



SAN DIEGO MIATA CLUB NEWS

VOLUME 3 NUMBER 9

SEPTEMBER 1998

A CHAPTER OF THE MIATA CLUB OF AMERICA

UPCOMING EVENTS



September 7—Monday
MDA—Miles of Miatas



September 10—Thursday
Wheels n' Meals
Big Stone Lodge, Poway



September 13—Sunday
Detailing Tech Day



September 19—Saturday
**Tustin Thunder
Vintage Auto Races**



September 24—Thursday
Monthly Meeting



October 11—Sunday
Living Desert Tour



October 17—Saturday
Autocross



October 18—Sunday
**Torrey Pines
Concours d'Elegance**



October 25—Sunday
Getty Museum Trip



October 31—Saturday
Autocross



November 1—Sunday*
Halloween Rallye
**note date change!*



November 7—Saturday
Lobster Lunch Redux
Ensenada Overnight Option

From the Editor

What's In a Name?

*That which we call a rose
By any other name would smell as sweet
(Romeo and Juliet, Act 2, Scene 2)*

Miata is not the first name our favorite little car had. Before this name was arrived at, the car had other names, and continues to have other names in other parts of the world.

Not long after BOB HALL drew his chalkboard sketch in 1979 (SDMC News Vol. 3, Number 4, page 8), the car that we now know got its first real name. Mazda gave it a project number of P729.

From the early concept sketches to the full-sized clay models, P729 was what our car was known as. A fully-functional prototype was built in England and shipped to Santa Barbara for testing. This one of a kind car had a special designation as V705.

In most countries around the world, MX-5 is the designation for Mazda's open sports car. This fits with most of the other sporty cars in the Mazda product line, MX-3 and MX-6 as well as RX-7.

Until recently, Mazda did not sell the Miata in Japan. The car was sold under a different product line of Eunos (U Nose) and the model was called Roadster. With the release of the '99 car, the Eunos line has gone away, and the Roadster is now a Mazda product in Japan.

A number of SDMC members have removed their Mazda badges from the rear of their car and affixed a Roadster badge instead. Member ELLIOT SHEV brought some back from Japan, but now you can purchase them from several Miata parts vendors. Interestingly, there are companies in Japan selling Miata badges to replace the Roadster badges.

Due to stringent licensing requirements for used cars in Japan, Roadsters are shipped to other right-hand drive countries to be sold. New Zealand has been receiving the cars for several years and now they are making their way into the home islands of the UK. The cars are shipped into Northern Ireland where they are then sold. A recent visitor from England noted that these cars are considered suspect, since they have no Mazda dealer history. It seems that in England, all of the cars are sold through the dealer, new and used. Each car has a complete history with it and any car that does not is worth less.

The marketing people in Mazda felt a car had to have a name for the American market. Various names were tossed around, and one that rose to the top of the list was Laguna. Since the car was designed in Irvine, very close to Laguna Beach, this seemed rather appropriate.

Another name that came to the front was Miata. People liked the way it rolled off the tongue, Mazda Miata. Of course everyone said "What does it mean?"

CONTINUED ON PAGE 5



SOCALM EVENTS

Tustin Thunder Potluck Dinner

Date: Saturday, September 19

Time: after the races

Place: Gracie and Ralph Alder's home
13501 Flint Drive, Tustin

Coordinators: Gracie and Ralph Alder,
RSALder@aol.com, (714) 544-4388)

The Alders invite all members of Socalm and SDMC to a post-race potluck dinner.

Directions: 800-7B of Thomas Bros.—Orange Co. or "MapBlast" on the Web. It's just east of SR 55 near SR 22.

Socalm Social— Orange

Date: Wednesday, September 23

Time: 6:30 p.m.

Place: Olde Town Brewery, Orange

Coordinator: Virginia, gin1@mindspring.com

Directions: from the 55 take Chapman West, go through the Orange "circle" staying on Chapman and take a right on Atcheson (just 3 or 4 blocks from the circle). If you pass over the RR tracks you've gone too far. The Brewery is on your left, it's actually the train station and quite unique.

Big Bear Run

Date: Sunday, October 4

Time: 9:00 a.m. for breakfast,
depart at 10:00 a.m.

Place: Denny's
Orange Show Rd., San Bernardino

Run Leaders: Al & Linda Pabian,
(714) 445-9226

Directions: From the South: 15 North to the 215 North (San Bernardino). Exit Orange Show Rd.—Right at exit ramp and left into Denny's.

Have we got a great restaurant and a great run planned for you! Save the date now! This year we will be traveling up the backside to Big Bear and on to Lake Arrowhead Village and the fabulous Garibaldi Grille's Sunday Champagne Brunch for only \$12.95 per person (regularly \$16.95)! If you want to meet us at the top, Garibaldi Grille is located at Lake Arrowhead Village in the quadrangle. Reservations are for 12:30 p.m.

Socalm contacts:

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

AUTOCROSS AT THE "Q"



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

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 www.sdr-solo2.com

Rainer Mueller (760) 439-0067

John Godden (619) 538-6165

Open Track Grand Prix of Lake Elsinore

November 7, 1998

The organizers of the Lake Elsinore Grand Prix have joined forces with OPEN TRACK for a road racing event. You may know OPEN TRACK for their "Hot Lapping" events at Willow Springs and Buttonwillow. They have the experience and personnel to make this a first class event.

The event itself has expanded. The original .6 of a mile street course is now a 1.5 mile street course around the Lake Elsinore Diamond. This event will be open to all 4-cylinder cars. Entry fee is \$100. Requirements are a helmet, a California licensed automobile and driver, and passing a mechanical inspection (we don't want cars with oil leaks ruining the fun). We have also added a quarter mile drag race to the event.

Again, for more information, check for updates at the OPEN TRACK website (www.open-track.com). Since this event is a work in progress there will be many additions, including vendor updates, event sponsors, and there is even talk of this event being covered by ESPN2.

Thanks for your interest. We will see you on November 7!

—Chris Olson,
olsonbky@inland.net

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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 15th 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

Miles of Miatas for MDA

Date: Monday, September 7

Time: 8:00 a.m. —leave 8:30 sharp

Place: K-Mart parking lot, Mission Valley

Coordinators: Jack and Sue Hinkle,
(760) 735-9456, sportscarr@aol.com

Let's show that SDMC spirit and make this a special day for our club and for "Jerry's Kids" with a *huge* line of Miatas to kick-off the MDA Telethon.

From Mission Valley we'll caravan to a queue-up area at Spanish Landing off N. Harbor Drive, and on to the Sheraton Harbor Island for the MDA Telethon.

Remember how much fun it was to participate in this event— KUSI cameras will be rolling— and later see the tape of Miatas driving by the hotel. After passing the MDA fishbowl, park in the hotel lot (*Parking is \$4.00*). We will man the phones from 10 to 11:45 a.m.

The day will continue with lunch at Hooters in Mission Valley and a caravan up I-5 to Lou and Ruth Stark's home for swimming and dessert.

* Please contact the Hinkles to RSVP for lunch and dessert.

Directions: From I-15 exit on Friars Rd. West to Qualcomm Way left under Friars Rd., Right on Rio San Diego Dr. From I-8 exit Texas St./Qualcomm Way, take Qualcomm Way to Rio San Diego Dr. and turn left.

Wheels n' Meals—

Big Stone Lodge in Poway

Date: Thursday, September 10

Time: 6:30 p.m.

Place: Big Stone Lodge
12237 Old Pomerado Road, Poway

Coordinator: Barb Shev, (619) 679-0777
(619) 587-6900 — daytime
mooncalf@aol.com

The historic Big Stone Lodge, owned by former S.D. Padre Randy Jones, features barbeque. Order off the menu— from hotdogs and hamburgers to steaks, as well as veggie skewers— or save your appetite and eat it *all*: special price of \$12.95 for the all-you-can-eat buffet of tri tip, chicken, ribs, sausages, and fixin's. Line dancing lessons— free at 7 p.m. Cowboy boots, optional! Lots of parking on packed dirt.

Please RSVP to Barb.

Directions: I-15, Scripps Poway Parkway exit East, turn Left onto Pomerado Road, and Left again on Old Pomerado Road.

Detailing Tech Day

Date: Sunday, September 13

Time: 10:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Place: Barb and Elliot Shev's home,
14425 Trailwind Road, Poway
(619) 679-0777

Tech Leader: Elliot Shev, (619) 679-0777
cranial@aol.com

Elliot will demonstrate cleaning, polishing, and protecting, orbital buffers, and how to correctly fill a rock ding and blend it. After the demo we'll relax around the pool. Please bring:

- A picnic lunch
- Swimsuit and towels

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

Tustin Thunder (Vintage Automobile Races)

Date: Saturday, September 19

Time: 8:00 a.m.

Place: McDonalds, Oceanside
Oceanside Blvd. exit off the I-5

Coordinator: Phil Daoust, (760) 789-7416
bearschili@aol.com

Phil Daoust will lead a caravan to the races in Tustin. This is the third year for this event and it really has something for everyone. The course is classic airport...flat but with excellent sight lines of most of the track from free and numerous grandstands. Other events in the unique blimp hangars will occupy your eyes and ears: over 300 vendors, a food court, car show, carnival, shifter Kart race track, X-games, skateboarding and bicycles plus the Chrysler/Edison EVTC race —[Electric Vehicle Technology Competition] *plus* all the usual VARA race groups! *Admission: about \$10*

Directions to Tustin Thunder: I-5, Jambo-ree Rd. exit, South to Tustin MCAS

Alder's Potluck Dinner— See page 2.

Monthly Meeting

Date: Thursday, September 24

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!

UPCOMING NATIONAL AND REGIONAL EVENTS

September 18–20, 1998

"Rock Around the Clock"

SAMOA's 9th 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.samoa.org

October 17–18, 1998

Multi-Club Hearst Castle Overnight Trip

Contact Bari, bhyde@earthlink.net
(714) 827-2940

October 18 (Sunday) 9 a.m.–4 p.m.

Torrey Pines Concours d'Elegance

The Lodge at Torrey Pines

Featured marque: Alfa Romeo

www.ezpage.net/torreypines

Over 100 legendary cars of the 20s, 30s, and 40s will be on exhibit at this spectacular setting overlooking the Pacific. Tickets are \$15 each in advance (\$20 at the gate) including program, parking, and shuttle.

To order advance tickets send checks or VISA/Mastercard to:

TORREY PINES CONCOURS D'ELEGANCE
11480 North Torrey Pines Road
La Jolla, CA 92037

October 24–25, 1998

SAMOA Annual Ft. Bragg Overnight Trip

Contact Margaret, Mariota@aol.com

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

Limited space— Register now!

\$295 couple, \$225 solo before 11/30/98

Web site: www.Miata99.com

Toll free info: (877) MIATA 99





Photo: Woody Woodhouse

July 25, 1998

The skies were clear and blue, a good sign. 23 Miatas gathered in northern San Diego County, to take the path less traveled to Lake Elsinore. There, the more adventurous members would go jump out of a perfectly good airplane. The concept of driving and jumping came from CATH and JIM PHILLIPS, SDMC members who work at a skydiving school at Lake Elsinore.

Although I never thought of skydiving previously, when I heard their presentation at the Monthly Meeting, it sounded like too good an opportunity to miss. With the tandem jump, the preparation time is very brief and an experienced jumpmaster is connected to you the whole way— no responsibilities, and pure sensation. It sounded like fun! My only preparation was riding in an open cockpit biplane at the MOSS MOTORS 50th Anniversary, to make sure I was OK with being up in the air.

First-time run leader DIANE LONG selected a relatively low mileage but scenic (unless your car was stuck behind a slow moving truck!) and technical route twisting through avocado and citrus groves and the backcountry. One section even featured a flock of buzzards feasting on coyote roadkill who did not want to give up the road! They finally yielded the right of way to *El Presidente*. (Doesn't everyone?)

Once the club rolled into the airstrip, the number of SDMC jumpers doubled. I was the only first-timer; RICHARD SCHERSHEL had done a tandem jump once before. It all went quickly from the participant's point of view. Paperwork, a brief class, put on gear, ground practice, wait for the plane, pile into the cattle car for the trip up to 13,000 feet, get strapped to jumpmaster Jim Phillips, do final safety check, then lean out of the plane. Free fall to 5,000 feet lasts about 45 seconds, and it felt more like flying through a wind tunnel with a view! After the rip cord was



PHOTOS: LAKE ELSINORE SKYDIVE STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER



Photo: Woody Woodhouse



pulled, float down to the landing strip (OK, we did a few spins just for fun.) I got to check out the route that we had just run from a different perspective! The landing was easier than any fall I've ever experienced.

Although the time seemed brief to me, I appreciate the patience and

support of the club members who waited on the ground in the midday heat.

Afterward, we relived my experience on video (taken by the school's photographer). Perhaps next time more people will be inspired to try this awesome experience. I know I'll be there!

—CINDY PALOMA



For the definitive explanation I went to Miata.Net and pulled the following: Many people have asked the meaning of the word "miata." We had always heard that it was rooted in an old German word for "reward," but we've never been able to find anything in writing. Glenna R. Rhodes of Medford, Oregon sent in the following to help clear up the confusion.

If you look up the word "meed" in the Oxford English Dictionary and the Comprehensive Etymological Dictionary of the English Language you will find that "miata" is another word for this term and they both can mean "reward." "Meed" is an obsolete German word. So this is verification of the meaning but not verification that this is what Mazda intended the name to mean.

Verification is just a short drive away. At the end of the day, after a long week, take a drive over a twisty road with the top down and the meaning becomes clear— REWARD.

Take care and have fun.

—ANTHONY WILDE

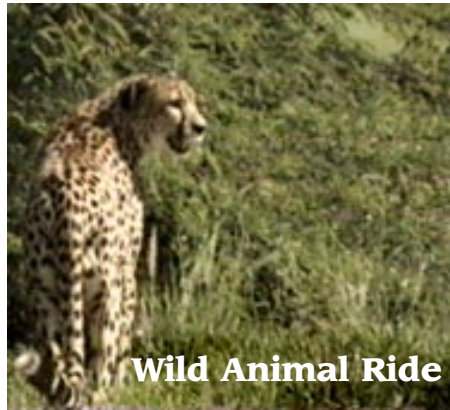
Chrysler Classic Speed Festival, Coronado

The SAN DIEGO MIATA CLUB will once again have the special Speed Festival Corral parking passes available, by reservation, for its members as well as members of other Miata clubs. All of us will be able to park in the security of Miata-only parking within the designated car club area. This area will be located closer to the track this year. Watch for the announcement in October's newsletter.

The Speed Festival will be held on a newly-improved track at the Naval Air Station, North Island November 14-15. Tickets for the Speed Festival are very reasonable at \$12 for one day, \$20 for both days. Military tickets are half price.

On Friday, November 13, there will be a parade of cars through Coronado, SDMC has applied to be part of that event. Stay tuned for more information.

www.sandiegoinsider.com/holidaybowl/chrysler.html



PHOTOS: ED LANGMAID

Steve and Laurie Waid thought breakfast at the Wild Animal Park sounded like fun— and they shared their idea with the members that subscribe to the E-mail list for an impromptu run early Sunday morning ending with breakfast at the Wild Animal Park.

For those of you not on the list or who missed it for a different reason, here is the run in Steve's own words!—

Thought I would pass on to everyone a little breakfast run that Laurie and I did by ourselves on Fathers Day...I wanted to drive somewhere before the kids came over to celebrate ME. For those of you that have annual passes to the Zoo and Wild Animal Park, this is a cheap, fun little morning event.

Right: Randy and Sue Rhodes enjoy an early morning breakfast in the new Heart of Africa exhibit at the Wild Animal Park
Below: Anthony gets slimed by a giraffe.

1. North or South on I-15 to catch Highland Valley Road.
 2. Highland Valley Road east to Bandy Canyon north.
 3. Bandy Canyon north to 78 west
 4. HWY 78 to the Wild Animal Park.
- Parking \$3 if you don't have a Diamond Pass or better which gives you free parking. The Run is no more than 15 miles. From now until the end of the summer season, the Wild Animal Park has a Sunrise Safari. The Park opens at 7:30 in the morning for a breakfast served in the new Heart of Africa area. The early morning is a great time to walk out there, get your breakfast, \$6, and sit at the overlook and watch the animals. Stay as long as you want. The breakfast ends at 10 a.m. when the rest of the park opens. On Fathers Day, we were gone by 10:30 and the park was just getting going. A real good time. It wouldn't take much to get Laurie and me to join you.

—STEVE WAID



The Sun Never Sets

At the MOSS MOTORS 50TH ANNIVERSARY ranch event, and in a subsequent issue of this journal, both overt and subtle comparisons were made about the durability and reliability of British cars vs. our own sturdy Miatas. (Granted, the hapless oil-dumping MGTA owner should have kept his mouth shut.) But a little less MX-5 chauvinism might be in order.

Consider the late 40s and 50s when many of these cars found their way to our shores. Detroit? Great finned chrome-laden lumps. Early Corvettes and *Thunderbirds* were considered sports cars. Japan? Three-wheeled delivery vans and Britoid knockoffs, warts and all. Charcoal-burning vehicles could still be found on Japanese roads.

Austin-Healeys, MGs, TRs, Alpines: all more fun, affordable, sensuous, just like a certain marque we all know and love, and they were then the only game in town, along with Porsches and the odd Italian Alfa or Fiat somewhat later. Drivers rallied, raced, waved at each other.

Now consider this: *no more MIs*. We pre-99 Miatas are it—every one that goes to its reward means one less on the road. Forever, amen.

So when I see a forty-year-old British car that someone has resurrected after two or three owners have trashed it, or an original-owner-driven (or even trailered) specimen out there to admire, I hope we (those of us who are still around) do as well in 2040. Then we can talk, or sneer...or maybe apologize.

Especially when we watch those 2041-model Madagascar-made roadsters with the flywheel-drive/hydrate/fuel cell power under the factory-sealed hood purr off on *their* rallye, pooting



Skin deep?

silky exhaust, EPA-mandated to smell like fresh-baked cinnamon rolls.

In this spirit, another little Gilbert and Sullivan knockoff: (*Trial by Jury*)

When I good friends set out to drive,
The roads, like our skies, were spacious.
Fins, float and bloat were all a-thrive
Like a scene from the Cretaceous.

Detroit iron flexed its pecs and abs,
Chug-a-lugging cheap petroleum,
All beefed up in artistic slabs
Of rococo rocketship chromium.

(ch.) All beefed up in artistic slabs
Of rococo rocketship chromium!

Then comes a friend in Austin-Healey—
Yea, a roadside revelation!
It sang a song whilst revving freely,
A hymn to SU carburation!

Said sacred texts in *Road & Track*:
MGA was a likely chariot;
Though cubic inches it might lack,
Its cornering charm could carry it.

(ch.) Though cubic inches it might lack,
Its cornering charm could carry it!

Mine was sleek, the color of chalk;
With glittering wheels of wire spokes,
And a copper hammer them off to knock—
Plus thin whitewalls to impress folks!

Of leather red was the upholstery,
Side-curtains were spring-loaded.
Though under the hood was mystery,
My love was true, devoted.

(ch.) Though under the hood was mystery,
His love was true, devoted!

We traded waves then with our group,
And Healeys, Alpines and TRs.
(A Jag or Porsche'd occasionally stoop
Gratuitously to see ours.)

Our taste in cars was most refined
In our string-back gloves and our tweedy cap.
Though out-of-town was well-defined:
As "We don't do work on that foreign crap."

(ch.) Though out-of-town was well-defined:
"We don't do work on that foreign crap!"

The MG left its bones to bleach,
In an icy confrontation.
Then Kinderwagens each by each
Took over transportation.

Though family sedans may be a bore
A bright spot was, in my opinion,
A comely MG Magnette 4-on-the-floor
With dual carbs and rack-and-pinion.

(ch.) A comely MG Magnette 4-on-the-floor
With dual carbs and rack-and-pinion!

—TOM GOULD

"Project Car" Tech Day

August 9, 1998

PHIL DAOUST and ELLIOT SHEV decided it was time to replace the timing belt and water pump on their "project car." They put a notice in the newsletter letting club members know their intentions: basically asking for help and advice as they performed the task, and offering other club members a chance to watch the operation.



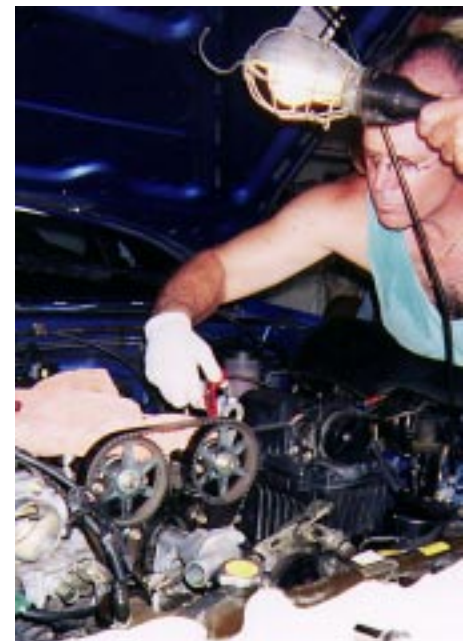
PHOTOS: ED LANGMAID

'JT' Bob Holland lends a hand, Voodoo Bob Krueger offers advice, as Elliot goes to work on the "project car."

TED KESLER brought a prototype for a very nice stiffening bar for '90-'93 year Miatas and installed it on a volunteer's Miata. *See a review in next month's issue!*

A couple dozen club members showed up for the session of mechanical instruction, some to teach, and some to learn—and all had a good time working, watching, and eating.

—STEF GOULD



4th Annual Three Miata Club Tech Day

August 1, 1998

Members of the SDMC joined SOCALM and VROOM at the 4th Annual Three Miata Club Tech Day at JOHN and GERRY CONN'S home in Fullerton. The Conns arranged for a presentation by Meguiar's and representative Tom MacDonald spoke to the group on Meguiar's products and their proper use. Duetto Motors LLC brought a variety of items with them. Great guys and they worked real hard on several cars.

A total of 40 Miatas attended the tech day: engines were steam-cleaned, air horns, springs, windscreens, mud flaps, shocks, brakes and lights were installed. This was a real Miata tech day, you name it and they did it. Miatas left with new parts, increased stereo amplification, timing and brake adjustments.

ZACK BROADBENT had several great prizes donated by SOCALM members, MACPHERSON MAZDA, and MEGUIAR'S and held a mini raffle to support the SDMC with their upcoming MDA event.

What would a Miata event be without food and there was plenty of that from



A red Miata birthday cake in honor of Mark Booth, Judy Powell, Gerry Conn, and Jack Hinkle.

chili to chicken, shish kabobs, salad, snacks, fruit and desserts, desserts, desserts. The highlight was the Happy Miata Birthday cake in honor of Miatafiles: MARK BOOTH, JACK HINKLE, JUDY POWELL and GERRY CONN were all celebrating their birthdays during the first week of August—but not one was telling their age. The bakery did a great job with that '99 Miata on top—it was just the wrong color! [Gerry drives a white.]

It was a day of knowledge and skills, friendship and camaraderie, and most of all good Miata fun. Thanks to all those

who participated and made it a great success. John and I certainly enjoy doing this event and we hope those of you who were unable to join us will be able to make it next year.

—GERRY & JOHN CONN

'99 Thunderhill Miata Performance Driving School

Coming March 26–28, 1999

Thunderhill Park —Willows, California is 6.5 miles west of I-5 on Hwy 162, one hour north of Sacramento.

The class of '99 will be two and a half days of training and limited to only 80 students. The school will enable you to become a safer driver, and also help you get every ounce of performance your Miata is capable of. There's nothing like having a SCCA (SPORTS CAR CLUB OF AMERICA) instructor right next to you as you drive lap after lap on a race course, helping you to learn just what you and your Miata are really capable of. This course will teach you the basics of high speed driving, equipment, human limitations, proper steering techniques, and lots of other skills necessary for safe performance driving. There will also be vendors featuring some of the latest Miata performance equipment.

Registration deadline is February 1. Cost is \$325 and includes Friday dinner, manual, T-shirt, patch, autocross and prizes. *Early Bird Special*—register before December 1, 1998 and save \$25.

To register or for more information check out: www.teammiata.com/thunderhill/school.htm

Aftermarket Goodies (aka "the Money hole")

In the past two years I have purchased 63 aftermarket items for my Miata. (I used to count conquests, funny how priorities change!) Of all these purchases, the most pragmatic is this month's featured item: DUAL INTERIOR LIGHTS. When first introduced to the aftermarket they were called "Mialites," now several companies sell them under various names. When I bought my Miata, I was curious as to what the two blank covers, one on each side of the console, were for. Well, they were for interior lights, I came to find out. (How strange Mazda never put any in!) While at a national Miata event I purchased a set from MOSS MOTORS. (An added bonus of buying items at these events is that the vendors generally install your purchase free of charge; which they did.) Not only did the lights cover the areas that had the unsightly plugs, but when I opened the door that night I could actually see the contents of the cockpit of my car; especially the floor areas. For those of you that are handy and can do the installation yourselves, I am told it takes about an hour, and the lights work on existing interior light switches or when the doors are opened. As for aesthetics, these lights look like a million bucks! The cost is around \$35 from most of the vendors on the Miata Net, or you can call MOSS MOTORS at (800) 642-8295. Again, of all the additions I've made to my Miata, these are not only the most useful, but give that "factory appearance." I give them a 10 on the 10 scale.

Let there be lights!

—PHIL DAoust





PHOTO: ED LANGMAD

DEDICATED TO THE MEMORY OF LYNN MCCLELLAND

Thank you Miata Club members for the lovely memorial tribute to my mom.

I'd like to thank everyone who sent their kind words and gestures via E-mail and phone upon the news of



my mother's sudden death on Sunday August 9th. I was so overwhelmed when I pulled in to the parking

lot and saw 22 Miatas waiting to caravan up to the funeral. The drive up to the service was difficult since it is also where my dad and grandparents are buried.

I guess I'm finally an orphan now but with friends like you, I'll never feel that way.

I'd like to thank the Shevs for organizing the caravan up to Huntington Beach and Jon Martinez for leading an impromptu run after the service. I'd also like to thank all my friends who helped me with the little things that day—it was such a whirlwind I couldn't have made it through without all of you. Thank you with all my heart, everyone who was there eased what was one of the saddest days of my life.

With my most sincere gratitude,
—Kathie McClelland



Upcoming: Getty Museum Trip

With a great deal of tenacity and patience Barb Shev has reserved a block of parking spaces for the San Diego Miata Club's "Getty Museum Trip" on October 25th. Mark your calendars for this special event—and be ready to sign-up next month as spaces are *very* limited—look for specifics on

reservations in next month's newsletter. The Getty Museum, located atop a hill overlooking Los Angeles, has seven major collections of art from Greek and Roman antiquities to contemporary American and European photographs. In addition to selections from their permanent collections there will be three special exhibitions when we visit:

CONTINUED— AT RIGHT

Beyond Beauty: Antiquities as Evidence

The aesthetic beauty of ancient Greek and Roman art has had an enduring influence on later art and architecture. Yet beyond its beauty every ancient artifact preserves additional information that has often been undervalued or overlooked. This exhibition explores the variety of cultural, historical, and technological evidence embedded within ancient works of art, and the important role that evidence plays in understanding and preserving such objects; it features some of the finest works from the Getty's collection of Greek and Roman antiquities, as well as art on loan.

Making Architecture: The Getty Center from Concept through Construction

The creation of the Getty Center is the result of thousands of people working in collaboration over 15 years—from the client who conceived the building program, to the architects who gave it form, to the contractors who constructed it. Their imagination, ingenuity, and investment are the focus of this exhibition. Featuring models, drawings, photographs, video interviews, and a cut-away section revealing how the Getty travertine is attached to the buildings, the exhibition focuses on both the technical and human process of architecture. While at the Getty Center, visitors can take advantage of an illustrated architectural walking guide that accompanies the exhibition.

Ed Ruscha's Light: An Exhibition of Work Related to the Artist's Recent Commission for the Getty Center

An exhibition of two dozen paintings and works on paper tracing the theme of light in the work of Los Angeles artist Edward Ruscha. The exhibition includes work done since 1972 as well as preparatory studies for the recent Getty commission, *Picture Without Words*, a monumental 23-foot high painting installed in the lobby of the Harold M. Williams auditorium at the Getty Center.

To learn more about the Getty Museum, visit their Web page at www.getty.edu/museum



Twilight Run

August 8, 1998



PHOTO: ED LANGMAID



PHOTO: ED LANGMAID



PHOTO: MARK BOOTH



PHOTO: MARK BOOTH



PHOTO: ED LANGMAID



PHOTO: DIANE LONG



PHOTO: STEVE SCOTT





Member Profile

GERHARD "GERY" RÖÖSLI

I live in the eastern part of Switzerland, in the middle of the Swiss Alps and I'm 29 years old. Before I visited the U.S. I worked in the largest Swiss Bank, in the investment advice department. By the end of last year I decided to quit and go to California for about 3 months. I arrived in San Diego at Easter this year. For the next two months I lived with a very nice host family in Mission Hills and attended a language school downtown. I had already made some E-mail contacts with the SDMC before I left Switzerland, and got the invitation to join the events of the SDMC. I rented a Miata in San Diego (it was quite difficult to find one) and joined many of the very spectacular runs with SDMC and met many new friends. I also got various invitations, for example, a desert trip (thanks Ed and Michelle) and a BBQ (thanks again Barb and Elliot). I had a great time with all of you and I miss it! I enjoy reading the SDMC newsletter and all the runs you have made.

I left San Diego at the end of May, and made a very beautiful adventure round-trip thru California, Nevada, Utah and Arizona and went back to Switzerland at the end of June. The Miata I own here in Switzerland is a '95 white. A friend of mine works at a Mazda dealer and early this year I gave him the order to find a very good used MX-5 (that's how they're named in Europe). It only took him a few days to find this car somewhere in Switzerland. It was 2½ years old and only had about 7000 km (about 4500 miles). It cost only half of the new price, and was covered with a one year full warranty. I think this was a very good deal, and I have not had any problems yet.

As I wanted to have a very special and custom-made Miata, I have modified it very much: 17" RH cup wheels in



rest of the parts at The Dealer Alternative. As I'm a music enthusiast, I also replaced the factory tuner/tapedeck with a Sony CD/tuner, and the loudspeakers with a very good Phoenix Gold system. At the moment I'm thinking about adding a Phoenix Gold amplifier as at higher speeds and therefore higher volume, the Sony seems to be a little too weak. This week I will have installed my very new custom made sport seats from Germany, with a Miata logo on the backrest. After this, I think there are enough modifications. There are not many MX-5s in Switzerland and together with the new front, nobody here would think this is a Mazda.

I'm also a member of the Swiss MX-5 club. It's very small compared to the SDMC. The homepage of the MX-5 CLUB SUISSE is www.datacomm.ch/mx5club

If I find time I hope to see you again in San Diego or at the 1999 10TH ANNIVERSARY OF MIATA in Texas!

Keep That Top Down!
—GERY



Porsche design, Eibach lowering springs, body kit with a Japanese front, BSP low profile head lights, Jackson Racing CAI, strut bar, a 90mm Sebring Austria muffler, Racing Beat roll bar, white gauges and various chromium and grey wood parts in the interior. I bought some of the parts here, but afterwards I discovered the marketplace in Miata.Net and ordered the

New Members!

The following are the new members since the last newsletter:

Raymond & Barbara D'Argenio

San Diego
1999 Red PEP

Susan Drysdale

Riverside
1990 Red

Jack Gosney

Riverside
1997 Red PEP

David & Beth Levy

Ramona
1990 Mariner Blue A

Claus Lovendahl

San Diego
1999 Emerald Green Leather

Keith C. McKay

Coronado
1990 Mariner Blue A

Michael & Diana Page

Chula Vista
1999 Red Leather

Marcia & George Paxton

San Diego
1999 Emerald Green Leather

James Pennington

San Diego
1992 Mariner Blue

Kristin Purnell

San Diego
1993 Black C

Gene & Pinkie Stanley

Costa Mesa
1994 Black R

Tod & Christie Switzer

Oceanside
1992 Red

The following members have renewed since the last newsletter:

Michael Chiappetta & Lauren Jackson Skip & Sally Elmore

Brian Goodwin

Christine Haws & David Richards

David & Margaret Henry

Jack & Sue Hinkle

Neal Howland

Brenda Kay

Curtis Lane & Fred Ortiz

Ed & Michelle Langmaid

Ellen & Brooks Nantker

Elliot & Barb Shev

Mandy Simpson



Rainer's Ramblings

The camaraderie of this club never ceases to amaze me. And, no, I'm not easily amazed.

Every time I'm autocrossing my Miata at the "Q," I'm impressed by the number of our club members who are participating in the events as well as the number of our club members who come out and support, cheer, and even help change tires.

Besides me, participants of late have been PHIL DAOUST, CATHERINE and JOHN GODDEN, BRIAN GOODWIN, 'JT'BOB HOLLAND, NEAL HOWLAND, DAVID MOORE, RICHARD SCHERSCHEL, ELLIOT and BARB SHEV, and JOHN TEMPLETON. In the future, JACK and SUE HINKLE will be autocrossing, just as soon as they get their tires and wheels. And there's even a rumor that STEVE WAID may give it a try. I'd love to see STEVE HART get off his boat and come out of retirement and show us all how it's done again.

The number of Miatas at the stadium far outnumber any other automobile marque. If you drive into the stadium area where the autocrossing events are held and you don't see the Miatas on one side of the stadium, be sure to drive around to the other. If you haven't come to an event yet, come on down, you're missing a good time!

And if you want to see what it's like inside a Miata at the autocross, get on the Internet and pop on over to my Dicken's Cider Racing website at www.mainstreet-data.com/dickens and check out the great video club member ED LANGMAID shot of one of my runs. You'll find his handiwork on my "Meet the Driver" page.

Earlier this month many of us participated in MARK and CATHY BOOTH'S Twilight Run. This beautiful two-club, two-county run turned out to be the last one for club member LYNN MCCLELLAND. Lynn passed away twelve hours after we finished the run. Both Lynn and her daughter KATHIE MCCLELLAND own Miatas, and both are members of our club as well as Socalm.

A caravan of San Diego Miatas joined a group from Socalm to provide the most beautiful rainbow of colors to Lynn's final resting place. For obvious

reasons, I've never been a big fan of funerals, but Lynn's was refreshing. The entire ceremony was held at the grave site and celebrated her extremely interesting life — she raced cars and airplanes. There wasn't the usual boring man of the cloth droning on to make me wish I was somewhere else, far away. Friends and relatives got up to tell their favorite anecdotes about Lynn. And then as the service drew to a close, we were all given black marking pens to inscribe our remembrances on Lynn's white casket. What a neat idea!

As the Miatas drove away, I decided that Lynn needed to hear a Miata horn just one more time. So I tooted my air horns, and the cemetery hills echoed with the sounds of all sorts of Miata horns paying their respects.

After a lunch at a restaurant, it was decided that we would have an impromptu run in Lynn's honor. And away we went! Some of the San Diego folks didn't get home until 11:00 p.m. that night! What a beautiful day!

STEVE and LAURIE WAID decided to have an impromptu run to the Wild Animal Park. They put the word out to the E-mail list and it turned out to be another beautiful run. If you're not on the E-mail list, be sure to contact CINDY PALOMA and give your E-mail address. You can contact Cindy at sd-miata-request@cs.ucsd.edu and she'll make sure you get on this informative, and sometimes very lively, list. If you have a computer and a modem, but don't have Internet access, just come to a Monthly Meeting and find club member FRANK SHINE. He'll give you a disk which will allow you to send and receive E-mail completely free with Internet access from Juno.

My heart goes out to member BRAD BROWN. Recently Brad's Miata, named Wakko, was whacked in an accident. No sooner had Brad gotten Wakko beautifully fixed up when they were whacked again just days later. That's too wacky! As Elmer Fudd would say, "This should make you wemember to be weal careful when dwiving with your widdle caw."

SUE HINKLE has been lining up a phenomenal array of prizes for the MDA

"opportunity drawing." She's even gotten us on TV again. Jack and Sue's son, Jason, is afflicted with muscular dystrophy. KUSI-TV followed Jason around for a day, and has made a mini-documentary on a day in his life. Sue's one heck of a tireless worker for the organization. If Jerry Lewis ever decides to step down, I'm going to nominate Sue to take his place!

The real diehard SDMC members made their annual pilgrimage to their Mecca—the Monterey Historics. This year the marque was Porsche. This is where you get to view some vintage racing, rub elbows with the great and not so great, and tell lies to friends you haven't seen since last year. My spies inform me that these members made this year's pilgrimage: DICK and PJ CARLSON, PHIL DAOUST, KEN EVORY, TOM and STEF GOULD, BOB and KAREN HALL, ART HAMILTON, JON BRAISTED, 'JT'BOB HOLLAND, JEFF HOLLADAY, JOHN LAWLER, VOODOO BOB and VICKY KRUEGER, PAUL and FRANCIE POLLOCK, MIKE SIMMONS, GENE and PINKIE STANLEY, RICH TAYLOR, ANTHONY "NEVADABOB" WILDE, and WOODY WOODHOUSE.

Until next time, remember to keep the top and the wheels down!

—RAINER MUELLER, *El Presidente*

There are now 271 memberships consisting of 405 members.

Cars:

| | |
|----|----------------|
| 91 | Red |
| 57 | White |
| 33 | Black |
| 15 | Montego Blue |
| 13 | Silver |
| 12 | Mariner Blue |
| 11 | Laguna Blue |
| 8 | BRG |
| 7 | Merlot |
| 5 | Emerald Green |
| 5 | Marina Green |
| 5 | Starlight Blue |
| 5 | Twilight Blue |
| 2 | Yellow |
| 1 | Cranberry Mica |
| 1 | Hunter Green |
| 4 | Unreported |

