

# SAN DIEGO MIATA CLUB NEWS



JANUARY 2002

VOLUME 7 NUMBER 1

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

## UPCOMING EVENTS



January 1 - Tuesday  
5<sup>th</sup> Annual Hangover Run



January 15 - Tuesday  
Olympic Torch Relay  
See Page 3 for details.



January 15 - Tuesday  
Laguna Seca Track Day



January 19 - 20  
Autocross at the "Q"



January 24 - Thursday  
Monthly Meeting



January 25 - 26  
2002 Las Vegas Getaway



January 26 - Saturday  
Autocross at the "Q"



February 5 - Tuesday  
Laguna Seca Track Day



February 13 - 18  
San Diego International  
Auto Show



February 16 - Saturday  
Track Driving Techniques  
Seminar



February 24 - Sunday  
There's Something Fishy  
About This Run II

## Miles, Miles Everywhere

How do I get mine acknowledged?

**A**t this time last year, the SAN DIEGO MIATA CLUB instituted a new program to "encourage increased participation and to foster a sense of friendly competition." This program, the brainchild of then club treasurer MIKE SHACK, is the Mileage Awards. The basic idea is that you accumulate miles for the club runs you attend each year, and receive a patch at the end of that year with the total miles embroidered on it.

By a unanimous decision of the SDMC board, the Mileage Awards program has been modified. The best part of the new plan is that it starts for you when you go on your first run and continues as long as you remain a member in good standing. No more annual start and stop dates.

The rules are simple. You attend club runs that are pre-designated as mileage runs, as indicated in the newsletter. At the beginning of the run the run leader will ask that you to fill out a mileage form that will be forwarded to the "mileage meister," Mike Shack, for official recording. As it is your responsibility to make sure that your name is on the official mileage sign-in list, please do so. **If your name is not on the list, the mileage doesn't count.**

About once per quarter, the newsletter has published an updated listing of the mileage tally as of the prior month. As the list grows bigger and bigger (and that's a good thing), publishing the list in the newsletter may not be the best way to keep all of you up-to-date on your mileage status. The December listing took three-and-a-half pages! We are looking into a couple of different methods for members to keep track of their own miles. As these ideas become reality, they will be announced. However, it will *always* be the responsibility of all members to ensure they sign the official mileage sign-in sheet.

So far, so good. Go on runs, have fun, collect miles. Okay, what's the reward? For every 500 miles of fun run excitement you enjoy, you will receive a patch you can wear on the sleeve of your jacket. The patches will be in 500's, i.e. 500, 1000, 1500, etc. The first time you earn a mileage patch you will also receive a chevron to wear at the top of your sleeve that says "SDMC Miles." These awards will be given out at monthly meetings as they are earned.

The current accounting goes through November, and was published in the December issue of the newsletter. We have thirty-four members who have achieved the 500 miles award level, twelve who attained the 1000 miles award, and two who exceeded the 1500 miles award plateau (guess who?). Will you be next to

(Continued on page 2)



President's Message (Continued from page 1)

have fun and receive a mileage award?

Only officially-published (i.e. in this newsletter) SAN DIEGO MIATA CLUB or SDMC joint runs will count toward mileage. The newsletter will indicate which runs will be eligible for credit toward the mileage award on the "Upcoming Events" page. This does *not* include impromptu runs.

In summary:

1. Join the SAN DIEGO MIATA CLUB. Only members in good standing on the date of the run who complete the run (in a Miata) will accumulate miles for that run.
2. Go on a designated mileage run. Drivers and passengers (who are SDMC members) accumulate miles independently. Again, in a Miata. You can enjoy the run in an OTM if you want to, but cannot accumulate miles that way.
3. Fill out the official mileage sign-up sheet at the beginning of the run. If you don't sign the sheet, you don't get the miles.
4. Repeat steps 2 and 3 as many times as you can. That's the whole point!
5. When your accumulated miles reach 500, receive your first award, and then every 500 miles afterward.
6. HAVE FUN!

— ELLIOT



PHOTO: DICK CARLSON

## 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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### 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)  
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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

## 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](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



**5<sup>th</sup> Annual Hangover Run**

**Date:** Tuesday, January 1  
**Departure Time:** 1:02 p.m.



**Meeting Place:** Washington Mutual Bank parking lot (no bathrooms)  
 27632 Crown Valley Parkway,  
 Mission Viejo

**Host:** K. ZACK BROADBENT,  
[racerzack@aol.com](mailto:racerzack@aol.com)  
 (714) 381-9666 (mobile)

*This run qualifies toward Mileage Award.*

This year, the Hangover Run will again be an afternoon/early evening drive. Hopefully, this time we'll finish before anyone gets lost in the dark. Our drive will include sweeping vistas of the Pacific Ocean, dramatic views of Lake Elsinore, and steep, hilly driving. Of course, it wouldn't be the Hangover Run without the signature 27% downgrade that everyone loves.

Come prepared to drive with a full tank of gas. Eat lunch and use the restroom *before* the run begins, as this time the food comes *after* the run.

It would be great if we could top the 2001 Hangover Run in attendance (107 cars), and the 2002 version will include SOCALM, SDMC, the SoCal7s RX-7 club and the San Diego RX-7 Club. Yes, this is a "monster run," so come prepared for the occasional several-minute stop along the way for the sweep car to catch the lead. This will be a fun, casual, scenic drive, with the lead car staying at a relaxed pace. If you're hoping to start the new year by testing your suspension or new supercharger, this is NOT the run to do it. After all, this is the "hangover" run—who wants to drive at the limit with a hangover?

**Directions:** Exit the 5 freeway at Crown Valley Parkway. Go east (uphill, towards the Mission Viejo Mall). Turn left at the second light (El Regateo/Medical Center Rd). Turn

left immediately at the stop sign/T. Turn left into the first parking lot (Washington Mutual Bank/OCTFCU).

**Olympic Torch Relay**

**Date:** Tuesday, January 15  
**Time:** 8:06 a.m.



**Place:** Laguna Beach, Pacific Coast Highway and Anita Street.

SDMC member CATHY PHILLIPS has been chosen to carry the Olympic torch as it passes through our area. Cathy was nominated by a group she works with, Canine Companions for Independence, who train assistance dogs for people with disabilities.

Cathy will carry the torch for 1/5 of a mile. Let's all show up and cheer her on!

**Laguna Seca Track Day**

**Date:** Tuesday, January 15

**Place:** Mazda Raceway at Laguna Seca (Monterey, CA)

**Coordinator:** Aaron Tachibana,  
[tach9@pacbell.net](mailto:tach9@pacbell.net), (408) 738-3290



The day begins with a drivers meeting and a lead-and-follow around the track. Instructors are available to ride with you, give you a ride in their cars, or to drive your Miata with you as the passenger. There will be three groups running 20 minute sessions: novice, intermediate, and advanced. Novice and intermediate are limited to passing ONLY in designated straights. Because there are only three run groups (Laguna Seca strictly regulates the number of vehicles on the track at one time), you'll have the opportunity to drive over 100 miles on the track.

You must have a Snell 95 or later helmet, a 4-point (or better) roll bar and have your Miata tech inspected by a state-certified mechanic (such as LARRY DENNSTEDT).

**Cost** is \$325—Although the registration date has passed, there may still be room. Contact Aaron ASAP if you are interested.

**Autocross**

**Dates:** Saturday, January 19  
 Sunday, January 20

**Time:** 9 a.m.

**Place:** Qualcomm Stadium  
 Mission Valley, west lot,  
 SDAD Saturday, practice.  
 Sunday, championship event.



**Monthly Meeting**

**Date:** Thursday, January 24

**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!*

**2002 Las Vegas Getaway**

**Dates:** January 25 - 26

**Place:** Harrah's

**RSVP:** BARI RUSSELL, (949) 588-1531  
 or [barirussell@earthlink.net](mailto:barirussell@earthlink.net)



As you old timers know, it's time to start rolling those coins you have been collecting all year. Yep, those tables and machines are hungry for our money!

Even though the deadline has long since passed, please feel free to still contact me for possible room availability at these awesome rates of Friday at \$60 and Saturday at \$65. As long as there are rooms available this rate will stand. There is always the chance that someone will cancel...but I can't imagine anyone canceling out on this fun-filled weekend.

**Autocross**

**Dates:** Saturday, January 26

**Time:** 9 a.m.

**Place:** Qualcomm Stadium  
 Mission Valley, southeast lot,  
 SCAT, practice.



**Laguna Seca Track Day**

**Date:** Tuesday, February 5

**Place:** Mazda Raceway at Laguna Seca (Monterey, CA)

**Cost:** \$325

See the "Laguna Seca Track Day" on January 15th (listed on page 3) for the details.



**San Diego**

**International Auto Show**

**Date:** February 13-18

**Place:** San Diego Convention Center  
111 W. Harbor Drive, San Diego.

**Contact:** STEF GOULD, [stef@miata.net](mailto:stef@miata.net), (619) 297-4272



SDMC has, once again, been offered the chance to "work" Mazda's exhibit alongside their salesmen at the San Diego International Auto Show. Mazda recognizes our enthusiasm for their products and hopes that some of it will rub off on the general public! Your "job" will be to talk to the public about Mazda, the Miata, and the SAN DIEGO MIATA CLUB. *Free* admission for volunteers (you'll have to pay for your own parking—approx \$4).

Don't delay; if you'd like to help out at Mazda's exhibit please contact Stef Gould with your first, second, and third choice of day/shift.

Shifts will be 6 hours long—Morning (10 a.m. - 4 p.m.) and Evening (4 p.m. - 10 p.m.). On Wednesday, there will be one shift: 3 p.m. - 9 p.m. There will be two shifts per day Thursday thru Sunday. On Monday (President's Day), morning only, as the show will close in the early evening.

**Track Driving Techniques Seminar**

**Date:** Saturday, February 16

**Time:** 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

**Place:** Mazda North America Operations Headquarters

7755 Irvine Center Drive, Irvine, CA

**Event coordinator:** STEF GOULD, [stef@miata.net](mailto:stef@miata.net), (619) 297-4272



This classroom seminar is for members who have driven on a track (or are considering it). Aaron Tachibana will lead the seminar which will be covering apexes, turn in, driving performance techniques, reading the lines, braking, shifting, etc.—All of the things he tries to cover at a Track Day but, because of time constraints, can only skim the surface of at the track. Aaron has been producing Track Days at Laguna Seca, Thunderhill, and Sears Point for the past six years. There is no charge to attend the seminar.

After the seminar you have the option to adjourn to a local restaurant for lunch and continued camaraderie.

**Please RSVP to Stef Gould.** We need an accurate count for seating arrangements at Mazda Corporate.

*Directions:* Exit I-5 at Alton Parkway. Head West (toward the Irvine Spectrum). Turn Right onto Gateway. Turn Right into the Mazda parking lot.

**There's Something Fishy About This Run! II**



**Date:** Sunday, February 24

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

**Meeting Place:** TBA

**Run Leader:** RICH BEST,

(619) 221-1974 or [richbest@webtv.net](mailto:richbest@webtv.net)

Details in the February newsletter.

**Laguna Seca Track Day**

**Date:** Monday, March 25

**Place:** Mazda Raceway at Laguna Seca (Monterey, CA)

**Cost:** \$350

See the "Laguna Seca Track Day" on January 15th (listed on page 3) for the details.



**Danny McKeever's Fast Lane High Performance Driving School**



**Dates:** May 4 - 5

**Place:** Streets of Willow Springs

**Coordinator:** Robert Arance,

(661) 295-8140 x490 or [roberta@uvdi.com](mailto:roberta@uvdi.com).

The first Miata High Performance Driving School of the year is tentatively scheduled for the weekend of May 4th and 5th.

Open to drivers of all skill levels, from the novice who wants to learn how to be a safer driver to weekend racers. You will be grouped according to your comfort level and track experience for maximum safety. Limited to a maximum of 30 drivers, no roll bar required, helmets and driving suits available for use. Teenagers welcome with signed parental consent form. If interested, please contact Robert and get on the reservation list!

More details as they become available. Cost will be approximately \$350 for the 2-day school, or \$175 for one day.

**The Search for Madonna 2002**

**When:** May 4-6

To be a "searcher" you must do the following as soon as possible to ensure that you are able to have the best selection of rooms.

1. Go to the Madonna Inn Web page and make your room selection. [www.madonnainn.com](http://www.madonnainn.com)
2. Call the Madonna Inn and reserve your room. Be sure to say "Miata club" so that you can access the reserved block of rooms. All base rooms (you will be able to figure it out on the Web page) are priced at \$137. This is the 2001 price. They will go up in 2002.
3. Call or e-mail me with your room selection, by room name and number.
4. If you want to upgrade, naturally the room prices go up, but you still will get the 2001 price.
5. Sit back and wait. Anticipation is half the fun. There will be changes to this year's search itinerary. Those of you that have searched before will experience some new twists. (Pun intended)



— MARKY &amp; ED PITTS

With a big birthday coming up, MARKY PITTS knew exactly what she wanted: a new 1990 Mariner Blue Miata (although she had never seen one, except in pictures). Husband ED had shopped around and knew that the going price was a premium of \$1,500 over the MSRP of \$13,400 and that waiting lists were weeks, if not months, long.

So in early January, Ed went out to get on a waiting list and—surprise—the now-defunct Mazda agency in Car Country Carlsbad had not one, but two, gleaming red Miatas in the showroom. They were available for (an unheard-of) test drive and (could it be true?) purchase! Ed figured the test drive could be on the way home, but only if it was the right car.

The right car had to be blue (because Marky said so), and it had to be a base model (because the romance of the car right then was in its being light, simple, sporty, and fun—like the roadsters they only dreamed of owning in their youth). The salesman found the right car in Orange County and made the trade the next day. When Marky and Ed went in to finalize the purchase, the manager took \$400 off the premium to get them to drive the car away that night instead of bringing in a bank check the next day.

Everybody was happy, and when people came from far and wide to celebrate Marky's half-century, the Mariner Blue Miata was angled across the two-car driveway with a bouquet of balloons to greet them. The Mariner Blue was more brilliant than any of the balloons.

And, for the first year, the MARKY P-licensed Miata had a fairly easy life as an ornament, conversation piece, cruiser, and daily driver to Marky's



UCSD job administering bio-research ethics regulations. Whenever she and her colleagues had to make a trip off campus, everybody wanted to ride with Marky.

While cruising, the Miata drew stares and comments. It was like walking a puppy in the park. White Miatas and other blue ones would wave or “blink” their headlight covers as they passed (red ones were usually too cool to show they noticed).

But the mettle (and even the metal) of the MARKY P Miata was soon to be tested. It all started because the Miata's world-class handling made the family sedan (a Corolla) feel like a marshmallow. So Ed swapped out just about all the Corolla suspension parts that were swappable and, when he wanted to test his handiwork, discovered the existence of the San Diego Autocross Association.

Ed scouted the event and was convinced (and convincing) enough that Marky and he bought helmets and

showed up at the Jack Murphy Stadium parking lot for a practice day in April 1991. The SDAA (now Solo II Committee of the San Diego Region of SCCA) was a group of really nice people. Ed got help with driving techniques for his Corolla, but Marky was mobbed with attention from a group of young, national-class drivers, eager to teach, ride, demo-drive, or just watch and kibitz about the car which was still a scarce breed at autocross events.

They were hooked. Marky was amazed at what her Miata could do, and the social atmosphere with all different kinds of people with one challenging hobby in common was great fun. Of course, as happens with hobbies, one thing led to another. First the Miata got a set of race tires. Then it was a stabilizer bar, adjustable shocks, 2-inch exhaust, limited-slip differential, competition lap belt and even a custom tire-and-tool trailer Ed

*(Continued on page 6)*



built that carried eight wheels at a time.

With the blue Miata in full SCCA-stock competitive form, Ed retired the Corolla and became Marky's co-driver. Still, "everybody" wanted to drive it, and just about everybody did. Marky shared the car with other co-drivers on a regular basis and a lot of them showed the car could be driven much faster than its owners did. In fact Rob Faulkner piloted the car in the 1994 Valvoline Pro Solo event in San Diego and won the overall shoot-out against all classes of cars at the end of the two-day event. Marky's only instruction to him was to move away from her car when he sprayed the champagne.

Marky managed to pick up first place trophies for annual points in the C Stock Ladies class in 1993 and 1994 (Ed's seventh-place trophies are dwarfed on their hallway bookshelves). Ed's consolation is that he won the design contest, creating the Solo II SCCA San Diego logo that is currently in use.

Marky also took first-place trophies for both days of the ladies stock indexed class runs at the Lone Pine Time Trials on the old Manzanar airfield in 1993. Ed learned why it's important to keep your mouth closed when spinning off-line at 60 mph in an open car when the pavement is covered with desert-wind-blown gravel.

The Miata was as great on the higher-speed course as it was in autocross, and was a trusty hauler to and from the races. It topped a High Sierra pass of more than 10,000 feet as though it did not have a trailer with eight tires, tools, and a week's travel luggage in tow; the temperature gauge looked like it was "painted" at normal.

Life got too busy for autocross in 1995 with a new house in the back side of Oceanside (behind Jeffreys Ranch off Route 76), a backyard to

design and build, and increasing work and travel demands. Marky's lobbying, training, and organizing activities related to UCSD took her on as many as 10 trips a year as far as the East Coast (getting to see the grandkids was a bonus) and Hawaii. Ed's work as a business-magazine publisher kept up its demands on his time as well. It wasn't until last fall that Ed got back to autocrossing with a new Miata and



their son-in-law Chuck Dow as co-pilot and pit crew. Marky's still looking for a window in her schedule that matches an autocross date.

In spite of the time crunch, Marky and Ed opened a new Miata chapter in their lives in 2001. You will now see the MARKY P plate on an emerald mica 2001 LS (running daily between Oceanside and La Jolla), and Ed took the RACE-MX5 plate off the tire trailer to put on his red 2001 LS. Both cars have the 6-speed transmission and all the available luxury appointments. The only difference is that Marky's has ABS, Ed's does not (which is his one concession to sports-car purity over modern comforts).

The 2001 MARKY P Miata is already proving its strength. It was rear-ended on I-5 in early December by a good-sized Chevy, and both airbags deployed on impact. The damage to the Miata was strictly confined to the

bumper, its bracket and trim, and Marky was fine. With about \$1,000 and some expert painting at Rancho Auto Body, the emerald Miata should be returned to its glory.

But, does the story of Marky's 1990 Mariner Blue Miata end here? No, it does not. It, and its unique tire trailer, have also begun a new chapter under the ownership of Steve Coe, who was leading the C Stock autocross class the last time we saw the points. Steve said the car, with more than 175,000 miles, is capable of winning on any day, being actually stronger than the newer Miata he was sharing at the beginning of the season that had less than half that mileage.

Marky and Ed believe that the regular use of fully synthetic oil, changed every 3,000 miles, is what has kept the little engine going, and going, and going, on to new autocross victories. Feed it well, run it hard, and your Miata will take care of you — and its next owner as well.

— ED PITTS

*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](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?

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](mailto:vicky@teamvoodoo.com).



**New Members!**

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

ANDY DEVENDORF & JENNIFER BRUCE

Oceanside

1999 White Touring

SCOTT & CHRIS GRAVES

Poway

1990 Mariner Blue A

JAMES GRUNDY

San Diego

1994 White C

PATRICK O'SULLIVAN

Oceanside

1999 Silver PEP

JAMES & PEGGY SANDERS

Temecula

1995 Red PEP

DYANNA & LES SMITH

San Diego

1993 LE (Black)

BRUCE & LYNNE STANLEY

San Diego

1995 White

**Renewing Members**

(since last newsletter):

DAVE & LOIS MARTIN

JON BRAISTED

JOSEPH & GISELLE GIGLIELLO

RICK & DEBORAH GREEN

ANNE C. HENRY

KEN & MARQUITA KEACH

KEVIN LARUE

DAVID & BETH LEVY

DAVID & LEANNE LYNN

GREG & CHRIS MAISER

MICHAEL MORGAN

MICHAEL & SUSAN PASTERKIEWICZ

JEFF & KIM PENTA

RICHARD RANSBURG

& ELIZABETH DOUGLASS

BOBBY RUSSELL

MIKE & ANDI SCHWARTZ

BENGT SPETSMARK

ROBERT & DARLINE VALENTINE

BOB & KATHY WELTY

BRANDT & JANICE ZIEGLER

**Membership Statistics**

As of December 22, 2001, there are 356 memberships (143 single, 213 dual) for a total of 569 members. We have 18 multi-Miata memberships, 17 double and 1 *triple* Miata owners!

Memberships by Miata Color:

98	Red
50	White
37	Black
33	Silver
32	Emerald Green
15	Montego Blue
12	BRG
11	Sapphire Blue
10	Mariner Blue
10	Yellow
9	Marina Green
9	Twilight Blue
8	Mahogany
8	Starlight Blue
7	Crystal Blue
7	Laguna Blue
5	Merlot
2	Evolution Orange
2	Midnight Blue
1	Eggplant (custom)
1	Teal (custom)
8	Unreported*

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

**Calling All Candidates!**

We will be publishing biographical profiles in the April newsletter for candidates seeking elected office at the SAN DIEGO MIATA CLUB annual meeting in April. *The date of the meeting had not been set at the time of publication.* If you are interested in being considered for election, you are encouraged to submit a short (200-300 word) biographical profile. Include your name and a brief description of your qualifications, skills, desires, or goals as a member of the executive board.

This is an opportunity for potential nominees to let club members know about their desire to serve the membership. However, a biographical profile is not a requirement for nomination and election at the annual meeting.

Please send your profiles to the club post office box, or e-mail them directly to the editor at

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

Only profiles received by March 15 will be included in the April edition of the newsletter.

—EDITOR





PHOTO: RICH BEST



December 1 - Saturday  
**SDMC Holiday Party**  
San Diego Automotive Museum



PHOTO: RICH BEST



PHOTO: RICH BEST



PHOTO: RICH BEST



PHOTO: RICH BEST



PHOTO: RICH BEST



PHOTO: MARK BOOTH



PHOTO: RICH BEST



PHOTO: RICH BEST







PHOTO: RICH BEST

The Holiday Hat Contest provided some of the more memorable events of the evening.

Left— The lovely Laurie Waid took top honors in the women’s hat category.

Right— Dee and Wayne Johnson displayed their holiday spirit. The hats say “Have a EO Holiday.” EO=Evolution Orange.



PHOTO: RICH BEST

Below— The contestants for the Holiday Hat Contest line-up. Mark Booth conducted the contest, which was decided by audience applause.



PHOTO: ART HAMILTON



PHOTO: MARK BOOTH

Above— Eunice Bauman and her Zoom-Zoom hat, replete with hanging ornaments.

Below— Veronica Didier had an eclectic approach to her hat.



PHOTO: MARK BOOTH



PHOTO: RICH BEST

Above— Voodoo Bob Krueger and the mighty voodoo chicken hat.



PHOTO: RICH BEST

And the winner is... Dustin Lewis!



### December 9, 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	ED PITTS	Miata	7th
BS	JOHN HILTON	Miata	9th
CSP	RON CHAPMAN	Honda CRX	2nd
CSP	MARA CALER	Honda CRX	4th
IS2	ROBERT HOLLAND	Miata	1st
IS2	RAINER MUELLER	Miata	3rd
IS2	MICHAEL HEINITZ	Miata	4th
IS2	STEVE WAID	Miata	5th
IS2	JD LIMA	Miata	7th
IS2	JIM BROKAW	Miata	10th
SM	HOWARD KUZMINSKI	Miata	6th
SM	BRIAN GOODWIN	Miata	8th
Novice	FEDERICO ABAD	Miata	11th
Novice	ANDREW DEVENDORF	Miata	17th
Novice	MATTHEW TANS	Miata	19th
Novice	DENNIS DIDIER	Miata	22nd
Novice	VERONICA DIDIER	Miata	23rd

### What is Snell?

At the track or the autocross, one of the requirements is that you wear a helmet. The specifications for that helmet usually indicate a Snell rating. Just what is Snell?

William "Pete" Snell was an amateur auto racer. He died of massive head injuries suffered in a racing accident in 1956 when his then "state-of-the-art" helmet failed to protect him. As a memorial to Pete, a group of scientists, physicians, racing colleagues, and friends teamed together in a dedicated effort to promote research, education, testing, and development of standards geared to improve the effectiveness of automotive racing helmets. Through their work, the Snell Memorial Foundation was established in 1957.

### AUTOCROSS AT THE "Q"



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

- Saturday, January 19.....practice
- Sunday, January 20.....championship
- Saturday, January 26.....practice
- Saturday, February 9.....practice
- Sunday, February 10.....championship
- Saturday, March 2.....practice
- Sunday, March 3.....championship
- Saturday, March 9.....practice
- Sunday, March 10.....championship
- Friday, March 15.....National Tour
- Saturday, March 16..... " "
- Sunday, March 17..... " "
- Sunday, March 31.....championship

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 Members "Take Over" SDAD

At the November 28, 2001 meeting of the San Diego ASEBRING\* Drivers (SDAD) membership, three SAN DIEGO MIATA CLUB members were elected to the board of directors. SDAD is one of the four clubs that host the Solo2 events at Qualcomm stadium.

Elected to the SDAD board were:

ROBERT "JT" HOLLAND as president, BARBARA SHEV as vice president, and RAINER MUELLER as secretary.

CONGRATULATIONS!

\*ASEBRING—All Speed Events But Racing, Including Gymkhanas





December 16 - Sunday  
**Borrego Springs "Pie" Run**

The sun rose on a bright and blue sky as 25 Miatas and their enthusiastic occupants met at North County Fair, ooh'd and aaah'd the new Vivid Yellow 2002 owned by DENNIS and MARYANNE GARON, and headed east to meet the rest of the group forming at the Sizzler Restaurant in Ramona.



PHOTO: CHARLENE & JIM BROKAW

The roads were smooth and dry as we first took Highland Valley Road to Bandy Canyon and then San Pasquel, Route 78 to Ramona, and joined another group of happy, smiling, SDMC members decked out in vari-



PHOTO: ED & MICHELLE LANGMAD

ous holiday dress. JACK DiLUSTRO conducted one of his many "drivers meetings," giving detailed instructions that were followed by no one. SUE DiLUSTRO pointed up to the sky when asked which way was north. Everyone laughed and then suddenly realized they best pay closer attention to their run directions.

Off went the 35 Miatas as we wound our way over Old Julian Highway and points north and east toward

Borrego Springs. As we crested Route 22, the Salton Sea was visible in all its glory off in the distance. The number of twists and turns were too many to count as we wound down the mountain and settled into Borrego Springs for lunch at a variety of restaurants.



PHOTO: ED & MICHELLE LANGMAD

Some of us had Mexican, some traditional burgers and fries, others opted for the deli, and still more enjoyed selections at the family restaurants. Some just walked through the town mall and did a bit of window shopping. We also were joined in Borrego Springs by ROZ and GARY SCOTT as well as MARIANNE and RAINER MUELLER. People will travel wide and far to join up with this group.

We then queued up at Christmas Circle for the next portion of the run back up Banner Grade toward the infamous Wynola Road, with its twists and turns framed by trees and bushes



PHOTO: CHARLENE & JIM BROKAW



PHOTO: ED & MICHELLE LANGMAD

in full Fall colors. All roads point toward Dudley's Bakery/Julian Pie Shop in Santa Ysabel, where we were able to sample cookies and cider at Dudley's and get a glimpse of Santa, with a real white beard, before he headed back to the North Pole (maybe *that's* why Sue was pointing up in Ramona).

We weren't done yet as we headed west via Old Julian Highway and Highland Valley Road back to I-15 for the official end of the run. The Borrego Springs Pie Run was officially clocked at 141 great miles, all qualifying for the Mileage Awards program. Fifty-three participants signed the official mileage log. Some did not but probably wished they had, as this run was the precursor of many more events to take place in 2002.

— JACK DiLUSTRO



PHOTO: CHARLENE & JIM BROKAW

**Above and Below— A good chance to compare the new 2002 Vivid Yellow and the 1992 Sunburst Yellow.**



PHOTO: CHARLENE & JIM BROKAW





December 2 - Sunday  
**San Marcos Holiday  
 Parade**

**A** last minute request by the Kiwanis of San Marcos for our participation in their 6th annual Holiday Parade caused quite a scramble,

but those SDMC members who participated enjoyed the experience. As always, the gaily decorated Miatas carried more than their share of ever-smiling VIPS the length of the parade route. A great start to the holiday season.



PHOTO: EUNICE BAUMAN



PHOTO: ART HAMILTON



PHOTO: ART HAMILTON

**UPCOMING NATIONAL  
 AND REGIONAL EVENTS**

**Lone Star Miata  
 Club's Miata Madness  
 2002**



**When:** March 8th - 10th

**Where:** Westin Beachwood hotel, located across the road from Texas Motor Speedway (TMS) in Fort Worth, Texas.

**Accommodations:** \$65 per night at the beautiful, new, Westin Beechwood hotel.

Space is very limited, especially for the popular hot laps that will take place on the exciting new road course inside Texas Motor Speedway. Only the first 50 hot laps registration forms received (based on postmark date) will be eligible for participation! We will have a fun filled weekend with several Miata events for all to enjoy. Funcannas, tours, pit stop, show & shine are but a few of the planned events. There are also some fabulous prizes to be won. Visit the Miata Madness 2002 Web site for event & hot lap registration forms.

<http://www.lonestarmiata.net/MM/index.html>

**San Joaquin Valley  
 Miata Club's 8th  
 Annual Saint  
 Patrick's Day Poker Run**



**When:** Saturday, March 16

**Where:** Old Town Clovis, CA

**Cost:** \$45 per car - includes:

- Participation in Poker Run
- Lunch for Two
- Event T-Shirt (1)

**Accommodations:**

Best Western Clovis Cole  
 415 Clovis Avenue  
 Clovis, Ca 93612  
 (559) 299-1547

\$75 - Single or double occupancy  
 Mention Miata Event for the discounted price

Block of rooms held until 2-15-01

**Contact:** Scott or Nancy Moore  
 (559) 692-2199 or [nmoore@sierratel.com](mailto:nmoore@sierratel.com)



Currently the longest running “active” annual event in California. This year’s 8th annual SJVMC Poker Run will once again be held in Old Town Clovis, CA.

If you have attended this event in the past you know how much fun it is. If this is your first time attending this event you won’t be disappointed. The Poker Run is a fun-filled relaxed event that everyone will enjoy. What better way to see the Sierras of Central California but in a Miata.

### Okanagan Valley Miata Club Topless Sun Run

**When:** May 24 – 26

**Where:** Kelowna, British Columbia  
This will be the 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Topless Sun Run. A tentative schedule of the following events:

- Friday night—East Kelowna tour and a wine & cheese reception.
- Saturday—Summerland Tour & Poker Run with a Great Train Robbery & Barbeque Lunch on the Kettle Valley Steam Train [www.kettlevalleyrail.org](http://www.kettlevalleyrail.org) and a buffet dinner & mingle to close the day.
- Sunday—Possibly an Autocross or a winery tour.

Make your plans early as this weekend will book up quickly. There will be a cut off of 210 people for Saturday’s Great train Robbery & Barbeque on the Kettle valley Steam Train.

**Accommodations:** We will be using the Sandman Hotel again this year at the same rate of \$85 per night and we have blocked 90 rooms until April 1. Please call the Sandman Hotel at (888) 526-1988 or (250) 860-6409 to reserve your room. Please say you are with the Miata Sun Run.

We will require that event fees be pre-paid by check, in Canadian Funds, before April 1.

**Contacts:** Matt Scaife at

[miata\\_matt@hotmail.com](mailto:miata_matt@hotmail.com) or

Shelly, [service@kelowanamotors.com](mailto:service@kelowanamotors.com).

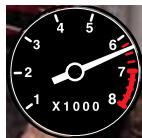


December 8 - Saturday  
**Third Annual Victorian Christmas Tea**

**A**round twenty ladies joined MARY ANN WALLNER for the third rendition of her Victorian Christmas Tea in Julian. It looks as though everyone had fun.



PHOTOS: ELINCE BAUMAN



December 20 - Thursday  
**Monthly Meeting**



PHOTO: BARB SHEV

**A** guest speaker was on hand for the regular monthly membership meeting in December. SDMC member BOB HALL attended his first monthly meeting (since he resides in Australia, he doesn’t get to many) and spoke at length about the beginnings of the Miata.

Generally regarded as the “Father of the Miata,” Bob spoke about the design, engineering, and marketing decisions that went into creating the Miata. The underlying principles of a light weight, inexpensive, two-seat

roadster that most anyone could afford and enjoy.



PHOTO: MARK BOOTH





December 15 - Saturday  
Holidays Tech Day

Why have a Tech Day during the holidays, when people are busy with so many other activities? And who would *want* to host a tech day during the holidays, when people are busy with so many other activities? The answer is simple. *I* would because I wanted to get some new adjustable shocks installed on my Miata and had never done a shock installation before. Besides, I wasn't sure I had all of the necessary tools.

The results were remarkable. I now have four new Koni adjustable shocks...a new windshield...and three new chassis braces. Three other members had windshields installed...dents were removed...white gauge faces were installed..."baby teeth" were removed from at least five cars...and an estimated 60 people participated in one way or another, if only by eating and socializing. Miatas lined



David Drive and neighbors came by to see what was going on.

The success of a participatory day like December 15<sup>th</sup> relies on the active participants. At one time or another the following people were under and around my car participating in the installs. ELLIOT SHEV, ANTHONY WILDE, JIM BROKAW, JT HOLLAND, MIKE FAIRCLOTH, TED KESSLER, and MIKE HEINITZ. I could easily have overlooked someone because of all of the activity. DAVE MARTIN helped with the install of the white gauge faces, HOWARD KUZMINSKI

and RAINER MUELLER helped remove "baby teeth," and BRIAN GOODWIN brought a new exhaust that found its way onto MARK BOOTH'S new Miata.



By mentioning so many, I know I have overlooked some that participated in helping. But one I refuse to overlook is the hostess for the event. LAURIE WAID provided snacks, hot dogs, and chili all day long. There was almost as much activity in the kitchen as there was in the garage and driveway.



This event was so successful that we already have plans for two more tech days in the next six months. Just watch for the details. Thanks to all for making the holidays the perfect time for a tech day.

— STEVE WAID



## Smog Check Your Car Lately?

I would like to share with you my recent experience getting the "Kingfish" smogged. Like all of us with cars over 5 years old, you need to have a smog check to register the car.

This year, I was required to take my 1994, slightly modified, Miata to a TEST ONLY shop. As I have smogged the Kingfish three times before and have had a car tested at a test only station, I thought nothing of it.

(Continued on page 15)



PHOTOS: MARK BOOTH



(A TEST ONLY station is designated by the State to only do smog inspection and not provide any repair service. Maybe this should be an unbiased test. Who knows?) So, the day before, I installed my brand new Jackson Racing catalytic converter that I only use for smog testing. Much to my amazement, the Kingfish failed its test. It seems that the hydrocarbon (HC) level was too high; not by much, but still too high to pass. All the other numbers were very good.

The car had the following engine modifications: Jackson Racing Cold Air Induction (CAI), Jackson Racing header, Jackson Racing high flow cat; all of which are California Air Resource Board (CARB) approved. So, if the car passed two years ago with similar numbers, why is it failing now? Good question!

Being a fairly decent mechanic, but not knowing what I might have overlooked, I sought the advice of some very well respected mechanics. I paid for their time, and they told me that all looks good. One of the mechanics, at the smog shop that was testing the car, first advised to install all the stock parts. I said, "Why? It's all legal stuff." Back to ground zero, try other parts first and keep looking.

I changed the cat three times. I changed the oxygen (O<sub>2</sub>) sensor twice. I

still failed. I was at Cush Mazda buying some gaskets for the fuel injectors as I was on my way to have them checked by a specialist. I spoke to one of the smog technicians there. After going through the data with him, he also felt the car was running fine and I should put all the stock parts back on. Second time a smog tech said to go stock. Hmmm...

I installed the stock intake and cat. Almost passed the test, but still failed. I then installed the stock header and the car passed with flying colors. Very strange, I say. Here's my analogy and more will be forthcoming as I unravel this mystery.

The "Great State" of California has decided to change the smog numbers three times in 2001, and it wasn't to make it easier to pass. So, a car that would have passed two months ago could fail now. Not only that, but if you live outside of the San Diego, LA, or San Francisco area, you don't have to deal with this issue. You see, they don't even use the dyno to test your car, they use the old static test (maybe I'll move to Valley Center).

As I said, that car passed two years ago using the same dyno test. I checked the numbers from my old test sheet and they are very similar to the current ones, passing based on the older requirements.

What has changed is the standard. A car that was made in 1994 to run at a certain output of "stuff" has been asked to run better without any change to it by the factory. Sounds like Clinton's retroactive tax increase of 1993!

What is interesting is that the car runs very, very clean with the stock parts installed. Even though the Jackson parts are CARB approved, they were tested at the older state specifications in force at the time they were certified. They are, *were*, good enough to pass, but still not as clean running as the stock parts. Now that the numbers have been lowered, they are not compliant. The only conclusion I can come to at this point is that the Jackson header has the O<sub>2</sub> sensor in a position that only measures gas from two cylinders, in this case cylinders 2 and 3. The stock header has the O<sub>2</sub> sensor in a position that measures gas from all four cylinders. This would provide "better" information back to the computer. Does the CAI affect the outcome? I don't know. What is the solution? I don't know. Does the Kingfish run sluggish now? Yes. Is all the low end torque gone? Yes.

More to come on this issue as I open discussions with Moss Motors and Jackson Racing.

— ELLIOT SHEV

## 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:** Closeout on Miata wrapping paper. \$3 per roll.

Geri, [geris-bazaar@home.com](mailto:geris-bazaar@home.com), (760) 787-0624

**For Sale:** Trunk lid lift kits - fits M1s(90-97). Factory blowout! \$20 each for San Diego folks that will pick-up or meet me, \$30 each to ship in US. No tax. Very simple installation! Lifts trunk lid automatically when the lever or key are used! Especially great for those with wings or luggage racks!

David, (760) 476-8754 [david.levy@airprime.com](mailto:david.levy@airprime.com)

**For Sale:** 1996 White Miata, black interior. Great condition with just over 50K miles. AM/FM/CASS. Asking \$7200.

Larry or Vicky, (619) 303-8996.

**For Sale:** Direct from the "Best of the Best of the Bunch 2001" show car. The red 2000 Miata is being brought back to stock and all

the aftermarket goodies are for sale at half of the original price. Remaining items for sale are: Moss Motors hard boot, JR strut brace, JR Autometer gauges, chrome side markers, Moretti headlights, Moretti taillights, chrome style bar, custom grille, custom hood, Mazdaspeed four-piece body kit, rear strut. Call for all the details.

Jack, (909) 236-8909

**For Sale:** 2000 Itasca Sundancer motorhome. 30 foot, C-Class, E-450 Triton V10, queen island bed, tan interior, Onan generator, slide-out, fully equipped, RV cover, many, many extras. Includes campground membership worth \$3000. Excellent condition, 4800 miles, MUST SACRIFICE. \$63,000.

Sal (760) 787-0624 or [wood-dust@home.com](mailto:wood-dust@home.com)

**Wanted:** Set of 4 16-inch stock wheels for 2001 Miata LS.

Ed, (760) 414-1248 or [edpitts@yahoo.com](mailto:edpitts@yahoo.com)

**For Sale:** Set of Eibach springs, only 1000 miles of use, \$250. 1999 federal exhaust manifold (good for 6 hp), \$370. Stock cat-back exhaust system for 1.6 and 1.8 Miatas.

Three sets of stock springs. Stock sway bars. Complete 1.6 engine with 80k miles. Damaged crank keyway but excellent compression. Five speed transmission for case or parts.

Larry, (619) 284-4911 or

[larrydennstedt@hotmail.com](mailto:larrydennstedt@hotmail.com)

**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, [kmiaacat@aol.com](mailto:kmiaacat@aol.com) or (949) 644-1327

**For Sale:** 1990 1.6-liter engine. This engine has 154K miles on it but runs well, \$250. Also misc. parts from same car (license plate surround, etc.). Also have 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)

