

Motte Automotive Museum Run

Words and Photos by Jon Connor

n a beautiful spring morning, 18 Miatas holding 23 members of the San Diego Miata Club gathered in North San Diego County for a spirited two county dash to the Motte Automotive Museum in Menifee.



We dashed through the twisties of Highway 76 and then up the twisties of Pala Temecula Road where he entered the beautiful Red Hawk neighborhood of Temecula. After connecting with Highway 79 we encountered a most magnificent road, the illustrious Sage Road (R3). Since I was introduced to this beautiful stretch by our very own Ed Grant, I have taken to referring to it as "The Ed Grant Miata Highway".

We arrived at the Motte Museum to find reserved parking set aside for the San Diego Miata Club. Once inside we were treated like VIP's. The museum had prepared for us with fresh doughnuts and coffee. An additional treat was to have the owner, Leo Motte, give us a talk about the history of his museum, the surrounding area and his cars. We finished our tour and bid farewell to the nice people at the Motte Automotive Museum, but we had more treats in store.



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Next on the agenda was a run through some twisties in Quail Valley and Canyon Lake with our destination of Annie's Café in Lake Elsinore. Many in our group had never been to Annie's while others were familiar we the hijinks that accompanies the generously sized and delicious meal.

Some of our members really got involved in the "Annie Culture" as we see in these pictures.





All in all, a good and rollicking good time was had by all.

Check out the latest events and details at www.sandiegomiataclub.org

Run to the Rainbow—June 10

"Two roads diverged in a wood, and I—
I took the one less traveled by"
Robert Frost

Join us on June 10 as we chase away the June gloom with a rainbow run! Run to the Rainbow features highways and byways not often driven in runs, some of which our Miata tires may not have ever touched in a run! Lynn Nolan will be the lead (zoom zoom) with Jan Frederick riding shotgun as expert navigator. Ed Grant and Chloe Oswald will be sweeps.

The adventure begins on Lomas Santa Fe in Solana Beach and will take us east on the Del Dios Highway, along and through Rancho Santa Fe and Lake Hodges. We'll continue on and on, meeting the challenges of the twists and turns in the Bear Valley /Lake Wohlford area. Our adventure continues as we drive west and north inching our way to the Fallbrook/Bonsall area for the final phase of the run. We'll find our rainbow, the Rainbow Oaks Restaurant where we'll enjoy a delicious lunch.

Check the SDMC calendar for details of meeting time and place!

The Auto Hobbyist

Car Show Season By Jon Connor

ust as surely as the Vernal Equinox and Daylight Savings time announce the beginning of Spring, so too does Car Show Season. Car show is an all-inclusive term that may describe the large, manufacturer's expos like the San Diego, Los Angeles or Detroit International Shows or it may describe the very highend shows such as the La Jolla or Pebble Beach Concours de Elegance affairs. Similarly, a car show maybe something as simple as "Cars & Coffee" drive in event.



Miata ND @ "Cars & Coffee"

We are fortunate to live in Southern California where car shows abound and many of them include a presence from our favorite roadsters.

Escondido has the Cruisin' Grand event that takes place every Friday evening from April through September. El Cajon has a similar event that takes place on Wednesday evening. On the first Friday of every month the San Diego Miata Club participates by cruising our Miatas down Grand Avenue in Escondido. As is usually the case with SDMC, there is always food associated with our activity.



The Batmobile makes an appearance at Cruisin' Grand

The Del Mar Fair is another venue where we can display our vehicles during Miatas at The Fair likes to bill this event as the world's largest car show because thousands of people will have the opportunity to see our cars.

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Miatas at The Fair

Probably the most noteworthy of the shows is the Main Street America show at the San Diego Embarcadero. The San Diego Miata Club always has a fine showing at this show and, in fact, has won the Club Participation Award numerous times.



Miatas at Main Street America Show

If you think that you must have a "show car/custom" to participate, nothing could be further from the truth. All you need is your Miata, a duster and your favorite spray detailer and a folding chair. It's fun and relaxing and you get "chop it up" with club members and fellow Auto Hobbyists. Hope to see you soon at one of these events.

| May Events Calendar | | | | |
|---------------------|---|-----------------------|---|--|
| | | TIME | LOCATION | WHO TO CONTACT? |
| FRIDAY MAY 5 | CRUISIN" GRAND | 6 РМ меет | MEET UNDER THE SIGN AT WESTFIELD NORTH COUNTY BY BJ'S | STEVE WAID 760.715.7850 Please RSVP for dinner |
| FRI-SAT MAY 5-6 | SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY MIATA CLUB POKER RUN | | SEE EVENTS WEBSITE CALENDAR | |
| SATURDAY MAY 13 | TOUCH A TRUCK FUNDRAISER FOR KIDS WITH CANCER | 11 ам то 3 рм | PACIFIC TRAILS MIDDLE SCHOOL | STEVE WAID |
| SATURDAY MAY 20 | 15th Annual "Run to the Hills" Car Show | 8 AM TO 4 PM | Main Street in Pine Hills | STEVE WAID |
| May 25 | MONTHLY MEETING | 6 PM EAT 7 PM MEET | THE HAMBURGER FACTORY 14122 MIDLAND ROAD POWAY CA | GENE STREETER PRESIDENT@ SANDIEGOMIATACLUB.ORG |

Rear View Mirror

Words and photos by Gene Streeter

"Unless You're the Lead Dog ..."

It's a Banner (Grade) sort of year for us as a club. Owing to the abundant rainfall, naturalists and park rangers declared the annual spring emergence of our local desert flora a "super bloom." Just as throngs of San Diegans paid their respects, SDMCers have made multiple runs to Borrego Springs and other desert locales to witness the best floral display in many years.

As denizens of Boulevard, in what we call the "high desert," Lonnie and Kaye Kernes organized their own trek to Borrego, March 25th. Kaye wanted to share their perspective on the event, so she and Lonnie submitted their own account, pleading with me to add the literary touches they believed their version lacked. Having read it, I decided very little needed to be done. I assumed they intended "Borrego Springs" as the subject of their "B. S. Run." Or, perhaps, my wife's name – Bonnie Streeter, since she agreed to join me that Saturday.

In Her Own Words

The B. S. Run went off without a hitch; that is, if you don't count the fact that our Miata was having a bad day. Once underway, it wasn't running well at all. So, it was back to the house we went to get our "OTM" and then on to our scheduled meeting at Dudley's Bakery. We were fully prepared to hand off the run instructions to Ed Grant and Chloe Oswald, since they know the way to our house. They had a better idea; thanks to them, Lonnie rode with Ed and they led the run. Chloe rode with me at the back of the pack, behind the sweep. (First-time sweep Lynn Nolan did a fine job at the wheel, with veteran Jan Frederick in charge of CB communications forward. I spent most of the first leg in a position to appreciate both.)

We went along just fine, enjoying flowers over much of the route - the most beautiful display we have seen in a long time. We made our approach into Borrego Springs the back way - down Hwy. 78 through the Narrows and on to Borrego Springs Road. We proceeded through the "Texas Dip," also known as the San Felipe Wash, turning right at Yaqui Pass Rd. and into Borrego Springs from the East. Lunch was "on your own," with a collection of about ten restaurants to choose from, along with time allowed for shopping, antique stores, or looking for more flowers.



Desserts in the Desert

Lunch and our electives accomplished, we departed Borrego Springs via Yaqui Pass to the 78, S2, and I-8 to our house for dessert. Chloe and I were able to escape the pack and get home in time to get things ready. We had four freshly-baked pies, cake, a special chocolate dessert, and an ice cream sundae bar complete with bananas, syrups, whipped cream and maraschino cherries. Little did I know the cherries would be such a big hit. As it happens, I forgot that we had spiked them a couple of months before and just put them out. Of course, we were all surprised.

We want to thank everyone who was able to go on this run - we had 14 Miatas and two "OTMs," including us. Good run, good time, good eats. Who could ask for anything more?

Post Script: our Miata is running well again thanks to Mark Booth, who helped Lonnie figure out what was happening. We were able to go on the Presidents' Run the following week, which was a blast! All is well; you might even say "Life is just a bowl of cherries."

"The Fool on the Hill?"

There are things you do on the spur of the moment you wish you could call back ... a misspelled text, a "reply to all" where it was supposed to be private, addressing someone using another name, you get the idea. What about a run leader making a wrong turn and having twenty-eight cars follow you? Where does that crime fit in in the pecking order? Just below the "day of infamy," I'm told.

The Presidents' Run on April 2nd was the setting, "yours truly" the person accused. There's a claim of photographic evidence and far too many potential witnesses, but I'm going to take my chances with a trial before my peers. Leading our run group of 42 or 43 cars, Corvette Club president Craig Moya and wife

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Lisa were flawless in their execution of our first 40 miles and until our rest stop at the Buckman Springs rest area. For the record, my contention is that we did the same from the sweep position, but communica-

the same from the sweep position, but communitions via CB and FRS were a challenge all day.

Our "rest stop" and ogling of the vehicles gathered there completed, it was my turn to lead and Bonnie's to navigate. Based upon the directions "Buckman Springs Rd. ends at SR-94. CAREFULLY turn right at the stop sign," my navigator instructed me to turn right at the first stop sign and corner we encountered after leaving the rest area. I followed her instruction; it had been my inclination during our pre-run two Sundays earlier. We traveled North with Miatas and Corvettes in tow, nearly a mile before making a 180 degree turn, and heading back to the scene of the crime. Some of those with the correct interpretation of the directions called out "hey, you missed the turn!" Then came Craig's pronouncement, "yeah, the whole run goes south when the Miata guy takes over."



Damaging evidence by Mark Booth, who posted this photo captioned "isn't that the run leader in my rear-view mirror?"

"If the Rule Doth Fit, You Must Acquit"

What to do? Since Craig's assessment had already prejudiced most of those in attendance, I turned to the only SDMC member that can assist in such circumstances - Steve "Obie Cochrane" Waid. He wasn't there, but he's had lots of experience in these matters. Our well-considered response and defense

is outlined below; see if you can follow along:

Rule #1 – so long as you're the run leader, you're never lost

Rule #2 - Whatever challenges surface, refer to Rule #1; don't waiver

That particular instruction was confusing to the navigator, who had never seen the run direction sheet prior and hadn't participated in the alleged pre-run

All that aside, the impromptu move allowed all of us to pass in review of vehicles we otherwise would not have seen in motion. Once again, see Rule #1

It provided developmental opportunities for others interested in leading their own runs

It provided the accused with an opportunity to scratch and claw his way back to the front – no double yellow lane markings were violated, but speed limits were definitely flaunted in the process

Lastly, it's the back story that really matters and makes the run more memorable

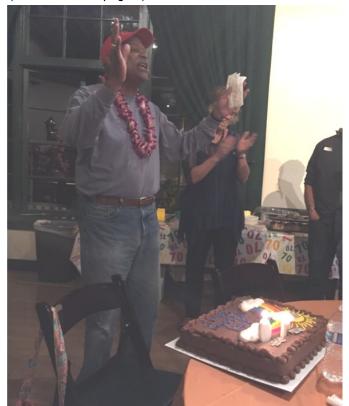
Despite my testimony and marginal defense efforts, the day wasn't about me. It was evidence that two sports car clubs can do more than simply co-exist; we can enjoy each other's company, the same roads, and the same driving activities. There were several new members in each of our respective clubs that made the event and seemed to enjoy the driving and camaraderie. The staff and fine folks at Brody's Burgers and Beers did all they could to accommodate all of us for lunch. Where we had prepared them for 30-40 members, there were between 70-80 hungry customers that descended upon them for lunch. Awkward, yes, but the wait for our lunch orders to arrive provided more opportunity for conversation and ... '

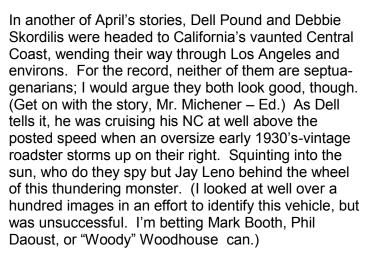
"Today's Your Birthday!"

Even the surprise Happy Birthday celebration (also March 25th) for Richard Taylor in a Poway Park meeting room was hard-pressed to top Kaye Kernes's end-of-run dessert spread. Debbie Ketaily didn't stop with dessert, however. There was a catered spread capable of feeding a proverbial army, adult beverages capable of anesthetizing said army, and a band to provide the appropriate musical ambience. If you weren't there (you were invited, you know), you're hereby encouraged to tell Richard how good he looks at age 70.

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Dell and Debbie's double-take spotted the doublechinned driver flashing them a big smile and the peace sign just prior to speeding away, one "car-guy" another. (There he goes, again. – Ed)

During the course of my research, I realized that James Douglas Muir "Jay" Leno celebrates his 66th birthday on April 28. Looking good, Jay! Jay's respect for the Miata, and for a legion of interesting vehicles, is certainly in keeping with our own sentiments. SDMC turned 21 on March 31st, so we're celebrating our assault on adulthood in our April monthly meeting.



Photo by Debbie Skordilis, capturing Jay Leno's roadster at approx. 80 mph



"They need to make more special edition Miatas".forums.kilometermagazine.com

Stay Off the Paint!

Always on the look-out for material to weave into my column, I seized upon the recent safety-focused post by Daryled Bristol, and seconded by Tom Thompson. You might have read their sentiments, posted below for reference and massaged only slightly by me: Just a little reminder for us on the runs. I know that some of our runs test our skills and our cars. So far, we are still on the plus side.

I would like to challenge all that participate to stay between the lines. Some will say "I paid for the whole road, why not use it?" One reason is that when someone coming from the other direction feels the same way, those behind you have to drive through all that debris; and that plastic makes such a nasty noise (Continued on page 8)

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being dragged along. Stay out of the paint and have a great time.

Once I regaled Daryled for his way with words, I recalled reading an article "on point" in a trade publication, many months prior. Doubtful that Daryled or Tom were referencing that article; perhaps they were speaking from personal experience. The report maintained that more than 200,000 crashes involved debris on U.S. roadways during the past four years, according to the study released by the AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety.

https://collisionweek.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/08/RoadDebris REPORT 2015.pdf

The crashes resulted in approximately 39,000 injuries and more than 500 deaths between 2011 and 2014. While the sponsor of the survey was focused on urging drivers to properly secure their loads, and maintain their vehicles and tires, there's no denying that collisions account for a significant portion of the debris.

In the event Daryled's plea was referencing my "scratching and clawing" my way back to the front of the Presidents' Run, I was very mindful of any transgressions over the center line. It's critically important to pass when permissible and/or safe to do so. One of the real benefits of our CB transmissions is to share that no oncoming traffic will be there to spoil your pass or your day.

Examining common characteristics, researchers found that nearly 37 percent of all deaths in road debris crashes resulted from the driver swerving to avoid hitting an object. Overcorrecting at the last minute to avoid debris can increase a driver's risk of losing con-

trol of their vehicle and make a bad situation worse. Siding with both SDMC safety advocates, they went on to say:

Drivers should also practice defensive driving techniques while on the road to prevent debris- related crashes from occurring. Specifically, "... continually searching the road at least 12 to 15 seconds ahead can help drivers be prepared in the case of debris... Always try to maintain open space on at least one side of your vehicle in case you need to steer around an object. If you see you are unable to avoid debris on the roadway, safely reduce your speed as much as possible before making contact."

As Mr. Bristol pointed out, we're on the plus side of the ledger as a club. Accidents, yes; no serious medical consequences, or worse, in untold thousands of SDMC run miles. It's in our collective best interest to keep that way. Agreed?

There you have it, folks: my perspective on our Presidents' Run leadership gone seemingly awry, a largely -intact run leader account of the B. S. Run that should build confidence in her literary skills, April birthdays of note, and some sage advice from fellow members.

Aspire to leadership whenever possible, discover those hidden talents, drive within the roadway stripes, and celebrate every birthday. Live long and prosper, San Diego Miata Club!



Classified Ad:

(Ed note: as part of your membership, you are entitled to place a classified ad as desired. Please send your ad to newsletter@sandiegomiataclub.org. Membership IS required.)

1990 Mariner Blue Miata. Dune scouted around for a few months to find the perfect car. Single owner from Del Mar, full dealer maintenance history, 144k miles, always garaged and car-covered, rarely driven the last 10 years. All original. All fluids recently changed with synthetic oil. Upholstery in great condition. Shifter rebuilt and shifts as good as new. Tires in good condition, soft top in good condition. Paintless dent repair recently to clean up minor dents and dings. Bluetooth stereo, and wired for a Trunk Subwoofer. Driven for a month before we found Dune's second car, the silver MSM he's now working on. Asking \$4800. Contact Rob Mallory at rob.mallory@gmail.com.

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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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

www.sandiegomiataclub.org

Mail

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

E-Mail

Most club communication is conducted via e-mail through a Yahoo Group named SDMC-List, A free Yahoo account is required.

Follow these steps:

- 1. Go to http:// autos.groups.yahoo.com/ group/ SDMC-List (capitalization matters!).
- 2. Click "Join This Group!"
- 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

any vendors offer discounts to Discount: 10% on labor & parts.

Miata Club members. The Club Pitstop Autoglass. Rock chip r 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@sandiego miataclub.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 3. If you have a Yahoo account, log to your door, provide quick and professional

> 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.goodwinracing.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 Autobody) Restorations, body work. 10027 Prospect Ave. Santee. 619.562.7861. Ask for TJ.

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 Store—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. 6129.287.9626. 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.thompsonautomotive.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 Munoz760.544.6181. 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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