



# **TWISTS & TURNS**

*The newsletter of the San Diego Miata Club*

**Volume 14 Number 5**

**May 2009**

## **Annual Meeting - Lap 13**



Your SDMC Board for 2009/2010 (left to right) :  
Ted Kesler, VP, David Streeter, President,  
Gabe Rivera, Secretary, Gene Streeter, Treasurer

On April 4, 2009, the San Diego Miata Club held it's Annual Meeting at Miramar Speed Circuit. Our usual meeting place, the San Diego Auto Museum in Balboa Park, was unavailable due to Park activities, so we took advantage of an opportunity to play as well as conduct yearly business. After a brief business meeting, members had the opportunity to drive the go karts in a speed session, then jump into their cars and take a brief run through the local hills to Rancho Bernardo, where Souplantation was the destination for a late lunch.

During the business meeting, President David Streeter was re-elected to lead SDMC for another year, as were Gabe Rivera, secretary, and Gene Streeter, treasurer. Ted Kesler, long-time member, was elected to the Board for the first time as Vice President. Other items of business discussed included approval of the seed funding for Surfin' Safari 2010, and a treasurer's report that confirmed we are in good financial position.

Two years ago, SDMC initiated a "members of the year"

award that was first awarded to Steve and Laurie Waid. Last year's recipients, Bruce and Debbye Lewis presented this year's Member of the Year award to Les and Dyanna Smith (pictured below, right) in honor of the faithful and dedicated spirit they bring to the Club.



# The Puke, from a Passenger's Perspective

Terri Eberst

*John & Terri Eberst were introduced to the SDMC a little over a year ago by Les Smith; they met him on a walk through the neighborhood one afternoon. Les was in his driveway waxing his car, getting her ready for his Quinciata Run in a few weeks. We stopped to say "hi" and that we had just purchased our Titanium 2004 Mazda-speed in September 2007.*

*By February 2008 we were new SDMC members and have thoroughly enjoyed meeting lots of fun people and, of course, the rides.*

This was my second Puke in so many years and I'm going to try to convey how I feel about this ride that is promoted for "the drivers" from someone in the passengers seat.

Last year as new members, John and I were sucked into the hype of the name "The Puke." I was very nervous about going and considered passing it up so he could enjoy the ride without worrying about me. The only ride we'd been on previously was the "Borrego Wildflower Run" and as you know, Diane is not known for her light touch on the gas pedal! So my thinking was "if I was getting a little carsick on a 'smell the flowers' ride, what would a ride called the Puke be like"? But John encouraged me to go, as well as others, so I bought some Dramamine, packed some saltine crackers and plenty of water and picked up my "puke bag" at the drivers meeting. John decided to drive with the "Daffodils" so he wouldn't have to worry about me so much and could relax and enjoy the ride. I guess he didn't want my puke in his car.

Well, we had more than our share of excitement and I was so thirsty from the Dramamine I was drinking bottle after bottle of water, which of course made me need to pee. With only 2 potty stops, you can imagine my dis-

comfort – I apologize to anyone I pushed out of line to get to a toilet ASAP.

This year we were in Group Four lead by our fearless Prez, Dave Streeter. I feel like all the stars must have been in alignment that day. It was a not-too-sunny and not-too-hot day perfect for a fast drive through the countryside. No navigating was necessary, the group stuck close together and we were the 1st or 2nd car behind the leader the whole day.

The slower OTM's we came upon were gracious enough to get out of our way and I went *al naturale* – no, get your mind out of the gutter boys, I just mean medication free so my liquid consumption was minimal and my bladder was not strained. Without a CB we did not hear Kari's alerts to the stray dogs on the road but thankfully they were avoided by our whole group and hopefully made their way back home in time for dinner.

Other than that incident in the beginning of the run, we had a fabulous time. I kept my eyes on the road ahead so I rarely felt queasy and John seemed at one with the car taking the turns fast but smooth (mostly). I felt the same adrenaline rush as a great day of skiing when the weather is perfect, your legs are strong, and you just flow from turn to turn.

We didn't make it to Dalton's for the yummy breakfast or dinner this year but I'm sure it was an added bonus to the day.

Steve's comment at the last meeting is correct, this is a "driver's ride" but with the right attitude, a passenger can enjoy it too. I'm looking forward to next year's Puke and all the other enjoyable rides to come this year.



# My Favorite Road— The road home was always my favorite...

**Gene Streeter, Treasurer**

First, an observation and the real reason for this article's submission... As Forrest Gump once proudly proclaimed "I'm not a very smart man," but I've observed a not-so-subtle change in our beloved Newsletter ever since Les Smith assumed the editor position. I doubt I'm the only one to notice - its content is much different. A disquieting percentage of the articles have been outsourced to other clubs and writers. Let's put a halt to the erosion of domestic content. Submit your articles and secure your literary futures. (Editor's note: Amen, Brother Gene. Amen.)

The "Arctic Circle" segment of Highway 18 into Big Bear Lake was my favorite road over much of my adult life. Fact is, I still cling to fond memories and harbor feelings of awe and respect. Those of you that have traveled the 15 miles from Running Springs to the dam that contains the reservoir that is Big Bear Lake know that its twists and turns rival those we cherish here in San Diego County. The serpentine segment that winds past Arrowbear and Snow Valley reaches 7,200 feet in elevation, provides stunning vistas, and driving challenges across all four seasons. Yes, I said, four seasons, and the snow, fog, ice, wind, and fire that occasion each of them in their own time.

Bonnie and I lived in Big Bear Lake for nearly eight years spread over two attempts to make the mountains our home. Our second time around, our sons had already asserted their independence, but that's an entirely different story. We both worked "off the hill" most of the time, with me making a daily commute for most of those years. I logged thousands of trips up and down that mountain using the route we locals called the "front side." Our vehicles of choice were two different 4WD Toyota compact pickups, and two different Subaru station wagons, hardly original thinking among our mountain-dwelling peers. Our vehicles needed to be sure-footed and possess additional ground clearance; I never once chained-up our vehicles despite traveling in blizzards, drifted snow, or the occasional avalanche.

That road was a daily challenge to my concentration and personal safety. It wasn't uncommon to pick my way through and around rocks and boulders after a heavy rain or snow melt. One particular trip home was memorable because a large rock tumbled off the craggy hillside in the waning sunlight. I caught a glimpse of it, swung as wide in the turn as I could, and ducked toward

the passenger side. The rock crashed through my vent frame and both left door glasses, slamming into the back panel of my cab. I drove the remaining ten miles covered in glass and filled with gratitude for having been spared serious injury. Many other motorists have been far less lucky than I.

Miles of guard rails have been installed over the years in an effort to prevent serious, sometimes fatal, off-road excursions by drivers unaccustomed to the demands of this jealous mistress. Ice provides additional thrills, 4WD or not. The occasional heavy fog was just plain nerve-wracking; before "Botts dots" or reflectors were installed, it was tough to see the faint center lines and their clandestine moves. I know what some of you are thinking, but I wasn't masochistic. That road was at once challenging and satisfying, familiar and forbidding. That was the way home, the final leg of our escape from the smog and congestion of the Inland Empire. The 45-minute drive from San Bernardino to home was plenty of time to unwind; traveling window-down, I could fill my lungs with the smell of pine and fresh, clean air.

The Arctic Circle, above all, was a confidence booster. I knew that road like the back of my hand, each curve and undulation was familiar. Drivers far less familiar with her often came only on the weekends. Mountain locals had a derogatory name for those folks – "flatlanders." We muttered that word with the same level of disdain as many SDMC drivers call out OTMs. "Lead, follow, or get out of the way" was another of my favorite expressions as I picked off the unsuspecting drivers of far more sporting machinery than my pickup and its relatively high center of gravity. The scarcity of passing lanes taught me patience as well. For Bonnie, not so much.

Over the many years we lived in Big Bear and traveled those mountain roads, I never owned a Miata. It's not that I didn't want to; there simply wasn't enough utility or ground clearance. I couldn't begin to retrieve and haul fallen tree "rounds" for firewood in a Miata. Can only imagine how much undercarriage damage we would have suffered from fallen rocks. On a clear day, and on a clear road, it would have been a lot more fun, though.



# Adventure in Japan

## Linda Payne

I'm back from my death-defying adventures in Japan where Mother Nature treated me to an assortment of her tricks. We had a little snow, some Kamikaze winds, a volcanic eruption and a fairly substantial earthquake. In the end, she relented and offered some balmy spring weather that caused the entire countryside to burst out in pink and white cherry blossoms. Simply divine.

What a trip -- driving my son's Miata down the wrong side of the street, shifting with my left hand, surrounded by cars with unusual names like the Subaru R2, the Honda "Life", the Daihatsu "Move" and the Suzuki "Every" -- funny little cars in all colors of the rainbow - baby blue, mint green, bright yellow, purple, orange, turquoise and even a bright pink Hello Kitty model by a car company named Mira.

In Japan, unless you're on the highway, you're probably driving on a road that used to be a footpath and even now, after being paved and widened for cars, still looks more like a bicycle path. I guess that is why Japanese cars are so small. Since Japan is quite a small country, with half the population of the U.S. crammed into an area the size of California, it's not possible to make the roads as wide as some of us would like, and in some cities (notably, old castle towns that didn't get bombed during World War II) there are roads so narrow a car and a bicycle couldn't fit side-by-side. Many of the roads there are only wide enough for one car at a time, which means that every time a car comes from the opposite direction, you both have to slow down to a crawl and inch past one another, possibly opening your window to fold in the outside mirror to gain an extra centimeter or two. Since buying land for parking spaces is expensive, it's common for some business to expect customers to

park on the street in front, despite the fact that cars stopping along the road effectively closes off one of the two lanes. Many convenience stores are



like this -- you can see five or six cars idling in front of a Seven Eleven, often with the keys in the ignition and the cars running (since no one would ever steal a car in Japan).

If you drive into a gas station, there is a 50% chance that the pumps will be in the ceiling with only a pump handle on a hose dangling from above to indicate where you should stop your car. Japan is the proverbial land of over-employment so you can expect to be rushed by no less than four attendants, who will fill your tank, wash your windows, check your oil and tires and then, when you are ready to leave, will run into the street and stop traffic so you can exit the gas station with ease.

As always, a trip abroad makes one appreciate one's home, for a short while anyway.



## Membership

As of April 16, 2009, we have 187 memberships (66 single, 121 dual) for a total of 308 members.

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

Rudy Quarto	Vista	2006 True Red
Bryan Gadberry	San Diego	1995 Merlot Mica
Craig Dunne	Fallbrook	1990 Classic Red
Sharon Smith	San Diego	1999 British Racing Green

# 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

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:**

**May 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.



Mario Andretti

***Twists & Turns is printed by:***



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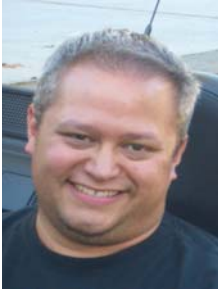
## Badges

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



**TED  
KESLER**  
Vice President



**GABE  
RIVERA**  
Secretary



**GENE  
STREETER**  
Treasurer

## Executive Board

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

<b>PRESIDENT</b>	David Streeter	951-461-1722	president@...
<b>VICE PRESIDENT</b>	Ted Kesler		vicepresident@...
<b>SECRETARY</b>	Gabe Rivera	619-295-5993	secretary@...
<b>TREASURER</b>	Gene Streeter	619-656-6730	treasurer@...
<i>To send e-mail to all members of the Board</i>			board@...

## Administrative Board

<b>MEMBERSHIP</b>	Linda Payne		membership@...
	Kelley Raymond		
<b>EVENTS COORDINATOR</b>	Diane Foster		events@
<b>CLUB E-MAIL</b>	Bob Kleeman	619-501-9776	postmaster@...
<b>WEBMASTER</b>	Jerry Standefer		webmaster@...
<b>CLUB REGALIA</b>	Mike & Lisa Schwartz	858-549-4344	regalia@...
<b>HISTORIAN</b>	Elinor Shack	858-485-0278	mshack@san.rr.com
<b>NAME BADGES</b>	Sue Hinkle		sportscarr@sbcglobal.net

## Twists & Turns Staff

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<b>PROOFREADER</b>	Eunice Bauman		

*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](http://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.

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.

# Member Discounts

**M**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](http://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](mailto: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](http://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.

**Thompson Automotive.** Cool accessories for our cool cars; oil filter relocation kits, gauge kits, air horns, brakes, Voodoo knobs, & MORE. [www.thompson-automotive.com](http://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.

**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

**Mazda of Escondido.** 760-737-3200. 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. [davidbryan@coldwellbanker.com](mailto:davidbryan@coldwellbanker.com). Free market analysis. No transaction fees for SDMC members or referrals!

**FIRST BRAND Inc.** Web/Logo Designs and Development We are currently offering a 10% discount off our promotional packages listed on [www.FIRSTBRANDinc.com](http://www.FIRSTBRANDinc.com) or you can call us at 951-672-6677.

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

## Classifieds

Buying or selling your Miata or Miata accessories? You can do it for free on Miatamart—the Miata for Sale web site, run by SDMC member Rainer Mueller. Check it out at [www.miatamart.com](http://www.miatamart.com).

**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](mailto: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

**MAY Events**

SATURDAY MAY 9	GO NUTS FOR THE CURE	7AM TO 4:30 PM	BATES NUT FARM	VALLEY CENTER, CA
SATURDAY MAY 16	PATRIOT'S DAY PARADE	9 AM TO 4 PM	SERRA HS, TIERRASANTA	LINDA PAYNE <a href="mailto:LPAYNE1@SAN.RR.COM">LPAYNE1@SAN.RR.COM</a>
FRIDAY MAY 22– SUNDAY MAY 24	MIATA WORLD II	ALL DAY	GAYLORD RESORT GRAPEVINE TEXAS	DAVID STREETER PRESIDENT@SANDIEG OMIATACLUB.ORG
MAY 28	MONTHLY MEETING	6 PM TO 8 PM	BOLL WEEVIL, CLAREMONT MESA BLVD AT RUFFIN ROAD	TED KESLER VICEPRESIDENT@SAN DIEGOMIATACLUB.ORG