



# SAN DIEGO MIATA CLUB NEWS



VOLUME 3 NUMBER 5

MAY 1998

A CHAPTER OF THE MIATA CLUB OF AMERICA

## UPCOMING EVENTS



May 2, Practice – May 3, Race  
**Autocross**  
at Qualcomm parking lot



May 9—Saturday  
**Old Rusty Truck  
and Other Oddities  
Fun Run**



May 23—Saturday  
**Firenze Frenzy  
Fun Run**



May 28—Thursday  
**Monthly Meeting**



May 31—Sunday  
**Miracle Mile of Miatas  
Fun Run**  
to Benefit Childrens' Hospital



June 6—Saturday  
**Fun Run to See  
Experimental Aircraft**



June 13—Saturday  
**First Ladies' Run**



June 14—Sunday  
**Wax/Polish Tech Day**



June 20—Saturday  
**Fun Run to Eat!**



June 28—Sunday  
**Twin Peaks Fun Run**



July 4—Saturday  
**4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade**

## From the Editor

### Lies, Damned Lies, and Statistics

The oft-quoted line is usually attributed to Mark Twain; however, Mr. Clemens admitted to borrowing it from English prime minister Benjamin Disraeli. In deference to either gentleman, statistics are wonderful things when they validate your point of view or reinforce a decision you have made. They can even make you feel better about parking your Miata with the top down.

According to the National Insurance Crime Bureau (NICB), the Miata was the 210<sup>th</sup> most commonly stolen vehicle in the United States in 1996. In all, 308 Mazda Miatas were reported stolen to the NICB by member insurance companies in 1996.

That is not bad when you compare the Miata to the following cars: The Chevrolet Corvette was 78<sup>th</sup> most commonly stolen vehicle (1,581). The Ford Mustang was the 5<sup>th</sup> most commonly stolen vehicle (8,029). The vehicle most stolen in the United States in 1996 was the Honda Accord with 23,204 reported thefts.

The San Diego metropolitan area had the 21<sup>st</sup> highest vehicle theft rate in the United States in 1995, the most recent year available in the NICB database. One of every 73.8 registered vehicles in the San Diego metropolitan area was stolen. In all, 23,397 vehicles were stolen in the San Diego area in 1995, a 22.9% increase from the previous year.

Of course that is much better than the Los Angeles–Long Beach metropolitan area which had the 7<sup>th</sup> highest vehicle theft rate. One of every 55.9 registered vehicles in the Los Angeles metropolitan area (102,320) was stolen. Orange County fared better by placing 56<sup>th</sup> highest with one of every 104.2 registered vehicles (17,798) stolen.

The Highway Loss Data Institute (HLDI) issued a report in December 1997. The *Insurance Collision Report* reflects the collision loss experience of passenger cars, utility vehicles, light trucks, and vans sold in the United States in terms of the average loss payment per insured vehicle year for model years 1995–1997. The report presents vehicles' collision loss experience in relative terms, with 100 representing the average for all passenger vehicles. Thus, a rating of 122 reflects a collision loss experience that is 22% higher (worse) than average while a rating of 96 reflects a collision loss experience that is 4% lower (better) than average.

The Miata was reported to have a Relative Loss Payment (RLP) of 110, that is, 10% higher than average. The BMW Z3 has a RLP of 87 or 13% lower than average.

On face value the BMW appears to be less costly to insure for collision. However, due to the higher cost of the Z3 compared to the Miata, the Z3 is more likely to be repaired after an accident rather than totaled. The Miata will more likely be totaled because damage could quickly exceed the value of the vehicle. The study emphasizes that the ratings are NOT an indication of safety.

Just a sampling of the different ways a Miata is looked at, based on statistical data. There is one area in which empirical data cannot be found. Only subjective data is available, but in terms of relative fun (RF), the Miata is the leader in the automotive category with a RF rating of four smiles.

— ANTHONY WILDE



## SOCALM EVENTS

### Wildflower Re-Run in the Santa Monica Mountains

**Date:** Saturday, May 2

**Time:** 9:00 a.m. breakfast— run leaves promptly at 10:00 a.m.

**Place:** Coco's Restaurant in Calabasas.  
We have a room reserved in the back

**Run Leader:** Mike Simmons,  
msimm@ucla.edu

**SDMC Caravan:** McDonalds, Oceanside  
East side of I-5 at Oceanside Blvd. exit  
Leaving promptly at 6:45 a.m.

**Directions:** Take US 101 north to  
Las Virgenes (west of the San Fernando  
Valley). Turn left (south), pass over the  
freeway and turn right into the long  
driveway at the tall Coco's sign. There  
are several gas stations in the area.

El Niño showed up on the first attempt at this run in April, we'll try once again on some of the best roads of the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area. We're hoping the flowers are still abundant, the views of the mountains and ocean are still great. We'll take a leisurely pace on much of the run to allow sightseeing, and we'll stop at for views and photo-ops. There will be twisty canyons for the racers, with a more "laid-back" group following. The run directions will point out interesting sights and provide background about the area along the way — movie and television set locations, historical sites, homes of the rich and famous. We'll pass picturesque lakes, a valley of thoroughbred horse ranches, visit an Western movie set and stop for a barbecue lunch in the mountains.

## AUTOCROSS AT THE MURPH



The following autocross events will take place on the West side of the "Qualcomm Stadium at the Jack Murphy Sports Complex" parking lot.

Saturday, May 2 . . . . . practice day  
Sunday, May 3 . . . . . race day  
Sunday, June 21 . . . . . race day, cancelled

### Autocross information:

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

### Muckenthaler Cultural Center (Fullerton) Fun Run

**Date:** Sunday, May 17

**Time:** 9:30 a.m.— Brunch, 11:30 a.m.— Run

**Place:** Pepper's Restaurant (near the 60 & 605 Fwys) City of Industry

**Run Leader:** Bill Bryant, BillMx5@aol.com  
Fun Run to the Muckenthaler Center's exhibit of automotive art and special one-day concours of 200 world-class historic/vintage cars (\$10 admission).

### Socalm Social— San Clemente

**Date:** Tuesday, June 2

**Time:** 6:30 p.m.

**Place:** Sonny's Pizza and Pasta  
429 North El Camino Real  
San Clemente, CA 92672  
(949) 498-2540

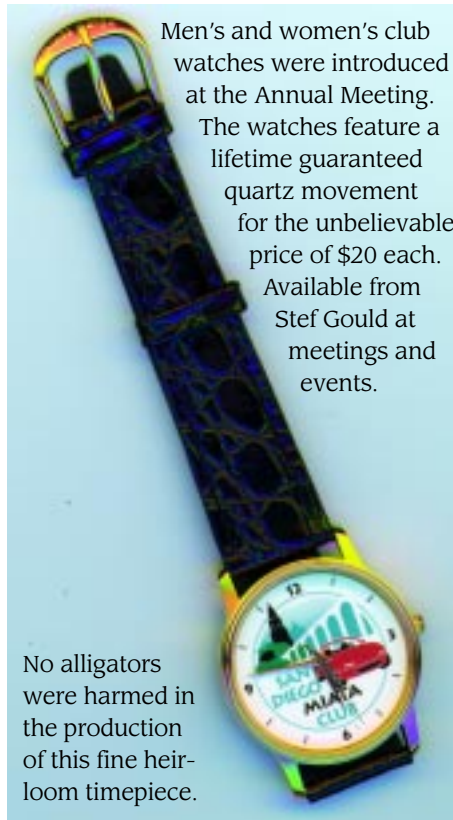
**Coordinator:** Jon Martinez & Judy Powell, dual members, have extended an invitation to SDMC members to meet Socalmers for dinner and camaraderie.  
jontronics@aol.com

**Directions:** I-5 North exit Avenida Presidio turn left, turn right onto El Camino Real, Sonny's is on the right hand side.

### Socalm contacts:

President— K. Zack Broadbent,  
(714) 525-9065, racerzack@aol.com  
Club E-mail list: socalm@avatar.com

### SDMC Club Watches



Men's and women's club watches were introduced at the Annual Meeting. The watches feature a lifetime guaranteed quartz movement for the unbelievable price of \$20 each. Available from Stef Gould at meetings and events.

No alligators were harmed in the production of this fine heirloom timepiece.

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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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, Anthony Wilde. 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. Editor reserves the right to edit all submissions.

**Internet:** The San Diego Miata Club has established a dedicated World Wide Web Home Page at <http://www.sandiegomiataclub.org>. 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

### Old Rusty Trucks and Other Oddities Fun Run

**Date:** Saturday, May 9

**Time:** 9:30 a.m.— leaving promptly at 10

**Place:** Chula Vista Bayfront Park— near the boat launching ramp parking lot.

**Run Leaders:** Frank Shine and Stephen DeLonge, shine5@bigfoot.com

Two countries, two counties, from sea to see the sea, rusty old trucks (including a Mazda!), oddities galore, and a view which will make you say: "I'M THE KING OF THE WORLD!"

This run is technically "one-way" hosted run through southernmost San Diego County, approximately 90 miles and 5+ hours one way (including stops), with a choice of return routing: fast, or fun.

El Niño has left the East County exceptionally green and the temperature is still moderate. The roads are fun and challenging (all paved), and we'll show you places you've NEVER seen before! Please join us as we host our first Fun Run for the club.

#### Directions to Meeting Place:

I-5 South to J Street/Marina Pkwy. Right at bottom of ramp on Marina Pkwy. 1<sup>st</sup> Left on Marina Way, to end. Left at Stop sign (It's OK to turn left here; the "do not enter" sign refers to going straight ahead).

#### Bring:

- A *full* tank of gas
- A picnic lunch and drinks
- A blanket to sit on
- Sunscreen
- Binoculars
- SDMC Membership Card (newcomers welcome; we'll make the arrangements)
- At least \$4.50 for fees and donations.
- An inexpensive and/or a white elephant gift or *oddy*.

The gifts/oddties will be pooled, and given to the car which successfully answers all the "clues" which will be a part of this Fun Run! In case of a tie, we'll have a drawing to pick the winner. If we have a lot of stuff, we may award 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> prizes as well.

\*NO participation in the "clue" part of the run is necessary to have a good time; for passengers wanting to enhance the experience, this will do the trick!

### Firenze Fun Run

**Date:** Saturday, May 23

**Time:** 9:30 a.m.

**Place:** Visitor's Center Parking Lot on Mission Bay at West of I-5 at Clairemont Drive.

**Run Leader:** Jack Monaco  
monaco@home.com

By now we've all come to expect a moist event when Jack Monaco volunteers to lead, that's why we had him wait until late May to take us on another gentle spin through North County. By then we will probably need a little rain.

This will be a very civilized cruise ending with a gourmet lunch on the picturesque patio of one the finest North County Italian "trattorias," Firenze. Jack, who as you might guess is an accomplished chef, has sampled the menu and decrees this to be the best restaurant destination for a run to date. The menu prices are very reasonable. Jack recommends the Panini Vegetali— grilled marinated egg-plant, roast pepper and fresh mozzarella sandwich served on homemade grilled Tuscan bread with a side of fresh pasta salad for \$5.95, or Penette di Focco, penne pasta with fresh broccoli, sun-dried tomatos, pine nuts, garlic and olive oil for \$6.95. (Soft drinks, iced tea, beer and wine available)

After lunch Jack will lead an informal run back to San Diego following the scenic route along the coast.

### Monthly Meeting

**Date:** Thursday, May 27

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

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

This event is the single best way to meet your fellow club members, ask questions, share stories, etc. Don't miss the fun!

### Miracle Mile of Miatas Fun Run To Benefit Children's Hospital

**Date:** Sunday, May 31

**Time:** 8:30 a.m.

**Place:** Kearny High parking lot

**Event Coordinators:** Cathy and Mark Booth, Debbie & Bob Llewellyn

**Run Leaders:** Laurie and Steve Waid  
Contact: swaid1@san.rr.com

## UPCOMING NATIONAL AND REGIONAL EVENTS

May 14–18, 1998

### 2<sup>nd</sup> "Gathering at Four Corners"

Vallecito Reservoir in Bayfield Colorado

Spontaneous fun with clubs from Arizona, California, Colorado, New Mexico, Texas, and Utah. Wabhates@compuserve.com

May 22–25, 1998

### "Moon Over Miata"

#### BAMA Golden Gate Getaway '98



Pleasanton Hilton in  
Pleasanton, CA

Registration:  
\$220 couple, \$195 solo

Photo Rallye, Autocross, Funkhana, Fun Run, vendors and most meals including the Dinner Extravaganza "Evening at Blackhawk" Behring Auto Museum  
Contact Ken, (925) 484-4174  
or E-mail at ken@cdec.com.  
Web: mroadster.com/G3.html

June 1, 1998

### Miata Track Day

Sears Point Raceway, Sonoma, CA

There is an optional Wine Train dinner on May 30. Contact: aaron@miata.net

July 16–19, 1998

### Moss Motors 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Festival

Flag Is Up Farms, Santa Ynez Valley, CA  
*Free*, if you arrive in a Miata or a British sports car! (800) 472-9445

Rallys, Funkhana, Hayrides, Jackson Racing's DynoJet, Bar-B-Q, Karaoke night, lots of shopping and prizes

July 18–19, 1998

### Cool Weekend on the Coast

Redwood Coast Miata Club, Eureka, CA

Two-day Autocross with the Redwood Coast Sportsclub and/or fun run on the 18<sup>th</sup>, Poker Rallye on the 19<sup>th</sup>. Dinner.

Registration: \$30 per car  
Autocross (per driver, per day) —  
\$10 novice; \$15 experienced  
Poker Rallye— \$5 per player  
Contact: Austin, calife@reninet.com or  
(707)-826-9006 for a registration packet

August 14–16, 1998

### 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Monterey Historic Races

Laguna Seca Raceway, Monterey, CA

See article, page 6 and laguna-seca.com

September 18–20, 1998

### "Rock Around the Clock"

#### SAMOA's 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Gold Rush

Sheraton Hotel, Rancho Cordova, CA  
Driving events, speakers, dinners, fun!  
(916) 646-4435 or mcmxv@pacbell.net





## A Fantasy at Thunderhill, and Other Thoughts

PHOTOS: BRAD BROWN

When I first read the 1997 issue IV of *Miata Magazine*, the article about Miata Days at Thunderhill

grabbed me around the collar and shook me, as if to say, “isn’t this what you’ve always wanted to do?” I ran to my beloved wife, stuck the magazine in her

face, and said “read this.... That’s what I want to do.” Her response was less enthusiastic than I had hoped. Perhaps, because she was already asleep. She always tells me my timing is bad after she goes to bed.

Well, it’s 7 a.m., Thursday morning, March 26<sup>th</sup>, and LAURIE is kissing me goodbye and telling me to have a good time, but to be careful. As you can tell, a lot has happened since the time I first read the Thunderhill article.

Now I am on my way. It is raining hard, and the weather outlook is not good. Every weather report I’ve seen tells me that I’m going to learn in the rain, on a wet track. STEF tried to encourage me by telling me that I might even learn more on a wet track. BOB and BRAD BROWN are driving separately because I am going to visit an old high school buddy on the way up.

8 a.m.— I stop in Elsinore to put my top down. Well, at least the sun is out in some part of the state.

10 a.m.— I am daydreaming on the 210 in Glendale when I see flashing lights in my rear view mirror. I look around, and apparently I am the only driver in sight who doesn’t see this CHP

cruiser get on the freeway. After he gets my license, registration, and proof of insurance, he walks directly to the front of my car; “If I have to have a front plate on your pickup, you have to have one on your Miata.” I don’t quite understand his logic, but he did get his facts straight.

12 Noon— I stop at my mother-in-law’s house in Carpinteria for my obligatory meal. Probably the best meal of my trip, certainly the most food.

2:30 p.m.— Shell Beach, California. I have dinner with my closest friend from high school. He is a long-standing car guy (40 Ford Club) who restores old cars. We talked cars, he drove my car on the back roads between Shell Beach and Morro Bay; we laughed and reminisced.

### Friday

Friday morning, and it’s time to focus on the weekend. I leave Templeton and head north to Paso Robles where I catch Highway 46 east. I pay homage to the James Dean Memorial (where he died in his Porsche) along the way. I am driving top up, top down, top up (weather couldn’t make up its mind) to Willows on Interstate 5. Finally...I’m there. It’s about 1:30. First, I have to find the Blue Gum Inn. That is where I have reserved my luxury suite (\$27 per night). It was perfect for what I wanted...a bed and shower, but it is nine miles east of town. The track is six miles west of town. I end up with a longer commute than I have every day here in San Diego.

After checking in, I drive to the track. There are probably 25 or so there,

including BOB and BRAD. The track is open and there are a few OTM’s out on the track. What a sight! Tomorrow, that’s where I’ll be. The stomach starts to tighten a little. WAIT! — that’s because it’s dinner time. It’s off to the Elks Club for dinner and the evening instruction. It’s a fun time. I meet new people. A couple from Laguna Beach that doesn’t belong to any Miata Club, but wanted to drive their Miata on a race track. He wins the Borla Exhaust in the drawing. The girl that sits across from me wins the set of Toyo tires. I win a Thunderhill pin. No one wants to trade.

The instruction time sets the tone for the rest of the weekend. In addition to the vehicle dynamics, basic driving techniques, and rules of engagement, we are given the school objectives. Although there were 13 objectives, I took two to heart. One: to drive your car home at the end of the day, and two: HAVE FUN! — I accomplished both.

### Saturday

Saturday morning is gorgeous. Not a cloud in the sky. I went to the local McDonalds and sat down for breakfast with a local “dirt farmer.” He was one of the happiest guys you could ever run into... and I thought I talked a lot. I now know much more about growing rice and Ford diesel trucks than I ever wanted, but he was typical of the locals that I met... friendly to a fault.

At the track, things start early. At 7 a.m. the techs begin inspecting the cars for safety. At 8:15 the drivers meeting. We see “the line” drawn on the course map for the first time. The line is the most important thing to learn about the track, and that is what is drummed into us throughout the weekend. The more you stray from the line, the more difficult the track becomes.

At 9 the driving exercises begin. The first time on the track an instructor rides along. He talks me around the course, pointing out the turn points, the apex points and the brake points. It is disconcerting to realize that you must break 30 years of street driving instincts to be successful on a race track. My instinct is to begin to slow as I approach a turn. A racer waits till the last possible moment and brakes hard before starting a turn. I found this the most difficult tendency to overcome. When you get in trouble on



the street, the usual reaction is to back off or brake. On the track that kind of reaction usually contributes to the trouble, as I discover when I spin. I cause my car to understeer (push) and react by backing off instead of reducing my turn-in while maintaining speed. Oh, well, better to learn here than in Couser Canyon, where there is no “runoff.”

The second time on the track is the “Conga Line.” One instructor, driving his own car, followed by six Miatas, another instructor, six more Miatas, another instructor...get the picture? The purpose is to follow the instructor, who knows how to drive the line. We are still not driving “at speed.”

11 a.m.— Brad Brown and I have our first turns, opposite sides of the track, at speed. We start with an instructor car leading six Miatas again, but this time as soon as the instructor is comfortable with the driver behind him (driving the line), he waves him to pass. Then you are on your own. These are 20-minute stints out on the track with approximately 16 other Miatas. The second time out, I pass the car in front of me on the third lap, and in a matter of one lap I can't see anyone behind or in front of me. I feel as if I have the track to myself. I can't help but grin— the biggest case of euphoria I've ever had. This continues for six or seven laps before I approach a group in front of me. This experience was exactly what I had dreamed of.

Saturday afternoon, we switch halves of the track. I drive the west side in the morning (fewer turns and more straightaways), and the east side in the afternoon. At about 2:30 a huge cloud comes over the track and dropped hail and hard rain for about 20 minutes. It stops as quickly as it starts, and amazingly the track dries in a matter of minutes. The rain stops nothing on the track until a Miata spins and ends up on the hill in turn 3. After recovering the car (no dam-

age) everyone goes back to driving— a little more cautiously at first.

By now I am starting to get a little fatigued. I consciously realize my fatigue as my mind starts to wander when I get into slower traffic conditions and relax so much that I stop driving “the line.” This could have been dangerous because even at slower speeds we are still going fast into some very challenging turns. Fortunately, it is my last session of the day, and all I have to contend with the rest of the day is a shower, dinner, and a good night's sleep.

The no-host dinner at a local Italian restaurant is very well attended by students, instructors and their families. There is so much talk that the banquet room roars like we are sitting in the center divider of I-5. Lots of embellishing going on. I, of course, do not participate.

### Sunday

Sunday morning— I am surprised again by a very windy, bright and sunny day. I had talked to Laurie, my beloved, and found out that San Diego was having a cold and stormy weekend. Again, I feel blessed. At McDonalds I meet a fellow student, Darwin Beloate. I tell him I will mention his name in our newsletter. Why?— you ask. Darwin is an Assurance Product Marketing Specialist, whatever that is, for Nissan, at their U.S. Corporate offices in Gardena. He got the information regarding Thunderhill on the Internet, signed up and drove a rented Miata. As you might guess, he says: “the Miata sure is a lot of fun.” He is just beginning to learn the truth.

On Sunday the students split into three groups (novices, intermediates, and *passers*) instead of six, so that we can run the full 2.9 mile track. At the morning drivers meeting we sign up for one of the groups based upon our comfort level. Brad and I sign up as intermediates, forcing Bob to choose from one



of the other two groups (He and Brad share a helmet). Bob chooses the passers, and for an elderly guy, he holds his own. At least he stays on the track and aims in the right direction. Brad and I don't quite understand the concept. Brad does a little “off roading,” and I decide to see who is following me without using my mirrors (aka— I spin).

The decision to create the three groups may have contributed to the most frightening situation of the event. Just after noon, while the passers were on the track, a driver loses control, goes sideways off the track entering the straightaway, and flips end over end, landing on the right front hood/windshield and rolling back onto his wheels. He has no roll bar. Thankfully, he is unhurt. This is indeed very sobering. An emergency drivers meeting is called and it's decided that only the cars with roll bars will be allowed to run the track for time. I knew there was a reason that I had taken advantage of the “Rainer roll bar deal.” After I see my times, I'm not so sure that there is any good reason— I'm in the bottom third. However, I rationalize that if I had a supercharger, as some did, I could easily have been in the upper third. Top speed difference on the straightaways is 25 to 30 mph, if you can believe those with the superchargers.

By mid afternoon on Sunday, many are starting home. Bob Brown leaves at about 2:30. Brad and I stay the night and leave for home before 8 a.m. Monday. I can't wait to get home to see the pictures that Brad had posted on the Internet using his digital camera and laptop. Laurie, my beloved, had seen pictures of me and the track each day I was gone, thanks to Brad.

5:30 p.m.— I'm home at last, and begin to bore Laurie with tales of conquest. Would I recommend Thunderhill? *You bet!* Do I want to do it again? *And how!* Will I do it again? I'll ask my beloved.

— STEVE WAID



## Miatas at Monterey

August 14–16, 1998

Fans will be packed into the stands and strolling through the paddock, while engines rumble in the pit and the sun glints off hundreds of beautiful race cars. A combination that will not soon be forgotten—the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Monterey Historic Automobile Races and the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the year's honored marque—Porsche. Historic car enthusiasts by the tens of thousands from all over the world will be on the Monterey Peninsula for the world's most prestigious historic car race.



This year, Porsche's sportscar heritage will be highlighted both on and off the track during the weekend. Visitors can expect to see celebrity drivers and a selection of vehicles from the Porsche Museum in Germany. Other vintage/historic automotive events are taking place concurrently all over the peninsula.

The Monterey Historic Automobile Race's venue is Laguna Seca's challenging 2.238 mile, 11 turn road course. The racing features cars from the beginnings of motorsport in the early 1900s to the Formula 1s—fans will see Bugattis and Mercers, Porsches and Allards, Corvettes and Cobras, McLarens and Ferraris. The sight of these classic cars roaring by will rekindle the glory days of racing, which is what this weekend is all about. Begin planning now, as tickets and hotel rooms go early for this memorable weekend on the Monterey Peninsula.

The weekend offers a little bit of something for everyone. Whether you walk the paddock and talk to the drivers, explore the Expo displays and vendor booths, or cheer from the Miata tent or the grandstands, you won't go away disappointed in the Historics.

### Miata Event

Barb Beach of Miata Magazine, with some help from Mazda, is once again planning a Miata-tent event at the Historics on Saturday, August 15.

To attend the special Miata festivities and socialize in the shade of the "Miata Tent" you should purchase your race tickets\* from Barb in the special "Miata Combo Pack."



PHOTO: RAINER MUELLER

## Pea Soup Andersen's

April 4, 1998

**A** North County Wheels 'n Meals was organized by BOB and DEBBIE LLEWELLYN. We had a great buffet breakfast. A special treat after breakfast was a walk across the street to the Carlsbad Flower Fields which have benefitted from the El Niño rains. It was the perfect time to be there, as the color was spectacular.

We regrouped for a fun run through North County led by LOU STARK and DEBBIE LLEWELLYN, copilot, starting south along the coastline and then heading inland toward Elfin Forest. At one point the group split up, some following our illustrious leader MARK BOOTH for a "clean" run through Elfin Forest, which was a lot greener than it was a year ago after the fire. The brave few followed Lou and Debbie on Harmony Grove, one of those twisty roads designed specifically for the Miata. The short strip of hard-packed dirt [big muddy potholes,

puddles and gravel– Stef] at the end of this road was not enough deterrent to keep the rest of us from the fun of driving twisties on one of the best roads in San Diego— and it's not even listed on our Miata road map!

We met up with the "clean" group a little further on and RAINER MUELLER led us on a side trip along Lake Hodges. We then continued down Del Dios Highway into Olivenhain and hit a water crossing on El Camino Del Norte. Some of those "clean" drivers decided to backtrack rather than go through the water— it wasn't that deep, guys!

We met up again and headed for the coast, where we replenished our fluids at Yogi's in Cardiff. A few hardy souls continued the day with a run to Dudley's Bakery in Santa Ysabel.

— LOU STARK

The \$70 per person package includes:

- Saturday Race Ticket
- Miata-only Parking Corral Pass
- Breakfast, Lunch and day long refreshments in the shade of the Miata Tent

\*by purchasing your race tickets through Barbara you not will not only save Laguna Seca's service fee, but also help Barb reach the quota of race tickets that she must sell in order to have the privilege of renting a tent from Laguna

Seca! However, if you plan on attending all three days of racing at Laguna Seca, purchase their 3-day super ticket direct. 800-327-SECA or [www.laguna-seca.com](http://www.laguna-seca.com) Write Barb a note advising her that you have purchased a three-day ticket and order your Miata Tent/Corral Parking passes for \$35 per person.

Send your order and check to:

Barbara Beach  
1315 Buena Vista Drive  
Vista, CA 92083



## Club Web Page Gets a New Home

By the time you read this, our club Web page will be at its new home: <http://www.sandiegomiataclub.org>. Our club is now one of the half dozen or so Miata clubs that have a registered domain name.

What does this mean to our members? In terms of the Web experience, not much. You will still receive the same content as before, but at a new location. In terms of outside exposure, our club site will be more easily accessible through Web searches, which is very important to our rapidly growing club. A Web search for "Miata" will invariably bring up our club as one of the hits.



### Why the change?

I've been hosting our site on my server at work since the club founding two years ago. I work at a U.S. Government laboratory for marine mammal research, which can be rather difficult as I get to look at the ocean every day in La Jolla (hey, these four-hour workdays can get tiring). Recently, there was a government-wide policy restricting government web sites to official use only. So the time had come to find a new home for our Web page. After an exhausting search, pricing different hosts, the board decided to use Rainer Mueller's services to host our page.

### The Future

I am currently updating the Web page, changing the look of the format incorporating navigational features that use Java and Javascript. You can look at the test page at: <http://www.sandiegomiataclub.org/sdmctest.html>. The new features will allow for easier and faster navigation of the site's contents. When I have all of the bugs worked out, it will become our club's permanent page format.

I'll also be adding a FAQ (frequently asked questions) section for topics that have been discussed through our E-mail forum. This should help anyone who needs to find information quickly.

Please take a look at the new format and verify that it works well with your browser. If you encounter problems please contact me at: [robert@caliban.ucsd.edu](mailto:robert@caliban.ucsd.edu).

— ROBERT "JTBOB" HOLLAND

## E-Mail Software, Free for Members

You DON'T need to be on the Internet to use this. About 70% of the SAN DIEGO MIATA CLUB is on the club's private E-mail list— you can be too! Don't miss out on last-minute events or Tech Days.

Requirements: IBM-compatible computer, a 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 it is extremely easy to use.

Contact Frank Shine at an event.



PHOTOS: ED LANGMAID

## Malibu Grand Prix

April 15, 1998

14 Miatas, a few OTMs and 16 Schumacher wannabes braved the clear cool night to thrash the daylights out of some mini Formula 1 cars. The bragging started in the parking lot and quickly moved to the track area. Two hours and a total of 160+ laps later the results were in: Everyone had a GREAT time!

Top five times:

55:09 – Neal Howland

55:32 – Ed Langmaid

55:67 – John Godden

55:73 – "JT" Bob Holland

56:05 - Anthony "NBob" Wilde

I plan to organize another visit to the track in 3-4 months. Hope to see more members try their hands at the wheel of these fun little cars!

— MARK BOOTH



## The President's Song

Members who attended the Annual Meeting were afforded a pre-election glimpse into the life and chores of the club president set to music—in the dulcet tones of singer Luisa Corredor and with keyboard chops supplied by member Catherine Godden. And some think that we only converse in torque settings!

Rising early in the morning, you proceed to dust the car,  
Then inspect the undercarriage for those errant drops of tar.  
Now embark without delay on the duties of the day:

(First you polish off some scratches on the gas lid's hidden latches,  
And survey for any perished wasp or bee.)  
Then you put the coffee on, and you go inside to don  
Your club jacket with its cool embroideree.  
Then you start up with the engine's silky throb, to drive adroitly to a meeting, shop, or job.  
Do not neglect to take along the cover, if dust or fog or rainy clouds should hover!  
Now review the month's newsletter from designer and typesetter.  
They are shaky in thier spelling—clauses hard to construe are.  
Schedule friend- husband- or wife-time, for you ought to have some life-time.  
(And it generally happens they remember who you are.)  
Half an hour should be sufficient, if your planning is efficient,  
To restore a certain harmony or renew connubiance.  
Then (guaranteed to render *me* bored) spend some hours at the keyboard  
To answer angry E-mail from confused constituents!  
O you may be ambivalent on the chores of a president—  
Though you're granted recognition and a certain influence—  
But the privilege and pleasure that you treasure beyond measure  
Is to answer angry E-mail from confused constituents!

On the weekend, just for fun, you can follow on a run,  
As they peel out in a colorful array.  
For they like to go out riding with a bit of sideways sliding,  
Though at times somebody goes a bit astray—  
So you help them find the designated route, pursuing with a flashing light and toot.  
Now speak softly at the meeting place reserved—  
they're surly when they're somewhat slowly served!  
Then you trot out to the lot to see what new things they have bought,  
Please admire each new access'ry, soothe the technically forlorn,  
Or hunker down beneath to pull a new one's baby teeth,  
Or install for them a less-anemic, fine Italian horn.  
Maybe now a quick detail— then for home you hit the trail,  
To add up the new members, far beyond your fondest dreams.  
And with pleasure that's no mirage have a peek into the garage  
With the gratifying feeling your Miata's paint still gleams!  
O some envy is evident for the perks of a president,  
But in light of all the pressures and obligatory schemes,  
The perquisite and pleasure that you treasure beyond measure  
Is the gratifying feeling your Miata's paint still gleams!  
—TOM GOULD (with apologies to Sir W.S. Gilbert, *The Gondoliers*)



## New Members!

### Tom Anderson

Oceanside  
1990 Red Base

### David & Lori Bryan

Santee  
1992 Black C

### John & Victoria Canavan

Chino  
1992 Red A

### Bill Conklin

San Clemente  
Unreported

### Vicki & Vince Franano

San Diego  
1992 Red

### Dave & Pamela Hunt

Poway  
1999 White Leather

### Rich Karpp

San Diego  
1999 Silver Touring

### Christopher Littell

San Diego  
1999 Emerald Green Leather

### David Moore

Carlsbad  
1991 White A

### Donna & Rick Ramsey

Vista  
1991 Silver A

### Bruce Stanley

San Diego  
1995 White

The following members have renewed since the last newsletter:

### Jay & Deanna Atherton

### Robert L. Clarke

### Diane Long

### Mike Thomas

There are now 230 memberships consisting of 338 members.

75 Red  
52 White  
24 Black  
16 Montego Blue  
12 Silver  
10 Mariner Blue  
8 Laguna Blue  
6 BRG  
6 Starlight Blue  
5 Merlot  
4 Twilight Blue  
3 Marina Green  
2 Yellow  
2 Emerald Green  
6 Unreported





## President's Message



**New board members: Rainer Mueller, president; Barb Shev, secretary; Laurie Waid, treasurer and Voodoo Bob Krueger, vice president.**

**T**hank you all for entrusting me with the mantle of the SAN DIEGO MIATA CLUB presidency. I know I have some pretty big shoes to fill. Mark Booth has done an amazing job as the first president of the club. Under his leadership, a dozen San Diego area Miata enthusiasts who were on CompuServe's Miataville forum (which was then led by new club Vice President VOODOO BOB KRUEGER) became the nucleus of what is now the largest Miata club in California—the third largest Miata club in the country, and the fastest growing Miata club in the world—an outstanding feat.

CATHY and MARK BOOTH deserve all the accolades that can be heaped upon them. They have set the example that those who follow will strive to achieve. MARIANNE and I are truly indebted to them.

I was the guy that always said that I didn't want to be a member of a club that would have me as a member (thank you Groucho Marx!). Well....you can see that I've changed my tune. I'd be a fool not to be a member of such an outstanding club. The folks that make up the SAN DIEGO MIATA CLUB are not only members but they are my friends as well!

The new board is made up of some very familiar faces. New vice president Voodoo Bob Krueger with his wife VICKY are founding members and staunch supporters of this club. Voodoo Bob is a walking encyclopedia of Miata knowledge....and if it isn't in his head he knows where to find it.

LAURIE WAID is our new treasurer. Laurie and her husband STEVE have been members for just one year, but in that short time have become very involved in club events. Laurie follows in the footsteps of MARY and TONY BEECHER, who served as the first and second treasurers of the club. The Beechers were instrumental in making this club as financially secure as it is today.

Our new secretary is BARB SHEV, taking the reins from NATALIA RISSOLO, who just became engaged to fellow member JASON MOORHEAD. Barb and her husband ELLIOT are also longtime club members.

JTBOB HOLLAND will continue to be the webmaster of our Web site, which now has a new home at: [www.SanDiegoMiataClub.org](http://www.SanDiegoMiataClub.org). If you haven't been to our new site, you're in for a surprise....it's phenomenal! JT is also one of the founding club members.

Another founding member, ANTHONY "NEVADA BOB" WILDE will continue to act as editor of the what I consider to be the best newsletter I've ever seen.

Still another founding member, CINDY PALOMA, will be handling the E-mail list. The overwhelming majority of this club is connected via E-mail, and Cindy makes sure that all the messages end up where they are supposed to go.

And lastly, we have TOM and STEPHANIE Gould. This couple has devoted a major portion of their lives to make things go smoothly for this club. They design and layout our sensational newsletter. You've seen it—so you know. They have also worked on numerous other projects, and when they tackle something you know it will be done first class! It's no wonder that they were selected as "Members of the Year" for each of the past two years.

If you have any questions, problems, solutions, ideas, thoughts, or whatever regarding our club, I will continue to be available to you. As most of you know, I spend most of my time in front of my computer, so if you send me E-mail you'll end up getting a quick reply (according to some members, too quickly!).

I will work hard to continue to make this the best Miata club anywhere. I'll be counting on you to continue to develop and lead runs, find interesting places to host events, keep tagging Miatas you see, attending events, having a great time, and driving one of the best sports cars in the world.

—RAINER MUELLER

**"JT" Bob Holland copes with the cloudburst that moved the member's pre-meeting picnic indoors.**



**Members relax before the meeting as Anthony Wilde prepares his multimedia presentation of the club's previous year's activities.**

