



TWISTS & TURNS

The newsletter of the San Diego Miata Club

Volume 12 Number 3

March 2007

Why a car show?

STEVE WAID

This question has been asked many times, whether silently or out loud, by numerous old-time Miata Club members. After all, the fact that attracted me to SDMC, and made me an active member, was that this was a “driving club.” That is what I wanted to do ... and still do. Other car clubs that I had been associated with did not do enough driving of their cars for my taste.

So, why a car show? I think that my interest in car shows has always been there. In my youth—you know, in the “ancient of days”—I went to custom car shows that were very big in the late '50s. Also, it was important in those days to go see the new cars as they were unveiled at the dealers, and it seemed like every town had a new-car show where all of the dealers would show the

latest model. Now those shows are huge like the one at the San Diego Convention Center each December, but fewer in number.

In 1973, George Lucas introduced the country to nostalgia with his hit movie “American Graffiti.” It created for us Southern California “baby boomers” a look back at some of the things that made our youth so memorable—cars and music. I believe that this was what really spawned much of the car culture that is alive and well today.

Before “American Graffiti,” the cars that were collected and shown tended to be the pre-war classics and many '20s and '30s vintage European cars. The hot rod and street rod crowd really got going after “American Graffiti.” Today we have a car show of some kind almost

every weekend. There are regular cruise nights and cruise-ins on weekdays throughout the year. The ability to go and see what the car hobby has turned into is available all of the time for those who are interested.

Because showing cars has become so popular within the car hobby, there now are specialty car shows. Concours-style shows



Steve Waid's Miata clearly outshone the earth-moving equipment in the background, although they were similar in color. Photo: Jan Wagner

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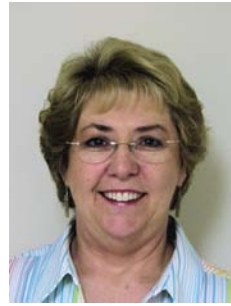
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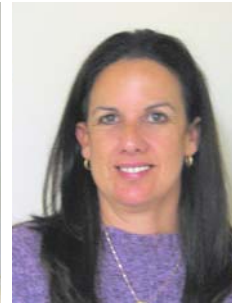
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Submissions to the newsletter are welcomed and encouraged. When possible, please e-mail your submissions to the newsletter editor. Submissions may also be mailed to the club's post office box.

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
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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):

Jacqueline Clay, Murrieta.....	1994 Red
Tom & Yvonne Kieran, Escondido	1990 White
Terry & Lynn Lore, Aguanga.....	2003 Splash Green
Dave Flood, San Diego	1996 Red
Justin & Samantha Hobbs, Escondido.....	2006 Copper Red
Edward Lee & Su Choi, Riverside.....	1991 Mariner Blue
Shelly Nix-Schmaltz, Oceanside	2007 Galaxy Grey Mica
Bill & Alma Treece, La Mesa	2000 Red

As of February 15, 2007, we have 204 memberships (70 single, 134 dual) and a total of 338 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, March 22

Financial Report (1/15/07 through 2/15/07)

JUDY RYAN-LEWIS, TREASURER

Revenues and deposits:

Dues (new members and renewals)	\$2,065.00
Regalia	\$277.00
Total revenue and deposits.....	\$2,342.00

Expenses:

December 2006 newsletter	\$284.46
January 2007 newsletter	\$232.14
Telephone	\$32.31
Total expenses.....	\$548.91

Ending balance (2/15/07).....\$8,740.28

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!

Rounding the corner—lap 12 just ahead

SUE HINKLE, PRESIDENT



IT'S HARD to believe that only 10 months ago we were celebrating the club's 10th anniversary, and holding our annual elections. By the time you read this message, we will only be five or six weeks away from our 2007 Annual Meeting where you, the membership, will once again nominate and elect a new slate of officers.

Run for office

This is the perfect opportunity for SDMC club members to support the greatest Miata club in the country by running for an elected office or announcing your interest in one of the many appointed positions. The more members who step up and declare their candidacy, the more fun we will have at the Annual Meeting. Over the past two or three years, most nominees have run unopposed; I believe a club of our size should have at least two individuals running for each elected position. This gives our membership a choice and a voice, and will have an affect on the fun that we all enjoy as members.

I ask you to think back to when you joined SDMC. Think of all the things you have participated in with the club, think about all the fun experiences you have shared with other club members, and then ask yourself the question, "What can I do to support SDMC?"

With our membership teetering around the 400-member mark, I believe that we can make this year's election one of spirited competition and camaraderie. May the best members win!

Bylaw revisions

The Annual Meeting is not only organized to elect an Executive Board, it is also a time to conduct other club

business that requires a vote from the membership. In October, the elected board voted, and appointed three club members to review our existing bylaws. The committee consisted of Gene Streeter (chairman), along with Larry Clark and Pat Minnich. Immediately, the committee rolled up their sleeves and began to work on a project that took the next three months to complete.

The committee carefully examined our previous bylaws and addressed the inaccuracies and ambiguities head-on. The revisions and recommendations eliminate the inaccuracies in our existing bylaws, and provide our organization with a clearly written instrument to govern the club as we move forward. Included in this newsletter are the proposed revisions and rewrite of our bylaws.

I support the revisions that have been submitted by the committee, and congratulate them on a job well done. I would encourage each of you to review these revisions and consider the following options when we call for a vote to accept these bylaw changes at the Annual Meeting.

1. I can say an unqualified "yes."
2. I find the decision perfectly acceptable.
3. I can live with the decision; I'm not especially enthusiastic about it.

4. I do not fully agree with the decision and need to register my view. However, I do not choose to block the decision, and I'm willing to support it because I trust the wisdom of

the group.

5. I do not agree and feel that I need to stand in the way of this being accepted.

6. I feel that we have no clear sense of unity in the group. We need to do more work before a consensus can be reached.

Volunteers

My association with SDMC for the past 11 years has been a memorable experience as a participant, and a rewarding experience as an elected official. Early on I realized it was member volunteers who stepped up to make SDMC a great success, and it is no secret that SDMC is recognized as one of the greatest Miata clubs in the U.S. I attribute this success and recognition to those folks who willingly volunteered to support the club in any way they could. It is my hope that you will consider volunteering for this great club, and that all of you will plan to attend the Annual Meeting and elections.

I encourage you to consider running for an office, and I look forward to reading your candidate profiles. Until then, keep the top down, the wind in your hair, and the sun on your face. Enjoy doing what we do best: driving our Miatas.

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The color of business

JERRY STANDEFER, EDITOR-IN-CHIEF



IS IT JUST ME, or are there too many Brilliant Black NCs in the club now? In order to differentiate mine, I ordered and received a new toy to install. Where are the clips? That's the same question that the vendor is now asking the manufacturer. I think fate is conspiring to keep me from making my NC distinctive. Perhaps that Blazing Yellow paint job really is the answer?

I was going to write another article about colors that would certainly stir things up, but there is business to attend to. Maybe next month...

Membership numbers

Many of you may have noticed the drop in membership numbers from last month's newsletter. As of January 31, all memberships that have not renewed were removed from the membership roster. The drop represents a 33.6% decline.

I was completely floored when I was first informed of the number of memberships that did not renew. Disbelief ran through my system, and I was depressed for the rest of the day. How could this happen? I expressed my shock to Jerry and Janice Boster, our membership duo.

What they told me was surprising, but it made sense. SDMC has typically lost approximately 30% of its membership every year. We have never really noticed this before because our membership renewals were on a monthly basis; every month, a dozen or so memberships didn't renew. Now that our memberships are on an annual renewal system, the numbers appear huge and shocking.

So, don't fret. Instead, let's focus on building up our membership back to the 500-member mark we

attained last year. And let's not stop there. In August 2002, SDMC reached its peak of 624 members (391 memberships). Let's make it a goal to surpass that number. SDMC is the best Miata club, and we live in the most Miata-friendly climate in the world. Let's prove it!

Candidate statements

The San Diego Miata Club Annual Meeting is coming up in just seven weeks. On April 21, 2007, we will be invading the beautiful San Diego Automotive Museum to close out the year, celebrate 11 years of San Diego roadster fun in the sun, vote on changes to the bylaws, and elect new officers.

Our current board—Sue Hinkle, Scott Lewis, Brenda Kay, and Judy Ryan-Lewis—have served us very well over the past year (two years for Sue and Brenda). They have all decided that they will not be running for re-election this year. That leaves four positions open that need to be filled. Who wants to step forward?

Luckily for us, Dan Garcia and David Streeter have both stepped forward to run for vice-president. Since I have been with the club, I have never seen more than one person run for the same board position at an Annual Meeting. This is already shaping up to be an exciting election, and I wish both gentlemen luck in their bids.

Members wishing to run for office are highly encouraged to submit candidate statements to the newsletter. We have already received statements from our first two VP hopefuls. We'll run those and any others we receive next month. The statements should include some details about you and why you believe you can benefit the club in the position you are running for. It should also include a photo of yourself so that we will all know who you are.

Please keep in mind that, to main-

tain impartiality, the *Twists & Turns* staff will not perform any editing on your candidate statement. The only changes that will be performed are layout formatting and cropping of your photograph. Please have friends and family look over your statement before submitting it. All candidate statements are due no later than March 15, 2007. E-mail your candidate statements to newsletter@sandiegomiataclub.org, or give me a call (619-295-5993) to make other arrangements. Good luck to everyone that is running!

Welcome Barry Billingsley

Please join me in welcoming our newest member of the *Twists & Turns* staff. Barry Billingsley has been appointed as our new Tech Editor, and he promises to inject new life and soul into the position. For you techies out there, don't be surprised if Barry comes banging on your door to mine some of that valuable technical wisdom swimming around in your brains. That is, after all, his new job.

I would like to express my thanks to Abe Mara for holding the Tech Editor position for the past year. Unfortunately, his work life has gotten the better of him, and he hasn't been able to devote a lot of time to the position. I certainly understand. I'm writing this column a day after deadline because my job reached out its evil tentacles and entangled me this week. Defense contractors don't need sleep, do we?

Abe, thank you for giving it your best. I received a lot of compliments about your shock tower brace article, and a lot of members really liked the finger diagrams. I certainly hope that I passed on those compliments to you, and we will look forward to reading your next tech article. I'm sure Barry will be bugging you for one.

Coming Events

Choo-Choo Run

Date: Saturday, March 3
Time: 9:15 a.m. drivers meeting
Meet: Rancho San Diego Town Center, SE corner of Hwys 94 & 54
Contact: Harold Schwartz, 858-271-0084, miataman@san.rr.com

Details: We will head out Highway 94 to Campo, where we will take the San Diego Railroad Museum train ride. The train costs \$15 per person, but will drop to \$12 if we have 15 or more people, as seems likely.

Bring cameras for the train ride. Afterwards, we will continue east on 94 to Old Highway 80. At Live Oak Springs we will turn west on Highway 80, stopping at the Golden Acorn Casino for lunch (or whatever).

We will form up after lunch and follow historic old Highway 80 back to San Diego. I have not set the final stop as of yet. This run will take most of the day.

Cost: \$12-15 per person for the train, a full tank of gas, plus your lunch and any gambling expenses.

Tech Day at Dennstedt's

Date: Saturday, March 10
Time: 9:00 a.m.
Meet: Dennstedt's Auto Repair, 4283 41st St.
Contact: Larry Dennstedt, 619-284-4911, larrydennstedt@hotmail.com

Details: Get your car ready for The Puke and Moab. Check tire pressures, fluid levels, etc. Maybe even change brake pads.

The Puke 2007

Date: Sunday, March 25
Time: 9:00 a.m. (for \$10 brunch),
10:00 a.m. drivers meeting
Meet: Dalton's Roadhouse, 775 Center Dr.,
San Marcos (at Nordahl just north of SR 78)
Contact: Steve & Laurie Waid, 760-432-0727,
swaid@cox.net

Details: We will be driving some of San Diego County's twistiest roads, back to back to back. We will break into smaller groups to increase the fun factor and run each group in the opposite direction of the previous group. Each will complete a loop of about 160 miles with two pit stops at Dudley's Bakery in Santa Ysabel. We will return to Dalton's for a late-afternoon dinner in the patio, right back where we started. The groups will

start arriving back at Dalton's at about 3:30 p.m. A car show will be going on at Dalton's throughout the day. We will see the show as we leave and as we return.

Some things to look forward to: Couser Canyon Road, Mount Palomar, Wynola Road, Julian, and Engineer Road.

Run

Date: Saturday, April 7
Time: TBD
Meet: TBD
Contact: Steve Kennison, 858-271-8498,
kennison@san.rr.com

Details: Save the date. Steve and Paula are putting together a "spirited" run for us. Details to follow.

SDMC Annual Meeting

Date: Saturday, April 21
Time: 10:00 a.m.
Meet: San Diego Auto Museum, 2080 Pan American Plaza (Balboa Park)
Contact: Sue Hinkle, 760-735-9456,
president@sandiegomiataclub.org
Details: This is our annual meeting, where we will elect officers and consider revised bylaws. Food, fun, raffles, and door prizes, too.

Miatas in Moab

Date: Friday–Sunday, May 18–20
Meet: Best Western Canyonlands Inn, Moab, UT
Contact: Wanda Bates, 801-489-1915,
wahbates@compuserve.com

Details: Join the Utah Miata Club for three days in Moab, Utah, gateway to Arches and Canyonlands National Parks. Visit Dead Horse Point State Park and see the dramatic red cliffs. Fill your days with short or long drives. There are plenty of roads to go zoom-zooming.

Each day we will split into small groups and do whatever activity suits our whims at the time: shopping, hiking, fishing, biking, river rafting, winery touring, or horseback riding—whatever tickles your fancy. Each evening we will gather for a social hour or two and share our stories.

UMC's web site currently lists 267 cars from 47 clubs, including 23 cars from SDMC. Several travel groups from SDMC are currently forming.

Link: www.utahmiataclub.com/miatasinmoab

Dalton's Charity Classic Car Show

JAN WAGNER

Today's story begins with a car show and ends with an hour-and-a-half of absolute car joy.

The sun was shining brightly on one of the warmest days we've had in what has been a cold winter. I, along with several other members of the San Diego Miata Club and many other automobile enthusiasts, gathered to participate in Dalton's monthly "Charity Classic Car Show."

The purpose of this car show is to help the kids at Rancho Damacitas — a community consisting of several group homes for abused and neglected children (www.thessalonika.org). Supporting this worthy cause by enjoying a car show is a great way to spend a Sunday, even if this particular one was Super Bowl Sunday.

There was something on display for everyone, including hot rods, muscle cars, plenty of Miatas, cool pickup trucks and a few three-wheeled motorcycles. The PT Cruisers were as clever as ever.

Just about anything on four wheels is eligible to win an award, although I don't think the John Deere tractor parked in the middle of the lot was entered (but I bet it would have gotten some People's Choice Award votes if it had been).

Creativity ran wild. I decorated my new Miata in its autocross trim, complete with "sticker" Hoosier racing tires and competition identification. Even though my entry did not win a trophy, it was certainly fun setting it up and then chatting with people about autocrossing. I will enter this car in its first autocross next Sunday.

This car show is held on the first Sunday of every

month, from noon until four, in the parking lot outside of Dalton's Roadhouse. If you're near this area on a show day, I encourage you to attend. There is no admission charge for spectators or participants. Funds for the kids at Rancho Damacitas are raised through the sale of Dalton's tasty BBQ, as well as raffle tickets.

Speaking of raffle tickets, I bought quite a few and was rewarded with a new, 6-disc CD changer. After returning home, I made room for it in the front of my two-car garage. Then I just had to check it out.

Since it is a changer, I loaded several of my favorite CDs into it. Roger Whittaker, Toto, John Denver, Elton John and others were all set to entertain me.

At first I stood in front of the changer and experimented with the various controls and audio settings. Standing on the concrete floor of my garage wasn't particularly relaxing so I put batteries in the remote control and looked around for somewhere to sit down for a moment while I checked things out.

I opened the door of my Prius and attempted to make myself comfortable there. I tried playing a CD but something was missing from the experience.



Then I tried moving over and sitting in the passenger seat of my Miata, which was parked next to the Prius. It was then that I discovered that the *passenger-side* footwell in a Miata is a little too short for me so, in a final attempt to get comfortable, I got out of the car and moved over to the driver's side.

That was the right move, as I learned that there seems to be significantly more legroom on the driver's side of the third generation Miata than on the passenger's side of the same car. Whatever, I was finally comfortable.

I lowered the windows and the convertible top, raised the volume of the CD changer via the remote and drifted off into automotive nirvana where, for the next hour-and-a-half, I enjoyed a music concert. I can only imagine what my neighbors might have thought if they walked by my house and heard music (and singing) coming from my closed garage.

That impromptu concert was one great car experience — and I didn't even use any gas!

One thing is for sure. You never know who you'll see or what treats await you at a car show. This one was lots of fun and winning a CD player was a nice bonus.

If you would like to share your car, truck, road trip, car art, vacations, racing, car movies, famous people, driving and other automobile-related stories with me, I would love to read them. Please send them to AutoMatters@gmail.com. Enjoy the archives and more at www.AutoMatters.net. Drive safely and do join me again next time.

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Jan R. Wagner — #225 AutoMatters



Jan's Miata in full battle dress. Photo: Jan Wagner

tend to be by invitation only and include mostly pre-war classics. What you tend to see at these shows are rare and historical representations of the automotive world. These cars are rarely driven and very valuable. A local show that is in only its third year is the La Jolla Motor Car Classic. If this show continues down the path that the organizers would like, they will not have to search for entries. Participants will be begging to get in. The venue at La Jolla Cove is spectacular.

There are marque-specific shows. British Car Days is for, you guessed it, all things British. Plastic Fantastic is all Corvettes. There are many others. The low-riders do their shows and exhibitions, and you rarely see a low-rider at the other venues. That's too bad as far as I am concerned.

Finally, we have the hot rod, street rod, and muscle car crowd. These shows tend to be the most prevalent because they tend to be more interested in just getting together than they are in winning awards. They like to have shows that are pre-1974 cars. This would be the approximate end of the muscle car and big-block era in America.

Getting hooked

Frankly, I got re-introduced to car shows by SOCALM back in 2000 when they hosted their first Best of the Bunch all-Miata Car Show. I remember polishing up BUZER and driving up to Irvine with about 10 SDMC members, and participating in a show that was approximately 50 Miatas strong. What it showed me is that, even with Miatas, there are people who not only drive them but also treat them almost as if they were pieces of art. I had so much fun, and we even won an award.

In the past seven years, a series of events has brought me leaping back into car shows. In chronological order below, these experiences have molded me into somewhat of a car show junky, although I still love

SDMC fun runs, overnights, and autocrosses.

1. The second year that we did the Search for Madonna, my old high school buddy and car guy Steve Vannatta introduced our group to the Cruisin' Morro Bay Car Show. We made attending the show part of the Search for the last seven years.

2. The second and third years of Best of the Bunch drew more Miatas and more SDMC participation.

3. Through Laurie's work, I met and became friends with Jim Wangers, "Godfather of the GTO" and "Father of the Muscle Car." Jim introduced me to a part of automotive history that I was very interested in, and through his own car collection, introduced me to the extremes of car collecting.

4. The San Diego Car Club Council invited the Miata Club to participate in their annual "Greatest Show on Turf" in Balboa Park. The first year we had 12 Miatas participate.

5. While at the Search for Madonna in 2004, my same old buddy hooked Laurie and me up with some people who were trying to find a home for their 2001 Millennium Yellow Corvette. We had now started our collection with our third yellow sports car.

6. In December 2005, we added to our car collection by getting into the muscle car arena with a Buick Grand National.

7. I became the SDMC representative to the San Diego Car Club Council.

Looking ahead

I think car shows will be more and more inviting to Miata enthusiasts in years to come. My opinion comes from a reflection of history. The Miata is now turning 18 years old. It is a car that has been successful throughout the world. It has been the benchmark for new cars from most automakers around the world as they tried to get back into the small two-seat roadster market. The latest is the Dodge Demon. Today the MX-5 Miata is a desirable car to own. There is an old

adage in the collector car business: If it was desirable when it was new, it will be collectable when it is old.

I don't know if Mazda will continue refreshing and building the MX-5 Miata, but if it sticks around a while, we can compare the enthusiast probabilities to two cars that have had staying power and have similar characteristics: Corvette and Mustang. Each represents a specific brand within their manufacturer's line. Each has over 40 years of history. Each has had up and down histories. Each has basically maintained its original image. The Corvette has stayed a two-seat, front-engine, rear-wheel-drive sports car for over 50 years. The Mustang has stayed as a high-production, low-cost sporty car with multiple options for over 40 years. Each has had strong club followings throughout.

When looking at the Corvette and Mustang enthusiasts today, we find that their clubs have changed and evolved. I'm not saying that is good or bad, only that it has happened. There are now at least four Corvette Clubs in San Diego County, and at least five Mustang clubs. Each of these has taken a little different approach and appeal. Some tend to be more for the vintage owners. Some are for the racers. Right now, SDMC is all things to all Miata people. As the Miata becomes older and more established, owning an older Miata will become even more desirable, and more people will want to see them. They will likely be driven less. Today, who wouldn't want a '57 "Fuelie" Vette or a '66 Shelby GT350? In the future, how about a '92 Sunburst Yellow Miata?

I have now been to numerous car shows, sometimes merely as a spectator, sometimes helping the organizers, sometimes showing one of our cars, and several times showing one of the Wangers' cars. What I have enjoyed most is meeting people who love cars and know so much about them. One of the most knowledgeable people I know is a member of the San Diego

Miata Club. The unassuming "Woody" Woodhouse is asked to judge at concours-type shows often enough that I generally run into him when he is dressed a lot nicer than at our club meetings. When he is not judging, you can usually find him with photographic equipment dangling from his neck, and Voodoo Bob somewhere nearby. The two of them take more photos of automobiles of history than anyone else I know.

A side benefit of getting more involved in the local car clubs has been meeting some of the "movers and shakers" in the car hobby and the auto industry. This is what allowed SDMC to be able to get into the vault at the Peterson Museum. Car people just love to show off.

SDMC Shows Off

As a former Events Coordinator for SDMC, I firmly believe in the mantra that putting on an event is as simple as inviting your Miata friends to accompany you when doing something that you enjoy. So, there is the answer to "Why a Car Show?" A long path to the answer, I understand. But, I enjoy car shows,



Nobody leaves hungry when Dalton's rolls out the barbecue. Photo: Jan Wagner

and I just wanted to invite all my Miata friends to come along and have fun too. So, what do car people do? They show off, and that's what we did at Dalton's Car Show on Sunday, February 4.

As a club, we did some serious showing off. By 9 a.m. we already

had five or six Miatas for a show that didn't start until 11:00. The early arrivers helped in claiming spaces for Miatas that arrived later. Four E-Z Up canopies were put out, club banners displayed, and ultimately 45 Miatas showed off. What a demonstration!

Marty, owner of Dalton's Roadhouse, said to Tom Thompson how much he likes Miata guys because they drive their cars. And Marty is a car guy. He and Dalton's support many car-club activities and sponsor charity events throughout the year. This was no exception. SDMC members mixed with members from other car clubs, and it was just a wonderful time on a gorgeous day.

At the end of the day, Donna and Stan Fry took home a judge's trophy for their "tricked out" black '94 Miata, and Janice and Jerry Boster were awarded the "Best Daily Drive" trophy for their "asphalt colored" Titanium 2003 Shinsen. This is what can happen when you show off. You make new friends, see some unusual cars, eat, and enjoy a Super Bowl Sunday without the Chargers.

Viewpoints

SDMC Shows Off

Cathy and I thoroughly enjoyed ourselves yesterday (well, I had a good time UNTIL the Bears choked during the Super Bowl, but that is another story). We were blown away by the huge number of SDMC participants for a "car show" event. I'm hopeful that we will have an equally impressive turnout for this year's Greatest Show On Turf in Balboa Park (June). Our thanks to everyone for attending and making it a fun day! And especially to Steve for making such a big deal out of it and rallying the troops!

— Mark Booth

Wow! 42 Miatas according to the impromptu sign-up sheet! Donna won one of the judge's prizes, and Janice won a best daily driver award! I'm sure some of the spectators (and probably some

participants from other clubs) were wondering, "Where the heck did all these Miatas come from?"

It was a beautiful day, the food was great, I got to see some current SDMC friends as well as making some new ones, and several SDMC members won raffle prizes including Jan Wagner, who got the CD player! Thanks to Steve for the initial inspiration, Mark for the challenge, Tom for the deals, and everybody else who showed up to demonstrate that SDMC is a seriously fun group of people.

— Carl Kuck

What a great day to be a club member! I can't tell you how many times I heard someone say, "wow ... look at all the Miatas!" A great day with cars and club, and home in time for Superbowl.

— David Bryan

Installing a TomTom GO 510

MARK BOOTH

I've been considering a new OTM lately (I currently have my eye on the 2007 Infiniti G35 sedan), and shopping has left me amazed at how much money manufacturers are asking for navigation systems. Given the price of a decent portable navigation unit (\$500), the \$1,500 price for factory navigation is absolutely ridiculous. And the portable navigation can be moved between multiple cars with ease.

With that in mind, I recently decided to upgrade from my Palm Zire-based TomTom Navigation unit to the more dedicated (and feature-rich) TomTom GO 510. I've found the TomTom GO 510 to be a more elegant navigation solution vs. the Palm-based version that I was already using.

The GO 510 comes with a very small and unobtrusive windshield mount. Attaching and removing the GO 510 from the mount is as simple as can be. No cables to disconnect. Just push the release button on the GO 510, and off it comes. TomTom even provides a nice storage bag that fits the GO 510 like a glove and protects the GO 510 during transport or storage. (A leather storage bag is also available.)



TomTom's windshield mount without the GPS unit. Photo: Mark Booth

To provide painless movement of the GO 510 between cars, I got a second windshield mount and cigarette-lighter power cable. With a

dedicated mount for each car, I also decided to hide the ugly power cable that would typically run down to the cigarette lighter. I tapped into the fuse box on each car (using an Add-A-Circuit fuse adapter) to add an under-dash cigarette lighter socket. I then routed the TomTom's power cable between the windshield and the dash, down the driver's side A-pillar, under the dash and out of sight.

It looks and works great! All you see of the power cable is the very short length from the TomTom mount to the bottom of the windshield—maybe 5–6 inches. Moving the GO 510 from car to car takes seconds and, with dedicated mounts in each car, the GO 510 is positioned exactly where I want it, every time.



The GO 510's phone display, seen mounted in Mark's Miata. Photo: Mark Booth

Happily, the TomTom GO 510 also gave me Bluetooth phone support. Just like the fancy factory navigation systems, the GO 510 uses Bluetooth to wirelessly connect to my cell phone (Motorola E815), allowing hands-free calling. The GO 510 has a built-in microphone which works quite well, but TomTom also

supplies a wired microphone that plugs into the mount and clips to the car's visor or your clothing if you desire. (I haven't tried the external microphone just yet.)

Compared to other portable navigation manufacturers, TomTom's navigation products don't seem to be as popular in the United States. But TomTom's products are very popular in Europe. There are European sites with many hacks and "tricks" to enhance your TomTom device. One of those hacks can be seen in the photos. I hacked the standard TomTom splash screen with a picture of my Miata.



Mark's customized splash screen. Photo: Mark Booth

I'm very pleased with the TomTom GO 510. The only negative I found was the supplied 1GB SD card was already pretty much full, leaving little room for personal data (saved locations and favorites, phone book, etc.). I solved that by upgrading to a 2GB SD card, using the supplied TomTom Home software to back up the GO 510 to my computer and then reinstalling it to the new, larger card. It worked like a charm. By the way, TomTom is one of the few (only?) navigation manufacturers that support Mac OS X (as well as that other computer operating system ... what was the name of it again?).

For more information on TomTom's products, visit www.tomtom.com.

New bylaws proposed

GENE STREETER, PAT MINNICH, AND LARRY CLARK

Over the past decade, SDMC grew from a small group of Miata enthusiasts to a club of around 500 members. Our bylaws, which served us well in our formative years, no longer meet the needs of the club we have become. They contain a number of provisions that are inconsistent with the way we really operate, and they omit provisions that seem desirable.

Last October, the Board appointed Gene Streeter to head a committee to examine the bylaws and propose revisions. The other members of the committee were Pat Minnich and Larry Clark.

We began with the recognition that we are, first and foremost, a car club. However, as a California corporation, we also have certain legal obligations. Our bylaws should promote positive interactions among members and guests, helping all of us to understand our roles in the club without being unduly restrictive.

Several recent incidents suggested that changes were needed. When a vacancy occurred on the Board last May, our bylaws offered no means to fill it. Officially, we should have waited nearly a year for the next Annual Meeting. The Board decided to ignore the bylaws and hold an election. One of the candidates did not live in San Diego County as required under our bylaws. The club voted to make an exception, although technically we cannot do so.

Bylaws are to SDMC as the Constitution is to the United States. They are the fundamental rules under which we operate. They cannot be changed easily, and they should not be ignored when they're inconvenient.

Our committee approached the project on two fronts: to make the bylaws consistent with the club's practices, and to propose changes that we believe will enable the club to serve the members better. We

looked at current practices and also considered features in bylaws of similar clubs. By the time we finished, we concluded that changes were warranted in a number of areas.

Option A

Many of the proposed changes merely streamline or clarify ideas already in our current bylaws, or make terminology more consistent. The table on page 15 lists each paragraph in the proposed bylaws, with cross-references to the similar paragraphs in our current version.

The more substantive effects are the following.

- ◆ Remove the requirement that members have driver licenses (3.1). We see no reason why non-drivers should not be able to participate fully in the club's activities, and we currently have several unlicensed members who ride as co-pilots. Of course, unlicensed members could not drive, but that's a state issue.
- ◆ Limit a dual membership to holding only one Board seat (3.4.2). We don't allow both members to vote in elections, so it seems reasonable to prevent one membership from casting two of the four votes in Board decisions. (Note that this would not affect our current VP and Treasurer, who hold separate single memberships.)
- ◆ Provide a means to remove a troublesome member (3.5). We hope the club never needs to use this, but the power should exist if someone is bent on harming the club.
- ◆ Formalize our recent decision to require liability waivers for driving events (3.6).
- ◆ Eliminate the residency requirement for directors (4.2).
- ◆ Require that the Treasurer prepare a budget forecast for the coming year (5.5), to help get the new Board off to a good start.
- ◆ Specify how open board meetings

can be announced (6.2), while allowing the Board to conduct additional meetings that need not be open or announced (6.3).

- ◆ Allow the Board to conduct electronic meetings (6.4), but require that decisions made electronically be ratified at a subsequent in-person meeting and documented in the minutes, as mandated by California law.
- ◆ Require a quorum at Board meetings (6.5). Our current bylaws allow any number of directors to create binding decisions.
- ◆ Clarify the president's voting rights, making them conform to Robert's Rules (6.6).
- ◆ Require that minutes of Board meetings be made available to members (6.7).
- ◆ Formalize our monthly meetings (7.2).
- ◆ Allow the Board to call a special membership meeting (7.3). We have been doing this, but our current bylaws actually allow special meetings only when requested by 50 percent of the members.
- ◆ Require that membership meetings be announced to all members, but permit members to authorize notification via electronic communications (7.4).
- ◆ Allow appointments to be changed or canceled in mid-term (8.3). Currently, anyone who accepts an appointment seems locked in until the next Annual Meeting.
- ◆ Allow candidates for Board seats to be nominated, even though they may not be present at the Annual Meeting, provided they have submitted written agreement to serve (9.2). This is consistent with Robert's Rules.
- ◆ Encourage candidates to publish statements of their qualifications, and provide publications guidelines for the newsletter editor (9.3).
- ◆ Allow board vacancies to be filled

(Continued on page 14)

Bylaws of the San Diego Miata Club

[Proposed]

Article I. Name

1.1 Name – The name of this organization shall be San Diego Miata Club (the “Club”), a California mutual benefit organization.

Article II. Purpose

2.1 Purpose – The purpose of the Club shall be to promote good will for the mutual benefit of Club members and to provide social and recreational activities that enhance the ownership experience of Mazda MX-5 Miata automobiles.

Article III. Memberships

3.1 Requirements – The term “member” means a member in good standing with current dues paid. All members must be at least 16 years of age.

3.2 Types of Memberships – Memberships may be single or dual.

3.3 Single Memberships – A single membership shall consist of one person, and shall have one vote on any Club matters.

3.4 Dual Memberships – A dual membership shall consist of two people from one household. Both people shall be entitled to all the rights and privileges of members except:

3.4.1 Only one member of a dual membership shall be entitled to vote on any Club matter.

3.4.2 Only one member of a dual membership shall be eligible to serve on the Board of Directors at any time.

3.4.3 A dual membership shall be entitled to only one printed copy of any newsletter or other material distributed by the Club to the members.

3.5 Responsibilities – Members shall act in accordance with the stated purpose of the Club. The Board may suspend or revoke the membership of any member whose actions are deemed detrimental to the Club.

3.6 Release of Liability – Before participating in any Club-sponsored driving event, all drivers and passengers (or their parents in the case of minor passengers) shall sign Release of Liability forms. Run leaders are responsible for collecting forms from all participants prior to the event’s start.

Article IV. Board of Directors

4.1 Number of Directors – The Board of Directors (“Board”) shall consist of the four officers.

4.2 Requirements – All Directors must be members in good standing.

4.3 Purpose – The Board shall represent the membership in all official matters, and is to act in the interest of the membership in the conducting of Club business and activities.

4.4 Spending Limit – In matters regarding expenditure of Club funds in excess of \$500, the Board shall present a recommendation for approval at a general membership meeting. Approval is not required for expenses related to publication and distribution of the Club newsletter, maintenance and updating of the Club web site, or renewal of Club insurance.

4.5 Ratification – Recommendations requiring membership approval shall be presented to the members at any scheduled membership meeting. A simple majority vote of paid memberships present shall authorize Board decisions.

4.6 Delegation – The Board may authorize its appointees to act on behalf of the general membership in matters of routine Club business.

Article V. Officers and Duties

5.1 Enumeration – The officers of the Club shall consist of a President, Vice-President, Treasurer, and Secretary, and shall represent the membership in all official matters.

5.2 Distinct Positions – No member shall hold more than one office at a time.

5.3 President – The President shall preside at all membership and Board meetings; shall enforce these bylaws; can sign checks and contracts; and shall be responsible for carrying out the decisions of the membership.

5.4 Vice-President – The Vice-President shall preside in the absence of the President.

5.5 Treasurer – The Treasurer shall sign checks and collect all dues and other monies from any and all sources; shall keep books of accounts and make a financial report at Club meetings; at the last meeting of each year, shall make an annual financial report showing all income and disbursements, and shall provide a budget forecast for the following year.

5.6 Secretary – The Secretary shall keep the minutes and records of the membership and Board meetings; on request, shall furnish each member with a copy of these bylaws and their amendments as they occur; and, at the last meeting of his or her term, shall turn over the minutes and records of the past year for the Club files.

Article VI. Board Meetings

- 6.1 Frequency – The Board shall meet at least quarterly at times and places determined by the Board.
- 6.2 Open – Regular Board meetings shall be open and announced to the membership in advance via the Club’s newsletter.
- 6.3 Special Meetings – Special Board meetings may be called by a two-thirds vote of the directors, and need not be announced or open to the membership.
- 6.4 Electronic Meetings – The Board may utilize electronic communications to make decisions between scheduled meetings. However, any such decisions must be ratified by the directors at the next scheduled Board meeting, and must be recorded in the minutes.
- 6.5 Quorum – A quorum at any Board meeting shall consist of at least three directors.
- 6.6 President – All directors, including the President, shall be entitled to move or second motions and to vote on any matter coming before the Board. In the event of a tie vote, the motion shall be deemed to have failed.
- 6.7 Minutes – Minutes of all Board meetings shall be made available for inspection by members.

Article VII. Membership Meetings

- 7.1 Annual Meeting – An annual membership meeting shall be held in April of each year, at a time and place determined by the Board.
- 7.2 Regular Meetings – Regular membership meetings shall be held monthly, at times and places determined by the Board.
- 7.3 Special Meetings – A special membership meeting may be called by the Board, and must be called upon presentation of a petition signed by at least 50 percent of the members.
- 7.4 Notice – The date, time, and place of all membership meetings must be announced at least 10 days in advance. Announcements may be printed in the Club’s newsletter, sent via U.S. mail, or distributed electronically to those members who have previously agreed in writing to accept electronic notices.
- 7.5 Quorum – A quorum at any membership meeting shall consist of the memberships present.

Article VIII. Appointments

- 8.1 Authority – The President, subject to the approval of the Board, shall appoint members to committees as deemed necessary to administer the Club’s activities.
- 8.2 Eligibility – Only members in good standing shall be eligible to serve on committees.
- 8.3 Term – Committee appointments may be changed or terminated by the Board at any time.

Article IX. Nominations, Elections, and Term of Office

- 9.1 Nomination and Election – Directors are to be nominated and elected at the annual membership meeting.
- 9.2 Requirements – Nominees need not be present to be nominated or elected, but must have provided written indication of willingness to accept the nomination.
- 9.3 Statements of Qualifications – Candidates for Board positions are encouraged to submit written statements of their interest and qualifications for publication in the Club newsletter. The newsletter editor may establish reasonable limits on length, and must publish all statements received by deadline without editing, attempting to present all candidates equitably.
- 9.4 Term of Office – All directors shall hold office until the next annual membership meeting.
- 9.5 Vacancies – In the event that a Board seat is vacated, the Board shall, by majority vote, nominate another Club member in good standing to fill the vacancy, subject to confirmation by the general membership at the next scheduled membership meeting.

Article X. Dues and Expenditures

- 10.1 Dues – Membership dues shall be \$35 annually for either a dual or a single membership.
- 10.2 Partial Year Dues – Dues for new members who join in January through June are \$35; dues for those who join in July through December are \$20.
- 10.3 Expiration – All memberships, regardless of when paid, expire at the end of the calendar year. Renewals are due by January 1.
- 10.4 Delinquency – Lapsed members who are more than 30 days delinquent will be dropped from the membership rolls.

Article XI. Amendment of Bylaws

- 11.1 Requirements – These bylaws may be amended or revised at the annual meeting or at a special membership meeting by a two-thirds vote of memberships present.
- 11.2 Notification – The text of any proposed changes to these bylaws must be published in the announcement of the meeting where the vote will be taken.
- 11.3 Effective Date – Amendments and revisions to these bylaws become effective upon approval by the members.

Article XII. Authority

- 12.1 Authority – Any matters not included in these bylaws are to be determined by *Robert’s Rules of Order, Newly Revised* and the California Corporations Code.

A proposed Option B appears on the next page.

Option B

Option B incorporates all of the changes listed in the previous description, with the following differences:

4.1 Number of Directors – The Board of Directors (“Board”) shall consist of five directors.

5.1 Enumeration – The officers shall consist of a President, Communications Director, Member Services Director, Treasurer, and Secretary, and shall represent the membership in all official matters.

5.4 Communications Director – The Communications Director shall serve as the primary liaison between the Board and the committees that provide communications with members and outside organizations. These committees include but are not limited to: newsletter, web, and vendor relations. The Communications Director

shall attempt to expedite committee requests where Board approval is required.

5.5 Member Services Director – The Member Services Director shall serve as the primary liaison between the Board and the committees that provide services to members. These committees include but are not limited to: membership, regalia, and events. The Member Services Director shall attempt to expedite committee requests where Board approval is required.

[Renumber 5.5 Treasurer to 5.6, and 5.6 Secretary to 5.7.]

9.6 Selection of Officers – As soon as practical after being elected, the Board shall assign one director to each office outlined in paragraph 5.1. The Board may reassign offices as they deem desirable at any time.

9.7 Absence of President – At any meeting where the President is absent, the next available officer shall preside, in the order listed in paragraph 5.1.

NEW BYLAWS *(Continued from page 11)*

by appointment, subject to approval by the members (9.5). This allows vacancies to be filled relatively quickly, while still giving the members a say.

- ◆ Document the current policy on dropping delinquent members (10.4).
- ◆ Require that the text of proposed bylaw changes be published in advance (11.2).

Option B

In the course of our discussions, we noted several difficulties in the club’s operation. While we were deliberating, elections were looming on the horizon, and we began wondering where our next officers would come from. We heard that a couple of members had expressed interest in the VP position, but none in other offices.

We also observed that, once someone announces for a given office, other members seem reluctant to run against them for the same office. And we noted that our club’s structure puts a heavy burden on the president, through whom nearly all decisions seemingly must pass.

These observations led to an expanded proposal, which we call Option B. Whereas the first set of revisions attempts to improve our operation within the current organizational structure, Option B changes the structure and role of the Board.

In a nutshell, Option B proposes to expand the Board from four to five members, reducing the likelihood of tie votes at Board meetings. And since the VP currently has no official duties, we replaced that office with two new directors. These would be regular Board members in every sense, much like our current VP, but one would be assigned to focus on the club’s communications and the other on member services, just as the Treasurer focuses on the club’s financial matters.

The idea is that each of our various committees (Membership, Regalia, Events, Newsletter, Web Site, etc.) should have a liaison person on the Board. This will enable the board to better support the committees, and should reduce the need for every small decision or question to be fielded by the president.

Finally, we propose to elect the Board at large. Once the five directors have been chosen, they can de-

cide who among them is best qualified to fill each of the roles. They can even exchange offices in mid-term if circumstances warrant. We believe this will make it easier to find Board candidates, will help match offices with the directors’ talents, and will allow qualified members to run without feeling they are directly opposing friends who may also be running.

Option B is a fairly major departure from SDMC’s current operation, but it works well in many other organizations. We feel it will help overcome much of the reluctance of members to run for Board seats, and will help make the Board more responsive to the committees and the entire membership.

Recommendation

Our committee firmly believes that the changes we have outlined will be a major benefit to SDMC and its members. We urge members to approve the proposed changes.

At a minimum, we believe the changes in Option A are essential to the club’s welfare. But we believe Option B offers even greater promise for carrying the club through its second decade.

Summary of proposed bylaw changes

The following table outlines the most significant changes in the proposed bylaws (Option A). For each paragraph in the new proposal, it shows the corresponding paragraph in the current bylaws and de-

scribes the nature of the change. If there is no substantive change, the description is blank. If there is no corresponding section in the current bylaws, the second column lists "New."

New	cf. Old	Description of Changes
1.1	I	Added definition for "Club"; indicate nature of corporation.
2.1	II	Added "MX-5"; changed purpose from "preservation" to "enhance ownership experience."
3.1	III	Define "member"; remove licensing requirement.
3.2	III A-B	Make types explicit.
3.3	III B	Make vote explicit.
3.4	III A	Make voting and restrictions explicit.
3.4.1	X A	Restrict votes of dual members.
3.4.2	New	Prevent two directors from one dual membership.
3.4.3	New	Allow restricted benefits for dual members.
3.5	New	Allow revocation of memberships.
3.6	New	Require Release of Liability for driving events.
4.1	V	
4.2	IX A & E	Removes residency requirement.
4.3	V B-C	
4.4	V D	Clarifies approval process for major expenditures.
4.5	V E-F	
4.6	V C	Separates authorization of appointees.
5.1	IV	
5.2	V A	
5.3	IV A	Removes voting on ties (moved to 6.6).
5.4	IV B	
5.5	IV C	Adds budgeting duty.
5.6	IV D	Makes bylaws available "on request."
6.1	VI D	Moves "open and announced" requirement to (6.2).
6.2	VI D	Restricts "open and announced" to regular board meetings; specified means of announcement.
6.3	VI B	Clarifies "open and announced" requirement.
6.4	New	Authorizes electronic meetings; requires decisions to be confirmed and documented at subsequent Board meeting (per state law).

New	cf. Old	Description of Changes
6.5	New	Defines quorum for Board meetings.
6.6	New	Makes president's participation conform to Robert's Rules.
6.7	New	Requires that Board minutes be open for inspection.
7.1	VI A	
7.2	New	Defines regular monthly meetings (currently not mentioned).
7.3	VI C	Allows Board to call special membership meetings. (We currently do this, but our bylaws don't actually allow it unless 50 members request the meeting.)
7.4	New	Requires that all membership meetings be announced, either by newsletter, mail, or electronically (with members' consent).
7.5	VIII	
8.1	VII	
8.2	IX A	
8.3	IX D	Allows appointments to be changed or canceled.
9.1	IX B-C	
9.2	New	Allows nomination and election in absentia (per Robert's Rules).
9.3	New	Encourages candidate statements; provides publication guidelines.
9.4	IX D	Applies only to directors, not appointees.
9.5	New	Provides for filling Board vacancies by appointment, subject to members' ratification.
10.1	X A	
10.2	X C	
10.3	X B & D	
10.4	New	Specifies policy on delinquencies.
11.1	XII	Clarifies meeting type.
11.2	New	Requires publication of proposed bylaws changes.
11.3	XII	
12.1	XI	Corrects references.

Who says color doesn't matter?

LES SMITH

Two days of diversity training recently produced moments of both insightful thought and an occasionally wandering mind. A couple of times, that wandering got me to thinking about the San Diego Miata Club.

During those sessions, race was defined as people's perception of one's color. (Biologically, all humans appear to be pretty much the same.) It dawned on me that we Miataphiles are downright racist! I mean, color is a defining characteristic that we openly flaunt, and a concern we always raise when we welcome new members.

Overall, SDMC is extremely diverse. Beginning with the migration of three colors out of Hiroshima in 1989, look how the Miata has grown through three generations and over the past 18 years into a full range of cars of color.

Sure, we jestingly make color jabs at one another at our meetings and events, and we tend to band together and protect fellow members of the same color. Yet, I don't think one member can be faulted for not mixing with and feeling totally comfortable with drivers of other colors. Wouldn't it be wonderful if all the people of the world got along with other colors as well as we do? Perhaps it has something to do with core values built around the word "fun."

So much for my opinion. The true test will be how you respond to some questions that probe deep-rooted feelings and behavior in regard to color. See how you do.

On the basis of your Miata's ethnic background and color:

... do you welcome new immigrants such as the NC without prejudice or bias?

... do you think that immigrant communities (NC owners including the power assisted hardtop subgroup) find it easy or difficult to

assimilate into our society?

... do you think that immigrants can effectively integrate into society and make a positive contribution?

... have you ever been made to feel like a criminal?

... have you ever been stopped and searched by the police?

... do you think you are less likely to be believed by police compared to drivers of white Miatas?

... do you think you would get a fair trial in a court of law?

... would you be concerned about the color make-up of the jury if you were on trial?

... are enough non-white Miatas represented on SDMC's Board?

... would you marry or have a relationship with some one who drives a different color?

... would you be concerned if your child married someone who drives a different color?

... would you be happy if a different color Miata moved in next door?

... is your color adequately represented in Miata ads and commercials?

... do you have more trouble getting articles published in *Twists & Turns* than drivers of white Miatas?

And the winner is ...

LARRY CLARK

The ink was still damp on last month's issue when Jerry found a typo, which had previously eluded the eyes of four editors, three proofreaders, and the club's board.

I decided to turn it into a challenge for our readers, which I announced via the Yahoo group list. The first non-staff member to report the error was promised a special mention in this issue, with double points to anyone who found problems we didn't know about.

This being the Miata Club, a dialog quickly ensued over car colors. We're sorry, but we rejected the notion that saying something positive about a color other than *<fill in your favorite>* qualifies as an error.

We have three winners. **Janice Boster** was the first to report the typo we knew about.

Voodoo Bob Krueger scored double points for noting a mismatch between the subject and verb in the promo for the Campo Rail Run, "The trains costs"

Bob and I also began an ex-

tended dialog on the use of "their" as a singular pronoun, as in "everybody did their own thing." We both were taught to use "his" in such situations. Like Bob, I find "their" grating to my ear, despite its advantage of gender-neutrality. But, according to linguistics experts I respect, times and standards have changed, and I'm trying to keep up.

We saved our most embarrassing gaffe for last. **Harold Schwartz** noted that the back-page listing of events had transformed his name to "Howard." We apologize.

What was the known error? In the calendar on the back page, February 14 was listed as "Valentine's Day." The hint, "Don't be *disheartened* if you *don't find it at first*," was intended to provide confirmation for anyone who noticed it because the error appeared on the final page and concerned that great Hallmark and florist holiday.

Thanks to everyone who played along with us. We'll try to do better in future issues.

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.

Geris'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. david-bryan@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.

Membership Benefit: Free Classified Ads

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.

Address

MARCH 2007

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1	2	3 Choo-Choo Run
4	5	6	7	8	9	10 Tech Day
11 Start Daylight Savings	12	13	14	15 APRIL T&T DEADLINE	16	17 St. Patrick's Day
18	19	20	21	22 Monthly Meeting	23	24
25 The Puke	26	27	28	29	30	31

APRIL 2007

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1	2 Passover	3	4	5	6 Good Friday	7 Run
8 Easter	9	10	11	12	13	14
15 MAY T&T DEADLINE	16	17	18	19	20	21 SDMC Annual Meeting
22	23	24	25	26 Monthly Meeting	27	28
29	30					

DATE	EVENT	TIME	MEET	CONTACT	PAGE
Sat 3/3	Choo-Choo Run	9:15 a.m.	Rancho San Diego Town Center (Hwy 94 & 54)	Harold Schwartz 858-271-0084	6
Sat 3/10	Tech Day	9:00 a.m.	Dennstedt's Auto Repair, 4283 41st St.	Larry Dennstedt 619-284-4911	6
Thu 3/22, Thu 4/26	SDMC Monthly Meeting	6:00 p.m. (eat) 7:00 p.m. (meet)	Boll Weevil Restaurant, 9330 Clairemont Mesa Bl.	Sue Hinkle 760-735-9456	3
Sun 3/25	The Puke 2007	9:00 a.m. (brunch) 10:00 a.m. (drivers mtg)	Dalton's, 775 Center Dr., San Marcos (78 at Nordahl)	Steve & Laurie Waid 760-432-0727	6
Sat 4/7	Run	TBD	TBD	Steve Kennison 858-271-8498	6
Sat 4/21	SDMC Annual Meeting	10:00 a.m.	San Diego Auto Museum, 2080 Pan American Plaza	Sue Hinkle 760-735-9456	6