

SAN DIEGO MIATA CLUB NEWS



APRIL 2005 VOLUME 4 NUMBER 11

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE: TURNING A NEW CORNER

I have been lucky enough to be elected to the office of the San Diego Miata Club President not once but twice. The rest of the Executive Board members have likewise, been accorded this honor. As I look back the past two years I have to ask myself what the Executive Board has done for the members of the San Diego Miata Club. To start with we have held a total of 24 monthly meetings. I've always enjoyed leading the meetings since I'm sort of an outgoing guy and feel comfortable in front of large groups. I look back on my experience as a Cubmaster when I had to maintain control (?) of 68 Cub Scouts. They didn't care if I made mistakes or acted silly, they just wanted to have fun. Sound familiar? It should, because all of you remind me of those boys, enthusiastic, caring and fun loving. We have eaten a lot of hamburgers together and good naturedly argued the merits of Yellow Cars versus The World. We have had a number of visitors at the meetings discussing a wide range of car products and performance enhancements. I feel that the pre-meeting time is some of the most enjoyable. This is a time to develop friendships, exchange news, bench race and just plain socialize. If you miss the meetings due to scheduling, work, kids or whatever, you should try to make at least a few each year. It is well worth it and can lead to some good fun as well as meeting new friends.

In two years we have had numerous runs. These have ranged from (my favorite) the Puke-O-Rama to the Twilight Run to the Moon Over Miata's Run and everything in between. We have driven all of San Diego County several times over. There is nothing quite like seeing 30 to 50 Miata's of all colors on the road together. I get a real kick out of seeing people stop and stare and spontaneously start smiling and waving. You just can't stop yourself from smiling when you see the reactions from people, especially kids.

We have also had a large number of social events. We have had progressive dinners, gone to car shows, gone to drive-in movies, and generally had a great time together. We have had Tech Sessions and have been lucky enough to have Larry

Continued on page 6

APRIL EVENTS: SEE INSIDE FOR COMPLETE DETAILS!

	Event	Date	Time?	Where to Meet?
	Cruisin' Grand Escondido	Friday, April 1st	6 pm eat 7 pm cruise 9 pm pie	Toms #23 Escondido (see inside for directions)
	Puke-O-Rama 2005	Sunday, April 10th	10 am	Dalton's Restaurant, San Marcos
	SDMC Annual Meeting	Saturday, April 23rd	10:30 am	San Diego Auto Museum, Balboa Park
	SDMC Monthly Meeting	Thursday, April 28th	6:00 pm	Boll Weevil Restaurant, Clairemont Mesa Blvd.
	Meguiars Tech Day	Saturday April 30th	7 am to caravan	Oceanside McDonald's Oceanside Blvd and I-5

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.

NEWSLETTER TEAM

EUNICE BAUMAN, Editor-in-Chief
newsletter@sandiegomiataclub.org

LAURIE WAID, Layout Editor
BRENDA KAY, Features Editor
SCOTT LEWIS, Tech Editor
STEVE WAID, Events Editor
DYANNA SMITH
Mailing Coordinator
BARRY BILLINGSLEY, Ads Editor
ROBIN FAIRCLOTH, Proof Reader

Digital copies provided by:



Banners
Vehicle lettering
Lobby display signs
Window lettering
XEROX copies
Trade shows

858-486-6771

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

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 421506
San Diego CA 92142-1506

MISSION STATEMENT

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

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

Let's have fun driving our Miatas!

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Executive Board

President
STEVE KENNISON
(858) 271-8498
president@sandiegomiataclub.org

Vice President
BRUCE LEWIS
(619) 447-0930
vicepresident@sandiegomiataclub.org

Secretary
SUE HINKLE
(760) 735-9456
secretary@sandiegomiataclub.org

Treasurer
ROZ SCOTT
(760) 789-3872
treasurer@sandiegomiataclub.org

Administrative Board

Membership
LAURIE PATTON &
JUDY RYAN
(619) 434-2007
membership@sandiegomiataclub.org

Events Coordinator
STEVE WAID
(760) 432-0727
events@sandiegomiataclub.org

Club E-mail Postmaster
BOB KLEEMAN
postmaster@sandiegomiataclub.org

Webmaster
DAN GARCIA
webmaster@sandiegomiataclub.org

Club Regalia
VERONICA DIDIER
regalia@sandiegomiataclub.org

Newsletter
EUNICE BAUMAN
(619) 449-4535
newsletter@sandiegomiataclub.org

To send e-mail
to all members of the board:
board@sandiegomiataclub.org

Notices

The SAN DIEGO MIATA CLUB is a non-profit California corporation. The SAN DIEGO MIATA CLUB NEWS is the monthly newsletter of the SAN DIEGO MIATA CLUB. Use of articles or stories by other Miata clubs is hereby granted, provided proper credit is given.

Submissions to the newsletter are welcomed and encouraged. 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.





2005 SAN DIEGO MIATA CLUB ANNUAL MEETING

*Saturday, April 23rd
San Diego Automotive Museum,
Balboa Park
Meeting begins at 10:30 am
Lunch to follow (see below!)*

Come to elect your Club officers for next year!



As you know we will be having our Annual Meeting and board elections on Saturday, April 23rd at 10:30 am. After the smoke has cleared the room and all the tables and chairs have been put up-right, we will have a catered lunch starting around Noon.

The lunch will be catered by Zizzo's Ristorante Italiano, and will consist of pasta, salad, bread, drinks, and if you behave yourself - some cookies! Cost per person will be \$10.00. In order for the caterer to bring the proper amount of food, we will be "pre-selling" this event. There are two ways to obtain tickets(\$10.00 per) 1. Attend the March monthly meeting and contact either Bruce Lewis or Roz Scott or 2. Send your check to Roz Scott, 1123 Poplar St. Ramona Ca. 92065. All requests for tickets must be sent to Roz by Saturday April 16th, so that we may tell the caterer how many people will be attending.

This meeting is also our Annual Awards Meeting, so please come and watch us relieve (kick out) the old Board, and welcome in the the new one, as well as give out rewards for some of our deserving club members who have given their time and talents in the past year and remember - this is your chance to nominate your best friend, or mother-in-law, to a board position at the San Diego Miata Club ! SEE YOU THERE !



IMPORTANT INFORMATION FROM STEVE KENNISON

Fellow Members,

During the past several years, the cost of doing business as a car club has increased significantly. This is due to the increased cost of insurance, awards, newsletter publication and other club associated costs. Due to the increased costs and the dwindling nature of our treasury we will be submitting a proposal at the Annual Meeting to increase the membership fees to a yearly cost of \$35.

A little historic background; back in 1996 a fee of \$20.00 was initiated for a membership. In April (Annual meeting month) of 2000 the fee was increased to the current \$25.00. It is now 5 years later and we believe it is time to increase the dues by a modest amount.

Although SDMC Regalia sales have turned into our "fundraiser" it was never intended to provide the operating capitol for the club. It was always intended to provide a service to the club (which it has). With the large increase in membership over the years, we have become more dependent on regalia sales to fill the funding gap. The profit made by this enterprise goes directly into the operating fund for the SDMC. At this point in time the club cannot operate solely on membership dues. Regalia sales are required to keep us in the black. Unfortunately the past few years have been show-

ing decreasing regalia sales. Although we are continuing our sales and will hopefully reverse this trend we cannot safely rely on regalia funds to pay for our operational costs above the membership dues.

Our by-laws require a majority membership vote to increase the cost of club dues. It also requires that changes be done at a quarterly or annual meeting. On 23 April, 2005 we will be hosting our SDMC Annual Meeting at the Automotive Museum in Balboa Park. During this meeting we will be voting in a new Executive Board to handle the running of the SDMC for 2005/2006. At this meeting we will also be voting on a simple proposal:

Shall the San Diego Miata Club increase its yearly membership dues from \$25/year to \$35/year?

A simple YES will increase the dues (to \$35.00) or a simple NO will keep the dues the same (at \$25.00). No chads to punch, no circles to fill in, just yes or no. :-)

Please use the SDMC list to discuss this issue but please remember that there will be a vote on 23 April. Please be at the Annual Meeting to vote on this important issue and, of course, election of the new SDMC Executive Board.

Kind Regards,
Steven J. Kennison

CONT'D FROM PAGE 1—PREZ MESSAGE

Dennstedt provide his shop for our use during some of these events. It's been really fun to go up and see the folks at Macguires take a "less then pristine" Miata and end up with a car that could easily win first place at a car show.

We have had two major events during this board's two year tenure, The Safety Driving School and SurfN'Safari '04:

The Safety Driving School was a first for our club, but well received. We had over 60 participants spend a Saturday driving a specially constructed course designed to show how to safely control our cars. We used instructors and safety stewards from the Sports Car Club of America (SCCA) to set up and run the school for us. The Southern California Auto-cross Team (one of 5 SCCA clubs in San Diego) graciously acted as our sponsoring club. Using SCCA guidelines and safety rules we were provided an excellent day of learning about car control, proper braking and how to be a better, safer driver. This event was very successful and is still talked about. This would be an excellent event to run bi-annually (hint for the new board).

The second major event was actually more then major. This was a Miata Regional Event that drew Miataphiles from around the world. We had 180 participants at SurfN'Safari '04. This event was an absolute blast! This is the second regional event that the San Diego Miata Club has produced. The last such event (SurfN'Safari '99) was 5 years ago. Maybe the new board (in 5 years) will be interested in putting on another event of this magnitude. Both these events took a lot of work and dedication, not just by the Executive Board but by the extended Board and entire membership as well.

We have had a major change-over in the volunteers that produce our fine newsletter. We have new regalia folks and new people in the membership role, new folks taking over our web site and a new postmaster. We have had changes to

the Fun Team as people step forward to take a turn at helping the members to have successful events.

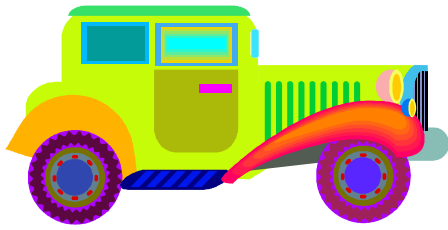
So now my time as president is at an end. I feel a bit of sadness to be leaving office but yet I am very proud to have served in this capacity for two years. I am also excited to turn over the driver's wheel to the next president. This person will be taking this club in new directions and turning a new corner with fresh ideas, attitudes and enthusiasm. I am certain that our new Executive Team will lead us in new directions and accelerate our potential for fun. I am looking forward to watching this progress and intend to participate and have a great time as a SDMC member.

I wish to thank all the people that have helped me keep this club running smoothly and making it an institution that everybody could be proud of. This list is very long so I won't list it here but you know who you are. I have special thanks to my fellow Executive Board members. Bruce, Roz and Sue, I couldn't have done it without you. Not only have you three been great board members but you have become very good friends.

In closing I would like to thank all the members of the San Diego Miata Club for taking a chance by electing me and then having the faith that I would come through as a good president.

Keep the Shiny Side Up!
Steven J. "Nails" Kennison





Cruising' Grand Friday, April 1, 2005 6 PM

Steve and Laurie Waid
760-432-0727 swaid@cox.net

Every Friday night from April through September, Escondido opens up Grand Avenue for cruising. On the first Friday of every month San Diego Miata Club members meet at Tom's #23, at 6 pm to eat before leaving at 7 pm to cruise Grand. After taking Grand a couple of times, we park and then walk Grand. You will see Hot Rods, Street Rods, Muscle Cars, Restorations, Motorcycles and more. A fun "Blast from the Past."

After cruisin' and walkin' Grand, we will drive the short distance to the Waid's for pie. This will be a full evening of car fun for car people.

Tom's #23 is located on the Southwest corner of Centre City Parkway and 5th Street. Exit on Centre City Parkway from Interstate 15.

Puke O Rama 2004 Sunday, April 10, 2005 10 AM

Leaders: Steve and Laurie Waid,
swaid@cox.net

The launch and the finish of the seventh annual Puke will take place this year in the new covered and enclosed patio of Dalton's Roadhouse. A \$10 buffet brunch will be served to us as a special provision by Dalton's beginning at 10 am. The drivers meeting will begin at 11 am in the patio.

The design of the Puke is to place back to back, the twistiest roads that we can find, with the results being smiles on the faces of the drivers and a tendency to make the co-pilot's stomach a little unsettled.

Smaller groups of cars (10 to 15) with staggered starts enhances the fun. The "Daffodil Group" will again be led by the lovely Laurie Waid in her award winning Sunburst Yellow. Because the patio sits above the parking lot, we will be watching as the first group launches.

The groups will begin returning to Dalton's at approximately 4 pm. As we gather together to embellish upon our driving prowess as demonstrated during the Puke, we will again have the patio area and the wonderful menu of Dalton's.

Commemorative and collectable

2005 Puke O Rama barf bags will again be available for all participants. These "treasures" are a sought after commodity at each Puke.

As always, the Puke is "SOCALM" friendly. It is scheduled on an open date in the SOCALM events calendar (at least it is as of this writing)...it starts and ends in North San Diego County near the Highway 78/ Interstate 15 interchange...brunch at 10 am, and finishes between 4 and 5 pm at Dalton's again.

Directions to Dalton's: 200 yards North of Highway 78 on Nordahl. Nordahl is the first exit West of Interstate 15 on Highway 78. From Interstate 5, take Highway 78 East to Nordahl and the exit will be just before the Interstate 15 interchange.



Meguiar's Car Care Detailing Day Saturday, April 30, 2005

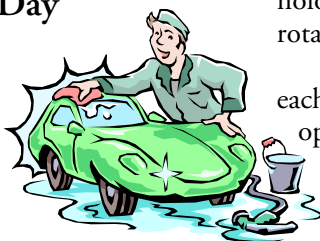
7:00 a.m. Meet to caravan to
Meguiar's Inc.

17991 Mitchell South, Irvine, CA
714.809.2628

CONTACT(S): Ken Hurd or Steve Waid
Donuts and coffee at 8:30am; class starting at 9:00am.

Are you ready to learn more about detailing your car and how Meguiar's products can help you? Well here's our chance.

The class will involve hands on demonstrations that will include Meguiar's five step paint care cycle, Meguiar's Consumer line of products including the NEW NXT Generation line, Meguiar's Professional line including Nikken Finishing papers, Compounds, Cleaner/Polishes, Pure Polishes and Paint Protectants, as well as using Meguiar's foam pad tech-



nology and you will learn techniques for using your hands, rotary buffers and the Porta Cable Dual-Action Polisher.

Not only will we learn all these wonderful things, but we each participant will receive a Meguiar's Gift Bag. What an opportunity this is for the members of SDMC!

Due to the limited size of the Meguiar's facility, we are only able to have 30 cars/people. I have been asked to stress the 30 people part due to the limited space - couples are welcome, but please make sure that who you bring will truly enjoy this event and will benefit from it. Otherwise, please allow the spaces to be taken by those with cars who want to learn about the Meguiar's product line.

DIRECTIONS:

We will caravan from the Oceanside McDonalds at 7 am. That will give us time to get to the Meguiar's facility in Irvine in time for the donuts. Exit Interstate 5 at Oceanside Blvd, one exit north of Highway 78. If traveling north on I5 the off ramp will "dump" you right into McDonalds.

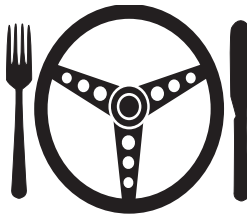


APRIL EVENTS

Monthly Meeting Thurs, April 28, 2005

6 PM at Boll Weevil
9330 Clairemont Mesa Blvd. SD
(858)571-6225
(meeting starts at 7 PM)

This event is the single best way to meet your fellow club members, ask questions, and share stories. Come eat and chat with your Miata friends, then get the scoop on what's hap-



Search for Madonna 2005 May 7th through 9th

This is the 7th year in a row that the Search for Madonna has left San Diego and headed toward the fabulous Madonna Inn in San Luis Obispo. What are we searching for, you ask. Well...FUN, of course. The Madonna Inn becomes our headquarters as we drive, eat, explore, tour, and anything else that we can think of.

This year's Search has a few changes from previous editions. Saturday night will be a "free night" to do whatever you want. Several Searchers have previously shown an interest in taking the evening tour at Hearst Castle. Others will likely take advantage of either the restaurant at the Inn, or one of the many eateries on

the California Central Coast. Morro Bay, Cambria, Moonstone Beach, and Old San Luis Obispo are relatively close.

Saturday afternoon will include a fun run called the "Grand San Luis Obispo Tour" which gives everyone a two hour view of the area and some great roads.

Sunday morning will take us to the annual Morro Bay Car Show for a few hours before we head back to the Inn to meet up with our hosts from the area. Bill Findley will again lead us on a Sunday afternoon run that will go north this year. Our final destination, for dinner, will be Big Bad Bubba's BBQ in Paso Robles. After dinner we will head back to the Inn for our annual "room hopping." This is the time we spend touring each others selection of room from the 109 unique rooms that the Madonna Inn has to offer.

It is not too late to become a Searcher. All you have to do is go online to the Madonna Inn's website at www.madonnainn.com and browse through the rooms. Pick out a few so that when you call Barbara in group reservations you can be prepared in case your selection is already reserved. Once you have reserved your room, email or call Steve Waid with your room name and room number, and who the Searchers in your party will be. Then sit back and wait.

If you want to take the Hearst Castle night tour go to www.hearstcastle.org and reserve for the tour. The date is Saturday, May 7th. Try for one of the later times so that you have time to eat after the Saturday afternoon run that ends about 5:30.

Steve Waid swaid@cox.net
(760) 432-0727



Arizona Weekender June 10th to June 12th Phoenix and Prescott

Many of you will remember that even though plans fell through for a large regional event last year, our friends from The Sahuaro Miata Club helped us make the smaller event - Not Quite Cactus Cruisin' - a big success. They hosted a good sized group of SDMC members for a weekend in No. AZ. that all who attended enjoyed. Well, they're doin' it again!

We were contacted by Ben Cleaves from Sahuaro, and working with Ben and Rook Younger, they have put together an event that promises to be as good or better than last years.

First, the contingent from SDMC will travel to Phoenix on Friday, June 10th. We will stay somewhere in the East Phoenix Valley that night. A dinner that evening is being planned. On Saturday morning, the SDMC group with the Sahuaro members will leave Phoenix and head up the Beeline to the Rim Country where we will have lunch (probably) at Happy Jack Lodge. From there we will head to the Verde Valley and through Jerome to our final destination in Prescott.

Arrangements for a block of rooms



in Prescott and a final dinner somewhere in Prescott or P.V. for Saturday evening is underway..

Final plans and details of this event is underway, so keep the weekend of June 10-12 open. All Sahuaro members will be invited to dinner on Friday night in The Valley, lunch at Happy Jack on Saturday and dinner on Saturday evening. Additionally, any Sahuaro members that wish to spend Saturday night at the host hotel in Prescott are more than welcome.

You will be notified just as soon as we have worked out all of the arrangements. We still need to find a host hotel in Phoenix (we may have a surprise for everyone!) and a place for dinner on both nights.

As we said, keep the weekend of June 10-12 open and be sure to join us for Cactus Cruisin' - The Sequel or as Steve Waid has called it...The Revenge!

Steve Waid - swaid@cox.net
Ben Cleaves - azroadster@cableone.net



THE BORREGO SPRINGS RUN—BY TOM WOOD

SDMC joined by the SOCALM Club met in semi-sunny southern California, to travel the roads looking for the event filling flowers that have sprung from the ground to please those that love Mother Nature's beauty.

Twenty-two cars joined in a continuous line, forming a Miata Rainbow of Colors to compete with the color of the flowers and the rainbows in the sky. It was cool but not cold, sunny and cloudy, but it was a dry run, a fun run. There were flowers everywhere we looked, not only in Borrego but on the roadsides, hills and valleys along the way.

After a trip through the mountains and down into the valley, we stopped in Borrego Springs for lunch. We all took off in different directions ending up in many of the small restaurants for a bite to eat.

After lunch we all headed out to see the flowers of the Borrego valley. The fields were covered in lavender and blue, spotted with yellow and other colors. Parking alongside the road we got out and ventured out into the fields taking pictures of the flowers.

Afterwards many of us headed into Julian for the pie and ice-cream delights. Some had an early dinner then headed home. It was another wonderful shared experience of Miata's, driving, and eating fun. What will next year bring? Guess you will just have to plan on joining us and seeing for yourself.



Photo by Tom Wood



Photo by Tom Wood

CANDIDATE PROFILE JASON BRENT - CANDIDATE FOR TREASURER

My wife, Joy, and I have been members of the SDMC for four years and I feel it is time to give something back to a group that has offered so much to us. I have worked in accounting for many years and have served as treasurer for another non-profit group in the past. I would like the opportunity to serve the club and would appreciate your vote at the annual meeting. Thank you, Jason



Twelve months ago, The SDMC gathered at Grossmont center for an impromptu run. At the driver's meeting Deb and I noticed two friendly but unfamiliar people standing by an emerald green Miata. It turns out that this was a couple who came to San Diego for, no joke, a rocket scientist convention. Tony Healey and Julie Etches landed late Friday night and rented a Miata. They found our website and saw the event scheduled for the next day. Though they had stayed up all night, they decided to join in.

We had great conversations during the run and spent time with them during the balance of their stay. Since they planned to return annually, we kept in touch and planned to see them upon their return. What better way to welcome them back than to make them the guests of honor at another run? (Besides, they offered to let us stay over for the Goodwood Festival of Speed).

This is our first time leading a run and I thought a planned impromptu was the way to go. Obi-Waid (aka Steve) convinced us to change this from a planned impromptu run to a Fun Run so we could earn magnetics. "The British Are Coming...Again Run" was off to a great start.

Up until the day of the run, the weather continued its relentless downpours. It looked as though we would be rained out, but Sunday came with a bright sun and blue skies. What a day! Twenty little Technicolor jewels with fun loving drivers and co-pilots set off from Grossmont Center.

During our driver's meeting, I described our pace as leisurely so we could enjoy the view and lower our risk of shunts caused by rockslides. However, run leader Deb "Schumacher" Ross got a Honda S-2000 in her crosshairs and off we went.

"Deb! Deb!! I'm serious. Let the Honda go."

"No way man! He's all mine. Sit over there and stop whining."

Off we went through Crest, Harbison Canyon and past the full-to-capacity Loveland reservoir. The scenery was a spectacle of green grass, rushing streams,

and vibrant wild flowers of every color. We pulled into Decanso for a stop at the local General store. The store manager personally thanked the SD Miata Club for raising her monthly profits by 500%. Drive, eat, drive, eat.

I wish I could take credit for arranging the Girl Scout troop to do cheers and provide cookies for us at our pit stop, but I can't. The most unexpected moment was when Big Bird stepped in and led a cheer. Oh! I just realized this was Obi Waid in the pictures. A little Photo-Shop work ought to fix that!

Back on the road through Lyons Valley, where the road twisted and cut through steep hills and bordered picturesque ranches. Fortunately, we were spared any rockslides or mud bogs from the recent heavy rains, and we got a free carwash as we waded through one stream pouring over the road.

On to Jamul and a fabulous finish at the Princess Pub in Little Italy. I must admit, the Guinness Stout and authentic pub grub really hit the spot. We tipped our glasses in honor of our fellow Miata-philies from the UK: Tony (from Manchester) and Julie (from Wales), Chris from Glasgow, Scotland, and Beverly and Chris from England. And the rest of us displaced, wanna-be, wish-I-were driving in Ireland/Scotland/England/Wales-ers

just had fun.

Thanks to all the runners! Special thanks go to Obi Waid for talking up the run. I'm really glad his wicked attempt to keep the run small by putting the wrong date in the newsletter backfired. His plan did seem to keep the yellow cars to a minimum, however. Thanks to Laurie Waid for, uh, "volunteering" herself as run sweep. And thanks to the Art and John Radio Team for outfitting Tony and Julie with CB radios. Theirs worked better than ours!

So reader and fellow member, if you have not put on a Fun Run yet, let me encourage you to do so. It is a rewarding experience. As a matter of fact, we are in the midst of planning another run. So, watch for the upcoming "IdyllWILD-Thang" Fun Run.



Our British Guests—Photo by Bob Pfeiffer



Websters describes the word "unique" as- 1. one and only 2. different from all the others 3. singular; unusual; extraordinary; rare. That being said, I can truly say that Steve and Laurie Waid's City Tour on Saturday, February 19th was "UNIQUE"

The Waid's threw out the rule book on this one- no run leader, no sweep, no que ups, no CB Radio instructions, no waiting for stragglers. What we did get when we arrived at West-field's North County Fair Mall, was run instructions with a "twist", (sorry, no twisties!). The run consisted of four stops- 1. San Diego Auto Museum, 2. Old

Town, 3. Mount Soledad, 4. Back to North County Fair. The run instructions had mileages and turns but the difference in this run was that it was "totally free-style". Everyone was free to make their way to the next stop as small groups, or independently. You could follow the run instructions or do your "own thing" to get to the next stop. The run instructions had a departure time listed for each stop, so that you knew when the "re-united" group would be charging off to the next destination. Trying to lead a group of 15 or more cars through busy city streets, is like a mother duck trying to keep all of her ducklings together when there is a storm on the lake. Miatas, like ducklings get scattered all over the place! The beauty of the Waid's run is that there was no "mother duck", and every one could work their way through traffic and arrive at the next destination. The run was totally suited for its environment!

So how did it work out? - It went

great, everyone made it to the next destination without any problems. After the Auto Museum, Old Town was our lunch stop and once again everyone was "free" to park and eat wherever and then leave at the prescribed time for Mount Soledad where the view was splendid. The only down side to the run was the rain, but that seems to come standard with our runs lately, I wonder if it's drier in Seattle? There was one brave soul,(fool?) in a 10AE that went top down for most of the run....Hey- all you have to do is keep it over 45 MPH... Right??

I liked this run because it showed that you don't have to stick to the same run format. You can custom tailor the run to the conditions on the run. I know that there are a lot of creative people in this club.. got any ideas ?? Kudos to Steve and Laurie for a creative run and a nice day!



Entertainment at the pitstop— Photo by Ed Langmaid



ABE MARA: A DO-IT-YOURSELF CAR GUY—BY JAN WAGNER



Even if cost was not a factor, I suspect Abe Mara would not have bought the new turbo Miata from Mazda. You see, Abe is a do-it-yourself car guy. He likes taking apart perfectly good cars and making them better, faster and more fun. That, and the fact that by doing much of the work himself he could save some money, led Abe to his decision to install – among other improvements, a turbo kit in his bright red 2000 Mazda Miata.

I had been following Abe's progress on our San Diego Miata Club email digest. From time to time he would post a question to our group, some members of which are quite skilled in working on Miatas. Eventually I contacted Abe to congratulate him on sticking with it. Shortly thereafter I decided to profile him in AutoMatters.

When I visited Abe recently at his San Diego home, his work was nearly done. The car was parked in his garage. It

looked much like any other Miata. That, of course, was the idea. Looks can be deceiving. In this case, they definitely are.

He bought his year and a half old Miata at a very good price because it had what is called a 'salvage title.' He explained to me that an insurance company had basically written it off after it was involved in an accident. Even though it did not have critically serious damage, it would have cost more to fix than the insurance company determined it was worth. It had front end damage and the airbags had deployed. Abe did not, however, have to fix his car (for the most part) because he bought it from someone who used to buy salvage title Miatas, fix them and claimed to resell 30 to 40 of them per year at a big discount off of what a similar, non-salvage title car would cost. Abe was very happy with his purchase.

Abe's goal was to install a turbo in his

new car. He found the Internet to be a valuable source of information. Aside from our San Diego Miata Club's list (for more information you can go to www.sandiegomiataclub.org), Abe also got answers to his questions through www.MiataPower.Net, www.RealBig.com/Miata and www.Miata.Net. An Internet search on the word Miata will no doubt produce many other sources of help. There are all sorts of lists around.

Visible externally, changes to Abe's car included new Kosei wheels from San Diego's Good-Win Racing (www.good-win-racing.com). I've shopped from them and can tell you that they stock and sell all kinds of good stuff for Miatas. The wheels are also available, complete with your choice of tires, from The Tire Rack (www.tirerack.com).

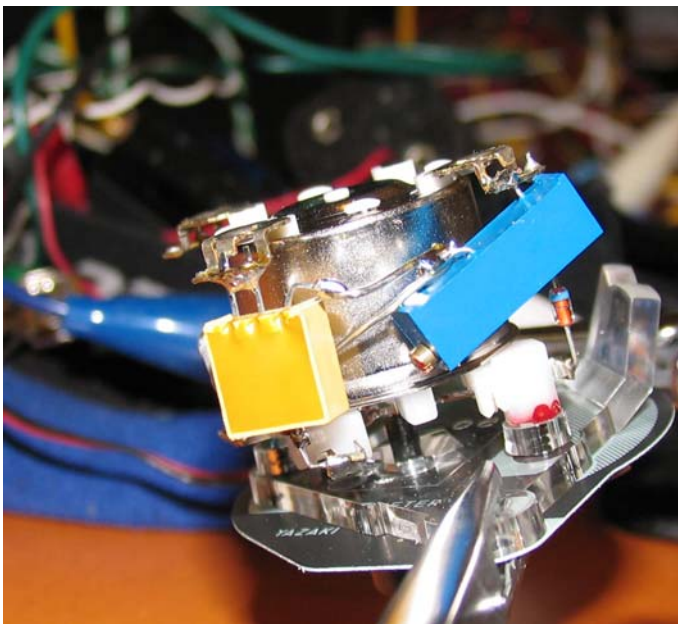
At the heart of Abe's car is a turbo. If you want to make a Miata go really fast, Flyin' Miata (www.FlyinMiata.com) is another good place to look. With the goal of saving some money, Abe shopped carefully and then bought his slightly used (about three months on the road) Flyin' Miata FM II turbo kit on eBay.

Little escaped Abe's attention to detail and tweaking, from the underlying electronics of the water gauge and what he described as a "fake" oil pressure gauge, to the big stuff. Abe's do-it-yourself installation did not have its share of problems, like finding metal bits in the oil pan, discovering a bad wastegate actuator and bending some rods (between the crank and the pistons). However, he carefully and methodically addressed each problem. The result is a turbo-charged Miata that he thoroughly knows, understands and can keep running at its peak.

As always, I look forward to hearing from you at AutoMatters. Please send your email to AutoMatters@Yahoo.com.

© 2005 Jan R. Wagner – #140 AutoMatters





Photos by Jan Wagner



LOOKING AHEAD

SAVE THE DATES!

CAR SHOW ON THE LAWN

JUNE 4

DEL MAR FAIR CAR SHOWS

JUNE 15 AND JUNE 18

**CREST INDEPENDENCE DAY PA-
RADE**

JULY 4

TWILIGHT RUN

JULY 30

DEBBYE DOES SANTEE DRIVE-IN

AUGUST 6

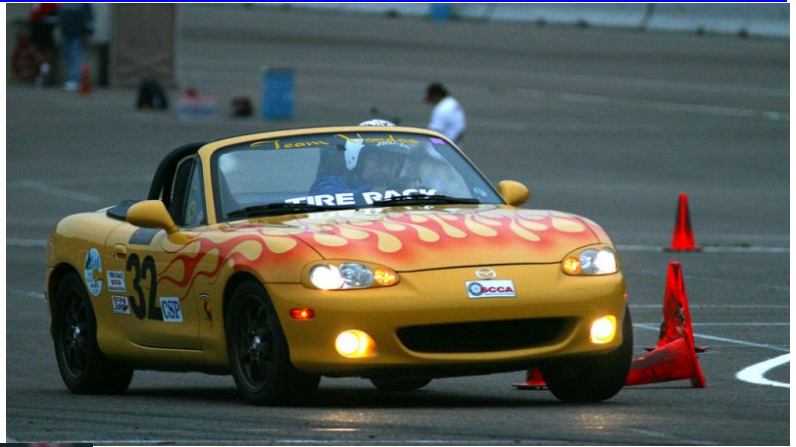
MOON OVER MIATAS

AUGUST 20



SCCA National Tour
March 12 and 13 , 2005
San Diego Qualcomm Stadium

Obi Waid's Flame Car



Steve Coe in George Doganis' Miata.



Bill Schenker's Miata



THE NC—IS THIS WHAT WE HAVE BEEN WAITING FOR?

Photo courtesy of AWR Racing.com
THE NEXT GENERATION OF SPEC MIATA
ZOOM-ZOOMS TO LIFE



Photo courtesy of Mazda website



NEW MEMBERS

As of March 13, 2005 there are 301 memberships—(110 single, 191 dual) and a total of 492 members.

Welcome to our newest members (since last newsletter):

Marcus Hunter
LEO
Vista
1991 Silver

David Deseguirant
San Marcos
1993 Red "B"

Janet Enright
Santee
2003 Lazer Blue

Ray & Kathe Gogolewski
Oceanside
2003 White

Ken Hunter
Wildomar
2002 Midnight Blue

Mike and Theresa Kopp
Encinitas
2004 Black Cherry

John & Toni Laurence
San Diego
1997 Red

Rick Malakoff
Escondido
1991 BRG

Darlene Snyder
Oceanside
2000 Silver

Mamiko Suzuki
San Diego
1999 Black

MEMBERSHIP STATISTICS

Memberships by Miata Color:

83 Red
44 White
28 Black
23 Silver
14 Titanium
12 Montego Blue
10 Emerald Green
9 Yellow
9 Sapphire Blue
8 Mariner Blue
7 Mahogany
5 BRG
6 Twilight Blue
6 Crystal Blue
6 Midnight Blue
5 Starlight Blue
4 Laguna Blue
4 Strato Blue
3 Marina Green
3 Garnet
2 Splash Green
2 Merlot
1 Evolution Orange
1 Laser Blue
1 Black Cherry
4 Unreported

RENEWING MEMBERS (SINCE LAST NEWSLETTER):

Donald Armstrong
Anita Allenby-Armstrong

Eugene Arrey

Larry Fimon
Susan Thom

Charlie & Lisa Kilgore

Debbye & Bruce Lewis

Joel & Julie Otsuka

Bob Pfeiffer
Deb Ross

Glenn & Amy Roger

Wilson Seto

**SDMC REGALIA
MAKES A GREAT GIFT!**

**SUPPORT YOUR CLUB AND
HAVE SOME GREAT CLUB
WEAR!**

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 & LINDA PAYNE
and SANDRA BOELTER.
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.



This page of member discounts and classified ads has been removed. For the latest member discounts and classified ads, please download the current newsletter from:

<http://www.sandiegomiataclub.org/newsletters>