



TWISTS & TURNS

The newsletter of the San Diego Miata Club

Volume 12 Number 1

January 2007

Tasty food, stolen gifts highlight Holiday Party

BRUCE LEWIS

We all know what a great feeling it is to have family and friends over for a Christmas celebration. Camaraderie, good food, good drink, gift giving, and the warm feeling of the holidays abound. Now imagine this times ten and you'll get the feel of the SDMC Holiday Party.

It should be mentioned right up front that Christine and Ray Corbyons did a fantastic job putting on this year's bash. The

new location at the Butcher Shop was a good choice, and it had the feeling of a gigantic living room at home. Everything was there except the kitchen sink. No, wait, I think I saw one in a back room. Well, if Ray and Christine are up to the task next year, maybe they could shoot for chestnuts roasting on an open fire. Anyway, kudos to the Corbyons for a great party!

The evening started with a cocktail hour to warm the cockles of our hearts (does anyone know what a "cockle" is?), and to act as an icebreaker (like there's ever any "ice" with this group).

Next, Ray produced a quiz of 25 trivia questions about Christmas songs, movies, and such. (What in the heck was

the name of that other reindeer, anyway?)

Then it was on to our specialty ... *eating*! Your choice of roast beast or Who-hash was served depending on your carnivore or vegetarian preferences. The cuisine was good and the service enthusiastic. I believe that it was sometime during dessert that visions of sugarplums and the gift exchange begun to dance in our heads.

Ah yes, the gift exchange ... the crowning moment(s) of the Holiday Party, where Santas give and the Grinches take away. This year, the Grinches were limited to two steals per gift with the intent of streamlining the whole process. I don't think that this year's exchange was any shorter, but who cares when you're having fun? Steve Waid was the master of ceremonies with an able assist from Jan Wagner, donned in holiday suspenders.

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Christine and Ray Corbyons accept roses and congratulations from Sue Hinkle for organizing a great party. Photo: Robin Faircloth

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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):

Chris Jones & Linda Southard, Coronado..... 2002 Blazing Yellow

Caroline & Rob Braatz, San Diego.....2007 Highland Green Mica

Tony Gillespie, San Diego..... 1992 Yellow

Katy Nicholls, San Diego..... 1995 Merlot

Caryn & Robert Pass, Chula Vista 2004 Forest Green

As of December 15, 2006, we have 304 memberships (112 single, 192 dual) for a total of 496 members; 83 memberships have been renewed for 2007.

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, January 25

Dues are Past Due

All 2006 memberships in SDMC expired on December 31. **Unless you have renewed before next month's issue is mailed, this will be your last issue of *Twists & Turns*.**

A membership renewal form is available on the club's web site (www.sandiegomiataclub.org). Click "Join our Club" under the main headline, then click the link marked "Renewing Members Application." Or navigate directly to:

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.

Dues

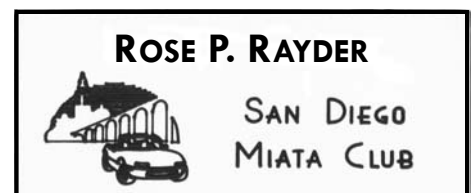
Dues are \$35 per calendar year, for either an individual or a dual membership (two members in the same household). Members who join the club in the first half of the calendar year (January through June) pay \$35 for their first year; those who join in the second half of the year pay \$20 for the remainder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



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!

President waxes poetic on Holiday Parade

SUE HINKLE, PRESIDENT

Wishing you and your families a very happy, healthy, and prosperous New Year. Keep the top down, the wind in your hair, and the sun on your face ... get out and enjoy driving your Miata!

[President Hinkle is taking a break from writing prose, but has sent the following poem (with sincerest apologies to Clement Clark Moore). She looks forward to seeing many of you at the Miata Rose Run on January 1.]



The Holiday Parade

'Twas Saturday, December 3rd, and all through our house,

There were no creatures stirring, not even a mouse.

The cats and I were still nestled, all snug in the bed,
But it wasn't visions of sugarplums that danced in my head.

Just a thought that I had no time to dread,
I had a full day of Miata activity ahead.

All around there seemed to be an abundance of clatter,
I guessed it was time to see what was the matter.

Jack sprang in and shouted, with a wealth of good cheer,
"Time to go Hun, it's time to get out of here."

The sleigh needed shining inside and out,
I had to find those Santa hats that were surely about.

Decorations and things, and where was the candy?
Ah yes, by the door, so as to be handy.

Out of the driveway, we flew like a flash,
Pulled into the station to fill up with gas.

Then all buckled in we zoomed quickly away,
To meet with our Miata friends on this fine sunny day.

When what to my wondering eyes should appear,
But more Miatas than ever had showed up this year!

There was chatter and laughter in holiday style,
Drivers all lined up and ready to go wild.

Steve Waid shouted out names to send us on our way,
"Now Yellows, now Blues, especially with flames!"

"On Black, on Silver, on Merlot, and on Green!"
Then as the best for last, he shouted out like a fiend,

"On Red! To the parade, where watchers line the street,
Expecting to be wowed and amazed and made upbeat."

"All smiles and wide eyes, they'll watch you drive past.
Now dash away, dash away, but not too fast."

Miatas were adorned from their tops to their tires,
With snowflakes, and ribbons, and Santa attire.

Good ol' holiday spirit was in full Miata swing,
I marveled to see our members sharing ornaments and things.

Our group won a trophy with performance that excelled.
Miatas followed the leader, forward and backward as well.

The antics were fun and the kids loved our horns,
They waved and yelled "Merry Christmas" on this bright winter morn.

We handed out candies and ate up all the smiles,
We had so much fun in only a few short miles.

As the bustle ended we all gave cheer and a whistle,
Removed the decorations and flew away like thistle.

Back in the distance we could still hear the crowd cheer,
"Merry Christmas, SDMC, and we'll see you next year!"

Looking back at a busy year

JERRY STANDEFER, EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

I never thought this day would come so quickly. This is the twelfth issue of the club newsletter since Larry Clark and I stepped into our positions. Looking back, I realize just how much the newsletter has changed and evolved in that time.

Besides the overall format, the most significant change has been the name. *Twists & Turns* rolls off the tongue so naturally; it's amazing that this is only the tenth issue to wear it. Prior to April 2006, nearly 120 issues were named *San Diego Miata Club News*.

The name change and the ensuing contest was the brainchild of Larry Clark, our mischievous mastermind of gimmick rallies. I fondly remember the many terrific entries we received, and how close the final vote was: the Hinkles' entry won by a single vote. It could have easily gone the other way, and the name would have been *MXpress*.

Revivals

Another big change was the return of folding parties. I need to express my thanks to everyone who has volunteered for these, and to those members who have opened their homes to host them. Since we reinstated them in May, the club has saved more than \$1,100. For a club that charges only \$35 per year for membership, that's a significant savings!

We revived another excellent feature of past newsletters: the member profile. Renamed "Personalities," this has again become a members' favorite. Key to this revival is the addition of Kelley Raymond, our beloved Texan transplant, as our Personalities Editor to the *Twists & Turns* staff.

Kelley provides us with an inside and fun look at our diverse members. Her witty southern style is a very welcome addition, and I'm absolutely thankful that she is part of our staff. She adds a personal and entertaining touch.

Valiant volunteers

The other members of the newsletter staff have all worked very hard to ensure that the newsletter gets out every month. Our Features Editor, Bruce Lewis, always solicits articles, whether at the numerous events that he attends or through his notorious e-mails. He also contributes articles of his own, usually with a humorous tone. His series of "You may be a Car Guy" articles are his best yet.

The newsletter's layout just wouldn't be the same without Larry Clark. Each month, he magically transforms articles, features, ads, announcements, and photos into a professional and attractive layout. And he still manages to conspire with Mary to plan and lead intricate events. How does he do it?

Our proofreaders—Robin Faircloth, Carl Martens, and Cindy Jennings—do a great job checking over the final draft of the newsletter before it goes off to print. Sure, in our fits of editorial insanity, Larry and I don't leave a lot to catch. Perhaps we'll start purposely adding typos just to keep them on their toes?

Janice Boster, our Mailing Coordinator, provides the final and extremely crucial step. Every month, she adds mailing labels and postage, and then braves the post office. She always surprises me with how quickly she gets everything done.

Many thanks

Without the *Twists & Turns* staff, my job would be considerably harder. My heartfelt thanks goes out to all of them.

More thanks needs to be given to the executive and administrative board members for providing critical information. Mark Booth and Tom Thompson keep us updated with upcoming events; Jerry and Janice Boster provide membership statistics and announcements; Linda Payne and



Mary Clark show off the latest regalia products; Sue Hinkle keeps us up to date with her President's Message; and Judy Ryan accounts the club's financial status.

The most critical part of the newsletter is not completed by anyone in the newsletter staff or the board. It's our club members who submit the articles about all of our wonderful events and happenings.

Over the past 12 issues, an impressive array of members (and one Miata) have submitted articles: Eunice Bauman, Mark Booth, Jerry Boster, Mary Clark, Ray Corbyons, Larry Dennstedt, Jack DiLustro, Robin Faircloth, Chris Garcia, Art Hamilton, Kevin Haywood, Alan Kagan, Brenda Kay, Ted Kesler, Vicki Kiehl, Georgene Kruzel, Carl Kuck, Chip Kushner, Debbye Lewis, Scott Lewis, Kit Licata, Dustin Locke, Abe Mara, Carl Martens, "Maryata," Jim Patton, Steve Ranzani, Gabriel Rivera, Mike Schwartz, Helen Sharp, Les Smith, David Streeter, Gene Streeter, Ken Tooker, Jan Wagner, Steve Waid, and Tom Wood. Thank you all, and please forgive me if I missed anyone.

I look forward to another year of working with such an excellent group. If anyone wants to help out or has a new idea, please let us know.

Happy New Year!

Toward the end of the exchange, Mark Booth relieved Steve, whose voice was going away. I wish Mark had stayed seated; what a Christmas treat it would have been for all



David Streeter unwraps his selection, as Steve Waid provides a continuous stream of heckling. Photo: Kari Streeter

of us to have Steve's voice go completely away!

One gift of note was the pair of yellow Santa hats, allegedly donated by Linda Payne, and the final win secured by Brenda Kay. Why was it that, at the evening's end, the jaundiced hats were seen in the possession of Steve and (the lovely) Laurie Waid? I suspect grand larceny beyond measure, and strongly urge SDMC president Sue Hinkle to commission a panel to investigate this dastardly deed. God forbid that we should ever have to suffer the sight of Steve in last year's flamed slippers and this year's yellow Santa hat at next year's party!

In the final round of the trivia contest, Pam Hunt and Steve Kennison tied, each winning a year's membership in SMDC. (Having already renewed, Steve passed his on to Helen Sharp.)

Well, that's about it. We all gathered around the Christmas tree and sang "Ahmoo-Doray" (not really,

but hey, it's my story) before heading out to the parking lot and firing up our "sleighs" for the trip home. It was a great evening and a great start to the holiday season. If you couldn't make it this year, plan on it next year. It really is a blast!



Mark Booth maintained "meticulous records" of stolen goods to keep our thieves honest. Photo: Bruce Lewis

Gene Streeter receives Silver Scribbler

New award recognizes journalistic excellence

LARRY CLARK

Gene Streeter went home from SDMC's Holiday Party with an unexpected package. He was named the first recipient of the Silver Scribbler award in recognition of his contributions to journalistic excellence for SDMC.

Most *Twists & Turns* readers probably are familiar with Gene's articles, which blend sly humor with informative descriptions of the events they cover. Starting with his coverage of the Egg-zactly rally, the editors have received numerous compliments on each of Gene's submissions.

The Silver Scribbler is a new award, which Mary and I have created as a perpetual trophy. Each year, SDMC's editors will select a recipient who they feel has made significant contributions to the



Gene Streeter accepts Silver Scribbler award from Mary Clark. Photo: Mark Booth

club's printed and electronic publications..

The club takes pride in its newsletter, but there could be no newsletter without contributions from the members. We are grateful to those who submit articles and photographs each month. This award is intended to recognize outstanding contributions, and to encourage all members to share their thoughts and experiences with fellow members.

Although Gene is expected to return the trophy (unless he wins it again next year), he also received a lovely page-a-day calendar—with the 15th of each month carefully marked so he has no excuse for missing deadlines next year.

We look forward to reading many more of Gene's entertaining articles.

Coming Events

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.

Viewpoints

Holiday Party

I want to thank Ray and Christine Corbyons for organizing a most memorable SDMC Holiday Party. The venue was the perfect setting for our Holiday Party, the food was grand, and Table Trivia added to the festivities. Thanks also to Steve Waid and Jan Wagner for handling the gift exchange, and for all who participated in this year's holiday party.

—Sue Hinkle

Christine and Ray, you did a fantastic job with the SDMC Holiday Party. The venue was really great, the food very delicious, and who could find fault with that ever-silly gift exchange! What a hoot!

Thank you for a wonderful dinner!

—Robin & Mike Faircloth

San Marcos Holiday Parade

How many times have we wished that we could see the world through the eyes of a child? Well, that was what it was like participating in the San Marcos Holiday Parade.

Running down the parade route, we could see the delight in the kids' eyes as our brightly colored and decorated cars "zoomed" by. I must say that we have become quite skilled at this parade thing,

and this year was no exception. As for myself, I will admit to getting a little carried away with my own blue float, but once I pulled out on the parade route and saw the crowd's reaction, it was all worthwhile.



Photo: Bruce Lewis

There's something about our cars that kids as well as adults really like. I just don't think that their reaction would be the same if we were driving Corvettes or Mustangs. Maybe it's that we look like kids driving them with our ear-to-ear grins and sense of fun. Anyway, if you get the chance to participate in one of our parades, jump on it. You may just have the time of your life!

—Bruce Lewis

Decked-out Miatas deliver miles of smiles

GENE STREETER

It's fitting that a Chamber of Commerce should schedule a holiday parade on such a gorgeous December day. Just prior to November's club meeting, Steve and Laurie Waid received a panicked call from a veteran San Marcos parade organizer when she noticed an SUV-sized hole in the registration list: a decided lack of Miata Club participants in the annual event this club has supported for years.

The parade was on the SDMC calendar ... check. Mapquest directions to Dalton's ... check. Steve was to extend the invitation and reminder at the upcoming meeting ... check. Hands raised in reassurance, with the Miata faithful responding ... check. The Booths, Garons, Waides, Hinkles, Lewises, Art Hamilton, and Barb Shev are all in. Art and Dennis were barely coy at the prospect of escorting a nubile princess.

How's this for irony? The only Miata to carry a dignitary, let alone a princess, wasn't even a club member. Overheard in the staging area: Steve has lost his edge as a negotiator; too much (yellow) flash, not enough substance. For the record, 24 club members in 17 Miatas converged on Dalton's parking lot, and

then made the trek to a staging area at Palomar College. Of that number, seven were red, five were multiple shades of blue, with three bearing yellow livery. If it's percentages you want, feel free to do the math; I've got a plane to catch.

As it happened, yours truly was the only one without a tubful of decorations. I protested that my sparkling Velocity Red Mica Mazdaspeed is already appropriately decorated for the season. After all, I had two Santa hats neatly installed on both headrests. Any added decorations would simply detract. As automobile aficionados, most of you can appreciate what I'm saying, right? There's nothing worse than customizing an automobile by magnetizing it and driving it up and down the aisles at Pep Boys.

I lost the argument. Being married thirty-two years, that's hardly noteworthy.

I set to work with snowflakes borrowed from son David and daughter-in-law Kari, a wreath, and some garland. Apart from being tastefully decorated, their flamed Razor Blue sported some special-ordered holiday magnetics proclaiming Merry Christmas from SDMC. Nice touch.

Having arrived at the college before 11 a.m., most of us had finished with our decorating efforts by noon. Mark and Cathy Booth were still applying their highly thematic "snowflakes and sugarplums" treatment when we rolled off



It's amazing the Garons' car had room for any human occupants. Photo: Kari Streeter

nearly an hour later. Under the full North County sun, there was some concern their sugarplums would be sugar prunes before we received the starter's nod. It was not that kind of parade.

An enthusiastic crowd, young and old, lined the sidewalks of Mission Avenue, shouting approval and waving back at all of us just happy to be underway. CBs crackled, instructions rang out ... Steve Waid and Dennis Garon, in their not-too-subtle yellow sleighs, were to perform loops on each side of the four-lane thoroughfare. The lemming effect overtook several more of us, performing impromptu loops as well. One of the highlights of this procession and exercise found Barb Shev's Velocity Red Mazdaspeed squeezed between two other MSM clones. It occurred to me that Barb's personalized license plate (BS ZOOM) actually decodes as "bologna sandwich" zoom. Who knew?

Mark Booth, behaving as Rudolph, began to lead the entire pack in a conga-style procession. We used every square yard of pavement, curb-to-curb and from float to float. Dennis's CB crackled repeatedly with instructions. "Mary Anne, fall into formation behind Steve ... Mary Anne, fall in behind Steve!" Is



Mark Booth's mirror reflects SDMC's parade contingent (unless San Marcos has a new 21-mph speed limit and our cars have right-hand drive). Photo: Mark Booth



Yes, Officer, we know we were weaving down the road. Photo: Mark Booth

it any wonder Dennis was trying to please her with his Christmas gift selection later that evening? You be the judge.

I couldn't help thinking that another hour or so of these driving antics might have fortified our confidence and refined our choreography. We could be the West Coast version of the Joey Chitwood stunt-driving circus. As it was, we had surpassed the daring-do (is that related to reindeer-do?) of the typical Shriners road show, and in far more capable vehicles.

Apart from the visuals, we tried repeatedly to honk our horns in an effort to reproduce a Christmas carol. Try as we might, it sounded no better than Tiny Tim trying to sing like Andrea Boccelli. (In deference to the Corbyons, not the Tiny Tim they quizzed us about. Great party, Ray and Christine!)

Of the SDMC participants, I would be hard-pressed to declare a clear winner. Hard-pressed, maybe, but not above influence. Of course, as President Sue gushed at the Christmas Party that evening, the decorations were pretty incredible. Here are my personal picks.

Bruce and Debbye Lewis largely ignored the theme, but stole the show. Their blue roadster sported no less than three reindeer strapped across the hood. As Kelley would suggest, that would be well beyond the limit in certain parts of the coun-

try—substitute a pickup truck for the Miata.

The reindeer were capable of singing, but not exactly in unison, because each foot/switch would have to be tickled at the same time. (Maybe that's the solution for Mr. Waid's off-key singing malady.) The windshield wipers danced, sporting blue Christmas ornaments, and a

fully decorated small tree occupied the boot. Bruce's testosterone-charged machine also sported two of the same blue spheres dangling from the rear undercarriage. (I just report 'em ... I don't explain 'em.) As if that wasn't enough, Bruce and Debbie hand-delivered pounds of candy to throngs of well-wishers along the parade route.

Not to be outdone, Steve Ranzani continued the Rudolph theme on the front of his BRG sleigh, a portion of palm tree frond, or "shed" forming the stylish proboscis. A red nose and felt eyes made the effect even more convincing. His blinking NA-series headlamps were a genuine crowd-pleaser. Steve and daughter Ann showed the rest of us the quick way home after the parade. Their car was stripped of its décor in record time owing to some father-daughter teamwork. Good job!

Speaking of teamwork, relative newcomers Clay and Irene White decorated their Crystal Blue buggy to a fare-thee-well. Any more of the decorative metallic garland and ornaments would have put their design over the top. While Clay did-

n't engage in any circus maneuvers or antics, he hustles that Miata around just fine, thank you. I witnessed a few spirited first-gear launches that chirped the tires and earned an appreciative nod.

Finally, Tommy Aanenson, in his own blinky-eyed red NA, was another crowd favorite. His headlamps sported the blood-shot look via paper plates and matching Santa hats. Tommy carried an overstuffed red teddy bear as a passenger, waving its right hand and arm to the appreciative kids, and passing out candy canes as they went.

There seemed to be consensus that there was too much wait time in the staging area, and not enough miles to the parade route. Mild-mannered Harold Schwartz (yes, the enigmatic "Chip Monk" from October's Halloween party) plans to negotiate a buffet for those in attendance next year. OK, maybe a catering truck loaded down with ice-cold beverages. Anyone for a case of lukewarm water?

Thanks to everyone's effort, our club was awarded the judges' Holiday Spirit award. Since Jack and Sue had no way to properly display the nearly six-foot-wide banner, it wasn't carried in the procession. No matter, our real reward was in kicking off the Christmas season, Miata style. Good fellowship, good moves, and great smiles all around.

Glad tidings to all.



David and Kari Streeter's custom magnetic sent greetings to one and all. Photo: Mark Booth

SDMCers cruise into event for kids

MIKE SCHWARTZ

The 21st annual Christmas Cruise for the Kids is now in the history books. It started out on a cold, damp Sunday morning. A few hardy SDMCers braved the cold, wet, and early morning to help bring joy to needy children. This is what the season is about—helping those less fortunate than ourselves.

We had eight members and one friend, comprised of five Miatas, a Buick Grand National, and a 1923 T-bucket. Feeling like Santa, filled with gifts, we all headed out for a day of fun. Arriving at the show, we were greeted with friendly, open arms, and we managed to fill them with toys. We could already see the Dixieline classic stake bed truck being filled with toys from fellow clubs, hot rodders, and openhearted folks who braved the possibility of rain.

After parking, we joined others in grabbing some free pancakes, eggs, donuts, juice, and coffee. It's always amazing that the Street Masters Car Club has held onto this tradition over the years. They hold an event during the summer to raise money to host this Christmas event.

Having done what is so critical to any Miata Club event (eating), we wandered through, looking at some beautiful cars and trucks. We bought raffle tickets, and just had some fun talking about whatever came up. Partway into the morning, the first of many events occurred: the Poker Walk. You walk to five different spots set up at locations around the event and draw a card, working on getting the best hand. Lisa and I volunteered to be stop four, right in front of all the Miatas, and this sparked a few conversations with past, present, and wannabe Miata owners.

A little later was the first of three raffle drawings, and after that was Bingo. I know Steve Waid was one of the luckier people there, and was in envy of many. You see, Steve won one of the real, full-size traffic lights that

was there. This was the only one to be raffled, as the other was for the auction. Having tried to convince him that neither he nor Laurie "really" wanted this, and that he really should drop it off at my house, he "decided" it should go home with him.

Lucky for him, he happened to bring his Grand National and not the Miata. Was this a sign? Who knows, but we do know the traffic light fit inside the passenger side of the Buick. Lisa and I were using all of our "luck mojo" to try to win one of the two transmissions that were part of the raffle. I have a project that is in need of one.

Well, luck was not on our side for those, but we did win a set of Craftsman sockets and what the announcer coined "a bucket of work." This was a bunch of car care products. Art Hamilton won a clock and some other things, so overall, the Miata folk did not do too bad. Still, I wish I would have won a transmission. Maybe next year.

The day wrapped up with People's Choice awards. Everyone was given a ballot to vote for their favorite cars. There were no classes, and it was completely based on the participants that voted. Unfortunately, no Miatas were chosen, but with the level and quality of some of these cars, it was not unexpected.

In all, this show is nothing to do with winning awards or items, free breakfast, or even cars in general. It is about giving. The local San Diego car people opened their hearts, bringing a truckload of toys, and raising money to help those who truly need the help. There will be a lot of happy children come Christmas morning. They'll have a present to open, something to enjoy. They may otherwise not have had anything. This is truly what this time of the year is about. I am happy that SDMC and myself were able to be a part of this, and that it will hopefully continue in the future. Next year, we'll see about ordering up some better weather.

Members donate at car show

WALLY STEVENS

Six cars met Mike Schwartz at the Park and Ride at 7:30 a.m. Sunday, December 10. Mike and his significant other Lisa, Veronica and Tom Aanenson, Steve Waid with his bad-ass Buick, Harold Schwartz, and Art Hamilton braved the rain and wind to drop off our toys, and show our cars at Torrey Pines High School. The Miatas were Art's 2007 PRHT, Harold's black 2006, my 2002 yellow, Mike's white 1996, and Veronica and Tom's red 1990.

We dropped our toys off, and they had a truckload of them for the YMCA toy drive. We parked the cars and had a nice pancake breakfast. Then we hung out and talked with other car guys. The day was peppered with numerous (it seemed like hun-

dreds) of raffle prizes. Steve won the granddaddy prize: a full-sized traffic signal. It's a good thing he had the Buick to lug it home. I think Laurie will love it in the living room of that palatial home.

Lisa and Mike won three bags of goodies, and Art won a nice Corvette clock and some goodies. Tom and Veronica won a bag of goodies, too. My \$20 went to a good cause, so going home with just my dash plaque was OK with me.

The day ended about 2 p.m. with a big auction. Another traffic light went for \$250, so Steve did well with his \$50 donation.

None of us won any display trophies, but the day was about giving, not trophies. It's always fun to see what cars are at these shows.

Group ascends to Pines, descends to Palms

GEORGENE KRUZEL

The Palms to Pines to Palms run was about as perfect as could be. It was a beautiful day, and the OTM traffic was minimal.

Ten Miatas gathered under the Westfield North County mall sign on Saturday, November 18. The Chipster, our dapper lead driver, was decked out in his "rat pack" hat and Hawaiian shirt with drive directions in hand. With a quick review of the rules of route and group driving etiquette, we were lined up and on the road.

The route was full of twists, turns, spectacular vistas, and views. Of course, the highlight was the descent into Palm Desert down Highway 74. At the scenic view turnout, we gathered to chat about the fun drive, to laugh about the scenes shot there from the movie "It's a Mad, Mad, Mad, Mad World," and to frustrate a local television personality looking for people to talk about the dangers of driving 74.

After dragging several women away from the vendors selling wares at the turnout, we continued our de-

scent to enjoy a hearty lunch and more lively conversation at Babe's BBQ. Then we continued our caravan to the McCormick Car Show.

We split up to find parking, and spent the rest of the afternoon and early evening checking out the cars and waving to Miata members when we could draw their eyes away from the stellar car show offerings.

Although the temperature was comfortable at a dry 90 degrees or so, the air temperature was even more perfect for strolling the show grounds after the sun dipped behind the nearby mountains.

John and I have friends in the desert, so we peeled off from the group Saturday evening and drove back alone on Sunday. But, we really appreciated the camaraderie and radio banter that took place on the drive over, although we probably need a refresher course on how to keep the line apprised of road kill, OTMs, road hazards, and special features of the drive. Mark Booth, we missed your seasoned on-the-road commentary!

Chipster, thanks for a great day. We enjoyed it all.

You may be an *old* Car Guy if ...

BRUCE LEWIS

- ... you can remember raccoon tails, points and condensers, curb feelers, wind wings, hood ornaments, running boards, desert water bags, and suicide knobs for the steering wheel.
- ... you can remember Candy Apple Red, Blue Coral Wax, Burma Shave Signs, Hurst Shifters, Muncie Four Speeds, Lake Pipes, Cragger Mags, Big Ed Daddy Roth, Hedman Headers, Moon Equipped, tuck and roll, and the movie "Grand Prix."
- ... you can remember getting rubber (and not at the drug store), cars without cup holders, white walls, flat head U-8s, "three on the tree," "four on the floor," glass pack mufflers, and baby moon hubcaps.
- ... you can remember talking about your woodie in public, drive-in restaurants with waitresses on roller skates, your girlfriend dropping a handkerchief to start your drag race, and when it was called a cigarette lighter not a power source.
- ... you can remember the high beam switch being on the floorboard, when nothing was metric, stuffing two of your buddies in the trunk to avoid paying admission at the drive-in, having a trunk big enough to do this, gasoline being cheaper than soda pop, cars having fan belts, and when foreign cars were slow, ugly, and scarce.
- ... you still think fuzzy dice are cool.
- ... you still can use hand signals to turn and stop.
- ... you still call 91 octane gas "ethyl."

- ... you think of racing and not Home Depot when someone mentions "The Brickyard."
- ... "dual quads" does not mean two sets of four babies.
- ... the numbers 427, 327, and 409 have special meaning.

And last:

- ... you think that anyone your age or older, driving a Corvette, is an old fart and can't handle the horsepower!

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Maybe timing really *is* everything

DAVE FARNSWORTH, BMW CAR CLUB OF AMERICA

As car-club people, we tend to diverge from that vast mass of people I like to call “normal.” Some of these deviations are relatively harmless, such as our love of sticky tires, eyeball-sucking g-forces, and forced induction—which sounds to most people like something that should be forbidden by the Geneva Convention. Such topics cause fellow coworkers’ eyes to glaze over, so we tend to keep some opinions underground—or at least out of conversations. Like our interest in properly *using* high-performance cars.

I’d bet that many of us travel a little quicker, slow less for curves, accelerate faster out of apexes, and so on and so on, than the average American. You can argue endlessly with non-Clubbers about driver training, car capability, tire and brake maintenance, etc. But they do not come to the table with an empty vessel; they already have opinions about overly enthusiastic driving. They may not mean to include us in the hordes of aggressive drivers with whom they come into (sometimes literal) contact, but it doesn’t matter. They have formed their opinions, and they are very unlikely to be influenced by anything we say or do—which is fine by me.

But there is another group that is more intimately exposed to our driving styles who have no such base of experience. They have no way of knowing that most of the drivers on our roads are not enamored of the capabilities of highly-tuned performance cars, or of how to safely dip into that well of mechanical competence. They see what we do as simply the way it should be done. To them we are the ultimate authority, the example to be emulated, and the end to be achieved. Because, after all, we are their parents. And one day they will drive, too.

This last week was a particularly costly one in my area of Cook

County in terms of teen highway fatalities. Two young people were killed when their Mitsubishi Eclipse crested a hill at speed; they hit a minivan almost head-on. The newspaper had the usual notes about how well-liked so-and-so was, and what sports he played. I always find those obligatory comments incredibly sad—but in so short a life, that’s the most you can usually say.

I began to try to figure out why my kids were able to accomplish what so many other teens couldn’t: surviving their first few years on the road.

I’m not alone, of course; the concern for teenagers dying on the highways is rising in lockstep with the ever-increasing death toll. In Illinois in 2003, the most recent year for such statistics, nearly one in every 2,000 teens died on the highway. Overall, teen death rates are roughly double every other age group’s. And those statistics become very personal: As our friends’ kids got their licenses, one by one, we could count on hearing about that first accident—usually within the first year. Fortunately, no one we knew was hurt, but a lot of sheet metal was crinkled, and a lot of insurance bills hypertrophied.

And sadly, I suspect no lessons were learned.

So I worried a lot when each of my own sons started driving. I also knew that if they had a serious accident, I would always wonder about the part I had played as a role model. Teenagers are risk-takers anyway—yet I couldn’t help but think that growing up riding with me might have influenced them to

take even greater risks than most. However, that first year went by with Matt unscathed. And then the second year coasted by without a problem. By his third year, he had graduated from trophy-winning autocrosser to beginning driving-school student.

Then Zach took the wheel for his freshman year of driving. By now I had convinced myself that Matt’s automotive passion was what was keeping him safe. (In psychology, we call that “magical thinking,” and usually attribute it to toddlers.) But Zach had no such interest. Sure, he had the usual teenage male attachment to “cool” cars—he was addicted to BMW—and fortunately, at that time there was an ample supply of fifteen-year-old Bimmers in our driveway. He learned how to work a clutch and left the subdivision nest. Again I worried a lot. But his first year went safely by, too, and then the second, and still no problems. So I began to try to figure out why my kids—who I’m sure most of my non-Bimmer friends were convinced would end up on the front page—were able to accomplish what so many other teens couldn’t: surviving their first few years on the road.

I’m sure it wasn’t my brilliance or my abilities as a teacher, but I know it wasn’t just dumb luck, either. I think one of the things I may have done right was talking to them constantly about the skills involved in driving—starting when they were pre-schoolers. Boring topics to adults, but to a young child who hangs on every word that comes from a parent’s lips, this was great stuff. The fact that I drove race cars just made it all the more convincing. Before they ever reached that pre-teen insouciance that automatically blocks the frequency of all adult speech, they had been indoctrinated. They had seen me correctly predict the ditzzy move the

guy in the next lane was about to pull. They had heard me preach on decreased traction, early apexes, and the predictability of random acts of idiocy—at a time when they were still downright eager to listen.

Kids are going to speed the first time they're in the car alone; what matters is what anticipation and knowledge they bring to supplement their lack of experience. The problem is that most parents wait until their kids get their permit to start talking to them. And that's way too late, because in their eyes, at their age, you're an idiot—useful, but not to be trusted for anything that passes for knowledge.

Maybe surviving that first year depends on very early learning. Maybe, ultimately, that's something we can all agree on.

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Folding a car cover

LES SMITH

I stopped at Coast Car Covers in Linda Vista recently to pick up my cover. It had been returned from the manufacturer—a ripped seam was repaired and all other seams re-stitched.

A staff member walked out with me and gave me a quick tutorial on the “art” of taking the cover off and putting it on. (Dumb me—I didn't know there was such a system!)

Here's how to take it off.

1. Beginning at the rear of the vehicle, release the cover and pull the back edge all the way over the top and down to the base of the windshield.
2. Pull the fold point of the cover forward and down to the same point at the base of the windshield.
3. Release the cover at the front, and pull its edge up to the top of the

windshield.

4. Pull the fold point to the top of the windshield also.
5. The entire cover should now be on the windshield, anchored on both sides by the door mirrors. Release the cover from one of the mirrors (I do this on the driver's side), roll it toward the opposite side, and release from the other mirror.
6. Lift away and store in the trunk or elsewhere.

To install the cover, reverse the process, ending at the back of the vehicle.

Using this procedure, you avoid the guesswork of how the cover is folded and which end goes which way. Also, the outer cover never comes into contact with the surface of the vehicle.

Start the year off right



NEW

Laurie Patton created these lovely wine charms from club pins. Sold in sets of six car colors with identifying beads. \$20.



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

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



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

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

Marc and Haley Daniels: Cool dad, future SDMC president

KELLEY RAYMOND

Meet the dad-daughter duo, Marc and Haley Daniels. Although 13-year-old Haley can't even drive yet, she's the reason that her dad owns the 1994 black and tan Miata.

It's common knowledge that all parents are a constant embarrassment to their teenage children. Poor Haley's mortification was compounded by the beat up Toyota truck in which Marc picked her up every day from school. When he purchased the Miata in March



Haley and Marc in the black-and-tan. Photo: Kelley Raymond

2005, he instantly went from "oh daaa-duh" to "Cool Dad."

They nicknamed the car "Zoom Zoom," and joined SDMC in January 2006. The Daniels take their club membership very seriously. Marc is confident that he's the proud father of a future SDMC president! They also recently sponsored their first run, to the Getty Villa in Malibu.

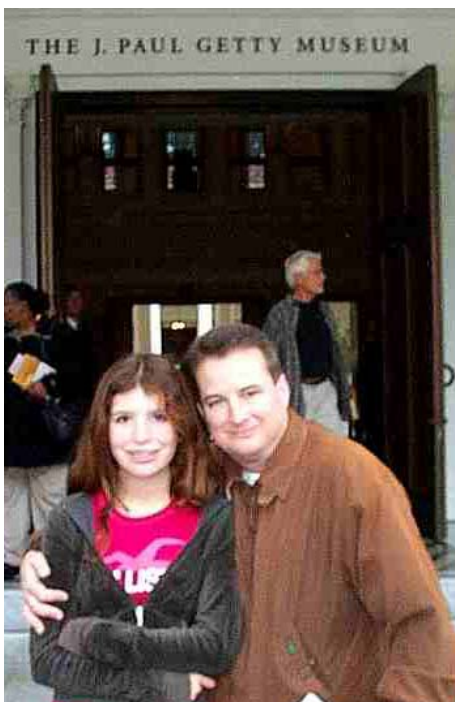
Marc's favorite aftermarket buy is the Clearwater headrest speakers; Haley says they rock! He believes that the car isn't a trophy to polish up and keep on a shelf, and that it should be driven daily. The most important lesson they learned on their first run is that, "These 'old folks' drive fast and love the twisties!" (*Hey, that better be Haley calling us old!*)

When Marc's not busy being a single parent, he's a Project Manager for a pharmaceutical company. He is originally from Pittsburgh, but has lived in San Diego since 1981. He currently lives in La Jolla, which works out well

since one of his hobbies is watching sunsets. His favorite vacation destinations are the Central Coast/Santa Maria area and Maui (also rumored to be good for sunset-watching...), and his favorite restaurants are Scoma's in San Francisco and Morton's Steakhouse.

Marc's *carpe diem* attitude comes in handy when facing the challenges of raising a teenage daughter. When he and Haley are not on

an SDMC run together, Marc often daydreams about the next run and is busy working to pay for the gas. It's all part of being a "Cool Dad."



The Daniels duo visiting the Getty Museum. Photo: Kelley Raymond

Next Subject?

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.

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: 20% on most parts; 15% on 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.

SAN DIEGO MIATA CLUB
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Postage

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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			

FEBRUARY 2007

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

DATE	EVENT	TIME	MEET	CONTACT	PAGE
Mon 1/1	Rose Run	8:30 a.m.	Westside Café, 912 S. Redwood St., Escondido	Ray & Christine Corbyons 760-736-0156	7
Thu 1/25, Thu 2/22	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