



# SAN DIEGO MIATA CLUB NEWS

*Miata*

VOLUME 1 NUMBER 8

DECEMBER 1996

A CHAPTER OF THE MIATA CLUB OF AMERICA

## UPCOMING EVENTS



December 7  
**Day at the Beach Fun Run**



December 14  
**Holiday Party**



December 21  
**Wheels 'n Meals**  
and Board Meeting  
Boll Weevil

### Key to Icons



Wheels 'n Meals (Social)



Fun Run



Internet



Tech



Autocross

## From the Editor

### Dents, Scratches, and Scrapes, Oh My!

In previous issues, I mentioned that I would list some area shops that do quality work with paint, body reconstructive surgery, and mechanical repair. I had also asked for some input from other club members. Let's just say I didn't get a flood of information. So I'll list some places that I've heard of or used over the years to get the ball rolling. Again, if anyone knows of a good shop, pass it on to me by letter to the club address, or by phone to the club answering machine, or to me directly (see page two for the numbers). You can also E-mail me the information at robert@caliban.ucsd.edu if you have net access.



Some time in the future, we will all need the services of these shops to repaint the body, repair a body panel, or just do general maintenance work. The difficult part can be trying to find a place that does quality work from someone you can trust, without having to dip into your child's savings.

For paint or body work, try Autowerks in Santee (619-449-0398). One SoCalM member rolled his car and took it to Autowerks for repair, and you'd swear it was a new car after he got it back. Beautiful work. It's more money than a run-of-the-mill shop, but I truly believe you get what you pay for. Another paint and body shop is Amato's in Sorrento Valley (619-455-6715). This place does restoration work on cars like Ferrari and Porsche, so they have the skills to do a fantastic job on your Miata. For alignment, go to John's Automotive Center on Miramar Road (619-695-0772) and ask for Jerry. He's the guy who does the alignment, and he'll let you watch while he works. You can give him alignment numbers that are out of Mazda's specification (like an autocross alignment), and he'll set up your alignment exactly to those numbers. If you haven't had an alignment since you got your Miata, go see this guy, because your car is probably way out of alignment. A good alignment improves handling and cuts down on uneven tire wear.

For general automotive repair, try Tim's Independent Mazda Service in Vista (619-724-6687). Tim knows all about Mazdas, and he does good work. An appointment may be necessary for service. He also lets you get under your car and watch the work being done.

If you need some car audio work, try RadioMan on Midway Drive (619-223-5530). When I pulled into their shop to have my radio and CD-changer installed, there was a Ferrari Mondial and a brand new BMW Z3 getting some audio equipment installed. These guys do great work.

### The Sound of Music

While I'm on the subject of car audio, let me give you a few numbers. The space the stock radio and pocket occupy is a 2.0 DIN space (radio is 1.5 DIN, pocket is 0.5 DIN). An aftermarket radio (like my Alpine) is a 1.0 DIN size. So now what do you do with the extra 0.5 gaping hole? Buy another 0.5 DIN pocket? Negative! Get a 1.0 DIN Mazda pocket. These pockets were used in the European Miatas and on Mazda

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323s. It is part number 0000-81-0147, which you can order from your local discount-giving Mazda dealership. RadioMan used this pocket, the Alpine radio, and a trim piece to make the whole thing look stock. Take a look at it at some event (license # N2 TULL) if you think you might be interested in an aftermarket upgrade.

See you on the twisties...  
—Robert "JTBob" Holland

## Christmas Elf Road Rally Gets Underway from Points Across North America

**O**n November 18, CompuServe's Automobile Forum (GO CARS) launched a charitable/promotional event called the "Christmas Elf Road Rally." From starting points in Massachusetts, Minnesota, New York, Illinois, Georgia, and Alabama, CARS Forum members and their favorite mounts headed out with "trophy" pieces that will wend their way across the United States and Canada from sea to shining sea as they vector in on their ultimate destination, the home of Chief Forum Sysop Shel Hall, in Carmel CA, just before New Years Day. Accompanying the trophy parts will be mailbags into which contributors will be able to place charitable donations. Although there will be several "sponsored" charities, people who would rather give to their own favorite good causes are completely free to do so. All that is asked is that each check (no cash please) be enclosed in a stamped, pre-addressed envelope, and that the donation be logged into a record that will travel with the various trophy parts across the land.

As most of you probably already know, there are at least seven San

Diego Miata Club members who are also CompuServe subscribers and regular visitors to "Miataville", section 15 of the Automobile Forum. San Diego has been designated as the last of several "hubs" and the place where all the trophy parts will come together and be assembled for further transport to LA and then Carmel. CARS forum member David Curtis of Tucson, AZ will be bringing the unassembled trophy parts to us from his rendezvous with CARS sysops Ken Rentiers (Houston, TX) and John Berry (Denver, CO) in Las Cruces, NM. Any of you who have driven from Las Cruces to San Diego (as I have) know that this is one long haul with more truck hazards than a Wal-Mart loading dock. Word is that David, Ken, and John are intending to partake in a round of greasy enchiladas before David heads for the setting sun, so he's going to need our support to get this trophy assembled, not to mention a decent meal, when he rolls into town.

Accordingly, I'd like to announce that, in support of the Christmas Elf Road Rally's arrival in America's Finest City, this month's Wheels 'n Meals, at which David will be the guest of honor, will be held at the usual Boll Weevil location at the corner of Clairemont Mesa Boulevard and Ruffin Road in Kearny Mesa at 4:00 PM, Saturday, December 21. Let's get as many of us down there as we can to celebrate the arrival of the trophy and to give a hearty San Diego Miata welcome to David. And if you care to make a charitable contribution, please bring along your stamped, pre-addressed envelopes with a check inside.

Rick at Boll Weevil says we can have the main floor if we need it, so don't be shy about showing up.  
—VOODOO BOB

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### President

MARK BOOTH  
(619) 670-3789  
markb@adnc.com

### Vice President

CINDY PALOMA  
(619) 534-0969  
paloma@cs.ucsd.edu

### Secretary/Events Coordinator

RUTH STARK  
(619) 633-1218  
rfstark@aol.com

### Treasurer

MARY BEECHER  
(619) 549-6660  
beecher@adnc.com

### Membership

"VOODOO" BOB KRUEGER  
(619) 486-4711  
voodoo@adnc.com

### Autocross

STEVE HART  
(619) 579-9093

### Newsletter

Editor/Webmaster  
ROBERT "JTBOB" HOLLAND  
(619) 546-8218  
robert@caliban.ucsd.edu  
Design and Layout  
TOM & STEPHANIE GOULD  
(619) 298-8605  
tomgould@adnc.com

## NOTICES

THE SAN DIEGO MIATA CLUB is an official chapter of the Miata Club of America. We are a nonprofit organization whose purpose is to promote the enjoyment of—and enthusiasm for—the Mazda Miata.

*SAN DIEGO MIATA CLUB NEWS* is the monthly newsletter of the San Diego Miata Club. Use of articles or stories by other MCA chapters is hereby granted, provided proper credit is given.

**Submissions to the newsletter** are welcomed and encouraged. Did you just add a new accessory to your Miata? How about writing a review and submitting it to the newsletter? Where possible, please send your electronic submissions to the newsletter editor, Robert Holland (robert@caliban.ucsd.edu). Submissions can also be faxed to the club's dedicated phone line or mailed to the club's post office box. Submission deadline is the 15<sup>th</sup> of each month.

**Internet:** The San Diego Miata Club has established a dedicated World Wide Web Home Page at <http://mmdshare.ucsd.edu/sdmc.html>.

The club has also established a members-only electronic mail list for those members with E-mail capability. If you included your E-mail address on your membership application then you should already be subscribed to the electronic mail list. If you recently acquired your E-mail account, please contact Cindy Paloma (paloma@cs.ucsd.edu) and request to be added to the electronic mail list.

Dedicated 24-hour voice/fax phone line:  
(619) 670-7948

### San Diego Miata Club

P.O. Box 2286  
Spring Valley, CA 91979-2286



**MEETING PLACES**



**Day at the Beach Fun Run**

**Date:** Saturday, December 7

**Time:** 9:00 a.m. (please be prompt)

**Place:** North County Fair mall under the large sign parallel to I-15

**Run Leader:** Laura Roman (721-7472) (LRoman9154@aol.com)

Did you know that the beach is 112 miles from the mall? If you take the right route, any ordinary trip can be an extraordinary one!

We will leave promptly at 9:00 a.m. Our journey will take us first to Julian, where we will spend about one hour, giving you plenty of time to stock up on apple pies, etc. Then, it will be back down the mountains, across Del Dios Highway, arriving at Oceanside Harbor at approximately 1:00 p.m. for a Day at the Beach.

Free parking, lots of little gift shops, Fish & Chip shop, Nautical Bean Coffee shop, Jolly Roger, Monterey Bay Cannery, Rockin Baha, Chart House and lots of sand and surf. Fun!

**Wheels 'n Meals at Boll Weevil**

**Date:** Saturday, December 21

**Time:** 4:00 p.m.

**Place:** Boll Weevil, 9330 Clairemont Mesa Blvd. (At Ruffin Rd.), San Diego (571-6225)

Yes, we know that this date is pretty darn close to Christmas but this month's WHEELS 'N MEALS is being held in conjunction with the "CHRISTMAS ELF ROAD RALLY" (see VBob's notice on page two). Let's pack the place and show our holiday and team spirit!

There will be a quarterly board meeting at this Wheels n' Meals.

**Holiday Party**

**Date:** Saturday, December 14

**Time:** 7:00 p.m.

**Place:** 5032 Faber Way, San Diego (Faber Way is located near the intersection of Montezuma and 54th)

**Host:** Richard Scherschel — 286-2412

Note: Please RSVP to 670-7948. Please indicate number attending and the type of dish you will be bringing for the pot luck.

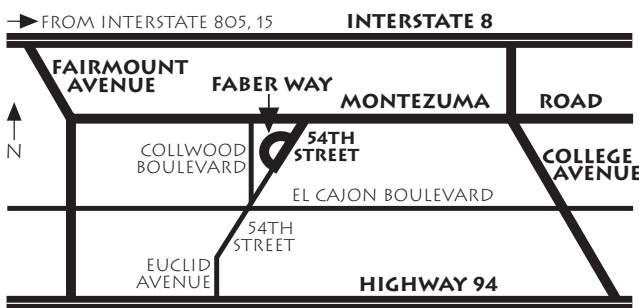
32 members have already signed up to attend our first-annual Holiday Party!

This will be POTLUCK so please let us know what you will be bringing. (We are in need of a few more "hot" dishes, such as casseroles, etc.).

BYOB...please Bring Your Own Beverage of choice!

For those interested in participating, we will have an anonymous GIFT EXCHANGE. Bring a wrapped Miata-related or driving-related gift not to exceed \$25 in value. If you bring a gift, you go home with a gift! Bring two, go home with two, etc.

Please remember to RSVP to the club line (see note above).



**AUTOCROSS AT THE MURPH**

The following autocross events scheduled at Jack Murphy Stadium in San Diego for the remainder of 1996:

Sunday, December 8                      Racing

Autocross information sources:



- Steve Hart:                      619-579-9093
- Richard Scherschel:           619-286-2412
- San Diego SCCA Hotline:    619-441-1333
- Cal Club SCCA Hotline:      818-988-7223

**UPCOMING NATIONAL AND REGIONAL EVENTS**

- January, 1997
- SOCALM Annual Membership meeting
- August 15-17, 1997
- Monterey Historic Races
- Monterey, CA





# Flyin' Solo

had a new meaning on the October 19th Solo II practice day. It happened that the Club had a scheduled fun run that day as well. So needless to say I was the sole San Diego Miata Club member at this event.



I arrived early, about 7 a.m., and found Jack Murphy Stadium's west lot already filling with cars and participants. I signed the waiver sheet and put my wrist band on. I quickly found a spot with a good view of the track and enough room to unload my stuff (chair, air tank, spare tire, etc.). I kept my jacket close, however. It was overcast and quite cool. I made my way to registration and paid my entrance fee of \$25 for the practice session. I received my tech card, got my Miata and drove over to tech. This is an inspection area where minimum standards are checked. Passing tech is a breeze with the Miata. Zip, back over to my parking spot. Done.

Thirty minutes have gone by. I now have an hour and a half 'til the first car takes the track. Plenty of time to relax, drink some coffee, walk the course and plan a race strategy. After a couple of cups of hot coffee I set off to walk the course and walk it I did. All 1.4 miles of it. As I walk I plan each approach, apex, and each exit to every turn and straight-away, I also plan anticipated throttle, brake and shift points. I try to memorize all the turns, but this course is huge! With over twenty turns and three straight-aways, too many for me to memorize. Therefore I will try to remember the course in sections or groups of turns linked by straight-aways and then just

wing the rest of it. There is still a lot of time to visit with other enthusiasts and check out all the other cars, (over 100) this day. There are 2 Vipers competing, 3 Super 7s, 2 Elans, 1 Europa, a few spec racers, 2 dozen Corvettes, 7 or 8 Miatas, and host of other family drivers from Camaros and Mustangs to RX-7s and Sentras. Oh, did I mention the Dune Buggy?

As 9 o'clock draws near, the 1st run group begins to line-up in pre-grid, and course workers take up their positions on the track. The safety car pulls up to the line and the green flag drops. It instantly launches onto the course. Over the P.A. System the announcer says "the course is hot," alerting course workers that there are cars on the track at speed. As we all watch this 1st car maneuver through the course one thing is noticed by all: a huge dust cloud follows this car. The track is very dirty, therefore very slick, at least for the first few cars. The safety car completes the course in just over 106 seconds, a good time. The safety steward determines the course is safe and the 1st group start their runs. I'm in the 2nd run group, so I use this time to watch and analyze the successes and failures of various drivers on various turns, I study all the turns. I'm now ready.

The announcer calls for all cars in the second run group to begin lining up in pre-grid. I grab my helmet, start the car and head over to pre-grid. I'll be the second car out and two dozen will follow me. The first car leaves the start line, and the starter signals me to approach the starting line. Fifteen seconds go by, this allows for a safe interval between cars and also allows time

for workers to replace downed cones (if any) from the preceding car. Fifteen seconds — an eternity — thinking about every turn and execution. The starter raises the green flag, I bring the RPM's up to 3500 as the flag drops I quickly take the RPM's to 5000 and dump the clutch. I'm off and running and have forgotten everything I've studied this morning. "JUST DRIVE." No time for indecision. My Miata handles great, she sticks like glue in the corners and dances gracefully through the Ess's. It's a great course, very technical, yet smooth and flowing. I cross the finish line with a time of 106+ seconds. A respectable time. It has been ten weeks since the last event and I'm pretty rusty. It shows. Over the next hour and a half I get in eleven more runs, getting times down to the low 104's. It was great practice, but I never did feel as if I had the course dialed in. Several of my competitors have much lower times. Three are down around 102's and one, way down there, under 100 seconds. I'll need to do much better tomorrow to have any chance to win.

Day 2, race day, began much as the day before. But this day would be different. Solo II yes, but not solo. About half way through the course walk I hear the tone of dual airhorns. It's RAINER MUELLER followed closely by his support team, MARIANNE MUELLER. He has come to race. He and I didn't have much time to chat — he has new tires to change and to get ready for the second run group. I had to get ready for the first. However, he did tell me a little bit about the "Heavenly Run:" wild in spots, huh? And the awesome weekend at Lotus West Driving School. (If you haven't done this yet, it's a *must* for the enthusiast.)

The course is the same as yesterday, but we run it in the opposite direction. This allows those who didn't or couldn't practice the day before the same opportunity to win. As anticipated yesterday, the race was fun and a challenge, but there would be no trophy for me today. A sixth place finish was the best I could do in my class, "CSP." Rainer, however, had much greater success in "C" Stock, with a respectable fourth place finish. Good Job! Later we were joined by club



members KEN EVORY, RICH TAYLOR, JOHN and CATHERINE GODDEN, RICHARD SCHERSCHEL, BRIAN GOODWIN, VOODOO BOB KRUEGER, J.T. BOB HOLLAND and MARK BOOTH. We all watched the races and talked car stuff. Pat from Eibach Springs joined us for a time, discussing shocks, springs, and coil rates. He also discussed the installation of shocks and springs. If you want to know more about this you'll have to ask Mark, J.T. Bob, or Voodoo Bob. All I got out of it was to be careful about trimming off the rubber bumpstops on top of the shocks. Oh yeah, he gave us some decals before he left. Ken and Rich soon left to check out the Sprint Car races at Del Mar. I had the opportunity to give a few rides, J.T.'s ride included a free spin. Voodoo Bob gave me a Voodoo shift knob to use, replacing my Nardi shifter. It shortened the throw greatly. It feels really good in my hand and I believe it will help me quit shifting up into 5<sup>th</sup> when I want 3<sup>rd</sup>. This only happens when I'm racing or shifting fast. I had intended to try it out during Fun Runs that afternoon, but had to work this portion of event. I'll give it a try at next event and report back on it. Meanwhile Rainer did get Fun Runs and everyone else who wanted a ride got at least one. Five o'clock — the event over, we dusted off our cars, made them ready for the trip home and said our good-byes.

IT WAS A GREAT WEEKEND!

—STEVE HART

## OHIO ROAD TRIP

My husband asked "How would you like to go on a second honeymoon?"

"Wow!" I was surprised, since Keith is quite a workaholic.

"And it'll be a free trip!" Finally, I thought, he's cashing in those frequent flyer miles!

I started to get enthusiastic: "Hawaii would be nice!"

"Actually, it's to Dayton, Ohio."

"DAYTON, OHIO?"



Quickly, Keith explained that he had received a company award, and that the prize was an all-expenses paid trip for two to company headquarters in Dayton in early October, including a riverboat cruise and motorcoach excursion around the region. But his real goal was to spend some quality time at the Wright-Patterson Air Force Base Museum. Basically, if it flew for the USAF, the museum had one — and Keith wanted to see it all in great detail and read all the specs on all the planes, whereas my limit would be about one hour.

Although Keith was joking about the "second honeymoon" part, I was disgruntled until I realized that I "knew" a miata.net personality in the area — DRAKE DAUM, founder of the MIAMI VALLEY MIATA CLUB! I had previously exchanged e-mail with him, primarily about electronics (he'd performed the very first retrofit of 93+ electric mirrors on a pre-93 vehicle

and wrote an article in the national Miata Magazine) as well as the "spare tire relocation" muffler job. From previous e-mail exchanges, I knew he was involved in aerospace and had travelled to San Diego many times in the past.

I sent Drake some e-mail asking about Dayton. Not only did he send information, he enthusiastically invited me to a Miata event during my trip! So Keith and I agreed that Sunday he would go to the museum, and I would go for a ride around the Ohio countryside with Drake and the Miami Valley Miata Club. (Keith is very sensitive to the sun, so he doesn't often go on Miata rides with me. Also, he thinks my muffler is too loud...)

Our flight connections going to Dayton were through Atlanta. The flight was delayed due to fog and fellow traveller former President Jimmy Carter (who shook hands with everyone on the plane). But when we finally disembarked at Dayton, there was a gentleman in a tuxedo holding up a Miami Valley Miata Club banner! No, they don't always greet people like this: Drake had briefly ducked out of a wedding party to meet us.

While Keith was busy at the car rental booth, Drake showed me his car, parked at the front of the airport. I was impressed by the shiniest red 92 Miata I have ever seen — even more brilliant than SDMC president Mark



Steve Hart



Booth's red 92! (On the other hand, Drake's car never sees snow, which means that it isn't a year-round daily driver.) It sported lots of customized goodies of his own design — appropriate, since Dayton was the home of many inventors, including the Wright Brothers. When Drake lifted the hood, I was dazzled by the chrome and polished steel. A Sebring supercharger powered this concours champion. I was looking forward to going for a top-down ride, no matter how cold it might be!

Sunday was sunny and in the 70s. At the parking lot of the Wright Patterson AFB Museum, Keith and I met the members of the Miami Valley Miata Club who were up for this impromptu run. Keith headed into the museum, and I was Drake's passenger. (His wife Cinda rode in another club member's Miata.) The club members thanked me for bringing the fine California weather with me. "What do you mean, isn't the weather always like this?" Uh, no. Also it snows in the winter, so when the weather is excellent, drop everything and enjoy it!

I quickly discovered that this would be no easygoing Sunday ride in the country. No, I was going to be the navigator for a fun rally! Actually, Drake had organized a charity rally for convertibles a few weeks earlier, and so he knew the route and the clues. And this was not a rally for the rest of the club members, they were just going to follow the lead car (although they had the rally directions if they felt the need for a challenge.)

If you've never been on a rally, basically a driver and navigator team receives a list of not exactly straightforward instructions, questions and clues. This event requires excellent communication between driver and navigator, attention to detail and puzzle-solving ability. Sort of like a detective team tackling a mystery on wheels. But this was a fun rally because time and score are not the issue — it's just a different way to have fun with your Miata!

We drove by many farms and fields, crossed over creeks, streams and rivers 41 times (including 2 covered wooden bridges), and passed through wooded areas that were just starting

to turn color. I was also busy with the instructions, especially paying attention to the details of the many decorated mailboxes beside the road.

The restaurant/mill that was the planned lunch destination was full of people enjoying the fine October weather, so we detoured to an alternate dairy-themed lunch spot. There was a harvest festival going on outdoors, but since the restaurant was much larger, they were able to accommodate our group.

After the run, Drake offered me a chance to drive his supercharged car back to the museum. He didn't have to ask twice! Unfortunately, the roads were now beginning to fill up with Bengals fans headed for Cincinnati, so there was no opportunity to really cut loose. Back at the museum, I had an hour to look at the main collection, then met Keith at closing time. Keith was a happy camper, having examined all the exhibits in great detail, including every Air Force One and a F-117 stealth fighter used in Desert Storm.

We had a few hours to freshen up before meeting Drake and Cinda for dinner, along with Tom, a Miami Valley Miata Club member who had not been able to participate on the run, but who had lurked on the Miata mailing list and had seen my previous postings. Drake brought along a number of albums stuffed with photos of local and national Miata events, including some where other Miata mailing list members had participated. We talked on into the night...

The rest of the trip was more structured — motorcoach tours, a riverboat ride, a reception and banquet. But I'll always remember driving top down through the Ohio countryside on a warm October afternoon. I am thankful for the on-line community of Miata enthusiasts and especially Drake Daum of the Miami Valley Miata Club for this wonderful memory of the American heartland!

—CINDY PALOMA

## New Members!

### Zack Broadbent

Fullerton  
1994 Red R

### Randy Camp & Susan Tousi

San Diego  
1991 Red A

### Ron & Nancy Gelinas

El Cajon  
1990 Mariner Blue A

### Roland Jones & Mary Greenawalt

San Diego  
1990 White **100<sup>TH</sup> MEMBERSHIP!**

### David & Leanne Lynn

San Diego  
1992 Red B

### Sandra K. McNulty

Poway  
1990 Red A

### O.D. Smith

San Diego,  
1996 Montego Blue

### Dale L. Thompson

Del Mar  
1993 Black C

There are now 102 memberships consisting of 153 members.

Cars:

36 Red  
17 White  
12 Black  
11 Montego Blue  
9 Mariner Blue  
4 BRG  
3 Laguna Blue  
3 Silver  
3 Starlight Blue  
2 Yellow  
1 Merlot  
1 Unreported



## Over a Century of Miatas!

I am very pleased and excited to announce that, on November 13, 1996, ROLAND JONES & MARY GREENAWALT became the 100th membership in the San Diego Miata Club! Since that date, and as of this writing, our membership has risen to 102 Miatas and 153 members! My congratulations to Roland and Mary for being our 100<sup>th</sup> Miata and my heartfelt thanks to ALL of you for helping us get there so quickly! Everyone please give yourself a round of applause!

### Cards Anyone?

Membership Cards: I'm sure everyone was pleased with the little "surprise" in last month's issue. We had to delay the mailing a few days to get the membership cards into the newsletter but we were anxious to get the cards into your hands. Please remember that you will be required to present your current membership card to receive discounts at local dealers, etc. Don't leave home without it!

Recruiting Cards: We have received several calls from Miata owners that had their Miatas "tagged" with one of our recruiting cards at various spots around the County (UCSD especially). My thanks to everyone for helping to spread the word! Keep up the good work. Also, we have a new batch of COLOR recruiting cards. See me at an event if you would like some to distribute.

Again, my thanks to members TOM and STEF GOULD for arranging the FREE printing of these cards! Also, my thanks to members VBOB & VICKY KRUEGER and Stef for staying up late to get the membership cards prepared for mailing!

### Holiday Party Update

We already have 40 members signed up to attend our first-annual Holiday Party on December 14. My wonderful wife Cathy is maintaining the RSVP list (thank you sweetheart) and she reports that we are in need of a few more "hot" dishes (casseroles, etc.) for the pot luck. Also needed are a few more appetizer items such as cheese & crackers, chips & dip, etc. BYOB, please Bring

Your Own Beverage.

On a personal level, Cathy and I are looking forward to meeting our newest members and those members that we haven't had an opportunity to meet at an event. Please attend if you can. (Please remember to RSVP to the club line.)

### Christmas Elf Road Rally

As noted elsewhere in this issue, our monthly Wheels 'n Meals at Boll Weevil has been moved to a Saturday so it can be held in conjunction with the Christmas Elf Road Rally. I know this date is very close to Christmas but I encourage everyone to please try to attend and show big-time San Diego Miata Club support for this fun and charitable event. Any questions, contact member VBob at 486-4711.

### Logo Goodies Update

A "straw poll" taken at a recent Wheels 'n Meals indicates that the membership is very much looking forward to getting logo window decals for their Miatas. The preferred decal design is in color with one color changing to match the member's Miata. So, by popular demand, we are going to move ahead on the decals. We expect the decals will cost members between \$4-\$5 each.

Members are also anxious for logo-embroidered shirts and jackets. Member BOB LLEWELLYN has volunteered to coordinate the logo-embroidered items for the club. We plan to include the details on the jackets in the January issue of the newsletter. Please note that all orders will have to be pre-paid and that we will have to reach a certain minimum before placing the order with the embroidery company. My thanks to Bob for tackling this task.

Also, don't forget member RAINER MUELLER'S beautiful glass mugs complete with etched San Diego Miata Club logo. I just received mine and the quality is absolutely fantastic! Three sizes to choose from. You WANT one of these mugs! Contact Rainer to order at 443-8953 (all orders must be pre-paid). Thank you Rainer!

### America's Funniest Home Videos

As you've read in some of JT's articles, once in a while, a few of us get together to help another member do some maintenance items on their Miata. Well, members Bob and Debbie Llewellyn had the great idea to video tape these informal "tech sessions" and then use these tapes to create a San Diego Miata Club do-it-yourself video library. A VHS tape on Shock & Spring Replacement is almost complete. More details in next month's issue. My thanks to Bob and Debbie for their enthusiasm and follow-through on this great idea!

### Ruth and Lou Update

As mentioned in last month's issue, members RUTH AND LOU STARK lost their home to the wildfires in Carlsbad/La Costa. Ruth and Lou have now moved into a furnished rental house about a block from the site of their home.

Both Ruth and Lou asked me to thank all of the members for their prayers and concern during this tough time. They are most grateful for the cards and gifts that all of you have sent and, more importantly, for the friendship and kindness everyone has shown. Proving, once again, San Diego Miata Club members are the best!

Until next month — keep that top down!

— MARK

