



TWISTS

&

URNS

The newsletter of the San Diego Miata

August 2016

Miatas at the Fair 2016

As related to Les Smith by 93NOIR:

93NOIR Does the San Diego County Fair A Fair So Nice I Went There Twice!

Miatas at the Fair is among those annual club events we Miatas all look forward to, and hope our drivers will pencil into their calendars as tentative dates to save. Whether you're a human or vehicle, I cannot imagine a convenient way to attend the San Diego County Fair than participating in this event.

I have always enjoyed attending car shows, graciously accepting people's "oohs and ahs" in my younger days as they admired my flowing lines, soft curves and shiny surface. However, my 23 years have taken their toll and I was reluctant to make a public appearance. But I pulled up my big-car pants, cleaned up as best I could, and gave it my best shot.

What was required of me was to be driven to a meeting spot near the Fairgrounds by 9:00 am and to commit to remaining on display until 3:00 pm. The group caravanned the short distance to a Fair gate, and was then directed to the display area prior to the Fair's opening; we were photographed individually before taking our places along a major foot-traffic corridor within the Fair itself.

MATF drivers had access to us throughout the day. Les packed a cooler and some lunch, and had a place to store all those teddy bears he won in the games of chance along the Midway.

Typically, two car clubs are paired each day of the Fair, dividing the 16 slots. San Diego Miata Club's history of strong participation in past years, coupled with the Fair's month-long schedule, again resulted in other Miatas and me being invited for two of these days: June 23 and June 29. The San Diego County Fair was an event so nice I went twice ... and have the pictures to prove it!

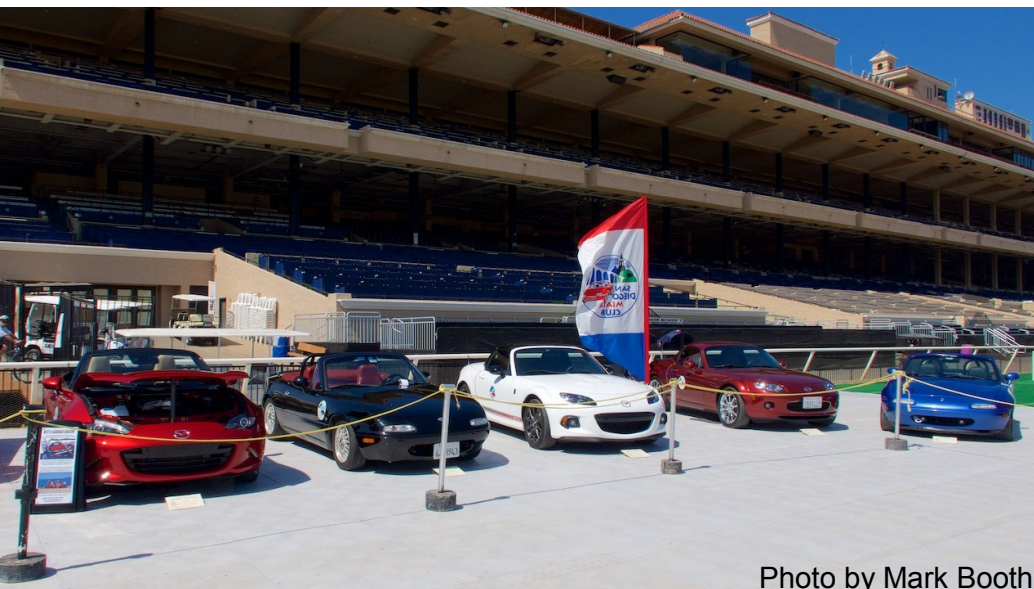


Photo by Mark Booth

That first day we were paired with the Poway Cruisers. Among them was a '62 Cadillac convertible:

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UTAH BECKONS FOR MANY

Steve Waid

Miatas were everywhere, or so it seemed, as SDMC members met in Deer Valley, Utah, a part of Park City, where others from Miata Clubs across the country gathered. The event was called Miata Mountain Getaway, and mountains and pine trees were everywhere.

The Utah Miata Club hosted this event after they attended our own Surf 'N' Safari in October of 2015. The Utah Club has been hosting events for a number of years now. They started by doing the Fall Leaf Run and then Miatas in Moab for several years and changed in 2014 to Bryce Canyon and now the mountains of Park City and other mountains nearby.

SOMETIMES MORE IS MORE

Since we went on our first Miata road trip in 2000 which happened to include the Utah Miata Club's Fall Leaf Run, we have found that most of them take us to a destination that surrounds a Miata event, such as Miata Mountain Getaway this year. These destinations have enticed us to find a different route home, and therefore expose ourselves to more of our vast and beautiful country.

At the Greg's Goals Fundraiser in 2015 Laurie and I teamed up with the Bristols and the Fredericks to bid on a silent auction 3 day stay at a 3 bedroom house in Sunriver, Oregon. We won but had not decided when we would take up the opportunity. When the trip to Utah came up in 2016 we jumped on the idea of using it as a way to travel North and then across to Dear Valley. Jan gave the Mills the third that she owned, so we had a threesome... three couples anyway.

Our route took us up Highway 395 to Bishop for the first night. We continued north and took a side trip to Lake Tahoe for lunch before landing in Reno for the second night. We took off toward Sunriver early on the third day with Neal Mills leading us down a "special road" that Daryled and Neal had found on the map of Oregon. According to Daryled, Highway 28 was on his map. After this adventure Grace Mills referred to it as the "Highway to Hell". Our GPS did not recognize it until Laurie finally explained to "the



bitch in the box" that it was OK to go on unpaved roads.

Upon entering the road, Neal first ignored the "road closed in 3 miles" sign and forged ahead. At three miles, the Road Closed sign was pushed out of the way (not by Neal), but this was considered by our leader to be a good sign. My Mantra for the next hour and a half was, "I will follow Neal anywhere, no matter how many U-turns he makes. When we finally came to the "junction" to another highway, the "town" there consisted of 4 people and a dog. Fortunately the rest of the trip was on paved roads, mostly.

The house in Sunriver was spacious and well appointed. We settled in almost immediately. As a steady follower of Sheldon Cooper on Big Bang Theory, I immediately suggested that we create a "bowel movement schedule" for convenient use of the 3 bathrooms. There is always a little awkwardness when you share a house with two other couples with whom you have never lived before. I have to say, that the awkwardness ended fairly quickly as Daryled took over possession of the TV remote.

On Monday morning, June 26th, we headed east toward our destination. With one stop in Meridian, Idaho near Boise, we were on schedule to arrive a day early at the host hotel in Dear Valley.

WHAT DO YOU MEAN IT'S OUT OF SEASON?

We exited Interstate 40 and headed toward Park City. I had never been there before, so everywhere I looked was a new adventure. What was immedi-

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ately apparent were the ski slopes and chair lifts on virtually all of the mountains around us. We continued back and up until we reached our new home away from home, the Chateau Resort. It was unlike what I expected.

Because this resort was built to cater to the ski crowd, it was out of season. The restaurant in the hotel was only open 4 days a week, and Tuesday was not one of them. Very difficult to describe, but the parking structure was in the middle of the resort. The entrance to the Lobby was from the top level of the covered parking structure as to protect everyone from the non-existent snow.

Once we finally “got the lay of the land” we found that for a car event, the covered parking that was in the center allowed for elevators to transport us from our cars to the building and floor where our room was. The top of the parking structure was a giant patio deck with fire rings, chairs, games and a pool for outdoor relaxation. We had one evening of sitting around the fire ring and socializing with almost everyone from San Diego.

After two days, I think that all of us settled into the routine of driving to a restaurant for dinner. Groups varied from 7 couples to as few as one. Once you figure out how to get around, it really starts to feel simple, even though it is out of season.

WELL AFTER ALL, IT IS A SKI RESORT

The Utah Miata Club had planned guided runs for Friday, and made available self-guided run directions for Wednesday and Thursday. But what this really meant is that we had a lot of free time to meet new friends and explore the area.

Judy Hunt, who happens to enjoy skiing, was very familiar with Park City and therefore became some-



Photo by Ken Hurd

one who gave suggestions of what to do. On Thursday after taking a self-guided run, Judy suggested that we visit the Park City Olympic Park and Village.

As a reminder, Salt Lake City hosted the 2002 Olympic Winter Games, and Park City was the venue for Bobsledding and Ski Jumping. Not one familiar to these activities, I assumed that to participate in these sports, snow would be required. Not so! The Park City Olympic facilities are the most heavily used in the world for Bobsled, luge, skeletons, acrobatic ski jumping, and ski jumping (for distance). This is used year round. Who needs snow and ice anyway.

Acrobatic ski jumpers land in a large pool. Bobsled, luge, and skeletons use a bobsled course made of concrete. Ski Jumping uses some kind of “synthetic stuff” (a technical term) on the jump itself and the landing area. Anyway, for \$5 you get a bus tour of the entire area, with lots of activity going on so that we could see bobsleds and acrobatic skiers in action. Who knew? Judy did.

TOM MATANO IS NOW AN ENTERTAINER

Miata legend, Tom Matano, showed up late to the Group Photo and Car Show location due to travel issues that slowed him down, but when he arrived he began signing cars. I do not know how he can stand upright after signing an estimated 75 Miatas on the inside of the trunk lid.

Good friend of mine, Jim Wangers, Godfather of the GTO, told me just yesterday that at age 90, he no longer signs the trunk lids. He will do visors and glove box lids if they are off of the car and brought to him at a signing table. Well, at least Tom won't have to worry about signing glove box lids in the future.

Saturday night Tom was the speaker after dinner. Because the Miata is established as a legendary car

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Photo by Mark Booth

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already, Tom is now able to settle in and relate personal stories and anecdotes about the Miata. He seems more relaxed, because he no longer has to "sell the car".

His personal professional timeline going from Japan to L.A. to Detroit to Australia, to Germany, and back to L.A. created some fun recollections on his part. While in Detroit for only one year, Tom designed the grill for the 1977 Oldsmobile. Look it up.

Because Mazda had decided to design the Miata for the United States, Tom related how the cultural differences between the Japanese engineers and the United States customer kept him busy trying to fix some potential issues. Amongst several examples, the one that seemed the most relevant to our trip was the size of the gas tank. Japan is a relatively small country as we all know. Long trips just don't happen. Therefore, the engineers did not make very large gas tanks. So Tom asked several of the engineers to come to L.A. for some road tests. What Tom asked them to do was take some pre-designed road trips (laid out by him) and give him some feedback. Every one of them described how they had to stop for gas before they needed a rest stop or food. It became annoying to them. The result was that the engineers increased the fuel capacity by 2 gallons.

Did you know that over 70% of American husbands sleep on the right side of the bed? In Japan it is just the opposite. I don't think this little tidbit had anything to do with the design of the Miata, but he sure made it into a funny anecdote.

SDMC RULED THE EVENT

As was revealed at the Saturday Banquet, San Diego was represented by 30 members. More than any others! Ken Hurd and Mark Booth teamed up to lead the largest single group from San Diego. In addition to our three cars that went to Sunriver, there were a few single cars that made the trip on their own.

Mark Booth led the largest group home after the event, but others again decided to use the time to see some other roads and visit friends. All in all, it was a great time.

Now we wait for the next opportunity. Oh, I forgot. There are a few of us heading to Grand Junction, Colorado in another month to experience the Flyin' Miata Summer Camp. The Fun never stops.

Another route to Utah...

Daryled Bristol

A few years back a few of us (SDMC) bid on a cabin in Sunriver Oregon at the Garon's fund raiser. This year we made plans to use the time on our way to the Utah Miata Club gathering. The Waids, the Fredericks, and us (the Bristols). Due to conditions beyond anyone's control the Mills replaced the Fredericks.

Bright and early (for us) on June 15th we headed out. First stop...The Waid's Palatial Escondido Palace. Our first casualty was dead ahead in the Waids' driveway. Someone had left the

power on the Miata overnight and the battery was dead as a doornail. I won't get into detail here but it was definitely a unique situation (what would you expect). After a quick jump and comfort stops we were on our way. North to the 215 and on to the Summit inn. Breakfast behind us we hit Kramer Junction for our first fuel stop and then on to Bishop for our first overnight. Bishop was busy as the Western High School Rodeo Championships were being held. Glad we made reservations well in advance. Dinner at the Bowling Alley, laugh if you must but if you travel that way I/we can highly recommend it. Next morning it was gas and go on our way to Reno, the plan was 395 all the way to Oregon. Overnight at the Reno Best Western Airport Inn. Nice digs but no free breakfast. Again it is up and at 'em on our way to Oregon. During my down time between trips to Arkansas and this one I had discovered a little traveled route just north of the Oregon Border that paralleled that old boring 395 interstate and using Google Earth Street View it seemed to be a good alternative, yellow line and all. Well let me jump ahead and just say I think I have to have shirts made up "We survived Route 28" for the group. Another great adventure some members will never know but we do. Finally we emerge at civilization and make use of the "little Blue House on the Prairie". 45 minutes later (more or less) we arrive at Sun River Oregon. Our Cabin is ready and so are we....to be continued...



Carlann Bristol at an overlook of the Snake River.

Photo by Daryled Bristol

Utah Adventures

With about 30 of our members at Utah Miata Club's **Miata Mountain Getaway in Deer Valley, Ut**, we had lots of photo ops in beautiful ski country, enjoying lots of green and lots of water, something we miss here in Southern California!



Photo by John DeGrazia



Photo by Ken Hurd



Photo by Ken Hurd



Photo by Ken Hurd

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black with a red leather interior. Sound familiar? I felt as if I were looking at myself overdosed on steroids! Plus all that chrome bling! Black is more than a color; it's a commitment ... one that is over-the-top in that case.

Other SDMC members showing June 23 were our leaders Dan and Chris Garcia, Phil Daoust, Wally Stephens and Sandy Bagnall, Jon Dingee, Bradley Kuller, Gene and Bonnie Streeter and David Randle. Stanchions and Fair guards kept the constant flow of passers-by at a comfortable distance; the rule of "pretty to look at but HANDS OFF" protected each of us from their unwelcomed, groping hands.

At 3:00 pm our drivers gathered for announcement of that day's Peoples Choice Award; surprisingly, the Cadillac lost out to a Nomad! Our Fair-themed, foam core portraits were distributed, then we departed. Drivers who chose to remain at the Fair moved their rides to a nearby parking lot; again, you can't beat that for convenience!

The SDMC banner flew high both that day and again the following Wednesday when we were paired with a pack of Classic Chevys. You know, I began going braless a couple of years ago ... and am comfortable with all that ... but what about those '57 Chevys! Are those super-sharp tail fins real? Chevys

had nicely-rounded rear panels during the '55 and '56 model years, then out of nowhere popped those fins like magic! It's so obvious a "fin job" was performed at GM as that famous design cycle's third year.

With a number of vehicles and their drivers on the road in Utah and elsewhere in late June, I was able to make an encore appearance on our club's second day at the Fair. Mark & Cathy Booth's and Alan Kagan's NDs book-ended a nice selection of NAs and NCs driven by Jan Frederick joined by Diane Foster, Jon & Melissa Connor, Chuck and Diane Graham, Bill Bennett, Barry Kershaw joined by Nancee, and David Pelsue in addition to Les.

Funny how those worries about my age and blemishes quickly evaporated despite being with a mostly-younger crowd of Miatas; you can't beat our club's fellowship and good times. A beautiful red and white, and finless, '56 Chevy won the Peoples Choice award that day; good taste prevailed in my opinion. And I scored a second picture!

Again, being one of the Miatas at the Fair is the height of convenience when attending the San Diego County Fair. Anticipating that the invitation will be extended again next year, encourage your driver to pencil in this activity for next June and await the Club's announcement to sign-up! And besides, it's another opportunity to be cleaned up and dressed up.



Photo by Mark Booth

Don't forget to check the website calendar for the latest in Events information. If you don't check it, you may miss out!

Some Dates to Save in the coming months:

Coronado Speed Festival	September 17 & 18
Planes, Trains and Automobiles (An overnight trip to Nethercutt Museum and the Ronald Reagan Library)	November 12 & 13
SDMC Annual Meeting Entertainment and Election of Officers	November 19 San Diego Auto Museum, Balboa Park

Shhhhh.

Are you really reading the newsletter? Here's your challenge. Quietly bring me a picture of your car at the next meeting and you will win a prize. One per car.



Your newsletter team is attempting to find out who really reads the newsletter. Questions will be asked about the content and prizes given at the August monthly meeting.

Classifieds

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 **swaid@cox.net**. Ads will run for four months unless canceled,

For Sale: 1996 CLASSIC 'M' EDITION MIATA. For sale automatic with only 38,000 miles like new cond with hard top, & many extras. Its a beauty. 760-942-7044 barry.k@sbcglobal.net

For sale: Nearly new Roadstersport Race exhaust for NC and glass-pack baffle, \$120.00. Roland Soule, (858) 404-4375 soulesantee@aol.com



August 2016 Events

		TIME	LOCATION	WHO TO CONTACT?
JULY 26	TACO TUESDAY AT THE DIAMOND	4:30 PM	'TOWER' PARKING LOT AT THE CORNER OF YNEZ AND RANCHO CALIFORNIA JUST EAST OF THE I-15.	JON CONNOR
JULY 28	MONTHLY MEETING	6 PM EAT 7 PM MTG	OLD POWAY HAMBURGER FACTORY	PRESIDENT GENE STREETER
JULY 29	MOVIE NIGHT AT THE SAN DIEGO AUTO MUSEUM "THELMA & LOUISE"	8 PM	SAN DIEGO AUTOMOTIVE MUSEUM, BALBOA PARK	STEVE WAID 760.715.7850
JULY 31	MAIN STREET AMERICA CAR SHOW	9 AM	EMBARCADARO PARK SAN DIEGO HARBOR	CRAIG MOYA
AUG 3-6	FLYIN' MIATA SUMMER CAMP	ALL DAY ACTIVITIES	FLYIN' MIATA, GRAND JUNCTON CO.	GENE STREETER
AUG 5	CRUISIN' GRAND ESCONDIDO	6 PM EAT 7 PM CRUISE	MEET AT TOM'S 2ND & CENTER CITY PKWAY ESCONDIDO CA	DENNIS GARON
AUG 5	MOVIE NIGHT AT THE SAN DIEGO AUTO MUSEUM "ALMOST FAMOUS"	8 PM	SAN DIEGO AUTOMOTIVE MUSEUM, BALBOA PARK	STEVE WAID 760.715.7850
AUG 6	GREATEST SHOW ON TURF CAR SHOW	7:30 TO 3:30	SOUTH CLAIREMONT PARK 3605 CLAIREMONT DRIVE, SAN DIEGO, CA 92117, USA	DAN GARCIA
AUG 13	TECH DAY AT ROCKY'S AND GOOD-WIN RACING	7 AM	2951 GARNET AVE. SAN DIEGO 92109	ROCKY OR BRIAN 858.273.2547
AUG 13	MOON OVER MIATAS	TBD BASED ON MOONRISE	TO BE ANNOUNCED	JOHN LORD
AUG 14	MARCONI AUTOMOTIVE MUSEUM RUN	9 AM TO 3 PM	TO BE DETERMINED—CHECK THE SDMC WEBSITE CALENDAR FOR UPDATES	JON CONNOR
AUG 20	SDMC ANNUAL PICNIC	2 PM TO 6 PM	DAVE & PAM HUNT'S	PAM HUNT (RESERVATIONS REQUIRED BY AUG 8)
AUG 25	SDMC MONTHLY MEETING	6 PM EAT 7 PM MTG	OLD POWAY HAMBURGER FACTORY	GREG LEE, VP

Membership Info

Welcome to our newest members...

Brian & Linda Josefowski	Fallbrook	2006 Nordic Green Mica
Harvey Adrian & Anthony Lamonea	San Marcos	2016 Ceramic Metallic
Lynn Nolan	San Diego	2016 Chrystal White Pearl
Michael & Silvia Lenth	San Diego	2016 Meteor Gray
David Randle & Darlene O'Brien	Valley Center	2001 British Racing Green
Rulon Jenson & Jagjit Lidder	San Diego	2016 Soul Red Metallic
David & Susan McColl	San Diego	2016 Ceramic Metallic
Luis & Nathalie Ramirez	San Diego	2001 Metallic Turquoise [custom]
Gene & Mikkie Sawyer	San Marcos	2009 Competition Yellow
Steven & Leslee Newton-Reed	La Mesa	1992 Crystal White
Richard Taylor & Debbie Ketaily	Poway	1993 Crystal White
Stacey Turner-Gonzales & Ruben Gonzales	La Mesa	2015 Chrystal White Pearl

SDMC has 144 memberships (31 single, 113 dual) for a total of 257 members.

Have you moved recently? New primary phone number or email provider? Swapped out for a newer Miata or finally got those vanity plates from DMV? Please let us know so we can keep our database current. Just send an email with the updated info to Membership@SanDiegoMiataClub.org.

Chris & Linda
SDMC Membership



Members relaxing by the fire at the Chateau at Deer Valley, Utah. L to R: Carlann & Daryled Bristol, Judy Hunt, Glenda and Wayne Johnson, Jan Frederick.

Rear View Mirror

Gene Streeter

Life Has Its Ups and Downs

So say members Ed Grant and Chloe Oswald It would have been difficult to pick a warmer day for this exploration of De Luz and the Fallbrook area. It was hot. Just how hot was it? Encouraged by several (well, maybe just one) members at June's monthly meeting, I shared a short list of examples ... jokes, actually. Some would have said that to qualify as such, they should at least be funny. Here's my best effort: "it was so hot ... that Madonna is updating her career-defining hit from the early 1980s – Like a Virga." I overheard Phyllis Lord offer up explanations to combat the "huhs?" she overheard nearby. Thank you, (Mrs.) Lord.

Aptly named the "Uphill/Downhill Run," participants readily drew comparisons between this run and the "Who Knew" run executed by Daryled and Carlann Bristol for Surf 'N Safari, 2015 and Pete Pollero – twice. There was a bit of a twist, though. Ed and Chloe incorporated a stop at the Santa Rosa Plateau Visitor Center. Enjoying the cool interior, its exhibits, and conversant rangers, many of us shrugged in surprise "who knew?" this facility and its attractions were even there. I noted multiple rattlesnake warning signs planted around the facility and the entrances to several hiking trails; even struck up an enjoyable conversation with Bill Jones, an 84-year-young transplant to San Diego from his former ranch property in Northern California. Top down, he was sunning himself in his Sunlight Silver NB, when our conversation coiled back around to rattlesnakes. Bill shared his "live and let live" perspective with regard to the venomous viper species; it seems he had one such snake living large (well over six feet long and four inches in diameter) and long-term on his property. I call that mutual respect.

"When I'm Stalking You ..."

Twenty cars and a "stalker" vehicle left the appointed meeting place on that toasty Saturday morning. Running in the "sweep" car position, Jon and Melinda Connor noticed an older, white, F-150 pickup truck duplicating our every move. Because of the ranch properties and estate landscapes we traversed, they didn't give the vehicle any serious thought. Had its driver, John Sena, not approached me at our lunch stop, we wouldn't have known the entire story. It seems that his son, Joseph, has his sights set on owning a Miata as his first car and has been following our various exploits on our website – www.sandiegomiataclub.org. Living in nearby Temecula, painfully-shy Joseph convinced his dad to follow us the entire route. Dad confessed it was tough to negotiate some of the steeper hills and maintain visual contact with us. Of course, he was treated to more information about us, and invited to our monthly meeting. In case you're wondering, I

spared both of them most of my comedy material.

"Rank Has Its Privileges"

I was recently contacted by the Vice President of the Lone Star Miata Club to advise they had placed one of their club magnetics adjacent to ours in the Midpoint Café, in Adrian, Texas. An SDMC magnetic has graced the ice maker at that must-do Route 66 diner since 2009, in recognition of our invasion traveling to and from the Miata World event in the Dallas area. (In the event our own VP, Greg Lee, has been feeling re-

pressed, a la Dan Quayle or Joe Biden, this is evidence there are other Miata Club VPs feeling appropriately unfettered.)

For those of you not familiar with the Midpoint



The Lone Star Miata Club magnetic below ours - "everything's bigger in Texas ..."

Café, the name derives from its location halfway between Chicago and Santa Monica; nearly as important, their "ugly crust" pies and friendly service underpin their reputation among Route 66 attractions. I have fond memories of my first two visits there – then-owner Fran Houser grew up less than 30 miles from my father (they hit it off famously, once we "picked-up" on her accent) and where I called home in my pre-pubescent years. The other memory was of Tommy, the "Director of 1st Impressions" there. When we arrived mid-afternoon, we swamped the place with about fifteen customers at one shot. Tommy summoned help, but it was quite the challenge; we were serving ourselves water, tea, coffee, etc. in the interim. Tommy apologized profusely – "I'm so-o-o sorry! It's all my f-a-u-l-t." His slow Texas drawl made it sound even more sincere.

Fast forward to Mark and Cathy Booth's visit in 2013. Fran had opened the Sunflower Station gift shop in the adjacent ser-



Archived photos by Gene Streeter

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vice station, taking the original yellow magnetic with her and selling the diner to new owner “Dennis.” Seeing the ice maker as a blank canvas, Mark and Cathy gifted the diner with the red SDMC magnetic seen in the adjacent photo. You decide – restoration or upgrade?

All that to say, I had nothing to do with either placement, but was accorded the respect solely because of my current position as club president. Ask around; “rank has its privileges.” It remains my privilege to lead our eclectic band of Miata faithful.

“100 Miles of Bad Road”

An expression normally reserved for the purpose of denigrating someone’s appearance, and similar to “ridden hard and put away wet.” My reintroduction to Angeles Crest Highway, aka CA 2, after decades of ignoring her came courtesy of Bill “Bowzer” Bennett, and his 2nd run on that Southern California driving gem. You might recall my “Driving in Nirvana” discussion (September, 2015 - Rear View Mirror) of *Car & Driver* magazine’s article about U.S. cities with the best drivers’ roads and access. (And, using Porsche Club of America standards to determine those best roads.) While Los Angeles laid claim to CA 2, a certifiable sports car driver’s gem, San Diego won out in the final analysis, because of our better access to our curvaceous roads. Make no mistake, 53-mile long Angeles Crest Highway is “bad” in the contemporary/hip sense; and, it’s a different road in each direction. Just ask Alan Kagan, who has run it several times “West to East” with the NSX Club. This time, it would be a very different drive for him.

The assembled fourteen car-caravan enjoyed the road with infrequent interruption by slower OTMs; the sheer volume of available turn-outs made even those a non-issue. You may have seen the drivers’ posts to the SDMC list, perhaps even a few images. Unless you were part of that group, you weren’t able to witness the ½ mile long procession of Miatas, all four generations, strung out uphill and on curves well ahead, but still visible; or, as Dan Garcia observed, the slightly intoxicating smell of high-desert pines; or perhaps Melinda Connor piloting her 2004 Classic Red sweep car with aplomb, or stylish Lynn Nolan carving the turns in her Chrystal White Pearl ND. I was witness to all of that and much more. Replaying a few of the “Shut Up and Drive” series shows (featuring Justin Bell and Rhys Millen – dating to 2012) in my head, certain features of the road and topography were surprisingly familiar.

If you were unable to join us, or un-willing to shirk your responsibilities, a la Ferris Bueller, you were unable to appreciate the laughs and gaffs (Alan Kagan’s photo of me in front of a “Dumpster”), the happy birthday antics – party hat, beads, cupcakes, singing and a genuine birthday cake after lunch. Six years my senior, I let Steve Waid take on the challenge of blowing out both candles. “Only two candles?” you ask. Yes ... as big as it was, the multi-layered chocolate

cake probably couldn’t handle 136 of them. Want to know our respective ages? There’s a simple equation to solve if you wish: $A + (B+5) = 136$, where $A = B$. Math teacher Judy Hunt might approve of my antics, but she didn’t put me up to them.

“2 for 1 Run” – BOGO?

Miatas and Corvettes effectively co-exist in the sports car world, just as they do in some of our members’ garages. There are cross-over club members and events as well. Credit Craig Moya with his tireless efforts to keep SDMC engaged in both kart racing events and the annual Main Street America Car Show. On that note, I hope to see you at Embarcadero Park, Seaport Village, on Sunday, July 31. I’ve invited Joseph and John Sena to connect with us there as well. If you recall, Craig’s being part of the SDMC race team at our last Corvette-Miata Challenge, and our slim overall victory, was contingent (just got realtor Dave Bryan’s attention) upon our generating at least twenty-five Main Street America car show delegates.

In this most recent dual club event, SDMC members in attendance were seriously out-numbered. Apart from Craig, there was just our illustrious Vice-President, Greg Lee, and yours truly. The vehicle count was even more lop-sided: Corvettes - 15 / Miatas - 1. At K1 Speed, Craig turned in his usual top-tier performance on track, winning the first race and setting fast lap of the event. Not to be outdone, Greg Lee scored a “W” in the second race and set 2nd fastest lap of the event. We raced clean and hard; just muscling through the total twenty-eight laps proved to be a nice morning workout. Anyone hungry?

We headed south and east from K1, around Otay Lake and out Hwy 94 to Barrett Junction Café. We were ready for lunch at that point and the restaurant staff appreciated our being there; the fires in the area had definitely cut into their business. The dining area was spacious, oozing with rustic charm, and the food was hearty; it’s a place to keep in mind for future runs that direction. I pored over the menu, looking for something out of the ordinary. There was BBQ and traditional burgers, even fish & chips, but no Mako Shark or Stingray in honor of the occasion. In the end, I played it safe and ordered the house specialty; I recommend the fish.



Photo by Gene Streeter

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 we meet on the third Thursday.

We meet at the Old Hamburger Factory Family Restaurant, 14122 Midland Road, Poway 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.

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.

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Greg Lee
Vice President



Dennis Sullivan
Treasurer



Jon Connor
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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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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.



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 (30-35 words). Contact newsletter@sandiegomiataclub.org for additional information.

Automotive Services

American Battery. Miata batteries and all other batteries. 525 W. Washington Escondido, 760.746.8010. Contact Jeff Hartmayer. 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 93368). They come to your door, provide quick and professional service.

Express Tire. Auto repair, tires. 12619 Poway Rd., Poway. 858.748.6330. Manager Dick Dolan. Discount 10% on parts & labor incl. tires.

Good-Win Racing LLC. Miata intakes, exhausts, shocks, springs & goodies from Racing Beat, Moss & more. www.goodwin-racing.com Special club pricing on everything. 858.775.2810.

Hawthorne Wholesale Tire. Tires, wheels, brakes & suspension. 877 Rancheros Dr, San Marcos. Discount. 10% 760.746.6980.

Knobmeister Quality Images. 3595 Gray Cir. 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 MiataMotive 2951 Garnet Ave. San Diego 92109 858.273.2547. Discount: 10% on labor.

Lutz Tire & Service Alignment specialist, tires. 2853 Market St San Diego 619.234.3535. Ask for Mike. Discount. 10% on parts (tires not included).

TJM Enterprises (formerly Magnolia Auto-body) Restorations, body work. 10027 Prospect Ave. Santee. 619.562.7861. Ask for TJ. Discount: 10% on labor & parts.

Pitstop Autoglass. Rock chip repairs free to SDMC members. Must show membership

card. In-shop only. 858.675.GLASS (4527)

Porterfield Enterprises Brake pads, rotors. 1767 Placentia Ave Costa Mesa 949.548.4470. Discount: 15% on Porterfield & Hawke brake pads, \$10 off rotors, \$9.25 per pt of Motul 600 brake fluid.

Smog Squad. 3342 Rosecrans, San Diego. 619.223.8806. Jose Munoz. Discount. \$10 on smog test.

Stuart Terry Auto. Specializing in Miata A/C problems, recommended by Rocky's Miata-motive. 4858 El Cajon Blvd. SD 92115. 619.287.9626. Ask for Stuart, 10% discount on parts & labor to \$50

Thompson Automotive. Cool Miata accessories, oil filter relocation kits, gauge kits, air horns, brakes, Voodoo knobs & MORE Discount. 10% 949.366.0322. www.thompson-automotive.com

Tri-City Paint. Professional detailing, products, paint, airbrushes, car covers. West Miramar: 858.909.2100, Santee: 619.448.9140. Discount: body shop price #CM6660.

U Fix It Automotive. Open to anyone who wants to work on a car, 6 bays, 5 lifts, and tools. Rent by the hour, day or multi day. Contact Jose Munoz 760.544.6181. Discount 10%

World Famous Car Wash. Complete professional car care, detail, hand wax, leather treatment. Free shuttle service. 7215 Clairemont Mesa Blvd. SD 858.495.2974. 10% discount.

Mazda Dealerships

Mazda of El Cajon. 619.590.3700. Discount 10% on parts & labor. VIP Membership: 3 oil changes for \$19.95 with \$5 going to Rady's Childrens Hospital.

Mazda of Escondido. 760.737.3200. Discount: 20% on most parts; 15% on labor (except smog). For purchase, ask for Barb and get free SDMC membership for 1 year.

Westcott Mazda. National City. Discount 15% on parts exclusive of oil changes. 619.474.1591.

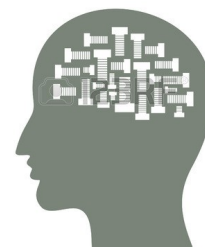
Other Services

David Bryan, your friendly neighborhood REALTOR; Pacific Sotheby's International Realty. I sell garages with homes! SDMC members who buy or sell a home through me receive a 1 year free home warranty. 619.334.4325. DavidBrealtor@cox.net. DRE#01009295.

FIRST BRAND, Inc. Web/Logo Design and Development. Offering 10% discount on promotional packages. 951.672.6677 www.FIRSTBRANDinc.com.

Shoulder Bolts

Gene Streeter



It was decidedly a “Birthday Month”

I believe it's important for us to acknowledge member birthdays and significant events in our meetings. Maybe its members' shyness or musically-sensitive hearing that inhibits their willingness to be recognized in our monthly meetings. Either way, Mr. Waid and I have had the lion's share of recognition this month already, while Dennis Garon (and a few more) have stayed in the shadows. Happy Birthday! to all our July celebrants.

There's another significant birthday we might want to celebrate: the invention of the 3-point Safety Belt. Credit – *Road & Track*, Aug. 2016

Nils Bohlin was an engineer at Saab, designing airplane catapults for pilots, when Volvo hired him to work on cars. By the 1950s, Volvo had already figured out laminated windshields, padded dashboards, and even standard lap belts in a time when there were hardly any regulations mandating its use. At Saab, Bohlin had concentrated his effort on ejecting pilots, getting them out of danger, moving them as quickly as possible. At Volvo, he would be doing exactly the opposite: keeping drivers in place.

Famously, under an open patent, Volvo allowed any other carmaker to use the three-point seatbelt. It would be one of the simplest, most widespread, and most effective automobile safety devices ever: according to the company, over a million people have avoided severe injuries or death from using the three-point seat belt. "This makes the three-point safety belt the single most important safety device in the car's 120-year history."

On My Soapbox ... Again

We're just a car club, a collection of folks that come together out of a mutual interest in a sports car, a roadster designed to deliver a great driving and ownership experience apart from the sedans, minivans, commuter/appliances, and trucks that otherwise clog our roadways. Too strong? I'll let Greg Lee's presentation at last month's meeting around endorphins and our mission statement sum it up – "... to promote good will for the mutual benefit of Club members and to provide social and recreational activities that enhance the ownership experience of Mazda MX-5 Miata automobiles."

Highlighting the social aspects of our club, I've had multiple conversations with members indicating SDMC has become their friendship circle, an extended family, even a support group when the occasion dictates. I've never suggested we had a lock on that sort of goodness and value. It exists elsewhere, likely even in the four car clubs mentioned in this very column. While I'm concerned about the image of our club and how we treat all our members, I need to remind myself how eclectic a group we truly are, and the value that stems from that as well.

Blame Tom Thompson for the gestation of this segment; he posted information to our club list that *Road & Track's* August edition does a comparison between the 2016 MX-5 Miata and the 2016 Ferrari 488 Spyder. Entitled "Open Air Market" it gets us thinking about the most valuable characteristics of our automobiles. I went looking there first, but stumbled upon an article penned by Peter Egan as part of his column "Side Glances" in 1992. There isn't any acknowledgement of the Miata as the focal point of car clubs, but in 1992, Mr. Egan may have been concerned with our "upstart" status. Looking for a good, short read? Here's the answer: <http://www.roadandtrack.com/car-culture/a28497/side-glances-tribes/?src=social-email>

Stay sharp, friendly, well-traveled, and well-read, San Diego Miata Club!



"Through the looking glass" at the San Diego County Fair—Gina Seashore & First Lady Bonnie Streeter

Photo by Gene Streeter

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