “paddocked” in this area, so it was a multi-colored sea of Miatas, racers, crews, and families. A BIG Miata family indeed!

Once the car was set in my “assigned” parking space, we began unloading of all the miscellaneous tools and parts to be set aside for later use.

Friday’s practice session proved to be a blast. There was so much to learn. Correct apexes, braking and shifting points to create quick lap times. GO, GO, GO! Faster, faster!

My lap times were getting faster, but there was plenty of work cut out for me on the track. I had never even set foot on the track before. Well... just the hot pit area while crewing, years ago. I had no idea what lurked behind the hill, around turn 6. Or what the vertical drop of “the corkscrew” would be like.

My fellow competitors were a tough crowd that included national champions and professional drivers from all around the country. To be included in that lot was an honor indeed by itself.

Saturday’s practice and qualifying proved to be tough, both physically and mentally. As I was trying to move lap times quicker and quicker, I managed to spin a couple of times, fortunately not mashing the car. I was getting pretty good lap times, but my consistency needed improvement.

In the Miata paddock area, you could actually smell paint drying from cars that were just completed in order to compete in this event.



On Sunday, there was a warm-up session around 8:30 a.m. and the race didn’t start until 4:30 p.m. WOW! Anticipation and anxiety gets hold of you with all that time to kill.

I am very proud of my 49th place finish out of the 70 that ran the race. The time difference between the fastest and slowest lap times was only 6 seconds.

The last car finished the race just under 2 minutes after the winner. This was close racing!

The true testament of the Miata’s racing potential has already been proven years ago, but keeps amazing people. I was told that there were comments made in the SPEED Channel trailer, during the race, to the effect that this race was the best of the weekend. And we shared the weekend with the CART folks.

I even had spectators come over to the paddock after the event and tell me that our race was much more exciting than the CART event. I was even asked for autographs! *Who me?* Well, OK. And thank you!

I want to thank the SDMC folks for asking me to submit this tidbit to the newsletter. I also must “publicly” thank a few others for the MAZDASPEED CUP event. Jim Jordan (Mazda), Joe Jordan (WheelStore) and Ron Cortez (American International Motorsports/Toyo Rep) for thinking up this great event. And Mazda, Toyo Tire, SCCA, and the Mazda Raceway folks for putting it all together, and so quickly. MAZDASPEED for outstanding racer support. And lastly Nology Engineering, for their sponsorship of my racing endeavors.

— DAVID LEVY
Spec Miata #4



PHOTOS COURTESY OF SPECMIATAWEST.COM

Above— David, in Miata number 4, is in the middle of the pack heading down the famous Corkscrew at Mazda Raceway Laguna Seca. Race winner Barry Hartzel is in car number 92.

July 6, 2002 Autocross Results

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

| Class | Driver | Car | Place |
|-------|---------------------|----------|-------|
| CS | CAROL SCHWARTZ | Miata | 6th |
| CS | DENNIS DIDIER | Miata | 9th |
| CS | JOHN HILTON | Miata | 10th |
| HS | RON CHAPMAN | Civic | 2nd |
| IS2 | ROBERT "JT" HOLLAND | Miata | 1st |
| IS2 | BRIAN GOODWIN | Miata | 3rd |
| IS2 | MICHAEL HEINITZ | Miata | 5th |
| IS2 | KEVIN HAYWOOD | Miata | 7th |
| IS2 | JOHN "JD" LIMA | Miata | 8th |
| IS2 | RAINER MUELLER | Miata | 9th |
| IS2 | JOSEPH MEDINA | Miata | 10th |
| IS2 | STEVE WAID | Miata | 12th |
| IS2 | JIM BROKAW | Miata | 14th |
| IS2 | ELLIOT SHEV | Miata | 15th |
| IS2L | BARBARA SHEV | Miata | 2nd |
| SU | HOWARD KUZMINSKI | Miata | 4th |
| SU | JAMES SANDERS | Miata | 10th |
| CSP | MARA CALER | CRX | 4th |
| M1 | LARRY DENNSTEDT | Aardvark | 3rd |



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

- Sunday, September 8.....championship
- Sunday, October 20.....championship
- Saturday, November 2.....practice
- Sunday, November 10.....championship
- Saturday, November 30.....championship
- Saturday, December 7.....novice school

To confirm autocross information, call:
 San Diego SCCA Hotlines (619) 441-1333
 (800) 360-4454

Web page www.sdr-solo2.com

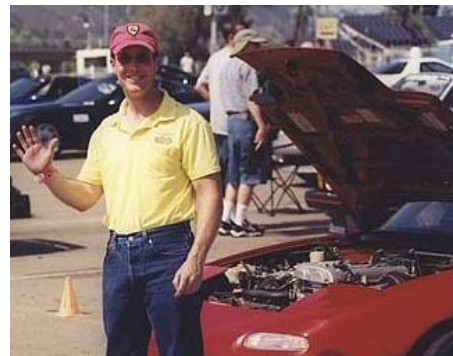
Come participate or watch SAN DIEGO MIATA CLUB members race at the autocross (timed event). To participate you need to register for a Solo2 card and number (\$15) and have a DOT approved helmet. Loaner helmets are available at the autocross.



July 6 - Saturday Autocross at the "Q"

Above and Below— Robert "JT" Holland continued his winning ways in IS2. The defending title holder from last year is still maintaining his lead half way through this season.

Above and Below— Barb Shev nearly took first place for the second consecutive event in IS2 L, but her competitor just squeaked by on the last run. Barb had a fun day anyway.



PHOTOS: VOODOO BOB KRAEGER



Blue Sky

"Sometimes we don't realize how lucky we have it here."

Those were the words of ART HAMILTON on July 18. But this time the retired Marine was not talking about citizens of this wonderful land of the free and the home of the brave. This time he was talking about Miata owners.

The occasion was when SDMC members gathered for interviews and a photo shoot with Eberhard Homann, who came to California from Germany to do a travel story for *Blue Sky* magazine. After listening to some of the things we do with our motorized mounts, Herr Homann offered that a Miata in Singapore costs 70,000 US dollars, in France in order to make any modifications you need to pay thousands of dollars to get a permit, and then your insurance goes up 700%. Many drivers cross into a different country to do what they want and then return.

There were other examples as well to remind us how good we have it here. When members were asked why they like the Miata, the consensus was "a fun, affordable, reliable, driveable roadster."

The day started with breakfast in Mission Valley, followed by a mini-tour to the Presidio overlooking Highway 8 where the cars were arranged for the photo shoot. Homann took pictures of everything from the assembled cars and drivers to engine modifications to flowers in the cockpit.

After enough photos were snapped, the group took off for a mini-run up the Coast. Along the way the radar detectors beeped, and every one respectfully passed the motorcycle officer by the side of the road. After some delightful sights, it was lunchtime in Escondido.

SAL and His Gal (GERI) were the coordinators of the event, and a good time was had by all. One interesting

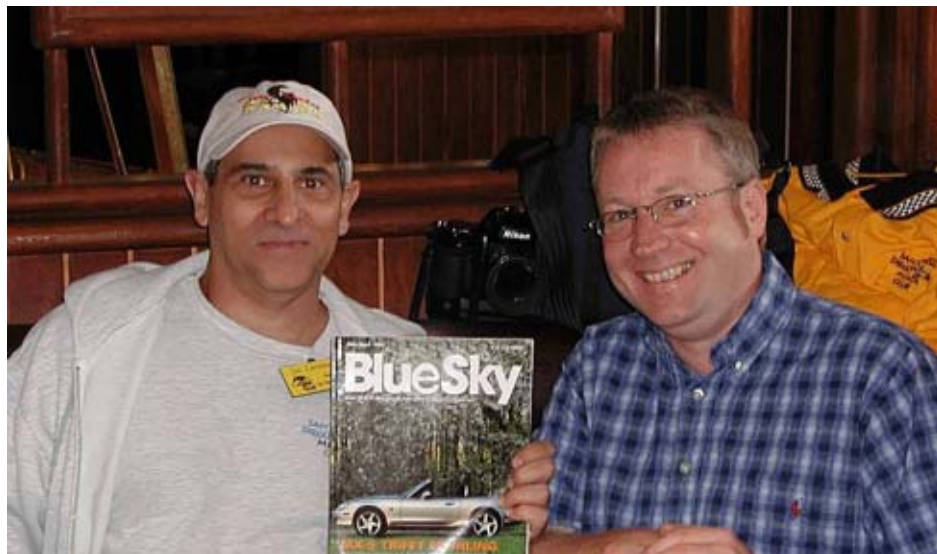


PHOTO: STEVE KEMINSON

Above— SDMC president Sal Causarano and *Blue Sky* correspondent Eberhard Homann.

Below— Fourteen SDMC members, and one SDPD member, were on hand to welcome Eberhard to America's Finest City.



PHOTO: ART HAMILTON

factoid: Of the 11 cars parked in a row for the photo shoot, only three had front license plates. Which made it more interesting because one of San Diego's finest was parked there when we drove in. But the officer was so enamored with the cluster of colorful cars that we were told we could back into the parking places in front of the signs which forbid this, and the officer took out a camera for a snapshot to send to a sister who owns a Miata rather than pulling out the ticket book.

We got along fine with the finest.

— TOM SPRAGUE

Need a CB to Lead a Run?

SDMC Events Coordinator STEVE WAID is always looking for new run leaders for these most-popular club events. Having a CB is not required to participate in club runs, but it's almost mandatory if you are a run leader or driving the sweep car (the last one).

Three CBs have been donated to the club. So, if lack of a CB radio has kept you from stepping forward to lead a run, you can arrange with Steve to borrow a CB to lead or sweep your first run. That's one less excuse for not planning a run... which, by the way, is how you get a set of those really cool club magnetics with your very own car color.

Contact STEVE WAID, events coordinator at events@sandiegomiataclub.org.



Surf'N'Safari '99 - Epilogue

In October 1999 the SAN DIEGO MIATA CLUB produced an enormously successful event called SURF'N'SAFARI. Held over three days, participants enjoyed non-stop food, driving events, the best vendor row ever, tons of free stuff, and a huge array of door prizes given away at the Saturday dinner. All of this fun was had for a mere \$99 per person, with



hotel rooms at \$99 per night, again, all held in 1999. Wow, it was great.

OK, now that you're up-to-date on the event, it's originator, LOU STARK, had one additional thought in its planning, besides all the fun. The club had recently experienced the passing of one of its members, LYNN MCCLELLAND, mother of member KATHY MCCLELLAND. Lynn was a passionate animal lover. Lou suggested that any proceeds from the event would be donated to the San Diego Wild Animal Park in her name.

Well, not only was the event a success, for \$99, it also made a profit. The money was presented to the San Diego Wild Animal Park about two years ago for the construction of Condor Ridge (*SAN DIEGO MIATA CLUB NEWS*, July 2000, Vol. 5, Number 7, pp. 1-2, & 7) Now, after a long wait, the permanent plaque has been erected.

Here are some photos for you to see. On the larger of the two plaques, under the section "In Memory Of" is the inscription "LYNN MCCLELLAND FROM SD MIATA CLUB." Please stop by Condor Ridge next time you're at the park to see this.

— ELLIOT SHEV



Above— The signs at the entrance to the Condor Ridge exhibit.

Left— The donor sign has a lot of names, but if you look close at the far right column, you can find the information below.



PHOTOS ELLIOT SHEV



Miata Goes Skin Diving

I've been wanting to upgrade my seat covers for quite a while. I looked at ELLIOT'S new leather upholstered seats and really liked them. I figured I could customize my seats if I did that but...my mind kept going back to the neat seat covers I saw in a former club member's Miata. They were made out of wet suit material and looked great. His were black with a blue insert.

A couple of weeks ago I broke down and ordered the "wet suit" seat covers from Serious Auto (really, the Wet Okole seat covers from Hawaii). They didn't have a "real" red insert so I opted for black with charcoal gray. I am very pleased with them and they look really good in my car. They are padded and very comfortable and give me a little more sitting height.

ANTHONY WILDE helped me install them. They come in two pieces; one for the back of the seat and one for the sitting part of the seat. We needed to take the seats out to attach the connections underneath. I put an additional cushion under the driver's seat cover to give me another ¼ to ½ inch in sitting height (you wouldn't even know it is there). They are custom-made for the Miata and fit very well with a little tugging here and there.

I have ordered the UV protectant and the wet suit shampoo from Okole directly. I realize these seat covers need some care to stay as nice as they look now but washing them is easy. You just have to rub them down with the shampoo, rinse them off, and towel dry them. Since they are waterproof you can wash them without taking them off. They need some protection from the sun because neoprene does deteriorate. The UV protectant will provide this and I plan on using my car cover whenever my car is parked in the sun.

One of the pluses with these seat covers is that they are waterproof. I have been caught in a few downpours and my old seat covers needed to be taken off and dried out. Surprise summer T-storms really make a mess if you have your top down. Now I don't have to worry about my seats, just the rest of the car!



Since I ordered through the Serious Auto link on the SAN DIEGO MIATA CLUB web site sandiegomiataclub.org, the club got a 3% cut (See page 2 of this newsletter). They also can be ordered through the Wet Okole web site, but I found their site to be far less informative than Serious Auto's. Serious Auto caters to Miatas and even gave recommendations for colors that look good on a Miata. Delivery took about two weeks because they are custom made (I missed getting them for



the 4th of July parade by one day). There are also local stores where you can buy them.

My new seat covers give my car a much more tailored look. It feels like the rough edges have been sanded off. If you like the tailored look and a really comfortable seat, I recommend these.

— DIANE LONG

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.



PHOTOS DIANE LONG

ZOOM Racing Polo Shirts

New regalia has arrived! For the months of June, July, and August the Regalia Gals will be offering Zoom Racing Polo Shirts. These sporty shirts will come in several different colors with the embroidered SAN DIEGO MIATA CLUB logo. The collar and cuffs display a black & white checkered (Racing Flag) pattern with two small red stripes. The color choices are; Red/w black logo, Blue/w black logo, Light Gray/w black logo, Yellow/w black logo, Purple/w black logo, White/w red logo, Black/w red logo. These fine Zoom Racing Polo Shirts will be available in sizes medium, large, X-large and 2X-large.

The new Zoom Racing Polo Shirts made their debut at the June SAN DIEGO MIATA CLUB meeting. The Regalia Gals showed sample shirts available in all the colors and sizes for viewing pleasure. This allows club members to preview this fine collection of Zoom shirts so they can order exactly what they require. These shirts

are a limited edition and will be sold by order ONLY! Order forms will be supplied by the Regalia Gals. All orders must be paid for in advance. Prices will range from \$26 (M-XL) to \$28 (2XL).

If you have any questions please

call/email your friendly Regalia Gals, ROZ and PAULA.

(858) 271-8498 or (760) 789-3872

regalia@sandiegomiataclub.org



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: New Serious Auto cockpit cover. Never used, just tested. Original price \$40. Yours for only \$35. Window protector, \$20. Diane, djaws@san.rr.com (858) 566-6973.

Wanted: 15 inch OEM wheels.
Stef (619) 297-4272 or stef@miata.net

For Sale: Flyin' Miata springs for '90 to '97 Miatas. If measured from the center of the wheel to the fender lip, your car will lower to 12" - 12.5" in the front and 12.5" - 13" in the rear. \$118. (New \$219).
Stef (619) 297-4272 or stef@miata.net

For Sale: Complete leather package interior from a '96 with 33,000 miles on it. Seats were covered with slip covers and are like new. Includes carpeting, door panels and tan trim

pieces, \$900. Montego Blue body parts from doors back, perfect condition. Aftermarket alloy wheels, 14-inch with good tires, \$150. Also have starter, alternator, compressor and misc. engine, suspension, and body parts including doors, mirrors, rear fenders, lights, and various interior and body parts.

Wally, (619) 232-2801 ext 313, 234-2858, or wallymiata@juno.com

For Sale: 1994 Miata, M-Edition, 108K miles, runs great. Salvage title. \$4999.
Tony, (619) 303-5036

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

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

Geri, 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

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.

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

