



The newsletter of the San Diego Miata Club

Volume 14 Number 3

March 2009

The Driving of the Green

Compilation by Editor Les

ention March and St. Patrick's Day comes to mind. This month we take a trip clear across the USA and then the Atlantic Ocean to visit Ireland, known to all for its lush green grass, leprechauns ... and MX-5s.

By Anthony Byrne, Cork, Ireland Failte (hello) from Ireland

The Island of Ireland is a small one in the sense that you can drive to the coast from the midlands in under four hours. In recent years due to our economic boom we have seen both our car population and infrastructure improve dramatically. People have extra cash to buy that car that they have always wanted and for most of us that would be a convertible sports car.

For myself and many others there was only one car that stood out from the pack and that was the Mazda MX-5. I first

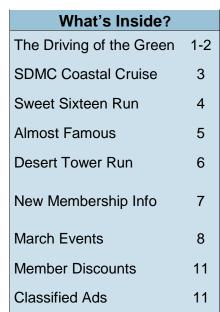
purchased mine 10 years ago

and at the time they were few and far between but now they have become very popular

mainly due to imports. Now thanks to the internet we have a great network of members who organize runs and work shop weekends.

The runs are organized either as local runs or perhaps weekend trips where we would all meet up in a specific county (Kerry) and over the two days we would travel through some of the old back roads that would have been used during the car rallying season. These roads are full of s-bends and the occasional hairpin that wind up mountains that sometimes have no crash barriers or ditch, so if you should make a mistake there is no where to go but down. There are two very popular runs that are always revisited and they are the Healy Pass in Cork and the Vee in Tipperary.

The Healy Pass was a road built in the 1930's and takes you over the county bounds between Cork and Kerry. It is mainly made up of wasteland and rock only good for sheep farming. When you look down from the peak you can see this scale-electric like road with its MX-5's echoing as the driver's break hard into the corner's and accelerate out onto the short straight and





then on to the hairpin. Come wind, rain (we get more than our fair share of that) or shine, you will see these MX-5's doing what they where built to do and that is to make both driver and car be as one.

The Vee is another pass and takes you over the county bounds between Waterford and Tipperary. It

looks down onto the Golden vale which is one of Europe's richest pasturelands. This road is another old road but at the end, it has this wonderful hairpin that suddenly drops down into the valley. This is where we spend many an hour taking photos as the cars go up and around and back down with some serious rubber left behind.

All the MX-5's here are right hand drive and they are stick shift except for the occasional automatic. Most club members cars are not only maintained and polished to a high standard but are used virtually every day on the commute to and from work. How could you leave such a classic at home in an old garage when it is meant to be out zooming about for all to see?







SDMC does the San Joaquin Valley Miata Club Coastal Cruise

Events Coordinator Diane Foster

DMC's second annual Coastal Run Cruise, This was the "Creme de la Crème" of Miata roads. participated as "wonderful, fabulous, so much fun," motel ... "once is enough, and let's do it again." It was etc. Although two cars had to cancel at the last mo- extremely beautiful with so many twists and turns, but ment, six others were at the Deer Springs Park & due to recent bad weather, the road needed to be Ride for Friday morning's caravan. Dennis and Maryanne Garon (thanks you very much) led Mark and Cathy Booth, Gene and Bonnie Streeter, Helen Sharp, Sonny Haskins and myself north to a rendezvous with Kathy McClelland and McBean.

Of course, being a sports car club, we didn't take direct routes on interstates, but did our best on fun roads that let us Zoom Zoom; we all had fun just getting to Fresno. Our host club met up with us that evening at a 50's type diner which we kind of took over. Folks from San Joaquin, Sacramento and San Francisco were there also.

We were all excited about our run the following day. San Joaquin run leaders attempt to find a different route to get to the coast each year and Sharon Mack, this year's run leader, said I was in for a real treat. I could sense her excitement although she would not say a word more about the run!

think 29 cars total) and started this adventure. There my face as I reflect on our drive. were blue skies throughout the day intermingled with Simeon.

ever driven was 17 miles of Santa Rosa Creek Road. All I can say as I remember is WOW! and ZOOM!

merged into San Joaquin's 16th Annual Coastal After driving this and arriving at our destination, we Run January 24 & 25, was hailed by those that had very mixed reviews as we were checking into our



used with caution. I am anxious to do it again. It was Next morning we all met at Denny's parking lot (I truly a fabulous road that will always put a smile on

We all went to dinner in Cambria at a lovely linendark ... tops up, tops down ... but, what fabulous tabled restaurant "LINNS." The proprietor printed a roads we traversed getting from Fresno to San special menu for us that featured the San Joaquin Valley Miata Club logo. The food and camaraderie After lunch, I think one of the "funnest" roads I've was exceptional (you all know I had a good time !! The headache the following day reflected it!)

> On Sunday we had lots of options, one being a drive to Hunter-Leggett on a run by the San Joaquin Club. It was a tough decision and most SDMC folks decided to go up to Big Sur and Carmel for lunch. It was a beautiful drive as always on that road. No matter what the weather, one has to enjoy that stretch of road. Being in a Miata just makes it FABULOUS.

> Thank you Ken Hurd for updating me on road conditions and, yes, there were lots of rocks to avoid; but we made it without any mishaps. We enjoyed watching elephant seals, condors gliding overhead and taking our chances on bouncing rocks above. SDMC is all about adventure ... we are not armchair drivers ... we are out there doing it and I for one am glad I did it! Hope you will be smiling with me next year!

Sweet 16 Run

93 NOIR through her owner, Les Smith

THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU!

My Sweet 16 celebration has come and gone! Now that I've recovered, it's time to write this Thank You note as I reflect on the day's events. After an early morning shower, I was off for Alpine where 12 cars joined me for breakfast, our dance on the East County roads, a quick rest at Pio Pico Campground, shopping at the Viejas Outlet Mall and a late lunch at Rubios. Fantastic!

Last year was my Quinciata; now, this milestone event. I'm beginning to feel all grown up and ready for the challenges that lie ahead down life's highway. Les and Dyanna have always driven me to be a top performer. With all but a couple of the cars on the run younger than myself, I did my best to be a leader others felt comfortable following.

And a special thank you to Uncle Ted and Aunt Sue Kessler, who stayed at the back and made sure none of my friends strayed from the pack.

When is the next party?









NOIR recently caused a serious problem for me and I thought you'd want to know about it.

My car is only three years old and is just learning to be a Miata. Like all youngsters, she closely watches her older cousins and emulates their walk, their talk and their dress. Well, she heard 93 NOIR bragging at the Mira Mesa Mall about her new dancing shoes. By the time we got home, my car wanted new shoes so she could be just like 93 NOIR.

I tried to explain that she didn't need new shoes yet but it was to no avail... When I wouldn't give in, she sulked, went into the garage and slammed the door. Three year olds can be such a big pain. Tried to reason with her but she just pouted... and a pouty Miata is not a pretty sight.

My wife, Grace, and I talked and talked to her. Finally, she admitted she liked her current shoes but the soles were getting thin. I agreed to resole her shoes and she was a very happy Miata. I logged on to the Web site for Brian Goodwin's Toy Store and Shoe Emporium. He had a good-looking set of Toyos that fit my Miata perfectly. They are now installed and she is ecstatic and can't wait to show them off. See you Saturday at 93 NOIR's birthday party.

Neal Mills

Almost Famous

Steven Broderson

Car: 1990 Red Miata MX-5 Base Model

had just returned back to work from lunch. As I was making my rounds I was stopped by several different co-workers, who told me that someone was looking for "the guy who drives the red Miata".

Since I was the only person, at my place of employment who was enjoying the thrill of driving a Miata, I was easily tracked down. I was told that this person was going around the building and knocking on the exterior doors trying to locate me. This concerned me since I had just been driving through the area and that I may be dealing with a case of extreme road rage.

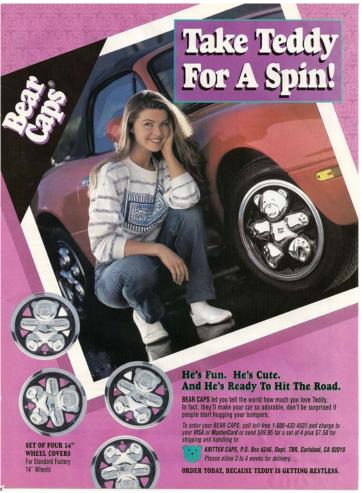
I stopped and reflected back on my recent excursion, but I could not recall any near misses or other related driving mishaps. I was further put at ease when the person who was looking for me was described as being friendly. Apparently this individual was trying catch up with me, before I had disappeared into a side employee entrance.

Returning back to my desk I got a call from the receptionist informing that this person was now in our lobby. I got up from my chair and made my way to the lobby. Upon seeing the person, I informed them that I was the person who owns the red Miata and asked them if there was some sort of problem. She explained to me that she worked next door and that she and some of her co-worker had noticed the little red Miata coming and going over the past couple of weeks.

She further explained that the company she worked for was getting ready to launch a new product line and that they would like to borrow my Miata for a photo-shoot. I now felt little relief that I hadn't incited a case of road rage and then a bit flattered because my car was going to be famous! I said yes and the photo-shoot was scheduled for the following week.

On the morning of the shoot, I dropped off my car and was told that they would finish up later in the day. A few of my co-workers were aware of the photo-shoot and would then make trips next door to see how the shoot was going. I was tied up all that day and didn't get over there until the end of the work day.

When I picked up my keys I was presented with



a completely detailed car and a black bucket that was jam packed with all sorts of Eagle One car care products. At that time I was also informed that my car would be featured in an ad that was going to appear in a magazine called Teddy Bear Review. I thought... Huh? Once the publishing date arrived I had a heck of a time trying to find a copy of the Teddy Bear Review.

My mother was able to track down a couple of copies, which she mailed me. The ad showed my Miata from the passenger side with a model and Teddy Bear hub caps, or Bear Caps as stated in the ad copy. Though this all took place back in the early 90's I can't say that I have ever seen these hub cap/ wheel covers appear on a Miata or any other car for that matter.

Run to Desert Tower (via Wisteria Candy Cottage)

Daryled Bristol

e gathered at Grossmont Center on a Sunday morning (February 7) under broken skies, a chill in the air but no rain. After a short drivers' meeting and review of the "Rules" we depart. A quick sprint up the freeway puts us on the road to Crest and the East county beyond. Getting into Harbison Canyon we picked up an OTM but after a quick "Q" up we moved on into the suburbs of Alpine.

The weather cooperates so far and it was a quiet ride up Japatul Valley Road and into Descanso where we find our first signs of snow. Heaters are on, maintaining a comfortable level for the Miatas with the tops still in the retracted position. Winding through Pine Valley we pick up Joe Moore, a former SDMC member who still drives one of his three Miatas and joins us momentarily.

Next, a stop at Buckman Springs Rest Area to stretch and relax; we find that Joe is headed to Tucson to pick up wheels for one of his cars that he found dur-

ing one of his many online shopping sprees. As we proceed East, the skies get a bit lower and we a bit higher. But the weather holds, sometimes reminding us that it could get worse in a hurry with a few quick spritzers (here's to "Rain X").

Boulevard and the Wisteria Candy Cottage are our next stop and after many purchases and about 30 minutes we are back on the road again to the destination in the plan. These back roads need more visitors and business to revitalize the communities and enhance our outings. The Tower is touched by clouds and winds that make us glad we brought our winter wear. An interesting day trip for anyone that is interested and only 78 miles using the old highway with plenty of possible stops along the way.

Some decide to call it a day while the remainder of us headed west to La Posta Casino and Marie's Dinner for a meal break. Good food and a clean and bright environment with plenty of room to chat over the drive of the day. Hope to do this again with additional stops

Forget to Renew?

You can STILL renew your membership!

If you have procrastinated about renewing, you will no longer receive Twists and Turns, valuable Club discounts from our vendors, or be part of our email and database.

To renew, go to sandiegomiataclub.org and print your registration form, and send with a check for \$35 to our membership team.

Don't miss out on the ability to receive valuable information and a chance to support our organization!

Membership

Welcome to our newest members, 4 since the last newsletter!

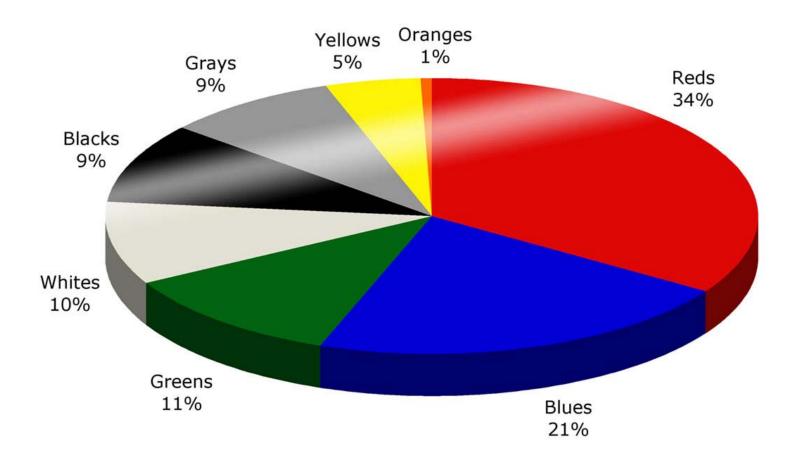
| James Pennington & Susan Fantle | San Diego | 2006 Brilliant Black |
|---------------------------------|-----------|----------------------|
| David & Iris Corning | San Diego | 1991 Crystal White |
| | | |

As of February 17, 2009, we have 174 memberships (55 single, 119 dual) for a total of 293 members. The membership numbers are down from last month, because the numbers reflect only those who have renewed their membership for 2009.

How it breaks down...

Here's a chart of how our Club's colors are by percentage.

Thanks to Webmaster Jerry Standefer for this great picture of our color counts!



Coming Events

The Puke

Sunday, March 29th
Breakfast 9:00 AM - \$10 Buffet Breakfast
Drivers Meeting 10:00 AM (In the patio of Dalton's Roadhouse)

Meeting point: Dalton's Roadhouse in San Marcos, just north of Highway 78 on Nordahl which is one exit west of the Highway 78 and Interstate 15 interchange.

www.daltonsroadhouse.com

Contact: Steve and Laurie Waid swaid@cox.net (760) 432-0727

This will be the twelfth annual running of the infamous Puke (formerly the Puke-O-Rama). Multiple groups will depart in opposite directions just a few minutes apart on a looping course that returns to Dalton's after about 150 miles of driving. Smaller groups are easier to keep together and more fun to be a part of. This year the San Diego Roadsters Club (Pontiac Solstice and Saturn Sky) will be joining us and be formed into its own group. You'll also get to see fellow Pukers coming and going along the course. Commemorative barf bags will be provided for unlucky passengers.

The Puke is a driver's event, in the sense that the roads are selected to give the greatest enjoyment to the driver. Unfortunately this has led to some uncomfortable stomach reactions and conditions for the passengers...hence the name.

At the 10 am drivers meeting the attendees will be split into 6 smaller run groups of about the same size. Experienced leaders and sweep drivers will be assigned to each of the run groups in advance. The six groups will leave at staggered times alternated in opposite directions What this creates is six separate groups which cross each other's paths a few times during the day. Two pit stops are scheduled for each group at Dudley's Bakery in Santa Ysabel. This commonly results in as many as three run groups being at Dudley's at one time. The last group out is known as the Daffodil Group as this is the group that requests to spend some time actually enjoying the scenery as they drive the course. Typically the Daffodils are in evidence in the Julian area at this time of year.

At the end of the run in the late afternoon we arrive back at Dalton's Roadhouse to enjoy an early dinner (order from the menu) and relish in the embellished stories that are told of the driving experiences just completed. We again will be treated by having the patio reserved for only us Pukers.

Annual Meeting

April 4th 10:00AM - 12:00PM Miramar Speed Circuit 8123 Miralani Drive San Diego, CA 92126 www.miramarspeedcircuit.com Save the Date!

Apr

Please come join us for the SDMC annual meeting—election of officers and planning for the next year. Since the SD Auto Museum was not available, our annual meeting will be held at Miramar Speed Circuit's meeting room, followed promptly by an Exclusive Race (at member's own expense exclusively for SDMC Members) on the track.

Additionally, there will be a short run to lunch after the race. Details to be announced later.

Membership

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!

Monthly Meetings

held on the fourth Thursday of have fun. 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

Our monthly meetings are a p.m. to enjoy meals, snacks, or great opportunity to meet your fel- beverages while chatting with their low club members, ask questions, Miata friends. The informal meeting and share stories. Meetings are starts at 7 p.m. We guarantee you'll

> This month's meeting date: March 26

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.

Twists & Turns is printed by:





Mario Andretti

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 \$10 each for badges with safety-pin closures, or \$11 each for badges with magnetic fasteners. Prices include shipping to your home.

Sue Hinkle 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.

SDMC Officers









DAVID STREETER President

PRINTING

STEVE WAID Vice President

GABE RIVERA Secretary

GENE STREETER Treasurer

Executive Board

"@..." indicates that e-mail address ends in @sandiegomiataclub.org

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|-------------------------|----------------------|--------------|----------------|
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| SECRETARY | Gabe Rivera | 619-295-5993 | secretary @ |
| TREASURER | Gene Streeter | 619-656-6730 | treasurer @ |
| To send e-mail to all r | members of the Board | | board@ |

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| WEBMASTER | Jerry Standefer | | webmaster@ |
| CLUB REGALIA | Mike & Lisa Schwartz | 858-549-4344 | regalia @ |
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The SAN DIEGO MIATA CLUB is a California nonprofit corporation. Twists & Turns is the monthly newsletter of the SAN DIEGO MIATA CLUB. Use of articles or stories by other Miata clubs is hereby granted, provided proper credit is given. Submissions to the newsletter are welcomed and encouraged. When possible, please e-mail your submissions to the newsletter editor. Submissions may also be mailed to the club's post office box. Submission deadline is the 15th of each month. 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 421325 San Diego, CA 92142

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.

- Go to http://autos.groups.yahoo.com/ group/SDMC-List (capitalization matters!).
- 2. Click "Join This Group!"
- 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.
- 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.

- 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 op tions, see the club's web site.

Member Discounts

any 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.

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

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 special-

ist, 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 Porter-field & 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: Carlos Zamora. Discount: \$10 on smog tests.

TC's Garage, Swepco transmission fluid and motor oils. 1315 Hot Spring Way Suite 105 Vista, CA 92081 760-295-3330 Tom@tcsgarage.com or tcsgarage@aol.com

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

Tri-City Paint. Professional detailing, pro-ducts, paint, airbrushes, car covers. West Miramar Area: 858-909-2100; Santee, Mission Gorge: 619-448-9140. Discount: Body shop pricing #CM6660.

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

Chapman Mazda. Phoenix. 877-684-5803. Ask for John Mardueno. Discount: 20% on Mazda parts and accessories.

Mazda of Escondido. 760-737-3349. Discount: 20% on most parts; 15% on labor (not including smog certification). For purchase, ask for Barb and receive free SDMC membership for 1 year!

Westcott Mazda. National City. 619-474-1591. Discount: 15% on parts or labor (except oil changes).

Other Services

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.

Classifieds

FOR SALE: 2000 Miata, silver, tan top, tan leather, 5 spd, xlnt cond. w/ many xtras; nu Eibach springs/ sway bars, f/r, Racing beat intake-nu, Nardi wood interior appearance group, nu SS brake lines/pads, nu SS hipo exhaust, nu timing chain,idler, adjuster, seals, slave cylinder,also nu ACT racing clutch/flywheel/ Takata driver restraints available w/ or without car, 93,3XX milesdrives perfect \$6950 obo Mike club member 858-673-0899 or sherbom@yahoo.com

FOR SALE:Torsen differential complete with drive shaft and axles \$800 Fits 1990 through 1997 as an upgrade. Cat back exhaust system fits 1990 through 1997, \$200. 1999 intake manifold complete with injectors \$350. 1999 engine, 1999 and 1995 transmissions. All kinds of Miata parts Wallymiata@gmail.com or call 619-234-2858 Wally Stevens

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 swaid@cox.net

Ads will run for four months unless canceled, and may be revised and resubmitted.

SAN DIEGO MIATA CLUB

P.O. Box 421325 San Diego, CA 92142

Postage

Address



March Events

| DATE | EVENT | MEETING TIME | MEETING PLACE | CONTACT |
|---------------------|-----------------|--------------------------------------|------------------------|---|
| Thursday Mar. 26 | Monthly Meeting | 6 PM Eat 7 PM Meet | Boll Weevil Restaurant | David Streeter president@sandiegomiat aclub.org |
| Sunday, Mar. 29 | The Puke | 9 am Breakfast 10 am drivers' mtg | Dalton's Roadhouse | Steve Waid swaid@cox.net 760.432.0727 |