



# TWISTS & TURNS

June 2021

## SEVEN LEVEL HILLS RUN

*By Wendy Crumbaugh*

April 21st was a beautiful, perfect spring day...a fine day for a cruise to Palm Desert. After coffee and the driver's meeting at the always welcoming Dudley's, we headed toward Julian to descend the Banner Grade. The twisty-turns of the grade brought us down to the valley floor, the line of Miatas made a left to travel up the scenic San Felipe Valley past Warner's Station. This section of our drive was lovely, with few signs of human habitation, but plenty of trees and rolling meadows.

Luckily, traffic was light as S2 dead-ended into Rt. 79, where we made a right turn to head north to Aguanga. Along this route, we got to see a glider taking to the morning skies at the airport past Warner Springs. Numerous wineries and ranches are located throughout this route, which tempts the curious to return and sample the local vintages. The Miatas turned right at Rt. 371, which is an often busy three way stop, and introduced OTMs into our group. We agreed to regroup and took a bathroom break at Cahuilla Casino, up ahead on the right.

Continuing on our way, we reached the casino and a much needed break. The wind had picked up and most folks kept on their sweaters in the chilly breeze. After stretching our legs, we collected ourselves back into our group, and began the final trek to the desert. Dodging a bicycle or two, we took the Pines to Palm Highway from the right at the Paradise Cafe to Seven Level Hills. It was amazing to go from crisp, cool air with pines trees to hot, dry air with palm trees in a matter of minutes as our elevation decreased to 200ft above sea level. The switchbacks were exciting and fun, with spectacular views of the valley laid out below, if one dared to take one's eyes off the winding path. The road eventually straightened and we passed gorgeous country club landscaping to arrive at El Paseo, the main shopping drag in town. After a right hand turn, and a short cruise, we took a left off of El Paseo to a large parking area surrounded by many restaurants. With so many options for lunch, some chose pizza, some burgers and some had BBQ, but all of us had a good time.



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## The Ladies on the Left Run

*By Jan Wagner, photos and text*

"Ladies on the Left" run. Such a deceptively simple title. What could it possibly mean?

A run for political office by a group of liberal-leaning ladies? Perhaps, but this is not election season, so no.

A fund-raising running event, with the ladies on the left and the men on the right? Perhaps, but not likely. The logistics of dividing the track's width in half would hardly be worth the effort.

Could it be that in this case, "run" describes what car clubs do when they get together to go driving? Yes, of course, that's it!



The "Ladies on the Left" run was for Miatas (and Fiatas — part FIAT, part Miata), organized by the San Diego Miata Club.

Traditionally, not just in our car club but in driving in general, if guys and gals get together in a car to go for a drive, the guy tends to be the driver. This tradition has served guys well, since it is much more fun to drive than to be driven, especially on spirited drives.

Finally, the ladies in our car club said enough is enough. They want to drive too. They decided to organize a fun run where the ladies are encouraged to do the driving, and the guys — well, they can enjoy the run from the passenger seat for a change!

And so it was that the "Ladies on the Left" run came to be, as in the ladies would sit on the left side of our trusty Mazda MX-5 Miatas. Not only that, but to encourage lots of ladies to drive, it was also decided that this would not be yet another opportunity for aggressive driving — something that the guys seem to love to do, possibly to impress their companions in a chest-thumping sort of way!

The "Ladies on the Left" run was organized by and especially for the ladies. The guys were welcome to come along too, but preferably in the right-hand seat of our two-seat sportscars.

Of course, the run would not take the freeway. It would seek out more appropriate sportscar roads for our nimble roadsters, along the picturesque back-county roads of North San Diego County. The roads had quaint, evocative names that included Old Castle, Lilac, Sleeping Indian, Old River and Little Gopher Canyon.

The description of the run was straightforward. "This leisurely run will be a 2-hour run through some of the best North County roads and twisties, but at a Sunday afternoon pace. At the conclusion of the run, we will be enjoying a brunch at the private Vista Valley Country Club." Since this run would be taking place during the coronavirus pandemic, they added, "You are welcome to come on the run and not stay for lunch, should you choose."

"The intent of the run is for the 'usual passenger' to have a chance to sit behind the wheel as a driver, and for those who like to drive at a slower pace, to feel comfortable driving in an event. All members are welcome to attend and it does not mean a lady has to drive your car, however, there will be no complaining about a slow driving pace. If you define a fun run by the maximum speed at which you can take turns, this may not be the run for you!"

"We look forward to seeing all of you on this unique run!"

So, how was the attendance at this unique, norm-smashing run? What do you think? We had a huge turnout, including a couple of guys wearing dresses and wigs. No doubt they were hoping to sit on the left too.

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A good time was had by all on the run, followed by what looked like a delicious lunch at the beautiful, exclusive Vista Valley Country Club. I say it looked like a delicious lunch because, as irrational as I know I am being, I have not dared to even eat restaurant takeout food since March of 2020, even though I am fully vaccinated (Pfizer) against COVID-19. Baby steps. I was not ready to share a sit-down lunch with a large group of people outside my bubble (which, in my case, means everyone, since I live alone). Baby steps. My first goal is to return to Panda Express and order takeout. Then, when I survive that, I'll take another baby step.

To see additional photos, visit [www.drivetribe.com](http://www.drivetribe.com), click on the magnifying glass, select "POSTS" and enter "AutoMatters & More #690" in their search bar. Please send your comments to [AutoMatters@gmail.com](mailto:AutoMatters@gmail.com).

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## Ladies on the Left Run

Photos by Mark Booth



## Twists & Turns



# St. Patrick's Day Run

*Text and photos by Jan Wagner*

Now that I've been fully vaccinated against COVID-19 (with the Pfizer vaccine), it is probably safe for me to carefully begin to resume some of my pre-pandemic activities, while wearing a face mask. Right up there on my list of those missed activities is driving for pleasure again, as opposed to just driving to make necessary trips to the grocery store. I also need to drive to restore my driving ability. A year in self-imposed isolation at home has left my driving skills a little rusty.



With that in mind, last weekend I joined a group of my fellow members of the San Diego Miata Club (SDMC) for a spirited drive through San Diego County's back country. Given the date in March, our drive was aptly named the "St. Patrick's Day Run."

For those of you who have not had the pleasure of going on a fun run with a car club, I heartily recommend that you join a club and do so. Do a Google search for car clubs in your area, and find one that aligns with your interests. Otherwise, get together with a group of your friends and organize trips behind the wheel. That is a great way to socialize and explore new places. Designate a sweep car to bring up the rear, to help stragglers stay on the route.

It helps if you have two-way radios. A couple of years ago our club recommended the BaoFeng UV-82HP High Power UHF and VHF radio. That is not very expensive, has decent range, is small, the included little whip antenna is sufficient, and it is easy to understand what people are saying.

If you have a radio, you do not need to refer to the printed route directions — especially useful if you do not have a passenger to read them. The lead car's passengers can use their radio to tell everyone in advance where to turn; let people know when to pull over, stop and wait, in case the group gets split up; and share important supplemental information — like when there is oncoming traffic, with brief descriptions of the vehicles — important to be aware of on a narrow, two-lane, tree-lined, twisty road if you were contemplating pulling out and making a pass.



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*Cont'd from prev page*

At one point we were warned that: “There’s a squirrel in the right lane. Watch out!” Alas, the driver ahead of me could not miss it. RIP squirrel.

Likewise, we were told about a fallen tree branch in the roadway. From time to time we were also advised about cyclists on the road, so that we could slow down and be extra careful as we drove around sharp, blind turns. Of course, your passengers also might enjoy using the radio to socialize on the drive with other members of the group.



Something else that I enjoy, and you might too, is taking point-of-view, imaged-stabilized, videos of these drives and then reliving them later. To do that I attach a high-resolution GoPro camera (4K Hero 8 Black) via a GoPro suction cup mount to the inside of my car’s windshield. This camera is small, so it does not block my view of the road, the two important buttons (power and start/stop) are easy to find and use, and the GoPro suction cup mount is secure. It has been on my Miata for several months and it still holds securely.

I must stress the importance of using a camera that has effective image stabilization. On my 2019 SDMC trip to the big Miata Reunion event at WeatherTech Raceway Laguna Seca, in Northern California, I made the mistake of thinking that mounting my small, point-and-shoot camera to the windshield would sufficiently capture our scenic drive up and down the California coast, and on the racetrack itself. Unfortunately, that camera did not have effective video image stabilization, so all of my in-car videos shook quite a lot. That experience is what prompted me to buy the GoPro.

After this short trip, I returned home with some entertaining video footage of my drive along some of San Diego County’s twisty back roads, from my point-of-view looking over the bright orange hood of my Miata. The sounds of the engine can be heard, as I rowed up and down through the gears.



*To see additional photos and my aforementioned videos, visit [www.drivetribe.com](http://www.drivetribe.com), click on the magnifying glass, select “POSTS” and enter “AutoMatters & More #683” in their search bar. Please send your comments to [AutoMatters@gmail.com](mailto:AutoMatters@gmail.com).*

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## The Windshield Wiper Wasn't Invented for Automobiles

The windshield wipers on your Miata/MX-5/124 weren't invented for it or any other automobile; rather, for street cars. In 1903. The first automobile with a windshield wasn't built until 1904.

Windshield wipers are an often overlooked "necessary device" added to mobility devices as the speed at which they moved people and goods increased.

An incident that set the stage for the windshield wiper's invention was the illustration in a recent TED Talk about being knowledgeable of one's surroundings, as opposed to just experiencing them.

Mary Elizabeth Anderson was riding on a streetcar in New York City in the winter of 1902 and noticed the operator regularly opening the window to wipe off snow and slush. Most passengers reacted only to their discomfort that resulted from the blasts of cold air when this happened. Miss Anderson's mind, though, was functioning higher on the cognitive scale than those of most other passengers in processing the situation; kind of like, "Life doesn't have to be like this." She realized the motorman needed a windshield clearing device. Something that could be controlled from inside the street car to clear the windshield so it could operate safely at the speed for which it was capable. So she set to work on a solution, the result being a windshield wiper.

One fact set Miss Anderson apart from most of her fellow passengers: she was visiting New York from Alabama. Those blasts of cold wind when riding street cars in the winter weren't part of her daily life, an inconvenience merely to be tolerated. (Imagine a 1902 street car bumper sticker: Cold Blasts Happen.) Street cars and train locomotives at

that time did have manually-operated devices that partially cleared windshields at slow speeds and when they were stopped. But their use diverted the operator's attention considerably.

Almost a century later, the planners and decision-makers who brought the MX-5 into reality, differed from their counterparts at other automobile manufacturers in much the same way. They were knowledgeable of the possibilities when combining unique vehicle engineering properties with challenging highway situations (AKA twisties). They created an experience that was quite different from that of other offerings. Everything about this little roadster has been meeting its owner's needs rather than being just another spin-off of what's hot at the moment. We call it Zoom Zoom!

Photo caption: WB Reed, husband of my father's cousin, a street car operator in Charleston, WV, about time windshield wipers were invented. No signs of any frost-bitten hands.





# Miata Generations in SDMC

*By Chris Jones*

Soon after most MX-5 owners drive their first one home, if not before, they hear of Miata “generations” NA, NB, etc. Let’s not assume everyone in the Club knows how their Miata falls into a given designation, so I’ll touch on the source of the designations and how the model years are grouped in each.

It starts with the car’s Vehicle Identification Number (VIN). A typical Miata VIN will look like:

JM1NB3537X0135577

Translation:

J = Japan

M = Mazda

1 = Car

**NB** = Model M2. *This is the “Generation” designation – NA, NB, NC, or ND.*

An internet search for “Miata VIN Decoder” will lead to a full breakdown of your VIN.

**SDMC Generations.** Of 144 Miatas reported by the Club membership, the generation breakdown (percentages rounded):

NA – 24 Miatas (17%)

NB – 33 Miatas (23%)

NC – 37 Miatas (26%)

ND – 50 Miatas (35%)

The most obvious generation distinction is body style, but each brings refinements to performance, safety, and convenience.

**Gen NA: 1989 – 1997.** The first MX-5 Miata debuted at the February 1989 Chicago auto show, and it’s a wonder it got any notice since the Acura NS-X Sports Car Concept also debuted there. Mazda officially released the Miata as a 1990 model, with its pop-up headlights. We have four 1990 Miatas in our Club!

**Gen NB: 1999 – 2005.** Skipping model year 1998, the second-generation Miata came in without the pop-up headlights, the body was curvier and more substantial looking, and a few horses were added under the hood. This group also saw the Mazdaspeed version with a turbocharged engine.

**Gen NC: 2006 – 2015.** The third-generation model saw a distinct leap into modernity with an all-new body and running gear, and more curb weight, along with a new 2.0-liter engine that’s almost as powerful as the earlier Mazdaspeed version. The Power Retractable Hardtop amazed us on the 2007 model, and SDMC member Art Hamilton quickly added “PRHT” vanity plates to his. Ooh rah!

## SDMC Board Meeting July 8, 2021

The next SDMC Board Meeting will be on **July 8<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm via ZOOM**. Any club member is welcome to log-in and attend. All members who are interested in seeing the board in action are welcome. Be prepared to bring up ideas.

*Miata Generations, from prev. page*

**Gen ND: 2016 – Present.** Mazda returned to its roots with the ND, making it smaller and lighter, with a reimagined body that looks sexy and aggressive. It's a very quick Miata with its newer 2.0-liter engine. Ten years after the PRHT, Miata rolled out with a power-retractable hardtop model known as the MX-5 Miata RF for "Retractable Fastback," giving it a coupe or targa appearance. Mazda unveiled its 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Miata at the 2019 Chicago Auto Show, the same show where the original MX-5 debuted in 1989. SDMC members snatched up nearly a dozen of the limited run 30 AE in the first minutes of online sales – Racing Orange is the new yellow!



**RALLY ONLY:**  
\$30 per car

**MEAL:**  
\$20 per person  
\$17.50 per rally participant

**POKER CAR RALLY**  
Benefitting Gregg's Goals providing scholarships for young people in north county San Diego

**Silent Auction & Raffle Drawing w/SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS PRESENTATION!!**

**June 19 2021**

**CHECKS:**  
Gregg's Goals  
1843 Da Gama Ct  
Escondido  
92026

**CREDIT CARD:**  
wwgpd.org

**LUNCH:**  
12:30-3pm  
1843 Da Gama Ct  
Escondido  
92026

**RALLY:**  
9:45a.m.  
Kit Carson Park  
3333 Bear Valley Pkwy  
Escondido

**For more info: wwgpd.org**





## ***Rear View***

## ***Mirror***

***June, 2021***

***By Gene Streeter***

### ***It's All About the Bling***

First, allow me to compliment the current SDMC Board and President Terry for doing a marvelous job of keeping our club viable and relevant. It's clear the COVID-scarred landscape is improving, and it appears we're poised to take advantage of our members' high vaccination rate and the loosening regulations.

Where "deposed" President David made the question "any new cars or new bling to share?" a staple of his meetings, President Terry has seen fit to continue the practice. Employing the theory "one picture is worth a thousand words," (Thanks both to you and Eastman-Kodak. – Ed.) here's my latest personal update. Beneath all that tasteful glitz is my new header and exhaust system, improving the 2.5 liter's torque and sporty exhaust tones. A new Wilwood brake package up front takes care of the "whoa." Goodwin Racing sells both packages, and insiders report plenty of their customers are spending stimulus money on their Miatas.



*Co-conspirator Alan Kagan shared this image from one of the Facebook forums*

*he frequents (Thank you for the annotation alliteration. – Ed.)*

See how many "bling" items you can identify ... the winner gets to magnetize their own Miata and drive it through their neighborhood Pep Boys retailer. Pay no attention to the faux bullet-riddled Mercury Comet adjacent to "my" True Red NC.

### ***Hot 'n Heavy Metal in South Bay***

Wherein we learn something about recycling and re-purposing nearly 1400 pounds of Miata sway bars otherwise headed to the scrap heap. We also also learn that long-time SDMC member Ted Kesler is equally at home *Cont'd on next pg.*

in both welding leathers and cycling shorts. (You're not going to infringe upon our "Behind the Wheel" segments, are you? – Ed.)

The story actually begins with Goodwin Racing's order of roughly 125 Miata sway bars that failed to meet Brian Goodwin's quality standards. Ted learned of the resultant scrap pile and asked if he could have it for his welding stockpile. Brian assented and witnessed first-hand where the expression "like a duck on a June-bug" might have come from, as Ted loaded up his Ranger pickup and headed for the Hills of Beverly Chula Vista ... twice. Under the guise of Kesler Customs, Ted does some custom fabrication work, and even supplies Thompson Automotive Parts with the hide-a-way front license plate brackets Tom sells. But I digress.

As Ted and Sue have done for previous Surf 'N Safari events, they set about designing and building something special for our planned October 2020 edition. As committee chair of that event, I received an excited pre-pandemic invitation to come preview their exclusive Surf 'N Safari furniture line. In his garage workshop, Ted had cut, bent, grinded, welded, and spot-painted those otherwise worthless sway bars into one-of-a-kind patio furniture perfect for functions and photo ops on the lawn at Sycuan Resort. I couldn't help but inquire how their neighbors tolerated all the racket that process certainly made. Ted's tip was that he performs all sorts of minor welding repairs for his neighbors, and they manage to accept his noise pollution.

*Most photos by the Keslers. On the left is their 1<sup>st</sup> generation Miata, the talented couple, and their Chula Vista home. All are well-maintained.*



Challenge: Ted and Sue no longer wanted to store all the furniture pieces in their backyard. I agreed to take custody of some of the pieces and convinced ("strong-armed" might be more accurate) then-president David Bryan to take many of the remaining pieces. As 2020 wore on and it became obvious Surf'N Safari yet another year, to October 2022.



Ted and Sue always intended this furniture would be awarded and/or raffled-off to event attendees, helping our club's financial bottom line. These pieces will be nearly 2 ½ years old when Surf 'N Safari 2022 finally materializes. It's probably a good time to find permanent homes for Ted's sway-bar children. Please review the catalog photos below, make inquiries, and purchase offers. Ted has even offered his delivery assistance if you desire. I'm partial to the "lifeguard chair" that already occupies a spot next to our pool, less than a mile from the "factory."



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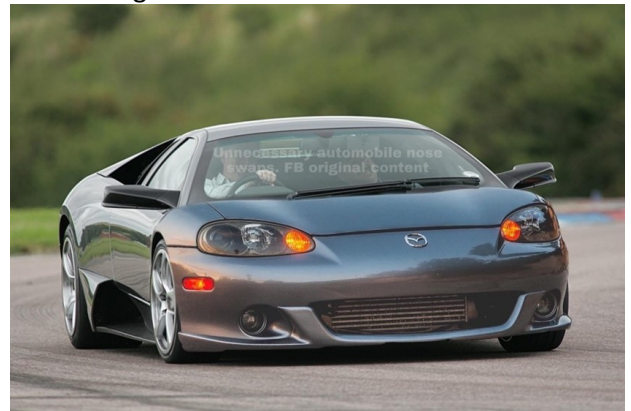
Multiple chairs are part of the “Kesler Collection”  
Believe it or not, this piece is a functional glider

### ***“It’s a Mad, Mad, Mad, Mad World” ...***

Or the recent magnetics-earning run to Palm Desert – “Seven Level Hills” by Wendy and John Crumbaugh. We traveled many of the same roads used in the making of that very “mad” movie decades ago. As Daryled Bristol shared via his post-run comments, we took the long way back to San Diego, via the much-cooler town of Idyllwild. Rejoining Rte. 74 and 79, we began seeing pods of Porsches, M-series BMWs, a gaggle of Ferraris, a legion of Lamborghinis, and a brace of McLarens travelling the opposite direction. Yes, it was a splendid day for a drive out some interesting roads, but there was clearly something going on to explain the unusual volume of Saturday afternoon’s high-dollar vehicular traffic.

FUEL RUN 2021 was announced by decals adorning some of the participant’s cars and support vehicles. For me, the name “Fuel Run” conjured-up youthful memories of the Shell Fuel Economy Runs of the 1960s, but they are still conducted even today. Some of you might even remember one of the “best practices” of fuel economy. “When accelerating, apply the throttle as if there is an egg between your foot and the gas pedal.” For most of us, that would only work if the egg was seriously hard-boiled; or, better yet, petrified. Trust me, this event was nothing like that. The event organizer conducts two- and three-day runs of interesting and scenic roads in various “destinations” across the country ... for significant entry fees. And fuel conservation is nowhere on the agenda.

San Diego Miata Club routinely conducts these sorts of events, via its members and our Events protocols. While our one-day events are more cost-effective, our Grand Canyon Runs, Coastal Cruises, and Summer Camp Excursions are every bit as well-executed and nearly as extravagant ... without support vehicles and the organizer’s fees. Just another benefit of your membership bargain. Miatas are equally at home on these same scenic byways, as evidenced by the artful image below. (Phil Daoust, take note ... the steering wheel is on the “right” side of this vehicle.)



Credit “Unnecessary Nose Swaps” and  
Facebook for this image



***Thanks for the opportunities to entertain and illuminate, San Diego Miata Club! Let’s hit the road again.***



# Behind the Wheel

By Lynn Nolan



*"It's something on the order of a buzzsaw, ripping through a can of marbles – a raucous, almost harsh sound of something very small, trying hard to be very big."* Jurnecka, R. (2013) in reference to a 1959 Austin-Healey Sprite

## Paul Mattlin



## Hometown

California native Paul was born and raised in Ramona. Although Paul enjoyed this venue, he yearned for adventure and sought it out as soon as he could.

He is an only child, and his mother was a psychology social worker and his father worked for AT&T in complex phone systems.

Paul is now married to Heather and they have a son, Julian, who is 8 years old and MacKenzie, their 5-year-old daughter.

Talking with Paul, it seemed as though he is a guy who has lived 3-4 lifetimes already! His life has consisted of an interesting and noteworthy kaleidoscope of concentric circles involving jobs, education, people, and travel.

In the summer of 2008, Paul and Heather moved to Arnhem, a city in the east of the Netherlands, close to the German border, so she could pursue degrees in International Business and Marketing. Human presence in Arnhem dates back a remarkably long time; where hunter camps and graves have been uncovered dating back to the Stone Age. During the year they lived in Arnhem, Paul worked part time remotely and also was a house husband. It was a busy time-- they caught the travel bug. (*As we know, there are other meaner bugs that can be caught now. Fortunately, it was only a travel bug!*) Paul and Heather journeyed extensively, visiting Ireland, Spain, the Canary Islands, Germany, Austria, Switzerland, and Hungary during their year there.

## School Days, Good Old Golden Rule Days

Paul attended many local colleges, changing majors often, as he searched for his calling. Ultimately, he completed school at UCSD and later earned Graduate Gemologist and Graduate Jeweler diplomas from Gemological institute of America (GIA), a non-profit organization that services the public trust in gems and jewelry through grading/identification laboratory services along with education.

## Work Work Work

Part of his kaleidoscope of work experience includes a dizzying array of positions with increasing responsibilities -- web designer, graphic designer, sales, teaching, consulting, quality control, gemologist, appraiser, and systems integration/engineering.

He did a stint at Science Applications International Corporation, better known as SAIC, where he worked in systems engineering for military weapons sales contracts.

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He ultimately went on to work at GIA in many upwardly mobile positions. Paul currently works at GIA and is responsible for education and management for distance education, management of faculty, students, and curriculum (10,000 students and a staff of 10 instructors/admin) for intensive online classes; his position also requires international travel. His professional travel list reads like the jetsetter he is and has included visits to global campus locations in NYC, London, Taiwan, Hong Kong, Thailand, Dubai and India.

## SDMC

*It's a car club!*

Paul's car journey began at age 18 when he revved the engine on his first sports car, a 1970 914 Porsche. His relationship with his beloved Porsche was cut short after a mechanic left the oil cooler flap down and the engine blew. After that experience, Paul vowed not to trust someone else--to work on his cars himself.

His Miata experience began when he drove and worked on his in-laws NB. Also, although not a member at that time, Paul joined in a few SDMC runs in 2004 and 2005.



After the disastrous Porsche incident, Paul's escapades centered on motorcycles until he his desire for a fun car was reawakened. He is fortunate to have found the perfect match, a 2005 [MazdaSpeed](#) production 462, lava orange, located in Las Vegas. *(Fortunately, he did not negotiate with my color nemesis, "bring a trailer" Gene Streeter!)* He launched a successful negotiation with the owner, flew to Las Vegas and drove his new ride back to San Diego. The [MazdaSpeed](#) was originally owned by someone in

San Diego, so it has come full circle. So, too, has Paul come full circle; one of his cherished cars that he had had owned and loved previously was a highly modified 2007 Mazdaspeed 6. It met its demise when it was totaled after being involved in a collision. With another MazdaSpeed he could now relive the adventure and more!

Paul loves working on Miatas and sharing info with other car enthusiasts.

He officially cruised into SDMC in September, 2020, and says of all the car clubs in which he has participated, SDMC does the most spirited runs. On one run he was finding it somewhat arduous to keep up. He repositioned in front of the sweep and still found the pace to be challenging. *(SDMC drivers know that each of us should only drive at a speed and skill level that we are comfortable with.)*



## Modifications

He has a dizzying array of mods that are testimony to his multifaceted style. *(I am not sure if he is now finished with mods! Good grief! What else is there that can be done? This list reads like a plastic surgery record for Hollywood!)*

- |                                                                                                                        |                                     |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| ◇ Flyin Miata Little Enchilada package (intake, BPV, DP, IC, minus the cat-back exhaust which he is still looking for) | ◇ CSF radiator                      |
|                                                                                                                        | ◇ VST stage 2 coilovers             |
| ◇ FM end links                                                                                                         | ◇ Blackbird Fabworx GT3 roll bar    |
| ◇ FM Kogeki 15x8 wheels                                                                                                | ◇ Blackbird Fabworx tow strap       |
| ◇ FM door bushings                                                                                                     | ◇ EZ-on replacement canvas soft top |
| ◇ FM top latches with replacement ss springs                                                                           |                                     |

*Cont'd on pg 15*

## Coming in June: “POKER CAR RALLY”

On **June 19** of this year, join SDMC members, and others for a **Poker Rally** that will cover some of our iconic north County roads AND is for a good cause: the 12<sup>th</sup> annual fundraiser for **Gregg’s Goals**. We decided to again have a car rally this year, and as COVID outlook improved, we wanted to add a *safe* opportunity to gather with a catered lunch to be held at the Garon’s home – outside, of course, in the backyard.

**The Rally will be June 19- 9:30 AM-12:00 pm and the catered lunch -12:30-3:00 pm**

**Cost for the Rally only is \$30/car – with lunches for Rally goers - \$17.50 each**

**Lunch only, \$20.00/person**

**Please visit our Website: [wwggd.org](http://wwggd.org) to register and to make payment.**

In addition, the usual Silent Auction will start online on Auctria.com . We will also have our “Pick a Prize” at the in person luncheon with an opportunity to win a variety of items.

### **So, what is planned?**

**Rally:** We will meet at **Kit Carson Park, 333 Bear Valley Pkwy, Escondido, CA 92025 (Park restrooms ARE open)**, starting at 9:30 AM (Last cars should leave no later than 10 AM). Each car will receive a bag with **2 playing cards** and a couple of “treats”. From there, you will follow the Rally directions and stop at the five checkpoints where each car will receive ONE playing card (and have the option of getting one additional card for a \$5.00 donation – *this IS a fundraiser, remember!*). We will send out the directions via email to those who register in advance AND have them available at the meeting point.

While this is not a time-competition, you need to be at the end point by 12:00 noon. The end point will be at the El Norte Parkway Plaza ((1000 W El Norte Pkwy, Escondido, CA).—meet near the Wendy’s

**Prizes:** There will be trophies and prizes for the winning Poker Hand(s): First place: a **\$100 gas gift card**, Second place - a **gift card to Rocky’s Miatamotive AND a Club or Event t-shirt**; Third place –a **\$25 gift certificate**.

**Lunch and festivities:** Back at the Garon’s, a catered lunch of BBQ chicken and beef with sides will be served (adult beverages and other drinks available). Scholarship winners will be honored and more!

**Background:** The Garons started this scholarship a couple of years after their older son, Gregg, passed away unexpectedly in 2005. The scholarships are given to young people who have played soccer, the sport Gregg loved and are continuing their education after high school. In addition, we have been also awarding “continuing” scholarships to those who re-apply. The scholarship is targeted towards the “unsung heroes” amongst the players – those exhibiting loyalty, dependability, love of the game, giving back to soccer and courage This year, we will surpass \$100,000 in total scholarships awarded. We have virtually no overhead as the entire extended Garon family pitches in to make this event a success.

The Garon family appreciates all the support the SDMC has given and wants to provide a fun Rally on some great roads. .all while raising money for this good cause!





## BTW, from pg. 9      Modifications, cont'd

- ◇ Custom weighted delrin shift knob
- ◇ MR short shifter
- ◇ Racing Beat sway bar reinforcement blocks
- ◇ Mazdaspeed competition engine mounts
- ◇ LRB aluminum undertray
- ◇ Just Miata PPF stabilizer and rear diff inserts
- ◇ Ken Auto rear frame brace
- ◇ Goodwin Racing clutch extender
- ◇ Goodwin Racing radiator cover panel
- ◇ Goodwin Racing forged aluminum lug nuts
- ◇ Kenwood Excelon DPX594BT
- ◇ Dawes Devices manual boost controller
- ◇ JF Customs leather shift and e-brake boots  
Moss visor blanking plates
- ◇ FM Hood lift kit
- ◇ Lots of sound dampening and MLV
- ◇ Removed baby teeth

### Favorites:

#### Restaurants

Pampalmousse in Del Mar

Island Prime

#### Music

Given the assortment of his life's adventures, It is not surprising that Paul has very eclectic taste in music. He says that he enjoys nearly all music, "all except Country."

#### Movies

Paul did not specify any special movies that are near and dear to his heart but watches flicks on Netflix and Amazon, mostly Disney+ these days with two young children.

#### Other Faves and Hobbies

Paul loves reading, working on cars, woodworking and rockhounding.

#### Something most people do not know about me:

He describes himself as a hobbyist and has converted the bonus room in his home into a wood shop. (*I wonder how Heather feels about this?*)

Paul enjoys involving his children in both woodworking and in Miata maintenance.

zoom zoom

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*How about sharing your story with T&T? Are you a Miata driver or do you know someone who is? Interested? You tell your story; I do the rest. For no-obligation information about BTW, just email me at [Inolan@san.rr.com](mailto:Inolan@san.rr.com)*



# Events Information

## San Diego Miata Club

### June and July 2021 Events

*By Steve Norris*

**Our first in-person monthly club meeting in 15 months will be at the Hamburger Factory on June 24<sup>th</sup>.** Come early to get caught up with your friends. Some people will arrive as early as 5:00 PM. The meeting will start promptly at 7:00 PM. Check the calendar for the address.

**Flyin Miata** is having their Summer Camp on **June 12th**. It will be a one-day virtual meeting so no hotel reservations are required. They have yet to say how this will happen. Check the calendar for updates.

On **June 19th** Dennis and Maryann Garon are hosting the annual **Gregg's Goals Benefit**. This year it will be a Poker Run starting at Kit Carson Park at 9:30. Lunch reservations must be in by June 9th. Check the calendar to see how to register and to get all the information. This annual event is always fun and is for a very good cause.

There is a two days **SCCA** event on **June 19th and 20th**. Check the calendar for details.

On **July 2nd** we will have our first **Cruisin' Grand** event this year. Meet at Tom's 23 at 5th and Centre City Parkway in Escondido at 6:00 PM. This is a nice casual meeting with friends and we get to see a lot of great cars. This is a chance to try out your Independence Day decorations for your car. Check the calendar for more details.

On **July 4th**, after 2 years, we will be back in the **Independence Day parade in Julian**. We will meet at Dudley's at 9:00 AM. We'll have about an hour or more to decorate our cars in Julian. Be sure to bring any decorations you want to put on your car: Flags for the windshield wipers, bunting for the body, flags for wherever, etc. The more red, white and blue, the better. Check the calendar for details.

On **July 17th** we'll be back at the **Main Street America Car Show** hosted by the Corvette Owners Club of San Diego. SDMC has won the "Club Participation Trophy" the last eight years as I remember. We have been having 25 to 35 Miatas on Mount Miata. There is no better place to be for your first car show. For now, save this date. More details, including how to register, will be posted on the calendar as they are made available.

**Our July monthly club meeting will be at the Hamburger Factory on July 22nd.** Come early to get caught up with your friends. Some people will arrive as early as 5:00 PM. The meeting will start promptly at 7:00 PM. Check the calendar for the address.



# Membership

By Chris & Linda Jones

June 2021

## Welcome to our newest members...

Lou & Ruth Stark  
William Aycock & Don Bojarski  
Miguel Flores  
Jake Fear & Marie Harrington  
Jim & Jeanette Short  
Salvador Corpus Jr &  
Josefina Guerrero

Encinitas  
Palm Springs  
El Centro  
San Diego  
Fallbrook

Escondido

2004 Velocity Red Mica  
2019 Soul Red Crystal Metallic  
2006 Marble White  
2003 Sunlight Silver Metallic  
2019 Soul Red Crystal Metallic

1992 Classic Red

## And welcome back after an extended run...

Lou & Ruth Stark  
(SDMC Plank owners)

Encinitas

2004 Velocity Red Mica

## Our Club's numbers to date:

143 memberships (41 single, 102 dual) for a total of 245 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](http://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

New Jersey Motorsports Park

October 23-24, 2021

<https://miatareunion.com/>



# SDMC Officers



**Terry Thompson**  
**President**



**Steve Norris**  
**Vice President**



**David Hunt**  
**Treasurer**



**Jackie Eder-Van Hook**  
**Secretary**

## Executive Board

President—Terry Thompson	<a href="mailto:president@sandiegomiataclub.org">president@sandiegomiataclub.org</a>
Vice President—Steve Norris	<a href="mailto:vicepresident@sandiegomiataclub.org">vicepresident@sandiegomiataclub.org</a>
Treasurer—David Hunt	<a href="mailto:treasurer@sandiegomiataclub.org">treasurer@sandiegomiataclub.org</a>
Secretary—Jackie Eder-Van Hook	<a href="mailto:secretary@sandiegomiataclub.org">secretary@sandiegomiataclub.org</a>
Past President—David Bryan	<a href="mailto:dbryanzoo@cox.net">dbryanzoo@cox.net</a>

## Administrative Board

Membership—Chris & Linda Jones	<a href="mailto:membership@sandiegomiataclub.org">membership@sandiegomiataclub.org</a>
Events Coordinator—Steve Norris	<a href="mailto:events@sandiegomiataclub.org">events@sandiegomiataclub.org</a>
Webmaster/Postmaster—Steve Norris, Dan Garcia	<a href="mailto:webmaster@sandiegomaitaclub.org">webmaster@sandiegomaitaclub.org</a>
Club Regalia—Steve & Laurie Waid	<a href="mailto:regalia@sandiegomiataclub.org">regalia@sandiegomiataclub.org</a>
Historian—Elinor Shack	<a href="mailto:mshack@san.rr.com">mshack@san.rr.com</a>

## Twists & Turns Staff

Editor—Larry Lloyd	<a href="mailto:newsletter@sandiegomiataclub.org">newsletter@sandiegomiataclub.org</a>
Proofreaders—John Lord & Lynn Nolan	

*The SAN DIEGO MIATA CLUB is a California nonprofit corporation. Twists & Turns is the monthly newsletter of the SAN DIEGO MIATA CLUB. Use of articles or stories by other Miata clubs is hereby granted, provided proper credit is given. Submissions to the newsletter are welcomed and encouraged. When possible, please e-mail your submissions to the newsletter editor. Submissions may also be mailed to the club's post office box. Submission deadline is the 15th of each month. The Editor reserves the right to edit all submissions.*

# Contacts

## The Web

[www.sandiegomiataclub.org](http://www.sandiegomiataclub.org)

## Mail

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

## E-Mail

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

Follow these steps:

1. Go to <http://groups.io/q/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

**M**any vendors offer discounts to Miata Club members. The Club does not endorse these vendors, but lists them as a membership benefit. Some offers June 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](mailto: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 HartJuneer. 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](mailto: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](mailto:joe@knobmeister.com) . 303.730.6060.

**Langka Corp.** Guaranteed paint chip and restoration products. 800.945.4532. [www.langka.com](http://www.langka.com) Discount. 30%.

**Rocky's Miatomotive** 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](http://smartcarcareproducts.com)

**Stuart Terry Auto.** Specializing in Miata A/C problems, recommended by Rocky's Miatomotive. 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](http://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 92021; 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](mailto:DavidBrealtor@cox.net). DRE#01009295.



SAN DIEGO MIATA  
CLUB  
P.O. Box 421325

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