



The San Diego Miata Club News Letter

Volume 21, Number 2

REMEMBERING JEFF

K1 SPEED CHALLENGE



STEVE WAID

The first time that I met Jeff and Jan was at autocross at Qualcomm Stadium. I don't remember the exact date, but I know that they were autocrossing their blue NB at the time. And, it has always been

"Jeff and Jan". I think that if you were to search for #jeffandjan you would find a photo of Jan rolling her eyes.

Like a number of people that are members of SDMC, they first encountered the club at autocross which then brought them to a monthly meeting and then to joining the San Diego Miata Club.

TAKING THINGS FOR GRANTED

In the last 12 months I have learned a lesson that will no longer escape me. I have taken things and people for granted. Shortly after Surf N Safari in October, Jeff and Jan left for a cruise for some fun and relaxation that they richly deserved. Even knowing this fact, I found myself looking for Jeff at

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CRAIG MOYA

The fifth K1 Speed Challenge was held on Saturday, February 20. The competition pitted members of the San Diego Miata Club against members of the Corvette Owners Club of San Diego (COCSD) and Corvettes of San Diego (CoSD). Yes, despite having very similar names, they are two separate Corvette clubs. COCSD is celebrating its 60th Anniversary in 2016. CoSD is a much smaller club, formed in 2003.

The race format was the same as previous Challenges, using K1 Speed's mini-Grand Prix. Each club had its own 14-lap qualifying session. Because CoSD fielded only three racers, they were joined by some SDMC members for their qualifying session. Once the qualifying sessions were completed, the competitors

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CASTLES, DRAGONS, MT. RUSHMORE AND SO MUCH MORE

(This is the un-abridged version of the article that appeared in the Jan./Feb. issue)

Mary & James Claus

ALL ABOARD!

That's what my head was saying as 24 of Les Smith's friends (from the Miata club, his railroad hobby club, and neighbors boarded the Metro Link at Oceanside Transit Center for the Jan. 3 trip to Pasadena. We were going to see the Rose Parade floats and admire the floats, flowers and other vegetation and creativity to create the floats. All surfaces had to be covered in some kind of organic material, even the float driver doors, the cars, the Harley Davidson motorcycle, and bicycles.

We left at 8:15 from the Oceanside Transit Center and traveled north for about 2 hours through San Onofre seeing the "Dolly Parton" domes, and passed through Camp Pendleton ocean to watch the ocean and surfers, Laguna Niguel, and other coastal cities and Angel stadium . We even saw a naked man taking a bath in the L. A. "River".

By the time we reached Buena Vista the graffiti was abundant and looking ugly. And it kept going and going, following the wall along the railroad tracks. I wanted to get out my paintbrush and then realized it would be fruitless. Paint it today and it would be back tomorrow. Such a shame to ruin the view.

Once at L.A. Union Station, we boarded Metro Rail for our 30 minute trip to Pasadena. Then we walked over the 12-lane freeway on a skywalk to the shuttle bus area. I found it interesting to view the freeway and its traffic from overhead. Man, was it LOUD!

About 11:00, after a short ride, we were at the float viewing site. We went our separate ways to see the floats at our own pace, grab something to eat at the site vendors, and planned to meet back at the entrance at 3:15 for the trip home.

This year's theme was "Find Your Adventure", as a centennial celebration of the National Park Service, and there were many ways to find it here. The floats were beautiful even after a couple days from the parade itself. It was interesting to see how they used coconut for white bodies, seeds and rice for eyes, grasses for feathers and fur.

I thought the most unusual was the use of small brown potatoes as the road for an old antique car and an abbey called "Downtown Abbey". The Disneyland float won an award for the largest float over 50 feet. It had 3 sections! The first float was a rendition of the Disney movie "Frozen"; the second was a replica of Disneyland's Magic Castle with Mickey and Minnie at the front entrance, and the third featured a *Star Wars* theme with the Millennium Falcon spaceship. Just an awesome float. I wondered how they would know that *Star Wars* would be so popular at the time of the parade. James said, "Believe me, it was well planned ahead of time - like years.



It was no accident of timing with the film release and the float to work with it so close together."

James and I both really liked the dragon with its petal body and stripes of oranges, tangerines, grapefruits and cumquats. It won an award for most colorful and was truly deserving.

I thought the most unusual float was called Donate and had portraits of people who had donated organs to help others live. People who had received donated organs walked beside the float. After this event, the portraits were to be preserved and framed and given to the families who had received the donated organs.

South Dakota's Department of Tourism had a float depicting Mt. Rushmore to celebrate the 75th anniversary of Mt. Rushmore and the 100th anniversary of the National Park Service. A website reported that it cost \$250,000 for TV time and South Dakota is hoping many people will come to visit South Dakota as a result.

Some young children – and some not-so-young children – took advantage of the National Park Service's Junior Park Ranger Program where they were given a program with about 12 float circles and were told to go find them (I think there were 24 floats so it wasn't a given). When they found the particular float, they got their program stamped in the appropriate space. If they got the entire program stamped, they got a wooden Junior Ranger National Park Service badge. Two people in our group actually got the badge!

Having met at 3:15, we boarded the shuttle, walked back over the freeway, took the Metro Rail and Metro Link to Oceanside, arriving about 6:40. A long day but one filled with wonderful memories.

If you get a chance to do another of Les' adventures, take it. You won't be disappointed. His trips go to interesting places, and are very well planned and executed. A truly fun day riding the rails! ■



the monthly meeting...at the start of runs...at the holiday party. I always looked for Jeff. I needed to find him so I could start kidding him with all kinds of clever repartee (at least that's what I thought it was). Jeff was a giver as well as a taker. That is why, to me, he was so much fun.

When I found out that he was ill when he came home from the trip, I told Jan at the monthly meeting that he needed to quit laying around and get back to it. Never in my wildest dreams did I think that I would never see Jeff again. When it finally sunk in, I started to reflect on what I was missing, and that is when I realized I took it for granted that Jeff would always be there.

First, Rick Kagamaster and now Jeff. One minute, or so it seemed, they were there...and then they weren't. This last month as Laurie and I arrived at the start of an SDMC run, I found myself automatically looking for the Frederickmobile. I even knew it wasn't going to be there.

NEVER LET THE TANK GET BELOW HALF FULL

Laurie and I had the pleasure of traveling with Jeff and Jan on numerous Miata road trips. Maybe the reason I now love these trips so much is due to the fun I always had with Jeff. Due to Jeff having been a Naval Jet Fighter Pilot apparently he had drummed into him "never let your fuel tank get below half full." Having never been a pilot of any kind, I never saw a danger in letting my Miata gas gauge get below a half a tank. It seemed like if we stopped for any reason on a trip, even to read a roadside historic monument sign, Jeff would look for the nearest gas station. I told him that we only had a little ways to go and we would be calling it a day, and he could fill up then. His answer would be that he planned to.

After realizing this quirk, if Jeff arrived later than I did to any event starting point, I accused him of having stopped to fill up even though he had driven only 25 miles to get there...just one of my bits of clever repartee that Jeff could count on.

ALMOST ARRESTED

In 2012 there was a group of us that were headed to the Miatas in Moab event that was put on by the Utah Miata Club. Several of us had planned to extend the trip after the event ended. The plan was to include a trip through Wyoming to South Dakota allowing us to see the Badlands and Mt. Rushmore. Then we would head west to Yellowstone and south toward home. The group included us, the Frederick's, the Mills', Del Pound, and for a portion of the trip, Alan Kagan and Jill Wilson.

We were alternating leaders, and as luck would have it, Jeff was leading when we stopped for gas (naturally) in the town of Rawlin, Wyoming. After the fill up, Jeff proceeded through the center of town at a robust 40 mph, when we drew the attention of the local deputy who then pulled us all over into the parking lot of an abandoned motel. The deputy, who turned out to be having as much fun as the rest of us, was a former Marine that had been stationed at Pendleton. He told us that as long as no one appeared on "America's Most Wanted" list, he would let us go. Luckily none of us did, but he asked me if we were going to continue letting Jeff lead. I told him, "If he lives". Jan always likes to remind me that she had just bought a beer at the gas station, and as we were being pulled over, she was busy trying to hide it from view. This was another memory I will always have of Jeff and Jan.

IT IS TOUGH GETTING OLD

In the late Spring of 2015 Cruisin' Grand had begun in Escondido and as is tradition we had a SDMC night which included a social time at the end of the evening at our home. As we all arrived at our house Jeff somehow lost his balance getting out of the car and did a "face plant" on our sidewalk. Inside he was given an ice pack for his face and received very little sympathy from the male side of the attendees.

Now, fast forward to August! Jon and Melinda Connor had planned an evening at the ballpark in Lake Elsinore for us to watch the Lake Elsinore Storm play a minor league home game. We were all meeting in Temecula to make the run up to the ball park. This was also the day that I had been “graduated” from my physical therapy after the June knee replacement that I had experienced. Laurie, reluctantly, allowed me to go by my ownself to the ballgame as my first sign of independence after surgery. Apparently I did not hydrate as I should have on this 95 degree day, and I collapsed in the parking lot in Temecula. Because I was not nearly as old as Jeff, I did not do a “face plant” and do any visible damage to myself, albeit I did get to spend a night in the hospital for “observation”. Laurie was not happy.

This was a period of time when there was a lot of Surf N Safari planning being done, and Jeff and Jan were valued members of the Fun Team. They had volunteered to host our planning meeting one day, and as I arrived I was greeted by Jeff in his Safari outfit (Pith helmet, rifle, safari shirt, cargo pants and hiking boots). Yes the same “get up” we asked him to wear as greeter for the first day of Surf N Safari. As Jeff met me, “for my safety” he escorted me into their home. Making sure that I didn’t hurt myself he had marked the step down into their living room with cones and orange caution tape. Sometimes you just can’t catch a break. This is another very special memory for me.

THE LEGEND OF THE GOLDEN MUFFLER

Not quite three years ago now, Jeff was celebrating his 70th birthday, and we had planned a little surprise party for him at our house. We made it clear that gag gifts and funny cards were what we were to provide. I don’t remember who all attended, but I do know what I wrapped up for Jeff.

I had received for a similar birthday party when I turned 60 a Golden Muffler. It was simply an automotive muffler spray painted gold. I put the Golden Muffler and two cassette tapes in a large gift bag. One of the tapes was Lawrence Welk, and the other was Big Band Music. I remember distinctly that Jan said, “But, we don’t have a cassette player”.

Less than two weeks later at the Cruisin’ Grand social gathering at our house, it happened to be my 68th birthday. So, I was re-presented the Golden Muffler and the two cassettes. Everyone got a good chuckle, but I was not finished. Before everyone left that night I had already made plans and acquired co-conspirators.

Six days later was the SDMC monthly meeting. Jeff and Jan always helped President, Neal Mills, by selling raffle tickets. Carlan Bristol would accompany them and be sure that the tickets were torn apart and placed into the raffle jar. I brought the Golden Muffler and the 2 Cassette tapes in a large gift bag. I gave the gift bag to Neal Mills as a special raffle prize. As Jeff and Jan finished up selling raffle tickets, Jeff would always buy his. Co-conspirator, Carlan Bristol, noted the number of one of Jeff’s tickets. She passed on to co-conspirator, Neal Mills, the number. By now you can probably figure out where this is headed. At the end of the raffle, Neal pulled out the special raffle prize and asked someone to draw one last ticket. Neal then read the number that Carlan had given him that was Jeff’s. Everyone hooted and hollered, as always, and Jeff came up and took the bag back to his seat, with a huge grin on his face. From across the room I watched. Jeff dug down into the bag and then his eyes quickly came up and stared at me. I just smiled. Gotcha!

Since then, whenever I asked Jeff about the Golden Muffler his answer would be, “have you checked your trunk?” To this day, whenever I open my trunk, I kind of expect to see that muffler. I miss you Jeff. ■

were divided into three race groups. Qualifiers 17 through 24 ran the first 16-lap race for position as the “Fast” group. The racers were grided on the front straight, with the fastest qualifier in the group at the front, the second qualifier behind him, and so forth. Each race began with a standing start.

Following the “Fast” group race was the “Very Fast” group, with qualifiers 9 through 16. The “Ridiculously Fast” group, made up of qualifiers 1 through 8, ran the last race of the event. The top three finishers in each group received K1 Speed medals.

The race results:

“Ridiculously Fast” group

1. Craig Moya, SDMC
2. Randy Brown, COCSD
3. Nima Abraham, SDMC
4. Jeff Wilkinson, COCSD
5. Randy Standke, COCSD
6. Greg Lee, SDMC
7. Aurora Williams, SDMC
8. Tristan Gale, CoSD



“Very Fast” group

9. Ed Griffin, CoSD
10. Eric Gatley, COCSD
11. Ken Hurd, SDMC
12. Jake Taylor, COCSD
13. Robbie Meyer, SDMC
14. Buddy Griffin, CoSD
15. Bob Van Hook, SDMC
16. Gene Streeter, SDMC



“Fast” group

17. Mark Booth, SDMC
18. Daryled Bristol, SDMC
19. Greg Magill, COCSD
20. Steve Waid, SDMC
21. Bill Belt, COCSD
22. Howard Kendall, COCSD
23. Denis Meyer, SDMC
24. David Pelsue, SDMC



Photos courtesy of Mak Booth

Because I am a member of both SDMC and COCSD, I could represent either club. At the January SDMC meeting, I shamelessly agreed to a couple of bribes. SDMC is on the hook to have at least 25 entries in Main Street America this year. And one SDMC member owes me an apple pie. It turned out to be a pretty cheap investment, as I was able to come out on top. Based upon the Formula 1 points distribution (what else would you use?), SDMC came out the winner with 54 points, followed by COCSD with 41 and CoSD with 6.

As has become our tradition, we had the “official” awards ceremony at the Corvette Diner afterwards. Ed Griffin won the “Sandbagger Award” for winning the “Very Fast” group race after not being quite fast enough to

qualify for the “Ridiculously Fast” group. Greg Magill was given the “Hardest to Pass Award” for holding off Daryled for at least six laps before finally being passed. Jake Taylor won the “Needs More Seat Time Award” for finishing just off the “Very Fast” group podium, despite having no prior time in a kart at the San Diego K1 Speed. Jeff Wilkinson was unanimously chosen to receive the “Most Dangerous Racer Award” for bumping more tails than a disco queen. Steve Waid won the “Too Much Ballast Award” for complaining about having to race against lighter competitors.

The fifth Challenge was the most tightly contested in the series. We expect next year’s Challenge to be just as close. Which club will I represent? It’s kind of fun being a free agent. In the mean time, I’ll go back to running the COCSD’s K1 Speed Fridays (on the second Friday of the month) and K1 Speed Saturdays (fourth Saturday of the month) just for fun. The track day season is also just around the corner. If you haven’t tried either one, come join us and see how much fun it can be! ■

My video of the Challenge “Ridiculously Fast” group race is on YouTube:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fSc5yvjiWaw>



Photo courtesy of Mak Booth

Welcome to our newest members...

Ronald & Jean Short	Imperial Beach	1990 Crystal White
David & Linda Miller	Valley Center	2001 Emerald Mica
Mark Bauer & Jane Vassar	La Jolla	1991 Classic Red
Denis & Linda Meyer	Fallbrook	1997 Marina Green Mica
Charles Phlegar & Joi Cox	Palm Desert	1990 Classic Red

And welcome back...

Alex & Lulette Sarko	Oceanside	1990 Classic Red
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RENEW! The 2015 SDMC memberships expired 12/31/2015. If you didn’t renew by now, your account has been expired and access to the Yahoo! Groups SDMC-List has been ended. It’s not too late to renew for 2016 and continue the year with like-minded Miata fans. You can do that in person at the next monthly meeting, or use the renewal form found on page 15 or downloaded from the SDMC website and mail it with your check to the address on the form. SDMC membership is still a great deal at only \$35 per calendar year.

Questions? Need a renewal form emailed to you? Contact us at Membership@SanDiegoMiataClub.org.

Chris & Linda

SDMC Membership ■

Rear View Mirror



GENE STREETER

Let's Give Winter the "chrome horn"

Banging on the back bumper (I've been a little lax, of late, in my alliteration efforts) of our tardy 2016 first edition of Twists 'N Turns, I'm working on my March column in the wake of a busy February events schedule. As soon as Old Man Winter (**not** a misguided reference to any of our esteemed senior members) loosens his grip on San Diego, we'll be celebrating the rites of spring with our 20th Anniversary celebration, April 9th. I know what some of you are thinking - the official first day of spring, the Vernal Equinox, is March 20. We're not that far off the mark. I'm excited to share that all but three of our founding members are committed to attend our Party. Please make plans to attend if you haven't already done so. President Emeritus Neal Mills heads up our Anniversary Party plans, just as he did for Surf 'N Safari; and we all know how well that turned out.

Loyal reader Steve Taft, the cluster of alliteration in the opening sentence is for you, Bud. As for my thinly-veiled initial reference to the Corvette – Miata K1 Speed Challenge, many of you are already accustomed to my provocative writing style.

It Takes A Village ...

As your SDMC president (the "p" is lower case on Purpose), I'm charged with conducting our monthly meetings. Well in advance of February's meeting night, I asked rhetorically "how do I compete with all the calendar events this month brings to bear?" There's Presidents' Day(s), Ground Hog Day, Super Bowl 50, Valentine's Day, and the Academy Awards, with Leap Day thrown in for good measure. Answer: involve as many different presenters and as much of the audience as possible ... you're a talented group.

Apart from Chris Jones' usual quality membership update and introductions, Dennis Sullivan's succinct Treasurer's Report, Dan Garcia's accounts of our Events Calendar, and Steve Waid's harmonious version of Happy Birthday, we had Bob Van Hook's stand-up presentation of his 3rd place K1 Speed Challenge medal to its rightful owner – Ken Hurd. Neal Mills shared additional Party details, while business-minded Rosi Romero's questions provided the segue' to membership's ratification of the proposed event budget. Where Dennis Garon provided an impassioned reminder of the Gregg's Goals event and members' charitable involvements, Brad Kuller provided us an update on the MCRD Car Show and his new role as a John Hine Mazda sales representative. Mark Booth teased us with Mazda's next Miata variant; VP Greg Lee shared his insights into our mission and purpose, then regaled us with his excuse for missing January's monthly meeting. (Note: Bonnie and I suffered through a David Spade comedy stand-up routine at the turn of the century that wasn't remotely as entertaining.) Mike Shack's winning the opportunity drawing cash was, in movie screenplay terms, simply anti-climactic to all the other agenda items. Weren't there? You're missing out on one of the benefits of membership.

Where's Waldo?

Tech Day at Rocky's Miatamotive/Goodwin Racing was well-attended, and found many of us dealing with projects, questions, and socializing over breakfast items, and later, burgers to order. More importantly, your VP and I were both in attendance to address Carol Freeland's version of the question "Where's Waldo?" You can appreciate her first-ever newsletter submission elsewhere in this edition, along with her brazen

observation that none of SDMC's elected board members were part of the recent Borrego Springs run. Remaining true to my Ferris Bueller alter-ego, I have my excuses. Despite being an elected official, you can trust me on this - I would have preferred wandering the desert with the dozens of you that did, as opposed to being cooped-up in an Irvine training room.

Her e-mail interactions with me leading up to her journalistic effort commended her to the group of eleven loyal readers often referenced in the past. A decision not made lightly, my induction of Carol into the small cadre of Twists 'N Turns loyal readers makes it necessary to adjust that number upwards – now at 12. What that number lacks in symmetry, it makes up for in connection to our Gregorian calendar, our jury trial process (think “12 angry men”), and the nearly iconic dozen eggs and packaging protocol; let's not forget the significance of a dozen roses (or their value at Valentine's Day). You might even think of Carol as a “rose among thorns” when referring to this particular group.

Tech Daze – 2016

Hosted by Goodwin Racing and Rocky's Miata motive, the March, 2016 edition just past is the latest in a long string of Miata Tech Days. In movie terms, this latest sequel even surpasses the string of Sylvester Stallone versions of the non-mechanically inclined “Rocky” character. For those of you with exceptional memories, Walter “Rocky” Murphy also possesses an Oscar statue for his craft ... acting in many of our best interests and certainly grateful for your continued patronage.

Ironically, this Rocky was also raised and nurtured in the boxing ring of a gym. No, he's not fueling the Irish stereotype once popularized by Hollywood. His underlying “creed” involves helping enthusiasts accomplish their Miata projects with free “air time” and professional oversight; the “Tech Day” format offers peer assistance with the “busted-knuckle” stuff. Even prior to Andi and Brian Goodwin's culinary alliance with him, Larry Dennstedt and Rocky held slightly smaller versions of this event in the City Heights location.

Drones Need Not Apply

Where Greg Lee helped with event preparations and set-up his all-day video of the event (for any of you there needing an alibi, Greg advises the un-edited “master” is available for his usual fee), I swooped-in at nearly 9:00 AM and left at 2:30 PM – mythical “banker's hours.” Marc Daniels (some of you know him as “Haley's Dad”) outfitted his NB with new shocks all around; thanks in large part to Greg's assistance.

Where Mr. Lee (and others) assisted with various projects, I never lifted a wrench. I barely darkened a stall, except to corner our mechanical host and schedule some service on my Mazdaspeed. I did, however, chalk-up plenty of constructive conversations, even courted two new members; welcome Harvey Adrian and “Eddie” to our enthusiast fold. Within the space of 15 minutes, Harvey had explained his interest in his first-ever sports car (an OTSR – “other than Soul Red” ND) at the tender age of 72, and that his initial “Roadster Sport” muffler was actually too quiet; he sold it to opportunistic Alan Kagan, and promptly learned a few details about his new ride, courtesy of Alan's mentoring.

El Nino – welcome child or spoiled brat?

Travelling the rural interior of San Diego County leaves little doubt we're benefitting from the rainfall received the last few months, excluding the under-achiever that was February. The general greening-up of the landscape, and ahead of schedule, is much appreciated. Some credit for making a dent in our years-long drought goes to the weather pattern we call “El Nino.” While we appreciate the moisture, its accelerated delivery can be problematic. When roadways turn into creeks and rivers, the consequences can be lots of flood-damaged vehicles; the higher the water level, the more likely they'll be handled as “total losses.”



*Miatas are not to be confused with Amphibians
(credit Jalopnik.com)*

Working for a major auto insurance carrier, I've had plenty of exposure to this type of vehicle damage. The best general advice I can offer is "avoid driving into flooded areas, intersections or otherwise." Many vehicles draw their air (for the air/fuel mixture entering the air cleaner, intake manifold, and cylinders) through inlets and ducts sitting lower in the engine compartment than they should for even minor flooding conditions. Driving through such areas and drawing water into your engine has dramatic effects on engine internals, especially piston connecting rods.



Illustration of connecting rod damage (credit - <http://www.d-series.org/forums/dit>)

You see, water is neither combustible (liquid state), nor does it compress in the cylinders like the normal air/fuel charge that is supposed to be there. If you're thinking "something's gotta give," you're absolutely right; the resulting damage is called "hydrolock." Because there are so few technicians interested in re-building such engines, the alternative is a "short block" assembly – new or remanufactured, or a used engine assembly. If you're seeing dollar signs, that's an appropriate reaction.

Water/flood damage doesn't end there. There are other mechanical components and assemblies that don't appreciate being submerged- alternators, transmissions, differentials (breather tubes allow water ingestion and dilute the lubricants); power seat motors, window regulator motors, and especially computers and electronic pieces. The quantity and location of computers varies from vehicle to vehicle, just as the extent of damage varies from fresh to "brackish" water quality, and corrosion over time.

Unfortunately, many of the most vulnerable electronics are at/below the carpet level. Vehicle interiors usually suffer the most obvious flood damage – wet, dirty, and smelly carpets, padding, seat fabric, foam, etc. Leave a flooded car closed-up for a week or two and see for yourself – the resultant mold/mildew is hard to miss and the odor is horrific. Vehicles parked in certain low-lying areas or below-grade parking structures can suffer all of these damages, except "hydrolock," provided no one starts the engine before ensuring no water has made its way into the cylinders. Contact a professional under those circumstances, assuming you like your vehicle. Often times, the first thing a tow truck operator does is start the engine to drive it up on the flat bed. Oops.

“Like a Bridge ... Over Troubled Water”

General rule: when the water level reaches the bottom of the dash/instrument panel, the vehicle is handled as a total loss. Experience has taught us that repair costs (and vehicle owner grief) short- and long-term, often approach and exceed the total loss threshold. An economic formula, it considers the following: known cost of repairs, anticipated additional repairs (supplement), vehicle's current retail value and the expected salvage value. Here's my next piece of advice: you should always be wary of vehicles with a “salvage” title; especially in the wake of serious floods, even those in other parts of the country. The potential profit in buying “flood loss” vehicles and cleaning/treating the exposed surfaces seems too great a temptation for some. It's akin to putting “lipstick on a pig”... it was never meant to be a compliment.

Same warning applies to collision-damaged vehicles, with the additional concerns for structural integrity and working SRS components. Note that I didn't say “do not buy a salvage vehicle,” rather know precisely what you are getting into. CarFax® reports are no guarantee, “laundered” titles are still a potential pitfall, and “curbstoners” are out there, sometimes preying on the unsuspecting. Another general rule - “caveat emptor.” It's Latin for “buyer beware” and it definitely applies to our purchasing of used cars. If there's interest, we can discuss some of these topics further.

Shoulder Bolts



Better Lucky Than Good?

“Genius: one percent inspiration and 99 percent perspiration.” ~ Thomas Alva Edison

This bit of wisdom from *Car & Driver* Editor Aaron Robinson can be found in his February, 2016 column “Mazda Swings by Some Lucky Threads.” In it he explains that a recent long-distance drive in a new CX-3 evidences Mazda's “driver” orientation and independent thinking. It's the *little* car company that could.

How little? The only other remaining Japanese automakers with smaller market share are Isuzu and Subaru; and Subaru is closing the gap. Here's the link if you want to read his remarks in full:

<http://www.caranddriver.com/columns/mazda-has-been-shrewd-but-its-also-been-lucky-column>

Car-to-car communication ... “I Just Called to Say ...”

You might have heard about “car-to-car” communications for the last few years, even in the pages of my column from time to time. It's part of the underling software capabilities allowing autonomous vehicles to navigate the highways and byways. Just as internet giant Google is one of the purveyors of this software, they have now patented an “autonomous car-to-pedestrian communication system.”

It probably doesn't take much imagination (I *am* qualified, after all) to identify some potential conversations:

- Rolls Royce to shopper on Rodeo Drive – “Pardon me, do you have any Grey Poupon?”
 - o “You've got GPS and computer access ... look it up!”
- Fiat 500 to bystanders during a heavy downpour – “I'm wading into the intersection here. You wanna yield the right of way, buddy?”
 - o Hey, aren't you part of the family that swam from Europe to the US? Deal with it, Luigi!
- Future Smart car to high school drop-out – “Never mind.”
- Muscle car to slow-moving teen pedestrian in in the crosswalk – “Hey, let's move it. Grandma was slow, but she was old.”

- Miata ND to Weight Watchers counselor – Mazda reduced my weight by 165 pounds from the previous generation, without changing *my* diet.
- Future CHP vehicle to many of our Miatas – “Hey, where’s your front license plate? I’m gonna tell!”
- Since “Knight Rider” television star “Kit” largely invented this style of communication, can you imagine *his* comments to bystanders? “I’m so glad the Germans love David Hasselhoff; we rarely do appearances anymore. Back in the day (original series ran from 1982-1986), I had to do the acting for both of us.”

Essential Automotive Elements – Will there be a Pop Quiz?

Doing the research for my column, (it could happen), I ran across this clever concept in the 2011 archives of *Car & Driver* magazine. Their introductory paragraph – below, does a pretty good job of explaining the concept. Those among us even remotely familiar with the periodic table (Hint: it has nothing to do with how babies are made; I asked) know the atomic symbol for gold is *Au*, element number 79 on the chart; and now occupied by the Viper. It will take plenty of “*Au*” to keep that vehicle fueled and road-worthy. The Miata takes its place at the table in chair # 83, outlined in red (What else?). Precious, yes, but not expensive.

FEATURE



A periodic tablet organizes elements by weight; our table aims to weigh the elements of a sports car. Like Mendeleev's famous chart, the sports cars here are grouped according to their physical properties (see colors below). Specific years aren't mentioned (i.e., Porsche 911, because all 911s are isotopes of each other). Oh, and if yours isn't on here, sorry—there is room for only 118.

1 L Lexus	2 Ar Acura
3 Fe Ferrari	4 Ab Aston Martin
5 Bp Bentley	6 Tr Toyota
7 Vw Volkswagen	8 J Jaguar
9 Nf Nissan	10 D Dodge
11 P Porsche	12 E Eagle
13 Pb Porsche	14 Jx Jaguar
15 Fi Ferrari	16 O Olivetti
17 V Viper	18 Y Yamaha
19 Ji Jaguar	20 Vn Volkswagen
21 Sx Subaru	22 K Koenigsegg
23 Cc Caterham	24 Pz Porsche
25 G Gallardo	26 Ct Caterham
27 Ua Uhlenhaut	28 Bs Bentley
29 Fu Ferrari	30 Wm Wendell
31 N Nissan	32 M Mazda
33 R Rolls Royce	34 S Suzuki
35 Mt Mazda	36 Ms Mazda
37 B BMW	38 Wo Wendell
39 Mg Mazda	40 Bm BMW
41 Ss Subaru	42 T Toyota
43 Ca Caterham	44 Br BMW
45 Re Rolls Royce	46 Hf Honda
47 Ff Ferrari	48 La Lexus
49 Cf Caterham	50 Ez Eagle
51 Mr Mazda	52 Xi Xenon
53 Q Quattro	54 Ez Eagle
55 Rs Rolls Royce	56 Bu BMW
57 Fi Ferrari	58 O Olivetti
59 Gi Gallardo	60 Cb Caterham
61 Sp Subaru	62 Di Dodge
63 Fx Ferrari	64 Bb BMW
65 Pi Porsche	66 Lj Lexus
67 Au Audi	68 Cv Caterham
69 X Xenon	70 Mo Mazda
71 It Itasca	72 N Nissan
73 V Viper	74 Y Yamaha
75 Ji Jaguar	76 Vn Volkswagen
77 Sx Subaru	78 K Koenigsegg
79 Cc Caterham	80 Pz Porsche
81 G Gallardo	82 Ct Caterham
83 Ua Uhlenhaut	84 Bs Bentley
85 Fu Ferrari	86 Wm Wendell
87 N Nissan	88 M Mazda
89 R Rolls Royce	90 S Subaru
91 Mt Mazda	92 Ms Mazda
93 B BMW	94 Wo Wendell
95 Mg Mazda	96 Bm BMW
97 Ss Subaru	98 T Toyota
99 Ca Caterham	100 Br BMW
101 Re Rolls Royce	102 Hf Honda
103 Ff Ferrari	104 La Lexus
105 Cf Caterham	106 Ez Eagle
107 Mr Mazda	108 Xi Xenon
109 Q Quattro	110 Ez Eagle
111 Rs Rolls Royce	112 Bu BMW



image courtesy of MazdaRoadster.Net / Sorely in need of Thompson Automotive's disappearing license plate bracket

Stay sharp, stay engaged ... stay attractive, San Diego Mata Club! ■

BORREGO - SCULPTURES & WILDFLOWERS RUN

CAROL FREELAND

On Saturday, February 27, drivers of 24 cars, along with their passengers, met at the North County Fair parking lot to depart for Borrego Springs and Palomar Mountain with a stop for lunch at hotel La Casa del Zorro in Borrego Springs.

At 9:12 a.m., members were shuffling from foot to foot and asking who was leading the run. By 9:15 a.m. it became obvious as Ken Hurd arrived with a stack of Village Guides to Borrego Springs to hand out to the group assembled. Thank you Ken for this useful 72-page guide to the area. I bet you never thought one could prepare a booklet of 72 pages about Borrego Springs, but it has been done by the Chamber of Commerce there and done well. Ken is so thorough, the book even had a turned down page corner to take you directly to the Sky Art Map giving the locations of the metal sculptures created by Ricardo Broceda and placed throughout the desert in Borrego. Keep this in mind if you do visit Borrego Springs as you will easily be able to find all the sculptures using this map.



If there were wildflowers blooming in the backcountry they were not visible from the road, but the glorious warm sunny day made up for any disappointment about the wildflowers. Many participants mentioned they had never seen the backcountry as lush and green as it was due to recent rains. There were not too many OTM's in our path but there were many motorcycles on the road and the sweep Steve and Laurie Waid did a great job warning us about traffic.



The group arrived at Dudley's Bakery in Santa Ysabel for a comfort stop and found the usual suspects in the parking lot, mainly Harley Davidson motorcycle riders. Some of us sampled the famous (or infamous 270 calorie per cookie) Raisin, Ginger & Molasses fruit bars. The package says for kids of ALL ages so we had to try some of those. Delicious. It would have been even better to have access to a microwave and then add vanilla or cinnamon ice cream to them but that will have to wait until returning home.

Making a left on Highway 79 from Dudley's, the landscape was still lush green as we continued descending to the desert floor enjoying the views all the way to the Salton Sea.



Ken and Stacy led us on a tour of the metal sculptures which include renderings of many familiar animals, as well as some now extinct. The list includes giant tortoise, tapir, saber tooth, elephant, sloth, mammoth, bighorn sheep and an occasional human being. The 1946 Willys Jeep was a favorite as it balanced with the front wheels on a rock while keeping the rear wheels on the ground. (No Miatas were represented among these sculptures).

We continued on to La Casa del Zorro for lunch and realized a few cars had not made the exit at the roundabout at Christmas Circle which takes them to the hotel. Nothing to do but queue up and wait a few minutes for them while our faithful sweep rounded them up. Lunch conversation included questions about the whereabouts of elected San Diego Miata Club Board members who were missing in action on this run.

The hotel was ready for our large group and we were served promptly and enjoyed the food and drink there. After lunch, many of the group continued on to Palomar Mountain before returning to our starting point at North County Fair.

Thank you Ken and Stacy for leading such a pleasant and edifying run to the Anza Borrego desert and Palomar Mountain. ■



Photos courtesy of Ken Hurd



San Diego Miata Club

www.SanDiegoMiataClub.org

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL APPLICATION

All SDMC memberships expire on December 31st of each year; we hope you will elect to continue participating in your Club. Please use this application for renewal, **PRINTING CLEARLY**, and thank you for renewing promptly.

Option: If no changes to your information, check here ☐ -- complete Name(s) and Signature(s).

Member's Name: _____ Birthday (Mo/Day): ____/____ [optional]

Mailing address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP Code: _____ - _____

Primary phone:** _____ Alternate phone: _____

Email address: _____

Copilot's Name: _____ Birthday (Mo/Day): ____/____ [optional]

☐ Check here if phone numbers/email are same as Member's above [or complete the following as applicable]

Primary phone:** _____ Alternate phone: _____

Email address: _____

Miata Information:

Year: _____ Color: _____ License Plate: _____

Special / Limited Model? ☐ Special Edition ☐ Anniversary Edition ☐ Limited Edition ☐ Launch Edition


☐ Mazdaspeed ☐ M Edition ☐ PRHT ☐ Shinzen ☐ Other (specify) _____

Club Membership Roster is maintained on the SDMC-List Yahoo! Groups website; access is limited to active (current) members who have requested to join the SDMC-List. The roster includes the following member information:

Member & Copilot names, member email address, primary phone**, city, vehicle year and color, and license plate.

** ☐ Check here if you do not want your phone numbers listed on the roster or released to Club members.

Club's newsletter, *Twists & Turns*, is published monthly and is normally available around the first of each month. All members can download current and past issues from the club's website (see top of page) for easy viewing. Posting of the newsletter is announced on SDMC-List and via email.

☐ Check here if you prefer to receive a hardcopy newsletter via U.S. Postal Service. 

Release Statement (must be signed): I wish to participate in activities and events organized by the San Diego Miata Club. In consideration of the right and privilege to enter and participate in these events, I hereby agree to release the San Diego Miata Club, its officers, organizers, members, sponsors, and vendors from any and all liability for injury, damages, or loss arising from my participation and attendance in any Club activity. (If spouse or significant other is applying for membership, they must also sign.)

Signed (Member): _____ Date: _____

Signed (Copilot): _____ Date: _____

Please return this signed application with \$35.00 check to:

SAN DIEGO MIATA CLUB
PO BOX 180456
CORONADO CA 92178-0456

Questions? Membership@SanDiegoMiataClub.org

Rev: 17 Nov 2015

Upcoming Events

Saturday, March 5 - Tech Day at Rocky's

Time: 8:00 Am to 4:00 PM

LOCATION: ROCKY'S MIATOMOTIVE, 2951 Garnet Ave., San Diego, CA 92109 (Pacific Beach) (858) 273-2547

Bring that project you have always wanted to do on your car. Rocky will offer advice, tools and encouragement. Bring a few dollars to chip in for lunch and drinks.

If your project requires the hoist or you are planning something special, please let Rocky know in advance so arrangements can be made to accommodate you, **ESPECIALLY IF YOU NEED A LIFT**. This is a popular event, so make your requests known in advance.

There will be coffee, snacks, BBQ lunch at noon, and a raffle so bring some cash with you. Also, bring a folding chair to hang out with the group.

Thanks Rocky for this wonderful opportunity!

Saturday, March 12 - Petersen Automotive Museum/Train Ride - Postponed

Time: 8:00 Am to 4:00 PM

This event will be rescheduled do to Jeff's celebration of Life Service.

Contact Les Smith (858-682-6072) for more information.

Celebration of Life Service for Jeff Frederick

Time: 10:00 AM Mar 12, 2016

Location: The church address is 1087 W. Country Club Lane, Escondido, CA

Jeff's Celebration of Life service will be held at 10:00AM on Saturday, March 12. The location is the Family Life Center at the Gloria Dei Lutheran Church in Escondido. John Lord will be officiating the Celebration of Life service. All attendees are welcome to attend a reception at the church immediately following the service.

"BACK TO THE '80s" SIXTH Annual Fundraiser for Gregg's Goals Fundraiser:

On March 19 of this year, a group of SDMC members will once again join the Garon family and others for a fun event. .that raises money for college scholarships for young people. Due to the earlier date, this year's fundraiser will be at the Booze Brothers, a brewery in Vista (instead of in the Garon's home and backyard).

Who: Everyone is invited, no children please.

What: Fundraiser for Gregg's Goals, a 501c non-profit.

How much again?: \$35.00/person Mar 7 or before; \$40.00/person after March 7.

You may pay by: Visiting the website: www.wwggd.org and "clicking" on the PayPal donate button on the first page (you can use PayPal or credit cards), or Pay via PayPal, email: wwggd68@yahoo.com Send a check to: Gregg's Goals, 1843 Da Gama Ct., Escondido, CA 92026

Give cash or check to Dennis (or Laurie Waid) at the next SDMC meeting. Contact the Garons at email

These events need reservations: See calendar for details.

SDMC RESERVED Meguiar's Detailing 101 Class

April 23, 6:45 AM - 3:45 PM

See the events calendar for details.

Spring Fling 2 - SOCALM Event

May 20-22, 2016

Flyin' Miata Summer Camp

August 3-7

We're looking for volunteers to lead a run or be in charge of a special event for the months of March and beyond. This is a great opportunity for someone to earn their magnetics or, for experienced run leaders, to lead us on new Miata roads to your favorite locations. Really need more runs/events down the road - they are rather far and few between for the next few months.

Dan Garcia

SDMC Events Coordinator

SDMC Officers



President
Gene Streeter



Vice - President
Greg Lee



Treasurer
Dennis Sullivan



Secretary
Jon Connor

Executive Board

President - Gene Streeter
760-445-2860 president@sandiegomiataclub.org
Vice President - Greg Lee
 vicepresident@sandiegomiataclub.org
Treasurer - Dennis Sullivan
 treasurer@sandiegomiataclub.org
Secretary - Jon Connor
760-458-4503 secretary@sandiegomiataclub.org

Administrative Board

Membership - Chris and Linda Jones
 membership@sandiegomiataclub.org
Events Coordinator - Dan Garcia
 events@sandiegomiataclub.org
Club E-Mail - Bob Kleemann
619-501-9776 postmaster@sandiegomiataclub.org
Webmaster - Dan Garcia
 webmaster@sandiegomiataclub.org
Club Regalia - Steve & Laurie Waid
760-432-0727 regalia@sandiegomiataclub.org
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Contact SDMC

The Web

www.sandiegomiataclub.org

Mail

San Diego Miata Club
P.O. Box 180456
Coronado, CA 92178-0456

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 Wednesday.** We meet at The Hamburger Factory Family Restaurant, 14122 Midland Road, Poway, CA 92064. To contact the restaurant, call (858) 486-4575. 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: **Thursday, March 24th**

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? You can now order them on-line from fellow Miata enthusiast, Joe Portas – the KnobMeister. The .pdf order form is available on our SDMC website. These popular magnetic badges are priced at \$6 each, plus shipping.

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

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%

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

Langka Corp. Guaranteed paint chip 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 SDMC 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.

Stuart Terry Auto Specializing in Miata A/C problems (and recommended by Rocky's Miatomotive) 4858 El Cajon Blvd. San Diego, CA 92115 (619) 287-9626 – ask for Stuart 10% Discount on Parts & Labor (maximum of \$50 off)

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.

U Fix It Automotive. Open to anyone that wants to work on a car. 6 bays, 5 lifts, and tools, Rent by the hour, day or multi-day. Contact Joel Muoz, 760.544.6181. 10% SDMC discount.

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). 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.

Miata hardtop, excellent condition, from a candy apple red '92 Miata. \$500.00 ronshort2@yahoo.com

1994 Mazda Miata MX-5 \$4,000, CLEAN TITLE. NO ACCIDENTS. ORIGINAL ENGINE. WORKING A/C. NEW ROOF. PRISTINE INTERIOR. LOADS OF UPGRADES AND ENHANCEMENTS. Contact Janice Cain for more info. 858-999-7419 (phone or text)

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