

# TWISTS & TURNS



The San Diego Miata Club News Letter

Volume 18, Number 7



(Photo By Steve Waid)

## Flyin' Miata Summer Camp 2013

By: Steve Waid

For years I have been aware of Flyin' Miata and what they do to Miatas. They have been our featured vendor at all three of the SDMC Surf N Safaris (1999, 2004, and 2010). Flyin' Miata is owned and operated by Bill and Teri Cardell. There is nothing that can describe the enthusiasm that Teri brings or the skill and detail that Bill possesses. They are just quality people, and I REALLY like Teri.

In 2010 at Surf N Safari, Bill made a point of inviting me to their summer camp, but I had never been able to make it until 2013. Gene Streeter had been in 2012 and had continually twisted my arm to go in 2013. Well, now I have been and there will be no need for arm twisting in the future. WARNING: Flyin' Miata Summer Camp can be addictive. My beloved wife, Laurie, went with me and even as she was

(Continued on page 2)

## President's Remarks

By: Neal Mills

It's hard to believe that summer is coming to an end and, by the time you read this, the kids will be back in school. Halloween and Thanksgiving may be knocking on the door but we have some 'summer' things to do yet.

The Coronado Speed Festival is coming up and it will feature our favorite car with MX-5 cup racing. There will also be vintage car racing, military displays, a car show, and an opportunity to test drive BMWs and VWs. The event benefits the area's Military Welfare and Recreation funds.

(Continued on page 4)

## Inside This Issue

Flyin' Miata Summer Camp 2013 .....	Pg. 1
President's Remarks .....	Pg. 1
Do It Yourself Miata.....	Pg. 4
Flyin' Miata Summer Camp 2013 (Another Perspective).....	Pg. 5
Moon Over Miatas.....	Pg. 13
Membership Report .....	Pg. 15
Upcoming Events.....	Pg. 16

coming down with Shingles she was saying "when we come back next year..." As Mark Booth stated quite eloquently at the August monthly meeting, Summer Camp is not just about doing "track stuff," although I would certainly encourage anyone to take advantage of the opportunity. As Mark went on to say, there was a lot to do and things to see that was completely paid for by your registration for Summer Camp.

## Grand Junction, Colorado

Laurie and I had never been in Grand Junction before. We had been through it on Interstate 70, but never stopped. We had no idea what the town had to offer and the fun that was available. We stayed at the Hampton Inn, one of the event hotels that is on Main Street adjacent to the old "Heart of Grand Junction." Much like the Gaslamp is to San Diego, there is a lot going on in this area, particularly on weekends. It was too bad that Flyin' Miata filled our day with so much to do. We could have spent more time right there. The hotel had underground parking that, most of the time, we were able to use (there were a limited number of spaces). We spent 4 nights at the Hampton and, with Laurie not feeling well, this was a terrific spot for her to rest. The Saturday night banquet was held at the convention facility right next door. It was so close that even I walked to it.

Some of the most fun I had was trying to get around in Grand Junction and Palisade where Flyin' Miata calls home. You don't just happen upon Flyin' Miata. It is out past 29 Road to 32 Road where you turn on C ½ Road, then follow it as it continues past 32 5/8 Road and... after that it is just easier to follow the Miata in front of you. Did I mention that everything starts with 29 Road? Whenever you ask a local for directions, they point in some direction and say, "just go that way until you get to 29 Road and then..." The conclusion I have come to is that 29 Road is a spiral from the center of town and just continues out. Locals claim that it is very logical because the numbered roads begin at the Utah

border and then get larger as you go east. I assume that when you are in Denver you will be on 378 Road asking for directions and someone will point and say "just go that way until you get to 29 Road and..." This "logic" does not begin to explain C 1/2 Road. I was never taught letter fractions in school. It is probably part of the new math that is now old.

## In addition to track stuff...

For early arrivers there was a pizza party at Flyin' Miata on Wednesday night. Just go to 29 Road, turn right... There was a Photo Scavenger Hunt that we are planning to do in 2014. There was a Petroglyph Run that you could also do on your own. Thursday night was the night at Sonic. All the food and drink was paid for by Flyin' Miata and its sponsors, of which one is Sonic. The Sonic event was covered by local television which we saw that night in our room. Then from Sonic we were led on an evening run into Colorado Monument National Park. We were so impressed with this park that Gene Streeter and we went the next day so we could take photos.

Gene Streeter and I wanted to visit the Allen Collection, an eclectic auto and other memorabilia collection not far away. Tammy Allen is a regular buyer at Barrett Jackson auctions and since we came home I saw her make a purchase on TV at the Reno Barrett Jackson auction. I look forward to seeing a 1959 Edsel Convertible in her collection next year.

Friday night was the ice cream social at a local park. It was another free evening to socialize and look at the cars before a good night's sleep. Saturday morning was the beginning of a full day of seminars and information, including a huge raffle at Flyin' Miata. They really know how to put on a show. Mid afternoon, Gene and I decided we were going to go back to the Allen Collection because we found out that they were hosting a car show on their grounds. Tammy was there for the unveiling of her latest addition, a 1965 Chevy Good Humor Truck. Apparently, I was the only former Good

Humor salesman in attendance. That's another story for another time.

## The track stuff

I am someone who enjoys the opportunity of driving my Miata in a track situation. Over the years of my Miata ownership I have done several track days in the west, and have autocrossed regularly since 1998. What Flyin' Miata has set up is one of the most fun and safest chances to participate in track driving that I have ever experienced. And certainly a deal when you factor in cost! By being held on a kart track you are driving virtually alone so you can concentrate on the line of the course. Because each session is relatively short...5 laps and about 8 minutes, you have plenty of time to check your times, embellish upon your successes, lie about your failures, and basically have a great time bantering with fellow drivers...male and female.

The Ground School is offered to novices, which helps build confidence before the open track time. Gene Streeter took advantage of this and parlayed his instruction into some fantastically accurate laps. Whereas, Greg (Black Flag) Lee spent some time "off-roading" and distributing mud and dirt back onto the track a number of times. Chuck (needs more hood louvers) Graham was the fastest of us San Diego folks, so he doesn't have to make up stories and excuses. However, due to the rain falling, all of us could not wipe the smile off our face throughout the day. It was so much fun.

## The road trip

Of course, Grand Junction is about 900 miles from San Diego, so it is a commitment to some driving just to get there. However, if you have not heard me state it before, I love a Miata road trip. This one consumed 8 total days counting our time in Grand Junction. Next year I might even be coaxed to take a couple of days more. Probably to spend a little more time in Grand Junction. I might even try renting a



*(Photo By Steve Waid)*

kart at the track a day before the Flyin' Miata event starts. I wasn't aware that they did that.

On the way to Grand Junction, Gene Streeter reserved a personal tour for our entourage at the Shelby America museum and plant. A very special tour for just seven of us! Mark Booth, Gene Streeter, Greg Lee, Laurie and Steve Waid, Chuck and Diane Graham made the tour.

Leaving Grand Junction, Gene led Greg, Laurie and I on a wonderful run south where we ultimately stayed in Durango arriving just before the thunder and hail storm hit. We drove the Million Dollar Highway and stopped in Telluride and Silverton on the way. The next day took us south past Mesa Verde and through Oak Creek Canyon into Sedona before ultimately staying in Goodyear, the new home of the Hinkles. Thanks to Greg Lee we had dinner at the local Waffle House and listened to him and the redneck cook (who had most of his teeth) talk at each other. I'm sure they understood each other, but...

Anyway, we are looking forward to Summer Camp 2014. We are addicted. If you are not afraid of that kind of addiction we would be happy to encourage you to your first Summer Camp "Fix." ■



*(President's Remarks continued)*

The Corvette Owner's Club of San Diego has invited us on a run which will end in Carlsbad with kart racing. This will be the 3rd kart race between the two clubs. We easily won the first and COCSD spanked us the second time out. We will need your participation to help us win the tie breaker.

Also, just around the corner, is another fun event, the San Diego Car Council's Greatest Show on Turf that will be held at the Cottonwood Golf Course. The show benefits the San Diego Automotive Museum and is a family friendly event.

Then we have the unusual. Wally Stevens is leading a run to Goodsprings, NV to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Pioneer Saloon. I don't know what attracted Wally but, I'm guessing, everyone will have a good time.

Come on out, join in, have fun,

Neal ■



## How To Repair Small Holes & Rips In Both Soft Tops & Car Covers

By: Larry Dennstedt

Soft top companies never told me this, I guess that they don't want to be liable for failures. Besides they would rather sell you a new expensive top or car cover.

### Materials:

Color appropriate silicone (Dow Corning has a "clear"), alcohol and t-shirt material.

### Steps:

1. Clean the INSIDE AREA around the rip or tear with alcohol, and let dry.
2. Cut an appropriate size "tee shirt" patch.
3. Fully saturate (rub in) the patch material with the silicon seal that matches your color needs.
4. Apply to the INSIDE of the repair area and rub it in well, allow the sealer to ooze out of the tear.
5. Let it dry for 24 hours. Trim as necessary.

This will be an effective temporary, FLEXIBLE repair that should shed water as well. Thanks for reading. ■



## Flyin' Miata Summer Camp 2013 (Another Perspective)

By: Gene Streeter

At the August monthly meeting, Neal invited me to share some highlights of Flyin' Miata's 16th Annual Summer camp in both Grand Junction and nearby Palisade, Colorado. If you've surmised that Summer Camp was too big to be contained in just one town, you're on the right track. Neal's inviting me to the microphone might well have been the first mistake of his presidency. The second was not having the theater stage "hook" at his side.

My mildly enthusiastic monthly meeting version of our tour barely scratched the surface. Admittedly, my story was focused on my exploits on the track, a Walter Mitty sort of experience to be sure. But there was so much more...it takes two separate articles to share the highlights of our eight days. Steve Waid's entry provides a travelogue-style overview, whereas mine is "youth hostel" edgy and comes in short, choppy sentences. Read his first. If either of these whets your appetite, read the cover article from September, 2012...insomnia cured.

### Day 1 – Greg's Late

...but worth the wait. Greg Lee, his own self, provided much of the week's entertainment. The rest of the cast of characters included Mark Booth,



(Photo By Steve Waid)



Treasurer Laurie (might come in handy later on) and husband Steve, and yours truly. We survive the "Corona Crawl" headed north on I-15 on our way to breakfast at Route 66 venue, the Summit Inn. We would pass Chuck and Diane Graham a couple of times today; they're trailering their silver asphalt-eater.

Being a democratic run leader, I succumbed to the suggestion we cruise the Las Vegas Strip in the middle of the day in the hottest month of the year... should have been more despotic. (Let's give our new proofreader a workout.) No kidding, it was 110 degrees ambient; no telling what our engine bays were like as we crawled several miles in heavy traffic. We killed enough time to allow Chuck and

Diane to hook up with us at Shelby-American, at the Las Vegas Speedway complex.

Shelby-American VP Gary Patterson was a gracious host and Denny the willing tour guide for nearly two hours. No "continuation" Cobras in production, but the multi-thousand-square-foot facilities corralled a herd of 850-hp Raptors and 1000-hp Shelby Mustangs.

During the museum portion of our visit, experienced and capable racer Gary shared that Carroll Shelby's greatest frustration was that the bulk of his customers simply don't drive their cars. Most are destined to be garage queens and car show debutantes; warranty periods expire long before



(Photo By Steve Waid)





(Photo By Steve Waid)

any warranty-type concerns can surface. Gary really wanted to see some V8-powered Miatas; beyond that, he's impressed with us as enthusiasts – "you guys drive the crap out of your cars!"

Factoid: Shelby-American is relocating their entire operation to the south end of the Vegas Strip in 2014...been there, cruised that.

Day 2 – into the Hamptons...what?

Told you this was the edgy version...edge of credibility, that is. Adios, St. George and last night's dinner at Texas Roadhouse...one of Mandy's two favorite eateries across the country, and one of

many headquartered in hometown Louisville, Kentucky. More on that later. I understand if you're pronouncing it correctly, there's no "s" detected.

We're safely ensconced in our Hampton Inn suites long before Wally Stevens, Sandy Bagnall, and Rocky Murphy clear Nevada and arrive in Grand Junction. For the record, Grand Junction sits at 4,597' elevation and is Southwest Colorado's largest city. And yes, we cruised Grand Junction's downtown Main Street...multiple times.

Day 3 – Round and Round We Go – Grand Junction Speedway





(Photo By Steve Waid)

As I had gushed at Boll Weevil's microphone, this was my first-ever track day experience; yeah, I've driven "on track" at Laguna Seca and a few speedways, even took a swing at Texas Motorsports Park as part of our Miata World tour; even been seriously abused at two different K1 Speed venues...really nothing you'd put in a résumé. But I've never got to hang it out in this manner. If you're on the fence, you need to experience Grand Junction Speedway.

I tried to put my 62-year-old male ego aside... registered as a "novice", took the requisite Ground School classroom training taught by accomplished racer/tuner/author Keith Tanner. See "Racing the Rock?" Y-u-u-p, that Keith Tanner.

"Ground School drivers to your cars"...butterflies in my stomach...first 5-lap session driving coach was Brandon Fitch, another Flyin' Miata staffer and capable racer...he piloted FM's other Targa Newfoundland entry. Calm and understanding, Brandon urged "forget about going fast, it's all about taking the right line and hitting your marks... better, better." FM co-founder and "Big Cheese Dog," Bill Cardell didn't display nearly the same bedside manner.

After I made the same mistakes for several laps, he threatened "do that again and I'll take the steering wheel... lift off the throttle that abruptly again, and I'll take the throttle, too." Ex-president Daryled would be proud of Bill's directness. Their coaching began



to resonate and click just as it started to rain.

Run Group A, the hot shoes, then took the track... cold tires (yea, that's it) and very little grip even with fresh rubber on all fours. Steve was the first of several drivers to receive a standing ovation for his exploits -his early warning loop between turns 1 and 2 put everyone on notice.

In my assigned Run Group D, I was petrified...under my breath, I kept chanting "don't hurt the car, don't hurt yourself, improve your times by day's end."

Where Bill Cardell liked my simulated bullet-hole-decorated helmet, the roof bows of my canvas top did not. There was no way I was going to drive with

the top up...it wasn't a macho thing, either.

As my track sessions got progressively wetter (same could be said for my interior,) my lap times got progressively quicker. Do you have any idea how good it feels to end the day within a fraction of a second of Steve's and Greg's results...all at 1:13:something? As Ferris Bueller has oft reminded "if you can afford one, I highly recommend it." If you know the movie, Ferris was actually referring to a poseur 1963 Ferrari California Spyder, and one that sold at auction recently for \$235,000.

Of the three of us, Greg was easily the most aggressive all day long. While there's little photographic proof, he had considerable off-track



(Photo By Steve Waid)

experience...was sideways so often we accused him of drifting... Between the cone mark in the middle of his right door and the mud he deposited in the chicane, he earned the moniker "High Plains Drifter." Clint Eastwood would be proud.

We drifted on over to Sonic Drive-in for hosted dinner, friendly car-hops on roller skates, even friendlier Miata owners (well over a hundred) and inspection of each others' rides. If there was a "people's choice" award, it would have gone to New York's Ed Avol and his 400,000+ mile NA... he's only missed two summer camps since their inception. We all cruised up to Colorado National Monument to catch the sunset from the local peaks and overlooks...a local version of the Grand Canyon, just awesome.

#### Day 4 – The Sun'll Come Out... Tomorrow – Friday

...true that. The other racers of our group – Chuck Graham, Jon Martinez (coming East from Cambria with wife Judy,) and Temecula's favorite son and future SDMC-er, Jerry Bauman, joined Greg for a day of warm and sunny track runs. Speeds through the 13 turns, over the 1-mile course, including elevation changes, improved over Thursday's, but the exhilaration was un-changed.

Scattered high clouds and moderate temperatures were tailor-made for photos at the track. Even the FM Westfield (a Lotus 7 variant) and the Exocet (similar to an Ariel Atom -check it out on FM's website,) were available for track rides...that's if the three V8-powered Miatas weren't stimulating enough for you.

I didn't do either of the two optional daytime tours-"Petroglyphs" or "Scavenger Hunt"...instead, a handful of us cruised down to Tammy Allen's Unique Autos museum. Very interesting cars, displayed with volumes of appropriate memorabilia...I made friends with Jenny, got the private tour of Ms. Allen's upstairs office – a 1958 Eldo desk in hot pink, and red spike heels to turn Sue Hinkle lime green with envy,

plus, a behind-the-ropes inspection of her \$325,000 laccoca Mustang and warehoused limousine collection.

The receptionist there described Wally Stevens (and Sandy) to a "T", gushing "he was such a nice man." I know...Wally was the nice man that got me interested in attending Summer Camp last year. Headed out the door, we even had personalized invitations to enter the Car Show there the next afternoon...this sort of hospitality wasn't limited to the Flyin' Miata staff. No famous Palisade peaches this year, though; there was a freeze early in the growing season...bought a pricey peach pie at a local pie shop to share "on the stoop" later...yes, after the ice cream social at a local park...we're on vacation.

#### Day 5 – Class is in Session at Flyin' Miata

Apart from generous hugs, FM's Customer Service Manager, Tami Allen, warmed-up the 60+ seminar attendees by identifying every one of us by name, where we live, even personal information she gleaned from us over the registration process and check-in. Fortunately for me, she didn't know that I forgot to pack a basic clothing group the previous Monday evening in the dark of our bedroom – I believe it was Greg that aptly nicknamed me the "Trip Commando" as we began our tour.

Class sessions were both educational and entertaining...water and snacks supplemented the gourmet truck lunch offerings...just to tide us over to the evening's banquet. We learned from some of the most knowledgeable folks in the Miata tuner business and were able to shop "hands-on" for the go-fast goodies responsible for all of this. For me, this was the most expensive part of my trip...free shipping a decided bonus.

In the late afternoon, it was back to the Car Show hosted by Tammy Allen...Steve did a nice job with the "color commentary" in his article...you can imagine his interactions with some of the proud car



owners there, especially over car colors. Example: a 50's-era Power Wagon in custom electric blue, with lime green accents in various suspension and trim pieces – very sharp and well-executed; to the owner "What happened here...did you run out of blue paint?" smiling widely...it's all in the delivery.

The banquet didn't disappoint, featuring a bounty of fresh and organically-grown products, even to the relatively scarce peaches that gave their lives for the cobbler dessert. Similar comment regarding the roasted sirloin and chicken. We collected the DVDs produced by the event photographer and viewed the lap times over the past two days. The program was laced with FM staff presentations and awards, emotional at times. Receiving his well-deserved "Driver Safety Award" goodie bag, Steve shared the smaller-sized t-shirts with a few of us not quite "full-sized adults."

## Day 6 – On the Road Again

Continental breakfast and final good-byes – check. There are only three Miatas in Sunday's run group...I'm still the tour commando (not yet deposed), with SLoW Productions providing real-time GPS updates and Greg providing...well, commentary.

Routes 141 and 145 south out of Grand Junction were gorgeous drives – the scenery was brand new to all four of us...we didn't encounter more than 15 cars in nearly two hours, not until we neared Telluride. We vow to tour the Gateway Museum (auto collection) next time...on to Ridgway, where we sampled the lunch fare at 520 Café – I recommend the bison burger there, beginning the Million Dollar Highway (US 550), with its switchbacks and steep climbs.

"Given its name, you think there might have been some money for some guard rails?" And interfere with the view of the steep drop-offs, Steve? Thank you, Alan Kagan, for urging we take this route in the first place. FYI, Alan stayed back home in more

temperate Oceanside...lightweight.

Through charming Ouray, and on into more-rustic and storied Silverton, where we cruised notorious Blair Street (so-named long before our arrival)... re-visited the historic Bent Elbow Hotel and Bar... sarsaparilla please, before we descended to our evening destination – Durango, along the Animus River and the famous Silverton-Durango steam locomotive railroad...it's the southern portion of the scenic San Juan Skyway loop; this will not be my last time exploring its 233 miles of historic mining country and dramatic elevations.

Greg and I went "walk-about" toward the Durango train depot, while Steve napped and Laurie recovered from an uncomfortable travel day – medical issue, decidedly not Steve's motoring...she never once asked that the three of us men-children slow down.

We get caught in a rain and hail downpour nearly two miles away from the motor court-style Caboose Motel, where we earlier encountered a seven-car NC Miata tour group headed back to Oklahoma City... good conversation...similar color comments from Steve are no better-received on this occasion either.

It's downtown Durango for dinner, not far from the historic Strater Hotel (no relation, I checked)...Steve suggests a Mexican restaurant and an "old-time melodrama." We were out of gas – no melodrama and no evening conversation in the gazebo as we had planned.

## Day 7 - Arizona, and the Waffle House Beckons

It's on to Arizona – Flagstaff and bits of Route 66, down to Sedona and the drive through Oak Creek Canyon and more scenic stuff... "Aren't we there yet?" The destination: Goodyear Arizona, where repatriated SDMC-ers Jack and Sue Hinkle have taken up residence. "Curious name for a town," you say. If you guessed it was transportation/tire

related give yourself some well-deserved credit. The name dates to Goodyear Tire & Rubber Company's acquisition of acreage there to grow cotton for its early tires. The name of their ranch and community maintained traction even with their sale of the property in 1944.

Long story short...Sue lost her I-phone well over a week prior to our arrival, making it impossible for us to reach her. Since I routed us to Goodyear in the 1st place, I arrived on their doorstep after dinner. Surprise! Turns out, I narrowly missed a home-cooked Italian dinner at the Hinkles.

More welcome hugs and sharing of stories...only two days in their home, it's a work-in-progress. They promise to visit with us on occasion, maybe just show up on my doorstep to return the favor.

Our own dinner was a story worth sharing. Another favorite restaurant of Mandie and Greg's, the Waffle House. Two towering posts with black, block letters on a yellow field – think SCRABBLE tiles...Greg is so insistent we're going to love it, he offers to pick up the check. We cruise there from our hotel... hot, hungry, and expecting to be disappointed...it's about 6:30 PM and there are no customer cars in the parking lot; the cook is sitting on the tailgate of his aging pickup truck.

The interior is "aged diner" in appearance, still

not inspiring confidence...Greg and the cook start speaking "redneck" (Greg's assessment – no hate mail, please) and there's a little chemistry developing as the three of us order the apparent specialty – breakfast. It was surprisingly good; I recommend the scattered, smothered, chopped, and peppered hash browns...my waffle was great as well.

If you're thinking you want to form your own opinion, I've already done the research. Their web page indicates 16 locations "near" my South County zip code – every one of them in the greater Phoenix, Arizona area...maybe next year's return from Summer Camp.

## Day 8 – Home Again

It's likely most of us have travelled the desert from the Phoenix area back to the "greater" San Diego area. Given the length of my article, and in consideration of our new editor, proofreaders, and layout editor, I'm invoking the mercy rule.

Already two full weeks back from our tour exploits, a smile spreads over my face whenever I recall the events. I've committed a photo of my red Mazdaspeed, at speed, water spraying from each tire, storming down the back straight, to a screensaver... that way, I start most every day in a Walter Mitty frame of mind. ■



(Photo By Steve Waid)?



# Moon Over Miatas



By: Dawn Coats

It's been just over a year since I joined the club; I've enjoyed the parades, meetings, people and the one run I took as Todd's passenger when we ran with the Minis earlier this year. I was surprised when Jan suggested that I could earn my magnets if I lead the Moon Over Miatas this year. "Me lead a run?" I didn't know much about it. So I dug in and thought I would learn all that I could and make this a fun run. I started off by doing the pre-run with Steve, Neal, Jeffery and Jan as my navigator. The first thing I learned was that I needed to learn everything about a run and do it quickly. So learning the road, the pull offs and

the safety was nothing compared to learning how to understand people when they speak over the CB. I know they don't have marbles in their mouths, or do they.

The next thing I knew the run day had arrived; it was time to meet everyone at the Nuevo Grill for the pre-run dinner. There was already a good crowd as I arrived, about 16 people in all. The food and conversation was good, but Steve had the most unusual burrito I've ever seen. It looked closely related to a hamburger. Once dinner was done, off to Dudley's we ran.



The sky was turning a beautiful orange hue color as we arrived at Dudley's. There was a kite in the air and about 15 Miata's lined up and ready for the Moon run. We started the drivers meeting at 7:45, Jan and Jeffery bestowed my magnets upon me. Steve had brought the mega phone, so the entire town of San Isabel could hear our meeting. I'm surprised the sheriff didn't show up for the amount of sirens and noise I was making. The next thing I knew, we were off on the run.

As I pulled out onto hwy. 78 there were 30 Miatas and 2 OTMs behind me, I tried to go slow until all Miatas were out of the parking lot and running up the grade. I had driven a mile before I heard Steve say "the sweep had left the parking lot." As we drove the grade up to Julian the CB was full of chatter. Everyone was guessing on the highest temps in the desert. As we made our way into Julian we were

quite lucky not to have any OTMs in our line, this made the group nice and tight as we started down Banner Grade.

Banner Grade was smooth and fast, as the county had just finished re-surfacing the top part of the grade. It was a beautiful sight to see the long line of cars behind me as we hit the first straight away at the bottom of Banner Grade. We had arrived at the "RIGHT" Turn, there had been some predictions that we would have at least one car continue forward, for this had happened in years gone by. But this year everyone made the turn, (including myself thanks to Jan the great navigator). I contributed this to the tight line everyone was keeping. So onto S-2 toward Ocotillo we went.

As we descended onto the desert the temperature started to rise. Predictions of the highest temps had started to come over the CB. Everything from 95 to



102, I predicted the high at 102. Sure enough once we got to the lower part of the desert the high for the run had reached 102. At mile 39 we approached the 'Y'; all drivers made the turn as I heard the sweep say he didn't have to chase anyone down in the camping area. There were several snakes spotted as we drove through the beautiful desert, the night sky was full of stars, the moon had come out and was rising as we continued toward our pit stop. We had been lucky so far, we didn't have any OTM in our line and only a few oncoming cars till this point. As we pulled over for our moon viewing, sure enough just as planned, the moon was in its  $\frac{3}{4}$  glory at 115 degrees. The stars and constellations were out, twinkling and dancing with the moon. We were lucky and did not have any OTMs drive pass us as we were at the pit stop. I saw my favorite constellation several times (Constellation AirPlanigues). In the horizon the windmills were lit up. It looked somewhat alien to me; really it looks like alien landing lights.

We made our way through the Border Patrol station, as Steve and Laurie passed through they asked if we were coming back. I think they were

just hoping for some more entertainment. The next stop was Ocotillo, I'm sure when we drove through we doubled the size of the town. After all, I think there are only a dozen or so houses in the little town. Population couldn't be more than 30. Once Steve was through the stop in Ocotillo, the lead was getting onto I-8 toward Acorn Casino.

There were a few Miatas that continued on, but most stopped at Acorn Casino for a much needed bathroom stop. Michael (Acorn Manager) had arranged a long table for all of us to sit together. The specials were Strawberry Cheese Cake or Smoked Brisket, both were very good. Service was fast for most, I had to wait for my brisket to come out. I think I got it just as most people were leaving. All in all it was a nice finish to a great evening and run. The moon cooperated and came out to see us. There were no OTMs in our line, everyone made all the correct turns, and the food was good. I enjoyed earning my magnets which I will display correctly and proudly. Thanks to those that helped me make it a fun evening. Until next run, keep the rubber side down. ■

## Membership Report

### WELCOME OUR NEWEST MEMBERS!

Mitch & Elayne Summers..... La Mesa ..... 2003 Classic Red

### AND RECENT RENEWALS!

Ray Klein .....San Marcos ..... 2001 Classic Red  
Chris Smith & Deb Ross ..... San Diego ..... 1993 Mariner Blue & 2000 Mahogany

# 165 memberships

(48 single, 117 dual) for a total of 282 members.

# Upcoming Events

Date	Event	Time	Meeting Location	Point of Contact
Friday, September 6	<u>Cruisin'</u> Grand	6:00 – 8:30PM	Tom's #23 Restaurant, 505 W. 5 <sup>th</sup> Ave., Escondido, CA	Steve <u>Waid</u> , swaid@cox.net
Saturday, September 14	Mt. Baldy Run	5:55AM - ?	Deer Springs Road Park & Ride (West of I-15), next to <u>Arco</u> Gas Station, 26915 Mesa Rock Rd., Escondido	Alan <u>Kagan</u> , alankagan@hotmail.com
Sunday, September 15	Cottonwood Street Festival Featuring the Greatest Show on Turf Car Show	Greatest Show on Turf Car Show 9:00AM-3:00PM	Cottonwood Golf Course, 3121 Willow Glen Dr., El Cajon	Steve <u>Waid</u> , swaid@cox.net
Friday, September 20	Pre MX5 Cup Kart Racing	Pre-racing Breakfast 9:30AM Kart Racing 11:00AM	Breakfast – IHOP, 1020 W. San Marcos Blvd., San Marcos Racing – K1 Speed, 6212 Corte Del Abeto, Carlsbad	Steve <u>Waid</u> , swaid@cox.net
Saturday – Sunday, September 21-22	Coronado Speed Festival	7:00AM – 5:00PM	Both days - At 7:00AM, meet at <u>Tartine's</u> , 1106 First St., Coronado, CA. At 8:00AM, caravan from <u>Tartine's</u> to the Speed Festival on NAS North Island	Steve <u>Waid</u> , swaid@cox.net
Thursday, September 26	SDMC Meeting	7:00 – 8:00PM	Boll Weevil Restaurant in Kearny Mesa, 9330 <u>Clairemont</u> Mesa Blvd., San Diego, CA 92123	Neal Mills, nealmills@aol.com
Saturday, October 12	Tech Day at Rocky's	9:00AM – 3:00PM	Rocky's <u>Miatomotive</u> , 2951 Garnet Ave., Pacific Beach	Rocky Murphy, (858) 273-2547
Sunday, October 13	SDMC vs. COCSD Racers' Run	8:00AM - ?	Fun Run Start Location – Bob Stall Chevrolet, 7601 Alvarado Rd., La Mesa Kart Racing Location – K1 Speed, 6212 Corte Del Abeto, Carlsbad	Steve <u>Waid</u> , swaid@cox.net
Friday – Sunday, October 18-20	Pioneer Saloon 100 Year Anniversary Run to Good-springs, NV	Friday - 9:00AM Departure	Deer Springs Rd. Park & Ride (West of I-15), next to <u>Arco</u> Gas Station, 26915 Mesa Rock Rd., Escondido	Wally Stevens, wallymiata@gmail.com
Thursday, October 24	SDMC Meeting	7:00 – 8:00PM	Boll Weevil Restaurant in Kearny Mesa, 9330 <u>Clairemont</u> Mesa Blvd., San Diego, CA 92123	Neal Mills, nealmills@aol.com
Saturday, October 26	Mr. Todd's Wild Ride	12:30 – 6:30PM	Mobile Gas Station, 4730 <u>Hwy 76</u> , <u>Fallbrook</u> (Corner of <u>Hwy 76</u> & Old <u>Hwy 395</u> )	Todd <u>Pluciennik</u> , t.pluciennik@gmail.com
Sunday, October 27	Novice Driving School	TBD	TBD	<u>Daryled</u> Bristol, daryledb@aol.com



# SDMC Officers



President  
Neal Mills



Vice - President  
Christy Pluciennk



Treasurer  
Laurie Wade



Secretary  
Rainer Mueller

## Executive Board

**President** - Neal Mills  
858-536-1836                      president@sandiegomiataclub.org

**Vice President** - Christy Pluciennk  
858-201-8430                      vicepresident@sandiegomiataclub.org

**Treasurer** - Laurie Waid  
760-432-0727                      treasurer@sandiegomiataclub.org

**Secretary** - Rainer Mueller  
760-400-0900                      secretary@sandiegomiataclub.org

## Administrative Board

**Membership** - Chris Jones  
   membership@sandiegomiataclub.org

**Events Coordinator** - Jan & Jeff Frederick  
858.675.0607                      2freds.sd@gmail.com

**Club E-Mail** - Bob Kleeman  
619.501.9776                      postmaster@sandiegomiataclub.org

**Webmaster** - Dan Garcia  
   webmaster@sandiegomiataclub.org

**Club Regalia** - Steve & Laurie Waid  
760.432.0727                      regalia@sandiegomiataclub.org

**Historian** - Elinor Shack  
858.485.0278                      mshack@san.rr.com

**Name Badges** - Dennis & Barb Sullivan  
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## Contact SDMC

**The Web**  
www.sandiegomiataclub.org

**24 Hour Voice Message**  
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.*

*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.*

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## 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!

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## 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 26, 2013**

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## 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.

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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 \$14 each for badges with magnetic fasteners. Prices include shipping to your home. Dennis & Barb Sullivan handle 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.



# 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](mailto: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](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%

**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 and restoration products. 800-945-4532. [www.langka.com](http://www.langka.com). Discount: 30%.

**Rocky's Miatomotive** 2951 Garnet Avenue, San Diego, CA 92109. 858-273-2547. 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).

**TJM Enterprises (formerly Magnolia Autobody).** Restorations, body work. 10027 Prospect Avenue, Santee. 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](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 El Cajon.** 619-590-3700. Discount: 20% on parts and labor. VIP Membership: 3 oil changes for \$19.95 with \$5 going to Rady's Children's Hospital.

**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](mailto: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](http://www.FIRSTBRANDinc.com) or you can call us at 951-672-6677.

## 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](mailto:wallymiata@gmail.com) or 619-203-2801 Wally Stevens SOCALM & SDMC member.

Buying or selling your Miata or Miata accessories? You can do it \$9.95 for three months 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 [davidstreeter@yahoo.com](mailto:davidstreeter@yahoo.com) Ads will run for four months unless canceled, and may be revised and resubmitted.

**San Diego Miata Club**  
**PO Box 180456**  
**Coronado CA 92178-0456**

