



# SAN DIEGO MIATA CLUB NEWS



VOLUME 5 NUMBER 7

JULY 2000

A CHAPTER OF THE MIATA CLUB OF AMERICA

## UPCOMING EVENTS



July 4 - Tuesday  
**4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade**  
Scripps Ranch



July 7 - Friday  
**SDMC Cruises Grand Ave.**  
**Wheels'n'Meals**



July 8 - Saturday  
**Larry Dennstedt's**  
**Tech Day**



July 8 - 9  
**Autocross at the "Q"**



July 9 - Sunday  
**San Diego Early Bird**  
**Fun Run & Pool Party**



July 15 - Saturday  
**Murder Mystery Rally**



July 27 - Thursday  
**Monthly Meeting**



July 29 - Saturday  
**SDMC - RX7 Club**  
**Joint Run**



August 5 - Saturday  
**San Diego 6<sup>th</sup> Annual**  
**Twilight Fun Run**



August 18 - 20  
**27<sup>th</sup> Annual Monterey Historic**  
**Automobile Races**



August 26 - Saturday  
**Miles of Miatas for MDA**

## FROM THE EDITOR

### Day of the Condor

The day was...well, it was sultry. Unlike Billy Crystal, in the film *Throw Momma From The Train*, I did not have a problem describing the weather that greeted us this day. Not only did I not share the characters writer's block, neither did I have his desire to toss an elderly woman from the back of a speeding locomotive. Well, not today, anyway. Today, I gathered with my friends, whom I consider family, to remember one of our family members who left us too soon but inspired us to do better things.

Hurricane Carlotta was breaking up as she passed into colder waters on her way up the Baja coast the last weekend of June. Sunday, June 25, 2000, the SAN DIEGO MIATA CLUB had a special date at the San Diego Wild Animal Park. Usually in late June, the sun is intense and quite hot at the Wild Animal Park. If you want to see any of the animals out during the day, you usually need to go early in the morning, before the smarter animals head for the shade to escape the heat. On this day, however, the sun was blocked by clouds full of tropical moisture drawn up from the remains of Carlotta. The morning temperature was rather pleasant, if a bit sticky, in the mid '70s, rather than the customary '90s this time of year can bring. This change in the usual weather helped keep cool the 55 SDMC members who braved the threatening skies to drive top down...what else?...to the Wild Animal Park so early on a Sunday morning. Most of us would rather have been sleeping late, anticipating a long work week ahead and the holiday weekend beyond.

Why this protracted description of the weather? Well, basically to try to describe the conditions present when the SAN DIEGO MIATA CLUB followed through on a commitment it had made almost two years earlier. We were at the San Diego Wild Animal Park to donate funds in the name of SAN DIEGO MIATA CLUB member LYNN MCCLELLAND.

Lynn left us in August of 1998. The night before, she was enjoying the back roads of San Diego County on the annual Twilight Run with her daughter, and co-member, KATHIE. About this same time, plans were being formulated for the first big event the SAN DIEGO MIATA CLUB had ever tried to host, SURF'N'SAFARI. With the sudden loss of Lynn, the decision was made to donate proceeds from the event to the San Diego Zoological Society in her memory.

Because of the overwhelming success of SURF'N'SAFARI last October, due in no small part to the dedication of a number of volunteers, proceeds in the amount of \$1,250 were available for donation to the San Diego Wild Animal Park. Specifically, the money was earmarked for the support of the California Condor exhibit recently opened under the name of Condor Ridge. The donation will be acknowl-

(Continued on page 2)



From the Editor (Continued from page 1)

edged on a plaque at the entrance to the exhibit.

Why donate money in the memory of a beautiful person like Lynn for an exhibit of such, how shall I say, less than pretty birds? Well, it is the latest exhibit to open at the Wild Animal Park and shows the success they have had in bringing this once "extinct in the wild" species back from the brink. Plus, to those of us that had a fondness for Lynn, she was one tough bird.

To finish, I need to borrow a few lines from "my pal" SAL CAUSARANO, who wrote a poem for the annual membership meeting in April.

It's knowing that the things we do and the funds we gather,  
Can possibly change a life for the better.

It's caring, and sharing, and friendships that grow;

It's believing in something  
— something (more than) 300 members have come to know.

Next time you're driving that curve or sitting in a pub,  
Remember it's (MORE THAN) just a car club.

Take care, and HAVE FUN!

— ANTHONY WILDE

## MISSION STATEMENT

The purpose of the club is to promote the enjoyment of, and enthusiasm for, one of the world's most exciting sports cars — the Mazda Miata.

Owning and driving a Miata is one of life's great pleasures, and adding the company and camaraderie of like-minded enthusiasts only enhances the experience. Won't you join the fun as we enjoy the beauty of San Diego county from the seat of a very special little roadster?

Let's have fun driving our Miatas!

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## NOTICES

The SAN DIEGO MIATA CLUB is an official chapter of the MIATA CLUB OF AMERICA and a nonprofit organization.

The 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. Where possible, please e-mail your submissions to the newsletter editor. Submissions can also be mailed to the club's post office box.

**Submission deadline is the 15th of each month.**  
*Editor reserves the right to edit all submissions.*

The SAN DIEGO MIATA CLUB has established a dedicated World Wide Web Home Page at:

[www.sandiegomiataclub.org](http://www.sandiegomiataclub.org)

Dedicated 24-hour voice message line: (619) 582-2448

SAN DIEGO MIATA CLUB  
P.O. Box 23081  
San Diego CA 92193



PHOTO: VOODOO BOB KRUEGER

Check Presentation - (Left to Right) Lou Stark, Wild Animal Park Representative, Kathie McClelland, Sue Hinkle, Barb Templeton, and Elliot Shev. See page 6 for more photos.



**Scripps Ranch 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade**

Followed by Pool Party, BBQ & Fireworks

**Date:** Tuesday, July 4

**Time:** 7 a.m.

**Place:** 9945 Cummins Place,

Scripps Ranch

**Coordinators:** Parade, DIANE LONG, (858) 566-6973 or [djaws@san.rr.com](mailto:djaws@san.rr.com); Party, BARB SHEV, (858) 697-0777 or [mooncalf@aol.com](mailto:mooncalf@aol.com) (3 "o"s in moon)

The Scripps Ranch 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade is a small community parade where almost anything goes. Anyone in the community with a special interest is welcome. There are the Boy Scouts and Cub Scouts, bands, the lawnmower team, local dignitaries. It is just a basic home town, have fun parade. We will be defending our FIRST PLACE for car clubs that we won last year.

The parade starts at 10 a.m., so we will be meeting between 7 a.m. and 8 a.m. to decorate our cars. We have some club decorations, but please bring some more, if you can, to share.

We will leave for our parade position no later than 9 a.m., so coming early is important. The street to the meeting place will be closed off around 8:45 a.m.

The parade is over around 11 a.m. The weather can be quite hot so to relieve our suffering BARB and ELLIOT SHEV invite all parade participants over to their home afterwards for a late afternoon/evening 4<sup>th</sup> of July Bar-B-Q and swim party. Their home overlooks Poway High School and the fireworks are spectacular from there. We all split the cost for the food (between \$8 and 10 apiece).

**Directions to Parade:** I-15 to Pomerado, Left on Scripps Ranch Blvd., Right on Red Rock and Right on Cummins Place. (If you are coming from the North, be sure to take the Pomerado/Miaramar Road exit, NOT the Pomerado exit between Rancho Bernardo and Escondido).

**Directions to Pool Party/BBQ/Fireworks:** I-15 to Rancho Bernardo Road and go East (Rancho Bernardo Road becomes Espola Road). Turn left on Trailwind Road and look for Miatas. Their house is several blocks up the hill on the right. Watch your speed...25 mph!

**SDMC Cruises Grand Avenue - Wheels'n'Meals**

**Date:** Friday, July 7

**Time:** 6:15 p.m.

**Meeting Place:** Tom's Burgers

5th and Centre City Pkwy, Escondido

**Coordinators:** The HINKLES & WAIDS  
A blast from the past cruising event. Friday is cruising night in Escondido and Grand Avenue is lined up on both sides with a display of Hot Rods, Cruisers, T-Buckets, Muscle Cars and many other vintage cars from our past.

The Hinkles and Waids thought it would be fun to meet for dinner at Tom's Burgers and then we will cruise Grand Avenue Miata style. Afterwards we will walk down Grand to get a good look at these well-preserved cars. Then cruise over to Dairy Queen to finish the evening off with dessert.

**Directions to meeting place:** I-15 to Centre City Parkway - go north to 5th Avenue - turn left. Tom's is on the corner.

**Tech Day**

**Date:** Saturday, July 8

**Time:** 9 a.m.

**Place:** Dennstedt's Auto Repair  
4283 41<sup>st</sup> Street, San Diego

**Hosts:** ANNETTE & LARRY DENNSTEDT  
[larrydennstedt@hotmail.com](mailto:larrydennstedt@hotmail.com) or (619) 284-4911

We have facilities for headlight adjust-

ments, oil and filter changes, trunk lock modifications, automatic transmission cooler installations, windshield washer nozzle cleaning and aiming, chassis bolt tightening, tire rotation, and probably any other personal projects that people have. I've not done a tech day before, so I stand ready to receive suggestions.

If someone could bring a BBQ unit, we could grill up any food you would like to bring. Or there are a pizza place, a mini-mart, and a Subway across the street. Coffee will be supplied.

There are only 3 inside stalls, so if anyone wants to bring his own shade feel free. PLEASE bring chairs as I only have two!

**Directions to Tech Day:** I-805 to El Cajon Blvd. East on El Cajon Blvd. to 41<sup>st</sup> Street. Right on 41<sup>st</sup> Street and immediate Left into driveway.

**San Diego Early Bird Fun Run**

followed by Pool Party at Casa Kesler!

**Date:** Sunday, July 9

**Time:** 7 a.m. for Early Bird Run, 11:30 a.m. for run to Pool Party

**Place:** Albertson's/Target shopping center parking lot in Rancho San Diego at the Intersection of Highway 94 and Highway 54 (Jamacha Rd.) Meet near the Discount Tire Center store.

**Run Leaders:** CATHY & MARK BOOTH, Home: (619) 670-3789 or Cell: (619) 855-5020

*(Continued on page 4)*



**August 18-20, 2000**  
27<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL MONTEREY HISTORIC AUTOMOTIVE RACES  
A Special Event Sponsored by Mazda and Miata Magazine



**\$70 ticket package**  
for Saturday August 19 will include:  
• Saturday Race Ticket  
• Miata-only Parking Corral Pass  
• Breakfast, Lunch and Refreshments all day long in the Miata Tent  
• Plus goodies!

Order all tickets from  
Barbara Beach  
1315 Buena Vista Drive  
Vista, CA 92083

**Miata Events All Weekend Long!**

Friday — Miatas at Concours Italiano  
Tickets for 2 and VIP Miata Corral Parking \$75/car (First Japanese car corral in the concours history!)  
Box Lunch provided by Tarp's — \$15 per person  
Dinner at Tarp's Roadhouse — \$35 per person

Saturday — Miatas at Laguna Seca (see above)  
Miata Banquet at Asilomar by the Sea  
full dinner, no host bar — \$40 per person  
Dance to the music of our own Larry Read!

Ticket Ordering Deadline is June 25 for Friday events and July 25 for Saturday events  
For questions or an order form e-mail [miatabb@aol.com](mailto:miatabb@aol.com) or phone Andrea Beach at (760) 631-1205



**Meeting Places** (Continued from page 3)

**Pool Party Hosts:** (please RSVP!)

SUE & TED KESLER, (619) 421-8472  
or [rnnaway@aol.com](mailto:rnnaway@aol.com)

Using the idea behind our original Twilight Fun Run (e.g., avoid the heat of summer by driving during the cooler part of the day) we proudly introduce: The San Diego Early Bird Fun Run! This time, rather than the cool of the evening, we hope to capture the crispness of the morning!

We will drive, eat, and then drive some more. Breakfast will be at Major's Diner in Pine Valley at approximately 8:30 a.m. The Early Bird Run will end back at the original starting point. Then, it's on to the Pool Party!

Ted & Sue Kesler have invited everyone to their home for their second annual Pool Party/Lunch immediately following the Early Bird Run! Ted & Sue will provide the food, soft drinks and the pool. You should bring your own adult beverages, swimsuit, and towel. Please RSVP to Ted & Sue if you plan to attend the Pool Party/Lunch.

Those unable to attend the Early Bird Run but wishing to attend the Run to the Pool Party, please be at the meeting place (above) no later than 11:30 a.m. If you want to go straight to the Kesler's, please call or E-mail Ted & Sue for directions to their home.

*Directions:* I-805 to Highway 94 east.

Continue on Highway 94 into La Mesa. (Watch those signs carefully, Highway 94 east merges off to the right near the Spring Street exit.) Stay on Highway 94 east all the way into Rancho San Diego. Continue straight at the light where Highway 94 becomes Jamacha Rd. The Albertson's/Target shopping center is located on the right just past that light.

### **Murder Mystery Rally**

**Date:** Saturday, July 15

**Time:** Breakfast 8:30 to 9:30 a.m.

Drivers' Meeting 9:45 a.m.

**Starting Location:** Hamburger Factory @ Old Poway Park, 14122 Midland Road, Poway

**Rally Masters:** ANITA EOFF & SCOTT ROSIN  
[sarosin@home.com](mailto:sarosin@home.com) or (619) 583-5811

**Cost:** Breakfast Buffet: \$7 per person.

Includes all you can eat eggs, sausage,

bacon, biscuits & gravy, coffee, juice.

Mystery Finale Pizza Party: \$5 per person. Includes pizza and soda.

If you plan to attend the rally, please RSVP by Tuesday, July 11. By doing so, you will help us make the event run as smoothly as possible.

What to bring (in addition to your normal items like water and sunscreen): map of San Diego County, pen and paper for notes and ideas, creative thinking cap, and a sense of adventure!

*Directions to start:* I-15 to Poway Road, head east, Left on Midland, Left on Aubrey (past the Hamburger Factory), park in public lot on right, or on street. Walk through park to restaurant.

### **Monthly Meeting**

**Date:** Thursday, July 27

**Time:** 6 p.m.

**Place:** Boll Weevil

9330 Clairemont Mesa Blvd. (at Ruffin Road), San Diego (858) 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!*

### **SDMC - RX7 Club Joint Run**

**Date:** Saturday, July 29

**Time:** 9 a.m.

**Place:** Sizzler in Ramona

**Contact:** GERI CAUSARANO,

(760) 787-0624 or [montegom@aol.com](mailto:montegom@aol.com)

We will be taking a run through the mountains of Ramona and Julian. Our big brothers from the San Diego RX7 Club are going to join us for the fun. We will be meeting at 9 a.m., drivers meeting at 9:15 and leave for the run by 9:30 a.m.

I will be making reservations in Ramona for lunch about 1 p.m. Please RSVP so I can let the restaurant know how many to expect.

*Directions to Meeting Place:* Sizzler is on Highway 78 in Ramona just before you go up the hill into Julian.

### **Recruiting Cards**

**W**e have new recruiting cards available. If you would like some, please see ELLIOT SHEV at any event.

## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

### **San Diego Twilight Fun Run**

Saturday, August 5

**Time:** 3 p.m. for pizza

run starts at 4:30 p.m.

**Meeting Place:** Pizza Hut, 3637 Avocado Blvd., La Mesa

**Run Leaders:** CATHY & MARK BOOTH,

Home: (619) 670-3789 or

Cell: (619) 855-5020

**F**or this, the 6<sup>th</sup> annual running of the original Twilight Fun Run, we are returning to the original starting location and the first-year's run route.

This is a leisurely ride along some of San Diego's East County roads during the late afternoon/early evening hours. That special "twilight" period when the hot summer day slowly gives way to a comfortable summer night.

Arrive at 3 p.m. for pizza. The run will start at 4:30 p.m. The run will finish back near the starting point at approximately 8:30 p.m.

*Directions:* I-805 south/north to Highway 94 east. Continue on Highway 94 into La Mesa. (Watch those signs carefully, Highway 94 east merges off to the right near the Spring Street exit.) Stay on Highway 94 east and exit at Avocado Blvd. Turn left at the stop sign at the end of the ramp. Proceed over the highway and make a right turn into the Rancho San Diego Village Shopping Center. The Pizza Hut is straight ahead.

### **Miles of Miatas for MDA**

Saturday, August 26

**S**UE and JACK HINKLE are organizing the 4<sup>th</sup> annual Miles of Miatas for MDA, which will be held on Saturday, August 26. This will be a sponsored mystery run for the Muscular Dystrophy Association.

Last year's event raised over \$11,000 with only 38 cars participating. This year's event promises to be bigger and better with many more surprises. Once again, this will be designed as a 100-mile mystery run to raise money for Jerry's kids. There will be prizes, raffles, and some surprise stops along the way. Who knows? Maybe a celebrity or two. The run will begin at the MDA Office located at 8525 Gibbs Drive in San Diego, and it



will remain a mystery where the run will end. Dinner, participant awards, and raffles will be held at the end of the run. Cost for dinner has not been determined yet.

Our goal is to raise \$1 per mile per car and to have more cars than ever before. Prizes will be awarded to the top three fund raisers and for some of the other crazy things that will be included in the run instructions. Last year JOHN "WRONG WAY" TEMPLETON was our top fundraiser. Our president, ELLIOT SHEV, walked away with many of our raffle items and Bates Nut Farm provided a grand buckboard BBQ. Sponsor sheets will be available at the monthly meetings. All checks should be made payable to the Muscular Dystrophy Association (MDA) and donations are tax deductible. Sponsor sheets will be collected at the beginning of the event.

The SAN DIEGO MIATA CLUB has also been invited once again to the Labor Day Telethon to man the pledge phones, where Elliot Shev will make a check presentation for the dollars that we raise. Watch your newsletter for more tidbits about our 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Miles of Miatas for MDA and what other mysteries are being planned for the event.

If you would be interested in helping us plan this fun-filled day or assist in getting some raffle items donated, please email Sue Hinkle at [sportscarr@aol.com](mailto:sportscarr@aol.com) or call (760) 735-9456. Save the date August 26<sup>th</sup>; lets make this our biggest fund raising event *ever*...plan to participate. You won't want to miss out on all the fun or the opportunity to bring Miles of Smiles to Jerry's kids in the fight against Muscular Dystrophy.

### Fall Leaf Run 2000

September 21- September 25

This will be a joint event with the UTAH MIATA CLUB in Provo, Utah. It will be a *minimum* five day event including travel days. We attended this event last year and had a great time—the leaves were spectacular. There are a few differences in running in Utah. We encountered sheep & cattle right on the highways. Plus we had a couple of low level water crossings.

The current schedule is as follows:

Thursday, September 21:

Leave North County Fair (under the big sign) at 10 a.m. Travel to Mesquite, Nevada for a one night stay.

Friday, September 22:

Leave Mesquite at 10 a.m. North on I-15 to Cedar Breaks then on to Provo, Utah. Arrangements have been made with the Hampton Inn for SDMC members. Contact person is Nicole.

Saturday, September 23:

Fun run to Sundance, Utah.

Sunday, September 24:

"Fall Leaf Run" with the Utah Miata Club around 8:30 a.m.

Monday, September 25:

Leave for home or extended vacation.

If you are interested in attending this event please contact:

LAUREN or ROBERT THOMPSON  
[lhomp@cts.com](mailto:lhomp@cts.com) or (858) 488-3764.

We are planning a pre-meeting in late August for all Leaf Runners!

### AUTOCROSS AT THE "Q"



The following autocross events are *tentatively scheduled* to take place in the parking lot of Qualcomm Stadium:

Saturday, July 8.....practice day  
 Sunday, July 9.....race day  
 Sunday, August 27.....race day  
 Saturday, August 23.....race day  
 Saturday, September 23.....race day  
 Saturday, October 7.....race day  
 Saturday, October 21.....race day  
 Saturday, November 11.....practice day  
 Sunday, November 19.....race day  
 Saturday, December 2.....race day  
 Sunday, December 17.....practice day  
 Monday, January 1, 2001.....practice day

**To confirm autocross information, call:**

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

Web page [www.sdr-solo2.com](http://www.sdr-solo2.com)

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

### UPCOMING NATIONAL AND REGIONAL EVENTS

**Dealer Alternative's 3rd Annual Open House Grand Junction, Colorado**

August 18 - 20, 2000

It's time for another Open House, bigger and better than the last one! Once again, we've timed it to coincide with the Palisade Peach Festival, so that we can drive our Miatas in the Peach Parade. This year we will also be renting the local dragstrip to see who has bragging rights to the quickest Miata, and Skip Cannon is working on reserving a road course near Denver for Thursday. Come on out and join us, help us build our Dynojet database, and just have a great time. Great roads, great scenery, great cars and great people, plus all the Miata goodies you can stand to look at.

Contact: The Dealer Alternative,

(970) 242-3800 or [www.dealeralt.com](http://www.dealeralt.com)

**Fourth Annual Midwest Miata Challenge Hilliard High School - Hilliard, Ohio**

September 30, 2000

This is a Miata-only autocross event, first held in 1997. Last year it was hosted by the NW Ohio Chapter at the University of Toledo. The Buckeye Chapter regained the team trophy from the Northcoast Chapter. We are seeking revenge this year! Come on out and join us!

Contact: Rob Young, [a90y@aol.com](mailto:a90y@aol.com)

**Backroads To Bavaria V**

Leavenworth/Wenatchee, Washington

October 6-8, 2000

You are invited to attend the annual Backroads to Bavaria Fall Colors Tour hosted by John Hewitt of the Puget Sound Chapter of the MCA. This multi-chapter Pacific Northwest favorite event unites Miata friends old and new. Celebrate with a visit to the Bavarian Village of Leavenworth during the Washington State Autumn Leaf Festival. Twisty and curvacious roads will delight as you journey through the colorful valleys of the Cascade Mountains.

For more information or RSVP by 9/15/00,

Contact: [John.Hewitt@msvl.wednet.edu](mailto:John.Hewitt@msvl.wednet.edu),  
or (425) 335-4129

**Miatas in Paradise**

Daytona Beach, Florida

October 24-27, 2000

MCA national event for the year 2000

The most famous beach in the world, the world-renowned Daytona Speedway, autocrossing, the Megafuncana, a first-class five-star hotel with each window facing the ocean, concourse d'elegance, vendors, Miata model contests, and a whole lot of Miatas!

Contact: Jenna (800) 832-3292 or

[www.miata2000.com](http://www.miata2000.com)



## NEW MEMBERS!

WELCOME to our newest members  
(since last newsletter):

Graydon Anderson  
Spring Valley  
1995 Red

Bret Beasley  
San Diego  
1997 Red Sport

Richard Best  
San Diego  
2000 SE (Mahogany)

Daniel Blank  
San Diego  
1993 White

Scott Graham  
San Diego  
2000 Silver

Buffy Hergenrader  
San Diego  
1990 White

Dean & Lynne King  
San Diego  
1990 White, 1999 Black

Richard McCue  
San Diego  
1999 Emerald Green Leather

Joe Sundstrom  
San Diego  
1997 Red

Kathleen Toole  
San Diego  
2000 Emerald Green Leather

Robert Wong  
San Diego  
1999 Silver

### In Memoriam

#### Robert Frank Parrish

August 13, 1964 - May 18, 2000

SAN DIEGO MIATA CLUB member ROBERT PARRISH, died on May 18. Robert and wife LYNN have been members of SDMC since 1998.

Born in San Diego, Robert was a hospital corpsman while in the Navy. In civilian life, he owned and operated a diagnostics and neurophysiology company.

## Renewing members (since last newsletter):

RICHARD ALLSOPP

DAVID ANDERSON

KEN & BARBARA BARTON

JEFF & LISA BENEDICT

MARK & CATHY BOOTH

MICHAEL CHIAPPETTA & LAUREN JACKSON

CHUCK & JEAN COLE

JACK & SUE DILUSTRO

VALARIE GOODKIN

GRANT GOODMAN

TOM GREENE

ARTHUR L. HAMILTON

BRUCE & LEIGH HARMER

ROBERT HOLLAND

TONY & MARIA IGAR

CYNTHIA S. JONES

JERI JONES & SEAN O'CONNOR

BARRY & NANCEE KERSHAW

TED & SUE KESLER

BOB & VICKY KRUEGER

DALE & LINDA LEE

BOB & DEBBIE LLEWELLYN

DIANE LONG

MARY J. MARTIN

KATHIE MCCLELLAND

JOHN M. O'HARA

GERONIMO G. OMABTANG

GAIL PARISH

TOM WALDOWSKI

PAUL & FRANCIE POLLOCK

FRANK RIMMER & CHARM JOHNSON

SCOTT ALAN ROSIN & ANITA EOFF

ANN RUNDALL

RICHARD SCHERSCHEL & JANET FRASER

O.D. SMITH & MARTHA JOSLIN

TOM SPRAGUE

GABE & HIDI WAITE

ANTHONY WILDE

## Membership Statistics

As of June 24, 2000, there are 319 memberships (138 single, 181 dual) and a total of 500 members.

Memberships by Miata Color:

87	Red
51	White
40	Black
25	Silver
24	Emerald Green
14	Montego Blue
14	Sapphire Blue
11	Mariner Blue
11	Starlight Blue
10	BRG
9	Laguna Blue
9	Twilight Blue
6	Yellow
6	Marina Green
5	Merlot
3	Mahogany
1	Evolution Orange
10	Unreported *

\* Unreported means a member does not have a Miata at this time.

## Member Profile

What you are reading here is a new triumph (not the car) for the SDMC newsletter—an invisible Member Profile. It is very short, but please read it carefully. When you are finished, well in truth there is no Member Profile here. Several members have said they would provide one, but I have yet to receive any.

So if *YOU* would like 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.

If you don't think you could write a Member Profile on your own, we have a member of the newsletter team who is an award-winning newspaper reporter (you could find out about him by reading *HIS* Member Profile in the January edition of the newsletter). TOM SPRAGUE will gladly interview you and write it up. Would take about 10 minutes of your time, and you would be rewarded with your 15 minutes of fame.

— EDITOR

[newsletter@sandiegomiataclub.org](mailto:newsletter@sandiegomiataclub.org)



## Thank You! San Diego Miata Club

I would like to pass along my thanks and gratitude to the current board, the SURF'N'SAFARI Committee and the general membership of the SAN DIEGO MIATA CLUB. My mom would have loved the honor of being remembered in such a warm way. She loved animals and once took me to the San Diego Wild Animal Park when I was a small girl for being good while she car shopped (no Miata, we got a Coupe de Ville)! We had a lot of fun. I think the donation to the condor exhibit was especially fitting because it is the highest point in the park and is nearest to her there in heaven where we will all see her again some day many years from now.

I truly cannot adequately express how personally touched I am by your gesture. Losing my mom so suddenly has been my hardest loss to deal with. My mom was my best friend and I don't know of anyone who didn't like her. In High School, she was more popular among my friends

than I was. And she had the most interesting life of anyone I've ever met.

Some of you know that I don't have any siblings or close family with the exception of my East Coast family from my father's side. I am the luckiest person to have my Aunt Dorothy & Uncle Jerry and cousins Peter, David & Jon Adler who have been wonderful to us and me over the years long after my dad passed away. However, to me, the SAN DIEGO MIATA CLUB is like family too; similar to parents and siblings, you all have been there for me. Many of you have invited me to come down and visit or stay with you, you've sent me e-mails & cards and offered your love and support during the last couple of years. It doesn't get easier; I've just grown more used to not having her around, wishing I could share things like this with her.

Thank you again for your kind gift in memory of my mom, I hope you all feel as lucky as I do to have you fine people as my family.

Sincerely,  
KATHIE MCCLELLAND

## San Diego Wild Animal Park — Special Report

June 25, 2000

There I was, sitting on my haunches on a balmy Sunday morning, munching on some tree leaves. When all of a sudden a horde of new visitors showed up in the Homo Sapiens area. It was a colorful bunch—mostly yellows. Reminded me of many of the delicious bananas I had in years past. There was one red shirt with red hat that made me think of some juicy watermelon. A few whites like the flowers in my home yard, and a sprinkling of blues that could have been from one of the local birds. Greens blended in neatly with the foliage.

And hats! Each of the walkers and galkers had some kind of head covering. They should try sitting here all day with no covering and see how they feel.

Harry the Hawk reported the group spent a lot of time on Condor Ridge, which is neat because condors make me look that much more handsome. And Harry also told me there were a bunch of various colored jelly-bean looking metal vehicles in the parking lot which apparently is some kind of joyful transportation for these wanderers. Harry said he heard they were some kind of a not-endangered species called My-eata.

But they were a truly enthusiastic bunch, and a ferret reported to me that the food sales in the park were way up. So I hope they come back soon.

— Harry Gorilla

TOM SPRAGUE was the last to leave the Wild Animal Park (he had to check out all the shows and try all the ice cream stands) and received this special report.

Above Left - After the presentation of the check to the San Diego Wild Animal Park, SDMC members were invited to the front of the line on the Wgasa Bush Line Railway. The 55 minute guided tour was especially enjoyable on this overcast day. As a result of the weather, animals were more active at this time of day than usual.

Lower Left - The Wild Animal Park provided reserved parking for the SDMC when we arrived. The scene was much different when we left the park. OTMs were circling the lot ready to pounce on these prime parking spots.



PHOTO: CINDY PALOWA



PHOTO: VOODOO BOB KRUEGER





## Getting Medieval in Miatas — Bruges, Belgium

PHOTO: ED LANGMAID

April 29 - May 1, 2000

Cobblestone streets, hemmed in by buttresses and ancient bricks, winding around and through squares and over canals, passing under fortified gates. Just the setting for a column of armored knights or pilgrims singing hymns. What's coming? A line of MX-5s, many flying Union Jacks, pressing on regardless despite suspicions that none appear quite sure of where they're supposed to be. Waves, some thumbs up, other earlier arrivals pointing to the missed turn into the hotel street—an invasion of cheerfully-colored aliens brightening the crowded scene of sensibly-clad tourists, horse-drawn carriages, erratic bicycles, and Eurobox traffic. It was Friday, unofficial opening of Bruges 2000, the 10th Miata MX-5 anniversary meeting in Europe.

Representing SDMC, MICHELLE and

ED LANGMAID along with STEF and TOM GOULD were making our way to the meeting place, a parking lot where the more than 150 MX-5s, and/or Miatas, and/or the exotic end products of European customizers, were gathered.

Michelle and Ed had flown into Paris a few days earlier and caught up with us as we shambled off our plane in Brussels on the Wednesday before the event. After a brisk tour of the EU capital (mussels, chocolate, Autoworld, museums, *Arte Nouveau*, Tintin, *Frites* with everything, and a visit to the incredible Royal Gardens, opened for us commoners while the royals vacationed safely elsewhere), we trained to Roosendaal across the Dutch border to pick up two MX-5s, silver for the Langmaids, red with 3 kilometers on the odometer for us. Overnight in Roosendaal, then off, mostly on the motorways, to Bruges. Our hotel was not in the event cluster; “15 minutes away,” which turned out to be anywhere in Bruges (“Hang a left at the Memling statue, right at Van Eyck.”), according to the locals. Friday night was dinner for the early arrivals and getting together with old friends and meeting new. Barbara Beach and Phil Wolfson, Tom Matano, Joe and Mary Portas (who had passed up a Fiat Barchetta in favor of a VW Kamper for serious touring), Crazy Red, and



PHOTO: ED LANGMAID

Bonnie and Dave Lutz were among the homeys. Offshore SDMC member GARY RÖÖSLI from Switzerland showed up the next day in his heavily modified MX-5, along with Petra and Robin. At dinner we shared a table with the entire Finnish MX-5 Club: J.P. and Seija Mannermaa.

Saturday began with a tour of the Straffe Hendrick Brewery, including climbing up to the roof for a view of downtown, dominated by the Cathedral tower. The weather was brisk and threatening squalls, so everyone but the Brits was bundled up. Then some time hanging with the cars, registration, and salmon dinner in a large basement restaurant.

Sunday the first run cruised out of the lot, not quite SDMC style—everyone got roadbook sheets with mileages and diagrams of corners, and we were on our own. Belgium around Bruges is flat, meandering one-and-a-half and one lane roads on mini-dikes slightly elevated above agricultural green stuff, speckled with bovine butter and cheese factories, converging at the horizon, where the odd tree or steeple or construction crane might break the level. Some rain arrived, popping tops up briefly (the Brits holding out the longest) just as the first major wrong turn struck the group, deploying MX-5s around a crossroads in all directions and orientations. Someone would get an idea and tear off down a lane with a few followers, soon to return. Finally enough of us backtracked to the ambiguous turn and we got going again, some-



PHOTO: FRIENDLY JAPANESE TOURIST

Top Row (Left to Right): Tom Gould, Ed Langmaid, Joe Portas.  
Front Row: Michelle Langmaid, Stef Gould, Seija Mannermaa, Mary Portas, J.P. Mannermaa.



PHOTO: ED LANGMAID







PHOTO: ED LANGMAID

**Above - Michelle and Stef find someone who is truly too big to fit in a Miata.**

**Right - Even the diminutive MX-5 can be overwhelming for the narrow medieval cobblestone streets.**

**Below - The main square of Bruges became an MX-5/Miata car park. It seems parking was so tight that challenges were made and duels held.**



PHOTO: TOM GOULD



PHOTO: ED LANGMAID



PHOTO: ED LANGMAID

what more spread out. This time when we got lost we were on our own. Luckily, we could see all the way to the next road, where cars were going in another direction, and we were good to go again. More country lanes, Joe following along with the van, at times the tallest thing in the landscape. Occasionally in the middle of nowhere a hulking concrete bunker would appear, too massive for demolition, and we would be reminded that this had been invaded territory many times, and not so long ago. We hit a small town, Sluis, which seemed to be jumping with springtime visitors, strolling, eating, shopping. The number of sex shops could have been a tipoff, but it wasn't until we



PHOTO: ED LANGMAID

sat down to lunch that we realized that we had passed imperceptibly into the Netherlands, which is flat, meandering one-and-a-half and one lane roads on mini-dikes slightly elevated above agricultural green stuff, speckled with bovine butter and cheese factories, converging at the horizon, etc. etc. We filled the tanks—46.96 litres @ 120.22 Guilders, about US \$51.00. Later, back in Belgium, the route was punctuated by a turn through a seaside town, Knokke-Heist, clogged with holidaymakers. We owe our safe return to brilliant navigation by Michelle—I was totally befuddled as we drove against the tide of bicycles, tricycles, scooters, pedal-

cars, little red wagons, and inline skaters all hitting the shore. The evening was another feast, *Waterzooi*, second to mussels in the Belgian cuisine, a kind of stew or soup with chicken, large portions plus appetizers, wine, four kinds of pastry for dessert. More silverware on the table than we see in a week. Belgians know about serious eating. Also came speeches, a bingo game using cards we had filled in with the names of fellow participants, introductions—a pair of Greeks at our table took the honors from the farthest south, got a cheer when they claimed to expect to be back at work on Wednesday following the Monday event closing. Dancing ended the evening for those of us not too overcome by fresh agricultural air and too much food.

Monday was an MX-5 gathering in the main square, where we could look and be looked at, then another run west and north to Oostend, where another banquet meal awaited to end the activities. We gathered intelligence from all sides about the Netherlands for the next leg of our Eurotour.

Tuesday we did some postponed tourist things in Bruges, museums etc., then set off for Gent. A side trip took us by the romantic 14th Century Ooidonk Castle (*Prisoner of Ooidonk? Sweet Savage Lord of Ooidonk?* Maybe not the best setting for a romance novel). Every day and everywhere we went seemed to be a holiday, festival, or whatever. Rooms were in short supply for any number of reasons. In Gent we worked through the list, finally winding up across the river in a converted *Beguinage* B&B. One feature of the middle ages was a surplus of women—or shortfall of men—widows and orphans, and these were supported in a sort of lay convent, a *Beguinage*, living, say, eight to a house in a colony of such little houses. When these colonies were abandoned, the houses were privatized and remodeled. The Miatas got to park overnight behind the Medieval gates.

Wednesday: Gent museums, Gravensteen Castle with a charming assembly of Medieval items of a) persuasion, b) interrogation and, if there was anything left after a and b, c) punishment. Then north to the ferry to the Zeeland archipelago.

*(Continued on page 10)*



## The Dam Run (Amsterdam, Schiedam and Dubbledam)

The weather was chilly and damp; we had to cop to keeping the tops up as we motored around the cluster of islands (flat, probably patiently built, like most of the Netherlands, by the Dutch). We had decided by this time that two cars wouldn't be efficient, so we looped back to Roosendaal to stay the night and pick up a VW Golf wagon, room for four and all the luggage. As we headed back north, of course, the sun came out and some of the roads made us wish for the Miatas again. Windmills a-plenty, part of the never-ending battle against the tides in times past, now supplanted by massive modern engineering works. Our destination this time was the Keukenhof, a kind of hyper-Carlsbad in the coastal tulip-growing area of the Netherlands. These parklike gardens, acres of them, were unbelievable, a profusion of not only tulips but every kind of showy spring flowering plant. Also eating and drinking and shops. Not too far north is Zandvoort, the Dutch Grand Prix venue. We finished near Haarlem (the town full up as usual) in Santpoort, where we stayed two nights, checking out *Ristaffel* back in Haarlem the first night.

The following day we made for the area south and east of Amsterdam, first to a charming suburb, Muiderslot castle the major attraction, amid canals, yachts, the odd river fort, a gigantic streetside garage sale. Some locals were demonstrating armor and ye olde gangbanging with staves and halberds and swords, and the 700-year-old compact castle was in better repair than the Gravensteen.

Next stop was a National Forest near Otterlo, home to a great museum of art and of outdoor sculpture. Back to Santpoort along the dike roads, stopping by your castle/stately home as available. We had the heady experience of encountering a 7% grade! It was the Liberation Day holiday, and restored jeeps and six-bys were heading back to post-parade garages, amid some wild traffic jams. Every village was festooned with bunting and reminders of WWII. This was around Arnhem, invasion and Battle of the Bulge territory.

The next day, Michelle and Ed's last, we parked at our suburban train station, and after a complex transaction involving several helpful, patient, English-speaking (as was almost everyone we met in Belgium and Holland) Dutch citizens and an automated ticket vending machine, we set off for Amsterdam via train. Everyone in the world seemed to be congregating in front of the station, heading up the main (tourist) street with its substantial shops and stores (once we got past the raunchy tee shirt and postcard vendors), across canals, dodging little narrow trams crisscrossing at the intersections. The Van Gogh Museum is the class act, newly remodeled. Stef and Ed and Michelle went for a canalboat ride while I went on, hardcore, to the Stedelijk Modern Art Museum.

The train took us back to Haarlem, wanting to be sure we had rooms in the hotel across from the station, since Michelle and Ed were heading back to Paris to return home the next morning. Petra and Robin caught up with us and took us to get the VW, and we had a quick impromptu dinner. Next morning Stef and I kept the car for the run back to Roosendaal via a stop in Delft, turned in the car, stayed overnight, trained to Antwerp for a day and back for another night, then to Brussels and the flight to London for a few days visit before coming back.

— TOM GOULD



PHOTO: ED LANGMAID



PHOTO: STEF GOULD

## The Circle of Life

It is with mixed emotions that we must report that Marilyn (Merlot) no longer lives with us. It was time for her to go out on her own, we guess, but we will miss her.

We adopted Marilyn about 3 years ago just before the great El Nino (Spanish for "the nino"). She was a tad unkempt and needed the attention that two dinks (double income no kids) could offer. We shined her up, acquired a boot and floor mats so she would fit in with the other kids and enrolled her right away in the SAN DIEGO MIATA CLUB. Marilyn did fine in her new surroundings. Soon she got new shoes and wheels, a CB splitter, wind block and really started to smile.

Marilyn was good for us too. We learned from her and enjoyed playing with her. The fact that she was different from all of the rest with, what some feel was a birth defect, (automatic transmission) actually made her stronger and more enthusiastic, qualities we truly enjoyed.

So now Marilyn has, in a sense, graduated from her first level of education. She has left our home to bring joy to our friend, Lynn a new member of the club. I know how empty nesters feel. You open the door to their room/garage and see a void. Luckily, unlike children, we don't have to send money for the rest of our lives to Lynn because Miatas are not high maintenance and life-long dependents.

As you know we have adopted Madeline a bouncing enthusiastic 2000SE. She is all shined up and has a new style bar, CB spiltter, and is smiling already.

So, so long Marilyn. It was fun. Hello Madeline. Let's go play.

Isn't the circle of life grand?

— ED and MICHELLE LANGMAID  
and MADELINE

Right and Below - The reservoir behind the dams is quite a bit higher than when visited on Dam Run I.

Below Right - Steve and Laurie are all smiles when the run begins in Temecula. Little did they know that later on their Yellow Miata would resemble a fried egg on the sizzling pavement.

Bottom - The intrepid Dam Runners posed for a picture in the 110 degree heat. DAM!



**The Dam Run II**  
May 27, 2000



PHOTOS: JOYCE & JOHN RICHARDSON



You may have heard that the May 27 Dam Run II was organized as a tribute to the Ella Fitzgerald song hit of 1956, *Too Darned Hot*.

As Johnny Carson would say, "How Hot Was It?" Our esteemed and steamed past president STEVE WAID has a clue. When the temperature gauge on his pet started climbing past normal, he decided to open the headlights to let in some extra air and cool things down. Doing so, he nervously watched the temp needle go higher! His obvious conclusion: the weather was hotter outside the engine compartment than inside!

— TOM SPRAGUE

## It's SHOWTIME!

SOCALM - Best of the Bunch  
Charity Car Show  
May 20, 2000

I have been to a lot of car shows. Every year Laurie and I go to the new car show at the San Diego Convention Center, and we most recently attended the Morro Bay Car Show while searching for Madonna. I enjoy seeing all of the different cars.

Being members of SOCALM in addition to SDMC allows us to pick off a much larger menu of fun opportunities as long as we don't mind driving (these are drivers clubs, after all) a little further. When we got the SOCALM email announcing their first "Best of the Bunch" all Miata car show, I was intrigued. I knew that we would have an advantage if we entered BUZER in the show (it's YELLOW, you know). However, there was already an event on the calendar for the same day. Dennis Allen, owner of Allen's Wrench, was putting on a free Rock and Blues Festival...I repeat, FREE...on the same day. What to do? All I could think of was, "let's do both."

Saturday morning, May 20<sup>th</sup>, ten or eleven (I wasn't counting) Miatas left Oceanside for Tustin, where the show was to take place. MacPherson Mazda hosted the event and Barry Rosenberg and his support team put on a tremendous event. I knew we would get to see some really special Miatas, but what made it really fun were the efforts made by everyone to socialize and...what else?...have a good time. I am sure that this will develop into an annual event.

The SAN DIEGO MIATA CLUB did itself proud with not only a good number of participants, and by receiving a large share of recognition by winning several trophies and awards. Rather than risk trying to name who the dual members are, I am going to just acknowledge the winners who are, for sure, SDMC members.

### Best Car By Year

'92 LAURIE WAID - Yellow  
'94 DIANE SEILO - Black  
'96 PHIL DAUOST - Blue  
'99 JACK DI LUSTRO - BLUE  
2000 DEE & WAYNE JOHNSON -  
Evolution Orange

### Trophy Winners

Best Performance JOHN BRAISTED - Red  
People's Choice LAURIE WAID - Yellow

Other SDMC members participating were BARB SHEV, BOB and LAUREN THOMPSON, JACK GOSNEY, LENI METRO, and probably some others who I have forgotten.

After the show, we headed back toward San Diego, and ultimately San Marcos, where Allen's Wrench is located. Six cars from the show at about 5 p.m. arrived for the Rock and Blues Festival, which had been going strong since 2 p.m. There were already another ten to fifteen club members there enjoying the music. After eating the barbequed hamburgers and watching and listening to Dennis play his guitar with one of the bands, we ended the day with, what else, the obligatory Pie Run. It had been a long but eventful day. I can't wait to do it again next year.

— STEVE WAID

### They Race In Circles Too!

SOCALM Irwindale Speedway Night  
June 3, 2000

Basically, if it has anything to do with cars, I'm interested. I like the sights, the sounds, the smells, and the touch of car stuff. Last year I was unable to go to the first SOCALM Night at Irwindale Speedway. This year I didn't want to miss it, and with the cooperation of my daughter-in-law, Marla, I didn't. Marla held out and delivered our second granddaughter, Peyton Marie, three days later. This turned out to be an early Father's Day (or Grandfather's Day) present.

BARB and ELLIOT SHEV and BOB and DEBBIE LLEWELLYN met me at the Deer Springs turnoff of Interstate 15 and we caravanned toward Irwindale. With only one stop at the KFC in Elsinore to pick up my potluck offering (a bucket of chicken), we made good time and arrived at the speedway at 3:30. There were already nearly 20 Miatas and about 8 RX7's from the RX7 club in the paddock area. We were shown where to park and set up our chairs and began to acclimate ourselves to the facility. And what a fine one it is. There were already cars on the

track practicing. The sounds were wonderful...and loud. The speedway had set up large tents to protect the food tables and give an area where we could get out of the sun. The paddock area was for our cars only, but was open to the public for viewing. The paddock was right next to the grandstands, the restrooms, and the snack bar.

We mingled with the RX7 folks and greeted the arriving Miatas. SCOTT ROSEN and ANITA (the betrothed) arrived, shortly followed by JOHN and JOYCE RICHARDSON of growing "Dam Run" fame. The pits were open for touring, but it seemed like most socialized waiting for...drum roll...the FOOD. The potluck was just great. Not everyone brought chicken, and there was enough variety of cookies that no one went hungry.

The two parade laps that we took, representing Mazda, included 58 Miatas and 20 RX7's. Even though we only went 10 to 15 MPH, it was a treat to pass in front of the 10-story grandstands and wave to the multitudes. ZACK BROADBENT, president of SOCALM, was being interviewed over the public address system as we drove and was kind enough to mention that the blue car with white stripes and the white car with blue stripes were from San Diego. You know that ELLIOT and I thrive on recognition.

The racing featured Formula A Mazdas in a 75-lap event that had some really fine examples of racing, even though they were driving...Left...Left...Left. A recommendation would be, if you were not already hard of hearing, bring and wear earplugs. From the grandstands, the racing is LOUD! A short track ensures that the cars are never far away and there is plenty of action.

The Irwindale Speedway is a wonderful facility. It is clean, with more than adequate restrooms and refreshments available. I will definitely go again.

As we left the racetrack at about 11:30 p.m., five cars headed for, need you ask, the obligatory Pie Run. After stopping in West Covina, the two striped cars headed wearily home. My head hit the pillow at 2:30 a.m. A full day of driving, eating, socializing, Miatas, and racing.

— STEVE WAID



## Miatas at the Getty III Plus a Visit to BrainStorm

**O**n June 10<sup>th</sup> BARB and ELLIOT SHEV led a group of 50 Miatas, for the third time, to the J. Paul Getty Museum. Bright and early Saturday morning, 7 a.m., the first group met in Carlsbad. After the drivers briefing, about 30 cars headed north to meet the group from SOCALM, making up the balance of the 50 cars of this joint club event.

The whole group left Sports Mart a few minutes late due to the bathroom



queue. Not to be any different than in the past, the owner of the car wash was less than impressed by our gang taking over his potty, so a bunch of us queued

up at the hamburger place. At least you can get a drink and a shake, and the coffee isn't bad either.

We made it to the Getty at 9:45 a.m., a bit earlier than our target arrival time of 10 a.m. No traffic! It was really neat to see all the Miatas at the toll both. Even better to see the faces on the parking attendants! You guys looked great! After parking on the second sub level, we all headed for the tram and up to the museum.

At the main entry there is a really nice bookshop, information center, and a place to rent an audio tour guide. This is highly recommended. All were off to fill their senses with the sights, sounds, and smells of the Getty.

The buildings, the art, the gardens, the fountains, and the views can each take you in and absorb your day at the Getty. You simply can not enjoy this venue in one visit. There are also tours, conducted by the docents, who are trained for six



PHOTOS: RAY ACEVEDO

months in their area of expertise, conducting tours about the architecture, the gardens, and the art. You can sign up for these tours upon your arrival.

We took the architecture tour this time and were pleasantly surprised with what we learned. The facility is really a work of art.

Plans were made for those who wished to picnic to meet at 1 p.m. in the picnic area. For those who wished to dine in doors or outdoors, the Getty has both. The food is good and items are available for all budgets.

After a relaxing day of art, we left the Getty for the second part of our run, the BrainStorm open house. Roshan and Dali, owners of BrainStorm, opened their shop for us to visit and shop for that special something the we need to adorn our favorite mode of transportation.

The folks at BrainStorm treated us to

some wonderful Indian food and soft drinks. Not only did they provide refreshments, and excellent information, thanks to Scott and Adan, all items purchased or ordered were offered at a 10% discount for the product as well as the installation fee. Some folks made appointments and arrived earlier for items that required more lengthy installs. I know some folks who saved a bunch of money!

Taking advantage of the special pricing, we acquired a pair of chrome interior door handles for our 10 AE. These are the same as the ones found in the 2000 SE. They look GREAT! Wonder where to put a cup in an M2? Look at the air vent mounted cup holders they have. Got a set of those too. Such a deal they had for us! Thank you BrainStorm for the special treat. If you haven't been there, go. They have really nice accessories for your car and a great staff to help with your decisions and install things correctly.

Sounds like fun? Sorry you missed the event? We will be doing it again next year. We will announce the 2001 date, so you can mark your calendars for next year, in the August newsletter. This event will be on a Sunday for those who cannot make it on a Saturday. So don't miss it next time!

— ELLIOT SHEV



## Aftermarket Goodies

### The Miata Battery

#### More Choices Than Ever Before

Every Miata manufactured and sent to the U.S. since 1989 has been factory equipped with a special battery. I wrote an article for the SAN DIEGO MIATA CLUB NEWS in 1997 that detailed the stock Miata battery and an alternative aftermarket replacement (SDMC News, Volume 2, Number 6). This article is available on the SDMC Web site and on Miata.net in their respective Garage sections.

Since that article was written, changes have occurred in the area of batteries for the Miata.

The OEM (original equipment) battery is a product of Panasonic. This battery caused confusion early in the sales of the Miata, since it did not require service like a standard car battery. In addition, mechanics who tried to "quick charge" it found out they quickly ruined it.

At the same time, Miata owners were finding out this is one great little battery. Usually a car battery will last, on average, 36 months. If you take good care of it, and live in a temperate climate, 48 months might be expected. The Panasonic has a demonstrated average life of 6 years (72 months) and there are continuing reports of original Miata batteries still going strong beyond the 10<sup>th</sup> year of service. Still, people complained when they had to shell out \$130 for a replacement from Mazda.

In mid 1998, Mazda quit selling the Panasonic battery as a replacement for the Miata. When you go to a Mazda parts department you now get a standard wet cell (albeit sealed) battery. The price is only around \$80, but you will NEVER see 72 months of service from this battery. Mazda claims this change in batteries was due to customer complaints about the original battery. Well, I cannot dispute that, but I believe that economics played a larger role. The Panasonic battery is made in Japan. In order to supply Mazda parts departments in the U.S. with batteries, they need to ship pallets of very heavy, thereby costly, batteries over the ocean. The new replacement is manu-

factured in the U.S. and is not subject to long ocean voyage transportation costs. That is why every Miata that enters the U.S. still carries a Panasonic battery in the trunk. No sense shipping U.S. made batteries to Japan!

Another strike against the new replacement battery from Mazda is one of commitment. The original design of the Miata placed the battery in the trunk for good weight distribution. This helped the handling of the car, as we all know, but it was not a place for a corrosive and possibly explosive item like a car battery. That is why Mazda chose an Absorption Glass Mat (AGM) battery to be placed in the Miata. The AGM is a suspended electrolyte battery that ties up the battery acid in a fine fiberglass mesh and keeps it from spilling in your trunk. If this design was important enough for the factory to install it (and they still do) then why should we accept less for a replacement battery?

Well, a lot of enthusiastic Miata owners do not accept less. WestCo has been providing a replacement AGM battery for the Miata since it had a 1.6 liter engine. This battery was cheaper than the Mazda Panasonic battery and still had the virtues of the OEM unit. One small drawback to the WestCo battery was the reversed battery terminals, in relation to the Panasonic battery. By turning the battery around when installing it this was negated, but the battery cables in the Miata trunk were sometimes very short in this arrangement. WestCo changed this in 1999 and the terminals are now in the same orientation as the OEM battery.

The cost of the new WestCo battery is \$80 and it works just as advertised. I replaced my 7-year-old Panasonic unit with one in November and it is working just fine.

American Battery Corporation has introduced a new player to the Miata replacement battery scene. Their American Eagle battery is an AGM, just like the original Panasonic and the WestCo. In addition, it is slightly smaller in size. This smaller size is a good thing, since the terminals are reversed like the first generation WestCo. Since the battery is slightly smaller, the short cables are less of a problem when making the connections. SDMC member BRIAN GOODWIN has

been using one of these batteries for several months in his '94 Miata and likes it very much. The list price for the American Eagle Battery is \$80, same as the WestCo.

While the reversed terminals might seem to handicap the American Eagle battery, the specifications make up for it.

new Mazda	370	cranking	amps
WestCo	475	"	"
American Eagle	530	"	"

As you can see, the American Eagle has the highest cranking amps of the three replacement batteries. That, coupled with the discounted price of \$59.90 to SAN DIEGO MIATA CLUB members, makes the American Eagle battery worth considering when your Panasonic finally dies of old age.

Either the American Eagle or the WestCo are deserving candidates as replacements for the Panasonic battery in your Miata. Accept nothing less.

— ANTHONY WILDE

American Battery Corporation  
525 West Washington  
Escondido CA 92025  
(760) 746-8010


*See Local Business Discounts on page 16*

WestCo Battery Systems  
Anaheim CA  
1-800-214-8040

[www.westcobattery.com/miata.htm](http://www.westcobattery.com/miata.htm)

### By Request

In response to member requests, the directions for SAN DIEGO MIATA CLUB Fun Runs are now being placed on the club Web page. New directions will be placed there after each event, assuming

 the run leaders get the instructions to us!

Now everyone can repeat a Fun Run, whether they attended the event or not.

Go to the club Web page and then go to the Club Information section. There you will find Past Run Directions. These have been converted to PDF format, just like the online copies of the newsletter, so they are just like the instructions handed out by the run leader.



## Smog Impact Fee Refunds

**O**n June 8, California Governor Gray Davis signed legislation that appropriates \$665 million for refunds to those persons who paid the Smog Impact Fee when they registered their vehicles in California. The \$300 fee was collected from October 15, 1990 to October, 19, 1999. It is estimated that 1.7 million Californians paid the fee during this time.

A suit was filed in 1994 charging the fee was an unconstitutional tax, and the California State Appeals court agreed in 1999. Governor Davis accepted the decision and endorsed the legislation to require the DMV to return the money, plus interest. The legislation mandates that the California Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) search their records and notify everyone who paid the fee that they are entitled to a refund.

The fee was collected on certain vehicles upon their initial registration in California. These vehicles had previously been registered in another state, or country, and did not have a sticker that certified that they met California emissions standards in place at the time of their manufacture. It did not matter whether the vehicle passed the California emissions standards when tested — the fee was collected.

If you care to wait, the DMV has indicated it will notify everyone who paid the fee by the first week of September; then you can claim your refund. A more expeditious route is to check and see if you qualify for a refund. The DMV has a Web page that will do an initial records search to verify the payment of the fee. You can go to this page at: <http://eg.dmv.ca.gov/smogRefund/eligible.htm>. This page also has links to additional information on the fee, the refund process, and a simplified claim form that you can fill out and send. DMV has indicated they will begin issuing refunds within 60 days of the Governor's action.

— ANTHONY WILDE

## The Tech Corner

### A better way to wipe your car?

**M**aybe you've seen it on TV? Maybe you've seen it at your local auto parts store? Maybe you saw it and said, "No way will it work or will I put that thing on my car!"

Well, the first time I saw one, I was impressed. It works great! I am talking about another product from our friends who bring us *The Original California Car Duster*. This is *The Original California Water Blade*.



Here is what they say. "The patented T-bar edge and soft silicone construction of the blade is designed to easily remove water from almost any surface. The blade will conform to the contour of the surface you are drying, and the T-bar will collect and remove the water with very little effort." And you know what? It does and it does it well.

This is a squeegee for your car. It's really useful for removing morning dew as well as wiping down your car after you wash it. It will remove over 95% of the water from the exterior of a Miata in about 2 minutes. The rest can be toweled off to perfection in another few minutes.

It is available for around \$20 in most auto supply shops as well as Wal Mart. BRUCE HARMER from North Coast Tarpaulin Works carries them and you do get a club discount there. I also saw them at COSTCO for about \$13. I understand that this is a one-time deal COSTCO has on them. When they're gone, that's it. If you like your duster, I am sure you will like this time saver too.

— ELLIOT SHEV

## CLASSIFIED ADS

Classified ad space is provided free of charge to members. Please include your name, telephone number and E-mail address (if applicable) with each submission.

**For Sale:** Men's 12-speed bike, call for details, \$40. Pac Bell Caller ID telephone, \$40 OBO. Front air dam from green '99 sport package, Make Offer.

Richard, (619) 286-2412 or [miatazke@aol.com](mailto:miatazke@aol.com)

**For Sale:** Racing Beat chrome style bar with custom fit tan tonneau cover. Fits '90-97 asking \$425. Must sell as a set.

Ken, (760) 753-1502 or [kene@nctimes.net](mailto:kene@nctimes.net)

**For Sale:** Racing Beat rear lower control arm chassis brace off a '90 Miata. Cost new is \$88 plus tax and shipping. The brace has been bent and straightened and is painted flat black. It will work as well as a new one. \$30. Spark plug wires, used for 2 weeks, \$20.

Wally, (619) 232-2801 ext 313  
or (619) 234-2858.

**For Sale:** A set of 14-inch original equipment wheels from a '99 is looking for a good home. Attractive and easy to clean! \$400 OBO.

Rick, (760) 740-8595 or  
[communicator@home.com](mailto:communicator@home.com)

**For Sale:** '90 with 13k miles on "new factory motor." New radiator, fuel pump and battery. New "stock" exhaust system. Pirelli tires. Red with hardtop, 113k miles. Reduced to \$5500.

Pete, (760) 749-3470.

**For Sale:** '95 M edition (Merlot) like new condition, synthetic oils, a/c, cruise control, am/fm cass/cd player. Koni shocks, stainless brake lines, real oil pressure gauge. \$12,500.

Ken, (760) 753-1502 or [kene@nctimes.net](mailto:kene@nctimes.net)

### SDMC Club Merchandise

Need something to make your life a little less bland? How about some distinctive club merchandise to get things started?

- Club T-shirts
- Club Sweatshirts
- Static Cling Decals
- Club logo Pins

All items will be available at the Boll Weevil Monthly Meetings (4th Thursday of every month). If you want to pick up clothing items at a run or social event other than a Monthly Meeting, please contact BARB SHEV ([moononalf@aol.com](mailto:moononalf@aol.com) or (858) 679-0777, evenings please) with an order and Barb will be happy to bring your stuff along. She can also mail items to you — ask her about postage costs.

