



TWISTS & TURNS

October 2020

A Southeast Road Trip

Article and photos by Dennis Sullivan

Since moving to Latitude Margaritaville in Daytona Beach this past December, our beautiful Racing Orange 30th Anniversary ND has been a garage queen. Our daily driver is a 2016 EZGO golf cart with a fantastic flaming sunburst paint job from local artist Palm Coast Eddie. However, it was time to put things right. We just completed an 8-day, 1,625-mile road trip through Florida, Georgia, Tennessee, North and South Carolina in the Miata. All but the last 99 miles were with the top down. A good time was had.

Day 1 was a boring long haul through Atlanta to Rockwood, Tennessee via Interstates 95, 10 and 75. The only saving grace was a series of beautiful country



The Daily Driver



roads past the Watts

Bar Dam and nuclear power plant and then 3 miles of twisties to our destination on Watts Bar Lake. We spent 3 days enjoying lake activities with 4 neighbor couples and our hosts. An unexpected surprise was the discovery that old SDMC friends **Mike and Robin Faircloth** lived less than an hour away. We took advantage of the opportunity and had a very nice two-hour visit at their home in Crossville, TN.

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Barb having fun at the lake

The Faircloth's



The **real fun** began on Day 5. We left the group and headed southeast toward the North Carolina border and Highway 129. Barb drove the 11 miles of highway with 318 turns ending in Deals Gap known as the Tail of the Dragon. What was truly remarkable on this wonderful stretch of road was that we saw no other car or motorcycle on the entire route. Barb was able to drive at her leisure, with or without paddle shifters, and even stop at the more scenic spots. It was a truly special time. After spending time at the two stores in Deals Gap, we headed east on beautiful Highway 28 along Fontana Lake, then Fontana Dam and over to Cheoah Dam of Fugitive fame. Then on to Highway 19 through Cherokee, Maggie Valley and into Asheville. We skipped the Biltmore complex and headed up I-26 to Gray, Tennessee and the home of **Geri Causarano**.



Two days with Geri were spent talking about the good old days of SDMC and the fun times with her husband **Sal**, the former SDMC President. To celebrate we went into nearby Kingsport and visited the Hook and Ladder Moonshine Distillery, owned and operated by a retired firefighter and his son. Trying their sample pours was a lot of fun, especially their 140-proof specialty of the house. They also made a nice Vodka and two special whiskeys. Needless to say, we brought some souvenirs home.

From there we headed to Savannah and enjoyed that beautiful city for a day. In true SDMC fashion we enjoyed dinner at Paula Deen's The Lady and Sons restaurant. All you can eat fried food and butter. After a trolley tour of the city we headed out for the three-hour drive home with a mandatory stop at the Outlet Mall in St. Augustine. It was a wonderful trip and we are looking forward to the next one. Key West anyone?

T&T

Southeast Road Trip Photos

By Dennis Sullivan

The Famous Tail of the Dragon



Savannah

At Paula Deen's



Pre-run Drivers Meeting

By Steve Norris

The Drivers Meeting is very important for the club. We pride ourselves in being safe drivers and this meeting is our opportunity to refresh everyone on that point. Here are things that should be covered.

Drive within your own abilities. Just because the car in front of you is going faster than you, doesn't mean you should try to keep up with them. They might have a lot more experience or have some special mods that allows them to safely go faster. If you find that you are crossing over the center line or sliding out of control, slow down. Don't worry about the car ahead or the car behind you. Just drive your own pace. Other members will have more respect for you doing this than if you were to get out of control.

Give the car in front of you space. You never know what will happen around the next turn. We often encounter bicyclists and have even come upon a cow in the road so be ready to stop at a moment's notice.

Line up near the front if you want to do more spirited driving and towards the back to do more casual driving. If you notice during the run that a gap is developing in front of you, consider finding a safe place to let the car(s) behind you pass.

Stay within the lines. We look far and wide to find twisty roads. Don't try to straighten them out. The only time we should cross over the line is when going around bicycles.

When you come to a turn, make sure the car behind you sees you make the turn. If you can't see the car behind you, "Bread Crumb" the turn by getting safely off on the shoulder and wait for them to show up. The car ahead of you will do the same for you so you don't have to worry about keeping up.

Explain how the group will leave the parking lot and point out highlights of the run where drivers might get confused about the directions. Mention any pre-determined regrouping spots.

Ask if everyone has a radio and that it is tuned to the right channel. Several people have spare radios that can be loaned to new people.

Make sure that everyone has signed the release form.

If necessary, get a head count for lunch/dinner so you can all ahead with a proper estimate.

Remind everyone to zero their odometer so the driving instructions mileage matches.



T&T



Rear View

Mirror

October, 2020

By Gene Streeter

"I Feel the Need ... the Need for Speed"

You might recall reading Alan Kagan's email post inviting SDMC's participation in an NSX Club pre-run event slated for September 11. He advertised it as a "very spirited" run so there would be no misunderstandings or disappointments. His subsequent posts indicated there were multiple SDMC "takers:" Richard Taylor, Mark Mervich, Daryled Bristol, Haroon Saidy, and yours truly. Alan elected to drive his NC Miata as well. Only Richard was sporting ND wheels, apart from the dominant last-generation NCs that participated. Taking certain liberties, I invited a friend of mine in the process of building his relationship with his 2019 Porsche Cayman 718 S. Having previously hustled his car along some of our favorite South County roads, I knew the vehicle was plenty capable. What I would later learn was that Tom wasn't yet comfortable driving it in the very spirited mode we adopted. More on that later.

Assembling at Double Peak in San Marcos, we were eventually joined by a brace of NSXs – Gen 1 and 2, and a McLaren (I believe a 720S, approximately \$350K). Owing to the soot-washed skies, only the bright orange and red liveries provided serious contrast to the coastal backdrop. Off we go ...

The Gen 2 NSXs are hybrids carrying sporting a combined horsepower rating of 573, but nothing approached the McLaren's bellicose roar and high-RPM staccato. As Alan pointed-out, four of our NCs were carrying 2.5-liter engine upgrades, with more torque and horsepower. On paper, it appeared we would simply be outgunned. (You mean like "bringing a knife to a gunfight?" – Ed.) We made our way through San Elijo, the Elfin Forest, Escondido, traversed Highland Valley Rd to Ramona, Old Julian Highway, Dudley's Bakery, Rte. 79, Mesa Grande, East Grade, South Grade, Couser Canyon, and Lilac Road, ending at the Yellow Deli. If these roads sound familiar, they should; SDMC has traveled many of them with pre-COVID frequency.

En route, Alan tapped a few of us to lead the run and help refine the run directions for Sunday's main event. (Lest you doubt the attraction of some of our "driver's roads," realize that at least four of the drivers registered from out of state and county.) "Leading" was just what our Miata squad did most of the day. Not only were we familiar with the roads, we were able to exercise the full range of our cars' capabilities. Poor Tom wasn't able to do the same with his Porsche. Wanting to be a good "host" for his first run experience with us, I hung back much of the time to reassure him we hadn't run off and hidden from him. Also concerned, Daryled dropped back frequently to ensure we were both OK. Catching up with the leaders was great fun; I found myself satisfying my "need for speed" on multiple segments and smoking brakes at the junction of Mesa Grande and CA-76 (yes, they're stock) to evidence my aggression in the corners.

The Yellow Deli was able to contend with the sixteen of us that opted for lunch there; the honey-bees were able to contend with us as well. Helpful hint: the less you stir and provoke them,

Cont'd on page 8

The Miata Mash

I was passing by a car lot one October night

When my eyes beheld an eerie sight

A Miata on the front row roared to life

And suddenly to my surprise

It did the Mash

It did the Miata Mash

The Miata Mash

It was a Halloween smash



Its Soul Red paint warmed to a bright orange glow

And then the flame decals crackled as if aglow

Bats were released through its retracting top

And the exhaust noise screamed with a hellish pop

From the service bay that smelled of grease

To the sales floor where the vampires feast

The staff marched like zombies to that MX-5

That howled like a werewolf in its midnight life

More cars arrived from the surrounding lots

The Party had just begun

Sports cars, pony cars, circling in a dizzying whirr

That Japanese roadster was creating quite a

ghostly stir

The scene was really rockin'. I digging the sounds

**As MG's were leaking oil and shorting out
Buzzing rice rockets were the next to arrive
With their vocal group, the Fast Drift Five**

**Out of his plastic coffin, a Corvette's exhaust
began to ring
Seems it was troubled by just one thing
It opened the lid and spun its tires
And said, "Can you believe all this from a little
girlie-car?"**

**Now everything's cool, even Fiat's part of the band
And the Miata Mash is the hit of the land
For us, the drivers, this mash brings new meaning to Halloween
As we take to the road like bats out of hell**

**Then you can mash,
Then you can Miata Mash
Then you can mash
The Miata Mash
And do the Miata Mash**



**Copyright Les Smith 2018
To the melody of The Monster Mash
With apologies to Bobby "Boris" Pickett**

Photos courtesy Terry & Julie Thompson

T&T

the less aggressive they are. (Are we still talking about bees, or certain SDMC drivers? – Ed.) Speaking of helpful hints, Daryled weighed-in with his insights from this run as well: your driving and comfort will improve when you shift your focus from the vehicle directly ahead of you to the road well ahead.

*Photos by your
author. Yes, it's nearly
9:00 AM*



*There is a downside to having a socially dis-
tanced drivers' meeting atop Double Peak*

*Scofflaws posed along the wall
at Dudley's Bakery; the absence
of front license plates has
certain potential benefits*



Our photo staging effort lacked the usual discipline of SDMC and Mark Booth

Let's Trade Pink Slips



Beginning to spend his only child's inheritance, my friend Tom has already been making noises about moving up to a new and much more powerful Porsche 911. This pre-run was his first challenging drive, despite my encouragement to exercise both his Cayman and his driving skills over the last two months. Those of you with exceptional memories might recall he accompanied me to last year's tour of Mazda's Heritage Collection in Irvine. Instead of following the group to lunch, we pointed my MazdaSpeed toward nearby Hillbank Motors to satisfy his temporary lust for a Cobra.

The Cobra, much simpler and "raw" by comparison, wouldn't have been a good choice for him. Ever since he acquired his new (and very refined) 2019 Cayman, he's been talking about upgrading its 350 horsepower and eventually trading-up for a 600-plus hp 911 Turbo. I urged him to save his money, buy a Miata, and thus be able to actually use all of its more modest power and its capable handling. Always "competing" with Tom, he and I had a de-brief conversation over lunch. He indicated he was rolling through the corners, rather than tapping the brakes to communicate his intentions to the otherwise intuitive automatic transmission. Grabbing a lower gear(s) allows you to power out of the corner and build straight-line speed much more quickly. Considering the fact that my NC proved to be much quicker than his Porsche all day, I offered to trade him pink slips. He demurred. (What? Speak English. -Ed.) Even given the current disparity in values (approximately \$9K for mine, \$85K for his), I might blink. Oddly enough, when the NSX run organizer ("Chase" by name) was asked if the Miatas were invited to Sunday's main event, he sheepishly responded "not really ... but the Porsche can come." How ironic, given our radically different performances. Even though the Miata is the answer to most sports car questions, it remains the "Rodney Dangerfield" of the automotive pecking order.

Postscript

I really enjoyed last Saturday's "Gears 'n Grapes" club run hosted by Steve and Ann Luby. I enjoyed the company of Lady Bonnie as well. I would have never knowingly invited her to participate in a very spirited run; it would have proved unsettling for both of us. I hope that someone gives the Luby's effort it's well-deserved respect in print. It's my fervent wish (not "fermented" wish, proofreaders) we can manage to do more of these in the future.

See bottom of page 11 for **PSS for RVM**

SDMC Member Highlights

By Terry Thompson

Name: Chris Welch

Miata year, model and color: 2019 MX-5 RF, Ceramic Metallic

SDMC member since: 2020

I grew up in (city, state): Mountain View, CA

Occupation: Software Engineer

Favorite Restaurants: Korean BBQ

Favorite Movies: Lord of the Rings

Favorite Music: Jazz, Classic Rock

Hobbies and leisure activities: Piano, lifting, videogames, baseball umpiring, canyon carving

Something most people don't know about me: I play keyboard in a jazz trio



T&T

SDMC Member Highlights

By Terry Thompson

Name: Jeff & Barbara Butler

Miata year, model and color: 2003 Garnet Red Mica

SDMC member since: 2020

I grew up in (city, state): Dallas, Texas – now live in Santa Fe, New Mexico

Occupation: Self Employed

Favorite Restaurants: Mexican, Italian, Seafood

Favorite Movies: Mysteries, Adventure

Favorite Music: '50s Rock & Roll

Hobbies and leisure activities: My cars, Firearms, Travel, Grandchildren

Something most people don't know about me: I am an open book. Few secrets.



Rear View Mirror

PSS.

My friend Tom traveled to Arizona two days ago to brave the "Devil's Highway," both directions. Via "Track My Tour," he reported his run North was awesome, except for three overly curious deer he encountered on the route. One youngster was nearly a passenger, causing a boost of adrenalin among other things. I say that because some of you intend to join the Sahuaro Club in its own celebration of spirited driving there. Lady Bonnie and I are leaving for Ohio and beyond the day prior; I'll be thinking of you.

Safe travels, all!

Gene



T&T

Events Information

San Diego Miata Club

October 2020 Events

By Steve Norris

Our **monthly club meeting** is scheduled for **Thursday October 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 October**. 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

October 2020

Welcome to our newest members...

| | | |
|-------------------|-----------|----------------------|
| Jonathan Neumann | San Diego | 2012 Copper Red Mica |
| Simon & Ann Clark | Vista | 2002 Classic Red |

Our Club's numbers to date:

147 memberships (42 single, 105 dual) for a total of 252 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/>

SDMC Officers



David Bryan
President



John Lord
Vice President



David Hunt
Treasurer



Julie Thompson
Secretary

Executive Board

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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

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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 **Patrick Howard**.

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.

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.





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