

# SAN DIEGO MIATA CLUB NEWS



**November 2005   Volume 11 Number 11**

## **Miata Members Have Big Hearts**

It's been said many times that being a member of the San Diego Miata Club or any of the Miata Clubs is like being part of a big Miata family. These Miata families are always there to help out another member or lend a hand when the need arises. Miata Clubs throughout the country and the world work together on organizing charity events and fund raising events for members in need. If the distress signal sounds you can be sure that one of your Miata family members will rise to the occasion. Someone will contact you, a group will show up to help out, members will organize fund raising events and many clubs actively participate in their local communities.

The San Diego Miata Club is always looking out for their members and over the years we have been there to lend our help and support to one another. Most recently was the firestorm that swept through San Diego County and threatened many of our members. Members were being contacted and arrangements were being made for accommodations if the need arose. Club members volunteered to help with the clean-up process and many supported the various fire relief fund raising events.

The recent devastation caused by Hurricane Katrina and Hurricane Rita most certainly affected many of our Miata friends who reside in these areas. Immediately, members Tom and Marna Wood initiated a fund raising effort to raise dollars that will assist in the rebuilding of the many lost Habitat homes in these affected areas. Tom and Marna's goal is to get every Miata Club in the country involved in this fund raising effort. SDMC and the Saguaro Miata Club members were the first to contribute.

The San Diego Miata Club mission statement reads "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" and of course this is what has brought a great group of caring people together.

Camaraderie and friendship abound not only in the San Diego Miata Club but also in Miata Clubs throughout the world. The Miata Family continues to grow and will continue to support their fellow Miata friends in good times and bad. Being a member of the San Diego Miata Club – "is a good thing".

Sue Hinkle, Your Zoom Zoom Prez

## **November Events: See inside for complete details!**

	Event	Date	Time?	Where to Meet?
	Tech Day	Saturday, Nov. 5	9 am	Larry Dennstedt Auto Repair
	San Diego Veterans' Day Parade	Friday, Nov. 11	10 am	Park Blvd, in Balboa Park
	Palm Springs Get Away Weekend	Saturday & Sunday, Nov. 19 & 20	9 am	Westfield Shopping Town North County, by Sears
	SDMC Monthly Meeting	Thursday, Nov. 17	6 pm	Boll Weevil Restaurant, Clairemont Mesa Blvd.

## Membership Information

### New Members

As of October 21, 2005 there are 287 memberships (105 single, 182 dual) and a total of 469 members.

Welcome to our newest members (since last newsletter): (11)

Carl Martens  
San Diego  
1997 Emerald Green

Michael Pearson-Adams  
San Diego  
1996 Black

George Scott  
San Diego  
2001 BRG

Manual & Louise Pia  
Chula Vista  
2006 Winning Blue

Gary & Diane Vontungeln  
Escondido  
2006 Red

Stephen & Kay Bickley  
Spring Valley  
1999 Green

Kevin Crow  
Oceanside  
1991 White

George Khoury  
San Diego  
1994 Black

James & Joy Russ  
Wildomar  
2001 Blue

Teri Shusterman  
Bruce Osborn  
Escondido  
99 Blue

Robert & Rhoda Slifka  
La Jolla  
2006 Copper Red

### Membership Statistics:

#### Memberships by Miata Color:

75 Red  
43 White  
26 Black  
17 Silver  
14 Titanium  
11 Montego Blue  
9 Yellow  
10 Sapphire Blue  
7 Mariner Blue  
6 Mahogany  
8 Emerald Green  
7 Twilight Blue  
6 Crystal Blue  
9 BRG  
3 Midnight Blue  
5 Starlight Blue  
3 Laguna Blue  
5 Garnet  
3 Marina Green  
2 Strato Blue  
2 Merlot  
1 Splash Green  
1 Laser Blue  
1 Black Cherry  
1 Galaxy Gray  
2 Winning Blue  
3 Unreported

### Renewing members (since last newsletter):

Daniel & Christine Garcia

Ken & Carla Jean Tooker

Eunice E. Bauman

Bob Kitterer

Peter Nadan & Donna Feoranzo

Zaldy Gozalo

Hal Haley & Carolann

Jeff & Susanna King

Steve Ranzani

Scott & Anita Rosin

David & Stephanie Shabestari

Jim Schmedake



### 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 Vicki at a monthly meeting or e-mail her at [vicky@teamvoodoo.com](mailto:vicky@teamvoodoo.com).



## ***San Diego Miata Club Moving to Annual Membership Month***

**M**embership management for the club on a monthly basis is extremely time consuming for our Membership Team each and every month. Mailing labels are produced with expiration dates. Renewal and expiration lists are prepared for the newsletter team so an application can be inserted in the newsletter. In an effort to simplify the process and reduce the amount of time needed to manage and track club memberships the Executive Board has decided to implement an Annual Membership Month.

The month of January has been designated as membership renewal month and all membership dues will become due in January 2006. The new process will eliminate a lot of work that is presently being done to track membership renewals, run renewal labels for newsletters and mailing of notices on a monthly basis. The Annual Membership Month will give members the full month of January to pay their dues. Membership renewal reminders and membership applications will be included in the November and December newsletters. Membership cards will be mailed in February.

2006 will be a transitional year and existing members will pay a pro-rated amount in January 2006. New members joining from January through June will pay \$35.00 and those joining from July through December will pay a reduced membership fee of \$20.00 for the remainder of the year.

### **Existing Member Pro-ration Schedule for 2006 Dues**

San Diego Miata Club annual dues of \$35.00 divided by 12 months = \$2.9166 and rounded to \$2.92 per month. Look on your newsletter-mailing label to find your renewal month.

January	35.00
February	32.12
March	29.20
April	26.28
May	23.36
June	20.44
July	17.52
August	14.60
September	11.68
October	8.76
November	5.84
December	2.92



Our Membership Team has been looking forward to this new policy for quite some time and they certainly deserve a huge club thank you for all their hard work. Additionally, this new procedure will make for an easy transition when other members volunteer to manage the clubs membership.

### ***Important Information: SDMC Web-page Information***

Last month the SDMC web site was given a face lift and we are now sporting a new streamlined site that loads much faster and hopefully easier to navigate. It is my hope that all those who visit the site find it an enjoyable experience.

However, the site is not quite done and this is where I need your help. If you go to the 'Photo Gallery' page, you will see that it is 'Under Construction'. You see, the old 'Photo Gallery' page is woefully old, with the newest event being several years old. Yes, you guessed it! I need your photos of recent events and I will even give you credit. Imagine that -- your name in living color!

There is also another area that needs help. On the top of all pages you now see me sitting in 'Mia' revving up for a recent Autocross race. Well, I took 'Designers Choice' and placed the picture in the spot. My intentions are to change this spot with pictures of members with their cars and other SDMC related events at least monthly. So, send me your pictures!

You can send your digital photos to me in several different ways: email with the photos attached, CDs, DVDs, or even floppies. Contact me at [webmaster@sandiegomiataclub.org](mailto:webmaster@sandiegomiataclub.org) for more instructions.



## SDMC Events



### Tech Day at Dennstedt's Auto Repair Saturday, November 5, 9:00 AM Dennstedt's Auto Repair, 4283 41st Street, San Diego

Contact: Larry Dennstedt, (619) 284-4911

**Description:** Have a Miata accessory or part you've been meaning to install but haven't gotten around to it or need a bit of help? Tech Day events are the perfect place to complete some of those projects. You can be assured there will be lots of free advice and maybe a helping hand or two. If your planned project is particularly difficult or time consuming, you will want to give Larry a call in advance to be sure it is an appropriate project for this Tech Day and so they can arrange the necessary space.

Space will be provided for some swap meet stuff so bring your projects and interesting gizmos. Or, just show up and help others.

Larry will also be offering some of his regular services... headlight aiming, fuel injection cleaning, oil changes, etc. Please contact Larry regarding pricing for these services.

The event starts at 9:00 a.m. and will last until we are tired or the last project is completed... usually around 3:00 p.m. Please bring your own chairs and portable shade/rain protection. Don't forget your intended project and tools. There will have sodas and pizza as usual. There might be a guest speaker on some subject.



### San Diego Veterans Day Parade 10:00 AM Friday, November 11, 2005 Park Boulevard, in Balboa Park

Each year, on a the Parade in San Diego. This Parade includes entries from across San Diego County, composed of Honor and Color Guards, JROTC Drill Units, Military and High School Marching Bands, Military units and vehicles, Veterans Organizations, and of course, Dignitaries.

This year, we are especially honoring The Liberator's, those who served as B-24 Bomber Pilots and Crew members during WWII, as our Grand Marshals, and those who provided WWII "Home Front Support" by endlessly laboring to manufacture the material and machines, including the B-24 Liberator, here in San Diego, as our Honorary Grand Marshals. We are expecting nearly 1,000 former B-24 crew members from across the Country, who served in three different Bomber Groups, for this event!

This is where you come in! We are seeking owners of convertibles, roadsters, and antique or unique cars to volunteer to transport a Dignitary in the Parade. Volunteers are asked to reply to Scott Langhoff, Parade Vehicle Chairman, at [slanghoff@cox.net](mailto:slanghoff@cox.net), or by calling (Day) (619) 400-5323 or (Night) (619) 470-7860 for specific details.

Drivers have the final decision on placement of the Dignitaries in their vehicles, and are encouraged to decorate their vehicles in patriotic themes should they desire to do so.



### Palm Springs Getaway Weekend 9:00 AM Saturday-Sunday, November 19-20

**Meeting Place:** North County Fair Mall parking lot, west side (west of Sears), under the big sign next to I-15

**Contact:** Chip Kushner, (619) 887-5916, [E-mail Chip](mailto:E-mail Chip)  
**Note:** If you want to spend just one day in Palm Springs, please feel free to join the Saturday run and return home when you like.

**Hotel:** Palm Springs Riviera Resort, 1600 N Indian Canyon Dr., (760) 327-8311 (Use the web to book your room and save!)

**Hotel Rate:** \$137.00 plus tax **WEB RATE ONLY! Must be booked online at the hotel's web site!** ([Link Below](#))

The Palm Springs Riviera Resort is a Triple-A rated 3-Diamond resort. Chip worked hard to find a nice hotel with reasonable rates. Of course, you are welcome to stay wherever you like.

The run route will likely lead us into Palm Springs via Palm Desert, treating us to the wonderful view as we descend the mountains on Highway 74. Once in Palm Springs, the schedule is ala carte. Hop in the Miata and investigate the area or do some shopping, or simply relax at the hotel. One event of possible interest is the 39th Annual McCormick's Exotic Car Show and Auction.

The group will decide where to grab dinner on Saturday night. Ditto for the timing of the return trip on Sunday.



Tis the Season . . . and you are cordially invited to the  
**SAN DIEGO MIATA CLUB HOLIDAY PARTY**

**Sunday, December 11th at 5 pm**  
**94th Aero Squadron Restaurant at Montgomery Field.**

**Tickets \$30.00 per person**

*Dinner choices*

**10 oz New York Strip Steak**

**Chicken Marsala**

**Vegetarian meals by request ONLY**

*Dinners include salad, bread and butter, vegetables  
and starch d'maison, dessert, coffee and tea.*

A no host bar will be available.



**Tickets must be purchased by December 1, 2005.**

**Purchase tickets from Sue or Jack Hinkle or email the Hinkle's at  
[sportscarr@sbcglobal.net](mailto:sportscarr@sbcglobal.net) to make reservations.**

**Make checks payable to SDMC**

**Mail to: 733 S. Kalmia Street, Escondido, CA 92025**

**Participate in the "Traditional SDMC Holiday Gift Exchange"**

Bring a wrapped Miata or auto related gift of around \$25 in value.

For each gift you bring, you will get to choose one to take home.

Participation is voluntary.

Join us for lots of holiday fun and laughter!



## Events

### Fall Mountain Run

**Multi-Club breakfast, self directed run, show & shine and lunch**

**Sunday, Nov. 13 \$25 registration**

7 am to 9 am Build your own burrito breakfast at Dalton's Roadhouse

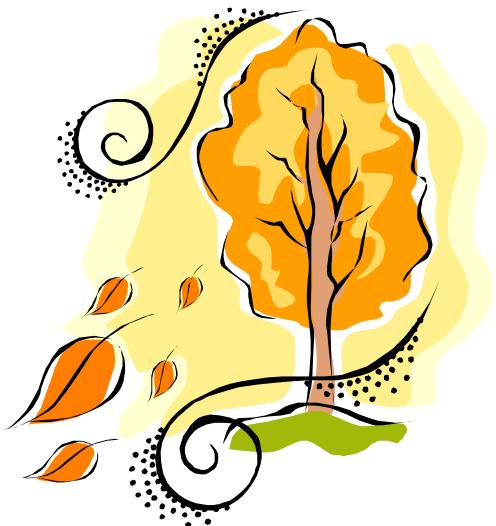
7 am to 9 am Registration at Dalton's Roadhouse

7 am to noon Self Directed Run

10 am to 3 PM Show and Shine at Bates Nut Farm, Valley Center

Noon to 3 PM Hamburger Lunch at Bates

Join other car enthusiasts of all persuasions to enjoy a beautiful drive through back country San Diego. Sponsored by The Little Guys Car Club with proceeds going to North County Special Olympics and the National MS Society.



**San Diego Car Club Council news:** Some upcoming events that should be of interest are as follows: Contact Steve Waid at swaid@cox.net if you need more information.

Sunday, November 13th: 3rd day of the 22nd Fall Mountain Run put on by the Little Guys Street Rods car club. Meet at Dalton's Road house between 7 and 9 am. \$25 entrance fee that includes a lunch. \$5 breakfast available. Self guided run to Julian ends at Bates Nut Farm with a Show and Shine with joke types of awards given later. Benefits to Multiple Sclerosis Society and Special Olympics. Several of us did this one last year.

Saturday, December 3rd: MCRD Auto Skills Center Annual Car Show on the Parade Grounds at MCRD. Several SDMC members went last year in the rain and had a great time with this one. \$5 and a new unwrapped toy is the registration. Trophies in several classes (we won some last year). 10 to 2 pm with set up between 8 and 10. Music, Food, raffles and more.

Sunday, December 11th: Street Masters Christmas Cruise for the kids. Held at Torrey Pines High School. No pre-registration. Bring a new unwrapped toy(s) and/or cash donation. Dash plaques and ribbons to the first 200 cars. Free pancake breakfast, big raffle, poker walk. Benefits to YMCA Family Stress Counseling Services. Street Masters has been doing this one for close to 20 years.

Another "car guy" kind of thing that goes on at the Auto Museum is their "Third Thursday" program of speakers and presentations. This "Third Thursday" unfortunately is the same day as our Monthly Meeting, but features Jim Wangers who many of us got to hear and see during the Zonie Infestation. He will be presenting his complete "Anatomy of the Muscle Car; Ancestors and Offspring." We heard a little of the presentation at AMCI back in September.

***Save the date!***

***10th San Marcos Community Holiday Parade***

**Sunday, December 4th.**

***Watch for details!***

<http://kiwanisclubofsanmarcos.org/page5.html>



### WEST PENN MIATA CLUB PRESENTS *Roads to explore!*

**When: June 15 – 18, 2006**

Miata owners, sign up today to take part in a fun filled weekend of Miata events and cruises as we explore great roads & the beauty of Southwestern Pennsylvania, Western Maryland and Northern West Virginia

Visit our many attractions and drive roads that were made for Miatas with fellow enthusiasts.

Registration fee is \$90 per person and includes:

- Meals: Reception Dinner, Two Buffet Breakfasts and a Continental Breakfast
- One Panoramic Group photo (this item is per car)
- Commemorative MMM 1/72 Scale Miata (this item is per car)
- Event Pin
- MMM T-Shirt
- Mazda Welcome Bag with Miata Lanyard

Accommodations will be at the Holiday Inn Holidome in Uniontown, PA. The cost is \$89 per night (double occupancy), tax included. For reservations call 1-800-258-7238, be sure to mention that your reservations are for the Miata Mountain Mania Weekend. To learn more about the hotel visit their website [www.uniontownpa.holiday-inn.com](http://www.uniontownpa.holiday-inn.com)

To register, download the application form from our website listed below and mail it along with your check for \$90 made out to "Miata Mountain Mania".

**Registration deadline is March 17, 2006. We only have space for 100 cars so register today!**

For more information visit [www.westpennmiataclub.com/mania.html](http://www.westpennmiataclub.com/mania.html)



**O**n May 4-7, 2006, the Ridgerunner Miata Club of Western North Carolina is having a celebration and we would like you to join us. We're having a celebration of the glorious colors that adorn our beautiful roadsters, a celebration of the amazing colors that nature bestows upon these mountains and a celebration of Miata fellowship that flourishes whenever and wherever Miatas gather. Among the many highlights of your stay with us is a late afternoon panoramic photo shoot of the entire Miata gathering with magnificent mountain vistas in the background. Prints will be made available to attendees before leaving on Sunday. The photo will be taken by the renowned local panoramic photographer Benjamin Porter.

During your visit, explore the many attractions in the Blue Ridge, Smokey Mountain area, or take one or more of the many drive tours that the Ridgerunners have planned for you over many of their favorite Miata roads. Visit the famous Biltmore Estate in Asheville if you wish. The Biltmore Estate is a unique destination, which includes a 250 room French Chateau filled with art and antiques, spectacular gardens, and an award-winning winery surrounded by lush vineyards.

Our hotel venue will be the Crowne Plaza in Asheville N.C. This event will combine a relaxed party atmosphere, great food, perfect weather, a stunning mountain location, lots of Miata activities and a few hundred like-minded Miata enthusiasts. Join us for four fun-filled days in our Miata playground. Some of the best Miata roads in the country are in our backyard, from the lofty vistas of the Blue Ridge Parkway to the infamous twisties of Deal's Gap. Navigate through our website to answer all your questions or email Sal at [sal@geris-bazaar.com](mailto:sal@geris-bazaar.com) if you have additional questions. Come Join Us.....You will have one Colorful Good Time!!!





## Miata Performance Driving School Celebrates Ten Years

Now is your chance to be one of the nearly 1,000 Miata owners who have attended the Miata Performance Driving School by registering for the 2006 class. The 2006 Miata Performance Driving School will again bring Miata owners from all over the country to Thunderhill Sports Park to learn how to get the most from their Miata and you can be one of them.

The 2006 school will be held March 24, 25 and 26 at the Sport Car Club of America's Thunderhill track in Willows just off Highway 5, about an hour's drive north of Sacramento, Calif. The track has been the filming site for many car commercials, so you've probably seen it on TV. It's wide track with spacious grassy runoff zones make it ideal for hosting activities like the school.

This course teaches Miata owners the basics of high speed driving, equipment, human limitations, proper steering techniques and many other skills necessary for safe performance driving.

"One of the biggest attractions of the school is that it is geared towards beginners who want to see what their Miata is really capable of doing," said event organizer Ken Freeze. "And since it is geared towards beginners, we have worked closely with the SCCA to allow this group to use the track and not require roll bars. Although roll bars are recommended, I recognize the expense of adding a roll bar to a Miata and have always felt that keeping this event affordable is key to allowing as many Miata owners as possible the thrill to experiencing the full scope of what a Miata is capable of. However it is amazing how many people decide that adding a roll bar to their Miata is a worthwhile expense after they had a weekend of our school!"

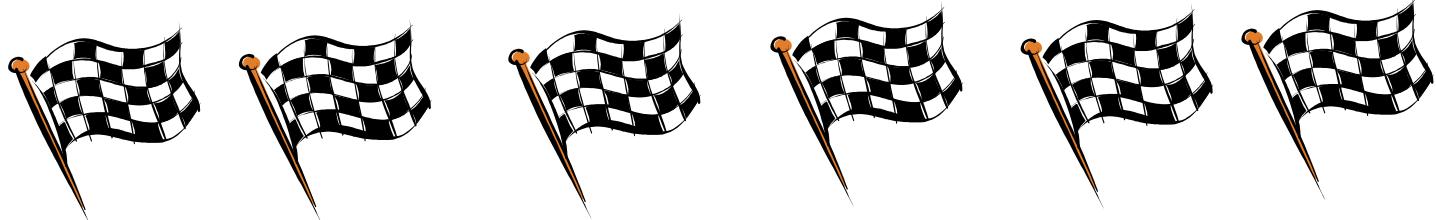
Packed with activities, the weekend kicks off Friday evening with a dinner, followed by classroom style lectures and training from SCCA instructors. Saturday morning the action turns to the track with more instruction, both in and out of the Miata. Spend most of Saturday and Sunday on the track with time while in between sessions talk to fellow Miata owners and see some on the latest Miata accessories. Saturday night features a BBQ at the track that gives students and instructors the opportunity to talk over the day's activities. "The entire goal of the weekend is to enable Miata owners to become better, more skillful drivers both on and off the track," said Freeze.

The class is limited to 80 students with from 40 to 45 instructors, making for a 2-to-1-instructor ratio, a ratio higher than driving schools costing thousands of dollars.

There's nothing quite like having a Sport Car Club of America instructor right next to you as you drive lap after lap on a race course, helping you to learn just what you and your Miata are really capable of.

You can register via the Internet by going to the Miata Performance Driving School Web Site at [www.teammiata.com/thunderhill/school.htm](http://www.teammiata.com/thunderhill/school.htm). Fill out the online form, or download the PDF file and print it out and send it in with your check. If you don't have Internet access, send a self addressed, stamped envelope to: Ken Freeze, Miata School, 1521 Ridgewood Dr., Martinez, CA., 94553 and a complete packet will be sent to you. But hurry – in past years the class was full by the first of December so don't wait until it's too late.

Come join us for a weekend of learning, while having a lot of fun, as you drive on the Thunderhill track with SCCA instructors and fellow Miata enthusiasts. At \$400 - it's the best accessory you can add to your Miata and have fun while doing it! See you on the Track!



## ***Big Bear 15th Anniversary Run—by Tom Wood***

Where do we start? How about breakfast? We put out a last minute notice for anyone to join us before the run; for a "big" breakfast before we take off on the Big Bear Run. Our presidents, Zack and Dean were able to make it for breakfast.

We then headed to the starting point by the Vitamin Shoppe north of the 10 Freeway at Alabama. Shortly after we pulled into the parking lot at 09:00 cars started arriving. We also started getting phone calls from people asking directions mostly lost in the parking lot or those that got to the restaurant a little too late for breakfast. Kay's fills up real quick after 09:00 that is why we chose 08:00 as a time for breakfast (beat the rush).

At 10:00 we held the drivers meeting, at which time Michael, the manager from the Vitamin Shoppe, stopped by with 2 big bags of breakfast bars. So no one can say they left hungry 8^). After the usual drivers meeting we all headed to Big Bear. The route was a simple turn left out of the parking lot and we would regroup at the base of the mountains. It was one route direction that actually took us all the way into Big Bear.

Once we got on the main street all that started to change as we headed into the not visited areas of Big Bear's cabin homes. There were some really small cabins and some really large estates. There were also some real creative cabins that look like they were hundreds of miles from civilization. A lot of the cabins even had names! We know that's not unusual since most of us have given our Miata's names. So we had something in common with the Big Bear Population.

We rolled into town around 12:30 and paraded into the

parking lot where the local BIO station was located and welcomed by the majority. 8^).

We were given further instructions of the day's events and were given two hours for eating and shopping. Also we were told to park at the North/West corner of the parking lot for regrouping after lunch.

At that time everyone went in different directions with some of the new people that joined in for their first run and event. After lunch we took a walk, met up with some other Miata fans and walked back to the parking area past the stores and shops and made a quick BIO stop before taking off on the next leg of our adventure.

We all gathered in the parking lot, took more pictures of the cars and had to say goodbye to a few members that had other pressing things to do in the afternoon. And some wanted to explore some more and even stay the night. The rest of us attended the drivers meeting getting instructions on how to get to the party cabin of Pat and Lee Ruecker. Yes we had cake and ice-cream, soda and coffee, and quite a fun time looking over the valley and hillsides from their beautiful cabin. We had presented to Lee and Pat a framed certificate for their contribution to make this event a memorable occasion for all that joined us today. It was interesting...all the mysterious things that happened while we were at the cabin! The ice-cream was over 1" from the top of the containers due to the altitude! It just goes to show you mountain life has its advantages. The cake with the raspberry filling was delicious with the bear fudge ice-cream! And when it was done only one piece of cake was left!

Another mysterious event was Hal's three wheel parking

with his 2006 MX-5! The rest of us kept all four wheels on the ground ;^). You will just have to check out the pictures at <http://miatafun.net>, look on the events page for the Big Bear Run date and click on the link to see how he did it.

The parties over, everyone had a great time; we all loaded up, said our goodbyes, and headed down the hill for our respective homes. Another great run thanks to the hard work of Marna Wood and help from our club members.



## *Coronado Speed Festival Review—photos by Voodoo Bob Krueger*



### *The Coronado Speed Festival*

was again a successful event as SDMC invaded for both days of racing and camaraderie.

Thank yous go to the many involved, spearheaded again this year by Art Hamilton, with Wally Stevens again arranging a great dinner at Tent City and

Jerry and Janice Boster handling breakfast and the caravan.

Thank you!

Your organization makes it fun and easy for us.

Below: Frank Jellinek and Dennis Singleton flash by the crowd on their way down the front straight



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© 2005 Bob Krueger

Jim Hague gets a bit loose (deliberately, I think)  
as he tries to get by Ken Epsman's Challenger on the inside

Billy Krause takes the early Group 3 lead in Ernie Nagamatsu's Ol' Yeller II.  
Krause ultimately finished third behind Jonathan Feiber and Pete Lovely



## Windshield Washer System Rebuild—by Mike Herbst

For most of us, especially here in sunny San Diego, our Miatas don't see much rain, so it's easy for us to forget about servicing our windshield washing and wiping systems. My 1994 Miata had a few deficiencies when I acquired her from the previous owner, but I hadn't realized how truly bad things were until I experienced a major episode of bug-genocide on one of my late-spring jaunts. The birds were singing, the flowers were blooming, and the bugs were dying – all over my windshield. Only then did I realize that the "slow" windshield washer had transitioned into practically non-functioning.

In my case, I had multiple problems with my windshield washing system. The pump was putting out low pressure and the nozzles were oxidized and clogged, so the water barely trickled from the passenger-side nozzle. Additionally, the eleven-year-old hoses and junctions were starting to fail, including the "Y" that fed to the driver's side nozzle, which didn't spray at all.

With about an hour's labor, and around \$20 in parts, I fully rebuilt the sprayer system to better-than-new condition. Follow along to see how you can do the same. All of these instructions are based on my 1994, non-ABS car, so part numbers or locations may change, but the overall procedure should be similar for any Miata.

**Tools:** 10mm Socket; Scissors; Heat Gun or Hair Dryer (optional)

**Consumables:** Replacement Windshield Washer Pump (if needed) - check part numbers for your year; Approximately 6ft of clear vinyl tubing, 5/32" inside diameter; and possibly some or all of the following 3/16" vacuum fittings: One "Y" junction, One "Union" connector, and One "right angle union" connector.

**ABS Note:** If your car is equipped with ABS, your washer bottle is located on the driver's side, and some of the tubing lengths and fittings may vary slightly, but the basic procedure will be the same.

1. To remove the windshield washer bottle, first disconnect the washer hose at the junction closest to the firewall, on the passenger side. Take care with these plastic connectors and clips, as all of mine were VERY brittle with age. The clip on the bodywork just aft of the firewall is released by lifting the top snap up, and then opening the clip. I don't recommend disconnecting the hose from the pump until you've drained the fluid. Take note of how the tubing routes through the engine bay and firewall.
2. Remove the wire plug from the pump by pressing the release and pulling it away from the pump. Then use the 10mm socket to remove the two bolts holding the bottle, and lift it from the car. Take care to keep the end of the hose higher than the pump, or you'll leak washer fluid everywhere.
3. Drain your washer bottle. If the fluid is clean, you can reserve it for later. I went ahead and put new fluid in after I was finished. Now would also be a good time to hand-wash the bottle to remove some of the under-hood grime and crystals from evaporated washer fluid. Take

care not to jar or stress the bottle-to-pump connection if you are not replacing the pump, as the gasket has probably become brittle with age.

4. If you are replacing the pump, just pull the pump away from the bottle. The gasket should come away easily.
5. Replace the new gasket-insert and pump as indicated in the directions for the replacement pump. Your local auto parts store should have replacement pumps in the same section as the wiper blades. Usually the same parts book or computer you use to lookup wiper blades will give you the part number for the pump.
6. Attach one end of the new vinyl tubing to the pump nozzle. Heating the end of the tubing with a heat gun or hair dryer will make this easier, as it's a snug fit. Push the tubing into the retaining clip on the side of the washer bottle.
7. Reinstall the bottle into the car, and route the tubing through the correct path and the grommet in the firewall. Don't forget to reconnect the plug to the washer pump.
8. The factory routing for the tubing is into a hard-right-angle union that clips to the underside of the hood. If yours is still intact, go ahead and cut the tubing to the correct length and use it. Mine was broken, so I just plumbed the tubing right to the "Y" connection at the passenger-side nozzle. By leaving the length of the tubing just right, it has enough slack when the hood is open, but doesn't get pinched or in the way when the hood is closed. It's also one less junction to fail later on.
9. My "Y" connector at the nozzle was completely shot and was actually turning to powder. Replace yours, if necessary. Use some or all of the remaining tubing to make the final connection between this "Y" and the driver's side nozzle.
10. NOTE: The factory installation has a check valve installed between the tubing and the driver's side nozzle. I imagine this is to prevent air entering the system there, which would let the fluid drain back to the pump, meaning it would take longer to pump fluid back up when you activate the washer. If you want to preserve this, take GREAT care in removing the old tubing from the check valve union, and be sure to reinstall it in the same orientation. Otherwise, I'm sure you can replace it with a regular 3/16" union without total disaster.
11. Fit the new tubing into whichever of your retaining clips are still intact. Note that the new tubing might have a slightly larger outside diameter, so use care here.
12. If you are replacing your nozzles also, do this while connecting the new tubing and connectors. Originally I didn't replace my nozzles, but soon found that the old ones were no longer sitting "flat" on the hood because the plastic was failing. With this "angle" and the increased pressure from the new pump, the passenger side nozzle was actually shooting all the way over the car! When parked!
13. Re-fill the washer bottle, and Spray-Away! Bug-guts on the windshield: Be Gone!



## Refreshing Your Windshield Wipers- By Mike Herbst

If your Miata is anything like my 1994, it's likely that it suffers from a very common cosmetic blemish, even if the usual steps of washing & waxing the paint are performed regularly. While "Elsie", our Laguna Blue & Tan, is far from perfect, the paint is generally bright and looks pretty decent. That made all the more noticeable the one serious flaw that had escaped serious attention: Rusty Windshield Wipers.

Many of our Miatas are more than ten years old now, and more than a few of the wiper arms that I've seen look worse, by far, than the rest of the car. The "winglet" on the driver's side wiper arm (which keeps the arm pressed tight to the windshield at freeway speeds) always seems to look the worst. Mine had not only spotty oxidized paint, but was also starting to visibly rust in some spots. On a car with otherwise decent paint and trim, this was a glaring sore spot, obvious enough that even my car-clueless in-laws commented on it when they first saw the car. Something had to be done.

Here are the basic steps I followed to refresh my wiper arms to as-new condition, with minimal cost and effort:

**Tools:** 12mm Socket; Philips Screwdriver; Wire Wheel or Brush (optional)

**Consumables:** One Can Matte Black Spray-Paint, preferably a rust-inhibiting brand; Sandpaper; New complete windshield wiper blades (optional)

1. Each wiper arm has a small hard-rubber cap at its pivot point. You should be able to remove this by hand by just pulling, but if you need to pry it off, take care not to damage the arm, cap, or windshield.
2. Use a 12mm socket or offset wrench to remove the nut holding down the arms.
3. Make note of the position of the wiper arms, and then remove them from the splined shaft on which they turn. Some wiggling may be required, but they should pull straight off.
4. On the workbench, using a Philips head screwdriver, remove the two screws that fasten the "winglet" to the driver's side arm. Be careful not to damage the screw head as this will be visible!
5. Remove the wiper blade assembly from the arm by pressing the release tab and sliding the assembly off the arm.
6. Clean up any oxidation on the arms and winglet using whatever means available to you. I was able to remove nearly all the rust and surface oxidation with a combination of 280 and 400 grit paper. I resorted to a small wire wheel in my Dremel tool to get the last stubborn bits of rust from the tighter spots on the winglet.
7. Do any further preparation of the surface if recommended by your paint (such as washing in soap/water), and then spray 2-4 light coats of paint over the arms and winglet. Follow the directions on the can for timing of repeat coats and drying.
8. While everything is drying, you probably have time to complete the Windshield-Washer System rebuild from a previous tech article!
9. If you also want to try to clean up the actual wiper blade holders, you can, but complete replacement assemblies with new blades can be had from Kragen for \$7.99 each, so it wasn't worth my time to sand and re-paint these.
10. Reassemble the winglet to the driver's side arm, replacing the screw hardware if necessary. (I.e. if you mangled the screw heads like I did. Note: I didn't have the right size Metric replacements on-hand, so I just ran a 6-32 tap down through the holes and used 6-32 button-head socket screws instead, but you can probably reuse your original screws if you're careful.)
11. Reinstall the wiper blade assemblies onto the arms, or replace with new ones.
12. Replace the wiper arms onto the splined shafts, careful to align the wiper arm so it sits in the correct position at rest. Consult the [Miata Enthusiast's Shop Manual](#) for official specs on wiper placement if you're unsure how to align these. Or, just run the wiper motor and check that the start and stop at the correct position.
13. Replace the nuts and tighten down, then replace the rubber caps. You're done!

And that's it! With about an hour's work, not including waiting for the paint to dry, I've refurbished the wiper arms and they look fantastic! (As fantastic as a set of windshield wipers can look, anyhow.)



## 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

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

Dedicated 24-hour voice message line:  
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P.O. Box 180833  
Coronado CA 92178-0833

*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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## Notice

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.



## Local Business Discounts

MIATA CLUB members receive a substantial discount on parts and labor. The club does not endorse any vendors. To receive your discount, simply present a current SDMC membership card at the time of your purchase or service.

**AI & Ed's Auto Sound**, Car alarms too!  
3740 Rosecrans Street, San Diego (619) 682-3800  
11608 Carmel Mtn. Road, San Diego (858) 675-2000 Discount: 14%

**Alarm 2000**, Residential & Commercial alarm installations & monitoring. Free equipment with 2-way voice & free professional installation. Waiver of \$69 connection fee to SDMC members. Pay only monthly monitoring. Contact: Buffy Hergenrader, [buffy@iopener.net](mailto:buffy@iopener.net) (619) 221-0948

**Allen's Wrench**, Mazda Master Technician  
1620 Grand Avenue, San Marcos (760) 744-1192  
Discount: 10% (except oil changes)

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**Geri's Bazaar**, Custom "made for your Miata" deck bags, boot bags, travel bags. Contact Geri Causarano at [www.geris-bazaar.com](http://www.geris-bazaar.com). Phone: (828) 400-1673 Are you looking to maximize the space in your Miata's trunk? Check out my Bags. I offer substantial savings to Club Members.

**Good-Win Racing LLC**, Miata performance products including shocks, springs, exhausts, light alloy wheels & everything from Racing Beat, Moss Motors, & Jackson Racing. [www.good-win-racing.com](http://www.good-win-racing.com)  
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## Classified Ads

Classified ad space is provided free of charge to **members only**. Ads must include your first and last name, telephone number, and e-mail address with each submission. Must agree with current club roster.

Send to: [newsletter@sandiegomiataclub.org](mailto:newsletter@sandiegomiataclub.org)  
**Ads will be deleted after 4 months.**

**For Sale:** Want to WIN at autocrossing? Of course you do but you won't unless you use sticky autocross tires -- tires that would wear out too quickly if you used them all the time on the street. The solution? Do what the regulars do and get a SECOND SET of WHEELS for those sticky autocross tires. If you have a second generation Miata, here are the wheels for you. They're strong, good looking, barely used and they'll fit your second generation Miata because they are stock Mazda 16" wheels. When I checked quite a few months ago they cost \$239.95 at the dealer. Who knows what they are now with inflation. Make me an offer!!! Also for sale, a nearly new muffler for a 2003 Miata. Jan Wagner: [jwagner2@san.rr.com](mailto:jwagner2@san.rr.com) or (858) 792-9567.

**For Sale:** 2000 Miata LS, Emerald Green w/ tan top & leather seats. 49,930 Miles. Minor tweaks: roll bar, shock tower brace, Monster Flow Intake. Never auto-crossed. Maintained w/synthetic oil. \$11,500 Very Nice. Please call Richard at 619-300-1350  
[rstaude@san.rr.com](mailto:rstaude@san.rr.com)

**For Sale:** Copilot says clean-out the basement (1912 houses have them)! OEM '91 alloys w/ skinny tires, leather wrapped steering wheel

w/bag, 5-speed trans, radiator, sway bars, differential with prop shafts & axles, and 2 cheap car covers, 4 proxie T1 205x15 w 1/2 tread, flywheel, clutch pressure plate plus 7 years of misc. stuff. \$350. takes it all. Help save my marriage! Rick Keach 619 702 8077 or e-mail [MaigaBerzins@AOL.com](mailto:MaigaBerzins@AOL.com).

**For Sale:** Apple iPod - 10GB 2nd Generation model, will work with Mac or PC but requires a Firewire port on the computer, excellent condition, price includes a brand new high-capacity battery, \$135, call or E-mail for more details, [markbooth@cox.net](mailto:markbooth@cox.net), (619) 990-5520

**For Sale:** 1999 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Edition Miata. Factory Blue metallic, black interior with blue accents. 6 speed, air-conditioning, cruise control, power steering, power brakes, power windows. Factory suspension package with Bilstein shocks, ground effects package with 50 series tires on the stock polished factory wheels. Car is original with 49,000 miles. I added a polished style bar for more muscular appearance with chrome gas door, chrome trim around air-conditioning vents and shift knob. Grill added to protect the a/c condenser from kicked up road debris. Eclipse CD player installed in dash, comes with the factory CD/cassette player too if you prefer that. Excellent condition, a really gorgeous Miata. Asking \$12,000 Please call Neil at 760 470-6226 or email [neilmonastero@cox.net](mailto:neilmonastero@cox.net).

**For Sale:** Urethane sway bar bushings for NA (Flyin Miata, two sets, will do both front and rear bars), never used, \$60 or offer. Factory

front shock tower brace from 2002 SE, make offer. Carl Kuck, 858-395-2299, [technogeek@san.rr.com](mailto:technogeek@san.rr.com)

**For Sale:** 1.6 Engine long nose crank 78,000 miles \$400. It's complete, but has some damage internally. Also 1990 1.6 complete engine, runs ok but has 130,000 miles. 10 AE seats \$500. Lots of suspension and other parts 1990 to 1999. Wally Stevens 619-232-2801 ext 313 or evenings 619-234-2858. Note new E-mail address [Wallymiata@gmail.com](mailto:Wallymiata@gmail.com) [101505]

Buying or selling your Miata or Miata accessories? You can do it for *free* on Miatamart—the MIATA FOR SALE –web site, run by SDMC member RAINER MUELLER. Check it out at [www.miatamart.com](http://www.miatamart.com).



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Stamp

