



# SAN DIEGO MIATA CLUB NEWS



VOLUME 3 NUMBER 8

AUGUST 1998

A CHAPTER OF THE MIATA CLUB OF AMERICA

## UPCOMING EVENTS

 August 1—Saturday  
**4<sup>th</sup> Annual  
3 Miata Club Tech Day**  
and Pool Party— Fullerton

 August 1—Sunday  
**Autocross**  
Qualcomm Stadium parking lot

 August 8—Saturday  
**Twilight Run**  
joint run with Socalm

 August 9—Sunday  
**"Project Car" Tech Day**  
Timing belt and related items

 August 22—Saturday  
**Autocross**  
Qualcomm Stadium parking lot

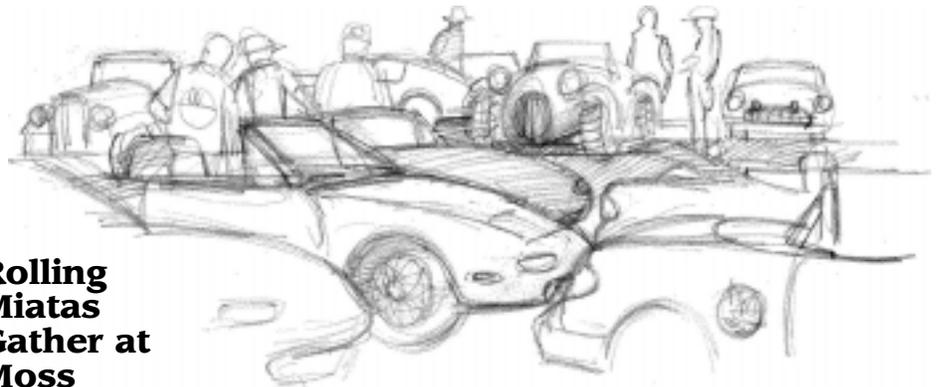
 August 27—Thursday  
**Monthly Meeting  
and MDA Raffle!**

 August 29—Saturday  
**Tour of Evans Garage**

 August 30—Sunday  
**Pool Party & Potluck**

 September 7—Monday  
**Muscular Dystrophy**  
Miatas Kick-Off the Drive

## From the Editor



### Rolling Miatas Gather at Moss

July 16-19

**A**lmost 100 Miatas mingled with MGs at the MOSS MOTORS 50<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY FESTIVAL near Solvang recently. Many other ancestral cousins of the Miata were also represented— Austin-Healey, Triumph, Jaguar, Morgan, Lotus and a passel of Minis as well. The SAN DIEGO MIATA CLUB was well represented once again with 53 members arriving in 30 Miatas.

The four-day event was held at the beautiful FLAG IS UP FARMS, on Highway 246 between Buellton and Solvang, just north of Santa Barbara. The weather was a bit on the toasty side, which made more than one Brit car owner envious of the Miata's air conditioning.

Events ranged from a rallye to several area wineries, answering questions along the way, to a much more rigorous Time, Speed and Distance rallye. A funkhana in a horse pasture ended with the driver and navigator balancing their car on a teeter-totter for as long as possible. The Miata showed some prowess here with its nearly perfect front to rear weight distribution. A slalom was held at the local airport, and there was even a darts contest.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8



PHOTO: STEVE WARD



## Win a '99 Red, Leather Package Miata!

The Lancaster (Pennsylvania) Jewish Community Center is raffling a '99 Red Leather Package Miata to help pay for their new fire safety system.

Tickets are \$100 each\* — only 500 tickets will be sold. Telephone credit card orders are accepted.

Contact Jeanne Hirsch in the evenings (remember this is Pennsylvania, so please don't call too late!) at (717) 569-2861.

Or call her during normal business hours (Eastern Daylight Time) at the Lancaster JCC (717) 569-7352.

\*Tickets are 50% tax deductible! and will be sent with the proper documentation for the taxman.

## AUTOCROSS AT THE MURPH



The following autocross events are tentatively scheduled to take place in the parking lot of the "Qualcomm Stadium at the Jack Murphy Sports Complex."

Come out and support our club members as they race against themselves and each other.

Sunday, August 2 . . . . . race day  
Saturday, August 22 . . . . . race day  
Saturday, October 17 . . . . . race day  
Saturday, October 31 . . . . . race day  
Saturday, December 12 . . . . . practice day  
Sunday, December 13 . . . . . race day

### To confirm autocross information call:

San Diego SCCA Hotlines (619) 441-1333  
(800) 360-4454

Web page <http://www.sdr-solo2.com/>  
Rainer Mueller (760) 439-0067  
John Godden (619) 538-6165

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### President

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

### Vice President

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

### Secretary

BARB SHEV  
(619) 679-0777  
mooncalf@aol.com

### Treasurer

LAURIE WAID  
(619) 672-0782  
swaid1@san.rr.com

### Membership

MARK BOOTH  
(619) 670-3789  
markbooth@home.com

### Autocross

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

### Club E-mail Postmaster

CINDY PALOMA  
(619) 534-0969  
sd-miata-request@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, 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

## SOCALM EVENTS

### Santa Paula Airport Run

**Date:** Sunday August 2

**Time:** 10 a.m.

**Place:** IHOP in Valencia

**Run Leaders:** Paul and Francie Pollock,  
(818) 362-6155 or paul@web-cars.com

Directions: I-5 to Lyons exit, turn left.

Fun run to the Santa Paula Airport open house— vintage airplanes on display.

### Placerita Canyon Run, Picnic, and Hike

**Date:** Saturday August 22

**Time:** 10 a.m. — 10:30 start

**Place:** Sam's Club in Sylmar

**Run Leaders:** Sam Hunter, (805) 522-2883  
or shunter@dtus.com and Jerry Bruce

Directions: Exit the 210 freeway at Maclay.

Go west to Foothill. Left on Foothill.

Right into the shopping complex. Meet outside Sam's Club/Taco Bell/El Pollo Loco. (Gas and food close by.)

This is a 20 mile run of good twisty stuff that ends in Placerita Canyon State Park. Bring a picnic lunch and walking shoes. \$3 parking fee at the park. There is a nature center in the park (good interactive exhibits for kids) and all sorts of hikes from mellow and short to more challenging and longer. One hike goes out to a nice waterfall (2-3 hours).

When leaving the park, you can drive out on the twisties again or take a different road to the 14 freeway.

### Driving School

**Date:** September 12-13

**Place:** The STREETS OF WILLOW SPRINGS,  
Lancaster, CA

**Coordinator:** Jim Tipton, (818) 880-6568  
jmtipton@pacbell.net

A two-day driving school on the STREETS OF WILLOW SPRINGS open to anyone with a Miata, from serious performance drivers to novices who have never been on a track. This is a driving school, not just time on a track. The instructors will be covering skid pad work, techniques of car control, threshold braking, heel and toe, and more. There will also be plenty of track time to work with your new-found knowledge. The two-day class is \$350 (regularly \$800).

The fee for a one-day class on Sunday, September 13 is \$250 (regularly \$400).

*Please respond if interested ASAP, as a \$150 non-refundable deposit is required by August 5<sup>th</sup>.*

### Socalm contacts:

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



#### 4<sup>th</sup> Annual—

#### Three Miata Club Tech Day

**Date:** Saturday, August 1

**Time:** 10:00 a.m. until after dark!

**Place:** The Conn's home in Fullerton

**Coordinators:** John & Gerry Conn,  
connjb@earthlink.net

John and Gerry are members of VROOM, SOCALM, and SDMC. Once again they are hosting a huge tech day and pool party.

*Bring:* Towel and bathing suits

Something to install in your car, tools, potluck dish (sodas will be provided)

**RSVP** with dish that you'll bring.

#### San Diego Twilight Fun Run A Joint Run with SOCALM

**Date:** Saturday, August 8

**Time:** 2:30 p.m. for late lunch,  
Run starts at 4:00 p.m.

**Place:** Oscar's Restaurant  
29375 Rancho California Road,  
Temecula

**Run Leaders:** Mark & Cathy Booth,  
(619) 670-3789, markbooth@home.com

Now in its fourth year, the *original* San Diego Twilight Fun Run! A leisurely and relaxing ride along some great East County roads during the late afternoon/early evening hours. You know... that special "twilight" period when the hot summer day slowly gives way to a comfortable summer night! A perfect time to enjoy some top-down driving!

Arrive early (2:30-ish) and enjoy some of Oscar's wonderful food. (Their garlic breadsticks are out of this world!) The run will start at 4:00 p.m., and will end at approximately 9:00 p.m. in southeast San Diego County (the Rancho San Diego area). There will be restroom and leg-stretch breaks along the route. A dinner stop is NOT part of the run. A "fill up" at Oscar's is recommended. Various fast food places are available at the end of the run.

**Directions to Oscar's:** Take the Rancho California Road exit off of I-15 in Temecula. Head east on Rancho California Road— Oscar's is on the right just past "The Pond." If Oscar's parking lot is full, we have permission to park in the Church parking lot just above Oscar's.

#### "Project Car" Timing Belt

**Date:** Sunday, August 9

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

**Place:** Barb and Elliot Shev's home,  
14425 Trailwind Road, Poway  
(619) 679-0777, cranial@aol.com

Members interested in learning and watching are invited. This job should take about 4-6 hours. Only one car will be worked on— the project car.

**Directions:** I-15, Rancho Bernardo exit EAST. Continue for about 5 miles. The first street on your left after Lake Poway Rd. (signal light) is Trailwind Rd.

#### Monthly Meeting at Boll Weevil and MDA Raffle\*

**Date:** Thursday, August 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! \*See page 5.

#### Evans Garage Tour and Fun Run

**Date:** Saturday, August 29

**Time:** 9:00-ish — breakfast  
10:15 a.m. — leave for Evans Garage

**Place:** Perry's Cafe  
4620 Pacific Highway— Old Town area

**Run Leaders:** Stef & Tom Gould  
(619) 298-8605, stef@miata.net

The Evans Garage houses a small, private collection of classic and vintage automobiles that is not open to the public. Five dollars admission per person will pay for a very knowledgeable guide who will open the garage— just for the SAN DIEGO MIATA CLUB.

This will be a classic fun run: eat, look at cars, drive, eat and drive!

Following breakfast at Perry's, we'll drive to Evans Garage for a personalized tour of the dream garage of every car fanatic. After the tour we'll go on a short fun run through some of San Diego's more interesting industrial parks which are fairly deserted on the weekends. (This idea was first introduced to us by member Woody Woodhouse in a borrowed Ferrari.) Lunch will follow.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 5

## UPCOMING NATIONAL AND REGIONAL EVENTS

August 8 or November 28, 1998

#### Buttonwillow Raceway Driving School

\$150. Includes skid-pad exercises, threshold braking exercises, cornering techniques, skid recovery, etc.

8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. Helmet, driver's license, and safety inspection required.  
Buttonwillow Raceway, (805) 764-5333

August 14–16, 1998

#### 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Monterey Historic Races Laguna Seca Raceway, Monterey, CA

(800) 327-7322,  
www.laguna-seca.com  
Miata events:  
miata.net/calendar.html

September 18–20, 1998

#### "Rock Around the Clock"

SAMOA's 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Gold Rush  
Sheraton Hotel, Rancho Cordova, CA

Time & Distance Rallye, Fun Run, Optional Autocross, Funkhana, Vendors, 1950's Costume Contest and More!  
Mazda North America President & CEO Richard Beattie will be the keynote speaker at Saturday's dinner.

Registration info: (916) 646-4435 or  
mcmxv@pacbell.net  
Web site: www.samo.org

October 16–18, 1998

#### Multiple-Club Hearst Castle Weekend

Contact Bari, bhyde@earthlink.net  
*reserve your spot by September 1*

Meet 9 a.m. Saturday at the Madonna Inn's parking lot for a fun run followed by a special evening tour of the castle

November 13–15, 1998

#### Coronado Classic Speed Festival

SAN DIEGO MIATA CLUB is planning events to enhance the historic race weekend

January 16-18, 1999

#### Whale Watching Weekend

SAN DIEGO MIATA CLUB will play host to SAHAURO MIATA CLUB: join us for a weekend chock full of fun!

May 6–9, 1999

#### Miata World '99

Miata 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration,  
MCA sanctioned national event  
Lone Star Miata Club (Dallas/Ft. Worth)

*This Event is Almost Full, Register Now!*

\$295 couple, \$225 solo before 11/30/98  
Web site: www.Miata99.com  
Toll free info: (877) MIATA 99  
Door prize will be a '99 Miata!





PHOTOS: JACK MONACO

## Puerto Nuevo Lobster Lunch Fun Run

June 20, 1998

First, we would like to start by thanking JACK MONACO and Diane for a truly memorable run! We crossed the border into Mexico one Saturday morning for a great adventure, with "Mariner" playing sweep. Jack led the Miata South-of-the-Border gang to a restaurant he has frequented many times over the years.

Before lunch, we made our first stop at the drive-thru window for Mexican insurance for those who had not previously obtained insurance. Next stop—the Border. We were all able to stay together and once through the Border, we were on our way.

The experience of fried lobster is one not to be missed. Ten Miatas arrived at Puerto Nuevo and found parking. The attention from folks showed that people everywhere love these little cars! We walked a very short distance and waited in line to get into the restaurant. The wait was not long and of course there was the smell of the lobsters being cooked drifting in the gentle breezes blowing around us. We were getting very hungry! We soon made our way into the restaurant and occupied two large tables.

After a very filling lunch (lobster was not the only thing on the menu), we walked out of the restaurant and there was a much longer line now waiting to get in. We walked around the area and passed by many shops and vendors selling jewelry, clothing, iron works, pottery, and beautiful brightly colored glass, and all were tempting us to take some home. Some good deals were made that afternoon!

After lunch, six brave Miatas journeyed down to Ensenada to enjoy some of Baja's more scenic coastline, culminating with a brief stopover in downtown Ensenada. I believe more folks would have spent the night had they planned ahead. We stayed at the



San Nicholas Hotel and Resort, just a short walk from the downtown shopping district. For \$88.00 a night for a deluxe suite, this Hotel had it all! Indoor and outdoor pools, Jacuzzi, Sports Bar with Caliente betting, restaurant and nightclub, you couldn't ask for more. They even had secure parking with an armed guard to boot.

As far as rough roads went, there really were none on the coast road or Highway One, except for the occasional pot hole which the Miata seems prone to weave around! There were a half dozen speed bumps as we entered downtown Ensenada that were somewhat wicked, but none of the six Miatas in company seemed to have any problems going over them slowly.

Did a little shopping, drank a few Cervezas, ate VERY WELL, (it's that drive, eat, drive, eat thing...) and in general had a hell of a good time. Jack and Diane did a fabulous job of pulling this together,

and I think more folks need to join us for some real fun next time!

Jack, we want to do this again!

—JOANNA and SCOTT LANGHOFF



## 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual SDMC Pool Party

Date: Sunday, August 30

Time: 2:00 – 7:00 p.m.

Place: Frank Shine & Stephen DeLonge's home— Shine5@bigfoot.com

Bring: swimsuits and towels, folding chairs for the patio (if you have them) your main dish, and a dish to share.

Come splash away the heat in the big old pool at Frank & Steve's mid-60's vintage secluded "retreat in the canyon." We'll have some soft drinks (BYO alcohol if desired), and a BBQ grill or two. Lots of room to sit and enjoy, inside and out!

## Tustin Thunder (Vintage Automobile Races )

Date: Saturday, September 19

Time: TBA

Coordinator: Phil Daoust, bearschili@aol.com

Ken Evory and Phil Daoust are planning to drive up to the vintage races. If you care to join the guys for the day, watch this space in next month's newsletter or contact Phil for the particulars later in the month.

## CONCOURS CALENDAR

August 14 (Friday) CONCOURS ITALIANO, Quail Lodge, Carmel Valley  
Featuring Alfa Romeo

August 16 (Sunday) PEBBLE BEACH CONCOURS D'ELEGANCE, Pebble Beach  
The two concours above are held each August in conjunction with the Monterey Historic Races

October 4 (Sunday) NEWPORT BEACH CONCOURS D'ELEGANCE, Pelican Hill Golf Course, Newport Beach

October 18 (Sunday) TORREY PINES CONCOURS D'ELEGANCE, The Lodge at Torrey Pines  
Featuring Alfa Romeo

## CLUB SWEATSHIRTS

If you pre-ordered a club sweatshirt, they have been at almost every meeting and event, waiting for you since April!

The hold is over— all sweatshirts and long-sleeve T-shirts will be for sale to the general membership at the August 27<sup>th</sup> Monthly Meeting.

We also will have short-sleeve T-shirts in ash and white, as well as pins, static-cling decals in every car color, watches, and engraved glass mugs.



MDA FILE PHOTO

## Miles Of Miatas for MDA

Steve and Jack Hinkle have once again arranged for the club to participate in the "kickoff" of the local Muscular Dystrophy Association Telethon on Labor Day, Monday, September 7<sup>th</sup>.

SDMC participants will caravan to the MDA fishbowl located in front of the Sheraton Hotel-Harbor Island, proceed to a parking lot close by and then staff the pledge phones for approximately one hour. Last year KUSI videotaped 30 Miatas driving by— dropping donations in the fishbowl.

The Hinkles are also arranging a lunch spot and an afternoon MDA Fun Run when we have finished staffing the phones. Additionally, other San Diego car clubs are challenged to join SDMC in supporting MDA and "Jerry's Kids."

**Mark your calendars— you won't want to miss this raffle!**

Club members can also support MDA by attending our Monthly Meeting on

Thursday, August 27<sup>th</sup>. The Hinkles have been busy contacting Miata vendors for raffle prizes. 100% of the monies collected will be passed along to MDA. Some of the vendors participating are: BRAINSTORM, CLEARWATER, CRAZY RED ITALIAN, CUSH MAZDA, DISCOUNT TIRE, JUST DINGS, MOSS MOTORS, NORTH COAST TARPAULIN, and POINT LOMA EMBROIDERY.

Last year the SDMC raised over \$1,400, with 52 Miatas in attendance, at the Monthly Meeting's raffle. With our club's spirit we should have no trouble doubling the attendance at this year's MDA Event. Tickets for this special raffle will be \$5 each or five for \$20— you can purchase raffle tickets with checks made out to MDA for a tax-deduction!

Chris Skinner, District Director for MDA is in need of volunteers for this upcoming MDA Telethon and for other events throughout the year. If you are interested in becoming a volunteer, please call MDA at (619) 492-9792.

## Looking for a Roll Bar?

You'll notice that many club members are driving around with a roll bar on their Miatas. Fortunately San Diego is not only home to some of the finest weather and Miata roads in the country, but also home for the country's premier roll bar manufacturer: AUTOPOWER.

These are four point true roll bars— meant to protect you in the event of a roll over accident— unlike style bars. The roll bars are SCCA approved and allow the use of both the soft and hard tops. As an added benefit, if you have a 1990-3 Miata, the roll bar offers much-needed body stiffening.

Club President Rainer Mueller has worked out a special deal with AUTOPOWER— they offer club members their roll bars at dealer cost when we make a group order. Rainer has put together two deals like this previously, and now several members have approached him to see when he'll be doing it again.

Well, now is the time. If you'd like to get in on this deal send a check for \$181. which includes the roll bar and tax, to:

Rainer Mueller  
1906-G Oceanside Blvd. #102  
Oceanside, CA 92054-4423

Rainer has also arranged to have these roll bars professionally installed for \$150. at DAVE TURNER MOTORSPORTS in San Diego.

Questions? Call Rainer at (760) 439-0067 or E-mail at rainer@thegrid.net.



# I Don't Do Parades

July 4, 1998

I don't care if she's Miss America, she ain't puttin' no dents in *my* trunklid! That's what I said last year when the SAN DIEGO MIATA CLUB participated in its first Scripps Ranch Independence Day parade. No "real" blues? Too bad; I don't do parades.

Well, this year I sorta felt bad about last year's lack of true blue, so I said OK, I'll do the parade. But NO WAY am I

gonna put my wipers in the up position and run them for two hours with some silly flags on the end!

But I'm easy. My bark is worse than my bite, and in the end I wound up not only doing the parade, but also waving my silly wiper flags for its duration. And you know, the funny thing is that, for me at least, the flag waving was the most rewarding part of the whole day. We had 26 Miatas in all, three rows of one each

red, white, and blue, followed by row after row of multi-colored Miatas— all waving their wiper flags and decorated with flags, ribbons, decals, and various other patriotic paraphernalia. And the crowd loved it! I must have heard a hundred comments from the sidelines about how cool those flags were. Kids waved and yelled "Cool car!" (I'm always encouraged by youngsters who appreciate what is and what isn't a "cool" car. To me, that appreciation means there's hope for this society after all.) Parents waved and said "Ooh, look at the flags!" And you know what?

I actually had a good time. I think the flags were the main reason we moved up from last year's third place award to this year's second. Can we beat the

Model As next year? Well, maybe, if we get more cars and bigger flags.

Will I do it again next year? We'll see— can't be *too* easy, you know. But at least I found out that you can do a

parade, have a good time, and not have to visit JUST DINGS to relieve stress dimples in the trunk afterward. And we do need a few of those "real" blues, after all.

—VOODOO BOB KRUEGER



PHOTO: PHIL DAoust



PHOTO: CATH PHILLIPS



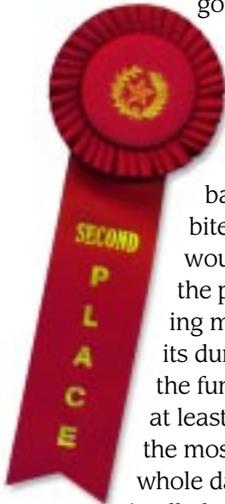
PHOTO: BRAD BROWN



PHOTO: SCOTT SCHROEDER



PHOTO: TONY AND MARY BIECHER



## Aftermarket Goodies (aka "the Money hole")

This month's featured item "speaks" for itself! And the photo is worth a thousand words too. Yep, it's the COBRA

75 WX ST, a 40 Channel CB with a remote mount installation system. The entire unit (see photo) of the CB fits in the palm of your hand—all the controls are in the microphone, including

the speaker. In addition to all the normal bells and whistles, this unit features four memory channels, 10 weather channels, and a "Sound Tracker" system that dramatically reduces noise level, even with the squelch wide open. Another handy feature is a "Dual Watch" mode which allows simultaneous monitoring of any TWO pre-selected channels. (I personally like this, as when on a Club fun run, I can monitor what's going on in the group *and* carry on personal (NMC!) conversations on another channel.



This is really a great unit with a tiny remote mount system (half the size of a pack of smokes) that fits under or behind the seats, and replaces those big old units on other models that were attached under the dash. Looking into the car a thief wouldn't know you had a CB with the palm unit tucked between the seats out of sight. Many members in the club have added "splitters" to their OEM antennas, thus giving NO sign of a CB installation, and having full-time CB use.

This CB is a bit pricey, (\$120. with club discount from the MUD SHACK, (619) 464-6855, in San Diego) but considering the additional features and great convenience of all controls in the microphone, still a value for your money.

On the 1 to 10 scale, I give it a 10. It's a gem!

Until next time, save your nickels and dimes, you never know when you'll find something you just gotta have for your baby!

—PHIL DAOUST

## From Cyberspace to Helena's Place

June 27, 1998

It was a small group of seven Miatas scheduled to meet at the 101 Cafe in Oceanside for the beginning of a time warp adventure. We would be on our way to "This Old House" of former actress Helena Modjeska.

Before meeting, Miata cyber-voyagers could preview this run on the "Information Superhighway." Both the starting point and destination are on the Web. Thanks to the web site designed by Ranier Mueller, I read the interesting history of the 101 Cafe (1928) and even selected an omelet from the menu.

There was a cyber preview of Helena's house to check out and then click over to MapQuest to download a map to the 101 Cafe. It was time to disconnect from the virtual world, rev up the mighty Miata and hit the real road.

Soon our little group meandered in and off we went with STEF AND TOM GOULD in the lead. Not far from suburban Mission Viejo we were in the back country and back in time. We drove through a beautiful California Oak-covered road leading to the Modjeska Canyon, Road and Home.

Helena was a Polish Shakespearean actress in the late 1800s. She came to the United States in 1876, taught herself English and first performed in San Francisco in 1877. Despite her poor English, her performance was a critical success! She made five cross-country road tours in the US, in 1881 toured Britain and fulfilled her ambition to play Shakespeare on the London stage.

In 1890 she commissioned well-known New York architect, Stanford White, to remodel her ranch house. For decades it was an artists' haven. Today it is in a state of partial restoration. The grounds have as much potential for restoration as the house. With outdoor "cathedrals" created by towering oaks, it could be a wonderful example of old California landscaping. Hopefully there will be future funding to make it a reality.

It was a wonderful day and a unique run for those with a special interest in historical preservation. Perhaps there will be others in the future.

— BOB HYLAND



PHOTO: TOM GOULD

Modjeska House Historic Park



**From the Editor** CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

The spirit and fun of the SDMC was, once again, a central feature of the nightly awards events. Members cheered for everyone who was called up, and were quite vocal and exuberant when SDMC members received their accolades.

Friends had fun together and new friendships were forged with owners of the British cars. One British car couple was heard to remark that the fun the SDMC seemed to be having was what the British car clubs were like in years past.

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PHOTO: STEVE WAID



PHOTO: ED LANGMAID



PHOTO: STEVE WAID

Upper right: The field was crowded with 500 or so cars—400 of all types of British, and nearly 100 Miatas. Club members got together for eating, including at the historic Cold Spring Tavern, right. You can't send the kid up in a crate like that—Steve Waid goes aloft in the Tiger Moth. Below, rallyeists in search of wine.



PHOTO: FRIENDLY MOTORCYCLIST



PHOTO: ED LANGMAID



PHOTO: STEVE WAID



## Moss 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Slalom Event

July 18, 1998

Early Saturday morning, Jack and I, along with Steve Waid, headed to the Santa Ynez Airport for the hard surface slalom venue. This was Jack's first time driving the Miata in an autocross and I wanted to record the event on video. The course was a maze of orange cones that all seemed to come together in one big orange blob as I viewed it from the parking area. I could not imagine how anyone could figure out how to get through this while driving.

Jack was in position to begin the course and I was overcome by excitement. I watched intently through the video camera as he maneuvered the course, keeping my fingers crossed in hopes that he would have a clean run. Every time another Miata approached the starting line my excitement would build and then it hit me—I want to participate in this event. Jack had completed his third lap and returned to the parking lot. Hesitantly I informed him that I wanted to participate in the event. He looked at me straight on and encouragingly said, "If you want to drive the course, then go for it."

Never in my wildest dreams would I have thought I would be maneuvering



PHOTOS: SUE HINKLE

our Miata through a hard surface slalom. I approached the start line with shaking hands, knocking knees and sweat dripping off my face. I looked out over the maze of orange cones and thought to myself, "Oh God, I'll probably knock them all down." Then I heard a voice say, "whenever you're ready, Sue." Once I was in motion I could see the outline of the course, each curve was challenging and there was little room for driver error.

Earlier I watched a Miata lose it on the big curve near the end of the course, knocking down a lot of cones, and I wanted to get through that curve clean. In no time I was at the finish line and I heard them announce my time with no penalties. Yippie! I did it, maybe not in record time but those orange cones were still standing and my goal was to run the course clean. I approached the starting line for the next two laps a little more confidently, improved my time with each lap and kept those damn orange cones upright through both laps.

The best part of the day was seeing that big smile on Jack's face and hearing him tell me, "You did great, hon." It was a great day and I'm hooked, next stop the "Q"

—SUE HINKLE



PHOTO: MARK BOOTH



PHOTO: MICHELLE LANGMAID



PHOTO: DIANE LONG



PHOTO: MARK BOOTH

SDMC members showed off their talents: Art Hamilton and the SDMC "Rayettes" get down at Karaoke Night. Ed Langmaid and Elliot Shev display perfect balance during the Funkhana. "JT" Bob Holland goes up against the Brits in the Darts Tournament. Voodoo Bob Krueger comes in second in the "Creeper Race," (Winning our vote for first in style and athletic form).





PHOTO: ED LANGMAID



PHOTO: STEVE WAID



PHOTO: DIANE LONG



PHOTO: CATHY BOOTH

Members who drove the Wine Country Rallye visited great swaths of Santa Ynez Valley and its vineyards, from mega-producers to charming cottage wineries. At lower left, Anglo-Saxon Iron—invasion of the Society for Creative Anachronism. Below, the Miatas stand ready for judging.



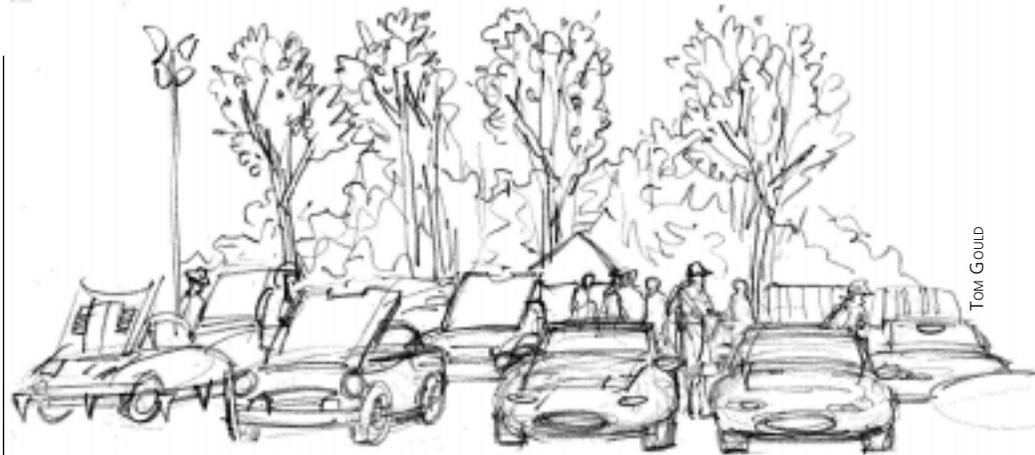
PHOTO: CATHY BOOTH



PHOTO: MARK BOOTH

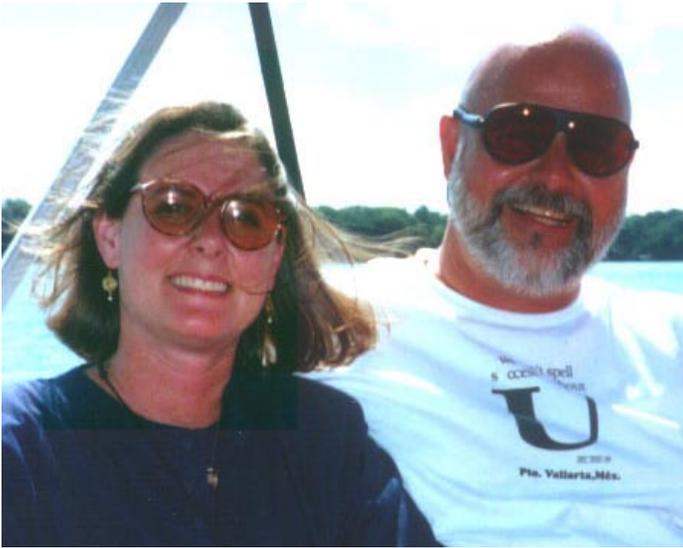
On Sunday we left for home a little more tanned, lighter in the wallet (thanks to the bargains at the MOSS MOTORS tent) and content with the knowledge that the Miata is the true descendant of the British roadsters that came before. A slight irony was that all of the Miatas drove to and from the event, while several British cars were trailered to the event and a couple more had to be trailered away at the end.

Take care and HAVE FUN!  
—ANTHONY WILDE



TOM GOULD





## Member Profile

MARIANNE AND RAINER MUELLER

President Rainer Mueller is one of the founding members of the SAN DIEGO MIATA CLUB. In October 1995 he put together a run made up basically of San Diego area Miata enthusiasts who were on Compuserve's MIATAVILLE forum. From those first 15 cars which took part in that run (through northern San Diego and southern Riverside counties, including Couser Canyon), the nucleus of the club was formed.

Rainer was born in Germany in 1950 and came to this country with his family to New York in 1955. In 1960 his family moved to a small town in South Dakota. In 1967 he got his first car, a 1965 four-door Corvair. After entering the University of South Dakota in 1968, Rainer got his first Corvette, a 1964 red convertible which had been sideswiped in an accident. As it was being rebuilt, he got another Corvette, a 1966 dark blue convertible with white soft top and dark blue hard top. About that time he got his first insurance premium bill for owning two Corvettes. A quick decision was made to trade both of these Corvettes even-up for a new 1969 Corvette—a decision he regrets to this day, since that new car was a lemon.

After owning that Corvette for only six months, three of which were spent at the dealer's getting continually repaired, General Motors finally agreed it was a lemon and traded for a 1969 Camaro SS/RS and cash. As you can see, Rainer's education in sports cars came at a very early age.

In 1969 Rainer traveled to Yellowstone National Park with a friend in the Camaro on vacation. While they were there they picked up three hitchhiking girls who worked in the park. They were going from their work site at Fishing Bridge to a dance at Lake (both on the shores of Yellowstone Lake). When they told

Rainer and his friend that the ratio of girls to boys working in the park was eight to one, Rainer decided to stay and work in the park, and paid for his friend's plane ticket back to South Dakota.

On his first day of working at Fishing Bridge he was assigned to clean cabins with a southern belle from Montgomery, Alabama. Three years later, after an extended long distance romance, Rainer and Marianne Till were married. By this time Rainer was in the Navy, stationed in San Diego, getting ready to be shipped to Camp Pendleton.

Rainer and Marianne had two children. Eric, who was born in 1980, died in 1993 after eating an E.coli contaminated hamburger. Nikki, who was born in 1982, is currently a sophomore at Oceanside High School.

As a result of Eric's death, Rainer became very involved in the issue of pathogenic E.coli and food safety. He moderated and gave a speech at a Congressional symposium in Washington, DC in February 1995. Apparently

some White House staffers attended the meeting since immediately after returning to California, Rainer was invited to the White House to meet with President Clinton and Vice President Gore. During this trip back to Washington two weeks later, Rainer also testified before Congress.

Rainer has gone to Washington several more times, meeting with the Secretary of Agriculture, the head of food safety, senators, congressmen, meat industry executives and food inspectors. In 1996 Rainer was elected as president of STOP, SAFE TABLES OUR PRIORITY, a grassroots organization made up of E.coli victims and families. Through his spearheading, the meat inspection laws of this country, which were enacted in 1907, were finally brought up to date. In July 1996 Rainer was again invited to the White House to witness the President signing the new legislation.

Rainer got his 1995 white Miata in March 1995 via the phenomenal lease program, and purchased the car in March 1998 under the lease buyout. He hasn't made any performance modifications to the car since he is an avid autocrosser and runs in the stock class. But the car does have a Voodoo shift knob and brake handle, air horns, a roll bar, a wind screen, four more interior lights, upgraded door speakers, a ten inch woofer, a 300-watt amplifier, and custom mag wheels.

Rainer served as vice president of the club last year and this year is serving as president. He is known as the king of North County roads and has led the club on many interesting runs over these roads.



## New Members!

The following are the new members since the last newsletter:

### David Anderson

Temecula  
1999 Emerald Green PEP

### Ronald Bougher

Spring Valley  
1990 Hunter Green B

### Gale Chan

San Diego  
1999 Red PEP

### Torrance Deguzman-Yao

Corona  
1997 Montego Blue Base

### Penny & Charles Gannett

Fallbrook  
1994 Laguna Blue B

### Desiree C. Herrera

San Diego  
1992 Red B

### John & Debbie Huber

Spring Valley  
1992 Silver A

### Janey Jones

San Diego  
1997 Black PEP

### John Lawler

San Diego  
1990 Red A

### Patric Lynam & Renee Kim

San Diego  
1993 White C

### Izzy & Jeanette Maggay

Oceanside  
1999 Red

### David & Dawn Milne

San Diego  
1990 Red B

### Marla & Scott Mitro

Spring Valley  
1997 M (Marina Green)

### Michael & Lisa Podrup

Poway  
1993 Black C

### Paul & Robin Przybysz

Cardiff  
1990 Mariner Blue A

### Allen P. Salgado

San Diego  
1999 Red R

### Michael & Elinor Shack

San Diego  
1999 Red Leather

### Genai & Jay Stoneburner

Poway  
1999 White Leather

### Ken & Carla Jean Tooker

San Diego  
1990 Red A

### Robert & Darline Valentine

San Diego  
1999 Red Leather

The following members have renewed since the last newsletter:

### Ken & Barbara Barton

### Ron & Reina Bolles

### Rick Connelly

### Ian Dacanay

### Greg & Kris Dunlap

### Alan & Debbie Elster

### Ken Evory

### Betty Finch

### Dwight & JoAnn Fisher

### Marty Foltyn & Jim Wirt

### Leonard & Lois Garth

### John & Catherine Godden

### Steven & Yvonne Hart

### James W. Hind

### Anna, Craig & Evan Jameson

### Dale & Linda Lee

### John M. O'Hara

### Natalia M. Rissolo & Jason Moorhead

### Steven L. Schock

### Richard Taylor

### Woody & Maggi Woodhouse

### Takashi & Karen Yamamoto

### Tonya Zalenski

### Jamie E. Zuieback

There are now 261 memberships consisting of 387 members.

- 87 Red
- 57 White
- 31 Black
- 15 Montego Blue
- 13 Silver
- 11 Laguna Blue
- 9 Mariner Blue
- 8 BRG
- 7 Merlot
- 6 Starlight Blue
- 5 Marina Green
- 5 Twilight Blue
- 3 Emerald Green
- 2 Yellow
- 1 Cranberry Mica
- 1 Hunter Green
- 4 Unreported

## Guidelines for Sharing the 'Project Car' On the Track



As offered— Phil and Elliot, Project Car owners, will let members interested in testing their driving skills autocross the Project Car at the Q. However, there are a few "rules." Here they are:

1. You must work on the car during Tech Sessions, or be there to learn.
2. Be a current SCCA member and have your own SCCA-assigned racing number.
3. Have your own set of magnetic numbers to display on the car.
4. You must pay your own daily SCCA autocross fee to drive at the Q.
5. Pay Phil and Elliot \$25 for wear and tear on the car each day you drive.
6. Only one or two members can share the Project Car on any given day.

First come, first served.

—See you at the Q.

MKS Racing

## New Discount for Members!

ALLEN'S WRENCH — a nice, clean shop owned by a Mazda Master Technician (Dennis Allen) and is fully ASE Certified. This shop is highly recommended by Frank Shine who likes the service so much he drives there from his San Diego State College-area home!

ALLEN'S WRENCH,  
1620 Grand Avenue, Suite 8, San Marcos  
(760) 744-1192— Hours: M-F 7:30 - 5:30  
Discount: 10% (except on oil changes, which are already well priced)



## Rainer's Ramblings

**A**ren't you glad you live in the San Diego area? While the rest of the country is melting, we're enjoying our famous San Diego weather. And then match that with the best assortment of roads anywhere! It just isn't fair, is it?

Whether you prefer the city, the beach, the country, the mountains, the desert or even a foreign country, all of it is just minutes away. All of it is top-down Miata weather!

I don't know about you, but I drive with my top down all the time— unless it's raining, and other than this past El Niño-year, my top hasn't been up all that often. In fact, when it is up, people mistake my car for a new Miata because the top looks so darn good!

When I'm cruising the San Diego roads and I come upon a Miata that has its top up, I really feel sorry for the folks inside. Maybe they don't want to mess up their hair— which definitely is not my problem. Lately I've seen a red Miata cruising around Oceanside with its hard top on— I mean, what's that all about? I've been tempted to follow the woman driver and ask her if she knows that the top comes off, and that the car is a real roadster complete with a built-in soft top!

Since we're so fortunate, it's only fair that we share our good fortune with other Miata owners. So, in the Fall of 1999 our club will host a regional event called Surf'n'Safari. This affair will showcase what we almost take for granted to the rest of the country. We plan on having a beach party, runs through some of our favorite roads, vendors, entertainment, and a host of other events which will undoubtedly be so popular that there will be an outcry if we don't turn this extravaganza into a yearly event. As more information becomes available on this, you'll be the first to know.

Our club membership is growing by leaps and bounds! July, alone, saw twenty new members! That means our club now exceeds 260 cars and 385 people! One of the nice things I like hearing from the new members is how readily they're accepted into our club

and how friendly everyone is to them. Isn't that the way it should be?

The July Monthly Meeting raised almost \$250 for the San Diego chapter of the Muscular Dystrophy Association with a wild raffle. The August Monthly Meeting will have even more spectacular prizes to win. And not only can you win, but "Jerry's Kids" are also winners.

I urge you to attend the August Monthly Meeting and take part in the phenomenal raffle. And it looks like we may be on TV again as part of the MDA Telethon. There's a challenge out to the local car clubs to see which group can raise the most money, last year our club raised over \$1300, and with so many more members this year, I'm sure we'll do even better, and at the same time maybe humble some of those other car clubs, eh?

This past month our club once again had the largest contingent at the Moss Motors event near Solvang. Several people got to try autocrossing for the first time and it appears a few of them are now also addicted. There's even been a question on our E-mail list as to what the best tire is for autocrossing a Miata. August should prove to be the autocrossing debut for Elliot Shev's and Phil Daoust's beautiful "Project Car" Miata— stay tuned. John Godden has proven to be unbeatable in the stock Miata class in local autocross racing. At the last autocross no fewer than eight club members entered their cars in the competition at "The Q" — the finest autocrossing venue in the entire country, with runs of over 90 seconds each! Congratulations to them all.



PHOTO: RAINER MUELLER

**Cindy Paloma, firmly attached to Jumpmaster Jim Phillips, drifts down toward SDMC members for a smooth landing. Cindy has promised to write an illustrated article for next month's newsletter!**

Speaking of congratulations, I sure hope Cindy Paloma and Richard Scherschel have their feet once again planted firmly on the ground. These two club members jumped out of a perfectly good airplane and lived to tell about it. Thanks(?) go to Cath and Jim Phillips who gave them the opportunity(?) to do this. In fact, it was Jim and Cindy who jumped tandem. I've got photos to prove it. [See above] And I doubt if we'll ever be able to get the smiles off of their faces!

August looks to be another exciting month of activities. Everything from tech days, autocrossing, the Monterey Historic, the famous Twilight Run, the MDA raffle and more will make you glad you are a member of the SAN DIEGO MIATA CLUB.

Keep your top down!  
—RAINER MUELLER, El Presidente

