



TWISTS & TURNS



August 2017

Rear View Mirror

by Gene Streeter

Missed It by that Much ...

I'm not trying to channel my inner "Maxwell Smart," just trying to share the fact that we had a blast! Those of us that represented SDMC in the Scripps Ranch 4th of July parade showed up at the appointed time, but not all at the appointed location. First-timers Mike Tryon and Mark Woodard (son Nicholas was a welcome sidekick) joined parade veterans Steve & Laurie Waid, Bill Jones, Les Smith, and me for our first parade effort there in many years. It was Mike who eventually scouted the neighborhood to find the rest of our little troupe. Being the first to arrive at our assigned cul-de-sac location, I parked in a random numbered parking space, because we didn't know our assigned spaces at that point. I probably should have purchased a lottery ticket on the way home less than three hours later; when the parade marshal (no guns) came to visit, I had missed the start of our assigned space numbers by one digit.

And what a collection of spaces it was! While the residents were friendly, even gracious, the highlight of our morning had to be the landscape brigade that swarmed all around us. Their official designation is the "Scripps Ranch Society for the Preservation of the Middle Class," but don't be misled; that's far too stuffy. As the photos illustrate, they are a collection of "average Joes" pushing lawnmowers through a series of maneuvers from their playbook, while their platoon leader barks out the next move. While several of us provided un-solicited coaching and commentary from the sidelines, I was actually recruited to substitute for a veteran performer answering the call of nature. Still haunted by failed square dancing lessons decades ago (stop me if you've heard it), I made a wrong turn in our 4th maneuver. Visibly entertained, our platoon leader had this to say about my mis-cue: "leave it to the Miata guy to mess up our moves!" (Sound familiar, Mr. Moya?)



I sheepishly rejoined my support group on the sidelines. With Les Smith's departure before we officially entered the parade route (for a 2nd parade commitment - he's a popular guy, after all), we were down to just five cars making it past the judging stand. Overly



"I love a parade; except when I'm following a brigade of gross-polluter lawnmowers."

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-confident, I had forecast 15-20 cars to the parade organizers; we came up a few short. These residential parade streets a little narrower than we're accustomed to, our maneuvers were constrained where our decorat-



*Our cul-de-sac staging area for the
Scripps Ranch 4th of July Parade*

ing was not. I can't recall how many red/white/blue paper plates came loose from Obi Waid's flamed entry, but I've been expecting a bill for the clean-up, or worse, a citation for littering. As always, our flag-waving windshield wipers were a hit.

"The Hills Are Alive ... with the Sound of Miatae"

Lonnie and Kaye Kernes are solid contributors to our own run/events playbook, but the timing of their "Run Around the Hills, Part 2" driving event July 24th didn't mesh with our July newsletter publication schedule. If you count yourself among our loyal twelve readers, you may recall Kaye wrote her own run review for the original effort. I merely edited it on her behalf. (Made it more complex and challenging to read - Ed.)

Apart from giving Lonnie a bad time for his overly-creative run label, I found it to be a predictably delicious effort. Well-attended, there were approximately 35 cars assembled at Rancho San Diego that Saturday morning, including many first-timers and some new members. Luis and Nathalie Ramirez arranged for a baby sitter to join in the fun. They claimed, over lunch at the Pine House Café and Tavern, the "me time" they enjoyed on the run was worth every penny.

Thinking of everything, Lonnie acknowledged access to the restaurant parking lot would be challenging for our low-slung roadsters and Holly Hauske's new machine grey RF coupe. He arranged for us to enter through the back gate to the property after driving through an adjoining trailer park. Ever notice how these communi-

ties are often branded as "estates?" Call me crazy (you've got it! – Ed.), but all of the estate homes I've ever desired had more than a few feet of setback from the street and more than an arm's length of distance between homes. One last thing, aren't estate properties expected to include multi-stall garages to better house the car collection? As part of my extensive research, I verified this information with realtors Arman Freeman and Dave Bryan. More on (two separate words, please!) Board Secretary Dave in a few pages.

But I digress ... and likely transgress. Lonnie and Kaye delivered another great run experience, complete with a very different dining experience. All that was missing was Kaye's now-legendary dessert table. She confided "some other time."

"Down on Mainstreet"

I recently inquired of Craig Moya "how many SDMC members have registered for Main Street America?" My good friend from New Jersey might say "How we doin'?" to save syllables and time. At just 21 registrations, we're well off our usual pace. Even those members newest to our club probably know we pride ourselves on our participation in this car show; it's arguably the best car show in San Diego, owing to its Embarcadero Park/Bayside Marina location and precise execution by the Corvette Owners' Club of San Diego. We've captured and retained this particular Club Participation Award for all three years of its existence, the outsized and weighty creation of Craig and a welding co-conspirator. Truth is, we've been acquiring plaques and running the table for many more years than that.

For the purposes of my story, I've named our award "How-ie." Note that he's dressed for vacation; normally, he's sequestered in my garage, where he's lived for nearly three years just feet away from one of my prized possessions and another family member – my MazdaSpeed. He's dressed that way because Craig requested his return in advance of Main Street America, 2017. That triggered questions Craig refused to answer, offering only that he wanted to make the presentation at the conclusion of the show. I obliged, but dressed and posed him for what might be my final time transporting him.

For Auld Lang Syne

In addition to the usual event hype at club meetings, several of you have posted encouragements to our club list as the registration deadline approached. I thought Phil Daoust's comments were worthy of exploration. He noted that only two or three new member names appeared on the registration list; it appeared they might

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Marconi Museum Open House Visit

By Jon Connor

We will be making a return visit to the Marconi. The Museum is in Tustin and while it isn't a huge collection, there are some significant vehicles there (motorcycles too). For those of who went last year, you'll recall being entertained by Dick Marconi, viewing his artwork and cooling off with the complimentary ice cream.

Once again it is their Open House and San Diego Miata Club will be a featured car club. The event is from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.



Sunday August 6, 2017

9:00 a.m. Meet at the Aliso Creek Rest Area
north of Oceanside on I-5.

Drivers' Meeting 9:15 am

Launch 9:30 am

Their web site is marconimuseum.org

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

and MIATA ECLIPSE

SATURDAY, AUGUST 19

12:30 TO 6:00 PM

Pam & Dave Hunt's home
5829 Cumberland Dr.
Poway, CA 92064



Cost: still just \$10 per member;
checks made payable to
SDMC.

Bring them to the July meeting or mail to our Treasurer:

Dennis Sullivan
27018 Sunningdale Way
Valley Center, CA 92082 (760) 828-8424

As The Wheels Turn with Miss Daisy

by Melinda Smith Connor

Is that a rattle under the hood? Oh no it is skeletons in my closet.

Has your past come back to haunt you or bring back good memories?

Since joining the SDMC, I have experiences where my past has caught up with me.

My first encounter was with the Waids. Anthony, my son, and Hannah, the Waid's first granddaughter, attended the same pre-school together. Every year at Christmas, I proudly bring out Christmas pictures of Anthony over the years. We have one picture of An-

thony sitting on Santa's lap at the pre-school. Shhhh - Santa is the one and only Steve Waid!

This year's trip to the Storm Baseball game opened the closet once more. Debbie, of Debbie and Richard fame, told me she grew up in the San Fernando Valley. Yes, I too am a Valley girl. Not only did we live close to one another, but we attended the same middle school (formally know as Jr. high school) and high school. We attended at the same time. Even shared classes.

So the moral of the story is, clean you closets!!

Memory lane is so much fun.

A MINOR LEAGUE TEAM THAT DOESN'T PLAY IN PETCO PARK

By Steve Waid



When Jon Connor announced that SDMC was going to see a minor league baseball team that didn't play in PETCO Park, I knew exactly what he was

talking about. This was the 3rd year that he and Melinda had planned this outing to see the Lake Elsinore Storm play on "Taco and Tall Boy Tuesday".

Two years ago I met the group in Temecula, "under the tower" as was scheduled. What wasn't scheduled was me passing out in front of 20 or so of my closest friends and then spending the night in Temecula Valley Hospital "for observation". Laurie was not happy. Apparently, I need to drink more water and eat more regularly. Other than that, I am just fine.

I did much better this year. I made it all the way to the ball park, and drank a soft drink and, as you would expect, ate a cheeseburger instead of tacos. Laurie and I took our grandson, Mason. This brought back memories on going to baseball games with my grandfather back in the last century.

I was an early baseball fan in the L.A. area watching the Los Angeles Angels and the Hollywood Stars of

the old Pacific Coast League. I played organized baseball for the first time as a Little Leaguer in 1953. I played more in Babe Ruth League and High School. I became a L.A. Dodger fan in 1958 when they moved from Brooklyn. With that background I, of course, consider myself an expert in all things baseball.

Arriving at the ballpark in Lake Elsinore, I discovered a very well thought out configuration. First of all the seating was pretty much already in the shade because of some good design thinking regarding very hot days during the baseball season and where home plate should be. It was very comfortable in the shade at 6 PM.. The playing field itself was not symmetrical, making the outfield play more interesting. A short right field to a very high wall (almost Fenway Green Monster like) made for the anticipation of balls caroming off the wall. That never really happened, but we did see 5 home runs, 3 from the home team Storm. Ultimately, this lead to a Storm win, which caused the crowd of hundreds to cheer loudly.

Another really nice thing about a compact minor league ballpark is that when the San Diego Miata Club was recognized on the electronic screen, the cheering from all sixteen of us Miata Club attendees drowned out all other conversation in the stadium.

All in all, another successful event put on by Jon and Melinda, and a win for the "good guys". I now know that I can do this without passing out, so I WILL do it again.



Say aloha to "How-ie," our prized and over-sized Main Street America Club Participation Award

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not have warmed to the idea. I've suffered from the same modest opinion about my own ride – it's neither rare and unique enough to "show," nor is it "concours" quality in its finish and detail. Now thirteen years old, it's less common than when it was new. Having it on display encourages car show attendees to reminisce about the Miata they once owned; observations like "I didn't realize they made a factory turbo" are not uncommon. Or, from some of the well-meaning female on-lookers "what a cute car." (Visualize the hair at the back of my neck bristling in response, while my pursed lips manage a polite "thank you.")

There's value in sharing an arguably narrow slice of automotive history. But, our participation in car shows isn't limited to presenting automotive or sports car history, nor just about the "show and shine." Well, there's a few prominent exceptions among "us." We're also about the camaraderie and sharing SDMC with all that inquire. I'm always surprised when an attendee asks "do they still make Miatas?"

It's All About the ... ND

Mark Booth and others have shared their observations that ND owners represent a significant percentage of those participating in our runs and events. At our recent "Run Around the Hills, Part 2" event, NDs accounted for 40% of the vehicles that turned out. I don't believe that event math is unique; I encourage you to make your own observations and perform your own analysis. No question that ND owners represent a significant portion of new members. Would it surprise you to know that 21% of current memberships* include an ND in their household and garage? Considering the two years this generation has been available, compared with the 27 model years and production, that's a significant number. (*culled from our latest membership roster – thank you, Chris and Linda, discounting individual memberships in the same household.)

Would it also surprise you to know that while Mazda sold nearly 36,000 Miatas to Americans in 1990, the launch of the second-generation Miata resulted in barely more than half that many sales? Mazda didn't quite sell 17,000 MX-5s with the launch of the third-generation model in 2006, declining to just 9,465 MX-5 sales of the 4th Gen ND in the U.S. in 2016. Here are the last 15 years of US sales of our beloved Miata:

Year	Mazda MX-5 Miata U.S. Sales
2002	14,392
2003	10,920
2004	9356
2005	9801
2006	16,897
2007	15,075
2008	10,977
2009	7917
2010	6370
2011	5674
2012	6305
2013	5780
2014	4745
2015	8591
2016	9465
2017 YTD *	6973

Source: Automakers & ANDC

*first 6 months of 2017

Year-to-date numbers suggest 2017 may well be the best sales year of the last ten. This despite the intru-

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sion of the Miata's Italian cousin - the Fiat 124 Spider. We're unable to drill down far enough to account for member Barb Sullivan's impact on these results. According to Timothy Cain (founder of GoodCarBadCar.net, where this data was sourced), "the fourth-generation Mazda MX-5 has certainly been warmly received, both by critics (especially) and by U.S. car buyers. But the MX-5 is far from the raging success it once was, nor did Mazda expect it to be in a world which awaits autonomy and worships at an altar topped by Range Rovers, Escalades, and G-Wagens."

I couldn't have said it any better. While a significant number of ND owners come from having owned NAs and NBs, and from within SDMC, many seem to be purchasing these latest Miata (OK, "MX-5s") based upon journalist reviews and Mazda's still-modest marketing budget. As a club, we need to embrace this external attraction and make welcome those curious enough to check us out.

What's Gnu with You?

It's a beastly task coming up with page after page of original material for every month's column. Editor Laurie routinely asks me for my submission beyond the official due date; I appreciate her patience. (Thanks for asking ... your article submissions should be made by the 15th of each month.) Along with my take on the runs and events we enjoyed the previous four weeks, I attempt to share points of view and anything I believe meaningful (my opinion) and relevant to our mission and purpose. While I attempt to identify and credit as many members as possible within the context of this column, it falls far short of sharing any biographical information about those we associate with.

Enter Lynn Nolan's project to share member profiles in a column she calls "Behind the Wheel." She has some skills, evidenced by her magnetics-earning first run and review submission last month. She cooked this up with Editor Laurie, in an effort to fill an obvious void. When she asked me to submit my "member bio," I was uncomfortable being the first. Most in our club know me, versus so many of you with more interesting backgrounds and tastes. As you suffer through reading my profile, imagine you're being called upon next as Lynn attempts to enhance the sense of community within SDMC.

Parting Glances

I can't assemble these diverse thoughts into a cohesive paragraph or two, and I no longer have a "Shoulder Bolts" segment to address them. Here goes:

* Perhaps our June meeting audience wasn't large enough to supply any candidates; I'll cast our net a little farther in an effort to fill this critical role. Our current six-figure contract with Dan Garcia has expired. Our decision to install Events Co-chairs to better deal with the responsibility has Dan agreeing to stay on in a supportive role. Please see me if this position interests you.

* Please see the separate flyer for our Summer Picnic August 19. You don't want to miss this opportunity to socialize and enjoy the catered meal we've planned. Stay tuned for the "Run to the Picnic" details.

The 23rd edition of Mark and Cathy Booth's signature "Twilight Run" went off without a hitch Saturday, July 22. This well-attended (36 cars), well-timed, and executed run even manages to attract some musical talent from within our membership. Right on cue, Sue Kesler warbled her traditional "Smokey the Bear" song as we joined the Sunrise Highway up to Mt. Laguna. The surprise came when Brandon Chittenden responded by singing a lesser-known second verse. Both verses were impressive and their singular message much-appreciated in what promises to be a lengthy fire season. I'm happy to share the findings of the American Humane Film and Television Unit: "No animals were harmed or injured during the making of this film."

As an aside, Dave and Lori Bryan actually celebrated their 27th Wedding Anniversary by attending the Twilight Run. Not only that, but they provided some comic relief in wearing matching faux "Beaver hats." Shades of mountain man/explorer/trapper Jim Bridger. Way to go, Dave and Lori, even though there are a few of us with many more years to our credit.

Stay engaged, welcoming, travel-safe, and fire-safe, San Diego Miata Club. Let's make it a great summer!

Membership Information August 2017

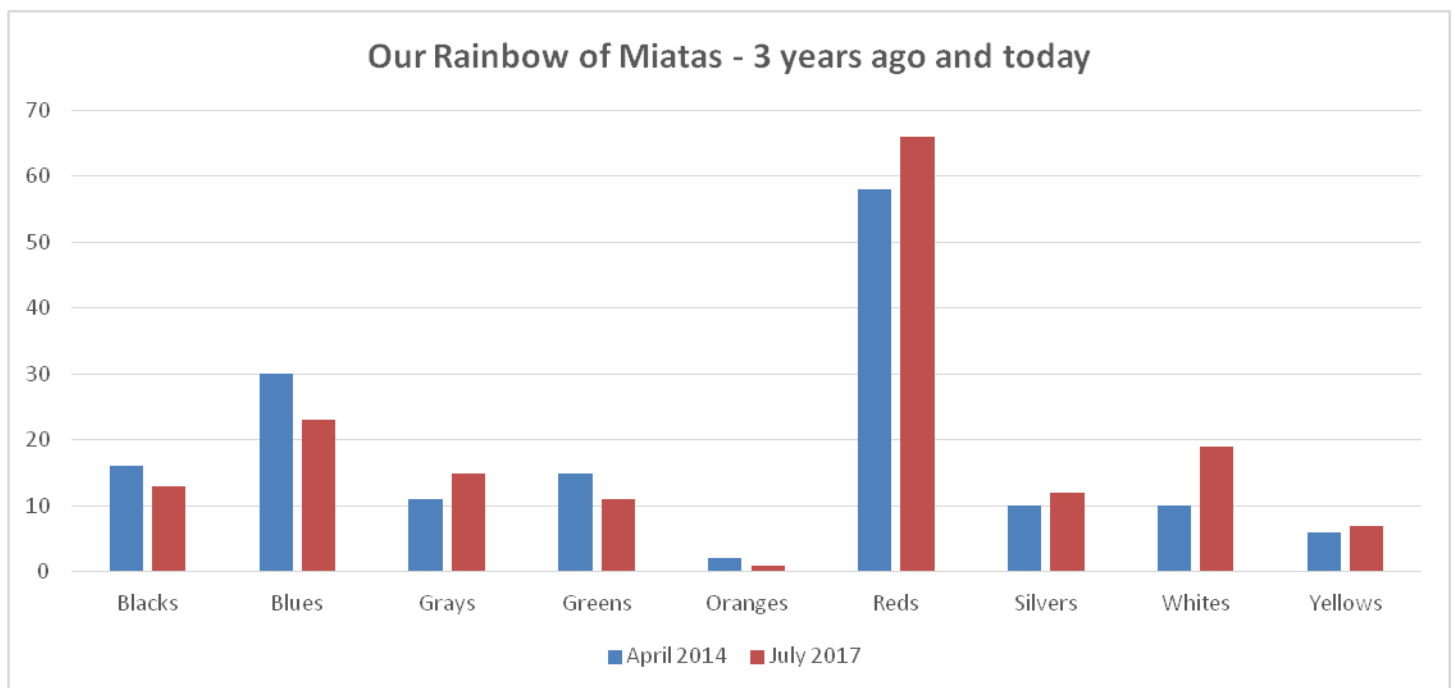
Welcome to our newest members of 2017...

Brad Martin	San Diego	2017 Soul Red Metallic RF
Daniel Tzucanow	Oceanside	2003 Sunlight Silver Metallic & 2017 Machine Gray Metallic RF (LE)
Tom Feher & Lenggje Humpheres	San Marcos	2012 Copper Red Mica
Kyle Cassady & Bree DelSordo	Cardiff	2004 Velocity Red Mica (Mazdaspeed)

...and welcome back after a break in membership...

Barry Drucker	Oceanside	2015 Liquid Silver Metallic
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155 memberships (45 single, 110 dual) for a total of 265 members.



July Events Calendar

		TIME	LOCATION	WHO TO CONTACT?
FRIDAY AUG 4	CRUISIN' GRAND	6 PM MEET	MEET AT TOM'S #23 505 W. FIFTH AVE. ESCONDIDO (CORNER OF CENTRE CITY AND 5TH)	LAURIE WAID 760.715.7850 SWAID@COX.NET
SUNDAY AUG 6	RETURN RUN TO MARCONI AUTO MUSIEUM OPEN HOUSE	9:15 AM TO 2 PM	ALISO CREEK REST AREA NORTH OF OCEANSIDE ON I-5	JON CONNOR SECRETARY@SANDIEGOMI ATACLUB.ORG
FRIDAY AUG 11	K! SPEED PRACTICE & FUN WITH CCOSD	11 AM	1709 MAIN STREET SAN DIEGO	CRAIG MOYA
SATURDAY AUG 19	SDMC ANNUAL PICNIC	12:30 TO 6 PM	PAM AND DAVE HUNT'S	RSVP REQUIRED SEE PAGE 3 OF NEWSLETTER FOR INFO
SATURDAY AUG 19	K! SPEED PRACTICE & FUN WITH CCOSD	10 AM	1709 MAIN STREET SAN DIEGO	CRAIG MOYA
THURSDAY AUG 24	MONTHLY MEETING	6 PM EAT 7 PM MEET	THE HAMBURGER FACTORY 14122 MIDLAND ROAD POWAY CA	GENE STREETER PRESIDENT@ SANDIEGOMIATACLUB.ORG

Remember, all the most up to date and complete information for our events is on our website at sandiegomiataclub.org

Check there regularly for changes and additional details!

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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Jon Connor
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Dennis Sullivan
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David Bryan
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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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Mail

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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 Miata Motive 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 T.J.

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 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 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.

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