



TWISTS & TURNS

The newsletter of the San Diego Miata Club

Volume 12 Number 6

June 2007

Picnic will feature two car shows, out-of-town guests

LARRY CLARK (INFORMATION SUPPLIED BY GABE RIVERA, KIT LICATA, AND DEAN RUDENAUER)

SDMC's Summer Picnic on June 24 promises to celebrate the summer solstice in style, with good food, good friends, and two car shows. The event will be held at Bates Nut Farm, 15954 Woods Valley Rd., Valley Center.

RMH Catering (owned by Rick Hackley from the Boll Weevil, which hosts our monthly meetings) will be serving lunch, beginning around 1:00 p.m. The menu calls for:

- ◆ Succulent smoked chicken
- ◆ Slow-cooked pork ribs with BBQ sauce
- ◆ Spring green salad
- ◆ Brick oven baked beans
- ◆ Sweet grilled corn
- ◆ Ranch rolls and butter
- ◆ Unsweetened fresh-brewed iced tea and sweetened lemonade

Thanks to sponsorship money provided by Mazda, the cost will be \$10 per SDMC member, and \$16 for non-members. (SOCALM will pick up the difference for their members.)

Prepayment must be received by June 15. Please send checks (payable to "SDMC") to Gabe Rivera, 3682 Curlew Street, San Diego, CA 92103.

Choose your car show

A highlight of the picnic will be two car shows, organized by Kit and Steve Licata. Members can choose which show they wish to enter. Cars in the All Miatas Car Show will be judged on traditional criteria (condition, cleanliness, etc.). The other contest, called Mardi Gras Madness, will feature cars decorated with Mardi Gras colors, beads, etc.

Mardi Gras entrants are encouraged to dress themselves as well as their cars in Mardi Gras finery. Trophies will be awarded in three categories: Best Decorated Cars, Best Costumes, and Best Overall Theme. Trophies are being provided by United Auto Groups of Escondido.

The Licatas have reserved a shady area beneath large trees, and have planned numerous additional activities to accompany the show, including "Mad Hat Making," bead tossing, and a parade of costumes. Participants are encouraged to arrive at Bates by 10:00 a.m. Judging is scheduled to begin around 11:00.

There is no charge to enter either car show, but members must pre-register by June 20. If you didn't pick up an entry

(Continued on page 7)

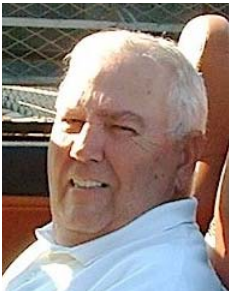
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Bylaws Insert

In the center of this issue you will find a copy of the revised bylaws that were adopted at the Annual Meeting on April 28. These are formatted to be folded and inserted into

SDMC Officers



HAROLD SCHWARTZ
President



DAVID STREETER
Vice President



GABE RIVERA
Secretary



JACK HINKLE
Treasurer

Executive Board

"@..." indicates that e-mail address ends in @sandiegomiataclub.org

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VICE PRESIDENT	David Streeter	951-461-1722	<i>vicepresident@...</i>
SECRETARY	Gabe Rivera	619-295-5993	<i>secretary@...</i>
TREASURER	Jack Hinkle	760-735-9456	<i>treasurer@...</i>

To send e-mail to all members of the Board

board@...

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	Mark Booth	619-670-3789	
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VENDOR RELATIONS	(vacant)		
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	Cindy Jennings	619-476-0951	<i>cinjen72@cox.net</i>
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The SAN DIEGO MIATA CLUB is a nonprofit California corporation. *Twists & Turns* 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. The Editor reserves the right to edit all submissions.

Contact SDMC

On the web

www.sandiegomiataclub.org

24-hour voice message line

619-434-2007

By mail

P.O. Box 180833
Coronado CA 92178-0833

Club e-mail

Most club communication is conducted via e-mail through a Yahoo Group named SDMC-List. A free Yahoo account is required. Follow these steps to join.

1. Go to <http://autos.groups.yahoo.com/group/SDMC-List> (capitalization matters!).
2. Click "Join This Group!"
3. If you have a Yahoo account, log in. If you do not, click "Sign Up" and follow the instructions.
4. After logging in, you will be returned to the SDMC-List "Join This Group" page.
5. In "Comment to Owner," state that you are an SDMC member.
6. Complete remaining selections, perform Word Verification, and click the "Join" button.
7. Your SDMC membership will be verified. The verification and approval process may take several days.

For more detailed instructions, see the club's website.

Membership roster

The membership roster is available to SDMC members only. Follow these steps to access the roster.

1. Go to <http://autos.groups.yahoo.com/group/SDMC-List>.
2. Log in and click "Database"
3. Click on the most current table in the tables list
4. To print, click "Printable Report." The printed copy will be 15-20 pages.

Membership Information

New Members

Welcome to our newest members (since the previous newsletter):

- Eric (Bud) & Sherry Young**, San Clemente 1992 Red
- Jim & Yvette Weber**, Oceanside 1990 Red
- Caryn & Robert Pass**, Chula Vista 2004 Emerald Green
- Karen Love**, San Diego 2001 Midnight Blue Mica

As of May 15, 2007, we have 233 memberships (82 single, 151 dual) and a total of 384 members.

Monthly Meetings

Our monthly meetings are a great opportunity to meet your fellow club members, ask questions, and share stories. Meetings are held on the fourth Thursday of each month, except in November and December when we meet on the third Thursday.

We meet at the Boll Weevil restaurant, 9330 Clairemont Mesa Blvd., in San Diego (between I-15

and SR 163). To contact the restaurant, call 858-571-6225.

Many members arrive around 6 p.m. to enjoy meals, snacks, or beverages while chatting with their Miata friends. The informal meeting starts at 7 p.m. We guarantee you'll have fun.

This month's meeting date:
Thursday, June 28

Financial Report – February 15–May 15, 2007

JACK HINKLE, TREASURER

Beginning balance	\$8,740.28
Receivables:	
Membership dues.....	\$941.63
Regalia	\$478.00
Raffles	\$712.00
Annual meeting lunches	\$510.00
Mazda Corp.	\$1,000.00
Miscellaneous	\$70.00
Total Receivables	\$3,711.63
Payables:	
Newsletter	(\$1,235.71)
Regalia supplies.....	(\$32.27)
Club telephone.....	(\$47.91)
Annual meeting	(\$625.02)
State Fees	(\$50.00)
Car Club Council.....	(\$50.00)
Miscellaneous	(\$42.47)
Summer picnic.....	(\$100.00)
Total Payables	(\$2,183.38)
Ending Balance	\$10,268.53

Dues

Dues are \$35 per calendar year, for either an individual or a dual membership (two members in the same household). Members who join the club in the first half of the calendar year (January through June) pay \$35 for their first year; those who join in the second half of the year pay \$20 for the remainder of the year.

Badges

Have you noticed those engraved plastic name badges that other members wear? Would you like to get one?

Badges are available in colors to match your car. The cost is \$9 each for badges with safety-pin closures, or \$10 each for badges with magnetic fasteners. Prices include shipping to your home.

Vicky Krueger handles the ordering. Badge request forms are available at the Regalia table at monthly meetings and on the club's web site. All orders must be prepaid.



Our Mission

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!

SDMC thanks Annual Meeting supporters

We wish to express our appreciation to the following vendors who donated door prizes for the Annual Meeting on April 21:

Cool Breeze Scoop (www.coolbreezescoop.com)

Go Miata (www.gomiata.com)

Goodwin Racing (www.good-win-racing.com)

The Knobmeister (www.knobmeister.com)

Raven Wing Performance
(www.ravenwingperformance.net)

Thompson Automotive
(www.thompson-automotive.com)

Please encourage these vendors to continue supporting our club by showing your appreciation to them when purchasing new toys for your Miata.

We also wish to thank the following individual members who donated door prizes:

Ted and Sue Kessler

Larry Dennstedt

Barb Shev

Jack and Sue Hinkle

Jerry and Janice Boster

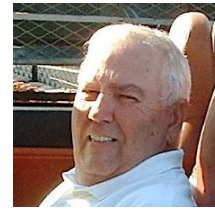
Linda Payne

Proceeds from raffle ticket sales netted \$520 for the club's treasury.

President's Message

Regrouping

HAROLD SCHWARTZ, PRESIDENT



WELL IT'S FINALLY over—the election campaign, that is. After months out on the campaign trail shaking hands and kissing babies, I was elected as President of the San Diego Miata Club at our Annual Meeting in April.

With that behind me, I needed some time to unwind, so off to Maui I went for a week. Between cutting my arm and getting burnt to crisp on the beach, it was a rather uneventful trip for me. However, for my campaign manager, Mike Schwartz, it was a life-changing experience. You see, Mike and Lisa were married in a beautiful ceremony while there in Maui. So with those two married, did we gain a member or lose one? I'll let the membership people figure that one out.

This Presidency has come with a few challenges, as members leave and vacate their positions. We will need to backfill as soon as possible. I was also informed that I should start the planning process for the next Surf'N'Safari. Let me get through the picnic and my trip to Europe, and I'll have time to start putting that major event together.

I would like to thank all the members who ran for office. Don't feel disappointed if you didn't win. I know who you are, and I have plans for you to get involved in helping our club.

A big thanks to all who stayed on in their appointed positions, as I will need your help and support to keep things running smoothly. And to those who have moved on, my heartfelt thanks for the service you have provided to the members of San Diego Miata Club.

That's it for now, so stay safe out there.

Could this be *Twists & Turns'* final issue?

LARRY CLARK, ACTING EDITOR



AS MOST OF YOU know by now, Jerry Standefer has resigned as Editor-in-Chief of *Twists & Turns*. I will also be stepping

down from my post as Production Editor.

Jerry and I have been a team from the outset, and I cannot imagine a more compatible teammate. Our talents and interests complement one another's, and we hold remarkably similar viewpoints on a wide range of technical concerns.

Although I have filled both roles for other organizations in the past, I have become utterly spoiled in working with Jerry. I cannot imagine doing my job without him doing his. I decided soon after we teamed up that whenever he left his post, I would also leave mine. (I believe he would have felt similarly if I had left first, as seemed likely a couple of times.)

What now?

Jerry's resignation was effective immediately. I advised the Board that I would handle both jobs for this issue. Having provided about six weeks' notice, I am hopeful that the Board can find and approve successors for both of us before next month's deadline rolls around. However, based on past calls for volunteers, I won't bet the farm on it.

If one or more members have volunteered to take over by the next deadline (June 15), I will work with them to produce the July issue. The new team can then take charge, starting with the August issue, and I will remain available to assist with technical matters.

If nobody steps forward by June 15, I do not intend to produce future issues alone.

In the absence of volunteers, this newsletter will cease to exist as we

know it. While I feel that would be a great loss, perhaps others feel differently. It certainly is a major cost component of the club's budget, and perhaps it has become a luxury we can't—or aren't willing to—afford.

A minimalist approach

The club could easily survive with a simple list of coming events. We might print this on one or two single sheets, folded in thirds and delivered for a one-ounce stamp, with or without an envelope.

We could even go a step a further. The event list really would contain nothing that's not already on the web site's event calendar. In fact, the web is inherently more current because it doesn't suffer from publishing lags. Perhaps we shouldn't print anything at all, but simply ask everyone to use the web.

On the other hand, newsletters provide a sense of history. We can go back to old issues and see what the club was doing in any of the past 11 years. We cannot go back to old versions of the web site, which is constantly evolving but never archived *in toto*.

The newsletter is also home to retrospective articles about recent events. These not only give members who didn't attend glimpses of what they missed, but they also provide recognition for the organizers who made the events happen.

Finally, we bring you club news, member profiles, technical articles, occasional humor pieces, and commentaries on automotive trends.

Of course, all of this could also appear on the web

site. The question is, would it? My instincts tell me not. It's hard enough to get members to write and submit articles and photos under the impetus of deadlines. Take those away and most pieces would never get written.

Decision time

I would hate to see the newsletter die. I confess that I actually enjoy performing the layout function. I find it rewarding to transform a mishmash of prose and pictures into a set of neat, orderly pages. I even enjoy re-reading the resulting publication when a printed copy arrives in my mailbox.

Both the Editor-in-Chief and the Production Editor have demanding jobs, and the deadlines are relentless. One person could do both, but it would probably take 30+ hours per month, and more for the first few issues. Dividing the labor between two people seems the ideal situation if candidates with the right qualifications can be found.

So we have reached a crossroads. If one or more members step forward to take over *Twists & Turns*, next month will be business as usual. Otherwise, this could be the last issue of the newsletter as we know it. The choice is yours.

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Coming Events

Cruisin' Grand

Date: First Friday of each month, April–September
Time: 6:00 p.m. for dinner, 7:00 p.m. to cruise
Meet: Tom's #23 restaurant in Escondido (SW corner of Centre City Parkway and 5th St.)
Contact: Steve & Laurie Waid, 760-432-0727, swaid@cox.net

Details: On Friday nights from April through September, Escondido opens up Grand Ave. for cruising. On the *first* Friday of each month, SDMC members meet at Tom's #23 at 6:00 p.m. to eat before leaving at 7:00 p.m. to cruise Grand. After taking a spin up and down Grand a few 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 a short distance to find dessert. This will be a full evening of car fun for car people.

Greatest Show on Turf

Date: Saturday, June 2
Time: 7:00 a.m. (registered Miatas)
9:00 a.m.–2:30 p.m. (spectators)
Meet: San Diego Automotive Museum, 2080 Pan American Plaza (Balboa Park)
Cost: \$25 to enter; free for spectators
Contact: Steve & Laurie Waid, 760-432-0727, swaid@cox.net

Details: This car show features 400 cars in 15 classes—vintage cars, modified vehicles, motorcycles, and more. There's even a special class for Miatas. Registration has closed, but spectators are welcome.

My Pal Sal Memorial Run

Date: **POSTPONED**
Contact: Steve & Laurie Waid, 760-432-0727, swaid@cox.net

Miata Summer Camp

Date: Saturday, June 9–Sunday, June 10
Time: 7:00 a.m.
Meet: McDonald's, 1701 Oceanside Blvd., Oceanside (just east of I-5)
Contact: Wally Stevens, 619-234-2858, wallymiata@gmail.com
Details: Miatans from all over California and beyond

will converge on Harris Ranch in Coalinga (just off I-5 about halfway to San Francisco). There they will share a short weekend (one night) of relaxing by the pool, soaking in the extra-large spa, partaking of some of the finest beef in California, and indulging in Miata activities.

Wally will lead a run to this event from San Diego. Since the trip is about 350 miles (5 hours) long, he plans to beeline up I-5 and save the twisties for Coalinga.

If you haven't been to Harris Ranch, you probably cannot imagine such a nice resort facility in the middle of nowhere. Visit www.harrisranch.com to get an idea of what they offer.

Assuming we arrive in time, you can take part in a short run (less than 50 miles) on the twisties, starting at 2:00 p.m. Saturday. The course will visit the R.C. Baker Memorial Museum, as well as a restored Richfield Station. Wayne James, who oversaw the restoration, will open the station and provide a personally guided tour.

A "Blind Driver" contest is scheduled to begin around 4:30 p.m. Blindfolded drivers will be timed as they attempt to cover a course through 20 cones, guided only by their navigators.

This event is billed as a "summer camp," which means that you don't need to do any of the activities offered. You're free to just relax the entire weekend, or to join in for as few or as many activities as you want.

The organizers have blocked out 40 rooms at \$105–135 per night (king or two queens). Call 1-800-942-BEEF (2333) to reserve, and ask for "Miata Summer Camp."

Twisted Weekend

Date: Saturday, June 23–Sunday, June 24
Time: 9:30 a.m. (both days)
Meet: McDonalds, 28100 Jefferson Ave., Temecula
Contact: Dean Rudenauer, 626-967-0825
Details: The "iron seat" 500-mile Twisted Weekend will start in Temecula and end at the SDMC Summer Picnic at Bates Nut Farm.

Saturday's run will explore the hills between Temecula and Fallbrook. After lunch in Fallbrook, it will cover more roads in the afternoon.

Members who wish to join the Twisted Weekend crew for their run to the SDMC picnic may join the group in Temecula Sunday morning. The Sunday section will leave the hotel at 9:30 sharp, and drive more great roads on the way to Bates Nut Farm in Valley Center.

Hotel: Ramada Inn, 28980 Old Town Front St., Temecula (951-676-8770). Request a room in the SOCALM block.

Coming Events

SDMC Summer Picnic/ Traditional & Mardi Gras Car Shows

Date: Sunday, June 24
Time: 10:00 a.m. (car shows), 1:00 p.m. (lunch)
Meet: Bates Nut Farm, 15954 Woods Valley Rd.,
Valley Center
Contact: Picnic – Gabe Rivera, 619-295-5993,
gaberiv@mac.com
Car Shows – Kit & Steve Licata, 619-258-5588,
mzkaycivic850@sbcglobal.net

Details: Lunch, catered by RMH Catering (Rick Hackley from the Boll Weevil), will feature smoked chicken and barbecued pork ribs. Cost is \$10 for SDMC members; \$16 for others. Pre-payment by June 15 is required. Send checks, payable to "SDMC," to Gabe Rivera, 3682 Curlew Street, San Diego, 92103.

The featured event will be two car shows, one traditional, the other called Mardi Gras Madness. For the Mardi Gras show, members should decorate their cars with Mardi Gras colors, beads, etc., and dress for the occasion. Trophies will be awarded for the best decorated Mardi Gras cars, best costumed participants, and the entry best exemplifying the overall Mardi Gras theme.

PICNIC (Continued from page 1)

form at a monthly meeting, you can call Kit Licata (home: 619-258-5588, cell: 619-507-8011) or simply send e-mail to mzkaycivic850@sbcglobal.net, stating your name, car color, and which show you wish to enter.

Sister clubs join in

We'll be joined at the picnic by friends from SOCALM and the Sahuaro Miata Club of Phoenix. The Sahuaro group is including our picnic as part of a three-day Southern California Auto Tour Weekend. Their sojourn will also include stops at Mazda's Western Region offices in Irvine and the Petersen Automotive Museum in Los Angeles.

Not to be outdone, SOCALM will include the picnic as part of a two-day Twisted Weekend. Dean and Tassy Rudenauer have planned two days of driving around the Temecula and Fallbrook areas.

Both days' runs will start at 9:30 a.m. from the McDonald's, 28100 Jefferson Ave., Temecula. After a day of driving the twisties on Saturday, participants can spend the late-afternoon and evening hours attending Temecula's annual street painting festival, and walk

Although there is no charge to enter the car shows, participation is by reservation. Call or e-mail the Licatas to reserve your spot.

Twilight Run

Date: Saturday, July 28
Time: 5:00 p.m. drivers meeting; earlier to eat
Meet: Albertson's/Target Center, Hwys 94 and 54
(Jamacha), Rancho San Diego
Contact: Mark & Cathy Booth, 619-670-3789,
markbooth@cox.net

Details: This will be a very leisurely ride along some of San Diego's most scenic roads, made different because we do it during the evening hours—that special twilight period when the hot summer day slowly gives way to a comfortable summer night.

The driver's meeting will start promptly at 5:00 p.m. There are no food stops planned along the run route, so plan to arrive early and grab a late lunch at one of the many restaurants available in the shopping center (TGI Fridays, Carl's Jr., Submarina, etc.). The run will finish back near the starting point at approximately 9:00 p.m.

among the shops before enjoying dinner at Rosa's Cantina.

Following an overnight stay at the Ramada Inn on Temecula's Old Town Front Street, the group will tackle the twisties once again, en route to the SDMC Summer Picnic. SDMC members who wish to join just the Sunday run should meet at McDonald's before 9:30 for an entertaining run to Bates Nut Farm.

We should have applied for the trademark

A recent press release announces that Hasbro, Inc. will begin selling an updated edition of their classic, *The Game of Life*. In what they claim as an industry first, the new version replaces cash with Visa-branded cards, designed to teach players the benefits of proper money management.

The game will be sold under the name:

**THE GAME OF LIFE
Twists & Turns Edition**

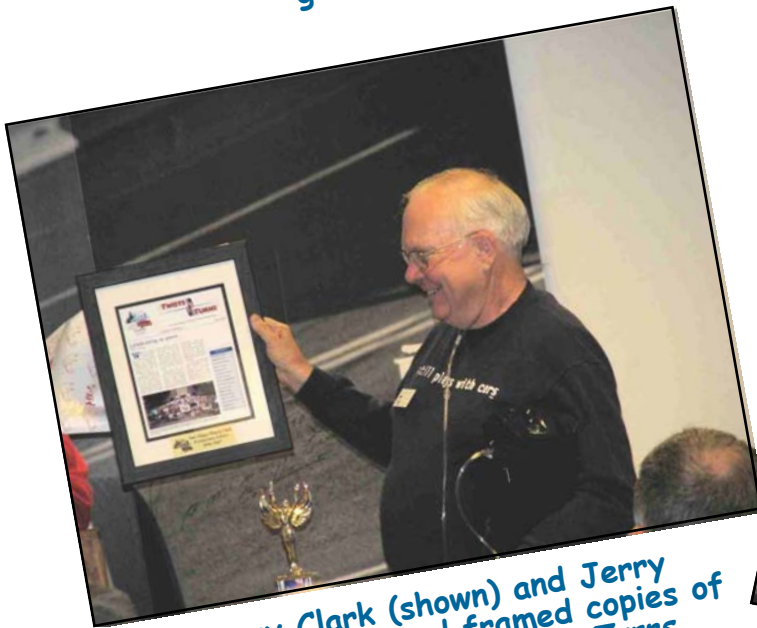
Scenes from the Annual Meeting



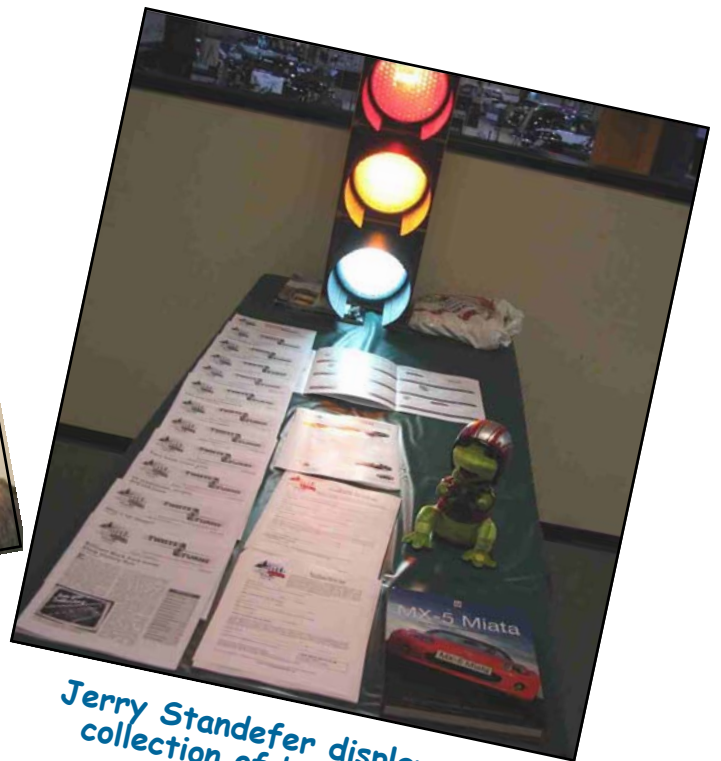
Freshly minted President Harold Schwartz ponders what he's gotten himself into.



2007 Board: Harold Schwartz, David Streeter, Jack Hinkle, Gabe Rivera.



Larry Clark (shown) and Jerry Standefer received framed copies of the April 2006 *Twists & Turns*.



Jerry Standefer displayed a collection of back issues.

Vacant positions call out for volunteers

JERRY STANDERER & LARRY CLARK

Our numerous volunteers keep this club running smoothly. There are four open volunteer positions that would help out the club immensely if they are filled. If you would like to volunteer for any of the positions below, or even if you just have questions, please contact any of the Board members. Everyone will certainly appreciate your help.

Vendor Relations Coordinator

SDMC deals with a lot of vendors. Whether the vendor is a corporation halfway across the country or a local dealership, it is great to have a single voice that represents the club. With planning for Surf'N'Safari 2009 on the horizon, filling this crucial position is more important than ever. Principle duties include:

- ◆ Act as the liaison between SDMC and vendors;
- ◆ Maintain a list of vendors and point-of-contact information;
- ◆ Approach vendors for donations and participation in special events, such as vendor malls;
- ◆ Keep records of raffle donations and interactions.

The main requirement is the ability to build a favorable rapport with vendor representatives. If you already have relationships with our wonderful Miata vendors, you are halfway there.

Regalia Team

The Regalia team's primary purpose is to offer SDMC members the ability to purchase items that they cannot easily get on their own, such as logo items. Principle duties include:

- ◆ Set up the Regalia table and sell merchandise at monthly meetings;
- ◆ Keep records of sales, and turn funds over to the Treasurer;
- ◆ Obtain Board approval and order new merchandise as needed;
- ◆ Maintain inventory of merchandise on hand, and report to the Board quarterly;
- ◆ Prepare newsletter and web advertisements;
- ◆ Respond to e-mail and phone requests for information and sales.

Requirements are an eagerness to meet and help fellow members, and an OTM for transporting merchandise to meetings. The ideal Regalia team might be a couple, but anybody who wants to help is welcome.

Editor-in-Chief

SDMC has had a newsletter since May 1996. The Editor-in-Chief oversees the newsletter operation. Principle duties include:

- ◆ Plan the content of each monthly issue of *Twists & Turns*;
- ◆ Schedule the various deadlines to ensure the newsletter is delivered to members on time each month;
- ◆ Review and edit all submissions;
- ◆ Review the layout for any errors and omissions;
- ◆ Write editorials and articles as needed;
- ◆ Coordinate newsletter staff;
- ◆ Track and control costs;
- ◆ Maintain relationships with the print shop;
- ◆ Interact with businesses that offer club discounts (until Vendor Relations position is filled);
- ◆ Represent the newsletter at Board meetings.

Requirements are attention to detail; ability to meet strict deadlines; knowledge of word processing and page layout software (Windows or Mac OS); good grasp of the English language; basic accounting; basic understanding of copyright compliance; and a willingness to do what it takes to get the job done. The previous Editor-in-Chief will walk you through the job and provide assistance to get you going.

Production Editor

The Production Editor's primary responsibility is the layout of text and photos to create an eye-appealing newsletter. Specific duties include:

- ◆ Review articles and perform secondary copy-editing;
- ◆ Insert articles into desktop publishing software;
- ◆ Arrange articles on pages, insert headlines, bylines, subheads, etc.;
- ◆ Choose photos to illustrate articles, and write captions;
- ◆ Create events list and back-page calendar from web data and additional submissions;
- ◆ Update standard items (officer list, new members, discounts, etc.);
- ◆ Resize text and photos to achieve good fits;
- ◆ Submit draft copies for proofing, and make corrections as needed;
- ◆ Convert issue to PDF, and send to printer and webmaster;
- ◆ Archive publishing files and PDF to CD-ROM.

Primary requirements are: facility with computer applications; working knowledge of typographic concepts; attention to detail; ability to meet deadlines; and good grasp of the English language. We currently use Microsoft Publisher as our layout tool, along with Adobe Acrobat to create PDFs. SDMC will provide the necessary software, and the current Production Editor will instruct and assist as needed.

A little foam can quiet that noisy exhaust

TED KESLER

I finally put on a cool-sounding exhaust the other day, and Sue likes everything but the volume. It's not loud, it's just ... well ... kinda—OK, it's too loud. There, I said it; it's too macho for the wife. So then I got to listening with the top up and down, windows open and closed. You know how that goes once you hear something and start trying to fix it. *And it was worse with the top up!*

That made little sense until I remembered the roll bar legs fit in tunnels that run beside the gas tank from the trunk right into the cockpit. They are hidden behind covers and carpet, but still ... cool sounding tail pipe inches from the trunk ... tunnels from the trunk into the cockpit. Could it be?

When I got into the trunk, I removed the carpet and metal shield on the left and the spare tire and carpet on the right (Figure 1). There it was—the back of the cockpit carpet at the other end of the tunnels. I thought of a bunch of ways to block the sound, and decided that some soft foam, cut to fit and stuffed into either tunnel, seemed like a plan. Actually, I remembered reading about this mod a while back, and it seemed kinda silly.

But it works—cheap and easy, and much quieter. There really is more noise from the trunk into the cockpit than I ever would have thought.

I bought a block of new furniture foam, then measured and carved—and fit and carved—and re-fit and

pushed and shoved—and cut my knuckles. When I was done, I think I had about the same result as if I'd just stuffed the tunnels full and quit. OK, not as pretty, but with everything all put back together, you can't see the foam anyway. And if you have a spare sofa cushion, you might even do this mod free.

There are some wires on the driver's side that will need some planning. I slit the foam block and threaded it around the wires (Figure 2).

This might be a half-hour job with just a little care. You'll need some soft foam, a carving knife, 10 mm socket, tape measure, felt tip pen—and band-aids. Measure and cut a little oversized so the tunnels are well filled (Figure 3).



Figure 1. The stripped trunk.



Figure 2. Work around those wires.



Figure 3. All neat and tidy.

Drive away those annoying pests

LARRY DENNSTEDT

It's rodent-infestation season. Those of us who live next to canyons know how mice and rats love to build nests in our cars, blocking the heater and A/C ducts, or leaving snail shells on top of our engines, near the spark plug wires. Sometimes rats even chew on our wiring and other plastic items. Ants like to eat the wax products. Spiders build their nests everywhere.

You can use smells to drive these pests away. Mothballs have an odor that tends to keep the rodents away. Cloths dryer towelettes will do the same thing. Perhaps best, Irish Spring soap seems to work very well, and has a much more pleasant aroma to humans. Try cutting a bar into pieces.

Place them inside the car, and maybe in the trunk, too. One under

the seat or over the transmission hump behind the center console, and a couple under the hood on either side of the engine.

If you are going away on a trip this is effective, and you probably will have no disappointments upon your return. Even if you keep your car in the garage, these ideas will help deter visitors.

Have a great and safe summer.

Member Discounts

Many vendors offer discounts to Miata Club members. The club does not endorse these vendors, but lists them as a membership benefit. Some offers may require you to show a current SDMC membership card.

Businesses that wish to be listed must offer a discount from their normal retail prices to SDMC members. Listings are limited to five lines (about 30-35 words). Contact *newsletter@sandiegomiataclub.org* for more information.

Automotive Services

Allen's Wrench. Mazda Master Technician. 1620 Grand Avenue, San Marcos. 760-744-1192. Discount: 10% (except oil changes).

American Battery. Miata batteries & all other batteries. 525 West Washington, Escondido. 760-746-8010. Contact: Jeff Hartmayer. Discount: Fleet discount on all products.

Coast Car Covers, Inc. Car covers, cockpit covers. 1229 Morena Blvd., San Diego. 619-275-7100. Discount: Wholesale price.

Express Tire. Auto repair, tires. 12619 Poway Road, Poway. 858-748-6330. Manager: David Dolan. Discount: 10% on parts and labor, including tires.

Geri's Bazaar. Custom deck bags, boot bags, travel bags. Maximize the space in your trunk. Contact: Geri Causarano. 828-400-1673. *www.geris-bazaar.com*. Substantial savings to club members.

Good-Win Racing LLC. Miata intakes, exhausts, shocks, springs, & goodies from Racing Beat, Moss, and more. *www.goodwin-racing.com*. 858-775-2810. Special club price on everything.

Hawthorne Wholesale Tire. Tires, wheels, brakes, and suspension. 877 Rancheros Dr., San Marcos. 760-746-6980. Discount: 10%

Just Dings Ltd. Mobile paintless dent removal. 858-569-3464. Discount: 15%

Kesler Customs. Miata chassis braces, adjustable dead pedals, hide-away license plate brackets. Installation of aftermarket parts, fabrication, light welding. Ted Kesler, 619-421-8472. Special club prices.

Knobmeister Quality Images. 3595 Gray Circle, Elbert, CO 80106-9652. Joe Portas, *joe@knobmeister.com*. 303-730-6060.

Langka Corp. Guaranteed paint chip and scratch repair system. Cleaning, detailing, and restoration products. 800-945-4532. *www.langka.com*. Discount: 30%.

Larry Dennstedt's Auto Repair. 4283 41st Street, San Diego. 619-284-4911. Discount: 10% on labor.

Lutz Tire & Service. Alignment specialist, tires. 2853 Market Street, San Diego. 619-234-3535. Ask for Mike. Discount: 10% on parts (tires not included).

Magnolia Auto Body. Restorations, body work. 476 West Main Street, El Cajon. 619-562-7861. Ask for T.J. Discount: 10% on labor and parts.

Porterfield Enterprises Ltd. Brake pads, rotors. 1767 Placentia Ave., Costa Mesa. 949-548-4470. Discount: 15% on Porterfield & Hawk brake pads; \$10 off rotors; \$9.25 for Motul 600 brake fluid (1 pint).

Smog Squad. 3342 Rosecrans, San Diego. 619-223-8806. General Manager: Jose Munoz. Discount: \$10 on smog tests.

Thompson Automotive. Cool accessories for our cool cars; oil filter relocation kits, gauge kits, air horns, brakes, Voodoo knobs, & MORE. *www.thompson-automotive.com*. 949-366-0322. Discount: 10%

Tri-City Paint. Professional detailing, products, paint, airbrushes, car covers. West Miramar Area: 858-909-2100; Santee, Mission Gorge: 619-448-9140. Discount: Body shop pricing #CM6660.

WheelStore. Wheels, tires, suspension, alignment. 208 S. Coast Hwy., Oceanside. 760-967-1336. Contact: Joe Jordan. Discount: Wholesale price on tires; \$10 off alignments.

World Famous Car Wash. Complete professional car care. Complete detail, hand wax, leather treatment, free shuttle service. 7215 Clairemont Mesa Blvd, San Diego. 858-495-9274. Discount: 10%

Mazda Dealerships

Chapman Mazda. Phoenix. 877-684-5803. Ask for John Mardueno. Discount: 20% on Mazda parts and accessories.

Mazda El Cajon. 619-442-7050. Discount: 20% on Mazda parts; 10-20% on accessories.

Mazda of Escondido. 760-737-3200. Discount: 20% on most parts; 15% on labor (not including smog certification).

Westcott Mazda. National City. 619-474-1591. Discount: 25% on parts or labor (except oil changes).

Other Services

Alarm 2000. Residential and commercial alarm installations and monitoring. Free equipment with 2-way voice & free install. Buffy Hergenrader, 619-221-0948. *buffy@iopener.net*. Discount: No connection fee.

Coldwell Banker Real Estate. David T. Bryan, Realtor. 619-334-4625. *david-bryan@coldwellbanker.com*. Free market analysis. No transaction fees for SDMC members or referrals!

Linsco Private Ledger. Fee-based planner. Wealth management, estate, retirement, and investment planning. Free consultation and 15% discount on all fees. Hernan Hooker, BCE. 619-542-0822.

Rosin & Associates. Attorneys at law. Accidents, insurance issues, general civil law. No recovery, no fee. Anita Rosin, *anita.rosin@rosinlaw.com*. 619-543-9600. Discount: 10% on attorneys fees.

Classifieds

MIATAS FOR SALE

2006 Grand Touring, Marble White, Leather, 6-speed, only 4975 miles. We bought this neat little car at the very end of 2005 thinking that we would have lots of fun with it, but, as you can see from the miles, we just don't use it. It is in excellent condition and has been under a Mazda Custom Cover unless it was in motion. Kelly Blue Book resale: \$24,230 OBO. Diane & Bud Bainbridge, 951-676-4044(H), 909-519-5077 (C), *walterbainbridge@hotmail.com*.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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*.

Classified ad space is provided at no cost to SDMC members only. Ads must include first and last names, telephone number, and e-mail address, which must agree with current club roster.

Send ads to *newsletter@sandiegomiataclub.org*. Ads will run for four months unless canceled, and may be revised and resubmitted.

Address

JUNE 2007

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1 Cruisin' Grand	2 Greatest Show on Turf
3	4	5	6	7	8	9 Miata Summer Camp
10 Miata Summer Camp	11	12	13	14	15 T&T JULY DEADLINE	16
17 Father's Day	18	19	20	21	22	23 Twisted Weekend
24 SDMC Picnic/ Twstd Wknd	25	26	27	28 Monthly Meeting	29	30

JULY 2007

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1	2	3	4 Independence Day	5	6 Cruisin' Grand	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15 T&T AUGUST DEADLINE ?	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26 Monthly Meeting	27	28 Twilight Run
29	30	31				

DATE	EVENT	TIME	MEET	CONTACT	PAGE
Fri 6/1, Fri 7/6	Cruisin' Grand	6:00 p.m. (eat) 7:00 p.m. (cruise)	Tom's #23, 5th St & Centre City Pkwy, Escondido	Steve & Laurie Waid 760-432-0727	6
Sat 6/2	Greatest Show on Turf	7:00 a.m. (registered) 9:00 a.m.-2:30 p.m.	San Diego Auto Museum, Balboa Park	Steve & Laurie Waid 760-432-0727	6
Sat 6/9-Sun 6/10	Miata Summer Camp (Harris Ranch, Coalinga)	7:00 a.m.	McDonald's, 1701 Oceanside Bl., Oceanside (just east of I-5)	Wally Stevens wallymiata@gmail.com	6
Sat 6/23-Sun 6/24	Twisted Weekend	9:30 a.m. (both days)	McDonald's, 28100 Jefferson Ave., Temecula	Dean Rudenauer 626-967-0825	6
Sun 6/24	SDMC Car Shows and Summer Picnic	10:00 a.m. (car shows) 1:00 p.m. (lunch)	Bates Nut Farm, 15954 Woods Valley Rd., Valley Ctr.	Kit & Steve Licata 619-258-5588	1, 7
Thu 6/28, Thu 7/26	SDMC Monthly Meeting	6:00 p.m. (eat) 7:00 p.m. (meet)	Boll Weevil Restaurant, 9330 Clairemont Mesa Bl.	Harold Schwartz 858-271-0084	3
Sat 6/28	Twilight Run	5:00 (drivers meeting), earlier to eat	Albertson's/Target Center, Hwys 94 & 54, Rncho S.D.	Mark Booth 619-670-3789	7

but must have provided written indication of willingness to accept the nomination.

9.3 Statements of Qualifications – Candidates for Board positions are encouraged to submit written statements of their interest and qualifications for publication in the Club newsletter. The newsletter editor may establish reasonable limits on length, and must publish all statements received by deadline without editing, attempting to present all candidates equitably.

9.4 Term of Office – All directors shall hold office until the next annual membership meeting.

9.5 Vacancies – In the event that a Board seat is vacated, the Board shall, by majority vote, nominate another Club member in good standing to fill the vacancy, subject to confirmation by the general membership at the next scheduled membership meeting.

Article X. Dues and Expenditures

10.1 Dues – Membership dues shall be \$35 annually for either a dual or a single membership.

10.2 Partial Year Dues - Dues for new members who join in January through June are \$35; dues for those who join in July through December are \$20.

10.3 Expiration – All memberships, regardless of when paid, expire at the end of the calendar year. Renewals are due by January 1.

10.4 Delinquency – Lapsed members who are more than 30 days delinquent will be dropped from the membership rolls.

Article XI. Amendment of Bylaws

11.1 Requirements – These bylaws may be amended or revised at the annual meeting or at a special membership meeting by a two-thirds vote of memberships present.

11.2 Notification – The text of any proposed changes to these bylaws must be published in the announcement of the meeting where the vote will be taken.

11.3 Effective Date – Amendments and revisions to these bylaws become effective upon approval by the members.

Article XII. Authority

12.1 Authority – Any matters not included in these bylaws are to be determined by *Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised* and the California Corporations Code.

Adopted April 21, 2007

Bylaws of the San Diego Miata Club

Article I. Name

1.1 Name – The name of this organization shall be San Diego Miata Club (the “Club”), a California mutual benefit organization.

Article II. Purpose

2.1 Purpose – The purpose of the Club shall be to promote good will for the mutual benefit of Club members and to provide social and recreational activities that enhance the ownership experience of Mazda MX-5 Miata automobiles.

Article III. Memberships

3.1 Requirements – The term “member” means a member in good standing with current dues paid.

3.2 Types of Memberships – Memberships may be single or dual.

3.3 Single Memberships – A single membership shall consist of one person, and shall have one vote on any Club matters.

3.4 Dual Memberships – A dual membership shall consist of two people from one household. Both people shall be entitled to all the rights and privileges of members except:

3.4.1 Only one member of a dual membership shall be entitled to vote on any Club matter.

3.4.2 Only one member of a dual membership shall be eligible to serve on the Board of Directors at any time.

3.4.3 A dual membership shall be entitled to only one printed copy of any newsletter or other material distributed by the Club to the members.

3.5 Responsibilities – Members shall act in accordance with the stated purpose of the Club. The Board may suspend or revoke the membership of any member whose actions are deemed detrimental to the Club.

Article IV. Board of Directors

4.1 Number of Directors – The Board of Directors (“Board”) shall consist of the four officers.

4.2 Requirements – All Directors must be members in good standing.

4.3 Purpose – The Board shall represent the membership in all official matters, and is to act in the interest of the membership in the conducting of Club business and activities.

4.4 Spending Limit – In matters regarding expenditure of Club funds in excess of \$500, the Board shall present a recommendation for approval at a general membership meeting. Approval is not required for expenses related to publication and distribution of the Club newsletter, maintenance and updating of the Club web site, or renewal of Club insurance.

4.5 Ratification – Recommendations requiring membership approval shall be presented to the members at any scheduled membership meeting. A simple majority vote of paid memberships present shall authorize Board decisions.

4.6 Delegation – The Board may authorize its appointees to act on behalf of the general membership in matters of routine Club business.

Article V. Officers and Duties

5.1 Enumeration – The officers of the Club shall consist of a President, Vice-President, Treasurer, and Secretary, and shall represent the membership in all official matters.

5.2 Distinct Positions – No member shall hold more than one office at a time.

5.3 President – The President shall preside at all membership and Board meetings; shall enforce these bylaws; can sign checks and contracts; and shall be responsible for carrying out the decisions of the membership.

5.4 Vice-President – The Vice-President shall preside in the absence of the President.

5.5 Treasurer – The Treasurer shall sign checks and collect all dues and other monies from any and all sources; shall keep books of accounts and make a financial report at Club meetings; at the last meeting of each year, shall make an annual financial report showing all income and disbursements, and shall provide a budget forecast for the following year.

5.6 Secretary – The Secretary shall keep the minutes and records of the membership and Board meetings; on request, shall furnish each member with a copy of these bylaws and their amendments as they occur; and, at the last meeting of his or her term, shall turn over the minutes and records of the past year for the Club files.

Article VI. Board Meetings

6.1 Frequency – The Board shall meet at least quarterly at times and places determined by the Board.

6.2 Open – Regular Board meetings shall be open and announced to the membership in advance via the Club's newsletter.

6.3 Special Meetings – Special Board meetings may be called by a two-thirds vote of the directors, and need not be announced or open to the membership.

6.4 Electronic Meetings – The Board may utilize electronic communications to

make decisions between scheduled meetings. However, any such decisions must be ratified by the directors at the next scheduled Board meeting, and must be recorded in the minutes.

6.5 Quorum – A quorum at any Board meeting shall consist of at least three directors.

6.6 President – All directors, including the President, shall be entitled to move or second motions and to vote on any matter coming before the Board. In the event of a tie vote, the motion shall be deemed to have failed.

6.7 Minutes – Minutes of all Board meetings shall be made available for inspection by members.

Article VII. Membership Meetings

7.1 Annual Meeting – An annual membership meeting shall be held in April of each year, at a time and place determined by the Board.

7.2 Regular Meetings – Regular membership meetings shall be held monthly, at times and places determined by the Board.

7.3 Special Meetings – A special membership meeting may be called by the Board, and must be called upon presentation of a petition signed by at least 50 percent of the members.

7.4 Notice – The date, time, and place of all membership meetings must be announced at least 10 days in advance. Announcements may be printed in the Club's newsletter, sent via U.S. mail, or distributed electronically to those members who have previously agreed in writing to accept electronic notices.

7.5 Quorum – A quorum at any membership meeting shall consist of the memberships present.

Article VIII. Appointments

8.1 Authority – The President, subject to the approval of the Board, shall appoint members to committees as deemed necessary to administer the Club's activities.

8.2 Eligibility – Only members in good standing shall be eligible to serve on committees.

8.3 Term – Committee appointments may be changed or terminated by the Board at any time.

Article IX. Nominations, Elections, and Term of Office

9.1 Nomination and Election – Directors are to be nominated and elected at the annual membership meeting.

9.2 Requirements – Nominees need not be present to be nominated or elected,