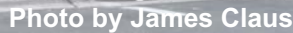




Jan. 2012

by Mary Clark

[illegible]

A Message from the President ...



*by President
Daryled Bristol*

President's Message

HAPPY NEW YEAR! What a way to kick it off (no pun intended), a good solid run thru east county, lunch in Julian and all with great San Diego weather. Looking forward to a fantastic 2012 even if the Mayans feel it is the last year and nothing beyond 2012 was worth making a calendar for, I just think they ran out of room or interest. Lots of Miata things in the immediate future, Allan's first run ever on the 14th followed closely with the Coastal Cruise. Now we are relatively new to the Miata Club and this was the first overnight run we ever participated in but it has quickly become a favorite of ours. Great people, wonderful scenery and fantastic cars. I hope everyone got the opportunity to enjoy the auto show with everything that has been going on. We had other commitments that prevented our attendance but I understand it was a good one.

First meeting of the year is just around the corner, plan to see you there and remember to renew your membership.

HAPPY NEW YEAR!



2012 California Vehicle Law Changes

How might these new laws affect you and your family?



Child passengers ages six and seven under four-feet-nine inches in height are required to ride in a booster seat in any vehicle. Previously, only child passengers who were up to age six or weighing less than 60 pounds were required to ride in a car seat or booster seat.

Fine for a first offense is \$100 and \$250 for a second offense; however, penalty assessments will push the cost of that ticket to \$446 for a first offense or over \$1,000 for a second offense.

A person convicted of alcohol-related reckless driving can now apply for a restricted license after three months, instead of a year as before, provided they comply with specific requirements

such as installing an ignition-interlock device.

A vehicle may not now be impounded at a sobriety checkpoint if the driver's only offense is not having a valid driver's license. Police must also make a reasonable attempt to identify the registered owner of the vehicle in order to release the vehicle to the registered owner or to a licensed driver authorized by the registered owner.

Beginning July 1, vehicle registration fees will rise by \$12 from \$31 to \$43 per year, which will be used to fund DMV operations. This fee is charged along with the Vehicle License Fee, which is based on the vehicle's assessed value, and various other local and state fees.

Also as of July 1, new-car dealers will be required to electronically register a new vehicle with the DMV when it is sold. The law allows dealers to charge up to \$80 for electronic document processing and up to \$65 for manual processing.



1 in 3 cars has a hidden history!
Stolen - smashed - clocked - financed - imported

CAR HISTORY REPORT

Finally, starting July 1, used-car dealers will be required to provide vehicle buyers with a vehicle history report from the National Motor Vehicle Title Information

Service before they purchase the car, and prohibits the dealer from selling the car without obtaining the report. Sales of motorcycles, off-road vehicles and recreational vehicles are exempt.

- Information courtesy of AAA

If you regularly attend our monthly meetings, you might have become accustomed to a slightly zanier Treasurer's report than you would receive elsewhere on the planet. As your Treasurer, I'm reluctant to simply state "we have money," spit out the amount, sit back down, and yield the microphone. Likley we could all agree there is no point in reviewing the cash disbursements and the most recent deposits.

B-O-R-I-N-G.

My attempts to make it interesting and/or commandeer the microphone a little longer typically involve my version of wit, sarcasm, or a host of marshmallows, depending upon which meeting presentation you've been subjected to. It seems the September's Treasurer's report was particularly scathing; having been good-natured victims in the past, President Daryled and Steve Waid bore the brunt of my jokes. After the meeting, Helen Sharp took it upon herself to share her personal assessment of my (ahem) performance:

"You know, you might be funny if you weren't so mean!"

I thanked her for her feedback, waited for her to get out of earshot, and responded as any mature adult might be expected to in this situation – I blew "raspberries" her direction.

Fast-forward to November's meeting and my last-minute preparation for the monthly Treasurer's report. How am I going to switch it up? I toyed with the Thanksgiving turkey theme – did you know Ben Franklin lobbied heavily to have the turkey be named as our national bird? How would that look within our Great Seal – on our currency, displayed in the Oval Office, etc? But I digress...

In the end, I took Helen's advice. Well, sort of. I dishonored a song instead of my fellow Miata Club members. With apologies to the songwriters, and the various recording artists that have endeared this song to many of us, Louis Armstrong, in particular. My delivery was neither tuneful nor poetic; in the spirit of the Holidays, it was heartfelt. Here's my SDMC-appropriate version of It's A Wonderful World:

I see NAs of green.....red NBs, too
I see 'em Zoomfor me and for you
And I think to myself.....what a wonderful world.

I see NCs of blue.....roadsters of white
Fine, twisty roads.....never a fight
And I think to myself.....what a wonderful world.

Colors of Skittles®so pleasing to the eye
Put smiles on the faces....of people driving by
SDMC friends shaking hands.....sayin' "how do you do?"
They're really sayin' "I love you."

Sweep drivers cry.....run leaders crow
They'll earn much more.....than a magnetic lo-go
And I think to myself.....what a wonderful world!
Oh, yaaahhh.



Thank you, Helen.

A belated Merry Christmas, San Diego Miata Club. Here's to a peaceful and, dare I say, entertaining New Year.

And They're Off - SCCA Driving School

by James Claus



Photo by James Claus

How much fun can you have in one minute with your clothes on? Come to the SCCA Driving School and find out!

The school began on Saturday November 19 at 3:00 pm with a “chalk talk” lecture-type session. Topics covered were hand position on the wheel, under- and over-steer and how to correct for them, the line to take through the curves, how to do a slalom in which you pass the first cone on the right, then pass the second cone on its left, then pass the third cone on its right. And the cones are closely spaced. You need to make the car “dance” through the curves but not knock over any cones.



Photo by James Claus

On Sunday, it was up bright and early for a 7:30 am tech inspection and the actual school at Qualcomm. After tech inspection, our instructors discussed the overall course layout; then we walked it to see exactly where we were supposed to drive. The instructor explained what and how to drive the course. Then we students drove with our instructors in the passenger seat offering guidance on how to drive it better.

There were actually two separate courses. Course A was gentler with long sweeping curves and gentle turns. Course B was much tighter with more hairpin turns and shorter straight sections. These A and B courses

were again divided into two sections with one group running while the other group worked the course to pick up fallen cones. Each course could be driven in less than a minute, so we got lots of “seat time”.

For lunch about noon, we were treated to Subway lunch packs with either turkey or ham sandwiches, chips, and a cookie. And sodas and water were available all day whenever you wanted them.

In the afternoon, the two courses were merged into one big course with the students driving and their instructors in the passenger seat for guidance. Or you could drive it alone at your option. The last three runs of the day were timed, so you could really see how you were doing and compare your times with other students. On one of these runs, my time was 98.947 (just under a minute – what a rush).

And after the final laps were completed, we were given our course completion certificates, picked up the cones, cleared the parking lot, and went home with great big smiles on our faces.

Continued on Page 6

And They're Off - SCCA Driving School

This was my first event of this type. I was a bit nervous about the “sea of cones” look to the course and wondered about my ability to find the course. Yes, I did get lost in it ... which just proves that you HAVE to look further ahead to see where you are going, even around turns and corners.

When you are driving, it seems like you are really going fast because the course is so tight. In actuality, we were driving about 35 miles per hour or less.

At one point, I was pushing too hard, unsettled the car, missed the turn and took out a bunch of cones. There were no accidents other than battered cones and prides. The course is about car CONTROL, not SPEED. AND HAVING FUN!

This school teaches many things that are useful on the open road. It teaches you what to expect from your car like what ABS brakes feel like when they are activated. It teaches you how your car will react if you have to turn the wheel quickly and sharply. And it teaches you about yourself.

This was the best \$70 I have spent. I had tons of fun and learned a lot and you will too. Come on out to the next driving school, but sign up early as it fills up quickly. And you, too, can get several minutes of “rush” with your clothes on!



Photo by James Claus



Photo by James Claus

Continuing Technical Advice Section - Member Input

Les has been bugging my ear to write articles about cars and stuff. I have been reluctant for three reasons:

1. I do not want to offend a bunch of car enthusiasts who are already very knowledgeable.
2. I never know how simple vs. complex to write. (Editors note: You can never make it too simple for some members, or too complex for others. Live with losing some folks at both ends of the spectrum in the process of reaching the middle masses!)
3. And lastly, ideas to write about. I am very open to suggestions on topics - -so I invite you to send me topics and questions that you were afraid to ask someone else. Submit these to newsletter@sandiegomiataclub.org (to be forwarded to me), or send them directly to my email address: larrydennstedt@hotmail.com.



This section will deal with the outside of the car.



1. **TIRES.** I advise checking and filling when the tires are cool (not hot) the day before or the morning of the driving event. I ALWAYS use a quality gauge that is repeatable to the same psi each time that you sample the tire psi. Dime store, pencil-type gauges are usually inaccurate and definitely seldom repeatable; digital are of questionable quality.

I purchased my 0-60 psi gauge from C2Motorsports (8380 Vickers Street, Suite D in San Diego) for about \$20. I drive a '94 Miata and set my pressure to 29psi (I was amazed to find my own Miata tires at 23psi.) All tires leak down over time; some tires will leak two psi in one month.

Softer, lower psi gives a comfy ride but poor steering response. Higher psi will stiffen the tire sidewall and a harsher ride BUT will yield better turning and cornering response. Some people run mid-30s psi. You can always lower the psi after the run to get that softer ride. Always check the tread depth and the sidewalls for blisters and cracking. And don't forget to check the spare tire; needs to be at 60 psi.

2. **LIGHTS.** Check all of your lights' function, especially the ones in the rear. And don't forget to clean your headlights if you have flipper type, they get overlooked. I check mine every Friday (and of course the brake light will fail on Saturday).
3. **GLASS.** Dirty windows equal glare and eye fatigue. Don't forget your side and center mirror.
4. **CB radio system.** Check it out before the event. You might need a fuse or time to locate some missing item.
5. **GAS.** Fill up before you arrive at the event. Always be ready so that the event will stay on time.



Thanks for listening (err, reading).

Dennstedt

Photo Recap of the SDMC Holiday Party - December 3, 2011

Photos by
Les Smith

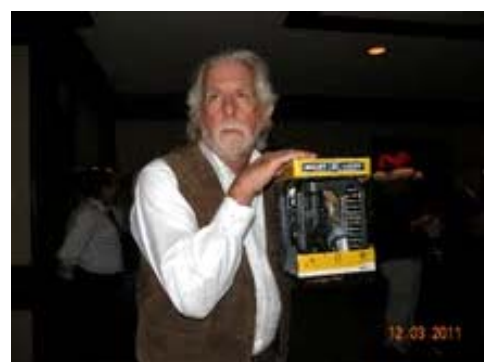


Photo Recap of the SDMC Holiday Party *(cont.)*

Photos by
Les Smith

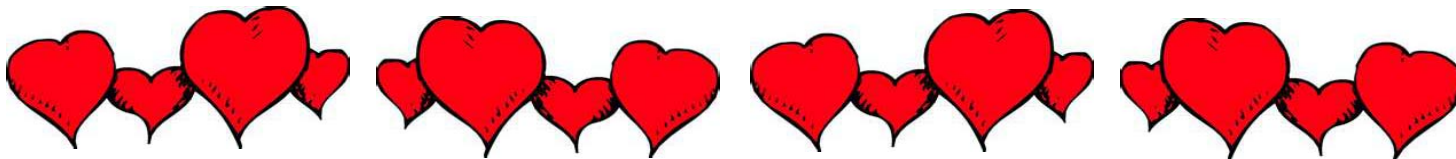


Photos from the Holiday Lights Run



Ray & Jan Kociencki earned their magnets on a pleasant December evening run through two beautifully-lit San Diego neighborhoods

Upcoming Events



Feb. 11	Wisteria Candy Cottage	8:00AM - 3:00PM	Perry's Café 475 N. Magnolia Ave El Cajon, CA	Daryled Bristol president@sandiegomiataclub.org
Feb. 23	SDMC Monthly Meeting	7:00PM - 8:00PM	Bollweevil San Diego, CA	Daryled Bristol president@sandiegomiataclub.org

SDMC OFFICERS



Daryled Bristol
President



Sue Hinkle
Vice - President



Gene Streeter
Treasurer



Dennis Garon
Secretary

Executive Board

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

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VICE PRESIDENT	Sue Hinkle	760.735.9456	<i>vicepresident@</i>
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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

THE WEB

www.sandiegomiataclub.org

24 HOUR VOICE MESSAGE LINE

619-434-2007

MAIL

P.O. Box 261921
San Diego, CA 92196

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

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

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.

February Monthly Meeting is:

February 23rd

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 \$10 each for badges with safety-pin closures, or \$14 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.

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*Happy Belated
New Year!*

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 additional 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.

Auto Image Paintless dent repair, leather/vinyl/plastic repair, headlight restoration & paint touch up. Free estimates at your home or work. Contact Britt Colton. 619-244-2227. Discount: 10%

Dent Time: fast reasonable paintless dent removal. 800-420-DENT (3368). They come to your door, provided quick and professional service.

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%

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 and restoration products. 800-945-4532. www.langka.com. Discount: 30%.

Rocky's Miatomotive 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.

Pitstop Autoglass Rock chip repairs free to SDCC Miata club members for club Miatas. Must show valid membership card. In-shop only. Non-Miatas save 25% off regular prices. 858-675-GLASS (4527)

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. 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. david-bryan@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.FIRSTBRAND-inc.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. 619-543-9600.

Classifieds

White 1992 Mazda Miata, "A" package, one-owner car, 118,000 miles, black interior, never wrecked or auto-crossed. Limited-slip differential, chrome factory alloy wheels, Magnaflow stainless exhaust, Jackson cold-air induction, Jackson racing header, high-flow cat, new stereo and high-power amp system. Low-profile headlights, Boss Frog double roll bar, Altessa tail lights. \$7,500. Contact Bob Llewellyn (bnew5@hotmail.com)

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 davidstreeter@yahoo.com

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

SAN DIEGO MIATA CLUB
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San Diego, CA 92196

Postage

Address

