



TWISTS & TURNS

The newsletter of the San Diego Miata Club

Volume 12 Number 7

July 2007

UTAH ROCKS!

Robin Walker-Faircloth

Yes, Utah Rocks ! I thought this was a very appropriate title for my article. But, I have to tell you, I can't take credit for it completely, as I borrowed the saying from a souvenir T-shirt I purchased. Ahhhh, Utah ! Red rocks, orange rocks, gray rocks, purple rocks, rough rocks, smooth rocks, balanced rocks; rocks, rocks and more rocks -- all shapes and sizes. And ALL were beautiful, so beautiful that when I got home and began to download the pictures from my cameras, I discovered I'd taken over 700 in just 7 days !

Utah has always been a favorite state for me and I was very excited that I was going to go on the "Miatas in Moab" trip. I was so looking forward to seeing parts of Utah I'd never seen previously. I usually go to Utah to snow ski, so a summer trip was something new. Unlike many others who had planned a year in advance to join the Utah Miata Club in Moab for their weekend event, I decided to go about a month before the event. I am very glad I went and I had a wonderful time. If you haven't done this trip before, you really should reconsider and just "do it". Yeah, I know it's a long drive, but when you're with other fun Miata people, you can't go wrong, no matter where it is you go.

Unfortunately, my husband Mike couldn't join me, but I hooked up with Linda Payne as my "roomy", and we had

a grand time.

I joined in with Mark Booth's group, which left on Wednesday, May 16th. We drove as far as St. George, Utah that first day and enjoyed a delicious dinner at the Templeton's lovely golf course home (funny – they don't even play golf !). Our second day was a long one, but filled with the natural beauty of Utah's National Parks. First Zion and then onto Bryce. There was a competition between the red rocks and the clouds all day long. Enormous clouds would build into thunderheads, thunder would crash, and lightening strikes presented us with a great show. Colorful rainbows completed the scene. There was such vastness of land and sky entertaining our senses.

We had a little rain while driving through Bryce, which eventually turned into sleet. Brrrrrr ! Quickly we all stopped to put up the tops, only to put them back down soon as we could. As we all know, the view with our tops down is the BEST. As our drive towards Moab continued, we drove through Escalante, Goblin Valley and Capitol Reef, arriving at the hotel a



Photo by Robin Walker-Faircloth

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The SAN DIEGO MIATA CLUB is a California nonprofit 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.

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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.

For more detailed instructions and options, see the club's web site.

Membership Information

New Members

Welcome to newest memberships – 3 (since last newsletter):

Chris & Sherri Fly
1999 Highlight Silver Metallic

San Diego
threefllys2000@yahoo.com

Laura & Ramon Bennett
2007 Marble White

Escondido,
arayelectric@sbcglobal.net

Lisa Sousa-Coladonato
& Gino Coladonato
1999 10AE Sapphire Blue

San Diego
ginoc@pacbell.net

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.

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 restaur-

ant, 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, July 26

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.

Who's next?

If you would like to have your profile published in *Twists & Turns*, call Kelley Raymond at 619-846-3784 or send e-mail to kray63@yahoo.com.

To preview the list of questions Kelley uses to start her interviews, visit SDMC's web site (www.sandiegomiataclub.org), click the link "Club and Car Info," then the link "Member Profile Sheet."

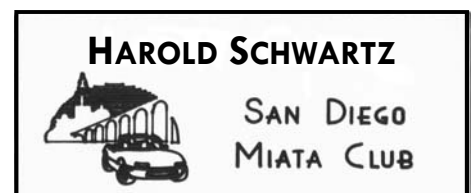
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Our Mission

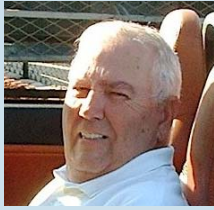
The purpose of the club is to promote the enjoyment of, and enthusiasm for, one of the world's most exciting sports cars – the Mazda Miata.

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!

President's Message: Onward and Upward

HAROLD SCHWARTZ, PRESIDENT



I hope this finds everyone doing well. By the time you read this, the Twisted Weekend/Summer picnic will be over. I want to thank Mazda Corporation for their generous donation to our picnic, Gabe Rivera for handling registration and especially a BIG thank you to Kit and Steve Licata for putting on the car show. After a rather slow Month of May, the activities certainly picked up in June. July looks to be busy also as we have the Fair, 4th of July parade, Cruising Grand and the Twilight run. That makes for a balanced month of activities and thank you to all the members who organize and sponsor our activities. Without them, we're just a bunch of folks who all own the same model of car.

I want to encourage all the members to try and get active in some sort of activity for the club. The more active you become the more fun it is for

everyone. Not only that, but you get a sense of ownership and your membership will mean more to you and your family.

I have been told that we (SDMC) put on a special event every five years called Surf N Safari. The last one was three years ago so the next one is two years out. I've also been told it takes nearly two years of planning to make the event happen. I have no knowledge of what it will take so I will be looking for volunteers to help me and the new board to start planning for this event. More to come on this...

Finally, if your reading the July issue of T&T, it is because Laurie Waid stepped forward and took over getting our newsletter published. Awesome Laurie, words cannot say enough to thank you.

Another BIG thank you to the newly weds, Mike and Lisa, for taking over the Regalia for the club. With all they have setting up a household they found time for our club.

Take Care and Drive Safely, - Harold

SDMC Shines at the Greatest Show on Turf

As I write this I know that I will be attending the monthly Car Club Council meeting in the Auto Museum tonight. We will be having a short post-mortem on Saturday's Greatest Show on Turf Car Show in Balboa Park. I am looking forward to going because I know what I am going to hear.

Announced before the awards ceremony on Saturday was special thanks to the Corvette Club and the Miata Club for all of their help in laying out and parking the show cars. On Saturday, the car show organizers were never reluctant to ask Miata Club members to help with something that came up because

they knew that we would say yes. Several times it was mentioned to me and other members how it sure looked like "we were having so much fun." In summary, we make a big difference in the success of an event when we show up.

I have always been proud of how this club steps up and delivers when we decide to do something. Surf 'n' Safari 1 and 2 are events that are still talked about by attendees. We know how to make things happen and have a great time doing it. I have said for years that Miata Club people are "determined to have a good time". Lemonade out of lemons.

At the risk of omitting someone,

I want to recognize the people that helped make such a big impression on the San Diego Car Club community last Saturday.

We had 13 cars on display. I think this would be the list:

- ◆ Vickie Kiehl
- ◆ Bryan Kiehl
- ◆ David & Kari Streeter
- ◆ Art Hamilton
- ◆ Pat Orbitz
- ◆ Steve & Laurie Waid
- ◆ Carl Kuck
- ◆ Wally Stevens
- ◆ Chip Kushner
- ◆ Larry Dennstedt
- ◆ Tommy & Veronica Aanenson
- ◆ Rocky Murphy
- ◆ Steve Ranzini

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.

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.

Continued from opposite page:

Besides these people we had other volunteers who came and worked the show without displaying their cars.

- ◆ Les Smith
- ◆ John Laurence
- ◆ John Lake

Our official judges were Janice Boster and Ken Tooker who also helped the show by judging other classes

We would have had one more car and two more people had Donna and Stan Fry not experienced an electrical fire in their home in the early hours of Saturday. Had they been there it is more than likely that they would have taken home one of the awards. Arson investigators are busy trying to prove that I had noth-

ing to do with the fire. :-)

Speaking of awards, congratulations to Chip Kushner for garnering the runner up Miata award with his '91 BRG. The Top Pick was one of my favorite cars...a 2002 Orange Flamed, Blazing Yellow Mica.

From my perspective, a highlight was that we had 19 volunteers with 13 cars displayed. The Jaguar club showed up with a reported 34 cars with but a few volun-

teers. That is not to put down the Jag people, but to point out what Miata folks are made of.

The last highlight is 4 YELLOWS out of 13. :-)



Photo by Larry Dennstedt

UTAH ROCKS!

Continued from Page 1

bit later than expected, around 8:00PM. It was a long day filled with MANY miles, and smiles and shutter clicking.

Friday morning we were rested and ready to hit the road once again to see the sights at nearby Arches National Park; it's only five miles outside town. There really weren't any organized "runs" at this event, as we know them. Because there are SO many Miatas (nearly 300 of them), it would be next to impossible to have that many going through the parks together. Thus, there were many offshoot, smaller groups going here and there to explore. Throughout the entire weekend, no matter where you drove, walked or went sightseeing; whether you were in town or in a NP, you would see Miatas and Miata folk. We spent the good part of the Friday discovering the beauty of the Arches NP. At one of our stops along the park route, I walked down this short trail to view the "Windows Section" arches and when I stopped to take photos, this man and woman began talking with me. A very friendly couple. They offered to take some pictures of me, with the arches in the background, which I graciously thanked them for doing. Later, that same day back at the hotel, at registration,

guess who was there ?! That very same couple, working the registration desk for the "Miatas in Moab" event.

Throughout all the parks we visited, you feel so very small in comparison to the enormous rock formations surrounding you. I think Arches NP may be one of my favorites of the entire trip. I liked it so much, that early Sunday morning, I drove back into the park to hike a trail entitled the "Devil's Garden". (Not sure where the name comes from, other than the second half of the trail was more rugged than the first portions). I had browsed through a brochure in the park's visitor center that had photos of several arches we'd not seen during our drive through the park on Friday. I got out my park map and found there was lots to see OFF the main roads! Kewl! I would go on a hike! I filled my hydration daypack with water, packed some food and off I went. I hiked five miles that morning and saw some spectacularly awesome sights. I saw Landscape arch ... the largest spanning arch in the park, the Double "O", Navajo, Tunnel, Wall, Pine, and Partition arches; seven in all. So - you folks I tried coaxing to joining me that Sunday morning, really missed out. I saw lots YOU didn't see ... ha ha ha! (therefore, having more photos than any of you).

We spent nearly a whole day in Canyonlands NP on Saturday, taking in the wondrous views of the canyons far below. This park is very unique in that you drive along a winding road (would have been great Miata road, if we could have driven it faster) atop a green mesa ... with canyons on either side. At the end, it pretty much just drops off!

Spectacular views of the Green and Colorado Rivers. Our small group took a side jaunt to Dead Horse Point State Park, when we left Canyonlands NP.

Monday morning -- time to head for home. I joined the Rainer & Marianne Mueller caravan to begin our trek south out of Moab. It was great having our very own rolling WC. There were three Miatas traveling with the Mueller's and their "Outback" trailer that morning: Me, Bari Russell, and Mary & Norm Chabot. We took a short side trip to drive through the Natural Bridges NP in southern Utah. From there, the road got very exciting! We drove down the "Moki Dugway"! This famous road is a steep, dirt portion of Utah Hwy 261, with a series of tight switchbacks that descends over 1000 feet from the Cedar Mesa down into the Valley of the Gods, east of Monument Valley, AZ. WOW! Talk about a view! In Tuba City, we parted with the Chabots. They were staying an extra day to visit the Grand Canyon, while the rest of us had to continue towards southern CA.

We spent Monday, our last night of this trip, in Flagstaff, AZ. Rainer and Marianne camped in a KOA, while Bari and I stayed in a nearby motel. After fueling and having a great breakfast at a Cracker Barrel Tuesday morning, we drove the last leg of our trip, via Jerome, Sedona, and Prescott, AZ.

Sadly, this seemed the longest day of the whole weekend. Maybe because a wonderful week(end) was coming to a close. It had gotten dark and I thought I would never get home ... the road seemed to go on forever. After being in such beautiful, peaceful scenery for six days it was hard to come back to the hustle and bustle of the city (and traffic). But, only until the NEXT getaway!



Photo by Robin Walker-Faircloth

After Moab

LOU STARK

A group of us drove from San Diego to Moab to join in on the fabulous festivities of Miatas at Moab III. We started out with three RED cars: Lou and I, Jack and Sue Hinkle, and Barb Shev who had Elinor as a passenger. We spent the night in Las Vegas and met up with Michael Shack on the way to Barb and John Templeton's house in Washington, Utah. We were now four RED cars. The next morning John joined us on the trip to Moab. Now we were five RED cars.

Our trip to Moab was uneventful but we saw some beautiful sights (however, that's not what this story is about so I won't elaborate). We arrived in Moab, saw more beautiful scenery met up with old friends, and then continued on to Gateway on Sunday in two separate groups (some of us had to do some more sightseeing in Moab). Our two nights in Gateway were very relaxing.

Then there was Tuesday morning, the day that this story is all about. We stayed at a beautiful hotel. However, early in the morning (about 5:30ish), we noticed that the electricity had gone out and that our cell phones did not work. That didn't stop John and Jack. They decided they were going to meet us in Durango since they wanted to go around a different path which would take them an extra 3-4 hours to get there. They left early. Sue made sure to run out and kiss Jack before he left, even though the car was already at the main road.

When the electricity came back on, the rest of us decided it was time to get going. Of course one of the

reasons we hadn't left yet was that we needed gas for our cars and you couldn't pump the gas until there was electricity! As we were checking out, John called. His car was hit by a pickup truck

as the pickup truck pulled out of a side road. It was a hit and run.

Thankfully the "boys" were ok but John's Miata was not. We ended up going to Grand Junction (where his car was towed) to get the two of them. Fortunately Barb Shev had an extra seat in her car so John was able to ride with her.

But the day wasn't over yet. We had lunch in Ouray and it was snowing (see photo). That was nothing though. Going over the mountain pass (the Million Dollar Highway) was even more fun (see photo). Fortunately the snow was melting on the road even though it wasn't melting everywhere else. We went at a slow pace but made it to Durango safely. One smashed car for the day was enough.

The next day we took the train from Durango to Silverton. When we made the reservations we figured the weather would be sunny and cool, so we booked the outdoor car on the train. Little did we know that there would be so much snow. It was beautiful. But the only way we could tolerate it was to dress like Jack and Sue (see photo)! I must admit the scenery was beautiful. Most



Photo by Lou Stark

of us sat in the indoor cars on the way back. Barb managed to stay outside and keep our guide company but even she had to go in for a while.

The rest of the trip was great, but fortunately not as much of an adventure as the Tuesday and Wednesday of our trip. We ended up splitting up on the way back. John flew home since he didn't have a Miata to drive; Lou and I stayed in Cameron; Michael, Elinor and Barb went to Flagstaff; and Jack and Sue went to Phoenix to visit Sue's brother. Then we all made it back to the San Diego area over the weekend. What a great trip!!!



Miata in a Sandbox

Cmdr (select) Jerry Boster, USN

Up ahead in the distance, I saw shimmering light...no wait it's a Mariner Blue M-1...

How could it be? I must be dreaming. As I squinted through the dust that is always in the air in Manama, Bahrain, I knew it was true. Half a world away from the San Diego Miata Club, I had found a Miata.

And it was for sale.

Could it be true?

After a quick external inspection in which I noted a decent body (only a couple of scrapes), a hard top and a roll bar, I dialed the number on the For Sale sign and asked the voice that answered what year (90), how much mileage (76K) and how much (more than I wanted to pay). So I reluctantly thanked the seller and continued the walk to my apartment.

But as any SDMC member knows, you can't get that little car out of your mind.

For two weeks I looked at the lonely Mariner Blue sitting with the For Sale sign as I walked by twice a day.

Since I had served two years in Saudi Arabia in the 90s, I was really looking for a bigger car because in the Middle East size does matter. In a world of SUVs, driving a small sports car could easily be fatal. But as I looked around Bahrain, I noticed that things had changed. I was seeing Ferraris, Porsches, Corvettes, BMW Z-3s and Mercedes of all shapes and sizes, mini-Coopers and just about every other sports car. I decided to call the seller again.

This time we agreed to meet.

Armed with the checklists I downloaded off Miata.net I showed up at the appointed time. After talking with the owner, Majid, a Bahraini of Persian decent that works for the Bahrain Petroleum Company, and who was surprisingly knowledgeable about Miatas; I decided to take the car for a test drive. Majid bought the

M-1 from a U. S. Navy officer who had imported it from the States in '99. Amazingly it drove well given the car's age and harsh conditions of the Middle East.

After the test drive all that was left was to haggle over the price. As we walked around the car, I was surprised to discover that Majid actually had imported the Hardtop and Rollbar from England. Using my best bargaining skills we went back and forth for a little while until reaching a price we both could live with. A quick handshake and the deal was sealed.

We met the next day to exchange money for title, insurance papers and spare parts. We set out in Majid's suburban for our first stop – insurance. In Bahrain insurance is carried on the car, not the owner, and it is bought for a year at a time. When the car is sold, the insurance policy is transferred to the new owner. Next it was off to the Bahrain equivalent of the DMV. It's a pretty interesting place where you have to start out by getting your paperwork stamped with a notice of intent to transfer the title. Then you have to do a title search to see if there are any outstanding traffic tickets and pay them if there are any (there weren't). Then it's over to the actual title transfer desk. Oh, did I mention that at each place you have to take a number and wait. Some guys try to game the system and take numbers at all three and do them simultaneously, but that doesn't work since all the lines move at different speeds. Anyway, after completing all the required formalities (about 2 hours of waiting and 3 minutes of actual work), the Miata was mine.

But no deal with an Arab is complete without the social obligations. So it was off to Majid's house for lunch and to pick up some spare parts he had laying about. Majid's house was pretty nice and western in

style, but about some things he is still very traditional – like sitting on the floor and eating. Now I don't about all of you, but my legs aren't nearly as flexible as they use to be. So with moderate grace I joined Majid on the living room / dining room floor and enjoyed a nice meal of Arabic curried liver. After only dropping minor bits on my trousers I headed home.

As soon as I returned to my apartment building, all the watchmen quickly gathered around to ogle the new car. Smiles quickly turned to astonishment as I popped the hardtop latches and pulled the top off. Full of smiles of my own, I got the building watchmen to take my picture to e-mail off to Janice so she could show off the new baby at the Puke.

When I told Janice that I bought the car, the reaction was one of a hardcore Miataphile – “About time, I knew you were going to buy it.” The next order of business was to order a horn from Tom Thompson. These horns have literally saved Janice and I on more occasions than I could count in San Diego. There was no way I was going to spend a year over here without one. Since the next day was the Puke, Janice immediately put in my order. Within a couple of weeks, baby had a new sound. Thanks Tom, the horn comes in handy on nearly a daily basis.

The very first night, all the watchmen fell in love with my car. They give it lots of TLC. First off they hand wash the car at least three times a week with a soft sponge and plenty of clean water. I have learned to leave it unlocked so they can dry any drips around leaky seals. The first time they washed the car there were some leaks around the driver's window and they were upset because the doors were locked and they couldn't get the inside of the window dried. Anyway with careful watch-

(Continued on page 9)



Photos by Jerry Boster



(Continued from page 8)

men (and they are) who needs to lock the car? I taught them how to put the hardtop on and take it off. Their only request is to ride in the car one of these days – a request I will gladly grant.

The only item remaining was a name. As everyone knows names are chosen with extreme care. One

of the important Bahrain trades of the past was in pearls. The locals used to dive in the surrounding waters and bring up pearls by the chest full. Having been to Bahrain several times, I was well aware of this particular aspect of Bahrain history. So after careful deliberation, I chose the name PRL DVR (Pearl Diver) as a sign of respect for my host country. So now we are a proud three

Miatas family. KIKAZE (Janice's 2003 LE Shinsen production number 1 of 1451), RDDY2RN (my 1993 Classic Red) and PRL DVR (our Bahrain addition, a 1990 original Mariner Blue).

One last note, I have since found that there are two Miatas in Bahrain – PRL DVR and a red M-1. It's nice to have company even this far from home. Regards from the Sandbox.

Stay-Behind Run May 20

Les Smith

Some of us may have stayed-behind when others headed for Moab, but that didn't mean we stayed off the highways. Runs materialized on both that Saturday and Sunday, May 19 and 20, offering options for the weekend.

Six Miatas gathered for breakfast at the Bread Basket in Alpine on a beautiful Sunday morning before heading out on a 70-plus mile run that ended about five miles from the start point!

And we broke two of the club's cardinal rules: we didn't pass through Julian and we didn't stop at Dudley's Bakery.

Les Smith led the group; Tommy & Veronica Aanenson were the sweep. In between were Helen Sharp; Marc Daniels & Hailey; President Harold & First Lady Janice; First Son Mike & First Daughter-in-Law Lisa. Brenda Kay & Jim Markel joined us for breakfast, but had another obligation. And although another Miata owner talked with us in the parking lot, we couldn't convince

him to join us for the run.

The Stay-Behind Run route: Departed Alpine on Tavern Road ... South Grade Road ... Harbison Canyon past the nudist colony ... Dehesa Road ... Japatul Valley Road ... Old Highway 80 through Pine Valley ... Sunrise Highway ... CA 79 around Lake Cuyamaca and south ... I-8 west to Viejas Casino & Outlet Mall.

Stay-Behind Run Highlights:

- ◆ Unplanned stop in Pine Valley (actually, an executive order by President Harold) for ice cream and restroom break.
- ◆ Stopped at the graded spot near the south end of Sunrise Highway to observe a sheer fault originally part of the Rock and Roll Run. Lots of parking but no restrooms
- ◆ Stopped at the view point just north of Mount Laguna to peek out at the desert way off to the northeast ... and to use the restrooms
- ◆ Stopped at Kwaaymii Point (another

Rock and Roll Run site) to stare out at the desert again; no hang glider activity that day. Helen doesn't do heights; she stayed in her Miata and guarded the others.

- ◆ Kept our eyes open for potential picnic sites as a rest stop for a future run; don't always have to eat in restaurants. Will select a spot, with restrooms.
- ◆ Took the Viejas Blvd./Riverside Drive by-pass through Descanso, shaving about 3/10 of a mile off the run.
- ◆ Gathered for lunch in the center court area of Viejas Outlet Mall. All agreed we had experienced a super day driving Miatas and enjoying the fellowship of great club friends. Finally, a special recognition to Veronica Aanenson for an outstanding job as Sweep Communications Engineer. Planning a run? If she and Tommy are going along, she's a great choice for this duty.

Ted's Tech Tips

Ted Kesler



Photo by Ted Kesler

I was sitting around with the guys (you know, The Guys) a while back and we were of course talking manly stuff, cars and tools with which to work on them. And somehow it was discovered that I had a set of Stubbies. After the obvious testosterone fueled laughter had subsided I was forced to further admit that they were indeed Ratchet Stubbies. Afraid to quit while I was still way behind, I threw in my admiration for a great T Handle to reach those really tight places.

And the room got very quiet. Suddenly the subject had changed from eighth grade innuendos to a genuine thirst for knowledge. And as a fellow in the automotive society that measures one by the size of his tools (since the eighth grade?) I had to put up or shut up. Please see the picture for what I had to whip out to save my manly cred.

On the bottom is the wrench that

started this whole debacle, a 10mm Gearwrench brand Ratchet Stubbie. Just above, to show the size difference, is a common box/open 10mm. Sears has both on sale regularly in metric and SAE size. Above that is a 1/4" drive T Handle wrench (Harbor Freight, motorcycle shops) and a Universal, a swivel u-joint for your socket drive.

Ratchet box-end wrenches are a hot item lately and come two ways. Some have a little lever to change the ratchet direction (like on your full size handle) and some you just turn over to go the other way. I like the thinner (turn over) version. Both are usually in sets of eight in (metric) 8 thru 18mm. The larger sizes seem to beg the question of stubbie usefulness, but then I didn't see their value at all before I bought a set. You'll use these things every time you go under the hood!

T handle wrenches are classic motorcycle tools. versatile, and strong in 1/4" and 3/8" size. Get two or three (they're CHEAP) attach 10, 12 and 14mm sockets and never change a socket all day.

A universal, also called a swivel, allows you to reach and turn things that just don't line up with whatever you're using to reach them. Rounding off a nut or bolt is usually the result of tool misalignment, and a

swivel can often solve the problem. They need a gentle hand to use properly, but you're a gentle kind of person, yes?

The obvious question is; other than small spots, what are these little wrenches really good for? Here's the deal. Most of the nuts and bolts on Miatas are 10, 12, and 14mm. And since us manly American men (and some of you ladies) want everything torqued down solid like our Dad showed us on the '62 Chevy, we've over-tightened every little Japanese bolt we ever put a wrench on. For instance; those cool 10mm chrome button-tops that hold the cam cover down, you know the ones you tightened with a 1/2 drive ratchet handle? They call for 55 INCH POUNDS of torque! That's about what you can do with your thumb, two fingers and a Stubbie wrench! They're way easy to over-torque with just a T handle and your palm. You can do most of a timing belt change with just the tools in this article.

I could go on about torque specs but suffice to say it's common (and un-necessary) to break small Miata stuff with a 1/2 drive set. Unlike Dad's Chevy these cars really need careful attention to torque specs, and respond well to stubbie wrenches.

A sunshine glow appeared in the fog at the Greatest Show on Turf (see page 4 for article).

Photo by Steve Waid



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

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				

AUGUST 2007

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3 Cruisin' Grand	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15 T&T SEPT. DEADLINE	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23 Monthly Meeting	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

DATE	EVENT	TIME	MEET	CONTACT
Wed. 7/4	Coronado Independence Day Parade	7:00 am	Perry's Café in Old Town	David Streeter (951) 461-1722
Thu. 7/26, 8/23	SDMC Monthly Meeting	6:00 pm (eat) 7:00 pm (meet)	Boll Weevil Restaurant, 9330 Clairemont Mesa Blvd. San Diego	Harold Schwartz 858-271-0084
Fri. 7/6 Fri. 8/3	Cruisin' Grand	6:00 pm (eat) 7:00 pm (cruise)	Tom's #23, 5th & Center City Pkwy, Escondido	Steve Waid 760-432-0727
Sat. 7/28	Twilight Run	5:00 pm (drivers meeting), earlier to eat	Albertson's/Target Center, Hwys 94 & 54, Rancho San Diego	Mark Booth 619-670-3789