



TWISTS

&


URNS

The newsletter of the San Diego Miata Club

September 2016

Run to the Marconi Auto Museum

Words and Photos by Jon Connor

 On a beautiful August Sunday morning, a hardy band of San Diego Miata Club members gathered together for a trek to the Marconi Auto Museum in Tustin. Among this group were members who just the night before had participated in our signature "Moon Over Miatas" run, and yet, here they were at 8 am, gathered at the Aliso Creek Rest Area adjacent to Camp Pendleton and I-5, ready to head out on another adventure.



After a quick dash up I-5 we found ourselves outside the Marconi Museum. Dick Marconi is the man behind the museum and he was hosting an open house to showcase both his artwork and his many vehicles. The San Diego Miata Club was one of the showcased clubs and as such we had front row valet parking.



Once inside, we were regaled by Dick Marconi, raconteur extraordinaire, as he related the history of his collection and that of some of the former owners. Those owners included a veritable "Who's Who" including Mario Andretti, Oscar de la Hoya, Sonny & Cher and the Sultan of Brunei.



Marconi is especially fond of Ferraris and he, his son and his wife have all won national and international titles driving Ferraris. As such, he has some significant Ferrari models such as an F40, an F50 and a Dino (although the Dino is in "root beer brown"). We bid farewell to the lavish hospitality of Dick Marconi and his staff by being treated to free ice cream!!!

We then gathered together for a nice run through the twisties of the Ortega Highway. When we reached the cozy confines of Lake Elsinore, lunch awaited us at Annie's Café. As usual, Annie and her staff treated us like royalty and did their world famous dances.

All told, a wonderful way to spend a Sunday and well worth the early wake-up.

Road Trip to Grand Junction CO and more...

Steve Waid with photos by Laurie Waid

HOW A ROAD TRIP TAKES SHAPE

Generally speaking what causes a Miata road trip to take on a life is a Miata event destination. In this specific case it is Flyin' Miata's 33rd annual Summer Camp. There are a number of SDMC members that have gone in the past and some tend to repeat. Since my first experience in 2013, Laurie and I have tried to return each summer (missing only 2015 due to my knee replacement).

This year we also had Daryled and Carlan Bristol, Gene Streeter, Bill Bennett, and Judy Hunt returning. First – timers Del Pound, Neal Mills, and Cliff and Niki Barbour (brother and sister-in-law of Carlan Bristol) joined the group as well.

As soon as decisions are made and registrations and reservations are made the discussions begin regarding how we will get there and then how we will come home. Events like Summer Camp open the doors to extended road trips to visit and see things that would otherwise be put off to another day. "We are already in Colorado; what can we see and do that we haven't done before.

Decisions are made to make the trip to Grand Junction in two days, basically a quick and easy drive to get to the event well rested. After all, part of the summer camp is a track day for four of us and being fresh and well rested is a really good plan. So, with that decided we begin discussing the route to come back home.

THE TRIP BEGINS

On the morning of Tuesday, August 2nd, three cars meet at the seemingly regular meeting location for road trips at the Deer Springs park and ride just off of Interstate 15. The Bristols, the Barbours, and Del Pound join Laurie and me as we begin our first day with the target stopping point in Cedar City, Utah. As always we stop at the Summit Inn for breakfast and drive through Las Vegas without stopping. When we get to our hotel in Cedar City we have time for some rest and dinner before we "sit on the stoop" for some evening banter. Earlier, Laurie had received a call from Gene Streeter asking if she could get them rooms at the hotel. Gene and Neal Mills were together in Gene's car, and Bill Bennett was driving his own.

Laurie was only able to get them a room with two queens for all three. At breakfast the next morning it

was confirmed that Gene and Bill slept on the same bed. When confronted by this fact, Bill replied, "Just because we slept together doesn't mean we're going steady". We were on our way for a trip full of fun and adventure.

SUMMER CAMP

We arrive in Grand Junction at approximately 4 pm after having a wonderful lunch at a restaurant we discovered a few years back in Green River, Utah, overlooking the river. We had traveled across Utah all together, 6 cars. Bill found that his "bone stock 1.6 NA" struggled in 4th gear making some of the grades. But, with me running sweep, the two of us got up to 105 MPH catching up on the downhills.

Wednesday night was the pizza party at Flyin' Miata in Palisade, Colorado. The crowd had definitely grown since our first visit a few years ago. There were 40 to 50 visiting, eating, and looking at cars. This was probably created in part by FM having to add another track day on Wednesday due to the demand. As it turned out, this was the largest attendance for a Summer Camp in their 33 years.

Judy Hunt had by now arrived in Grand Junction from her second home in Dillon, Colorado and had staked out the party room at the hotel. Judy ended up hosting the end of the day parties throughout the event for all of us SDMC attendees.

NOW FOR SOME TRACK TIME

Early Thursday morning, the intrepid track drivers from SDMC arrived at the track. Daryled "Plus Three Seconds" Bristol, Bill "Captain Slow" Bennett, Gene "Big L" Streeter, and I arrived ready to set the track



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on fire. Gratefully, the weather did not set anything on fire as it was a moderate mid 70s day with over-cast...perfect for a track day.

Neal Mills and Del Pound had come to the track to get some rides from us four and the Flyin' Miata demo cars. All had fun and thrills. At the end of the day, "Plus Three Seconds" was able to claim the fastest time for the day...but not by much. All of us improved on our previous year's best time with one exception, but I will refrain from mentioning his name, Gene.

Thursday night was the night at the Sonic, and I was anticipating the foot-long chili cheese dog that I ate. There was some nonsense being tossed about concerning eating healthy. It made no sense to me.

A new event for Summer Camp was bowling night on Friday. Those of us who had signed up to bowl split into teams. Bill, Laurie, and I on one team, and Gene, Judy, and Del on the losers' team bowled two games to claim SDMC championship bragging rights. Although Bill had the high score in both games, no one was able to break 100. I don't know if I have laughed as much anywhere recently as I did at the bowling lanes.

Downtime from organized events was spent driving and exploring or shopping. It seemed to keep us happy too.

Saturday was Seminar Day at Flyin' Miata. With a presentation of new products from FM and a Q & A session, A complete presentation of what has gone into their new ND V8 conversion, and an in-depth comparison of their new and old tuning programs, the real surprise was a visit from the new Mazda MX5



Miata RF. Yes we were able to actually see the new RF. We couldn't sit in it, however, but we did get to see the top open and close numerous times.

The Saturday night banquet satisfied our appetites and was filled with numerous fun recognitions and awards. A nice time to spend saying goodbye to old and new friends.

NOW WE HEAD FOR HOME

This is when Laurie and I had decided to plan our own trip home. Gene, Daryled, Bill, Neal, and Del headed off together, and I will let Gene tell you the tale of their return trip.

Laurie and I left Sunday morning and headed for Colorado Springs. We have friends that have retired there whom we first met in Fountain Valley in 1973. We ended up selling them our first house in about 1975 and they held on to it until they sold it to their oldest daughter's family before moving to Colorado. We had a great visit with them.

Additionally, we visited the company that I retired from in 2012. The company had relocated to Colorado Springs just 4 months after I retired. In addition to that visit, we were able to experience 3 afternoon "light shows" seldom like anything we ever see in Southern California. One of the thunderstorms produced such a prodigious lightening display that the local TV news showed much of it that evening.

Now we are home. What do we do next? Start planning the next road trip, of course.



Another route to Utah... continued from last month

Daryled Bristol

Onward....Sun River to Deer Valley.....

Shortly after our arrival at our Sun River "Cabin", we managed to sort out sleeping arrangements, three couples, three bedrooms and two and 1/2 baths. We got lucky with the "Master Suite", the closet alone was as big as our bedroom at home. All the sleeping and bathing facilities are upstairs. We dropped down to the center of town for some staples shopping and dinner. Coffee, beer, Oreos, all the basics of life (someone even bought fruit?). We did a relax thing around the fire that Obi Waid was so kind to build (found the switch to turn on the fireplace).

Day two we're out and about, breakfast in town and out for a little drive. We quickly discovered the Sun River, yes there is really a river. Then it was up to Mt Bachelor, a ski resort with some great skiing I am told. Beautiful top down driving. We arrived at the entrance to the Lodge only to find it is closed for the season and as we pondered what to do next we found white stuff coming out of the sky. What is this? Here it is June 18th and its snowing! Enough, tops up (except Neal, hardy soul that he is) and off to downtown Bend. We needed some traffic to bring us back to reality. Not anything on our bucket list to do so we headed back to the solitude of the "Cabin". Dinner out in Obi Waids favorite Mexican Restaurant and another fireside evening.

Sunday we decide to drive out of Sun River to seek sustenance for Father's Day, Pleasant dining opportunity presents itself at Shari's in a strip mall along the main highway, where the food is good and the bake goods the highlight of Obi Waids dining pleasure. At the checkout counter we paid the bills and departed only to find that of all those among us, only Neal Mills was recognized as a "Father" and rewarded with a piece of pie of his choice. We topped off the day with a

back country run "you ain't lost until you run out of gas" and returning to the Cabin to freshen up for dinner.

Monday morning were on the road again, top off the gas tanks and head to beautiful Meridian Idaho. It's sort of midway to Deer Valley, where the Waids will gather with friends while we dine with family and the Mills get to rest up. Bypassing Bend (been there done that) the Waids "Bitch in a box" sends us on secondary roads headed to highway 20. We don't care how many U turns you make, we will follow you anyway.

Half way across Oregon we finally find what passes for sustenance at the quaint town of Brother's. This includes the Brothers' Stage Stop Gas and Restaurant and the "Brothers School". The Stage Stop is just that. It is the Post Office, the Gas station, the local watering hole (two bar stools and a cribbage board) and four tables. The food was plentiful if not fast but then "all good things come to those who wait". These places are part of the reason we prefer driving travel. Great people and good food go a long way to making me want to get on the road again.

Next stop Meridian. Best Western and again a damn good thing we have reservations as there is another gathering of sorts nearby. We surrendered our "Suite" to the Mills because of the proximity to the elevators so they got the fireplace (didn't work I am told). I took time to get the car washed (twice) as dark blue shows the scars of somewhat paved roads more than some other colors.

Tuesday is the final leg and we pass the outskirts of Boise and head for Twin Falls. I have convinced our little band of adventurers that we need to stop at an out-of-the-way restaurant for lunch. We stop at some of the roadside state parks to take in the Snake River canyon overlooks and they are impressive. We caught a glimpse of what I think might be a marmot, a small rodent common to the area but these are about the size of a cocker spaniel. Taking the off ramp to Twin Falls and trusting to my memory, we pass a Costco gas station and head for Elevation 486, a restaurant we had enjoyed on previously. The name refers to the height above the Snake river. The food is a definite plus so if you find yourself in the area (within 100 miles) take the time to enjoy life as it should be always. Good food, great service at a reasonable price and a great view to boot.

This wraps up our travels for now, Deer Valley is all it is expected and more, good dining and good roads and good people and more memories are made.



Main Street America Car Show

Steve Waid

For the 6th straight year SDMC was awarded the Club Participation trophy at the annual Main Street America Car Show put on by our friends from the Corvette Owners Club of San Diego. Now the big ugly, but highly coveted, award is a perpetual trophy. This year, president Gene Streeter received a plaque and the trophy that he proudly displays in the Streeter's East Lake estate.

We had, as I recall, 30 club entries in 2016. Members also raked in the individual awards as well. Here are the class awards to SDMC members.

1968-1996 Corvettes – 2nd Place – Jon and Melinda Connor

1990-2005 Miatas – 1st Place – Jordan Estencion

1990-2005 Miatas – 2nd Place – Kurt Swartz

2006-2016 Miatas – 1st Place – Mark Booth

2006-2016 Miatas – 2nd Place – Cliff and Niki Barbour

Best of Show Winner – Rosi Romero

Yes, for the first time a Miata and SDMC member were awarded the Best of Show trophy. Never has there been a more excited winner as Rosi jumped, raised her arms above her head, squealed, and ran and skipped up to receive a trophy taller than she is. There was not a dry eye in the place, but plenty of smiles.



Some Dates to Save in the coming months:

Planes, Trains and Automobiles

November 12 & 13

(An overnight trip to Nethercutt Museum and the Ronald Reagan Library)

SDMC Annual Meeting

November 19

Entertainment and Election of Officers San Diego Auto Museum, Balboa Park

Annual Holiday Party

December 3



**Don't forget to check the website calendar for the latest
in Events information.**

If you don't check it, you may miss out!

"Can You Do It All?" Challenge

Steve Waid

Every once in a while the planets line up with the moon in such a fashion that causes the SDMC Events Calendar to fill up to the point that we actually have more than one event on a single day. When this phenomenon occurs, I will often say to members, "Can you do it all?"

This year I issued a challenge the day after Mark and Cathy's annual Twilight Run. Looking ahead Laurie and I were whining to each other about how much we had to do and also get prepared for. That caused me to issue the challenge through email. Beginning Sunday, July 24th and through Sunday, August 14th, the club calendar showed eleven different opportunities on the calendar. Counted as one on the calendar was Flyin' Miata Summer Camp and the monthly meeting.

I, my ownself, missed the very first one. I was sick in bed on Tuesday, July 26th when Jon and Melinda Connor hosted Free Taco & Tallboy night at the Lake Elsinore Storm minor league baseball game. So I was out of the competition. By committing to Flyin' Miata Summer Camp I also missed 3 more.

This is where some confusion entered into the equation. There are some who thought that the challenge was issued for the weekend of Friday, August 12 through Sunday, August 14 only. This was a very challenging weekend I grant you. Two night-time events covering over a morning event on Saturday

and an even earlier Sunday morning event was in fact a real challenge. Movie night at the Auto Museum, "Christine", Rocky's Tech Day Saturday morning, Moon over Miatas Saturday night, and Marconi Automotive Museum early Sunday. This would be a daunting task on its own.

Regardless, there are some people who arguably "Did it all". For the rest of us...Nice Try!

Rosi Romero's Best of Show at Main Street America, Photo by Bob Gish





September 2016 Events

		TIME	LOCATION	WHO TO CONTACT?
SEPT. 2	CRUISIN GRAND ESCONDIDO	6 PM EAT 7 PM CRUISE	TOM'S #22 CENTRE CITY PARKWAY & 5TH AVE. ESCONDIDO	STEVE WAID 760.715.7850
SEPT. 17 & 18	CORONADO SPEED FESTIVAL NORTH ISLAND NAVAL AIR STATION	Car Show, Vintage auto racing, Navy open house. Tickets available at: https://www.fleetweeksandiego.org/events/tickets/ \$25 for one day, \$35 for both days. Day of the event \$35 one day, \$45 both days		Steve Waid 760.715.7850 (see page 8 for full details)
SEPT 22	MONTHLY MEETING	6 PM EAT 7 PM MEETING	OLD HAMBURGER FACTORY	
SEPT. 10 SEPT. 23	K! KARTING	K1 Karting SDMC members are encouraged to join COCSD at the K1 Speed every second Saturday of month at 10 am and every fourth Friday of the month at 11 am. Meeting Location: K1 Speed, 1709 Main St, San Diego, CA 92113		
OCT 1 & 2	MIATAS AT MRLS		MAZDA LAGUNA SECA RACEWAY, MONTEREY CA	JON CONNOR (CALL IF INTERESTED IN CARAVANNING)



Coronado Speed Festival—it's a Big Deal!

Saturday and Sunday, September 17 and 18 at North Island Naval Air Station

SDMC will make a bigger splash than before at the 2015 Coronado Speed Festival, when we join our friends from the Corvette Owners Club of San Diego in purchasing a 20' by 20' hospitality tent for the two days of the weekend. We will share the tent with the intent of promoting our clubs and possibly recruiting new members.

So, this is how you can participate:

- Buy tickets on line at <https://www.fleetweeksandiego.org/events/tickets> , OR
- Put your Miata in the car show at <https://www.fleetweeksandiego.org/events/fleet-week-coronado-speed-festival/car-show/>
- If you do not want to participate in the car show then you will need a Car Club Corral Pass to get into the Corral (you still need a ticket). Corral Passes are available from me once I receive them. Either send me a self-addressed stamped envelope to:
- Steve Waid
1772 David Drive
Escondido, CA 92026
- **Or** show up either Saturday or Sunday at Tartine's café on 1st Street in Coronado at 7 am. I will have them available the morning of the Speed Festival.
- Box Lunches will be available for purchase in advance and on-line through the Corvette Club. Monitor club email and the club events calendar on the SDMC website to see when that application goes live. Instructions to come.
- We will be seeking club members to volunteer to act as ambassadors at the hospitality tent during the two day event. We likely will be using two-hour shifts throughout the day so you also can enjoy the Speed Festival. Please contact me to volunteer at swaid@cox.net or 760-715-7850 Cell, 760-432-0727 home.

SDMC has been supporting this event since 1998. Now is the time to step up as we come alongside the Ferrari and Porsche Clubs who traditionally have had their own hospitality tents. We are becoming "players".



Rear View Mirror

Words and photos by Gene Streeter

"Rack 'Em Up"

August's Tech Day at Goodwin Racing and Rocky's Miatamotive appeared to be less-attended than the previous two. Or, perhaps, attendance was more evenly-distributed across the entire day. Pity, too, because Brian Goodwin decided to hang up the hamburger grilling tools (not the helmet) in favor of Luigi's giant pizza and Caesar salad. Neither the bench racing nor the wrenching seemed to suffer all that much; the weather was more bearable than originally forecast. Pity "Rocky" Murphy as well; he reported he didn't get to leave his shop until 7:30 that evening. As John Lord previously acknowledged, all of us taking advantage of these opportunities are grateful to have these two businesses as hosts.

Big Bang Theory ... Not!

My theory is members were pacing themselves in the "can you do it all?" challenge that Steve Waid and Dan Garcia had laid down. Subsequent conversation with "His Yellowness" revealed the ambiguity in the challenge, but I had taken it to mean the four events on the calendar from Friday to Sunday, August 12 through 14. Both Steve and I recorded a "DNS" ("did not start") for Sunday's event. Where Steve's prized thematic tee-shirt reads "*Bazinga*," I went three-for-four; good enough for a "bronze" medal. Earning "gold" were uber-competitive Mark Booth and Jon Connor, who hosted Sunday's run to the Marconi Museum and Open House. (You can read his account elsewhere in this edition.)

Some credit, or mention, is due Cathy Booth, Greg Lee, and Rick Spurgeon for suffering through Friday night's showing of the movie "Christine" at the Auto Museum – Balboa Park. Want to have some fun? Ask Mr. Waid about the movie, the car on display (fair warning: he's a docent there), and author Stephen King's early application of nano-technology and the self-healing powers of a 1958 Plymouth Sport Fury. *Bazinga!*

Did You Take the "Other" Challenge?

Apart from doing it all and "crushing" four events in 2 ½ days, there was a different sort of challenge implied by VP Greg Lee, as part of his "Farside Chat"



during July's monthly meeting. I'm going to take credit for making Greg's interesting perspectives part of our monthly meetings, along with the clever blending of cartoonist Gary Larsen's work

and Greg's Kentucky-born accent. (Aside: For those of you attending the SDMC Picnic, Greg's pronunciation of "red, rubber, baby bumpers" was accent-free with five full-size marshmallows stuffed into his cheeks ... you had to have been there.) I'm taking credit because otherwise I can relate to the late comedian Rodney Dangerfield's claim "I can't get no respect!" (Not with that grammar faux pas. – Ed.). Odd that we would use "late" and comedian in the same sentence; one's delivery of comedy is all about timing. Or, so I'm told ... at least monthly.

Specifically, Greg described his collection of automotive and racing-related tee-shirts; their place in his closet and life. He counted a total of 37 in his current wardrobe. I was impressed, but Steve Waid sheepishly admitted to having closer to one hundred if he counted those in garage storage, etc. Just as Greg did as part of his research, I intend to catalog all of mine by subject matter, color, condition, and appropriate size. I'll share the results with you next month, hoping you can somehow manage the suspense in the meantime.

Highway to Heaven

One of my fellow "Summer Campers" is intending to share his version of our travels to Colorado for Flyin' Miata's annual event and some of the interesting stories surrounding it. By our agreement, I'm sharing my favorite part of that trip, our scenic travels on the three-day drive home to San Diego. The portions of Colorado and Arizona we traversed were dotted with gold, silver, and semi-precious metal mines – historic, abandoned, and those still functional. Our rag-tag group included Dell Pound, Daryled and Carlan Bristol, Bill Bennett, Neal Mills, and my own self.

While the access road is easily missed traveling US 550, (Colorado's "Million Dollar Highway"), our tourist detour wasn't that far off the paved road, considering we were transported to the last century while experiencing the Bachelor-Syracuse mine. Our modern concessions to mine safety were flashlights and hard hats, not much more. Our tour guide explained in great detail the typical miner's existence and responsibilities. As I do in the wake of most historical ac-

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counts, I walked the 1500 hundred feet back to the comforts of the modern world convinced I would not have enjoyed being a driller, “powder monkey,” or mucker. Many of those miners had failed in the pursuit of their own, independent fortunes, which must have made those dangerous occupations even more punishing. The simple economics of the situation were explained – there were many men waiting in the wings if you weren’t up to the task.



The edge of a meadow just south of Alpine, AZ

While US 550 certainly provided a beautiful drive, we traveled west to 491 and South to 191 for one even better. Formerly labeled Route 666 and dubbed the “Devil’s Highway,” the contrast became real about ten miles south of Alpine, Arizona. Credit Neal Mills for

his designs on running this segment; I just wish Grace had been there to appreciate the quality of the road he picked out. The ninety-mile ribbon of 2-lane asphalt rarely dipped below 4,000 ft. elevation, and simply never disappointed in the “grins-per-mile” measure. Like switchbacks and elevation changes? They were both a common theme. I wish I had better photos to share, but there weren’t many photo opportunities once underway. Running in front, Carlan called-out deer sightings, and other mammals darting across our path. We even encountered our own version of “Bigfoot” in one of the meadows – Bill Bennett drives barefoot whenever possible, and, well, I didn’t think our Editor would publish the photo, anyway.



*Getting some of the local color –
Bachelor-Syracuse Mine*



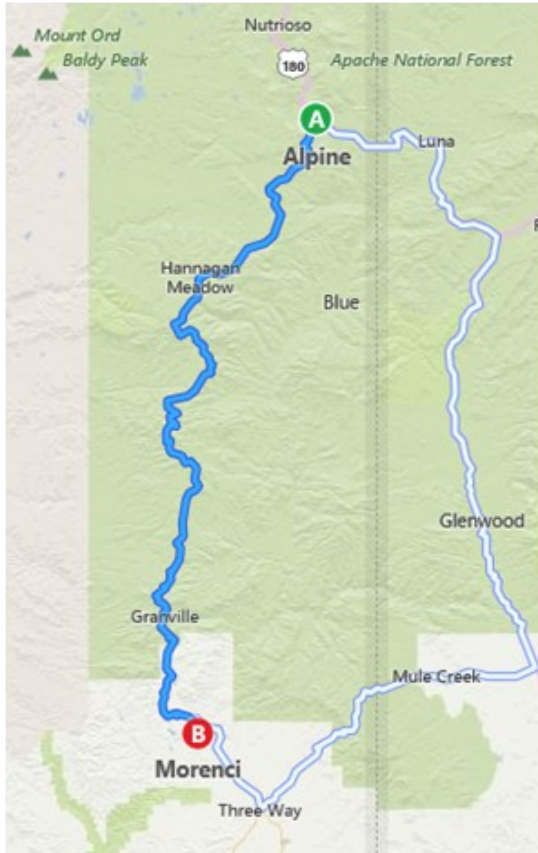
*Rte. 191 ends in Morenci,
with views of a huge open-pit mine.*



our “Motley Crue” in the belly of the mine

Where's the Rest of Your Car, Toots?"

Those of you old enough to remember the advertising campaign waged to keep American Motors on life support in the 1970s might remember this phrase. The infamous Gremlin was born as their early entry into the new sub-compact class of American vehicles, even prior to the Pinto, Vega, and "Santa Maria." Essentially, the Gremlin was a truncated Hornet Sedan, with the rear body sliced-off just behind the rear wheels and sported a novel hatchback design. Lest you fear I've "lost it" once again, I'm using this expression to draw attention to the fact that my column is intentionally much shorter than usual, and for a variety of reasons. While Editor Laurie is surprisingly supportive, some of the feedback she's gathered suggests it's simply too long to be easily digested and often goes un-read. Since I'm not nearly as prolific as novelist Stephen King (nor as captivating – Ed.), I've decided to truncate "Rear View Mirror" in the same way. Hopefully, this effort will be better received than the Gremlin and its many iterations. You get to vote "yea" or "nay" on the re-design. Or, simply ask the question "where's the rest of your column, dude?" (I'm not staying so true to the marketing slogan that I want to be addressed as "Toots.") See my previous comments about "getting no respect."



More about the Coronado Speed Festival...

Event highlights include:

- **Various Race Categories:** Dozens of various race cars will take to the track—from Sports Racing, Production Cars, Historic Stock Cars to Historic Trans-AM. There will be no shortage of cars racing on this track!
- **Honoring the 70th Anniversary of the End of WWII:** San Diego-area WWII vets will be honored as Grand Marshals to commemorate this anniversary.
- **Criminal Minds' Joe Mantegna as Grand Marshal:** sharing the title with the WWII vets, the actor and long-time military supporter will be on site Sunday to meet fans and to officially get the races underway.
- **F18 Low-Altitude Flyover and Helicopter Four-Man Drop:** Don't miss the thrill of these displays of military might during Sunday's Opening Ceremonies.
- **Red Bull Endurocross Stunt Rider:** Multi-time X-Games champion Geoff Aaron will perform during the noontime activities and at 2:30 pm, both Saturday and Sunday.
- **Navy Open House/Ship Tours:** As the only Navy open house on the West Coast, the general public will get the rare opportunity to tour the USS Wayne E. Meyer, the USS Somerset and the USS Cape St. George—as well as other command displays, flyovers, military vehicles and more.
- **Military Pit Crew Challenge:** Similar to a real stock car pit crew challenge, various military commands will compete against fellow active duty military personnel on both Saturday and Sunday.
- **Fast & Furious 7 DVD release:** Fleet Week Coronado Speed Festival has been chosen as the official launch site of the release of the *Fast & Furious 7* Studio reps will be on site to give away great promotional merchandise.

Other highlights include garage tours, a car show to benefit the Navy's Morale Welfare Recreation, test-drives by BMW and Jaguar and the USO Singing Troupe.

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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Danica Patrick

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Greg Lee
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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.

Contact

The Web

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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.



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 Po-way 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.

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.

Gene Streeter



When is a Miata Not a Miata?

My own NB has multiple parts on it that are foreign to the vehicle – and yet we would never suggest it was anything less than a Miata, right? (Any reference to a “loose nut behind the wheel” will be met with the appropriate, scathing mention in next month’s column.) I recently installed a new pair of Spal cooling fans to better deal with the heat generated by my Mazdaspeed’s turbocharger when boost demands are high and prolonged. Rocky was quick to inform me those fans are distinctly Italian, being manufactured in Corregio, Italy, and central to a brace of race tracks in the region. Also distinctly Italian, the previous generation Fiat 124 Spider (designed by Tom Tjaarda for Pininfarina) was manufactured in Turin. (Bear with me; I’ll get to the point.) As most of us know, the new Fiat 124 Spider isn’t manufactured in Italy at all, but in far-away Hiroshima, Japan.

What brought this issue up in the first place? Fair question. Brian Goodwin brought his latest “Goodwin Racing” project out to play with the rest of us for the Twilight Run v2.0 several weeks back. Named Sophia, she’s a Fiat 124 Spider, a striking redhead, and attracted a good deal of attention as we waited to get underway. Normally not a trouble-maker, a member (who shall remain anonymous) casually asked me “are we going to let the new ‘Fiatas’ into the club?” My response was “I don’t see why not; it’s essentially a Miata.” How about the example of “pony car” Mustangs and Cougars, both being built on the same platform and using the same mechanicals? Were they inter-mingled in the same car club?

Do we need to be inclusive with regards to a vehicle such as the new 124 Spider? It’s essentially a Miata, confirmed by physical inspections of the underside, and by all manner of articles on the subject. Here’s a link to the latest (Sept. 2016 edition) “Car and Driver” comparison: <https://www.yahoo.com/news/2017-fiat-124-spider-abarth-211600800.html>

How about a Catfish, a very sporty new build-it-yourself proposition featuring a swoopy fiberglass body and tubular frame made in North County San Diego, and designed to use the Miata PPF (powerplant frame)? Or, how about a Miata sporting a Chevrolet LS3 engine, Tremec transmission, and Cadillac final drive?

I don’t know how any other car club presidents face these sorts of dilemmas. Ultimately, it’s a decision for membership – twelve loyal readers and all. Our charter was focused solely on the Miata, not on any of the variants that have evolved over time. While our by-laws don’t require Miata ownership for participation, our sense of identity is certainly linked to the four generations born in Hiroshima. We need to wrap our heads around it and decide for each of ourselves how “accepting” we want to be of those that might prefer the 124 Spider version over the MX5. (or the .4 cubic feet of additional trunk space.)

My basic internet search found a national Fiat Club and a Southern California chapter (SoCal FLU – awkward naming convention and in its gestation stage), but I didn’t see anything more specific than that. It might be interesting to see how welcome the MX-5 might be in that circle. We’ve already touched on the influence of Italian genetics, but much like Brian Goodwin’s choice of pizza versus hamburgers for Tech Day, we largely accept that pizza was born in New York City as a means of using leftovers. Just how “Italian” is that, except for the company it keeps? After all, even spaghetti had its roots in the Orient. Marco! Polo?

Stay challenged, friendly, well-traveled, and well-read, San Diego Mata Club!



Mazda’s project engineer, Dave Coleman, explaining/defending the new RF @Summer Camp
Photo by Gene Streeter

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