



TWISTS & TURNS

The newsletter of the San Diego Miata Club

Volume 11 Number 12

December 2006

Remembering "Our Pal Sal"

LAURIE WAID

As Saturday, November 4, dawned, I didn't want to get out of bed. I didn't want to face the day of saying goodbye to my pal, Sal Causarano.

When Sal and Geri left four years ago to move to South Carolina, Steve and I said goodbye to two people who had become members of our extended family. They joined us for vacations, holidays, and

family times. They laughed with us and we cried together. We trusted each other and we shared our joys and sorrows.

Four years ago, we said, "See you later." Then again, when they came out for the Search for Madonna one more time, and again at Surf-N'Safari '04. We never said "goodbye." Now we had to face that Sal was gone.

We arrived at the church early. Steve was a little pensive and quietly hurting inside, not saying much. I fussed with details so that I wouldn't have time to think. Then I reread the scripture I was going to read. "Let not your heart be troubled." "I go to prepare a place for you." These verses I had read many times throughout my life, but never put into the perspective of knowing that a dear friend was now in that place that was prepared for me, and for Sal. What a reassuring and peace-giving thought.

The service was well attended, and we all got a chance to honor the man we loved—quiet, loving, gentle Sal—famous for his "snively" snickering, his attention to extreme detail, and his "go with the flow," fun-loving attitude.

Barb Shev read Old Testament scripture. My husband Steve shared with the large gathered groups some wonderful poignant stories of our



Pastor Ken Roberts leads the memorial service for Sal Causarano.

Photo: Robin Faircloth

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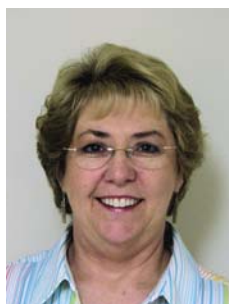
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Submissions to the newsletter are welcomed and encouraged. When possible, please e-mail your submissions to the newsletter editor. Submissions may also be mailed to the club's post office box.

Submission deadline is the 15th of each month. The Editor reserves the right to edit all submissions.

Contact SDMC

On the web

www.sandiegomiataclub.org

24-hour voice message line

619-434-2007

By mail

P.O. Box 180833
Coronado CA 92178-0833

Club e-mail

Most club communication is conducted via e-mail through a Yahoo Group named SDMC-List. A free Yahoo account is required. Follow these steps to join.

1. Go to <http://autos.groups.yahoo.com/group/SDMC-List> (capitalization matters!).
2. Click "Join This Group!"
3. If you have a Yahoo account, log in. If you do not, click "Sign Up" and follow the instructions.
4. After logging in, you will be returned to the SDMC-List "Join This Group" page.
5. In "Comment to Owner," state that you are an SDMC member.
6. Complete remaining selections, perform Word Verification, and click the "Join" button.
7. Your SDMC membership will be verified. The verification and approval process may take several days.

For more detailed instructions, see the club's website.

Membership roster

The membership roster is available to SDMC members only. Follow these steps to access the roster.

1. Go to <http://autos.groups.yahoo.com/group/SDMC-List>.
2. Log in and click "Database"
3. Click on the most current table in the tables list
4. To print, click "Printable Report." The printed copy will be 15-20 pages.

For more detailed instructions and options, see the club's web site.

Membership Information

New Members

Welcome to our newest members (since the previous newsletter):

Greg & Seanna Huber, Chula Vista.....2006 Silver

Rick & Jo Beth Lytle, Spring Valley.....2000 Silver

Joe Ramon, San Diego 1999 White

Stefan Testa & Christine Turner, Escondido..... 1993 Black

As of November 15, 2006, we have 298 memberships (109 single, 189 dual) and a total of 487 members.

Monthly Meetings

Our monthly meetings are a great opportunity to meet your fellow club members, ask questions, and share stories. Meetings are held on the fourth Thursday of each month, except in November and December when we meet on the third Thursday.

We meet at the Boll Weevil restaurant, 9330 Clairemont Mesa Blvd., in San Diego (between I-15

and SR 163). To contact the restaurant, call 858-571-6225.

Many members arrive around 6 p.m. to enjoy meals, snacks, or beverages while chatting with their Miata friends. The informal meeting starts at 7 p.m. We guarantee you'll have fun.

This month's meeting date:
Thursday, December 21

Dues

Dues are \$35 per calendar year, for either an individual or a dual membership (two members in the same household). Members who join the club in the first half of the calendar year (January through June) pay \$35 for their first year; those who join in the second half of the year pay \$20 for the remainder of the year.

Badges

Have you noticed those engraved plastic name badges that other members wear? Would you like to get one?

Badges are available in colors to match your car. The cost is \$9 each for badges with safety-pin closures, or \$10 each for badges with magnetic fasteners. Prices include shipping to your home.

Vicky Krueger handles the ordering. Badge request forms are available at the Regalia table at monthly meetings and on the club's web site. All orders must be prepaid.

Financial Report

JUDY LEWIS, TREASURER

Revenues and deposits:

Dues (new members and renewals).....\$40.00

Regalia\$477.00

Total revenue and deposits\$517.00

Expenses:

Newsletter printing\$258.60

Newsletter postage\$157.50

Regalia purchases\$495.00

Magnetics\$107.75

Recruiting cards\$145.46

Miscellaneous (phone, state tax, other)\$49.42

Total expenses\$1,213.73

Ending balance (10/28/06)\$4,678.90

CHRIS MUSTRI



**SAN DIEGO
MIATA CLUB**

Our Mission

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!

Another year goes by

SUE HINKLE, PRESIDENT

Wow. This is my last President's Message of 2006. Where did this year go?

This past year has been one terrific year for the San Diego Miata Club. We kicked off the year with our first run on New Years Day: The Miata Rose Run. Our club won the Steak and Beans Challenge, sparked by the Habitat for Humanity fundraising events. Members witnessed the infamous Steve Waid savoring a steak dinner while challenger Bud Martin sat eating beans. The year was filled with many signature runs that included The Puke, Search for Madonna, Moon Over Miatas, Twilight Fun Run, and Debbye Does the Santee Drive-In.

There were long runs, short runs, impromptu runs, and weekend runs. Members earned their magnets, and members got to drive on some new and interesting roads.

There were tech days, car shows, vintage races, and autocross events. We searched for rotten eggs, ate ribs and nuts, gathered books for reluctant readers, got a lesson in geology, and dressed up in our Halloween finest. Most recently, we celebrated the life and participated in a memorial for "Our Pal Sal," friend and past-president of the San Diego Miata Club.

Here we are in December. I haven't even begun my holiday shopping, and there are a few more SDMC events on my calendar. The holiday season is my favorite time of the year—decorating the house, the smell of cookies baking, the hustle and bustle of shoppers at the malls, giving and receiving presents, and spending time with friends and family. Speaking of friends, the SDMC Holiday Party is one of my favorite events, and it's a



great way to meet up with Miata friends.

Here's the perfect recipe for kicking off the holiday season: Take a wonderful group of folks who love Miatas, add several cups of fun, give them a great meal, sprinkle with some comic relief, stir and blend for an evening filled with merriment and holiday fun. Of course, the highlight of the evening is the gift exchange and thievery antics of members who want that very special Miata- or car-related gismo or gadget.

It has been a year filled with events from A to Z. Some of you participated in them all, and some participated in a few. I want to extend a special thanks to our members who organized and hosted events during 2006. We drove, we ate, we added goodies to our cars, and we had loads of fun.

Jack and I hope to see all of you at the Holiday Party on December 3 and at the other events planned for this month. We look forward to ringing in the New Year with each of you at the Miata Rose Run, and beginning another fun-filled year with the San Diego Miata Club.

From my family to yours, have a happy holiday season, and best wishes for a bright and healthy new year.

Dues are Due

All memberships in SDMC expire on December 31.

A membership renewal form was included with your November issue of *Twists & Turns*. To download the form, visit the club's web site (www.sandiegomiataclub.org), click "Join our Club" beneath the main headline, then click the link marked "Renewing Members Application." You can also navigate directly to:

[www.sandiegomiataclub.org/
PDF/SDMC_app_renw.pdf](http://www.sandiegomiataclub.org/PDF/SDMC_app_renw.pdf)

Please send your signed application form and your check for \$35 to the club's post office box, which appears on the form, or bring them to any club event.

Have a very Miata Christmas

JERRY STANDEFER, EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

As I write this, I'm still reeling from the shock that Thanksgiving is just next week. By the time you read this, Christmas will be just over three weeks away. Is it just me, or has this year zoomed by?

Regardless of my shock or attempts at denial, I need to realize that my least favorite annual task is at hand: Christmas shopping. I know that I should start it early every year so that I'll avoid the crowds and last-minute panic, but I won't have a reason to drive my Miata like a madman from store to store. Besides, nothing is more exciting than wondering if everything will fit in the trunk. Who needs jigsaw puzzles when you have a dozen boxes in hand and a Miata to fit them into?

Christmas abuse

I don't know about you, but my Miata sure gets abused over the holidays. Nothing is more annoying than sitting in traffic on Christmas day with nearly 200 miles to drive and a trunk and passenger seat full of gifts. The sun is out, the top is up to prevent the wind from stealing gifts, and the AC is running. Stop and crawl, stop and crawl. Is that my clutch making that stink? Where is the nearest Starbucks?

After I finally reach my destination, my poor Miata gets left outside away from all of the festivities. I'm sure it's out there wondering what Miata-unfriendly gifts I'll be trying to stuff into it later. Sometimes I wonder if my family and friends deliberately give me gifts that won't fit into the Miata. Unless it is outrageously large, I usually find a way to fit it in, and my interior has the scuffs and scratches to prove it.

During the Christmas frenzy, I always remember to buy gifts for family, friends, and coworkers. Plus, there is always the all-important gift for the SDMC Holiday Party gift exchange. But, I always try to remember one

other friend that is always faithful and ready to party on a moment's notice: my Miata.

Hard to shop for

My mother is usually the most difficult to purchase a gift for. I can't afford what she really wants, although my father dutifully takes care of that. This year, however, I already have a pretty good idea of what to get her. The most difficult gift decision is going to be what to buy my NC.

Even though the NC doesn't yet have nearly the amount of aftermarket goodies available for the previous generations, the selection is still daunting. I have the Mazda accessories brochure in front of me. Should I get the iPod adapter? Satellite radio module? The gorgeous aluminum doorsill trim plates? How about the aluminum pedals?

What I really want is the detachable hardtop, but that's an awful lot of money. It sure is pretty though. I also wouldn't mind the Mazdaspeed body kit, but the hardtop is a bargain in comparison.

Last year, my Miata's gift came from my parents. It was the then-backordered Mazda car cover. Unfortunately, I haven't made much use of it. I tried, and it did keep the car safe from that evil horror-berry tree, but the ultra-thin StormProof fabric didn't provide enough insulation to keep the dew from forming on the body panels. I miss having a garage.

I'm sure I'll find something. Somebody has to be producing a mesh grill for the NC by now. If nobody has, perhaps I need to look into a business opportunity. Hmm...

Do you buy your Miata(s) gifts for Christmas? I'm sure I'm not alone in this. We love our little roadsters, a lot. Some people might say it's an unhealthy relationship that we have with our cars. They might be right, but I wouldn't have it any other way.



Happy holidays

To break up the stress of Christmas shopping and planning, we have a lot of fun events this month. Two events on the same day kick things off, the San Marcos Holiday Parade, followed just hours later by the SDMC Holiday Party. To make both events, your Miata better not be the only one with zoom-zoom. If you haven't bought your Miata a gift yet, perhaps you'll get one in the controversial and legendary gift exchange. I already know what to buy for that exchange; let's see if I can order it in time. Actually, I want one, so I'll order two.

The following weekend is the Christmas Cruise for the Kids, hosted by Street Masters. You can give your Miata an early Christmas gift with a thorough detailing, and then proudly display your shiny toy at the show. It's for a good cause, and 'tis the season for that.

The next weekend is the Getty Villa run and the Holiday Lights Run and Party. There should be eye-candy galore and lots of time behind the wheel of your Miata. I hope to make as many of these fun events as possible. Will there be any time for shopping at all?

I hope everyone in the club has a very Miata Christmas. Make sure to have fun, don't stress, and don't forget to get a gift for your Miata.

Coming Events

San Marcos Holiday Parade

Date: Sunday, December 3
Time: 10:30 a.m. for caravan to parade staging area
Meet: Dalton's Roadhouse, 775 Center Dr., San Marcos
Contact: Steve & Laurie Waid, 760-432-0727, swaid@cox.net

Details: Each year the San Marcos Kiwanis asks SDMC to help with the annual San Marcos Holiday Parade. This year's parade is on the same date as the club Holiday Party, but there is plenty of time to do both.

We will meet at Dalton's and caravan the short distance to the parade assembly area at Palomar College, leaving Dalton's at 10:45 a.m.

The parade starts at 1:00 p.m. We are typically done by 2:00 p.m. Come prepared to decorate your car. The parade theme this year is "Snowflakes & Sugarplums." If you can carry a dignitary, great. If not, come and drive in the parade anyway. It is a fun, short, family-oriented parade.

SDMC Holiday Party

Date: Sunday, December 3
Time: 5:30 p.m. cocktails; 6:30 p.m. dinner
Meet: Butcher Shop, 5255 Kearny Villa Rd.
Contact: Christine Corbyons, christineac@adelphia.net
Details: Reservations and advance ticket purchases required.

Christmas Cruise for Kids

Date: Sunday, December 10
Time: 7:30 a.m. meet; 7:45 a.m. depart
Show is 8 a.m.-2 p.m.
Meet: Park and ride, Vista Sorrento Parkway (just north of Mira Mesa Boulevard and I-805)
Contact: Mike Schwartz, 858-549-4344, chevymike@ucsd.edu
Cost: New, unwrapped toy(s), and/or cash donations.
Details: Join us for the 21st Annual Christmas Cruise for Kids benefiting the YMCA Family Stress Counseling Services. This show is open to all makes, models, and years, so there are always a variety of cars that show up. The first 200 cars through the gate get a dash plaque and ribbon. A free pancake breakfast is a great way to start the morning, and games, raffles, and a live auction keep the day going. There is fun for all, and it helps children to boot. Let's show everyone why SDMC is one of the biggest and best car clubs in the county.

Mike Schwartz will bring flyers to the November meeting for anyone who would like to order an event T-shirt. They cost \$10 each, and you pick them up at the show. These are pre-orders only, as none will be available for purchase at the show. If you cannot make the meeting time or location, you may arrive at the show at your convenience. The show is located at Torrey Pines High School, 3710 Del Mar Heights Road, one mile east of I-5.

Meeting location directions: From the south, take I-805 north, exit Vista Sorrento Parkway, turn left at the light, and turn left into the first driveway. From the north, take I-805 south, exit Mira Mesa Blvd., turn left, go under the freeway, turn left at Vista Sorrento Parkway (first light), and turn left into the first driveway.

Getty Villa Run

Date: Saturday, December 16
Time: Meet 8:00 a.m.; depart 8:30 a.m.
Meet: UTC-Westfield Shoppingtown, in northeast corner of Sears parking lot
Contact: Marc Daniels, 619-807-4110, marctrevordaniels@yahoo.com
Details: This is a unique and first-time run (at least for SDMC) to the recently refurbished Getty Villa in Pacific Palisades.
The 30 available spaces for this run are taken, and there are eight stand-bys. *Please confirm that you will be attending. If you can't make it, other people would like to take your place.*
Note: Flash photography and tripods are not permitted. Handheld and video cameras using existing light are welcome in the permanent collection galleries. Please check at the entrance of the changing exhibitions for any restrictions in those galleries.
Link: www.getty.edu/visit

Holiday Lights Run & Party

Date: Sunday, December 17
Time: 4:30 p.m.
Meet: Dyanna & Les Smith's home, 11164 Zapata Avenue, San Diego, CA 92126
Contact: Les and Dyanna Smith, 858-578-1416, lessmith@san.rr.com
Details: Don't miss this annual holiday event. Les and Dyanna Smith will be hosting us at their home in Mira Mesa for late afternoon goodies. Then, we'll leave about dark to tour several Rancho Penasquitos neighborhoods whose residents knock themselves out decorating for the holidays. Nothing beats top-down touring in a Miata to take in the sounds and sights of the season. The

run will end with a restaurant stop for more food!

Feel free to add to the festivities by pimping your ride holiday-style. Battery-operated strings of lights around windshields and roll bars are always popular; so are stuffed animals, Santas and other characters. Per SDMC protocol, have fun!

Miata Rose Run

Date: Monday, January 1
Time: 8:30 a.m. breakfast; 9:45 a.m. drivers meeting
Meet: Westside Café, 912 S. Redwood St. (at 9th Ave), Escondido

Contact: Christine and Ray Corbyons,
rcorbyons@roadrunner.com

Details: Christine and Ray Corbyons will reprise last year's popular Miata Rose Run on New Year's Day. What a great way to start a New Year! We had 31 cars last January, and we suspect that this year could bring quite a few more.

For those who choose to (or can) make it, a pre-run breakfast will be available at the Westside Café in Escondido, beginning at 8:30 a.m. The run will start at 10:00, following a 9:45 drivers meeting.

Keep in mind the weather in the mountains; gloves, scarves, and associated warm clothing are recommended. Please RSVP with the color of your car.

Members witness Board deliberations

LARRY CLARK

The club's Executive Board met immediately after the October general meeting at the Boll Weevil. All members were invited to sit in, and about a dozen took advantage of the opportunity to see how the club operates.

The first topic was the club's by-laws. President Sue Hinkle noted that an exception was made recently to allow a member outside of San Diego County to run for office. This and other proposed changes were discussed. The Board appointed Gene Streeter to chair a committee of three members to review the current by-laws and recommend changes. Larry Clark agreed to serve on the committee.

Judy Lewis reported on the club's financial status. We seem to be in good shape through year-end, when renewals will begin arriving.

It was noted that signed liability waivers are part of the applications for new or renewed memberships, but that we do not require waivers from non-members who participate in our events. This appears to create a major exposure, especially in the case of minors riding in cars. Other Miata clubs routinely require waivers by all participants at each driving event, and the Board decided that SDMC should, too. Sue volunteered to check with our insurance carrier for proposed wordings of the waiver, but she will prepare an interim version to be used until a final version is established.

The question was raised as to what the club should do if no volunteers are willing to staff the newsletter when the existing team retires. The most obvious option would be to publish just a calendar of events, with an appropriate reduction in dues. Another suggestion was to outsource the job to students who might do the job to gain experience.

The Regalia team has been experiencing difficulty getting embroidered items from Beeds. We are searching for another vendor, although doing so will result in costs for digitizing the various versions of our logo. Mark Booth agreed to visit Beeds to see if he can resolve the problems.

The membership database on Yahoo Groups was last updated in February. After discussion, it was agreed to update it again early next year, after the bulk of renewals have been received.

Several comments were made in regard to the need for more members to plan and host events. A dis-

cussion of how to encourage more event leaders did not yield any immediate solutions.

Sue suggested that SDMC consider putting on another regional event. She indicated that a core committee should be formed now because such events take about two years of planning. The consensus was that the name Surf 'N' Safari already is well regarded and should be reused. It was suggested that planning wait until a new Board is elected in April, which can carry the project through.

To view the official minutes of this meeting, log onto Yahoo Groups and enter the SDMC-List group. Navigate from "Files," to "Minutes," and on to "2006 Monthly Minutes," then look for "SDMC Exec Board Minutes Oct 2006.doc."



An attentive crowd was on hand for the Executive Board's first open meeting in recent memory. Photo: Jerry Standefer

times with Sal and his gal Geri. Pastor Ken Roberts shared some uplifting thoughts regarding Sal and the trip on the Highway to Heaven. President Sue Hinkle read the poem Sal wrote to say goodbye before they moved four years ago.

The group honored Sal with yellow roses, and then later in the day with yellow ribbons on our cars, commemorating his love for his favorite little yellow car, "Woodstock."



Geri Causarano tips her hat, signed by many SDMC members. Photo: Robin Faircloth

After the tears and laughter of the service, we gathered in our cars and drove over some of our favorite roads to Ramona and around the neighborhood where Geri and Sal lived and entertained so many of us so many times. The sky was a cloudless blue and the air warm as we made our way to the Nuevo Grill, another of Sal's favorites, where the staff was waiting for us. They were wonderfully prepared for the crowd, and made the day just that much nicer with their great attitude and good food.

Those who could then joined Steve and me on a spirited run over Highland Valley Road and on to our home. Many times Sal and Geri would call for a "Pie Run" after a Miata run. It seemed we were just never ready to go home, so we would pick up pies and head for



Lunch at the Nuevo Grill in Ramona satisfied appetites while bringing back more memories. Photo: Tom Wood

their house or ours. We wanted to continue that tradition on our day of honoring Sal.

About 40 people sat around the TV and watched SDMC's 10th Anniversary DVD that Mark Booth prepared for the annual meeting, and we tearfully but smilingly watched as images of Sal and Geri having fun with us popped up over and over on the DVD.

It was a day we didn't seem to want to end. The last folks left our house after 8 p.m. It was a long day, but a wonderful tribute to my pal Sal. It was a time of laughing, choking back tears, remembering, and vowing to "see you later."

Thanks to all who joined us, and who worked to make the day special. It was meaningful and memorable to all of Sal's pals.



The long day ended with a pie run at the Waids' home in Escondido, watching Mark Booth's DVD of club history. Photo: Tom Wood

Viewpoints

Memorial Run

We just wanted to take the time to say thanks to everybody who participated in Sal's memorial service and run. From start to finish it was a class act. The weather was beautiful all day.

Ken Roberts put on a first-class memorial service for Sal that was truly a celebration of Sal's life. Barb Shev and Laurie Waid provided some very nice scripture readings. Steve Waid provided some really funny stories (snapshots) about experiences with Sal that had everybody laughing. Then Geri provided some kind and loving words.

After the service, we piled 61 people in 31 cars, and headed off for the first annual Sal Causarano Memorial Run. I hear that there will be more runs in the years to come on or around Sal's birthday of May 28.

When we arrived at Nuevo Grill in Ramona, they were well prepared for us, including a small flyer on the tables welcoming the participants in Sal's memorial run. During the meal, you could hear numerous stories about our time with our pal Sal.

After a good meal, about 40 people adjourned for a "Pie Run" to Steve and Laurie's house for pie and ice cream. Once everybody had grabbed their first helping of pie and ice cream, we adjourned to the living room for an encore screening of the SDMC 10th Anniversary DVD.

As the evening drew to a close, we found that the day had been a true celebration of Sal's life and everything that he and SDMC represent: good food, good fun, and good friends.

—Jerry & Janice Boster

Thank you Jerry and Janice! I don't think you missed any details of our celebration in our pal Sal's name. It's been a while since I've been that far south to enjoy a day with all of my SDMC friends! The whole day I was thinking about Sal doing his thing—sitting back and watching. He was up there watching Steve with his yellow towel, Barb Shev sharing her box of Kleenex, us laughing and crying, and laughing and crying. There were a couple of times I was laughing so hard that the tears started rolling with the happiest of memories! My gratitude to all who worked so hard to pull this special event off!

Yep, you said it all. Another awesome day with our cute little cars, good roads, good food, good fun, and fabulous friends!

—Bari Russell

Halloween Party

On Saturday, October 28, several club members showed up in Halloween style sporting costumes from Tacky Tourists to the Angel of Death. There was a head on a platter, a big guy in an outlandish yellow suit, and even a shower complete with Miata embellishments on the curtain. Steve Wynn also made an appearance with his fist through a \$139 million painting, as did the Queen Bee.

Thanks to the Clarks, aka "Dirty Mary and Crazy Larry," for a great Halloween evening, all of the gobbling goodies, and ghostly camaraderie. You guys really know how to have a party.

Thanks for all the fun!

—Sue Hinkle

Larry and Mary Clark sure know how to throw a great party! After a costume disaster (shower curtain rod was too flimsy to work) and leaving late, Gabe and I were in a bad mood on the way there. However, it didn't take long for that mood to change. We had a blast between all of the costumes, the RC autocross, and laughs. I guess Larry wasn't expecting monster RC cars on Halloween night; our admittedly oversized Jeep was twice as wide as the autocross lanes, but it did win the large car class. It was so excited, it decided to take a plunge into the pool (the Jeep was possessed ... that's my story, and I'm sticking to it)!

Sue referred to the Clarks as "Dirty Mary and Crazy Larry." There was a 1974 car-themed movie by the same name starring Peter Fonda. The Clarks have a framed promo poster for that movie in the entrance to their kitchen. Cool!

Thanks Larry and Mary for putting on such a terrific party. Although, I was glad when it was over... wearing a shower cap and fuzzy slippers for several hours is a terrible experience!

—Jerry Standefer

Halloween howl, Miata Club style

GENE STREETER

We rolled into the dimly lit Escondido neighborhood, driving our OTM. Try as I might, Bonnie refused to wear her "Dinner is Served" table costume, much less with the top down. (Listen up, gentlemen. I get to set the rules in *my* car, and we travel top down...with her permission.) The dining table wouldn't fit in our Miata's trunk. I tried, and there was no time for a re-design.

As it turned out, we weren't the only tortured souls venturing out for some Halloween fun at the Clarks' Crypt in sleepy western Escondido. Nor were we the only folks sporting OTM transportation. Truth is, trunk space isn't the primary factor in owning a Miata. For the real estate-minded among you, their home is in a gentrified part of town, a once-quiet neighborhood, on a single-loaded street (not really certain whether that refers to celebratory gunshots or choice of alcohol as attitude adjustment).

Back to the other love of my life. Table and tablecloth installed, Bonnie's ghoulishly painted head is literally on a platter, trimmed in lettuce and sporting an apple in her mouth. Okay, I confess, that prop served two purposes.

The very thought of the Clarks being in charge of a Trick-or-Treat Halloween Party sent shivers up and down my gelatinous spine. Dr. Shack, if you're reading this, please don't confuse poetic license for a real medical emergency. Thanks for your indulgence. I still suffer recurrent nightmares stemming from last year's Great Pumpkin rally, orchestrated by none other than Crazy Larry and sadistic sidekick, Dirty Mary. (Editors, please don't confuse

this description with poetic license. They have a vintage movie poster proudly displayed in their lovely home to further validate this claim.)

As you may recall, the rally rules were demonic—this pumpkin's rotten, this one's valid...no, wait...it's on a building. The entire nightmare plays and replays in my head, owing to my disappointing finish. And to think, Larry seemed like such a nice guy.

Everybody's a (movie) critic

Of course, our own Les Smith, fresh from last month's well-studied review of *Beerfest*—a candidate for cult-classic status if ever there was one—probably remembers the

miliation. Never mind the skeletal remains in the boiling cauldron (red light in the spa) and front planter. I'm guessing that unfortunate soul was the last driver to make it home from one of Larry's gimmick rallies.

Those brave enough to attend and living to tell (about 30 of us) were made to feel welcome by the Great Bumpkin (resembling an Ozark version of Rush Limbaugh), the Great Pumpkin (no misspelling here), and Suki, the Canine Security agent. The food, while devilishly good, wasn't harboring any surprises—we nibbled and noshed our evening away, never quite able to make the cold cuts, meatballs, cheeses, etc. disappear

As the guest list (*menu* to some of us) swelled, Larry's alter ego made an appearance as an Albert Einstein-like hippy. A straw poll of the evening's revelers suggested Larry keep the mask. Not surprising, I preferred the hair.

Genius aside, there were only a few automotive-related costumes. Les Smith's angelic version of Dale Earnhardt (Die Hard patch, NASCAR defined, Goodyear wings, etc.) was certainly in keeping with the theme.

President Sue Hinkle's stylish reincarnation of Barney Oldfield consisted of leather driving helmet

(luggage for the brain), bomber jacket, goggles, and scarf.

Fashionably late and coming from work, Barb Shev's classic rendition of a helium balloon-carrying car salesman was a decided hit. The best part of her costume was definitely the helium. Apart from Barb's tales of her gambling exploits, here's a prescription for fun at any party: have guests take a lung-full of helium prior to beginning their story or song. There is something profoundly amusing about full-size



Gene Streeter prepares for dinner—with Bonnie as the main course.
Photo: Kari Streeter

movie in question. *Dirty Mary Crazy Larry* starred Peter Fonda, Susan George, and Vic Morrow (no head-on-a-platter joke here...not me!). Either way, Larry and Mary appreciate the movie poster for its touch of nostalgia and its function as conversation catalyst.

Here, the King of Tricks, the Prince of Peculiarity, the Grand Poobah of Pumpkins, and his very own Mistress of the Dark (eat your well-seeded heart out, Elvira) is hosting yet another Miata Club hu-



Jack Hinkle came as a North Korean tourist in his HazMat outfit. Photo: Kari Streeter

adults speaking in the pipsqueak voices you'd associate with lawn gnomes. Presidential aspirations intact, I did not inhale.

This was in stark contrast to the larger-than-life Steve Waid, seen sauntering and swaggering about in his screaming yellow Zoot suit. For those of us who remember Bud Martin's attire in the Steak 'n' Beans awards dinner at Dalton's Roadhouse, here's an interesting thought: Is there an underlying fashion sense in SO-CALM that spawns this style? Steve's suit was so loud and bright, it would have sent Elton John scampering for his larger-than-life sunglasses. Laurie Waid's yellow and black rendition of a bumblebee couldn't begin to compete in terms of voltage or yardage. Cute, nonetheless.

Cute was not the word associated with First Gentleman Jack Hinkle. Sporting a Hazmat suit and respirator, his mask had all his facial elements convincingly re-arranged and contorted. Jack's advice to all: "Life's too short to drink cheap wine and drive boring cars!"

Kelley Raymond, looking every bit of \$139 million dollars, was sporting the most cerebral costume of the evening...a well-dressed Steve Wynn, wearing a Picasso oil painting on her left arm. Timely and smart, Kelley's costume un-masked another dimension to our Texas transplant.

Christine Corbyons crawled from her crypt as the angel of death.

While convincing in her role (way too much make-up, dahling), the song *Devil with the Blue Dress* was queued-up for some of the onlookers...grrrr.

Ray Corbyons as the grim reaper was anything but. Waving his trident as if there was no tomorrow, he spent much of his evening keeping the Grand Prix cars out of the backyard landscape.

Jerry Standefer—yet another talent comes to the surface. Jerry printed, sewed, and sprinkled his way to portable "Shower of the Month" honors for his execution. I think he's actually on to something here. Don't be surprised if that Miata-themed shower curtain isn't one of the most sought-after gifts at the upcoming Christmas Party. Yeah, baby.

Gabe Rivera was regal and convincing as the King of Mardi Gras.

David and Kari Streeter, in their inflatable tacky-tourist outfits, received the popular vote for the best-coordinated couple. As it happened, that coordination carried over to David's RC driving skills.

Mike and Elinor Shack's outfits performed double-duty for their roles in a murder mystery before our Halloween party. Mike had the aura of an ambassador, or perhaps Monopoly's

own Mr. Pennypacker. Elinor played helium-charged secretary.

Steve Licata proved very convincing as a devil, horns protruding from each temple. The make-up artistry carried over to ghoulish wife, Kit. Maybe I should re-phrase that last comment...nah.

The nonsense continued with punster Harold Schwartz in a friar's outfit dotted with bags of Fritos (a *chip monk!*), Dyanna Smith as a beautiful skunk (thankfully, with non-scents), and way too many others to recall.

The Grand Prix of Escondido

Our hosts distributed ballots for the costume contest, and then it was time for the "driving event." The gentlemen (and ladies) started their engines for what history may well record as the first, last, and only Grand Prix of Escondido.

Using the "run-what-you-brung" format (thanks to Kelley Raymond for that expression), there was a wide assortment of remote-controlled vehicles. Owners and promoters Larry and Suki arbitrarily decided there would be two competition classes: much larger than the rulebook anticipated, and (to use Larry's own eloquent description) friggin' humongous.

As in the full-scale world, colors were important. The winning red Audi R8 prototype scratched and clawed its way to victory at the capable hands of David Streeter. My turn at the same controls proved ham-fisted—entertaining for the first 2-3 minutes, after which everyone's sides ached from laughter.

Race contestants provided the evening's automotive entertainment. With only one or two exceptions, the term remote *control* was a complete misnomer as drivers tried to coax their entries around a custom, chalked course.

No Larry Clark-orchestrated event would be complete without eggs or pumpkins. I, for one, applaud his decision to use plastic pumpkins instead of eggs, but not for the reason you're thinking. The eggs, were they previously fertil-



Jerry Standefer steps out of his shower, accompanied by Mardi Gras King Gabe Rivera. Photo: Linda Payne

ized, might have hatched before the contest was called. I believe venue owner/operator Larry showed great restraint, invoking the Mercy Rule only once.

Those damnable pumpkins were strategically placed to interfere with proper vehicle placement in the lane, and always interfering with the proper racing line. Except for the complete lack of available sunlight, a sundial would have been a more appropriate timing device than Larry's Chrondek.

The eventual winners were David Streeter and Jerry Standefer, but not until



TIPTOE THROUGH THE PUMPKINS. "Chip Monk" Harold Schwartz navigates the autocross as Steve Licata stands by as corner worker. Photo: Linda Payne

Jerry's super-sized Jeep took a dip into the inviting pool nearby. The Jeep was humongous, but Jerry's keyboarding dexterity translated nicely into his controller operation and driving ability. Put another way, imagine mild-mannered reporter Clark Kent shedding his coat and tie (or shower curtain in this case) and driving the course à la Ivan Stewart.

Back inside, costume pieces were shed (easy, boy!), final snacks consumed, farewells uttered, and lies swapped all around.

Great party, eh?

A brighter third-eye brake light

TED KESLER

Did you ever look at your third eye brake light and notice that it's not very bright and a little lopsided when lit? Here's how to fix that in an hour, for about six bucks.

1. Go to Pep Boys and buy a "Sidemarker Socket 17mm," part #84803. Then go a couple of aisles over and pick up a package of 921 or 921LL bulbs. Go home. (You can do this in the parking lot, or maybe not, depending on your neighborhood Pep Boys.)

2. Remove the two 10 mm nuts and your third eye (the one in the trunk lid).

3. Unplug the bulb socket and take the housing to your bench (or your kitchen table, Steve). On the back side of the housing, there is a hole for the stock bulb, and a metal component screwed to a plastic stalk. (Rocky says that's a heat sink and has to stay on there; he told me this after I cut mine off.)

4. Drill, Dremel, or carve a hole the size of the smallest diameter of the new bulb socket, just past the heat sink (Figure 1). I Dremeled a hole the size of an 11 mm socket,



Figure 1. Socket protruding from new hole.

which is just large enough to slip the bulb through. A plain round hole will do; the rubber socket will clamp itself into the housing. You'll see.

5. Splice into the stock wiring loom. The wire order is irrelevant. I'm assuming you can solder or have a few splices lying around the shop. The crimp-on style where you lay the wires in and close the top will do nicely here. My butt splices are shown in Figure 2.

6. To make this a really cool installation, you could add the flasher kit that our Regalia team sells, or



Figure 2. Spliced wires.

use a Tridon 2524BA flasher and some 1/4 inch connectors (Figure 3).

7. Place the light assembly back into the trunk lid, and reinstall the two 10 mm nuts.



Figure 3. Flasher kit.

You may be a Car Guy if ...

BRUCE LEWIS

- ... you will roll down your window to listen to the exhaust note of a hot car next to you.
- ... you are never done “tricking out” your car.
- ... you will accelerate to obscene speeds just to catch a better look at the Ford GT that just passed you.
- ... you finally agree to go shopping with your wife at the mall and pretend to be surprised that they are having a car show.
- ... you actually enjoy shopping— if it’s at Kragen, Pep Boys, or Auto Zone.
- ... you can spend three hours detailing your engine bay.
- ... you can actually feel the difference between 28 psi and 32 psi in the twisties.



- ... you clean your chassis (your car’s, not yours).
- ... your favorite color is chrome.
- ... you understand oversteer and understeer.
- ... you know the meaning of every number and letter on a tire sidewall.
- ... you change your oil every 3,000 miles.
- ... you get a little bent when someone leaves greasy fingerprints on your window frame.
- ... you have more bottles of “car stuff” in the garage than you have meds in the medicine cabinet.
- ... you save your old toothbrushes for detailing.
- ... you carry a “car duster” in your trunk.
- ... you get more car magazines than bills in the mail every month.
- ... the inside of your wheels and tires are as clean as the outside.
- ... the local parts store guys know you by name and what kind of car you drive.


- ... you check out the ‘53 Corvette next to you instead of the cute blonde driving it.
- ... you think yellow is a cool color (I realize that this may be optional).
- ... you can tighten any nut or bolt to within 10% of its recommended torque.
- ... you have drag raced at sometime in your life.
- ... you think anything looks better with flames.
- ... you have owned way more stick-shifts than automatic transmissions.
- ... you ever stole your kid’s diapers to use for wiping down your car.
- ... you own more than 12 car shirts and 12 car hats.
- ... you know what SAE stands for.
- ... you own a box of latex work gloves, but also own 2–3 cans of hand cleaner because you forget to use the gloves.
- ... you own complete socket sets in 1/4, 3/8, and 1/2 in SAE and Metric.
- ... you own Torx wrenches, a timing light, an impact wrench, a telescoping mirror, a retrieval magnet, a voltmeter, endless tubes of lubes, sealers and gasket makers, a floor jack, a compression gauge, etc.
- ... you still have every screwdriver that you have ever owned—short, long, Phillips, slot—and own more of them than most well-equipped tool stores.

Oh! This is just in from my wife, Debbye:

- ... you spend more time on your #%*&+@ car than you do on your wife!

I guess that will end this episode of Car Guy. Look for more in future issues.

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Rocky Murphy: Challenger in the Ring, Champ in the Garage

KELLEY RAYMOND

How cool would it be if your dad's best friend was boxing legend Rocky Graziano? William "Rocky" Murphy can tell you that, like anything else in life, it had its advantages and disadvantages.

One big disadvantage was avoided when the addition to the Murphy family was born a boy instead of a girl because, regardless, the new dad was determined to call the baby Rocky to pay homage to his best friend. A girl named Rocky would have fared no better than a boy named Sue.

Most of us know Rocky as a mild-mannered Miata mechanic *extraordinaire* (and Larry Dennstedt's right-hand man), but Rocky's first career—as a boxer—began when he was only 5 years old. That's what you do when you have the advantage of training tips from a certified superstar. The youngster trained six days a week at his family's gym in downtown San Diego, and he began competing only a year later, at the ripe old age of 6.

Over the next 20 years, Rocky visited 48 states to compete in boxing tournaments. He never attended a tournament in Alaska, but wants to go on an Alaskan cruise some day. (He never made it to Rhode Island either, but he's OK with that.)

Rocky started boxing professionally and was set to sign a big contract with a promoter when he squared off with what would prove to be his career-ending adversary: a

jungle gym. Yep, the fleet-footed, nimble boxer was KO'd while playing with his young daughter in his backyard. All kidding aside, the accident resulted in an incredibly debilitating back injury that took months to recover from and still continues to give him back problems.

After recovering from the accident sufficiently to return to work, Rocky ran the family gym for the next three years. When operating costs forced him to close the doors, he chose to leave the industry.



Sherrie and Rocky in her Laguna Blue. Rocky's Crystal White and his '57 Ford project car are in the background. Photo: Kelley Raymond

(People still call Rocky and ask him to train them.) Like most pro athletes, Rocky had always considered what he would do "after." Even though his family wanted him to use his artistic talents to go into drafting or some other form of art, Rocky instead chose to return to another early passion, his love of cars.

He bought his first car, a '55 Chevy coupe, when he was only 14. It's a good thing he did, because he had to work on it until he was 16 to

get it running. Rocky realized early on that not only did he enjoy working on cars, but that being very good at it came easily for him. A couple of other favorite cars that he owned and worked on over the years were his 1972 Plymouth Satellite Sebring and a 1970 Dodge Charger R/T.

Rocky spent a few years working in the car industry's version of "corporate America" as a mechanic at Ford and Chevrolet dealerships. You see, when Rocky got that '55 Chevy running and got his driver's license, he swore he would never own anything but an American car because it wouldn't have "American muscle."

About 8 years ago, while Rocky was working at an auto parts store across the street from Dennstedt's Auto Repair, fate dealt SDMC a winning hand. Larry Dennstedt's mechanic quit, and Larry hired Rocky. While they're not exactly Click and Clack on "Car Talk," Larry and

Rocky are, hands-down, SDMC's favorite dynamic duo—the Master Mechanics of the Miata Club!

Over the years, Rocky enjoyed working on many Miatas. So when gas prices began their crazy climb about three years ago, Rocky decided to buy one from a customer. The amazing little Miata had worked its magic on this staunch supporter of Detroit-manufactured machines. Soon after, he joined SDMC.

His '91 Crystal White now has a

Jackson header, a RoadsterSport exhaust, a custom-built aftermarket air intake, Racing Beat sway bars, KYB shocks, Eibach springs, Toyo



ANOTHER SIDE OF ROCKY. Here's a view many SDMC members often see. Photo: Kelley Raymond

T1R tires, and a carbon fiber fascia.

Earlier this year, Rocky purchased a '92 Laguna Blue for his girlfriend, Sherrie Ford. Her Miata has a Racing Beat header and air intake, sway bars, KYB shocks, and

chrome wheels. Depending on which SDMC event they're attending, sometimes Sherrie is Rocky's co-pilot; other times she drives her car with her son CJ as co-pilot.

Rocky was raised in Colorado but has lived in San Diego for more than 20 years, the last 9 in Santee. His three children, Kelly, Michael, and Katie-Lynn, were all born and raised in San Diego. Michael is still here; the girls are currently living in Maryland. Rocky's favorite vacation spot is Hawaii.

Currently, Rocky's passion and his life's biggest challenge is completing the custom-building of his '57 Ford hot rod, which he intends to show. He has finished the work he wanted to perform on his Miata

and plans to start autocrossing it at Qualcomm in January.

Rocky's sports car philosophy is as simple and classic as the Miata itself: Have fun!

Sneak Preview

Would you like to know what questions you'll be asked before you agree to an interview for the Personalities column? No problem.

Just visit SDMC's web site (www.sandiegomiataclub.org), click the link on the left side labeled "Club and Car Info," then find the link at the bottom of the Club Info column, "Member Profile Sheet – for newsletter."

Keep in mind that these questions are just a starting point for your story. If you'd like to know more, send an e-mail to kray63@yahoo.com or newsletter@sandiegomiataclub.org, or call Kelley at 619-846-3784.

Volunteering at the Speed Festival

KIT LICATA

Like Steve Waid and Art Hamilton, who reported in last month's issue, my husband Steve and I have been attending the annual Coronado Speed Festival since the inaugural in 1997. But we attended in a different way than many of the public have. We were part of a group of volunteers that had a booth in '97, '98, and '99, where we had a display of autocross cars and information geared to the young adult drivers about the importance of safe driving.

We were among an elite group of adults, Boy Scouts, and young teenagers who were part of the National High School Car Club Association that was formed in 1997. What better place to show the teenagers what driving safely was all about than the

Speed Festival? There is no longer a National High School Car Club Association, but the experiences have lasted forever.

The first time we worked at the Speed Festival, we were assigned as the cleanup group, and we had to use rakes and shovels to clean under the stands and in the vendor booths. I was the one who accidentally unplugged all of the main lights in the vendor area. Oops!

We still carry on a tradition. On Saturday night, after the course workers are done, we prepare dinner for them, as we did this year. Throughout the many years that Steve and I have attended, we have met all of the drivers in the paddock areas; many know us by our first names. We would not miss this

event for anything. It is not just the roar of those engines and the beauty of them that is worth seeing, but all the friends we met and remember.

We have had dinner on the Ronald Reagan with the admiral and the drivers, and we even had drinks in the paddock with them. They are truly what "classic" is all about. They are wonderful people with wonderful old stories. I am proud to know them, and to share that "special time" if only for an hour or two over dinner and drinks.

We recently entered our 1991 Ford van "Big Gulp" in the first car show at the Speed Festival on Saturday and Sunday. On Sunday, we won second place. Even our '92 Miata was in the front row of the Miatas on Saturday and Sunday.

Earn your Tenth Anniversary DVD

MARK BOOTH

Starting on January 1, 2007, anyone who wants a copy of the SDMC Tenth Anniversary photo slide show DVD will have a chance to get one. But you won't be able to buy one, nor will Cathy and I be giving any more copies as gifts or raffle prizes.

Until December 31, 2007, the *only* way to get a copy of the Tenth Anniversary DVD is for you to host a *driving* event for your fellow club members. Each person or couple who hosts a driving event (one membership per event) will receive a copy of the DVD as a special "thank you" from Cathy and me for supporting the club.

To qualify, your event *must* be planned long enough in advance to be included in *Twists & Turns*. We want to allow as many members as

possible to participate, so impromptu runs do not qualify. Also, it must be a driving event; strictly social gatherings do not qualify. To earn the DVD, you must put some planning into the event and give us a chance to put some miles on our Miatas—together, as a group.

There will be a limit of one DVD per membership. Those who have already earned a DVD are encouraged to take another member under their wing and help *them* earn a DVD. Also, a qualifying event must be planned to start or finish in San Diego County or start or finish close enough to San Diego County to expect a fair number of SDMC attendees.

We may make exceptions to these rules. For example, a hosted Tech Day would likely qualify. While

Tech Days aren't driving events *per se*, they are very much about Miatas, and they require a pretty large investment in time and planning, much to the benefit of the members attending.

Cathy and I encourage members to come up with other ideas that they feel might qualify for a DVD. But our goal is to get more *driving* events.

These special DVDs are in addition to the wonderful SDMC magnets you earn for hosting your first event. So, for the many members who have never hosted an event, this next year can be a win-win for you.

Ray and Christine Corbyons will be the first to earn a DVD, thanks to their January 1 Miata Rose Run. Who's next?

Gift Ideas from the Regalia Team



Stay warm on cooler fall evenings with a non-zippered hoodie, in gray with logo (blue car¹) front and rear. \$25.



Classic crew sweatshirt in heather gray or white with logo (red car¹) front and rear. \$20.

Just in time for cooler weather, we now have a zippered hoodie, in gray with logo (red car¹) front and rear. \$28.



¹ Descriptions indicate in-stock colors; other colors available as special orders.

To see our additional products, visit us at the website. To place an order, please contact regalia@sandiegomiataclub.org or visit us at the monthly meeting.

—Linda Payne and Mary Clark, Regalia Team

Classified Ads

MIATAS FOR SALE

1997 Miata. Turbo, Black, 1.8L, 5 speed NA, PW/PS/AC, 65.5k miles, mechanically maintained and garaged, clean except for some door dings. SFI padded/upholstered roll bar, fog lights, alloy wheels w/locks, chassis brace, air horn, ignition interlock alarm system, sheepskin seat covers, upgraded speakers (new in box), custom Monsoon car cover (unused), extra set of steel wheels. \$5,500. Glenn Roger, 760-630-5800, glenroger@sbcglobal.net (Nov)

2003 Miata LS. Garnet Red with tan leather and top. 55k miles, 5-speed manual, power windows and locks, chrome gas filler, bra, car cover, cockpit cover. Excellent condition. Retails more than \$17k. Selling on Auto Trader for \$16k, will let it go for \$15,000 to Miata folks. Mike Shack, 858-485-0278, mshack@san.rr.com (Nov)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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.

Classified ad space is provided at no cost to *SDMC members only*. Ads must include first and last names, telephone number, and e-mail address, which must agree with current club roster.

Send ads to newsletter@sandiegomiataclub.org. Ads will run for four months unless canceled, and may be revised and resubmitted.

Member Discounts

Many vendors offer discounts to Miata Club members. The club does not endorse these vendors, but lists them as a membership benefit. Some offers may require you to show a current SDMC membership card.

Businesses that wish to be listed must offer a discount from their normal retail prices to SDMC members. Listings are limited to five lines (about 30-35 words). Contact newsletter@sandiegomiataclub.org for more information.

Automotive Services

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

American Battery. Miata batteries & all other batteries. 525 West Washington, Escondido. 760-746-8010. Contact: Jeff Hartmayer. Discount: Fleet discount on all products.

Bumper Express. Plastic bumper repair at shop or mobile truck will come to you. 9630 Black Mountain Rd., Ste. J, off Miramar Rd. 877-228-6737. www.bumperexpress.com. Discount: 20%

Coast Car Covers, Inc. Car covers, cockpit covers. 1229 Morena Blvd., San Diego. 619-275-7100. Discount: Wholesale price.

Express Tire. Auto repair, tires. 12619 Poway Road, Poway. 858-748-6330. Manager: David Dolan. Discount: 10% on parts and labor, including tires.

Geri's Bazaar. Custom deck bags, boot bags, travel bags. Maximize the space in your trunk. Contact: Geri Causarano. 828-400-1673. www.geris-bazaar.com. Substantial savings to club members.

Good-Win Racing LLC. Miata intakes, exhausts, shocks, springs, & goodies from Racing Beat, Moss, and more. www.goodwin-racing.com. 858-775-2810. Special club price on everything.

Hawthorne Wholesale Tire. Tires, wheels, brakes, and suspension. 877 Rancheros Dr., San Marcos. 760-746-6980. Discount:

10%

Just Dings Ltd. Mobile paintless dent removal. 858-569-3464. Discount: 15%

Kesler Customs. Miata chassis braces, adjustable dead pedals, hide-away license plate brackets. Installation of aftermarket parts, fabrication, light welding. Ted Kesler, 619-421-8472. Special club prices.

Knobmeister Quality Images. 3595 Gray Circle, Elbert, CO 80106-9652. Joe Portas, joe@knobmeister.com. 303-730-6060.

Langka Corp. Guaranteed paint chip and scratch repair system. Cleaning, detailing, and restoration products. 800-945-4532. www.langka.com. Discount: 30%.

Larry Dennstedt's Auto Repair. 4283 41st Street, San Diego. 619-284-4911. Discount: 10% on labor.

Lutz Tire & Service. Alignment specialist, tires. 2853 Market Street, San Diego. 619-234-3535. Ask for Mike. Discount: 10% on parts (tires not included).

Magnolia Auto Body. Restorations, body work. 476 West Main Street, El Cajon. 619-562-7861. Ask for T.J. Discount: 10% on labor and parts.

Porterfield Enterprises Ltd. Brake pads, rotors. 1767 Placentia Ave., Costa Mesa. 949-548-4470. Discount: 15% on Porterfield & Hawk brake pads; \$10 off rotors; \$9.25 for Motul 600 brake fluid (1 pint).

Smog Squad. 3342 Rosecrans, San Diego. 619-223-8806. General Manager: Jose Munoz. Discount: \$10 on smog tests.

Team Voodoo. Nearly legendary shift knobs, t-shirts, hats, decals, etc. vbob@teamvoodoo.com or fax 858-679-9484. Discount: 10% and no sales tax.

Thompson Automotive. Cool accessories for our cool cars; oil filter relocation kits, gauge kits, air horns, brakes, Voodoo knobs, & MORE. www.thompson-automotive.com. 949-366-0322. Discount: 10%

Tri-City Paint. Professional detailing, products, paint, airbrushes, car covers. West Miramar Area: 858-909-2100; Santee, Mission Gorge: 619-448-9140. Discount: Body

shop pricing #CM6660.

WheelStore. Wheels, tires, suspension, alignment. 208 S. Coast Hwy., Oceanside. 760-967-1336. Contact: Joe Jordan. Discount: Wholesale price on tires; \$10 off alignments.

World Famous Car Wash. Complete professional car care. Complete detail, hand wax, leather treatment, free shuttle service. 7215 Clairemont Mesa Blvd, San Diego. 858-495-9274. Discount: 10%

Mazda Dealerships

Bell Road Mazda. Phoenix. 800-765-5292. Ask for John Mardueno or Scott Moehn. Discount: 20% on Mazda parts and accessories.

Mazda El Cajon. 619-442-7050. Discount: 20% on Mazda parts; 10-20% on accessories.

Mazda of Escondido. 760-737-3200. Discount: 15% on parts and labor (not including smog certification.)

Westcott Mazda. National City. 619-474-1591. Discount: 10% on parts or labor (except oil changes).

Other Services

Alarm 2000. Residential and commercial alarm installations and monitoring. Free equipment with 2-way voice & free install. Buffy Hergenrader, 619-221-0948. buffy@iopener.net. Discount: No connection fee.

Coldwell Banker Real Estate. David T. Bryan, Realtor. 619-334-4625. davidbryan@coldwellbanker.com. Free market analysis. No transaction fees for SDMC members or referrals!

Linsco Private Ledger. Fee-based planner. Wealth management, estate, retirement, and investment planning. Free consultation and 15% discount on all fees. Hernan Hooker, BCE. 619-542-0822.

Rosin & Associates. Attorneys at law. Accidents, insurance issues, general civil law. No recovery, no fee. Anita Rosin, anita.rosin@rosinlaw.com. 619-543-9600. Discount: 10% on attorneys fees.

Address

DECEMBER 2006

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1	2
3 Holiday Parade & Party	4	5	6	7	8	9
10 Christmas Cruise	11	12	13	14	15 T&T DEADLINE	16 Getty Villa Hanukkah begins
17 Holiday Lights	18	19	20	21 Monthly Meeting	22 Winter Solstice	23
24 31	25 Christmas	26 Kwanzaa begins	27	28	29	30

JANUARY 2007

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1 Rose Run New Year's	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25 Monthly Meeting	26	27
28	29	30	31			

DATE	EVENT	TIME	MEET	CONTACT	PAGE
Sun 12/3	San Marcos Holiday Parade	10:30 a.m. (caravan) 1:00 p.m. (parade)	Dalton's, 775 Center Dr., San Marcos	Steve & Laurie Waid 760-432-0727	6
Sun 12/3	SDMC Holiday Party	5:30 p.m. (cocktails) 6:30 p.m. (dinner)	Butcher Shop, 5255 Kearny Villa Rd.	Christine Corbyons christineac@adelphia.net	6
Sun 12/10	Christmas Cruise for Kids	7:30 a.m.	Park and Ride, Vista Sorrento Pkwy, north of Mira Mesa	Mike Schwartz 858-549-4344	6
Sat 12/16	Getty Villa Run	8:00 a.m.	UTC-Westfield, Sears parking lot	Marc Daniels 619-807-4110	6
Sun 12/17	Holiday Lights Run & Party	4:30 p.m.	Smith home, 11164 Zapata Ave., San Diego	Les & Dyanna Smith 858-578-1416	6
Thu 12/21, Thu 1/25	SDMC Monthly Meeting	6:00 p.m. (eat) 7:00 p.m. (meet)	Boll Weevil Restaurant, Clairemont Mesa Bl.	Sue Hinkle 760-735-9456	3
Mon 1/1	Rose Run	8:30 a.m.	Westside Café, 912 S. Redwood St., Escondido	Ray & Christine Corbyons 760-736-0156	7