

SAN DIEGO MIATA CLUB NEWS



AUGUST 2005 VOLUME 8 NUMBER 11

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE: SO WHAT'S YOUR FAVORITE EVENT

Over the last nine years Jack and I have participated in numerous SDMC events and activities. Each event has its own blueprint. Some highlight driving while others highlight good eats and most highlight both. Some start very early in the morning and some start later in the day. Some are for an entire weekend and some take a week to get there. Some have been rallies and some involved a murder. There have been car shows, parades and cruising events. Of all the events and activities we have participated in many have become our favorites and we look forward to these events every year.

The Annual Twilight Run. Mark and Cathy Booth have been organizing this fantastic run since August of 1996. The Twilight Run is a casual scenic ride on some of the best roads in East County. Timing is everything and the Booths have timed it perfectly to capture the sun setting as Miatas wind down the mountain road. The Twilight Run entices drivers from both SDMC and SOCALM and last year over 80 Miata's participated.

Next are two events hosted by Steve and Laurie Waid. Steve and Laurie have organized and hosted The "Puke O Rama" for the last 7 years. A driving event that covers most of the twisty roads in San Diego County. Members can choose to participate with various driving level groups from spirited driving to the casual daffodil driving group. Nicknamed "The Puke", for obvious reasons, decorated lunch bags are distributed with run instructions for those co-pilots who experience a little motion sickness along the way. The "Puke O Rama" is a signature run that draws Miata drivers from as far as Santa Barbara.

Search for Madonna is another favorite and has been on the SDMC event schedule for several years. The search begins early on a Saturday morning with Miatas heading for San Luis Obispo. The Madonna Inn's themed rooms have become a hit among SDMC members and reservations are made a year in advance in hopes of getting that favorite room. In addition to driving there are plenty of things to do in and around San Luis Obispo. This year's Search took participants to Hearst Castle, a new addition to the event.

(Continued on page 5)

AUGUST EVENTS: SEE INSIDE FOR COMPLETE DETAILS!

	Event	Date	Time?	Where to Meet?
	Cruisin' Grand Escondido	Friday, August 5th	6 pm eat 7 pm cruise 8:30 pm pie	Toms #23 Escondido (See inside for directions)
	Debbye Does the Santee Drive In	Saturday, August 6th	4:00 pm	Chicken Pie Diner- Poway
	SDMC Tours Palomar Observatory	Saturday, August 13th	8:30 a.m.	Frontage road that runs next to the Arco Station located on the west side of I-15 at the Deer Springs Rd. exit.
	Moon Over Miatas	Saturday, August 20th	8:30 pm	Dudley's parking lot in Santa Ysabel at the junction of Hwy 78 & Hwy 79.
	SDMC Monthly Meeting	Thursday, August 25th	6 pm	Boll Weevil Restaurant, Clairemont Mesa Blvd.



NEW MEMBERS

As of July 16, 2005 there are 294 memberships (107 single, 187 dual) and a total of 481 members.

Welcome to our newest members (since last newsletter): (8)

Matt Martis
Bonita
2004 Silver

Aaron Shear
San Diego
1996 starlight Blue

Jakdown Wonosarjana
Angkana Pitiwartarlai
Santee
1990 Red

Orest & Donna Wontorsky
San Diego
2004 Silver

Richard & Robin Sparrow
Escondido
2003 Garnet

Dave & Erlette Upshaw
Spring Valley
1999 Blue 10AE

Alicia Eisenstadt
Escondido
1999 Silver

David Weimer
Poway
1993 Red



MEMBERSHIP STATISTICS

Memberships by Miata Color:

- 73 Red
- 48 White
- 28 Black
- 19 Silver
- 13 Titanium
- 13 Montego Blue
- 10 Yellow
- 11 Sapphire Blue
- 9 Mariner Blue
- 7 Mahogany
- 8 Emerald Green
- 7 Twilight Blue
- 7 Crystal Blue
- 5 BRG
- 3 Midnight Blue
- 5 Starlight Blue
- 3 Laguna Blue
- 5 Garnet
- 3 Marina Green
- 2 Strato Blue
- 2 Merlot
- 1 Splash Green
- 1 Laser Blue
- 1 Black Cherry
- 3 Unreported

RENEWING MEMBERS (SINCE LAST NEWSLETTER):

- Richard Best
- Mark & Cathy Booth
- Stef & Tom Gould
- James W. Hind
- Digilio Jennie
- Jennifer Roth
- Ruth & Lou Stark
- Woody & Maggi Woodhouse
- Tony & Maria Igar
- Eric Johnson
Claire Johnson
- Rainer & Marianne Mueller
- Samuel Ramey
- Gene & Pinkie Stanley
- Michael Chiappetta
Lauren Jackson
- Brenda Kay
- Mike & Andi Schwartz
- Jonathan Tang
Minh-Ha Do

BADGES?

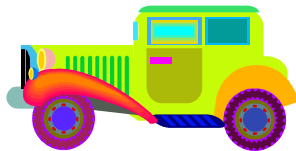
Have you wondered how to get those nifty engraved plastic name badges that have been turning up on members at the latest events? They are available for a mere \$6.50 each, including shipping to your home, from VICKY KRUEGER. You will need to give her cash up front, as the badges need to be paid for in advance. Lots of colors are available to match your Miata. See Vicky at a monthly meeting or e-mail her at vicky@teamvoodoo.com.



EVENTS

Cruisin' Grand Friday, August 5 6 pm

Contact: Steve and Laurie Waid
760-432-0727 swaid@cox.net



Every Friday night from April through September, Escondido opens up Grand Avenue for cruising. On the first Friday of every month San Diego Miata Club members meet at Tom's #23, at 6 pm to eat before leaving at 7 pm to cruise Grand. After taking Grand a couple of times, we park and then walk Grand. You will see Hot Rods, Street Rods, Muscle Cars, Restorations, Motorcycles and more. A fun "Blast from the Past."

After cruisin' and walkin' Grand, we will drive the short distance to find ice cream. This will be a full evening of car fun for car people.

Tom's #23 is located on the Southwest corner of Centre City Parkway and 5th Street. Exit on Centre City Parkway from Interstate 15.

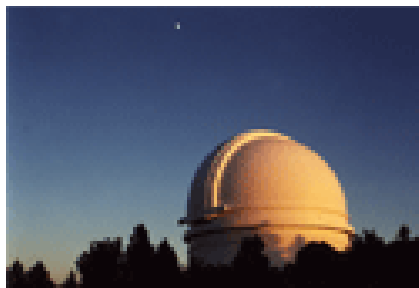
SDMC Tours Palomar Observatory Saturday, August 13 8:30 am

Meet just up the frontage road that runs next to the Arco Station located on the west side of I-15 at the Deer Springs Rd. exit. The actual address of the Arco Station is 26915 Mesa Rock Rd., Escondido.

Contact: Rainer & Marianne Mueller, (760) 439-0357,
[E-mail Rainer & Marianne](mailto:Rainer & Marianne)

An RSVP is required. Rainer would prefer you E-mail your RSVP. Please put "Palomar" in the subject field of your E-mail. Please include the names of all people attending (if you call, please spell any difficult names).

Rainer has once again arranged for SDMC to visit the Palomar Observatory for a "behind the scenes" tour conducted by a student from CalTech. At the request of CalTech, participation is limited. However, there will be two tours to help accommodate as many members as possible. While one group tours the observatory the other group will eat an early lunch at Mom's restaurant atop Mt. Palomar. Then the two groups will switch. Following the tours and lunch, the fun run will continue down the opposite side of Palomar, stopping at the new overlook for Lake Henshaw. From there we might go to Julian or, perhaps, on to an Indian Casino.



Debbye Does the Santee Drive In Saturday, August 6 4:00 pm

Chicken Pie Diner- Poway

Contact: Bruce & Debbye Lewis, (619) 447-0930, [E-mail Bruce & Debbye](mailto:Bruce & Debbye)

It's time for the annual Drive-in Movie Run. We will meet at the Chicken Pie Diner at 14727 Pomerado Rd. at the intersection of Ted Williams Pkwy. (south end of the shopping center). Around 5:30- 6:00 we will leave for a short run through Rancho Bernardo, Ramona, Lakeside, and ending up at the Santee Drive-in (10990 Woodside Rd.) in time to get settled in for the movie. The 1st movie will start around 8:30 PM. Will it be a Blockbuster or just a Bust? ... No one knows ?? Admittance is \$6.00 per person. What to bring- Chairs, Radio (if you tune to the right station, you get the audio), Jackets in case it gets cold , yeah- right! Drive-in Movie Snacks provided. For further info contact Bruce Lewis or Mark Booth. SEE YA AT THE MOVIES !!



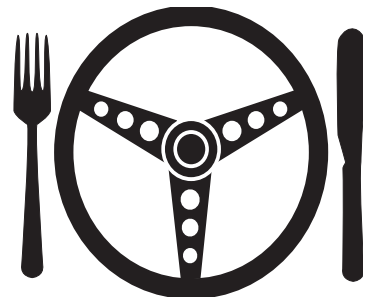
Monthly Meeting Thursday August 25 6 pm at Boll Weevil

9330 Clairemont Mesa Blvd. SD (858)571-6225
(meeting starts at 7 PM)

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

Come get a burger or ice cream or ??? and chat with your Miata friends, then get the scoop on what's happening with the Club at 7 PM. Don't miss the fun!!

Helpful Links:
Google Map of the Boll Weevil Location
<http://maps.google.com/maps?>



EVENTS

Moon Over Miatas Saturday, August 20 8:30 pm

Meeting Place: Dudley's parking lot in Santa Ysabel at the junction of Highway 78 and Highway 79.

Run leaders: Steve and Laurie Waid, swaid@cox.net, 760-432.0727



This is the 3rd consecutive year that we have done this fun run and it continues to gain favor with those that have experienced the Full Moon over Miatas. This run is designed to take advantage of a full moon as we drive in the late evening through the base of the desert. During August the daytime heat tends to make you want to avoid driving with the top down, but at night with a full moon, top down driving becomes refreshing.

Expect the temperature to vary from mid 60's to mid 90's as we go down Banner Grade out of Julian and across S2 to Interstate 8. We will stop at the Golden Acorn Casino restaurant for a late night snack before heading home.

Miatas at the Getty Saturday, September 10 7:15 am

caravan hits the road at 7:30 am sharp

Oceanside McDonald's parking lot on the south side of Oceanside Blvd. and just east of I-5

Contact: Randy & Sue Patterson, (760) 630-0109, [E-mail Randy & Sue](mailto:Randy & Sue)

Randy and Sue have arranged for us to visit the fabulous J. Paul Getty Museum in Los Angeles. They will lead a caravan of Miatas from Oceanside to the Getty with a stop in Fountain Valley along the way (see below). Admission to the museum is free and the museum does not charge for parking when you arrive with the group.

Important Note: Attendance for this event is limited to 50 CARS total. You **MUST** RSVP for this event. Please contact Randy and Sue to RSVP. Reserve your spot ASAP!

Fountain Valley Stop: The caravan will stop at the Sportmart parking lot, at the corner of Warner Ave. and Magnolia St. in Fountain Valley. The caravan will resume (leave Sportmart) at approximately 9:00 a.m. to continue on directly to the Getty, arriving at the Getty at approximately 10:00 am

A Zonies Infestation Friday, September 16th through Sunday, September 18th.

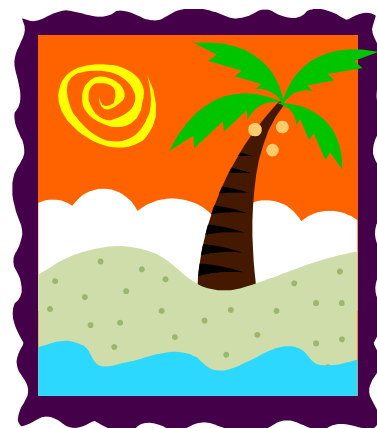
The Sahuaro Miata Club from Arizona is planning to come and "play" in North San Diego for a long weekend. Plans are in place with more specifics to come. But the basic plan is as follows:

The Holiday Inn Express in Escondido will be the home for our visitors. If you are interested in staying there to enjoy the entire event just let me know and I will give you the details. Very reasonable rates...\$60 for a room, \$90 for a suite plus continental breakfast.

Friday, anyone available may join me in meeting the Zonies as they come through Temecula on their way to Escondido. We will lead them to the Holiday Inn Express. After giving them a chance to "freshen up," the patio at Dalton's Roadhouse has been reserved for dinner. Costs \$10 to \$25, order off of the menu. After dinner we will Cruise Grand. Not much of this kind of thing goes on in Arizona, so the last Zonie group to come 2 years ago really enjoyed the experience. Afterwards we will all be invited to the SDMC Hospitality Suite., the Waid's, for some after Cruisin' refreshments and fellowship.

Saturday, we will meet the group in the Dalton's parking lot for short jaunt to a private car collection tour, before we depart on a North County Run. Lunch will likely be at Pauma Casino restaurant with arrival back at the hotel to be by 4 PM. That will allow our friends time to freshen up before our BBQ. Dennis and Maryanne Garon will host us all to a catered BBQ in their spacious home, which includes pool, spa, outdoor train set, and pool table. Exact price is yet to be determined (it soon will be) but we will need to have a reservation count in advance.

Sunday, we will meet in the Holiday Inn Express parking lot to lead a run that will take our Zonies home. The route will be Highway 78 through Julian and down the Banner Grade. We will take them as far as the desert floor and then wish them well on their return trip.



A DRIVE INTO THE FAIR (ONE MAN'S OPINION) —BY BRUCE LEWIS

The day dawned, sunny and warm, a great top-down drive to the Fair day. This was the last “Drive into the Fair Day” courtesy of those club members that exhibited their cars at the Fair Car Show – THANKS GUYS!

We had about 10 Miatas and a few OTMs. Our personal little group consisted of Debbye and me and our 10AE, Laurie Patton in her Slva Cah, with gorgeous new blue flames – Very Cool! (or is that very hot?). We loaned our friend Sue our Blazing Yellow Mica for the day and friend Kacey accompanied Laurie (to keep those new flames from spreading). Four girls and one guy, hmmm..... could be an interesting day. “Then what to my wondering eyes should appear but Kelley Raymond in her freshly waxed “Black Beauty” with spiffy matching calipers”, the *fun factor* had just risen. Okay, now there were 5 wild women and one over-whelmed guy.

If you ever wanted to know what the president or pope feels like in a motorcade just do one of these drives into the fair. We got a police car escort up front and motorcycles in the middle and rear of the caravan. All cross-traffic was stopped along the mile route from Albertson’s into the fairgrounds. I’m sure all of those OTMs didn’t mind waiting for us. Hey! Maybe we could get these guys to escort us on some of our runs! Upon arriving at the fair we got to park right on the race-track. The only horses today though, were under our hoods.

On our way into the fair I was won-

dering, with all of these women, was I in for a day of garden displays, crocheting, knitting and cooking contests? Imagine my surprise when the answer to my “What do you want to do” question was, “Let’s hit the Beer Garden”...

Cool! Wait a minute! Where’s Kelley? Oh, she stopped to get a smoked turkey leg. Okay, on to the Photo Arts Exhibit to place some votes for Mike Shack’s photo entry, what a great photograph!

Back to the midway...anyone seen Kelley? There she is, getting a foccacia. Onto Crosby Hall for all of the slicers, dicers and “can’t live without” gizmos. Now back out to the midway...except Kelley, she’s at the frosty cone stand. Damn! That girl sure knows how to enjoy the fair! Whoa! Where did Debbye and Kacey get all of that Mackinac Island Fudge? Wow! All of this food sure makes you thirsty, hey, there’s another Beer Garden...Cool! Sue, that Kettle Corn was a great idea to go with the beer on such a hot day. You guys mind if I look at the tractors?...no? Cool! It’s okay with me if you girls want to go



look at the chickies and bunnies...no? Cool! Wow! It’s almost time to move the cars off the track already. Hold on, what’s Laurie so excited about? A wine tasting?...Cool!

Holy Cow! What a day! Hey! Do you think we could get a few more girls to come with us next year? Yeah? COOL !

Photos by Stan Fry and Donna Sinkway



SO WHAT'S YOUR FAVORITE EVENT—CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

My favorite event list could go on forever but there is one more I want to mention, the SDMC Holiday Party. No driving here, just friendship and camaraderie in true Holiday Spirit. Best of all is the SDMC Gift Exchange – picking that favorite Miata gismo or gadget just to have it stolen away by one of your fellow Miata friends. The event would not be complete without the antics of Santa, Obi Waid and his Miata Elf, Mark Booth. This is definitely a way to get into the Holiday Spirit.

Several events have been planned for the remainder of the year and many new events are being added to the events calendar. SDMC offers something for everyone, whether you’re into spirited driving, autocross, scenic drives, tech days or weekend get-a-ways there is always something to do with SDMC. In fact, there are so many events and activities that Jack and I have a difficult time deciding which ones to do. If you would like to create another memorable event or activity for members to enjoy contact Mark Booth or someone on the Fun Team. They’ll be happy to help you organize and plan your event.

Until the next event!

Sue Hinkle, Your Zoom-Zoom Prez



FOURTH OF JULY PARADE - BY LARRY CLARK

Driving with other Miatas in Crest's Fourth of July parade sounded like fun. There was just that small hurdle of waking up at 5:45 to reach Pat and Jay Minnich's by 7:15. Even our dog Suki (a Japanese Chin) was yawning.

A heavy marine layer blanketed most of our drive to Crest, but just before reaching Minnichs' we popped through into glorious sunshine. (I'm pretty sure we were on La Cresta at the time, because every road in the area seemed to be named La Cresta Something.)

We figured we had found the right place when we saw half a dozen Miatas in various stages of dress. After parking, we quickly applied the decorations we had brought with us. This left Maryata looking almost naked next to her sisters, so we began dipping into the club's vast stash of goodies from past parades. We also enjoyed the donuts that Minnichs provided.

By the time we were told to saddle up, our contingent had grown to 11 cars. Most were so nearly covered with patriotic decorations that it was hard to guess their paint colors (which didn't really matter, since there was only one other white). The coolest idea we saw was to mount flags on wiper blades, which were pulled away from the windshield. Turning on the wipers created a waving effect worthy of George M. Cohan.

The drive to the parade staging area was uncharacteristically sedate, considering that the roads had some interesting potential. That's the price of keeping all those decorations in place.

When we arrived, we were told to just pull to the side of the road we came in on. We had plenty of time to mingle with other parade entrants, which certainly were a mixed bag. There were golf carts, old cars (including a nice '57 Chevy), tractors, riding lawn mowers, trailers full of scouts, horses, carts drawn by ponies (or miniature horses), and a guy who walked the entire parade route on stilts. Of course, we had the mandatory fire engine, two grand marshals, and three Miss Crest Cowboys of various ages. Pure Americana.

Eventually, the parade rolled off. Our group was near the middle of the pack, behind the scouts and the golf cars, but mercifully ahead of the livestock. SDMC's own Uncle Sam (Larry Dennstedt) walked the route, passing out salt water taffy to the cheering crowds. (I

got the impression that the pretty girls were getting more candy than the ugly guys—especially the guy who drenched us with a SuperShooter.) Next year, we'll bring dog goodies for Suki to give to the dogs we pass.

We soon reached Nancy Jane Park and pulled into our reserved area. The park had everything you'd expect at a Fourth of July picnic: food, soft drinks, beer, live music, vendors, a dunk tank, more food The only thing missing was fireworks, which don't go over well at noon—nor in areas recovering from disastrous fires.

SDMC won a ribbon for third place in the car division. More important, all the Miatans seemed to have a great time,



and the spectators appeared to appreciate our presence. Thanks to Pat and Jay for hosting the event and coordinating our participation.



Larry Dennstedt:
"I'm from the government, and
I'm here to help." (top)

Mary Clark with Suki. (left)

Cathy Booth in the surrey with
the fringe on the bottom. (below)

All photos by Mark Booth



Shining cars, sunshine, sweets, savories, sweeping sharp turns all have one thing in common. Besides being a lot of "S" words, they were all key parts of the Sweet and Savory Run on Sunday, July 3rd. Twenty cars departed Parkway Plaza at 10:30, lead by Jerry and Janice Boster in Janice's 2003 Shinsen and with that fishy guy Rich Best in his purple car? running sweep.

On the first segment, we waved at Barona (and most of the OTM traffic) and it was off to King Leo's Candy Factory in Julian via Wildcat Canyon Road, San Vicente Road and Old Julian Highway with passing hello to Dudley's (they were closed for vacation). Arriving at King Leo's, everybody was delighted to find plentiful tasty morsels of fudge, various peppermint candies, toffee and taffy laid out on the counter for sampling. Numerous people were heard to comment that if they knew the candy was this good (and this close to Dudley's), they would have stopped there before.

With words of thanks and promises to visit again, twenty two cars (a couple of cars joined in at King Leo's) headed for the twisties of Mesa Grande. After safely negotiating one of Jerry's favorite roads, it was a calm drive down Highway 76 to Valley Center and the savory treats of Bates Nut Farm. After purchasing dried fruits, nuts and savory mixes, SDMC members took a few minutes to relax in the peaceful summer shade of the trees lining the Bates driveway.



Then it was off down Bear Valley Parkway to Del Dios Highway where we enjoyed a nice scenic drive past Lake Hodges for the final part of the run. It was a hungry group of Miataphiles that rolled into Big Jim's Bar-B-Que in Encinitas at mid-afternoon. The service was good and the food was tasty. We even had the pleasure of listening to blues music from live performers. Some found foods that were familiar from earlier times in their lives, while others tried the new and not always usual (ask Mark Booth about the potatoes with a smile). To the echoes of "thanks" and "see you next time" our shiney cars departed and heading north, south and east on their separate ways, well satisfied with another day of good food, driving, and friendship.

Top: Veep Jerry Boster
Left: Rich Best and Ann Marshall
Photos by Janice Boster



A TRIP TO PETERSEN AUTOMOTIVE MUSEUM—BY LAURIE WAID

Sounds pretty boring, huh? A MUSEUM! Museums are for school kids and old fogeys, right? WRONG! The Petersen Museum is a novelty-filled treasure of automotive and Los Angeles history (and some pretty cool looking cars, as well!)

We began the day leaving McDonalds in Oceanside at oh dark hundred—well, not quite, but pretty early for a Saturday morning. The trip to the Wilshire District in LA was quick, fume-filled and otherwise pleasantly uneventful. We were greeted by a large contingent already waiting for us at the Museum, with special parking set aside for our group. The Museum was well prepared for our group, having four well informed guides ready to lead us into the Vault and on to visit the other exhibits within the Museum.

The Vault is the basement garage, normally closed to outsiders and museum visitors, but opened to our club by special arrangement. Steve and I have gotten to know Dick Messer, Director of the Petersen Automotive Museum, through events I have planned for my company, Automotive Marketing Consultants, Inc. Dick has been a wonderful resource for those interested in auto history and was able to provide this tour for us as a great favor. It is opened to a group about twice a year. He originally planned to conduct the tour himself, but since he had to be traveling that weekend, provided his docents, themselves

extremely knowledgeable about every facet of the cars, to guide us.

We were allowed a limited amount of time to peruse the Vault, a specific area designated to hold Mr. Petersen's own private cars, and another area holding the off-collection private cars of the Museum. My favorite, one of Mr.

Petersen's cars, is a yellow (surprise!) pinaforina Ferrari 365 GTB. Simply elegant, it is perfect lines and understated quality. Other cars in the Vault included the private car of Stan Laurel of Laurel and Hardy fame, Fred Astaire's car, the car that Ali Khan bought for Rita Hayworth, and many others of historical significance.

Upstairs in the public museum areas, we saw a replicated street area from the early days of Los Angeles through the 1950's. As a very young child I remember seeing some of the street cars and hearing about "Angel's Flight" and Farmers' Market. The photos and street scenes, complete with real vintage cars, were delightful. Other public areas included the Hot Wheels section, the special exhibit of cars used by kings, emper-



ors, etc. and Hollywood cars.

We were lucky enough to have Mike Shack along who was familiar with the area and knew of a great Jewish deli, Canter's, nearby. For lunch we feasted on brisket, corned beef and other deli delights, to keep us sustained till we drove home. Others waited till Orange County to eat, visited Malibu for a cool drive or experienced other LA areas before returning in the sunny afternoon to San Diego.

If you get a chance while in LA, take the opportunity to visit the Museum. It is well worth the \$10 admission and an afternoon to get a real flavor for the history of cars in California, and the impact they have on our California lifestyle.

Photos by Mark Booth



When was the last time you were in Hawaii?" was what I heard when I answered the phone. "It was about 14 years ago when I was doing work out on Johnston Island," I replied to Elliot Shev. "How would you like to drive the new MX-5 in Hawaii?" "I can be at the airport in 10 minutes," I replied. I had to stop packing my suitcase and wait a few weeks for the opportunity.

Elliot had invited me (as a 15 year Miata enthusiast) to accompany him to the "New MX-5 Global Fan Club Event" that Mazda was holding in conjunction with the first automotive press drives of the new MX-5 (Miata). The events were to be held on the island of Hawaii, the largest of the islands that make up our fiftieth state. Based at the Four Seasons Resort Hualalai, the automotive press would get the first test drives in the new MX-5. An invited group of 32 MX-5/Miata enthusiasts from around the planet would follow a week later and get to try out the third generation of our favorite roadster. There were two enthusiasts each from Australia, Canada, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and the United Kingdom. Ten enthusiasts from both Japan and the United States completed this tidal wave of enthusiasm descending on the "big island." The enthusiasts were invited to the event by the host regions of Mazda by different methods. Some were winners of various contests held either by the regional Mazda office or chosen to represent the enthusiast/fan clubs from their country. Mazda North America (MNAO) chose to have the members of their Enthusiast Advisory Council be the representatives from the United States and Canada. Since Elliot is our Western Region representative, I went as his guest and the tenth US enthusiast.

Arrival

We traveled to Hawaii on Friday, June 25. I flew in to Los Angeles from Las Vegas where I met Elliot and some of the other US enthusiasts in the terminal as we all boarded the direct flight to Kona, Hawaii. It's only a little over five hours from LA to Kona, but it seemed forever, partly due to the packed flight and partly due to the anticipation of having an SDMC style "fun run" with the

new MX-5/Miata on the island paradise.

We were transported to the Four Seasons resort where we checked into our very nice room (I'm glad I'm not paying the bill!), only yards from the blue-green water along the Kohala Coast on the western edge of the island. We met some of the other US enthusiasts and our hosts from Mazda for lunch. After relaxing in the room for a few hours, trying out the outdoor lava shower and collecting our substantial goodie bags, we went to the welcome reception, which was moved inside due to some intermittent showers. The room for the reception was just off the main ballrooms for the resort where we could see the new MX-5/Miata display through the open doors while we met some of the enthusiasts from other countries. We made our way to the tables for dinner and were introduced to the others by our Mazda hosts. When Elliot was introduced, one of the Japanese enthusiasts jumped up and proclaimed... "My friend! Elliot, my friend!" Running over he hugged Elliot while crying... "My friend, my friend, I stayed at his house!" The enthusiastic person was Osamu Nakayachi from the Kanazawa Roadster Club of Japan. Some of you may remember that Osamu and a couple of other Kanazawa enthusiasts made a trip to the US in 2001. When they came to San Diego, they spent a couple of nights at the Shev house in Poway before we led them on a run that ended with a party at the Lewis' home in Jamul (see the SDMC News from July 2001 for the story).

After the fantastic meal, all of the enthusiasts began to slip into the banquet room to view the display of the new MX-5/Miata. A full body-in-white was available to see the body structure of the new car without any of the suspension, power-



Elliot Shev and Antknee Wilde at a scenic overlook.
Photo by Antknee Wilde

train, or interior installed. We could plainly see the new integrated roll hoops and how they are part of the overall body structure of the new MX-5/Miata. Another display showed just the suspension and powertrain (with seats and steering wheel for visual reference). It was easy to see the new aluminum upper and lower control arms, the multi-link rear suspension and the very large muffler for the dual exhaust. In addition, the catalytic converter is connected directly to the exhaust header in place of the A-pipe to maximize the heating of the catalyst. Everyone in the room studied the displays and took turns in the driver seat of the Velocity Red Limited Edition car at the center of the stage.

After a peaceful night of sleep, with the gentle roar of the surf outside we got down to a wonderful breakfast buffet just off the beach. Then it was off to the banquet room again to hear the full Mazda product presentation. The key team members of the new MX-5 design team gave presentations. First was the program manager Takao Kijima, who discussed how the concept of *Jinba Ittai*, or the synergy of rider and horse moving as one, was the driving principal of the original MX-5/Miata and was emphasized in the design of the new, or third generation MX-5. Next was the chief designer of the new MX-5, Yasushi Nakamuta. He gave an outline of the process of how the new design was achieved. Interesting to note was that the final three designs that were



ELLIOT & ANTHONY'S MOST EXCELLENT ADVENTURE—CONT'D

turned into full-sized clay models were from the three design studios in Irvine, California, Hiroshima, Japan and Frankfurt, Germany. The overall design for the new MX-5/Miata is based on the model from Hiroshima. Tetsuo Fujitomi, the deputy program manager for the powertrain gave his part of the presentation. There were six specific situations that the design team evaluated to give the new MX-5/Miata the same handling and nimbleness of the former models. These situations were; entering a main road from a parking lot, turning at a road junction, driving through urban or suburban traffic, driving on winding roads, joining freeway traffic and passing on the freeway. Sounds like a normal SDMC run!

Let the FUN begin!

We then were given our car assignments and the run instruction sheet. Now this is what we came for! We had been assigned to a True Red model with 17-inch wheels, black leather interior, Bose stereo system and a six-speed transmission.

After the usual group photos, we all piled into our assigned rides and prepared to hit the road. Elliot took the first stint in our car as we led the rest of the North American enthusiasts out in the first group from the Four Seasons resort. After leaving the resort we headed north on the main highway with lots of OTM traffic to keep us in check. We immediately found that the air conditioning system works very well as the tropical sun was beating down from a cloudless sky. As we turned onto Waikoloa Road we had the opportunity to pass a few OTMs and found how the torque of the 2-liter engine is available for use in every one of

the six gears. After a few mild twisties we headed up the mountain. We found that we could easily double the Hawaii speed limit of 55 mph and have plenty more to spare. Caution prevailed though since we knew that the local constables were on the lookout for us and did not drive the traditional looking police cars. We did spot one during the day; a late '90s Camaro with a flashing blue light on top (looking ever so much like a blue gumball machine) had a tourist with a rental car pulled over. We smiled as we drove past at the speed limit of 35 mph.

At the first stop for lunch in the small hamlet of Waimea, everyone who drove seemed to have that Miata smile. The Mazda video crew wanted to know Elliot's thoughts about his experience and asked him to sit for their camera. One of the other North American enthusiasts dialed his friendly Mazda dealer in Texas and ordered a new MX-5/Miata before going into the restaurant for lunch.

After the scrumptious meal, it was my turn at the wheel. Now I need to preface everything here by saying that I came to Hawaii expecting to hate this new MX-5. After all, I personally never really liked the second generation Miata (1999-2005) and did not have a favorable impression of this car from the photos I had seen prior to coming here. I quickly found that the seating position for the driver is very comfortable. The seats are lower than the previous model, but not so low as to make you feel confined inside the car (as I do in the Honda S2000). The steering wheel adjusts up and down so you can clearly see the instrument panel. From the driver's seat you can raise and lower the top with one hand (as I can in my 1990 Miata), but the top latches in place when down and

uses only a single latch in the middle of the top.

As I pulled out onto Kawaihae Highway, I could feel the torque of the engine. Very different sensation from my 1990 1.6 liter Miata. I quickly went up through the gears and was violating the state speed limit again, with 3 more gears to go! The road climbed up and the scenery changed to windswept grasslands with trees lining the road as we crossed part of the huge Parker Ranch (the largest working cattle ranch in the United States). We let the OTM traffic go as we wanted to experience the twisting mountain roads in the new MX-5. The handling was just as any MX-5/Miata has been to date, only with less vibration and shudder. The build quality is very good on these pre-production cars that have already been subjected to a week of abuse by the automotive press. We descended the mountain and drove through a beautiful small town that could easily be in California, except for the metal roofs on the wooden houses. We entered the Keokea Beach Park on the northern tip of the island for a pit stop and driver change.

We retraced our route back up and across Kohala mountain. Elliot at the wheel this time, we decided to try the top up experience. Now this is news...the new MX-5/Miata is quieter with the top up than any Miata before, even those with a hard top installed! It was almost like driving a coupe with a fixed roof. The wind outside was very strong as it blew across the mountaintop, but the soft top on the MX-5 was very tight. After stopping for a quick picture at a scenic overlook, we followed the OTMs to the same spot we had lunch for a refreshment break and a TEST?

We were given a ten question MX-5/Miata quiz with our lemonade and cookies. We had no time, or materials to study. So we did our best (with a little discussion between Elliot and myself) and handed in our quiz and hit the road again. My turn again, but it's the last chance to wring the new car out. Descending the slopes we had a long straight with no traffic...whoops there went the turn! I tried to turn around on the narrow two-lane straight road, but there is no shoulder. Found a problem...reverse is up and to the left now! OK, safely got turned around, finally and get back to the Four Seasons for a post-



SDMC leads a run in Hawaii.

Photo by Elliot Shev



drive briefing with the Mazda design team.

The briefing was lively with both good impressions and negatives brought to the attention of the team. Some people didn't like the door mounted cup holders because an open container would spill when you shut the door! OK, guess that one was too obvious. Mostly everyone thought the car easily deserved to be an MX-5/Miata based on the 128-mile run we had just completed. With the thanks of the design team we headed for our rooms to clean up for the evenings event, a party at an estate on the Kohala Coast.

We were transported to the estate in mini-buses, quite a let down from our driving during the day. As we entered the estate, a right-hand drive version of the new MX-5 was in the courtyard. The view through the entrance of the house was to an edge pool and then the beautiful coast with a setting sun beyond. A band played Hawaiian music as everyone gathered to take pictures and discuss the day. The 5-course meal included a different wine with each course. There were traditional Hawaiian hula dancers and a very athletic fire dancer. Then, with a drum roll in the background, the high scores for the quiz we took earlier in the day were announced.

The first place was given to Elliot Shev for the North American Mazda ex-

gion. Elliot had the highest overall score of all the participants. In addition the top score for the other Mazda regions were also awarded. Yours truly took the second place award for the North American region. As we left for the night, the new MX-5 design team greeted each one of the enthusiasts as we passed through the house to the mini-bus. Takao Kijima presented each of us with a model of the new MX-5 Limited Edition, which he personalized on the display case.

We can fly too

After another restful night, and a rushed breakfast, we boarded a van to take us to the heliport for a helicopter flight over the island. Elliot and I flew with the enthusiasts from Spain and Sweden. We viewed the volcanic activity that has been continually erupting since 1983 and witnessed the sight of the fresh lava pouring into the sea, making the "big island" even bigger. In the helicopter we were able to fly into secluded valleys and witness 2400-foot waterfalls cascading down to the beach below. As we flew over the northern tip of the island we crossed the roads we had driven the day before in the new MX-5/Miata. Which mode of travel was better?

That night, back at the Four Seasons, we had one more banquet with the Mazda team and the other enthusiasts. We traded pins, signed banners and ex-



changed business cards. I spoke at length with one enthusiast who doesn't actually own an MX-5 in Japan. He works at a Mazda dealership, and his friend won the contest to come to Hawaii. He, however, was very proud of his Ford F-250 with a 460 cubic inch V8. Now try and park that in Tokyo!

Monday brought to a close our Miata trip to paradise. We went with other enthusiasts to buy souvenirs. We had one more meal together and then we said our good byes. Always the worst part of a trip, but somehow this was different. Everything about this weekend was great, the food, the fun, the people and the drive. This time I had to go home and figure out if my 1990 Miata was in need of replacement. I wasn't even looking for a new car...wait; this is just like in 1990 when I first drove the Miata. I didn't want one of those cheap little cars. I drove it and bought it. Now it seems that part of the MX-5/Miata was still alive in this new third generation. Seems like the soul of the little roadster is still there, just more refined.

The following quiz was given during the afternoon break of the New MX-5 Test Drive in Hawaii that Elliot and I went to. We did not get a copy of the quiz when we left, but the rep from Canada apparently did and posted it to the Miata.net forum.

Prizes were awarded at the Saturday night dinner, and "you know who" was the highest score and BIG winner!

See if you can answer the questions and we will post the answers either here or in the newsletter.

About the 1st Generation MX-5

1. Which chairman of Mazda gave approval to the launch of the 1st generation Mazda MX-5?
2. In what motor show did the 1st generation Mazda MX-5 Miata debut?
3. Where was the first media program for the 1st generation Mazda MX-5 Miata held?

About the 2nd generation MX-5

4. In what motor show did the 2nd generation Mazda MX-5 Miata debut?
5. How many turbo MX-5's were sold all around the world?
6. Which two outer body panel parts have not changed from the 1st generation?

About the 3rd generation and MX-5 in general

7. In what motor show did the 3rd generation Mazda MX-5 debut?
8. How many new exterior colors are there for the 3rd generation?
9. When was the first time that the Mazda MX-5 Miata entered into the Guinness Book of World Records?
10. In how many countries has the Mazda MX-5 been sold in total?

Bonus Quiz

11. What is the name of your favorite car?



THE GREATEST SHOW ON TURF—BY JAN WAGNER

A light mist and overcast skies were hardly the kind of weather one would want at the start of a car show day. Nevertheless, that is what greeted participants in “The Greatest Show on Turf” as we made our way to San Diego’s Balboa Park recently.

The big, annual event was a co-presentation of the San Diego Automotive Museum and the Car Club Council of San Diego. If member clubs provide enough entries, they can get a reserved spot on the grass. I belong to the San Diego Miata Club and that is exactly what we did.

Car shows provide a good opportunity for participants to really clean up their cars. Speaking for myself and probably others, too, I cleaned my car up much better than I normally do, so I was not too pleased when, as I was loading my car and preparing to leave home, I saw that it was raining lightly. Into the small trunk I was able to cram two folding chairs, a large beach umbrella (just in case), food for the day, and car cleaning supplies (for touchups after driving in the rain). Then, with the convertible top up, I drove to Balboa Park and joined the other Miata drivers.

As we waited to be directed to our special place on the lawn, I suddenly had a sinking feeling. You see, my car is a convertible. When the Miata’s top is down, we need to install a boot cover to hide the mechanism for the folding top. The vinyl material of my boot cover is quite thin and easily damaged, so I usually leave it at home and ignore the way the boot looks when the top is down but uncovered. Well, can you guess what I forgot to put in the trunk? That’s right, the boot cover. Here I was, entering my car in a car show and I didn’t have my boot cover. Of course, that would almost guarantee me no chance of winning anything. So, I drove all the way back home, retrieved the boot cover, and rejoined my fellow club members who were already removing the morning’s light mist from their Miatas, prior to the start of judging.



Miatas on display

Luckily, from that point on our day went quite well. The light rain stopped and the sun actually came out.



1949 MG TC



Ford Fairlane



Once the judging began, I left to see the rest of the show. The collection of cars on display was impressive, indeed. To give you an idea, here is a partial list of the categories: Horseless Carriage, Speedsters & Roadsters (1916-1943), Woodies, American, Foreign Marques, Muscle Cars, Sportscars, Street Rods, Trucks, Lowriders and Motorcycles. I'll let the photos speak for themselves...



Woody wagon



Ford truck

You'll have to wait until next year to see the show again, but in the meantime I suggest that you visit the San Diego Automotive Museum in Balboa Park. According to the museum's website, the idea of creating an automotive museum in Balboa Park can be traced back to automobile collector and racer Briggs Cunningham. Much later, in 1980, the San Diego City Council approved a proposal to do that and granted a lease on a historic 1935 building – which had been a part of the California Pacific International Exposition. Once intended as only a temporary structure, it was used as a barracks in World War II. Renovations and upgrades to turn it into an automotive museum cost about a million dollars, and it opened in December of 1988. The building is listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

Exhibits rotate. For example, from April 29th to July 25th, you can see an exhibit entitled “Automotive Styling – The World’s Most Beautiful, Distinct, and Memorable Cars.” Prior to the 1920’s, “the goal of the automakers was to improve their products mechanically... making them reliable and easier to drive. Function superseded looks.” That design philosophy changed forever, thanks to such automotive design visionaries as Harley Earl, William Mitchell, and other pioneers. The cars on display include a 1936 Rolls Royce Merlin V-12 (Royce’s last contribution to design), 1938 Bentley (pillar-less saloon body), 1936 Packard (Model 1407 Coupe Roadster), 1963 Corvette Stingray, 1935 Lincoln Model K, 1953 Jaguar XK120, 1933 Pierce Arrow, 1967 Austin-Healey MKII 3000, and many more.

From July 29th to Oct. 24th, the theme will become “Race Cars, Extreme Customs, & Hot Rods.” Anyone with even a drop of motor oil running through their veins will enjoy themselves there.

For more information, including hours, visit their website at www.sdamuseum.org.



Continental

Oh, in case you're wondering, I didn't win any prize in the show. Nevertheless, I still came out ahead because I now have a really clean car. Of course, now I don't dare drive it if the skies are cloudy, but I'm sure that feeling won't last long. Tolerating it getting dirty again is sort of like getting that first little scratch on a new car. After that, I'm not nearly so paranoid.

Your comments are always welcome. Please send them via email to AutoMatters@gmail.com and do join me again next time.

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Download Instructions SDMC Membership List

Currently approximately 94% of our members have access to the Internet. This capability allows you, as a club member, access to Yahoo groups. What's so special about Yahoo Groups? This gives us access to all the SDMC email, photo catalogs, and list information. On this site we offer club members a membership list that includes, name (both member and SO), phone number (this field is blank if you request it), car year, car color, license plate, and home city (NOT address or zip). This information is available to members ONLY! To access this information you MUST acquire (FREE!) a Yahoo Group account. Once you have this account setup do this:

1. Go to <http://groups.yahoo.com/> (on left, top of screen you will see sign in section, logon here with name and password) note; most browsers will allow you to save this location with your password and login name. Bookmark this location and everything will be automatic after this point in time.
2. In the upper left corner you will see a section that says "My Groups." Put your cursor on SDMC-LIST and single click the left mouse button.
3. You are now on our group site. You can get to email, photos and other sources. In this case, look in the upper left section and place your cursor over "Database" and single click.
4. You are now in the Database section and you will see a list of available club databases. Single click on the desired database (most current as of this instruction is "July 2003 SDMC Membership Roster.")
5. You are now in the database and you will see a list of all club members. To sort (alphabetize by last name), single click on the field labeled "Last Name." You can sort on any other field you desire.
6. To print; single click on "Printable Report." On your browser go to "File" (upper left corner) and single click. This will drop a pull down menu of file functions. Near the bottom of the drop down menu you will see "Print." Single click this command.
7. A print menu will pop up giving you access to your printer controls (this presupposes that you have a printer hooked up to your computer). Once your printer is configured to your liking, single click on the "OK" or "Print" button.
8. Voila! you now have 17 (or so) pages of the SDMC Membership Roster.

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The SAN DIEGO MIATA CLUB
has established a dedicated
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www.sandiegomiataclub.org

Dedicated 24-hour voice message line:
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*As of April 2005, dues are
\$35 per year per car.*

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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Submissions to the newsletter are welcomed and encouraged. When possible, please e-mail your submissions to the newsletter editor. Submissions may 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.



Classified ad space is provided free of charge to members only. Ads must include your first and last name, telephone number, and e-mail address with each submission. Must agree with current club roster. Send to: newsletter @sandiegomiataclub.org

For Sale: Apple iPod - 10GB 2nd Generation model, will work with Mac or PC but requires a Firewire port on the computer, excellent condition, price includes a brand new high-capacity battery, \$135, call or E-mail for more details, markbooth@cox.net, (619) 990-5520

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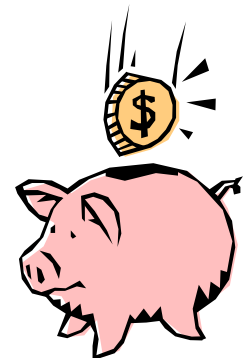
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For Sale: Parts from my '91 with 125K Miles, Strong Engine, 5-Speed Gear Box & Differential (With Prop Shaft & Axles) - Call for Details-Rick Keach 619-702-8077 or e-mail maigaberzins@aol.com

For Sale: Stained glass window; leaded 32" x 58"; Azure BLue wavy glass, Sun Orange wavy glass and white milk glass; Can be used as window or hanging. Includes clear glass overlay to protect from elements. If interested, e-mail sports carr@cox.net

Buying or selling your Miata or Miata accessories? You can do it for free on Miata-mart—the Miata For Sale—web site, run by SDMC member Rainer Mueller. Check it out at www.miatamart.com.



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Miata club members receive a substantial discount on parts and labor. The club does not endorse any vendors. To receive your discount, simply present a current SDMC membership card at the time of your purchase or service.

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