



The newsletter of the San Diego Miata Club

Volume 17, Number 6

And, I can't wait until the next Miata Road Trip

by Steve Waid



The Shine

As a member of the San Diego Miata Club since 1997, I have evolved, and continue to do so, much like the club itself. In the beginning I was reminded that we were a driving club, to the extent that now has become my personal mantra. Weekend runs were the staple goods of SDMC, and the way to earn club magnetics. I got mine in 1998. But as I have aged and seen most of the roads in San Diego County, I started to yearn for more.

The idea of an "overnighter" prompted Laurie and I to host the first "Search for Madonna." The first one was for just overnight but shortly was extended to three days. I love the central California coast and the fun that the Madonna Inn provides, so we continued it for over a decade. We will do another one in the future.

In October 2000, the Utah Miata Club hosted an event called the Fall Leaf Run. Sal and Geri Causarano agreed with us that attending the Fall Leaf Run demanded a longer adventure, so we took a 10-day road trip; just the two cars, all through Utah. This was our first visit to Moab even though the Fall Leaf Run was in Provo, Utah and pre-dated the first Miatas in Moab. The hunger for Miata Road Trips was launched in my mind as far back as then.



Are there problems with a Miata Road Trip?

Many of you have expressed concerns about some elements of taking a Miata on an extended trip. Here are some of the concerns, and my experienced responses.

And, I can't wait until the next Miata Road Trip, continued



1. I don't like to drive that much in such a small car. Did I mention that this was a driving club? The real answer is, however, that we plan a route that has a lot to see. This gives us the opportunity to stop at interesting landmarks along the way. We stretch our legs ... take photos ... snack ... and maybe even get gas. There is nothing saying you have to "push." Enjoying the drive may be more important than the destination.

2. I can't fit all of my clothes in the car. Get real! We are not going to see the President at the White House. Packing efficiently in soft bags with clean clothes for five or six days is plenty. We plan on a wash day at those

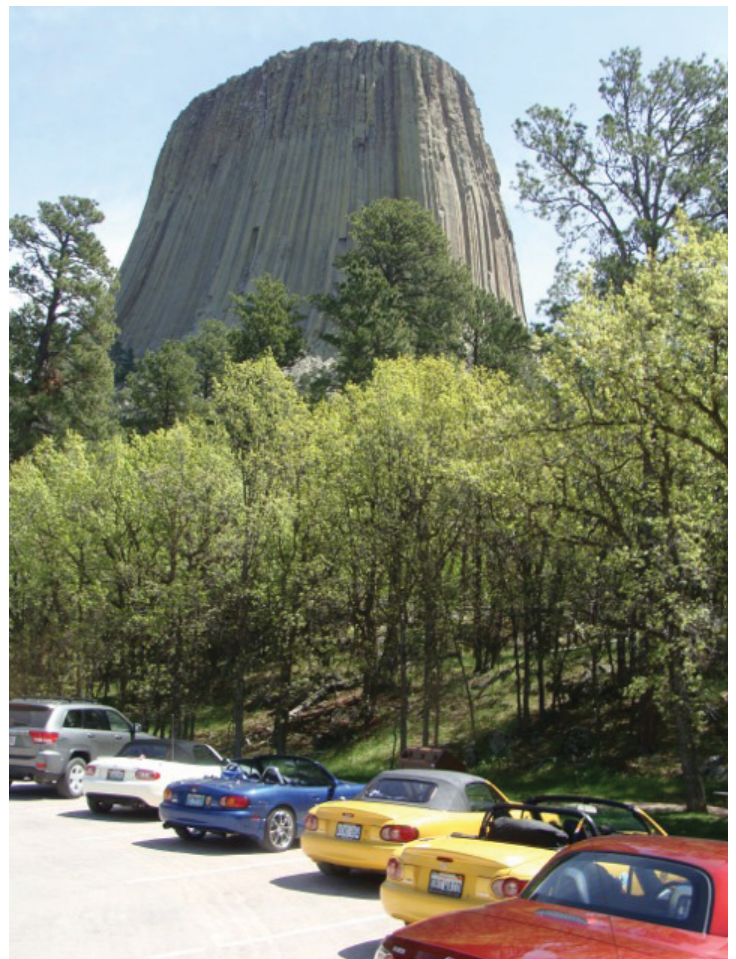
intervals so that we don't have to take too many clothes. You don't need 10 pair of shoes. I took one pair for my entire trip, but that's just me.

3. Packing and unpacking the car each day is drudgery. I can't disagree with that. What we came up with is to plan two-night stays in logical locations so that we can do our sightseeing in a particular area while leaving the luggage in our room. The recent Moab trip (see the article in this issue by Gene Streeter) provided us with four nights and an opportunity to do laundry.

But, Oh What FUN!

A real Miata Road Trip is not just traveling in your Miata, but it includes traveling with other Miataphiles driving their Miatas. That may appear to be obvious, but I just wanted to be clear. A Miata Road Trip tries to avoid the main Interstates and highways in an effort to discover the unexpected.

The United States is an immense piece of geography. There are so many things to see and experience including the small towns and people. The wonder on the faces of our fellow travelers when we discover something is cherished. Also, the embellishing of what we experienced is enjoyed by all as well.



And, I can't wait until the next Miata Road Trip, continued

"Sitting on the stoop" in the evening is becoming an anticipated part of road trips. As you travel you have a tendency to lose track of everything that happened earlier on the trip because you have seen and done so much. "Sitting on the stoop" (finding a place at the hotel/motel/lodge where we can all sit and talk) gives us all a chance to reminisce, laugh, exchange lies, tease each other, and just simply have fun together.

Many times this is not easily done at a restaurant having a meal. On this trip it was sitting in the giant Lodge at Old Faithful in Yellowstone. We gathered around the fireplace and laughed, and talked, and lied, and teased, and talked about all y'all.



A road trip allows time to get to know your fellow travelers better. In my case, it allows me time to find out where their "hot buttons" are and how best to tease them. By the end of a road trip I have more ammunition and more good friends than I had before. The inside jokes and embellished stories are shared for years.

Our 2012 Road Trip

The first five days of our road trip was the trip to Moab and the stay there for the Miatas in Moab V event hosted by the Utah Miata Club. Gene Streeter has provided an extensive review of those happenings along with the two-day road trip led by Mark and Cathy Booth getting us there. I will not try to compete with Gene's eloquence.

The rest of the road trip was initially to be Neal and Grace Mills, Jeff and Jan Frederick, and us. But, while we were at the Moab event we were talking about our plans openly and Del Pound became interested. Before we knew it, Del was in. Jeff and Jan acquired reservations for him at Ellsworth Air Force Base outside Rapid City, South Dakota, Neal aimed him at a reservation in a cabin at Old Faithful Lodge in Yellowstone, and Laurie got him set up in the same hotel in Jackson Hole, Wyoming that she already had arranged for the rest of us. All of our other stays were going to be "on the fly."



And, I can't wait until the next Miata Road Trip, continued



We met up with Alan Kagan and Jill Wilson about 45 miles north of Moab. They were on a trip of their own and were planning on joining us for much of our extended trip.

The Plan, as it was

The basic road trip plan was to go north from Moab to the Black Hills and Badlands of South Dakota, including Mount Rushmore. Then slide west across Wyoming to Yellowstone before heading south to Jackson Hole, Wyoming and ultimately back to San Diego. Neal had put together a pretty good template of how we could accomplish the trip and avoid a lot of interstate driving. We made some modifications as we drove. Sometimes to spend more time at one location, and sometimes just because it seemed like a good idea at the time.

As an example, we pushed ourselves on the first day out of Moab to get all the way to Cody, Wyoming for the night. In so doing, Jeff Frederick arranged for us all to meet the next Sheriff of Rawlin, WY. A nice guy and former Marine stationed at Camp Pendleton, he let us all off with a warning (40 in a 30 mph). Jan said, "I told him to slow down." The soon-to-be head lawman of Rawlin asked me if we were going to let Jeff continue to lead. I said, "If he lives."

America ... What a spectacular place to travel!

I will not bore you with a day-by-day description of what we saw, because for one reason, much of it is indescribable. Last night I was looking through a "coffee table" book at SDMC member Judy Hunt's home. It was entitled "100 places that You Must See" or something like that. Around 30 of them were in

And, I can't wait until the next Miata Road Trip, continued

the USA. We were able to check off two from the list on this trip alone. There is so much across our country that I have yet to see, and I hope to see them from behind the seat of our Miata.

The scorecard for this road trip

Outside of California, we went through eight states, four of which I had yet to visit. The odometer attested to 4,100 total miles for the trip. There are seven SDMC members that we have a closer bond with than ever before. There are countless experiences and stories to tell and memories that I will carry for the rest of my life.

About the next Miata Road Trip

You should try it. ■





High-Quality CB Radios

Recently, the Club purchased two high-quality CB radios that members can check out for a run if needed. These are Cobra WXT-75 units with magnet antennas that Alan Kagan modified for simple "cigarette lighter" plug-in. These radios have been road-tested and work great.



If you are a new member and have not yet purchased a CB for your Miata, this is a great opportunity to experience the safety and fun advantages of participating in a run and being able to talk to the other Miata drivers while on the road.

"This is a great opportunity to experience the safety and fun advantages.... [of a CB radio]"

These radios will be available by reservation for every run. They will also serve as back-up should the lead or sweep car experience unexpected problems with their own radio. Just contact the leader of the run in advance if you want to use one of these radios on a run.

If you are not familiar with how to use a CB, we can show you how. It really is not complicated. ■

Two Cents From Our President

it's a buck-fifty if you ask me



Here we are it's June already. Half way thru the year, where does all the time go? Last month was a busy time, Miatas at Moab, the Rodeo Run to Ramona (many new Miata roads and some very familiar ones) the "Train" at Campo. This is a great South East County run, fantastic views and it all terminated at the Campo Train Museum with the opportunity to hop the train for an exciting historic run. Of course food was also in the

offering with a feed at Barrett Junction feeding 42 participants in less than an hour. Good hustle on their part for sure.

This month brings the Del Mar Fair and a little shine and show for those members quick enough to sign up. It's one of the perks of paying attention to the meetings and email providing for a free entry with fantastic parking. Now how can you beat that? Then there is the Garon's fund raiser and wine tasting (hey, I cut my teeth on Red Mountain Burgundy). Any wine with a cork is considered a treat!

"Any wine with a cork is considered a treat!"

Next month starts with a "Novice" driving school. If you haven't put your ride thru this option you are missing out on a great experience. Nothing compares to spinning thru a cloud of tire smoke (your own) and finding out just what the limits of your car and your skills are. Learning in a controlled environment is better than

"Nothing compares to spinning thru a cloud of tire smoke of your own"

finding out that you just exceeded the traction coefficient on the freeway at rush hour and you are about to share space and time with a 16 wheeler or a load of fresh concrete. Want to guess who wins?

On to the news letter... Last month we had a major delay due to the fact that we failed to get the content in multiples of 4 pages (picture the center page of your daily newspaper), I am sure someone out of the 22 cars on the "Train" run could put together a paragraph or two. Mark Booth has about a gazillion fotos of club cars and so do many other members. Lets get this improved. Bios? How about guess the members from a high school photo? Can you imagine what I might have looked like with hair?? Old wedding foto? Your first car? Surely there is something that you treasure that you want to see in print?

Drive Safe, have fun. ■



In case you have not had a chance to see it, this is Rockies new shop.



Flat doll takes a curvy road trip in a miata!

ANNUAL PICNIC, Contact Sue Hinkle

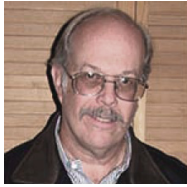
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E-Mail

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.

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.

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 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.

June Monthly Meeting: June 28th

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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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%

Chemical Guys
8680 Miralani Dr. Suite 125, San Diego, CA 92126. 858-527-1566
www.ChemicalGuys.com
sdstore@chemicalguys.com
10% discount on products on top of internet prices.

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 Balboa in Pacific Beach. 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

David Bryan your friendly neighborhood REALTOR; Pacific Sotheby's International Realty. I sell garages with homes! I will provide SDMC members who buy or sell a home through me with a free 1-year home warranty. DAVID BRYAN 619.334.4625 DavidBrealtor@cox.net DRE#01009295

FIRST BRAND Inc. Web/Logo Designs and Development We are currently offering a 10% discount off our promotional packages listed on 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. 619-543-9600.

Classifieds

SALVAGE PARTS

Mainly 1990 to 2005 parts, at least 50 % off of cost new. Some 2006 and newer parts including tops, seats and trim. wallymiata@gmail.com or 619-203-2801 Wally Stevens SOCALM & SDMC member.

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.

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