

The newsletter of the San Diego Miata Club

Volume 17, Number 9

Miataphiles Make for Happy Campers

My Summer Camp was great!

“What business does a guy my age have in going to summer camp?” you might ask. The last time I went to summer camp, per se, I was part of the Lewis and Clark expedition and exploration of the western states; Sacajawea was barely an ingénue. I had forgotten how interesting and majestic both Utah and Colorado could be. Oh, and don’t forget hot and sparsely-populated. Tacking three vacation days onto my weekend, I recently enjoyed a 1900-mile plus road trip and summer camp experience worth writing about.

The summer camp in question was hosted by the modern automotive equivalent of those early explorers – Bill and Teri Cardell, giving their expedition a far catchier moniker, Flyin’ Miata. For the uninitiated, Flyin’ Miata is a company engaged in the performance tuner business, proudly proclaiming “we make Miatas fly.” As tuners go, they’ve been in business a long time – 28 years, morphing from a Porsche/Audi/VW specialty business as the Dealer Alternative in New Jersey into a Miata Mecca of sorts when a sprightly NA caught Bill Cardell’s eye and attention. It wasn’t very long before his was sporting turbo power and their customer mix began evolving from Porsches to Miatas. For those of you desiring more biographical information, visit their website or order a catalog...good reading. (www.flyinmiata.com)

To the point, finally ... August 1st through the 5th was Summer Camp in Grand Junction and Palisade, Colorado. Bill and Teri (his sprightly wife and capable hot shoe in her own right), along with their entire staff and a small army of volunteers, opened their facility and commandeered several local venues in the presentation of their 15th edition; the best-attended yet. If you’ve read many of my Twists and Turns submissions, you know I’m not overly-generous with superlatives. If improving your performance driving and improving your Miata’s performance is your thing, I challenge you to find a better bargain than this adult variation on the summer camp theme!



Our son, David, asked me months ago if I was planning to attend the festivities. He and Kari had already committed to doing so, especially since he had weeks and weeks of vacation to burn. I hedged on my answer and commitment until it was entirely too late to schedule any track time. In my defense, I know that Bonnie doesn't enjoy this sort of thing, even though she doesn't discourage me from doing so. When it became apparent Kari wasn't going to attend after all, I was finally all in. Already expanded to three days, all of the track time

was completely booked, but interacting with the helpful and knowledgeable folks at FM and the prospect of a road trip with my son was sufficient reason to go camping.

True stories – would I admit to any other kind?

One of FM's customer service specialists extraordinaire, Tami Brown, had briefly interacted with me at Surfin' Safari, now nearly two years ago. When I strolled into their facility to register, she welcomed me by name and hugged me like a favorite uncle. If hugs are a measure of hospitality, look no further than their front office. As Office Manager, Teri sets the bar pretty high – hugs are part of office policy. I can still remember getting a serious hug from her at the Burger King in Moab several months ago. Exercising her Buell on a ride with Bill, she was wearing some molded body armor and leathers at the time ... talk about hugging a hardbody. The hospitality didn't end with hugs and greetings, either. Every day at FM was open house, with fresh and ripe local peaches, beverages, snacks, even baked goods. There was a hosted dinner at the local Sonic Drive-in, where approximately 75 Miatas overran the entire place. There's even photographic evidence of my car parked in front of the dumpster corral (go figure) for lack of available space. The locals didn't know what to think.

There was a hosted lunch from a gourmet catering truck; apparently all the rage in agricultural Palisade as well as San Diego. On Saturday evening, we packed-out a meeting room in the Grand Junction Convention Center, savoring our banquet meal. Now I ask you, when was the last time those last four words occupied the same sentence? Steve Waid would be proud – our table of impatient and hungry SDMC campers helped themselves to the peach cobbler dessert while waiting our turn to serve up at the buffet. Some of us subscribe to the adage "life is uncertain, eat dessert first."

For the record, my SDMC co-conspirators included Diane and Chuck Graham, Wally Stevens, Sandy Bagnall, and David Streeter.

Roll Out the Red Carpet

Apart from the gastronomic events, we were even treated to an international movie premier Friday evening, in a historic downtown theater. Racing the Rock is the saga of Flyin' Miata's assault on the Targa Newfoundland, a 1400-mile rally run through the towns, villages, and rugged landscape of the Canadian province over five days. Distilled from seven terabytes of footage from a battery of cameras and race car-mounted Go-Pros, the resultant movie experience was so real I was getting nauseated charging virtually through the streets riding onboard both race-prepared Miatas.

An amazing effort, sponsored in small part by our club, and executed by the racers and crew calling Flyin' Miata home. While the V8-powered NA "Targa" and supercharged NC cleverly named "Nancy" were the automotive stars of the movie, Keith and Janell Tanner and Brandon Fitch and Zach Bowman executed the driving and navigational maneuvers, respectively. We're simply going to have to find a way to screen this movie for more of the SDMC faithful.

For those of you already familiar with Flyin' Miata, they name all of their supercars. They were the automotive celebrities thrashing about the Grand Junction Raceway for three consecutive days, taking their turns among the race groups composed of paying customers bent upon taking their own vehicles to the limits of both driver and vehicle. Unlike Lindsey Lohan, those of us who signed-up and waited patiently for the e-ticket ride each of them promised, we were punch-drunk on their power and composure as they lunged from tight turn to tight turn of this 0.9 mile long, 13-turn, go kart track.



Yes, Miata track dogs and civilized PRHTs were all at home on this Lilliputian road course. Was it fun? Was it entertaining? "Affirmative" to both questions by those who rode shotgun and those who drove it. Sample some of the professional photos on the FM website.

Elvis was in the house!

I'd love to introduce you to my new friends – Nancy, Elvis, and Igor. That's because Bill's turbo Miata-powertrained Westfield version of the venerable Lotus 7 was nearly as unattainable a dance partner as Marie Osmond; tight yellow aluminum and fiber danskin stretched over an athletic frame; as soon as the sign-up sheet would come out, the available times were scooped up. "Elvis" is a V8-powered NB, with a deep, throaty rumble and subdued appearance. Chunkier, yes, but bristling with power and torque. No blue suede shoes, here ... those big brakes scrubbed- off speed and rounded-out the entertainment package. Whoo-haa. "Nancy" is a supercharged NC – comfortable and fast. (Notice my restraint – I didn't say she was easy.) Yes, that Nancy ... attractive, comfortable, and quick despite her Targa Newfoundland duty last Fall. "Igor" was a salvage vehicle, assembled on a budget, and the most like my own Mazdaspeed. There were others in the fleet, and a host of drivers to showcase their talent or provide coaching to the campers that purchased track time. There was even a nationally-recognized SCCA instructor and motorsports celebrity, Michael Pettiford, helping campers find the fastest way around the track. His "students" provided some of the drama I witnessed on Friday – egos aside, no one was hurt in the learning process.

We value this relationship!

One more thing ... I was touting value early on in my ramblings. As if the hosted meals, events, seminars, and personal attention weren't already enough, I won nearly \$400 in merchandise in Saturday's raffle! Summing-up, the combination of hot weather, very low humidity, even the sudden refusal of my own (and still un-named) Miata's air conditioning to work wasn't remotely capable of ruining my summer camp experience. Armed with all this knowledge and fond memories, I plan to reserve a day of track time and wisely spend an additional vacation day when next year's Summer Camp rolls around. Apart from the track days, there is so much to see and do, Bonnie may even agree to go "camping" with me. I can pretty much guarantee my air conditioner will work.



Here's some vacation travel advice for next year's event. Block out the calendar dates from August 1–4, allowing travel time front and back. We can probably even arrange an SDMC caravan. I have it on good authority early registration for Summer Camp 16 will open in early April, 2013. Who knows? Tami or Teri may recognize and hug you as well. ■

President's Mumbles



That time again, it has been a busy summer, Picnic, Runs, shows with more to come. Coronado Speedfest with MX-5 cup racing. Kart challenge with the San Diego Corvette Owners Club, Camaro car show on Coronado, Best show on Turf. It just keeps getting better every month. Before you know it there should be a "Southwest Tour", Then Halloween, then Thanksgiving, and to round out the year, the Annual Christmas Party complete with the gift exchange. Soon we will be making plans for the Coastal Run. There has been some mention of a BC Vancouver Canada Run (passport required). Its all just a big blur in my head but then with the Moon Over Miatas complete and everyone safe and sound there is so much more to come. I can only encourage everyone to take part in the fun times, enjoy your friends and "Miata" Family, the payback is fantastic.



Run To The 2012 Picnic

by Chris Garcia



Ginny MacLaughlin finally got magnetics to make “Marilyn” (her Shinsen version Miata) shine like a Star! The big day was Sunday, August 19, 2012, in the Run to the Picnic.

Dan (my husband) offered to help create the route and sweep for her, but I insisted that he be her navigator so that I could drive our Shinsen as sweep, thus having women drivers for both lead and sweep cars—twins! So, here’s my “view from behind:”

We started out in Scripps Ranch and headed to Hiway 67 and through parts of Ramona (stop at Dudley’s, of course!), Pine Hills area of Julian, zooming around Engineers’ Road, past Lake Cuyamaca and south on Hiway 78 to Old Hiway 80. Pio Pico campground was a great stop for refreshments and a break and we were well received.

On the road again, we drove through Jamul and eventually to Rosie’s beautiful home in Chula Vista. This being my first time ever driving as sweep didn’t teach me anything I didn’t already know – Miata drivers love to ZOOM! A slight mishap at the start had left me (and my right-hand wo’man” Jan Fredericks) back in the dust, but we eventually caught up and saw all those welcome Miata tail lights! Through twists and turns totaling just over 100 miles, we wound our way through country roads known for thrills on motorcycles, bicycles and great-driving cars like Miatas!

While waiting for refreshments at Dudley’s, I was asked by Chris Jones “What makes a Shinsen Version different?” Glad you asked, Chris! My answer to him was that the trim was different than the other Titanium-colored Miata. The Shinsen has dark blue cloth interior and ragtop, whereas the Special Edition Titanium has British tan top and leather interior to match.

I asked Dan to do research on the Shinsen and found out from him that both Titanium models were released in 2003. Also, Shinsen means “fresh and new” in Japanese, and the model was targeted to a younger group of drivers. It came equipped with most standard features but has no ABS brakes or leather seats, thus was less expensive than the Special Edition.

Inside, the Shinsen features a two-tone color-keyed leather-wrapped shift knob, dark-blue door inserts, embroidered floor mats, a Convenience Package (tweeters, power door locks, cruise control, remote keyless entry), and aluminum interior trim. Powered by the stock Miata’s 142-horsepower 1.8-liter DOHC engine, the \$23,105 Shinsen comes with a five-speed manual transmission and a Tochigi-Fuji limited-slip differential. 1451 were built.

One fun thing many Shinsen owners like to do is to know the production number of their car. Dan and Chris’ production # is 501, and Ginny’s # is 235, which are also our AutoCross numbers that we display on our cars when racing. Both of us also belong to The Yahoo group called Society of Shinsen Owners, where we can blog and brag about our cars! When we bought our car (new from El Cajon Mazda), we didn’t expect to get a package in the mail a month or so later. Inside were two “Shinsen Version” blue ball caps! (Ginny is second owner, so she didn’t get a cap).

The picnic was truly enjoyable! Even Rosie was beaming to see the 12 Miata’s parked on her driveway! The food and fellowship was “mighty fine,” thanks to Sue Hinkel and Rosie – and all of the SDMC members! ■

Membership update through September 1, 2012

by Membership Chairs Chris Jones and Linda Southard
SDMC Membership as of 8/31/2012

New Members

Steve & Scott Welch, Valley Center, 1999 Sapphire Blue Mica
Marianne Holt-Phoenix, Chula Vista 1999 Classic Red
Paul & Margaret Johnson, Ramona, 2008 Marble White

158 memberships

(47 single, 111 dual)

total of **269 members**

PREVIOUS (August 1, 2012)
Membership update since 5/14/2012:

New Members

Dale Disharoon & Maria Lofftus, La Jolla, 2008 Copper Red Mica
Jody Morgan, Lakeside, 1996 Montego Blue Mica

Welcome Back!

(Recent renewal)

Fran Hitt & Les Zimmerman, San Diego, 1999 Twilight Blue Mica

SDMC had 155 memberships (46 single, 109 dual) for a total of 264 members by that date.

NEW MEMBERS

Paul & Maggie Johnson live in East Ramona and are Membrane Engineers (they do water!). The Johnson's Miata is a 2008 White purchased from John Hine; their color choice was intentional, and it admittedly is a garage queen.

They have a daughter who is just about to finish at UCLA and works for Hans Zimmer at Remote Control. They also enjoy cycling.

What steered you into a Miata: "Wife says she wants one."

They have owned many different cars, and Paul built his own small block Cobra kit car running 400+ HP.

Possible driving scares like big trucks and buses don't worry Paul. "I also drive an F-350 diesel long bed 4 wheel drive dually." Best put, he enjoys everything twisty.

Marianne Holt-Phoenix lives in Chula Vista and is a member of the U.S. Navy. Other family members are husband Dion; son Anthony, 5; daughter Natalie, 2; and two kitties.

Hobbies and interests: "Gardening when I can ... I spend most of my time chasing after my kids!"

Marianne's Miata is a '99 Classic Red that she bought in El Cajon this May.

Was the color choice intentional? "Of course! Red is the best color for a Miata." (Editor's Note: Marianne is already exhibiting signs of Miata greatness!)

What were you looking for in life that steered you into a Miata: "I was just looking for a Daily Driver; saw a picture of my Miata and fell in love!"

Extent of total driving that will involve the Miata: "Anytime I don't need to take two kids with me!"

Marianne's favorite San Diego County road (so far): "I enjoy the long road from Imperial Beach to the Naval Amphibious Base where I work. It is fast and usually not much traffic!"

David Plank and his wife Gwen live in Vista with their live-in, rat terrier canine mate Charm. He is a retired Navy Chaplain. The couple has found travel to be their greatest joy in recent years.

Their 2010 PRHT Miata previously was owned by a lady who needed a larger trunk (she said). It is a Brilliant Black automatic whose pristine condition made it a perfect choice.

"A Miata has long been in my crosshairs and I have been wishing to revisit my early sporting roots when I owned a TR3, Austin Healey 6000 and a MGB," David notes. "The Miata is my daily driver though we have a Lexus 430 and a Toyota RAV in the stable as well.

"I have just recently purchased Black Beauty so she has not yet experienced the joys of local twisties, though Buena Creek Road in Vista is often a top-down pleasure," he adds. "I look forward to being a part of the club, the camaraderie, and Miata talk."

SDMC Officers



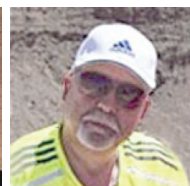
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E-Mail

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.

September Monthly Meeting: **September 27**

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.

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