

SAN DIEGO MIATA CLUB NEWS



JUNE 2005 VOLUME 6 NUMBER 11

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

V is for Victory. . .not so, in my mind it is for Volunteering. Volunteering to run for an elected office seemed the right thing to do for a club that is near and dear to my heart. Why? Because the San Diego Miata Club has enriched our lives in so many ways. Of course I have a permanent "V" stamped on my forehead - - so here I am volunteering once again.

In 1993, when Jack purchased our Miata, I had no idea how much this little sports car would change our lives. This was long before SDMC was organized and we spent our weekends driving in and around San Diego in search of twisties. Then in August of 1996 we attended our very first Miata run. Mark and Kathy Booth's famous "Twilight Run". Jack and I had more fun than a barrel of monkeys on moonshine. There were times when Jack's aggressive driving found me griping on with white knuckles but I still loved the thrill of riding in the little red car.

As new club members we were welcomed with open arms and soon found that we were no longer driving alone searching for twisties. We were driving with groups of 30, 40 50 and even 80 Miata's on runs that had been organized by other members. Joining the SDMC was the best thing ever as we found a place where we could share our passion with others for a great roadster, the Mazda Miata. Being a member of SDMC and participating in many Miata events has given us the opportunity to meet many wonderful folks, many who have become life long friends and our extended family.

During the last eight years I have volunteered for many club activities, events, co-chaired two regional events and have held the office of Secretary for the last two years. Why, this is my way of giving back and I've enjoy every minute of it.

Here we are in 2005, with SDMC in its 9th year and through the confidence of our membership you have elected me to serve as your President. This past year has been a busy year for the Executive Board and volunteers as we pulled off another top notch regional event. Many thanks to Steve Kennison for steering us through the last two years, to Bruce Lewis for

(Continued on page 4)

JUNE EVENTS: SEE INSIDE FOR COMPLETE DETAILS!

	Event	Date	Time?	Where to Meet?
	Cruisin' Grand Escondido	Friday, June 3rd	6 pm eat 7 pm cruise 9 pm pie	Toms #23 Escondido (See inside for directions)
	Miatas at the San Diego County Fair in Del Mar	June 12th, 19th, 26th, & July 3rd	10 am	See inside for directions
	Cactus Cruisin' - The Sequel	June 10th to June 12th		TBD
	Petersen Automotive Museum Tour	Saturday, June 25	8:30 am	Oceanside McDonald's parking lot on the south side of Oceanside Blvd. and just east of I-5
	SDMC Monthly Meeting	Thursday, June 23rd	6 pm	Boll Weevil Restaurant, Clairemont Mesa Blvd.

NEW MEMBERS

As of May 15, 2005 there are 291 memberships (103 single, 187 dual) and a total of 477 members.

Welcome to our newest members (since last newsletter): (12)

Andy & Angie Allen
Cardiff
1991 Green

Pelton & Lesley Barnes III
San Diego
1991 Mariner Blue

Sylvia Carruthers
San Marcos
1991 White

Mary & Larry Clark
Escondido
2002 White with Tan

Ray & Christine Corbyons
San Marcos
2002 Crystal Blue

Matt Flynt
Carlsbad
1993 Black with Tan

Diane & Bruce Hartcorn
Fallbrook
2002 Silver

Sam Kesler
Oxnard
1993 White

Carl & Cheryl Kuck
Del Mar
2002 Yellow

Neil Monastero & Anita Helenihi
Escondido
1999 Blue 10 AE

Irene & Clay White
Chula Vista
2001 Crystal Blue

Walter Wong
San Diego
1993 Black

MEMBERSHIP STATISTICS

Memberships by Miata Color:

Memberships by Miata Color:

- 74 Red
- 48 White
- 27 Black
- 17 Silver
- 13 Titanium
- 13 Montego Blue
- 10 Yellow
- 9 Sapphire Blue
- 9 Mariner Blue
- 8 Mahogany
- 8 Emerald Green
- 7 Twilight Blue
- 7 Crystal Blue
- 5 BRG
- 4 Midnight Blue
- 4 Starlight Blue
- 4 Laguna Blue
- 4 Garnet
- 3 Marina Green
- 2 Strato Blue
- 2 Merlot
- 2 Splash Green
- 1 Laser Blue
- 1 Black Cherry
- 3 Unreported

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):

Renewing members (since last newsletter): (32)

- Tom & Paula Anderson
- Robert & Celeste Aylor
- Ken & Barbara Barton
- Barry & Shirley Billingsley
- Mara Caler & Ron Chapman
- Chuck & Jean Cole
- Jack & Sue Dilustro
- Jeanette Driver
- Geoff Fahring & Xavier Castillo
- Steven Fortson & Nina Lott
- Bruce Furbush & Roseanne Meyerhoff
- Joe & Diane Garrison
- Sally & "MG" Hill
- John & Dee Horsman
- Dave & Pamela Hunt
- Barry & Nancee Kershaw
- Vicki & Bryan Kiehl
- Dustin Lewis & Andrew Locke
- Gordon A. Long
- Diane Long
- Mary Martin & Norm Chabot
- Daniel & Joanne Moceri
- Linda & Peter Payne
- Troy & Jeanne Ray
- Paul Rolzin
- Richard Scherschel
- Michael & Elinor Shack
- Helen Sharp
- John & Barbara Templeton
- Tom & Dona Thompson
- Jan Wagner
- Reni & James Williams



SDMC REGALIA MAKES A GREAT GIFT!

SUPPORT YOUR CLUB AND HAVE SOME GREAT CLUB WEAR!



T-SHIRTS, HAWAIIAN SHIRTS
HATS, HAT CHUMS,
HOODED ZIP SWEATSHIRTS,
PINS, PENS, 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.

Have you signed up for the “Greatest Show on Turf”? Last year’s winner was Mark Booth.
Photo by Mark Booth



MAINTENANCE CHECK

Preventive maintenance is a key component of an enjoyable Miata experience. Lift up the hood and check underneath every 3,000-5,000 miles to lessen the likelihood of getting hit by a big surprise!

H S Y O Y B E J A Y C L T G C D
 T T G H I G H I D H J T N A H T
 W S J U A L R U E B I D U P E L
 G V E E L F F C X R M W O S C E
 X U L T I P K I E E N F C P K B
 S I L L D B K R L M W X S A B G
 M P T P E A O R Y T W V I R R N
 Q E A L N T O M A R E C D K A I
 R Z T W A I C R P P O R C P K M
 Y S G T A C A G B I S W M L E I
 E C I V R E S R O J A M D U S T
 C O O L A N T D D Y G W S G D G
 N Q E C H E C K F L U I D S F D
 S E S O H K C E H C I V F O C G
 F U E L F I L T E R H O M F J Q
 O W L I O E N I G N E X Q A N K

AIR FILTER
 CHECK BELTS
 CHECK BRAKES
 CHECK FLUIDS
 CHECK HOSES
 COOLANT
 ENGINE OIL
 FUEL FILTER
 GAP SPARK PLUGS
 MAJOR SERVICE
 MILEAGE
 OIL DRAIN PLUG
 OIL FILTER
 ROAD TEST
 SDMC DISCOUNT
 SPARK PLUGS
 TIMING BELT
 TIRE ROTATION

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(Continued from page 1)

keeping us humored and for keeping Steve in line, to Roz Scott for keeping the checks and balances in order. A special thank you to our Newsletter Team for the time and effort put forth in getting a first-class newsletter to our members each and every month. Obi Waid and the Fun Team, thanks for your creativity in organizing some of the best events ever. Lastly, hats off to those of you who volunteer so willing for the many other positions it takes to make a club run well.

Although I will be at the helm, our newly elected Executive Board, along with appointed positions, volunteers and members will keep SDMC running like a fine Mazdaspeed - Velocity Red that is! As someone famous or maybe not so famous has quoted "It Takes a Village". Well folks, "It Takes A Great Group of People", twisty roads, loads of eating establishments, camaraderie, tons of activities and most of all, a wonderful little roadster to keep the San Diego Miata Club zooming along. So don't hold back, plan a run, host an event, or let me know how you would like to volunteer. Together we can make this another stellar year for the San Diego Miata Club.

I look forward to a G . . . R . . . E . . . A . . . T . . . year!

Sue Hinkle
Your New Prez



MEMBER PROFILE—JERRY BOSTER, VICE PRESIDENT, SDMC

SDMC Member Profile

(A new style profile of club members, beginning with one of our new officers.)

Name: Jerry Boster

Nickname: none

My Miata: '93 Classic Red

Nickname for my car: Reddy

License plate: RDDY2RN

Miata Club member since: 2000

Club responsibilities: Run leader / run sweep

Elected office(s): Vice-President

Favorite after-market buy: Script “Miata” grill cover and Autopower Rollbar

Lesson learned on first Run: Make sure you do a good pre-run with your directions (our first run was Hangover 2001 where there were two wrong turns in the directions on dead end roads)

What I do when I'm not on a Run: Eat, drink wine, read,
work on plans for the house we'll build one day

What I like best about my Miata: How I feel when I am driving the car

What I like least about my Miata: Perception that it is a “chick” car

Sports car philosophy: Eat – drive – eat (wait isn't that the SDMC motto)

Pet Peeve: People who flick cigarettes out the window

Occupation: U.S. Naval Officer, presently Damage Control Assistant on USS Ronald Reagan

Business: U.S Navy

Birth Day: August 10th

City where I live: Coronado, CA

Education: BS in Mathematics from the United States Naval Academy
and Diploma from the United States Naval War College

Hobbies: Cooking, eating good food, drinking good wine, reading and
SDMC (of course)

Three greatest passions: good food, good wine, service to country

Favorite quote: No problem, mon

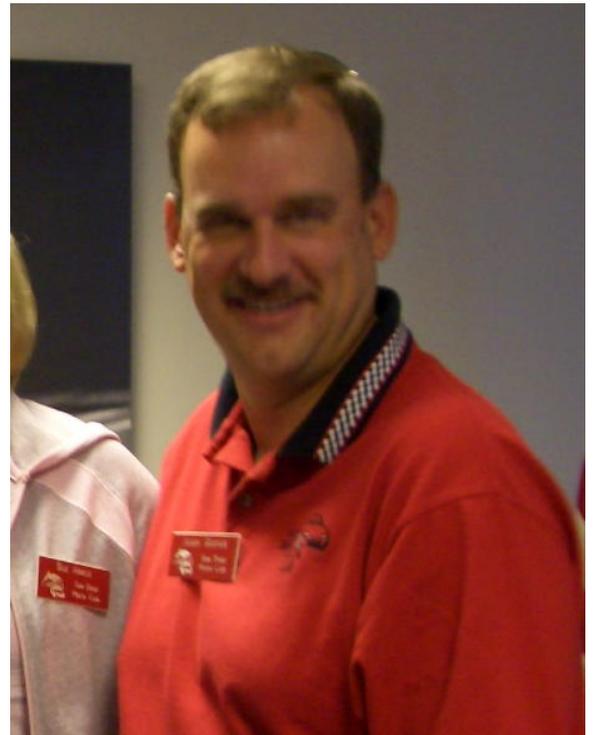
Favorite restaurant: Emeril's in New Orleans, The Prado in Balboa Park
and Tent City in Coronado

Favorite vacation spot: St Elizabeth, Jamaica; Bali, Indonesia;
Istanbul, Turkey

Person most interested in meeting:
Dead – Ben Franklin, Living – Alton Brown

Life's biggest challenge:
maintaining my sanity in a world full of stupidity

What you want to be when you grow up:
Bruce Lewis (the last Mr. Vice Guy)



Cruising' Grand
Friday, June 3, 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 find ice cream. 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.

Greatest Show on Turf
(aka Auto Show on the Lawn)
Saturday, June 4
7:00 a.m. for registered Miatas,
10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. for show

Meeting Place: Balboa Park, grassy areas between the Hall of Champions & Park Blvd.

Contact: Mark Booth, (619) 670-3789, events@sandiegomiataclub.org

The San Diego Automotive Museum's annual Car Club Council Car Show. Last year, we had 17 Miatas participate. If we get 10 or more Miatas again this year, the Museum will include a special class (trophies!!) for Miatas!

Important note to registered Miata participants: Registered Miatas will meet in the parking lot at the Northeast corner of Park Blvd. & President's Way at 7:00

a.m. so we can caravan onto the show grounds together as a group. That way, we will all be parked together. If a registered Miata arrives late, you might not be able to park with the rest of the Miatas so please plan to arrive at 7:00 a.m.

Registration Deadlines:

- May 20 - Last date for us to meet our minimum 10 car goal
- May 27 - Last date to be considered a judged entry. All registrations received after May 27 (including day of the show) will be exhibition only

Helpful Links:

Google Map of the Show Location
<http://maps.google.com/maps?q=2131,+Pan+American+Plaza,+San+Diego&hl=en>



Arizona Weekender
June 10th to June 12th
Phoenix and Prescott
 Cactus Cruisin' - The Sequel

The Sahuaro Miata Club cordially invites you to join us for a weekend of great roads, great people and some of the nicest scenery in Arizona.

Last years Cactus Cruisin' was very successful and we look forward to doing it again in June. We are changing things a little this year so that you, our California friends, can experience a different part of our great state and hopefully see some areas that you may not have before.

This year's event takes place June 10th. - 12th. We will head to Phoenix on Friday, the 10th where we will stay at the Chaparral Suites in Scottsdale for the evening. On Saturday morning, everyone will depart the Chaparral Suites and head north from Phoenix through Payson and up to the pines at Happy Jack Lodge for lunch. From Happy Jack it's on thru Jerome and finally to Prescott where everyone will check in at the Hampton Inn. Finally, that evening everyone will head to Downtown Prescott for a great buffet dinner at the historic Hassayampa Inn.



Everyone will need to make their own reservations at the host hotels. Friday's host hotel is the Chaparral Suites on Scottsdale Rd. in Scottsdale, AZ. You can make your reservations there for the evening of June 10th by calling 1-800-528-1456. The Chaparral Suites is an all suite resort with very reasonable rates in June. A one bedroom suite should be \$79. They also have two bedroom suites available with very good summer rates in case anyone wants to share a suite with others. You can access their website by going to www.chaparralsuites.com. We did not reserve a block of rooms at Chaparral Suites since June is not a busy season for Phoenix.

We have reserved a block of rooms at the Hampton Inn in Prescott for Saturday evening, the 11th. You can make your reservations there by calling (928) 443-5500. Be sure that you mention that you are with the Sahuaro Miata Club group. The rate for the evening is

\$105.

The Chaparral Suites has two restaurants on site for dinner on Friday evening as well as dozens of restaurants in the area. They also have a free "happy hour" reception with free beer and wine every evening, and a free hot breakfast in the morning. We are working to arrange some fun events at one of their pools for Friday evening as well.

Lunch on Saturday will take place at the Happy Jack Lodge in the cool pines of the Rim Country.

Dinner on Saturday evening will be buffet style at the Hassayampa Inn in Downtown Prescott. The Hassayampa was built in the '20s and is a beautifully restored hotel and conference center. It is located just two blocks from Prescott's famous Whiskey Row, so be sure to explore the downtown area after dinner. The buffet will cost everyone \$24 per person and that includes taxes and tip. There will also be a cash bar available. We will collect for dinner when we arrive at the Inn. You can check out the Inn by going to www.hassayampainn.com.

Make your reservations early and make plans to join us for Cactus Cruisin' - The Sequel.





Miatas at the San Diego County Fair in Del Mar

June 12th, 19th, 26th, and July 3rd
10 am

Every Sunday during the run of the San Diego County Fair, SDMC members are welcomed to "Cruise in" on Sundays (June 12th, 19th, 26th, and July 3rd) as part of "Classics Galore". Meet in the Albertson's parking lot on the south side of Via de la Valle, just east of I-5 at 10

am. At 10:20 am, we will caravan with a police escort through traffic and into the fairgrounds along with cars from other car clubs. All occupants of the club vehicles are admitted free to the fairgrounds, and of course parking is free as well. You may leave whenever you wish.

The parking/viewing area on the racetrack is well-groomed, slightly moist dirt; it is dirt, but it is neither muddy nor dusty. Staff is on site asking the public to "look, but don't touch."

On Wednesday, June 15th, and Saturday, June 18th member volunteers will be showing their Miatas in the annual car show at the fair. These volunteers, by showing their cars, allow the rest of the membership to participate in the Cruise in. We will be recognizing these volunteers by name at a later date. Plan your visit to the fair now, and join other Miataphiles in this Free Event until you start to find something to eat, that is.

Helpful Links:

Google Map of the Albertson's Location

<http://maps.google.com/maps?q=2707+Via+De+La+Valle,+Del+Mar,+CA&hl=en>

San Diego County Fair Web Site

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

Petersen Automotive Museum Tour

Date: Saturday, June 25

Time: 8:30 a.m.

Meeting Place: Oceanside McDonald's parking lot on the south side of Oceanside Blvd. and just east of I-5

Contact: Steve & Laurie Waid, (760) 432-0727, swaid@cox.net

IMPORTANT NOTE: AT THE REQUEST OF THE MUSEUM, PARTICIPATION IS LIMITED. ALL AVAILABLE SLOTS ARE ALREADY FULL. PLEASE CONTACT STEVE TO BE PLACED ON A WAITING LIST SHOULD ANY SLOTS OPEN UP.

Helpful Links:

Google Map of the Oceanside Blvd. McDonald's Location

<http://maps.google.com/maps?q=1701+Oceanside+Blvd+Oceanside+CA&hl=en>

Petersen Automotive Museum Web Site:

<http://www.petersen.org/>



Monthly Meeting

Thursday June 23, 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 happening with the Club at 7 PM Don't miss the fun!!

Helpful Links:

Google Map of the Boll Weevil Location

<http://maps.google.com/maps?q=9330+Clairemont+mesa+Blvd,+San+Diego+CA&hl=en>



MORE EVENTS

A Chance to have fun and share...

Many of you are aware that on March 17, 2005, Gregg Garon, 35 year old son of SDMC members Dennis and Maryanne Garon, died very suddenly, leaving his wife Holly, and two sons, Cade, 9 and Keegan, now 4 as well as his parents, brother Colin and about a million friends, who loved Gregg for his zest for life and sense of humor. A golf tournament is being planned in memorial to Gregg and to raise funds for the Gregg Garon Family Foundation. This is a chance to help fellow Miata Club members while having a good time.

SATURDAY, JUNE 4, 2005

Entry forms now being accepted.

TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE:

12:00 Registration, putting contest, chipping contest

1:00 Shotgun start

5:00-7:00 Silent auction, cash bar, social

7:00-9:00 Mexican buffet and live auction

LOCATION: Lake San Marcos Resort & Country Club, 1750 San Pablo Dr. Lake San Marcos, CA 92078

PRICE: \$150 includes green fees, box lunch, goodie bag and dinner.

\$30 for each additional dinner.

More information and applications can be obtained at

<http://www.geocities.com/greggaron/golf.html>
or by calling Steve Waid at 760.432.0727.

SAVE THE DATE! JULY EVENTS...

FRIDAY, JULY 1 CRUISIN GRAND

SUNDAY, JULY 3 MIATAS AT THE SAN DIEGO COUNTY FAIR

THURSDAY, JULY 28 MONTHLY MEETING

SATURDAY, JULY 30 TWILIGHT FUN RUN

The Search for Madonna 2005



Above: Leanne Lynn, Bev Turner, Bruce Lewis, Veronica Didier and Chris Payne have a great pajama party on the Search for Madonna.

(See article on Pg. 10-11)

Below : Veronica and her trunk monkey.
Photos on this page by Linda Payne



Hello again Miata friends!
How 'bout we try something different for this tech article. Perhaps some "tech" questions?

Okay! We will do that!

Please mark your answers on a SEPARATE piece of paper and bring it to the next meeting for grading and prizes! I will be giving out prizes for 1st, 2nd and 3rd. Any tie(s) will result in a "pick-a-number" tie breaker.

Complete this exam using a number two pencil only. Just kidding! Darken all ovals completely and make no stray marks on the page. Darken only one oval per question and make sure any erasures are complete.

1) As of 1997, how many colors were available for Miatas imported to the US?

- 13
- 14
- 15
- 16

2) What was project name for the Miata during its' development?

- R75
- P729
- 1
- M88

3) What are the Miatas dimensions: (Overall length, Wheelbase, Overall width)

- 141.4 inches; 81.2 inches; 60.4, inches
- 145.7 inches; 83.6 inches; 62.9, inches
- 151.9 inches; 85.8 inches; 64.6, inches
- 155.4 inches; 89.2 inches; 65.9, inches

4) The Miata ground clearance, (laden) is:

- 4.5 inches
- 5.2 inches
- 6.0 inches
- 6.6 inches

5) Miata fuel tank capacity, US gallons, 1990:

- 11.2 gallons
- 11.9 gallons
- 12.5 gallons
- 13.8 gallons

6) In Miata lingo, PPF stands for:

- Power Plant Frame
- Peak Power Formula
- Primary Point Function
- Performance Proven Figure

7) Which Miata part(s) is (are) made of aluminum?

- Trunk
- Doors
- Hood
- All of the above

8) What was the MSRP (Manufacturers Suggested Retail Price) for the base 1990 Miata, excluding port processing and inland freight charges?

- \$13,800
- \$13,975
- \$14,250
- \$14,900

9) What was the EPA Fuel consumption rating for the 1990 Miata?

- 22 mpg city, 27 mpg highway
- 25 mpg city, 28 mpg highway
- 25 mpg city, 30 mpg highway
- 27 mpg city, 31 mpg highway

10) Mazda recommends changing the timing belt every:

- 30,000 miles
- 45,000 miles
- 50,000 miles
- 60,000 miles



Teching at our driving school—photo by Mark Booth





Day One

Is there a decoder ring that I was supposed to get with my membership fee? How is everybody else able to keep up with 11 different conversations going on at once, at 6:45 in the morning? I'm already lost and we haven't even left the parking lot!

The Trip Nazi was true to his word; Search One was rolling at 7 a.m. Team Lewis, Debbye and Bruce, played Sweep and brought up the rear. Since I was driving the car in front of them, they had a big rear to bring up indeed! Ed and Alice were in front of me, and everyone was very considerate and protective of my automatic, BB. Then, everyone was very jealous of me and BB when we all got stuck in a ridiculous traffic snarl (where were we...?) for over an hour. We don't need no stinkin' clutches, mahn!

Fortunately, I was prepared for just such an emergency – I had a roll of toilet paper! I'm not so sure about other SDMC'ers who pulled over on the side of the road. It's been a while since I've had to be so intimate with nature, and it sure is easier to do in Texas where most of the land is flat. I had to hang on to a tree limb with one hand to keep from rolling

down the slope! (Hence the "stickers in her britches" emails...)

Are we there yet?

BTW, Frazier Park is not really a park at all, just a truck stop basically. I was very thankful that the water crossings were much less hazardous this year than I've heard they were previously. Lesson Learned: slow down when crossing water WITH THE TOP DOWN, duh. I splashed my poor passenger Sheila pretty good. (Hey Beav, where's Wally...?)

Are we there yet?

On to the nut farm (how did we ever get off the farm?). Local nut Bill gave Aggie-style directions - he stood in the road and pointed. Who is this guy...?

Finally, we arrived at the Madonna Inn – tah dah! We're starving, even after all those pistachios. The food at the Madonna Inn restaurant was very good. Usually you can only get grilled ham and cheese that good at the bowling alley! The bakery items in the display cases looked incredible. Paula, was that where those delicious macaroons came from?

How do these people keep going? I'm exhausted! But, after a 20-minute power nap, I'm ready to go again. The Trip Nazi didn't wait this time. Lesson #2 Learned: remember to synchronize

watches with Search One's. The artist-formerly-known-as-the-President-of-Vice led us stragglers on a scenic tour (detour?) to Cambria to meet up with the rest of the pack. Then it was on to Hearst Castle.

A hick like me walking on 22 kt. gold inlaid flooring? (Dennis: I tell ewe whut, that just ain't right!) I'm just right proud of myself for not jumping in them thar cement ponds. Hope I didn't traumatize that young man on the bus ride back too badly...!

Chris and Beverly, them folks what talks funny, and their kinfolk came to our room to visit. Our "Host with the Most" greeted our guests sporting the Madonna Inn signature pink robe and started a haute couture fashion craze. (Sum day I'm gone hafta have a loooong talk with that boy...) Much fun was had at Toby's expense, but ya gotta hand it to him, he was vertical at breakfast the next day. Ah, to be young again... I don't know when they left, but I gave up at 1a.m.

Day Two (how can it only be Day Two?!)

Even though the rooms are decorated crazily, the beds were mighty comfortable. I slept great and awoke early. Had some





While walking the Morro Bay Car Show on Sunday, the Garons and the Waids ran into a famous Corvette owner who lives in Morro Bay— legendary fitness guru Jack La Lane., 90, there with his “spring chicken” wife and a brand new C6 2005 Corvette. (She drove!)

breakfast by myself (at the MI restaurant again), then got BB washed and fueled. Then I got cleaned up while all the sleepyheads finally got their grub at IHOP. Next it was off to wine country. His Winesty and lovely wife led the Winos (Steve & Paula, Helen, Gary & Roz, Sheila & me) on “a 3 hour tour” – no shipwrecks here.

The beautiful countryside reminded me of home! Green rolling hills (yes, there are a few in Texas, just not this tall), lots of cows and horses everywhere, dense tree canopies over a two-lane blacktop road. This must be where they film the “Happy Cows come from California” commercials!

How fun was Bonny Doon? Each wine has a story and it’s depicted on the label – so clever! I can only guess what put Steve in such a good mood (my money’s on Paula...), but he bought a round for everybody. Thanks, Steve! Next we stopped at the Mastantuono Winery. Quaint tasting room, good variety of gourmet snacks, and knowledgeable, entertaining staff (the wine margarita wasn’t bad either!). Opolo Vineyards didn’t offer much in the way of tasting room decor, but the music selection (two kinds, Country AND Western) made the atmosphere very inviting. Our pinotheads, Steve & Paula, loaded up. Despite a swollen ankle (Gimpy Gary) and a toothache (ouch, Roz) the yellow car team braved onward, proving they could hang!

Last, but certainly not least, we pulled into the Justin Vineyards & Winery. Ya just gotta love a winery that has two big dogs (a lab and a mix) as the welcome wagon. They approached and barked their greetings, then let us know that tipping – in the form of heavy petting – was

winery was the most “polished”, and we sampled several lovely wines. I think I overheard mention of trying to have the group meal there next year (although I would miss Bubba’s terribly), and I think this is a great idea!

I don’t know what I missed by not going to the car show, but for next year I highly recommend booking the wine tour early. There were even some twisties, for those of you who like that kind of thing. Thank you, 10AE4US!

Oddly enough, all that “tasting” made us hungry. I’m proud to report that the Winos were the first to arrive at Big Bubba’s Bad BBQ. Evidently this entire region is simply more evolved than my beloved San Diego County, as they truly understand the importance of music feeding the soul, as well as food. Yep, more C&W! How brave was little Franny, our bartender-turned-waitress, for taking us on?! The food was delicious, but I must deduct points for a BBQ restaurant that runs out of baked potatoes. Any self-respecting rib/BBQ joint in Texas would promptly shut the whole place down rather than be forced to admit such a snafu! I understand there was talk of a fund that was established to bribe me to ride the bull. I didn’t suspect that a restaurant would offer bull rides. In Texas, we leave that to the rodeos and dance halls. Now I only had 2 beers (granted, they were 36 ounce Hefeweizens), but I instinctively knew that a belly full of BBQ put on a fast spin cycle would not be a smart move. Maybe next year.

Home to the Pajama Party!!! What do you call 30+ women AND MEN in pink bathrobes, walking through a parking lot, going from one hotel room to another? The SDMC, of course! (Or – escapes from the SLO Men’s Colony and

considered acceptable and much appreciated. The flower garden in front is beautiful. Sheila was instantly enthralled by the décor, considering that she had chosen the same motif and material for her home 3 years ago! This

their traveling companions...?) We were so captivating that occupants in another room allowed us to tromp through their room, then joined us! I’m pretty sure Bedrock didn’t have that many stone showers and sinks. Compared to the rest of the hotel, that world-famous men’s room – which Sheila and I inspected the following morning – ain’t that big a deal.

I don’t know who won the contest or what the prize was, but I’ll carry those images with me all my live-long days! Once again, Hahvahd Square embraced the after-hours crowd, thanks to Dustin & Andrew’s efforts. Since I didn’t get my nap in that day, I didn’t last long.

Day Three

After I sorted through all the wine I had “stolen” the night before, Sheila and I packed up and headed out about 9am. A friend had told us about the Paradise Cove restaurant in Malibu, so we found our way there and ate a late lunch. We pulled up to her place at 4:30 on the dot and I was home by the 5:00 whistle, exhausted and very happy!

Folks, believe it or not, this is not even 1/10th of the memories created. Falling asleep listening to rain on the roof, seeing the ponies taking a nap in our “front yard”, laughing until I wept, watching everyone enjoy talking and being together, there are just too many. Lesson #3 Learned: Don’t miss next year, I hear they get better every year!

Not that too many folks in this group are shy, but if you didn’t get to go and want to know more, ask:

- Debbye about her booty call t-shirt
- Chris Turner about witty nicknames
- Helen about her Lindor Truffles
- Dennis about being dipped and rolled
- Beverly about her ruby slippers
- Chris Payne about his plate of cookies
- Steve and Laurie about how trying to gather SDMC’ers is like trying to herd cats!



MPG POWER TOUR V—BY JAN WAGNER

I belong to a great organization called the Motor Press Guild (MPG). We regularly welcome guest speakers from the auto industry, drive manufacturers' automobiles on track days and occasionally get treated to very special events. One such event took place last Saturday.

Our membership was invited to meet in Torrance and, from there, drive to a "secret" location "full of fascinating cars and other memorabilia." The invitation added that "if you don't attend – you will kick yourself once you find out where we went."

As attractive as this sounded, I had mixed feelings about what to do. You see I also belong to the San Diego Miata Club, and our big annual meeting (and raffle) was to be on Saturday as well. I could not do both.

I decided to take a chance and go to the MPG event. The invitation suggested that we drive up in our "cool rides," if we wanted. My cool ride is a 2004 MAZDASPEED MX-5 (otherwise known a Miata). It's red and was from the only year when you could get red inserts in the black cloth seats and also in the door panels. I think that's cool. The problem with that plan was that I had not bothered to remove my competition wheels and tires after my last autocross. Driving up to LA and back on what are essentially gumball race tires – especially when rain was threatened, would not be a good idea. It would take an hour to change back to my street setup. I decided not to change; a decision I would regret.

I got up early on Saturday, entered the address in my Garmin GPS and drove my Prius (a somewhat cool ride) to our meeting place in Torrance. There are certainly worse things than getting a solid 45 mpg, using regular gas, on the freeway.

As other members continued to arrive, we milled around the parking lot looking at each others "cool rides." There were definitely some very cool vehicles there, but one in particular stood out for me. Anyone who has read a few car

magazines has probably seen what manufacturers do to their yet-to-be-released-for-sale new automobiles when they're giving them shakedown runs on public roads. They try to disguise them – adding cladding here, false logos there, long pieces of black tape, plastic sheets and so on. Well, one otherwise ordinary and not new car in the parking lot wore such a disguise. You had to see it. It stole the show, as far as I was concerned. What a hoot!

Soon we were given printed driving directions to the mystery location but were still not told specifically what it was we were going to see. The excitement was definitely building as we piled into our collection of interesting rides and took off on our half hour journey to the mystery destination.

We arrived at a nondescript warehouse. Most of us parked on the street and then walked into the gated compound, where we learned the secret. Surprise! It was where fellow MPG member Jay Leno keeps and works on his collection of automobiles. Better yet, Jay himself was there to give us a guided tour!



Mercedes

Inside, Jay's collection reminded me of mine – except that I have mostly 1:18 scale diecasts and, while he had some of those too, it was the ones in 1:1 scale (full size) that were so captivating. Particular vehicles that stood out for me were his antique fire engine, a jet-powered motorcycle, a beautiful Mercer and what looked like a phone booth on wheels. I also noticed a certain little red convertible (more on that later).

This was no hands-off, static collection. For example, Jay fired up his jet-powered motorcycle for us. It was a real jet engine, straight from a helicopter.

San Diego Miata Club News



As one of many automotive murals on the walls confirmed, the vehicle that looked like a phone booth on wheels – or perhaps a Popemobile, was actually a 1911 Baker electric car. Jay seemed to really like his Baker too. He got in and silently drove it around the warehouse to entertain us. Since such technology existed way back in 1911, surely it could have been better developed and implemented in all these intervening years. We might not be nearly so dependent on oil had that been done.

At every stop on his tour Jay enthusiastically shared his thorough knowledge of his collection and answered our questions. High tech, low tech, old or new, it didn't seem to matter. I was very impressed that he knew so much about the vehicles and items in his collection -- their inner workings, history and all.

He also was not hesitant to literally get his hands dirty as he showed us things. At one point he stopped by a workbench, upon which was what appeared to me to be a small assembly of engine parts. Then he started it. I was surprised to see that it was actually a small, yet complete and quite functional engine. He went on to explain what we were looking at.

One of the Wall Murals



(Continued on page 13)



Despite his celebrity, he also seems to be a genuinely nice, down-to-earth person. I mentioned to him that a couple of years ago at a car show at the Art Center College of Design, in Pasadena, my then-preteen daughter had asked if he would pose for a photo with her. I reminded him that he did so and added that in the process he made her feel very special. To this day she fondly remembers that moment.

I am sure that we all had a wonderful visit, but Power Tour V was not yet over. From Jay's we drove to a famous, automotive-themed Big Boys restaurant in Burbank where we had lunch. In case you haven't tried it, I recommend their chili, spaghetti and hamburger patty combination. Don't scrunch up your face; it really is excellent and quite filling.

Our next (and final) drive on our tour was to a place called AUTOBOOKS/AEROBOOKS, also in Burbank. TV Tommy Ivo, the famous drag racer, was there to do an autograph session. The shop has a great selection of automotive books and diecasts. I could have spent hours there (actually, I did). However, shortly after I went in I noticed that one of the customers was none other than Jay Leno. There was no entourage, no crowd of celebrity hounds, just car guy Jay who had been checking out the neat stuff on the shelves, possibly to add something to his collection, just like us.

He was in the process of leaving and I was curious about his ride. I looked outside and discovered that rather than head towards a limo or perhaps some wonderful exotic, he was walking towards a red Mazda Miata! I think it was the same one that I'd seen earlier in his shop. With all of the cars he could have driven to a car place where his fellow MPG members were, he chose that particular vehicle. It would certainly seem that he really is a normal guy, despite his fame and wealth.

Remember when I told you earlier that I would regret not driving up from San Diego in my Miata? Well, this was when I especially did so. I think he might have enjoyed seeing it and talking with me about it, or perhaps discussing autocrossing.

Luckily I had the presence of mind to remember that I was carrying a camera. The problem, however, was that he was just about to get into the car and leave. I steeled myself for a negative answer and asked him if I could take a picture of him beside his Miata, explaining that I am a member of the San Diego Miata Club and that my fellow members would probably like to see him with his car. Not only did he graciously agree, but he came back towards me and posed for the photo. Considering how busy he must be, that was nice of him to do.

What a great day this was. Jay Leno is very knowledgeable and enthusiastic about automobiles. He reminds me of a good friend who never seems to tire of talking about cars; someone who will help work on them and is always up for going to an auto show or an auto manufacturer's 'ride and drive.' I suspect that is exactly what he is like with his friends. Lucky them.

Your comments are always welcome. Please send them via email to AutoMatters@gmail.com and do join me again next time.



Jay and His Miata

Afterwards I went back into the shop and slowly walked the aisles, enjoying the many diecasts and books. While there I had the pleasure of speaking with Chet Knox, President of AUTOBOOKS/AEROBOOKS. Like Jay, he also is a fascinating person to talk to and has a special affinity for Corvettes. You might want to check out their website: autobooks-aerobooks.com. According to that, the shop is one of Motor Trend magazine's top ten automotive destinations. They are located at 3524 West Magnolia Blvd., Burbank, CA 91505.



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.

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*As of April 2005, dues are
\$35 per year per car.*

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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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.



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