



TWISTS & TURNS

February 2022

Rose Run January 1, 2022

By Daryled Bristol

At an early gathering for breakfast at Pegah's Kitchen in Escondido, about a dozen hardy members there met, followed by a brief drivers meeting; and by delivery of roses to be distributed for the run. We delayed our departure in an effort to make the timeline work out. Our eager Miatas sprinted to Pomerado Road and the start of Highland Valley Road. There we were slowed by the steel plates on the road, and some water hazards that brought us to a pair of deer crossing the road. Well, One deer crossed and the other one turned around all before we climbed the hill to Highland Valley. Here, our pace was tentative due to the possibility of wet and slippery roads, but soon picked up to a rather spirited pace. Alan Kagan met us and we paused to join up with the Sampson's and accept a gift of black-eyed peas from the Weather girl Jill for our New Year's Celebration.

We did a quick tour of the back side of Ramona, then veered off to Old Julian Highway for another spirited section of driving. We managed to pick up an escort midway thru Old Julian but they decided to break off at the turn which gave us some more exciting roads.

We hit Don's Market right on time to pick up Patti Chamberlin, Chris and Linda Jones, and David and Lori Bryan. All total, we had about 13 cars at this point. Next junction was at S2/San Felipe Road that even with a very mellow pace we were a few minutes early, and no one from the Temecula area chose to join us at this point. There was very light traffic on Montezuma Road and down to Borrego and Christmas Circle. We continued driving to Casa Del Zorro, where we stopped for another great lunch (Eat,Drive,Eat). We did arrive a bit early, and that threw a wrench into the works, therefore seating became an issue that we happily conformed to. We even had a late snack of blackeyed peas to enjoy before we departed

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on the final leg of Yaqui Pass to Banner Grade to Wynola Road to 79, and again Don's Market.

All in all, it was a pleasant way to kick off the year, a short 106-mile run with few incidents (Patti had a false TPMS indicator and a slow start leaving Casa Del Zorro that were quickly resolved).

HAPPY NEW YEAR.



Help, I can't get up!

Multitasking your key fob

By Les Smith

Two key fobs come with most late-model vehicles and we all know the importance of guarding them carefully. Have you priced a replacement?

While both may be used regularly in two-driver situations, it's not uncommon for "the spare" to be stashed somewhere in most homes awaiting its call to duty. Here's a way to utilize the replacement fob's supposed value and always know where it is: use it as a medical alert device.

Tie one end of a length of string on the fob and the other end to your bed's frame, headboard, night stand ... anywhere within easy reach of your sleeping position. Should a medical emergency occur in which you are unable to get up, begin setting off your car's alarm repeatedly. (It might help to alert neighbors ahead of time that hearing repeated alarms means you need help.)

Setting off your car alarm might also be helpful should you hear a burglar or other intruder.

It is important that you have the fob secured on a string. (Mine is tied to the bed frame and rests on a storage compartment in the headboard.) That way it won't get carried off, misplaced or otherwise missing, should you actually need it sometime to operate your vehicle.

Along the same line, many smartphones can be operated hands-free when plugged in to power. While charging overnight beside the bed, it's also on stand-by for any "Hey Siri, call 9-1-1" requests.

As we learned in Boy Scouts, "**Be prepared.**"

SDMC Celebrates the Holidays

by Julie Thompson

photos courtesy of Mark Booth

On the evening of December 5th, 62 members of the San Diego Miata Club gathered in the Magnolia Room at Singing Hills Golf Resort at Sycuan to celebrate the holidays. The room was festively decorated, thanks to Dave and Pam Hunt, festively decorated with Poinsettia plants, stockings filled with a candy cane at each place setting, and assorted chocolates scattered around the center of each table.



Prior to the event, many guests who chose to arrive early, gathered in a hospitality suite sponsored by Steve and Priscilla Norris and Steve

and Paula Kennison. The room was stocked with appetizers by Steve and Ann Luby. Maybe it should have been called "Steve's Suite"!



There was excitement in the air, as the room began to fill, since we were unable to celebrate in 2020 due to the pandemic. As we mingled, those who chose to take advantage of the photography skills of Mark Booth did so with many "Christmas card" photos shot by the Christmas tree. It was difficult to cut through the chatter when it came time to serve dinner after the social/happy hour ended. Before indulging in our meal, the members and food were blessed by our very own Jack Arnold. We were treated to a delicious dinner of Roasted Sirloin, grilled Chicken, mashed potatoes, roasted vegetables, salad, and dinner rolls. Dessert was cheesecake and a celebratory SDMC cake.



Once the business of dinner was complete, the fun and games could begin. Santa (Steve Waid) and his Elfinor (Elinor Shack) were joined by an apprentice elf (Jackie Eder Van Hook). Jackie's task as an elf appeared to be to keep Santa in line (a very difficult job) and to attempt to bring some organization to the chaos created by the gift exchange/thievery. There were very many coveted and unique gifts this year which tended to lend more to the spirit of taking than giving. The highlight of the evening seemed to be the skills

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the six before it.

Members were given an opportunity to donate toys to a North County non-profit "Hope through Housing" by placing them under the Christmas tree. At the end of the evening, Santa's helpers (The Kemptons), filled the back of their sleigh (SUV) with the generous donations of those in attendance and delivered them for Santa to the non-profit organization. The beautiful centerpieces were raffled away to all of those at each table who had counted off as lucky number "3". We were sent on our way, after a final blessing by Les Smith, to carry us on into the holiday season and a healthy New Year. It certainly was **nice to be able to celebrate the holidays again as a club** and we hope next year is even better!

Larry Lloyd exhibited in selecting the most desired gifts. He logged the most steps back and forth to the gift table as his gifts appeared to be in high demand and stolen most often. The final count was seven different trips to select a gift. The gift he finally ended with is unknown, but we can assume it wasn't as treasured as



Upcoming Events Elsewhere

Devil's Highway Run

Springerville, AZ

May 13-15, 2022

Flyin' Miata Summer Camp

June 2022

Miata Reunion 2022

Barber Motorsports Park

July 30, 31, 2022 www.miatareunion.com

Miata's at the Gap

August 4-7, 2022 www.gapmiatas.com

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!



"Surf's Up" and other San Diego Faves

By now, most of you are aware that our premier regional event is ON for October 6 – 9 this year. If not, please visit our Home page for additional details, including the Surf 'N Safari registration form and lodging reservation information. February's newsletter had a more comprehensive write-up than you will find here.

We'll make every effort to answer your questions and even help you save some of your entertainment dollars. We're confident that's the extra nudge some of you might need to register early and take advantage of the reduced registration costs between now and March 1. We expect to sell-out our event and occupy the lion's share of the 99 rooms available at the Singing Hills Resort (79 deluxe rooms at our negotiated rate, plus 20 higher-priced suites).

Don't Miss Out

We have approximately 60 event registrations to date. I confess to not getting the latest precise number from our uber-capable registrar team of Paula and Steve Kennison. We're just under nine months out from our party and already have one-third of our guest list established. We are forced to limit participation to 180 guests because of physical space limitations. Where our Singing Hills Resort room reservations are concerned, we already have 35 of the 79 deluxe rooms booked. Quite simply, we don't want any of our interested SDMC members to miss out on this Safari.

Party Like It's 1999

As your Surf 'N Safari Committee Co-chairs, Laurie Waid and I are committed to transparency in the sharing of registration details. We're also committed to making this fifth edition of Surf 'N Safari as memorable as those in the past, beginning in 1999. We know what it takes to throw a party!

Once we flesh out the necessary committees in a few months, we'll tap some of you to help us plan the details. One of the larger committees, the "Fun Team" is aptly named; they plan the runs, activities, and entertainment. If you've enjoyed the variety of cruise ship offerings, or simply choose to relax and socialize, you already have a sense of what we're up to. Think of this as a "land cruise."

If you haven't already done so, book your cruise with us – no passport or air travel required.

Gene Streeter

with Laurie Waid

2nd Annual Holiday Toy Drive/Run

By Julie Thompson



On Saturday morning, December 11th, twenty-three cars from the San Diego Miata Club gathered in the parking lot of Boulder Oaks Golf Course in Northern Escondido. Their purpose was not to drive a golf ball, instead to drive their Miatas on some of North County best twisties. Before departing, the participants listened to Christmas carols, decorated their “sleighs”, sipped coffee or hot chocolate, and indulged in world-



famous Peterson’s donuts with Santa Claus! Three cars joined in the pre-run festivities but were not able to join the fun run. Raffle tickets



were given out to all who participated in decorating their Miata’s, dressing in holiday attire, and donating gift cards and toys. The winners of the raffles were Gayle McBride, Don Spangler, and

Melissa Chester.

Our festive procession, led by the Garon’s sled, traveled for an hour and a half without incident through some of our favorite north county twisties. We brought smiles and cheer to many we passed along the way, especially the Copper Mica sleigh carrying Santa (David Hunt). As we returned to the small community of Hidden Meadows in



northern Escondido, the caravan of elves drove through the fire station to drop off their toys to be donated to “Toys for Tots”. Approximately 150 toys and books were donated by the extremely generous members of the SDMC.



Prior to the run, gift cards were collected to be

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split between two non-profit organizations, “Just in Time” and “Hope through Housing”. A total of \$2,100 of gift cards were collected and split between the two organizations. Both organizations were most appreciative, as these donations helped to brighten the holidays of many children and young adults in San Diego County.

After dropping off our toys with Santa, we parked our Miatas and went next door to the “Side Yard Public House” to enjoy lunch, a “beverage”, and each other’s company in the outdoor venue. It was a wonderful morning, celebrating the real meaning of the holidays with our Miata friends in the cars we love to drive!



Summer 2022 Road Trip

Miatas At The Gap/Route 66

By Julie Thompson



Four Miatas from SDMC, 8 members, 24 days, 6700 miles (give or take a few), crossed 3 time zones going east and again going west, 16 states, 16 Hampton Inns/one other hotel/ and 1 VRBO, 2 trips to urgent care or ER, 2 different 1 day illnesses, 4 different car breakdowns (no 30AE's involved), 1 trip underwater, more time with top up than desired (multiple 100+degree days), 2 near accidents, 2 cracked windshields (1 replaced a year ago and one just replaced before the trip), 4 torrential rain storms (2 in Arizona), 1 couple endured the entire trip without turning on TV in their hotel room, and too many smiles and laughs to count.

Our days, all but 2, would begin with an 8 am departure and only 2 days ended before 5 pm. If you were to ask Steve Waid why the days were so long, he would say, "because it took so long to decide where to eat!"! If you ask Terry Thompson why the days were so long, his response would be, "Why take the highway when there is a twisty road that gets you to the same destination?" We ran into one young man from San Diego that made the trip in 2 days verses our 12-day journey to arrive at Fontana Dam for Miatas At The Gap (MATG) and our 9-day trip back. In retrospect, the trip back was a bit too rushed on Route 66 and many of us wished we had taken a few more days since there is so much to see! (Especially if you try to visit all the auto parts stores and repair shops along the way. We learned that Dell Pound and Debbie Skordilis and the Hunts have an affection for visiting! We had two run leaders. The Thompsons navigated and led us to MATG and back to St. Louis. The Waid's took over the lead and navigated us through Route 66 to Wickenburg, AZ.

MIATAS AT THE GAP ROAD TRIP JOURNAL

Day 1-Poway, CA to Tucson, AZ (445 miles)

Meet for a 7 am departure with full bellies, a full trunk, and a full of gas. AWAY WE GO! On our way to Tucson, we drove through Gila Bend, AZ and stopped for lunch at the Space Age

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Restaurant (Alien Café). We drove through our first rainstorm for almost 2 hours, escaping most (not all) of the rain. As Gene Streeter says, “If you drive fast enough, you won’t get wet!” Where would you want to have dinner on the first night of a 24-day road trip? “Hot Rods” of course.

Day 2-Tucson, AZ to Alamogordo, NM (429 miles)



Early in the day we arrived for a visit to “The Thing” Museum (Steve Waid had this on his “Must See List”.) After our tour of the Museum and the gift/junk shop (no room in the trunks), we continued down the highway to Bisbee, AZ. We toured the old mining town Miata-style and walked the streets of downtown after a few photo ops. We tried to get Dell and Debbie married for the first time here, but no success. We decided this would be a fun future long weekend destination trip for a group from SDMC. We found an authentic Mexican restaurant for lunch which *most* of us enjoyed! We continued driving towards Alamogordo through beautiful open spaces, past miles of White Sands Missile Range, and through our first torrential rainstorm of the trip. We didn’t have to worry today about obeying the “Pull over and wait out the Dust Storm” signs we were passing along the way driving



through the rainstorm. We arrived at the hotel a little later than expected and enjoyed walking to dinner.

Day 3-Alamogordo, NM to Ozona, TX (394 miles)



We departed Alamogordo minus one car that took a detour for our first urgent care visit of the trip. Luckily, it was nothing too serious, and by the end of the day we were all together again. We initially drove through some beautiful scenery of the Lincoln National Forest and ended the day driving for hours through the hot, toasty, barren, flat oil fields of Northern Texas. We drove past village after village of RV’s which housed the oil field workers. We stopped in the cute little town of Pecos, TX and had a delicious Italian

lunch. It was a 100-degree day, and the waiter decided to cool himself off by dumping a tray of water over himself! Most of us drove with our tops down throughout the day in the heat and the sun made the pool very inviting and refreshing on our arrival to the hotel in Ozona, Texas very inviting and refreshing! What better dinner to beat the heat than Dairy Queen, of course!



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Day 4-Ozona, TX to Waco, TX (454 miles)



The terrain for the drive today was beautiful, curvy, and slow. July is the National month of road construction and specifically, oiling



roads. We followed a pilot truck for miles. We drove most of the “Twisted Sisters” (Highways 335, 336, and 337) in Texas hill country. They did not disappoint! We stopped at a German beer hall for lunch. There’s nothing like a cold beer on a hot day! After cooling off a bit, we continued our way across the Colorado River and into Waco.

We passed herds of goats and spotted our first Texas Longhorns along the way. On our walk back from dinner, we discovered we had a “bird whisperer” in the group. Dave Hunt proceeded to walk through the parking lot, he’d clap his hands and hundreds of black birds would fly from the trees! We walked and laughed our way back to the hotel!

Day 5-Waco, TX to Fort Smith, AR (390 miles)



We (maybe half of us) awoke like children on Christmas morning because our first stop of the day was to drive across town to visit Magnolia Farms/The Silos. We arrived early and were second in line at the Bakery (the only part of the stop that made Steve and Terry happy!) It was a beautiful property. We made a few purchases and managed to find room for them in the trunks, tried to marry Dell and Debbie for a second time at the renovated Chapel (not successful), and did not



find Chip and Joanna anywhere! At 11 am we started our trek towards Fort Smith, AR. We found the topography of lakes, ponds, lush green trees, and rolling hills surprisingly gorgeous! We decided that every town in Texas and Arkansas has a Dairy Queen, Dollar General, Sonic Burger, and a Baptist Church with an adjoining cemetery. We decided to experience “Whataburger” for lunch. We found the cheapest gas



of the trip at a “Gasquatch” for 2.35/gallon. It was a long day in the heat with road construction again resulting in arrival at the hotel after 6pm. We walked across the street to “TGI Fridays which was only doing call-in orders due to all their staff calling in sick. We waited outside on their patio for our food, took it back to the hotel lobby, and finally ate and played a “friendly” game of Mexican Train.

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Day 6-Fort Smith, AR to Little Rock, AR (338 miles)



We started the day, while filling the cars with gas, with one of the group's members discovering they'd left their credit card with the waitress at TGI Fridays the night before! Miraculously, the manager was in the restaurant at 8 am and had access to the safe which harbored the abandoned credit card! On we go toward our highlight of the day, a drive north in Arkansas through Fayetteville and Harrison to drive south down Arkansas Scenic Byway Route 7, a nationally recognized treasure that traverses almost the entire state from North to South. It was a breathtaking drive past the "Arkansas Grand Canyon" and ending in Hot Springs National Park. Our lunch plans at the Grand Canyon overlook were changed when the restaurant was found to be closed due to Covid. We ended up at CJ's Butcher Boys Burger instead. We arrived in the town of Hot Springs after lunch, we drove through town looking for the "National Park" entrance, only to realize we had arrived, and the town was the Park! We walked very little because it was 100-degrees plus and toured Miata style. The town was located along the Heritage Trail during the Civil War and had been declared a National Park 4 years before Yellowstone. After leaving Hot Springs, we had a short 1-hour leg of the trip into Little Rock, where we enjoyed dinner and cocktails at the Irish Pub next door to the hotel. Afterwards a few of us walked the River Market to a Sweet Shop for some homemade ice cream.



Day 7-Little Rock, AR to Nashville, TN (408 miles)

We crossed the Arkansas River and made our way into Tennessee through Mississippi. We enjoyed a brief stop and photo op in the Mississippi welcome center and stopped for lunch in the outskirts of Memphis. We drove twisties, passed through crops of sorghum, corn, and soybeans, and tolerated another day of high temperatures with it being 90 degrees before 9 am. We ran into a few maintenance issues on the way to Nashville- a check engine light on the Waid's 30AE, and the Hunt's air conditioner on the brink. We thought maybe a Mazda dealer service center visit was in our future but couldn't schedule anything because they were booking 2 weeks out. The check engine light resolved itself, but the air conditioner remained finicky for the rest of the trip! We arrived in Nashville for a refreshing swim in the pool, a chance to do laundry, Greek food delivery in the lobby, a relaxing game of Mexican Train, and all of us looking forward to 3 nights in the same hotel without having to pack and unpack.



MATG/66 TO BE CONTINUED IN FUTURE ISSUES

SDMC Help Wanted !!!

The club needs a **Webmaster** to maintain the club's web site. Our present **webmaster** would like to retire from the position. He will assist you in the setup and maintenance of the club's website. If you are interested, inquiries should be made to our club president, Terry Thompson. His email address is julieandterry@cox.net.

Member Classified Ads

FOR SALE: 2004 MAZDASPEED MIATA - Turbo, one-owner, red convertible, **62,000 original miles**, 6-speed, clean title, power windows, A/C, all service performed at John Hine, excellent condition, leather seats. Minor interior stitching needed on drivers seat, minor left door inside panel wear. Garage-kept full life of vehicle. Limited edition, rarely on market.



\$19,000.00

terrencekelly74@gmail.com 619.405.3609





Rear View Mirror

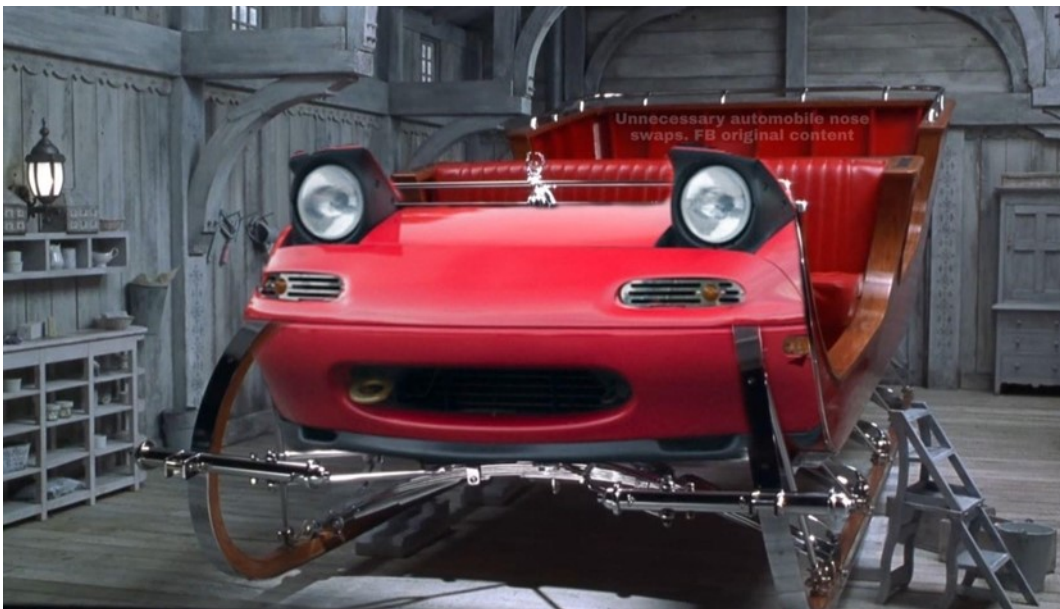
February, 2022

By Gene Streeter

Our Sleigh Ride on the Frozen Tundra

You might recall (or not, depending upon the strength of your short-term memory) my late-November post canceling our previously-advertised Annual Christmas Open House. The short version (I see you're turning over a new leaf in the new year, grasshopper. – Ed.) is that we discovered a natural gas leak in our kitchen island just prior to Thanksgiving. Realizing the repair process and timeline would interfere with our party and preparations, Bonnie's holiday plans were crushed for the second year in a row.

What to do? We already had plans to visit son David in Star, Idaho and experience our first actual winter since moving from Big Bear Lake over eighteen years ago. Still inspired by our early September visit to Grand Teton and Yellowstone National Parks, I hit upon the idea of a romantic sleigh ride amongst the elk and other denizens of the forest. We would be bundled up against the cold temperature, sipping hot chocolate, and enjoying the scenery behind three Belgian draught horses.



Our preference would have been this 1st-Gen Miata sleigh, courtesy of "Unnecessary Automobile Nose Swaps" ... see also <https://www.facebook.com/CarsGetRuined/groups>

Weather and travel conditions to Jackson Hole, Wyoming (and the 25,000-acre National Elk Refuge) became more daunting. "Plan B" was a day trip to Donnelly, Idaho, and a family cattle ranch where they've cultivated a relationship with an elk herd over multiple generations. Three Belgian draught horses – check. (Would the Budweiser Clydesdales be more correctly labeled "draft" horses? – Ed.). A Miata-sized sleigh with stylish

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stylish runners – not exactly. We were greeted by the driver of a large wooden farm wagon that would carry about sixteen of us seated atop bales of alfalfa, with an air temperature to match. Steel runners shooshing through freshly fallen snow, we made our way out to the herd of elk, 203 members strong. (Not quite as “strong” as our SDMC herd, though.)

The attached photos are minor testament to the chuckwagon buffet that ensued; the elk crowded around the wagon’s perimeter, vying for bites of our alfalfa seating for the next forty minutes. The experience was magical, albeit less comfortable sitting on half-eaten bales for the return trip to the parking lot in the waning sunshine.



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SDMC Holiday Celebrations – Closer to Home

Closer to home, and courtesy of three SDMC holiday events, we celebrated the holiday season before heading to Idaho. Kicking the month off, we enjoyed the Holiday Party and Gift Exchange. While I stop short of suggesting Santa Steve Waid was napping between gift exchange instructions and quips at the lectern, he wasn't as engaged in the thievery process as the newly-minted "Timekeeper Elf." Aka Jackie Eder-Van Hook, she definitely "rode herd" on the gift wrangling that included multiple trips to the gift table for Richard Taylor, Jan Frederick, and Editor Larry Lloyd.

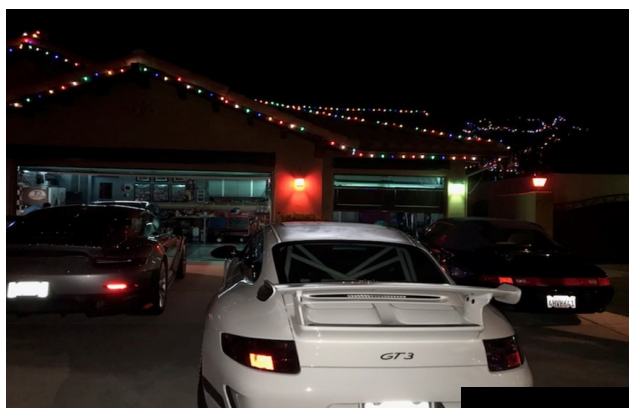
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The Holiday Toy and Gift Card Run was next up on the calendar, December 11. The run ended, quite appropriately, with a drive through the receiving Escondido fire station. Our beloved SDMC Treasurer, Dave Hunt, was observed “sweating to the oldies” in his Santa suit, owing in part to the welcome Saturday sun. (Any reference or resemblance to celebrities, living or dead, are purely ...) As the “power behind the president,” Julie Thompson already gushed, the entire effort was a success ... 150 toys to Santa and Toys for Tots, plus \$1000 each to charitable organizations Promises2Kids and Hope Through Housing.

A host of others, sweating the details as they did, were responsible for the fun run, hospitality, and gift collection/distribution. Another round of applause for run leaders Dennis and Maryanne Garon, sweeps Ann and Steve Luby, as well as Laurie Waid, Pam Hunt, and Paula Kennison for their hospitality and general cat-herding duties. Nice job, SDMC! As we’ve come to expect, Mark Booth captured digital images of both events.

You’ll have to suffer with my photos of the third holiday outing on our December calendar. Of course, food and desserts were involved, but host Les Smith had another tasty morsel arranged as part of our Holiday Lights Extravaganza.

In mapping out the route, he struck up a conversation with a serious Porschephile whose home was well-suited to our mission. As the run slowly unfolded, (huge thank you to the leaders, sweeps, and parade marshals for keeping us all together) Les’s one mistake was inviting anyone interested in meeting the fellow gear-head to “take five.” Our little “meet and greet” ran much longer and nearly derailed the process ... interesting people, cars, and stories. What more could one ask?



What's In a Name?

"A rose by any other name would smell as sweet." ~ attr. Wm. Shakespeare.

Valentine's Day is right around the corner; it's no revelation that roses are the floral gift of choice, but I think Shakespeare was right. "Any other name" would suffice, perhaps even "Love Bud." As it happens, Elliot Shev's January 11th post of the Bring-A-Trailer sale of Flyin' Miata's 1995 Miata affectionately named "Pokeee" was my initial inspiration for this segment. (I was afraid it might have been chemical in nature. – Ed.) Here's the link: <http://bringatrailer.com/listing/1995-mazda-mx-5-miata-m-edition/>

If you recall from the post, or from past interactions with its owners, Teri and Bill Cardell, "Pokeee" began life as a normally-aspirated 1.8 liter, but Teri wanted "more power" whenever the opportunity presented itself. In Teri's capable hands and deft footwork, "Pokeee" was part of the Flyin' Miata fleet of test mules and thrill rides in years-past "Summer Camp" gatherings. If you initially deduced from her nickname, "Pokeee" was a bit of a slowpoke, I can personally attest that was not the case. How does 350 horsepower, a grocery list of tasty mechanical bits, and a \$40,000 selling price sound?

I recently befriended the owner of a 2007 Honda CRV peculiarly named "Red." A mild-mannered all wheel driver, grey metallic in color on the outside, grey color palette on the inside. Pretty mundane in appearance, right? I had to ask, "why the nickname 'Red?'" In the interest of time, and newsletter space (Thank you, once again. – Ed.), I'll cut to the chase ... literally. The driver wasn't paying sufficient attention to the traffic signs, attracting the interest of law enforcement. Unfortunately, law enforcement wasn't able to capture the driver's attention, leading to a low-speed chase through the streets of Los Angeles ... you might have even witnessed this contemporary example of OJ Simpson's more-famous ride on the television news. "Red" was the color of the multiple lights trained on this vehicle and filling all three rear view mirrors. Perhaps, even the facial color of the highly-embarrassed medical professional.

Much closer to home, Lady Bonnie once drove her mother's 1964 Ford Fairlane sedan, which developed a smoking problem late in life, and before we were married. She named her little white grocery-getter "Hippy," with some loose reference to its waist size. (Would "black" have been more slimming in this case? – Ed.) Bonnie drove by my house on her way home from her nursing shift one afternoon, very concerned with the volume of smoke billowing behind her. Nothing in evidence at the moment, I agreed to do the "chivalrous thing" and drive it home for her. "How bad could it possibly be?" questions rattled around in my doubting, incredulous grey matter.

For those of you mechanically-inclined, the oil passages in the 260 c.i. cylinder heads were mostly blocked with built-up sludge. The super-heated oil would find its way past valve stem seals into the cylinders, and voila! Oil smoke seemed to billow from every orifice; my embarrassment grew with every red light, stop sign, and remaining seven miles to her Whittier home. I suggested we correct the spelling to "Hippie," where the reference was now to Cheech and Chong's infamous VW bus, completely engulfed

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Meet "Pookeee," "Red," and "Hippie"



I know a few of you have named your Miatas, perhaps even other vehicles you own. Not to judge, I've never named any of my dozens of vehicles. My son, David, claims to have owned over eighty (yes, 80!) vehicles in his nearly thirty years of driving, and hasn't named any of his, either. It seems highly personal – "to name or not to name" ... one's automotive possessions. If you're reading this, please feel challenged to answer the question with examples, or stories of your own. I've done my part in planting the seeds.

Thanks for indulging my dalliance from SDMC norms in the re-telling of vacation tales, and sharing of personal perspectives. Fortunately, I've accurately advertised my column as "Rear View Mirror" for multiple years. When it comes to the actual writing effort, I encourage more of you to do the same.

Stay literate, classy, charitable, and attentive, San Diego Miata Club.



Your Membership Renewal for 2022 – never too late

Per SDMC policy, members renewing after January 31st incur a \$5.00 late fee (total \$40 for the calendar year). If you still plan to renew, do it now to avoid interruption of access to membership news in the SDMC-Mail@GROUPS.IO – those accounts will be terminated on March 1st for anyone who hasn't renewed (granted an additional month grace period).

The Membership Renewal Application form is available for download on the Club's website: <http://sandiegomiataclub.org/for_members/index.html>. Look for the blue "Renewal Application" link in the middle of the "For Members>>>" page; print or download it to your computer. Don't wait for an in-person monthly meeting -- MAIL the completed, signed form, along with a check for \$40.00 (includes the late fee) to the address on the form: SDMC | PO BOX 180456 | CORONADO, CA 92178-0456. Again: \$40 after January 31st.

Your SDMC Membership Team,

Chris & Linda Jones
membership@SanDiegoMiataClub.org



Why the Automobile Chip Shortage?

A Fortune magazine online feature noted that when it comes to the electronic circuits that power our everyday lives, the automobile is simultaneously the world's most expensive consumer good and the one that runs on the cheapest possible semiconductor chips.

Almost 40 percent of a vehicle's production cost today is for electronics ... a figure expected to increase to 45 percent by the end of this decade.

Surprise! Much of this technology is obsolete. Chips being installed in today's vehicles — when they can find them — trail design requirements of even the original iPhone.

So, why the shortage?

Despite the pressure from chip manufacturers to modernize and move into the 21st Century to ease the current shortage, auto manufacturers stick with the tried-and-true. And expecting chip manufacturers to expand the production capabilities of outdated products currently in use, is no different than the decision one must make whether or not to make expensive repairs to an otherwise worn-out automobile.

But there is another explanation for auto manufacturers' foot-dragging and it has mostly to do with reliability. The Fortune writer noted that an automobile — especially its safety features — must function properly in many differing environments and situations for years. And switching to a "new and improved" this component or that with unproven reliability can easily put an automobile's entire operation in jeopardy.

Recalls often involve a single upgraded component lacking a flawless history of operation over time and many miles. And a failure rate above acceptable standards can begin occurring well into the operational life of a component ... long after it has been installed in massive numbers of vehicles that have been sold — and warrantied — and are in daily operation, including club runs.

Automobile advertising continues to promote tomorrow's look today and other messages intended to tempt us to dump our obsolete bucket of bolts for a shiny new ride. But rest assured; enough people in the complex system of automobile design through assembly are dragging their feet to protect the tried and true and keep us moving trouble-free.

— Suggested by a Fortune magazine online column.



Events Information

San Diego Miata Club

February 2022 & March 2022 Events

By Steve Norris

Our in-person Monthly Meeting for February will be at the Hamburger Factory on Thursday February 24th. Our March meeting will be on Thursday March 24th. 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.

The Cambria Free-Style run will be a four day weekend February 4th through the 7th.

Here are suggestions about what people might choose to do. Check the calendar for more details.

Friday, February 4

Meet at Deer Springs/Twin Oaks Valley Road exit off I-15, west side near Arco Station at 8:15 am, depart at 8:30 am. (If you choose to drive up separately please let us know so we will not wait for you.)

Drive to Cambria with late lunch stop at Copper Café, Madonna Inn in San Luis Obispo

Check in at your hotel

Friday evening: 6 PM Dinner at Main Street Grill, walk up and order casual restaurant, inexpensive, good food and good choices. Other possibilities are Moonstone Grill, Robin's and Schooner's in Cayucos

Saturday, February 5

Breakfast at your hotel

Choices of things to do:

9:30 am multiple group run (runs offered over Peachy Canyon to Paso Robles, Hwy 229 to Hwy 58, etc)

Run up coast to Monterey, Ragged Point or anywhere in between including seeing the elephant seals

Run to Morro Bay for shopping, lunch, ocean views

Run to Madonna Inn to experience the hotel, lunch at Copper Café

Sensorio Paso Robles: light art installation in the hills of Paso Robles viewable after dark

Tickets and reservations required in advance (see SensorioPaso.com for details and photos of the experience, or talk to Debbie, Dell, Laurie or Julie.

Great American Melodrama Pismo Beach (www.americanmelodrama.com)

Visit wineries

Visit monarch butterfly grove at Pismo Beach. See details at www.experiencepismo.com/beach-and-outdoors/monarch-butterflies/

Gathering at Pelican Inn patio for appetizers etc. around 5:30 (chip in \$5 per person and bring your own drinks. We will provide munchies.

Dinner at reserved location at 7 PM. Please RSVP for a complete head count.

Probably Linn's Cambria

Sunday February 6 – most options repeat

Breakfast at your hotel

See Next page

Membership

By Chris & Linda Jones

February 2022

Welcome to our newest members...

Dwayne & Linda Little	San Diego	1992 Brilliant Black
Ray & Akemi Rogers	San Diego	1997 Marina Green Mica
Michael Radoff & Thomas Lahr	Tulsa, OK	1990 Mariner Blue

And welcome back after an extended run...

Susan & Mike Pasterkiewicz	San Diego	2001 British Racing Green
Ezra Fairbanks	San Diego	2002 Vivid Yellow

Our Club's numbers to date: (annual renewals wrapping up – these numbers do not reflect loss of those who will not be renewing for 2022)

163 memberships (51 single, 112 dual) for a total of 275 members.

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For reference, our Club's numbers at the end of 2020 were: 154 memberships (44 single, 110 dual) for a total of 264 members

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

EVENTS (Cont'd)

Sunday, February 6

Choices of things to do:

9:30 am multiple Group runs (over great roads to Pozo Saloon, other run choices)

See all the same choices as Saturday - some require advance purchase tickets/reservations

Gathering at Pelican Inn patio for appetizers etc around 5:30

Dinner at location of your choice.

Monday, February 7

Breakfast at Your hotel

Drive home with the group leaving around 9 am or choose your own route home

On Saturday February 19th we will have an East County Fun Run. The details are on the calendar. Come join us for a tour of great twisties in the East County.

On Saturday March 19th we will have a Pi Day Run. It's five days late but that's the best we could do. The details are on the calendar

Cars and Coffee will be on the 20th of both months. See the calendar for details.



SDMC Officers



Terry Thompson
President



Steve Norris
Vice President



David Hunt
Treasurer



Dona Thompson
Secretary

Executive Board

President—Terry Thompson	president@sandiegomiataclub.org
Vice President—Steve Norris	vicepresident@sandiegomiataclub.org
Treasurer—David Hunt	treasurer@sandiegomiataclub.org
Secretary—Dona Thompson	secretary@sandiegomiataclub.org
Past President—David Bryan	dbryanzoo@cox.net

Administrative Board

Membership—Chris & Linda Jones	membership@sandiegomiataclub.org
Events Coordinator—Steve Norris	events@sandiegomiataclub.org
Webmaster/Postmaster—Steve Norris, Dan Garcia	webmaster@sandiegomaitaclub.org
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Historian—Elinor Shack	mshack@san.rr.com

Twists & Turns Staff

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The SAN DIEGO MIATA CLUB is a California nonprofit corporation. Twists & Turns is the 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

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

Many vendors offer discounts to Miata Club members. The Club does not endorse these vendors, but lists them as a membership benefit. Some offers February 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 Hart-Februaryer. 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 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

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

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 92022; 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.



**SAN DIEGO MIATA
CLUB**
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Coronado, CA 92178-0456

Postage

Address

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