

# SAN DIEGO MIATA CLUB NEWS



NOVEMBER 2002

VOLUME 7 NUMBER 11

## UPCOMING EVENTS



November 8 - 10  
3rd Bi-Annual Hearst  
Castle/San Simeon Run



November 9 - Saturday  
Slots of Fun Run II



November 10 - Sunday  
Autocross at the "Q"



November 11 - Monday  
Veterans Day Parade



November 21 - Thursday  
Monthly Meeting  
A week early due to Thanksgiving



November 30 - Saturday  
Autocross at the "Q"



December 1-2  
Thunderhill Track Day and  
Women's Track School



Friday - December 13  
SDMC Holiday Party  
*\*Note NEW Date!*



May 3 - 5, 2003  
Search For Madonna 2003

## VICE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

### To Race, or Not to Race...That is The Question

I have been thinking recently about all the activities that we do as a car club and one of the standout items in my mind is racing/competition. We have an extremely large variety of activities but I think that the competition aspect really personifies what a car club is all about. Sure many of us really like to watch F1, CART, and even NASCAR (turn left, turn left, crash, turn left) but being a spectator is not what it's all about in a car club. I have to say that most of us really enjoy a drive on twisty roads at a spirited (but legal) pace. The Miata inspires confidence and a feeling of control and, yes, power. Not the neck-snapping power of big-block Detroit iron, but the feeling of power you get when you know you are the master of the machine. The Miata is so forgiving and so capable of being driven close to the limit that even an average driver is quite capable of experiencing this power rush. It's one of those cases of "If I have to explain it, you wouldn't understand." Fortunately for us Miata drivers, it doesn't have to be explained, only enjoyed.

So what does this have to do with racing? Well it's said that racing improves the breed. This is applicable to both the car and the driver. If we have better control of and feel for the car we can enjoy our drives much more. First off we need to take a look at why we race. The fact of the matter is it gets right down to some very individual reasons. Most of us will say we race for FUN. Well certainly most of the Miata folks do but there are also a lot of other reasons. Of course, in professional racing the prime motivation is money. There are a few other reasons professionals race besides money. Well, actually one other main reason, yes, you guessed, it's ego. Now, we all have egos but apparently some folks have larger egos than others. I think that professional racers have very large egos. It's a necessary factor in winning a race where your life is on the line. The professional racing world is very different from the sportsman racing (trophy) world. Sportsman racing can be a stepping stone to getting involved with professional racing or a means unto itself. A really big reason we race/compete with Miatas is for self improvement. It is really very satisfying to learn the skills that enable you to feel the connection with your Miata. In simple terms one becomes so attuned to the handling and capabilities of the car and their own abilities that they know exactly how the car will react to their inputs.

In our Miata world wheel-to-wheel racing is actually quite rare. There are currently two people (and a third is setting up a car) in the club that really race Miatas in wheel-to-wheel competition. That, of course, is SPEC Miata. The

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## Vice President's Message (Continued from page 1)

problem is you have to strip your car down and meet all kinds of rules to compete. This requires a lot of devotion and also a fair-sized bank roll.

We do have a goodly number of folks who really enjoy going to track days, but those are actually controlled schools and we are not really racing each other. Track days are not a bad thing, in fact they are an absolute blast with minimal risk to life and Miata. You can learn a great deal and have a lot of fun doing it. The nice thing is you can pretty much have a stock Miata. Most tracks require a roll bar, but there are a few tracks (Streets of Willow) that are small enough and slow enough that the requirement is dropped. Wear and tear on your Miata is moderate (especially brakes and tires) but when you consider only doing 2 or 3 track days a year it becomes quite acceptable.

The last form of racing is what we call autocross. As most of you know, autocross is a timed event held on a large (fairly) flat area. Accidents are rare and car wear and tear is minimal. Of course you do eat up tires over time but nowhere near the wear rates at an actual race track. If you consider that the average time you are on course is about 60 seconds (for 3 laps, about 3 minutes total) you can see the wear exposure is minimal.

Miatas are perfect for autocrossing. They are perfectly balanced front to rear (weight distribution) and handle...well you know how they handle. On the tighter autocross courses the times between showroom stock Miatas and showroom stock Corvettes get extremely close. This just goes to show the extremely fine handling that the Miatas produce. And in case you aren't aware, the Corvette is the best performance bang (in its price range) for the buck next to the Miata. But the real difference between the two is that the Miata is just plain more fun

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## 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!**

### NEWSLETTER TEAM

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If you have recently been to the SAN DIEGO MIATA CLUB web site ([www.sandiegomiataclub.org](http://www.sandiegomiataclub.org)), you probably have noticed a new banner advertising SERIOUS AUTO. This new program is called the Serious Auto Affiliate Program. When a club member (or whoever) clicks through that link and buys something, SDMC gets a 3% commission on the purchase. The Board felt this is a win-win situation for the club in that it costs us absolutely nothing and we may be able to gain some revenue from the transactions. The Serious Auto Affiliate program is successfully being used by many other Miata clubs around the country. So, if you are planning to purchase something from SERIOUS, please click through the SDMC web

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### Executive Board

#### President

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

## 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



## UPCOMING EVENTS FOR THE MONTH OF NOVEMBER

**3<sup>rd</sup> Bi-Annual Hearst Castle/San Simeon Run**



**Dates:** November 8 – 10

**Meeting Time** Drivers Meeting 8:30 a.m.—**sharp**

**Departure Time:** 9 a.m.—**sharp**

**Meeting Place:** Madonna Inn Parking Lot, San Luis Obispo, CA

**Contacts:** BARI RUSSELL,

[barirussell@earthlink.net](mailto:barirussell@earthlink.net)

(949) 588-1531 or (714) 856-9890

BILL HYDE, [wnhyde@earthlink.net](mailto:wnhyde@earthlink.net)

(714) 525-5831 or (714) 225-1319

Please contact Bari Russell when you have made your reservations or if you have any problems.



**Slots of Fun Run II**

**Date:** Saturday, November 9

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

**Meeting Time:** Arrive early to eat! drivers meeting at 8:45 a.m., first car out at 9 a.m.

**Run Leaders:** NICK & SHARON PONCE, (760) 743-6665 or [CNickRun@aol.com](mailto:CNickRun@aol.com)

*This run qualifies toward Mileage Award*

This year there will be a new route. We'll travel some of our favorite north county roads and try our luck at five casinos. Two of the casinos are new, the Vegas style Harrah's and Pechanga. We'll leave at 9 a.m., then after 80+ miles of twisty roads and spending some time at each casino we'll finish the run at Casino Pauma where we can eat!



**Autocross**

**Dates:** Sunday, November 10

**Time:** 9 a.m.

**Place:** Qualcomm Stadium

Mission Valley, west lot.

DCCSD championship.

**Veterans Day Parade**

**Date:** Monday, November 11

**Time:** 11 a.m.

**SDMC Coordinator:** SCOTT LANGHOFF

[slanghoff@cox.net](mailto:slanghoff@cox.net)



Home: (619) 470-7860

Office: (619) 400-5323

Cell: (619) 884-5917

FRS Radio: Channel 7, no CTC,

Call sign "Scott"

With a theme of "Let Us Not Forget!", the 2002 edition of the San Diego Veterans Day Parade will be held on Harbor Drive from Grape Street to Seaport Village. The parade is developing into a major event, with numerous floats and rolling displays, military vehicles, marching bands, and military and veterans units. We will be honoring the sacrifices made by our veterans, past and present.

As always, there will be dignitaries, which is where the SAN DIEGO MIATA CLUB comes in! This is a perfect venue for us to demonstrate our community spirit and advertise the club! The club has contributed significantly to the success of the parade over the past few years, and come to the parade's rescue in the 11<sup>th</sup> hour of the 11<sup>th</sup> day of the 11<sup>th</sup> month in the past. We have several prominent dignitaries slated for this year's parade, ranging from highly decorated veterans, to former prisoners of war and Medal of Honor recipients.

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). Placards will be provided for the dignitaries, you are encouraged to decorate your car in patriotic themes if you desire. All participants will run in the parade, even if we run out of dignitaries!

Staging begins at 8:30 a.m. Directions to the check-in point on the corner of Ash Street and Harbor Drive.

*I-5 from the north:* take Pacific Highway offramp, continue south on Pacific Highway to Ash Street (just past back side of County Administration Building on your right), right on Ash Street (west) one block to Harbor

Drive (check-in point).

*I-5 from the south:* take the "Cruise Ship Terminal/Airport" exit, Hawthorne, west on Hawthorne to Pacific Highway, left (south) on Pacific Highway to Ash Street (just past back side of County Administration building on your right), right on Ash Street (west) one block to Harbor Drive (check-in point).

Vehicles will be staging northbound on Harbor Drive just off the southwest corner of the County Administration Building.

\*Email or call Scott to register to participate in this event.

**Monthly Meeting**

A week early due to Thanksgiving

**Date:** Thursday, November 21

**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!*

**Autocross**

**Dates:** Saturday, November 30

**Time:** 9 a.m.

**Place:** Qualcomm Stadium



Mission Valley, west lot.  
SDAD championship.

If you want to earn the always desirable 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 together, then the magnetics are earned.

Contact STEVE WAID, events coordinator at [events@sandiegomiataclub.org](mailto:events@sandiegomiataclub.org).



## FUTURE EVENTS

**Thunderhill Track Day and Women's Track School**  
**Dates:** December 1-2  
**Place:** Thunderhill, Willows, CA\*  
**Contact:** Aaron Tachibana,  
[tach9@attbi.com](mailto:tach9@attbi.com)



**Cost:** \$390 for the two days.

This will be the first time that Aaron has organized a Women's Track School as a part of a track day. One of the usual designated sessions will be for women participants only. Special guest instructor for the women only group will be Peggy Hale...as well as a cast of great instructors, including Rick Weldon.

This is a two day event...so there will be plenty of time to get instruction and lots of track time! We will be running the full 3.2 mile course with maximum track time during the two days! Included in the cost is a catered BBQ by MO's BBQ—they are awesome! We'll also be raffling off two (2) sets of Toyo tires and a host of really cool stuff, like a performance brake kit from MPCA, Toyo shirts, bags and hats, Royal Purple oil, a helmet and more!

If you'd like to participate, please send Aaron an e-mail and he'll return your confirmation, or sign-up and pay online at [www.m-pca.com](http://www.m-pca.com). This track event is space limited—first come, first served. There are only a few places left!

\* Thunderhill is located just off Interstate 5, about an hour north of Sacramento.

### San Diego Miata Club Holiday Party

**Date:** Friday, December 13

**Time:** Appetizers @ 6:30 p.m.

Dinner @ 7:30 p.m.

**Location:** San Vicente Inn (San Diego Country Estates), 24157 San Vicente Road, Ramona, CA 92065

**Hosts:** MIKE & ROBIN FAIRCLOTH, (760) 789-5171 or [hawkinlady@aol.com](mailto:hawkinlady@aol.com)



## Search for Madonna 2003

**Dates:** May 3-5, 2003  
**Place:** The Madonna Inn  
 San Luis Obispo, CA  
**Coordinator:** STEVE WAID,  
 (760) 432-0727 or [said@cox.net](mailto:said@cox.net)



The block of rooms is reserved, and the banquet room is set.

In the Sunday, August 4th issue of the San Diego Union-Tribune there was a nice article in the Travel Section, page D12, entitled "In the pink at the Madonna Inn." A full page article with color pictures describes the "majesty" of Alex and Phyllis' masterpiece. Take a look.

It is not too early to select and reserve your room for next year's search. Go to [www.madonnainn.com](http://www.madonnainn.com) and view the 109 rooms. Call the Inn and reserve mentioning the Miata Club group. Pricing for the base rooms will be blocked at the 2002 price.

## REGALIA

### Got Zoom?

zoom ----- T-Shirts

Zoom ----- Sweatshirts

ZOOM ---Pins & Decals!

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

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

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

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

## UPCOMING REGIONAL AND NATIONAL EVENTS

### Miata Performance Driving School

**Dates:** March 28-30, 2003  
**Where:** Thunderhill Sports Park  
**Cost:** \$350

**Contact:** Ken Freeze, (925) 370-8262  
 This course teaches Miata owners the basics of high speed driving, equipment, human limitations, proper steering techniques, and lots of other skills necessary for safe performance driving.

The weekend is packed with activities beginning on Friday with a dinner, followed by classroom-style lectures and training from SCCA instructors. Saturday morning the action turns to the track with some more instruction, both in and out of the Miata. Most of Saturday and Sunday will be spent on the track with some time between sessions to talk to fellow Miata owners and see some of the latest Miata accessories. Plans for Saturday night this year call for a BBQ at the track if construction of a new building at the track is completed in time. This dinner gives students and instructors the opportunity to talk over the day's activities.

The class is limited to 80 students with 45 instructors, making for a less than 2-to-1 student/instructor ratio, a ratio higher than driving schools costing thousands of dollars.

There's nothing quite like having a Sport Car Club of America instructor right next to you as you drive lap after lap on a race course, helping you to learn of just what you and your Miata are really capable.

You can register via the Internet by going to the Miata Performance Driving School Web site at [www.teammiata.com/thunderhill/school.htm](http://www.teammiata.com/thunderhill/school.htm). Fill out the online form, or download the PDF file and print it out and send it in with your check. If you don't have Internet access, send a self-addressed, stamped envelope to: Ken Freeze, Miata School, 1521 Ridgewood Dr., Martinez, CA., 94553 and a complete packet will be sent to you. But hurry – the past two years the class was full by the first of December.



*San Diego Miata Club*  
Cordially invites you to their annual

# HOLIDAY PARTY

*Friday – December 13, 2002*

*Cost:* \$18 per person

*at  
The San Vincente Inn & Country Club  
(San Diego Country Estates)  
24157 San Vincente Road  
Ramona, CA 92065*

*Appetizers @ 6:30 PM  
Holiday Dinner Buffet @ 7:30 PM*

*Cocktails available in the Lounge*

*Our club's "famous" Gift Exchange will be held after dinner.  
Please bring a wrapped gift if you'd like to participate in this  
hilarious event!*

*Dancing provided in the Lounge @ 9:00 PM  
by "Nitro Express"*

*Reservations are required – please RSVP  
Your hosts: Robin & Mike Faircloth  
[Hawkinlady@aol.com](mailto:Hawkinlady@aol.com) | 760-789-5171*



## MEMBER PROFILE



— SCOTT & JOANNA LANGHOFF

I bought "Mariner," a 1990 Mariner Blue base model, in August of 1993 at a used car lot in Poulsbo, Washington. The car had 58,000 miles on it and hadn't been maintained very well.

At the time, I was stationed at the Naval Undersea Warfare Center in Keyport, Washington, working at the Naval Submarine Base at Bangor as Staff Navigator, Craftmaster, and Range Liaison Officer. I also was Public Events Coordinator for the center, and choreographed the center's support of four Seattle Seafair celebrations from 1992 to 1996, including double Blue Angels air shows each year, the 1994 Portland Rose Festival, and the Nanaimo (British Columbia) bathtub race to Vancouver in 1994 and 1995. I also coordinated support for various other celebrations in Western Washington and British Columbia, including numerous parades.

Shortly after I purchased my Miata, I met a retired Navy Commander who was also a Miataphile and a member of the Puget Sound Miata Club. He invited me over to examine my Miata, and mentored me on how

to fix and maintain it until I transferred to San Francisco in 1996. I tried to join the Bay Area Miata Association (BAMA) while in San Francisco, but the snobs never returned my calls or e-mails!

My radio call sign in the Navy was "Ancient Mariner," so in 1995 I got personalized Washington plates reading "Mariner." It was great fun to drive around downtown Seattle and see heads turn, the spectators thinking I was one of the Seattle Mariners. I kept those plates until my retirement from the Navy last year, and couldn't get the same plates in California, so I temporarily have "Maraner." I keep checking every once in a while to see if "Mariner" is available.

I found out about SDMC when I was surfing the Internet. I was transferred to San Diego in November of 1997 aboard the USS Constellation, and shortly after that we eagerly joined SDMC.

I met my bride, JoAnna, in late 1995, and we were married on Oahu at the Pearl Harbor Naval Station Chapel in 1996. She has been employed as a Paralegal for the Veterans

Administration's Regional Counsel's Office in Los Angeles since 1998, and works at their satellite office at the VA Regional office in Mission Valley.

JoAnna is a "Puddle Pirate," a US Coast Guard veteran, and together we are members of American Legion Post 434 in Chula Vista and the South Bay Rod & Gun Club. I am also a member of Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 11387 in Paradise Hills, the Blinded Veterans Association, the Disabled American Veterans, the San Diego Chapter of the Navy League, as well as a participating member of the San Diego County Veterans Advisory Board and the United Veterans Council of San Diego County. I also serve on the San Diego Veterans Day Parade Committee.

I've had many favorite runs, among them the "Where the Hell is Boulevard?" fun run in March of 2000, the Camp Pendleton tour and Champagne Run in February 1999, the Puerto Nuevo Lobster Lunch Fun Run and Ensenada overnighter in June of 1998, the Old Rusty Trucks and other Oddities Fun Run in May of 1998, and the Shambala Run in November of 1997.

JoAnna's favorite run was Madonna II in May of 2000. Unfortunately, I was out to sea for that one (hmmm?), but we returned there together last year.

So many good times, so many good memories. With more to come.

— SCOTT LANGHOFF

*To be included in our ongoing series of Member Profiles, write a short (200-400 word) summary and email 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.*

## Veterans

Here we are in November, the month we honor our veterans of many horrific wars. It was on the 11<sup>th</sup> hour of the 11<sup>th</sup> day of the 11<sup>th</sup> month that the armistice was signed for World War I—The War to End All Wars.

In addition to our many civic events during November, it is also a good time to remind veterans of some of the benefits available to them. And one of our own, SDMC member Scott Langhoff, is the Veterans Service Officer for the Veterans of Foreign Wars, serving veterans in San Diego, Imperial, and Riverside counties.

Scott, a recent Navy retiree himself, can assist other veterans and their dependents in completing the appropriate documentation to request benefits, and will represent them in the appeals process if that becomes necessary.

Scott says "There is an absolute plethora of benefits available to those who served to keep us free. Medical care, disability compensation or pension, educational benefits, special monthly compensation, and special allowances for those with special needs are just a few."

There are also six other Veterans Service organizations located adjacent to his office in the VA Regional Office in Mission Valley. They are the Blinded Vets of America, Disabled Vets of America, Military Order of the Purple Heart, American Legion, Paralyzed Vets of America, and the American Veterans. You can contact Scott's associate, Natasha Knight, at (619) 400-5322 to get a referral to one of these other agencies.

You can also get advice and assistance on California State and County benefits, as well as filing claims for benefits with the VA, from the California Department of Veterans Affairs

## New Members!

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

PRESTON & LINDA BLEVINS  
San Diego  
2000 Midnight Blue

JESSICA HART & ERIC TOMECHAK  
Oceanside  
Unreported

ROBERT HYLAND  
San Diego  
1992 Red

BOBBI & RON KING  
Spring Valley  
1990 Red

MATT KIZER & MATT SILVEOUS  
Moreno Valley  
1996 Red

JOSEPH KREITINGER & YESICA UVINA  
National City  
2002 Crystal Blue LS

SCOTT LEWIS & JUDY RYAN  
Chula Vista  
1990 White A

DAWN PEDERSEN & JOHN HULBERT  
Poway  
2001 Crystal Blue

DAN WHEELER  
La Mesa  
1994 Red B

## Renewing Members (since last newsletter):

JERRY & JANICE BOSTER  
TOM CLARK  
RICARDO DA ROSA  
PHIL DAOUST  
ED DITTMAN & ALICE ERIKSON  
ROBIN & MICHAEL FAIRCLOTH  
DENNIS & MARYANNE GARON  
JACK GOSNEY  
BOB & LENITA HAGUE  
KIRK & ELAINE JONG  
BOB & ANNICE KITTERER  
ED & MICHELLE LANGMAID

## Membership Statistics

As of October 27, 2002, there are 379 memberships (148 single, 231 dual) for a total of 610 members.

### Memberships by Miata Color:

92	Red
55	White
41	Black
35	Silver
28	Emerald Green
18	Montego Blue
16	Yellow
13	Crystal Blue
12	BRG
11	Mahogany
11	Sapphire Blue
11	Twilight Blue
9	Mariner Blue
7	Laguna Blue
7	Marina Green
7	Midnight Blue
6	Merlot
6	Starlight Blue
4	Titanium
1	Evolution Orange
1	Laser Blue
1	Teal (custom)
8	Unreported*

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

KATHIE McCLELLAND  
CATHY & JIM PHILLIPS  
JIM & KAREN POWER  
JIM SCHMEDAKE  
BILL SHAFFER  
RICHARD & NANCY STAUDE  
KEN & CARLA JEAN TOOKER  
RALPH & CHRIS VASQUEZ  
TOM VINT & KAREN EAGLETON  
MELISSA & GARRET WILLIAMS

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October 19 - Saturday  
Edelbrock Tour

**W**hile it is true that Edelbrock doesn't currently make any specific products for the Miata, I realized today that this was a "true" Miata enthusiast's event.

How can that be? Well, let me see...

1. The Edelbrock company gave us, as TOM THOMPSON mentioned, the "royal" treatment today. Again, they don't make parts for Miatas, but due to the efforts of ROBYN and MIKE FAIRCLOTH, the Edelbrock people went out of their way to give us a great day!

2. The SAN DIEGO MIATA CLUB members (and SOCALM) in attendance were, in my estimation, real "car people." They were there to see a legendary car performance company and enjoy rubbing greasy elbows with Vic Edelbrock. It didn't seem to matter that there were no Miata parts to be had, everyone was drooling over the flathead Ford, small block Chevy, and hemi Chrysler parts. Not one item in the gift shop said "Miata" but the line to get in never seemed to dwindle!

3. The epiphany came when I realized we were listening to part of an automotive dynasty when Vic Edelbrock was telling us tales of his father and his "suped-up" '32 roadster, or when his

mother spun it out on the front lawn of their home. We were riveted to his off-the-cuff talk about midget races at Balboa Stadium and the Gilmore dirt track. Here was a Southern California performance dynasty, with international recognition, talking to people who can't buy any of his products for their pride and joys. Why was he, and his company, taking the time to do this? It seemed to me that Vic and company realized what all "true" Miata enthusiasts realize, the Miata is a great sports car, in the same vein as all true classic cars have been since Barney Oldfield. There is never one car for all times, places, or people. How boring would that be? A true Miata enthusiast appreciates the Miata for what it is, a significant piece of automotive history, available to us at this time, built upon the experience of true car enthusiasts like Vic, his father, his wife Nancy, and their daughters. Even the employees were real car enthusiasts! The tour guide of my group, Shane, is a racer when he is not working. Also, such is the true car culture nature of this company, when was the last time you saw someone wearing a DA haircut? It was apparent to me that true car enthusiasts recognize each other. We share the same love of the engine noise, smell, and rush of acceleration. The true enthusiasm felt by Vic senior, back in the pre-war days at Muroc dry lake, I am sure was the same enthusiasm that each of



Vic Edelbrock tells the assembled SDMC members about how his father founded the company and the fun they had, and continue to have, running it.

us feels every time we run through the twisties or complete a lap on the autocross or track. The same rush a racing enthusiast gets when watching any kind of motorsport is the same each true Miata enthusiast gets watching their brethren roadsters competing in an event.

4. The Miata was designed for the Southern California roads, just like the cars in Vic's little "garage." (Now who wouldn't want that garage?)

Anyway, even though Edelbrock doesn't make any specific Miata items, *yet* (the Russell line of hose products can easily be used on Miatas), the company still treated us like we were going to be lining up to purchase manifolds, aluminum cylinder heads, exhausts, and shocks by the truck load. They knew we wouldn't but they still treated us like family, like all "true" car enthusiasts are.

What a day!

— ANTHONY WILDE

Left— An Edelbrock worker places an aluminum cylinder head into the computerized milling machine.





Above— Just one half of Vic's garage. SDMC members swarm over the cars on display.

Below— The other end of the garage contained more cars, and food! The '66 GT-350 (car 27) was driven the previous weekend at the Coronado Speed Festival by Camee Edelbrock.



Above— Barb Shev, Cindy Paloma, and Art Hamilton examine a shock rod and valve while touring the Edelbrock shock manufacturing area.



Below Left— Larry Dennstedt takes a professional interest in the engine of the Edelbrock midget racer.



Below Right— The line outside the Edelbrock gift shop never seemed to get shorter, as SDMC members snapped up shirts, hats, and jackets. Not one item in the store said "Miata", but that didn't seem to matter.



Recently a small group of Miataphiles gathered to do what we like to do best—eat, drive, and have a good time. The occasion was the great train races at Cajon Speedway. The afternoon started out at about 4:15 p.m. with a good meal at Marie Callendar's in Escondido.

After dinner, Jerry and Janice were presented with their very own RED magnetics at the obligatory "drivers meeting." Then 10 cars enjoyed the perfect topless driving weather and headed off into a beautiful sunset. Along the way we traveled the familiar San Pasqual Valley Road over to Highland Valley Road and then past Barona Casino on Wildcat Canyon Road to end up at Cajon Speedway.

Arriving at the Speedway just prior to the main event, we met up with even more members of SDMC. The members who had arrived at the event early saved prime seats so that we could all enjoy great views from the

west side of the raceway. Our first race was an exciting and eventful 25-lap prelim stock car race. Up next was an 18-truck 75-lap race. With only one crash during the race, it was a great event. Then came the main event—the Coors 100. For NASCAR fans, picture 24 stock cars trying to complete 100 laps on a 3/8-mile oval. The track was just plain crowded. Three crashes and four re-starts later we finally saw the first official lap completed. Then they got down to racing, sort of. 20-plus cautions and 90 minutes later, the Coors 100 was history. Talk about an event-filled (read crash-filled) race! Glad we didn't drive our Miatas in the race. However, all the crash delays became completely worth it when they began the train races. What a sight to see—six teams driving three cars each welded together into a "train" running figure eights on the race track. The race was 12 laps, but I've never seen anything wilder. Ap-

parently, the rest of the crowd agreed because both stands were on their feet screaming, laughing, and hooting.

At the end of the evening, a happy bunch of members (some a little dusty) headed home. If you haven't been to the train races, I'm sure there will be a run next year. Don't miss them; they are truly one of the most unforgettable events you are likely to attend.

—JERRY & JANICE BOSTER



PHOTO: JERRY & JANICE BOSTER

SDMC president "your pal" Sal Causarano, presents magnetics to Jerry and Janice Boster for their run to the train races.

Nine SDMCers gathered in Carlsbad Saturday evening, September 28, for a concert by the well-known husband-and-wife folk singers who call themselves Small Potatoes. At least the voices of Rich Prezioso and Jacquie Manning are known to recent Miata buyers with Bose systems.

The sampler CD has two cuts from the Spuds. One is "The Best Things in Life Are Free." The more memorable song, however, is Jacquie's rendition of "Avocado," which includes this line: "if I ever win the Lotto, first thing I'll buy is a little red Miata convertible...and a ripe avocado."

Knowing we were attending, Jacquie came looking for us before the performance, and she and Rich graciously stayed late for the picture. (LOU and RUTH STARK left before the photo session.) Jacquie is holding Small Potatoes' mascot: a Mr. Potato Head. Neither Spud had driven a

Miata, but a little Photoshop work by ED and MICHELLE LANGMAID appears to have fixed that.

—DAVE MARTIN



PHOTO: DAVE MARTIN



## October 20, 2002 Autocross Results

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

Class	Driver	Car	Place
CS	CAROL SCHWARTZ	Miata	2nd
CS	LARRY CLAPPER	Miata	3rd
ES	SCOTT LEWIS	Miata	2nd
IS2	ROBERT "JT" HOLLAND	Miata	2nd
IS2	KEVIN HAYWOOD	Miata	3rd
IS2	MICHAEL HEINITZ	Miata	4th
IS2	JOHN "JD" LIMA	Miata	5th
IS2	JIM BROKAW	Miata	6th
IS2	RAINER MUELLER	Miata	7th
IS2	STEVE WAID	Miata	8th
IS2	FEDERICO ABAD	Miata	12th
IS2	ROBERT SHERLOCK	Miata	13th
IS2L	BARBARA SHEV	Miata	2nd
STS	ED PITTS	Corolla	24th
SU	JAMES SANDERS	Miata	14th
SU	HOWARD KUZMINSKI	Miata	16th
M1	LARRY DENNSTEDT	Aardvark	3rd
Novice	JEFF KING	Miata	34th
Novice	LEO DAILEY	Miata	55th



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

Sunday, November 10.....championship  
 Saturday, November 30.....championship  
 Saturday, December 7.....novice school

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.

### Time to Party!

Make your reservations now for the SAN DIEGO MIATA CLUB Holiday Party.



You don't want to be left out.

See page 5 for complete details.





Saturday, October 12  
Columbus Day Parade of  
Patriotism

Everybody loves a parade. At least that was the consensus of the 25 Miatas of SAN DIEGO MIATA CLUB members who turned out at the early hour of 8 a.m. They came to carry dignitaries in the Columbus Day Parade of Patriotism on Saturday, October 12<sup>th</sup>.

The morning started off with a combined parade participants and Speed Fest enthusiasts 7 a.m. breakfast at Tartine in Coronado. Since that was very early, most people chose to join up on Harbor Blvd closer to 8 a.m. As people arrived, they parked at curbside where many parade participants and spectators were seen ogling the 25 colorfully decorated Miatas. After the typical hurry up and wait and organizational snafus, JERRY BOSTER led off in his RED 93 with Brigadier General Galenetti from MCAS Miramar. Soon he was followed by MARYANN GARON with Susan Davis (eat your heart out TED), and then local princesses in abundance. At the end of the parade, we decided to made up our own impromptu parade unit and about fifteen or so Miatas joined in side-by-side, led by a pair of REDs driven by Jerry Boster and JOHN LAURENCE.

A quick stop to take off all the decorations and then a fast caravan over to the Speed Fest for a truly amazing day of vintage racing.

What better way to show our support for the men and women of our military than at the Columbus Day (Fleet Week) Parade of Patriotism presented by the Port of San Diego?

We want to thank all who came out and supported us. This club is truly magnificent.

— JERRY & JANICE BOSTER



PHOTO: JIM & CHARLENE BROKAW



PHOTO: JEFFRY & JANICE BOSTER



PHOTO: JEFFRY & JANICE BOSTER



PHOTO: JEFFRY & JANICE BOSTER



PHOTO: JIM & CHARLENE BROKAW





Photo: Voodoo Bob Kriegler



Photo: Voodoo Bob Kriegler

BE PART OF SAN DIEGO MIATA CLUB'S AWESOME PRESENCE

## SPEED FESTIVAL

NAS NORTH ISLAND  
CORONADO OCT. 12-13  
2002



Photo: Voodoo Bob Kriegler



Photo: Voodoo Bob Kriegler



Photo: Anthony Wilde



Photo: Voodoo Bob Kriegler



Photo: Voodoo Bob Kriegler



## Miata Owners Club Update

October 18, 2002

**T**hroughout the last few months the Mazda Miata Owners Club (MOC) has been very busy supporting some exciting events around the country. Events such as those held at the Mazda Raceway at Laguna Seca, Northern Exposure in Ottawa, Washington D.C., and the other regional sponsored events are a chance for Miata enthusiasts to come together, see old friends, share stories, and most importantly check out the latest cars. We hope this support from Mazda reinforces how important we feel the local clubs are to the Miata community.

As you know, the original intent of MOC was to build a national club that would eventually reach a membership in excess of 25,000 so that we could provide direct value to the Miata community. In fact, our recent actions—bringing on a new Executive Director and returning the Club to an independent organization were designed to achieve that goal. However, after exhausting several possibilities and trying to work through future plans, it has become increasingly clear that a shift in direction is needed. Here are some factors to consider from the past year:

- a. MOC infrastructure requires funds that could otherwise be used to directly support the Miata community and events.
- b. Initial renewal rates indicate that we will be unable to achieve sustainable support for the local communities moving forward.
- c. While MOC offers some unique benefits (*Miata Magazine*, Mazda discounts), the local clubs continue to see limited value in the remaining offerings.

Due to the current state of the club, the Mazda Team and the MOC Advisory Council have agreed to discontinue operations of the national Miata Owners Club and redirect our support to the local Miata communities.

So what does this mean? Well, Mazda is developing some exciting new plans that will be available to the entire community and you'll notice that they're not that different from what is offered today:

- a. *Miata Magazine*: Mazda will work with the magazine as a key benefit moving forward.
- b. Event Sponsorship: Mazda will take formal requests for supporting local club events (e.g. dinners, Mazda merchandise, etc.) and review regional and national event submissions based on an agreed upon list of criteria. The process will be similar to the one followed earlier this year.
- c. Special Offers/Discounts: While current benefits like the travel discounts will no longer be offered, Mazda will continue working on special offers for merchandise, parts, and service.
- d. Other benefits/support: Mazda plans to promote local club information both in the new owner welcome kit and on our Web site. Also, we will continue to work with the Miata Advisory Council to review suggestions for additional support/benefits.

And, on that note, we do plan to continue working very closely with the Advisory Council. The Council will be an asset in helping us communicate with the local club base and they will play an important role in defining event sponsorship opportunities. They will also help with the phase-out of the national club so that we ensure we fulfill all existing obligations. Our goal is to ensure all members receive and retain a positive opinion of Mazda and recognize the com-

pany's commitment to continued support.

We are very excited about this decision and the positive effect it will have on our ability to provide direct support to the local Miata community. And remember to keep a look out for upcoming details on event sponsorship opportunities.

If you have any questions please don't hesitate to call us at 1-800-968-4980.

— Dave Sanabria  
Mazda Relationship  
Marketing Manager

## 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 23

School of Creative & Performing Arts  
2425 Dusk Drive (Between Alta  
View Dr. & Parkside Ave.)  
San Diego 92139

### Saturday, December 7

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.



**Vice President's Message** (*Continued from page 2*)  
to drive.

To start autocrossing requires only, you, your Miata, a helmet (loaners are available), and \$40. \$15 covers your one-time yearly number and the other \$25 is your event entry fee. There are several classes that Miatas run in to make the driving more equal. There are the showroom stock classes that are split between the 1.6-liter (E Stock) and 1.8-litre (C Stock). Next we have the Improved Street (IS2) class that most of the SDMC autocrossers fall into. IS2 is notable because a lot of us have done minor mods (add a shock tower brace, change wheels, etc.) to our cars that eliminate us from the showroom stock classes. The C Street Prepared class (CSP) is street legal (*barely*) but requires a lot of work (\$\$\$) for the car to be competitive. Last we have Street Unlimited where we see the super-turbocharged Miatas compete. There are a couple of odd Miata classes (SPEC Miata falls into ??) but these are rare.

So if autocross is so great, how come everybody in the club doesn't do it? Darn good question. I really don't have an answer, but I do know

that SDMC puts together (in conjunction with one of the autocross clubs) an autocross once a year for all the rookies to try it. That's how I got sucked into competing in the first place. I would highly encourage you to attend. Or if you are really interested, come and talk to me or one of the other autocrossers and we will guide you through the process.

So, finally I close by telling you why I personally autocross. I love the camaraderie and the sportsmanship. I autocross because it's really fun. I'm new to car racing so I haven't peaked as far as my abilities go, so learning and improving my driving skills is very important to me. But *really* the main reason I race is so I can beat STEVE WAID in his yellow car and tell him *nanner, nanner, nanner*.

— STEVE KENNISON

### Time to Party!

Make your reservations now for the SAN DIEGO MIATA CLUB Holiday Party.



You don't want to be left out.

See page 5 for complete details.

### 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:** 1 55mm Tiffen red filter (for black and white photo shooting), 2 ea Tiffen and Cannon 58 mm UV/haze filters. (all new and unused). \$5 each  
VBob (858) 486-4711 [vbob@teamvoodoo.com](mailto:vbob@teamvoodoo.com)

**For Sale:** 1999 Emerald Green Miata. Custom Burlwood dash, gold-plated trim, leather package, 70,000+ miles, \$12,850.  
Bob (909) 597-1664 [RMDavis2002@yahoo.com](mailto:RMDavis2002@yahoo.com)

**For Sale:** Very special, adult driven, 1999 Miata with Jackson Racking supercharger, ignition timer, rollbar, and lowered suspension. Never raced, never abused. Very, very quick and drivable. In excellent shape, factory

leather & in-dash CD. Must sell due to home purchase.

Tom, (949) 394-1716 or [tdskip@yahoo.com](mailto:tdskip@yahoo.com)

**For Sale:** Window protector, \$20.  
Diane, [djaws@san.rr.com](mailto:djaws@san.rr.com) (858) 566-6973

**Wanted:** 15-inch OEM wheels.  
Stef (619) 297-4272 or [stef@miata.net](mailto:stef@miata.net)

**For Sale:** Seats, tan leather, from a '92 LE with 65,000 miles on it. Seats are in good shape. Also have carpeting, door panels, and tan trim pieces, \$500 exchange. Also have body and mechanical parts from '90, '92 & '96.  
Wally, (619) 232-2801 ext 313, 234-2858, or [wallymiata@juno.com](mailto:wallymiata@juno.com)

**For Sale:** Montego Blue hard top by SNUG-Top. Excellent, new condition. Includes rear window defroster, dome light, and all wiring to hook them up (we never got around to

**Veterans** (*Continued from page 7*)

office (also located adjacent to Scott's office) at (619) 400-0070, as well as the San Diego County Veterans Service Office at (619) 531-4545.

All services are provided at no charge. Membership in any of the veterans organizations is not required to obtain the services. Scott also can be reached at his residence on the evenings and weekends at (619) 470-7860 or email at [slanghoff@cox.net](mailto:slanghoff@cox.net).

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[www.vfw.org](http://www.vfw.org)  
[www.vfwca.org](http://www.vfwca.org)  
[www.va.gov](http://www.va.gov)  
[www.vetjobs.com](http://www.vetjobs.com)

VFW Hotline: (800) VFW-1899  
San Diego VA toll free:  
(800) 827-1000

installing the wiring on our '96).  
\$1250 OBO.  
Karen, (619) 220-8331, [kgoymette@cts.com](mailto:kgoymette@cts.com)

**For Sale:** Closeout on Miata wrapping paper.  
\$3 per roll.  
Geri, [geris-bazaar@cox.net](mailto:geris-bazaar@cox.net), (760) 787-0624

**For Sale:** Trunk lid lift kits - fits all year Miatas. Factory blowout! \$20 each for San Diego folks who 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 is used! Especially great for those with wings or luggage racks!  
David, (760) 476-8754 [david.levy@airprime.com](mailto:david.levy@airprime.com)

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

