



The San Diego Miata Club News Letter

Volume 18, Number 9

Runegade: 6 Peaks Run

Mr. Todd's *Wild Ride* 2013 Recap

By: Diane Foster

By: Todd Pluciennik

Well anyone that didn't make this "Runegade" event of ours missed out on one heck of a run! I'm still not sure whether it was 6 peaks, 7 or is double peak considered 2? Well if you're asking, "just how good was this run?" let me tell you. While driving home, our 6 cars decided unanimously it is going to be one of our annual October runs. Who are we? Jill, Alan (host and hostess), Ken, Stacy, Carolyn, Suze, Jeff, Jan, Dell, Paula and myself.

The weather was just perfect, the colors of foliage were brilliant (yellows and reds were eye popping), the roads twisted and turned almost constantly, so many new roads for me to enjoy. Getting to the top of Mount Baldy on such a pristine day even got those fearful of heights (Ken) on the chairlift, with lots of encouragement from his "so called friends," but, friends also come in handy when your Miata won't start and you need a jump. (Don't leave your headlights on, run leaders!) I've waited a very long time for Alan to need my help after all the help he's given me on my Miatas. I treasure the "thanks" I got after giving him the jump. There were so many spectacular roads getting us to the icing on our cake, Lake Arrowhead Resort and Spa.

While imbibing some adult beverages that evening,

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Who me?

Well, it was bound to happen sooner or later, the call. "Would you be willing to do an October run?"

I was cornered. Our esteemed event coordinators had caught me at a vulnerable moment where I had nowhere to go, nowhere to hide... and no way out. Me. Leading a run. Just the mere thought of leading a San Diego Miata Club run has driven lesser men to sniveling puddles of blubbering jelly. Was I up to the challenge? Did I feel I could lead an intrepid band of victims volunteers on a run? The pressure mounted. I had to respond, and now! "Yes, I'll do a run." I confidently proposed, all the while thinking "what am I about to get myself into?" Ok. October is a few months away (it is August, after all), plenty of time to coordinate a run, no worries! Challenge? Accepted!

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Photography By: SDMC Member

there was some talk about the Miata Forum, and about bicycles and Miatas from SDMC not blending well verbally. Well the only thing I do know is that the road was very twisty, narrow and some bicycles were definitely hogging the road, making driving a bit more challenging. You all know how courteous we are to cyclists. It sure made the cocktails that much better as we laughed about it all.

After a leisurely breakfast in the dining room, and a bit of shopping in the town, we hit the twists and turns of the Rim Hwy and it was just breathtaking and spectacular in color and views. Our route continued around Big Bear Lake and we stopped for a photo op. As we were driving towards Idyllwild, memories of apple pie from Oak Glen came flooding back. We just had to stop and buy a pie, or two, before a late lunch/early dinner in Idyllwild. As we were leaving my car wouldn't start due to a dead battery in my key fob Alan to the rescue, jump start done. I just can't get even with that guy!

Bottom line; for all the miles, laughs and camaraderie (not to mention views, colors and perfect weather) you won't want to miss our 2nd annual "Runegade" run!

Thanks Alan and Jill for making this "one heck of a memory" and reminding me how awesome driving a Miata is, and showing me so many new twists and turns.

Alan's note: Diane sent this to me before submitting to the editor. The "Runegade Run" mentioned here is in fact the 6 Peaks Run that I posted. The "Runegade Run" name substitution occurred after many drinks and laughs while discussing the bicycle post that appeared on miata.net. We are all sworn to secrecy and cannot discuss the origin of this name in print but if you come along with us next year you "might" get included in the conspiracy. ■



Photography By: SDMC Member



Photography By: SDMC Member

(Mr. Todds Mild Ride continued)

Fast forward to September 27th; t-minus 12 hours until pre-run, and me scrambling to get Microsoft Streets and Trips™ playing nicely with Excel™ to get a set of preliminary run directions printed. September 28th; time to go. Luckily enough, I found a willing navigator in Dawn Coates (leader of this year's "Moon over Miatas" run) to assist in taking notes and making suggestions. Also lucky to have our vice-president follow along as sweep, and find the alternate route to bypass the dirt road!

Once more unto the breach, dear friends, once more! Listening to other members who've led (or swept) runs, I realized the importance of timing a pre-run as close to the actual run as is possible. This advice was well received, however, the best laid schemes of mice and men go often awry, and in this case my navigator was unable to make the pre-run. A call was made to all members of the most esteemed SDMC to assist me, and without hesitation, Steve "Help me Obi-Waid, you're my only hope" answered forthwith, to much rejoicing. When I arrived at the Waid palatial estate, I saw yet another Miata – this one in Lava Orange. My first thought: "Oh sweet! I get to swap

out my N/A (Naturally Aspirated, not NA) Miata for some serious fun!" Upon ringing the doorbell, reality reared its... er... slightly follically challenged head in the shape of Greg Lee (word to my no-'fro-bro, yo!). So not only did I have a "navigator" (Steve), I now also had a sweep (the club VP, Christy, was busy burning up those Bridgestones doing Solo AKA Autocross practice down at Qualcomm)!

My sincerest appreciation to both brave souls (and soles... I think there was a *lot* of "gas/brake, gas gas... brake!!!" that day, which wears on one's shoes) for joining me and giving advice, even if we had to stop partway "up" South grade, turn around, and meet Mr. Lee as he was fixing his car. (He swears he tightened the bolt to spec, but was that Metric or Standard torque? The world may never know.) In any case, the second, and final, pre-run went without further incident. It was completed with grins all around, knowing that this was shaping up to be an experience. There was one issue discussed – the CB that I was using was transmitting with a lot of static. This would turn out to be an important discovery.

Once, twice... three times a (fun) run



Photography By: Christy Pluciennik

Arrival time. Of course, knowing what this run would entail, I had to actually dress the part. At final count, 13 cars were ready to partake of the adventure!

Part one: Couser Canyon

A bit of new paving, a bit of dust: Couser Canyon to Lilac Road (north). No SDMC member had ever led a run through this route before, and though it was only two miles (or thereabouts), of less-than-paved road, no Miata was harmed. Of course, no soul was left untouched, as we had to traverse the Pala "ancient Indian burial grounds" on our quest to join up with the bypassers back at the Pala Transfer and Recycling station before starting up Palomar Mountain. A commemorative broom was provided in the goody bag to help sweep off the dust.

The [not-so] Lonely Mountain

*Far over the misty mountains cold
To dungeons deep, and caverns old
We must away, ere break of day
To seek the pale-enchanted gold
(The Song of the Lonely Mountain – The Hobbit)*

Palomar Mountain. What more can be said about a destination that is so well known amongst Southern California residents? Well, there is at least one thing, a Prius threatening to turn this into a "Mr. Todd's Mild Ride." To those who own hybrids that utilize regenerative braking: it doesn't work going UP a hill. To those of you in the club who haven't invested in an air horn to replace the "meep" that is stock: do it.

Prior to the “Prius incident,” there was one minor setback – Mark Booth’s brush with a near complete Miata meltdown, with the engine almost as true red as his Miata!* Thankfully he was cool enough to get it back home ok.

*This may or may not be the case; no pictures were taken of said meltdown.

Remember earlier in this narrative, when it was mentioned that the CB transmission wasn’t all too great and would come in with a lot of static? When we arrived at Mother’s Kitchen, your run leader was informed (a big thank you to Jeff and Jan) that his CB transmissions were exactly that – not great. Even setting the “ST” (SoundTracker) didn’t help. Unfortunately, there was no time to test n’ tune when on the run, however, it was noted for later work. At least reception was on par with other CBs.

Freshly peanut-butter cookied, your humble run leader was ready to tackle the trip back down the mountain, via East Grade road. This time, it was smooth sailing with all cars accounted for, and no traffic holding us back.

Dudley’s

Yet another Miata club tradition when driving around Santa Ysabel/Julian area is the stop at Dudley’s Bakery. Founded in 1963 (this is the 50th anniversary year), Dudley’s specializes in artisan breads (obviously) of all types (including, but not limited to pumpernickel, jalapeno cheddar, onion rye, etc.). What it also has is an amazing on-site delicatessen. I strongly recommend the pastrami sandwich, but bring your appetite. It’s quite a mouthful!

Old Julian Hwy

Yet another fun road, with fairly recent pavement helping keep tires stuck to the road. The first thing you notice when exiting HWY 78 to Old Julian is the Oasis Camel Dairy farm on the right hand side. One hump or two?

Highland Valley Road

One of the most technical roads in the San Diego area (another being Mesa Grande), Highland Valley Road was a blast. Naturally, we caught up to traffic (aka one Hyundai Elantra) toward what I always refer to as the “middle” of the road, near Bandy Canyon (which actually is about the middle of the road). Your esteemed run leader took it upon himself to allow a bit of space between our run and the Hyundai before hitting the last half of the twisties. If you’re going to drive Highland Valley, you’ve gotta drive Highland Valley.

Fin

The trip ended at BJ’s Brewhouse early. The staff graciously managed to get us seated even before our reservation time. Only one mishap during dinner, and that was a dropped (and promptly fed to the wolves) set of pork chops. The manager compensated with a replacement pork chop meal, and everyone was happy. In this author’s opinion, for a “chain” restaurant offering as many choices as it does, BJ’s does a pretty bang-up job for dinner.

All brave souls were awarded a certificate acknowledging their survival completion of the run, and a big thank you from this first time run leader to everyone who helped make it happen!

Cliff’s notes

Roads traveled:

Couser Canyon

Palomar Mountain (South and East Grade)

Old Julian Hwy

Highland Valley Road

Pit stops:

Mother’s Kitchen (Palomar Mountain)

Dudley’s Bakery (no run in that area would be complete without it)

To Do:

Mr. Todd needs to get his CB checked out and tuned; it transmits static-y on other CBs within the club. ■



SAN DIEGO MIATA CLUB

2013 ANNUAL HOLIDAY PARTY

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GIFT EXCHANGE

Saturday, December 7, 2013

6:00 - 7:00 Cocktails and Hors d'oeuvres

The Butcher Shop Steakhouse, Kearny Mesa

Menu

Prime Rib with garlic mashed potatoes

Or

Chicken Piccata with wild rice

Mixed green salad

Dessert

\$35.00 per person

RSVP: Christy Pluciennik before 11/23/2013

RSVP at monthly meeting or send to:

Christy Pluciennik, 2472 Antlers Way, San Marcos, CA 92078

Make check payable to: San Diego Miata Club

Include Dinner Choice per person and email address on check

Soft Top Repair

By: Larry Dennstedt

Several people asked me about top repairs. It seems that the "heat weld" separates where the flap slides into the top bow, allowing the top to puff up at freeway speeds.

The following is a simple, effective fix that the top repair shops haven't told us about.

Materials needed:

- Sewing thread of the appropriate color
- LOW VOLATILITY SILICON SEAL color to match? (Dow Corning has a "clear" that is good.) I used automotive low volatility "ultra black" by permatex, rubbing alcohol, a t-shirt rag.
- Enough weights to span the top bows without damaging effects.



Steps:

1. Pull the top up but do not latch it at this time.
2. Wrap and tie the flap to the "top bow" every four inches with the household thread.
3. Twist the flap tight (the thread should hold the flap in position).
4. Clean the contact areas of the top and flap with alcohol and let dry.
5. Make a quarter inch 1/4" silicon bead along the length of the bow flap.
6. Pull the top tight against the windshield for 5 seconds.
7. Release tension and count 15 seconds.
8. NOW latch the top. Smooth out the glue area from outside, and place the weights correctly to hold securely, and let stand for 24 hours. I used a protective cover between the top and the weights.

This repair has held for me over several years. ■



Upcoming Events

Date	Event	Time	Meeting Location	Point of Contact
Saturday, November 2	Dailey Drive-In Run	Drivers' Meeting -4:45PM Drive-In – 6:45PM	Run: Starbucks, 751 Center Dr., San Marcos, CA (Off Nordahl Rd. and Hwy 78) Drive-In: Santee Drive-In, 10990 N. Woodside Ave., Santee	Leo Dailey, noskahn_mx5@yahoo.com
Tuesday - Friday, November 5-8	SEMA Show in Las Vegas	All Day	Las Vegas Convention Center	Alan Kagan, alankagan@hotmail.com
Saturday, November 9	Warriors United Car Show	9:00AM – 3:00PM	Hawthorne Machinery Co., 16945 Camino San Bernardo, San Diego, CA (Rancho Bernardo)	Mark Booth, markbooth@cox.net
Thursday, November 21	SDMC Meeting	7:00 – 8:00PM	Boll Weevil Restaurant, 9330 Clairemont Mesa Blvd., San Diego, CA 92123	Neal Mills, nealmills@aol.com
Saturday, November 23	Mazda of El Cajon Rady Children's Hospital Car Show Event	TBD	Mazda of El Cajon, 900 Arnele Ave., El Cajon, CA 92020	Jeff Frederick, 2freds.sd@gmail.com
Sunday, November 24	Mother Goose Parade	TBD	El Cajon	Ginny McLaughlin, Miata.Ginny@gmail.com
Sunday, December 1	San Marcos Holiday Parade	10:00AM – 2:00PM	Meet at Parking Lot between now Closed Dalton's Roadhouse Restaurant and Burger King (Nordahl Rd. just North of Hwy 78)	Steve Waid, swaid@cox.net
Saturday, December 7	SDMC Holiday Party	6:00 – 10:00PM	Butcher Shop Restaurant, 5255 Kearney Villa Rd., San Diego, CA 92123	Christy Pluciennik, christy.pluciennik@gmail.com
Saturday, December 14	The Scrooge Run	4:30 – 9:00PM	Restaurant Location: TBD Scrooge Play Location: San Marcos Historical Society's Connors Hall in Heritage Park, 1952 Sycamore Dr., San Marcos, CA	Dawn Coats, k9sndj@yahoo.com
Thursday, December 19	SDMC Meeting	7:00 – 8:00PM	Boll Weevil Restaurant, 9330 Clairemont Mesa Blvd., San Diego, CA 92123	Neal Mills, nealmills@aol.com

SDMC Officers



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Neal Mills



Vice - President
Christy Pluciennk



Treasurer
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24 Hour Voice Message

619-434-2007

Mail

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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 1st 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.

Next Monthly Meeting: **November 21, 2013**

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. 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

Many vendors offer discounts to Miata Club members. The club does not endorse these vendors, but lists them as a membership benefit. Some offers may require you to show a current SDMC membership card.

Businesses that wish to be listed must offer a discount from their normal retail prices to SDMC members. Listings are limited to five lines (about 30-35 words). Contact newsletter@sandiegomiataclub.org for additional information.

Automotive Services

Allen's Wrench. Mazda Master Technician. 1620 Grand Avenue, San Marcos. 760-744-1192. Discount: 10% (except oil changes).

American Battery. Miata batteries & all other batteries. 525 West Washington, Escondido. 760-746-8010. Contact: Jeff Hartmayer. Discount: Fleet discount on all products.

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

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

Express Tire. Auto repair, tires. 12619 Poway Road, Poway. 858-748-6330. Manager: David Dolan. Discount: 10% on parts and labor, including tires.

Good-Win Racing LLC. Miata intakes, exhausts, shocks, springs, & goodies from Racing Beat, Moss, and more. www.goodwin-racing.com. 858-775-2810. Special club price on everything.

Hawthorne Wholesale Tire. Tires, wheels, brakes, and suspension. 877 Rancheros Dr., San Marcos. 760-746-6980. Discount: 10%

Kesler Customs. Miata chassis braces, adjustable dead pedals, hide-away license plate brackets. Installation of aftermarket parts, fabrication, light welding. Ted Kesler, 619-421-8472. Special club prices.

Knobmeister Quality Images. 3595 Gray Circle, Elbert, CO 80106-9652. Joe Portas, joe@knobmeister.com. 303-730-6060.

Langka Corp. Guaranteed paint chip and and restoration products. 800-945-4532. www.langka.com. Discount: 30%.

Rocky's Miatomotive 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. 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 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.

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 \$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

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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