



SAN DIEGO MIATA CLUB NEWS

VOLUME 6 NUMBER 11

NOVEMBER 2001

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

UPCOMING EVENTS



November 3 - Saturday
Slots of Fun Run



November 4 - Sunday
Twenty Questions Rally
SDAM Car Club Council



November 10 - Saturday
Veterans Day Parade



November 11 - Sunday
Autocross at the "Q"



November 15 - Thursday
SDMC Holiday Party
REGISTRATION DEADLINE
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November 15 - Thursday
Monthly Meeting



November 25
TCRA Racing School
Willow Springs Big Track



December 1 - Saturday
SDMC Holiday Party
San Diego Automotive Museum



December 8 - Saturday
Third Annual Victorian Christmas Tea



December 8 - Saturday
Autocross at the "Q"



December 9 - Sunday
Autocross at the "Q"

What's up at MOC?

As you may recall from last month's article about the Miata Owners Club (MOC), on Friday, October 26th, I was to attend the first meeting of the MOC Advisory Council held at Mazda North American Operations in Irvine. There was a pre-meeting held Thursday evening where all the regional representatives got a chance to get to know each other. Unfortunately, it conflicted with our monthly meeting, so I traveled up to Irvine after our meeting to be sure to make the 8 a.m. start on Friday. No, I didn't sleep in my car; Mazda provided hotel accommodations for all of us.

The initial meeting of the MOC Advisory Council involved a full day of information and expectation exchange between the six Advisory Council representatives (Elliot Shev, Western; Brian Wannan, Gulf; Steve Holman, Midwest; Kevin Lemire, Northeast; Bob Hotaling, Southeast; Gordon Choate, Canada), regional Mazda marketing representatives, Affinity Development Group (ADG), the MOC management company, and representatives from Mazda who are charged with full responsibility of MOC management and oversight.

We used this forum to bring forward issues that had been communicated to us from members in each of our respective regions. Our discussion covered a wide range of topics, including the relationship between local clubs and the national club, and ways it may make sense for the entities to come together in the future for mutual benefit. We also discussed the goal of adding benefits to the national club that will bring value to everyone. Finally, we focused on national and regional events and their importance to Miata owners.

We were fortunate enough to speak with Mazda COO Stephen Odell regarding his vision of MOC's future. Together, the Advisory Council and Mazda recognize a desire for an independent democratic structure that would promote the continued goals of the Club (having fun with our Miatas) and the goal of Mazda (building relationships with its enthusiastic owners in order to drive sales). Mazda and the MOC Advisory Council will be working together closely to map out a plan for transition to a club that is governed by its members.

While most of us came to this meeting with initial skepticism and a real "show me" attitude, the day concluded with a common feeling of enthusiasm. We believe we are back on track, and look forward to the potential of the Miata Owners Club. In order to continue this momentum, we will be in close communication in the near term, and plan to meet again face to face at the end of January. While we recognize that there is much work ahead in order to accomplish this goal, we wel-

(Continued on page 2)



come the challenge.

We were also privileged to have a visit from Charlie Hughes, Mazda North America's CEO and President. We also, met Mazda's VP of Marketing, Kristen Simmons, who was kind enough to join us for dinner. I would like to mention that these executives came directly from the airport to see us after a long flight from Tokyo, Japan, where they visited/worked the Tokyo Auto Show. Having done this for many years (fly internationally) I know that they *really* wanted to speak with us and let us know that they are interested in our success.

I will continue in this roll for MOC as long as I am needed and will report to you monthly, as progress is made, right here in our newsletter. If there is any "hot" information or questions I need feedback on, you will see it in the club e-mail. I know that MOC will be putting up a questionnaire on their Web site, www.miataownersclub.com, so please point your browser there and fill it in. It will help drive the MOC to make decisions that help you, as members, and those who are thinking about joining. The MOC *will* be about more than a magazine subscription.

Until next month... *Zoom Zoom*

— 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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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.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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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



Slots of Fun Run

Date: Saturday, November 3

Meeting Time: 10 a.m.

Meeting Place: Tom's #23, 505 West 5th Avenue., Escondido.

Centre City Parkway and 5th Street

Run Leaders: NICK & SHARON

PONCE, CNickRun@AOL.com

This run qualifies toward Mileage Award

Come along for a fun day of driving, eating, and gambling or just socializing. We will visit the four Indian casinos in North County and enjoy 50+ miles of twisty backcountry roads.

We are working on arranging a 2-for-1, all you can eat buffet at Pauma Casino. The plan is to spend approximately one hour at each casino. The casinos offer slot machines (so bring your nickels). For the high rollers, table games are available. The run will end at Pauma Casino. There you can stay and test your luck, or test your Miata on the road up Palomar Mountain...or just go home and count your winnings.

Twenty Questions Rally

SDAM Car Club Council

Date: Sunday, November 4

Meeting Time: 10 a.m.

Departure Time: 11 a.m.

Meeting Place: San Diego Automotive Museum, Balboa Park

Information: Angus Murdoch

(619) 460-3805

Join members of the MG, Triumph, Corvette, and other car clubs of the San Diego Automotive Museum's (SDAM) Car Club Council for a rally that's a little bit different. On registration, you will be given a list of twenty questions about San Diego landmarks located within easy driving distance of the park. You will have two hours to find the answers and return to the starting point, where a playing card will be given for each correct answer. Awards will be given for the best poker hands—the more



correct answers, the more cards and a better chance to win. An all-you-can-eat barbecue behind the automotive museum will follow the rally.

Cost: \$10 per car for the rally, \$10 per person for the barbecue if you want to stay and eat. Bring a Thomas Guide, trust your knowledge of San Diego, or follow the oil drips left by the British cars—you're sure to learn something new about our city and meet enthusiasts of other marques.

Veterans Day Parade

Date: Saturday, November 10

Meeting Time: 10:30 a.m.

Parade Start Time: 11 a.m.

SDMC Coordinator: SCOTT LANGHOFF

marinerUSN@aol.com,

home (619) 470-7860

office: (619) 556-7405

With the theme "A Salute to Our Community Veterans," the 2001 edition of the Veterans Day parade will be on Harbor Drive downtown, from Grape Street to Seaport Village. The parade is developing into a major event, with numerous floats and rolling displays, military vehicles, marching bands, military and veterans units, military aircraft fly-overs, as well as clowns, "fun" stuff, food, and merchandise vendors. There will also be a "Battle of the Marching Bands" at Seaport Village following the parade. As always, there will be dignitaries, which is where the SAN DIEGO MIATA CLUB comes in! Dignitaries mentioned for expected participation this year are Ernest Borgnine, a WWII Navy vet and star of TV's "McHale's Navy," astronaut Wally Schirra, Medal of Honor recipients, former POWs, and several other prominent veterans, as well as Mayor Dick Murphy.

You might recall that SDMC came to the rescue at the eleventh hour last year to help support the parade. A hardy half-dozen or more members



made repeat performances in the parade. This year, there won't be such surprises, as I'll coordinate our representation. All of the dignitaries are fully aware of each driver's personal preferences as to seating in the vehicle (i.e., rear deck vs. passenger seat).

Autocross

Date: Sunday, November 11

Time: 9 a.m.

Place: Qualcomm Stadium
Mission Valley, west lot,
SDAD championship event



**SDMC Holiday Party
Registration Deadline**

Date: Thursday, November 15

Absolutely your last chance to sign up for the holiday party. See MARK or CATHY BOOTH at the Monthly Meeting!

mbooth@cts.com, (619) 670-3789



Monthly Meeting

A week early this month due to Thanksgiving

Date: Thursday, November 15

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 Holiday Party

Date: Saturday, December 1

Time: 6:30 p.m.

Place: San Diego Automotive Museum, Balboa Park

Contact: MARK & CATHY BOOTH

mbooth@cts.com, (619) 670-3789

Come and join the fun for the club's 5th annual Holiday Party! This year's party will take place among the beautiful cars on display at the San Diego Automotive Museum.



FUTURE EVENTS

**Third Annual
Victorian Christmas Tea
and Everyone is Invited!**

Date: Saturday, Dec. 8th

Time: 11:30 am until 1:30 pm

Where: Julian Tea Cottage
2124 Third Street

Julian, CA 92036-2062

(760) 765-0832, www.juliantea.com

Cost: \$14.50 per person excluding
tax/gratuity

RSVP: MARY ANN WALLNER

(760) 750-4243 or

mwallner@csusm.edu

Menu: Finger sandwiches, savories,
nut breads, scone with whipped cream
& jams, and a selection of desserts.

If there is interest again this year we
can also stay overnight at Valorie Ash-
ley's Bed & Breakfast Inn. Please let
me know when you RSVP.

This year is extra special because the
owners have closed their doors to the
public...which means the place is ours!

Autocross

Date: Saturday, December 8

Time: 9 a.m.

Place: Qualcomm Stadium

Mission Valley, southeast lot,
DCCSD practice.

Autocross

Date: Sunday, December 9

Time: 9 a.m.

Place: Qualcomm Stadium

Mission Valley, southeast lot,
DCCSD championship event.

Autocross

Date: Saturday, December 22

Time: 9 a.m.

Place: Qualcomm Stadium

Mission Valley, west lot,
TART practice.

UPCOMING NATIONAL AND REGIONAL EVENTS

TCRA Racing School

Date: Sunday, November 25

Time: 7:30 am - 5:30 p.m.

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

Contact: John Roth (TCRA)

bmwracer91@aol.com, or TCRA at
(626) 284-2183

This event is sponsored by the Touring
Car Racing Association (TCRA). The
one-day school cost is \$120. Included
with the school is a \$100 coupon for
Dunlop tires, a hat, and many more
goodies from Dunlop.

The school will consist of one lead and
follow and three 30-minute
sessions on the big track. There will also
be three "chalk talk" sessions, one after
each session on the track. Safety will be
stressed...*you* set your own speed limit;
passing will be allowed in designated areas
only. This school is part of a huge event:
Eurotunerfest—a car show, time trials,
drifting challenge, as well as lots of ven-
dors!

Requirements: SA-90 or higher helmet
and 4-point roll bar. Your Miata must
pass a tech inspection that is outlined on
the TCRA Web page. Required clothing:
long-sleeve cotton T-shirt, 100% natural
fiber long pants, closed-toe shoes and
leather gloves. For more details, and to
register, go to the Web page:
<http://www.eurotunerfest.com>.

Register online or register by mail by
printing the registration form (available at
the Eurotunerfest Web site) and mailing
payment to arrive no later than Novem-
ber 16, 2001:

Euro Tunerfest
901 S. Magnolia Ave.
Monrovia, CA 91016

Just want to go to Eurotunerfest but not
the school?—you can still drive on the
track! "Nurburgring Sessions"—20-
minute lead and follow sessions (no pass-
ing) run throughout the day for only \$5.
Perfect for spectators wishing to join the
fun and drive on the famous Big Track!
You must register/pay in advance and be
at the track for sign-in at 7:30 a.m.

Events Don't Just Happen!

You have probably noticed that
the SAN DIEGO MIATA CLUB is
an active bunch of enthusiasts. In the
past year we have cruised Grand, vis-
ited the Getty Museum, driven the
Streets of Willow race track, been in
parades, autocrossed, picnicked, had
tech days, and more.

Question: How does all this happen?

Answer: People like YOU make it
happen.

The easiest way to explain how an
event occurs is to say that someone
says to himself, "I am going to get in
my Miata and go (insert what you en-
joy here), and I am going to invite my
Miata friends to join me." The next
step is to call STEVE WAID, our events
coordinator, and ask him to assist you
in getting the invitation out. Steve is
available at (760) 432-0727 or
events@sandiegomiataclub.org.

If you want to earn the always de-
sirable SAN DIEGO MIATA CLUB
magnetics in your car color, then the
only requirement is that the event be a
driving event. A caravan to an event
does not qualify...such as the trip to
the Getty Museum. However, if an
indirect "run" to an event is put to-
gether, then the magnetics are earned.
A recent example would be DUSTIN
LEWIS' run to the Santee Drive-in last
August. Dustin earned his magnetics
that day, and we all got to watch mov-
ies too.

2001 has seen several people earn
their magnetics—WAYNE and DEE
JOHNSON, BRUCE and DEBBY
LEWIS, and TOM and DONA
THOMPSON to name only a few. In
November, new members NICK and
SHARON PONCE will be leading us on
the Slots of Fun Run (see page 3) to
earn their magnetics.

Ask the club to join you the next
time you plan to do something fun.
You'll enjoy yourself even more when
you have fellow Miataphiles along for
the ride!



Here is our first ever SAN DIEGO MIATA CLUB crossword puzzle. In creating this puzzle, we have used terms relating to Miatas, the SAN DIEGO MIATA CLUB, and a couple of general automotive terms.

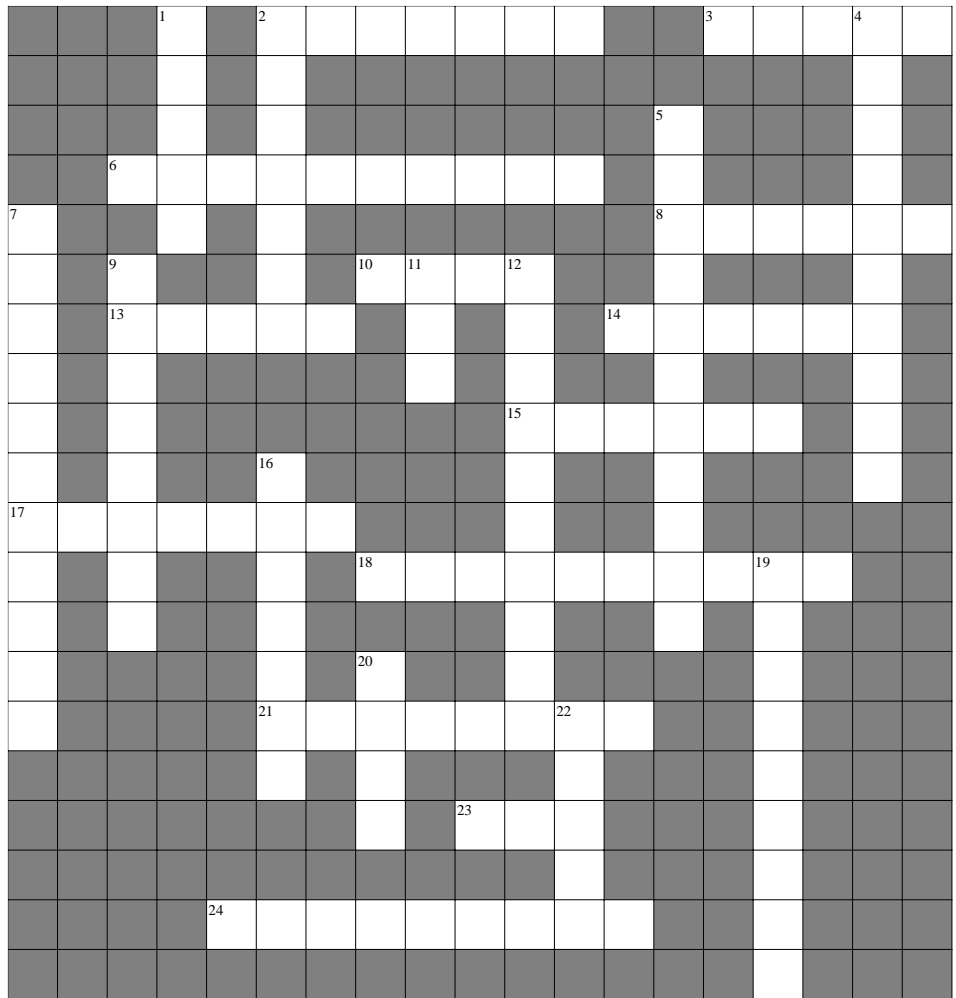
The answers will be published in next month's issue of the SAN DIEGO MIATA CLUB NEWS.

HAVE FUN!

— EDITOR

Down

1. A circular frame of hard material that may be solid, partly solid, or spoked and that is capable of turning on an axle.
2. A small storage cabinet between bucket seats in an automobile.
4. A device for indicating speed of rotation.
5. A spirit of friendly good-fellowship and part of the SDMC Mission Statement. (See page 2).
7. Having a top that may be lowered or removed.
9. The most abundant metal in the earth's crust; the Miata's hood is constructed of it.
11. Any of numerous unctuous combustible substances that are liquid or can be liquefied easily on warming, are soluble in ether but not in water.
12. A shaft that transmits mechanical power.
16. A combination of apparatus for producing a single electrical effect or a group of two or more cells connected together to furnish electric current.
19. A low, small, usually 2-passenger automobile designed for quick response, easy maneuverability, and high-speed driving. (Two words)
20. A place used for public entertainment or the father of the Miata.
22. The Japanese dealer network that sold Miatas before 1999.



Across

2. A device consisting of two plates lined with a friction material that press against the sides of a rotating wheel or disc in certain brake systems.
3. According to the Guinness Book of World Records, the best-selling, lightweight, open, two-seat sports car in history.
6. A small publication containing news of interest chiefly to a special group.
8. A dry red wine made from a widely-grown grape originally used in the Bordeaux region of France for blending. A special 1995 Miata color.
10. Something that nourishes, sustains, or supplies. Part of every SDMC run.
13. A metric unit of capacity equal to one cubic decimeter. Stock Miatas have less than two.
14. A California city near Santa Ana. Birthplace of the Miata.
15. A religion that is derived from African polytheism and ancestor worship and is practiced chiefly in Haiti. A shift knob created for the Miata.
17. The rear seating compartment of an automobile; also the entire seating compartment. Usually used in relation to a cover for the area.
18. One who is ardently attached to a cause, object, or pursuit.
21. A sports car without roll-up windows, or a Japanese Miata.
23. What provides amusement or enjoyment; specifically playful, often boisterous action or speech. Part of every SDMC run.
24. An automobile gymkhana.





PHOTO: MIKE SHACK

— SAL AND GERI CAUSARANO

When Sal and Geri Causarano get involved in something, they really get involved.

In the three short years they have been members of the SAN DIEGO MIATA CLUB, they have been secretary, vice president twice, events coordinator, providers of the highly-regarded mobile hospitality suite, designer and maker of Miata memorabilia, hosts for successful tech days, coordinators of food events—and eager participants in just about every run, meeting, and party. They are the ubiquitous duo, for sure. And always with a smile and helping hand.

Our pal Sal and his gal are currently down to just one Miata, but that changes next month with the arrival of a 2002 yellow with the big appearance package and a hardtop, stackable six disc CD player, leather and upgraded suspension. Look for more goodies to be added after the Christmas toy arrives.

Their primary Miata right now is Geri's 1994 Montego Blue, with the license plate and license frame both saying "Candie." That is because it was purchased on Valentine's Day,

1998, with 12,000 miles. Candie now has 52,700 fun-filled miles. They take turns driving ("he drives too fast...she drives too slow") but Sal has the pilot's seat a majority of the time. He uses skills acquired in a 1983 RX7 (black with red interior!) to make the Miata move.

Formerly, a '93 Red Miata also resided in the Sal/Gal manse in Ramona, but when they decided to scale down, that car, with 117,000 miles, was sold to a neighbor. The "scaling down" lasted until they were introduced to the 2002 yellow.

The Causarano duo earned their coveted magnetics early, putting on the 1998 Kooky-Spooky Halloween rally shortly after they became members. They regularly do Madonna Inn, and last year added 3,000 miles to their Miata on the Fall Leaf Run.

Miata driving is quite different for Sal and Geri. They formerly had big machines, such as a truck and an Explorer. Geri also drove a big yellow school bus, which is a much more difficult challenge in more ways than one. When they blew a cylinder on their Explorer and opted for a different car, they saw a Miata on the lot in

Poway when they took the Explorer back to explore options. Since the kids had grown up and out by then, they decided to go for more fun and became hooked on Miata-ville.

Geri uses her extensive seamstress skills to fashion a wide variety of wearables and usables. You have undoubtedly seen them around.

Joining the club was another experience in happenstance. With the Explorer gone, they did not need to the liner they had just bought, and so returned it to North Coast Tarpaulin Works. The rep there asked why it was being returned, and they replied they had given up the Explorer. "What kind of a car did you get?", he asked. A Miata was the answer. "Miata!", the man exclaimed, "have I got a deal for you." Thus VOODOO BOB, then working for North Coast, introduced the Causaranos to the SAN DIEGO MIATA CLUB. And now you know the rest of the story.

— TOM SPARAGUE

To be included in our ongoing series of Member Profiles, write a short (200-400 word) summary and e-mail it to:

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.

Don't Be Left Out!

The SAN DIEGO MIATA CLUB Holiday Party is on Saturday, December 1st.

To attend, you **MUST** send your RSVP, and payment, to MARK & CATHY BOOTH by November 15th.

See page 3 for details.



New Members!

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

PAUL BAKKOM &
HOLLY GUNTERMANN
Mtn Center
2001 Silver

DONNA & ED DITTMAN
Jamul
1992 White A

JOHN & SHEILA HAYS
Escondido
2001 Midnight Blue LS

BOB & BRENDA HEAVILL
San Diego
2001 Emerald Green Leather

WAYNE KRISTENSON
San Diego
1997 M (Marina Green)

LARRY LARSON
Oceanside
1992 Mariner Blue

MICHAEL MANSFIELD
Las Vegas
1999 Twilight Blue

VALERIE PREZIOSI &
JAN SVEJKOVSKY
Del Mar
2001 Crystal Blue LS

BARRY & ROBBIE ROSENBERG
Lake Forest
1997 Red

THOMAS STUMPF
Escondido
1993 White

Renewing Members

(since last newsletter):

KYOICHI ABE
EUNICE BAUMAN
MICHELLE & JAMES CAPODICE
PHIL DAOUST
DALE DEL FIERRO
DENNIS & MARYANNE GARON
SCOTT & JOANNA LANGHOFF
LYLE & TAFFY MELTON
LOUIS MISKO & AMY DEL NAGRO
CATHY & JIM PHILLIPS
DAVID & STEPHANIE SHABESTARI
BILL SHAFFER
RICHARD & NANCY STAUDE
TOM VINT
JERRY WALLIN &
ROSEMARY HULLAR
MELISSA & GARRET WILLIAMS

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.

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!

Membership Statistics

As of October 27, 2001, there are 360 memberships (149 single, 211 dual) for a total of 571 members.

Memberships by Miata Color:

96	Red
51	White
40	Black
35	Emerald Green
33	Silver
15	Montego Blue
13	Sapphire Blue
12	BRG
9	Marina Green
9	Twilight Blue
8	Mahogany
8	Mariner Blue
8	Starlight Blue
7	Crystal Blue
6	Laguna Blue
6	Yellow
5	Merlot
2	Evolution Orange
2	Midnight Blue
1	Eggplant (custom)
1	Teal (custom)
9	Unreported*

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

5 Years Ago This Month**November 13, 1996**

After six months of existence, the nascent SAN DIEGO MIATA CLUB passes 100 memberships.

November 24, 1996

Over thirty Miatas gather at the Deer Springs Road Park & Ride to participate in TONY and MARY BEECHER'S Fall Picnic Tour. This was the club's first trip to a now popular picnic area, Bell Gardens.

Club Membership:

116 memberships and a total of 175 members.



On the brisk morning of September 15 the loneliest highway guys, DENNIS PECK and BOB KITTERER, left North County Fair for fourteen days of top-down driving through some of the most lonely, most beautiful, most barren, most spectacular, and most unusual terrain in the Southwest. The first few days took us around South Lake Tahoe and on to the Nevada section of US 50 for which this run is named. The temperature remained in the mid-80's to low 90's and we stopped at each town to get our "I Survived US 50" passports stamped. This a tourism promotion. After getting stamped in each town and sending in a form, you get back a letter of congratulations, survivor's certificate, bumper sticker, and lapel pin from Nevada's Commission on Tourism.



As we continued east from Lehman Caves, hungry, with the temperature in the mid-90's and probably the most barren section of the drive ahead, I am sure Dennis was questioning his decision to make this trip. I was redeemed the next morning as we entered color-



Lunch stop at Capitol Reef National Park



September 15 - 26
Loneliest Highway Run

ful southeastern Utah, where Capitol Reef was a photographer's delight. A few more days and we were in Colorado, where we got our first full display of fall colors.



It had been some time since we had seen a Miata and it would be some time before we would see another one. Almost no one even knew about the existence of these cars in the small towns and back roads that we were traveling. After going through Albuquerque, then west to Flagstaff, we turned north to join the folks in Provo for the Fall Leaf Run. On the way, our run through Zion and Bryce Canyon National Parks worked out to be



one of the best days of the trip. We went to Zion in the morning with pleasant temperatures and wonderful lighting. Then, as it was getting warm, we went up in elevation and back down in temperature to Bryce and still had great lighting.

As we finished the last day of the Loneliest Highway Run with 22 parks, museums, and sites behind us it had been a near perfect trip. We had



Find the Miata...Capitol Gorge, Capitol Reef National Park.



Blue Mesa, Petrified Forest National Park



Continental Divide, Interstate 40 in New Mexico

the tops up for about 90 minutes to get through a thunderstorm, and the last morning we had to drive for about an hour `til the tops got warm enough to lower. Otherwise it was two weeks of top-down driving. For 3,467 miles we had managed to stay together, until we got within 15 miles of Provo and then became separated. Dennis found the motel first and had to guide me in. Including the Fall Leaf Run, we were on the road for 17 days and I logged a total of 4,648 miles.

— BOB KITTERER



PHOTOS: BOB KITTERER



On Thursday, September 27th, CATHY & MARK BOOTH, along with STEF & TOM GOULD, left San Diego to join fellow SDMC members GENE STANLEY, WEN KULIK, and SOCALMers Debbie & Mike Heffernan and Lucy & Russ Sharp in San Bernardino before meeting Terry Baird and Charm Johnson & Frank Rimmer in Barstow for the first leg of the third annual Fall Leaf Run, hosted by the UTAH MIATA



PHOTO: TOM GOULD

CLUB. Tops were up and accelerators down, A/C's humming all the way to Las Vegas, where we were joined by JULI & BOB DAVIS before everyone scattered to the cultural event of his choice. The next morning tops came down in Hurricane, Utah, just before the nine Miatas ran through the switchbacks and tunnels of Zion National Park, our first taste of the marvelous scenery and perfect weather that were to follow us for the long weekend (and following week for some of the crew). After Zion the Miatas turned north to Cedar Breaks National Monument, climbing past golden aspens and lava flows. We took a quick Kodak break and traveled on through Brian Head to Parowan for

Below— The “lonely” guys, Dennis Peck and Bob Kitterer, made it to dinner in Provo, Utah, replete with their Highway 50 T-shirts.



PHOTO: GENE STANLEY



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

lunch. Two hundred freeway miles later we pulled into Provo in time for dinner, where we were joined by UTAH MIATA CLUB'S Wanda & Bill Bates and Cheri & Richard Teasdale (UMC President). Wanda, UMC's secretary and membership gal, presented each of us with the club's newly-minted pins in our car colors. Also joining the group here were two more SDMC Miatas, BOB KITTERER and DENNIS PECK, who were winding up the Loneliest Highway Run, a 3,500-mile swing through the Western states.

Saturday, Wanda and Bill led us up the Uinta National Forest's Alpine Scenic Loop, starting at a mere 5000 feet and cresting at 8000, through a winding forested road where magnificent mountain vistas seemed to appear



PHOTO: CATHY BOOTH

through the colorful foliage like magic or over-the-top special effects. To the crest and down, passed (carefully) by a classic car run going the other way, and lunch at Sundance Resort, where Cathy, Mark, and Gene took advantage of the ski lift for even more scenery. Next was a repeat of last year's jog to the salmon hatchery at Strawberry Reservoir, ending the day in Payson for dinner at last year's favorite, Dalton's (not to be confused with Dalton's Roadhouse).

The official Fall Leaf Run began on Sunday—twenty-six cars assembling for breakfast including former SDMC



PHOTO: TOM GOULD

Above— Classics passing each other on an Aspen-lined lane.

members Lauren & Bob Thompson (led SDMC members to the first two Fall Leaf Runs), who now live in Utah. Cheri and Richard started the drivers meeting off by presenting each visiting California Miata with a Utah County guidebook, pin, and scenic byways handbook! This day took us south through coal mining and power generating areas, featuring the Huntington Canyon scenic drive; then, after lunch, up the Mt. Nebo Scenic Loop, 9000 feet at the top, alternating twisties and see-forever overlooks, and yes, Fall leaves, matched by red rock formations. A farewell dinner that night observed the SDMC E-D-E ritual, and our thanks went to Wanda, Cheri, Bill, and Richard, who had done it again: no snow (just a forest fire on the freeway side of Mt. Nebo), great weather, and an endless supply of scenery, much of it left intact for another visit.

—TOM GOULD

Below— Some of the spectacular scenery in Zion National Park.



PHOTO: GENE STANLEY





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

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

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.

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
 Subscribe:
SDMC-List-subscribe@yahoogroups.com
 Unsubscribe:
SDMC-List-unsubscribe@yahoogroups.com
 List owner:
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 for inclusion to this list.

— ROBERT "JTBOB" HOLLAND
 Webmaster/Postmaster

September 8, 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 Datsun Competition Club of San Diego (DCCSD), and held at Qualcomm Stadium.

Class	Driver	Car	Place
BS	RAINER MUELLER	Miata	5th
BS	ED PITTS	Miata	6th
BS	JOHN HILTON	Miata	7th
IS2	ROBERT HOLLAND	Miata	3rd
IS2	STEVE KENNISON	Miata	4th
IS2	STEVE WAID	Miata	5th
IS2	ELLIOT SHEV	Miata	6th
IS2	JIM BROKAW	Miata	7th
IS2	JACK HINKLE	Miata	9th
IS2L	SUE HINKLE	Miata	2nd
IS2L	BARBARA SHEV	Miata	3rd
SM	BRIAN GOODWIN	Miata	3rd
SM	HOWARD KUZMINSKI	Miata	4th
CSP	RON CHAPMAN	Honda CRX	2nd
CSP	MARA CALER	Honda CRX	4th
IS1	LARRY DENNSTEDT	Miata	2nd
Novice	TRA WOOD	Focus	5th
Novice	MICHAEL REAVES	Miata	9th
Novice	BRIAN ANDERSON	Miata	12th
Novice	ANTHONY WILDE	Miata	17th
Novice	TED TIMMONS	Miata	20th
Novice	JOHN D. LIMA	Miata	24th
Novice	FEDERICO ABAD	Miata	29th
Novice	GERALD BURGESS	Miata	32nd
Novice	CAROLE JEWELL	Miata	34th
Novice	HERM BREHMER	Miata	38th
Novice	THOMAS CLARK	Miata	39th
Novice	KAREN WOOD	Miata	43rd
Novice	WAYNE JOHNSON	Miata	45th
Novice	ALEX GARCIA	Miata	46th
Novice	PAULA KENNISON	Miata	47th
Novice	JULIE HOYT	Miata	48th
Novice	DEE JOHNSON	Miata	49th
Novice	LARRY HOSKINSON	Miata	50th
Novice	WALTER JEWELL	Miata	52nd
Novice	VERONICA DIDIER	Miata	Not Classified
Novice	NORM STEVENS	Miata	Not Classified





Cajon Speedway Track Event 1

On October 10, a few of us got together for a track day at the Cajon Speedway in El Cajon. The attendees and best lap times were as follows:

MIKE REAVES	51.65 seconds
KEVIN LA RUE	51.79
MIKE SCHWARTZ	51.81
STEF GOULD	52.34
GENE STANLEY	53.36
TED TIMMONS	57.39

Each time out we drove five laps, a single car at a time, allowing us to warm up the tires and brakes and get a feel for the track. The track had some turns in excess of 300 degrees, two of which occurred after the straights, resulting in some entertaining slides, as well as smiles.

Mike Reaves' beautiful silver 2001 definitely had a little more power than the five M1s, and he put down some great lap times—and hit the gas a bit too hard on occasion. Stef Gould put in many impressively consistent laps—her driving style made it look easy.

Mike Schwartz had his hands full with his R package. The lack of power steering didn't hurt his times, but it made corners tougher.

Taking his kid's car seat out of the passenger side upon arrival and his lack of autocross experience lulled us into a false sense of security, but Kevin



Left and Below— Mike Schwartz puts the power down through the turns.



Left and Below— Mike Reaves slides it through the chicane, then takes a cleaner line in another corner.



Left and Below— Stef Gould circles the track with consistent lap times.

La Rue put down some good times nonetheless. Gene Stanley showed his experience with track course layouts, as well as coming the longest distance, bringing his track tires stuffed into the Miata. Who needs a trailer?

We had lots of fun on this second-gear course. If you are interested in joining the next Cajon track day, drop me an email at cajon@perijam.net. We'll try to do it again early next year.

— TED TIMMONS



Left and Below— Ted Timmons puts his car through its paces.



FUN RUNS



Everyone showed up for the Back to the 50's Run, even "The King" was there. Not looking too good there, King.



September 22 - Saturday
Back to the 50's Run



Above— Tom and Dona Thompson receive their San Diego Miata Club magnetics from president Elliot Shev.



Above— This was a "Run" so there was some driving to be done. A total of 151 miles of it, in fact.



Above— A welcome stop at the Julian Pie Company along the way.



Above— Voodoo Bob can still "pick up chicks" for a slow dance. Either that or Geri is helping him to his chair after he threw his back out.



Above— Tom and Dona look ready for the hop.

Below— The King's pompadour is looking a bit more like PepeLePew is sitting on his head by the end of the run.



Left and Right— Everyone was ready to chow down when we made it to The Waffle Lady in San Clemente. We had the place to ourselves and a special menu to boot.



Above— VBob seems to have a problem operating the hula hoop. Maybe if it were made of billet aluminum?



PHOTOS: MARK & CATHY BOOTH





September 14 - 16
**The Julie Stefanelli
 Honorarium Planned
 Impromptu Eat & Drive
 Weekend**

The SAN DIEGO MIATA CLUB hosted Julie Stefanelli, former VROOM President, and Jim Horvath, a fellow VROOM member, when they visited from San Luis Obispo. Julie has been our San Luis Obispo organizer for the annual Search for Madonna. She also had never been to San Diego. Therefore, it was our collective responsibility to show her a SDMC “good time.”

Even though the tone was more subdued than anticipated, for understandable reasons, we had a full and fun-filled weekend.

Friday night featured Cruisin’ Grand for the last time in 2001. DENNIS and MARYANNE GARON hosted the “Pie Run” in their new Escondido home.

Saturday morning after a breakfast at Tom’s #23, a group of about 12 Miatas toured the San Diego highlights including Rancho Santa Fe, Del Mar, Mount Soledad (fog), La Jolla Cove, Mission Bay, the Embarcadero, the Gaslamp District, Balboa Park, and Coronado. We stopped for lunch at the Old Ferry Landing. An afternoon fun run through the east county gave us over 120 miles of twisty San Diego roads. We ultimately ended up at the Roadhouse in Ramona for a meal of sumptuous proportions.

Sunday provided another eating opportunity with the Marie Callendar’s Sunday Brunch. The fun run that followed took us through Couser Canyon as we headed North to Old Town Temecula. There we said our goodbyes as Julie and Jim headed home. All in all it was full weekend that Julie and Jim will never forget.

— STEVE WAID



PHOTO: STEVE & LAURE WAID

Jim Horvath and Julie Stefanelli of the VROOM Miata club enjoyed a weekend in San Diego in appreciation of their hosting of the SDMC on the annual trek to the Madonna Inn.

Membership Handbook

A new edition of the MEMBERSHIP HANDBOOK is being prepared for distribution. The handbook is a valuable resource for every SAN DIEGO MIATA CLUB member. It contains a plethora of club information, including the history of the SDMC, tips on how to plan fun runs, how (and *why*) to plan a tech day, and proper e-mail etiquette. The handbook also contains a MEMBERS BUSINESS DIRECTORY. We need your help to ensure the directories are up-to-date.

The MEMBERS BUSINESS DIRECTORY section of the handbook is set aside for members who may have a product or service that may be of interest to other club members. This listing is provided as a service to and for members at no charge. To have your business listed or your entry to be updated, please send information, using the following format, to membership@sandiegomiataclub.org or to the club post office box (address is on page 2 of this newsletter).

category of listing
 business name
 brief description of your business
 your name, title
 street address
 phone, fax
 e-mail and Web page address



October 19 - Friday
Run of the Unemployed
 An Impromptu Run

With the unemployment rate in San Diego running right around 3%, members of the SDMC must be above average people. But then we already knew that.

About 4% of club cars turned out for the Run of the Unemployed, a Friday morning event which had plenty of fun, food, and friendship and 89 miles—which is what SDMC is all about. The morning began with brisk air and lingering fog, but that soon gave way to sun and the warmth of good friends having a good time.

It all began when DUSTIN LEWIS and GEOFF FAHRING collectively thought it would be fun to have a mid-week run. They pooled their knowledge of local areas and back roads, coupled with good places to eat and socialize, and put it all together with a run through north county and the coast, with intermediate stops. Included along the way were missions and casinos, the sights and smells of cows and horses, beautiful mountains and valleys, fruit stands and pumpkin patches, and just one motorcycle officer with a radar gun as the entourage passed slowly by. Local SDMC’ers were joined mid-run at the lunch stop by KATHIE MCCLELLAND of Orange County, with her ’93 white.

Dustin rode the lead pony, and Geoff was the sweep. Most of the time the entire queue was in sight, except for splitting up to accommodate those infernal OTMs that think they have a right to the road as well.

Best quip of the day came at IHOP in Oceanside, where the group was having brunch on the patio. The IHOP host stuck his head outside and asked, “Anybody here have a silver Toyota?” When the guffaws quieted down, he said “Guess that was a silly question” and quietly backed out the door.

— TOM SPRAGUE



The Lucky Miata

It was kinda scary there on the big lot. Especially during the long, dark nights. When so many of my friends moved away one by one, it was especially difficult. It seemed like everyone had a real home except me. Maybe I was doomed to be on my own forever.

Things brightened up when people would come by and gaze at me and ooh and aaah and say nice things about how I looked. But then they left me by myself again and the darkness fell in my heart and in the sky.

One day this guy came by and seemed attracted. He asked so many questions, and looked me over in every possible way. He poked and pulled, tugged here and there, looking over every conceivable nook and cranny. I am not sure exactly what he was searching for, but he certainly was complete and thorough.

He and another guy spoke about some very big numbers, which I didn't understand but it surely sounded important. Then everybody walked away and I figured I was doomed to spend the rest of my time by myself—alone. It was very sad.

Much to my surprise, the guy who did all the inspecting came back with a huge grin, holding a bunch of papers that looked really important. He

kinda patted me, and then told me to hang on, because we were leaving together. In a hurry.

We went for quite a while, and finally stopped at what seemed to be a family spot. Because waiting there was what could have been one of my cousins—we had the same shape and coloring. It bothered me a little bit to have to share this new nice guy with some other family member, but I figured it was better than being by myself in the lot for another dark night.

Then I heard all this talk about modifications—not sure what that meant, but it sounded like it might hurt. When I found out many of the modifications were going to come off my cousin to make me look better. I liked that idea.

In a day or two, much to my surprise, the cousin left the family compound. And I was there alone to be pampered and polished and prettified.

Now I get to spend the nights in a nice covered building, I am greeted in the morning with affection, taken immaculate care of during the day, and fondly put away at night. No more scary nights in that old dark lot. What a deal!

Since then I have met a whole bunch of my other cousins—of varying colors and hues and modifications.

This is really a neat way to exist—to have someone take care of my every need and many things I don't need, but enjoy.

Now I know the guy who picked me out in the lot is named MARK BOOTH. He has a pretty cohort, who must be part of the same species as Mark, named CATHY. Together they make a nice new home for me. And I don't have to worry about the dark nights any more.

They tell me I have to learn to say “zoom-zoom” with the proper throaty sounds. I'm trying, and I think that it could be fun! See you around the next curve!

— THE LUCKY MIATA
(as told to TOM SPRAGUE)

Time to Clean Out The Garage!

If you've been saving the oil drained out of your Miata (or OTM), now is a good time to recycle it. The City of San Diego has the following recycling events coming up:



Saturday, November 17

School of Creative & Performing Arts
2425 Dusk Drive, (between Alta View
Drive & Parkside Avenue)
San Diego 92139

Saturday, December 1

Qualcomm Stadium
9449 Friars Road,
Parking Lot-Section J
San Diego 92108

Collection events are from 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

They will accept a maximum of 10 gallons of used oil (Please transport in a sealable container), antifreeze, oil filters, and automotive batteries.

These events, sponsored by the City of San Diego, are open ONLY to residents of the city. For more information, call (619) 235-2105. If you are not in the city of San Diego, please contact your city's environmental affairs department or the county agency for similar events in your area. Most auto parts stores and repair shops will also accept used oil for recycling.

Below— Mark chokes the chicken that blessed his new car



PHOTO: VOODOO BOB KRUEGER



Lever Action

If your right thigh touches the emergency brake lever (and you know who you are), the lever can be tilted to the right in about 15 minutes.

Take out the driver's seat. Not a problem...4 bolts, 1 minute, watch the speaker wire connection.



Block wheels and release e-brake. Pull down the carpet around the e-brake lever.

Take off the plastic shield. Or not, but it helps getting the carpet back in place later. One phillips screw, and the thing falls apart. Three bolts hold the assembly to the car. Two in front, one in the rear. Loosen them all, then remove the lower front one. Slip a couple of washers between the assembly and the tunnel on the lower front hole only (the more washers, the further to the right the handle tilts. You could probably get a longer bolt and more washers and tilt the handle completely into the gear shifter).

Replace the lower front bolt through the washers. Tighten all three bolts slowly. The result is the e-brake handle has been tilted to the right, without disturbing the geometry of the mechanism. Everything works as before, but the lever doesn't touch your leg anymore. Well, it doesn't touch *my* leg anymore. Your mileage may vary (YMMV).

I saw this on the MiataForum some time back, but it seemed too simple to work. It *is* simple, and it *does* work. Another of those little tricks that make a great car just that much more comfortable. Don't tell anyone that you've done this mod and they'll never know you needed to!

— TED KESLER

Cool...in More Ways Than One

My radiator has developed a small crack in the plastic top tank, and it is beginning to leak, ever so slightly. So, before it blows apart on a run, I will drop in a slightly used unit that another club member replaced with a racing radiator.

To do the job right, I will replace the radiator hoses and, after 11 years, I figured it is about time to replace the heater hoses as well. So, off to Cush Mazda in Escondido to pick up some parts one Saturday. I always appreciate that a dealer has the parts department open on a Saturday for those of us who work during the week. That is why I drive to Escondido rather than going to the Mazda dealer closer to me, who also does *not* offer a discount to SDMC members.

As the clerk totals the bill, I then remember to ask for my SAN DIEGO MIATA CLUB discount. Without hesitation he re-calculates my purchase (*after* looking at my SDMC Membership Card), and seems surprised at the change in price. Then I realize that my one purchase has nearly paid for my annual dues in the SAN DIEGO MIATA CLUB.

I smiled a little more on the drive home...the long way.

— ANTHONY WILDE

Badges?

Have 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.

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: 1993 White "B" package. 70k miles. Jackson CAI, white Robbins top with matching boot cover, Wet Okole seat covers, Voodoo knob & brake handle, Oris Windstop. Spare set of wheels & mis-matched tires. Too many options to list! \$7,750 OBO. Kathie, kmiatacat@aol.com or (949) 644-1327

For Sale: 1999 Brilliant Black. Touring and appearance packages. A/C, OEM wind-blocker, Viper perimeter alarm, NEW Yokohama tires. 25k miles. Asking \$16,500. Selling for my daughter. Sal, (760) 787-0624 or wood-dust@home.com

For Sale: 14 in. used Hoosier autocross tires, parts from my '90: shocks, springs, sway bars, bra/mask, soft top, passenger seat, OEM AM/FM/CD/Cassette, entire A/C package (compressor, condenser, tubing, fan, etc.) door speakers, steel antenna, spare wheel, some carpet and trim. Kevin, (858) 651-5167, khaywood@qualcomm.com

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 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

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

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

Don't Be Left Out!

The SAN DIEGO MIATA CLUB Holiday Party is on Saturday, December 1st.

To attend, you **MUST** send your RSVP, and payment, to MARK & CATHY BOOTH by November 15th.

See page 3 for details.

