



The newsletter of the San Diego Miata Club

Volume 17, Number 7

MIATAS ON A BENDER

By Gene Streeter

Ever try to put two incongruous thoughts together for effect? I have...usually in a desperate effort to be interesting and readable. How ironic is it that I've only been in Utah three times in my entire life. The first time was singularly unimpressive, just high desert. I was a teenager at the time, probably not long after Utah had achieved statehood.

Then last year, as part of the Ultimate Miata Road Trip to travel the entire length of Route 66, I finally got a glimpse of scenic Utah on the initial leg back to Chicago and the origin of fabled Route 66 as it meandered south- and westward.

As part of SDMC's mission to MOAB 2012, I was a willing emissary, seeking further truths about the "beehive state." With all of the high mountain peaks (some even nicely forested) gracing the 11th largest state in our fair nation, how ironic is it they need to borrow a state bird? Y-e-p, the California seagull is Utah's state bird.

Even those of us who didn't patronize or pay homage to the "psychedelic sixties" may remember the expression "mindbender," or just plain "bender." My notions of Utah as a high-desert wasteland already exploded, I was eager to explore once again; not as part of Utah's earlier migration of Conestoga-carried households and visionaries, but as a top-down, sunscreen-protected, camera-toting, sports car-hustling tourist.



Miatas on a Bender, continued

Here's how we roll in 2012. Count 'em – 119 e-mail messages from Trail Master Mark Booth, beginning months in advance and covering everything from proscribed vehicle maintenance to overnight stays and scenic drives. OK, so maybe I exaggerated by a few, but there are few people I would rather tuck in behind on a serious road trip – General George S. Patton, Moses, perhaps even Capt. John Fremont come to my addled mind. Mark shares some of the behavioral traits of two of these three famous run leaders – I'll let you decide.



We left the appointed Escondido rendezvous point, heading North and into a light rain in the pre-dawn hours of early April ... hades of Route 66, only Bonnie was aboard and she wasn't quite as interested in being exposed to the elements as my Dad had been a year earlier. Our Corona rendezvous attracted additional cars, swelling our pack to eight. Of those, only the Waids and "elder" Streeters were running "top down"; I had conned Bonnie into trying out her stylish, new SDMC sweatshirt ... nice!

We made Primm, Nevada for lunch ... sorry, Bonnie, there's no time to dawdle. That would be a recurrent theme of our seven-day sojourn. Past Las Vegas, the Speedway complex, and more of the high desert landscape holding little attraction for me. The official soundtrack of our drive was the sporadic crackle of our CB radios, providing both a running commentary, entertainment, and even a well-placed mention of Carrol Shelby as we passed the house that Shelby built at the Speedway complex. Little did we know, legendary Ol Shel would die just five weeks later.

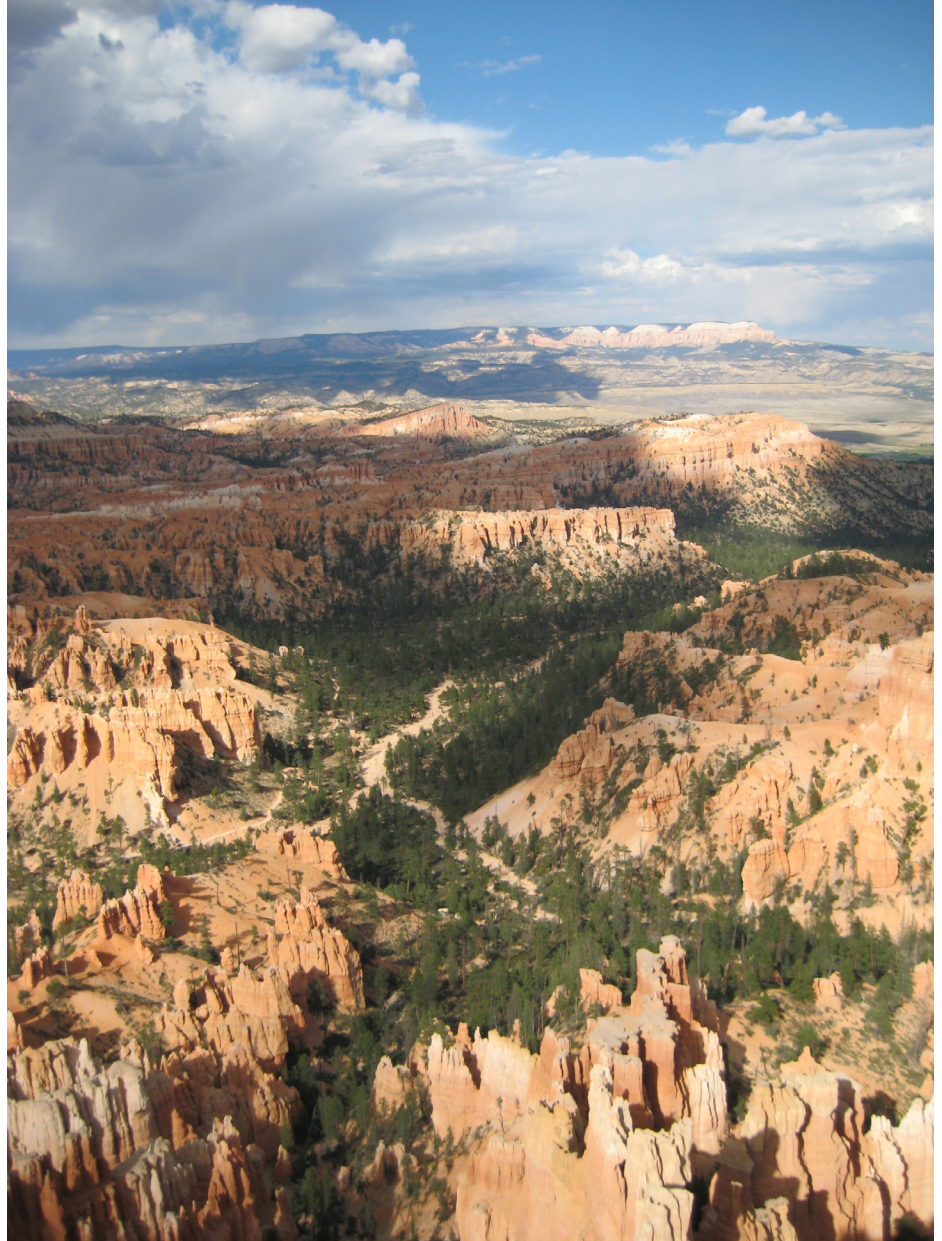


We rolled into St. George about 3:00 PM – nap time for some, in preparation for dinner at the Texas Roadhouse Grille. The elder Waid, still nursing a lame foot, provided dinner entertainment (another recurrent theme) bandying with our affable server, Jessica, over the legendary sides and fall-off-the-bone ribs. Separate checks all around, please.

Thursday morning, 6:00 AM came earlier than usual ... honest. Mountain time will do that for you. I never even reset my watch, hoping to be on time for the balance of our stay in scenic Utah. Besides, getting up early allowed me to keep my car presentable; notice I didn't say clean. From the day we arrived at Red Cliffs Lodge, the battle was on. The property had rustic charm and Western

character; it was devoid of asphalt, but not red dust. The traffic in and out of the property saw to it that the local self-serve car wash also “cleaned-up” on M.O.A.B. “Local” is a relative term – town and the businesses we patronized was 14 miles away, albeit a scenic drive.

Another business that cleaned-up on our being there was the windshield repair concession and the eventual replacement companies. I don’t have a final tally, but I nearly used all the digits on one hand trying to keep track. Those who went on to Yellowstone and the Black Hills added to the replacement count. You’ll have to read Steve Waid’s account of that adventure. Now that he’s retired, he’s writing additional articles to remain relevant ... yes, it’s an inside joke. You’ll have to ask him, not me. As co-editor Les Smith (our in-house geologist-in-training) can attest, the degradation of pre- and post-



Jurassic sandstone is perpetual, sloughing small portions of the mesas and natural sculptures, depositing windshield-seeking fragments over all the paved byways. Perhaps Les can translate for you: “what’s your comprehensive insurance deductible?”

Apart from being son David’s birthday, May 3rd marked our mini-adventure into Bryce Canyon ... it’s on the way to M.O.A.B, you know. Bryce Canyon was old news for some of our tour group, but not to be missed by us neophytes. I led three other Miatas to the very end of the park, essentially “the blind leading the blind.” While I never relinquished the lead the rest of the day, Barb and Dennis provided GPS updates with reassuring frequency. The scenery was spectacular, but as Trailmaster Mark advised “it’s a long way in, and a long way out.” The speed limit in this ultimate cul-de-sac was only 35 MPH. Like a youthful Sammy Hagar

Miatas on a Bender, continued

once wailed, "I can't drive 35" or something to that effect.

The viewpoints we explored featured all manner of "hoodoos" – a heavily-eroded rock spine often seen supporting much larger and heavier discs or other bizarre shapes. Short of suggesting you view some of the photos posted elsewhere, imagine them as landscape illustrations out of a Dr. Seuss book. In contrast to the lazy Colorado River, Cole Porter lyrics came rushing to mind whenever I viewed them -

*Let me live 'neath your spell
Do do that voodoo that you do so well
For you do something to me
That nobody else could do*

Before we reached Moab and rejoined our group, I led my entourage straight into a cattle drive, independent-minded and scruffy range cattle, no less. We had seen the warning signs and a few actual specimens a few minutes before, scrubbing-off speed to ensure they didn't spook from the side of the road and into harm's way.

"Forget windshield chips, I've seen what cattle can do just rubbing themselves against a vehicle."

Back to touring speed, we saw objects in the distance, looming larger and darker as we closed the gap. Three cowboys and a lone cowgirl astride tired horses were attempting to drive the herd across the highway. The cattle figured it was far easier to walk down the highway and headed right for us.



Forget windshield chips, I've seen what cattle can do just rubbing themselves against a vehicle. The cowboys and an ineffective Australian Shepherd were shouting and barking, but were powerless to change their course. The cattle came so close to our vulnerable machines, we could have reached out and touched them. Kari captured the action in video, while husband David declined an offer to trade his NC for her horse. Whether classic musical lyrics or my colorful ramblings, words simply fall short of

Miatas on a Bender, continued

describing the scenery, the rock and sandstone formations carved over millions of years by water and wind; Bryce Canyon, Zion National Park, Canyonlands, Arches, and Capitol Reef were all resplendent and unique one to the next. The colors, textures, shadows, and shapes provided the visuals; there are very few photos that wouldn't be worthy of framing and display, along with the overview shot of 100-plus Miatas on a field of grass.

The Utah Miata Club provided the hospitality and a great agenda of activities and runs. Bonnie and I only joined one of their scheduled runs; so many of our SDMC companions had done one or all of the previous Miatas in Moab events that they were already knowledgeable guides – we saw everything the area had to offer. We elected not to do the river rafting trip – probably a good call. The lack of snowfall and melt had noticeably cheated the river; those that went described the experience as a relaxing float downstream. We took a different route back home, heading south out of Moab and into some of the most mountainous roads I've driven in years. We drove across mesas at well over 5,000-foot elevation with nearly sheer drop-offs on both sides of the two-lane road; we drove above and beyond the tree line, to nearly 10,000-foot elevations, then back to mile-high valleys for what seemed like hours ... it was exhilarating. A feast for all our senses, I promise to do this tour again.

To borrow a staple of 1960's vernacular once again, it was a trip, man! ■



Rosa Romero 2011 Dolphin Gray Mica at the Del Mar Fair

RANCHO BERNARDO JULY 4TH CELEBRATION

By Jeff Frederick



The 4th of July turned out to be a “Cracker” of a day in Rancho Bernardo. Eleven of our SDMC Miata owners drove their patriotically decorated cars in the annual parade. Those who drove in this year’s parade were Daryled Bristol, Sue Hinkle, Neal Mills, Mary Chabot, Eunice Bauman, Ray Kociencki, Rosa Romero, Ginny McLaughlin, Dawn Coats, Dan Malloy, and Jeff Frederick.

Prior to the parade, the drivers and spouses/guests attended a catered reception where they were treated to exquisite food, alcoholic and non-alcoholic liquid refreshments from sponsors such as Stone Brewery, and

refreshing desserts from sponsors such as Cold Stone Creamery. While the drivers attended the reception, parade committee members put VIP signs on the cars and placed goodie bags and ribbons in the cars for the drivers.

Following the parade, club members continued the holiday celebration at the Elephant Bar Restaurant. If that wasn’t enough food for the day, a number of people then went to Jeff and Jan Frederick’s house for dessert.

In summary, it was a great day to celebrate America’s birthday, promote the SDMC club by participating in community events, spend time with fellow SDMC friends, and enjoy good food. It doesn’t get much better than that.

Thank you to those who took time out of their holiday schedules to volunteer their car and time for the Rancho Bernardo parade. ■



Two Cents From Our President

it's a buck-fifty if you ask me



Lots of stuff goin' on, Summer is here, my desktop died. Just wrapped up the "Novice School" at the stadium parking lot. Miata's RULE! More Mariner Blue than at a meeting. Wow, many club members and I hope it helps us all drive better and enjoy the rocket we have the privilege to have in our stable for the moment. I constantly complain about the lack of power my 270K+ mile light weight has but in retrospect if I had more I

would just get into more trouble. Someone is looking out for me. The next day I headed to the Del Mar Fair and then to the parade at Rancho Bernardo on July 4th. A 22 year old car just keeps on keepin' on. Life is GOOD!

Get ready for a great club picnic, VP Sue has been raiding the Mazda coffers and twisting arms for the picnic raffle (opportunity drawing that is). Don't forget that if you desire an adult beverage you must bring

your own. No one is going to leave the party when there is plenty to see and do and loads of great friends to rub elbows with. Get your reservation in so Sue can insure plenty of great grub. Catered of course. Check the calendar for the run leading us all to the Rosa Hacienda. Great times, great people.

"A 22 year old car just keeps on keepin' on. Life is GOOD!"

One of the perks of being "Pres" is I get way too much email, most of which I attempt to pass along when it has potential to the club.

"One of the perks of being 'Pres' is I get way too much email..."

This past week I was contacted from Europe. This was the owner of a vintage Miata searching for parts. I tried to point him/her to the auto parts sites I have used as well as Mazda in general. The latest contact was to inform me that

they had discovered the previous owner and I was able to use the internet to locate the person (in Rancho Bernardo) and a phone number. I felt bound to offer to connect the two so I placed a call and informed the party at the other end of my communication. They were thrilled and although they are not members they still own a Miata (NC) and will be participating in the July Fourth Parade. What a hoot. More value of being associated with SDMC! ■

NEW MEMBERS



Larry Haskins drives a 2012 Liquid Silver Power Retractable Hardtop, 6-speed manual transmission.

He bought it at Mazda of Escondido where he met fellow club member Barb Shev.

Larry works in Healthcare and his hobbies and interests (besides the Miata) include most sports (Duke basketball was specifically mentioned).

What was Larry looking for in life that steered him into a Miata?

"The REAL ultimate driving machine!! I want to enjoy a daily dose of zoom-zoom!"

Driving scares he's encountered in the Miata include the usual suspects, and his favorite San Diego County routes take him to Julian via backroads.

Mark Carlson lives in Santee. He is retired from the military and Civil Service. His hobbies and interests include sailing, Flying, Ham Radio, Fishing, Irish Pubs, Camping.

Mark's Miata is a 1999 White that he bought in Colorado Springs, CO in 2008. Was this color choice intentional? "No, but it has grown on me. I am virtually "invisible" in traffic!"

What were you looking for in life that steered you into a Miata: I needed some joy in my life after the death of my spouse.

Any previous sports cars: 1970 BMW 2002 (If you don't think of it as a sports car, you probably haven't driven one!)

Extent of total driving that will involve the Miata (daily driver, weekend only, etc.): Daily driver, weekend events, and cross country trips).

Any driving scares in your Miata (usually involving big trucks or buses): Frequently. Air horns are survival equipment on Miatas.

What have you enjoyed about club runs: Seeing the scenery and meeting the members.

Favorite San Diego County road (so far): Too early to tell.

San Diego County "discoveries" while on club runs or just out driving: Finding out the Buffalo soldiers were in Campo. Amazing.

Trips in the Miata being planned: Arizona, New Mexico, Colorado in August.

Add any other comments that come to mind: Mine came with a VF Engineering Supercharger (Vortech) system installed. What a kick in the pants!

SDMC Officers



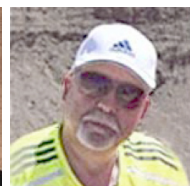
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Sue Hinkle
Vice - President



Gene Streeter
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Dennis Garon
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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.

July Monthly Meeting: July 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.

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 2951 Garnet Avenue, San Diego, CA 92109. 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.

San Diego Miata Club

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