



SAN DIEGO MIATA CLUB NEWS

Miata

VOLUME 2 NUMBER 1

JANUARY 1997

A CHAPTER OF THE MIATA CLUB OF AMERICA

UPCOMING EVENTS



January 8
Miatas at Malibu Grand Prix



January 23
Wheels 'n Meals
Boll Weevil



January 25
Run to U.S. Olympic Training Center Via the Coast



February 15
St. Valentine's Day Run to Inspiration Point

June 26-29
Miatas at the Ranch

Key to Icons



Wheels 'n Meals (Social)



Fun Run



Internet



Tech



Autocross

From the Editor

The Presents We Really Wanted

Now that Christmas is over, you're probably thinking about the gifts you were really hoping for. You know, the ones for your Miata. Most of us have something that we've added to enhance its appeal, or replaced to get it close to our individual ideas of perfection. We've seen many forms of that individuality in each Miata as time passes. Some changes we lust after, others we wonder what the owner was thinking about. Whatever our likes or dislikes, each Miata begins to take on the personality of the owner, from mild to wild.

So now, with our most sincere face, we thank our loved ones for the sweaters and Chia Pets, and then hope the stores will accept them all for a refund. Yes, money that can be put towards those items we've been patiently saving for, but had to delay because Christmas was just around the corner. Maybe you've been thinking about getting something special, but are still unsure about what you want next. Hopefully I'll be able to list a few items that I've seen on the multitude of Miatas that will help you decide.

The number one item that most people hate on the Miata is that weenie electric horn. What you need then, is a set of air horns to blow little old ladies onto the shoulder and turn truckers envious. For a quality set of air horns with easy-to-follow installation instructions, try the "Crazy Red Italian" Air Horns. These horns are assembled by David DeNuzzo, President of SAMOA (Sacramento Miata Club), and he backs up each set with outstanding service and support. A set costs \$48 and comes with two horns, an air compressor and all the parts needed to do an easy installation job with only a socket wrench. Call (916) 454-9816 to order.

Another item people seem to dislike is the barn door headlights. Personally I don't mind, but others think they come up too high. So companies like Brain-Storm Products have created low-profile headlights. These kits replace the lamps and housings so that small, round projector lights pop up only about 4 inches. If you'd like a sleek new look for your nighttime driving, give one of these kits a try. Currently, Brain-Storm Products, (800) 779-3223, is selling these kits for \$299.99. They regularly sell for \$349.95. Installation is fairly simple, but some time will need to be set aside for a quality installation.

Maybe you think the interior is a little too monotone for your tastes. How about a polished Voodoo Knob, created by our own "VOODOO" BOB KRUEGER? These knobs harken back to British and Italian race cars of the fifties and sixties. Patterned after the Ferrari 250 GTO knob (the real GTO, not some steinking Pontiac by the way), the Voodoo Knob will add a touch of polish to your interior. Bob usually carries some knobs with him to our events, or call him at (619) 486-4711. Also, The Dealer Alternative, (800) 359-6957, sells them for \$25.95 for powder coat finishes and \$29.95 for polished. Installation is a snap, twist off old knob, twist on Voodoo Knob.

Also, you might consider some white face gauges for your instrument cluster. These white gauge faces replace the black faces and really gives the cluster a more racy look. They can take a while to install, as you have to remove the instrument

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



cluster, take it apart and replace the faces with the new ones. Rogue Speed, (800) 267-1444, sells a set for \$139.95. It comes with 3 small gauge faces and 2 large faces plus the instructions for a professional look.

After going to the Jackson Racing Tech Day last year, I've really wanted to get one of those Cold Air Induction (CAI) kits. The CAI shortens up the intake track considerably, moving the intake from the driver's side by the headers to just in front of the engine over the radiator. This area is a relatively high pressure spot fed by the outside air, so the engine gets a nice ram air effect, using ambient temperature air. I've seen the dyno of a Miata before and after the CAI was installed, you definitely get a 12-14 hp improvement at the crankshaft. Installation is time consuming, and pre-reading the instructions a few times will help make the job easier. The Dealer Alternative sells the kit for \$389 for '90-'93 cars, and \$459 for '94+ cars.

Maybe some of you are thinking, "What about exhaust systems?" Well, that is a little more difficult. Most aftermarket systems give about the same free-flow characteristics, but vary radically in their sound output. The loudest exhaust I've ever heard on a Miata is the Candoo exhaust. It uses a long resonator underneath the mid-section of the car, and a straight pipe with no muffler out the back. As a bonus, it allows you to mount your spare tire underneath the car. Brain-Storm Products sells one for \$315. If you really want to be the most obnoxious per-

son in the neighborhood, then this exhaust is for you. Racing Beat makes a nice sounding exhaust system, which is a little louder than stock, reminiscent of the Triumph sports cars. Also, Jackson Racing makes a nice system that is roughly the same as the stock exhaust sound, but a little deeper in tone. The best way to find what you like is to listen to other club member's cars and see which you like best.

Glass Replacement

Club member WILLIAM BARBOUR sent me some information on a company in Escondido that did a windshield replacement on his car, "I would recommend Vistar Auto Glass in Escondido for automotive glass work. I had the windshield and molding on my '90 Miata replaced there and the work was excellent. They are friendly and helpful and operate a very clean shop. They are located at 325 N. Andreasen in Escondido. Phone (619) 489-0966."

Keep those ideas and recommendations coming. Remember, this is your newsletter, as you paid for it, so you should get as much out of it as you can. Want something covered? Ideas on how to make the club and newsletter better? Compliments, complaints? Send your comments to the club address, either by mail or phone, or you can email me at robert@caliban.ucsd.edu. You can also put your ideas up on our mail list so that other members can get the information more quickly, and I'll place it in the newsletter.

See you on the twisties...
—ROBERT "JTBOB" HOLLAND

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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 15th 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

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December's Day at the Beach Fun Run started with a trip to Julian



MEETING PLACES

Miatas at Malibu Grand Prix

Date: Wednesday, January 8

Time: 6:00 p.m. (Please be prompt)

Place: Malibu Grand Prix, 8606 Miramar Rd., San Diego (566-4121)

This has proven to be a very popular event and several members have



recently asked when we were going to visit Malibu

Grand Prix again. Here ya go!

Again, we will not have the track to ourselves (reserving the entire track is expensive) but we've chosen a slow weeknight so it shouldn't be too crowded. Cost usually works out to \$1.75 per lap. (Most members purchase between 10-15 laps.) Drivers must also purchase a Malibu Grand Prix license for approx. \$3.00 (don't forget yours if you already have one).

Please be prompt. Meet in the parking lot so we can get a total figure on the number of laps to be purchased. We have to buy the laps in a block to get the best price per lap. Please bring cash so we can pool our money for the purchase.

Thanks for your cooperation.

Note: The track is closed if it rains.

Wheels 'n Meals at Boll Weevil

Date: Thursday, January 23

Time: 6:00 p.m.

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

The monthly Wheels 'n Meals continues to be a success. Attendance averages 20-25 Miatas. These events are the single BEST way for members to get to know one another. It is also a great way to get more detail on various club activities as well as participating in decisions regarding those activities. ALL members are heartily encouraged to attend. See YOU there!

U.S. Olympic Training Center via the coast

Date: Saturday, January 25

Time: 10:00 a.m.

Place: Hanalei Hotel, Mission Valley

Run Leader: Jack Brandais

We'll leave the Hanalei and take some of San Diego's most scenic drives to the Olympic Training Center at the Lower (or is it Upper?) Otay Reservoir. Our trip will take us through Balboa Park (on 163), across the Coronado Bridge, down the Strand and up to the Training Center. Yes, there are traffic, lights, cops, etc.— but hey, just think of the sight of 110 Miatas on the Bridge!

There's an extra added incentive to NOT fly solo on this one... there's no charge on the bridge in the carpool lane (two or more).

AUTOCROSS AT THE MURPH



The following autocross events are scheduled at Jack Murphy Stadium

Date	Lot	Event	Club
Saturday, January 11	West	Practice	TART
Sunday, January 12	West	Championship	TART
Sunday, January 26	West	Championship	SDAD
Saturday, February 8	Southeast	Available?	
Sunday, February 16	Southeast	Available?	
Sunday, February 23	West	Championship	SCAT
Saturday, March 15	West	Practice	TART
Sunday, March 16	West	Championship	TART
Sunday, April 13	Southeast	Available?	
Saturday, April 26	West	NCCC — Corvette AutoX	
Saturday, May 17	West	Corvette Expo AutoX	
Sunday, May 18	West	Championship	SDAD
Saturday, May 31	West	Practice	DCCSD

Autocross information sources:

San Diego SCCA Hotline: (619) 441-1333

Cal Club SCCA Hotline: (818) 988-7223

Steve Hart: (619) 579-9093

Richard Scherschel: (619) 286-2412

UPCOMING NATIONAL AND REGIONAL EVENTS

January 18, 1997 — 1:00pm

SOCALM Annual Membership Meeting
Mazda R&D, Irvine

February 15-16, 1997

Death Valley Daze 2

Hosted by SOCALM

Contact: Delena Cozart (619) 624-9201

March 15, 1997

St. Patrick's Day Poker Run

Hosted by: San Joaquin Valley Miata Club

\$40 registration includes Poker Run

through the spring blossoms, T-shirt,

Lunch for Two, Fun Khana, and more.

Contact: Linda Davidson (209) 266-0603

March 22, 1997

Protomotive Race Team Driving School

For Miatas only! Thunder Hill Raceway,

(1 hour north of Sacramento). Cost is

under \$200, with \$100 deposit due by

Jan. 15th. Contact: Joe Jordan (800)

678-3250 ext 2231

June 26-29, 1997

Miatas at the Ranch '97

Hosted by the combined California

Chapters of the Miata Club of America

Flag is Up Farms, 120 miles northwest of

Los Angeles in the Santa Ynez Valley.

Events will include:

Winery Tour Rallye

Rallye Santa Ynez

Back Seat Driver Funkhana

Hard Surface Slalom

Dunlop Dave's Driving School

Friday Night Karaoke Party

Friday Night Dart Contest

Saturday Banquet, and more!

(800) 472-9445 for registration packet

July 17-20, 1997

Moss Motors British Car Festival

Flag is Up Farms, near Solvang, CA

This event was very well reviewed

by Miatafiles last year.

August 15-17, 1997

Monterey Historic Races

Laguna Seca Raceway, Monterey, CA

There is a strong Miata presence at

this very popular event. The featured

marque for this year is Cobra (The

Historics will feature Porsche in 1998

to honor the automaker's 50th

anniversary). If you are thinking of

going this year, make hotel reserva-

tions now as many hotels and motels

are already full. Two- or three-day

tickets are available at a discount by

phone or mail thru August 8.





November 2, 1996

Saturday found us gathering in the west lot at Jack Murphy Stadium. I arrived first, followed closely by JOHN and CATHERINE GODDEN. John and I registered and went thru tech early. Shortly after that RICHARD SCHERSCHEL arrived as did RAINER MUELLER and support team MARIANNE MUELLER.

Rainer and I announced at the Wheels 'n Meals that I would run in the 2nd group and Rainer would run in the 3rd. That way one of us could give rides to any members who wanted them from 10:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Today will be one day of practice, with the Host club conducting a driving school during the event. Nine o'clock is coming up fast. John is running in the 1st group, so he leaves for Pre-Grid. I have to work this group, so I get my cool sit-down job, handing out timing slips to the drivers after the completion of each run. This job is called Post-Grid. From this seat I track who has the fast time in their class. I also inform competitors what time to beat if they are to win.

John is now off and running and is getting good times on street tires: around 78-77 seconds. I also notice John has competition, a red Miata on

street tires as well. I also notice that this car has a Socalm decal in the right wing window. After several runs, they battle back and forth for the fastest time. On the last run John edges out the mystery Miata. Both times were 76 something. The driver of the mystery Miata turns out to be Socalm member and *Reward* Newsletter editor ZACK BROADBENT [also a new SDMC member], down for the day having fun. We had a good visit with him later that afternoon.

Meanwhile the 2nd group is getting underway. I jump in my car and head over to Pre-Grid. My first run will be solo, just to find my way around the course. Meanwhile JERI JONES and SEAN O'CONNOR have shown up for the event. Rainer and I were eager to see Jeri, knowing she had SDMC decals to adorn the sides of our cars. When I looked over, Rainer already had his car decked out with the club logo. But in just a few minutes mine were on as well. They look great! In no time Jeri was in the passenger seat, helmet in hand, ready for her first ride in a Miata on an Auto-X course. The Miata is deceptively fast on short straight-aways and turns — grip is so good it feels as if the car is on rails. The G-force is outrageous. I was sure Jeri enjoyed the ride by her big smile. Time was around 69 seconds, a clean run (no cones down).

Next Sean hopped in. It turned out Sean was a veteran at this. He belonged to Corvair Club back in the 70's and participated in these events regularly. We work our way up to the start line. My tires are warm now and tire pressures were right, I decide to push myself on this run. We launch onto the course. My car grips tenaciously on the first 3 turns — the 4th I go in a little too hot. I trail brake and get a little loose, but save it. Power down a short straight-away to 90° left, then into a double Ess. Maneuvering as fast and as smoothly as possible, a little out of shape, but again, hung on! Powering out of the Ess's down to a left hairpin curve, I brake hard at first, then lightly brake as I turn in (trail braking), this induces oversteer. OOPS!— too much. As I power out the tail-end becomes too loose, I attempt to power thru it (there is a quick right then a left). I make the right okay, the rear-end still loose. I try for the left, not so lucky this time. The tail has a mind of its own, instead, it comes around on me. A spectacular 360° spin 50 yards from the finish line. I power it around — back on course, we cross the finish line in 75 seconds + 1 cone. Still great fun and a good time with a spin. I am pretty sure Sean was pleasantly surprised at the speed and grip the little car has! Next to ride is John. He got in a couple of runs with me.



With the driving school happening at the same time this group has become unusually large, therefore not many runs. I got six in before it was over. VOODOO BOB KRUEGER arrived during this group and took a ride with Tom Berry, owner of a black C Stock Miata. JTBOB HOLLAND also arrived about this time, but I don't recall if he rode with anyone. With time running out NATALIA RISSOLO jumped in Mike Plummer's red C Stock, and got a couple of laps in. Then she got a ride in David Laird's Lotus Super 7 (a very fast car!)— well, a partial ride — it broke down after 3/4 of a lap. Natalia had a big grin on her face too! YVONNE HART, KEN EVORY, and RICH TAYLOR all made it down by around lunch time.

With the 2nd run group now over, it was lunch time. Time for some of us to walk the course, and others to grab some lunch from the catering truck. It's also a great time to visit. And I got a chance to really admire the SDMC magnetic decals. Also new for me today are a pair of TEAM VOODOO decals mounted on a matching green background. Thanks, Jeri. I am very proud to represent "The Club." Jeri and Sean tell me they will soon start racing. It's a real kick. Today was also my first opportunity to use the Voodoo Shift Knob under race conditions. Shifts were much shorter, faster and a very straight shift into 3rd. I know this improvement will help lower my times.

ALL this fun and Rainer has not even run yet. With lunch over, Rainer will get his runs in. Everyone else who wanted to take a ride got to ride with him. I do remember Jeri riding once and don't recall if there were any other



takers. However, I know he had quite a cheering section. Our group was situated near the finish line and cheered after each of his runs. If I remember correctly, Rainer got his times down around 71 seconds. With the 3rd run group over, some visited a while, some begin packing up, and still others stayed and watched the 4th and final run group. As the day ends we say our good-byes and set off for home.

ANOTHER GREAT MIATA DAY!

P.S. Come out to a future event and ride along. You could just watch if you want, but until you go for a ride you really don't know the car's capability and what a truly wonderful sports car you own!

See ya at the races

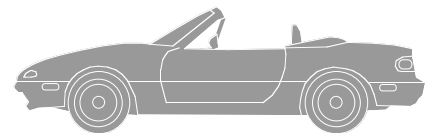
—STEVE HART

These photos were taken at the Autocross held on November 10, 1996 at Jack Murphy Stadium.

Above — Robert 'JT' Holland returns to racing.

Below — The class winner, a "ringer" from Tri-Point Engineering.

Opposite — Steve Hart celebrates his 2nd-place trophy.



PHOTOS: VOODOO BOB KRUEGER





Over thirty Miatas gathered for the Fall Picnic Tour on November 24th.



New Members!

Ellen & Dean Cooksy

San Diego
1992 Red

Kristin Ebersol

Carlsbad
1990 Silver

Given & Christine Harrison

Carlsbad
1993 Red B

Kevin Lakkis

Seal Beach
1991 Red Base

Ben & Susie Lerner

Moreno Valley
1995 Black PEP

Marlo & Ron Miller

Del Mar
1993 White

Michael & Susan Pasterkiewicz

San Diego
1992 Red

Robert E. Port

San Diego
1992 Mariner Blue A

Dan Reichel

Vista
1994 White A

Dale & Ginger Smith

Poway
1995 Laguna Blue Base

Richard A. Smith

Escondido
1995 M (Merlot)

Herman & Susan van Eijkelenburg

San Diego
1990 Red A

Joyce Wells

Escondido
1996 M (Starlight Blue)

Bob & Kathy Welty

Carlsbad
1995 Black Base

There are now 116 memberships
consisting of 175 members.

- 41 Red
- 19 White
- 13 Black
- 11 Montego Blue
- 10 Mariner Blue
- 4 BRG
- 4 Laguna Blue
- 4 Silver
- 4 Starlight Blue
- 3 Merlot
- 2 Yellow
- 1 Unreported



Holiday Party Is a Big Hit!

My heartfelt thanks to everyone who attended our first annual Holiday Party. Good food, great company and lots of fun! Everyone did a fantastic job selecting gifts for the gift exchange. There wasn't a dud gift among them. I know my new wet/dry vac will get lots of use.

A very special THANK YOU to member RICHARD SCHERSCHEL for hosting the party. His home was perfect for the occasion. I especially liked the flying Miata Santa Sleigh and Miata "reindeer" painted on the front picture window. Nice touch! THANKS!

Logo Loco!

Decals: At the December board meeting, the board voted to go ahead and front the money to pay for the printing of the static-cling window decals. The decals will be in color with one color changing to match the member's Miata color. We will be using off-the-shelf colors (doing custom-matched colors is cost prohibitive) but members STEF AND TOM GOULD are confident that we can get very close to the factory colors using this method.

We will be printing about 300 decals in various colors. So, there will be plenty of extras if members wish to purchase more than one. Decals will be \$5 each. We will need to sell almost a third of these before we recoup our original expense. After that, each \$5 sale will add a little "profit" to the club treasury, money that will be used to help pay other club-related expenses such as the digitizing of the club logo for embroidery (see below). Decals should be available for purchase sometime in January.

Again, my thanks to Stef and Tom for all of their hard work on this and many other club-related items!

Embroidery: Originally, we planned to help cover the \$200-\$225 digitizing fee that the embroidery shop is charging by doing a bulk purchase of logo embroidered jackets. Unfortunately, a straw poll taken on our club's Internet mail list indicates a somewhat limited

interest in the jackets. More members are interested in caps, T-shirts, etc.

If we can get enough orders (about 30), we still plan to go ahead with the bulk purchase. In lieu of that, the club needs to cover the digitizing expense in another way (such as using the "profits" from decal sales). Keep in mind that once we DO cover the digitizing expense, members will be able to purchase not only jackets, but logo embroidered T-shirts, caps and golf shirts. That is the beauty of using Point Loma Embroidery. They can do a single item and can embroider just about any garment. Please be sure to attend the monthly Wheels 'n Meals to get the latest info.

My continued thanks to member BOB LLEWELLYN for being the club liaison for the logo embroidered items!

Video Library Now Open

As I mentioned in last month's column, BOB AND DEBBIE LLEWELLYN also get kudos for taking the time to actually video tape one of our informal "tech sessions". The first tape, "Miata Front Shock Installation" is now finished and ready for rental. They did an EXCELLENT job adding titles and credits to the tape. Very professional looking!

To rent this tape, simply present a valid membership card to the Video Librarian (that's me) at any club event or contact me via E-mail or telephone to make other arrangements. There is no charge to rent the tape. We only ask that you view it and return it as soon as possible so that other members have a chance to rent it. Your membership card will be held until the tape is returned.

Thanks Bob and Debbie!

Miata Chat on AOL

Those members with access to America Online might be interested in a "Miata Chat on AOL" that is being organized by Indy Miata Club member Bob Wiley. Bob is tentatively planning to create a private chat room on January 26 at 7:00 p.m. Eastern time

(4:00 p.m. Pacific). To access the room, go to the "People Connection", then click on "Private Room" and type in "Miata Chat". For more information and to confirm the date and time, contact Bob at WileeKyot@aol.com. I've just recently re-activated my AOL account and I plan to be there. My AOL address is SDMiata.

Goodbye 1996, Hello 1997!

It is hard to believe that 1996 is over. It seems only yesterday that 34 excited Miata owners met to become the charter members in the San Diego Miata Club. That was in March! Man, this year zoomed by like RAINER MUELLER on a Couser Canyon Run!

Still, 1996 was a great year! Cathy and I have made many new friends. As we enter the New Year we are very thankful for those new friendships! In addition, many older friendships have been strengthened even more, all because of our mutual love for a car called Miata and a club called the San Diego Miata Club.

If 1996 is any indication, 1997 is going to be a very good year...indeed!

Until next month — keep that top down!

— MARK

NAME BADGES

Engraved plastic name badges are available for a mere \$5 each from "VOODOO" BOB, the membership man. He is easy to get hold of — corner him at the next event. (The badges need to be paid for in advance).

Lots of colors are available:

Color of badge	Color of lettering
Red	white
Blue	white
Green	white
Maroon	white
Black	white
Yellow	black or blue
White	black, red or blue

