



# SAN DIEGO MIATA CLUB NEWS



VOLUME 3 NUMBER 1

JANUARY 1998

A CHAPTER OF THE MIATA CLUB OF AMERICA

## UPCOMING EVENTS



January 4—Sunday  
**Enthusiast  
Hangover Run**



January 17—Saturday  
**We Survived  
the Holidays Run**



January 22—Thursday  
**Meeting**  
Boll Weevil



February 8—Sunday  
**Rancho Santa Fe-  
Fairbanks Ranch Run**



February 14—Saturday  
**Fall In Love  
All Over Again—  
Re-Light  
An Old Flame\***  
1999 Miata Showing



February 18-22  
**San Diego  
International  
Auto Show**

\*Tentative event

### 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

### Chrysler Classic Speed Festival

Thanksgiving seemed to be a week early this year as the inaugural running of the Chrysler Classic Speed Festival was held at North Island Naval Air Station on Coronado, November 22 and 23. Classic and vintage cars from years past raced around some of the air station's taxiways and access roads alongside the blue water of San Diego bay. The noises echoing across the flight line were a little different. Instead of the usual roar of jet engines and thumping helicopter blades, the warm fall air was filled with the shriek of four-cylinder engines reaching redline in each gear and the chest-pounding thunder of V8's and V12's pulling from near idle in each corner to wide open throttle down the long straights.



The cost for the event was in the bargain category. A mere \$15 per person for two days. It was easy to see why SAN DIEGO MIATA CLUB members snatched up over 50 free parking passes. These passes, which were part of the usual organizing magic performed by STEF GOULD, allowed members to park together in the Car Club Corral. A wonderful club logo banner provided by JERI JONES on an artistically designed frame by TOM GOULD identified the SDMC parking. Everyone who came later, either in a Miata or not, knew that the SAN DIEGO MIATA CLUB had invaded the island in force—easily the most represented car club in attendance. An E-type Jaguar even joined in, hoping to pass as a Miata by displaying a Miata script decal on the nose and a MX-5½ label on the trunk lid.



Once inside the track, everyone began scouting the best places to watch the action. Some headed for the main-straight grandstands, while others tried out one of the corners. Those members with motor oil in their veins went straight to the paddock to watch the cars line up, or pre-grid, before heading out on the track. When the cars started their engines everyone stopped to listen and watch as history rolled out before their eyes. From an Aardvark to a couple of designs by Zagato, with several Cobras, Corvettes, Ferraris, and Lotus in between. Interesting, signifi-



CONTINUED ON PAGE 6



## If I Have a Pass, Do I Have to Pay?

November 22-23, 1997

Boy, did I have a fun time on Coronado Island at the Classic Speed Festival. Having not been there in a long time, I was surprised that a toll was required for solo drivers. Paying tolls is so rare here that one usually never thinks of it. Now, I have had to pay a toll on the new "Toll Road" (the 73 in Orange County) so I've got that one down and they have indoctrinated all of us about the Fast Track on the 91 and the 73. And no, I don't have that. I don't need that "part" on my car—surprised some of you, didn't I?

Now, I am lucky enough to have friends in high places like JOHN and GERRY CONN and BILL and BARI HYDE who can get the "rank and file people" into privileged accommodations, like the Navy Lodge for example. As some of you may know, a special pass is required by the military if you enter the base as a civilian so they know you're not some "ordinary person" who wandered on to the base. And you all know the Navy runs a very tight ship. Pun intended!

With this in mind, my question to Gerry Conn upon receiving my "Base Pass" at the guard gate was: "If I have the pass, do I have to pay?" A legitimate question I thought, at the time anyway. Gerry's reply was "No." — "Cool!" I, thought to myself. So, after meeting the gang for Pizza we all caravanned back to the base and like a duck, I'm following John and Gerry, Bill and Bari and the

rest of the group over the bridge leading to Coronado. We're good so far, the bridge at night is a little scary but if you close your eyes it isn't too bad (just checking to see if you're still with me). I'm driving along solo behind all these deuce drivers right into the carpool lane and through the toll booth at the entrance of the island. I'm thinking... "I've got the pass right?"... "Base Pass = No Money"... I'm good. Then it dawns on me the moment I drive through the gate... this is for carpoolers, I'm not carpooling "DUH!!!" (The lab called, your brain is not ready.) Afterward, I sat there thinking about what I'd just done, wondering how long it'll be before I get a nice high-dollar ticket mailed to my home.

Well the good news is I haven't gotten a ticket, not yet anyway. And since I'm sharing this little story among my good and trusted Miata friends like all of you reading this now, I hope you don't turn me in to the authorities. It is my hope that you all get a giggle from my "blond moment" and it is my wish you have as few of your own as possible.

My advice, don't go in to the carpool lane if you're driving alone. Although it may be a way to meet a cute officer like all the ones I've met, I don't advise it. And I don't think my famous tried and true excuse of "Officer, my speedometer broke after I got my transmission repaired." will work for the carpool thing.

Happy Miataing!  
—KATHIE MCCLELLAND

**Across the bay from downtown San Diego, the Chrysler Classic Speed Festival roars into action for two days of historic racing.**



PHOTO: WOODY WOODHOUSE

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### President

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

### Vice President

RAINER MUELLER  
(760) 439-0067  
rainer@thegrid.net

### Secretary/Events Coordinator

NATALIA RISSOLO  
(619) 287-7582  
street@inetworld.net

### Treasurer

TONY BEECHER  
(619) 549-6660  
beecher@bigfoot.com

### Membership

"VOODOO" BOB KRUEGER  
(619) 486-4711  
voodoo@miata.net

### Autocross

RAINER MUELLER  
(760) 439-0067  
rainer@thegrid.net

### Club E-mail Postmaster

CINDY PALOMA  
(619) 534-0969  
owner-sd-miata@cs.ucsd.edu

### Webmaster

ROBERT "JTBOB" HOLLAND  
(619) 549-4011  
robert@caliban.ucsd.edu

### Newsletter

Editor  
ANTHONY "NEVADABOB" WILDE  
(619) 693-8095  
NevadaBob@miata.net

### Design and Layout

TOM & STEPHANIE GOULD  
(619) 298-8605  
stef@miata.net

## 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. Submissions can also be faxed to the club's dedicated phone line or mailed to the club's post office box. Submission deadline is the 15<sup>th</sup> of each month.

**Internet:** The San Diego Miata Club has established a dedicated World Wide Web Home Page at <http://mmdshare.ucsd.edu/sdmc.html>. The club has also established a members-only electronic mail list for those members with E-mail capability.

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

### Enthusiast Hangover Run (joint run SDMC/SOCALM)

**Date:** Sunday, January 4

**Time:** 10:00 a.m.

**Place:** Ortega Business Plaza,  
San Juan Capistrano

**Directions** From I-5, exit on Ortega Highway (74) and go East approximately one-half mile, turn Right on Rancho Viejo. Make an immediate Left into the Ortega Business Plaza. We will meet at the far end of the parking lot.

**Run Leader:** K. Zack Broadbent,  
(714) 525-9065

E-mail: racerzack@aol.com

Web site: <http://members.aol.com/racerzack/miata.htm>

This will be a fun run along Ortega Highway to Lake Elsinore. After a brief stop, we will head South toward Temecula. The run will end with stops at a couple of the Temecula Valley wineries, and will leave you near Interstate 15. This will be a smooth, civilized drive along Ortega Highway and some of the Riverside County/San Diego County twisty roads. Drivers are asked to remember the laws about drinking and driving.

### We Survived the Holidays Run

**Date:** Saturday, January 17

**Time:** 10:00 a.m. breakfast —  
11:30 a.m. run

**Place:** Jose's Baja Grill

4509 Adams Street, Carlsbad  
(760) 729-3003

**Directions** Exit I-5 at Tamarack Avenue and head inland, turn Right on to Adams Street. Jose's is about one mile from Tamarack on the right side, down a steep driveway. They have a great view of the lagoon and friendly prices (\$5 to \$10.) They offer some breakfast items and a full lunch menu.

**Run Leader:** Kathie McClelland  
(714) 644-4345

E-mail: [KMIATACAT@AOL.COM](mailto:KMIATACAT@AOL.COM)

Following breakfast, we'll take a nice scenic drive on some great back roads that Rainer showed me. There will be a break at the Deer Park Winery and Auto Museum in Escondido. Once there, we can enjoy wine tasting, gourmet deli— (great choices if you missed breakfast) and a gift shop. The tour of the spectacular car museum is \$4.00 per person. The collection features more than 112 beautifully main-

tained and restored classic cars— mostly convertibles, old kitchen appliances, Coke machines, TV's, radios and Barbies...let's just say, there's a lot to see here.  
(If you plan on doing a lot of wine tasting, please take along a designated driver.)

*Please RSVP to Kathie McClelland if you're planning to meet for breakfast.*

### Meeting at Boll Weevil

**Date:** Thursday, January 22

**Time:** 6:00 p.m.

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

Always a good turnout (averaging 35-40 Miatas each month!). One of the best ways to spend some quality time socializing with your fellow members, getting to know them and their Miatas a little better. Come have fun!

## AUTOCROSS AT THE MURPH



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

Sunday, January 18\* . . . . .practice day  
Sunday, February 8 . . . . .race day  
Saturday, February 21 . . . . .practice day  
Sunday, February 22 . . . . .race day  
Saturday, March 14\* . . . . .practice day  
Sunday, March 15\* . . . . .race day  
March 21, 22 . . . . .SCCA National Tour  
Sunday, April 5 . . . . .race day  
Sunday, April 19 . . . . .race day  
Saturday, May 2 . . . . .practice day  
Sunday, May 3 . . . . .race day  
Sunday, June 21 . . . . .race day

\*tentative

Autocross information sources:

San Diego SCCA Hotline: (619) 441-1333  
Cal Club SCCA Hotline: (818) 988-7223  
Rainer Mueller (760) 439-0067  
John Godden (619) 538-6165

## UPCOMING NATIONAL AND REGIONAL EVENTS

February 7, 1998

### Autocross School

Santa Maria Airport, near Vandenberg Air Force Base

Hosted by: Cal Poly Sports Car Club .

Inexpensive and fun— you must have your own Snell 85 or newer helmet.

Contact Bill Rosensteel (805) 773-0331

March 27-29, 1998

### Miata Performance Driving School

Willows, CA (one hour north of Sacramento) \$300 registration,  
Phone (510) 370-8262 before 8:30 p.m.

April, 1998

### Ladies-Only Autocross School

Watch this space for exact date.

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.

Included: Friday Night Wine & Pasta Welcome Dinner, Awards Banquet, Monday "Getaway" Breakfast, Photo Rallye, Autocross, Funkhana, Fun Run and lots of vendors. Also special Saturday Night Dinner Extravaganza: "Evening at Blackhawk" Behring Auto Museum. The finest attire you can pack is encouraged.

Contact Ken at (510) 484-4174

or E-mail at [ken@cdec.com](mailto:ken@cdec.com).

June 30-July 3, 1998

### "Miata Mountain Madness"

#### '98 National Event

Split Rock Lodge in the Poconos

Hosted by: Delaware Valley Miata Club

DelVal is working on putting together the best National Event ever!

Web: [miata.net/madness98](http://miata.net/madness98)

September 18-20, 1998

### "Rock Around the Clock"

#### 9th Annual Gold Rush

Sheraton Hotel, Rancho Cordova, CA

Hosted by: SAMOA

Driving events, speakers, dinners,  
vendors and lots of fun!

(916) 646-4435 or [GoldRush98@aol.com](mailto:GoldRush98@aol.com)

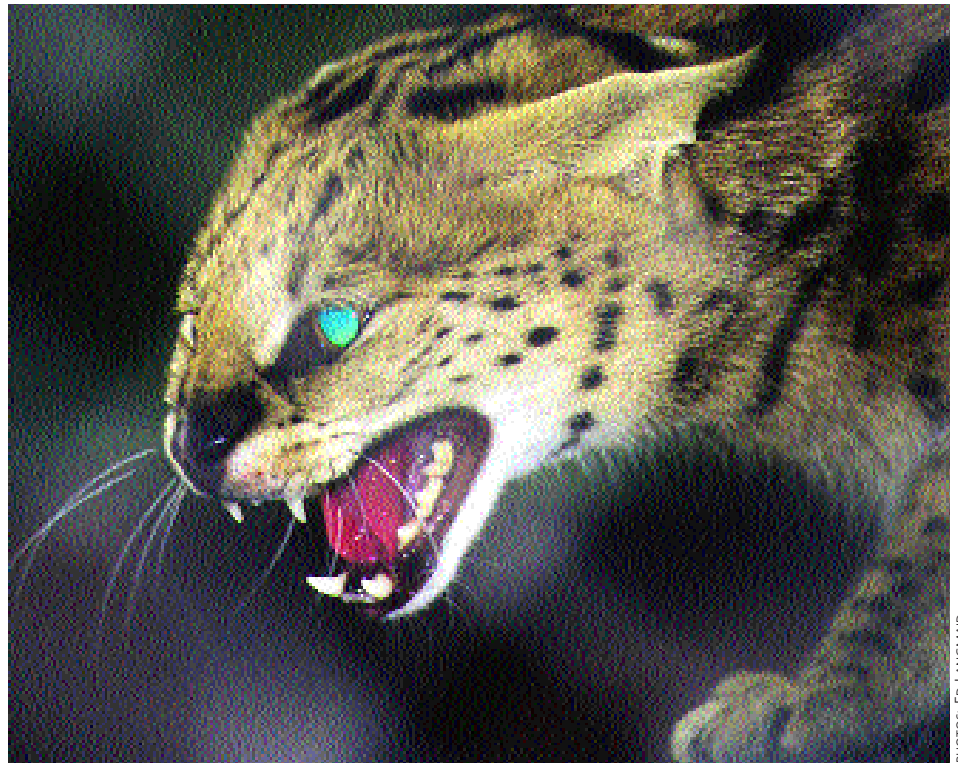
Web: [miata.net/SAMOA](http://miata.net/SAMOA)



## Shambala — It's So Wild!

Saturday, November 15, 1997

It can never be said that Miata Club Members aren't hardy. Who else would brave the threat of bad weather, drive hours to arrive at a meeting spot just to have to fend for your breakfast at a crowded Denny's in (almost) the middle of nowhere and ultimately arrive at a place that warns: "TRESPASSERS MAY BE EATEN!" (Just kidding, they won't really eat you; you'll just be a cat toy for a while.) A group of adventure-seekers from both SOCALM and SDMC ventured out of the "Burbs" to the back country of Los Angeles. Their destination was Acton, located about 45 minutes north of downtown L.A. and Shambala, actress Tippi Hedren's wild animal sanctuary. It is, truly, an amazing place which she has created and built over the past 20 years. Shambala is home to about 60 wild cats of almost every variety as well as elephants, birds and snakes. Staffed mostly by volunteers and funded wholly by donors and sponsors; it felt good to see where my donation was going and to visit with its beneficiaries. All of the animals there were once owned by private people, who, like Mike Tyson (for example) think it's cool to have a tiger as a house cat. Sadly, many are abused, mistreated or abandoned by these people who discover that exotic animals aren't the pets they thought they'd be. Great pains are taken to return these beautiful animals to good



PHOTOS: ED LANGWAID

health. A few, like Daisy, a cougar who suffered permanent paralysis due to neglect, get physical therapy. Daisy resides in a comfortable compound by Tippi's kitchen where she gets a few treats from the window. It comforted me to see how much she had improved since my first visit a few years ago.

The Roar Foundation, which sponsors the Shambala preserve receives an average of eight calls per month from people seeking refuge for some wild animal they've found abandoned or can no longer keep themselves. They have a daily operating cost of about

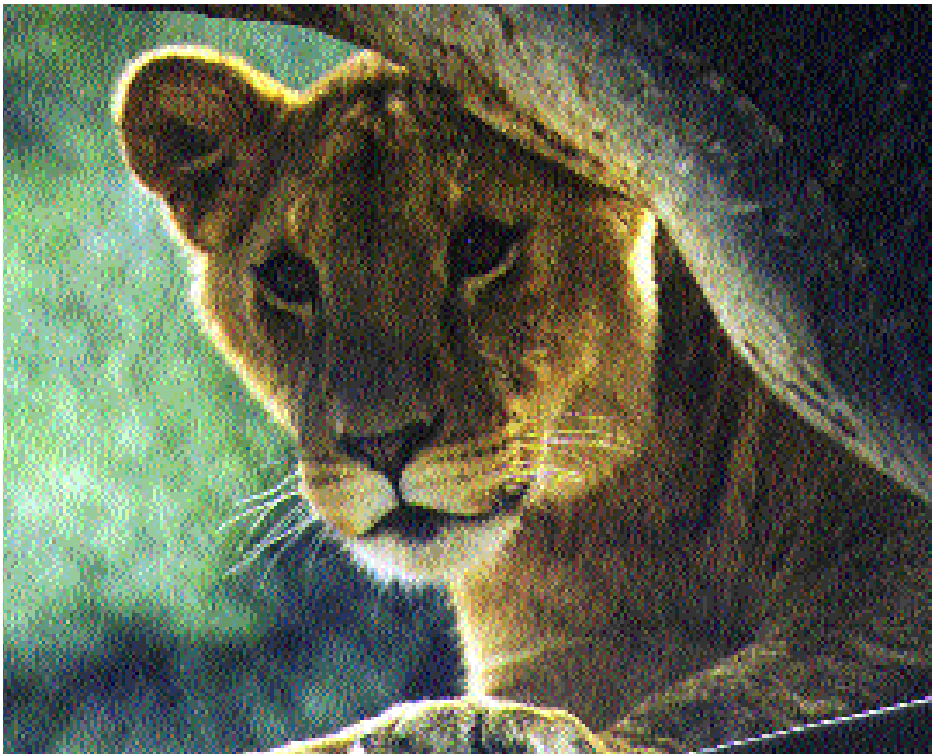
\$5,000 — these kitties like to eat, no Friskies for these guys. All the compounds provide the animals with a natural habitat and plenty of space to walk about. It is so much better than any zoo I've ever been to.

The four hour tour was extremely informative and conducted by knowledgeable staff members who made the time just fly by. The prize for the wildest kitties with the most "Catattude" goes to the servals! These were the feistiest little guys I've ever seen, they were hissing and growling up a storm. This place must also be the



safest place to live since any trespassers could be eaten. Another thing that I found interesting is that tigers like water— no wonder I'm always finding my tiger kitten (Timmy the Tongo Boy) in the tub! They also use bowling balls for cat toys.

During our visit they had a gift shop and lunch available as well as a photo-op with one of the tigers. It's fun to see all the brave people who got so close to that big kitty. We were pretty lucky considering we made it through most of the tour before it began to drizzle.



Typically, November is known for being colder but that is a really good time to visit Shambala since the animals are far more active in the cooler times of the year than they would be in the warmer spring or summer months.

I must say that SAN DIEGO MIATA CLUB member ED LANGMAID took some of the most outstanding pictures I've ever seen. Ed makes the National Geographic look amateurish. Ed, have you ever considered going pro?

Following the tour Francie and Paul Pollock led a fun-run over the Angeles Crest Highway. We also got to "experience" the famous L.A. traffic— we arrived in Pasadena following a big football game at the Rose Bowl. Hardy souls that we are, we toughed out the

traffic and made it to the John Bull English Pub and enjoyed a nice meal together.

I had a lot of people tell me how much they all enjoyed and how interesting they found Shambala to be. Maybe we'll do it again sometime. Here's

my list of the courageous members who, with their guests, joined in on the adventure: My mom LYNN and my friend Teresa LaBorde, Brian Bousman, ZACK BROADBENT, JOHN and GERRY CONN, JULIE and BOB DAVIS, STEPHANIE and TOM GOULD, Michelle Hall, BARI HYDE and her mom Marvis Kushnick, CYNTHIA JONES, SCOTT and JOANN LANGHOFF, ED and MICHELLE LANGMAID, Michelle Louie, FRANCIE and PAUL POLLOCK, MIKE and SHERRI SIMMONS, and Phyllis Weiter. Please forgive me if I omitted anyone.

I'd like to thank everyone who participated, especially Paul and Francie who live in the area and led the group and to Zack Broadbent for his support riding sweep. I appreciate all your efforts and hard work. These folks are always ready to lend a hand and contribute to the club and to me personally, I truly appreciate all your assistance. You are all gems!

—KATHIE MCCLELLAND

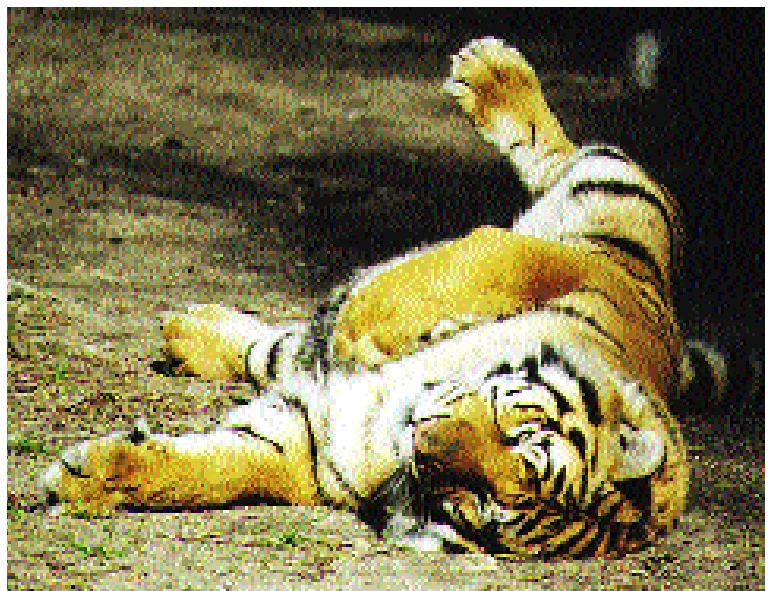




PHOTO: WOODY WOODHOUSE



PHOTO: WOODY WOODHOUSE



PHOTO: "VOODOOBOB" KRUEGER

**Top: Cobra and Shelby Mustang. Above: the little Aardvark lifts a wheel on its way to a class win. Left and Right: Pre-grid.**

**Opposite page— Top: Legendary drivers Phil Hill and Bruce McCaw chat in pre-grid. Bottom: 1924 Warnock Special Model T Ford.**

to North Island. Member MIKE SIMMONS made the breakfast even though he had just driven from his home in Agoura Hills, northwest of Los Angeles.

The consensus on Saturday was that the best spot to watch from was the grandstands in turn three. The early arrivers on Sunday took the high ground, literally and figuratively, by capturing the top rows. Members took shifts holding the turf, but BARB and ELLIOT SHEV made sure everyone would group there in the afternoon by bringing along their portable delicatessen.

Miata club members were thrilled to see the small-displacement cars hold their own, and sometimes win, against the much larger and more expensive machinery. Everyone knows that the Ferraris and Cobras are fast, but when the 1952 Aardvark (with only 850 cc under the hood) won the opening race on Sunday afternoon, every Miata owner cheered. It was interesting to note that when the "Fabulous Hudson Hornet" lumbered past, it was traversing some of the same tarmac that the Navy F-18 Hornets usually ply.

The racing was close, as close as it can get with irreplaceable machinery. The cars would scramble out of turn two headed straight for the radar tower outside of turn three. After negotiating the turn (where many passes and one minor collision occurred) the drivers



PHOTO: "VOODOOBOB" KRUEGER

cant and some just plain odd automobiles took to the temporary circuit to keep the era of sportscar racing alive, and return it to San Diego.

After a full day of the sights, sounds and smells of vintage racers, most members caravanned to the Round Table Pizza on Claremont Mesa Boulevard.

Sunday dawned with plans for a new assault on the air station. Some members joined MARK BOOTH at an early morning breakfast prior to going



PHOTO: ANTHONY "NEVADABOB" WILDE





PHOTO: "VOODOOBOB" KRUEGER

would aim for the tip of Point Loma, which looked to be at the end of the long back straight. Straining to hear the track announcer describe the action as the cars negotiated the rest of the circuit, members stood in anticipation of seeing which car would be leading the next time by. The final race of the day offered some of the greatest racing with a Boss 302 Mustang beating a Z28 Camaro at the finish line.

After the event, member WALLY STEVENS hosted a potluck at his beautiful home just off the base. The panoramic view of the San Diego evening skyline, the waters of the bay lapping at his back door, and friendly camaraderie made a beautiful ending to a fantastic weekend on Coronado.

The organizers of the event promise to make it bigger and better next year, with three days of racing and more wonderful vintage racers. Hopefully they will, because it's a great way to have fun and dream of the day in 2020 when the Miata will qualify for vintage racing.

—ANTHONY "NEVADABOB" WILDE



PHOTO: ANTHONY "NEVADABOB" WILDE

## Doing Laps at Laguna Seca

November 20, 1997

I had my first on-track experience at Laguna Seca, near Monterey. All I can say is I want more! The first thing I have to do is thank and congratulate Aaron Tachibana of BAMA for the wonderful job he did of organizing this event.

I drove up the day before the event, and arrived at the hotel at around 5:30. There were already several other drivers there— after checking into my room I went out to the parking lot where a small group had gathered to admire each other's cars and gossip.

At dinner— lots of bench racing and discussion of what people had done to their cars. I was amazed by the number of people who had added turbo- or super-chargers, but then I think the sampling group was a bit biased.

I got a good night's sleep before the event so that I could get up bright and early to make the 20 minute drive to Laguna Seca by 7:00.

We rolled into the paddock and immediately began the registration and tech inspection. Nearly 60 cars took a little longer than scheduled. There was a brief driver's meeting where we were introduced to the instructors. They gave a quick overview of how to drive the track. The instructors then took to the course for a few warm-up laps.

We were divided into three groups by our driving experience. Each group got approximately 20—minutes on the track. Each group would get four sessions over the course of the day.

In our first twenty minute session we were supposed to run a relaxed follow-the-leader, with two instructors, each one leading a group of ten cars. We were to use this session to learn the correct line for the course. I started towards the back of the line, but the drivers in front were supposed to fall back following each lap so that everyone would have a chance behind the instructor. Our group failed to do this, and I never even saw the instructor's car the whole session.

I thought I had a pretty good idea of the line to use, though, as I had done quite a bit of reading about Laguna Seca beforehand. I also had gotten some

virtual driving experience with *Indy Car II* on my PC.

Laguna Seca is a great track, and I think it is well suited to Miatas. Almost all the turns are tight enough that you have to do a little braking, or at least let off the gas. This makes the Miata's handling a great asset, and its lack of power a little less noticeable.

And the corkscrew is a blast! You crest the top of a hill just at the braking point for a sharp 90 degree left. As you clip the apex the road drops away, almost 60 feet in less than 200 feet of road. The exit point of the left-hander is the entry point to a 90 degree right turn, at the apex of which the track levels off. From the apex of the left-hander you floor it, as the additional weight your car picks up from the road leveling off gives more traction than you can use.

The next turn, turn 9, was the scariest for me. It is a loose left-hander that I was taking at about 60-70 mph. The turn was fast enough that my car was edging just a little into over-steer territory, and it always felt like the rear tires were barely hanging on. But each time around I pushed it a little faster and never lost it.

At the beginning of the last session, I had an instructor, Dana Keen, drive my car around the track a few times to show me the correct line and give me a few pointers. I found out, that while close, the line that I had been driving could be improved. I had been braking too much and turning in too early.

My remaining time for that last session was the most fun I had all day. Seeing how far Dana could push my car (with stock Bridgestones no less) inspired me. Each time around the track I pushed it just a little farther. Finally, towards the end of the session I went a little too far. Coming around turn 3 the back end came around and I ended up sliding backwards into the gravel.

I am looking forward to my next chance at an on-track session. I will take all the lessons I learned at Laguna Seca on the road with me. I think the most important thing I learned was just how far my car could be pushed under ideal circumstances, and how it behaves. I think this is something everyone should know about his car.

—NEAL HOWLAND





**Laura Roman with her Montego Blue Miata and her boat at Oceanside Harbor.**

## Member Profile

LAURA ROMAN

Hi! My name is Laura Roman. I currently drive a 1996 Montego Blue Miata. She is not my first Miata. In 1993 I took over my ex-husband's red Miata's lease. I was happy to take over the lease, but she came with trouble. First was a ticket for my ex's neon license plate frame. Next was a traffic ticket, and when I asked why, the officer told me it was safer to pull over two girls in a convertible than other cars. The final straw was when I was sitting at a red light and the owner of a Jeep decided he wanted to meet me by putting his vehicle in reverse and hitting me.

I was sad to see the red Miata go, but when I arrived at Cush Mazda (who told me about SDMC), I fell in love with the new Montego. I signed another lease which ends in 1999. I look forward to signing another lease on the restyled 1999 Miata. I have owned many vehicles, including three tractor trailers, which I have driven over a million miles, two Harley Davidsons, and even a 1989 Lamborghini replica. I have happily said good-bye to them and now enjoy living on my motor-yacht in Oceanside Harbor with my dog "Chipper."

I am going to school full time at Palomar College. I am looking forward to graduating in May, 1998. I also enjoy ministering on Sundays at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Oceanside.

See you on the next run.  
—Laura.

*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.*

## So You Want to Go Online?

The SAN DIEGO MIATA CLUB urges members to go online. There is a



wealth of information on the Web about Miatas. The club maintains an impressive Web presence and a private, members-only E-mail list for exchange of Miata-related information and updates of club activities.

Reprints of the club's informative two-part article are available from Stef Gould at most club events.

## Free for Members: E-Mail Software

You DON'T need to be on the Internet to use this!

About 70% of the SAN DIEGO MIATA CLUB is already on the Club's special E-mail list. You can be too! Don't miss out on last-minute events, changes, or Tech Days!

### Requirements:

IBM-compatible computer, 9600 baud (or faster) modem, and access to any phone line. This program does NOT tie up your phone line for longer than two minutes per session, and is extremely easy to use.

Call Frank Shine at (619) 582-9280 (before 9 p.m., please!)

## New Members!

The following are the new members since the last newsletter:

### Larry Barousse

Escondido  
1990 White A

### Andrew & Kristin Busschau

San Diego  
1995 White PEP

### Brian Byrne

San Diego  
1994 White A

### Monique & Dirk Dijkstra

Encinitas  
1996 Red PEP

### Michele Flud

Ramona  
1997 Red

### Eldora J. Harris

San Diego  
1991 Red

### Marcia J. Lacey

Del Mar  
1991 BRG LE

### Dave & Lois Martin

San Diego  
1993 White C

### Tim Ngo

Escondido  
1996 Red

### Jim B. Thyden & Tiger Hutton

San Diego  
1991 Silver Base

### Richard & Mary Tibiatowski

La Mesa  
1990 White

The following members have renewed since the last newsletter:

### Randy Camp & Susan Tousi

### Michael Carrillo & Andrea Pulido

### Ricky Covarrubias

### Shelley & Bruce Hotz

### Michael & Susan Pasterkiewicz

### Dan Reichel

### Alan & Aleica Silver

### William Sloan

### Richard A. Smith

### Joyce Wells

### Bob & Kathy Welty

There are now 186 memberships consisting of 275 members.





## For They're A Jolly Good Couple!

**M**y heartfelt thanks to members BOB and DEBBIE LLEWELLYN for their gracious hosting of our Second Annual Holiday Party. WOW!!...what a turnout! Sixty six of you took time from your busy schedules to share the Holidays with your fellow members! Thanks to everyone that attended! The food was delicious and the evening unforgettable! A special thank you to Bob and Debbie for the wonderful idea of the tree collection and engraved rock for members RUTH and LOU STARK! The look of surprise and appreciation I saw in their faces is something I will never forget!

### 1999 Miata

The new Miata is not expected to be available in dealer's showrooms until late February or early March. The local general public will get a chance to see the car at the San Diego International Auto Show on February 18-22. As a special treat for SAN DIEGO MIATA CLUB members, Jim Jordan, district sales manager for Mazda Motors, is working on plans for a special advance club showing of the all-new Miata! Tentatively scheduled for Valentine's Day, Saturday, February 14, the event is affectionately titled, "Fall In Love All Over Again, Re-Light An Old Flame". We are hoping to hold the event at the San Diego Automotive Museum in Balboa Park. The event details are still being worked out and everything is tentative at this time. Complete information will be found in the February issue of the newsletter.

### Goodbye 1997, Hello 1998!

Another year gone by! And what a GREAT club year it was! Thanks to everyone's enthusiasm and club bragging/tagging efforts we are fast approaching the 200-Miata mark! The new memberships continue to outpace the few members that fail to renew. Will we be approaching the 300 mark by this time next year? Time will tell! If everyone continues to evangelize and advertise the club, 300 cars should be no



PHOTOS: ED LANGMAID

**MNAO CEO Richard Beattie greeted Miata Club members with enthusiasm as he announced Mazda's plan to support some club activities. Below SDMC and SoCalm members in front of the draped '99 Miata at the North American Debut of the new Miata at the Los Angeles Auto Show.**



Dear Miata Friends,

About a year and a half ago our San Diego club was born. Little did we know that we would make so many friends and meet so many great people!

We are absolutely overwhelmed by everyone's support and caring during the last year. Everyone was so generous in October 1996 when our house burned down. We realized how lucky we were to know all of you.

Those of you who attended the holiday party at the Llewelyns know that we were totally surprised by the Tree Fund and rock. We never expected anything else as many of you had already given us plenty. We look forward to looking at our tree and remembering the SAN DIEGO MIATA CLUB forever.

Words can't even describe how we feel in being so fortunate to be part of a group that is so supportive and caring when tragedy strikes. But even more, we really enjoy being with a group of people who, like us, enjoy having fun in our little Miatas.

We wish you all of you a great holiday, and hope that 1998 is a fantastic year for all. We look forward to welcoming you to our new home. Thank you so much for everything.

—Ruth and Lou Stark

problem! Thanks, and keep up the good work!

### Eventful New Year?

SAN DIEGO MIATA CLUB members interested in hosting a fun run, rallye, tour or other event are encouraged to contact Event Coordinator Natalia Rissolo or other board member with your ideas and/or suggestions. If everyone tackled just one event per year...well, we wouldn't have room on the calendar for everything! Let's keep the San Diego Chapter as busy and active in 1998 as it has been for the last two years!

Here's wishing everyone a Safe and Happy New Year!

Until next month — keep that top down!

— MARK

