

SAN DIEGO MIATA CLUB NEWS



OCTOBER 2005 VOLUME 10 NUMBER 11

A PICTURE IS WORTH A THOUSAND WORDS!



What could symbolize our “Miata clubhouse in the center of the Miata Universe” more than Dudley’s Bakery in Santa Ysabel?

Thanks to Tom Wood for capturing this scene on the recent “C YA” run to start the Zonies on their journey back to Arizona.

OCTOBER EVENTS: See inside for complete details!

	Event	Date	Time?	Where to Meet?
	Coronado Speed Festival	Saturday-Sunday, October 8-9	Various	Caravan—Tartines Races—North Island Dinner—Tent City
	C2 Motorsports Open House & BBQ	Saturday, October 15	11:00 am	8380 Vickers St., Suite "D", San Diego
	SDMC Monthly Meeting	Thursday, Oct. 27	6 pm	Boll Weevil Restaurant, Clairemont Mesa Blvd.
	Pumpkin Pursuit	Sunday, October 23	9 am registration	Westfield Shopping Town, North County at east end parking lot by JC Penneys



NEW MEMBERS

As of September 13, 2005
there are 280 memberships

(99 single, 181 dual) and a total
of 461 members.

*Welcome to our newest members (since
last newsletter): (11)*

Darlene & Dan Akers
Oceanside
1991 Red

Allan Childers & Molly Akin
Escondido
2006 Galaxy Gray

Rich & Dee Dee Whitmire
Laguna Niguel
1999 Red

Walt Arnold
San Diego
2001 BRG

Lane & Phoebe Carroll
San Diego
1991 red

Jeffrey & Linda Cheyney
El Cajon
1996 Montego Blue

Bud Clement
Fallbrook
1999 Silver

Charles "Chip" Kushner
San Diego
1991 BRG

Marilyn Laurence
La Mesa
1991 Red

David & Kari Streeter
Murrieta
2005 Razor Blue

George & Erin Strother
Escondido
2004 Titanium

**MEMBERSHIP
STATISTICS**

Memberships by Miata Color:

- 74 Red
- 41 White
- 26 Black
- 18 Silver
- 14 Titanium
- 12 Montego Blue
- 10 Yellow
- 10 Sapphire Blue
- 7 Mariner Blue
- 6 Mahogany
- 7 Emerald Green
- 7 Twilight Blue
- 6 Crystal Blue
- 8 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
- 1 Galaxy Gray
- 2 Unreported

**RENEWING MEMBERS
(SINCE LAST
NEWSLETTER):**

Mike Herbst & Kimberley Newmark

Fran Hitt

Gene & Bonnie Streeter

Ricardo Da Rosa

Jack & Sue Hinkle

Steven & Paula Kennison

Ted & Sue Kesler

Ed & Marky Pitts

Elliot Shev

Robin Walker-Faircloth &
Michael Faircloth



Monthly Meeting

Thursday, Oct. 27,

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!!

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.



Pumpkin Pursuit

Sunday, October 23th

Registration opens at 9:00 a.m.

North County Fair. (We'll be at the east end of the mall parking lot, near JC Penney.)



It has been a while since SDMC last staged a rally, but the drought will end on October 23rd. On that day, Miatans will take part in a gimmick rally called *Search for the Great Pumpkin*.

Rallies resemble tours, since both provide directions to reach a destination. They differ in that rally cars leave the start at one-minute intervals, rather than trying to stay together in a pack.

Rally teams travel independently, and might not even see another rally car until reaching the finish.

If you've been on other rallies, they probably were of the Time-Speed-Distance variety, where you tried to maintain precise average speeds while following the route. *Great Pumpkin* is different. It allows you to travel interesting back roads at your own pace. We think you'll find this format less stressful and more fun. You will be given a set of route instructions that define the course to be followed. Don't worry about getting lost. The instructions will include official mileages to every turn.

To make things interesting, the instructions will be sprinkled with signs to look for as you travel. We call these signs *pumpkins*. When you find a pumpkin, you should write down the mileage where you found it.

Scoring will be based on how accurately you identify the pumpkins' locations. One point will be assigned for each tenth of a mile you are off in your estimates, up to a maximum of ten points for a guessing wildly or completely missing a pumpkin. As in most rallies, the object is to achieve a low score.

But be wary—some pumpkins listed in the route instructions may be invalid. For example, the sign might be on the wrong side of the road, or it might read differently from the text in the instructions. We call those *rotten pumpkins*. If you write down *any* mileage to a rotten pumpkin, you will be assigned ten points. Finding the valid pumpkins and skipping the rotten ones will be your primary goal. But you can improve your score by getting the mileages correct to within one-tenth of a mile. The official mileages allow you to compare your odometer readings with official mileages and adjust accordingly. If you want to use this information, a simple calculator might be helpful.

Aside from that, all you will need is a Miata (or OTM), two people (driver and navigator), pencils, and perhaps a clipboard. Sunscreen and water might be advisable.

The entry fee is \$5 per car. Registration opens at 9:00 a.m. at North County Fair. (We'll be at the east end of the mall parking lot, near JC Penney.) We'll hold an extended Drivers' Meeting at 9:30 to explain the rules, with cars slated to leave starting at 10:01.

You should reach the finish at Dalton's Roadhouse by about 12:30. You'll have time to enjoy lunch and a cool one while we tally the scores.

Mark your calendar, and be on the lookout for the Great Pumpkin on October 23.—Larry Clark

C2 Motorsports Open House & BBQ

Start Time: 11:00 AM

Date: Saturday, October 15

Time: 11:00 a.m.

Meeting Place: C2 Motorsports, 8380 Vickers St., Suite "D", San Diego

Contact: Ron Chapman, (858) 495-9200, [E-mail Ron](mailto:ron@c2racers.net)

Important: If you plan to attend, please drop Ron and Steve an E-mail (or call) so they know how many burgers they will need.

The proprietors of C2 Motorsports, Ron Chapman and Steve Coe, would like to invite all SMDC members and friends to a barbeque at their shop on October 15, starting at 11am. C2 will provide hot dogs, hamburgers, chips, and sodas. Besides food and drink (mandatory at SDMC events, we know!) there will be a drawing, a Gran Turismo 4 challenge with prizes, all kinds of Miata and racing stuff, and general car talk.

Ron and Steve are both Miata nuts, and Ron is a long time SDMC member. C2 Motorsports is a local speed shop specializing in driver equipment, suspension components, steering wheels, seats, belts, engine performance products, wheels, tires, and OEM replacement parts. Their focus is on Miatas and Mazdas in general, although they can speak about any kind of car going.

Directions: Exit Highway 163 at Clairemont Mesa, and head west. Almost immediately west of the freeway, turn left (south) on Kearny Mesa road. The second stop sign is Vickers Street (just past the BMW dealership). Turn right on Vickers, past the car lot and an office building, and C2 is in the first industrial building on the right. Our unit faces Vickers; park anywhere you find a space.

<http://c2racers.net>

C2motorsports
LLC



MORE EVENTS



Coronado Speed Festival

Date: Saturday-Sunday, October 8-9

Contact: Mark & Cathy Booth, (619) 670-3789,

Vintage Racing is back in Coronado for 2005! Art Hamilton has again volunteered to purchase advance discount tickets for next month's Coronado Speed Festival. These military discount tickets provide a substantial savings over tickets purchased at the gate.

The DEADLINE to get payment to Art is September 30, 2005. After that date, Art will not be purchasing any more tickets so be sure to get your money to Art BEFORE 9/30/05.

Advance ticket prices are:
\$12.50 for one day
(either Saturday or Sunday)
\$15.00 for both days
(Saturday AND Sunday)

To get YOUR tickets, send a check (payable to Art Hamilton), along with a self-addressed stamped envelope to:
Art Hamilton
4957 Perkon Place
San Diego, CA 92105-5320

Art will use your self-addressed stamped envelope to mail the tickets to you. At this time, we are planning to also include a Car Club Corral Pass with each ticket order.

I'd like to thank Art for volunteering to coordinate advance tickets again this year! The gate prices are DOUBLE the advance discount price so Art is saving club members lots of money!

If you need to contact Art, he can be reached as follows:

Home: (619) 262-1565

Cell: (619) 994-1191

E-mail: AHamil1531@aol.com

Hot information: Speed Festival Update!

Jerry and Janice Boster have volunteered to lead a caravan onto the Naval Base on the Saturday morning of the Coronado Speed Festival (October 8). This way, a good chunk of us will arrive at the same time and we can stake out our Miata territory in the Car Club Corral! :)

The details are as follows:

Saturday, October 8

Caravan Meeting Time: 7:30 a.m. to get breakfast, depart for the event at 8:15 a.m.

Tartine's Restaurant,
1106 First St, Coronado

Also, once again, SDMC member Wally Stevens is putting together an **after-the-races dinner** during the Coronado Speed Festival weekend. The dinner will be at Tent City Restaurant in Coronado. Details are as follows:

Saturday, October 8

5:30 p.m.

Tent City Restaurant, 1100 Orange Ave., Coronado
Cost: See Tent City's menu at the link below

RSVP: Wally Stevens, (619) 234-2858,
wallymiata@gmail.com

Please be sure to RSVP to Wally so the restaurant can set aside enough space for our group. Deadline for RSVP is October 4.



On May 4-7, 2006, the Ridgerunner Miata Club of Western North Carolina is having a celebration and we would like you to join us. We're having a celebration of the glorious colors that adorn our beautiful roadsters, a celebration of the amazing colors that nature bestows upon these mountains and a celebration of Miata fellowship that flourishes whenever and wherever Miatas gather. Among the many highlights of your stay with us is a late afternoon panoramic photo shoot of the entire Miata gathering with magnificent mountain vistas in the background. Prints will be made available to attendees before leaving on Sunday. The photo will be taken by the renowned local panoramic photographer Benjamin Porter.

During your visit, explore the many attractions in the Blue Ridge, Smokey Mountain area, or take one or more of the many drive tours that the Ridgerunners have planned for you over many of their favorite Miata roads. Visit the famous Biltmore Estate in Asheville if you wish. The Biltmore Estate is a unique destination, which includes a 250 room French Chateau filled with art and antiques, spectacular gardens, and an award-winning winery surrounded by lush vineyards.

Our hotel venue will be the Crowne Plaza in Asheville N.C. This event will combine a relaxed party atmosphere, great food, perfect weather, a stunning mountain location, lots of Miata activities and a few hundred like-minded Miata enthusiasts. Join us for four fun-filled days in our Miata playground. Some of the best Miata roads in the country are in our backyard, from the lofty vistas of the Blue Ridge Parkway to the infamous twisties of Deal's Gap. Navigate through our website to answer all your questions or email Sal at sal@geris-bazaar.com if you have additional questions. Come Join Us.....You will have one Colorful Good Time!!!



Monet, Van Gogh, or Renoir paintings hanging on the wall before us...breathtaking, awesome handiwork of some of our most famous artists. We can always dream of having them in our humble dwellings, but to see them in the most beautiful setting in the J. Paul Getty Museum was, again, an exhilarating experience.

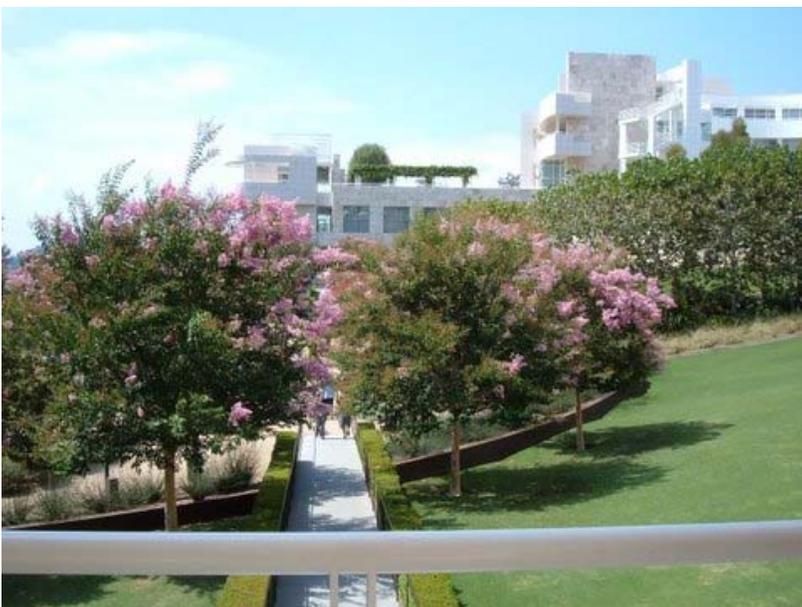


Very early Saturday morning, September 10, over 20 cars wound their way through traffic up 405 to the Getty Museum on Saturday, September 10. Our run started with coffee and “fellowship” at Mc Donald’s in Oceanside, meeting several new members and first timers,. Then we drove to Fountain Valley where we picked up a few more cars. From there we had a smooth fast trip up to Getty Center Drive, with the exception of a few drivers taking a more scenic route toward the ocean at one point, and others “trying out” Sepulveda Blvd in Culver

City. Eventually, we all arrived at our destination, none the worse for a little excitement on the way. The parking attendants welcomed us and seemed as pleased as we were to be there!

After taking the tram up the hill to the museum, we were on our own to enjoy the art, the architecture, beautiful gardens and breathtaking views. After four hours or more of walking through the many pavilions of art, sculpture and antique furniture, most of us were on our way back down 405. With the exception of a few miles near downtown LA, the drive was pleasant, fast and, always enjoyable in our special little car.

Thank you, Randy and Sue Patterson, for leading us on this cultural Run!



Photos by Eunice Bauman



THE ZONIES' INFESTION—AN OVERVIEW BY STEVE WAID

Coming from the perspective of someone who "did it all" I thought I would give everyone a review of the entire Zonie Infestation Weekend.

Firstly, in addition to me I think that Dennis Garon was the only other person from San Diego that did it all. I am pretty sure that every one of the Sahuaro people that traveled to Escondido and the Woods, Tom and Marna from up north, did it all. Anyway, what did "doing it all" mean?

Friday started out with the caravan to meet up with the Arizona group in Temecula. We had about seven cars on a late Friday morning join us, and the Arizona Group landed at about 1:00 after we had all had lunch at Richies Real American Diner. We waited for them to eat before we began the caravan to the Holiday Inn Express that ended at about 2:40 and gave them a little time before we took off again. We had about 45 people visit AMCI Marketing and hear Jim Wangers tell the stories surrounding the creation and the success of the muscle car years of the 60's and early 70's from a Pontiac perspective. The collection of cars was also appreciated by all. Jim then joined us for dinner at Dalton's Roadhouse where the numbers increased to about 50. A quick run to Cruisin' Grand after dinner resulted in us arriving as the night was ending so we just "bagged it" and went to our house for cake, coffee, and ice cream. The day was finally over at about 10:30 for the Zonies who left home before 7am.



Above: Auto historian Jim Wangers, the godfather of the GTO, speaks to the group.
Right: Wangers' M8C McLaren racecar
Photos by Tom Wood

Saturday began as cars started to collect at Dalton's Roadhouse at 9:30. By 9:50 Dennis and Maryanne Garon took off leading "Group A" toward Fallbrook and de Luz Road. Laurie and I followed with "Group B" at about 10. As we were leaving Fallbrook, Group A was passed by Group B as they took a Bio-Break, thereby making Group B the lead Group and from that point on known as the "Bladder Control Group". The "Depends Group" arrived at our luncheon stop at Casino Pauma about 15 minutes after the BCG had sat down to partake in the 2 for 1 luncheon buffet. The weather was gorgeous

as we arrived at the top of Palomar Mountain for a stop at the observatory. The trip down the backside toward Lake Henshaw proved to be a fun and entertaining trip.



Saturday night was fabulous. Not enough can be said for what terrific hosts the Garon's are. Dennis even went out and got a gas heater to use between the tables that Hot Rod Catering (Dalton's Roadhouse) brought. He was afraid that the Zonies would find the sub-80's temperatures too frigid. Marty and his two helpers served the BBQ as we listened to the "tunes" provided by the sound system that they brought. Tom and Marna Wood organized a raffle to make a contribution to Habitat for Humanity which had suffered losses of homes of over 70% in the hurricane ravaged areas of the south coast. Sue Hinkle ran the raffle and over \$300 was accumulated. The peach cobbler a la mode was worth waiting for.

Sunday morning we met at the hotel at 9 am and led the Sahuaro members who were not extending their vacation (there were some) on a run to head them home. Royce and Terye Van Sanford came with the group even though they were staying longer at the Holiday Inn Express. We stopped at Dudley's (well, of course) and then headed to Ocotillo Wells to say our final goodbye's. Dennis and I and the Van Sanfords headed back up Banner Grade while others took S2 south to catch Highway 8 and Acorn Casino. As we approached Wynola Road we were stopped because of a fatal motorcycle accident and forced to head back down the grade and some other way home. Dennis and I took S2 north toward Warner Springs, stopped for lunch at the newly re-opened Henshaw Grill at Lake Henshaw (this is a very real possibility for a food stop on future runs), and then home.

Other than this, we did nothing all weekend. I wish everyone could have done everything, but there were a lot of you who did some of it.



IMPORTANT INFORMATION! NEWSLETTER: ELECTRONIC VS. PRINTED HARD COPY

For several years now every member has been receiving a printed hard copy of the monthly newsletter. At the cost of 60+ cents postage alone per copy, the cost of publishing and mailing our newsletter has approached or exceeded \$400/month.

Times are changing. Your very capable webmaster, Dan Garcia, has recently begun to place the newsletter on the SDMC web page for all to see. That's right! In living red, yellow and blue color (and other miscellaneous colors). You have the option to read it in color, to print it out or simply save for quick reference in the future.

Now, we need your help.

If you are content accessing the newsletter electronically and no longer want or need the hard printed copy, would you please notify our membership duo, Judy Ryan or Laurie Patton at membership@sandiegomiataclub.org. They will remove your name from future newsletter mailing lists. If we do not hear from you, you will continue to receive the newsletter by snail mail.

Take **action** and e-mail the membership team today!



Above Left: Enthralled listeners at the Wangers Warehouse listen to Jim Wangers

Above Right: The Zonies Infestation Tshirts were a big hit!

Right: The revered GTO

Photos by Robin Faircloth



DRIVING IN WEST VIRGINIA—LIKE TAKING A MIATA RUN DAILY!

I spent the first week of August visiting family and other friends around West Virginia, my first visit there in almost five years. Having come into the Miata fold since the last trip has given me a new sense of appreciation for the state's "Miata-ness."

Dyanna and I both grew up believing that twisty highways (AKA country roads) were a fact of life, unlike California and other states in which you often have to go seeking straight-challenged roads. And I've contemplated how nice it would be to travel familiar West Virginia highways in a Miata.

My nephew Andy enjoyed one of our runs when he visited here. I suggested that he go to a Mazda dealer and buy a Miata for my use during the trip; once I left, he would then take the vehicle back and say he just didn't want it. (I thought this would be so much easier for him to do since my out-of-state drivers license might make a dealer suspicious.) Well, he didn't like the idea so I instead was relegated to driving my sister's Toyota Corolla.

Going from almost anywhere in West Virginia to somewhere else almost automatically involves driving roads with twisties; for many, the trip to and from work is like going on a Miata run daily. The trip from Montgomery up over Deepwater Mountain on WV 61 resembles our Puke-a-rama but without run directions. Poor Dyanna traveled this



Be prepared to share West Virginia's country roads with coal and logging trucks. Dyanna's grandmother lived about 100 yards from this hairpin curve on WV 61 at Deepwater.

stretch twice a day on a school bus!

Not all roads go over mountains, but most of the others are on river flood plains, and the Little Kanawha River curves considerably in its run from the central part of the state over to the Ohio River.

Exceptions to the above are "the Interstates," and some state highways have multiple lane stretches referred to as a "four-lane." Paradoxically, the more lanes there are in West Virginia, the lower the speed limit. One such example is the town of Gauley Bridge that is guarded by a policeman in an unmarked gray Dodge Durango equipped with

flashing blue lights just above the rear-view mirror.

Tempted to go sample a West Virginia driving adventure? Don't tarry too long. U. S. Senator Robert Byrd has become quite expert in funneling federal funds into the state to eradicate the twisties; countless highways, bridges, interchanges, rest areas, tunnels and other transportation infrastructure bear his name in testament. Even the West Virginia Turnpike has grown from a largely two-lane highway when built in the 1950's (a route that was "exciting," sometimes deadly, to drive) to six lanes most of the way since it always seems to be going up or down some mountain.

And remember: the posted speed limit in West Virginia is 55 MPH except for the four-lane at Gauley Bridge; it's 45 MPH!

Great ride on a school bus also; just ask Dyanna!

Article and Photos
By
Les Smith



HURRICANE KATRINA VICTIMS SUPPORTED BY MIATA CLUBS

FROM OUR FRIENDS AND SDMC MEMBERS, TOM AND MARNA WOOD:

MIATAFUN as you know belongs to the Miata and Mx-5 Clubs around our world. Unfortunately some of our Miata clubs have come under some catastrophic weather lately and have lost everything. Miatafun is asking all our clubs we belong to and all the clubs that we are Honorary members of to help us, help our fellow club members and those that are less fortunate. We are talking about the Hurricane Katrina victims who have not only lost their homes and Miatas but all their belongings etc. We are starting a fund to raise monies for the "Habitat for Humanity" for rebuilding homes that have been built once for these families that have been destroyed and have to be rebuilt.

We have started our campaign and have collected from our last event with the San Diego and SAHUARO (Arizona) Clubs "The Zonie Infestation". We raised a total of \$375.00 from donated raffle prizes and some "Hurricane Katrina Relief" Button sales. Miatafun is donating \$500, making a total of \$875 to date. Let's get our clubs together, raise a little money and send it to:

"Hurricane Katrina Relief Fund"
Habitat for Humanity
Miatafun c/o Tom and Marna Wood
28490 Sycamore Drive
Highland California 92346-3800



The money will be sent to Habitat for Humanity January 1st with a list of all the Miata Clubs donating. We also are using a form with Signatures of those that donated that will be sent along with the donations. Please do the same and we will send it along with the contributions. Please make your checks out to "Habitat for Humanity" Not to Miatafun or Tom and Marna Wood.

Miatafun belongs to the following clubs as members and honorary members: Mardi Gras Miata Club (New Orleans), Mx-5.de club (Germany), SDMC (Cal), SOCALM (Cal), SAHUARO, MOOV, United Kingdom MX-5 Owners Club, Panhandle Miata Society (Florida), Tampa Bay Miata's (Florida), Club Miata Northwest (Washington), Low Country Miata Club (North Carolina), AKMC Miata Club (Alaska), BAMA (Cal), SJVMC (Cal), Willamette Miata Club (Oregon), SAMOA (Cal), KAZOOM (Mich), Green Mountain Miata (Vermont), Las Vegas Miata Owners (Nevada), Mid State Miata (New York), MOONLA (Louisiana), MOOV (Vegas), M'Sters (New Hampshire), Nevada Miners (Nev), LVMOC (Eastern Penn), PUGET Sound (Wash), Redwood Coast (N.Cal), Delta Miata Club (N.Cal), Old Pueblo Miata Club (Arizona), Northwest Arkansas (Ark), Utah Miata Club (Utah), East side Miata's of Tampa Bay (Florida), RidgeRunner Club (North Carolina), MX-5 Club (Netherlands).



Madam President Sue Hinkle goes "zooming" at Zoom Zoom Live held at the Pomona Fairgrounds. Warm temperatures and long lines were endured, but a little "zooming" makes up for the discomfort.



DRIVE TO NOWHERE – AT OVER \$3 A GALLON—BY JAN WAGNER

At first glance, you might say this column is socially and economically irresponsible. On its face it certainly seems to suggest a total waste of money and finite natural resources, in the form of gas. However, there is more to this than meets the eye. Those of you who are car nuts probably have an idea what I'm going to discuss already.

Gas is very expensive, at least compared to what we're used to paying for it. By some accounts, gas prices for unleaded regular have gone up from around \$2 per gallon a year ago to over \$3 per gallon recently. Premium grade is even higher. Luckily we're not paying what I hear they're paying in Europe. Someone recently told of prices exceeding \$7 per gallon in England. Ouch!

The escalating price of gas has certainly not been lost on me, and I've tried to do what I can to mitigate it somewhat. Even though I really like fast, powerful cars (my first car was a Plymouth Duster 340), I can't bear to suffer the financial consequences of having thirsty cars. I often wince at the gas pumps when I see my fellow motorists filling up their monster SUVs. Sure, it would be nice to have the luxury of all that room and power at my command, but for me the price of keeping such a vehicle on the road just doesn't make enough sense.

I'd love a new Charger, Corvette or Porsche, but aside from the initial cost of those and many other fine vehicles, there would always be that regular, nasty wakeup call at the gas pumps.

So, my way of dealing with this situation is to go small and efficient, and instead of having one really great, expensive car, I bought two less expensive but very different ones.

My everyday car is a 2005 Toyota Prius. It consistently averages about 45 miles per gallon on regular gas. That is with normal driving, keeping up with traffic and accelerating briskly whenever I feel like it. I hear other, more miserly drivers, are getting over 50 miles per gallon with their Prius (what is the plural of Prius, anyway?).

Believe it or not, I view my Prius as a performance car – especially now. Nuts you say? Don't be so fast to laugh. Consider this. Thanks to the law that took effect recently, now when I drive solo on the freeway I can – and do, take advantage of being able to use the HOV lanes. When I heard of this new law I immediately applied for the stickers identifying my car to the authorities as a "CALIFORNIA CLEAN AIR VEHICLE." As required, I plastered all four of them on my car the same night that they arrived in the mail.

You want to talk about performance, just watch as I scoot along while traffic is moving at a snail's pace beside me in rush hour traffic. That is performance as far as I'm concerned!

My other car is more performance oriented in the conventional sense. It is a 2004 MAZDASPEED Miata – red, of course. This turbocharged beauty is just the ticket for spirited driving when the roads are less clogged. It does get considerably worse mileage than does my Prius, and on premium grade gas, no less, but as performance cars go it is not too bad. It is rated at 20 mpg city, 26 mpg highway. I can live with that in a vehicle that I only use occasionally – and I do only use it occasionally. Its odometer just turned over 3,000 miles and it's over a year old.

The title of this column suggested a drive to nowhere. My Miata is great for that. One kind of drive to nowhere is my autocrossing. Every month or two I take it to Qualcomm Stadium and enter it in an autocross – a timed competition event where courses are safely delineated by soft, flexible traffic cones.

However, the drive to nowhere that I had in mind when I came up with the idea for this column is different. A few nights ago I'd just about had enough of the hassles and aggravation that goes hand in hand with living in a busy metropolitan area. I needed an escape. I had just run an errand and was driving home in my Miata, top down. It was a little after 7 pm and darkness was approaching. I was literally about to turn into my neighborhood when it hit me. I didn't need to go straight home. I didn't want to go straight home. Instead, I suddenly had the urge to do what I had done so often as a teenager, so long ago.

I drove right past my turnoff and headed back where I had come from. A few turns and I was on Del Dios Highway, heading east, twisting and turning, and going up and down hills, towards Escondido.

It was wonderful. With the sun setting, it was cool. I cranked up the heat a bit and just drove, working my way up and down through the gears. I had a Dianna Ross collection loaded in the Bose CD player, so I turned it on. Slowly but surely I relaxed. By the time I reached Escondido I was feeling great. I turned around on a side street and drove back home, completely refreshed.

That is one great use for a sports car and money well spent for the gas.





“I’d love a new Charger, Corvette or Porsche, but aside from the initial cost of those and many other fine vehicles, there would always be that regular, nasty wakeup call at the gas pumps.” Jan Wagner (see article opposite page)

Photos by Jan Wagner



SDMC MEMBER PROFILE—SECRETARY BRENDA KAY

1. Name: Brenda Kay
2. My Miata: 1992 Mariner Blue (stock)
3. Nickname for my car: Little Blue Skate
4. License plate: 4BRNDA K
5. Elected office(s): Secretary
6. Lesson learned on first Run: If you keep up with the leader going up Palomar Mountain, you get car sick even if you're driving
7. What I do when I'm not on a Run: travel, ballroom dance, kayak on Mission Bay, have dinner with my friends
8. Sports car philosophy: be sure you have one
9. Occupation: corporate paralegal for a national law firm (425 attorneys)
10. Three greatest passions: Having fun; spending time with friends; learning something new
11. Favorite quote: Life is all about choices
12. Favorite vacation spot: anywhere a cruise ship goes
13. Person most interested in meeting: If he were still alive, Winston Churchill



It is with a great deal of sadness, concern, and difficulty that I write this column. For the past few days I have been watching the horrible, shocking scenes unfold along our Gulf Coast with regards to the catastrophe caused by Hurricane Katrina. I feel so sorry for the many survivors who desperately await even the most basic of help, days after the hurricane passed. As you may recall from a prior AutoMatters, earlier this year I attended a great car show at the Superdome in New Orleans and wrote about it. I also visited some of the sights in the greater New Orleans area and took many photos. I remember being impressed by how friendly and warm the people were. It was my first trip there. It is unbelievable to realize that it may never be the same again. I strongly urge each and every one of you to contribute money towards the massive, unprecedented relief effort. Those people are in desperate need of help. One worthy charity that I recommend is the American Red Cross. Their website is www.redcross.org. You can also reach them by phone at 1-800-HELP NOW. Please help.

Now, on a brighter note, I'd like to tell you about the introduction of the all-new, third generation, 2006 Mazda MX-5 Miata. Mazda has gone all-out with the introduction of this car.

When Mazda came out with the first generation Miata, way back in 1989, they pretty much had the market for small convertible sportscars to themselves. What especially made that car significant, as far as I was concerned, was that the Miata was not only fun to drive and attractive, but it was incredibly reliable – not an attribute shared with such cars as the Lotus Elan – a much earlier car that only looked similar to the Miata.

Mazda's introduction of the 2006 MX-5 (they are getting away from calling it a Miata) began with what they called their "Hot Streak" tour. A new Miata was parked in a clear 'garage,' which was hoisted atop a specially fitted fire engine and driven across the county. It immediately grabbed attention wherever it went, on its campaign that included, as an objective, "to raise over \$100,000 for local fire departments."

I had an opportunity to see the "Hot Streak" tour in May when it visited a local fire station in Hollywood. It was unloaded from the truck and removed from its clear garage for closer inspection. Then it was loaded back up and driven – atop the fire engine, throughout area streets.

I must tell you that I was not taken with the looks of the new car. It has fender flares over each wheel that are reminiscent of Mazda's Rx-8. Straight sides replace the Coke bottle look of my second generation car.

I next saw the new MX-5 a short while later on the freeway in San Diego's North County. I spotted what was apparently a pre-production car, as Miatas were still several months away from their on-sale date. It did not look any better to me in traffic than it did by itself.

Then in August Mazda invited members of Miata enthusiast clubs in the region to a Mazda facility in Orange County. It was there that we members got our first chance to actually drive the new MX-5. That was a great move on Mazda's part. Even though I had not been captivated by the looks of the new car, I was very, very pleased with the mechanical changes made to it. Their very complete technical presentation, coupled with my brief drive in the car, convinced me that this Miata is far better to drive than mine is – and I have the MAZDASPEED turbo. In particular, I really preferred the positive shifting – and reverse to the left positioning, of the new car's six-speed transmission. The revised seating position means that there is no more need for occupants to have to bend and peer under the windshield header to see traffic lights above them. It was explained to us that the new car actually has effective rollover protection now, in the form of a stronger windshield header and also a functional rollover bar behind the front seats. There should no longer be a need to add a rollover bar for safety. Acceleration, according to my seat-of-the-pants test, seems to be significantly improved over the previous (non-turbo) car.

Not all is improved, however. It looks like the trunk will hold less than the trunk on my second generation car, not helped by the restricted access caused by the narrow, slit-like opening. There is also no spare tire, for the first time. The car's suspension was a little too soft for my liking. I suspect a sport package option will cure that.

My most recent exposure to the MX-5 came last Sunday, at the Pomona round of Mazda's "Zoom-Zoom Live! Driving Experience." There we got to experience the new car on an autocross course. Wahoo! We tested those cars at – and beyond, their limits of traction. If it wasn't so hot outside it would have been a perfect afternoon. I can tell you that the new MX-5, even in bone stock trim, performs very well and is easy to drive aggressively. It also recovers quite well when mistakes are made.

In summary, I strongly recommend the new, 2006 MX-5 Miata. Mazda has come up with another winner. Questionable styling aside, it really seems to be a good, fun, very capable, and still affordable sportscar. They have just started arriving at dealerships. I suspect the new styling will grow on me, although I much prefer the stunning looks of Pontiac's new Solstice two-seater sportscar. Isn't it nice to have choices?

Please send your comments and ideas to AutoMatters@gmail.com and do join me again next time.

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2006 MX-5 Miata autocrossing

Right:
2006 MX-5 Miata on
"Hot Streak" tour'ion

Below:
Miata club members at
Mazda MX-5 presentation

Photos by Jan Wagner



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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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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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. 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 Ads

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

WANTED: Hard top for a 2001 Crystal Blue Miata. (Willing to paint) Call Christine Corbyons at 760-736-0156 or rcorbyons@adelphia.net

For Sale: 1997 STO Miata \$4500 Engine Great, Chrome Wheels & Chrome Style Bar Midnight Blue Tan Leather Interior Power Windows CD AC (Reduced for body damage) Pics avail. david-michaeltrudrung@yahoo.com

For Sale: Carbon fiber Monsterflow intake and aluminum cool box for 99-05. \$150 Kevin at khaywood@qualcomm.com, ph 858-651-5167

For Sale: COMBINATION TRACK/CARGO TRAILER. Harbor Freight 4' trailer w/12-inch wheels. Large-capacity storage pod (Sears roof-top carrier) can be removed in minutes to set up for track or autoX use. Two uprights for vertical tire mounts and small tool box included. Excellent condition. Currently licensed 'til 07. \$175. Joe Moore (619) 473-8295 moore28944@sbcglobal.net

For Sale: 1999 Emerald Green, leather package, Torsen LSD, tan top, stock, 51,000 miles, \$9400/OBO. John Tellew 858-229-3439 or jtellew@san.rr.com.

For Sale: 1999 Miata \$9500 Black with Tan Leather, 66,000 miles, CD / Bose Sound System, Power Windows, Mirrors & Antenna, Fog Lights, Keyless Remote, Car Cover, Dealer Serviced, Recent 60K, Check-Up, All Records, Garage Stored, Grant W 760-725-9902 H 760-729-9186 LejonvarnGE@i-mef.usmc.mil

For Sale: 1999 Mazda Miata convertible, in showroom condition Only 20,000 miles, hardly ever driven. Black with leather interior, automatic 5 speed transmission, fully loaded. Must see to appreciate. Asking \$10,500 obo. Please call Kevin at (909) 393-6603 tk.smith1@earthlink.net

For Sale: Next-to-new Miata muffler (factory fitment for 2003 Miata) - less than 5,000 miles on my Miata with a bone-stock engine - MSRP was \$281.75. I was asking \$180 OBO. Now the price is reduced to \$139 -- less than HALF PRICE; *Also:* 4 stock 16" wheels in excellent condition for second generation Miata. Very low miles. New price \$239.95 each, asking \$175 each or reasonable offer Now I've reduced that price to \$119 each -- that is HALF PRICE for Mazda factory wheels that are like new. ; *Third:* Rear trunk interior trim panel for an early second generation Miata (no extended bulge, therefore makes it possible to put a full size tire in the trunk). New price \$77.05, now the price is reduced to only \$19! Jan Wagner (858) 792-9567 jwagner2@san.rr.com

For Sale: 4 Stock steel wheels from 90 Miata. Tires mounted on them but stored for years - \$80. '90 Miata car cover - North Coast - \$20. Anne Henry 858-273-8460 altres10@earthlink.net

For Sale: Complete set of four 14" BBS light weight spoke wheels mounted with as-new Dunlop D-60 A-2 tires. Complete set includes: 4-wheels, 4-center caps, 4-valve caps, center cap wrench, 4-tires SHOWROOM CONDITION! \$1000.00 firm. One 14" BBS light weight spoke wheel (complete set, but no tire). \$225.00; One BBS wheel CENTER CAP. \$60.00 ...Note: a special price may be possible for complete package. Call David Bryan (619) 334-4624 dbryan200@aol.com

For Sale: from a 1994 Brilliant Black: Left & Right Tail Light Assembly \$40.00, Sun visors \$10.00, Tan Floor mats used \$20, Black Gas Bib \$5.00, front left & right Turn Signal Assembly \$40.00, Rear View Mirror \$5.00, BSP Tan Leather Style Bar Cover \$10.00, Brass and Chrome License Plate Frame with Logo \$10.00, Eye Ball Vents Set of 4 \$20, 4 Side Markers \$20.00, Parking Brake Handle \$2.00, Gas Lid \$20.00, Oris Windscreen Case \$2.00, Miata Logo Factory Bra Used \$20.00, OEM Shift knob \$1.00 Stan Fry (909) 780-3963 or seagalfan4life@yahoo.com

For Sale: 1990 White, base model Miata, AM/FM cassette, 5 speed, No A/C. New engine at 100,000 miles. Runs strong. Comes with Stylebar, tonneau cover, chassis braces and SDMC magnet-ics. Recently tuned with new timing belt and smogged. This car was responsible for 5 Dam Runs. Must sell as our other sports car must take its place in the garage. \$3200 OBO. Contact John & Joyce Richardson. 909-696-1892 or at miata-juan@hotmail.com

For Sale: Silver 90, original owner, loving care. Good top with glass window. New engine at 93,165. Just smogged. Ready to roll. Body smooth. 152,000 miles. \$2950. Tom Sprague, 858/566-2254, rspraguepr@aol.com.

For Sale: Hard Dog double diagonal roll bar \$250 Came out of a 1995 with soft rear window. (I don't THINK it works with glass windows). 1.6 Engine long nose crank 78,000 miles \$500. Several 1.8 engines and 5 speed transmissions. 10 AE seats \$600. Lots of suspension and other parts 1990 to 1999. Wally Stevens 619-232-2801 ext 313 or evenings 619-234-2858. Note new E-mail address Wallymiata@gmail.com

For Sale: Copilot says clean-out the basement (1912 houses have them)! OEM '91 alloys w/skinny tires, leather wrapped steering wheel w/bag, 5-speed trans, radiator, sway bars, differential with prop shafts & axles, and 2 cheap car covers, 4 proxie T1 205x15 w 1/2 tread, fly-wheel, clutch pressure plate plus 7 years of misc. stuff. \$350. takes it all. Help save my marriage! Rick Keach 619 702 8077 or e-mail MaigaBerz-ins@AOL.com.

For Sale: Apple iPod - 10GB 2nd Generation model, will work with Mac or PC but requires a Firewire port on the computer, excellent condi-

tion, price includes a brand new high-capacity battery, \$135, call or E-mail for more details, markbooth@cox.net, (619) 990-5520

For Sale: 1999 10th Anniversary Edition Miata. Factory Blue metallic, black interior with blue accents. 6 speed, air-conditioning, cruise control, power steering, power brakes, power windows. Factory suspension package with Bilstein shocks, ground effects package with 50 series tires on the stock polished factory wheels. Car is original with 49,000 miles. I added a polished style bar for more muscular appearance with chrome gas door, chrome trim around air-conditioning vents and shift knob. Grill added to protect the a/c condenser from kicked up road debris. Eclipse CD player installed in dash, comes with the factory CD/cassette player too if you prefer that. Excellent condition, a really gorgeous miata. Asking \$12,000 Please call Neil at 760 470-6226 or email neilmonastero@cox.net.

For Sale: Urethane sway bar bushings for NA (Flyin Miata, two sets, will do both front and rear bars), never used, \$60 or offer. Factory front shock tower brace from 2002 SE, make offer. Carl Kuck, 858-395-2299, technogeek@san.rr.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.



Mazda Dealerships:

Bell Road Mazda
Phoenix (800) 765-5292
Discount: 20% off on Mazda parts/accessories
Ask for John Mardueno or Scott Moehn

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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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