



SAN DIEGO MIATA CLUB NEWS



VOLUME 4 NUMBER 4

APRIL 1999

A CHAPTER OF THE MIATA CLUB OF AMERICA

UPCOMING EVENTS



April 1—Thursday
**Miata Parade
to the Auto Show**



April 3—Saturday
**Orange Blossom
Special Fun Run**



April 10-11
**Autocross at the "Q"
Championship on Sunday**



April 10—Saturday
**Racing Beat
Open House**



April 17—Saturday
Annual Meeting



April 22—Thursday
Monthly Meeting



April 24—Saturday
**Run to Warner Springs
Gliderport**



May 1—Saturday
**SOCALM and Mazda present
Miatas Across America
Send-Off Party**



May 15—Saturday
**Miata May Madness —
Rallye for the Cure
Benefit for Leukemia Society**



May 22—Saturday
**Curve-O-Rama
Fun Run**

From the Editor

Call to Arms

It's that time again! The SAN DIEGO MIATA CLUB annual meeting is on Saturday, April 17th. Time to elect a new board to guide the club for the next year. The problem is, very few members seem to show up to this very important event. We get more people to the monthly meetings now than we do when it comes time to elect the board. Rainer Mueller has announced he will not be running for another term as president (*SDMC News*, Volume 4, Number 3, page 11). He noted that his situation has changed, and he cannot devote as much time as necessary to do a good job as president. A disappointing but understandable decision, and one that shows that it takes TIME to perform the functions that this club requires. The responsibility of being a board member for a year is not something that should be taken lightly.

All of the events, all of the merchandising, the monthly newsletter, etc. all come about as a result of work performed by an active group of members willing to spend some of their precious time to plan *fun* events for the rest of us to take part in.

Each one of us, as members of the SAN DIEGO MIATA CLUB, should make sure that we keep an enthusiastic board of directors in charge of this club. The spotlight will be on San Diego in October when the *Surf'n'Safari* regional event is hosted here. The board of directors and the volunteers who coordinate this event, have been working for months to put this together. A strong board is necessary to ensure that the tough decisions that come from hosting an event of this caliber will reflect positively on the SAN DIEGO MIATA CLUB.

If you want to have a voice in how the club is run; if you want to *help* run the club, there is only one way to do that. You must show up on April 17th and exercise your vote as a member of the club. You might also consider running for one of the elected board positions, or volunteer to serve in an appointed position, if you can.

Nominations for elected officers are taken from the floor *only* at the annual meeting. The following positions (with some of their duties listed) are elected at the annual meeting for a term of one year:

President, votes on board

- official spokesperson
- presides over all meetings
- delegates duties to appointed positions
- writes monthly column for newsletter

Vice-President, votes on board

- acts for president in absentia
- prepared to handle president's duties at all times
- prepared to take on duties as delegated by president

Treasurer, votes on board

- keeps records of and reconciles bank statements
- makes financial statements to the board
- advises the board on expenditures
- submits yearly financial report to general membership at annual meeting

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8



SOCALM EVENTS

Pines To Palms Run

Date: Sunday, April 18

Time: Breakfast – 9:00 a.m., Run – 10

Meet: Gramma's Country Kitchen,
Banning, CA

Run Leaders: Bill and Doreen Bryant

Directions: East on I-10 to Sunset Ave. exit. Turn left (North) 1 block to Ramsey, turn right (East). Gramma's on the right.

This will be about a 2½ hour run from Banning, through Idyllwild, Pine Meadow, and Pinyon Pines. We stop for lunch at The Living Desert. Admission to the park is normally \$7.50 but with 15 or more people we will get a group rate of \$6. Please have cash as we will have to pay for the group at one time.

For those of you who have not been to The Living Desert, it's a 1200 acre Wildlife and Botanical Park dedicated to the deserts of the world. There is food available and a picnic area if you want to bring your own. Guided tram tours that last about 1 hour are available for \$4.

We will leave the park at 4:30 and go through Indio to Dillon Road following the base of the Little San Bernardino Mtns. Through Indio Hills, Sky Valley, and Desert Hot Springs back to I-10.

Pre-Anniversary Social

Date: Friday, April 30

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Place: Motel 6, (949) 261-1515

1717 East Dyer Road, Irvine CA

Directions: I-405 to the 55, exit the 55 Freeway at Dyer Road East. Right onto Dyer, Left onto Pullman.

Coordinator: Jaime & Jeanne Villacorte,
(714) 838-6208, jaimev@netcom.com

This very casual social will be held the evening before the Miata's California 10 Year Anniversary. Since some people may be arriving for the Anniversary Party from out of town, we'll all meet at the motel lobby. From there, we'll figure out where to go. Since Fridays are popular nights to go out, where we go will depend on how many people show up. For late arrivals, we'll leave directions at the front desk.

Motel Cost: Pretax prices are single: \$44.99, double: \$50.99. King rooms are blocked under MIATA.

Socalm contacts:

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

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, April 10 practice day

Sunday, April 11 race day

Sunday, May 2 race day

Saturday, May 29 practice day

Sunday, May 30 race day

There are no scheduled autocross events at the "Q" during June or July.

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

Come participate or watch our club members race at the autocross (timed event). To participate you need to register for a Solo II card and number (\$15) and have a DOT approved helmet. Loaner helmets are available at the autocross.

4th of July, Already?

We took 3rd place in the Scripps Ranch 4th of July Parade in 1997 and 2nd place in 1998. *Now we need to strive for 1st place!* Last year we had a pre-4th of July get-together and came up with some really neat spontaneous ideas (flags on our windshield wipers, pretty cool).

I would like to get a group together that is interested in coming up with even more creative ideas for this year. I think there are a lot of possibilities with our little "toys." Please E-mail me at djaws@thegrid.net if you are interested—I will set up a pre-planning meeting (party) as soon as I have heard from some members who are interested.

—DIANE LONG

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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

Miata Parade to the Auto Show



Date: Thursday, April 1

Time: 9:00 a.m.

Place: San Diego Automotive Museum (Balboa Park), parking lot.

Coordinator: Mike Page,
mike_sd@yahoo.com

SDMC will celebrate the opening of the San Diego International Auto Show with a parade. 20 members will be selected by drawing straws to get into the auto show for free following the parade, courtesy of Mazda. (You'll have to pay \$4 or \$5 for your own parking.) This is Miata's 10th Anniversary at the auto show! — of special interest at the show will be the 10th Anniversary Edition, the MPV 2000 concept car, and the "Evolution of the Miata" display in the California Design Showcase.

2nd Annual Orange Blossom Run or Sit Back and Smell the Flowers Fun Run

Date: Saturday, April 3

Time: 9:30 a.m.

Place: North County Fair (under the big sign) I-15 at Via Rancho Parkway

Run Leaders: Barb and Elliot Shev,
cranial@aol.com

Last year's impromptu run was so good we decided to do it again. If we timed this right, we'll experience the groves at a most amazing time. *It's like driving through an orange!* This is a leisurely run to enjoy the great springtime scenery we have around us. We will go through the valleys, over the hills and end up at the beach—not Grandmother's house. We will be driving through the back roads of North County arriving in Dana Point around 12:30 for a picnic lunch. So, please bring your picnic lunch and a blanket to sit on. There are a few food vendors and restaurants, but we plan to picnic. Don't forget your CB!

The run will officially end after the picnic, but if I know my Miata-phile friends well enough, we can find an interesting 'after-run' run to get us home.

RACING BEAT Open House

Date: Saturday, April 10

Time: 8:00 a.m.

Place: The Windmill's (formerly Pea Soup Andersen) parking lot, Northeast side of I-5, Palomar Airport Road exit.

Caravan Leader: Robert "JT" Holland,
robert@caliban.ucsd.edu

Tour the RACING BEAT production and R&D facilities — Product demos, meet the reps from: Yokohama tires, Tokico shocks and K&N filters.

Special pricing on selected RACING BEAT merchandise, food, drinks, and prizes! RACING BEAT, 4789 E. Wesley Drive, Anaheim CA, www.racingbeat.com

Autocross at the "Q" Regional Championship

Date: Sunday, April 11

Time: 9:00 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Place: Qualcomm Stadium, west lot.

Come out and show support for our club's autocross racers.

Annual Membership Meeting

Date: Saturday, April 17

Time: Picnic starts at 10:30 a.m.,
Meeting starts at 1:00 p.m.

Place: San Diego Automotive Museum (Hall of Fame Room), Balboa Park
The membership meeting and elections will be held in the "Hall of Fame Room" at the San Diego Automotive Museum. Enter at a side door, left of the main door. The meeting will start promptly at 1:00 p.m. Please remember to bring your MEMBERSHIP CARD to receive a ballot. One ballot per membership.

We will have entertainment, a birthday cake (we are three years old), and soft drinks. Plan to take part in a photo swap and look at the club photo album.

The meeting will be preceded by a Picnic in the Park starting at 10:30 a.m. Arrive later if you like but be aware that parking might be tougher to find in the later hours. Bring your own picnic lunch and a blanket to sit on.

Directions to Picnic: Take Park Blvd. to Balboa Park. Turn west (into the Park) on Presidents Way. Turn left into the very first parking lot on the left. Go all the way to the back of the parking lot. The picnic spot is located between Park Blvd. and the southeast side of the Aerospace Museum. Or... park in the lot in front of the Automotive Museum and take the path/road between the Aerospace Museum and the Gymnasium down to the picnic site.

Monthly Meeting

Date: Thursday, April 22

Time: 6:00 p.m.

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

UPCOMING NATIONAL AND REGIONAL EVENTS

May 6–9, 1999

Miata World '99

Miata 10th Anniversary Celebration,
LONE STAR MIATA CLUB (Dallas/Ft. Worth)
Web site: www.Miata99.com
Toll free info: (877) MIATA 99

May 20–23, 1999

3rd Annual Gathering at Four Corners Vallecito Reservoir— Bayfield, Colorado



Once again clubs from all over the west will descend on the Four Corners area for a weekend of spontaneous fun!

Contact: Wanda, UTAH MIATA CLUB
Wahbates@compuserve.com

May 22–23, 1999

Laguna Seca Track Day Monterey, CA

3rd annual event— limited to 50 Miatas
\$350 registration fee due by April 1st!
aaron@miata.net or (408) 738-3290
<http://members.aol.com/leanangle1/auto>

July 16–18, 1999

Cool Weekend on the Coast Eureka, California

REDWOOD COAST MIATA CLUB presents a weekend of fun runs, autocrosses and rallies. Saturday dinner \$27. additional Registration \$45 per/car (one breakfast), Autocross \$10 per/driver (1st timers), \$15 others. Poker Rally \$5 per player
Contact: Austin at (707) 826-9006 or
calife@crealty.com

July 30–August 1, 1999

3rd Annual Deal's Gap Run

The Gap, known for its extreme number of turns and switchbacks (318 in 11 mi.) is located in the mountains of North Carolina and Tennessee. This is largest "non-event" for Miata enthusiasts on the East coast! No registration fee.
www.dickson.net/doc/gap/index.shtml

August 27–29, 1999

Monterey Historic Races

This year the featured marque is Auto Union. Audi will bring the legendary Auto Union Grand Prix cars of the 30s along with its own racers like the fabulous Audi Quattros. That's, of course, in addition to the usual "Historics" fare, nearly 400 of the finest historic race cars to be found anywhere. In honor of the Historics 25th anniversary of the there will be a display of past Monterey Cup-winning cars.
www.laguna-seca.com/hist.htm

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This event is the single best way to meet your fellow club members, ask questions, share stories, etc.

Warner Springs Gliderport Run

Date: Saturday, April 24

Time: Leave at 8:30 a.m. sharp!

Place: Family Foods parking lot, Sweetwater Springs Blvd. at Austin, Spring Valley (South of Highway 94 East, near Mark and Cathy's house)

Coordinators: Lois and Dave Martin, windwing1@juno.com (RSVP to Dave)

Come fly with us! Bring a picnic (we voted 25-0 against the \$27.50 catered lunch option) and join us for a 2-hour run via Wynola Road around Julian to Warner Springs, where gliderport operators Brett and Karen Willat and chief flight instructor Polly Ridgeway are getting ready for SDMCers who would like to fly in a glider. Or just come along and watch.

Glider ride options: two small to medium adults in the back seat of a high-performance glider (\$39 per passenger) flown by an instructor. Or \$59 with you in the front of a two-seater for an intro lesson (you will fly the glider under instruction). If we arrive before 11, they can accommodate maybe 16 of us by 3 p.m.

We will return individually or in small groups.

No money needed in advance (and credit cards work), but RSVP (people, not cars) by April 17 to get on the flight list.

"Miatas Across America" Send-Off Party & Fun Run SOCALM & Mazda's Joint Event for All of the California Miata Clubs!

Date: Saturday, May 1

Time: 8:00 a.m. for food, 9:30 for the run

Place: Mazda R&D Center, 1421 Reynolds Ave, Irvine

Directions: I-405, exit at MacArthur and head North, away from John Wayne Airport. Turn Right at Red Hill Avenue. Turn Left immediately onto Reynolds Ave.

Coordinator: K. Zack Broadbent, RacerZack@aol.com

*There is no cost to attend the party at Mazda R&D **

This is California's chance to celebrate the Miata's Ten Year Anniversary, and serves as the kickoff for the "Miatas Across America" drive to the national anniversary event in Texas.

The day will start bright and early at 8:00 AM with breakfast provided by Mazda North American Operations. Expect to see many Mazda personnel in attendance, including Alan Childers and Jim Jordan and other surprise guests.

A 10th Anniversary Edition Miata will be on display along with full-scale clay models of the Miata, the M Coupe, the M Speedster, and other concepts. A short presentation will start at about 9:30 and will include the driver's meeting for the fun run. Attendees may receive a surprise gift from Mazda to commemorate the California Anniversary.

10 a.m.—we'll begin the "Miatas Across America" Fun Run, approx. 120 miles of just about every kind of road in SOCALM. For people headed to Texas, the run heads East and has multiple "break away" points near the 91, 15, and 215.

For those not headed to Texas, plan for a full day of driving. Make sure your Miata has a full tank of gas in the morning, and bring sunscreen and plenty of liquid to drink. There will be restroom breaks and a lunch break (lunch has many options, with fast food as well as a Chinese buffet, IHOP, and Sizzler).

The run will end along the coast in southern Orange County about 3:30, anyone that wants to stay a bit longer can gather at The Salt Creek Grill on PCH at Crown Valley Parkway. It's a little on the expensive side, but has very good food, drinks, and plenty of parking.

**Please RSVP to RacerZack@aol.com*

Upcoming Event

Rallye for the Cure—May 15th

KEN and CARLA TOOKER and I are coordinating a road rallye event on Saturday May 15th to benefit the Leukemia Society.

We will limit this event to 50 Miatas (100 people). Each Miata must have a co-pilot for navigating. The rallye will start at 9 a.m., with staggered starts, and end around 4-5 p.m. with dinner and prizes at a surprise destination. We will have 4 pit stops where you will drop off your instructions and pick up a new set of instructions. We are making this a fun and challenging event for everyone, and we will have great Miata prizes too!

We are working on the final details of the route. We drove the route a few weeks ago—it is on some great Miata roads! This rallye will cost \$25 per car. The price includes dinner for two at a restaurant located at the end of the rallye, snacks during the rallye, and prizes. A portion of your \$25 car fee will qualify as a charitable donation (per IRS tax law).

Many of you know that I am a marathon runner (by the license plate holders on my Miata). I have been involved with The Leukemia Society "Team in Training" for over two years now, raising funds to fight leukemia, and running marathons. I run marathons in honor of children who have been diagnosed with leukemia and have personally raised over \$4,400 as part of this awesome team. It's such a wonderful cause, so I thought it would be a great idea to combine two of my favorite passions by organizing a "Rallye for the Cure" with the San Diego Miata Club. Don't worry, you won't be required to run a marathon, but you might want to wear your running shoes to this event!

Ken Tooker has many years of experience coordinating road rallyes, he has been a tremendous help in assisting me with the course and providing pointers. Ken's wife, Carla, is also helping with this event. The three of us guarantee that you will have a terrific time! Please mark your calendars, *save the date*, and watch for details in May's newsletter.

—BRENDA BREEN



PHOTO: MARK BOOTH

Occasional impromptu runs are sometimes announced by members on the club's E-mail list, in this case three Miatas dared to brave the snow on top of Mt. Laguna in an unconventional way—top up!



Laughlin Overnight

March 5-7, 1999

Even on Friday morning, March 5th, while waiting, for KATHIE MCCLELLAND and TONY WILLSON, at the Starbuck's parking lot, I was still counting cars, rooms, and people! Yum, Yum Tony Willson arrived with Italian pastries. We decided to drive the fastest most direct route and Tony would lead. We were flying, four hours including a pit stop.... I heard a rumor that three Miatas and a OTM from San Diego made it in 5 hours and ART HAMILTON wasn't even leading.

I know you all thought it was going to rain—I told new members JEFF and GLORIA DODGE, I had a direct routing for prayers. And it worked— all weekend it was beautiful.

Thank goodness for our web pages SOCALMs and SDMCs, as perfect strangers from Bullhead City contacted me and asked if it would be all right to join us for all the fun. They had just bought a '97 Montego. Boy, I didn't waste any time—I sent an E-mail right back and said of course they were welcome to join us! And since they were locals how would they like to plan (not help me plan!) a run, and maybe find us a place that would serve 25 or 30 for dinner Saturday night. Bob sent me a long biography about himself and Donna, and didn't I want to know something about the people planning our fun? My reply was short and sweet: "All we need to know about you both is you own a Miata!" Believe me, I was right—Bob and Donna Holub fit right into our Miata family. They planned a super run for us... By the way, the official weekend car color was WHITE.

After a wonderful ride over Davis Dam, through Kingman, and the twisties of old Route 66, on the back way into Oatman, a surprise bank robbery and gunfight blocked the road (which meant we had to park our little cars in the middle of the road). We ended the run at AVI Casino for the German Festival (and yes, lunch, while sitting on hay bales).

Eighteen of us met again at 6:00 for the best Mexican food I've had in a long time. The restaurant is a favorite of Bob and Donna's. I do hope we didn't embarrass them to much at El Palacios so that the owners will let us back in next year.

The only big winners I heard about were the CONNS, who had a free weekend. Gerry's brother-in-law Tom won \$300, I came out even, and maybe Phyllis Weiter was a little ahead. The LANGHOFFS — JOANNA was winning Friday and Saturday, and SCOTT took over on Sunday. A birdie told me Wen Kulik won \$150 at AVI and was going to try his luck again on the way home.

Rumor has it a great time was had by all, and we have already decided to do the trip again the same time next year. So mark your calendars now! Thank you all for helping to make my mother Marvis' first trip to Laughlin so much fun! Love those water taxis, and the free drinks weren't too bad either! — BARI HYDE is a joint member of SDMC, SOCALM and VROOM

Autocross School in Sacramento

Learn the techniques that race drivers learn first. Learn how to brake, to corner, how your car will feel in a skid. Learn the right speed. Learn all this in one day at Mather Air Field on May 23, 1999 at 9 am. All you need is \$25, drivers license, a helmet, and a Miata (*This will be for Miatas only*). We will have instructors for the driving techniques and they'll be available to ride with you. I must have at least 35 drivers signed up by May 15 to have the event.

Contact: Tom, (916) 351-0380, Kubol@aol.com

AfterMarket Goodies

Speed Bleeders

Speed Bleeders are a wonderful new invention! These little screws, with a spring-loaded check valve, make it simple to bleed your brakes or clutch system quickly, by yourself. A few members have tried them out, and everyone who has is impressed.

- Simply replace the stock bleeder screw with a Speed Bleeder.
- Attach a length of plastic hose to the bleeder and run it to a collector jar.
- Open the bleeder screw $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ turn and ...
- Pump the brakes until new fluid is visible in the collector jar. Don't forget to keep adding fluid to the master cylinder!
- Close valve by screwing tight, repeat previous steps for each wheel.

The check valve in the screw that keeps air from getting into the system doesn't work if you have a very large quantity of air in your lines. When we installed *new* brake lines, we had to bleed the air from the system in the old fashioned way at the rear wheels until most of the air had been purged. We then reinstalled the Speed Bleeders and continued pumping until all the air was gone and fresh fluid was flowing from each wheel cylinder in turn.

When bleeding the Miata's brake system, start with the left (driver's side) rear wheel, then the right rear, right front and left front. Since brake fluid is hygroscopic (absorbs water from the air), it is recommended that you replace your brake fluid once a year. These new screws make that maintenance chore a breeze. The screws are \$14.95 a pair. You'll need a pair of 8mm (part #3955) for the front, and a pair of 7 mm (part #3957) for the rear. The clutch slave cylinder uses an 8mm bleeder screw.

—STEF GOULD

Speed Bleeders are available from:

DAVE TURNER MOTORSPORTS, (619) 571-3811
5555 Magnatron Blvd., (behind San Diego Harley Davidson and Comp USA)
San Diego, CA 92111



Search for Madonna:

Room in the Inn

February 27, 28, 1999

In *Search of Madonna* was our theme... To have lots of top down driving was our scheme. Two glorious days and 777 miles of beautiful weather, glorious scenery, wonderful food, great friends and fun cars.

Thanks to a multitude of functioning alarm clocks, the long-awaited run to Madonna Inn in San Luis Obispo began right on schedule. Run leaders STEVE and LAURIE WAID got us lined up and headed north on I-5 from Oceanside at 7 a.m. just as advertised. (I suggest we dub future be-there-on-time-or-be-left-behind beginnings the *Waid Departure*.)

SAL and I started with our alarm going off at 4:30 a.m. Ugh! We arrived in Oceanside at 6:30 a.m. and left at 7:06. Six minutes late—so much for leader STEVE WAID being a tough guy.

More than half of us had CB radios, which helped coordinate the Orange County catch-'em-on-the-fly, flash of yellow by JON MARTINEZ and JUDY POWELL: a perfect starboard-echelon rendezvous at cruise speed. North of El Toro, KATHIE MCELLEND and her friend, LANCIA, joined similarly.

The ride to the Madonna was awesome— we had perfect weather. Steve and Laurie promised a good weekend and their order was fulfilled. We had a total of 17 cars, red, white, silver, yellow, montego and BRG.

Managing to keep us together (more or less) as we dodged Saturday I-5 and 101 traffic through The Evil Empire (Steve's term), the Waids had us at our Calabasas stop well before 9. There we



An alert early-morning crew assembles for the run north.



PHOTO: LAURIE WAID

Steve gets paleolithic in his shower— Some lucky guests were "rocked" to sleep.



PHOTO: SAL CAUSARANO

picked up two SOCALM MX-5s and continued to a pit stop in Santa Ynez via Santa Barbara and Lake Cachuma.

We made a pit stop at the El Rancho Marketplace, where the people were very taken with our cars— of course. They even gave us a complimentary gallon of freshly squeezed orange juice— Thank you BARB SHEV!

Arrival at the none-too-subtle Madonna Inn was before 1 p.m.—time to check our unique rooms, get some lunch, and assemble in the parking lot for the afternoon quickrun through the back country. Leading and flying solo was JULIE STEFANELLI, president of VROOM (Vandenberg Region Owners of Miatas), who was joined by several members of their club, and we were joined by TOM and STEF GOULD for a total of 21 cars. Julie's aggressive driving raised a few eyebrows—including those of the owner of the lone OTM (a Porsche). "I've never driven like that!"



PHOTO: SAL CAUSARANO

We're lined up and ready for a twisty run— an atypical straightaway at right.



PHOTO: SAL CAUSARANO





PHOTO: SAL CAUSARANO



PHOTO: DAVE MARTIN

he said at our midrun rest stop.

The roads are what our club would call SUPERB. There were so many twisties and turns that I thought I was on a roller coaster, and that was only the first half of the run....The second half was just as death-defying, in my opinion, but wonderful. Our leaders then led us back to the Madonna Inn. Beginning with a cocktail party in the TEMPLETON'S room— NICE TOUCH—we all experienced a wonderful banquet that evening, consisting of Filet Mignon, Stuffed Chicken or Lasagna. All the meals were fantastic, what else for a perfect weekend of driving and eating?

The inn, now equipped with 120 rooms, was begun in 1958 by Alex Madonna and his family on a 2200-acre parcel including a mountain with a surplus of rocks. Alex disturbed the rocks. He and the family still run the place. He was present on Saturday. Alex's wife is partial to pink, which you will find in abundance. All other bright shades also get their turn.

Some of us stayed in rooms made from solid rock ceiling to floor, obviously Mr. Madonna's style. Mrs. Madonna decorated the rooms. To see all the work these two put into this inn is amazing. The walls of our banquet room had murals of men on horseback—in a field of flowers— obviously both Mr. and Mrs. Madonna's influence expressed in the masculine furniture and red/pink feminine surroundings.

Sunday morning we gathered for a final local run led by VROOM's president-elect, Jeff, as we headed toward Santa Barbara and a pizza break.

Sleek meets rococo in the parking lot; left, the Templeton lair beneath the twisty chimney.



PHOTO: LAURIE WAID

Banquet servers commented: "You're having such a good time— it makes our job fun."



PHOTOS: SAL CAUSARANO

Steve Waid presents Julie and Jeff with SDMC sweatshirts.

Jeff's warning about the condition of some of these roads— including the presence of gravel— had us spread out a bit. That was good, as one of the right-angle turns witnessed a no-damage spinout by one of our cars. At one point, Jeff missed a turn, the group got separated, and we found ourselves heading opposite directions as we got back together. Hee-haw!

We do not know how to thank Steve and Laurie for all their hard work, all we can say is ... since we did not actually find "MADONNA," does that mean we must go back next year and continue "THE SEARCH FOR MADONNA?"

—GERI CAUSARANO

—DAVE MARTIN



Secretary, votes on board

- records all meetings
- attends newsletter addressing

The following are the current appointed positions. Appointed positions are volunteers. The president appoints volunteers to fill positions, usually those who have some talent or expertise in the area involved. These positions are non-voting board members.

Events Coordinator

- encourages members to participate and sponsor events
- coordinates times and dates of all club-related events
- compiles and submits upcoming event information to the newsletter
- forms liaisons with local car clubs

Membership

- maintains membership database
- produces the membership cards and mailing labels
- attends newsletter addressing

Newsletter Editor

- writes monthly column for newsletter
- solicits and encourages others to contribute to newsletter
- assists with newsletter production
- attends newsletter addressing

Newsletter Designer

- produces newsletter
- approves layout/formats
- in charge of newsletter printing
- attends newsletter addressing

E-mail Postmaster

- maintains club E-mail list
- attends newsletter addressing

Webmaster

- maintains club INTERNET web page
- attends newsletter addressing

—ANTHONY WILDE

Embroidered Ball Caps

I want a SDMC club ball cap but I'm too cheap to buy one at the regular price of \$27 at Point Loma Embroidery. If we buy 12 at a time they will be \$15 each (including tax). Your choice of color of hat and Miata color! I'll bring a cap catalog to the next couple of events. I'll buy and you pay me. If interested in joining the ball cap group, reply to me.

—Ed of Ed and Michelle,

ed1@cari.net



1st Annual California Basset Tour and Roast

March 14, 1999

Way back east of sunny California, in the Heartland of the country, it's not uncommon for our Miata companions to be sadly placed into hibernation for four to six months each year as the weather and roads become more fit for rust buckets and SUVs.



So it was with welcome relief and much pent up anticipation when tour season finally returned and the tops were dropped. So a somewhat tradition was established: a quick one-day tour with the usual Miata feeding. Since our two basset hounds were itching for a stretch also, we incorporated them into the theme. (It also promoted a much-needed bath— to be sociable).

So it was natural that in coming to California, Barbara and I would try to continue the tradition. Little did we

know how receptive our new club mates would be. Of course here, the weather was much less a factor— so we just plucked an open date from the calendar, picked up a Thomas Guide, oiled up the dogs, and let into it. I have organized lots of tours with the Windy City Chapter, most overnights. The task didn't seem too difficult. But having just returned from STEVE and LAURIE WAID'S "In Search of ?" tour, and having participated in at least half a dozen tours since arriving in San Diego, the bar was already set pretty high.

The weather cooperated— a beautiful day, and quite a crowd gathered at Deer Park Winery. Distance honors go to BARI HYDE and KATHIE MCCLELLAND who traveled from Orange county to join us. All totaled we had 22 Miatas lined up to go. It was the last they'd be all together until we returned to the Basset Farm for the



PHOTO: ED LANGMAID

PHOTO: MARK BOOTH





PHOTOS: ED LANGMAID



Fred makes a great footstool (Cat owners do not try this at home!). After a twisty tour of the North County, we hit the Templeton driveway. Jon flashes his new Momo wheel below. Opposite page, 22 Miatas bask in the springtime sun at Deer Park Winery parking lot.



Roast. Barbara spent Saturday baking fresh chocolate chip cookies. They were gone before the first air horn sounded! I handed every driver a nicely printed Excel spreadsheet with “detailed” instructions of when to turn with cumulative and interval mileage. It wasn’t going to be of much use for long. Final instructions were that we were going to attempt the tour “Windy City Style” by which I meant that we weren’t going to queue up all along the route. Has anyone ever wanted to eat his or her words more? So off we went.

All went well for about the first 10 miles. How was I to know that some highway engineer was going to remove the intersection identification sign for Sleeping Indian Road? I briefly made the turn and stopped to identify the road—but someone took that sign too! So as we heard excitement mount in the voices of those in the rear, we decided to forge ahead. Four miles further there was still no sign of our turn. First of the soon to be called “Templeton turns.” The only person who could help was RAINER, *El Presidente*, who lives in these woods. But he fell behind at the start and was still trying to catch up as we passed the intended turn. Being familiar with the turf, he made the turn and drove even

faster to catch up with the pack that was now far behind him.

Back on track but with our odometers and detailed instructions worthless, we plodded ahead until at about 25 miles, Winter Warm looked awfully like Winterhaven. Another two 360°s! That was the last of them, but not until everyone with a CB had worked the issue. Far better roads were still ahead of us anyway: Rice Canyon, Couser Canyon, Lilac and Circle R. By the time we pulled into the drive of the Bassett Ranch, Rainer’s oil temperature was back to ambient. The better humor that is characteristic of Miata drivers also prevailed and we all set into some serious work on a variety of BBQ’d meat, salads, and beverages. Everyone said hello to the bassets— Fred and Maggie. Maggie got to know TONYA ZALENSKI a bit better than she should have, and then Fred started to sing, er howl— with the crowd joining in. The howling good time went on until almost dark when the last hearty souls decided that more food was in order. A short run down into Escondido for some pie at SUE and JACK HINKLE’S.

Special recognition goes to VICKY KRUEGER who won our door prize by being the closest to estimate Fred and Maggie’s combined pre-cooked weight.

I’m still not talking to MARK BOOTH who had our favorite pets figured out as geriatric porkers (their combined age was the tie breaker question). Thanks to RUTH STARK for helping Barb get the house and food in order. Thanks to all who braved the driving instructions and joined us in establishing what we hope will be a continued event. We sure had fun meeting more of our great members up close and personal.

And for those who tried the “hamburger” — I forgot to mention that you only “met” two of our dogs...

— JOHN and BARBARA TEMPLETON

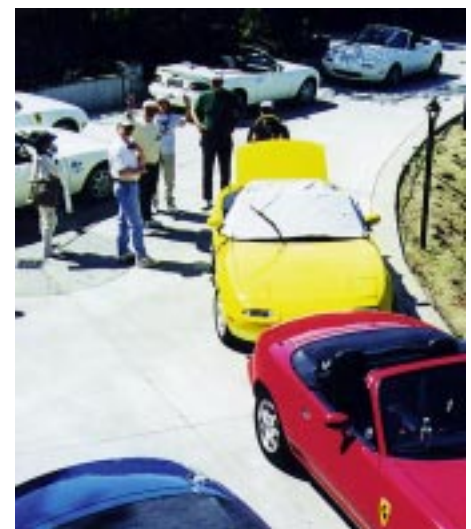




PHOTO: ELLIOT SHEV

BARB and ELLIOT SHEV were the first SDMC members to own the Sapphire Blue Mica 10th Anniversary Limited Edition (#2233) Miata— they picked it up on the evening of March 22. ART HAMILTON took delivery on his (#868) early the next morning!

The 10th Anniversary Limited Edition Miata is equipped with a close-ratio, six-speed transmission, a new, shorter shifter, a Torsen[®] limited-slip differential, tuned suspension with Bilstein[®] shock absorbers, a front strut-tower brace, and rack-and-pinion power steering.

It wears exclusive Sapphire Blue Mica paint and 15-inch polished aluminum alloy wheels. The convertible top and tonneau cover are blue, and it has a front

air dam, aerodynamic side sills, rear mud guards and flush-mounted fog lights.

It's the first Miata with a two-tone interior. The seats are blue and black, with slip-resistant synthetic blue suede in the center and black leather on the side bolsters and headrests. The three-spoke NARDI[®] steering wheel and shift knob are matching blue and black leather, the shift boot is blue. Deep-pile blue carpeting and carbon fiber-look trim on the center console panel complement the interior.

Miatas Across America

The SOCALM Challenge

Another aspect of "Miatas Across America" is a challenge to all other chapters of MCA from the Southern California Miata Club (SOCALM). Traveling from Irvine to the Texas National Event will be two banners commemorating the Miata and its heritage. One banner will feature a map of the United States, the other will be blank. SOCALM is challenging the rest of the *world* to see how far the banners can travel together (by Miata) before the end of the year 2000.

The plan is simple. The banners are to travel by Miata from club to club in whatever direction that fate will determine. As each club gets them, they will use a permanent marker to place a dot on the US map at the club's home city. They will "connect the dots" with a straight line and arrow to mark the banner's route. All members of the club will then sign the blank banner. Photos will be posted on the Internet to track the progress of the banners. They may even get coverage in Miata Magazine.

As these Miata banners cross North America, they will encourage clubs to hold joint events with each other. After all, a joint event is the best way to transfer the banners from club to club. The only way the banners can travel other than by Miata is to fly them off the continent (Alaska, Hawaii, Europe, etc.).

The goal is for the banners to return to California in time for the joint California Miata Clubs' event at Hearst Castle in November of 2000. When the banners are back in Southern California, they will be given to the SAN DIEGO MIATA CLUB. While SOCALM had the honor of starting these banners on their journey, SDMC will have the honor receiving them at their journey's end. SDMC will bring the banners to Irvine for presentation to Mazda at a joint celebration.

More information about "Miatas Across America" SOCALM Challenge can be found on SOCALM's web page — www.socalm.org.

—K. ZACK BROADBENT



HEY DUDES! SURF'S UP AT SURF 'N' SAFARI!

October 7, 1999 kicks off the first *Surf 'N' Safari* regional Miata event in San Diego. The four-day event will bring together over 200 Miatas and their owners for a series of adventures on land, air, and sea. "We have a lot to offer in San Diego," says LOU STARK, Chair of the event. "Attendees can literally design their own event by choosing various options. For example, Friday morning you can take one of two San Diego driving tours that include some of the prettiest scenery on the West Coast, then that afternoon drive to La Jolla and go paragliding! Or Friday afternoon, if you prefer, you can go sailboat racing on San Diego Bay. These are just a few of the options we are offering during the event."

Hosted by the SAN DIEGO MIATA CLUB, the event includes a poker rally, a beach luau, several fun runs, a banquet, a vendor mall, admission to the world-famous San Diego Wild Animal Park and an event tee-shirt.

"We call it '99 for \$99," says Lou, referring to the \$99 per person registration fee. A portion of the proceeds will go to the San Diego Zoological Society.

"We expect this event to fill up fast," adds Lou, "so we encourage everyone who is interested in attending to sign up now!" (Space is limited. Registration is first-come, first served.) Sign-up online, www.SanDiegoMiataClub.org/surf.html or call Sue Hinkle at (760) 735-9456.

Hotel accommodations are available at the Doubletree Carmel Highland Resort for just \$99 per night. Reservations: (619) 672-9100. Ask for the *San Diego Miata Club Event* special room rate.

October weather is sunny and mild—just right for long drives in your favorite sports car! Hang with the SAN DIEGO MIATA CLUB during the *Surf 'N' Safari* regional event, October 7-10, 1999—you won't be disappointed, Dude!





Bob and Mrs. Peel pose with his family: (from left to right) Beverly, Peter, Patricia, Bert and Bob's wife Chela.

Member Profile

BOB STRETCH

Like most love stories, this one begins with a chance meeting. I had been searching for a nice, practical, reliable second car to use for commuting. Years ago I had owned an old Volvo 242 (the boxy, tractor-factory style, not the new "Swedish light" versions of today) and was looking to upgrade to an older SAAB 900 or perhaps a newer Jetta. A couple of weeks searching had produced few decent SAABs but hundreds of

run-of-the-mill Jettas. They just bored the heck out of me.

While driving to one of my evening teaching gigs, I stopped for a red light and my eye was drawn to a fire engine red Jetta on a high stand in the car lot across the street. Bright, but still

boring. Underneath the high stand, hiding in the shadow of the German touring car was this little 1994 Montego Blue Mica M Edition with hard top, giving me a hedonistic grin.

As I waited for the light to change, she kept giving me these "come hither" looks until I pulled into the lot and asked for a test drive. The first time I shifted from first to second, I was in lust. The first tight turn I romped around, I fell in love. When we dropped the top and allowed the 80-mph wind along I-8 to comb my hair, I knew we were meant for each other.

Now, two weeks later, our honeymoon complete, we have settled into a wonderful relationship. I gave her the trunk rack she desired, covered her fevered brow with a dashtopper, and a wood-style center console to match her wooden emergency brake handle and Nardi shifter. She is a lady born to accessorize!

Oh, as for me, I am a Navy Counselor Chief out at North Island who teaches in the MBA program at night at National University. Father of four (2 and 2), married to a wonderful woman who is only slightly jealous of *Mrs. Peel*, my other lover.

I look forward to meeting all of you as I learn more about this wonderful mistress I have acquired.

— BOB & MRS. PEEL

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

New Members!

The following are the new members since the last newsletter:

David Andrulli & Nancy Porrino

San Diego
1992 Red

Matt Braisted

Oceanside
1992 Red A

Joe & Karen Brazitis

San Diego
1999 Red Leather

Jeff & Gloria Dodge

Lakeside
1997 M (Marina Green)

Tom Greene

San Diego
1990 White B

Bruce & Christine Hill

Ramona
1999 Silver PEP

Hashim Makalani

San Diego
1993 Red

Joanne Millot

San Diego
1994 White A

Paula Mudarri

San Diego
1995 Red

Jim Pierce & Abbey Chamberlain

Carlsbad
1992 White A

Bob Stretch

Chula Vista
1994 M (Montego Blue)

The following members have renewed since the last newsletter:

Tom Anderson

Michael & Andrea Carrillo

Tom & Ginny Foster

Charlie & Lisa Kilgore

Hamilton Lowder

Dixie & Martin Rath

Randy & Susan Rhodes

Scott Schroeder

Steve & Laurie Waid

There are now 290 memberships consisting of 437 members.

Memberships by Miata Color:

- 97 Red
- 59 White
- 36 Black
- 18 Silver
- 15 Montego Blue
- 11 Laguna Blue
- 11 Mariner Blue
- 10 Emerald Green
- 9 BRG
- 7 Merlot
- 6 Twilight Blue
- 5 Marina Green
- 5 Starlight Blue
- 2 Sapphire Blue 10th Anniversary LE
- 2 Yellow
- 1 Hunter Green
- 4 Unreported

