



# SAN DIEGO MIATA CLUB NEWS



VOLUME 4 NUMBER 9

SEPTEMBER 1999

A CHAPTER OF THE MIATA CLUB OF AMERICA

## UPCOMING EVENTS



September 6—Monday  
**MDA Telethon**  
SDMC Helps to Man the Phones



September 18—Saturday  
**Tour and Lunch Aboard  
the USS Coronado**



September 23—Thursday  
**Monthly Meeting**



September 25—Saturday  
**Autocross At the Q**



October 7-10  
**Surf 'N' Safari**  
SDMC Regional Event



October 16-17  
**Eastern Sierra Trip**  
Joint Event—with SOCALM



October 23-24  
**Coronado Classic  
Speed Festival**  
and RetroMobile, USA



November 13—Saturday  
**Temecula Wine Run**



December 11—Saturday  
**SDMC's Holiday Party**



December 12—Sunday  
**Christmas Card Lane  
Christmas Lights Run**

## Special Message

### Onamis\* and Wild Animals on the Horizon

With one great Miata weekend after another, this year has passed by almost too fast. It's hard for me to believe that this is the September newsletter. As the weeks seem to be passing like days, I want to take this opportunity to remind you of an event that's just around the corner. Please, don't let the greatest weekend planned this year pass you by before you know it. Your club is holding its first regional event ever. This event will be attended by Miataphiles from near and far. How about New Zealand; far enough?

This event has been in planning for over a year. A hearty group of fellow members have been brewing up a recipe for a fun-filled weekend to rival the best you could imagine. This event is for *you* and this event is going to be fun. Trust me!— you don't want to miss it.

To give you an idea of what's in store for you, close your eyes for minute. No, not yet; you must read a bit more...and picture yourself on a beautiful white sandy beach surrounded by (use your imagination) and a hearty feast under preparation. A pig roasting on a bed of hot rocks, along with mahi-mahi, chicken, and ribs, and all the fixin's you need to make a perfect Luau. OK, now close your eyes and picture yourself in the middle of this feast. Is this cool or what? Want to be there? You can, but first read on.

How about fun runs on the best roads in Southern California, participating in a poker rally, a run (the long way around) to Julian for fresh apple pie, or how about just taking a tour of beautiful La Jolla or downtown San Diego? Imagine that, driving your Miata (the greatest fun of all) and a chance to win some fabulous prizes also. OK, if that's not enough, how about this?...

Need some goodies for your car? How would you like to be able to visit your favorite vendor without leaving San Diego? How about over 18 of the best aftermarket Miata "goodies" suppliers there are? *Yes, I said over eighteen!* Like, BRAINSTORM PERFORMANCE, CRAZY RED, DEALER ALTERNATIVE, JACKSON RACING, K&N ENGINEERING, MOSS MOTORS, RACING BEAT, and the list goes on, including our own nearly-legendary VOODOO BOB with the entire line of TEAM VOODOO jewelry for your Miata. All in one spot! Not only can you visit them, but you can also visit them right here in your own back yard! Installations available; just ask.

What about a fun-filled evening of entertainment and fine food with about 300 other Miata enthusiasts? You can; you guessed it, right here at your club's first ever regional event. Wait, one more thing, I almost forgot to mention the getting up close and personal with some wild animals. No, you can't take home a tiger to put in your tank, but you can get close enough to be lunch! And last, but not least, a place to show off your car all dressed up.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

\*Note: Onami is Japanese for a big wave and wild animals might be something a bunch of fun seeking Miata folks could be mistaken for.



OK, so where is this? It's at **SURF 'N' SAFARI**, coming to you October 7-10. Now your next action should be to jump to the Web site at [www.mainstreet-data.com/sns](http://www.mainstreet-data.com/sns) and register. The reason I say this is that as of September 1<sup>st</sup> the rate goes up from the incredibly low \$99 per person (yes, it includes all the fun, food, fabulous expensive prizes, and events I mentioned, and more) to \$119 per person (still a good deal, but that's \$20 you could have used at the vendor mall!). Don't surf the Web? You can call SUE HINKLE at (760) 735-9546— she'll take care of signing you up.

So, what are you waiting for— **SURFS UP, DUDES!** Ride the wave to a totally tubular event hosted by the best club on earth—the SAN DIEGO MIATA CLUB'S **SURF 'N' SAFARI**

See ya there!

ELLIOT L. SHEV, your humble treasurer and Kahuna wannabe.

## SOCALM EVENTS

### Miata Tagging Scavenger Hunt

Date: Saturday, September 4

Place: various departure locations

Coordinator: Zack Braodbent, see below

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Willow Springs Driving School

Date: October 2-3, (possibly Oct 4)

Place: Willow Springs International Raceway, Rosamond, CA (near Lancaster)

Cost: 1 day \$250, 2 day \$350, 3 day \$450

Contact: Jim Tipton, (818) 880-6568, [jmtipton@pacbell.net](mailto:jmtipton@pacbell.net)

A one, two, or three-day driving school at Willow Springs. The third day on the big track is dependent on the number who sign up. The event is open to anyone, from the serious performance driver who wants to brush up on technique, to the novice who has never been on a track. The instructors will cover skid pad, car control, braking, heel & toe, and more. The first two days will be on the "Streets of Willow," a tight course where our Miatas shine. The third day will be on the "Big" track. Space is limited. Contact Jim about deposits and deadlines ASAP!

#### Socalm contacts:

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

## AUTOCROSS AT THE "Q"



The following autocross events are tentatively scheduled to take place in the parking lot of the Qualcomm Stadium. Call the hotline below to confirm the date

Saturday, September 25 . . . Championship  
Sunday, October 10 . . . . . Championship  
Saturday, October 23 . . . . . Championship  
Sunday, November 14 . . . . . Championship  
Sunday, November 28 . . . . . Championship  
Sunday, December 12 . . . . . Championship

#### For autocross information call:

San Diego SCCA Hotlines (619) 441-1333  
(800) 360-4454  
Web page [www.sdr-solo2.com](http://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 there.

Events are open to the public at no charge. However, to enter the pit area you must sign a release and waiver form at the entry gate. You will be given a wristband which must be worn at all times. There is no seating provided so bring a lawn or beach chair!

## SDMC BY CAR COLOR

As of August 20, there are 301 memberships in SDMC consisting of 462 members.

#### Memberships by Miata Color:

- 91 Red
- 51 White
- 34 Black
- 21 Montego Blue
- 19 Emerald Green
- 18 Silver
- 12 Mariner Blue
- 11 Laguna Blue
- 11 Sapphire Blue
- 9 Twilight Blue
- 9 BRG
- 7 Merlot
- 6 Starlight Blue
- 4 Marina Green
- 3 Yellow
- 5 Unreported

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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 for the newsletter? Where possible, please E-mail your submissions to the newsletter editor. Submissions can also be faxed to the club's dedicated phone line or mailed to the club's post office box. Submission deadline is the 15<sup>th</sup> of each month. 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 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





PHOTO COURTESY MDA

### Jerry Lewis Labor Day Telethon

**Date:** Monday, September 6

**NEW Time:** 7:30 a.m. — *sharp!*

**NEW Place:** The corner of Pacific Coast Highway and Broadway, downtown San Diego

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

Once again, SDMC has been invited to man the pledge phones at the telethon. This year's event will be held at the Wyndham Emerald Plaza Hotel at 400 West Broadway, San Diego.

KUSI will be filming footage of the Miatas promptly at 8 a.m. Volunteer Check-in Time—9:15 a.m. On-Air Time—10–11:10 a.m.

This was a record-setting year for our *Miles of Miatas* fundraising event and STEVE WAID, along with a representative from Cush Mazda and Barona Casino, will be presenting a check on live broadcast during our telephone time. Let's show that SDMC spirit and make this another record setting day for our club and "Jerry's Kids." There won't be room for everyone on the phones but there's plenty of room in the audience. This is an experience you won't want to miss.

JACK AND SUE DILUSTRO have invited us to a BBQ and pool party immediately following our departure from telethon.

Please contact the Hinkles with your R.S.V.P.s for Telethon and the BBQ.

### Tour and Lunch Aboard the USS Coronado

**Date:** Saturday, September 18

**Time:** TBA

**Place:** Chula Vista Marina

**Coordinators:** JoAnna & Scott Langhoff, (619) 470-7860 or (888) 835-1633 or [MarinerUSN@aol.com](mailto:MarinerUSN@aol.com).

I have received permission from Vice Admiral McGinn's Staff to have the Joint Operations Center and Flag Briefing Room of the *USS Coronado* open for us. This has only happened one other time in the roughly two years I've been onboard— I could expend a thousand words describing the Ship and her mission here, if you're curious, go to:

<http://www.comthirdflt.navy.mil/c3f/>

In the spirit of eating wherever we go, I have arranged for you to enjoy lunch with the crew at a cost of \$3 per person, which I'll collect at the run start. The *Coronado* has developed a reputation as a "feeder"— which, in Naval terms, means the food's pretty darn good!

Depending on scheduling, you may be able to view a Los Angeles (688 Class) Fast Attack Submarine (SSN) and possibly a Ohio (726 Class) Fleet Ballistic Missile (Trident) up close from the pier. Due to security concerns, they are not open to the public. There is also a very interesting WWII submarine memorial at the head of the pier.

*RSVP to JoAnna & Scott Langhoff e-mail address and phone numbers above.*

### Monthly Meeting

**Date:** Thursday, September 23

**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 Event: Classic Speed Festival, Coronado

October 23 – 24, 1999

The races return to the Naval Air Station North Island, Coronado, where last year a record 16,000 sun-drenched racing enthusiasts filled the grandstands, vendor village, car club parking and paddock. SDMC will, once again, have a presence in the Car Club Corral and more! October's newsletter will have the details!

Now in its third year, the Speed Festival has become a prominent fixture on the nation's historic racing schedule. General Racing expects more than 250 historic racing machines to enter into the competitive action on the challenging 1.6-mile course. Enthusiasts will enjoy an additional treat with the debut of RetroMobile USA. (page 8)

## UPCOMING NATIONAL AND REGIONAL EVENTS

September 10–12, 1999

### Sizzle On the Beach!

Treasure Island, Florida

Friday reception, Saturday picnic, Saturday dinner and one event T-shirt.

Registration \$65/person, \$99/couple; 4-hour defensive-driving school, \$30.

Contact: Jonathan, SUN RIDERS MIATA CLUB, (727) 784-5529,

[jonathan@sunriders.com](mailto:jonathan@sunriders.com)

September 16–19, 1999

### Acutney Mountain Miata Rally

Acutney Mountain, Vermont

Contact: Jack Reardon, MASS MIATA CLUB, (508) 393-2195, [miatajack@aol.com](mailto:miatajack@aol.com)

Autocross, Funcanna, rallies and the best food around. Registration— \$295

September 24–26, 1999

### 11<sup>th</sup> Italian Mazda MX-5 Meeting

Contact: REGISTRO ITALIANO MAZDA MX-5

E-mail: [mxcinque@tin.it](mailto:mxcinque@tin.it)

Fax: +39.011.8998059

October 7–10, 1999

### Surf'N'Safari

See page 10 for information about SDMC's *way cool* regional event.

October 7–9, 1999

### Gathering of the Green [BRG] IV

Deals Gap/Blue Ridge Parkway (Eastern Tennessee and North Carolina)

Breakfast, Bar-B-Q lunch, Sunday Brunch and event T-shirt, \$60/person

Contact: Don, (231) 972-2167,

[ddiget@centuryinter.net](mailto:ddiget@centuryinter.net)

October 10, 1999

### 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Meeting of the Eunos Roadster in Japan

Miyoshi city, Hiroshima, Japan

This event will be largest Miata event ever held in Japan—1000 Roadsters will meet at MAZDA'S Miyoshi test circuit.

Contact [RCOJ at rcoj@avanti.co.jp](mailto:RCOJ@avanti.co.jp)

March 17 – 19, 2000

### Fourth Annual

### Miata Performance Driving School

Thunderhill Track in Willows, about an hour north of Sacramento— 2½ days of training and special events, all aimed at enabling you to become a safer driver,

and also to help you get every ounce of performance out of your Miata. Register at [www.teammiata.com/thunderhill/school.htm](http://www.teammiata.com/thunderhill/school.htm). Fill out the online form, print it out, and send it in with your check.

Register before Dec 1, 1999 and save.





PHOTO: ED LANGWAD

## MCRD Command Museum and Cabrillo National Monument Tour

July, 24 1999

Right after the Camp Pendleton Tour and Champagne Brunch run back in February, members wanted more tours of military installations, and I was asked to help or plan another, since we have so many bases in the San Diego area.

I decided to do a tour of the Marine Corps Recruit Depot (MCRD) Command



Museum "Where the past touches the future." I am a card-carrying member of the museum and very familiar with the Depot, having been stationed there many years ago— don't ask how many.

I decided to add Cabrillo National Monument to the tour because I knew it would only take a few hours to tour the Command Museum.

The date was set for July 31 at first, but I decided to change it to July 24 because the 31 was too close to Sue and Jack Hinkle's *Miles of Miatas for MDA*. (which was a great event). The meeting place was set for Perry's Cafe on Pacific Highway at 1100 hours (come early if you want to have breakfast with fellow members). Quite a few members got together for breakfast at Perry's, which is well known for its breakfast menu and good service.

I really felt great upon leaving Perry's Cafe, after having a good breakfast and seeing all the Miatas in the parking lot—it made my day! To understand this, you would have to remember my first SDMC



PHOTO: ED LANGWAD



PHOTO: DIANE LONG

**Art is first through the gate. Perry's fuelled the breakfast crew, followed by a learning experience at MCRD, followed by PX munchies.**



PHOTO: DIANE LONG

run to Laughlin a few years back. Phil and Tonya, I know, remember that run.

We departed Perry's Cafe parking lot for MCRD around 1130 heading south. I no sooner got onto Pacific Highway than I heard on my CB that someone had a dead battery in the parking lot. I pulled over to wait, then someone said it's okay and to go— so I led the caravan down to Washington Street and entered MCRD via the Washington Street gate, which is always closed on the weekend. I had made arrangements with the Provost Marshal Office to have the gate open for us so that we wouldn't tie up traffic at the other gates.

Despite this, the tail end of the caravan got separated and entered through the Pacific Highway gate, but they met us at the grinder (Parade Deck) parking area. We still had time to kill, since the Museum doesn't open until noon on Saturday, so I decided to give the members a little history of MCRD. I think they really enjoyed seeing the Drill Instructors marching the recruits on the grinder. I could tell that it brought back some good (or bad?) memories to all of the former military in our group.

We were greeted at the Museum door by Staff Sergeant Toledo, who is the Staff Non-Commissioned Officer in Charge (SNOIC), and he gave us a brief run-down on what we would see. He turned us over to Ms. Ellen Guillemette, who is the archivist for the museum. She also gave us a briefing, then started the tour in the Art Gallery, which features paintings and sketches by Marine artist Colonel Charles Waterhouse.

As Ms. Guillemette guided the group through the museum, I could really see how much they were enjoying themselves by their conversations and the

expressions on their faces, especially the former military members who had done tours in Vietnam.

Around 1330, most of the members were in the Post Exchange Mall getting something to eat from the snack bar and fast food vendors. The Depot Club was closed and the Cafe was being renovated, so I had suggested that members pack a picnic lunch, but fortunately the mall





PHOTO: ART'S CAMERA, FRIENDLY TOURIST, PHOTOGRAPHER

was open. We departed the museum around 1400 and headed for the Depot Boathouse. I wanted the members to see the Naval Training Center (NTC) across the bay from the Boathouse, but to my surprise the area was crowded with people having a picnic and there was not enough parking for the Miatas... time to take the group on to the Cabrillo National Monument.

We had a nice caravan from MCRD to Point Loma. Before visiting the monument we stopped by the tidepools for a photo opportunity, and to admire the view of the Pacific Ocean. Then we departed and wound up the mountain to the Visitor Center... what a beautiful drive down to and up from the tidepools! Once in the parking lot of the Visitor Center, we dispersed into small groups and "did our own thing."

From the Visitor Center you have a bird's eye view of North Island and downtown San Diego. Member SCOTT LANGHOFF, who is on active duty with the Navy, pointed out his ship to the group. We also saw a nuclear submarine going out to sea, which was really a sight to see. Members toured the lighthouse and other attractions and began to leave one by one. (SDMC bylaws: Eat-drive-eat, and it was time to eat again) Wow— what a day to remember!

—ART HAMILTON



PHOTO: DJANE LONG

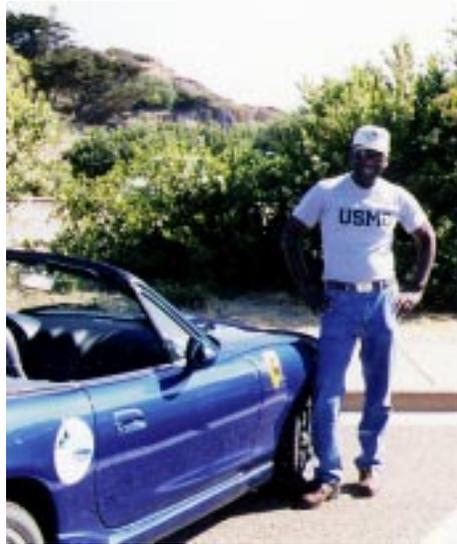


PHOTO: ART'S CAMERA!



PHOTO: ART HAMILTON

**From the top:**  
**We stopped for a *photo opportunity* down by the tidepools.**  
**Blue cars rule!**  
**Art shows off his 10AE with run leader's magnetics.**  
**Steve Waid rallies the group's attention to a point of interest, but Voodoo Bob casts a powerful spell.**  
**The sub came along later for those who stuck around.**



PHOTO: ART HAMILTON





## Miles of Miatas Beats All Records!

PHOTOS: ED LANGVAID

August 1, 1999

On Sunday, August 1<sup>st</sup>, SDMC members showed up with BIG HEARTS to participate in the third annual *Miles of Miatas for MDA*. This year's event raised over \$10,000, making the day a big winner for both our club and Jerry's kids.

The event "kicked off" at the Muscular Dystrophy Office, where sponsor sheets were recorded. SUE HINKLE distributed event T-shirts to those raising \$100 or more, and BARB TEMPLETON made



sure that each car had some of her famous chocolate chip cookies. Members were also provided fruit and bottled water and had the opportunity to purchase tickets for items that would be raffled during the BBQ.

Alan Paradise from Miata Magazine was on hand to record the event as Jack Hinkle held a brief drivers meeting and led the enthusiastic group east to Barona Casino. Alan sped ahead of the group so he could get photos of the cars as we wound our way through Santee and Lakeside. Barona provided a secured parking area with an on-site guard while we were hosted to a continental breakfast and a brief visit to the casino. Drivers were directed to the card room where they were dealt their poker hands.

The Hinkles then led the group north on some wonderful Miata roads in the heat of the day. The Lake Henshaw boat docking area was a perfect spot for photos and for refreshments. The run

ended at the "mystery" destination, Bates Nut Farm, for a Buckboard BBQ with all the fixin's.

Our top fund-raisers? JOHN and BARB TEMPLETON raised \$1,100, DENIS FERIA from SOCALM raised \$918 and provided a donated raffle prize from Borla, and JOE and KAREN BRAZITIS raised \$505.

ELLIOT and BARB SHEV were the raffle prize winners of the day, thanks to their generous donation of \$200 for tickets. Elliot commented, "If I have most of the tickets, maybe this time I can win something."

Our group was joined by two MDA families who thanked the SDMC for their support of MDA and for our generosity. We want to thank each and everyone who participated; your enthusiasm and generosity made *Miles of Miatas* a great success! *Miles of Miatas for MDA* will be featured in an upcoming issue of *Miata Magazine*. Also SDMC's president, STEVE WAID, will be presenting a check at the MDA Telethon during the SDMC pledge phones segment.

—SUE HINKLE





## Upcoming Event

### Eastern Sierra Weekend Getaway

October 15-17,

#### SOCALM/SDMC joint event

Tentative itinerary for a weekend of scenic driving. You can start the weekend early on Friday or plan to stay overnight in Bishop on Sunday for a more leisurely drive home. So far over 36 Miata owners from SDMC and SOCALM have indicated interest in this getaway.

#### Friday, Oct 15

Evening arrival in Lone Pine

#### Saturday, Oct 16

8 a.m.: Breakfast run up Whitney Portal Rd.

9 a.m.: Breakfast at Mt. Whitney Restaurant

10 a.m.: Eastern California Museum

11 a.m.: Manzanar Walking Tour (optional)

12 p.m.: Picnic lunch at end of Onion Valley Road, via. Independence

Drive to Bishop for motel check-in

Drive to Schulman Grove (optional)

5 p.m.: Drive to Sierra Viewpoint

(SR 168 - East) for sunset view

7 p.m.: Dinner in Bishop

#### Sunday, Oct 17

8 a.m.: Breakfast in Bishop

10 a.m.: Drive to Lake Sabrina and South Lake (SR 168 - West)

check-out of motels by 11 a.m.

Drive to Lake Sabrina and South Lake back to Bishop, Laws Railroad Museum, on to Mono Lake via Hwy 6 and SR 120 Lee Vining, Mono Lake Info Center

Head south via SR 395 to Bishop and/or home with possible detour on Lower Rock Creek Road.

For more info please contact JEANNE at [jppandes@earthlink.net](mailto:jppandes@earthlink.net)

### ***Miles of Miatas for MDA*** **T-shirts** **Available for Purchase**

You missed the *Miles of Miatas for MDA* fun run, but would still like to help? You can purchase the T-shirts for \$10 each, and *all* the money — the whole ten dollars — will go directly to help MDA right here in San Diego County. (You can make out your check to "MDA" for an income tax deduction!)

The T-shirts feature a little red Miata on the front and back and are just the right thing to wear to the MDA Telethon on September 6, and of course, Miata fun runs, too! See SUE HINKLE at a club event or e-mail at [sportscarr@aol.com](mailto:sportscarr@aol.com) to purchase them.





## SURF 'N' SAFARI POKER RALLY

Just a few words about the awesome Poker Rally which is just one part of **SURF 'N' SAFARI!** RAINER MUELLER, our Rally Meister, says his event will take you all the way from sea level to almost a mile high, over some of America's finest Miata roads—close to 100 miles. There'll be more "twisties" than you can count.

This rally features your choice of a morning or afternoon run, with the alternate time spent touring the world famous San Diego Wild Animal Park.

Several best hands—best of seven cards drawn during the rally—will win *and* there'll be some great prizes for the winners!

### RetroMobile USA –

#### A Collector's Dream

October 21 – 23, 1999

RetroMobile, held in association with the Chrysler Classic Speed Festival, Coronado, will debut at the San Diego Convention Center. Both events are organized by General Racing Ltd., best known for their Monterey Historic Race weekend.

San Diego joins Paris as the only two cities where automobile enthusiasts may experience the eclectic personality and ambiance of RetroMobile. This is the only time the Paris event's originators, Centre International de Automobile, have allowed another organization to use the RetroMobile name. For more information: [www.retromobileusa.com](http://www.retromobileusa.com)

Visitors to RetroMobile USA will enter the realm of automobile memorabilia, rare parts, and a variety of automotive services and accessories. From attractive arrangements of automotive art and museum collectibles to historical displays from major automobile manufacturers and car clubs, the show is a car collector's dream. Restorers will find themselves submerged in a sea of rare automotive antiques.

Volunteers from SDMC will be assisting during the show. — *Are you interested in volunteering?— watch this space in October's newsletter for more details.*

### Let's Talk Tires...

**S**o you're thinking about new tires, but the dealers are little help, the Web sites are confusing, and everybody seems to be trying to sell you something. That makes it time to talk performance tires for Miatas. Take it easy, this is beginner stuff, on the street, "where the rubber meets the road."

#### A Performance Tire?

First, what is performance? Well, if you're still on the tires Mazda sent with the car, just about anything else is going to feel better. Even on Miatas, the stock



tires are selected by price. Real quality to the manufacturer is different than real quality to an enthusiast like yourself. There is a difference between getting groceries and going on a run. If you didn't at least suspect that, why'd you buy the car? While performance is hard to quantify, suffice it to say that once you've driven good tires you'll never go back. STEF says "It feels like the car is glued to the road." The first time you turn the wheel and the car actually goes where you point it, instantly, can be a life changing experience.

Cars are built on top of the tires. Gear ratios, final drive ratio, brake size and configuration, wheel well size, wheel diameter and width, ground clearance, price, sales image, etc., etc., etc., are all directly related to the manufacturer's choice of tire type and size. *When you change tires you must be aware of the inevitable changes to the rest of the car.* For instance; increasing the diameter (also called a taller tire) causes the speedometer to read slow and the odometer to show fewer miles than the car has actually traveled. It also decreases acceleration and braking ability but adds to the potential top speed of the car. Obviously the opposite is true when you go smaller. More on this later. We're not talking rocket science here, mostly just good common sense.

#### Tire Sizes

Tires come in various sizes, which are marked on the sidewall. To be specific; 185-60/14 is the stock Miata size. This means the tire is 185 millimeters wide

(at the widest part, not at the tread), the sidewall height (from the rim to the tread, also called "aspect ratio") is about 60% of 185 millimeters, and the wheel size is 14 inches. There are some other things on the sidewall; we'll get to them later.

On Miatas, if you want to change the tire size for more performance, better looks, or whatever, there are two safe ways to do so. You can put a somewhat *wider* tire on the stock size wheel, or you can go to a larger wheel (and tire) size. Wider 14-inch tires (usually one size up, never more than two) will widen the tire's contact patch (good). But the increased width also increases the sidewall height, and flex, since the aspect ratio, at 60, stays the same (bad). Now, a little extra width might still be a good thing overall, but to get truly better performance you need to gain that width without increasing the sidewall height. In other words, you need to get into a lower profile tire. This does two things for you—gives you more width for grip without increasing sidewall flex, and allows you to keep the overall diameter of the wheel/tire assembly the same as stock (good). The biggest limitation a Miata enthusiast faces in getting lower profile high-performance tires is that the selection of that sort of rubber for 14-inch wheels is *extremely* limited. Let's face it; tire companies are trying to make a profit, not your day. The assumption is that the hot shoes are spending a lot more money on their cars than Miatas cost, and those cars wear bigger wheels. Look at a TIRE RACK ad; see how all the really cool-looking wheels are 16, 17, or even 18 inches in diameter? Corvettes, Porsches, Ferraris... that's what those wheels are for. Much larger markets for the wheel and tire companies; much larger profits too.

The answer? Move up to 15-inch wheels. Yes, wheels, especially light ones, are not cheap, but when you move to a 15-inch wheel, a whole new world of tire options suitable for Miatas opens up to you. There are *loads* of excellent high-performance tires available in the 195/50-15 and larger sizes! Again, as the wheel diameter increases, the tire sidewall height must be decreased to compensate and keep the same overall diameter. This also allows for a stiffer sidewall (less flex is good). Tire people



call this a "Plus 1" (from the stock size). A 16 inch wheel would be a "Plus 2."

Experience has shown the best Miata combination of the above factors is a 195 or 205-50/15, on a 61/2 or 7-inch-wide rim. Any larger sizes may look cool, but they'll cost a lot more, offer no significant performance gain, and hurt the ride. And don't forget—added size equals added unsprung weight (bad). The facts are that Miatas don't have the horsepower or the weight to fully benefit from much larger wheels or tires anyway. And you can't grab that bitchin' new 45-series techno-tread-go-fast special (or whatever the Hot Rocket set-up is this week), it just won't fit your Miata. Miatas use 60-series 14s, 50-series 15s, 40-series 16s, etc.

Now to the rest of the sidewall code. Simply stated; a true performance tire in the 205-50/15 Miata size will have about an 82 weight rating, probably a V speed rating, an A temperature rating, A or AA traction, and a treadwear rating of 250 or lower. These quality ratings are almost always packaged together, as they have to work together and compliment each other. Finding a tire with all of the above is not a problem.

### Treadwear and Speed Ratings

The factor that will differ wildly is the treadwear rating. On Miatas especially, this very subjective rating is far more relevant to traction than the actual life of the tire. Miles per dollar and other such figures are mostly irrelevant (even if they could be figured with any accuracy) on this car. You will find great-looking tires with all the good specs but with a high treadwear rating, and they may even cost less. But anything above 250 is high for our purposes, and they go up past 400! Tires with a 400 rating will wear like iron— 40,000 miles later you'll still be sliding around! Lower is stickier; a race tire may have a 50 treadwear rating. The specs simply can't explain this factor properly. Treadwear rating DOES affect traction. With all the wannabes buying tires to look cool, some manufacturers are building real strange stuff. One brand even has a tire that says "cosmetic" on the sidewall!

The speed rating may also be confusing. Why put a 130mph tire on a 95mph car? The best answer is that the overall quality of the tire's materials, construc-

tion, and quality control makes a quantum leap at the V ratings that the price doesn't show. The little money saved on lower speed ratings simply isn't worth the difference. By the same token, a Z rated (and priced) Miata tire is an oxymoron.

In our dry, warm Southern California climate, rain tires and tire composition (nylon, rayon, etc.) seem to be non-factors. The good tires will all have the same basic quality ingredients.

Tread design is also quite subjective and sometimes advertising hype. If tread design were really a handling factor it wouldn't change like new fall fashions.

What have we learned here? A 195-50/15, 82V, A Temp, A (orAA) Traction, 250 (or less) Treadwear tire is just about perfect for your Miata. My personal favorite? Toyo Proxes T1 Plus [ed. note: this tire has been discontinued and replaced with the T1-S], at about \$105 apiece. But there are several other excellent brands out there with similar prices and similar quality and performance. I only mention this tire and price "for example." Stick with a major brand from a dealer who will talk to you and your needs. Talk to club members who have some experience. After reading this, you will have learned enough to go back through the web sites and apply their brand propaganda to your needs and car. You may find that the word "performance" can be a buzz word, and not necessarily a valid description of all the tires to which it's applied.

Most dealers will give you a "test drive" on their brand for a few days for free. Independent dealers can order from different warehouses and get whatever you want if you ask. And whatever tires you decide on, don't forget the 4-wheel alignment!

Enjoy your Miata!  
—TED KESLER



**SURF 'N' SAFARI  
ON THE WEB**

Keep up-to-date with event information, visit the **SURF 'N' SAFARI WEBSITE** at [www.mainstreet-data.com/sns](http://www.mainstreet-data.com/sns)

The Surf 'N' Safari site is also linked to the SAN DIEGO MIATA CLUB's Web site at [www.sandiegomiataclub.org](http://www.sandiegomiataclub.org).



**VOLUNTEERS  
NEEDED!**

Are you interested in volunteering for a two or three hour shift on Friday, October 8<sup>th</sup> and/or Saturday, October 9<sup>th</sup>?

The **SURF 'N' SAFARI** committee would love to add your name to our volunteer list. You'll receive a most excellent "Event Staff" T-Shirt as a reward for your volunteer effort. Choose one or more of the options below and contact LAURIE, (858) 673-4141, [swaid2@san.rr.com](mailto:swaid2@san.rr.com)

- Welcome/Registration Booth
- Vendor Area
- Car Washing Area
- Beach Luau
- Poker Rally
- Wild Animal Park
- Julian Run
- San Diego Run
- La Jolla Run
- Banquet
- I'll do *anything* for one of those cool shirts!

### Aftermarket Goodies

#### New Window Cleaner

I have been using a new product that I would like to share with you: Eagle One 20/20 streak-free auto glass cleaner. It says on the label that it removes bug, road grime, and oily film from windshields, smokers residue and vinyl fog caused by solvent evaporation in vinyl, plastics, and leather from interior windows.



I have used it for all of one week and I must say that I have never seen a cleaner window inside and out. My wife, Vickie, even commented on it. A 26-fluid ounce bottle costs less than \$3 from Kragen Auto Parts.

Yes, I will buy another bottle.

— DAN CLEMONS



## HEY DUDES — SURF'S UP SOON!

We are really excited, and we're looking forward to **SURF 'N' SAFARI**. There will be lots of great things to do and see, so get those surfboards waxed and ready for a really gnarly event!

### What's in store for you at SURF 'N' SAFARI:

#### Vendor Mall

*Eighteen aftermarket vendors with more Miata goodies than you can imagine!*

Visit the **SURF 'N' SAFARI VENDOR MALL** every day:

12 noon – 8:30 p.m. Thursday, October 7

9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Friday, October 8

9:00 a.m. – 6:30 p.m. Saturday, October 9

9:00 a.m. – 12 noon Sunday, October 10

#### Thursday, October 7

12 noon Registration begins, CARMEL HIGHLAND RESORT'S lobby

3:00 p.m. Hotel check-in

6:30 p.m. Welcome reception with snacks and a no-host bar. Casual dress. Swap stories and pins, meet Miata-friends, both old and new.

#### Friday, October 8

8:00 a.m. – 12 noon Registration continues

A Miata-driving day. Historic Julian Apple Country Driving Tour or San Diego Driving Tour in the morning and La Jolla Driving Tour in the afternoon.

5:00 p.m. Bring your blanket and beach towels to the **SURF 'N' SAFARI LUAU** on Coronado Island. Entertainment and awards for the best costumes (*Surfer or Pacific Island attire*).

#### Saturday, October 9

**SURF 'N' SAFARI POKER RALLY**— Rally Meister Mueller will lead you on the best twisties San Diego has to offer.

*and*

Visit the world famous **SAN DIEGO WILD ANIMAL PARK**, including Miata-only parking.

Saturday Evening — Super **SURFER BANQUET** at the event hotel, casual attire, *but no jeans please*.

No-host bar, dancing and entertainment. Awards and surprises.

#### Sunday, October 10

You want to enter the **SURF 'N' SAFARI MIATA ZOO**? What animal will your Miata be?

Surf 'N' Safari officially ends at 12 noon on Sunday with the presentation of awards for the Miata Zoo, but SDMC members never want a good thing to come to an end, so...we've got together to offer you more fun things to choose from for Sunday afternoon —

- Winery Driving Tour
- Run to Puerto Nuevo, Mexico, for Lobster.\*
- Sunset Hot-air Ballooning and Tandem Skydiving, for daring surfers, require additional fees: Ballooning \$120 per person, Skydiving \$200 per person. Sign up for these activities at the Welcome Table.

\*We recommend that you check your insurance coverage before driving into Mexico or purchase Mexican insurance at the border for approximately \$20.



LAST CHANCE  
TO SIGN-UP  
FOR  
**SURF 'N' SAFARI**  
FOR \$99\*

Your Kahuna wannabe here, to let you know that if you don't sign up for **SURF 'N' SAFARI** prior to September 1<sup>st</sup>, you'll be paying an additional \$20 late registration fee.—*What are you waiting for?*

Final preparations are under way for the coolest, most fun-packed Miata weekend in the SAN DIEGO MIATA CLUB'S history: an extended weekend starting on Thursday, October 7<sup>th</sup> with the Welcome Reception, and winding up Sunday with the wild and crazy Miata Zoo contest. In between will be a fun-packed time filled with spectacular events and great shopping at the best Miata vendor mall this side of I-15.

Sign up now by calling Sue at (760) 735-9456, or e-mailing her at [sportscarr@aol.com](mailto:sportscarr@aol.com). Or surf to **SURF 'N' SAFARI**'s Web site at: [www.mainstreet-data.com/sns](http://www.mainstreet-data.com/sns), and fill out an application there. We've made it easy, you can pay by credit card. Any way you do it, you'll save \$20 if you act before September 1<sup>st</sup>. Now think about it, that's another \$20 to spend on goodies at the vendor mall!

There will be some fabulous give-aways, too. Our vendors and sponsors have provided a "most excellent" collection of Miata goodies— more than one can imagine! These items will be given away as raffle prizes, poker rally prizes, at the Miata Zoo contest, and at surprise opportunities.

So listen up, Dudes! I hear the call of the wild — *Surfs Up!* Let's load up the woodie, er, the Miata and head on out to **SURF 'N' SAFARI!**

See ya there.

—KAHUNA ELLIOT

\*Registration for members of the San Diego Zoological Society is \$85, a \$14 savings (after September 1<sup>st</sup> Zoo members will pay \$105 per person).



## New Members!

The following are the new members since the last newsletter:

### Mike Axelrod

San Diego  
1992 Mariner Blue A

### Shaun & Mary Burns

San Diego  
1995 White B

### Wayman & Candy Dunlap

Vista  
1997 Montego Blue Leather

### Eugene & Keiko Jung

San Diego  
1991 BRG LE

### Shawn & Kim McGowan

Escondido  
1995 Black

### Brad & Kris Rust

Carlsbad  
1999 Black Leather

### Gary & Rosalind Scott

Ramona  
1996 Montego Blue PEP

### John Uphouse

San Diego  
Unreported

### Mary Ann Wallner

Oceanside  
Unreported

The following members have renewed since the last newsletter:

### David Anderson

### Ron & Reina Bolles

### Gale Chan

### Raymond & Barbara D'Argenio

### Skip & Sally Elmore

### Ken Evory

### Brian Goodwin

### Ed & Marie Gross

### Jack & Sue Hinkle

### Neal Howland

### Ed & Michelle Langmaid

### Bob & Debbie Llewellyn

### Marla & Scott Mitro

### Paul & Robin Przybysz

### Mandy Simpson

### Genai & Jay Stoneburner

### Ralph & Chris Vasquez

There are now 301 memberships consisting of 462 members.

## President's Message

### From the Pulpit

#### Why We Do What We Do!

Over the years I have participated actively in various organizations. I have coached youth soccer teams, been elected Vice President of the Soccer League, managed Little League teams, been elected to the Board of Directors of Little League, managed a Girls Softball Team, been the Referee Coordinator and Referee in a Youth Soccer League, been elected to the Board of Directors of the Institute of Management Accountants, been elected President of the Grossmont Center Merchants Association, been a Deacon and an Elder at our church, been the Chairman of the Welcome Ministry at our church, and been involved with other organizations that right now escape my memory. I give you this history not to impress but to give some validity to the observations I am about to make.

By being as involved as I have with this diverse grouping of organizations, I have experienced all kinds of people and levels of skills. There is one thing that all of these organizations, and therefore the people involved, have in common. They do this because they want to. All of these organizations are non-profit. All volunteered to be involved. None were paid for their efforts. WHY DO THEY DO IT?

My conclusion is summed up in one word. PASSION! I believe that no one participates in any non-profit organization if they don't have a *passion* for the purpose. As manager of a Little League team, I passionately wanted to ensure that each one of my players was able to experience the joys of playing baseball that I had experienced when I was a kid. As Chairman of the Welcome Ministry at our church, I passionately wanted to instill in every person who came to worship that they were special and were welcome and were made to feel comfortable.

Since LAURIE and I joined the SAN DIEGO MIATA CLUB in March of 1997, I have seen the club double in membership. This growth has been fueled and maintained by the passion of the active members of the club. Not all of our members are active, but many are. The

larger our member base, the larger the numbers of active members. This truth stimulates the passion in the membership, and also multiplies the number of new ideas and issues that the club gets to experience.

In September of 1998, LOU and RUTH STARK visualized a project that they passionately believed was going to take our club to a new level. **SURF 'N' SAFARI** was going to bring the *passions* demonstrated by the SAN DIEGO MIATA CLUB to the attention of Miata enthusiasts around the country. The Vision of Lou and Ruth, and the *passion* that they have for SDMC, is about to bring forth fruit. We are now about a month away from the event. Many volunteer hours have gone into the planning, promoting, and registration of participants.

My experience in working with volunteer groups tells me that tensions arise as time becomes short. This is the time to remind everyone...Keep Your Eyes On The Goal. Why do we do what we do? We do what we do because we all have the *passion* for the same thing. Keep that in mind. Why do we have **SURF 'N' SAFARI?** — for three reasons:

1. We want to make sure that *all* SAN DIEGO MIATA CLUB members have an exceptionally good time: that the event is unlike anything done before.
2. We want all non-SDMC participants to have the time of their lives and experience the SAN DIEGO MIATA CLUB'S enthusiasm... recognized by others as extraordinary, we tend to take it for granted.
3. When the event is over— AFTER GLOW! Everyone will be asking... When is "**SURF 'N' SAFARI II?**"

Now is the time for you to join in. Volunteers are still needed. The more helpers we have, the more time for fun for each of our members. Besides, all event volunteers will receive a "*Really Cool*, special **SURF 'N' SAFARI** T-Shirt in yellow." No one else will have them. That's the bribe. But, experience tells me that there is another reason that you will volunteer. PASSION. Volunteer to the First Babe: LAURIE WAID, (858) 673-4141 or [swaid2@san.rr.com](mailto:swaid2@san.rr.com)  
—STEVE WAID

