



TWISTS & TURNS

The newsletter of the San Diego Miata Club

Volume 17, Number 3

March 2012

"Lookin' Good in the Neighborhood"

by Gene Streeter

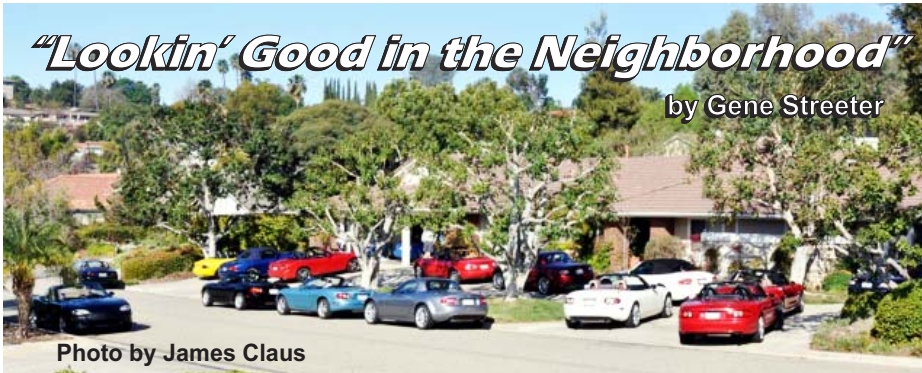


Photo by James Claus

It seems Alan Kagan is on a roll. And I don't mean an Amoroso hoagie roll. If I've already lost you in my wordplay, you didn't enjoy Alan and Jill's inaugural SDMC run in January – Philadelphia, Double Peak, and Beyond. You might not have read Mary Clark's Newsletter cover-page article honoring that run, either. If you're counting, this was Mary Clark's second Twists and Turns cover article, both literary efforts nicely illustrated by James Claus; you can appreciate James'

photo-handiwork within as well.

Alan did a nice job of describing the upcoming Saturday event as part of February's monthly meeting event calendar segment. Since I'd never attended any of the multiple Meguiar's detailing presentations in Irvine, I decided to go despite other Saturday morning plans. Expecting to find a commercial building in an industrial park, I was more than pleasantly surprised to arrive at Sandy Mayer's palatial Escondido estate (sound vaguely familiar to another Corvette-owning car club enthusiast?) decorated by a raft of Miatas in the circular driveway and street. You see, our host is retired and an independent distributor of some very high-quality detail products – Adam's Premium Car Care.

With President Daryled's smurf-blue NA as the patient, "Doc Adams" demonstrated various products and techniques of finish restoration and maintenance for 30 onlookers, even plying us with coffee and doughnuts. He made frequent reference to both Meguiar's product and their training programs, rarely disparaging other products; in truth, there may be a couple of products deserving of such treatment. SDMC's own Events Chairman, Neal Mills, and the single stage (not clear-coated) blue paint provided most of the humor being mined as part of the three-hour demonstration.

Beginning with the basics of car washing, did you know the importance of isolating the dirt and grime from the wash water to prevent putting swirl marks and scratches into your paint in the first place? Even though I'm a long-time devotee of using my personal pressure washer in the car-washing process, I had never used the two-bucket method or a "dirt screen" in my wash bucket prior to that. Humbling ... and very valuable information. Or, in the same vein, the importance of "lubricating" a dry polishing pad, cloth, or clay bar? It was apparent in Sandy's presentation that it was as much about preventing or minimizing damage to the finish of our rides as it was about restoring the finish and appearance changes associated with the normal aging process. (Editor's note: feel free to ask Neal or James Claus where to acquire a dirt screen. And, are there Adam's products for our bodies as well?)

Once washed, your vehicle's paint is ready for the real cleansing and beautification process. "Fun with clay" and polishes was the segment where we spent the most time, but surprisingly, a modest amount of energy.



Photo by James Claus

Continued on Page 2

A Message from the President ...



*by President
Daryled Bristol*

Again it is that time to attempt to put together words on paper (well a great 19" LCD display) that might move or inspire my fellow members to do something extraordinary. Something that will go down in the collective memory of the San Diego Miata Club as a fantastic act, a great driving experience (hey Luke, watch this) or simply another sweet eating outing with friends that have a shared interest. This is what we do and we seem to do it on a regular basis without much prodding from the management.

A long time ago, in a place far away I was told by a very astute individual that if I wanted to pass a message of importance along there were three ways to do so.

- 1. 25 words or less delivered quickly and precisely.*
- 2. One side of one sheet of 8 ½ X 11 paper double spaced*
- 3. KISS (Keep It Simple Stupid)*

That's it folks, run with it

Lookin' Good in the Neighborhood *(cont.)*

At the risk of getting overly technical (and usurping Larry Dennstedt's assigned Newsletter responsibilities), selection of the proper polish product is key to a good result without turning it into a dreaded, muscle-building exercise. Use of a clay bar, properly prepared and lubricated, is the preferred method of removing surface contaminants - industrial fall-out, and even overspray from your car's finish. Here's another tip: clay your windshield and other window glass to remove the contaminants normal washing doesn't.

Ladies, this bud's for you. Whether applied by hand or machine, one of the secrets to a good swirl- and scratch-free finish is your selection of a product best-suited to the need and situation. If your paint finish is in rough shape, you'll need and appreciate a more aggressive polish. Conversely, if it already gets regular attention, you'll only want a gentle polish to get your paint to the desired smoothness. I'm still chuckling about the story of the woman who was using a wax designed for machine application. She was dissatisfied with the results and wanted her money back; Sandy calmly asked how many oscillations per minute she thought her arms were capable of. You get the point; she was expending far too much effort and not getting the results she deserved.

And Daryled got ... a gleaming Mariner Blue 1990 Miata as the result of its being on the operating table for a few hours and finishing the process once attendees purchased their choice of product and dispersed. Yes, Sandy sold some product and likely created some loyal customers (his contact info is on the Events calendar), but he provided everyone in attendance with some valuable knowledge and/or reinforced some good practices in others.

Only eight of us made the short jaunt to Philly Frank's for a tasty lunch. For some of us, it was the second time in only six weeks we'd indulged our gastric desires. That may well be the secret to a great events calendar in 2012: get first-time run leaders, buoyed by their success and feelings of accomplishment, to commit to a second run or event six weeks later. Thank you, Alan for setting the benchmark.

While we're still in cheerleading mode, we should re-commit to submitting newsletter articles to recognize those that make the extra effort on behalf of our club. **Agreed? Whose n-e-x-t?**



Photo by James Claus

You've heard from our Membership Duo, John and Terri, and already know this is a busy time of year for them because of the annual dues/renewal process. What they haven't told you is all the money comes to me for deposit, most memberships being paid by check. Over the past few years, I have found that personalized checks often provide insights into members' passions and personalities. In the style of comedian David Letterman, I offer the following Top 15 Examples of this phenomenon:

Number 15: The background of member David Sosna's personalized check is the image of a high-performance modern Mustang filling the entire field. I know this crowd; please don't read anything into that last remark. Here's a thought ... I wonder if David's renewal check to the local Mustang Club has the image of a high-performance Miata ... just a thought.



Number 14: Rick Spurgeon and Diane (they're usually tucked away quietly at the far end of the room) is a kite enthusiast. Their Miata sports the personalized license plate KYT DUDE. Care to guess what their personalized check looks like? For those of you not attending our February meeting – a lot of you, I held out a hand-crafted prop ... a "check" with a multi-knotted cloth tail. Now, don't you wish you had attended?

Number 13: Recent host of the "Philly Cheese Steak Run," well-traveled Alan Kagan, remarked on his check "2012 Miata Club Renewal for handsome Alan Kagan and the weather girl, Jill Wilson."

Number 12: Not to cast myself in an exotic light, my own personalized check appropriately displays a dumpster in the background and is drawn upon the Bank of Bueller ... Bueller ... Bueller. You'll be putting up with more of that silliness in the 2nd Quarter.



Number 11: Devil-may-care sportsman and raconteur (racon – what?), Wally Stevens, went predictably poetic with his personalized checks. How's this?
"So many cars...so many women; not nearly enough time!"

Number 10: The membership renewal check from Dennis Garon featured a living room vignette with tools all around him, Dennis watching multiple TVs with the cartoon conversation "bubble" displaying "YES, DEAR!" over his head.

Number 9: Then there's perpetual bad-boy and auto-crosser Scott Lewis – his personal check has a handwritten message scrawled in the Remarks section: "Tell Waid I'm paid-up for this year's dues." Problem is, the check is dated 2010.

Number 8: Art Hamilton never misses a chance to mix his life passions – his personalized check has the following Latin phrase inscribed boldly across the front: "Semper Fidelis Baskinus Robbinus." I'm not quite certain what the literal translation should be.



Number 7: Not to be outdone, Mark Booth's personalized check is from very glossy stock and smelled like polishing compounds and carnauba wax ... with his Miata's maintenance schedule outlined on the back.



Number 6: Rocky's MiataMotive business check doubles as a pricing list for his new shop:

Mechanical Labor Rate - \$75.00 per hour / If you watch - \$85.00 per hour / If you diagnose - \$95.00 per hour / If you help (Greg Lee) - \$125.00 per hour

Continued on Page 4

Excerpts from the Treasurer's Report - Feb. 23, 2012 *(cont.)*

We're in the home stretch, folks. Stay with me, OK?

Number 5: Pam Hunt's personalized cheque has a check-box menu of her favorite charities across the front of it. SDMC membership renewal was written-in on the "other" line. In case you're wondering, Pam and Dave were conspicuously absent that evening – a possible conflict with a fundraiser?



Number 4: Ted Kesler's check personalization also carries over from his license plate RUNNIN AWAY; You'd think after all these years he might have gotten a little farther ... Sue's head was nodding approvingly.

Number 3: The Hinkle's membership renewal check was very d-e-e-p; there's an image of a posed, heavily-muscled arm and bicep with the defiant inscription DEPOSIT THIS! ... In pink ...



Number 2: Steve Waid narrowly-escaped having yellow checks, instead opting for an image with three firemen and their hoses trained on a glamor shot of Laurie ... the inscription? You guessed it! One smokin' hot babe.

And, finally, DRUM ROLL, please...

(For those of you now glad you weren't in attendance, there was even greater audience participation at this point.)

Number 1 in your hearts and minds – our beloved (Club) President's personal check features two adorable bear cubs snuggled-up in the middle of a racing slick. Care to guess what the inscription reads? Why, of course, it's "Mr. Warm and Fuzzy!" Ferris

(Ed: here is the necessary legal disclaimer that follows most of what our zany treasurer does. No animals were harmed in the preparation of, and no stodgy reputations were intentionally destroyed in, this presentation. If this were an actual treasurer's report, you might have not come at all. None of us wants that.)



04/06/12	Cruisin' Grand	6:00PM - 9:00PM	Toms #23 Escondido, CA	Steve Waid swaid@cox.net
04/07/12	Annual Meeting	10:00AM - 2:00PM	San Diego Automotive Museum Balboa Park	Daryled Bristol president@sandiegomiataclub.org
04/14/12	Chemical Guys Detailing Clinic	9:00AM - 1:00PM	Chemical Guys 8680 Miralani Dr. #125 San Diego, CA	Alan Kagan alanyahoo@yahoo.com
04/26/12	Monthly Meeting	7:00PM - 8:00PM	Boll Weevil San Diego, CA	president@sandiegomiataclub.org

SDMC OFFICERS



Daryled Bristol
President



Sue Hinkle
Vice - President



Gene Streeter
Treasurer



Dennis Garon
Secretary

Executive Board

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

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VICE PRESIDENT	Sue Hinkle	760.735.9456	<i>vicepresident@</i>
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SECRETARY	Dennis Garon	760.747.1115	<i>secretary@</i>

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THE WEB

www.sandiegomiataclub.org

24 HOUR VOICE MESSAGE LINE

619-434-2007

MAIL

P.O. Box 261921
San Diego, CA 92196

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

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.



Annual Meeting

Saturday, April 7, 2012

10:00AM - 2:00PM

San Diego Automotive Museum

*Elect Your New Board * Fantastic Door Prizes * Free Lunch and Dessert*

MEMBERSHIP

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!

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 Monthly Meeting:

March 22nd

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 \$10 each for badges with safety-pin closures, or \$14 each for badges with magnetic fasteners. Prices include shipping to your home.

Sue Hinkle 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.

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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 additional 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.

Auto Image Paintless dent repair, leather/vinyl/plastic repair, headlight restoration & paint touch up. Free estimates at your home or work. Contact Britt Colton. 619-244-2227. Discount: 10%

Dent Time: fast reasonable paintless dent removal. 800-420-DENT (3368). They come to your door, provided quick and professional service.

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

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%

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 and restoration products. 800-945-4532. www.langka.com. Discount: 30%.

Rocky's Miatomotive 2951 Garnet Ave. San Diego. 858-273-2547. 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.

Pitstop Autoglass Rock chip repairs free to SDCC Miata club members for club Miatas. Must show valid membership card. In-shop only. Non-Miatas save 25% off regular prices. 858-675-GLASS (4527)

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.

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%

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 email 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.

Mazda Dealerships

Mazda of Escondido. 760-737-3200. Discount: 20% on most parts; 15% on labor (not including smog certification). For purchase, ask for Barb and receive free SDMC membership for 1 year!

Westcott Mazda. National City. 619-474-1591. Discount: 15% on parts or labor (except oil changes).

Other Services

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!

FIRST BRAND Inc. Web/Logo Designs and Development We are currently offering a 10% discount off our promotional packages listed on www.FIRSTBRAND-inc.com or you can call us at 951-672-6677.

Rosin & Associates. Attorneys at law. Accidents, insurance issues, general civil law. No recovery, no fee. Anita Rosin, anita.rosin@rosinlaw.com. 619-543-9600.

Classifieds

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

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 davidstreeter@yahoo.com Ads will run for four months unless canceled, and may be revised and resubmitted.

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Postage

Address

