



TWISTS & TURNS

April 2019



TRY A MIATA ROAD TRIP

By Steve Waid

Photo Courtesy San Diego Union Tribune

A little history

When Laurie and I first joined the San Diego Miata Club in 1997, we both still held jobs. This meant that most of our leisure activities were confined to weekends and evenings. This is still probably true for many of you that have not reached the time of retirement. All of the history that I will describe is based upon my memory which has become suspect.

In 1997, we attended what was the closest thing to a road trip. Moss Motors created an event near Solvang, California named 'Miatas at the Ranch'. Miata events were just beginning to happen around the country, and this was the first one that Laurie and I tried to attend. It was a Friday through Sunday event that several SDMC members attended. There were vendors, runs, an autocross, a BBQ, and other fun activities to share.

In 1998, I went for a weekend track day with a couple of guys from the club that was held at Thunderhill Raceway in Willows, California, north of Sacramento. This was also my first track experience.

In 1999 Laurie and I tried putting on an overnight trip to the Madonna Inn in San Luis Obispo that turned into an annual event for a number of years. Ultimately called "The Search for Madonna", it expanded to two nights.

Also in 1999, Mazda created the first expanded event that lead to a "real" road trip. The

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The La Jolla Concours d'Elegance

From a previous RVM by Gene Streeter, with permission

La Jolla Concours ... "it's a beautiful day in the neighborhood"

I'm not going to get all "Mister Rogers" on you, but wanted to share my version of our most recent SDMC volunteer effort in support of the La Jolla Concours – a high-profile charity event. If you're a Facebook devotee, you've likely seen some of the photos of the event shared on that site.

I consider myself an automotive *aficionado*, just as Jon Connor would describe himself as a "car hobbyist." I don't claim to be an expert, an authority, or otherwise; I simply appreciate the automotive art form – the execution of styling, engineering, colors, and textures, usually in concert with a vehicle's performance. Other vehicle marques usually come to mind ahead of the featured marque of this year's event, which happened to be Lincoln. It would be easy to dismiss the Lincoln brand of automobiles as "Detroit Iron," but that borders on the vulgar; Fred Rogers was hardly known for his excursions there. More on that later. Quite *ironically*, this was my first visit to this local event. While I've called San Diego home for fourteen years, I've missed the previous thirteen editions. It was on my "mini" bucket list – those are the ones that are almost too easy to accomplish.

Thank you, John and Sue Sroka, for soliciting club volunteers and providing the opportunity, the impetus, for me to finally enjoy the event, in the company of SDMC friends and with virtually no financial commitment. (Free admission and lunch are part of the deal.) You've heard me mention, proudly, numerous times the wide variety of talents and backgrounds harbored within our membership roll. Despite their official role in the Concours – Directors of Volunteer Load-in Crew (a last-minute change from their previous "exit crew" assignment), they might readily agree "cat herder" is more accurate. They were particularly attentive to the needs of

the three SDMC novices taking the challenge of moving to the morning load-in crew with them – Chris and Alberto Echeverria, and yours truly.

Field of Dreams

The sheer volume of investment brokerage hospitality tents and extra-cost optional events being staged (how about a champagne and honey tasting corral?) was a pretty good indication this might be a significant display of wealth. There was a \$3.4 million Bugatti Chiron (base price remains \$2.6 million, if you had your heart set on one – it still carries 1500 HP and a claimed top speed of 261 mph ... Wally) in attendance, in addition to the more plebeian dealer sponsor collections of automobiles – Rolls, Ferrari, Aston Martin, Porsche, McLaren, and Lincoln, to name a few. Eventually, we parked 133 vehicles "on the field," according to a detailed plot plan and numbering system, all subject to the Concours judging process. The expectation was that all vehicle equipment and functions are operational, featuring original equipment and/or restored to the original standards, panel fitment, with all chrome, glass, body panels, and interior "as new."

One of my personal favorites was the 1930 Duesenberg J – Murphy-bodied boattail speedster below. It's an impressive vehicle, having won Best of Show at the Pebble Beach Concours d'Elegance years ago and part of the Gen. William Lyon collection housed in his Coto de Caza estate. The two men in the photo are "Bill" Lyon Jr. (on the left) and one of the two employees charged with maintaining the extensive car collection, Robin Miller. Despite his casual attire, I quickly sized-up Mr. Miller as being responsible for showing this rare Duesenberg, one that somehow escaped Jay Leno's significant grasp.

At idle, the big straight-8 was mechanical perfection, sounding every bit as good as she looked. After gentle prying, Robin confessed he services these vehicles, exercises them on the highways and back roads of Orange County, and maintains their pristine appearance as his

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MIATA ENTHUSIAST: FROM A WOMANS PERSPECTIVE

By Julie Thompson

A suggestion was proposed that there be a contribution to the monthly newsletter to bring a little more attention to some of the woman of this fine organization. As a relatively new member (now in our second year), I find it amazing how this diverse group of men and women from all parts of San Diego County and beyond have formed such a strong bond with as little interaction as there is between us. The group meets monthly and runs are scheduled a couple of times a month yet, I have had the pleasure of witnessing some of the most solid friendships ever in this group of people. A group with one common thread, having some fun in a tiny little car! I have also observed, as commonly occurs in a group, there are those members who are quiet and those who are more outspoken. In brainstorming the premise of this column, it seemed to make sense to take the opportunity to introduce the club to some of the members who are Miata enthusiasts but with a different perspective. Our mission is to introduce the club to some of the female members (and the occasional male with a different point of view) and also to foster a stronger bond between the woman of the club. In researching some other clubs around the country, there are actually clubs with a monthly calendar of female activities. The opportunities seem endless, we'll have to wait to see what develops here in San Diego.

When the topic was brought up to the club at the January meeting, Dona Thompson volunteered to take on the challenge of authoring this newsletter column. Dona felt this was right up her alley since she's a long-time member who has felt welcomed with open arms and would like to contribute to that environment continuing in the SDMC. Dona has been a member of the SDMC since 1997 and drives a 2016 Soul Red MX-5 Miata. She likes to drive but prefers sitting in the passenger seat enjoying the view. The 20-plus years of membership and participation in the club events and runs

bring with fond memories. Her favorite run and the one she looks most forward to is Mark Booth's 'Twilight Run'. This run always draws a big crowd and wins the prize as one of the fond memories...the "antenna bat". One of the Miatas on the run caught a bat on its antenna, creating quite a chaotic moment. Another memory Dona recalls with not as much humor was a Memorial Day Weekend trip to the mountains above Santa Barbara. Splitting the side wall of a tire on a rock and driving down the windy mountain at dark on a spare did not produce as many laughs. Dona's favorite long-distance trip was traveling Route 66 through the Mid-West where she was born and raised. Driving the country roads, staying in the original Route 66 motels and eating at the local diners was interesting and brought back fond memories. The events of the run leave us with wonderful experiences and memories but the thing Dona cherishes most are the relationships she has been able to build over the years with her "Miata family". So don't be surprised when you get a call from Dona to tell her about your "Miata Enthusiasm from a "Different Perspective".

T&T

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A SPY PHOTO:

Is this the **30th Anniversary** Miata that the Waids ordered?




Rear View Mirror

By Gene Streeter

"There's No Fool Like ...

... an old fool." Or, maybe an "April's Fool," right around the corner. I just might be *that* guy, willing to share most anything for your cosmic entertainment and advice to help you avoid making the same mistakes. How about this one? Please stop me if you've heard it.

The story began many months ago, in my attempt to obtain the necessary "smog certificate" and complete my Mazdaspeed's annual CA DMV vehicle registration. I let the initial mailing languish too long and waited until the proverbial "last minute" to obtain the necessary smog test. Not passing the test (my vehicle, if you're wondering), I began what would evolve into a long and frustrating process of addressing the myriad of possible causes, once identified and addressed, driving to clear the history of the fault codes in my overly-temperamental computer, and experiencing the Check Engine icon too many times to

count.  Why? Because I'm a procrastinator. There, I've said it. Convinced there might be a way out of my habit, I even signed-up for a PA (procrastinators anonymous) support group when I was much younger, but the meetings were invariably postponed.

This troublesome little saga came to something of a head on our Coastal Cruise the end of January. Seven cars strong, the SDMC group of us interested in driving some of the best little two-lanes northwest of San Luis Obispo were travelling north in a well-behaved pack on Hwy. 101. I had volunteered to sweep, exposing my expired registration decal to other motorists ... and one in particular. My eyes became riveted to my rear-view mirror ... the CHP unit approached in the left lane, closing the gap to me. Moving to the right lane, he fol-

lowed me for a few minutes before "lighting me up" just before our scheduled off-ramp. My "friends," as he referred to them, scurried off to a nearby parking lot and waited ... and wondered what I was being cited for. In the event you're remotely curious, failure to register a vehicle here can result in its being seized and/or the driver jailed for the offense.

Luck 'o the Irish ... Or NOT

I explained, ever so courteously, the process I'd had been working through with "Rocky" Murphy and his Rocky's Miatomotive to correct the root causes of my vehicle's failure to pass smog; and that I had no idea why DMV hadn't processed my payment, which included the significant late fees. He decided, eventually, neither of those solutions was appropriate, but not before offering this sage bit of advice – "you might want to take this car to somebody who knows what they're doing." I didn't argue the point, but Rocky knows what makes Miatas tick; his clientele includes customers from seven different states, dozens of counties, hundreds of cities, probably even San Luis Obispo. As Robin Williams once opined, this law enforcement officer was trying to be so *cool, his sunglasses were mirrored on the inside*. I rejoined the cadre of motoring fun-seekers, more than a little embarrassed, and having experienced firsthand the "automated license plate reading" software I had previously only read about.

"ALPR" is an acronym for the technology involved, employing multiple cameras to scan our highways, surface streets, even parking lots for vehicle license numbers for the software to audit various databases for illegal activity, warrants, yes even vehicle registration status. It's estimated that over 70% of our country's police agencies employ this hardware and technology. There's little doubt ALPR provides law enforcement additional weapons in

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combatting crime and aids in the investigations afoot in many more.

Are there offsetting personal privacy issues and threats to citizens' liberty? Certainly; but that isn't anything I'm going to thoroughly vet in the space of this column. There's a healthier discussion and debate available at this internet site: <https://www.eff.org/pages/automated-license-plate-readers-alpr>. Even ordinary citizens such as you and I can download a software app (Airbag Recall app.) that allows us to scan the license plate of any subject vehicle, and look up the VIN to determine if the vehicle is affected by any manufacturer recalls. We might ask ourselves, "How much longer will it be before we can access more personal information in this manner."



Here's an image of the ALPR hardware in question.

Photo by Mike Katz-Lacabe, courtesy of the EFF link - above



The Blarney Stone and Other Geological Impediments

While others have already shared photos and/or comments in the wake of John and Phyllis Lord's "Shamrock Run," I'd like to provide my slightly different take on the event.

Originally scheduled in conjunction with Groundhog Day and Valentine's Day, John and Phyllis Lord's run was cleverly labeled "Punxsutawney Phil's Hearts and Marmots Run." Owing to San Diego's unseasonal precipitation and soggy East County roads, the catchy run naming convention morphed into

the easier-to-spell March 16 "Shamrock Run."

According to Irish legend, kissing the Blarney Stone (a big slab of castle limestone) endows the kisser with the gift of the gab, or great eloquence. John's spirited conduct of the drivers' meeting certainly lent credibility to the legend. Mark Booth's photo-reconnaissance drone buzzing overhead, he addressed the 40-odd recreants spread across the twenty-five Miatas amassed for the celebration. In addition to acknowledging everyone's pent-up desires to enjoy some sunshine and top-down motoring, he went to great lengths to explain the importance of driving within member's abilities and comfort levels.

I've not heard a better explanation of "breadcrumbing" to avoid anyone missing the proscribed turns and ruining what would otherwise be a perfect day for our run. At one point, he reacted "fast and loose" to President Dave's gentle ribbing that "not all of us finished the initial run hosted by the Lords." To his comedic credit, John later made multiple references to their crash into a wayward boulder midway through that fateful run, even pointed-out the very turn and offending impediment denying them their run magnetics for that outing. Our CBs crackled to life as someone quipped, "it's a shame the name 'Rocky' is already taken."

While I can't speak for anyone else gathered there, I hadn't driven my Miata since returning from the Coastal Cruise, except to Rocky's in an effort to obtain the desired smog certificate and completed registration. Since I've already bared my soul (above), sharing there were actually a few wispy cobwebs in my roadster isn't much of an additional leap – collected around my own rear view mirror. (Nice touch. Better there than around your grey matter. – Ed.)

You may have seen the email post from official club curmudgeon, Ted Kesler, explaining his assistance of a new member on his first club run. Ted shared that his newly-earned nickname would be "Shepherd." The storyline was that

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From A Different Point Of View

By Dona Thompson



Dona Thompson

I have been a SDMC member since 1997 and drive a 2016 Soul Red MX-5 Miata. I like driving my Miata, but prefer being the passenger. I love the freedom of sitting back and enjoying the view.

Who was the first SDMC member to introduce themselves to you?

Stephanie Gould – with open arms – “Welcome, you will love this club.”

What was the funniest thing that has happened while in your Miata?

Watching everyone “flip out” during one of the Twilight Runs when a bat got caught on a Miata’s radio antenna. We all still laugh when the subject of the ‘antenna bat’ is brought up during each Twilight Run event.

What was one of the scariest times in your Miata? I was on a run with SOCALM in the mountains above Santa Barbara over Memorial

Day weekend many years ago. On the way down the mountain the back passenger tire hit a rock and the side wall of the tire split. Everyone smiled and waved “bye bye” as they passed. The small spare tire was put on and the car slowly limped back down the dark windy mountain road to the hotel with Zack (SOCALM sweep) following close behind.

What is your favorite local Miata Run?

I look forward to Mark Booth’s annual Twilight Run. It is well planned and always has a great turn-out. I love spending this quality time with my SDMC friends / family.

What is your favorite Long Distance Run?

The 2016 Route 66 trip was AMAZING. I was born and raised in the midwest. It felt so good to be driving the country roads again. Staying at the original Route 66 motels was interesting and eating at local diners brought back the memories of “comfort food”. I highly recommend this wonderful trip.

When I Joined SDMC in 1997, little did I realize at the time just how much I would become a part of this wonderful ‘extended family’. While watching Mark Booth’s SDMC 20 year slide presentation, I was reminded of the many events I have participated in over the years and the amazing people I call ‘family’. I am looking forward to many more years ahead enjoying the drive – eat – drive thing. **T&T**



celebration of 10 years of Miata, called 'Miata World' was held in Dallas over several days and there was a caravan of 6 or 7 cars from San Diego that made the trip. This event spawned the first 'Surf 'N' Safari' later that year...the first of four so far hosted by SDMC in San Diego.

In 2009, there was 'Miata World II' in Dallas celebrating 20 years of Miata, and a much larger group went to enjoy the festivities. But, by now, the trip was actually becoming as much fun, if not more, than the event we were going to. We expanded the trip to include a good portion of Route 66, and included a visit to Durango on the way home.

In 2011, Mark and Cathy Booth planned and implemented their first complete Route 66 road trip. To that point no road trip had ever tried to be what Mark and Cathy planned. I know that I was hooked. From then on, and certainly after my retirement in early 2012, we tried to go on as many of the road trips as possible. Many of the ensuing road trips were to attend other Miata Club events much like our own 'Surf 'N' Safari'.

Sittin' on the Stoop

The 2011 Route 66 Road Trip also began another road trip tradition. Because we were staying in a number of the old Route 66 motels along the way, the design of the motels placed a raised walkway in front of the room with the parking below. The night we stayed in Lebanon, Missouri at the historic Munger Moss, there were tornadoes in the area, and Joplin had just been hit by a giant one only 80 miles away. As the sky was ominous, and the threat was real, we decided to pull chairs together outside ("on the stoop") and listen to the radio, watch the skies, and wait for sirens. As it turned out we had no tornado, but we did have a hysterically good time talking and laughing until we called it a night. From then on we "sat on the stoop" each evening and talked about the day we just completed. To

this day, we always find a spot to "sit on the stoop". Sometimes it is a patio area, sometimes the lobby, sometimes in someone's room. But, we find a way.

See the USA!

It seems as if most travel today is destination oriented. Fly from point A to point B and sit at a resort. It's kind of like a land-locked cruise ship. It is no longer "See the USA in your Chevrolet" for those marketing gurus old enough to remember that ad campaign. But, I believe in "see the USA in your Miata".

Laurie and I are planning to visit the last 4 states that we have not yet driven to later this spring. My observations are that you really don't know this country if you don't visit it. There is more going on in "flyover country" than we are led to believe. You will see the farming, manufacturing, and all of the other commerce that makes this country run. You will see the small towns where many of the "old school" values of warmth and hospitality still survive. There is lots of history in "them thar hills". Laurie and I have seen more places, talked to more people, seen more historic sites, and enjoyed the "purple mountains majesty across the fruited plains." I'm not sure we would have ever done the trips we have done had it not been for seeing all of Route 66.

You don't need to do it alone

Two of our longest trips have been driven with Daryled and Carlan Bristol either leading or following us. We went 8400 miles in 2014 to Maine and the northeast. We went 7100 miles in 2018 to Key West and up to North Carolina. Of course, we saw everything in-between.

We continue to enjoy the 'Coastal Cruise' each year as we tour the central California coast with SDMC members. We have been to Miata events hosted by other clubs in British Columbia, Utah, Arizona, Texas, and others. Naturally, we see a lot as we travel to and from the events.

Try it, You'll like it!

T&T

Events Information

April 2019

Sun	Mon 1 April fools Day	Tue 2	Wed 3 9a–12:30pm Temecula Back Country by George & Elsa Watson	Thu 4	Fri 5 4 pm-10 pm Cruisin' Grand Special Kickoff BBQ	Sat 6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13 9 am–11:30 am Over the River and Through The Woods By David &
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25 SDMC Monthly Meeting 7pm-8pm Hamburger Factory	26	27 9:30 am–12:00 pm Rusty Truck Run by Neal & Grace Mills
28	29	30			3 6 pm–10 pm Cruisin' Grand	4 Terry & Julie's Run to be announced

San Diego Miata Club April 2019 Events

Patty Chamberlin and Bill Bennett will be hosting the beginning of the SDMC's "Cruisin' Grand" season with a BBQ. You'll get complimentary eats and dessert plus fun on one of San Diego County's best suburban twisties on your way to a fun evening of Cruisin' Grand..

Be there or be square on Friday, April 5th at:

Bill Bennett's House

2819 Dove Tail Dr.

San Marcos, CA 92078

Remember, all the most

up-to-date and complete information for our events is on our website at

www.sandiegomiataclub.org

Check there regularly for changes

Upcoming Events Elsewhere

Flyin' Miata Summer Camp June 20-23, 2019

<https://www.flyinmiata.com/news/summercamp/>

Texas Miata Round-up

2019 Texas Miata Round-Up
September 20, 21 & 22nd, 2019

Membership

April 2019

Welcome to our newest members...

Daniel & Debra Mocer	San Diego	2004 Titanium Gray Metallic
Michael & Terri Morris	Laguna Beach	Looking...
Don Sinclair	Oceanside	1993 Crystal White
Preston Waid	San Diego	2012 Crystal White Pearl Mica

And welcome back after a long distraction...

Jan Wagner	San Diego	2019 Racing Orange (30AE)
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Our Club's numbers as of 3/17/2019

130 memberships (38 single, 92 dual) for a total of 222 members.

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Some general Membership info:

Revised membership renewal form (rev. 1/28/2019) is now posted on the SDMC website where it can be downloaded, filled out, and printed. Go to: <http://sandiegomiataclub.org/for_members/index.html> -- look for "Renewal Application" on that page. Cost: The **\$5 late fee** kicked in on January 31st, so renewal is now total of **\$40** for the remainder of 2019.

Membership Roster. This updated file is posted on the SDMC-List in Yahoo! Groups. Look for "Files" tab, then "SDMC MEMBER ROSTER" for download. This is only available to active SDMC members, so please don't share the information outside the Club.

Join SDMC-List. If you want to get added, send an email request to us and we'll initiate the auto-generated invitation to join. Include your name and email in the request.

Questions ? Updates to your membership information? Email us at membership@SanDiegoMiataClub.org and ask.

Thanks!

Chris Jones & Linda Southard
Your SDMC Membership Team
membership@SanDiegoMiataClub.org

Miatas at Laguna Seca

30th Anniversary

October 11-13, 2019 Sign-ups June 15, 2019
9 AM PST <https://www.miatasatmazdaraceway.com/>

Parrotheads Unite
and join us for:
The 11th Annual
Gregg's Goals Fundraiser
June 8, 2019, 3 - 7:30 pm

Wine, Sodas, Food, Contests
(best Jimmy Buffet themed attire)...
Silent Auction... and, of course, Jimmy Buffet music!
\$35.00 per person until June 1 (\$40.00 after that)

Where: Garon's home, 1843 Da Gama Ct. Escondido
Mail checks to: 1843 Da Gama Ct., Escondido, CA 92026
Or send via PayPal - to wwwgd68@yahoo.com
Or click Donate button on website: www.wggd.org

Member Classified Ads

Classified adds will be published for paid members on a space available basis. Adds will run for a maximum of 90 days.

For sale ND Miata MX-5 2016 Launch edition:
Manual transmission, soft top 29,080 miles:
.....\$19,900

New run flat tires : good sway bars: Goodwin sport exhaust (original exhaust comes with car)

Contact Wally Stevens at
wallymiata@gmail.com: text or call 619-203-2801

Paul (last name omitted to preserve his anonymity) was falling well behind in the twisty sections and forcing reliance upon the breadcrumbing efforts to keep all of us heading the right direction. At one of our queue-up opportunities, Ted offered that Paul might be more comfortable at the rear of the longest line and just ahead of uber-capable sweeps, Steve and Laurie Waid.

As it happens, I was driving directly behind Paul's silver NB; Ted's nicely patina-ed red NA was directly behind me. Just to be clear, Ted's license plate reads "Runnin' Away" – from home, not from the pack of drivers. And, yes, I can confirm his vehicle registration is current and there are no manufacturer recalls on it. Back to Paul ... his canine companion was a well-trained female Shepherd named "Quincy." (Last name omitted to preserve *her* anonymity) She sat bolt upright in her seat, to better enjoy the view and the lateral "gs" she was being subjected to. She wasn't wearing a seatbelt for mostly obvious reasons, forced to rely on the mechanical grip between her paws and the seat cover. You see, Quincy was part of the entertainment offered us prior to the formal drivers' meeting. Full of energy, she engaged several members in a game of fetch with a green leaf of some sort. I believe it was a shamrock. She actually went several rounds in a contest of wits and reflexes with Mike Schwartz.

I took the opportunity to speak with Paul during our Lake Henshaw comfort stop, welcoming him on the run and asking how "Quincy" was doing thus far. Even though he was trying to take it a little easy in the turns, he explained she had thrown-up from all the excitement and lateral g-forces. (What you mean to say is "from her passenger perch, Paul's precocious pooch 'ralphed' on the run." – Ed.)

Despite the sweet siren call of this early spring run, I elected to leave the group at our lunch stop in Santa Ysabel. Nothing wrong, mind

you; I just had other commitments. I always sign-off my newsletter columns with the "moral of the story," if you will. For me, this one has a brace of lessons learned:

Don't put off until tomorrow what you can do today.

Don't under-estimate the consequences of technology on our culture, our daily lives, and our recreation.

Do look for the humor in life's travails.

T&T



While it's certainly not apparent in this pose, Quincy proved to be a little "green around the gills."

Still seeing R-E-D!!! Our Miata colors. No surprise, Red is the most popular Miata color in SDMC. Our color groups:

<u>Group</u>	<u>Count</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
Reds	57	40.7%
Blues	23	16.4%
Whites	16	11.4%
Grays	12	8.6%
Yellows	8	5.7%
Silvers	7	5.0%
Greens	4	2.9%
Oranges	2*	1.4%

*Does not include anyone listing the 30th Anniversary Edition "Racing Orange" – it's not yet built/delivered. *Will Oranges surpass Yellows by Summer 2019??*

K1 Speed School

By Craig Moya

A number of SDMC members have been joining members of the Corvette Owners Club of San Diego at their bi-monthly "K1 Speed Days", which usually take place the second Saturday and fourth Friday of every month. There is usually a group of 5 to 10 of us.

Lately, new members of both clubs have expressed interest in joining us. They're always welcome, but throwing newbies in with experienced racers does create a problem. It's not a great situation for the experienced racers, because we're trying to beat our personal-best lap times and much slower traffic makes that difficult. It's also unfair to the inexperienced racers because they pay for 14 laps, too. But every time they get lapped, they lose one of those paid-for laps. The checkered flag comes out as soon as the first racer completes 14 laps.

To help remedy this problem, I hosted my second "K1 Speed School" on Friday, February 22nd. The goal was to literally get the inexperienced racers "up to speed". I also revealed a few of my speed secrets. We had a full house, with 17 men and 11 women. So there were 2 men's run groups and 1 just for the women.

We began the School by having everyone do one "arrive and drive" session, just so those new to karting could get a feel for them. After that, we had a classroom session, where we discussed track basics, such as the racing line and the different types of apexes. We explained that all of the things that will make you quicker in your Miata on the track or autocross course also apply to karting. They include vision – looking as far down the track as possible, timing, coordination, balance, reflexes, and an understanding of weight transfer. We talked about a couple of racing axioms, such as, "Slow in, fast out" and, "Smooth is fast".

From there, we went back to the track. With the help of my COCSD racing friend Mike Fuchs, each run group got to participate in a "lead-

follow" exercise, with Mike and I each leading half of each group at slow speed, so all of the racers could see the racing line we use.

We finished up the night by turning the racers loose again, to put into practice what they had learned. All of the inexperienced racers had improved their lap times dramatically over their first-session results. Some shaved as much as 3 or 4 seconds off their times, a huge accomplishment.

SDMC and COCSD split the cost of the room, some pizza and the copying of the information packet all racers received. Money well spent!

SDMC members in attendance were: Jim Farthing, Ken Hurd, Chris Jones, Greg and Mandie Lee, Don Spangler, Beth Stanton, Wally Stevens, Gene Streeter and Daniel Tzulanow.

Whether you attended or not, you're invited to join in on the fun we have at K1 Speed. Kart racing is fun, safe and excellent exercise. The best way to get faster is to keep racing! **T&T**



full-time occupation. While it's not all "living *la vida loca*," I can think of many occupations slightly less satisfying for a gearhead.

Sizing-up my official uniform - white shirt, tan slacks, blazer, and "volunteer" badge, Robin made my day when he confided "we've taken our cars to *Pebble* countless times, but the atmosphere there has become too stuffy, too political. You guys put on a great show ... we'll be back here next year." As will I, searching out my new "best friend of show."



Photos by the author

Interesting side note: Bill, Jr. goosed the throttle while the judges were evaluating the vehicle, heavily soiling the tan slacks of one of the judges standing less than a foot from the single tailpipe. I didn't have the heart to photograph his blackened pants, or pained expression. There would be no "Best of Show" award this outing. His judging peers lightly roasted him for "taking one for the team" on this field of dreams.

Vestiges of Ferris Bueller's Day Off - #4

Since my assigned responsibilities were completed by 9:00 AM, I had free run of Browning Scripps Park until my sleep-deprived body de-

cided otherwise. What did I see but a vendor tent for Alan Taylor Company on the edge of the display field? Having already stripped-away my shyness, I inquired of the woman "manning" the table there "do you have any of your restored cars in the show?"

You see, Mr. Taylor and his General Manager were gracious enough to allow the Ferris Bueller experience to unfold in his Escondido restoration shop in 2012, making it FBDO IV. By most accounts, it was magical place to visit, what with its exotic leathers and the in-process restoration of a rare Bugatti 57SC Atlantic; there was over 700 hours of metal work in each of its swooping fenders. For those of you that attended, is it all coming back to you now?

If you were able to peruse the show program (OK, the glossy print stock collection of advertisements and occasional articles about the show), you might have noted that custom-fitted luggage is now a specialty of Alan Taylor Company and its Taylor Made® product line. Bespoke in its design and with color-matched choice of fabrics (including exotic leathers and skins), "... it's for all automobiles, vintage or new."

I'm sharing this information as my good deed for the day, my public service, putting longtime member Geri Causarano on notice of this new competitor for our accessories dollars. If

Cont'd on Page 13

The La Jolla Concours, cont'd from page 12

Photos by the author



photo courtesy of SoCal Shelby American Auto Club and the Alan Taylor Co. facebook page

you're not already familiar with her company, "Geri's Bazaar" (*that's probably a trademark, not a psychological assessment.* Ed.) produces what most of us consider to be the best custom-fitted Miata luggage available in the market.

I knew from personal experience, the Stanley Steamer might be one of the "heavyweights" of the show. John, Alberto, and I were three of the six volunteers required to push the recently-completed restoration project into position. While the Stanley wasn't heavy by the standards of its day, its narrow tires and rain-moistened ground made it a challenge. By all

accounts, it's a beautiful car; the owner can't wait to get it fully-functional.

But Wait, There's More ...

Recall my references to functional art? The highly-stylized 1938 Bentley pictured below was a jaw-dropper and mind-bender all rolled into one package. I couldn't get enough of this radical boat-tail design, or its collection of clever design elements. Nicknamed the "Black Prince," its creator Gary Wales is my new best artist friend. He shared that he lives just eight houses down from legendary auto customizer George Barris, in Woodland Hills. Pity, because traversing LA would never work for a long-overdue installment of Ferris Bueller's Day Off .

In the spirit of the Riley racer and the earliest Hondas and Mazdas that were on display, I can one day envision a Miata gracing this very field. Where its high production volume and relative newness diminish its acceptance (most Concours d' Elegance entries are there by invitation.) There is the issue of significance. In Post-War, Post-Federal Highway Safety Standards design, the Miata re-ignited top-down motoring for fans of that driving experience. It became the "little roadster that could."

While the execution of a lightweight, spirited, and safety-conscious roadster (you're welcome, Daryled) may well be an art, our Miatas are best-enjoyed when driven, not rolled off a trailer onto the lawn of a concours display. We can always admire and enjoy those that are. **T&T**



My Mid-Life Crisis, My Miata Story

By Steve Sampson

As possibly my 3rd or 4th mid-life crisis, 2018 led me to a growing interest in picking up a Mazda Miata. We had owned an RX-7 many years ago and have fond memories of it. That, plus a garage area that would hold a Miata but nothing larger made it a finalist for a fun car. So the research began.

Many hours on the web finally gave me a decent understanding of the four models and their features. As a first-time Miata buyer I wanted used rather than new since this was a test car, and I wanted something fairly new with many care-free miles left. That narrowed it down to an NC or ND model. Between those two choices, I preferred the slightly larger NC with its glove compartment and dedicated cup holders (I will be a touring guy, not a track guy). The final – and most difficult – choice was an automatic or a stick. I've got hundreds of thousands of miles with both, and if ever a car was made to have a stick it is the Miata. However, we settled on an automatic. All the details decided, how do I now find my target car?

Local choices were sparse, so I did a nationwide search using all the media tools (I've got enough frequent flyer miles to go see a car anywhere). With that long distance search, about a dozen candidates looked promising. Most were in the southern USA, not surprising given all the top-down driving days possible. But the car that intrigued me the most was a low mileage (under 15,000 mi), 2011 stored in a heated garage in Green Bay Wisconsin. Only driven on weekends in good weather with no snow and no salt. These days are rare in Green Bay, hence the low miles. After trading many photos, stories and records, and getting to be friends with the couple that owned it, we agreed on a price. Now we had to get it. A drive across the US in a Miata created great mental images, but it was winter and any

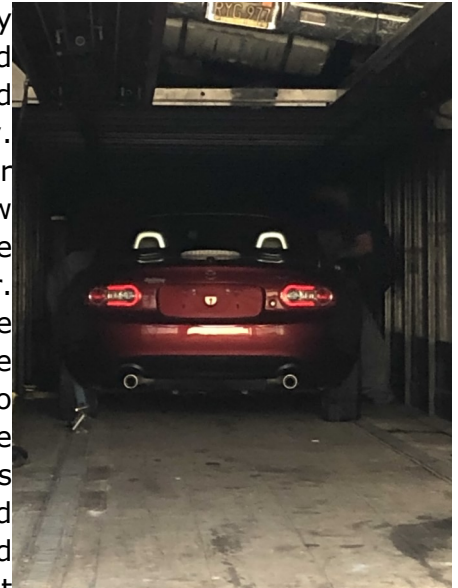
breaks between storms were never long enough for a safe trip. So we finally had it shipped. Say what!? You bought a car that was unseen and un-driven? How stupid can you be?

Arrival in San Diego began a great love affair. Coming off the truck, the car was as perfect and beautiful as promised. Teal Red with tan interior, my preference, and carnauba waxed almost monthly. It looked better than many new cars on the showroom floor.

We've only made one change needed for So Cal driving. The stock radio has been replaced with a high-end Kenwood that

had both navigation and a backup camera that also provides blind spot video on the road – much appreciated! And we are waiting for custom plates that say FUNZIPN. I now have about 800 miles on it by jumping on the road between storms, and we are anxious to join the Miata club on fun outings. Hope to see all of you soon and generate a long list of new pleasant memories.

T&T



More Pictures from the Coastal Run

Photos by Mark Booth



A driver's meeting before a Le Mans start?



Behind the Wheel

By Lynn Nolan

JOHN SROKA



Miata year, model and color:

2017 Ceramic Metallic–License Plate: CERAMIC

SDMC member since:

Early 2018

I grew up in (city, state):

Reading, PA (60 miles NW of Philadelphia)

Name of College/University:

AZ State University - ASU

Occupation/s:

USAF Air Traffic Control, CPA, Computer Programmer, Computer Software Sales, Headhunter, Commercial RE Broker, Serial Entrepreneur

If I could have done anything in life it would have been to: be a Fighter Pilot (bad eyes), be a Medical Doctor (can't take the blood and pain)

Favorite:

Restaurants:

McDonalds, Taco Bell, KFC, Dunkin' Donuts

Food

Hot Dogs, Hamburgers, Burritos, BBQ

Movies

Top Gun, Any Vietnam War Movie, Fargo

Music

70s, Disco, Country, Cuban Salsa

Hobbies and leisure activities:

The Stock Market, Setting up car shows, Self-employment, Costco shopping, Cooking

Something most people don't know about me:
Sleep is my biggest challenge **T&T**



Who is this guy?



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 all year, for either an individual or a dual membership (two members in the same household). Renewals after January 31 are subject to a \$5 late fee. New members joining the first half of the year pay \$35. Those who join in the second half of the year pay \$20.

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 17th of each month. The Editor reserves the right to edit all submissions.

Contact

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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://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.
8. For complete instructions and club email etiquette go to http://www.sandiegomiataclub.org/for_members/sdmc-list_events.html



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. Free embroidery to SDMC members. **WWW.SHOPGERIBAZAAR.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 Roadster-Sports Items only. 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 696 Naples St. Chula Vista 91911 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).

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. 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

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

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

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. 858.395.9990 (Cell) or 760.755.9531/01. Discount: 20% on most parts; 15% on labor (except smog, oil changes, and tire rotation). For purchase, ask for **Barb Sullivan** 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; Coldwell Banker West Realty. I sell garages with homes! SDMC members who buy or sell a home through me receive a 1 year free home warranty. 619.672.0493. DavidBrealtor@cox.net. DRE#01009295.

SAN DIEGO MIATA
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