

SAN DIEGO MIATA CLUB NEWS



FEBRUARY/MARCH 2003

VOLUME 8 NUMBER 2

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

UPCOMING EVENTS



February 1 - Saturday
Run to the Carrot
Festival in Holtville



February 22 - Saturday
Planned Impromptu Run



February 23 - Sunday
Planned Impromptu Run,
Day 2



February 27 - Thursday
Monthly Meeting



March 1 - Saturday
Track Driving Techniques
Seminar



March 14 - 16
SCCA National Tour
Qualcomm Stadium



March 20 - Thursday
7th Anniversary - Miatas at
Laguna Seca



March 23 - Sunday
Puke-O-Rama



March 27 - Thursday
Monthly Meeting



March 29 - Saturday
Desert Blooms Run
A Joint Run With SOCALM



April 5 - Saturday
SDMC Annual Membership
Meeting & Board Elections

Farewell...Until We Meet Again

I promised in my last president's message that I would give you the details of my immediate future. I have decided to retire from government civil service and, in fact, January 3rd was my last day at work. It was a very bittersweet departure. Sweet because I didn't have to make that long trek from Ramona into work everyday and sad because I had to say farewell to so many friends and co-workers. If you have changed jobs or retired, I am sure you can certainly relate to what I am saying here.

Well, since GERI and I can't really afford to live in beautiful Southern California on my retirement salary, we have decided to move to Charleston, South Carolina where the dollar goes a bit further and the pace is a bit slower.

We bought a home on a 24-hole golf course in a place called Westcott Plantation in the town of Summerville, which is not very far north of downtown Charleston. Summerville is a sleepy little town conveniently located to shopping, hospitals, and everyday activities.

As you know, the election for the next board of directors is Saturday, April 5th. Unfortunately, I will be leaving before my term is up, and it would be unfair to the club to try to function as president from 2800 miles away, so I have turned the gavel over to our very capable vice-president and good friend STEVE "NAILS" KEN-NISON. Per the club's by-laws, Steve will "preside in the absence of the president" until the executive board elections in April. You can rest assured that Steve has the well-being of this club and the interests of every member at heart just as I have had for the last five years. I want to thank the rest of the elected board members and all of the many appointed board members who have given this club their undying work and dedication to ensure the betterment of the SAN DIEGO MIATA CLUB. This also is a bittersweet departure. Geri and I are excited about moving to Charleston but very sad about leaving our many, many friends and acquaintances from SDMC behind.

We have established contact with the local Miata Club in Charleston (The Low Country Miata Club) and hope to become active members, but we will always remain members of the SAN DIEGO MIATA CLUB and we promise to stay in touch via e-mail. If you happen to find yourself in Charleston, South Carolina, please, by all means, look us up. You can always count on having a roof over your head, a clean bed, and good food waiting for you. I could not say farewell without writing one last poem. It pretty much tells the story of our beginning with the club and our sadness in saying farewell to all of you.

(Continued on page 2)



President's Message (Continued from page 1)

An empty nest led us to a new life to be seen.
 A broken Ford led us to a new car plan.
 She was dark, sometimes blue and sometimes green.
 "Ahh! I have a car club for you", said this Voodoo man.
 A car club? We said, let us see, let us bring our new CANDIE.
 Five years have passed and not a single regret.
 We got involved, we had fun, we had laughs and lots of smiles.
 So now we must leave, it's not easy you can bet.
 You see, it's not the car club we're leaving but the friends made over all those Miata miles.
 So let's not say good-bye, but rather "See you around that next curvy road."
 For we're one big family, I know we'll meet again.
 And maybe we'll sit and talk and have some pie a-la-mode.
 You see, it was the car club that made us whole and the friends that will always remain.
 That little car, that Miata, is so good for the soul.

Thank you for the confidence you have shown in me by allowing me to serve you as secretary, vice president, and president over these last five years.

I cannot express to you the extreme amount of fun, excitement, laughter and joy this club has been. You have opened your hearts to Geri and me and given us many memorable moments. We will never forget you.

Drive safely, take care of one another out there, and most of all...have FUN.

Forever,

— Your pal SAL

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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Below— GERI reads SAL's farewell poem to the January monthly meeting.

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NOTICES

The SAN DIEGO MIATA CLUB is a non-profit California corporation. The *SAN DIEGO MIATA CLUB NEWS* is the monthly newsletter of the SAN DIEGO MIATA CLUB. Use of articles or stories by other Miata clubs is hereby granted, provided proper credit is given. Submissions to the newsletter are welcomed and encouraged. Where possible, please e-mail your submissions to the newsletter editor. Submissions can also be mailed to the club's post office box.

Submission deadline is the 15th of each month.

Editor reserves the right to edit all submissions.

The SAN DIEGO MIATA CLUB has established a dedicated World Wide Web Home Page at:

www.sandiegomiataclub.org

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

SAN DIEGO MIATA CLUB

P.O. Box 23081

San Diego CA 92193

PHOTO: ANTHONY WILDE



Run to the Carrot Festival in Holtville



A joint run with the Shelby Club of Southern California

Date: Saturday, February 1

Meeting Time: 8:30 a.m.

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

Run Leaders: RANDY & SUE PATTERSON

This run qualifies toward Mileage Award

We will be driving over some of our favorite roads at a leisurely pace. Stopping at Dudley's as our first rest stop. We'll then be heading through Julian, down Banner grade, and on through the Anza-Borrego desert to Holtville to partake in some of the festivities at the 2003 "world famous" Holtville Carrot Festival. Some of the festivities include: craft and food booths at an art & crafts fair, an antique tractor & car show, the Carrot Festival midway carnival, and a talent show.

Planned Impromptu Run



Date: Saturday, February 22

Meeting Time: 11 a.m.

Meeting Place: Target shopping center at the corner of Jamacha Road and Highway 94 in Rancho San Diego. Meet in the parking lot near the Carl's Jr.

Coordinators: SDMC members

Where shall we go? That question will be answered as we gather for another Planned Impromptu Run. We will meet at the appointed time and place, come to a consensus (hopefully), and take off for the twisties. No plans, no structure, no idea where we will end up! Oh, since this is an impromptu run, there is no mileage credit either.

Planned Impromptu Run, Day 2



Date: Sunday, February 23

Meeting Time: 11 a.m.

Meeting Place: Westfield's Shopping Town-North County (formerly North County Fair), under the big sign on the west side of the mall.

Coordinators: SDMC members

Same as the day before...No plans, no structure, no idea where we will end up! Oh, since this is an impromptu run, there is no mileage credit either.

Monthly Meeting



Date: Thursday, February 27

Time: 6 p.m.

Place: Boll Weevil

9330 Clairemont Mesa Blvd.
(at Ruffin Road), San Diego
(858) 571-6225

This event is the single best way to meet your fellow club members, ask questions, share stories, etc.

Don't miss the fun!

Track Driving Techniques Seminar



Date: Saturday, March 1

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

Place: Mazda North America Operations Headquarters, 7755 Irvine Center Drive, Irvine, CA

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

Aaron Tachibana will lead this seminar which will focus on performance modifications and suspension setups.

We will cover engine maintenance and popular enhancements to both the Miata and rotary engines, including what, how, and when, plus the benefits of current motor oils, popular brake upgrades...myth and fact, and performance/street brake usage and componentry.

We will discuss driving techniques and discuss track driving techniques that are applicable to everyday driving as well as the track. We will cover popular Miata and RX-7 suspension systems that can be tailored to the individual driver's requirements, as well as dispel many myths about those systems.

There will be time to answer questions on the various subject matters not covered in the focus bulletin. We'll also answer questions on performance driving...such as driving techniques, reading the lines, braking, etc. This is an interactive seminar and we encourage avid participation from the audience. Aaron has been producing Track Days at Laguna Seca, Thunderhill, and Sears Point for the past seven years. There is no charge to attend the seminar.

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

**Please RSVP to Stef Gould at stef@miata.net or (619) 297-4272. We need an accurate count for 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.

SCCA National Tour



Dates: March 14 - 16

Time: 9 a.m.

Place: Qualcomm Stadium

Mission Valley, west lot
Once again, the National SCCA Tour is coming to San Diego for a Championship Autocross (Solo2). Friday (the 14th) is registration and technical inspection day. The event has runs on both Saturday and Sunday, and the best runs from each day are combined for a cumulative best time. Come watch fellow SAN DIEGO MIATA CLUB members compete against nationwide competition. Call the information hotline, (619) 441-1333, for more details.

7th Anniversary - Miatas at Laguna Seca



Date: Thursday, March 20

Upcoming Events (Continued on page 4)



Upcoming Events (Continued from page 3)

Place: Mazda Raceway Laguna Seca, Monterey, CA

Coordinator: Aaron Tachibana
849 Cathedral Drive, Sunnyvale,
CA 94087, tach9@attbi.com,
(408) 738-3290

SDMC contact: STEF GOULD,
stef@miata.net, (619) 297-4272

This is *the* track event of 2003—the opportunity to drive over 100 miles on the world-famous Laguna Seca race track!

The day begins with a drivers meeting and a lead-and-follow around the track. Instructors will be available. They may even give you a ride in their cars or drive your Miata with you as the passenger. Drivers will be divided into three groups (novice, intermediate, and advanced) running 20-minute sessions throughout the day. Novice and intermediate are limited to passing only on designated straights.

A four-point roll bar is required for Miatas. You must have a SNELL 95 or later helmet and have your Miata tech inspected by a state-certified mechanic using a tech form that Aaron will send to you upon receiving your registration fee.

Remember, it's first come, first served. Space is limited to a maximum of 60 participants. Send an E-mail letting Aaron know that you'd like to participate, then immediately send the registration fee. You may also register online at:

<http://www.m-pca.com>

SDMC member STEF GOULD wrote a story about her first time driving on Laguna Seca Raceway; it's on page 14 and 15 in the May 2001 SAN DIEGO MIATA CLUB NEWS, available on the club web page in PDF format.

Puke-O-Rama 2003

Date: Sunday, March 23

Meeting Place: Marie Callendar's,
13th Street & Centre City Parkway,
Escondido



Meeting Times: brunch - 9 a.m.,
drivers meeting - 10 a.m.,
launch - 10:15 a.m.,

End Point: Dalton's Road House,
San Marcos

Run Leaders: STEVE & LAURIE WAID
swaid@cox.net or (760) 432-0727

This run qualifies toward Mileage Award

Because the Puke is an eat, drive, eat experience, we will begin with an eating opportunity. *The purpose of the Puke is to put together a continuous sampling of the twistiest roads in San Diego County that have, in the past, caused some passengers to become sick. This is a drivers' event first and foremost.* We will travel some wonderful roads with the daffodils blooming in the Julian area, and green hills everywhere. There will be smaller run groups of 20 cars or less to enhance the driving fun and reduce the need for collecting cars. The daffodil group will be available to those who wish to enjoy a more casual cruise throughout this beautiful course, and drivers who would rather not drive in a group are free to drive independently in front of the first group.

The day will end at approximately 4 p.m. at Dalton's Roadhouse in San Marcos near the Highway 78 and Interstate 15 interchange for the last eat. Dalton's has proven to be a wonderful host to the SAN DIEGO MIATA CLUB and caters to car clubs as its specialty.

Monthly Meeting

Date: Thursday, March 27

Time: 6 p.m.

Place: Boll Weevil

9330 Clairemont Mesa Blvd.
(at Ruffin Road), San Diego
(858) 571-6225

This event is the single best way to meet your fellow club members, ask questions, share stories, etc.

Don't miss the fun!

Desert Blooms Run

A joint run with SOCALM

Date: Saturday, March 29



Meeting Place: Stater Brother Shopping Center, 31813 Highway 79 South, Temecula

Meeting Time: 10 a.m.

Run Leader: STEVE DEFFENBACHER
sdiffen@earthlink.net or (909)466-8733

This run qualifies toward Mileage Award

Desert Blooms 2003 is only a few weeks away. Rain in December is good for spring annual wildflowers. But, did we get enough to produce a spectacular wildflower bloom? The only way to find out is to join your SDMC and SOCALM friends for this awesome driving event. Perennial flowers and cacti will be blooming, even if the annual wildflowers don't produce a spectacular bloom.

Plan to begin the run with a full tank of gas, as the run is 150 miles long. There is no formal get-together for breakfast, but there is a gas station, and a few fast food places near the start. Don't eat too much though, because in 1 hour and 15 minutes we will be stopping for lunch.

There will be a one-hour lunch break in Borrego Springs where you will have your choice of approximately six restaurants, but save room for dessert at the next stop. From Borrego Springs we will rise out of the desert floor on more amazing roads to snake along Wynola Road. This 4-mile stretch of road is, well, let's just say twisted. Wynola Road has to be seen and experienced to be believed. I counted 52 turns in a four-mile stretch! In and out of trees and up and down changes in elevation, it's what your Miata was built for. No, it's not the dragon's tail at Deal's Gap but it's not far behind.

Directions to Meeting Place: Take the 15 to exit US 79 south in Temecula. Make sure you take 79 SOUTH. Go east 2.1 miles to the Stater Brothers shopping plaza. Park in front of Stein Mart at the end near the Chevron Station.



FUTURE EVENTS

San Diego Miata Club Annual Membership Meeting



And Board Elections

Date: Saturday, April 5

Place: Hall of Fame Room,

San Diego Automotive Museum,
Balboa Park

Time: Meeting starts at 10 a.m.

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

We will have a "pot luck" meal after the business is finished. Please bring a dish to share that does not require cooking or heating. NO HEATING or COOKING is allowed inside the auto museum building. Soda and cake will be provided.

Search for Madonna 2003

Dates: May 3-5

Place: The Madonna Inn

San Luis Obispo, CA

Coordinator: STEVE WAID,

(760) 432-0727 or swaid@cox.net



May 3rd through May 5th will be the fifth year in a row that Miatas have swarmed San Luis Obispo County searching for Madonna. What are we searching for, you ask? Fun is the answer! Each year we have found it, but we also always leave wanting more. The fabulous Madonna Inn is our headquarters for this 3-day and 2-night adventure. As a searcher you can expect to drive nearly 1000 miles during the search (we are a driving club, you know). You can expect to eat in great quality and quantity (we are an eating club, you know). You can expect to see lots of great cars besides our Miatas at the Morro Bay car show (we are a car club, you know). And, you can expect to laugh and spin yarns with your fellow Miataphiles (That's

in our Mission Statement, you know).

The Madonna Inn, known for its 109 unique rooms, is much of the fun. Our annual room hopping evening to see what rooms each searcher has selected has become the most anticipated part of the search. Coupled with a banquet, fun runs, the trips to and from the Inn, and the car show, the Search for Madonna annually returns some tired but happy travelers to their respective homes...anticipating the next search.

How do you become a searcher for 2003? It is easy...and fun. Go to the Madonna Inn web site, www.madonnainn.com and click on the "109 Unique Rooms" button. Browse through the rooms and select your top three choices to reserve. Then call the Madonna Inn at (800) 543-9666 and ask for group reservations, Barbara, and tell her you are with the Miata club. Give her your first choice and she will see if it is available, and if it isn't go with #2 and so on. After confirming your room, please notify STEVE WAID of your room name and number. Then, just wait. The anticipation will become almost unbearable after a few months, but May 3rd is not that far away.

San Diego Automotive Museum Car Club Council Car Show and BarBQ



Date: Saturday, May 10

Place: Balboa Park

Time: Show starts at 10 a.m.

Cost: \$10 per car shown

BBQ (after car show) is \$10 per person

Details in next month's newsletter!

UPCOMING REGIONAL AND NATIONAL EVENTS

Miata Performance Driving School

Dates: March 28-30

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.

You can register via the Internet by going to the Miata Performance Driving School Web site at 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.

SOCALM High Performance Driving School

Date: May 3-4

Place: Streets of Willow Springs,
near Lancaster, CA

Coordinator: Robert Arance,

(661) 295-8140 x490,

roberta@uvdi.com

Cost: to be announced

The school is taught by the staff of Danny McKeever's Fast Lane School, the same team that teaches the celebrities who drive at the Long Beach Grand Prix. This high-performance driving school is open to drivers of all skill levels, from the novice who just wants to learn how to be a safer driver to the weekend racers who want to shave a few ticks off their lap times. You will be grouped according to your comfort level and track experience for maximum safety. Entry fee includes:

* High performance driving manual

(Continued on page 11)





— LARRY & ANNETTE DENNSTEDT

Not many youngsters know what they really want to be when they grow up. Maybe they think about being a cowboy, or a fireman. That indecision usually carries through high school and frequently even post-college.

But not so with LARRY DENNSTEDT. At age 3, he saw his first jalopy race at the El Cajon Speedway. “Then I was hooked,” Larry says with his omnipresent smile. His vocation/avocation path was at that point clearly defined, and he has been following it ever since. That led to his career as a mechanic, and opening his own repair shop in 1985. He is always ready to help other club members with advice and counsel to help get their little machines purring smoothly and moving quickly.

Larry was doing 45 miles per hour in the go-kart he built at age 9, powered by a Briggs & Stratton engine moving lawnmower wheels. At 13, he was driving go-karts on the track, and at 16 was an apprentice Porsche mechanic—and racing Porsches.

Now, he is winning autocross races in his Aardvark, which is a Class C Can-Am sports racer designed for moving fast on the track. With a change in gears, it goes 140-160 mph, but Larry is content with 115 and 0-60 in 3.5 seconds. Look for his name in every SDMC newsletter as the top time of the day in autocross.

As for other modes of transportation, Larry drives a Yamaha 250 dirt bike, a Honda 3-wheeler, and a 1972 Norton Dunstal for motorcycle road races. Then there’s the Toyota pickup for work.

With all this, how does the Miata fit in? The Dennstedts are a two-car, two white, two 1994 model family in their La Mesa garage. ANNETTE got hers first, a C-package with everything on it that Mazda provided. But since Annette likes to drive her car, two months ago Larry picked up his own ‘94 white and is currently in the process of decking it out to his own desires.

Larry met the Miata Club through his business. “It was obvious to me that Miata owners are a different breed,” he says. “They care for their

cars and they enjoy each other. They know how to have fun.” So a couple of years ago he decided to buy a Miata for his own family and join the SDMC. He and Annette have been super-active ever since. When not driving her car, Annette also has an enviable collection of dolls and jewelry.

Miatas currently make up more than one-third of the business in the Dennstedt shop. The rest of the cars he good-naturedly calls “grocery getters.” Larry turns down work from owners of one line of foreign cars (we’ll let you guess which one) because of the attitude of the owners. It’s not good.

The workbench in Larry’s shop is special. It was built for him at age 13 by his maternal grandfather, who recognized Larry needed something positive to harness his energies in the Mission Hills area where he was growing up. His grandfather worked by day as an accountant and after hours turned out high-quality furniture as a hobby.

Larry used to live in a house where the front parking lot of his garage now stands. But he moved that house, and then built the shop in 1985. He picked up building tips from his father and his father’s father, who were associated with Roscoe Hazard as building contractors.

As for the SAN DIEGO MIATA CLUB, members now have their own mantra. When a Miata is acting poorly, it’s “Let’s Ask Larry.”

— TOM SPRAGUE

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

newsletter@sandiegomiataclub.org

You can also mail it to the Club P.O. Box. Please include a photo. We want to be able see your face. — Your photo will be returned.

New Members!

WELCOME to our newest members
(since last newsletter):

CAROL BANKS

San Diego
1999 10AE (Sapphire Blue)

GARY & BETTY BUTTERFIELD

San Diego
2003 Garnet LS

RONALD & GWENDA CURRY

San Diego
1992 SE (British Racing Green)

JOHN & JOANN FRATER

Spring Valley
2001 Crystal Blue LS

TOM GHEZZI

Carlsbad
1994 Red

RAY GRUNCH

Los Angeles
1994 Red C

SHIRLEY & ROD HALL

Riverside
Unreported

ROBERT IRWIN

San Diego
1997 Red

GRANT LEJONVARN

Oceanside
1999 Black

CLAUDIA MILLER & ART PARDO

San Diego
2000 Crystal Blue Sport

JOHN & BJ PALAN

San Diego
2000 Silver

DEE & DONALD PALMER

La Mesa
1990 White

DONALD PROUGH
& JANE SCHIFFMANN

Escondido
1991 Silver

JONAS SALOMON

San Diego
2003 Silver

WILSON SETO

San Diego
1999 Red Leather

RENI & JAMES WILLIAMS

El Cajon
2001 Red LS

DAVE WINER

Vista
1990 Red

Membership Statistics

As of February 15, 2003, there are 375 memberships (144 single, 231 dual) for a total of 606 members.

Memberships by Miata Color:

| | |
|----|------------------|
| 91 | Red |
| 54 | White |
| 41 | Silver |
| 38 | Black |
| 26 | Emerald Green |
| 17 | Montego Blue |
| 16 | Yellow |
| 14 | BRG |
| 11 | Crystal Blue |
| 11 | Sapphire Blue |
| 11 | Twilight Blue |
| 10 | Mahogany |
| 9 | Mariner Blue |
| 7 | Laguna Blue |
| 6 | Merlot |
| 6 | Midnight Blue |
| 5 | Marina Green |
| 5 | Starlight Blue |
| 5 | Titanium |
| 2 | Garnet |
| 1 | Evolution Orange |
| 1 | Laser Blue |
| 1 | Teal (custom) |
| 9 | Unreported* |

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

MEMBER NEWS

The membership numbers of the SAN DIEGO MIATA CLUB grew by one on January 2, 2003. On that date, SDMC member JERED SCOTT married SARAH OZEROFF in Las Vegas, Nevada. The couple were pronounced husband and wife by a reasonable facsimile of "The King."

Jered is the son of SDMC members GARY and ROSALIND SCOTT and is currently serving in the U.S. Army at Fort Lewis, Washington.

Best wishes to Sarah and Jered from the entire SAN DIEGO MIATA CLUB!

Left to right— The "King," Sarah, and Jered say "I do...Uh-huh."



PHOTO: GARY & ROSALIND SCOTT



Local Business Discounts Keep Growing

If you check out the back page of the newsletter, you will notice the Local Business Discounts section has a new entry. An *unsolicited* discount has been added this month for the benefit of SAN DIEGO MIATA CLUB members.

Brakewerks.com distributes Axxis Ultimate, Cobalt Friction, Ferodo, Hawk, Pagid, and Performance Friction braking products. In addition they carry ATE brake fluids. Brake-werks is based here in San Diego county. Brakewerks is developing its web page at the moment, but it should be available in the near future.

A special for the SAN DIEGO MIATA CLUB members—a 15% discount on the Axxis Ultimate brake pad line of products. The Axxis Ultimate, with its advanced ceramic and kevlar formulation, is an excellent choice for spirited street, autocross,

and light to moderate road course/track driving. The Axxis Ultimate's key performance characteristics include:

- ☞ rotor friendly
- ☞ low dust and noise
- ☞ very good cold performance high coefficient of friction
- ☞ fade free performance to ~1000F

The Axxis Ultimate is manufactured to OE-specifications, and includes (where applicable) elastomer shims, wear sensors, and chamfered friction material edges.

The discounts for SDMC members applies not just to products for your Miata, but to brake products for your OTMs as well.

Please see the Local Business Discounts section, on the back page of this newsletter, for contact information. Be sure to inquire about local delivery to club events, autocross, or fun run meeting points.

ONE MEMBER'S OPINION

My first roadster was a 1959 MGA purchased in 1960. Thus began my love affair with these unique little cars, which continues today. Back then, whenever another sports car approached, the drivers would wave to each other. Everyone did it! When I purchased my Miata I continued that practice with other Miatas. The difference is, I am either totally ignored, or glared at as though I have offended someone. The Porsche Club, of which I am also a member, has adopted a "Keep the Flash" program which encourages their owners to flash their lights at other Porsches. I am wondering if the newsletter would consider continuing this tradition by recommending to SAN DIEGO MIATA CLUB members that they participate in some sort of recognition of other Miatas.


Sincerely,

— JERRY CISINSKY

Since the early days of the Miata, it has been a tradition to greet other Miata drivers with a "Miata wave." For the M1 cars this was a raising of the pop-up headlamps, for the M2 (1999 and newer) "wave challenged" Miatas this is accomplished by flashing the headlights. As with all customs and greetings, it is only perpetuated when the custom is passed on to the newer members of the Miata community. We highly encourage all SAN DIEGO MIATA CLUB members to keep this customary greeting alive as a way to show recognition of *Zoom-Zoom* spirit.

There is a national "Save the Wave" campaign at: <http://home.neo.rr.com/bsetliff/savewave/miata/index.htm>. The SAN DIEGO MIATA CLUB has added a link to this campaign on the club web page at www.sandiegomiataclub.org.

— EDITOR



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 on April 5th. 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.

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

—EDITOR



OK, so there wasn't much in the way of memorable eating, and nothing at all in the way of driving, but it still turned out to be a bunch of FUN anyway! Which seems to be the middle name of the SAN DIEGO MIATA FUN CLUB.

Club members had an opportunity to stand next to two flashy 2003 models and extol the virtues of the little jelly bean to the hordes attending the annual San Diego International Auto Show in early January. One car was Black and the other the new Garnet Red Mica—which really attracted crowds. Fortunately, a staff of cleaning personnel came by regularly to wipe off the fingerprints and other assorted smudges on the finishes.

One was automatic and one manual, and one had cloth seats and one leather, so folks got to imagine driving in all modes. Both cars were equipped with the chrome gas filler cover (\$100 option at the dealer), which attracted a bunch of attention. About 6,000 young boys tried to open it with their fingernails.

The question asked most frequently—"How do I tilt up the steering wheel?" The "Miata twirl" for getting in and out of the car seems foreign to some folks.

Many former Miata owners came

Ready for your Close Up?

We are in need of your SAN DIEGO MIATA CLUB related photos! Please send any photos you can to DUSTIN LEWIS, the Club Historian. Send digital pictures to him at; d2bjamul@sdcoe.k12.ca.us or you may send physical pictures to:

Dustin Lewis
PO Box 817
Jamul, CA 91935

We are trying hard to get some new photo albums made as well as renovate the photo link off the club Web site. Your help is greatly needed!



January 1 - 5 San Diego International Auto Show

by to say how much they enjoyed the car in years past. Parents with young children looked wistfully but agreed there is not much room for car seats.

Club members were able to answer questions about both the car and the club, and judging from the response it appears there will be some new owners/members in the very near future.

We almost didn't have an opportunity to take part this year as the time

was rapidly disappearing when DENNIS DIDIER stepped up and volunteered to coordinate the staffing schedule. He did a grand job, and received the usual strong support from more than two dozen club members.

So, thanks, Dennis! You didn't earn any magnetics, but you earned the thanks of both the members who were there and the visitors who learned so much more about the Mazda Miata and SDMC because we were there.

— TOM SPRAGUE



Right— LAURIE and JIM PATTON were joined by JANICE and JERRY BOSTER (Below) on their volunteer shift during the auto show. More than two dozen SDMC members volunteered to share their enthusiasm for the Miata and the SAN DIEGO MIATA CLUB with prospective buyers during the show.



PHOTOS: ANTHONY WILDE





January 18 - Saturday
Impromptu Tech Day

Many of our gnarly little cars in the SAN DIEGO MIATA CLUB are now even gnarlier.

It's all because of the "impromptu-promptu" tech day last month, hosted by LARRY DENNSTEDT at his motor-ing emporium.

Enhancements ranged from brakes to roll bars, from headlight adjusting to a new fuel pump, from cleansing of fuel injector systems to gadget addition, from tooth removal to grill installation.

Dent Man and his companion, Dent Dude (Batman and Robin?), were also there to make little imperfections disappear.

One somewhat different event was the recovery of a lost earring following deft surgical removal of the driver's side seat. Previous probing with various size hands of male and female members followed by a magnetic probe had brought nothing but dust bunnies.

Multiple discussions were constantly being held, from which polishes work best to how to handle curves during racing, to how to get

better sound from the stereo system. There were ample tools and shop manuals on hand, but the most fun was helping each other with comments and hands-on support.

Larry provided his tools, his know-how and his encouragement, along with that of his associate, Rocky.

About two dozen Miatas were being pampered, along with a new Mazda pickup and a DeLorean. This being the SDMC, ample food was consumed in the way of pizza and donuts—principal elements of the major food groups.

— TOM SPRAGUE



Left— A new roll bar gets installed

Right— GENE STANLEY assists HOWARD KUZMINSKI with a new fuel pump.

PHOTO: ANTHONY WILDE



PHOTO: JD LINA



January 18 - Saturday
A Plane Ol' Bread Run

Thank you so much for joining us and making our first run such a success. The e-mail notes were great and both JIM and I are especially glad everyone else had as much fun as we

did. Thanks to the BOSTERS for being our sweep, to SAL and GERI for helping with the radio when ours kept fading out, to BRUCE LEWIS for trying to enliven us with really bad jokes, and to STEVE WAID, who offered some sage advice on lemonade that kept me from getting upset over trucks in the

parking lot and hay trucks and campers. But a special thanks to everyone who came out and shared in the fun. Without the 23 cars there would not have been a run. Who knows, maybe we can make it an annual?

— LAURIE PATTON



Left and Right— SAN DIEGO MIATA CLUB members enjoyed a scenic run before getting up-close with the aircraft on display at the Flying Leatherneck Aviation Museum on MCAS Miramar.

PHOTO: DAVE MARTIN



PHOTO: RICH BEST



Upcoming Regional & National Events
(Continued from page 5)

- * 5x7 group picture
- * Lunch each day
- * Certificate of completion
- * Classroom instruction
- * Individual ride-along instruction
- * Approximately 150 to 175 track miles per day

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

Hotel Information: The group hotel room rate at the Park Plaza (formerly the Essex House) (800) 670-7275 or (661) 948-0961 in Lancaster, approximately 20 minutes from the track, is \$60 for a double or king, add \$10 for an extra person. Ask for the Willow Springs rate. There will be a group dinner Saturday night. Other hotels and motels are in the area if you wish to make alternative arrangements.

California-Oregon National Park Tour 2003

Dates: May 23 - June 1

Hosted By: MARNA WOOD,

MiataFun@earthlink.net

Come and join us for a week long run through California and Oregon. The snow has melted and the flowers are blooming. The natural wonders of the West are beckoning.

Leaving the Los Angeles area on Friday, May 23, we will journey north along the foothills of the Sierra Nevada mountains. Along the way, we will visit four national parks—Sequoia, Kings Canyon, Yosemite, and Lassen Volcanic. Entering Oregon, we will stop at Crater Lake National Park before we proceed north along the Cascade mountains to Bend. Heading west, we will reach the coast at Newport before beginning a leisurely journey south. We will take our time, exploring the Sea Lion Caves, the Oregon Dunes, The Ave-

nue of the Giants, and many awesome Miata roads.

Along the way, we will also be socializing with numerous other Miata clubs, culminating on May 30th with dinner with the BAMA and Delta Miata clubs. June 1st, it will be time to head home, after a week of exploring the scenic West and developing life-long friendships.

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.

Send to: newsletter@sandiegomiataclub.org

For Sale: Featherlite, model 3110, open car trailer, all aluminum, 18 ft bed, dual axle, 7000 lb GCVWR, removable fenders, hide-away ramps, floor mounted D-rings. \$4300. Kevin, (760) 751-4050 khaywood@qualcomm.com

For Sale: Cibie headlights for M1. \$99 for the pair. Elliot, kingfish@teamvoodoo.com or (858) 679-0777

For Sale: Four (4) Factory alloy wheels from 1993 Miata. Wheels in good condition, straight, no major scratches. Center caps in perfect condition. Worn Dunlop SP8000 tires mounted. Make an offer, (any offer!) and replace your old steel wheels. Michael, (858) 481-1488 or msc@DelMarMotorsports.com

For Sale: Five-speed gearbox & differential (with prop shaft & axles) from a '91 with 125k miles. Four (4) HKS 4-way adjustable shocks & matching springs with 17k miles. \$275 per item or \$750 for all. Rick, (619) 702-8077

For Sale: Tan boot for soft top. Factory vinyl, for glass window. New, never used. \$50 John, jnk2441@san.rr.com or (858)792 4156

For Sale: Two (2) 14-ounce cans of Freon12 found during garage cleaning. Make offer. Patrick, (760) 940-8355 or pat_osullivan_email@yahoo.com

For Sale: '92 Miata. White with black interior. very nice condition. Roll bar, free flow exhaust, sport shocks, new top. Yokahama 306S tires with only about 10K miles. Runs very strong. 145,000 miles. \$3900 OBO. Patrick, (760) 753-5440 or tchvlvh@yahoo.com

For Sale: Hard Dog roll bar for M1. Bought with group buy but it won't fit our aftermarket glass window. \$250. Chuck, (619) 421-8774 or uscoles@aol.com

For Sale: 1992 red Miata. 75k miles. Original owner. Leather/CD. Jackson Racing supercharger installed at 69K by JBA Racing. Always garaged/covered. New Toyo Proxes T1-S on chrome wheels. Tonneau and new car cover. Spare new battery. \$7895 Bill, (619) 884-7597 or a-bjones@cox.net

For Sale: Utility trailer for sale. 5x8 ft wood floor, 2 ft metal sides. Rear drop ramp. Single axle. 15 inch wheels with spare. This is a heavy-duty trailer. Gross weight rating is 2995 lbs. Great for motorcycles, ATVs, landscaping material. Picture available upon request. \$800 OBO. Kevin, (760) 751-4050 khaywood@qualcomm.com

For Sale: 1997 Chevy Tahoe, LT, four door, white with grey leather, double rear doors, power everything, Bilstein gas shocks, tow package and brake controller, 85k miles, new tranny at 60k miles, good rubber, one owner, well maintained. Replaced this one with truck of greater load capacity. \$12,500 OBO. Kevin, (760) 751-4050 khaywood@qualcomm.com

For Sale: Must sell! A very special, adult driven, 1999 Miata with Jackson Racking supercharger, ignition timer, roll bar, and lowered suspension. Never raced, never abused. Very, very quick and drivable. In excellent shape, factory leather & in-dash CD. \$13,900. Tom, (949) 394-1716 or tdskip@yahoo.com

For Sale: Seats, tan leather, from a '92 LE with 65,000 miles on it. Also have carpeting, door panels, and tan trim pieces, \$400 exchange. Also have body and mechanical parts from '90, '92, '94, & '96. Wally, (619) 232-2801 ext 313, 234-2858, or 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 installing the wiring on our '96). \$1250 OBO. Karen, (619)220-8331, kgoyette@cts.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

