



TWISTS & TURNS

September 2020

Running with the Big Dogs

By Daryled Bristol

Following this past Saturday club run, I feel it is important to make some observations. As we left the parking lot I slipped in following the run leader and Mr. Alan K. I have come to know his NC intimately, having shed some blood assisting in his install of a Flying Miata Super Charger on a 2.5 engine. That thing is a beast! I have some driving experience, so I felt comfortable initially until we got to Highland Valley and the straights, where Steve's ND took off with Alan in close pursuit. I was left in the dust. Trying to catch them was no fun at all; I could hang in the turns but my 12 year old NC with the great automatic transmission in manual mode just would not pull out of the corners. Hitting Hwy 67 was a relief and Alan departed for parts unknown.

At the Rancho California point, I again managed to depart close to the front of the pack following the Great Pumpkin of the Waids as we proceeded south into the wilderness of Miata country. Here I was a bit more comfortable as the roads were a little more twisty, and I was warming up to a beautiful Miata day. I have driven in the trunk of the Waids (dating back to the days of Buzzer) and enjoyed every trip. Steve's driving style and mine are very close so there are no surprises in following him. He brakes in all the right places and I can match his "Go" pedal from his exhaust sound. His ND has me on pure horsepower but for Grunt we are a good match.

Being in manual mode, I chanced a peek at the old rev gauge a couple of times to see it pushing thru 6K and not pausing near the rev limiter. When the Waids dropped back to take over the "Sweep" duties that left me chasing "Gramatr" with a shiny Red NC filling up my rear-view mirror.

This is fun driving but it can be heart stopping and mistakes can be very costly. The "Run Leader" is somewhat familiar with the roads and has recently driven them. He/she should be aware of any real issues and risky adventures. They set the speed and everyone else is limited to their pace. As the line of cars gets longer it tends to spread out, and further back in line, speeds drop to a more comfortable cruise rate.

Cont'd on Page 2



IN THIS ISSUE

Great Rally of 2020	2
Rear View Mirror	5
SDMC Member Highlight	10
Events ..	11
Membership.....	12
Member Classified Ads	13

Running with the Big Dogs, cont'd

Let me give you a little background on myself. I am 75 years young (the Miata keeps me that way), and I spent the past 25 plus years in competition (driving SCCA Autocross some track time, just for the fun of it). Autocross caused me to incorporate some unusual practices. First, about once a month I would jack up my daily driver and swap out the road wheels for wheels and tires suitable of competition. This also gave me the chance to inspect the brakes and make note of wear. For the most part I am my own mechanic unless I feel exceptionally lazy or time constrained. Every nut and bolt and all the fluid levels are my responsibility. I have a older home with a single-car garage and it houses my air compressor, my impact tools, my welding rig, and an assortment of tools. I read the manuals and follow the specs provided. I trained as a machinist in high school; college was a waste of time for me. The Navy taught me Electronics back before there was electricity. IBM rounded out my education, and automotive mechanics is generally fun for me (a lot of my vocabulary comes from that).

OK, so when I position myself up front for what I know will be a challenging drive, I know what I am driving and the idiot that put it together. Risky? Probably.

I have led runs and I have swept runs and I have enjoyed all of them. I don't like being trapped in a run that isn't fun and challenging, but I will drive in every run that I can while I can draw breath. Everyone is not only allowed to drive at their own rate but encouraged to do so. If you are in a run and find you can't see the car in front of you and you are leading a parade, I encourage you to move to the side at a safe place and let other cars proceed. As a sweep I will wait for you and follow you to the end of the earth. If the car you are following fails to negotiate a turn or crosses into on-coming traffic you just might expect the same results. Make sure there is plenty of space to come to a complete stop if needed.

Please enjoy the ride, I know I will.

T&T

The Great Rally of 2020

By Maryanne Garon,

Photos by club members

After weeks of planning, the Great Rally of 2020, a fundraiser for Gregg's Goals, went off on August 1- and did surprisingly well - with just a couple glitches.

Drivers in the Rally had been sent the rally stop points in advance and challenged to find the quickest route to visit all, within a 2 hour time limit, for the most points! To show they went to



each site, they had to take a photo and text the photos to a member of the Garon clan.

On the day of the Rally, Saturday, we headed (early, we thought) to Kit Carson Park with family members and all our supplies (from treat bags to a loudspeaker and FM transmitter). When we arrived, several Miatas were already there. We assured them that we would be getting things going. . .as soon as our other family member, Holly Bourda (who had all the Time Sheets to hand out) arrived. (It turns out she

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The Great Rally of 2020 (cont'd)



Dan Spangler at Topiary (4467)- *I think this is Dan*

photos and giving updates of their cars' progress: "Wow, Jacob and his Mom have already been to 3 sites" or. . ."This car has not sent one photo yet - they are not going to get back in time". It was at this point that we realized. . .no one could find the Old Poway Stagecoach Stop . . I had a TYPO in the address, so if you weren't from the Poway area. . .that one was a bust!

Shortly before noon, the cars began pulling into the meeting place at the Park-and-Ride, and getting their final times recorded. Dennis' brothers had picked up the box lunches and scrambled to hand them out. Some chose to eat in their cars, other stood - masked - and talked. The Spurgeons thought to bring their chairs and relax under a tree. Once all had returned, I gave a brief overview of the charity and made several introductions, as the times and awards were reviewed. Unfortunately, the "Awards Commmittee" awards did NOT have the list of medals that I had ordered, so the achievements and medals didn't quite match!

Four cars came in with best times/most sites and by drawing straws (metaphorically) Jacob and Nicole Cotton (Jacob is one of our continuing scholarship recipients); Terry and Julie Thompson, Steve Norris were named winners and received "Winners" medals.

Best photos went to: Chris Jones and Linda Southard (First) and Steve Norris (Second - unfortunately, the only medal I had left was for second place costume, so Steve got that one).

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felt a Starbucks stop was essential, and Saturday morning crowds made for a big line!). Once she arrived things starting moving! Each participant was given their "Time Information Sheet" to mark their departure and return times. The sheet provided a list of the sites to visit, points for each one, and their contact person to send their photos to. By 10 AM, the cars began to depart, with Linda Southard and Chris Jones being last two to leave the park at 10:29 AM.

The Garon family made quick stops at home and re-assembled at the final meet-up place at a Park and Ride in Penasquitos. Those assigned to receive the photos were making comments on the



Terry and Julie Thompson at the Boat Houses in Encinitas with Dell Pound visible in the background.



Rick Spurgeon at Swami's Surf Memorial

Only one couple wore a costume of sorts - Ed Chew and Kelly Smith (Garon's friends from Aztec tailgating) wore car-themed t-shirts and won first prize.



Linda Southard at Birch Aquarium

The online auction went well, so between the Rally and the auction, Gregg's Goals should be able to give out scholarships next year. The hard part was not being able to sit around and socialize and talk about everyone's adventures on the Rally. The best part was seeing everyone who came out, even if they were in a mask, and knowing it was all for a good cause.

Thanks to all SDMC members who supported this cause (some who didn't attend sent donations). To see these great young people who get the scholarships, be sure to check out our web-site for a video of all of this year's



Social Distancing Award to Thompsons

scholarship winners (put together by Daniel Zin, one of our ongoing recipients).

The site is www.wvaggd.org



Steve Norris receiving award

The END of the Rally



T&T



Rear View

Mirror

September, 2020

By Gene Streeter

In the event you failed to notice, there wasn't a Rear View Mirror column in last month's newsletter, condensing it to a svelte twelve pages. The proofreaders were done earlier than normal, our printing cost was less than usual, and Editor Larry was relieved that he didn't have to cancel for lack of participation and content. None of your elected officers and volunteer staff wants to ignore communication opportunities, especially in our COVID-19 abated world.

Let's Have an Old-fashioned Tech Day

Having purchased my new/used 2006 MX-5 from a fellow SDMC member, I choose my words wisely whenever I share any negative assessments. This was the "final straw" for the aftermarket stereo in my otherwise satisfying ride; it wasn't intuitive to operate its many potential functions and it had recently decided to accept only one music CD, despite a magazine with a six CD capacity. Okay, I'm a tech dinosaur, as evidenced by my clinging to CD music format. While I don't have any 8-track tapes or "reverb," I might have a few cassettes that survived the last spring cleaning effort.

As many of you know, Alan Kagan is knowledgeable in all things Car Audio, so I asked Alan for a recommendation on what to buy. As it happened, he wanted to upgrade his own NC stereo to a Kenwood Excelon DNX996XR model, with an integrated dash-cam front and rear. We struck a deal on his "dated" Kenwood model, with me requesting his "assistance" in installing my bargain upgrade. Once we scheduled the "radio-ectomy," Alan posted the "Tech Day" invitation.

Maybe it was the opportunity to interact with other club members, the subject matter, or the offer of a great cup of coffee and the freshest of Einstein Bros. bagels. Motivations aside, I understand this was the way SDMC once did Tech Days, prior to Dennstedt's Auto, Rocky's Miatomotive, or Goodwin Racing hosting the event at their Miata-centric businesses.

Not According to Plan ...

Already famous for her "weather girl" persona, Jill Wilson took charge of seating arrangements and COVID-19 safety protocols. Oh, and cups of coffee, and hospitality. Taking advantage of same were Steve Waid, Mark Woo, Steve Sampson, Daryled Bristol, President David Bryan, and yours truly. Where Steve Waid was content to heckle and supervise from the sidelines, the rest of the crew scrambled for the occasional task that presented itself. Installation of the backup camera (about \$31 gets you a high-quality image) provided most of those opportunities.

Professor Kagan advertised a two-hour project completion, followed by a short run to the Vista "Yellow Deli" satellite location for lunch. He had the formula right – light breakfast leading into the SDMC event, followed by another social meal. What he didn't know, or expect, was revealed when the obstinate Pioneer stereo was enticed from its extended hibernation in

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Alan's smiley face and confidence headed south when he assessed the maze of wiring and connectors.

"Lunch" never happened, even though I volunteered several times to order pizza for the dwindling crew. "We" got the new, optional back-up camera correctly installed and working, most of the stereo functions were alive, but the steering wheel controls remained non-responsive. Several calls to various tech reps were of little assistance. David Bryan's electronics QC experience couldn't solve the problem, either. It wasn't until we got "face-to-face" with a professional installer a few miles away from Alan and Jill's Oceanside home that our installation was complete. His fifteen seconds of hands-on merited a \$10 tip.

My tip to you is read the directions, consult with "tech" professionals, and rely upon those that actually do the work when all else fails. "Thank you" to Alan and the afore-mentioned crew that made this project an eventual success.



Our hostess and medical health coordinator, RN Jill Wilson (photo by Alan Kagan)



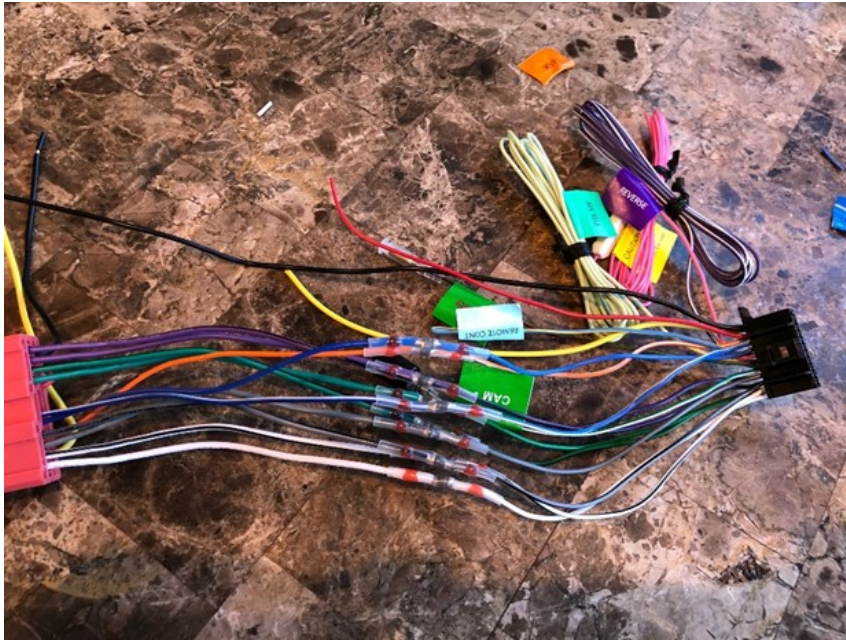
Uh-oh! There was also an amplifier and Sirius hardware buried in this "cave."



Part of the “crew,” masked -up and socially-distanced. Owing to her hospital experience and training, RN Jill was right to insist we protect each other.



No caption necessary.



Just part of the “new” wiring necessary for the Kenwood install (photo by Alan Kagan)



Photo shared by Alan Kagan



Half smile for the camera and grimace when things weren't working to plan.



Alan didn't inspire confidence when he insisted I have a fire extinguisher at the ready and a sledgehammer for final adjustments.



Eventual success!

T&T

SDMC Member Highlights

By Terry Thompson

Name: Raymond Patiño

Miata year, model and color: 2010 MX5 Grand Touring, Silver hard top

SDMC member since: Last month

I grew up in (city, state): Tucson, Az.

Occupation: Retired Quality Engineer, Aerospace

Favorite Restaurant: Filippi's

Favorite Movie: The Godfather

Favorite Music: 60s

Hobbies and leisure activities: Volunteer at Santee Food Bank, work at the Registrar of Voters

Something most people don't know about me: I graduated from college when I was 60 years old.



Raymond Patiño



Sue Patiño

T&T

Events Information

San Diego Miata Club September 2020 Events

Our monthly club meeting is scheduled for Thursday September 24th. It will once again be a Zoom meeting.

All current members will receive a Zoom meeting invitation via e-mail with Meeting ID & password prior to the meeting. You can log on before the meeting start time for some socializing. The meeting will start at 7:00.

The Great Car Rally on August 1st was a success. We had lots of fun taking photos of iconic San Diego locations. The Garons were able to award several scholarships because of the great turnout.

The Sonic run on August 8th was a lot of fun. We had 29 cars attend. One car broke down (lost a fan belt) and had to be towed in. Thanks to our Sweep (Steve and Ann Luby) and our President (David Bryan) for handling that so well. The only regret was that Sonic was really busy when we arrived so many people went on their own to find lunch. I sure miss being able to sit down in a restaurant at the end of a run.

We plan to have one or two SDMC runs in September. An e-mail will be sent to the group and the SDMC Events Calendar will be updated once these are finalized.

The Devil's Highway run was rescheduled to October 2-4. If you plan on participating, look at the SDMC Events Calendar for the hotel and registration information.

On October 4th "The EOQ Drive Group" is planning a run in the Malibu hills. You'll find all the information about this on the SDMC Events Calendar.

It looks like the Escondido Cruisin' Grand night won't be happening at all this year. All of this summer's scheduled Crusin' events are currently listed as "POSTPONED".

If you want to lead a run or be a Sweep on a run, please contact me at events@sandiegomiataclub.org **T&T**

Membership

By Chris & Linda Jones

September 2020

Welcome to our newest member...

Dylan Crowell

Fallbrook

2014 Meteor Gray

Our Club's numbers to date:

145 memberships (41 single, 104 dual) for a total of 249 members.

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Membership Roster updated and posted

The membership roster is available for downloading from the SDMC-Mail@groups.io website. This website is available only to current (paid) members. To access the file:

Go to <groups.io/g/SDMC-mail> and click on "Log In" at upper right corner.

Once logged in, go to "Your Groups" and click on "SDMC-mail" for next screen.

Click on "Files" from list of choices on left side

Click on folder titled "SDMC MEMBERSHIP ROSTER"

Open or download the .pdf file to your device. The most recently updated roster is posted.

All are reminded to protect the member information; it's not to be shared with anyone outside SDMC.

Updates: Send any updates to your information via email to <membership@SanDiegoMiataClub.org>

Access: If you don't have an SDMC-Mail account, or want to set it up with a different email address, send email request to Membership with your name and the email address you want to use. Membership team will validate eligibility and generate a system invitation through Groups.io.

Your SDMC Membership Team,

Chris & Linda Jones
membership@SanDiegoMiataClub.org

Upcoming Events Elsewhere

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
and additional details!

Miatas at the Gap MATG XXV

August 5-8, 2021

<https://www.GapMiatas.com>

Miata Reunion

Registration September or October TBA, 2021

<https://miatareunion.com/>

Canada's Capital Miata Meet 2021

August 12-15, 2021

<https://www.umn-c2m2-2020.com/>

Member Classified Ads

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

For Sale:

2001 Track Miata, 6 speed, ABS, sport brakes, PS, 88k miles, new windshield, timing chain, water pump, fuel pump and battery. Full cage with gutted interior, SPARCO seat., Wisdom bumper cover, burgundy.. **\$4,990**

Contact Chuck Graham at 619 654-0555

Just a reminder of the **best channels to pick for SDMC runs.**

BEST: 5, 6, 7 or 8 (VHF) Preferred

WORST: 1, 2, 3 or 4 (UHF)

VHF channels can have up to twice the range of UHF in our typical rolling and mountain countryside. In flat open land they are more similar.

SDMC Officers



David Bryan
President



John Lord
Vice President



David Hunt
Treasurer



Julie Thompson
Secretary

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president @sandiegomiataclub.org

Vice President—John Lord

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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

The Web

www.sandiegomiataclub.org

Mail

San Diego Miata Club
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Coronado, CA 92178-0456

E-Mail

Most club communication is conducted via e-mail through a Groups.io named SDMC-Mail.

Follow these steps:

1. Go to <http://groups.io/g/SDMC-mail> (capitalization matters!).
2. Click the button labeled "Apply for Membership to This Group" on the bottom left side of the page
3. Enter the email address you want to use.
4. Your account will be approved after confirmation of club membership.
5. You will receive an email to confirm your address.
6. Please go into the profile section and enter your display Name, First and Last name preferred.
7. Select a Message Delivery and Format option.
8. For complete instructions and club email etiquette, go to the "For Members" section on the SDMC website.



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 December 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 HartDecemberer. 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%

Bumper Rescue, Bumper, body and collision repair with excellent quality and paint matching. Near Rocky's old location. Free estimates and free Uber rides back home once you drop off your car. 10% off with mention of this ad. Contact Shay at 619.286.7377.

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.

Good-Win Racing LLC. Miata intakes, exhausts, shocks, springs & goodies from Racing Beat, Moss & more. Special club pricing on RoadsterSports Items only. 858.775.2810. sales@good-win-racing.com

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, r

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.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.

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. 760.755.5901 Discount: 20% on most parts; 15% on labor (except smog, oil changes, and tire rotation). For purchase, ask for **Xavier or Tony**.

Team Kia Mazda, 541 N. Johnson Ave., El Cajon, CA 92020; 619-444-7200, DISCOUNTS: 20% off parts and 15% off service at Team KIA Mazda for SDMC members.

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
CLUB
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Postage

Address

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