



# SAN DIEGO MIATA CLUB NEWS

VOLUME 6 NUMBER 9

SEPTEMBER 2001

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

## UPCOMING EVENTS



September 3 - Monday  
**MDA Telethon, BBQ,  
& Pool Party**  
SDMC Group Photo



September 7 - Friday  
**Cruisin' Grand**  
Wheels'N'Meals



September 8 - Saturday  
**SDMC at Autocross**  
**Autocross at the "Q"**



September 8 - Saturday  
**Nethercutt Collection**  
**Tour and Run**



September 15 - Saturday  
**SDMC at the Train Races**  
Cajon Speedway



September 15 - 26  
**Loneliest Highway Run**



September 22 - Saturday  
**Back to the 50's Run**



September 27 - October 2  
**3rd Annual Fall Leaf Run**  
With the Utah Miata Club



September 27 - Thursday  
**Monthly Meeting**



October 6 - Saturday  
**Big Bear Run**  
SOCALM/SDMC Joint Run



October 6 - 7  
**McKeever's Fastlane**  
**Racing School**  
Streets of Willows



October 20 - 21  
**5th Annual Chrysler-Jeep**  
**Classic Speed Festival**  
Coronado

## Back To The Future

### Part I

Five years ago, Labor Day, 1996, the SAN DIEGO MIATA CLUB met at the San Diego Automotive Museum for a group picture. We gathered at 7 a.m. for two reasons. One, to catch the early morning sun, and two, the main reason, to use the parking lot while it was empty. Oh, by the way, the picture was for *Miata Magazine's* article about our club.

After all the photos were taken, we weren't sure what to do. After all, it was still early. I made a suggestion to MARK BOOTH, who was president and organizer of the photo shoot, that we should go by the MDA Telethon to put money in the fish bowl. JACK HINKLE called SUE, who was working at the Telethon, to find out if KUSI would get us on camera if we came by. Now for the clincher, no fish bowl. Well, they made one for us and KUSI came out and shot the tape. That's how our club got involved with MDA.

Now, back to the future, Labor Day, 2001, when the SAN DIEGO MIATA CLUB will meet again at the San Diego Automotive Museum for a group photo to re-create this event. Only this time we will meet at a more civil hour, 7:30 a.m. This photo opportunity will be followed by a wonderful breakfast provided by PAM and DAVE HUNT. The rest of the day will include working or watching at the telethon and a BBQ pool party at the Hunt's home in Poway.

I would like to encourage all to participate in the group photo. If you would like to participate in the events that follow, that's up to you. You can participate in as much as you care to. Five years ago we effectively had 50% of the club membership in the photo. It would be absolutely fantastic if we could achieve that level of participation on September 3rd. *See Page 3 for details.*

### Part II

Almost two years ago, the then-current board of the club brought a motion to the membership to organize a fifth autocross club in the San Diego Region of the SCCA. This idea was born from the club's exuberant support for and participation in autocross events. For various reasons, the motion did not carry and has not been discussed since. Most of those in the club who are active autocrossers have joined one of the four clubs that currently produce the events.

Now, back to the future, September 8, 2001. On this date, we will see autocross the way it should be. We will have the experienced, the inexperienced, the cheerleaders, the food, the hospitality suite, and one heck of a good time.

(Continued on page 2)



President's Message (Continued from page 1)

If you ever thought about coming down to the "Q" and checking out what autocross is all about, this is the day to do it. Why? Because it's there and you have a Miata, one of the best cars with which to have this kind of fun. Oh, did I mention no cops, no on-coming traffic and no speeding tickets? And, yes, there will be trophies.

SDMC will have its own special novice group with instruction and our own special awards and banquet following the day's festivities. See page 3 for further details.

Part III

This September is chock full of fun events for everyone on every weekend. One weekend is a three-day event! Sounds like a weekend to gain five pounds from eating and lose five pounds from the exhilaration of the non-stop events.

I am sure I will see you at one or more of these events this month. See you there!

— ELLIOT

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 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](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

SURF'N'SAFARI Follow-up Report:

This past Sunday, LAURIE and STEVE WAID, BARB, and I took an evening ride to the San Diego Wild Animal Park to check on the status of our club's plaque. Much to our disappointment, no plaque was found bearing either Lynn's name or that of SDMC. For those who don't know, the proceeds of our event held in October 1999 were donated to the Wild Animal Park in memory of member LYNN MCCLELLAND. See the *SDMC News, July 2000, page 1*.



First thing Monday, I called the park to inquire about the status of the plaque. Much to my surprise, I was able to contact the person responsible for the donor plaque very quickly. The permanent plaque, to be erected at the entrance to Concor Ridge directly across from the gift shop, will be placed in about two months. The inscription, in the "In Memory" section, will read, "Lynn McClelland from S D Miata Club" (the plaque is limited to 36 characters).

When I know the exact date the plaque will be placed, we will plan a run to the park. Maybe, we can do a breakfast run on a Sunday?

— ELLIOT



**MDA Telethon, BBQ, and Pool Party**

**Date:** Monday, September 3  
**Meeting Time:** 7:30 a.m.

**Meeting Place:** Balboa Park, in front of the San Diego Automotive Museum.

**Coordinators:** DAVE & PAM HUNT  
[daphunt@yahoo.com](mailto:daphunt@yahoo.com) or (858) 679-7711

It's that time of year for the SAN DIEGO MIATA CLUB to participate in its 5th Jerry Lewis Labor Day Telethon. This year's telethon will again be held at KPBS studios, located on the campus of San Diego State University.

Before heading to the studio, we will once again, as we did five years ago, take a SAN DIEGO MIATA CLUB group photo in front of the San Diego Automotive Museum. The photo from five years ago made it into *Miata Magazine*. Maybe this year's photo will too. *You can come just for the photo, or stay and participate in the events to follow. Just let Pam and Dave know if you will be participating in the breakfast and BBQ.*

Following the group photo, breakfast will be served in the parking lot of the museum. After breakfast, the Hunts will lead the group from Balboa Park to the Telethon site where the Miatas will pass by the outside fishbowl at approximately 9:15 a.m. For all you aspiring actors, KUSI will have the outside cameras rolling as we pass by the fishbowl, and will be replaying our Miata caravan while we are live on the phones. Telephone training will begin at 9:45 a.m. All SDMC members not manning phones will be able to sit in the audience and cheer on our fellow club members. Let's see if we can pack the studio!

The club is scheduled to staff all 30 pledge phones from 10:30 'til 11 a.m. SDMC president, ELLIOT SHEV, along with SUE and JACK HINKLE,



will be presenting our check to MDA from the Miles of Miatas event. Let's show that great SAN DIEGO MIATA CLUB spirit in supporting this deserving cause with a line of Miatas as long as the eye can see.

Immediately following the Telethon, the Hunts will lead the way to their home in Poway for a barbeque and pool party. All food and drinks will be supplied for the mere cost of \$10 per person. If you are interested in this event and have not already signed up, please contact Dave or Pam Hunt.

**Cruisin' Grand Wheels'N'Meals**

**Date:** Friday, September 7

**Meeting Time:** 6 p.m. to eat.

Leave for cruisin' at 7 p.m.

**Meeting Place:** Tom's #23 on the Southwest corner of 5th Ave. and Centre City Parkway, Escondido.

Meet for food before, during, or after Cruisin' Grand.

What is Cruisin' Grand?

Every Friday evening during the summer, street rods, hot rods, specialty cars, motorcycles, and vintage cars cruise and park on Grand Avenue in Escondido. Oldies music plays and the smells and sounds of horsepower abound.

**SDMC at Autocross**

**Date:** Saturday, September 8

**Time:** 7:30 a.m., runs start 9 a.m.

**Place:** Qualcomm Stadium, Mission Valley, west lot, DCCSD championship event.

**RSVP** to [wooddust@aol.com](mailto:wooddust@aol.com) or (760) 787-0624.

You've never autocrossed before, or don't even know what it is. Want to know? Want to try? Want to have fun?

This is for everyone. Members who autocross...members who don't...but especially for members who thought they might like to try but haven't



done it yet.

All day long the SAN DIEGO MIATA CLUB will be set up at the SDMC Hospitality Suite (SAL & GERI CAUSARANO'S motorhome). We will have a Continental Breakfast in the morning (Approximately \$3), a luncheon menu (\$5 to \$6), and an evening buffet of chicken, hamburgers, and salads (approximately \$10). We will require an approximation of the number of members who plan to participate in each of the meals. *Please RSVP to the Causaranos via e-mail or phone and let them know which meals you think you will be attending.* We need to have enough food—but not too much.

**Cost:** For the first-time driver, you will need to buy your SCCA annual number...good for the balance of 2001 - \$10. To participate - \$25. Paper numbers to put on your car - \$2. Fun runs follow at the end of the day if you're registered (time permitting) - \$1 per lap.

The venue is a regularly-scheduled SCCA event, run by DCCSD (Datsun Competition Club of San Diego), with SDMC member RON CHAPMAN as the Event Chairman. This means that there will be all kinds of other cars and drivers to see. However, Miatas will be the car of choice for us and we will be supporting the event with Miata club instructors for our club members.

We will have awards and highlights at the end. Make plans to be there, whether you drive or not.

*See Page 10 for a tentative schedule of events for the SDMC at Autocross.*

**Nethercutt Collection Tour and Run**  
 SOCALM/SDMC/VROOM



Upcoming Events (Continued on page 4)



Upcoming Events (Continued from page 3)

**Date:** Saturday, September 8

**Meeting Time:** 9:45 a.m.

**Meeting Place:** The Nethercutt Collection/San Sylmar  
15200 Bledsoe Street, Sylmar, CA  
(818) 367-2251

**RSVP REQUIRED**

JOHN & GERRY CONN  
(714) 441-2552 or  
[connjb@earthlink.net](mailto:connjb@earthlink.net)

(Provide names, phone number, and number of people.)

**Rules:** Yep, they have rules. No smoking, jeans, shorts, flash cameras, video cameras, or children under 12. We are limited to 50 people. First 50 RSVPs get on the guided tour. We'll maintain a waiting list and re-confirm with everyone the week before.

If you can't live with those rules, or have done this tour before, make the drive up, because in addition to the guided tour, they have opened the Nethercutt Museum across the street from San Sylmar that houses over 100 specialty restored autos, a research library, and periodic lectures. It is a self-guided tour enhanced with information about each vehicle. It is open from 9 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. You can do that while the other group is touring. After the tour, there will be a short break for lunch and then a fun run on some great roads. If you'd like to join us for the run only, meet at the Nethercutt Collection at 12 noon.

**Directions:** Exit the 5 freeway in Sylmar (quickly after the 5/405 interchange) on Roxford. Turn right onto San Fernando Road, left on Bledsoe. From the 210, exit on Polk, turn right on Glenoaks Blvd, left on Bledsoe.

**The Julie Stefanelli  
Honorarium Planned  
Impromptu Eat & Drive  
Weekend**

**Dates:** September 14-16

**Coordinator:** STEVE WAID,



[swaid@home.com](mailto:swaid@home.com) or (760) 432-0727  
(home), (760) 715-7850 (cell)

For those of you that have not "Searched for Madonna," Julie Stefanelli is the past-president of VROOM and has coordinated events and led the featured run in San Luis Obispo each of the three years that we have Searched for Madonna. Julie will be making her first trip EVER to San Diego. For some reason, she thought that the only Miata driving roads were north.

She, and possibly fellow VROOM member Jim Horvath, will be spending the weekend of September 14-16th with us. Therefore, a weekend is being planned. It will be impromptu because the plans may change as the desires and energy level of the honoree changes. But here is the basic plan.

Friday, 9/14 - Eat and do Cruisin' Grand. Leave Tom's #23 at 7 p.m. to cruise.

Saturday, 9/15 - Breakfast in Escondido, sightseeing run through Rancho Santa Fe, along the coast through La Jolla, Mission Bay, the Embarcadero, the Gaslamp district, Balboa Park, Coronado, then out to the east for some fun roads. We will eat somewhere...sometime. Lyons Valley, Cucaracha Highway, Engineers Road, Old Julian Highway, etc. Eat at the Road House in Ramona.

Drive to Cajon Speedway to meet the rest of the club for the Train Races.

Sunday, 9/16 - Breakfast in Escondido. Run through Couser Canyon to Rice Canyon to Temecula. Send them on their way home.

These are the "Impromptu Plans" as they exist at the moment. Watch your e-mail for more details as they break. On the days of the weekend, you can contact me on my cell phone to find out where we are and where you can join in. Contact me at any time to get the up-to-date "weather report" on

what the current specifics are.

**SDMC at the Train  
Races**



**Date:** Saturday, September 15

**Time:** 6 p.m., races start at 6:45 p.m.

**Place:** Cajon Speedway

**Coordinators:** SCOTT & ANITA ROSIN

Join us for a spectacle like no other—the great train races.

Cost is \$1 for parking. Track admission, \$8 per adult.

Meet at the bleachers on the West side of the track.

**Directions:** To reach Cajon Speedway, take Interstate 8 to El Cajon. Go north on Highway 67 one exit to Bradley. Go left 3 blocks to Floyd Smith Drive. Go right to Joe Crosson Drive. Go right 1 block to track entrance.

**Loneliest Highway Run  
with Fall Leaf Run Option**



**Date:** September 15 - 26

(Adding the Fall Leaf Run will change the dates to September 15 - 28)

**Run Leader:** BOB KITTERER,

(858) 755-2316 or [bkitterer@aol.com](mailto:bkitterer@aol.com)

Drive Information: This run will be following most of US Route 50 from Placerville, CA (near Sacramento) to just short of Pueblo, CO. This is a very low-population area with surprisingly wonderful scenery. It also contains a number of lesser known, less popular, or out of the way but beautiful national parks. The return portion will go south to Albuquerque and then west on or near Interstate 40. An optional route has been added for those wanting to do the Fall Leaf Run in Utah. This option will take us through three additional national parks and then we will meet with other club members in Provo, Utah on Friday, September 28.

**Cost:** In addition to gas, food, and lodging there are several other costs or fees. Motels look like they are going to be in the \$65/night range. This is for accommodations that have at least a

Upcoming Events (Continued on page 5)



AAA two-star rating. Entrance fees for the national parks and monuments are going to be \$78 (\$120 Fall Leaf option). You will be better off getting a National Park Pass for \$50 or, if you are over 62, a Golden Age Passport.

### Back to the `50s Run



**Date:** Saturday, September 22

**Meeting Time:** 12:30 p.m.

**Departure:** 1 p.m.

**Meeting Place:** North County Fair parking lot (under the sign).

**Leaders:** TOM & DONA THOMPSON  
[tom3@home.com](mailto:tom3@home.com) or (949) 366-0322.

*This run qualifies toward Mileage Award*

We're havin' a party. And we're gonna drive to it. You know, drive-eat-drive. We'll start by driving a few of our favorite Miata roads, but to make it different we'll drive them in the *opposite* direction. We'll also explore a new road or two, take a swing around Lake Elsinore, and finally, run across Ortega Highway to Coast Highway in San Clemente just before sunset.

At the finish we'll have a brand-new restaurant all to ourselves for an "all-you-can-eat" `50s style dinner. You'll have your choice of six different burgers (mix & match), eight different salads, baskets of fries, chili fries, onion rings, etc., and top it off with eight different desserts (including Jumbleberry pie). Soft drinks, coffee, tea, malts and root beer floats are also **included**. For anyone wanting beer or wine, that too is available but not covered by the \$20/person (plus tax & tip) price.

We'll have Miata-only restricted parking, and there is a patio for outdoor dining and dancing. *Did we say dancing?* Sure, we will have a 100-CD jukebox loaded with `50s tunes (bring along your own favorites to share). Remember, we have the place to ourselves all night, so there will be no one rushing you to finish up and leave.

So dust off those poodle skirts, dig out the white bucks and saddle shoes

and join us on our "Back to the `50s" fun run.

There is a **minimum** of 40 people required to reserve the restaurant, so please RSVP to Tom by September 8th for the dinner. See you later, alligator!

### 3rd Annual Fall Leaf Run



A joint Utah Miata Club & SDMC event

**Dates:** September 27-October 2

**Coordinators:** TOM & STEF GOULD,  
[stef@miata.net](mailto:stef@miata.net), (619) 298-8605

Last year the trip and scenery, not to mention the leaves and Utah club members, were fantastic! We decided we wanted to do it again. We'll leave on Thursday, September 27 with an overnight in Las Vegas, with option to see Cirque du Soleil's "Mystère." On Friday, we'll drive to Provo, Utah through spectacular scenery. Saturday will be a day-long fun run and dinner with the Utah club. On Sunday will be the "Fall Leaf Run," including the Mt. Nebo Loop scenic highway. Monday we'll start our return trek to California, returning on Tuesday, October 2. E-mail or call Stef to RSVP and for motel info.

### Monthly Meeting

**Date:** Thursday, September 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!*



## FUTURE EVENTS

### Big Bear Run

A joint SOCALM/SDMC Run

**Date:** Saturday, October 6

**Meeting Time:** 9:15 a.m.

10 a.m. departure.

**Meeting Place:** Denny's, Orange Show Road & I-215, San Bernardino.

**Run Leaders:** Allan & Linda Pabian  
[apabian@notes.freedom.com](mailto:apabian@notes.freedom.com) or (949) 552-6805.

It's that time of the year when we mosey on up to Big Bear and Octoberfest. Reservations have been made for a great lunch at Vintage Lakeside, 41066 Big Bear Blvd., Big Bear Lake. For those of you who were not there last year, it was GREAT!

*Directions to Meeting Place:* From San Diego take the I-15 freeway north to the 215 freeway to San Bernardino. Go past the 10 freeway and take the first exit onto Orange Show Road. Turn right off the exit, then left into Denny's.

### Danny McKeever's Fastlane Racing School

**Dates:** October 6 - 7

**Contact:** Robert Arance,  
(661) 295-8140 x490 or  
[roberta@uvdi.com](mailto:roberta@uvdi.com)

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.

The cost for Saturday and/or Sunday is \$175 for the one-day school and \$350 for the two-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.





Haven's classic red '95 Miata and Baroness. Since Baroness does not have opposable thumbs, we don't have a picture of Haven.

— HAVEN BLEVINS

**M**y love of the Miata started with a love for the roadster. I remember as a small kid taking rides in my dad's old two-seater SAAB buzzing along the mountain roads in Boulder, Colorado. I'll never forget the smell of Armor-All wafting into the crisp mountain air as the wind combed my hair. When it was time for me to learn to drive, I took lessons in dad's '75 MG. Then it became obvious—I was born with that free spirited passion for the road that can be experienced only in a little turn-hugging roadster.

I later purchased my own MG (a 1972 MGB-GT fastback). The car was in need of much work when I got it. The paint was so badly oxidized that when I tried to wax it, the wax soaked into the paint and would not come off. Before I could get it painted, I drove around for a couple of days with white swirl marks all over the car. People pointed and laughed shouting, "Hey! You missed a spot!" I also became very familiar with the legend of Lucas electrics while I owned that car. How do you turn off wind-

shield wipers that are already switched to "off?"

All of this was eventually termed "character," and with each passing day my love for the car grew stronger. Everywhere I went, people would comment on the car and I would run into teary-eyed people who had once owned an MG and wished they had never gotten rid of it. Once, while I was in a movie theatre, the car was invited to join the MG Club of San Diego, although I never got a chance to join before the little car met a rather unfortunate fate. Since then, I had looked for another roadster (preferably newer) and only dreamed that the newer MGF would be marketed in the United States.

At the time, car companies had pretty much abandoned the roadster concept in the US market and focused on minivans and 4x4s. When the Miata was introduced, I saw an old soul come back to claim the road and the hearts of its drivers. A legend was reborn and newer technology had helped make it sparkle like never before. I had to wait a few years before I could afford one, but in the meantime I saw the Miata developing. Miata clubs were forming, and people were

falling in love with their cars again.

One day I was driving home and off to my right—I saw IT. Sitting on the car lot, looking out at the passing cars, its little smile (grille) beaming from fender to fender. The top was down, the roll bar was in, and it said, "I'm ready to go for a drive." I immediately pulled onto the lot, and after a short test drive I "adopted" the car and drove it to its new home.

After I became the proud owner of my '95 Red, I knew I wanted to be part of the fun with the Miata Club. So I searched for the SAN DIEGO MIATA CLUB on the Internet and then called to get an enrollment form.

Now I am running into teary-eyed people who wish they had never parted with their own Miatas.

— HAVEN BLEVINS

*To be included in our ongoing series of Member Profiles, write a short (200-300 word) introduction and e-mail it to:*

[newsletter@sandiegomiataclub.org](mailto:newsletter@sandiegomiataclub.org).  
You can also mail it to the Club P.O. Box. Please include a photo. We want to be able see your face. — Your photo will be returned.

### Badges?

**H**ave you been wondering where to get those nifty engraved plastic name badges that have been turning up on members at the latest events? They are available for mere \$6.50 each, including shipping to your home, from VICKY KRUEGER.

You will need to give her cash up front, as the badges need to be paid for in advance. Lots of colors are available to match your Miata.

See Vicky at a monthly meeting or e-mail her at [vicky@teamvoodoo.com](mailto:vicky@teamvoodoo.com).

## Renewing Members

(since last newsletter):

DAVID & MELODIE ANDERSON  
 SKIP & SALLY ELMORE  
 LEONARD & LOIS GARTH  
 JACK GOSNEY  
 JACK & SUE HINKLE  
 JERILYN JONES & SEAN O'CONNOR  
 TED & SUE KESLER  
 ED & MICHELLE LANGMAID  
 FRED LERNER & ANNE GOSHEN  
 RICHARD MCCUE  
 MARLA & SCOTT MITRO  
 GEORGE & ROSALEE MOLDOVAN  
 PAUL & ROBIN PRZYBYSZ  
 ED ROSENTHAL  
 JIM SCHMEDAKE  
 MICHAEL & ELINOR SHACK  
 ELLIOT & BARBARA SHEV  
 GENE & PINKIE STANLEY  
 MARY ANN WALLNER  
 KAREN & TRA WOOD

## Online Resources

This is a friendly reminder about the SAN DIEGO MIATA CLUB e-mail list. Below are the mail addresses for mail services:



Post message:

[SDMC-List@yahoogroups.com](mailto:SDMC-List@yahoogroups.com)

Subscribe:

[SDMC-List-subscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto:SDMC-List-subscribe@yahoogroups.com)

Unsubscribe:

[SDMC-List-unsubscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto:SDMC-List-unsubscribe@yahoogroups.com)

List owner:

[SDMC-List-owner@yahoogroups.com](mailto:SDMC-List-owner@yahoogroups.com)

SDMC mail page:

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/SDMC-List>

Mail can be delivered individually, or as a daily digest. Also, there is an "Upcoming Events" only list. Please email [SDMC-Events-owner@yahoogroups.com](mailto:SDMC-Events-owner@yahoogroups.com) for inclusion to this list.

— ROBERT "JTBOB" HOLLAND  
 Webmaster/Postmaster

## New Members!

**WELCOME to our newest members**  
(since last newsletter):

RICARDO DA ROSA  
 San Diego  
 1995 **Black**

TRACY FENNER  
 League City  
 2001 **White**

BOB & LENITA HAGUE  
 Fallbrook  
 2001 SE (**British Racing Green**)

VERNA V. HAYES  
 Chula Vista  
 2001 SE (**British Racing Green**)

JOHN HILTON  
 El Cajon  
 1997 **Black** Touring

TINA IVANY  
 San Diego  
 1990 **Red**

JOE & NETTY MANSOLILLO  
 San Diego  
 1990 **Silver** base

JOE & JANIS PONCE  
 San Diego  
 1991 **Silver** base

## Membership Statistics

As of August 25, 2001, there are 351 memberships (139 single, 212 dual) for a total of 563 members.

Memberships by Miata Color:

95	<b>Red</b>
49	<b>White</b>
42	<b>Black</b>
34	<b>Emerald Green</b>
31	<b>Silver</b>
16	<b>Montego Blue</b>
13	<b>Sapphire Blue</b>
11	<b>BRG</b>
9	<b>Mariner Blue</b>
8	<b>Marina Green</b>
8	<b>Starlight Blue</b>
8	<b>Twilight Blue</b>
7	<b>Laguna Blue</b>
6	<b>Mahogany</b>
6	<b>Yellow</b>
5	<b>Merlot</b>
5	<b>Crystal Blue</b>
2	<b>Evolution Orange</b>
1	<b>Midnight Blue</b>
1	<b>Eggplant (custom)</b>
1	<b>Teal (custom)</b>
9	<b>Unreported*</b>

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

## 5 Years Ago This Month

### September 2, 1996

Forty-one Miatas from the six-month old SAN DIEGO MIATA CLUB gather in front of the San Diego Automotive Museum at 7 a.m. on Labor Day morning. MARK BOOTH called for the group photo so it could be sent to *Miata Magazine* for the Fall 1996 issue. After the photos, of course some people wanted to go to breakfast. ELLIOT SHEV suggested that the group drive by the fish bowl at the MDA Telethon as well. Thus, a tradition was born.

### September 11, 1996

For the second time, SAN DIEGO MIATA CLUB members aspire to emulate Fangio, Phil Hill, and Mario Andretti. Fifteen members descend on the Malibu Grand Prix track on Miramar Road.

### September 21, 1996

A spirited run over Ortega Highway set the stage for some dynamometer runs when a dozen or so SDMC Miatas descend on Jackson Racing's facility. A few budgets were blown that day!

### Club Membership:

83 memberships and a total of 125 members.



## SDMC's 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Charity Fun Run for MDA a Huge Success!

Members from the SAN DIEGO MIATA CLUB and SOCALM showed up bright and early Saturday, August 4<sup>th</sup>, to participate in the 5<sup>th</sup> annual "Miles of Miatas for MDA." Once again, the Boll Weevil restaurant hosted registration and provided continental breakfast for the participants. Members lined up with big smiles and big hearts as they turned in their sponsor sheets, purchased raffle tickets, and bought squares on the "Miles of Miatas" 50/50 board. SUE HINKLE and MDA representatives presented the fundraisers with event T-shirts, vendor packets, and coupons.

After a brief drivers meeting, leaders JACK and Sue Hinkle, along with 40 Miata enthusiasts, took off on a 100-mile fun run in support of the Muscular Dystrophy Association, with DAVE and LOIS MARTIN pulling up the rear. The fundraising caravan wound its way through the hills and valleys of Del Mar, Rancho Santa Fe, San Marcos, and Escondido, including a few detours compliments of CalTrans, anticipating our first stop at none other than Dairy Queen for some great DQ treats. While at the Dairy Queen, SDMC members GEORGE and ROSE MOLDAVAN joined the caravan.

The fundraising caravan was welcomed with waves and smiles from employees and visitors at Bell Gardens. Romo Catering had the BBQ buffet all set up and ready for the third eating frenzy of the day. Sue Hinkle took the stage and announced the top fundraisers for this year's "Mile of Miatas." The top fundraising award went to Tom Lorrenzen and wife (SOCALM), who raised \$1,270. The Lorrenzen's also traveled from Bakersfield to participate in the event. Second place went to ZACK BROADBENT



August 4 - Saturday  
Fifth Annual Miles of  
Miatas for MDA

and Tory (SOCALM/SDMC), who raised \$651. Third place went to Paula Winter (SOCALM), who raised \$418. Each was presented a plaque donated by Glaser Baily Awards, hats donated by Team Voodoo, and Eagle One Tire Protectant.

Then it was time for the big raffle and big it was. . . ELLIOT and BARB SHEV weeded through the mounds of raffle tickets they purchased as each number was called and were victorious in their winnings. Being that this was an event for MDA, Elliot shifted into a creative 10<sup>th</sup> gear and immediately began a live auction on some of the items they had won. . . raising more \$\$\$ for MDA! "Time for the 50/50 drawing" announced the Hinkles. "But the board's not full," said Elliot, and within minutes the SDMC/SOCALM members filled up the board. The 50/50 number was drawn and the winners were none other than Sue and Jack Hinkle, who without hesitation donated their half of the pot, \$250, back to MDA.

We wish to recognize the many vendors for their generosity and support; Bell Gardens, Boll Weevil Restaurant, Big Sky Car Covers, Coast Car Covers, Dent Man, Brainstorm, Cush Mazda, Dairy Queen, Dennstedt Auto Repair, Eagle One, Flyin' Miata, Glaser Bailey Awards, Geri's Bazaar, Legoland, Lawrence Welk Productions, San Diego Padres, Mazda Corporation, Meguiar's, M&M Marketing, Pinnacle, Quality Images, Team Voodoo, Tim's Independent Mazda, Saratoga, Triple Espresso, as well as JOHN and BARBARA TEMPLETON.

The day would not have been complete without a visit from MDA's Goodwill Ambassador, Brittany Kitchens, sporting a special Team Voodoo emblem amid the many logo



PHOTO: DIANE LONG

Once again Rick and his crew at the Boll Weevil go the extra mile to support SDMC and the MDA fundraiser. Continental breakfast was provided for the event participants. Water and refreshments were also provided for the long run to follow.

stickers on her wheelchair.

It was a day of fun, laughter, and goodwill. Hearts were warmed and humbled as members came together in support of the Muscular Dystrophy Association in their efforts and a hope for a cure. Hats off to SDMC and SOCALM for their enthusiasm and big hearts in making our 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Charity Run "Miles of Miatas for MDA" a zooming success. Jerry's kids were the big winners of the day and you made it happen. The fun will continue on Labor Day, September 3<sup>rd</sup>, as club members once again answer the pledge phones during the Jerry Lewis Labor Day Telethon, when president Elliot will proudly present MDA with SDMC's donation. Donations are still coming in hopes of reaching Elliot's dream of \$12,500. Can you guess what this year's total will be? Sign up for the Hunts' Telethon Tailgate and Labor Day Luau and you can cheer with your Miata comrades when Elliot presents our donation on KUSI's Live Telethon broadcast.

*See Page 3 for details on the September 3<sup>rd</sup> events.*

— SUE HINKLE





PHOTO: DIANE LONG

Above— The participants turned in their pledge sheets, and purchased the 50/50 tickets at the beginning of a long day.

Right— The Boll Weevil parking lot is a familiar sight for most San Diego Miata Club members.



PHOTO: DIANE LONG



PHOTO: BARB & ELLIOT SHEV

Above and Below— The cool, green grass of Bell Gardens was a welcome respite on the nearly 100 mile run.



PHOTO: BARB & ELLIOT SHEV

## 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](mailto:regalia@sandiegomiataclub.org).

**UPDATE:** We now have SDMC logo hats in stock. These come in various colors to match (or accent) your Miata. Red, black, green, silver (gray), dark blue, and light blue. The hats are \$12 from the Regalia Gals.

Don't forget the ladies tank tops too!

## New Club Roster

The latest edition of the SAN DIEGO MIATA CLUB membership roster is now available online. The roster has been converted to Adobe PDF format just like the online version of the newsletter. SDMC members can access the FILES section of Yahoo! Groups (see page 2 of the July SDMC News) and download the file and print it out for their personal reference.

The big advantage to having the roster online is that it can be updated regularly, so members can have an up-to-date roster. The Yahoo! Groups location makes it available only to SDMC members. If you do not have access to the Web, printed copies will be available at monthly meetings for \$1 per copy.



### July 28, 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 San Diego Asebring Drivers (SDAD), and held at Qualcomm Stadium.

Class	Driver	Car	Place
BS	RAINER MUELLER	Miata	5th
BS	JOHN HILTON	Miata	6th
IS2	BRIAN GOODWIN	Miata	1st
IS2	ELLIOT SHEV	Miata	2nd
IS2	ROBERT HOLLAND	Miata	3rd
IS2	STEVE KENNISON	Miata	4th
IS2	STEVE WAID	Miata	5th
IS2L	BARBARA SHEV	Miata	1st
SM	HOWARD KUZMINSKI	Miata	3rd
CSP	RON CHAPMAN	Honda CRX	1st
CSP	MARA CALER	Honda CRX	4th
CSP	KEVIN HAYWOOD	Miata	6th
CM	LARRY DENNSTEDT	Lola T342	4th
Novice	SCOTT PIKE	Miata	1st
Novice	BRIAN ANDERSON	Miata	5th
Novice	TED TIMMONS	Miata	18th

### AUTOCROSS AT THE "Q"



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

- Saturday, September 8.....championship
- Saturday, October 20.....championship
- Sunday, November 11.....championship
- Saturday, December 8.....practice
- Sunday, December 9.....championship
- Saturday, December 22.....practice

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 SAN DIEGO MIATA 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.

### SDMC at Autocross

Saturday, September 8th, is the SDMC at Autocross day (see Page 3 for information). In order to plan and prepare for the event, I am asking for some assistance.

Please contact me if you are a "regular autocrosser" and would like to help with the instruction to autocross "first-timers."

1. Please contact me if you would like to help in setting up and running the "hospitality suite." Read this as helping feed the masses.
2. Please contact me if you are thinking that you would like to try autocrossing for the first time.
3. Please contact me with anything that you think would be pertinent to making this event a bleeping success.

— STEVE WAID  
[events@sandiegomiataclub.org](mailto:events@sandiegomiataclub.org)  
 (760) 432-0727

### Saturday, September 8

The Day's Events are as Follows:

- 7:45 Registration and tech begins.
- 8:30 Morning novice course walk.
- 9:00 First run group - Miata classes include IS2 Ladies and B-Stock.
- 9:00 LARRY DENNSTEDT conducts a seminar on SCCA safety requirements and what a SCCA Safety Steward does. (Hospitality Suite).
- 10:15 - Approximate start of second run group - Miata classes include IS2, C-Stock and B-Stock Ladies.
- 11:00 - Approximate start of third run group - Miata classes include CSP.
- 12:30 - Lunch break and afternoon novice course walk.
- 1:30 - Approximate start of 4th run group - Miata classes include SM.
- 2:30 - Approximate start of 5th run group - This is the likely group for the SDMC novice drivers. (Other novice groups are group 4 and 6).
- 3:45 - Approximate start of 6th run group.
- 5:00 - Possible fun runs.
- 5:30 - Let the eating and awards begin. (Hospitality Suite).

Items to Bring to the Autocross:

1. Sunscreen.
2. Shade (umbrella or hat).
3. Inflate your tires (if you plan to race) to 40 lbs before you come. You'll find out why.
4. Folding chairs.
5. Friends, if you have any.
6. Water.
7. Sweatshirt for the evening.
8. Your Miata, of course.





July 15 - Sunday  
Tech Day at Wheel Store

A couple dozen members of the San Diego Miata Club descended upon the WheelStore in Oceanside.



Above— SDMC members gathered early on a Sunday morning to chow down amidst the acrid aroma of new tires.



Quite a few members took advantage of the opportunity to purchase new tires and have alignments done. At the same time enjoying the company of each other and the technical information presented.



Voodoo Bob checks out the wheel selections for Vicky's XTERRA. The computer program allows you to select the vehicle, wheel, tire size, and even the ride height to get an idea of what the wheel will look like when mounted.



Above— The crowd listens to Joe Jordan of the WheelStore.



Below— Miatas were on every side of the building and parked on the street for several blocks around.



PHOTOS: MARK BOOTH



There is truly something magical and mystical about a string of colorful Miatas serpentine along the San Diego twisties.

And there is even more magic and mysticism as the Miata string snakes along beautiful roadways while the sun blazes full color as it falls behind the mountains beyond, and the evening dusk turns to dark. We were on Sunrise Highway watching the sun set, which shows how creative we can get.

That is what 56 cars filled with delighted drivers and nervous navigators observed during the seventh annual Twilight Run in August, developed, directed, and orchestrated by MARK and CATHY BOOTH. It was truly a sight to behold and long to be remembered.

It is always neat to look behind and see a string of Miatas following down the road. It is a different view when it is just starting to get dark, and all the Miatas have headlights on, providing a glow around the car to go with the natural glow of the driver and rider.

It was eat-drive-eat, and the weather was an absolute 10. Up to Mt. Laguna and down again, with a stop at the top for folks to exchange ideas and look over each other's toys.



## August 11 - Saturday San Diego Twilight Fun Run

Not only SDMC members, but guests from the northern regions drove down to join us for the day of frolic and festivities. Even some folks who had earlier commitments elsewhere joined us during the run so they would not miss out on the sunset—and ice cream.

And yes, there was wildlife. A flock (about a dozen) of wild turkeys on Highway 79 on the way to Lake Cuyamaca, some deer, rabbits, crickets, a sunning rattlesnake, and of course the

*(Continued on page 13)*



PHOTO: BARB & ELLIOT SHEY

Above— Prior to the start of the run, the hungry horde was satiated at the TGI Friday's.



PHOTO: BARB & ELLIOT SHEY

Left and Below— Mark calls everyone together for the drivers meeting.



PHOTO: MARK BOOTH



PHOTO: MARK BOOTH



PHOTO: BARRY BILLINGSLEY



wildest of them all—humans inside the walls of the Swallows nudist camp that the caravan slowed down for as we passed by.

It was the first run for several new members and they certainly were impressed. It was the seventh run for some of our veterans—out of seven opportunities. Can you name the 100 percenters? Those who can will be offered the opportunity to be first in line for number eight in 2002.

— TOM SPRAGUE



PHOTO: BARRY BILLINGSLEY



PHOTO: TOM GOULD



PHOTO: MARK BOOTH

Above— The colorful line of Miatas is quite happy negotiating the twisties at a leisurely pace, enjoying the sights, sounds, and smells of the waning summer afternoon.

Left— At the pit stop on Mt. Laguna, the herding instinct is still strong as members make their way to the restrooms.



PHOTO: MARK BOOTH

Right— One thing you can say about a yellow Miata...it makes a red Miata look so much nicer!

## Miatas as Therapy

Sometimes it is neat to see OTM drivers acknowledge what we already knew.

For example, in the Saturday, August 4 issue of the *San Diego Union-Tribune*, auto editor Mark Maynard has a large article headlined “Therapy by Miata.” In the article he says that “After a week in the 2001 Miata Special Edition, I came to the same conclusion that I always do driving this simple little roadster: it’s therapy on four wheels.”

Maynard starts off his opus by opining that “If everyone drove a Mazda Miata, there would be no road rage, all streets would seem to be wide as boulevards, the gas crisis would be merely a gas pain and there would be parking space at the mall even during the holidays.”

He goes on, “...everyone should have one of these tucked into a corner of the garage for regular counseling sessions. It is difficult to be an angry driver behind the wheel of a Miata... No matter that there are 500,000 of these on the road worldwide, people still smile as you breeze past and other Miata owners give a flash of the headlights in a show of brotherly or sisterly love.”

The article says you can get into a base model with five speed manual transmission for \$21,660, which is what some folks pay for therapy with a psychiatrist.

After all of the superlatives, Maynard must have figured he had to come up with a negative. He said there was a “hollow sound to the doors when slammed.” OK, so close the door gently, breathe deeply and never be upset at other drivers on the road. After all, we are in a Miata. Those in the OTMs can simply do stupid things on the road and continue to eat their hearts out.

Enjoy!

— TOM SPRAGUE



## Two Fans

### are Better Than One

In continuation of last month's article on engine cooling, let's look at the electric cooling fans on the radiator. Every Miata comes with at least one these. The fan, mounted on the driver's side of the radiator, is there to pull air through the radiator when the car is either stopped or going slowly enough that not enough air is moving



across the radiator fins. If you remember last month's article, the fins on the radiator transfer the heat from the engine coolant to the air stream passing over them. The fan cycles on and off when it gets a signal from the temperature sensor located in the engine cooling system.

If your Miata has air conditioning, as the majority sold in the U.S. do, then you have two cooling fans. This second fan does not cycle on and off like the first fan does. The second fan,

which is on the passenger side of the radiator, only runs when you turn the air conditioner (A/C) on. When the A/C is on, both cooling fans run continuously. The reason both fans run is to maximize the efficiency of the cooling system when it is asked to cool not only the engine's radiator, but also the air conditioning condenser, which is mounted just in front of the radiator.

When you are trying to remove the heat from the engine coolant, you also want to maximize the airflow through the engine radiator. The problem is that only the driver's side fan is controlled by the engine temperature sensor, so the passenger-side fan just sits there letting the other fan do all the work.

Since we know the system can handle both fans running at the same time, it really is not unreasonable for them to both be controlled by the engine temperature sensor. And, in reality, the procedure to make this happen is quite easy.

### Required parts:

- 14 gauge wire (18 to 24 inches).
- 1 crimp-type quick tap (also known as a vampire tap).
- 1 each crimp-on male/female bullet connector.
- Electrical tape and/or heat shrink tubing.
- Tie wraps.
- A paper clip.

The accompanying photos explain the procedure.

**Note:** This procedure has been tested on 1990 through 1997 Miatas. The '99 and later have a different diagnostics connector. At this time I cannot verify if this procedure will/won't work on the '99 and later Miatas. Watch for details in a future SAN DIEGO MIATA CLUB NEWS.

— ANTHONY WILDE



Left— Step 1. The passenger side fan connector is on top of the fan shroud. Cut the wire with the blue tracer, leaving 1 inch coming out of the connector.



Left— Step 2. Crimp a female bullet connector on the wire leading toward the fan motor. Place a small piece of heat shrink tubing over the crimp connection. Use a heat gun (or an electric hair dryer) to shrink the tubing in place. DO NOT use an open flame to shrink the tubing.



Above— Step 3. Crimp the male bullet connector to the 14 gauge wire (see Required Parts List). Connect the bullet connectors and place the heat shrink tubing over the connection and apply heat to the tubing.

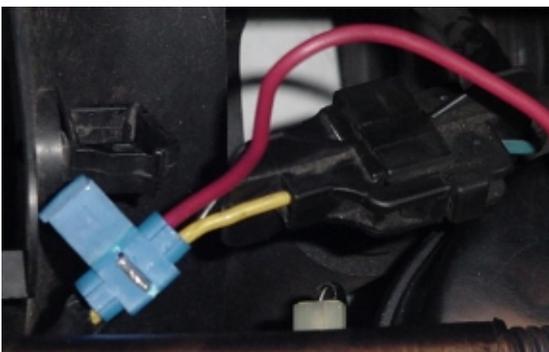
**Note:** Later, if necessary, the heat shrink tubing can be cut and the bullet connectors separated. To resort to the stock configuration, a female bullet connector can be placed on the 1 inch tail coming out of the factory connector in Step 1.



Above— Step 4. Route the 14 gauge wire from the passenger side fan over to the driver's side fan. In this particular installation, the wire was routed along the cable for the Jackson CAI and along the vent tube at the front of the cam cover. Secure using tie wraps.



Left— Step 5. The driver's side fan connection will be made at this butterfly-shaped connector. The yellow wire is where the quick tap will be placed.



PHOTOS: ELLIOT SHEV

Above— Step 6. Place the quick tap over the yellow wire on the butterfly-connector. Insert the wire from the passenger side fan and crimp the connector with pliers. Wrap the connection with electrical tape.

Right— Step 7. To test the connection, place a bent paper clip in the GND and TFA connections on the Diagnostics connector. When the key is turned to the ACC location, both fans should run. Turn off the key, remove the paper clip and close the Diagnostics connector. Both fans will now be controlled by the engine coolant sensor. Both fans will also function when the air conditioning system is turned on.



## 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:** 14 in., used, Hoosier autocross tires. The following parts from my '90: 14x5.5 "turtle" wheels w/Goodrich tires, suspension components, bra/mask, soft top, seats, AM/FM/CD, door speakers, steel antenna, spare wheel, jack, some carpet and trim. Kevin, (858) 651-5167, [khaywood@qualcomm.com](mailto:khaywood@qualcomm.com)

**For Sale:** Strut brace for '90-97 Miata, 6061 T-6 aircraft aluminum (highest stiffness to weight ratio), excellent condition \$40. New Porterfield brake pads for 90-93 Miata, \$110 (list \$143). Stef, (619) 297-4272 or [stef@miata.net](mailto:stef@miata.net)

**For Sale:** 1999 Miata factory 15"X6" wheels with Michelin Pilot 195/50R15 tires with approx. 17K miles on them. Comes with lock and lug nuts. Great condition. \$500. Call and leave a message. Alex, (619) 275-0819 or [alexgarcia@earthlink.net](mailto:alexgarcia@earthlink.net)

**For Sale:** Jackson cat-back exhaust. Like new, \$250. 1990 1.6-liter engine. This engine has 154K miles on it but runs well, \$250. Also five-speed transmission, \$200, and misc. parts from same car. (leather steering wheel, license plate surround, etc.). I also have a starter, alternator, and misc. engine, suspension, 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](mailto:wallymiata@juno.com)

**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](http://www.miataMart.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](mailto:mik_lyn@prodigy.net)