



SAN DIEGO MIATA CLUB NEWS

VOLUME 2 NUMBER 11

NOVEMBER 1997

A CHAPTER OF THE MIATA CLUB OF AMERICA

UPCOMING EVENTS



October 26—Sunday
Pumpkin Patch Run



November 2—Sunday
Show Off Your Miata



November 2—Sunday
Miatas at the IMAX



November 6—Thursday
Wheels 'n Meals—North
Old Spaghetti Factory



November 8—Saturday
Nethercutt Antique Car Collection Run



November 9—Sunday
Miata Regatta



November 15—Saturday
Shambala Safari Run



November 20—Thursday
Meeting at Boll Weevil



November 22 – 23
Classic Speed Festival, Coronado



December 13—Saturday
Holiday Party

Membership Renewal

If the month/year found on your mailing label matches the month/year of this newsletter, this is the last issue of the newsletter you will receive unless you renew your membership. Don't miss a single issue...renew today!

From the Editor

More Parts and Tips

This month, I'll touch upon a few tips that I've gleaned from different sources that aren't really the most exciting things for your Miata, but may still be useful to you and your beloved car. For starters, let's talk about the rear window. Being plastic, it scratches fairly easily, and sun exposure can kill it pretty quickly. For regular maintenance, I use MEGUIARS #17 Plastic Cleaner to remove small scratches and surface contaminants, followed by Meguiars #10 Plastic Polish to enhance the clarity of the plastic. You can get these products at TRI-CITY PAINT (look on the back page for discount info).

Once you get the plastic window clean, you want to keep it that way, so I use a window protector. It has two fabric panels that utilize the rear deck snaps and allow the plastic window to be sandwiched between them. This way you don't have to worry about scratching the window from either contact with the top or the carpeting on the rear deck. BRAIN-STORM PRODUCTS, (800) 779-3223, carries one, as does MM MARKETING, (800) 666-4282, and they can be had for about \$40-\$50. If you are thrifty (read: cheap), you can always use two terry cloth towels to sandwich the rear window.

But should you ever have a rear window that has been cut, torn, or just plain brown from sun exposure, there are a few alternatives to a brand new top. MOSS MOTORS, (800) 642-8295, carries a rear window replacement for both black and tan tops for \$166. They also carry a glass window replacement for \$375, plus they carry a full line of ROBBINS and AMCO replacement soft tops. For installation, I recommend JIM'S AUTO UPHOLSTERY, 7902 Armour St. in Kearney Mesa, (619) 268-8531. They do all of the factory top repair and replacement for JOHN HINE MAZDA, and charge about \$150 for full soft top installation.

When one of the vinyl strips that holds the soft top to the frame comes unglued (on those very rare occasions when we have the top up), give either 3M Super Weatherstrip adhesive #08001, or Permatex Super Weatherstrip adhesive #82 a try so the top doesn't "balloon" while you're driving.

Are You Wired?

Now, one day you drive home after a refreshing run in your Miata, and the next day it runs like half the engine is on holiday, then a likely culprit is a bad spark plug wire. The black OEM wires that Mazda (which they must have bought by the millions) put in each new Miata will likely begin to fail around 30,000 miles, resulting in a rough running engine. Go to CUSH MAZDA in Escondido with your SAN DIEGO MIATA CLUB card in hand (15% discount) and get a set of blue NGK spark plug wires. Your Miata will love you for it.

Cracking Under the Pressure

If you get a set of aftermarket anti-roll bars (often incorrectly called sway bars), you should be on the lookout for indications that the front mounting plates are getting too much stress. It seems the front metal plates to which the bar attaches can be sheared

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



by the extra load put on them during hard cornering. Member Brian Goodwin had this happen to his Miata. He got a set of upgraded brackets from MAZDA COMPETITION PARTS, (800) 435-2508. They fit 1990-1997 Miatas and are called "Competition Sway Bar Bracket Kit" for Miata, part #0000-04-5101-BK. They cost about \$175 for the set, which is a tad expensive; but it beats paying for new body panels.

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

Fitting the Sway Bar Bracket Kit

Many members have asked me to report on my broken sway bar mounts once I got the upgraded parts from MAZDA COMPETITION. Here it is...

First, a review for those not sure what this is about. I drive my 94 miata hard and have the JACKSON RACING sway bars. Deteriorating handling prompted me to do an inspection, which revealed that I had ripped the factory sheet metal sway bar mounts in half on both sides. These are the factory mounts for the sway bars which connect to the frame rails. Anyway, thanks to members of the E-mail list, I discovered that I was not the first with this problem *and* MAZDA COMPETITION PARTS makes an upgraded mount. I ordered the mount and just finished installing it.

The Parts

The upgraded brackets are boxed-sectioned for extra strength and painted with a black enamel. They look very nice out of the box.

The Installation

Pain in the I had hoped this entire project would take an hour or so. It took four hours. The Competition Parts catalog tells you that you need to drill out spot welds to do the install. What it doesn't tell you is that the spot welds on the inside of the factory brackets face the radiator. Rather than take the radiator out I was able to torque the metal back and forth until the spot welds gave out. The parts are not compatible with the factory power steering cooling line. I used a Dremel to cut the section of line out which was in the way and rerouted the line. You need to detach the radiator fans to reach the radiator support brackets so you can get to the inside bolts for the brackets.

Strange thing is that the upgraded brackets don't fit the way you would expect from looking at them (I discovered this after installing them backwards, which killed about two hours!) The brackets have two holes on one side and three on the other. The extra hole on one side lines up perfectly with a tapped spot in the factory rail which was unused with the factory bracket. I thought: great— extra support. This, however, leads you to install the brackets backwards. If you want to use the extra mounting hole you have to tap a new hole because the hole doesn't line up with any existing hole when the bracket is properly aligned.

That's it. Car feels firmer than ever. I encourage anyone running big sway bars to inspect their mounts carefully!
—BRIAN GOODWIN

Business Directory Deadline Extended

At September's Wheels 'n Meals, members voted to include a directory of members' businesses in the back of the new membership roster. There is no charge for a listing in the Business Directory. All members who wish to have their businesses listed in the new roster (which will be available at the November Wheels 'n Meals) should E-mail Stef Gould by November 10th at

stef@miata.net or phone her at (619) 297-4272. Please use the following format when E-mailing your listing:
Type of business, or service
The name of your business
Your name, followed by your title
Address
Phone number
Web URL and/or E-mail address
*Membership rosters will not be mailed, they must be picked up at an event.

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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.

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

Pumpkin Patch Run

Date: Sunday, October 26

Time: 9:30 a.m.

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

Run Leaders: Natalia Rissolo and Jason Moorhead (619) 287-7582

This will be a leisurely ghoulish drive to one of San Diego's most renowned Pumpkin Patches, followed by a spirited ride through some of the familiar spooky country back roads of North County and beyond. We'll leave promptly at 10:00 a.m. Remember to leave enough room in your trunk for a pumpkin or two.

Show Off Your Miata

Date: Sunday, November 2

Time: 7:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Place: Qualcomm Stadium parking lot

RSVP: Phil Daoust at (760) 789-7416 or E-mail: BEARSCHILI@aol.com

Member Phil Daoust extends an invitation to all members to join him at the AUTO SWAP MEET AND SHOW, this month featuring foreign cars. Drive your Miata, bring a folding chair—hang out and have some fun.

Show your car and walk over to the track to observe our members autocrossing.

For more information contact the event directly at (619) 484-9342

Miatas at IMAX—Super Speedway

Date: Sunday, November 2

Time: 1:00 p.m.

Place: Food Court at the Irvine Spectrum

Contact: Kathie McClelland (714)644-4345 or E-mail: KMIATACAT@aol.com

\$7.00 or Group Rate for 20 or more: \$6.00 adults & \$4.00 children.

Irvine Spectrum/Edwards 21 Theater Mega Plex (714) 832-4629. From 405, exit at Irvine Center Drive.

Meet at the food Court for a casual meal with the group then at 2:15 we'll walk to the IMAX. This should give us plenty of time to get tickets, popcorn and etc. before it starts at 3:00 p.m. (movie run time— 45 min.) Not in 3-D.

Super Speedway delves into the death-defying drama of Indy-car racing. The film puts audiences in the cockpit of an Indy-car and catapults them into world championship auto racing action.

Wheels 'n Meals—NORTH

Date: Thursday, November 6

Time: 6:30 p.m.

Place: Old Spaghetti Factory, San Marcos

Take I-15 north to Hwy 78 north, get off at Twin Oaks, turn right (east). One block and you're there.

RSVP: Bob Llewellyn (760) 471-0206 Eve: (760) 598-5399 or NEW E-mail: boblee1@thegrid.net

A social get-together in North County!

*Please RSVP so we know how many people to plan for.

Nethercutt Collection Joint Run with VROOM and SOCALM

Date: Saturday, November 8

Time: 9:00 a.m.

Place: IHOP Restaurant, Newhall, I-5, exit Lyons Street

Run Leaders: John and Gerry Conn

Fast food lunch in Sylmar or bring your own; the tour will begin at 1:15.

This is a FREE 2-hour guided tour of functional fine art. Highlights include antique and classic luxury autos and mechanical musical instruments displayed in elegant surroundings.

NO jeans, shorts, video taping (cameras without flash ok), smoking, and children under 12. *You must R.S.V.P.* to John and Gerry, (714) 441-2552, or E-mail at: connjb@earthlink.net LIMITED TO 50. They will maintain a waiting list and reconfirm with everyone by November 6th. Please leave name, number of people, and phone.

Miata Regatta

Date: Sunday, November 9

Time: 9:30 a.m.

Place: Parking lot of the Corner

Liquor/Deli. (eastern Oceanside) From I-5 get off at Oceanside Blvd. and head east about 2 miles, it will be on your left, and from points east, Highway 78 to El Camino Real, north on El Camino Real until Oceanside Blvd., left at the light approximately ¾ mile on the right

Run Leaders: Rainer and Marianne Mueller (760) 439-0067 or webmaster@mainstreet-data.com

The *meister of back country runs* is at it again. In commemoration of the second anniversary of the original run which brought the founders of the San Diego Miata Club together—

Rainer Mueller is once again hosting his infamous *Miata Regatta*.

You'll travel on some of the finest roads in northern San Diego and southern Riverside counties. Brunch in Fallbrook (approx. \$10/per person). The run will end in Oceanside. You'll be talking about this run for a long time to come!

Shambala Safari Run Joint Run with SOCALM

Date: Saturday, November 15

Time: 10:00 a.m.

Place: Denny's parking lot off Hwy. 14 and Sand Canyon. (Newhall-Acton area near the 5 & 14)

Run Leader: Kathie McClelland

(714) 644-4345 or

E-mail: KMIATACAT@AOL.COM

\$35.00 per person, Make your own reservations: (805) 268-0380.

Bring a camera and your lunch, or there's a lunch-truck. Wear flat, comfortable shoes, No shorts and NO PERFUME! *Guests must be at least 18.*

To caravan part way together, meet in the Denny's parking lot off the I-5 at Chapman Ave. in Orange at 8:00 a.m.

To caravan up to Orange, contact Stef Gould, E-mail: stef@miata.net or phone: (619) 297-4272.

Angeles Crest Fun Run lead by Paul and Francie Pollock will follow. The day will conclude with an early dinner at Crown City Brewery in Pasadena.

Meeting at Boll Weevil

Date: Thursday, November 20

Time: 6:00 p.m.

Place: Boll Weevil, 9330 Clairemont Mesa Blvd. (At Ruffin Rd.), San Diego (619) 571-6225

Monthly meeting and new Rosters.

Classic Speed Festival

Date: Saturday & Sunday, November 22-23

Time: Gates open 7 a.m.

Place: North Island, Coronado

This event promises to be one of the most exciting events in San Diego. For complete information see story in October's newsletter, page 4.

Order advance tickets by phone until November 7 ((619) 283-5808, \$10 one day, \$15 two days. Gate price: \$12/day.

Order free preferred-parking window sticker from Stef Gould by October 30. stef@miata.net or (619) 297-4272.

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Run to Laughlin

October 10–12, 1997

The run to Laughlin and back was lots of fun. It began Friday morning October 10th. I received two cancellations before I left the house. I had five Miatas the night before; now I was down to



three. PHIL DAOUST had called the night before and said he was still going and couldn't wait to get on the road, and I had received a E-mail from TONYA ZALENSKI in the middle of the week saying that she and her friend Mike Bledsoe would meet us Saturday morning at 10:00 for the fun run to Oatman. A SOCALM member called to say she and her friend would meet us in Temecula off Rte. 79 South.

I arrived at our meeting place around 8:50 and began hooking up my CB, when I realized that I forgot my CB adapter. I started to polish my Miata while waiting to spot the first Miata. It seemed like hours and hours before I spotted Phil Daoust coming into the parking lot. I was never so happy to see another Miata and a fellow club member. I didn't tell Phil this, but if he was a female, I would have kissed him.

We chatted for about fifteen minutes, and decided that no one else was going to be able to make it. The weather was cool, and it looked like rain. We said, "Lets do it," and headed north up 15 to 79 south. We stopped in Temecula at a Carl's Jr. and looked for a red Miata in the parking lot. No luck. We hit the road. Our quest was to find a Radio Shack to pick up an adapter for my CB.

The trip through the Santa Rosa Mountains was fun— what a view looking down into the valley of Palm Desert and Indian Wells. It was like you were up in an airplane at 20,000 feet. Phil spotted a Radio Shack in Indio, off route 111, and I purchased the CB adapter there.

We hit the road again, talking back and forth on the CBs. The weather really got nice and warm once we hit the other side of Santa Rosa Mountains, and Phil had to strip off his Miata jacket. We decided not to make my planned pit stop, because we both had snacks with us and we didn't need

gas. Our next stop was Vidal Junction, where we purchased Route 66 T-shirts and shot the bull with the owner and a customer in the store for about fifteen minutes. Then we headed north on Rte. 95 toward Needles and on to Laughlin, chatting on the CBs.

I don't remember what time we hit Laughlin, but I think it was around 4:30. We checked in and decided to meet in the lobby around 7:30 to go to dinner. We took the "River Express" Casino water taxi down to the Riverside Resort Hotel to see the Auto Museum. It was great to see all the old cars again. After a few hours we took the casino water taxi back up to Harrah's. The view from the water taxi was out of this world, with all the lights from the casinos on the Colorado River. It was almost 11:00 when we arrived back at our hotel— Phil decided to call it a night. I hit the gaming room.

Saturday morning at 9:45 I met Phil in the lobby. We waited to see if anyone else would make it. I spotted Tonya and her friend, Mike walking toward us. I was so happy to see her, I gave her a big hug. It was time to go have some fun.

We had a nice drive through Laughlin and Bullhead City to Oatman, which is about 25 miles southeast of Bullhead via SR 95. We arrived around 11:15 and decided to meet back at the Miatas around 12:30. We all went our own ways sight-seeing and doing a little shopping for souvenirs. I spotted Tonya and her friend feeding the wild burros carrots in the street. The wild burros roam the streets, greeting the tourists in hopes of receiving a handout.

A little after 12:30 we all met and decided to hit old Route 66 through Oatman to Kingman. The weather was cool, and little showers were coming off and on. Going through the mountains on old Route 66 was beautiful —



Tonya, Art and Mike stop for a photo on the Kingman Grade.

PHOTO: PHIL DAOUST

the view of the mountains and canyons was fantastic. The road was made for a Miata run, nice curves and twisties. We stopped in Kingman for a few minutes, then headed back to Laughlin via routes 93 and 68.

I climbed to the top of one of the parking buildings where the Triumph Auto Club was displaying their cars for an event. The local TV Station was filming what looked like about 60 Triumphs on display by model year— it was a beautiful display. On my way back to the hotel I ran into some friends who were there to see the Kenny Rogers "Live in Concert" show that night. We decided to go together— a great show. Afterwards we did a little gaming, and I went up to my room around 1:30, and there was a message on my phone from Phil saying that he had to leave for San Diego at 4:30 a.m. to take care of some personal business.

The next morning (Sunday) I met my friends for breakfast at the Flamingo Hilton, where they were staying. Around 10:30 I decided to head for San Diego. On the way back I had fun with all the Triumphs on the road up in the high desert. They let me join their caravan. I would break out and pass about four or five of them then rejoin them (smile).

All in all, the trip turned out great, I didn't know that you could have so much fun with only three Miatas, and I want to thank Phil Daoust and Tonya Zalenski and her friend for making it a great run.

—ART HAMILTON



Scattered Fallout from Steve & Frank

Being devoted Miataphiles, we always look for the interesting stuff in our day-to-day existence. It's not that we're looking for the oddest stuff imaginable relating to Miatas and Mazda; it just seems to jump out at us! Here's our latest morsels, sampled from the *SD Union-Tribune*, front page of the San Diego/B Section, Monday, October 6: "Mazdaznans ready to leave lofty retreat" [The article begins by explaining that the Mazdaznans are a religious group dating from the turn of the century.]

"...The group believes that through Ahura Mazda — an ancient Persian phrase for 'one supreme God' — human beings will find paradise on earth by achieving a perfect harmonic balance of the body, mind and emotions through vegetarianism and meditation.

"The group's core belief is that the body should be cared for because it is the temple of the living God,' Calderon (the Mazdaznan elector, or high priest) said. 'There is the trinity of the physical, mental and emotional. If we balance those three elements, it will reflect the spirit on us.'

"Lest anyone try to brand the Mazdaznans a New Age cult, Calderon notes the group's beliefs were developed about a century ago by an English-trained medical doctor who was born in what is now Iran.

"The Mazdaznan movement was created by Otoman Zar-Adusht Ha'nish who borrowed the ancient Zoroastrian teachings of Zarathustra. Mazdaznan

tradition says that God revealed the path to paradise to Ainyahita, a woman prophet, more than 9,000 years ago on a plateau in the Gobi desert.

"...Although the Mazdaznans are little known, the term Mazda was familiar to many Americans well before the Japanese car of that name came to these shores."

"General Electric began using the word in 1910 when it perfected mass produced filament light bulbs, according to Jerry Korb, a Vermont historian of the light bulb. 'General Electric used it (Mazda) as a trade name from 1910 to 1945,' Korb said. General Electric searched for a name that represented light and power and discovered the name Mazda in Zoroastrianism. The word Mazda was prominently displayed in General Electric's advertisements and found on the company's calendars illustrated by popular American artist Maxfield Parrish.

"...In the roots of Mazdaznan, we try to respect the individual,' said Calderon, 44, who does not wear clerical garb. He was named the group's leader in 1988 by his predecessor, who had occupied the top post for 37 years.

"We try not to impose our opinion or point of view, but try to inspire people to form their own opinions,' he said. 'If that occurs, then society will perform well.'"

* We couldn't make up stuff this good! We also think that sounds like the majority of Miata owners!

Until next time (on this planet or elsewhere) — keep the top down!
—STEPHEN DE LONGE & FRANK SHINE
'94 White C

Meeting Places CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

Dinner After the Races—Saturday
A discussion is going on as to exactly *where* we will do this...but it is a definite event! See Stef on race day.

Pot-Luck Open House—Sunday
4 p.m. on (619) 437-0257

Wally Stevens extends an invitation to socialize Sunday after the Classic Speed Festival. Enjoy Miata camaraderie while waiting for the after-race traffic to dwindle away.

Drop off your contribution to the pot-luck (in coolers, please) at Wally's anytime after 7:00 a.m.

Directions: 501 1st Street, Coronado I-5 over the bridge into Coronado. (With 2 people in a car USE THE FAR RIGHT LANE AND DO NOT STOP, this is the car pool lane and it's free. With one person the toll in is \$1.00— going out no one pays.) Turn right at the 1st traffic light, Orange Ave. Turn left at "Tee," which is 1st Street and follow six blocks to 501 (on the bayside) at I Ave.

UPCOMING NATIONAL AND REGIONAL EVENTS

November 22, 1997

Campo/Tecate Beer Train and Holiday Shopping in Mexico

Hosted by: SOCALM

Contact: DeLena Cozart (619) 624-9201
You must make advance reservations for the train trip (\$30 per person).
The run will leave 8:30 a.m. from Hotel Circle, Mission Valley

November 23, 1997

Breakfast Before the Races

Hosted by: SOCALM

RSVP to: DeLena Cozart (619) 624-9201
Meet for breakfast at Monterey Whaling Company, Mission Valley; caravan to the Classic Speed Festival

May 22-25, 1998

"Moon Over Miata"

Golden Gate Getaway '98

Pleasanton Hilton in Pleasanton, Ca.
Hosted by: BAMA
Room rate: \$73.00 per night
Event Registration: \$195 per couple, \$165 solo. Events include: Saturday Night Dinner Extravaganza: "Evening at Blackhawk" Behring Auto Museum, Friday and Sunday dinners, Monday breakfast, Photo Rallye, Autocross, etc. contact: Ken at (510) 484-4174 or E-mail at ken@cdec.com.

AUTOCROSS AT THE MURPH

The following autocross events take place in the "Qualcomm Stadium at the Jack Murphy Sports Complex" parking lot.

Saturday, November 1 practice day
Sunday, November 2 race day
Sunday, November 23 race day (tentative)
Saturday, December 13 practice or race (tentative)

For more information:

San Diego SCCA Hotline:(619) 441-1333
Steve Hart, SDMC member(619) 579-9093



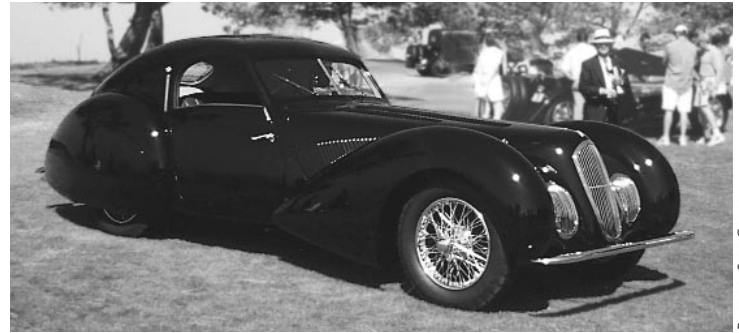
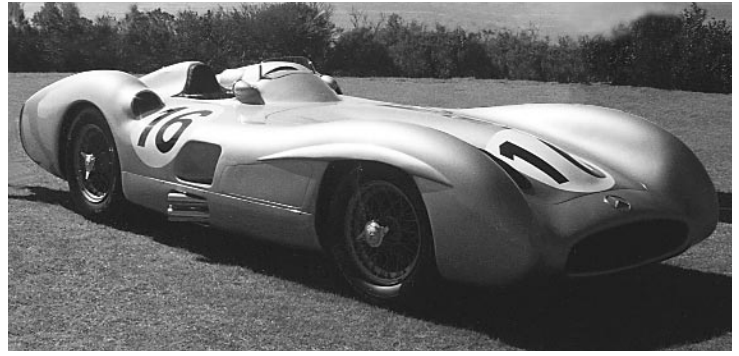
Torrey Pines Concours d'Elegance — One Miata Driver's Highly Biased View

Sunday, October 19th brought Chamber of Commerce weather to the 17th Annual San Diego Concours d'Elegance, held for the first time at Torrey Pines after outgrowing the cramped confines of Seaport Village's Embarcadero Park.

The event was heavily advertised and I had high expectations but was absolutely stunned by the sheer number of world class cars that were arrayed on the fairways of Torrey's North Course as I wheeled my '95 red Miata into the judges' parking area. The featured marque was Mercedes-Benz, and examples ranged from horseless devices over a hundred years old, through the magnificent supercharged classics of the 20s and 30's, to the fabulous gullwings of the mid 50s.

Assigned to judge a class of five Duesenbergs, my team had the unenviable task of picking the most perfect of nearly perfect cars. After toiling mightily in the hot sun, we finished and with conscience clear and camera in hand, began to walk the field joined by the usual suspects—SDMC members "VOODOO BOB" and VICKY KRUEGER, "JT" BOB HOLLAND, Tom and STEF GOULD,

ANTHONY "NEVADABOB" WILDE, my wife MAGGI, Chris Burns and friend Jason. This show had something for every taste, JT and Anthony went straight for the Ferraris while Ferrari expert "Voodoo Bob" developed a previously unknown passion for chain driven Mercedes (must be the German ancestry). Tom's uncle, Charles McMahon, provided some fascinating history on a pre-1900 St. Louis that he was showing in the Antiques class. There was a very nice grouping of Woodies (no relation), and those of us who had been to the Monterey Historic Races gave the Competition Class a good looking over. I naturally gravitated to the European Classics and fell under the spell of an automobile with the most beautifully sensuous lines ever conceived, a lovely black Pourtout bodied Talbot-Lago. These cars have topped my



Top: Mercedes W196 race car; bottom: Woody in love.

PHOTOS: STEF GOULD

'lust' list since I first saw one in Wisconsin nearly forty years ago. The Talbot was awarded the Chairman's Choice trophy and, in conversation with the owner, I learned that it was the very car that captivated me so many years ago. Not so successful was the Journalists' Choice, a 1948 Cadillac by Saoutchik in lavender and purple with faux canework on the doors, that I imagine was originally driven by a bordello owner. The spectators, in contrast, showed excellent taste in picking the People's Choice which went to an exquisite Rolls-Royce Silver Ghost. It is rare for a racing car to win the top award at a Concours d'Elegance, but the Mercedes-Benz W154 Grand Prix car that took Best of Show was clearly a superstar and a popular choice.

This year's show definitely put the San Diego Concours d'Elegance into the big league. Torrey Pines provides the spectacular setting that these cars deserve and is easily the finest event of its type in Southern California. While I first went to Pebble Beach in 1965 and have attended more major events than I can remember, this year's San Diego Concours had more truly great cars than I've ever seen in one place. All of us who were there will be back next year and hope to have more of you join us.

—WOODY WOODHOUSE



Torrey Pines Concours d'Elegance: Chris Burns, Anthony "NevadaBob" Wilde, Stef Gould, Woody Woodhouse, "JT" Bob Holland, "Voodoo Bob" Krueger and Tom Gould were some of the Miata owners who enjoyed being surrounded by exceptional machines like this Ferrari.



1999 Miata!



Above: Mazda Information Bureau. Below: auto.com web page



The REAL MCCOY!

The photos on this page are not "spy" photos. This is the genuine article, courtesy of Mazda Information Bureau and the auto.com web page.

The photos on this page are of a black 1999 Miata and the photos on page 9 are of a copper-colored 1999 Miata (right hand drive). So...while the body curves might look slightly different between the various photos, that is just an illusion caused by the light reflecting off different colored cars.





Member Profile

NEAL HOWLAND

My name is Neal Howland and I have owned my Miata for 3 months. Sounds like an introduction at one of those Anonymous programs, doesn't it? I guess that is kind of appropriate, because Miatas can get pretty addictive. Although I'm not sure whether Miata club meetings are helping me cope or just making me want to spend more money!

My Miata, a '97 Red PEP, is the first new car I have ever purchased. A big part of my decision was the amazing community based around the Miata. I visited Miata.net and the SDMC Web

site several times before deciding to purchase my car. When I test drove the Miata I loved how fun it was to drive. And what better place to own a convertible than San Diego.

I work for Qualcomm in the ASIC Products Division. Our division designs and sells custom integrated circuits for CDMA cellular phones. My job as an Applications Engineer is to help companies design cellular phones using our ASICs.

I have been working at Qualcomm for three years, since graduating from college. I earned my Masters and Bachelors degrees in electrical engineering from Kansas State University. I specialized in microprocessor systems and digital electronics design.

I'm looking forward to all the fun I am going to have with my Miata and with the San Diego Miata Club.

—NEAL

To be included in our on-going series of Member Profiles, write a short (200-300 word) introduction and mail (or E-mail) it with a photo (your face should be large enough to be recognized) to the Club P.O. Box or give it to a board member at an event. — Your photo will be returned.

New Members!

The following are the new members since the last newsletter:

Frank Fericola

San Diego
1994 M (Montego Blue)

Rudy E. Garcia

La Mesa
1993 Red C

G. B. Heinemann &

C. E. Wengenroth

Carlsbad
1990 Red

Nina Lyon

San Diego
1996 Black

Paul & Jean McKeighan

Fallbrook
1994 White

The following members have renewed since the last newsletter:

Jon G. Braisted

William Brock

Phil Daoust

Bill & Karen Huss

Jack Monaco

There are now 171 memberships consisting of 256 members.

58 Red
35 White
23 Black
13 Montego Blue
11 Mariner Blue
7 Merlot
6 Laguna Blue
6 Silver
5 BRG
5 Starlight Blue
2 Yellow
1 Marina Green
1 Unreported

NAME BADGES

Engraved plastic name badges are available for \$5 each from "VOODOO" BOB. The badges need to be paid for in advance.

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



Above: exotic cars, from a fairly modern Porsche to a vintage boat-tailed Mercedes, line up for a practice run at the Hill Climb event of the Torrey Pines Concours d'Elegance.

Left: an Abarth that we saw at the Monterey Historics in 1994 ready for the Hill Climb event.



Pin Tradin'

I'll probably regret admitting this, but not only do I enjoy driving and tinkering with my Miata, I also enjoy collecting just about any kind of Miata-related *stuff*. You know....photos, posters, puzzles, artwork, books, magazine articles, manuals, models and even logo pins from other Miata Club Chapters!

There are 24 different Miata Club Chapters (including San Diego) that have club logo pins available. Two other chapters are working on their pins and should have them available soon. Now, I guess I could have just contacted an officer in each of the clubs and purchased a pin, but that wouldn't be any fun. It's more fun to TRADE with members from the other chapters! There are dozens of anxious members out there that are ready to swap. Heck, just after our own pins became available I posted a single message to the Miata.net mail list asking for interested pin traders and I quickly added 4 new chapter pins to my collection! (And each of them are now happy owners of a San Diego Chapter pin.) Currently, I have pins from 11 other chapters... BAMA, BUCKEYE, CAMS, DELVAL, EVERGLADES, LONE STAR, NIAGARA, PEACHTREE, PUGET SOUND, QUEENSLAND, and SOCALM. Hopefully, I will soon have all 24+ in my collection.

Some pin collectors attach their pins to a favorite hat. Others pin them inside their Miata to a dash cover or to the carpeting between the seats. Well, I'd worry about losing the hat or having some sticky fingered individual "borrow" them from the car so I went with an idea that members VBob and Vicky Krueger have been using....a pin board. I picked up an inexpensive framed corkboard and mounted it on the wall in my den/computer/Miata memorabilia room. It works GREAT to hold the pins neatly in place with lots of room for expansion!

Perhaps some of you would be interested in trading pins with other chapters? If so, please find below a listing of all chapters that currently have pins available. I found this listing at the



Photos: Mazda Japan web page

Miata.net web site <<http://miata.net>> which also has links to all of the chapters that have their own web pages. For those chapters without web pages you can try posting a message to the Miata.net E-mail list asking for members interested in trades. Those of you without computers might wish to refer to the chapter contact info included with each issue of *Miata Magazine*.

Chapters With Logo Pins:

- Buckeye Miata Club
- Northcoast Miata Club
- Houston Miata Club
- Everglades Miata Club
- Club Miata - de la Monteregie
- Trillium Miata Club
- Southern California Miata Assoc.
- Delaware Valley Miata Club
- Space Coast Miata Club
- Indy Miata Club
- Central Alabama Miata Society
- Lone Star Chapter
- Bay Area Miata Association
- Mid State Miata Club of NY
- Peachtree Miata Club
- San Joaquin Valley Miata Club
- North Atlantic Miata Club
- Land of Lincoln Chapter
- Miatas of Middle Michigan
- West Penn Chapter
- Puget Sound Chapter
- Niagara Chapter
- MX-5 Club of Queensland
- San Diego Miata Club
- Badgerland Chapter (soon)
- Old Pueblo Miata Club (soon)

Give it a try! I think you will find pin trading to be fun! (Of course, you will

need some San Diego Chapter pins to use for tradin'. For that, please see me at any event. Pins are \$3 each.)

1999 Miata

On October 23 the whole world will know exactly what the new 1999 Miata looks like. Those of you with internet access already know as several sites (including Mazda Japan's own site) jumped the gun by one week and posted the photos on October 16. As it turns out, the "spy" photos we ran last month were right on the money.

Here are a few shots from the Mazda Japan web site. On page 7 you will find several pictures from the auto.com web site as well as a large picture direct from Mazda USA.

Enjoy!

Until next month — keep that top down!

— MARK

