



TWISTS & TURNS

The newsletter of the San Diego Miata Club

November 2016

2016 MIATAS AT MAZDA RACEWAY

Words and Photos by Phil Daoust

This fun-filled event has become the biggest yearly gathering of Miatas in the United States. Hot laps are \$250 per day and sell out almost as fast as available run groups are posted. If you'd rather spend your money on goodies on vendor row, you can still get the feel of the track both Saturday and Sunday during lunch break "parade laps" which are free to all registered attendees. Saturday afternoon also offered a free rally-like cruise led by Moss Motors again free to all. And it was spirited to say the least. Tons of fun!

I stayed at Motel 6 in Marina to save a few bucks, which turned out to be a great find. It's only about ¼ mile from Marina State Beach which offered some great beachcombing. I brought home some beautiful drift wood as a result. Yes, I asked the ranger if I could. His answer: "Yes, as it probably floated here from somewhere halfway across the world!" Nice guy.

Mazda's hospitality was fabulous. Giveaways included Millionth Miata t-shirts, engraved personalized Millionth Miata tour dash plaques, and the opportunity to "sign" said car. If you look closely among the 13,000 signatures, you'll find my mark, "Felix the Cat – SDMC" on the right front quarter panel.

The trackside banquet Saturday night was held at the plush Hospitality Pavilion (a venue normally open only to high rollers) with an awesome view overlooking the entire track. Complimentary cocktails and *hors d'oeuvres* served on the veranda overlooking the whole track preceded a 4-star banquet set up at four buffet stations in the beautiful dining area inside. Event sponsor Flying Miata sprung for a fantastic musical group that rocked out with appropriate road music. Cost of the banquet was only \$25. I've attended events costing ten times that much that couldn't stack up food and entertainment-wise. Yes, we Miata types were afforded high cotton treatment!

A wonderful surprise dessert for me, was my Briata being chosen for the Friday night car show's top award, "MIATA I MOST WANT TO OWN." It was a great honor being recognized by my fellow Miata-piles.



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Come 2017, I doubt nothing on my bucket list will top this event. Oh, yeah, how cool is this event? Cool enough for Rocky to close his shop!

1996 Mazda Miata “M” Edition “BRIATA”

Owned by: Felix “Phil” Daoust, Ramona California



The “Briata” is Phil’s rendition of what a British made Miata would have looked like. Hence, BRIATA (British Miata). Phil calls the conversion, “ANGLOFICATION”

Although the “anglofication” process took several years, below are some of the major changes to what is considered a “bullet proof drive train.” To top it all off, as a tip of cap to Frank Sinatra, the license plate reads M (M Edition) MY WAY

- ➔ Chrome Wire Wheels
- ➔ Seats in Scottish Hides in Sun Tan with black piping
- ➔ Custom Wood Interior Features
- ➔ Moto Lita Steering Wheel
- ➔ Custom Jaguar E-type Console
- ➔ Retro European Headlights and Taillights
- ➔ Cowl Hood with Louvers
- ➔ “Quadzilla” Exhaust
- ➔ Sebring Supercharger
- ➔ Right Hand Drive Conversion

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

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



San Diego Miata Club Holiday Party 2016



Saturday, December 3, 2016

6 PM to 10 PM

Bay View Restaurant

2863 Historic Decatur Road, San Diego 92106

\$35 per person

Come join us for an evening of Merriment, Food and Fun at the beautiful and historic Bay View Café, MCRD, on the waterfront, featuring SDMC's own Holiday Elves and the ever famous, gift thievery!

Purchase your tickets at the October or November meetings, or Annual Meeting!

Optional: Bring a wrapped, car themed gift worth approximately \$25 for our annual gift exchange and thievery.

Tickets can be purchased with cash or check made payable to SDMC. Final date for purchase is November 22. If purchasing by mail, mail check to:

SDMC Treasurer Dennis Sullivan
27018 Sunningdale Way
Valley Center, CA 92082





November & December 2016 Events

		TIME	LOCATION	WHO TO CONTACT?
Nov 5	MELINDA'S BIRTHDAY RUN FOR ICE CREAM	9AM TO 3 PM	MEET AT WALMART PARKING AREA REDHAWK TOWNE CENTER 32225 TEMECULA PKWY TEMECULA 92592	JON CONNOR VICEPRESIDENT@ SANDIEGOMIATACLUB.ORG
Nov 12 & 13	PLANES, TRAINS AND AUTOMOBILES	TO BE DETERMINED	SEE PAGE 12 FOR FULL DETAILS	GENE STREETER 619.653.8100 STEVE OR LAURIE WAID 760.715.7850
Nov 17	MONTHLY MEETING	6 PM EAT 7 PM MEET	OLD HAMBURGER FACTORY 14122 Midland Road, Poway 92064	PRESIDENT@ SANDIEGOMIATACLUB.ORG
Nov 19	SDMC ANNUAL MEETING	10 AM	SAN DIEGO AUTO MUSEUM BALBOA PARK	PRESIDENT@ SANDIEGOMIATACLUB.ORG
DEC. 3	HOLIDAY PARTY	6 PM	BAY VIEW RESTAURANT MCRD	RESERVATIONS REQUIRED EMAIL MANDIE LEE DETAILS ON PAGE 3
DEC. 4	SAN MARCOS HOLIDAY PARADE	10:30 AM MEET	HOOTERS PARKING LOT, NORDAHL AND HWY 78 SAN MARCOS	STEVE WAID SWAID@COX.NET OR 760.432.0727
DEC. 15	MONTHLY MEETING	6 PM EAT 7 PM MEET	OLD HAMBURGER FACTORY 14122 Midland Road, Poway 92064	PRESIDENT@ SANDIEGOMIATACLUB.ORG

Rear View Mirror

Words and photos by Gene Streeter

True Religion

I recently had a Saturday morning experience I believe worthy of sharing, even beyond the twelve loyal readers of this column. My usual chores include power-washing and drying my vehicle fleet, which totals four with the addition of a company car. I was in the midst of cleaning my pickup when I noticed the customary collection of well-dressed folks across the street, including a gentleman I've never seen before. He saw me as well, cutting from the pack and tracking toward me directly. (High school geometry taught us both the hypotenuse is the shortest distance between points A and C of any triangle.) While I wasn't hiding behind my pickup, I wasn't making myself readily available, either. I've learned that eye contact can be mistaken as an invitation to interrupt my ritual bathings.

"Hi, I'm Randy" he offered as he extended his tract. "There are valuable truths contained within, and I am always willing to de-bunk the myths that exist around our beliefs."

He singled me out, where his associates have rarely done so, and I accepted his pamphlet. Perhaps it's my body language, or my general busy-ness that keeps most at bay, but I've always been impressed by the convictions and marketing efforts of those practicing this particular religion.

Sizing up my prominently-displayed "Route 66" flag, Randy queried "Have you traveled Route 66 before? The entire route? I've always wanted to do that."

I responded with a "white lie" in the interest of brevity – "Yes, I have; with my Dad four years ago." Truth is, I've never made up the final two days of the Route – Barstow to Rialto, and then Santa Monica.

Eying my Miata, cleaned and returned to its customary garage stall, "Did you travel the Route in



your Miata?" After waiting on my response he volunteered "I've always wanted a roadster, especially now that I'm retired. I understand they're under-powered; and have a reputation as a "chick car."

"Randy, have you ever driven one?"

"No? ... then let me share some truths with you: a wide grin decorates my face every time I get behind the wheel of mine; with a few modifications, mine has over two hundred horsepower and I can get into plenty of trouble with speed and spirited driving. I've never considered my car anything other than capable and engaging to drive."

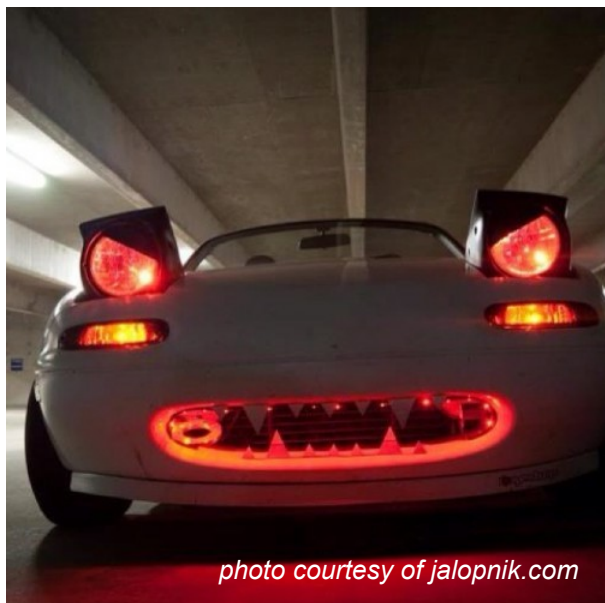
I continued my sermon ... "Fact is, more Mazdas are raced every weekend than any other make; the vast majority of those are Miatas. Does that sound like a "chick car" to you? You really need to experience a Miata for yourself."

I'm in the habit of de-bunking myths as well; I'm proud to associate with the faithful in the San Diego Miata Club. We tend to do our "recruiting" on the curves and two-lanes, rather than neighborhood sidewalks. I expect I'll be seeing Randy in the Saturdays to come.

"Scary" Times Ahead

This thinly-veiled reference to All Hallows Eve is just that ... thinly-veiled. Being privy (not the "privy" that involves leaving the warmth of your

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house in the middle of a crisp Fall evening) to a weekly barrage of NHTSA news and propaganda about the evolution of safer, more computer-controlled, and autonomous vehicles, I'm apprehensive about the future of the automobile as most of us appreciate it. I've shared tidbits and trends, largely emanating from those seemingly at odds with the social and cultural fabric wrapping the bucket seats and steering wheels of our motoring dreams.

We've all waxed quizzically (Is that even a word? Where do you come up with this stuff? – ED) over the minions of "Generation Z" that seem largely content to have Mom and Dad transport them "to and fro" their occasional destinations away from home. Even more so in being satisfied with public and mass transport. Where some point accusative fingers at video games and smart phones for replacing the need for vehicular transport to interact with others, let alone the opposite sex, those tools and technologies are being integrated into the very automobile being marginalized by them. Complex navigation systems and computer-controlled functions make it possible for autonomous ("driver-less," Greg) vehicles and the removal of any soul left in modern people movers. Scary times, indeed, for those of us who enjoy the act of driving.

"Let Go My FICO"

It gets worse. Much worse, if you're even remotely concerned with the intrusion of government and the assorted bureaucracies subsidized by it. Okay, I confess ... when it comes to government and decorating styles, I'm a "less is more" kind of guy. If you've been to our home, the latter is simply not in evidence; I'll submit my "man card" to the first reader that asks me for it. That's as political as you will see me get in this column and my role.

Where multiple auto insurance companies offer potential discounts for drivers that operate their vehicles within certain acceleration, braking, and cornering parameters, as measured by a proprietary telematics ("tracking" to you and me) device, one thing is clear - exuberant drivers need not apply. Now there's a new player in this game – "eDriving" seeks to expand its current customer base from online driver training (and global driver risk management solutions – "be very afraid") to a partnership with credit score analytics powerhouse FICO.

Via a smart phone telematics solution, eDriving's "Mentor" system will capture acceleration, braking, cornering, speeding, cell phone distraction, and other behavioral data, as well as provide the proprietary, predictive analytics platform to establish the "FICO Safe Driving Score." They almost had me at "cell phone distraction," but there are limits to my comfort level with this project. Further, this partnership is forming an advisory board to develop the Safe Driving Score into a standard for all drivers, not just those who willingly participate in a scheme marketed to save premium dollars.

Imagine, if you can, owning the world's most popular (and arguably "affordable") roadster and not being able to operate it as designed because you can't afford the insurance premium. If, for example, my driving FICO dips below 500 (owing to braking, cornering, and *acceleration* Gs, even apart from citations), my financial FICO (credit habits and ability to pay) would

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need to be healthy to afford those driving behaviors. I've seen the future, and reluctantly share this glimpse of it. I'm opposed to this consistent, incremental encroachment on my personal liberties. And you?

“Et tu, Brute?”

While many vehicle manufacturers are all about performance in their marketing (especially their flagship vehicles), there's an interesting divergence between vehicle performance and driver engagement, especially as regards the transmission; so few of them are purchased with manual transmissions. Granted, automatic transmissions have become crazy efficient (a description never ascribed to yours truly), but it's an indication of the motoring public's waning interest in actually manipulating the tool, making it perform and respond to varied inputs.

Need further evidence? In this country, there's an increasing percentage of drivers unfamiliar or unable to operate a manual transmission ... in contrast to the stories shared by Tom Thompson and Phil Daoust in the wake of their vacations in Europe – manual transmissions remain *de rigueur* in the Old World. An automatic transmission rental car will cost you much more there. In contrast, I've even sought out rental cars with manual transmissions on this side of the pond ... haven't been able to rent one yet.

According to multiple accounts, the latest figures indicate only about five percent of cars are sold



“Hey, Barn... get a load of my new Rock-it 88!” Not your father's Oldsmobile.

with a stick shift in the domestic (US) market. Where we saw the numbers peak at about 25 and 30 percent of production in 1987 for cars and 1990 for trucks, according to EPA statistics, they've seen a steady decline since. Now, manual transmissions are relegated mostly to sports cars, such as the Mazda Miata and the Ford Mustang. Ironically, they're getting hard to come by in exotic cars like Ferraris and Lamborghinis, even standard-bearer Porsches.

Part of the explanation lies with the expectations (and threatened fines for non-compliance) of the Corporate Average Fuel Economy standards imposed by the EPA. Automakers have developed better automatic transmissions (and engines, lighter materials, and lower vehicle weight) in pursuit of the magical 39.4 mpg result; computer-controlled automatics give engineers better control over how every drop of fuel is used in every revolution of the engine, and every molecule of pollution generated in the process. (Think Volkswagen diesels – ED.) Every stick shift they sell with lower fuel economy than an automatic drags down their corporate average fuel economy.

The performance deficits that automatics once suffered have been largely erased via more gears, faster shifts, and quieter operation. Apart from the traffic gridlock-induced reasons to shun manual transmissions in our metro areas, the equality in performance, and the trend toward multi-tasking behind the wheel, there's even a



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practical and logical aspect to the declining numbers.

Follow this line of thought – manufacturers chasing improved fuel economy offer manuals in fewer models, EPA powertrain certification (for fuel economy and emissions) is extremely expensive, even the “take” ratio of customers is declining because of how our vehicles are typically operated. Dealers become less-interested in stocking vehicles that may not sell as quickly (inventory turn), and value them less as trade-ins for the same reason. Miatas aside, depreciation can be an issue for some. For many, or most, of us it’s not a financial decision. It’s about driver engagement and enjoyment; it’s how we prefer to experience our cars. While few of us would argue that the ND isn’t capable in automatic guise, 60 percent of its buyers opt for the manual transmission version. No “five percenters” here.



Can’t promise the fireworks you’ve become accustomed to as part of the current presidential campaign, but there’s a genuine opportunity for you to determine your SDMC Board for 2017. Save the date – Saturday, November 19 ... San Diego Auto Museum at Balboa Park. No recounts, no tearful concessions; we’ll even entertain and feed you. No new taxes, and no increase in membership dues ... unless that’s what those in attendance decide.

“It’s Déjà vu ... All Over Again”

In the world of sports, October is all about baseball. I would argue that our monthly meeting agenda competes with baseball games the five to six months leading up to the playoffs and World Series. Legends are born; fans of the game would even argue Yogi Berra’s legacy extends well beyond the legendary NY Yankees and baseball. His impact on our language was just as colorful and had widespread appeal. Need a few reminders?

On why he no longer went to Ruggeri’s, a St. Louis restaurant: **“Nobody goes there anymore because it’s too crowded.”**

On life and travel: **“It ain’t over till it’s over.”**

“If you don’t know where you’re going, you might end up some place else.”

When giving directions to Joe Garagiola to his New Jersey home, which is accessible by two routes: “When you come to a fork in the road, take it.”

On Ken and Stacy Hurd’s *Run to the Music*: “a blatant rip-off of Les Smith’s original ‘Run to End All Runs’” performed years ago, with Les’s full cooperation. In fact, Les was going to sweep the run but forgot his CB. Little did he know, the sweep role could have been performed by Marcel Marceau. The weather was warm, clear, and largely perfect for a run to the coast. The most challenging sweeping/herding part of the tour was the three lane wide section of Otay Lakes Rd / Telegraph Canyon through Chula Vista - from the high desert to the sea.

Continuing the *deja vu* theme, we assembled at the Galley at the Marina to soak in the music and memories of Gary Seiler and the CoastRiders band. Having played for an appreciative Surf ‘N Safari crowd one year ago to the day, if not the hour, Gary always accords us respect as a club and weaves his recognition into his song lyrics and introductions. Speaking of crowded restaurants, we occupied most of the patio there. A good time was had by all.

Stay, committed, engaged, and independent, San Diego Miata Club!



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?

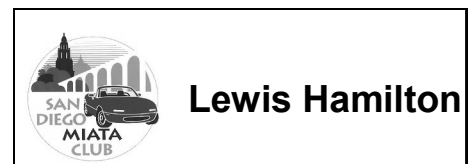
You can now order them on-line from fellow Miata enthusiast, Joe Portas – the KnobMeister. The .pdf order form is available on our SDMC website. These popular magnetic badges are priced at \$6 each, plus shipping.

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M-F 7am-8pm Weekends 10am-6pm



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Dennis Sullivan
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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.

Geri's Bazaar—custom Miata luggage made to fit your specific Miata. 10% Discount to SDMC members. geri@gerisbazaar.com or phone (843)754-8815

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.

Smart Car Care stores—SDMC members received 10% discount. 2260 Main St., Suite 3, Chula Vista 91911.(619) 575-9274 or 1217 Simpson Way, Escondido, 92029 (760) 871-8000 smartcarcareproducts.com

Stuart Terry Auto. Specializing in Miata A/C problems, recommended by Rocky's Miatamotive. 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.

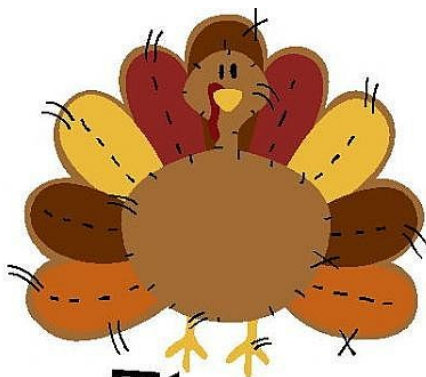
Other Services

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.

SAN DIEGO MIATA CLUB
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Postage

Address



Happy Thanksgiving

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