



SAN DIEGO MIATA CLUB NEWS

Miata

VOLUME 2 NUMBER 2

FEBRUARY 1997

A CHAPTER OF THE MIATA CLUB OF AMERICA

UPCOMING EVENTS

February 15



St. Valentine's Day Run to Inspiration Point

February 20



Wheels 'n Meals Moss Motors Raffle
Boll Weevil

March 9



SDMC Lends a Hand to KPBS Membership Campaign

March 20



Wheels 'n Meals
Boll Weevil

April 6



Annual Membership Meeting

April 20



Wheels 'n Meals Speaker: Meguiar's
Boll Weevil

June 26-29



Miatas at the Ranch

From the Editor

The Shape of Things to Come

In the first week of January, Bob Krueger, his wife Vicky and I drove up to Los Angeles to see the Auto Show at the Convention Center. There we met Michael Simmons, a long time friend from SOCALM. We were there to witness the unveiling of the next generation Corvette. But as long as we were in town, we thought we'd see a few other vehicles as well.

The unveiling ceremonies were done simultaneously in Los Angeles and Detroit. After 45 minutes of mind-numbing pomp and speeches, I was thinking, "If this was the best idea they had for showing the new Corvette, the ideas rejected must have been really bad." But then the finale comes, and the veil is lifted. And we see from far across the hall the rear half of the car (I guess we should have asked Bob Hall for some press passes). Later we saw the car up close in the Chevrolet area, and I was generally pleased with the styling; maybe a little large in the butt, but still better than the previous generation. A longer wheel base by about eight inches, but the car is only longer by about one inch, which means less overhang beyond each axle. 1500 fewer parts were used (hopefully none of those were critical) in the construction. From what I've heard, this is the best performing Corvette ever.

We then walked over to the Mazda section to see if the Mazda drones knew anything meaningful about our beloved Miata (yeah, right). I had heard the '97 Miata sits a little higher, and I can truthfully report that the rumors were true. I could fit my hand vertically between the tire and the fender. What's next, a 4x4 Miata? I don't know why Mazda did this, but I can only guess they softened the springs to give it a more cushy ride (like the BMW Z3?). I think the aftermarket companies selling springs are going to get more business in 1997.

We also saw the new 2.8 liter, 6-cylinder based BMW Z3. While way outside the Miata realm of a simple, inexpensive, sports car, it should be quite a performer, and it looks a hell of a lot better than the M3 sedan. While there are some minor styling cues I don't like about the Z3, it is much, much better looking than the new Mercedes Benz SLK (at least in my humble opinion). I think the Mercury Capri is better looking than the SLK, and I feel the Capri is a dog with four wheels. The Z3 will have a heyday against the SLK, especially with the yuppie crowd.

But the car both BMW and MB should watch out for is the new Porsche Boxster. This is a nice looking car and performs well for \$40K. Porsche went all-out in their display of the new Boxster. They had displays on the new boxer 6-cylinder engine, transmission, and front/rear suspensions. If I had \$50K burning a hole in my pocket, I'd buy a Boxster over the other German cars. The only negative I could find about the Boxster was that there is no easy access to the engine. Most mid-engine cars are a little restrictive in their access, but the only way to do anything significant on the Boxster is to do it from underneath the car. I hope the new Boxster owners have a little extra cash lying around for their favorite mechanic.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



The Jaguar XK8 was also on display. A nice looking car to be sure, but an E-type it is not. It's better than the XJ series, but still too much sedan and not enough sports car. We had hoped to see the new Aston Martin DB7, (which should have been the car used in the James Bond movie "Goldeneye" rather than the BMW Z3), but, alas, it was not to be. I guess Ford spent too much money on Mazda and Jaguar.

I personally had to see the Ferrari F355 Spyder once again, in the "people with way too much money" hall. That car would be on the top of my "have-to-have" list when I win the lottery. There were also the "much too exotic," Lamborghini Diablo VT rockets. A car for people with large egos and small....

I wouldn't mind seeing Lamborghini do a Miura again, as I feel the super-exotics are being passed by for the latest yuppie craze, the sport utility vehicle (a true contradiction). I'll bet 10 to 20 years from now these sport-ute people are going to ride in someone's sports car and remember when they used to have a fun car, and want to unload their land yacht, starting the next sports car wave.

Once again I saw quite a few cars I'd like to buy, but most are way out of my price range. Lucky for me the Miata came along when it did. Wouldn't you agree?

A Little Tip



When you have your top up next time and you're sitting in the driver's seat, turn your head 135 degrees to the left and look at the closest top hoop. There is a small square piece of metal about 1.5 inches long sticking out from the hoop. There should be a piece of plastic covering this metal strip. This acts as a riser to keep the top from crushing itself when lowered. For some reason, this piece of plastic likes to fall off into the cavity behind the seat belt towers. There is one on each side of the hoop so you may want to check to make sure they are both still there. OK, so it wasn't a real helpful performance gaining tip, but it might be of use to someone (it was to me).

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

Computer Classified Ads

FOR SALE: Apple PowerMacintosh Performa 6115, PowerPC 601 processor accelerated to 80mhz, heavily upgraded...24 megs of RAM, 700 meg internal hard drive, 256k level 2 cache, double-speed internal CD-ROM drive, keyboard, mouse, System 7.5.5 plus several CD-ROM titles, \$800. Also, Apple CD 600e external quad-speed CD-ROM drive for Macintosh, \$100. Call Mark Booth at (619) 670-3789 or E-mail at markb@adnc.com.

FOR SALE: Macintosh IIfx computer with 8 megs of RAM and 80 meg internal hard drive, 8-bit video card, 13-inch Apple color monitor, Extended Keyboard II, and mouse. Other hardware including LaCie 230-MB external hard drive and Global Village Teleport Gold 14,400 bps fax modem. Some software, including Internet-related programs. \$400 firm. Contact Voodoo Bob Krueger at (619) 486-4711 or E-mail to voodoo@adnc.com.

FOR SALE: Macintosh IIfx computer with 8 megs of RAM, no internal hard drive, 20-inch RasterOps greyscale monitor and card, external modem, extended keyboard, and mouse. System software and graphics-related programs. \$800 firm. Stef Gould at (619) 297-4272 or E-mail to tomgould@adnc.com.

FOR SALE: Apple LaserWriter IINT with 12 megs of RAM on a Xante logicboard (accelerated, postscript compatible, 600 dpi) \$1000. Also have the original Apple (300 dpi) motherboard (excellent condition). Stef Gould at (619) 297-4272 or E-mail to tomgould@adnc.com.

FOR SALE: XRS 6c Omnimedia Scanner (A Microtek 600 dpi, actual, scanner with transparency adapter) 24 bit color. \$650. Stef Gould at (619) 297-4272 or E-mail to tomgould@adnc.com.

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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

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



MEETING PLACES

St. Valentine's Day Run to Inspiration Point

Date: Saturday, February 15

Time: 9:30 a.m.

Place: East El Cajon — Mobil Station, I-8 at Greenfield Drive/Crest off ramp, turn right and it's on the right side

Run Leader: Natalia Rissolo

Jason and Natalia will take you for a rigorous ride toward Julian on a road tucked away off Highway 79 that you have probably missed. Following our excursion, we'll cruise through Julian and grab the Sunrise Highway to catch some breathtaking views! At the bottom of the mountain we'll lunch at Major's Diner off Old Highway 80 — It's a fifties joint where roadsters old and new are not only welcome, but celebrated, as well. So bring your Valentine or the one you love most (for some it may be your Miata!) and enjoy the ride.

Please RSVP by February 10 to Natalia at 287-7582, the club line 670-7948 or E-mail to the club so lunch reservations can be made for us.

Wheels 'n Meals at Boll Weevil

Date: Thursday, February 20

Time: 6:00 p.m.

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

Eat, drink, be merry and discuss things "Miata". If all goes as planned, Moss Motors will be supplying some cool Miata goodies for our raffle. Bring those dollars and win some prizes! Proceeds to benefit the embroidery digitizing fund. See you there!

San Diego Miata Club Lends Support to KPBS Membership Campaign

Date: Sunday, March 9

Time: 3:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Place: KPBS Television Studios, San Diego State University

Here's a chance to possibly be seen by friends and family on television and support the KPBS Membership Campaign. This not only generates community goodwill, but also provides visibility for the San Diego Miata Club! KPBS supports our community with outstanding public television programming, let's show our support to them by lending a hand.

We need a minimum of 15 volunteers to receive on-air recognition for the club. They can handle up to 30-40 volunteers per shift so don't be shy in volunteering. The more the merrier! Volunteers will answer telephones and enter pledges on a computer (training will be provided).

If you are interested, please contact President Mark (670-3789 or markb@adnc.com) as soon as possible. Don't be left out of the fun!

UPCOMING NATIONAL AND REGIONAL EVENTS

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

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

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. If you are thinking of going this year, make hotel reservations *now* as many hotels and motels are already full.



AUTOCROSS AT THE MURPH

The following autocross events are scheduled at Jack Murphy Stadium

Date	Event	Club
Sunday, February 23	Championship	SCAT
Saturday, March 15	Practice	TART
Sunday, March 16	Championship	TART
Sunday, May 18	Championship	SDAD
Saturday, May 31	Practice	DCCSD
Sunday, June 1	Championship	DCCSD
Saturday, June 21	Practice	
Sunday, June 22	Championship	

Autocross information sources:

San Diego SCCA Hotline: (619) 441-1333

Cal Club SCCA Hotline: (818) 988-7223

Richard Scherschel: (619) 286-2412

Steve Hart: (619) 579-9093



Coming next month — members KATHLEEN GUGLIETTI and KEVIN LAKKIS both won trophies at Laughlin, Nevada. Above is Kevin's 1st Place Trophy.





Christmas Elf Road Rally

On 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 pieces of two "trophies" that would wend their way across the United States and Canada from sea to shining sea as they vectored in on their ultimate destination, the home of Chief Forum Sysop Shel Hall, in Carmel CA, just before New Years Day.

Brainchild of CARS sysop Ken Rentiers, the rally was designed to both promote the CARS forum and to, more importantly, gather charitable contributions from participants and observers as it proceeded across North America. Finally, after 34 days, it was the SAN DIEGO MIATA CLUB'S turn.

It's Friday afternoon, December 20th. Rallyists have been on the road for over a month now. The phone rings...

"Hi! It's David Curtis. I'm here."

The Southwest Rocketmen are done. California Cruisin' is underway. It's the SDMC's week in the spotlight.

The party to celebrate David's arrival was all set up for the next day. We had called on the San Diego Miata Club to gather at the usual Boll Weevil, home of the best burgers in town.

Saturday dawns grey and gloomy. Oh, great. For five days it's been 85 and windy, steady Santa Ana, and today — today of all days — it has to rain on a bunch of top-down Miatas in the parking lot of our party? I have to be down at the Marriot to make the exchange and pick up David at 3; at 9 it looks like it'll be pouring by then. At

2:30, when JTBOB, WOODY, and NEVADABOB arrive at the Voodoo Mansion to drive down to the hotel with me, it still looks the same as it did at 9. Maybe we'll get lucky after all. A little cloud cover couldn't hurt — just so it doesn't drop any water. We arrive downtown a few minutes early and David is already down by the fountain waiting for us. So are about 20 people from some wedding party, taking pictures of their own, blocking the whole area. I don't know which is worse, rain or tourists. Oh well, we find a way to work around them and get a few shots looking right at where the Sun is supposed to be. Maybe this cloud stuff is OK after all.

We're the first to arrive at the Boll Weevil, but it isn't long before others start to wander in. Introductions all around and, of course, everyone wants to look at the engine in "Super Shamu", so David pops the hood on his '96 Impala Super Sport. Pretty soon there are more of us than the parking lot can conveniently hold, so we move inside. For once, Rick the owner is here! Rick is a big guy. Rick is a *real* big guy. Rick used to be a lineman for the Boston Patriots. But he's a gentle giant...a *very* nice man.

So the party begins. Twenty-one Miatas and about 35-40 club members have shown up. We take up most of the main floor of the restaurant. The burgers and beer begin to flow and contributions are added to the pouch. Rick even offers up two fruit baskets to raffle off, and another 50 bucks is added to the pot for charity as a result. Very cool move, Rick. I told you he was a nice man. During the party, a formal introduction of David is made and he's welcomed to San Diego and inducted into Team Voodoo as an hon-

orary member with the presentation of a Voodoo Hat to take back to Arizona. But all too soon the party's over, as David has to get an early start.

Now the real fun begins. San Diego being the last hub along the rally route, it falls to us to assemble the various "trophy" parts that began their westward trek from seven different locations back East. JT and Woody are coming to the house on Tuesday anyway to see the rerun of the race I was supposed to tape while we were all at the Monterey Historics last August. Finally, ESPN2 ran the Elkhart Lake IndyCar race again on Christmas Eve. We had all this rally beer to drink too. There was no shortage of brew. And I can't neglect mentioning the green chili pistachios. Ken and John Berry had stopped by Alamogordo, New Mexico and picked up a bag of these radioactive nuts, and the trophy assembly team had been instructed to eat them. Thanks, guys! Those things are *great* with beer! After an exciting race with *lots* of action, we settled



President Mark Booth thanks SOUTHWEST ROCKETMAN David Curtis for bringing "the goods" to San Diego.

PHOTOS: VOODOO BOB KRUEGER



down to take on the trophies. Actually, what we had were two metal car model kits: a Viper and a Lamborghini Diablo. The Diablo had suffered serious crash damage somewhere along the way, and the body arrived here in three pieces. Reconstructive surgery with duct tape on Monday, had the body in one piece by the time the others arrived. A crooked piece, but one piece nonetheless. The Viper was still in primo shape, and it would have been easy to assemble if the chassis pan hadn't been in Houston. Somewhere along the line it got left behind, so there was no way we could finish the task. About halfway into the construction of the Diablo, we noticed that it *too* lacked a chassis pan. Drats! Where the hell is *that* piece? To this day, nobody knows.

We finally got both trophy sub-assemblies constructed so that we could at least create a facade for the camera. We broke out the display cases and set the bodies, with the interiors and engines sort-of-installed, atop the assembled wheels and tires (no axles, please). Who would guess that these were really NONocoques?

We added a roll of duct tape, some jeweler's screwdrivers, a pair of long nose pliers, an Indy 500 puzzle box, a Voodoo Hat, and a few empty beer bottles to the setting for character and snapped some shots. OK, we're done until Thursday, the day after Christmas, when the Fightertown Fliers are scheduled to ride north.

Thursday arrives. Guess what? Are those clouds I see? There's a storm the size of North America just off the coast and Thursday is the day it's supposed to arrive in the Southland. But we've all learned that, here in SoCal, clouds don't necessarily mean precipitation, so the San Diego contingent of Miataville, minus only NevadaBob, who is in Tennessee, gathers, tops down once again, for the trip north to deliver "the goods" to Mike Simmons in Los Angeles. Souvenirs (San Diego's now added), log books, empty pistachio bag, an empty of each of the rally beers, contribution pouch, and the air fresheners. Ah, yes, the infamous air fresheners. Most rally participants talked a lot about the air fresheners,

but only a few were intrepid enough to actually use them. Well, SAN DIEGO MIATAVILLAGERS fear no evil, so we were determined to hang one from each mirror. It's easier to be brave when driving an open car. I chose "mean and nasty" for the VoodooWagen and passed out various flavors to the others. Woody tried to demur, but I managed to convince him of the error of his ways. Once installed, it was pretty easy to smell how these things had gotten so notorious. At 09:00, JTBob, Woody, President MARK BOOTH (and CATHY), TONY BEECHER, and I (and VICKY, aka Mama Voodoo) set out for Oceanside to pick up RAINER MUELLER. Rainer successfully avoided the installation of a freshener by claiming he'd get sick and, more importantly, by being bigger than the rest of us.

We were off for LA-LA Land. By this time, I had changed to a green apple freshener to avoid a confrontation with Mama Voodoo. I wonder what the poor guy who empties McDonald's trash thinks happened in that can.

Shortly after departing, our senses were assaulted by something at Camp Pendleton that made us put the air fresheners right up to our noses! Other than that, the trip north, by normal LA standards, was uneventful, this being a week when more people are vacationing than working. Around Long Beach, I suddenly developed the worst headache I've had for thirty years. I blamed it, naturally, on the green apple scent, so I don't need to tell you how amazed I was when I tilted back my Voodoo Hat a bit and it went away.

We arrived in Agoura Hills at the Simmons' new and beautiful home overlooking the rural hills surrounding Paramount Ranch at about 12:30. President Mark, who is a known yuppie in these parts, had already used his cell phone to make lunch arrangements with Mike, who arrived with sandwiches shortly after we had filled his entire driveway with Miatas. Hey, you're the host; park the Explorer in the street.

After lunch and a tour of the house, the guys jumped in the Miatas to go tear up the local twisties. There are some *great* roads in this area. After about an hour of suspension evaluation, it was back to the house to pack



The exchange in LA.

Left to right: Tony Beecher, Mark Booth, SOCALM MIATAVILLAGER Mike Simmons, Woody Woodhouse, Voodoo Bob Krueger, JTBob Holland, Rainer Mueller.

up and leave for San Diego before it got completely dark. After hearty good-byes all around, it was back to Fightertown, knowing that "the goods" were in capable hands for the very last leg of an eventful and fun-filled cross-continental marathon.

Three days later, Mike and his wife Sherri carried "the goods" north to head forum sysop Shel Hall in San Luis Obispo. After 42 days and some 6280 miles on the road, it was over. All our memories are richer for the experience, and charitable causes are over two thousand dollars richer as well.

We never did get rained on, but it rained for days after our leg was over.

As a Member of the CARS forum and section leader of Miataville, I would like to thank all of the San Diego Miata Club members who helped make our leg of the Christmas Elf Road Rally memorable. There's already talk of a similar event next year, and you can bet I'll keep the club informed about the details as they mature.

—VOODOO BOB



"Trophies" amidst some of the dead soldiers that it took to get them assembled.



Miatas at Malibu Grand Prix — #3

Neither rain nor sleet or damp of night...well it wasn't raining or sleeting, but it was damp and cold (cold for San Diego, anyway) on Wednesday, January 8th when 21 hearty San Diego Miata Club members and friends descended on Malibu Grand Prix. This was the 3rd time that the would-be Fangios of the SDMC have taken to the track on Miramar Road to test their driving skills and kill some more of those orange cone creatures that reside there.



Who is that? Which car is VBOB in?? Wait, that time can't be right??? These comments echoed over the pit wall, as those watching while others showed their stuff tried to keep track of the times for each driver. It's amazing how everyone looks the same with a racing helmet on! O.D. SMITH made it easier on the scorers by wearing a sport coat and tie. Just goes to show that you can look dapper even when thrashing a car around the track. Reminds you of the days of gentlemen race-car drivers.

Each of us took turns in different cars, just to see which one was the hot car. It became apparent that each driving style was complemented by different cars. Some like the tight feel of one car while others liked one with more play in the steering. One person likes the strong brakes on one car while another liked the gentler brakes on another.

Unfortunately, the timing computer at the track seemed to be affected by the chill in the air. Several laps were lost due to errors by the computer that either failed to show a time or showed an obviously incorrect time. The staff at Malibu Grand Prix usually allowed a driver to take another lap when that happened. SEAN CRANDELL recorded a lap 10 seconds faster than most of the cars were running. Even though Sean was doing well, that time had to be thrown out as an error by the computer. Sorry Sean. We also were treated to a several-lap demonstration by one of the staff driving the VFX car. This car is available for use by demonstrating suf-

ficient skill in the standard Virage cars we were driving. As yet, none of our crew is ready to qualify for this monster. It turned lap times over 6 seconds faster than any of our times.

MARI GOODMAN celebrated her birthday by showing her talents behind the wheel of a mini racer. Husband GRANT was also there and brought a fantastic birthday cake which they shared with the rest of the members present.

It seemed that when I ran my laps on the track, the orange cones that usually stand along each of the corners were lying in the middle of the track. The staff did their best to keep them where they belonged, and I'm sure that none of the members of our group were actually knocking them over. I believe that they were actually throwing themselves in front of me to slow me down, either that or they were committing coneicide.

The 10 fastest lap times were: BRAD MACIEJEWSKI 56.44 seconds, ANTHONY WILDE 56.53, SEAN CRANDELL 56.56, SEAN O'CONNOR 57.09, MARK BOOTH 57.10, VODOO BOB KRUEGER 57.42, MIKE MARTIN 57.69, MIKE FENISON 57.87, MIKE MANZANO 57.92, JTBOB HOLLAND 57.94.

Others present were JOHN O'HARA, EVA FORSYTHE, NATALIA RISSOLO and JASON MOORHEAD, RAINER MUELLER, JERI JONES, MELISSA BOOTH and VIKI KRUEGER.

—ANTHONY WILDE

There are now 131 memberships consisting of 198 members.

- 47 Red
- 23 White
- 14 Black
- 12 Montego Blue
- 10 Mariner Blue
- 5 BRG
- 4 Laguna Blue
- 4 Silver
- 5 Starlight Blue
- 4 Merlot
- 2 Yellow
- 1 Unreported

New Members!

Michael Carillo & Andrea Pulido

Chula Vista
1990 Red A

John & Gerry Conn

Fullerton
1993 White A

Kevin Coventon

Manhattan Beach
1993 Black C

Evva Forsythe & Michael Fenison

San Diego
1991 BRG SE

Robert Goode

Poway
1992 Red B

Bill & Bari Hyde

Cypress
1993 White B

Jed A. Louvier

Mission Viejo
1996 M (Starlight Blue)

Hamilton Lowder

San Diego
1990 Red B

Alan & Aleica Silver

Chula Vista
1995 Montego Blue PEP

William Sloan

Sun City
1996 White

Wally Stevens

Coronado
1990 Red B

Rodger & Barbara Stuart

Escondido
1995 M (Merlot)

Francis Tonello

San Diego
1994 Red B

Tom & Joyce Tratar

San Diego
1990 White A

Tim Yates & Amy Cressey

San Diego
1992 Red



Miata News

As many of you know, several of our members also belong to our neighbor chapter to the north —SOCALM.

SOCALM recently held their annual membership meeting and, while there, we had a chance to talk with Mazda's Tom Matano about the '97 M-Edition and the possibility of an all-new, redesigned Miata for 1998.

The color for this year's M-Edition will be Marina Green. Tom had intended to show us an M-Edition at the meeting but, unfortunately, the car did not arrive in time. Instead, Tom showed us a paint-chip sporting the new color.

Tom would not commit himself on the status of the "all new" Miata that is rumored to be released sometime this year (as a '98 model). Tom even implied that we might not see the redesign until the '99 model year. Time will tell.

Logo Items

Decals: At the December Board of Directors meeting the purchase of club logo static-cling window decals was approved. The order has been placed and we expect delivery any day. The decals are 5-color with one color changing to match your Miata color. Decals will cost \$5 each. Please remember that we need to sell about a third of the decals before we hit the break-even point. After that, profits will be used to help fund other club activities. My thanks to members STEF and TOM GOULD for all of their (continued) hard work to make these decals a reality!

Embroidery: We have pretty much given up on the idea of arranging a

bulk purchase of logo-embroidered jackets. There just wasn't enough interest. Instead, we plan to first raise the money for the digitizing fee and then members can purchase logo-embroidered items whenever they desire. We will raise this money in several ways:

- 1 Outright donations to the cause. We started accepting donations at the December Wheels 'n Meals and already have \$17 in the embroidery kitty. My thanks to members JACK & SUE HINKLE, CYNTHIA KRUEGER and CINDY PALOMA for kicking off the embroidery fund.
- 2 Selling of raffle tickets to win donated door prizes. These raffles will be held at our monthly Wheels 'n Meals. Moss Motors has agreed to donate some prizes and we hope to have these in time for the February 20 Wheels 'n Meals.
- 3 Profits from merchandise sales...such as the club window decals. Eventually, we will get there. I'll keep you posted!

SDMC at KPBS

I received a telephone call from a potential new member (her name is Theresa and someone named "Fred" handed her a recruiting card in a parking lot in Encinitas) and in the course of our conversation Theresa indicated that she was the Volunteer Coordinator at KPBS. She wondered if the San Diego Miata Club might be interested in volunteering at KPBS during their Spring Membership Campaign. Theresa informed me that if we get enough volunteers (minimum 15), we can participate as a group and have our club mentioned three times on live television! Sounded GREAT to me and a

quick telephone sampling of a few members indicated a strong interest so I have reserved a time-slot that should work well for most.

Details: Sunday, March 9 from 3:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. We will work together as a group for this 4-5 hour period. Volunteers will answer phones and enter pledges on a computer (training will be provided).

In addition to that warm and fuzzy feeling you get from supporting a good cause, volunteers have the opportunity to "be seen" by friends and family on television, the chance to meet local celebrities and to get a behind-the-scenes look at a television studio. Light refreshments will be served. And, of course, the club benefits from valuable television exposure and goodwill in the community!

All those interested in participating, please let me know as soon as possible. I need to supply Theresa with a list of volunteer names and numbers. (Cathy and I will be there!) My thanks in advance! I know I can count on a good turnout!

Meguiar's to Visit

A representative from Meguiar's, Inc. will be the guest speaker at our April 24 Wheels 'n Meals. Learn everything you ever wanted to know about caring for your Miata's finish. Meguiar's will follow this with a hands-on Car Care Clinic sometime in June or July.

Phenomenal Growth!

Ten short months and we have already exceeded 130 Miatas! Obviously, all of your efforts to help spread the word via recruiting cards, etc. is paying off. Please keep up the good work...and THANKS!

I've said it before but I can't help it ...my heartfelt thanks to all of you for making this club the best organization I've ever had the privilege to be associated with!

Until next month — keep that top down!

— MARK



PHOTO: ANTHONY WILDE

Photo Opportunity: SDMC with Tom Matano at Mazda Headquarters, SOCALM annual meet-

