




SAN DIEGO MIATA CLUB NEWS



DECEMBER 2003

VOLUME 8 NUMBER 12

DECEMBER EVENTS: SEE PAGES 4-5 FOR COMPLETE DETAILS!

	DECEMBER EVENT	DATE	WHAT TIME	WHERE TO MEET?
	Holiday Toy Drive	Sat. December 6	10:00 AM	Target Center, Poway
	8th Annual San Marcos Holiday Parade	Sun. December 7	10:00 AM	Dalton's Parking Lot San Marcos
	SDMC Holiday Party	Fri. December 12	7:00 PM	San Vicente Inn, San Diego Country Estates, Ramona
	SDMC Monthly Meeting	Thurs. December 18	6:00 PM	Boll Weevil Restaurant, Clairemont Mesa Blvd.
	Julian Pie Run and Christmas Card Lane Tour	Sat. December 20	3:00 PM	Springhill Suites/Wendy's Scripps Poway Parkway

VICE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

FIRE, FIRE EVERYWHERE.

Well by all accounts we weathered the fires, or maybe it was the fires that weathered us? It seems that as a group our only "reported" loss was Scott Lewis' racing wheels and some tools. We were, indeed, lucky considering that many members were evacuated.

Three separate fires, two by arson and one by stupidity, all of them devastating. As "back country" residents, my family and I have been threatened and evacuated by fire many times and each time it is as scary as the last. It's just something that you never get used to, even though I feel we are as ready as we can be for such an occurrence. It seems ironic that our last small fire threat about a month ago and just a block up the road garnered three fire engines, one ambulance, two helicopters, one small fire fighting plane, as well as one huge C-130 fire fighting plane, all within about thirty minutes. Where was this response for our most recent fires ?? Irony seems to be rampant in the fire devastated areas. Our forests were turned into a "Halloween Nightmare" right at Halloween, houses that should've burned were spared, houses that should've been spared were burned, fingers of fire reached out and destroyed one home, leaving its neighbors untouched. In Lakeside a Sparkletts Water plant burned down, and the beautiful trees of Scripps Ranch were reduced to "ashen monoliths".

Many of our favorite rides will now be quite different. Some of the best "twisties" are now in a "twisted" landscape, where the color of the scenery matches the color of the road. Highway 78 from Descanso all the way into Julian is

(Continued on page 2)



(Continued from page 1)

mostly burnt. The camp grounds along the way will not see many campers for a while. The community of Lake Cuyamaca, including Engineers Road, will not seem the same with foundations, chimneys, and blackened trees only a memory of what used to be a great little community in the woods.

Through all of this tragedy there runs a thread of caring, good deeds, and optimism. I think that our club mirrored the community at large with its outpouring of help, care, and concern for the fire victims, as well as the fire fighters. BRAVO, and a hearty "job well done" to our club and communities in this time of adversity.

On a lighter note, let's take a look at the events calendar for the rest of the year. WHEW! Talk about a "full house". We have parades, runs, parties, festivals and a driving school! Special thanks to SUE AND JACK DILUSTRO for sponsoring the "Deja Vu" runs. Why Deja Vu? Because we've done them before! We recycle everything; Jack and Sue said, "why not recycle runs as well"? And remember, if you want to get a cool set of magnetics for you sled, all you have to do is "get the runs"! Anyway, it looks like there is something for everyone in the upcoming weeks. Please don't forget that ROBIN AND MIKE FAIRCLOTH are once again sponsoring the S.D.M.C. Holiday party. If you missed it last year....you blew it, 'cause it was a blast. Don't miss out this year, R.S.V.P Robin A.S.A.P.

As we enter this holiday season with its emphases on home, family, and friends; please keep the hundreds of families who lost their homes in your thoughts and prayers, and be generous to aid them in any way. Let's return to our favorite rides with a new appreciation of how fragile our environment

NEWSLETTER TEAM

Take the time to say "thank you!" to the newsletter team!

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858-486-6771

13000 Danielson St., Suite G Poway, CA 92064
Fax 858-486-6779 signup7@aol.com

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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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. When possible, please e-mail your submissions to the newsletter editor. Submissions may 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) 434-2007
P.O. Box 17253
San Diego CA 92177



NEW MEMBERS

Welcome to our newest members (since last newsletter):

Chris Bamberry
Paulo Metts
Escondido
1990 Red

Daniel & Christine Garcia
Santee
2003 Shinsen (Titanium)

Paul & Brenda Graystone
Alpine
1995 Montego Blue

Billie Hyde
Richard Watson
Gilbert AZ
1991 Red

Graeme Kinsey
Concord
2001 Red LS

Shirl Matson
Santee
1991 White

Ed & Joan Mayne
Escondido
1991 Red

Peter Nadan
Donna Feoranzo
San Diego
2003 Red Club Sport

Kathy & Michael Roach
La Mesa
1997 Red

MEMBERSHIP STATISTICS

As of November 19, 2003, there are 350 memberships (130 single, 220 dual) and a total of 570 members.

Memberships by Miata Color:

87 Red
52 White
35 Black
30 Silver
21 Emerald Green
15 BRG
13 Montego Blue
12 Twilight Blue
11 Yellow
11 Sapphire Blue
10 Mahogany
9 Crystal Blue
9 Mariner Blue
7 Laguna Blue
7 Marina Green
7 Titanium
6 Garnet
6 Midnight Blue
3 Starlight Blue
3 Merlot
3 Strato Blue
1 Splash Green
1 Evolution Orange
1 Laser Blue
1 Teal (custom)
1 Viper Pearl Blue (custom)
11 Unreported

**SHOP HERE!
SDMC REGALIA
MAKES
GREAT HOLIDAY GIFTS!**

We have T-shirts, hats, hooded zip sweatshirts, pins, pens, hat chums, carabineer key chains, and window clings. Pick up your SDMC Regalia at the monthly meeting or e-mail the Regalia Gals for special requests. Something new is coming; details to follow. Watch your e-mail!

Contact the Regalia Gals
VERONICA DIDIER &
KATHY ROBERTS
(858) 578-5727,
regalia@sandiegomiataclub.org.



BADGES?

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

**RENEWING MEMBERS
(SINCE LAST NEWSLETTER):**

Richard Allsopp
Eunice E. Bauman
Cherie Bray
Phil Daoust
Gina Seashore
Annette & Larry Dennstedt
Rudy E. Garcia
Dennis & Maryanne Garon
Steven & Paula Kennison

Bob & Annice Kitterer
Howard Kuzminski
Nancy Madison
Scott Langhoff
JoAnna Kuhl Langhoff
Scott Lewis
Jeff & Kim Penta
Cathy & Jim Phillips
Bruce & Lynne Stanley
Ralph & Chris Vasquez



UPCOMING EVENTS

DEJA VU "HOLIDAY TOY DRIVE"

Saturday, December 6, 2003

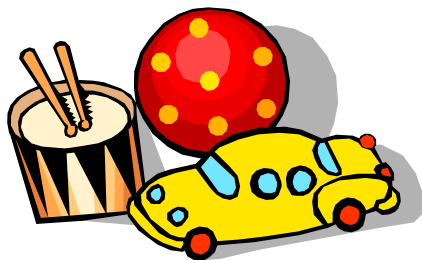
10:00 AM

Run Leader: Lolita Noga
Lolita@gen-probe.com

This will be the second annual Holiday Toy Drive where SDMC members can enjoy the Holiday Spirit by donating new, unwrapped toys for the kids staying at the Ronald McDonald House, while undergoing treatment at Children's Hospital. Gifts for all ages are greatly appreciated, especially for young teenagers.

We will meet at 10:00 AM in the Target Shopping Center at Pomerado Road/Ted Williams Parkway. Take I-15 to Ted Williams Parkway (Route 52), go East approximately 4 miles to Pomerado Road, turn left on Pomerado and then right into the Target Shopping Center.

After hitting a few of the local twisties, we will deliver the toys to the Ronald McDonald House and then head to Giovanni's Pizza on Ruffin Road/Clairemont Mesa Blvd for lunch. Happy Holidays.



DO YOU WANT TO EARN YOUR MAGNETICS?

CALL STEVE WAID AT
760.432.0727

OR EMAIL swaid@cox.net
TO FIND OUT WHAT YOU
CAN DO TO EARN THIS
SPECIAL RECOGNITION.
MAGNETICS CAN BE EARNED
ONLY, YOU CAN'T BUY
THEM ANYWHERE!

8TH ANNUAL SAN MARCOS HOLIDAY PARADE

Sunday, December 7th

Starts at Palomar
College, ends at San Marcos
City Hall.



Meet at Dalton's Roadhouse in San Marcos for Brunch at 10 am, 1/2 mile north of Hwy 78 on Nordahl.

Check out their brunch at
www.daltonroadhouse.com.

We will caravan from Dalton's to the parade staging area, leaving at 11 am. We will return to Dalton's for lunch after the parade. Dalton's will be hosting their monthly car show all day. While on the Dalton's website scroll to Events and then to Car Show to see what that is all about. You will see that SDMC is mentioned as one of their supporting car clubs.

Bring your decorations to decorate your car with a holiday look. If you want to carry "dignitaries" please RSVP to Steve Waid at swaid@cox.net / 760-432-0727. The parade is relatively short, but lively. Focusing on the community and the kids of the area, this has proven to be one of the better organized parades that SDMC participates in.



ANNUAL HOLIDAY PARTY

Friday, Dec. 12
San Vicente Inn at
San Diego Country Estates,
Ramona, CA

Hosts: Mike and Robin Faircloth
RSVP: HawkinLady@cox.net
\$25 per person

Appetizers at 7 pm,
Dinner at 8 pm

Gift exchange: You bring a Miata or car related gift valued at \$25 or less, and take home a gift.

RSVP required.
Mail \$25 per person to
Mike and Robin
before December 8th:
16203 Oakley Road, Ramona 92065

Special room rates are available again this year at the San Vicente Inn (760-789-8290) if you're interested in staying Friday night rather than drive home late. The hotel fills up so call for your reservation as soon as possible.

MONTHLY MEETING

Thursday, Dec. 18, 2003

6 PM at Boll Weevil

9330 Clairemont Mesa
Blvd. SD (858)571-6225



This event is the single best way to meet your fellow club members, ask questions, share stories. Don't miss the fun!

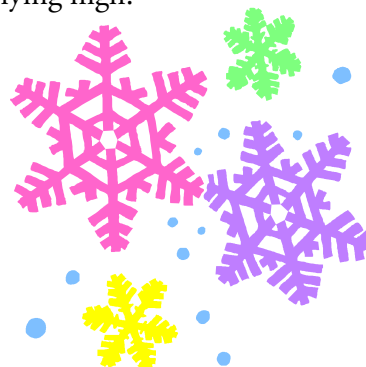
DEJA VU "JULIAN PIE RUN AND CHRISTMAS CARD LANE TOUR"

Saturday, December 20, 2003

3:00 PM

Run Leaders: Jack & Sue diLustro
858-484-2427

This "dessert first" run will leave from the Springhill Suites/Wendy's parking lot at I-15 and Scripps Poway Parkway at 3:00 PM. Take I-15 to Scripps Poway Parkway, exit East and turn left into the first driveway. We will drive to Julian for some Holiday Apple Pie, ice cream or whatever. Then it's off to Rancho Penasquitos to tour the Christmas Card Lane display of more than 100 homes decorated in various Holiday Themes. We have done this run several times and there is always something new to see. Following the drive thru tour, we will go to the Penasquitos Town Center for dinner at Jose O'Reilly's restaurant. There is also a sports deli, Japanese and Chinese restaurants as well as other fast food restaurants if Mexican isn't for you. This drive and tour is guaranteed to keep your holiday spirits flying high.



FUTURE EVENTS

TECH DAY IN RAMONA

Saturday, January 10, 2004
9 AM to 4 PM

MIKE AND ROBIN FAIRCLOTH'S
16203 Oakley Rd
Ramona, CA
(760) 789-5171

MIKE FAIRCLOTH has impact wrenches and most tools available in a five car garage. Space will not be the issue. What would you like to see done? Want to install some new toy? Some basic maintenance? Email Mike with your wishes at fairfalcon@cox.net

MIKE HEINITZ will be available to install windshields at \$144.54 + Tax, \$5 more for shade (tint across the top) includes a new moulding and expert installation. Please email him at mpheinitz@hotmail.com to reserve a time.

TED KESLER will have his products available. Email him in advance at RNNAWAY@aol.com if you know what you want.

TOM THOMPSON will have his oilrelocation kits available. Email him in advance at tommiata@cox.net.

SCOTT LEWIS has arranged for Kenny Key to be there—from Key Floor Care. For \$20.00 per car he will clean your interior, including the cloth seats, floormats, and carpeted foot area only. It will be a hot shampoo treatment.

Swap Meet: Bring that Miata toy that you didn't use or a spare part. Swap or sell some of those kinds of things.

Food will be on a "feed the kitty" basis. Simple food and drink.



DEJAVU "PICNIC AT THE CIRCLE IN BORREGO SPRINGS"

Saturday, January 17, 2004
10:00 AM

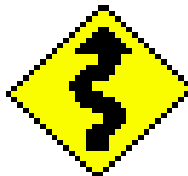
Run Leader: Mary Martin (858)292-4691

We will queue up at Westfield's North County Fair at 10:00 AM for a rain-or-shine drive to Borrego Springs and picnic at Borrego's Christmas Circle in the center of town. Leaving San Diego we will drive on some of our favorite roads up and over the mountains and then drop down into the Borrego Desert for a leisurely lunch and some relaxation. Borrego Springs has several local restaurants which serve some very good and inexpensive foods to eat-in our take to the Circle. Then it's off to the hills with a pie and ice cream stop at Dudley's Bakery/Julian Pie Shop in Santa Ysabel before heading back.



SEARCH FOR MADONNA 2004

May 1-3, 2004
Madonna Inn, San Luis Obispo
(800) 543-9666
Saturday through Monday



In order to be a 2004 Searcher there is little to do. If you want to be able to get the room you want at the Madonna Inn, go to www.madonnainn.com and look through the rooms. Make your selection(s) and call Barbara in group reservations. and she will see that you are included in the group. Be prepared with more than one room choice, just in case your first choice is taken. Then call **Steve Waid** at 760.432.0727 or swaid@cox.net to get on the list of searchers. Email list and more details will be available in March 2004.



SURF n' SAFARI '04 October 14-17, 2004

Surf 'n Safari is a regional event created and organized entirely by volunteers from **SAN DIEGO MIATA CLUB**.

It will be held October 14-17, 2004, the 5th anniversary of our wildly successful Surf 'n Safari 1999 event.

We hope to see your Miata (and you) there!

Check our website for the latest information!
www.sandiegomiataclub.org



MEMBER PROFILE

For Dyanna Smith, it was a case of love at first sight; pure and simple. Oh, not for Les. Rather, her first sight of a Miata, way back in 1990. The new sports car caught her attention with its introduction – and she just had to have one!

We all know size matters. And in the case of the Miata, it just wasn't appropriate for the Smith's automotive needs at the time. So, Dyanna had to forego the Miata ... and the years rolled by.

Neither she nor Les were strangers to sports cars. In earlier lives, Dyanna owned a MBG-GT (butterscotch-colored hatchback); Les a 1971 Porsche 914 (butterscotch and black). Dyanna was driving a 1975 Mazda MX-5 rotary coupe – nicknamed "The Green Hornet" – when the two West Virginia natives met in 1977; they were married about a year later.

Cold weather and a desire to get on with their lives prompted them to move to San Diego in 1987. So, they resigned their jobs, sold the house, and loaded their belongings on a moving van with no other directions to the driver than "go to San Diego. We'll get an address to you by the time you get there." Dyanna flew out with the two cats to find a place to live; Les and their son Sean drove their two cars cross-country.

The Smiths settled in Mira Mesa, and they bought a house there less than a year later. Dyanna resumed her work as a Registered Dental Hygienist, joining Dr. Jeffrey Keeney in Hillcrest a year later; she continues there today. Les put his PR background to work with the San Diego Symphony; afterward he provided adult career counseling services for a La Jolla firm. Today, he's a substitute teacher for San Diego City Schools and will complete work on his teaching credential over the next 15 months.

Back to Dyanna's Miata dream. Her desires began surfacing two years ago, prompting some investigation into Miatas for sale and the fun you can have with them. They learned there was a San Diego Miata Club, and emails were exchanged with several members about what to look for and which were available. All this led to a daylong, five-vehicle test-drive marathon the Saturday after Thanksgiving that ended at Steve and Laurie Waid's home. And true to San Diego Miata Club reputation, they were invited out to dinner with the Waid's and several other members that evening (worn out from the day, they declined).

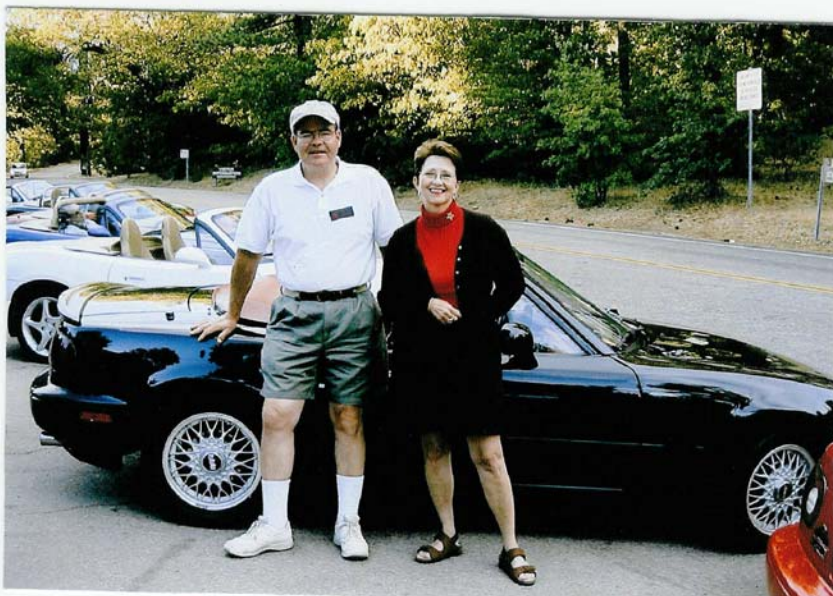
Dyanna and Les bought the second Miata they test drove that day: a one-owner 1993 LE (number 1377 of the 1500 black-with-red-interior models produced that year only). Miata novices, neither recognized the vehicle's significance; Geoff Fähring did, though, and he shot back an order that evening: go buy the LE. And the rest is history.

"Noir" (French for black, for all the uncultured folks) is an outdoor car, yielding her garage space to Les and Dyanna's son. Possessing a feisty temperament, she seems to have worked through her tendency to "boil over" following several therapy sessions recently with Dr. Dennstedt. And while "Noir" loves to go topless, a red tonneau cover has just been added to her wardrobe.

Dyanna is a member of the newsletter committee, organizing the processing of newsletters for mailing. Les is co-chair of next October's Surf 'N' Safari regional event. They also led their first club run in October and worked jointly on the Prequel 250 auction and race.

There is life beyond the SDMC for both. Dyanna is a member of the Mira Mesa Junior Womens Club, active in projects ranging from the feeding of homeless teenagers to working two long days at an evacuation center for Scripps Ranch residents displaced by the October wildfires. Les chairs their church's Administrative Council in addition to his college class work. Grandson Degan also benefits from their help with his homework.

-Tom Sprague



Editor's note: 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

OR let us know and we will write it.

You can also mail it to the Club P.O. Box. Please include a photo.

We want to be able to see your face. Your photo will be returned.



Mazda Check Points for a Dead Battery

The Miata Dark Side is alive and well. Sorry Obi Waid, this one comes from deep within the powerful electrical force of the Miata. Yes Steve, your car is included! Not so fast Dennis, it goes for you too!

Many of us have listened to Larry Dennstedt talk about the electrical charging system of the Miata explaining why the battery on some of our wonderful cars can go dead. With much help from Larry, we may have come up with the answer. No. You didn't leave your dome light on!

"Dark Current" flows from the battery even when the ignition is in the OFF position and the key is removed. This current is used to maintain memory functions in the radio, clock, CPU and other electronic equipment. Current will vary depending on the vehicle's electronic components. Average dark current equals less than 20mA.

Note: If the ignition key is in the ACC position, current flow may be up to 250mA. This amount of current is capable of draining the Miata battery within two to three days.

If any models except M, Edition Miatas have a dead battery, use the following instructions to measure dark current and to determine if the current is excessive.

Dark current checking procedure

1. Turn off the ignition and remove the key from the ignition.
2. Turn off all electrical loads and confirm that the doors and trunk lids are completely closed.
3. Measure voltage from the battery. If it is less than 10V, connect a fully charged battery parallel to the vehicle battery using a booster cable.

Note: Do not disconnect the battery cables during this step. (If the battery cables are disconnected with any circuits that still operate when the ignition switch is removed, the problem symptom may not be duplicated and the correct dark current cannot be measured, even if the cable is reconnected.

4. Use a jumper wire to connect the negative battery cable to the negative battery post.

5. Confirm that the jumper wire is connected and disconnect the negative battery cable.

Note: On vehicles with anti-theft devices, open the hood and disconnect the coupler from the hood switch so that the warning light on the theft deterrent system does not illuminate.

On vehicles with anti-theft audio systems, confirm that you have the proper personal code number.

6. Select "Maximum Amperage Range" (1A or 3A) on the circuit tester and connect the tester.

7. Disconnect the jumper wire and measure the current.

Caution: Do not open the doors or trunk lid during this measurement. Excessive current will damage the tester.

Note: If the measurement range of the tester is not high enough to measure this current, connect the jumper wire first (otherwise the conductivity between the battery cable and the battery is shut off momentarily when the measurement range is changed).

Change the setting to 100mA or 30mA, disconnect the jumper wire and measure the current.

I hope this confuses...I mean, helps answer the dead battery question. If all else fails, get a new battery!

-Scott Lewis, Tech Editor

DOWNLOAD INSTRUCTIONS SDMC MEMBERSHIP LIST

Currently approximately 94% of our members have access to the Internet. This capability allows you, as a club member, access to Yahoo groups. What's so special about Yahoo Groups? This gives us access to all the SDMC email, photo catalogs, and list information. On this site we offer club members a membership list that includes, name (both member and SO), phone number (this field is blank if you request it), car year, car color, license plate, and home city (NOT address or zip). This information is available to members ONLY! To access this information you MUST acquire (FREE!) a Yahoo Group account. Once you have this account setup do this:

1. Go to <http://groups.yahoo.com/> (on left, top of screen you will see sign in section, logon here with name and password) note; most browsers will allow you to save this location with your password and login name. Bookmark this location and everything will be automatic after this point in time.
2. In the upper left corner you will see a section that says "My Groups." Put your cursor on SDMC-LIST and single click the left mouse button.
3. You are now on our group site. You can get to email, photos and other sources. In this case, look in the upper left section and place your cursor over "Database" and single click.
4. You are now in the Database section and you will see a list of available club databases. Single click on the desired database (most current as of this instruction is "July 2003 SDMC Membership Roster.")
5. You are now in the database and you will see a list of all club members. To sort (alphabetize by last name), single click on the field labeled "Last Name." You can sort on any other field you desire.
6. To print; single click on "Printable Report." On your browser go to "File" (upper left corner) and single click. This will drop a pull down menu of file functions. Near the bottom of the drop down menu you will see "Print." Single click this command.
7. A print menu will pop up giving you access to your printer controls (this presupposes that you have a printer hooked up to your computer).
- Once your printer is configured to your liking, single click on the "OK" or "Print" button.
8. Voila! you now have 17 (or so) pages of the SDMC Membership Roster.

-STEVEN KENNISON
President





Vintage racing returns to San Diego

Vintage car racing...an event that I was introduced to at the very first Coronado Speed Festival back in 1998. Since that time I have become addicted. I look forward to Coronado's event each year, and all of the peripheral activities that SDMC attaches to it.

For \$11 I get to have two full days of "car stuff." This year started off early with the meeting for breakfast (It wasn't a real breakfast. You can't consider scones and quiche breakfast.) in Coronado with about 15 other early risers. Stef Gould has been coordinating the "eating of quiche" for a few years now, and it always "jump starts" the day wonderfully. We arrive at the gates to North Island Naval Air Station about the time the Speed Festival gates open. That way we claim the best spots in the Car Club

Corral area, which is just behind the main grandstands.

Because it is Vintage Car Racing I bring our vintage Miata. After all, BUZER is a '92 and a vintage car by Miata standards. I park, open the hood (car show protocol), and head for the test drive area that Chrysler always sets up. There are a number of us in line to drive. Michael Heinitz and I take the new 2004 Crossfire for a little spin. We get our free t-shirts and head for the vendor area. Walking around the vendor area gives us a lay of the land and helps determine what we "just have to have." For three years running, this is where I have purchased my year's supply of Meguiar's Final Inspection at a price I haven't found anywhere else.

After taking my purchase to the car, I begin to notice what happens when you don't get a "real breakfast." I am hungry! Baked Corn on the Cob...what a great idea. Dipped in butter, with salt and pepper, what a treat.

In the background, all of this time, the constant sound of machines practicing on the track. It is time to go watch and hear some race cars. I find a number of SDMC folks already camped out in the grandstands, and join them for the rest of the morning.

Vintage car racing is a sport that allows the spectators to see everything "up close and personal." Not only are the pits open to the public, but also there are guided tours that take place twice each day. The grandstand seating is open, so you are able to move around the course to compare vantage points.

There are 8 groups of cars, basically split by age and speed capabilities. This creates some of the most interesting match-ups that you can imagine. Imagine an 850 cc powered, 800 pound, 1952 Aardvark, racing against a 4638 cc, 2000 pound



Tom Gould's dentist, Don Anderson, in his Bobsy SR3





thundering 1952 Allard K2 through this 11-turn 1.6-mile course.

Even though these are exhibition races, and some of these cars are valued at close to a million dollars, the competitive juices run high in these drivers. We saw some great entertaining racing. As an example, the last race of the day on Sunday, featuring 1970's Trans-am cars saw 4 cars alternate the lead throughout the entire race, with the winner being determined by less than a car length.

Wally Stevens again coordinated a dinner at Tent City in Coronado on Saturday night, and we did have a REAL breakfast at Perry's Diner on Sunday morning. The weather on Saturday was overcast and cool all day, but Sunday was perfect weather, sunny and cool.

Here it is November, and I can't wait until next year. I know this is why there are miataphiles that head to the Monterey Historics every August, but for \$11...what can I say? -Steve Waid

All Photos by Voodoo Bob Krueger.

Top: San Diego Motor sports Hall of Fame inductee Bob Bondurant takes a few parade laps in Steve Earle's Corvette

Right: The Trans-Am leaders roar past the crowd on the front straight

Below: A crowd favorite—D. DeLuna's 1917 Hall Scott



Above: Race organizer Steve Earle races the Ford GT of Wally Stevens' friend Jim Click.



PREQUEL 250

The hype was over. The Prequel 250 race day had finally arrived. The group met on a foggy Sunday morning at Mimi's in Mira Mesa to begin a nail-biting experience with high expectations for their respective favorites. This was like opening day at Del Mar (although the hats were missing!). The group of top-down drivers coursed the narrow twisties up to Escondido through the fog shrouded streets. Just before entering the outskirts of Escondido, the fog lifted. The cars met the North County group at the Arby's on El Norte Parkway, and after a brief restroom stop, began the trek to the racing venue.

After traveling more twisties through Valley Center, San Luis Rey, and the back roads of Fallbrook (many taken for the first time in the memories of most participants), we arrived at the Pala Mesa Resort. We were greeted by a gracious hostess who will be helping coordinate next year's event with our Surf 'N' Safari committee. We were offered room tours, discounts at the pro shop, and invited for a no-host lunch before the business at hand, the race. After lunch, we drove to the race track (just off the golf course), all the while watching for stray golf balls that could be coming from errant golfers at the driving range. Our precious Miatas made it without a hitch.

The course had been preset by Les Smith and his helpers. We all gathered around the track in various groups, but tried to stay close to our favorite entries in the race. A couple of spectators were obviously color blind – Dave Hunt with a green car opted to cheer and wager on the red team. Voodoo Bob wasn't sure which car to back in the race and wore a multicolored hat (yellow, blue, red – whatever suited his mood at the moment – in all fairness, though, he was a sponsor of multiple entries). The betting table opened for business, and all bets were on. Then came the presentation of the racing cars. While each was decked out with unique trim and ads of its sponsors, the most unique was the white car which was driven atop a "blue" radio controlled car that with some difficulty managed to make it to the start line.

The cars moved around a track, the movements controlled by the roll of dice, one for each color car. There were numerous hazards on the track, such as blown engine, tire repair, etc. Almost from the start, the red car was handicapped by a hazard, and never seemed to get up steam after that. It was rumored that the red die was weighted – it didn't roll higher than a three for most of the day. As they raced around multiple laps, and had required pit stops each time, the fans were yelling encouragement for their team. Drivers and pit crew changed at each lap because of the exhausting effort that was expended to race these incredibly fine tuned machines!

As the race wore on into the afternoon, it was evident that the blue and yellow cars were showing evidence of superior design, workmanship, mechanical skills of their crews, and mostly good luck. However the race ended in a photo finish for first place (primarily because the steward had to manually add up the recorded scores as both cars crossed the finish line together. The crowd became restless and was beginning to turn hostile since a lot of money and pride were depending on the officials' decision. As you can note, however, Jack Hinkle took it all in stride (see the picture in last month's newsletter). The yellow car edged out the blue entry by one space in the 250 space course. The black car came in a close third.

All was not lost for the red car (it actually never came close to finishing the race), which won the award for the Best Team Performance. Scott Lewis took honors as the Best Driver, and the white car was voted the Best Overall Racer.

There were over 50 participants in the run for the races, all of whom had a great time. Thanks to Les and Dyanna Smith for organizing the day, and the Surf 'N' Safari crew that helped along with the drivers, pit crews, sponsors, and fans who made this a day to remember. Everyone is now looking forward to the Second Annual Prequel 250 next year. — *Article and photos by Mike Shack*

