



SAN DIEGO MIATA CLUB NEWS

VOLUME 4 NUMBER 11

NOVEMBER 1999

A CHAPTER OF THE MIATA CLUB OF AMERICA

UPCOMING EVENTS



November 13—Saturday
Temecula Wine Run



November 14—Sunday
Autocross at the Q
Sponsored by SCAT and SDMC



November 18—Thursday
Monthly Meeting
A week early this month!
Quarterly Board Meeting



November 20—Saturday
Hear and Gear
Custom Ear Protection Fittings
and Mini Tech Day



November 28—Sunday
Autocross at the Q



December 11—Saturday
SDMC's Holiday Party
Advance Payment Required!



December 12—Sunday
Christmas Card Lane
Christmas Lights Tour



December 16—Thursday
Monthly Meeting
A week early next month, too!



January 2, 2000 — Sunday
Hangover Run
Annual Socalm/SDMC Run

Surf 'N' Safari

Way Cool!

So there we were, VIC and I, listening to club member LARRY READ entertain the crowd and watching the near-realtime video of the day's runs (provided by club members ED and MICHELLE LANGMAID) interspersed with slides from our past (provided by club members and formatted for the slide show by STEF GOULD) being shown on the silver screen by club member ANTHONY "NEVADABOB" WILDE on equipment provided by himself and club member GREG MAISER (who actually went out and *bought* a PowerBook to put this presentation together). I couldn't help it as my mind wandered back to that day in February of 1996 when eleven people sat at a table at Stuff Pizza and said to each other, "Well, whaddaya think, can we make this thing fly?" In the middle of that thought, Vic says to me, "Can you believe we've done all that stuff?"

Now, only 3½ years later, we have not only made it fly, but our first *big*-time event is in the history books. What an event it was! And, yes, we sure have done a lot of stuff in only 3½ years.

We have not only one of the largest clubs in Miatadom, but one of the most enthusiastic—and talented. I hear "Wow! How do you guys get all this enthusiasm from your members?" and "Man, I'm hangin' out with you guys, you're *fun!*" every time we go somewhere as a group. This time I was even questioned by a board member from one of the few Miata clubs bigger than ours about how we keep the excitement at such a fever pitch. I don't really think about it that much; it just seems to happen.

But when you do think about it, I guess it's because we are blessed not only with a multitude of talented people, but also with an unbelievable number of members who are more than willing to put their talents to good use for the benefit of the club and our community. Take this event for example... the vision of the STARKS, the organizational skills and resolve of SUE HINKLE and BARBARA TEMPLETON, the usual dose of publishing and graphic excellence from Stef and TOM GOULD, the multimedia mastery of NevadaBob and Greg Maiser, the photography and video of the Langmaids, the musical talent of Larry Read, the leadership of our First Family, and the just plain hard, hard work of the committee, run leaders, volunteers, and dozens of assorted members who simply step up to the plate every time they're asked to help...or even when they aren't asked. I know I no doubt forgot to mention someone, but there are so many who voluntarily give of themselves in this club that it's difficult to impossible to list all of the names (I, of course, worked very hard at doing my usual nothing. I have a responsibility to the next vice-president, after all, to not allow the job description to get corrupted). Put it all together and you get a *very* successful SURF 'N' SAFARI.

As I sat there thinking about all the roads we've travelled in just a few short years, I started to get all choked up. So I let someone talk me into doing the chicken dance to break the mood. Well, that worked. It refocused me on the possibility of having a heart attack. But now that I'm sitting again, I just had to say thank you, SAN DIEGO MIATA CLUB, for making me once again more proud than I can remember ever having been about anything else in my life. This sure is one hell of a car club!

—VOODOO BOB KRUEGER



SOCALM EVENTS

Custom Ear Plug Fitting with Skorpion Racing

Date: Saturday, November 13

Time: Appointments every 20 minutes from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Place: Sam Hunter's home Simi Valley
PlaynBig@cs.com

The earplugs are usually \$35 plus tax. We will get a 15% discount if we get more than 15 people (\$29.75 plus tax). The ear plugs will be mailed out within a couple of days after they are made. All sorts of cool colors available. And, yes, wearing custom-fitted earplugs while driving topless is completely legal.

La Palma Days Parade

Date: Saturday, November 13

Time: 9:00 a.m. to Noon

Place: The City of La Palma, Orange County

Contact: Zack Broadbent,
racerzack@aol.com

SOCALM has been invited to participate in the fifteenth annual La Palma Days Parade. Participants will carry dignitaries in their vehicles, such as Ms. La Palma. The parade route is about 1.5 miles long and you have control over how many people you will carry in your car (sometimes you can crowd several kids in a Miata by having them stand). A continental breakfast will be provided to each driver and one guest, and the parade will be televised on local cable TV. This is a fun way for club members to be seen in the local community. Afterwards, all SOCALM participants will go together for lunch to a local restaurant.

SOCALM's Christmas Party

Date: Saturday, December 4

Place: The Pollock's home in Northridge

Hangover Run

Date: Sunday, January 2, 2000

The first Fun Run of the new century will be Zack's famous (or is that infamous) annual Hangover Run!

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. Call the hotline below to confirm the date

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
Rainer Mueller (760) 439-0067
John Godden (619) 538-6165

Come participate or watch our club members race at the autocross. 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.

Events are open to the public at no charge. However, to enter the pit area you must sign a waiver 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!



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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 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 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
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Meeting Places

Temecula Winery Tour

Date: Saturday, November 13

Time: 9:00 a.m.

Place: North County Fair parking lot, under the large sign on the west side of the mall—

1-15 at Via Rancho Parkway

Run Leaders: Melissa Rogers, mrogers@signalpharm.com, and her mom, Terry

Enjoy a scenic excursion as we make our way toward Temecula. Tour wineries until about 4 p.m. An early dinner at The Bank of Mexican Food, 28646 Front Street, Temecula, is planned for those who want to feast on authentic home-style Mexican food. View their menu at: www.temecula-tourism.com/OnlineComm/menus/bank1.asp

Bring an old white tee-shirt and a permanent ink pen and join me in making a "Wine Tasting Day Tee." Simply smudge a little wine on the shirt and note the name, year, and winery—star the ones you enjoyed the most!

Monthly Meeting

Followed by Quarterly Board Meeting

Date: Thursday, November 18

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.

Quarterly board meeting immediately following the membership meeting.

Hear and Gear

**Custom Ear Protection Fitting*
and Mini Tech Day**

Date: Saturday, November 20

Time: 9 a.m.—until we're through, in 20 minute time slots—two people at a time

Place: Diane Long's home, Scripps Ranch

Coordinator: Diane Long,
djaws@san.rr.com

*Contact Diane for an appointment.
See articles on page 4 and 5



Holiday Party

Date: Saturday, December 11

Time: 7 p.m. – Midnight

Place: The View Café

Price: \$25 per person

*Reservations must be made and paid for by
November 20, 1999.*



This year our holiday party will be at the View Café, overlooking the beautiful lights of Rancho Bernardo.

We will have the place and its huge parking lot entirely to ourselves, just like last year. We can relax, eat, drink, talk, and have lots of room to enjoy each other's company.

There is a large screen available for us to show the videos some of our members have taken of club runs and other fun things. There will be special showings of the events of the year including *Surf'N'Safari*.

Be sure to reserve December 11th on your calendar for our Holiday Party... the last Miata holiday event of the century.

Tentative Menu:

Assorted Vegetable Platters with Dips
Roast Loin of Pork
Roast Turkey with Gravy
Whipped Potatoes
Dressing
Green Beans Almondine
Marinated Italian Pasta Salad
Tossed Garden Green Salad
Fresh Dinner Rolls
Apple Cobbler
Fresh Brewed Coffee—
Regular and Decaf
Hot Tea, Ice Tea and Punch

Don't be left out! Make your reservations today by mailing a check for \$25 per person to Ed and Michelle—

UPCOMING NATIONAL AND REGIONAL EVENTS

March 18, 2000

Y2K St. Patrick's Day Poker Run
San Joaquin Valley Miata Cub

March 24–26, 2000 (*Note new date!*)

**Fourth Annual
Miata Performance Driving School**
See article on page 11

April 29–May 1, 2000

Bruges 2000

10th Anniversary European Miata gathering in Bruges, Belgium.
www.eunos.com/bruges/
SDMC Contact: Ed Langmaid,
ed1@cari.net

All rooms in the event's three hotels are sold out, but we have a list of others!

June 21, 2000

Y2K 2 Alaska

The MIDNIGHT SUN MIATA CLUB invites Miata club members to Fairbanks, Alaska for the longest day of the year.
Contact: Don,
onwoodke@co.fairbanks.ak.us

October 24-27, 2000

Miatas in Paradise

MCA national event for the year 2000
Daytona Beach, Florida
Contact: Jenna, (800) 832-3292

Club Stuff— Available at Monthly Meetings

The SAN DIEGO MIATA CLUB has a variety of "club stuff" available for purchase at every Monthly Meeting from BARB SHEV, the regalia gal, mooncalf@aol.com.

- Static-cling window decals in most every car color \$5 each
- Hat/lapel pins— red, white, blue, green and black Miatas only \$3 each
- T-shirts \$12, even a few long-sleeve ones at \$14 (XXL are \$1 more)
- Sweatshirts, crew \$18, slipover/hooded \$22, and zippered/hooded \$24 (XXL are \$2 more)
- Name tags, order from VIC KRUEGER \$6

Embroidery— The club logo is being re-digitized for an even better look! Barb has arranged for a special group price for embroidering club jackets (buy the jacket on your own or order one from Barb). She'll take orders/collect jackets at the November 18 monthly meeting for tentative delivery at December's meeting.



It's What's Between the Ears That Counts!

You know that the noise you experience while driving your Miata is a real nuisance. You can't hear the music or your partner very well, or you have to turn up the volume on your radio so that the music is louder than the noise from the wind and other cars.

Is it just a nuisance or is it damaging to your ears?

Lucky for us, there has been much research on the hazards of noise. In the work place there are guidelines established by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA). These federal and state (in California) agency regulations set a limit on the noise to which the average person can be exposed. That level is 85dBA of continuous noise (machines, music, etc.) for 8 hours a day, 5 days a week, for a 40-year work life. If you are exposed to louder noise, there is a good chance your hearing will be damaged, PERMANENTLY! You can't tell when damage occurs. You don't feel anything. There are no warning lights. You just gradually lose your hearing. The higher frequencies (which includes consonants) normally go first and you can't tell if a person says "mom" or "bomb" unless you are looking at them. There is a big difference, of course, but your ears can't tell. Personally, I want to be able to tell the difference between those two words if someone is talking near me!

Is top-down driving really hurting your hearing?

If you are regularly exposed to loud sounds and then you go driving with the top and windows down on the freeway, it could be causing a gradual hearing loss. If you are not generally exposed to loud sounds and don't drive on the freeway with the top and windows down for more than six hours a day chances are you won't suffer a noise-induced hearing loss. This is based on my research with a DuPont Mark 1 noise dosimeter on I-15 with my windscreen on, and I expect it to be the same on any freeway. If you are not on a freeway and you are driving at or near posted speed limits, you can probably drive 24 hours a day without much of a chance of a hearing loss, but

take lots of "No-Doz."

Generally, when I drive on the freeway my windows are up. The noise level is 50% less (compared to windows down) and I can better enjoy conversation and music.

If you want, you can invest in ear plugs— custom-fitted ones are legal to wear while driving, others are not (see article on page 5). If you wear ear plugs properly there is virtually no risk of noise-induced hearing loss while driving the Miata. Ear plugs are good, in that they reduce the noise but allow speech frequencies to be heard. The cheap foam ones stop about as much noise as the custom fit ones, but the custom ones are more comfortable. I hope to buy a set soon for long red-eye plane flights.

We are seeing many more people with hearing loss at work because of loud music and Walkman radios. You can easily turn those babies up to 120dBA! After a while, you have to turn them up more to hear. Ears are a terrible thing to waste. Save them so you can hear the crickets on Twilight Runs and



PHOTO: JAMIE VILACORTE

Jon Martinez gets injected!

the finches in the gardens of your favorite castle.

Disclaimer: There may be some people who tend to suffer a higher degree of hearing loss from the same amount of noise. The hair cells in the cochlea may degrade more quickly because of smoking or other health conditions. Please see your doctor if you suspect a hearing loss.

—ED LANGMAID, CSP

(Certified Safety Professional)

Owners Of 1999 Miatas Take Notice

Mazda has sent out a service bulletin related to a noise from the engine. This noise is described in the bulletin as "a rattling noise [which] may be heard from the engine when depressing the clutch or when revving the engine in neutral. In extreme cases, customers may experience noise at all times."

The problem can be related to an improperly machined number 4 main bearing cap, which may result in premature wear of the thrust bearing. The fix is to replace the engine block.



Service bulletin #002/99 concerns 1999 Miatas with a Vehicle Identification Number (VIN) lower than 126468 (the last six digits of VIN). A testing procedure to measure the end play of the crankshaft is prescribed in the service bulletin, and should be carried out by a Mazda service department if your Miata falls within the VIN range.

Please note— a few instances have been reported on the Miata.net e-mail list of vehicles NOT covered by the VIN range exhibiting the problem, and having the engine blocks replaced.

Bulletin #002/99 can be found here: www.miata.net/garage/tsb/ (scroll down to the bottom of the listing).

Thanks to member MARK BOOTH, who called attention to this by posting it to the club e-mail list.

—EDITOR



Custom Ear Protection

Driving a Miata with the top down (is there any other way?) for long distances, at the autocross or on the race-track, can provide enough wind and engine noise to do damage to your hearing over time.

Today, when a professional race driver takes his helmet off, you will see him remove his ear protection right after that. A great number of the older race car drivers now wear hearing aids as a result of not wearing hearing protection during their racing careers.

Custom-fitted ear protection, not the foam or rubber ear plugs you can buy off the shelf, is the *only* legal ear protection for driving in California:

California Vehicle Code Article 3.5, Section 27400— Wearing of Headsets and Ear Plugs

No person operating any motor vehicle or bicycle shall wear any headset covering, or any ear plugs, in both ears. The prohibition of this section does not apply to:

(d) Any person wearing personal hearing protectors in the form of custom ear plugs or molds that are designed to attenuate injurious noise levels.

The custom plugs or molds shall be designed in a manner so as to not inhibit the wearer's ability to hear a siren or horn from an emergency vehicle or a horn from another motor vehicle.

The Offer

After a successful fitting session in September at the home of dual club member JEANNE PANDES VILLACORTE, DIANE LONG has arranged to have the same vendor come to her home on Saturday, November 20 to provide the service for members of SDMC and their friends.

The Process and Other Details

Greg and Tyler Paulson, from SKORPION RACING in Laguna Hills, will do the fittings at Diane Long's home in Scripps Ranch.

Skorpion makes InstaMold (medical-grade silicone) ear protectors that will give you optimum ear protection. Silicone plugs have a NRR (noise reduction rating) of 27-30 dB. They are the only tested and proven ear protectors whose

studies have become an accepted procedure published in the Archives of Otolaryngology (American Medical Association). Using a syringe, the silicone is injected into the outer ear to form the plug. (A foam block is first inserted into the ear canal). The silicone remains in your ear for about 10-15 minutes, allowing it to cure. After it is removed, the plug will continue to cure for another one hour before it can be buffed, double-dipped into a protective polymer, and allowed to dry.

Because of the group size, these last steps will take place after the event. When finished, Skorpion Racing will then mail the finished plugs to your address. Shipping and handling is included in the price.

Strings connecting the two plugs (e.g., so that they can hang around your neck), are available for an additional charge. Be sure to request this option at your fitting.

The ear plugs can be made in a variety of colors, either plain or marbled. Available "day glo" colors include: blue, green, purple, yellow, red, and orange, as well as light and dark skin tones.

Cost

Per set: \$29.75 + 7.75% tax (this includes a special 15% SDMC group discount* from the normal price of \$35/set).

Doctors generally charge \$50-80 for the same ear plugs.

Cost includes shipping and handling, and a metal storage case.

*We need a minimum of 15 people (sets) to sign up for the November 20 fitting in order to qualify for the 15% group discount.

Payment:

- Credit: MC, Visa and AmEx
- Cash
- Checks NOT accepted

There is a one-year warranty covering material and craftsmanship.

Sign Up!

If you are interested in having custom ear protection made, please e-mail Diane Long, djaws@san.rr.com, with up to three preferred time slots from 9 a.m. in 20-minute slots). Diane will make up a schedule and confirm your appointment with you.

Trunk Release Tip

OK— how many owners of '92 and newer Miatas have fretted a bit over the fact that your trunk can be opened from the armrest console and even a "locked" armrest could easily be pulled open by a 97 lb. weakling?

Sure, one solution is to disable (disconnect) the cable leading from the armrest console back to the trunk latch mechanism. This forces you to use the key to open the trunk but it also means you are really in a bit of a bind if you lock your keys in the trunk!

Interestingly, Mazda *designed* the latch mechanism on the trunk in such a way that putting the key in the trunk



lock and turning it counterclockwise *disables the armrest console release!* Very clever! Only problem— some other engineer decided to put in a trunk lock cylinder that doesn't allow counterclockwise rotation! Duh!

Well— always clever and ingenious Miata enthusiasts to the rescue! Rod Roller of CAMS has discovered that removing (grinding down) a certain part of the lock cylinder allows the lock to be turned counterclockwise and— voila!— a way to disable your armrest console release.

Complete instructions can be found on [Miata.net](http://miata.net) (with links to two different pages, depending if you have a '92-'97 or a '99):

<http://miata.net/garage/techtrunk.html>

I performed this little modification on my '92. It works exactly as advertised! Be sure to pay close attention to the photographs and don't grind off too much.

I'll be happy to demonstrate my new extra-secure trunk to everyone at a monthly meeting. My thanks to ANTHONY WILDE for pointing this out to me in the first place!

—MARK BOOTH





Two Runs, Two Ships, Too Much!!

PHOTO: BRAD BROWN

SDMC Inspects the USN

September 18 and October 3, 1999
The world is a safer place and the food is palatable on board the "DeathStar" (*USS Coronado*)! Over 50 curious taxpayers in over 35 Miatas recently took the brave trek from Chula Vista to Point Loma (via Coronado) to visit member SCOTT LANGHOFF'S duty station, the *USS Coronado*, Commander Third Fleet's Flagship.

Many landlubbers learned about the seafaring life, and were able to sample some fine Navy "chow" and learn about life in the Naval Service. As if that wasn't enough, several hardy souls visited MCRD San Diego and got to tour the Command Museum and learn about some United States Marine Corps history.

For all the "Top Gun" fans, in October, after brunch at Perry's (read Breakfast at Tiffany's), Scott arranged a visit to the nuclear powered aircraft carrier, the *USS John C. Stennis*, at Naval Air Station North Island for over 50 Miatas and 70 members and guests. Talk about a big ship! It's amazing how our young men and women can accomplish some of the feats that are cast upon them! The tour was followed by an impromptu visit to the Coronado Brewery, which was enjoyed by all who partook! You have to try their version of "Chocolate Decadence!"

— SCOTT LANGHOFF



PHOTO: ED LANGMAID



PHOTO: ED LANGMAID



PHOTO: ANTHONY WILDE



PHOTO: ED LANGMAID





October 7-10, 1999

Well, I just got home, unpacked my bags, and was reflecting on what an incredible weekend I just had. There don't seem to be words that can describe well enough the incredible job that the SAN DIEGO MIATA CLUB did in sponsoring *Surf 'N' Safari*. The weekend was filled with excitement and fun, all thanks to the outstanding planning, coordination, and hard work of the SAN DIEGO MIATA CLUB. My hat (well, cap) is off to you, SDMC, and I am honored to be a member and humbled by your enthusiasm.
 — ZACK BROADBENT, SOCALM President (and evil emperor)



PHOTO: DIANE LONG



PHOTO: ED LANGMAID

I had a wonderful time.... I enjoyed meeting new people... the food was absolutely fantastic! SDMC did a super job of planning an event that everyone could enjoy. Jon Martinez and Judy Powell did a great job of bringing super vendors and I blame Jon for my spending waaaaayyyy too much money on goodies for my Miata
 — PHYLLIS WEITER, SOCALM Treasurer (and friend of the evil emperor)



PHOTO: ED LANGMAID



PHOTO: ED LANGMAID



PHOTO: ED LANGMAID

Now that I've had a chance to cool off at home in Santa Monica, I want to share with everyone what a (literally) "hot" time SDMC treated us all to this weekend. (It was over 100 degrees down there!) There were at least 140 Miatas there, many with passengers, so we were in the good company of 200-300 Miatanuts, even some from other countries. I was really proud that nearly every member of SOCALM's Board attended and demonstrated support for our sister club's event.

Congratulations to SDMC on their first production of this scale (read: *awesome!*). The events were so well-planned and all ran seamlessly; the runs to the forest-village of Julian and around the orchards and wine country of Ramona were spectacular. The Friday night Luau on Coronado Island was a relief from the heat inland. There were so many great vendors to shop with and get installs from in one place. There were cool freebies like a canvas deck bag with a copy of the 5th anniversary Miata book for every registrant; the food was all terrific — and there was plenty for everyone! The raffle prizes — it seemed like everyone won something (I know I did). The attention to detail was amazing: even the graphics on all the handouts were stunning!

Kudos to co-chair-babes Sue Hinkle and Barbara Templeton (you should've seen Sue cuttin' a rug out on the dance floor Saturday night!), SDMC President Steve Waid (proud new owner of a freshly Voodoo-exorcized yellow '92), incredibly industrious vendor and raffle coordinators Jon Martinez and Judy Powell, the Board and members of SDMC for their hospitality, and all the generous volunteers who slaved in the heat for us guests (some from the ranks of SOCALM, including our own President Zack Broadbent and Membership Coordinator Bari Hyde and hubby Bill).

Best of all, it was an amazing value: four days of fun — including meals — for only \$99! I hope SDMC at least broke even! — and I hope that they make this an annual event. I know I'll be there!

— BILL WILNER, SOCALM Vice President



Well I just rolled in and unpacked all my stuff. Why is it that I can leave with "x" amount of items, but when I return I have twice as many things? Ohh yeah, I know it is because of all the cool stuff I got at the event! Including the registration stuff: Butterfly Luggage, 5th anniversary book and all kinds of other odds and ends. Well, my summary of the event is very simple— excellent job San Diego! I'll be back next year for sure! The vendors were great, the people were great, the runs were great and the food was awesome! The only problem I had was leaving.

This event next year is going to be big and all because of the hard work the San Diego club put into it.

— DAN GARCIA, Bakersfield



PHOTO: KEN TOOKER

I have been in numerous car clubs, large and small and *never* have I seen such a great group. I am pleased to be a part of it!

— WALLY STEVENS, SDMC



PHOTO: MARK BOOTH



PHOTO: ANTHONY WILDE

We loved the San Diego area and enjoyed meeting so many nice folks. We had a great time at *Surf 'N' Safari*.

— GREG and SUE FRANKLIN, OLD PUEBLO



PHOTO: MARK BOOTH



PHOTO: ANTHONY WILDE

The planning and execution were the best of any event we can recall attending. Two really clever touches top my list: the nametags with the schedule and our own car color, and the dolphin kidnap and rescue.

Thanks to everybody responsible for making *Surf 'N' Safari* a permanent great memory.

— DAVE and LOIS MARTIN, SDMC



PHOTO: ED LANGMAID

Thank you for a wonderful & memorable weekend, it was really great!

— KATHIE MCCLELLAND
SOCALM, SDMC, MCA



PHOTO: MARK BOOTH

What a great weekend, thanks for sharing it with all of us. I spent more money on the car than Elinor did on earrings!

— MIKE and ELINOR SHACK, SDMC



PHOTO: MARK BOOTH

Your club did a fabulous job and my wife and I really enjoyed ourselves. I think I can say the same for the other members of the SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY MIATA CLUB. Thanks to all for doing such a good job.

— BOB and PAULA CRAWFORD, SJVMC



PHOTO: MARK BOOTH

The runs through the hills, the luau and banquet all showed a tremendous amount of planning and hard work, and I loved shopping for Miata goodies all in one place! The *Surf 'N' Safari* weekend was wonderful! What impressed me the most (besides the twisty roads, delicious food, vendors, and friendly people) were the *graphics*. What an awesome program— even the ads are beautifully laid out. You guys did a fantastic job.

— EILEEN FORE, SOCALM





PHOTO: ED LANGMAID

Wow, where do I start! Thank you just doesn't seem like enough! To Sue [Hinkle] and Barb [Templeton], their committee, and my fellow volunteers, what a team! I heard rumor of a repeat in 2001... We'll be there! The only thing I can suggest to do differently is check with you know who up stairs about the weather, it was a little warm! You covered all the bases even to the point of more than enough volunteers. My fellow club members of SOCALM have really said it all. Barbara [Beach] and Phil [Wolfson] thank you for the fabulous opening up your home for a tasty closing dinner and the added touch of wine glasses after already being so generous with our 5th Anniversary Books and deck bags. Also, I can't forget Judy [Powell] and Jon [Martinez]. Without them rounding up the vendors and raffle prizes I wouldn't have won the Jackson Racing CAI for "QT."

Bill and I are very fortunate to be members of yet another extraordinary Miata Club. I wasn't even aware of how many SOCALMers were going to be there. Thanks for an incredible four days.
— BARI and BILL HYDE
SOCALM, SDMC, VROOM, MCA



PHOTO: MARK BOOTH



PHOTO: MARK BOOTH



PHOTO: CHARLIE KILGORE

I just wanted to thank the SAN DIEGO MIATA CLUB for the absolutely wonderful event. Everything from the rooms to runs to new relationships that I had encountered. Every aspect of your event was professional. The event coordinators and staff as well as club members were helpful and friendly. I can't thank you enough.
— DANNY SCHACHT, BAMA



PHOTO: MARK BOOTH

John & I thoroughly enjoyed ourselves and applaud the hard work so many of you did to make it fun for all of us— give yourselves a great big pat on the back! We're proud to be part of the SDMC.
— GERRY and JOHN CONN
SOCALM, SDMC, VROOM



PHOTO: ED LANGMAID

The morning poker run on Saturday may have been the Miata ride of my life!
— ED RAKER, SAHUARO



PHOTO: MARK BOOTH

Winners at Surf'N' Safari

Here are the results of the judged contests.

Best Dressed, Friday night's Luau
Eric Rowland, BAMA
Kris Kells, BAMA

The Miata Zoo

- Grand Prize Scott Rosin and Anita Eoff, SDMC – Siberian Tiger
- 1st Mike Saint and Claire Byrne, New Zealand MX-5 – Bee
- 2nd Dave and Lois Martin, SDMC – Zebra
- 3rd Noelle and Hugo Schmidt, BAMA – Lady Bug



PHOTO: JOACHIM CHEUNG

THANKS to the whole SD Miata crowd for the wonderful event. Without you folks I would never have had the pleasure of being called 'Dolphin Boy' or 'Teapot Man!' But seriously, I had a great time. The event was incredibly well coordinated, the runs were fun and informative, and the people were the nicest I've ever met. I especially liked the way you did door prizes! Finally a way to win without being bored to death! I may even join the SD club— it's only an eight-hour drive to the events.
— ERIC ROWLAND and FLIPPER, BAMA

Dealer/Vendor Sponsorship— A Salesman's Perspective

It seems like ages ago that JUDY POWELL, JON MARTINEZ, and I began contacting MAZDA NORTH AMERICA, the San Diego MAZDA dealers and the many independent automotive businesses to support *Surf 'N' Safari* both financially and with products of varying degrees of value.

At the time, it seemed like an easy task to do—make a few phone calls, write a few letters, stop by for a few visits and collect our checks and prizes and be on our way. Hey, we contact business people every day. No big deal. Maybe a minor inconvenience to our daily schedules but what's a little effort in helping our fellow committee members put together such a fine event. Oh, if it were only that easy.



PHOTOS: MARK BOOTH

Great to meet all the new 'MiataNuts' and the old friends in San Diego. Thanks again to all the organizers and participants at Surf 'N' Safari. Mary and I had a BLAST!
—JOE PORTAS, "THE KNOBMEISTER,"
PEAK TO PEAK MIATA CLUB

Everyone would welcome us with open arms, heap product after product into our waiting arms and mail checks for phenomenal amounts to our post office box the very next day. I could see it now, truck loads of automotive goodies, enough checks to make an accountant blush and the need to turn away sponsor after sponsor because we could only accept so many gifts and still maintain our non-profit status with the IRS.

Well, a few pleasant phone calls became as annoying to some dealers as a pesky fly on a cow's nose. I heard, more than once, "Tell him I'm not available!" Some potential sponsors promised and promised and promised and well, it just never happened. But, as Judy, Jon and I began to earnestly promote *Surf 'N' Safari*, a strange thing began to happen. Sponsors from nearby as well as many states

away saw the value that our event could offer them. Sponsors who enjoy selling Miata-related products as much as we enjoy buying them began to get enthused about coming to San Diego. Many of these folks met Judy and Jon at other Miata events across the country, remembered their friendships and signed up as participating merchants. They too were looking forward to *Surf 'N' Safari* as much as we were looking forward to having them here. Just how much business did TurboDog bring to the DEALER ALTERNATIVE booth with his constant "catch and retrieve?" There is a true professional salesman.

Our supporting dealers, KEARNY MESA MAZDA, CUSH MAZDA and JOHN HINE MAZDA all contributed financially and with gifts in support of the SAN DIEGO MIATA CLUB. All three of these dealers have told of the glee that people exhibit when purchasing a Miata and were more than willing to lend us a financial hand. A crucial hand, at that, if we were to operate this event in the black. They recognize the value of the SAN DIEGO MIATA CLUB to them and were willing to step to the plate on our behalf.

Let's face it, a business is in business to make a profit. Not a novel idea but a very necessary one. In order for them to be successful and recoup their investment of time and money, the *Surf 'N' Safari* event had to be a success. And boy, was it ever. All weekend long, folks gathered around CUSH MAZDA'S Protégé, MPV and 10th Anniversary Miata that they displayed at the vendor area. Maybe a sale



Winners of the Team Voodoo titanium set, Rob and Amy Young of the Buckeye Miata Club (Ohio), with Voodoo Bob.

will result. JOHN HINE sponsored the Luau and I'm sure more than one participant will remember that evening when visiting for service or possibly a new car. KEARNY MESA MAZDA has undertaken an expanded effort to be a great Miata dealer, sponsored the



Thursday evening reception, and has designed Miata t-shirts for us to pick up during a visit at their dealership (would a test drive be too much to ask?)

Almost all our vendors have 800 numbers, web sites or advertise in *Miata Magazine*, and so I ask that we remember their support of our *Surf 'N' Safari* event when we go shopping for a goodie or two for our Miatas.

- BRAINSTORM PERFORMANCE
- BUTTERFLY LUGGAGE
- THE CRAZY RED ITALIAN
- DEALER ALTERNATIVE
- DENT PRO
- DESIGNS BY B.J.
- DOUBETREE RESORT
- DUNLOP TIRES
- GERI'S BAZAAR
- GOOD-WIN RACING
- HARD DOG FABRICATION
- KESLER CUSTOMS CHASSIS BRACES
- KUMHO TIRES
- LIBERTY MUTUAL
- MM MARKETING
- MARIOTA'S TRUNK
- MEGUIAR'S
- MIATA CLUB OF AMERICA
- MIATA MAGAZINE AND BARBARA BEACH
- MONSTERFLOW AIR FILTERS
- MOSS MOTORS/JACKSON RACING
- NORTH COAST TARPULIN WORKS
- QUALITY IMAGES
- R SPEED
- RACING BEAT
- SERIOUS AUTOMOTIVE ACCESSORIES
- SIMPLE GREEN
- SKORPION ENTERPRISES
- TEAM MIATA
- TEAM VOODOO
- WD-40 CORPORATION.

Wow, what a list of businesses that saw value in our event and were willing to participate.

Finally, a super thank-you to Dave Pyle and MAZDA NORTH AMERICA for their support from the beginning. It was a great Saturday night banquet! As long as Mazda continues to embrace the Miata as much as we do, this automotive success story will continue to live, evolve and bring joy to generations of folks like us.

Well, it's over. Vendors are counting their profits (hopefully) and marking their calendars for *Surf 'N' Safari II*. Dealers are anxiously waiting for us to pay them a visit, test drive a model or two, sniff that new car smell and "Sign the bottom line...." Judy, Jon and I, we're just

sitting back and thinking how easy a salesperson's life is. "Say, Mr. Vendor, Can I have a moment of your time? I'd like to tell you about this really great Miata event called *Surf 'N' Safari*...."

— JACK DILUSTRO



2000 Miata Performance Driving School

Once again Thunderhill will be the site of the 2000 Miata Performance Driving School. This year's the fourth year that Miata owners from all over the country will converge on Thunderhill to learn how to get the most from their Miatas. The 2000 school will be held March 24, 25 and 26 at Thunderhill track in Willows just off I-5, about an hour north of Sacramento. There will be two-and-a-half days of lectures and training, along with socializing with fellow Miata owners from around the country during the two dinners that are planned. There will be lots of track time aimed at enabling Miata owners to become safer and better drivers. This course will teach you the basics of high speed driving, equipment, human limitations, proper steering techniques and a lots of other skills necessary for safe performance driving. There's nothing quite like having a Sport Car Club of America instructor right next to you as you drive lap after lap on a race course, helping you to learn and understand the limits and the capabilities of your Miata.

You can register via the Internet by going to the Thunderhill Miata Performance Driving School Web site at www.teammiata.com/thunderhill/school.htm. Fill out the online form, print it out and send it in with your money. If you don't have Internet access, send a self addressed, stamped envelope to the address below and a complete packet will be sent to you.

Ken Freeze
Miata School
1521 Ridgewood Dr.
Martinez, CA 94553

Come join us for a weekend of learning and fun as you drive on the Thunderhill track with SCCA instructors and fellow Miata enthusiasts. At \$325 it's the best accessory you can add to your Miata and have fun while doing it! — see you on the track!

—Ken Freeze, TEAM MIATA





PHOTO: ANNE MARSHALL'S CAMERA

Member Profile

ANNE MARSHALL

Serendipity— is what led me, in April of this year, to the International Auto Show at the convention center. “Keep an open mind and look at everything,” I reminded myself.

My 1976 Volvo sedan was not as reliable as it once had been— and since my employer, Pacific Bell, expected *me* to be reliable and at my job every day, *on time*, I thought I might, at least, look at other sources of transportation.

And look, I did! Looked at Lexus longingly (too serious and too expensive); at Volvo (another 23 years?— will I still be driving in 23 years?); Volkswagen Beetle (cute, but did I want to drive a cartoon?); BMW roadster—hummm—exciting! (time to look at something sensible!) OK— Honda and Toyota— here I come. Accord and Camry— nice, but dare I say, “dull?!” Let’s just check out those 626’s at Mazda.

There I met DIANE LONG and ANTHONY (NEVADABOB) WILDE, who enthusiastically convinced me that I did not need a garage or a carport to own a Miata. I sat in the black one, the green one, and elbowed a 13-year old out of the way to sit in that blue jewel, a “10th Anniversary” model, a real beauty, and heard myself say to a bystander, “I want one, and I think I’m gonna get one.”

Well, you know the rest. Limited edition #882 is living under a car cover behind my condo in Santee. It creeps out daily to make the run to work (gridlock on 52 has never been more fun). It has

also frolicked on several occasions with the four-wheeled members of the SAN DIEGO MIATA CLUB and is having a ball. And so am I! Never thought I’d acquire new friends and a new life-style with a new car. Buyer’s remorse?— how could there be after the most sensible buying decision of them all!

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.

So You Want To Go Online?

The SAN DIEGO MIATA CLUB urges members to go online. The club maintains an impressive Web presence and a private, members-only e-mail list for exchange of information and club event up-dates.

Reprints of the club’s informative two-part article “So You Want To Go Online” are available from Stef Gould at club events.

New Members!

The following are the new members since the last newsletter:

Sonny Arcilla

San Diego
1990 Red

Eunice Bauman

Santee
1999 Silver Touring

John & Judy Davis

Encinitas
1992 Red Base

Michael Findlay

Oceanside
Unreported

Dennis & Maryanne Garon

San Diego
1996 M (Starlight Blue)

Holly & Gregg Garon

Poway
1996 M (Starlight Blue)

Bill & Jean May

Moreno Valley
1999 10th AE (Sapphire Blue)

Jim & Karen Power

Escondido
1999 Silver PEP

Barry & Robbie Rosenberg

Lake Forest
1997 Red

David & Stephanie Shabestari

Vista
1990 White A

Chris & Lisa Thompson

Oceanside
1994 White

Jerry Wallin

Laguna Woods
1996 M (Starlight Blue)

Bill Wilner

Santa Monica
1995 Black PEP

The following members have renewed since the last newsletter:

Dick & PJ Carlson

Phil Daoust

Steve & Gayle Hirschhorn

Bill & Karen Huss

Scott & JoAnna Langhoff

Nina Lyon & John Maginnis

Marie McIntire & Ken Corn

Paul & Jean McKeighan

Michael & Diana Page

Robert & Darline Valentine



From the Pulpit

I'm So Proud

At a *Surf'N' Safari* committee meeting in late June, I listed what I thought should be the three elements of success that we needed to focus on in order to make our first regional event an event that we could be proud of.

1. Every member from the SAN DIEGO MIATA CLUB would have a great time.

2. Every person that traveled to *Surf'N' Safari* from outside of San Diego would also have a great time.

3. That we (the SAN DIEGO MIATA CLUB) would look good.

CHECK... CHECK... and CHECK

Mission accomplished! As you read the rest of this newsletter, which is rightly devoted to *Surf'N' Safari*, you will see that all three of these goals were met and arguably surpassed. I am so proud. I have said in the past that the way I measure a successful event is whether or not I had a great time. I had a GREAT time. I had such a great time that I told Laurie on Wednesday that I was disappointed that we wouldn't be doing it all again the next day. Yeah, it was a lot of work, but it was so much fun playing Miatas with everyone.

Current Club Membership

As of October 25, 1999, there are 317 memberships consisting of 490 members.

Membership by Miata Color

- 94 Red
- 50 White
- 35 Black
- 21 Montego Blue
- 21 Silver
- 19 Emerald Green
- 12 Mariner Blue
- 12 Sapphire Blue
- 10 BRG
- 10 Laguna Blue
- 10 Starlight Blue
- 9 Twilight Blue
- 7 Merlot
- 4 Marina Green
- 4 Yellow
- 8 Unreported

As club president I also was blessed with person after person coming up to me and heaping accolades on me. You just can't wipe the smile off my face.

The *Surf'N' Safari* committee has received the lion's share (a little safari term) of the thanks and appreciation from all of those who attended. But I don't want to stop there. One of the most successful parts of the event was the volunteer participation by many of you. One of the comments that was repeated over and over was how prepared we were. That impression was left because we did in fact plan, but primarily because we had enough people (volunteers) to implement the plan and react to unanticipated situations. Our club just looked so good, I can't say it enough. The other benefit of having so many volunteers is that we have that many members who can take pride in what they helped to accomplish.

Another indication of the success of the event is how people from outside SDMC were drawn into participating in the event and not just taking from it. At the banquet on Saturday night, the Minkoffs from SOCALM gave us some Miata renditions of some of our old favorite songs. There were other instances as well, but the observation that Barbara Beach made was probably the most profound. She said that she has attended every Miata event ever and this was the first where the participants did not want to leave the banquet. They were having so much fun that, even



PHOTO: BILL CARDELL

TurboDog was the most popular attendee at *Surf'N' Safari*.

though they were "dead tired" from the poker run and the trip to the Wild Animal Park in record-setting heat, they didn't want it to end. As someone once said, always leave them wanting more.

If you haven't already figured it out, this success will present a problem. The SAN DIEGO MIATA CLUB is already the club that is recognized for knowing how to have fun. After all, that is our mission statement. What that means is that our reputation will grow to be "nearly-legendary" (where have I heard that phrase before?). So we will be expected to do it again. Will we? Stay tuned as we "ride the wave" (a little surf terminology) of euphoria into the next century. We have more and more fun ahead of us. Don't get left behind. I know that I speak for all of us that helped in putting *Surf'N' Safari* on the Miata map when I say that you don't want to miss the feeling of being a part of such success... next time.

— PROUD STEVE

MIATA 2000, The Calendar

You heard about it, maybe you even had the chance to see it at the TEAM MIATA table at *Surf'N' Safari*. Well, your club knew you would want it. So, we scored some at a real good price. Now you can your very own copy of this exclusively Miata calendar for the small price of \$13, shipping and handling included. Now that's a deal! (Regular price is \$14 plus S&H. See www.TeamMiata.com)

The calendar contains 13 great shots of our favorite car, all suitable for framing in 2001. This is the result of a project started by TEAM MIATA last year. Photos from around the country were submitted for the project.

The calendars will be available at our monthly meetings from STEVE WAID. Please reserve your copy today— contact Steve at swaid@home.com.

