



SAN DIEGO MIATA CLUB NEWS

VOLUME 6 NUMBER 4

APRIL 2001

FROM THE EDITOR

UPCOMING EVENTS



April 8 - Sunday
Autocross at the "Q"



April 14 - Saturday
Dam-O-Rama 2001



April 21 - Saturday
Autocross at the "Q"



April 22 - Sunday
Run For The Magnetics



April 22 - Sunday
Autocross at the "Q"



April 26 - Thursday
Monthly Meeting



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Meeting & Board Elections
San Diego Automotive Museum



April 28 - Saturday
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(Rocdonna) 2001



May 19 - 21
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ance Driving School
Willow Springs Raceway

Time Flies When You're Having FUN

The last year has just flown by for me. We all have the sensation that time tends to go faster each year, but this is different. I have been so busy at work, and then with the newsletter and other club "stuff," it seems every time I turn around another month has gone by.

Each month when we lay out the newsletter, it is a distillation of all that has gone by during the previous month. I can look at each issue and visualize all of the events, and all of the work involved in coordinating those events. It really is a great time capsule.

For some people, including me, the fact that I no longer write an article in every issue of the newsletter is a relief. Working to distill the month's activities down to a sixteen to eighteen page format is work enough. I have left the monthly column writing chores to the president.

One of the duties I have performed over the last few years as newsletter editor is to remind everyone about the upcoming election of club officers. Every year, about this time, I write an article to whip up the sense of duty in the club in order to get candidates for the board positions. Everyone wants to have fun, but sometimes it is like pulling teeth to get someone to do the work that keeps it all going. Well, not this year!

As you hopefully will note on pages 12 and 13 of this issue, there are *six* club members who have stepped up to the plate and said they would serve on the board. This comes without any real prodding by me this year, so I am relieved as well as enthused! The sheer enthusiasm shown by these members, just to put their names in the hat, makes me very proud. They have all indicated to me their desire to give something back to the club that has given them so much pleasure and fun, especially this last year.

The unfortunate part is there are six candidates for four elected positions. However, to quote the renowned Martha Stewart, "That's a good thing." It is far better when we have more people willing to serve and inject their enthusiasm into the club leadership than the alternative, when nobody wants to take the lead to do the work from which the membership as a whole benefits.

Just a note to remind everyone that the club by-laws allow nominations and election *only* at the annual meeting, which is April 28 (see page 3 for details). There might be some members who choose to announce their desire to run for office at that time. That's a good thing too. But, I think the six members who have stepped forward to date deserve special recognition.

Take care and HAVE FUN!

— ANTHONY WILDE

Mazda Announces Owner Satisfaction Program For 2001 Miata Buyers

March 16, 2001

IRVINE, Calif. - Mazda North American Operations today announced an owner satisfaction program to address an issue concerning the horsepower rating of the 2001 Miata, which went on sale in September, 2000. Approximately 3,500 vehicles are involved.

The program came about because Mazda overstated the actual horsepower of the 2001 Miata by about eight percent. This error occurred during the development of the U.S.-specification 2001 Miata engine, when during final testing the horsepower was not revalidated against the targeted 155-horsepower rating. An eight percent horsepower reduction translates to less than a half-second increase in the 0-60 mph acceleration time.

"Simply put, we made a mistake and we apologize," stated Charlie Hughes, MNAO president and CEO, in a letter to owners of the 2001 Miata. Hughes stated that Mazda will offer to re-purchase 2001 Miatas from affected owners for the full purchase price or provide owners with free factory-scheduled maintenance for the length of the Miata's warranty and a \$500 MasterCard debit card to spend as they choose.

Hughes added, "There is no more enthusiastic group of sports car owners than Miata owners. We've designed this response to ensure that they continue to experience the thrill of owning and driving a Miata."

The 2001 Mazda Miata, with this engine, has received numerous accolades from the automotive media, including being named as one of Car and Driver's "10 Best," earning a spot

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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Folding, labeling, stamping performed by members of the board, newsletter team, and anybody else we can get.

on Automobile magazine's "All-Stars" list for an unprecedented 11th year, and recognition as one of Sport Compact Car's "Eight Great Rides." Since its introduction in 1989, Mazda has sold more than 560,000 Miatas worldwide, making it the best-selling two-seat roadster of all time.

Editors Note: If you recently purchased a 2001 Miata, you might not have received a letter from Mazda. It has been reported that cars not in the database as of March 15, 2001 will not receive a letter. If you have not received notification from Mazda by the time you get this newsletter, contact Mazda at (800) 222-5500.

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NOTICES

The SAN DIEGO MIATA CLUB is a non-profit California corporation. The *SAN DIEGO MIATA CLUB NEWS* is the monthly newsletter of the SAN DIEGO MIATA CLUB. Use of articles or stories by other Miata clubs 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

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

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



Autocross

Date: Sunday, April 8
 SDAD Championship event
Time: 9 a.m.
Place: Qualcomm Stadium,
 Mission Valley, west lot



The Dam-O-Rama 2001

Date: Saturday, April 14
Meeting Time: 8:30 a.m. breakfast
 Driver's meeting at 9:45 a.m.
 in front of Rosa's Cantina.
 Run Starts at 10 a.m. sharp!
Meeting Place: Rosa's Cantina,
 28636 Front Street, Old Town
 Temecula.



Run Leaders:

JOHN & JOYCE RICHARDSON
 RSVP to miatajuan@hotmail.com
This run qualifies toward Mileage Award
 It's about dam time again! To give you a little taste of this exciting event, we've put together an interactive Web site complete with run information & pictures. RAINER MUELLER has put together an awesome "panoramic" view of the dam from last year's run which you can compare with photos from Dam Run I. This year the reservoir is over half full.

Check out this years exciting stops and get information on the first ever "Miata Car Color Contest" and be in the running for the coveted "Dam Trophy!" The site even includes an up to the minute weather report of the Temecula area so you can see how much cooler this years run will be.

Be sure to give a dam link to others who might be interested. We'll keep you posted on new developments as the date gets closer.

The Web site is at:
<http://companswers.homestead.com/Damorama.html>

Directions to Meeting Place: Exit I-15 at Rancho California. Drive to the west side of I-15. Turn left on Front Street. Queue up along both sides of Front Street, by Miata color.

Autocross

Date: Saturday, April 21
 practice
Time: 9 a.m.
Place: Qualcomm Stadium,
 Mission Valley, southeast lot



Run for the Magnetics

Date: Sunday April 22
Meeting Time:
 Driver's meeting 8:15 a.m.
 Departure: 8:30
Meeting Place: Grossmont Center
Run Leaders: DEE & WAYNE JOHNSON
 (619) 583-0976 or waynemg@pacbell.net
This run qualifies toward Mileage Award



Wayne and Dee will be putting on their first event and hope that all of you will attend. We will be traveling east and south in the county and finish up at a nice picnic area with surprises. Please bring something to share. Sodas and kosher dogs will be provided. Bring cameras and binoculars. The start is at Grossmont Center, under the big sign.

Directions to Meeting Place: Take I-8 east to Grossmont Center Dr. off ramp. Turn left at the light and left into Murray Dr. Turn right into first driveway and left at the stop. Go straight and you will see us on the left side, in the gold Miata!

Autocross

Date: Sunday, April 22
 DCCSD Championship event
Time: 9 a.m.
Place: Qualcomm Stadium,
 Mission Valley, southeast lot



Monthly Meeting

Date: Thursday, April 26
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 Annual Membership Meeting

Date: Saturday, April 28
Time: 10 a.m.
Place: Hall of Fame Room inside the San Diego Automotive Museum, Balboa Park.



Enter at the side door, to the left of the main entrance, and go up the stairs to the right. The meeting will start promptly at 10 a.m. Please remember to bring your MEMBERSHIP CARD to receive a ballot.

One ballot per membership.

We will have a Pot Luck meal after the business is finished. Please bring a dish to share that does not require cooking or heating. NO HEATING or COOKING is allowed inside the Auto Museum building. Soda and cake will be provided.

Bring items and money for the raffle! (See the article on page 5).

Navajo Community Spring Fest Parade

Date: Saturday, April 28
Time: 1 p.m. (or shortly thereafter)
Coordinators: SCOTT & JOANNA LANGHOFF, MarinerUSN@aol.com or (619) 470-7860



Following the annual membership meeting, Scott will lead a convoy from the auto museum to the Allied Gardens car show area. We should arrive there around 2 p.m. The parade begins at 3 p.m. After the parade, members can return to the car show area and partake of the festivities and the spaghetti feed, or head home at their discretion.

If you wish to participate in the parade you can choose to carry a VIP, or not. If you do, you can say where they sit in your car. Either in the passenger seat or on the rear deck, your choice. Please RSVP to Scott.



Search for Madonna (Rocdonna) 2001



Date: May 5 - 7

The search begins at 7 a.m., May 5th in San Diego County, with stops along the way to rendezvous with other searchers as we continue the trek north.

The Madonna Inn in San Luis Obispo is "Search Central" for this three-day Miata event. The search area includes the Central California Coast with such notable search sites as Morro Bay (car show all weekend), Cambria, Pismo Beach, San Simeon, Hearst Castle, wineries, Pozo Saloon, and many roads for more exploring.

What are we Searching for?

FUN...and we are going to keep searching until there is no more.

What can you expect?

Fabulous food. No one will starve. The Madonna Inn has some of the finest eating you will ever find. Other eating selections in the area will be plentiful. Saturday night will consist of a "Room Hopping, Food Eating Menagerie." A Sunday night banquet will be available for the whole group. *Lots of driving* Not only is the Madonna Inn over 350 miles from San Diego, but also the fun runs on the roads in the area will be plentiful.

What do you have to do to become a Searcher?

1. Go to the official Web site of the Search for Madonna (Rocdonna) 2001 www.rocdonna.homestead.com. See the theme for 2001, and get a flavor of things to come.
2. Or, go online to www.madonnainn.com and browse the 119 unique room selections. The base rooms are reserved at the Miata club rate of \$117 per night. There are upgrade rooms available...you'll see what I mean. Select the room you

would like. You better choose several with a preference order. Some rooms might already be reserved.

3. Call the Madonna Inn at (800) 543-9666, and reserve your room for Saturday and Sunday nights, May 5th and 6th. Be sure to mention that you are with the Miata club group.
4. Call STEVE or LAURIE WAID, (760) 432-0727, or e-mail them at swaid@home.com and let them know that you have reserved your room. Give them the room number and room name. This information becomes an integral part of maintaining a separate e-mail group for up-to-date searcher's information and hype.
5. Sit back and wait until May. The anticipation will become almost intolerable.

McKeever High Performance Driving School

Willow Springs Raceway

Date: May 19 - 21



This high performance driving school is open to drivers of *all* skill levels, from the novice who just wants to learn how to be a safer driver to the weekend racer who wants to shave a few ticks off his lap times. You will be grouped according to your comfort level and track experience for maximum safety. A short *Driving Clinic* on the wet skid pad will be open to non-participants on Saturday.

Entry fee includes:

- High performance driving manual
- 5x7 group picture
- Lunch each day
- Classroom instruction
- Individual ride-along instruction
- Approximately 150 - 175 track miles per day
- Certificate of completion

Saturday and/or Sunday on the "Streets of Willow" track.

\$175 for 1-day school

\$350 for 2-day school

Limited to a maximum of 30 drivers each day (two 15-car run groups). No roll over bar or racing belts required. Helmets and driving suits available for use. Teenagers are welcome with signed parental consent form.

Monday on the 2½-mile "Willow Springs International Raceway" track.

\$200 for the day

You must have completed the 2-day "Streets of Willow" school. Cars **MUST** have roll over bars and racing belts to participate on the big track.

If you don't want to use your Miata for the school, McKeever race-prepared Toyota Celicas are available for \$450 per day plus your entry fee.

Make check payable to SAN DIEGO MIATA CLUB and send to:

JON MARTINEZ

155 Avenida Adobe

San Clemente CA 92672

Questions: (949) 361-0838 or

jontronics@home.com

Willow Springs Web site:

www.willowspringsraceway.com

Danny McKeever's Web site:

www.raceschool.com

Kanazawa Roadster Club

Date: Sunday, June 10

We will be hosting a contingent from the KANAZAWA ROADSTER Club, from Kanazawa, Japan. They will be visiting our city for a few days and wanted to enjoy Miatas the way we do. In addition, some of our visitors might like to stay with SAN DIEGO MIATA CLUB members in their homes. If you would like to host a visiting Roadster fanatic, contact ELLIOT SHEV, president@sandiegomiataclub.org or (858) 679-0777.



Run to the Getty IV

Date: Sunday, June 17

Departure Time: San Diego 7:15 a.m.

SOCALM - 8:30 a.m.



Meeting Place: McDonald's at I-5 and Oceanside Blvd.

SOCALM: Sport Mart at Magnolia Street/Warner Avenue.

Coordinators: ELLIOT & BARB SHEV (858) 679-0777 or mooncalf@aol.com

Reservations a must as space is limited.

Please mark your calendars for June 17 for a special trip to see one of the great masterpieces of art right here in our own back yard. Not only are the contents of this museum a treasure, the setting, the buildings, the landscape, and the view are equally amazing and a treasure as well. If you missed this trip in the past, here is your chance to experience this phenomenal place, and if you did participate before, plan to join us again.

We will be leaving from McDonald's, located at I-5 and Oceanside Blvd., in Oceanside, at 7:15 a.m. sharp. From here we will be traveling north to meet up with our friends in SOCALM. We would like to meet at the Sport Mart parking lot located on the west side of 405 at the Magnolia Street/Warner Avenue exit in Fountain Valley/Huntington Beach at 8:15, departing at 8:30. This should put us at the museum at 10 a.m. to enter as a group. If you were there last year, you can remember how cool this was!

We have been given 50 automobile reservations by the Getty Museum. The normal parking fee of \$5 will be waived as we are a nonprofit organization. These reservations were made a year ago, they are hard to get! Also, we have reserved 5 picnic tables for lunch at 1 p.m. You can pack a lunch and enjoy some friendly Miata talk or eat in one of the restaurants. They have a few. There is a really nice one that requires reservations.

Check it out on the Web at: www.getty.edu/museum and then RSVP as space is limited to the first 50 cars.

Death Valley Daze

Presented by MOOV and BAMA

Date: April 27-28

Location: Death Valley, CA

Lodging: Furnace Creek Ranch

(760) 786-2345 or

Furnace Creek Campground sites

(800) 365-2267

Fifteen (15) rooms are being held at Furnace Creek Ranch at a special rate of \$105 per night. Be sure to tell them you are with the MIATA Club, booking #4532. If you prefer to camp, the Furnace Creek campground sites are \$16 per night. This is the only campground in Death Valley that takes advance reservations.

Tentative Itinerary:

Friday – Upon arrival, check in with the Blaines or Christensens at the Corkscrew Saloon.

Saturday – run up to Scotty's Castle for a tour – optional barbecue dinner and hay ride in evening. Sunday – morning photo opportunity at Dante's View (+5,425 feet) or Badwater (-282 feet—the lowest spot in the U.S.) before departing for home.

Optional: Scotty's Castle tour, \$8 per person. Saturday barbecue dinner, \$30.38 per person, tax and gratuity included (minimum 25 people). Hay wagon ride \$10 per person (minimum 15 people).

RANCH ACTIVITIES: swimming, golf (214 feet below sea level), driving range, volleyball, basketball, horseshoes, tennis, hiking, horseback riding, champagne carriage rides, hay wagon rides, the Borax Museum, star watching— best in the West. Sound like something you would

like to do?

For further information please contact either:

(MOOV) Richard and Mimi Blaine

(702) 243-4821 or enjoy89@aol.com

(BAMA) Ken and Shirley Christensen

(925) 484-4174 or kenc@cdec.com

Also check out:

www.furnacecreekresort.com

www.nationalparks.org

www.nps.gov/deva/scottys1.htm

Cool Weekend On The Coast

Date: June 16 - 17

Contact: Austin Dach calife@crealty.com

On the weekend of June 15-17, 2001, Cool Weekend On The Coast will be hosted by the REDWOOD COAST MIATA CLUB in Eureka, California. Full details and registration are available on the club's web site at <http://rcmiataclub.tripod.com>.

Registration limited. Check-in opens 6 p.m. Friday evening. Events include the Great Drive to the Lost Coast, poker rally, Prairie Creek Redwoods run, "Miata Madness" autocross, coolest Miata competition, best Miata story, awards banquet with trophies for all winners, drawings for prizes, and more. Hotel accommodations at Best Western Bayshore Inn. Set in the natural beauty of the redwoods, rivers, and coastline of the north coast of California...Miata style.

Northwest Miatafest, the Gathering 2001

Kent, Washington

PUGET SOUND MIATA CLUB

Date: August 10 - 12

Contact: John Hewitt info@nwmatafest.com

The largest annual event in the Pacific Northwest!

Raffle at the Annual Meeting on April 28

Once again we will be holding a raffle at the annual meeting. This year, the proceeds of the raffle will be used to fund, at least in part, the Mileage Award Program patches. This method of paying for club items was used successfully early in the SAN DIEGO MIATA CLUB history. We held raffles to pay for the production of the lapel/hat pins, club jacket embroidery, t-shirts, etc.

Items have been donated for the raffle by several Miata vendors and service providers. There are gift certificates for services and Miata goodies. One item included in the raffle is a strut tower brace.

Some Miata-related items have also been donated by SDMC members. If you have anything you would like to donate, contact ELLIOT SHEV or SAL CAUSARANO.

Don't forget to bring cash to buy raffle tickets!



SDMC Members Start the Season Right

The first championship autocross (Solo2) of the 2001 season at Qualcomm Stadium was a good one for SAN DIEGO MIATA CLUB members. The event was sponsored by the San Diego Asebring Drivers (SDAD) on January 21.

As reported here in the March newsletter, SDMC members swept the first three positions in the IS2 (Improved Street) class. ROBERT "JT" HOLLAND took the first position with STEVE WAID and BRIAN GOODWIN posting times to take the second and third spots respectively. Each received a trophy in recognition of his accomplishment.

Congratulations. What a way to start the year!

— ANTHONY WILDE



PHOTO: ANTHONY WILDE

February 18, 2001 Autocross Results

Congratulations to the following SAN DIEGO MIATA CLUB members on their performance at the Solo2 championship event. The event was sponsored by the Southern California Autocross Team (SCAT), and held at Qualcomm Stadium.

Class	Driver	Car	Place
BS	MIKE PAGE	Miata	9th
ES	JOE KRAMER	Honda CRX	3rd
IS2	ROBERT HOLLAND	Miata	2nd
IS2	RAINER MUELLER	Miata	4th
IS2	STEVE WAID	Miata	6th
CSP	RON CHAPMAN	Honda CRX	1st
CSP	MARA CALER	Honda CRX	3rd
SM	HOWARD KUZMINSKI	Miata	6th
Novice	LINDA SANKPILL	Miata	21st

Robert "JT" Holland (left) and Steve Waid proudly display their trophies from the January 21 Solo2 event. Brian Goodwin also received a trophy, but was too quick to be photographed.

March 4, 2001 Autocross Results

Congratulations to the following SAN DIEGO MIATA CLUB members on their performance at the Solo2 championship event. The event was sponsored by the Triple A Race Team (TART), and held at Qualcomm Stadium.

Class	Driver	Car	Place
IS2	BRIAN GOODWIN	Miata	3rd
IS2	ROBERT HOLLAND	Miata	4th
IS2	STEVE KENNISON	Miata	5th
IS2	STEVE WAID	Miata	6th
CSP	RON CHAPMAN	Honda CRX	3rd
CSP	MARA CALER	Miata	4th
SM	HOWARD KUZMINSKI	Miata	4th

AUTOCROSS AT THE "Q"



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

- Sunday, April 8.....race day
- Saturday, April 21.....practice day
- Sunday, April 22.....race day
- Sunday, June 10.....race day
- Saturday, June 23.....practice day
- Sunday, June 24.....race day
- Saturday, July 28.....practice day
- Sunday, July 29.....race day

To confirm autocross information, call:
 San Diego SCCA Hotlines (619) 441-1333
 (800) 360-4454

Web page 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 Solo2 card and number (\$15) and have a DOT approved helmet. Loaner helmets are available at the autocross.



MILEAGE AWARDS PROGRAM

Here is the current mileage tally for the first four SDMC runs of 2001. All entries are based on the sign up sheets turned in by the run coordinators after each run. If you have questions, contact the Mileage Awards 2001 Tallymaster, MIKE SHACK mishack@cts.com or (858) 485-0278.

Mileage	Hangover Run 105 miles	Tecate Train 42 miles	Let's Go Borrego 200 Ramona 220 Escondido	Fishy Run 44 miles	
Run Date	01/01/2001	01/27/2001	02/10/2001	02/25/2001	TOTAL (YTD)
Begley, Ann			200		200
Begley, Fred			200		200
Best, Richard	105	42	200		347
Booth, Cathy	105				105
Booth, Mark	105				105
Boster, Janice	105	42	200		347
Boster, Jerry	105	42	200	44	391
Breen, John	105				105
Broadbent, Zach	105				105
Brokaw, Charlene		42			42
Brokaw, Jim		42			42
Bryan, Alex		42			42
Bryan, David		42			42
Bryan, Dennis		42			42
Bryan, Lori		42			42
Carmel, Diana	105				105
Case, Karen	105				105
Case, Kristi	105				105
Causarano, Geri		42	200	44	286
Causarano, Sal		42	200	44	286
Chan, Gail			200	44	244
Daoust, Phil	105				105
Davis, Bob			220		220
Dennstedt, Larry		42			42
Didier, Dennis				44	44
Didier, Veronica				44	44
DiLustro, Jack			220	44	264
DiLustro, Sue				44	44
Fahring, Geoff	105				105
Faircloth, Mike			200		200
Faircloth, Robin			200		200
Fore, Eileen	105				105
Garon, Dennis			220		220
Garon, Maryanne		42	220		262
Goodman, Grant			220		220
Gould, Stef	105				105
Gould, Tom	105				105
Hamilton, Art	105	42			147
Herd, Greg		42			42
Herd, Mary		42			42
Hinkle, Jack	105		200		305
Hinkle, Sue	105		200		305
Jewell, Carole			200		200
Jewell, Wally			200		200
Kennison, Paula		42	200		242
Kennison, Steve		42	200		242
Kessler, Sue			200		200
Kessler, Ted			200		200
Kilgore, Charlie			220		220
Kilgore, Lisa			220		220

Mileage Awards Program (Continued on page 8)



Mileage Awards Program (Continued from page 7)

Mileage	Hangover Run 105 miles	Tecate Train 42 miles	Let's Go Borrego 200 Ramona 220 Escondido	Fishy Run 44 miles	TOTAL (YTD)
Run Date	01/01/2001	01/27/2001	02/10/2001	02/25/2001	
Kitterer, Bob			220		220
Knepper, Bill	105		220		325
Langhoff, Joanna		42			42
Langhoff, Scott		42			42
Langmaid, Ed	105				105
Langmaid, Michelle	105				105
Lewis, Dustin	105				105
Lima, JD				44	44
Llewellyn, Bob	105				105
Llewellyn, Debbie	105				105
Lynn, David		42			42
Lynn, Leanne		42			42
Martin, Arthur	105				105
Martin, Dave	105		200		305
Martinez, Jon	105	42			147
McClelland, Kathie			200		200
Mudarri, Paula		42		44	86
Mueller, Maryanne		42			42
Mueller, Rainer		42			42
Noriega, Alfred	105				105
Penta, Jeff			220		220
Penta, Kim			220		220
Powell, Judy	105	42			147
Preston, Billye	105				105
Ramsey, Donna	105	42			147
Ramsey, Rick	105	42			147
Ribble, Marilyn		42			42
Richardson, John	105				105
Rundall, Ann		42			42
Russell, Bari	105				105
Sankpill, Conrad				44	44
Sankpill, Linda				44	44
Schwartz, Mike	105		200		305
Scott, Gary		42	200		242
Scott, Jered			200		200
Scott, Roz		42	200		242
Stevens, Wally				44	44
Shack, Elinor				44	44
Shack, Mike				44	44
Shaffer, Bill	105		220	44	369
Shev, Barb	105	42	220	44	411
Shev, Elliot	105	42	220	44	411
Stanley, Gene	105				105
Thompson, Dona	105				105
Thompson, Tom	105				105
Timmons, Tamara		42			42
Timmons, Ted		42			42
Waid, Laurie	105		220	44	369
Waid, Steve	105		220	44	369
Wallner, MaryAnn		42			42
Wood, Karen	105				105
Wood, Tra	105				105



5 Years Ago This Month

Thursday, April 11, 1996

The first meeting of the newly elected (at the March 31 inaugural meeting) board of directors was held.

The first elected board consisted of:

President MARK BOOTH
Vice president CINDY PALOMA
Secretary RUTH STARK
Treasurer MARY BEECHER

Several members volunteered their services to perform the Administrative Board functions. They were:

ROBERT "JT" HOLLAND
 Newsletter Editor/Web master
STEF & TOM GOULD
 Newsletter Layout & Design
VOODOO BOB KRUEGER
 Membership
CINDY PALOMA
 E-mail Postmaster

Saturday, April 27, 1996

The first "official" run of the SAN DIEGO MIATA CLUB was led by LOU & RUTH STARK. The Starks led 14 Miatas (and one motorcycle) from North County Fair to Palm Desert.

The return trip to America's Finest City made a stop at Julian Pie Co. and Dudley's Bakery.

Does that sound familiar?

Below— April 27, 1996, Lou Stark (center) starts the first San Diego Miata Club run at North County Fair.



PHOTO: UNKNOWN

New Members!

WELCOME to our newest members (since last newsletter):

DONALD ARMSTRONG

Orange
1994 Red

FRANK & YVONNE DI COSIMO

Laguna Beach
1999 Emerald Green

JOSEPH FOX

La Mesa
2001 Silver

KAREN & DON GOYETTE

San Diego
1996 Montego Blue

PETRA COLLEEN & NICK KARRAS

San Diego
1991 Red

SCOTT & ERIN PIKE

Ramona
1994 Black

KERRY & SHARRON POWELL

Chula Vista
1999 Twilight Blue

BILL & BILLYE PRESTON

Ft. Worth, TX
1999 Red

CHRISTOPHER ROBERTS

San Diego
1996 Starlight Blue

VIRGINIA & CHRISTOPHER TAYLOR

Chula Vista
2001 Crystal Blue

Membership Statistics

As of March 24, 2001, there are 345 memberships (139 single, 206 dual) for a total of 551 members.

Memberships by Miata Color:

93	Red
52	White
39	Black
34	Emerald Green
28	Silver
15	Sapphire Blue
14	Montego Blue
11	Marina Green
9	Starlight Blue
9	Twilight Blue
8	Mariner Blue
7	Laguna Blue
7	Mahogany
6	BRG
6	Merlot
6	Yellow
5	Crystal Blue
2	Evolution Orange
1	Midnight Blue
1	Eggplant (custom)
1	Teal (custom)
10	Unreported*

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

Renewing Members

(since last newsletter):

BOB & JULI DAVIS
JEFF & GLORIA DODGE
PATRICK DONOHUE
DAVID & BETH ERNST
MARY & GREG HERD
JEANETTE & JEFF HOLLADAY
JOHN "JD" LIMA
CAROLYN R. THOMAS
HAMILTON LOWDER
JON MARTINEZ & JUDY POWELL
PAULA MUDARRI
DIXIE RATH
NICOLA REYNOLDS
LOIS A. RICHARDS
BARI RUSSELL





February 25 - Sunday
There's Something Fishy About This Run!

Rain, rain, go away.
Come again some other day!

That seemed to be the sentiment on February 25 when RICH BEST gave it *his* best, for his first fun run. It can be said that Rich *earned* his magnetics that day.

The Fishy Run was well planned and executed, but the abnormally wet month of February reminded everyone of the aquatic nature of the event. Since this was the only fun run scheduled for the month, two dozen run starved Miatas braved the elements to remember what it is like to drive top UP!

In spite of the rain, Rich led his



PHOTOS: BARB & ELLIOT SHEV

Steve Waid employs a different kind of soft top that is seldom seen around San Diego.

school of Miata from Del Mar down the Coast Highway to the Stephen Birch Aquarium. After viewing the swimming variety close up, everyone was ready to try the cooked variety! So off the Miata went, through the beach communities to the San Diego Fish Market. Tarter sauce, anyone?

A unique idea for a run, that is for sure. Just a suggestion, nobody plan an earthquake run. OK?

— ANTHONY WILDE

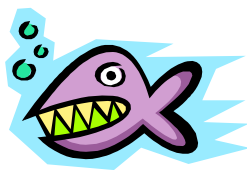


Everyone seemed to take notice as the colorful school of Miata swam past.





First time run leader Rich Best surveys the colorful line of Miatas that braved the elements.



NO, it didn't rain *that* much! The Fishy Run made a highlighted stop at the Stephen Birch Aquarium. Inside the large tank, a diver interacts with the residents.

Got Zoom?

zoom ----- T-Shirts
 Zoom ----- Sweatshirts
 ZOOM ---- Pins & Decals!

ZOOM, ZOOM, ZOOM...Get your SDMC Regalia directly from the Regalia Gals (ROZ & PAULA) at the upcoming monthly meeting.

Zoom on down and pick up a few great club items to show off your enthusiasm for the incredible Mazda Miata, and the SAN DIEGO MIATA CLUB.

Got special sizes, items you want? Call or e-mail ROZ or PAULA and let them know and they will personally hand deliver the items to you at the meeting.

ROZ SCOTT & PAULA KENNISON
 (760) 789-3872 or (858) 271-8498 or
regalia@sandiegomiataclub.org.

Online Resources

For those of you out there who might be interested in automobiles...have you tried www.just-auto.com? Plenty there to chew on.

You can also sign up to get a daily e-mail with all the headlines of today's automobile news, and then pick the ones you would like to read.

Go to: www.just-auto.com/subscribe_large.asp
 Usually some Mazda/Miata news, as well as OTMs.

— TOM SPRAGUE

Help Wanted

— Events Coordinator

Our current Events Coordinator, GERI CAUSARANO, has decided it's time to let someone else have some fun. She wants to turn the position over to someone who has the desire, time, and fortitude to keep the events coming.

This is a very dynamic and challenging position. It is central to all of the fun the rest of the club enjoys. Since it is fast paced, e-mail and Internet communication are essential.

If you would like to volunteer to take on this vital role, contact ELLIOT SHEV at president@sandiegomiataclub.org or (858) 679-0777.

Elections to the board of directors of the SAN DIEGO MIATA CLUB will take place at the annual membership meeting on Saturday, April 28. The annual meeting, which is held at the San Diego Automotive Museum (see page 3 for details), is where the actual nominations and voting will take place in accordance with the club's bylaws.

The following are biographical profiles of members who have announced their intent to seek nomination and subsequent election to the board of directors. These profiles have been provided by the candidates for the purpose of letting the rest of the membership know about themselves and their qualifications, skills, desires, or goals as a member of the executive board. These profiles are *not* a requirement for nomination and election. Other eligible members may also seek nomination for election at the annual meeting. Additionally, candidates may be nominated for more than one office; however, they may only be elected to and hold a single office. — EDITOR

JIM BROKAW

I would like to serve as either secretary or treasurer of this wonderful group. CHARLENE and I have had a lot of fun with the club over the last two years, and I'm seeking the opportunity to give something back. The incredible success that our club has enjoyed is a direct result of the enthusiasm, friendliness, humor, and diversity of our membership (and great cars, too). It is also a result of the personal commitment and dedication of our past and present board members, as well as the handful of others who work hard every month to keep the club active and fun for everyone. I want to help represent your interests, and to help ensure that the club continues to provide its members with great top-down driving, camaraderie, food, tech advice, and most of all— FUN!

SAL CAUSARANO

Having served as vice president of the SDMC for the past year and secretary the previous year, I would very much like to continue to serve the club as vice president for this coming year.

My wife GERI and I have been actively involved in SDMC since joining in March 1998. Soon after becoming empty nesters we bought our first Miata for the sole purpose of traveling and having fun in a sports car. We have come to the realization that the car is probably 40% of the fun factor. Belonging to this club and coming to know the people in it is the other 60%. After three years the love affair continues with my wife, our children, SDMC and our Miatas.

Geri drives a 1994 Montego Blue M Edition and I drive a 1993 Red base model for the time being. We have hopes that some kind person will adopt "Little Red" since other priorities have caused us to downsize. I was born and raised in Long Island, New York. I was transplanted to San Diego in 1971. I graduated from State University of New York and Western Michigan University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Aerospace Engineering and later obtained my Master of Science in Logistics Management from National University. I am a Naval Aviation veteran, having served in the early 1970's. After getting out of the Navy, I decided to work in Naval Civil Service at Naval Aviation Depot, North Island, where I spent 27 years. In 1998, I transferred to Space and Naval Warfare Systems Command (SPAWAR), where I currently work as a Logistics Management Division Director.

I thought aircraft was to be my life's ambition, but decided to turn my interests to more earthly pleasures soon after separating from active duty. I bought my first sports car, a Mazda RX-7, in 1983 and the infatuation with the sports car continues. SDMC and the many friends we have made have become an important part of our lives. We have seen SDMC membership more than double in the three years we have been members. A great deal of planning and dedication is spent behind the scenes by board members to keep you, the membership, interested, enthused, busy, and involved. I would like to see SDMC continue to thrive, prosper, and grow in spirit. I would very much like to continue to work behind the scenes for you and this club. I would appreciate your consideration when you vote for vice president.

JACK DI LUSTRO

I would like to take a moment to introduce myself and submit my name as a candidate for club secretary. My wife, SUE, and I have been members of SOCALM and later SDMC since we bought our first Miata back in 1990. I have enjoyed the social aspects of the SAN DIEGO MIATA CLUB, conducted both formal and impromptu runs, been a member of the SURF'N'SAFARI board, and chaired the SURF'N'VERSARY event last Fall.

I believe the growth of this car club to more than 500 members is due to the fact we all enjoy our Miatas for various reasons and enjoy the camaraderie of such a diverse group of people. I have met great friends, been to places that I never knew existed, driven roads that I'm still smiling, about and felt proud to be a member of the SDMC when we have supported other organizations in our community.

I believe our club can continue to provide a variety of activities and support the diverse interests of all our members. From the youngest to the oldest, from the most knowledgeable car enthusiast to the person who has a difficult time just finding his car key, we all have a common bond— the admiration for a fantastic sports car. I'd like to see our calendar fill with so many different events that we can't possibly do it all. I'd like to see the club continue to embrace Miata-related activities where any of our club members are interested. More tech days, more autocross, more fun runs, more social events, more mid-week or weekend get-



together, more of this or more of that...that's what this club is all about. Keep it fun, keep it light, keep the top down.

Whether elected or not, I'll continue to be an active member of the SAN DIEGO MIATA CLUB and support our leadership, members and events.

JOHN "JD" LIMA

I would be honored to be nominated for treasurer on the SDMC executive board. I quietly joined the SDMC in May 1999, shortly after buying my '99 Emerald Mica, my first sports car. At first I lurked on the club e-mail lists, before attending my first club meeting last April, coincidentally to elect new board members. Since that first meeting, my anticipation and excitement has grown with each and every club event. I can't say enough good things about all you folks I've met and had fun with over this last year!

I am a U.S. Army (Cavalry) veteran, and am a graduate of the University of California, San Diego with a degree in Computer Science and Engineering. I spent five years working on high-performance computing projects with Science Applications International Corporation, then, several years ago I transferred to the Space and Naval Warfare Systems Command (SPAWAR) as Scientist. I am an active recreational SCUBA diver, generally going out on SDMC "off" weekends. I met my best friend, now my wife, CAROLYN over ten years ago when she was finishing her Doctorate in Mathematics at UCSD, and we are now approaching our third anniversary together. Carolyn is a professor at City College, teaching Math.

I can absolutely say that my enjoyment of, and enthusiasm for, my little Miata is largely due to this club and the people in it. Now I want to volunteer some of my ever-increasing enthusiasm back to this great organization and terrific membership. I can hardly wait for things to come! Thanks for your consideration.

MIKE SHACK

I am asking for your vote for treasurer this election. Since I have held this position for the last year, many of you already know me. But I would like to introduce myself to those who don't, and re-connect with those who do.

My wife, ELINOR, and I have been members of SDMC since the summer of 1998, just after we purchased our red '99. The car is used as a daily driver, but becomes our funmobile on the weekends. Fortunately, we hooked up with the club early in our ownership. Owning a Miata in San Diego is not just owning another car. It brings with it the fun of club membership, fellowship with other car lovers, and the knowledge that help for your baby is a phone call or e-mail away. It becomes a lifestyle, not just transportation to and from work.

As a result of those feelings, I have been happy to donate some of my time to help club activities, and when it was suggested I run for office, I enthusiastically agreed. Over the past year I have done a reasonable job keeping the books (not too difficult!). I have also introduced the Mileage Award program, and by default I am serving as the mileage dude. I am willing to serve another term as club treasurer.

ELLIOT SHEV

I can add two items to the bio I submitted to you last year, as I placed my name on the list of those interested in running for president of this fine organization, (1) objective met and (2) add currently serving as president of the SAN DIEGO MIATA CLUB (SDMC). My objectives for our next year, if elected, would be to provide more tech sessions, like the one held at Dennstedt's and my pal Sal's this past year. Not only would these be mechanical, but on car care and appearance. My other objective is as stated below.

Having served in a variety of positions, including president of other volunteer organizations, currently serving as the president, and formerly treasurer of SDMC and being an executive in a \$50 million dollar company, I have a lot of experience to offer. As this club has grown to well over 300 memberships, the need to organize and communicate has changed. As president, I encourage all members of the club to participate in creating events for our diverse membership to have fun enjoying the underpinnings of the club, the Miata. This includes everything from runs like the Getty event we put together every year to racing events, and everything in the middle, including social, fund raising and driving. Please don't forget the food. Yes, the food...those times when we get together and talk about our favorite topic, our Miatas, in some new-found place just introduced by a member who is putting on his or her first event.

I have been working on cars for over forty years and racing them for a little less than that. I have been involved in motorsports almost all my life, having owned many "hot" cars and sports cars, but taking a break from these while my children were teenagers. Buying our first Miata, a 1995 Merlot Mica M-Edition, on April 1, 1995, brought us back to the world of roadsters and wind-in-your-hair driving. Little did we know that this purchase would lead us to a whole new family of friends and fun. BARB and I joined the SDMC in July of '96 and attended our first event in August.

Ever since then we have been involved in helping. We organized events, we owned the first "club" jackets, and held lots of tech days helping others learn about caring for their cars. I have spent many weekends helping many members work on their cars. I'm not sure who has more fun, but I know I love it.



What's The Diff?

A few weeks ago I bought a rear sub-assembly from a wrecked 1999 Miata. You see, I have a 1992 Miata (M1) with a viscous limited-slip differential (VLSD). This LSD uses metal discs in close proximity to each other that heat up a fluid as one wheel spins faster than the opposing wheel. As the fluid heats up, it increases in viscosity (thickens), which in turn transfers energy (from friction) to the side that is not slipping. This process can transfer about 25% of the energy from the slipping wheel to the non-slipping wheel. It works, but it is not very efficient.



But after years of street and autocross use, the metal plates have broken down and the properties that make a VLSD work are gone (becoming more-or-less an open differential). So I set out to find a Torsen (Torque Sensing) differential from a 1994+ Miata. A Torsen differential is made up of ring and worm gears, so its effects are immediate and it can transfer about 85% of the energy to the non-slipping wheel. Starting in 1994, Mazda used the Torsen differential in its non-base models.

When doing a differential swap for a pre-1994 Miata, you need to get the differential, both half shafts, and the drive shaft from the donor vehicle. The Torsen differential is a little larger in all its dimensions, so the shafts are therefore shorter so that they mate properly with the existing transmission and hubs. The only problem is that in my 1992, the differential used a 4.30 final gear ratio, and the 1994 to 1997 differentials used a 4.10 final gear ratio. This difference would affect acceleration and the speedometer reading.

Starting with the 1999 Miata (M2), Mazda went back to a 4.30 Torsen. But with all the changes to the upper and lower A-arms, would the M2 differential fit in my 1992 Miata? Now I had another challenge to find this information, which was more difficult than I had anticipated. None of the online sources contained any information on using an M2 differential



At first glance there appears to be little difference between the two rear differential assemblies from the 1992 on the left and the 1999 on the right.



Closer examination of the rear differential housing will show a longer "nose" on the 1999 unit on the right. This is not indicative of a Torsen unit, as all 1994 and later differentials (either open or locking) have a longer nose than the 1990 to 1993 units.

PHOTOS: VOODOO BOB KRUEGER

in an M1. I finally got the information I needed from Randy Stocker, who can be found on the Miata.net e-mail list. He confirmed that an M2 differential and shafts would fit in my M1.

I took the 1999 rear sub-assembly to Dennstedt's Auto Repair, as I would need Larry's heavy-duty air tools to remove the necessary parts. Since the sub-assembly was separate from its donor Miata, there was no easy way to keep the hubs from rotating as I tried to remove the hub nuts. But with high-torque air tools, this job was very easy to accomplish.

Ok, now I had the parts I needed ready to install. So with the help of BOB KRUEGER, ANTHONY WILDE and ELLIOT SHEV, I began the task of doing a differential swap. Technically, the job is pretty simple, but there are some steps that can be difficult. The most difficult part is removing the hub nuts from the half shafts. First you need to tap out the dent in the hub nut (put there to keep the



The halfshaft for the Torsen differential (top) is readily distinguished from the non-Torsen unit. The splined shaft fits into gears inside the Torsen unit.

nut from spinning off on its own). These nuts get torqued to 180 ft.-lbs., but after so many years on the car, it can take considerably more torque to get them off. With the car on the ground, it basically came down to standing on the breaker bar and bouncing on the end until the nut broke loose. The size of the nut on a 1992 is 29 mm, whereas the 1999 nut is 32 mm. When doing this swap, it is best to buy new 1999 hub nuts from Mazda as the old ones can get pretty beat up trying to remove them.

With the nuts removed, the car was placed on jack stands to complete the process. We removed the power-plant



You can easily see that the propshaft for the 1999 unit (bottom) is shorter than the 1992.

frame (consult the shop manual on this part) and the cat-back exhaust. To remove the half shafts, we removed the upper hub bolt (that holds the hub to the upper A-arm) and while pulling on the upper part of the hub, hit the end of the half shaft with a rubber mallet until the half shaft popped out of the hub. We then pulled the drive shaft out. The differential itself is held up by two nuts (one on each end), plus four more nuts that hold two hard-rubber bushings in place.

Putting the 1999 differential into my car was reverse order. The only real difference is that the 1999 half shafts use splines and therefore need to be tapped into the differential once the unit is bolted in place, whereas my 1992 half shafts bolted onto the differential. Other than that difference, the M2 parts went into place without any difficulties.

So if you have a pre-1994 Miata and you feel you want to do the same conversion, you will need some information handy before you set out to find the proper parts. You see, there is no way of visually identifying a Torsen differential from an open differential. You need to know which Miata model uses the Torsen differential, and this can get rather tricky.

For a 1999+ Miata, the open differential is used in the "Base" and "Touring" packages, plus all Miatas equipped with an automatic transmission. The Torsen differential is used in "PEP", "R" and "Leather" package Miatas. What you need to find are the clues that make up the latter three packages. The things to look for in a "PEP" model are the small tweeter speakers in the upper part of the door, power door locks, and the rear-deck pop-up wind blocker. The "R" package has the factory strut-tower brace. The "Leather" package, of course, has the

leather interior (leather seat front with vinyl back) plus all the parts that make a "PEP" package. If the donor Miata contains any of these items and uses a manual transmission, then the Miata has a Torsen differential.

All that's left now is to negotiate a price for the donor parts. But that's another story.

— ROBERT "JT" HOLLAND
"Mostly" 1992 A Red Miata

Power Steering Fluid Changing - Update

Last month I wrote a procedure to change out the power steering fluid. Well, in actual practice, that procedure is more complex than necessary. Here is a revised procedure.

1. Using a fluid suction pump (I used a Mighty Vac pump and mason jar setup), remove the power steering fluid from the pump reservoir.
2. Fill the reservoir with fresh fluid.
3. Put the cap back on the reservoir.
Don't neglect this step! (Don't ask me how I know this).
4. With the engine OFF, slowly turn the steering wheel fully left and fully right several times to remove any air in the system.

Refilling the reservoir will take about 225 ml of fluid. If you have not changed the fluid in fifteen to twenty thousand miles, I would recommend repeating this procedure at the next oil change.

If you are starting with a fairly new car or have completely changed out the fluid, this simpler procedure can be followed on an annual or semi-annual basis. Every time you change the coolant, take a couple of minutes to change the power steering fluid, the easy way.

— ANTHONY WILDE

CLASSIFIED ADS

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

For Sale: 1996 Miata. 71K miles, brand new back window, tires & battery. \$8,300. Must sell, returning to Europe.
Janine (858) 274-9171 or janinsehm@hotmail.com

For Sale: Jackson Racing header like new \$375 off 1990 (new is \$489 plus shipping). I also have a starter, Tokico shocks and misc. mechanical and body parts including windshield, doors, mirrors, rear fenders and bumper. All recently repainted (red), in good condition.

Wally (619) 232-2801 ext 313, 234-2858 or wallymiata@juno.com

For Sale: Almost new Eibach Pro-Kit Performance Springs (1K miles) and set of HP Tokico shocks (15K miles) taken off my '94 Miata. Eibach Springs offered at \$140 new \$240; Tokico shocks offered at \$100 for set.
Ken (619) 562-9408 or kkeachusa@netscape.net

Buying or selling your Miata or Miata accessories? You can do it for *free* on Miatamart—the MIATA FOR SALE Web site, run by SDMC member RAINER MUELLER. Check it out at www.miatamart.com

For Sale: 1993 Miata, Red, 116K miles, base model, A/C, excellent condition, very well cared for, aftermarket extras too numerous to mention here. \$6000.
Sal (760) 787-0624 or wooddust@aol.com

For Sale: I have to clear out the garage. Set of 15" Fittipaldi chrome 5-spoke star wheels, includes center caps, \$250 for the set. Stock 1990 exhaust in great condition, \$25. J&S Knock Sensor, \$250. MSD Boost Control, \$85. Alpine 7525 AM/FM/Cassette & remote control. Detachable face, CD changer controls, superb tape playback quality, super tuner with 24 presets & auto volume adjust. Installation available if needed (Free - but, you pay for parts). \$225. Also, matching 6 CD changer available for additional \$175. 3 additional disc cartridges.

Jeremy (858) 651-8509 (w) (760) 632-7848 (h) or jeremyw@qualcomm.com

Vacation Getaways: Includes one week accommodations at a 5-star resort in places like, Grand Caymans, Orlando, Kona Hawaii, Aruba, and the list goes on.
Michael (760) 436-8311 or mik_lyn@prodigy.net