

# SAN DIEGO MIATA CLUB NEWS



DECEMBER 2005

VOLUME 10 NUMBER 12

## HOW MANY DAYS TILL CHRISTMAS – WHERE HAS THE YEAR GONE?

The Holiday Season is in full swing and in just a few short weeks we will be ringing in a brand new year 2006. 2005 has been a fun and exciting year for the San Diego Miata Club with an abundance of events and activities for our members to participate in. Jack and I would have loved to participate in every single SDMC event but the crumbling of a fireplace brick and placement of Jack's new Plasma TV he received last Christmas was the beginning of a huge remodeling project. Little did we know that many of our evenings, Saturdays and Sundays would be spent on choosing colors, textures, lighting, flooring, etc. I'm happy to report that the project is near completion and we are looking forward to being free once again.

The Holiday Season is my very favorite time of year, and I look forward to all the things that remind me of holidays past. A special ornament that we received from a friend, my grandmother's cookie recipe, photos of family and friends, a holiday school project that Jason gave me years ago and special holiday cards that I have saved over the years.

Jack and I also look forward to the many festivities and holiday parties of the season, and the San Diego Miata Club Annual Holiday Party is one of our favorites. It is so much fun to see all of our members show up in holiday fashion— a definite change from SDMC club apparel and ball caps. The evening is filled with Miata friendship and highlighted with the antics of our Annual Holiday Gift Exchange. I wonder who will end up with the spotlight gift this year!

Amidst all the festivities and holiday celebration, let's all remember that it is the season of caring and giving. The San Diego Miata Club is raising \$\$\$ for those less fortunate who lost their homes due to hurricanes Katrina and Rita. Our club along with Steve Waid was challenged by our Miata neighbor to the North, SOCALM, in a fund raising effort for Habitat For Humanity. This organization will rebuild many of the homes lost in the southern states and will give Louisiana and Mississippi residents a new ray of hope in rebuilding their lives. From our family to yours have a very happy, healthy and safe holiday season.

- Sue Hinkle, President, San Diego Miata Club

## DECEMBER EVENTS: SEE INSIDE FOR COMPLETE DETAILS!

	Event	Date	Time?	Where to Meet?
	San Marcos Holiday Parade	Sunday, Dec. 4	10:30 AM	Meet at Dalton's Roadhouse, San Marcos
	SDMC Holiday Party	Sunday, Dec. 11	5:00 PM	94th Aero Squadron Restaurant
	H\$H Holiday Lights Tour	Sunday, Dec. 18	3:30 PM	Sue and Jack Hinkle's home 733 S. Kalmia St., Escondido
	SDMC Monthly Meeting	Thursday, Dec. 15	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



#### **Special Monthly Meeting**

**Thursday, Dec. 22,**

**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 get a burger or ice cream or ??? 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!!

See pg. 4 for Bylaw Changes !

#### **Badges?**

*H*ave 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](mailto:vicky@teamvoodoo.com).



That's right—even if you paid dues in October, November or December your 2006 dues will come due in January. Existing member will pay a pro-rated amount based on their renewal month please refer to the pro-ration schedule below.

**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

The Annual Membership Month is a new procedure for the San Diego Miata Club and has been implemented to reduce the workload of our membership volunteers. New membership cards will be sent out in February to those members who renew for 2006 in January. You can pay your 2006 membership dues at the December monthly meeting or send your check to the club P.O. Box. Any unpaid memberships will be considered expired in February.

- SDMC Executive Board

**SAN DIEGO MIATA CLUB  
SPECIAL MEETING CALLED TO VOTE ON BYLAW  
AMENDMENTS AND/OR REVISIONS  
DECEMBER 15, 2005**

A "Special Meeting" has been called by the Executive Board of the San Diego Miata Club and will be held at the Boll Weevil Restaurant on Thursday, December 15, 2005 at 7:00 p.m. This meeting has been called to amend and make necessary revisions to the Bylaws of the San Diego Miata Club.

**ARTICLE X. DUES AND EXPENDITURES**

- A. Membership dues shall be in the amount of \$35.00 annually for either a dual or single Membership.
- B. Dues are due and payable to the treasurer on the annual anniversary of a member's joining the club.  
[The proposed change updates the Bylaw to accommodate the member approval to move to an Annual Membership Month which will begin in January 2006]

**PROPOSED CHANGE – ARTICLE X DUES AND EXPENDITURES**

- A. Membership dues shall be in the amount of \$35.00 annually for either a dual or single Membership. Dual memberships will represent only one vote.
- B. SDMC Membership Renewals become due and payable in January the first month of the fiscal year and are payable to SDMC Treasurer.
- C. New Membership Dues are \$35.00 when paid January-June and \$20.00 when paid July-December.
- D. All memberships, regardless of when paid, expire at the end of the calendar year.

**ARTICLE XII. AMENDMENTS OF REVISION OF BYLAWS**

These bylaws may be amended or revised at the annual or at a special meeting by a two-thirds vote of paid members. Bylaws amendments and revisions become effective upon approval by the membership.

[The proposed change is to update and clarify membership and memberships present and the two thirds vote ruling when making changes to the Bylaws of the San Diego Miata Club.

**PROPOSED CHANGE – ARTICLE XII. AMENDMENTS OF REVISION OF BYLAWS**

These Bylaws may be amended or revised at the Annual or at a Special Meeting by a two-thirds vote of the "paid memberships present." Bylaw amendments and revisions become effective upon approval by the membership



**10TH SAN MARCOS COMMUNITY  
HOLIDAY PARADE**

Sunday, December 4th.

**Time:** 10:30 a.m. for caravan to parade staging area

**Meeting Place:** Dalton's Roadhouse, 775 Center Dr., San Marcos

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



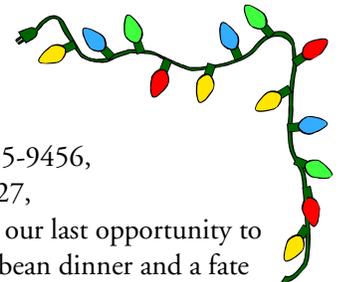
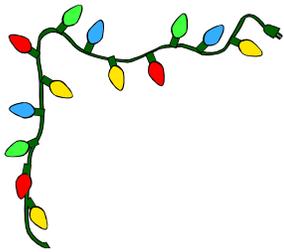
We will caravan from Dalton's to the parade staging area at Palomar College. There we will decorate our cars. The theme this year is "Santa Clause is Coming to Town". Click on the San Marcos Holiday Parade link below and then click on the 2003 parade slideshow and see if you see anyone you know.

This is the 6th year that we have been doing this for the Kiwanis and San Marcos and they are very appreciative of the support. As many "dignitaries" as we can carry is always appreciated. If the weather is nice there will be a bunch. We have carried Queens, Princesses, School Principals, Mascots, Councilmen, and Mayors. All are there for a good time. If you haven't done this one before, it is a small town family event. Let me know if you are willing and able to carry a dignitary.

The parade steps off at 1:00 p.m. sharp and takes about 20 minutes. We then return to Dalton's for a late lunch and a walk through their monthly car show.

Bring a stuffed toy for "a child who needs hugs and has hugs to give" or one canned or boxed non-perishable food item to "help stock the food pantries that assist the needy families year round."

**Habitat For Humanity Holiday Lights Tour**



Saturday, December 17

3:30 p.m. for hot chocolate, coffee, cookies, etc.

Hinkle's Home, 733 S. Kalmia St., Escondido (760) 735-9456,

**Run Leaders:** Steve & Laurie Waid, (760) 432-0727,

While it is still light, so everyone can find the Hinkle's, we will meet for our last opportunity to raise money for the Habitat for Humanity and save Steve Waid from a bean dinner and a fate worse than death (being forced to wear red). We will be accepting donations along with a final raffle or auction. After we have fun at the Hinkle's, and the sun goes down, we will leave on a run that will ultimately take us to Christmas Card Lane in Rancho Penasquitos. The run will break up there, but many will then proceed to Carmel Mountain Ranch where there are numerous restaurants for dinner. Be thinking and talking about the options.

Olive Garden, Marie Callenders, California Pizza Kitchen, TGI Fridays, Islands, Chevy's, and Claim Jumper as examples.

**Directions:** Exit Interstate 15 at Auto Park Way/9th Street turnoff. Go East on 9th Street to a left turn onto Kalmia.

Parking is limited on Kalmia, so don't be afraid to park on 9th Street.

**NEW YEARS DAY RUN**

**January 1, 2006 9:00 a.m.**

Leaders: New Members - Ray and Christine Corbyon

Meeting Place: Westside Cafe - 9th Avenue - Escondido



Please join us for our very first run and the first planned event in 2006. Arrangements have been made with the Westside Cafe for a News Years Day Breakfast. Departure from the Cafe will be at approximately 10:30 a.m and we will wind our way through a few twisties as we head for the community of Julian. We have allotted plenty of time for folks to stroll along Main Street and for eating that famous Julian Pie. There is a chill in the air this time of the year especially in the mountains so be sure to bring along hats, gloves, scarves and warm jackets.



**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!





## *An Evening with Automotive Celebrity Jim Wangers*

### What do you win?

- ➔ A home cooked Dinner for Two by homemaker, Laurie Waid
- ➔ Valet parking at the Waids' palatial Escondido estate.
- ➔ A personally signed copy of Jim's award winning book, *Glory Days...When Horsepower Ruled Detroit!*
- ➔ A copy of the DVD, "Cruisin' Woodward" as told by Jim Wangers
- ➔ A complete evening with author, speaker, former GM Marketing executive, entrepreneur, "Godfather of the GTO," "Father of the Muscle Car," and a truly delightful man to spend an evening with, Jim Wangers.

This link is just a hint of the stories and history that Jim will bring to the evening.

<http://www.jimwangers.com/woodward2.html>

And if you younger folks think that the stories might be before your time, Jim is one of the most knowledgeable people on the planet regarding today's automotive industry. Just name your car and ask your question! The date and time of the evening will be at the convenience of the winner and Jim.

Raffle tickets will be \$20 each. You can email an entry and then follow up with a check or cash. The drawing will be held at the end of the evening at the SDMC Holiday Party on Sunday night, December 11th at the 94th Aero Squadron. We will have raffle tickets available that night, but the winner need not be present. You may purchase as many raffle tickets as you like to improve your chances of winning. All proceeds will go to Habitat for Humanity

### So, what is all of this worth?

- A copy of *Glory Days* - \$29.95
- A copy of *Cruisin' Woodward* - \$19.95
- Valet Parking - \$8
- Dinner for two cooked by Laurie Waid - \$60+
- An evening with Jim Wangers - PRICELESS!

Send me your raffle ticket requests right away. Drawing is December 11th. Mail checks made out to Habitat for Humanity to Steve Waid at 1772 David Drive, Escondido 92026 or contact me at [swaid@cox.net](mailto:swaid@cox.net) or 760-432-0727.

## 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 amaz-

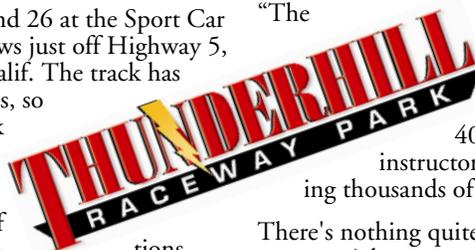
ing how many people decide that adding a roll bar to their Miata is a worthwhile expense after they had a weekend of our school"

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.





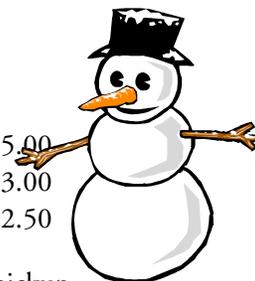
## Steak and Beans Dinner Competition Proceeds to Habitat for Humanity competition between SDMC and SOCALM

Our friends at the Southern California Miata Club (SOCALM) have challenged us to a competition to see which club can raise the most money for Habitat for Humanity before December 18<sup>th</sup>. Specifically, when SDMC wins the competition Steve Waid will be eating Steak while SOCALM member, Bud Martin will be eating beans. They will face off at the same table with Bud wearing yellow flames in honor of SDMC's honored representative. Obviously, we don't even want to consider the other possibility.

As of this writing SDMC is ahead, but we don't want to become overconfident. Cash and check donations may be sent to Steve Waid at 1772 David Drive, Escondido 92026. Make checks out to Habitat for Humanity. There is also the "Evening with Jim Wangers" raffle that will go towards the competition (see page 6 for details). The final opportunity at a Club function will be the evening of the Christmas Lights Run on December 17<sup>th</sup> (see page 4 for details).

### Holiday Gift Ideas from your Regalia Team

- |                        |         |                         |        |
|------------------------|---------|-------------------------|--------|
| • Short-sleeve T-shirt | \$12.00 | • Club decals           | \$5.00 |
| • Long-sleeve T-shirt  | \$14.00 | • Club pins             | \$3.00 |
| • Hooded sweatshirt    | \$28.00 | • Carabineer key chains | \$2.50 |



If you need items before the next club meeting, contact [regalia@sandiegomiataclub.org](mailto:regalia@sandiegomiataclub.org) to arrange a special pickup..

Custom apparel is available through Beed's Embroidery, 13428-A Poway Rd., Poway, (858) 748-0415. Select your apparel from their catalog, and they'll embroider our club logo with your choice of car color.



### Brian Goodwin, Steve Coe, and Larry Dennstedt have been working up an idea of a "Miata club" ONLY class in the local autocross events.

All entrants MUST be Miata club members to qualify. All cars will be entered in the local "SU" class but will run on a club imposed handicap system . All cars will be ranked by a number system (to be arranged) to make things semi-even. The ranking system will include: shocks, springs, sways, braces, wide rims, headers, induction, cat back, R rated tires, open differential, boost systems, ect. Drivers will be awarded trophies and prizes supplied by the Miata Club at the club meetings. This class and its rules will be run and modified by the Miata club as is necessary to maintain interest and FUN FUN FUN.

We are interested in your, the club's, input and feedback, as to types of trophies and/or prizes to be awarded. I know I have left out the handicapping item that is important to you---so get in touch with me. Give me your ideas and concerns. Contact me at e-mail [larrydennstedt@hotmail.com](mailto:larrydennstedt@hotmail.com) or Ron Chapman or Steve Coe and they will get your comments to me.



## HOLIDAY GREETINGS FROM THE SDMC BOARD TO YOU!

*Wishing you and your family the happiest holidays and a great New Year!*

*Sue Hinkle, President*

*Jerry Boster, Vice President*

*Brenda Kay, Secretary*

*Jason Brent, Treasurer*



## TECH DAY AT LARRY DENNSTEDT'S AUTO REPAIR SHOP- BY KELLEY RAYMOND

Larry and Rocky graciously agreed to open up at 9 a.m. I arrived at 8:30, with a couple dozen Krispy Kreme doughnuts, and Scott Lewis already had his car up on the lift (to replace the clutch and radiator). I've heard of early birds, but wow, these folks were ready to work on some cars!

Steve Coe with C2 Motorsports had his table of wares for sale already set up. Walt Arnold had already bought an air pressure gauge (thanks for the "pre-owned" one, Walt!). Ken Roberts already had his driver's side front wheel off, ready to put on some slotted rotors (thanks to a recent group buy, I think).

Kurt Swartz quickly got set up to paint his calipers to match his red baby. When I asked him about the really gorgeous finish on his car, he responded as if he's been in the club forever. "Lots of TLC," he said. As Dr. Phil says, "You either get it or you don't." Kurt gets it!

The Lewis duo, Bruce and Debbye, were there to collect on their gift certificate. At the Annual Meeting back in April, they won a bona fide Dennstedt Auto Repair fuel injection cleaning. After the air cleared (whew, stinky stuff!) their 10AE was ready to rock 'n roll.

Little Linda got a new air horn installed. Most of San Diego will know when she's *encouraging* other drivers to get outta her way! She also got a triple flasher for her brakes installed in the trunk lid. She's test-driving it to check it out for the club, and Mark Booth is determined to figure out a way to make the installation simpler. The flashers will probably be on sale at the Regalia table soon (appx. \$15). (For that amount, you really can't expect much more than flashing, now can you...?!)

The Ding Doctor worked on Brian Goodwin's new '06 for a while. Howard Kuzminski was replacing a steering wheel (did you make it work...?). Daryled Bristol was multi-tasking, lending everyone a hand – or just throwing out a joke zinger here and there.

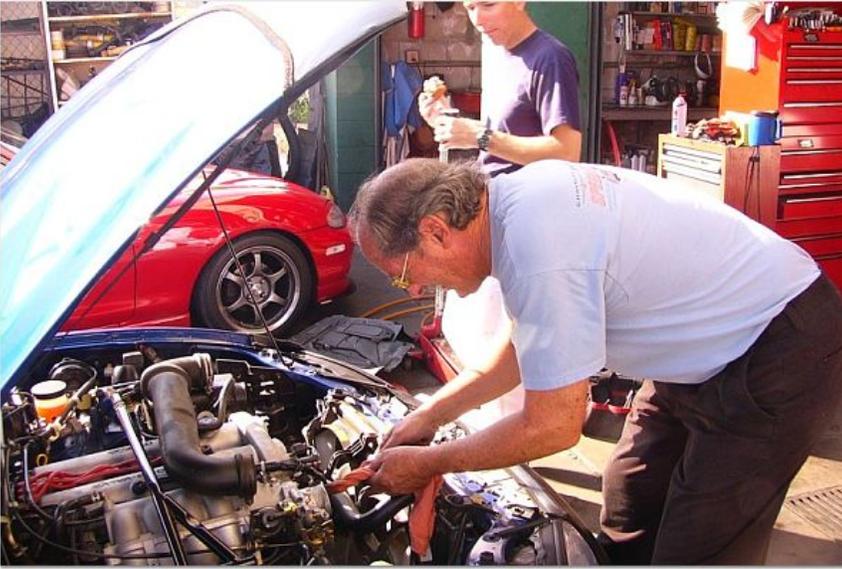
Tim Chen was the most dedicated photographer I've ever seen at any of our events so far. He walked around for hours, diligently trying to capture shots that would reflect the "feel" of the day. Even the visitors had fun. Larry Clark and John Laurence "worked the room," chatting everyone up, asking questions, and sharing their Miata knowledge. There were some new (to me) faces as well. I'm sure they're "friends I just haven't met yet."

In comparing this Tech Day to my first one in March, I'm again grateful to the point of being overwhelmed. On that sunny day, Bruce and Rocky helped me paint my rotors and calipers – but, as I mentioned in the write up I did for that event, almost everyone stopped by and said hello and offered encouragement, a joke, or advice. (Yes, the paint job's held up beautifully and no, I'm not sorry I didn't paint them red!) Everyone who participated, on that day and this one, truly represent the spirit of this club. All are kind, generous, and love to have fun!

Buying this car, and becoming involved with this club is truly one of the best decisions I've ever made – and it's wonderful to spend time with so many folks who feel the same way!



**TECH DAY AT DENNSTEDT'S— PHOTOS BY TIM CHEN**



## THE SEARCH FOR THE GREAT PUMPKIN—BY MARK BOOTH

Let's get this straight right now.... No, we weren't out searching for an Evolution Orange Miata! We were searching for other "Pumpkins" and they came in all sizes and colors. There were black ones, round ones, big ones, crazy ones... oops, sorry... spilled my wine and got lost there for a minute. Where was I? Oh yeah... all sizes and colors of "Pumpkins." These "Pumpkins" were conveniently disguised as various signs. Sign, sign everywhere a sign... blocking out the scenery breaking my mind... OK... My apologies! Time to turn off the iPod and get serious about writing this article! Since the beginning is a good place to start, let's go there first...

The day dawned with a slight hint of moisture in the air. Yet, despite the minimal chance for any serious precipitation, a couple dozen Miatas and their owners converged on the expanse of parking lot known as North County Fair Mall. There we were greeted by Rallymasters Larry and Mary Clark, our hosts for the day. When I shook hands with Larry I could see just the slightest hint of an evil grin and I knew we were in for a really fun day!

At the appointed hour, Larry and Mary gathered the flock 'round to go over the Rally Instructions. After carefully explaining what was going to transpire, Larry asked everyone to raise their right hand and repeat after him... "I [state your name], do solemnly swear that, if I am the winner of today's Rally, I will write an article for the SDMC newsletter!" Damn!! This man is diabolical! He's thought of EVERYTHING. I began to ponder...Hmm.. With that level of forward planning and thinking, what have we gotten ourselves into?

(Side Note: Now, Cathy and I had participated in a couple rallies before. Remind me to tell you the story about our very first rally. We almost took separate vehicles home. But Larry and Mary would have none of that. In retrospect, their rally was the perfect combination of challenge and fun. That is, challenging enough to be fun. But not so challenging as to not be fun? Got it? OK!)

So, there we were, handed a set of rules and a set of rally directions and launched out into the world a couple minutes apart. On our own. No leader to lead us. No CB radio communication to help us not miss a turn. And, in fact, when one Miata did spot another, we did our best to increase the distance between us so we didn't give away answers or clues to the other.

We were looking for those signs. Specific signs (or parts thereof). But some of the signs were evil and weren't on the correct side of the road or didn't contain the correct spelling. Those signs were deemed "Rotten Pumpkins." Recording the mileage for a Rotten Pumpkin gave you 10 points. Likewise for completely missing a "Good" Pumpkin. Being off on the correct mileage for a Good Pumpkin gave you 1 point for each tenth of a mile. By now you've probably figured out that the goal was to have the lowest score.

Did I mentioned that it was necessary to accurately read and follow the rules? "Do this!" "Don't do that!" "Can't you read the sign?" (Yeah, the iPod is back on.) Without reading and obeying the rules you were lost. The devil was in the de-



1st Place Winners Mark and Cathy Booth

tails. Knowing this, Larry posted copies of the rules in advance. Bless his heart! Cathy and I spent an hour carefully going over the rules the night before. I might be wrong, but I think it helped. So we zipped along happily (and completely dry by the way), Cathy and I working as a team to find Pumpkin Utopia. Some were easy... some were a bit tougher. A couple were beyond tricky. Like the sign that read "...ft." but the directions required "... feet.". Or the big "Great Pumpkin" sign on Larry and Mary's Miata near the end. Sitting out there like a Las Vegas Neon. Just BEGGING us to write down the mileage. Oops... Rules state that signs on vehicles don't exist. Damn!

Eventually, everyone made their way to Dalton's Roadhouse for lunch and the awards presentation. We had three hours to complete our task. One couple barely made it under the wire (don't worry Tom & Dona, I won't mention names!). Finally, Larry and Mary began handing out the Pumpkin Trophies. The clever trophies consisted of a plaque with various sized pumpkins (depending on place) attached to the plaque. There was also a "Rotten" Pumpkin trophy for the highest score (a Rocky achievement if I do say so myself). Third place, with 60 points, went to Fran & Heather Hitt. Second place, with 49 points, went to Leo Dailey & Jana Lewis.

Congratulations to all of the winners. My heartfelt thank you to Cathy, the better half of my team. Many thanks to all that attended and especially to Larry and Mary Clark for hosting a terrific day! I know everyone had a wonderful time. Those that couldn't attend really missed an exceptional event. But, not to worry, Larry and Mary promise to do it again! Real soon I hope! "In Search Of Cupid's Arrows" has a nice ring to it!

Oh... as for 1st place... as I said, that Larry is pretty diabolical! But when they passed around the plate at the end of it all, I didn't have a penny to pay, so I got me a pen and paper and I made up my own little sign: "29"!





**Clockwise from above:**

Pres Sue awards magnetics to Mary and Larry Clark.

Leo Daily and Jenna Lewis accept 2nd place

Fran and Heather Hitt won 3rd place.

Larry talks to the crowd.

Rocky Murphy & Sherrie Ford got the Rotten Pumpkin Award.

Photos by Mark Booth



**M**y name is Les and I'm a map-aholic.

Admittedly, I like maps; I mean, I really like maps. My highway map collection is sorted into two bins stored in a hallway cabinet. One is for "California and Baja" and the other for all other states and the rest of the world.

Then there's that pile of atlases in the bedroom. Tell me where you want to go and I likely have a fairly recent map that can point the way.

Globes appeal to me also. Dyanna made me throw one away early in our marriage but I replaced it within a year! The best globe I ever saw was a really large relief model at Lewis Middle School a mile or two east of Qualcomm Stadium. Had a diameter of at least four feet and so much detail that I spent my entire lunch break poring over it one school day.

Mapquest? Bookmarked prominently on my Internet tool bar.

Flying even satisfies my thirst for all things having to do with land surfaces. A right-side window on a flight back from Las Vegas this summer provided a birds-eye view of areas we travel frequently. Lake Henshaw, Mesa Grande, Julian and the like unfolded before me ... just like a map!

There aren't any 12-step programs for map-aholics. And just when I thought I had everything under control, I saw what may be the mother of all San Diego County maps! I took a group of students to the Museum of Natural History in Balboa Park in late September. There it was on the backside of the second floor lobby wall: a highly detailed relief map! It measures at least 12 feet wide by 10 feet high. Stopped me in my tracks; I did everything but fall to my knees in reverence.



And there were all our favorite roads, displayed with elevations. I just stood there following the familiar routes, envisioning the real ones in the runs I've made with you. Up and down mountains, following canyons, twisting through curves on roads many other drivers do not even know exist. I didn't hear any of the information the museum docent shared with the kids or their questions for her.

Then, after several minutes, it was time to move on ... but guess where I spent my lunch break that day!

When you make your trip the Museum of Natural History to view this map, make time also for a side trip to the nearby Model Railroad Museum. A similar relief map is displayed flat there that illustrates San Diego County rail routes; harder to locate towns and other points of interest.

**"WELL, AHH TEILL YOUUU WHUT"**- The San Diego Miata Club has lost two long-time members and "all around" good people. I refer to the recent departure of Dennis and Veronica Didier to a TOO far away city in Florida named Homosassa. We need to get those "bumper sticker" folks to make up a new one- "Where the Hell is Homosassa?"

These two characters were just the sort of folks you hope to have in any organization. Dennis and Veronica were all about having fun, volunteering, making people feel welcome, refusing to grow old- and if you do grow old- DON'T ACT LIKE IT! In most recent memory, Veronica was one of those "Dynamic Regalia Gals", and Dennis was instrumental in the creation of our last "Surfin' Safari" event, as well heading up our monthly Club Raffles.

Dennis, in a recent correspondence, said- "the area we live in is all twisties". I don't know about ya'll, but anything called a "twistie" in Florida, sounds like "bad news" to me! Don't feel too bad for them though, because Veronica now has "her dream home" and has hired a "Ethan Allen" designer to help furnish it. I think that means that Dennis will be working for a few more years!

Dennis and Veronica, you are very much missed, and know that if those "twisties" get too bad out there, you have many "places of refuge" back here in San Diego. Good driving, Good luck, and Good life!

Veronica Didier (second from the right) gave and got lots of laughs on the Search for Madonna 2005. Photo by Linda Payne



# TWAS THE NIGHT BEFORE CHRISTMAS

(The SDMC Version)

by Dustin Lewis  
Edited by Janice Boster



'Twas the night before Christmas  
And all through the house,  
Not a problem was stirring  
Since Dennsteadt fixed the Bell House.

The tonneau was hung  
In the garage with care,  
With hope that a new hardtop  
Would soon join it there.

The rug rats were nestled  
All snug in their bed.  
"Who needs a station wagon  
To haul them?" I said.

My Miata in a cover  
And I in my SDMC cap,  
Had just settled down  
For a long winter's nap.

When out on the lawn  
There arose such a clatter,  
I yelled at the window,  
"What the \*@#^ is the matter?"

Away to the window I ran real fast.  
I tripped and fell, put myself in a cast.  
The moon lit up the piles of snow,  
My wife reminding me of the shoveling yet to go.

When what to my wondering eye should appear  
But a team of Miatas, much faster than Deer.  
With an Italian driver so witty and scary,  
I knew in a moment it had to be Geri.

More rapid than Toyotas, her Miatas they came.  
She bellowed, yelled and called them by name;  
On Sapphire, On Mariner! Now Laser and Merlot!  
On Sunburst, On Emerald, On Vivid and Montego!  
To cut off that Porsche, and make the driver bawl!  
Now speed away, speed away, speed away all!

As dry leather caused by that summer sky,  
When met with an obstacle, she cracked out "why?"

So up to the housetop some ass they did haul,  
With a Miata full of accessories and, of course, Geri too.

And on my new roof, recently replaced due to fire,  
I heard the screeching and braking of each little tire.  
As I cursed in my head and was turning around,  
Down the chimney Geri came with a frown.  
She was dressed all in homemade, from near to far.  
Her labels boasted the tags from "Geri's Bazaar".

A bundle of deck bags she had flung over her back,  
And she looked like a hobo smoking a pack.  
Her eyes how they twinkled! Her dimples how merry!  
I think she drank a little too much of the Sherry!  
Her droll big mouth was open and calling me a schmoie!  
And her neck brace was as white the new fallen snow.

A frown she had clenched with her teeth,  
And the convertible-blown hair covered her head  
like a wreath.  
She had a pretty stern face, and absolutely no belly,  
It did absolutely nothing, when she laughed,  
definitely no jelly.

She wasn't chubby nor plump, a not too jolly elf.  
And I was insulted by her and cried to myself.  
An Italian hand-gesture and motion of her head,  
Soon gave me to know I was in over my head.

She spoke a curse word and went straight to her work,  
And filled my garage then called me a jerk.  
A middle finger I saw arose,  
And shaking in disgrace, up the chimney she rose.  
She sprang to her Miata, to her team gave a honk,  
And away they flew, as she gave my head a bonk.

But I heard her exclaim, as she hauled out of sight,  
"You're kind of a putz, but I guess you're all right."



## 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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The SAN DIEGO MIATA CLUB  
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World Wide Web Home Page at:  
[www.sandiegomiataclub.org](http://www.sandiegomiataclub.org)

Dedicated 24-hour voice message line:  
(619) 434-2007  
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Coronado CA 92178-0833

Dues are \$35 per calendar year.

## 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

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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.



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.

**Al & Ed's Auto Sound**, Car alarms too!  
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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, but feel free to revise and resubmit.

**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. (Nov)

**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) (Nov)

**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, dif-

ferential 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). (Oct)

**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). (Oct)

**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) (Oct)

**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 [Walymiaata@gmail.com](mailto:Walymiaata@gmail.com) (Nov)

**For Sale:** 1993 CORVETTE COUPE: LT-1, Black with Black Leather Interior, low 97K miles, V8, 6-Speed, removable glass top, full power, Magna-flow exhaust. NEW clutch! Well maintained, always garaged and in GREAT condition! \$12,000 or best offer - - 760-789-5171

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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