



TWISTS & TURNS

November 2020

Too Embarrassed to Ask

By Rulon Jensen

My question? **Why** is there a fifth gear in the manual transmission of my ND? There it is, I've asked it. Please feel free to laugh at me when you explain the reason to me next time we meet. I am sure there is a good answer, but knowing there must be has also made me feel too embarrassed to actually ask the question. Plus, it's not a big deal. I can certainly live without knowing the answer. But I just watched my odometer roll over 50,000 and that big "5" made me think again of my question. What is the use of the 5th gear?

In my first 50,000 miles of smiles, I may have been in 5th gear twice, maybe three times. And at least one of those times was an accident. Like everyone who chose a manual transmission, I enjoy rowing through the gears as I accelerate. But by the time I am in 4th I am already exceeding the posted speed limit by enough to warrant a ticket and so I quickly move from 4th to 6th. Does anyone use their 5th gear on the way up to 6th?

At first, I thought it must be there to allow me to downshift without braking when I spot a police car or motorcycle cop. Does anyone else do that? I know I secretly hope that I will be invisible to them if they can't see my brake lights. This, and I also don't want to give them the satisfaction of knowing that I slowed down because I saw them. But that can't be the reason for 5th gear because it is so much easier to just drop from 6th into 4th. With only three fingers and without even moving the base of my palm I can easily flick the gear shifter up and then pull straight down and find myself in 4th gear. It happens in a heartbeat. I actually tried shifting from 6th to 5th once, and that seemed to take a considerably greater effort. So that cannot be the reason.

Perhaps it is for use on the German autobahn, but since I don't live in Germany, accelerating all the way through the gears using the higher RPMs isn't possible here in California. And as I understand autocross, no one uses the top three gears in that sport either.

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In thinking about it, I started to feel sorry for my poor little 5th gear! While all the others are getting used, it finds itself completely left out of the fun. And so I decided, as I was driving down the freeway, to let it in on the fun. I down-shifted at 70mph and proceeded to drive the rest of the way home in 5th gear. Sure, I wasted a bit of gasoline but at least my 5th gear finally got to share some of the joy that is my Miata!

T&T

It's 2021 Membership Renewal Time !!!

Your SDMC Membership Team is now accepting Renewal Application forms for 2021 – by MAIL ONLY, please. Cost is **still only \$35** for the calendar year. Some reminders:

All memberships expire on December 31st of current year

Renew early / on time, but not later than January 31st, 2021. Applications received or postmarked after that date are considered late and will incur a \$5.00 late fee (total \$40) to renew for 2021.

Use the Renewal form to update your changes – add or shed a car, new vanity plates, changed address, phone, email, copilot, etc.

Specify if you desire a replacement membership card for 2021 (may be requested at any time if you change your mind in April, or July). Default (blank) selection is NO Card.

The Membership Renewal Application form is available for download on the Club's website: <http://sandiegomiataclub.org/for_members/index.html>. Look for the blue "Renewal Application" link in the middle of the "For Members>>>" page; print or download it to your computer. MAIL the completed, signed form with check enclosed to the address on the form: **SDMC | PO BOX 180456 | CORONADO, CA 92178-0456**.

Note: If you prefer to have your bank mail a check for this, let us know via email so we can marry your mailed form with the bank's envelope. Add a "memo" to the e-check for clarity.

We look forward to supporting the Club throughout 2021 !!!

Your SDMC Membership Duo,

Chris & Linda Jones
membership@SanDiegoMiataClub.org

T&T

Behind the Wheel

By Lynn Nolan

"The cars we drive say a lot about us."

Alexandra Paul



Introducing

In June, 2019, **Steve Norris** screeched into the Miata club, pedal to the metal, in his 2016 meteor gray ND! Steve's first Miata was a '94 NA M edition. He joined because the club offered spirited runs on twisty roads.

Prior to joining the Miata club, Steve was a 13-year member and leader in the Mini-Cooper club where he led 99% of the runs! He has brought the same energy and enthusiasm to SDMC. Veteran SDMC members may remember maneuvering through one of the notorious and legendary Puke runs, with a group of mini-Coopers. Steve, of course, was among them!

Two weeks after joining the Miata Club, he led a run, earning his magnetics. He hasn't slowed down since that event! Steve enjoys any role in our runs—lead, middleman, or sweep but prefers middleman. He has been on every run since that "maiden voyage" for a total of 35 events (annual meeting, holiday party, etc.) etched into his shift knob. (*metaphorically, not literally*)



A Mini-Cooper plays follow-the-leader on a running of the "Puke."

Modifications

It's a **car club!** Steve quickly personalized his ND with a front and rear anti-sway bar combo for MX-5 (ND), a Roadster Sport Super Q stainless steel premium Cobalt 3-point shock tower Brace and Deltrin do or bushings.



Progras Technologies E3 1134 ND MX5 Miata FRONT and REAR



RoadsterSport Delrin Door Bushings for MX5-ND ALL



RoadsterSport SUPER-Q Stainless Steel PREMIUM



RoadsterSport Miata Rear Shock Tower Brace for MX5-ND

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Hometown

Steve's early beginnings were in Tennessee but at the young age of 2 his family relocated to the L.A. area. His formative years were in Claremont and while in high school he was a drum major in the marching band and in his senior year, he also played baritone saxophone in a jazz band.

Military Service

After high school Steve enlisted in the Air Force where from 1971-1975 he loaded bombs on jet fighters.

Occupation

There wasn't a great demand for bomb loaders in civilian life. Steve's career journey includes working as a project manager in a factory, self-employed landscaper, Arrowhead Water delivery driver and Oasis Water franchise owner. Since 1984, Steve has been a programmer and now works remotely from 5:30 am to 1:30 pm for a manufacturing company in Florida. *(Nice gig!)*

FAVORITES

Hobbies and Leisure Activities

One of his favorite activities is driving and especially driving Miata roads Highland Valley and Couser Canyon. While in high school, Steve raced motorcycles and that activity has evolved as a proclivity to chase motorcycles to the top of Mt. Palomar.

Steve is a licensed "general" ham operator. Alan Kagan and Steve Sampson headed up the effort to switch the club radios to ham radio frequencies and instructed him on programming the recommended Boafeng radios. Since that time, in the ensuing 7 months Steve has programmed approximately 20 radios for SDMC members. Also, he has solved the "mystery" of how to program trickier settings when joining another group that uses FRS subchannels.

Food and Restaurants

Steve made note that the two car clubs he has participated in were remarkably similar, although SDMC seems to have a great fondness for lunch. He assuages his appetite by enjoying a bite at his favorite restaurants—P.F. Chang's, In-N-Out Burger and (breakfast) at Home Sweet Home in Escondido.

Movies

"The Princess Bride," a 1987 film by Rob Reiner, is a favorite. In this fantasy adventure, Wesley, a farmhand rescues true love Princess Buttercup (*yes, that was her name*) from Prince Humperdinck. *(The only Humperdinck that I've ever heard of was Engelbert Humperdinck!)*



Steve unwinds by sailing the blue waters of the Pacific

Some people have what they consider to be lucky numbers. Of particular interest is that Steve's favorite number is 42. If, like Steve, you're a fan of "The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy" you'll understand that according to author Douglas Adams, the number

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represents “the answer to the ultimate question of life, the universe and everything.” (*You’ll have to discuss it with Steve. I have no idea!*) Hitchhiker is a comedy science fiction, originated as a novel in 1979, a TV series in 1981, a video game in 1984 and a movie in 2005.

Music

Steve’s favorite music is classical music, but he is particularly fond of Russian composer’s Tchaikovsky’s “1812 Overture,” written in 1880 to celebrate Russia’s triumph over Napoleon.

Something Most People Don’t Know About Me

Steve and wife Priscilla, now married 32 years, met on a blind date that was arranged by a mutual friend. She is a professional cellist. They have a daughter and Steve has a stepson. The couple are grandparents to 2.



Priscilla and Steve

While some couples sleep in separate beds, Steve and his wife have separate televisions due to his eclectic viewing preferences. He says that he’ll watch anything—good, bad, or whatever.

Priscilla, not a fan of spirited driving and twisty roads, doesn’t join Steve on runs.

Steve assumed the steering wheel as the Special Events Coordinator in February 2020 and he’s doing an innovative job of arranging runs during these remarkable CoVid times.

Aside from his outgoing personality, good looks and 6’1” presence, you can quickly identify him by his signature license plate, GRAMATR (Gray Matter.)

zoom zoom

Candidate Statements for SDMC Board of Directors

President:

Terry Thompson

If elected to the office of President of our SDMC my goals would be as follows:

Short term Goal:

I will work with the board and collect input from the membership in order to make the club as fun and active as possible and as desired by the membership during these challenging times.

Long range goals:

Work with the board to ensure the SDMC is viewed as an active, welcoming, fun, and inclusive car club. Focusing on recruiting new members of all ages.

Work with the board to ensure all members who want to be more involved and a take a more active role in the club have an opportunity to do so.

Work with the board and the Events Coordinator to offer a wider range of fun activities (possibility of events other than runs and to include weekday runs).

Explore various communication methods within the club to inform members on how to participate in both local, regional, and national activities.

Explore various ways to improve member feedback and communication to your SDMC board.

Represent SDMC within the community to ensure that all enthusiastic Miata owners are aware of our club's existence and the opportunities provided to enjoy their Miata.

Represent SDMC in communication with other Miata clubs.

Represent SDMC in communication with local car clubs to include possible joint runs/events.

Steve Norris

When I came to my first run on June 2nd, 2019, being part of the leadership of the club was the furthest thing from my mind. I was just happy to find a club that was so organized and had regularly scheduled runs. During lunch Ed Grant said he needed someone to lead a run on the 22nd. I told him that I could put one together and lead it (my first volunteering). I set a club record of earning my magnetics 3 weeks after joining.

At the monthly meeting in November of last year I talked with Alan Kagan and Steve Sampson about programming the radios. I downloaded the necessary software and became another person who could provide this service for members. Since then I think I've done the majority of the programming because I attend every run and also do house calls when asked (my second volunteering).

When Steve Waid started talking about the Moonstone Beach weekend, I gave him information about some runs I had done in that area with a previous car club. He asked me to put a run together and lead it. I led a run out to the Pozo Saloon via Highway 229 (my third volunteering).

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Annual Meeting

San Diego Miata Club Annual Meeting

November 14, 2020

Orfila Vineyards and Winery

13455 San Pasqual Rd.

Escondido 92025

Mark your calendars

The Annual Meeting is when we elect officers, plan for the year ahead and reminisce about the past year

Board positions to be elected are President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer

Meeting begins at 11:30, further details are on the club website

Candidate Statements for SDMC Board of Directors, cont'd

President

Steve Norris, cont'd

At the monthly meeting on February 27th, David Bryan asked for someone to become the Events Coordinator since Ed Grant couldn't do it anymore. I said I would do it (my fourth volunteering). Steve Waid gave me a crash course on how to maintain the Events Calendar and I've handled it ever since.

In late May I was asked to be Dan Garcia's backup webmaster. I got with Dan and learned the necessary procedures to handle the daily requirements of the job (my fifth volunteering).

I have been the leader or sweep on 5 runs this year (more volunteering). I've joined every local run that was scheduled since June 2019.

My organization skills and passion for this club make me a good candidate for President. This is a special group of people who love life. It is passion that will help this club continue to thrive.

Events Information

San Diego Miata Club November 2020 Events

By Steve Norris

Our **monthly club meeting** is scheduled for **Thursday November 19th**. It will once again be a Zoom meeting.

All current members will receive a Zoom meeting invitation via e-mail with Meeting ID & password prior to the meeting. You can log on before the meeting start time for some socializing. The meeting will start at 7:00.

If you want to lead a run or be a Sweep on a run, please contact me at events@sandiegomiataclub.org

Our **annual club meeting** is scheduled for **Saturday November 14th**. There is a special pre-meeting run that will get us to the **Orfila Vineyards & Winery** for the meeting. The winery is located at **13455 San Pasqual Rd.**, in **Escondido**. Details can be found on the calendar.

There are no other runs scheduled in November. Several people have ideas for runs but have not firmed them up. Please get with Steve Norris so he can get them on the calendar.

CALLING ALL CANDIDATES!

The San Diego Miata Club's **annual meeting and election** of your **2021 board of directors** takes place Saturday November 14th. Did you ever want to get into politics? Actually, we don't really have politics; we're a car club. Here's your opportunity to be more involved with the running of your car club. The board of director's positions to be elected are listed below. Details, duties and requirements for these positions can be found in the San Diego Miata Club bylaws. The bylaws can be found in the "for members" section of the SDMC website.

President

Vice-President

Secretary

Treasurer

Treasurer

Secretary

Who's next?

If you are interested in being more involved with your club, this is your opportunity to speak up. Time will be provided in our Zoom meeting, October 22nd, for anyone wishing to announce their candidacy for any of the SDMC Executive Board positions. Please see our club's bylaws for the basic job descriptions.

T&T

Membership

By Chris & Linda Jones

November 2020

Welcome to our newest members...

Tom Fahrnkopf	Poway	1993 Mariner Blue
Richard Crancer	Santee	2020 Snowflake White Pearl
Juan Pablo Hinestrosa	Poway	2013 Liquid Silver Metallic
Mark & Jolynn Alexander	Oceanside	2019 Soul Red Crystal Metallic

Our Club's numbers to date:

151 memberships (45 single, 106 dual) for a total of 257 members.

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Membership Roster updated and posted

The membership roster is available for downloading from the SDMC-Mail@groups.io website. This website is available only to current (paid) members. To access the file:

Go to <groups.io/g/SDMC-mail> and click on "Log In" at upper right corner.
Once logged in, go to "Your Groups" and click on "SDMC-mail" for next screen.
Click on "Files" from list of choices on left side
Click on folder titled "SDMC MEMBERSHIP ROSTER"
Open or download the .pdf file to your device. The most recently updated roster is posted.

All are reminded to protect the member information; it's not to be shared with anyone outside SDMC.

Updates: Send any updates to your information via email to <membership@SanDiegoMiataClub.org>

Access: If you don't have an SDMC-Mail account, or want to set it up with a different email address, send email request to Membership with your name and the email address you want to use. Membership team will validate eligibility and generate a system invitation through Groups.io.

Your SDMC Membership Team,
Chris & Linda Jones
membership@SanDiegoMiataClub.org

Upcoming Events Elsewhere

Remember, all the most
up-to-date and complete
information for our events is
on our website at
www.sandiegomiataclub.org
Check there regularly for changes
and additional details!

Miatas at the Gap MATG XXV

August 5-8, 2021

<https://www.GapMiatas.com>

Miata Reunion

Registration September or November TBA,
2021

<https://miatareunion.com/>

Canada's Capital Miata Meet 2021

August 12-15, 2021

<https://www.umn-c2m2-2020.com/>

SDMC Officers



David Bryan
President



John Lord
Vice President



David Hunt
Treasurer



Julie Thompson
Secretary

Executive Board

President—David Bryan

president @sandiegomiataclub.org

Vice President—John Lord

vicepresident@sandiegomiataclub.org

Treasurer—David Hunt

treasurer@sandiegomiataclub.org

Secretary—Julie Thompson

secretary@sandiegomiataclub.org

Past President—Gene Streeter

genestreeter@yahoo.com

Administrative Board

Membership—Chris & Linda Jones

membership@sandiegomiataclub.org

Events Coordinator—Steve Norris

events@sandiegomiataclub.org

Webmaster/Postmaster—Steve Norris, Dan Garcia

webmaster@sandiegomaitaclub.org

Club Regalia—Steve & Laurie Waid

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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 17th of each month. The Editor reserves the right to edit all submissions.

Contact

The Web

www.sandiegomiataclub.org

Mail

San Diego Miata Club
P.O. Box 180456
Coronado, CA 92178-0456

E-Mail

Most club communication is conducted via e-mail through a Groups.io named SDMC-Mail.

Follow these steps:

1. Go to <http://groups.io/g/SDMC-mail> (capitalization matters!).
2. Click the button labeled "Apply for Membership to This Group" on the bottom left side of the page
3. Enter the email address you want to use.
4. Your account will be approved after confirmation of club membership.
5. You will receive an email to confirm your address.
6. Please go into the profile section and enter your display Name, First and Last name preferred.
7. Select a Message Delivery and Format option.
8. For complete instructions and club email etiquette, go to the "For Members" section on the SDMC website.



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 December 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 (30-35 words). Contact newsletter@sandiegomiataclub.org for additional information.

Automotive Services

American Battery. Miata batteries and all other batteries. 525 W. Washington Escondido, 760.746.8010. Contact Jeff HartDecemberer. 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%

Bumper Rescue, Bumper, body and collision repair with excellent quality and paint matching. Near Rocky's old location. Free estimates and free Uber rides back home once you drop off your car. 10% off with mention of this ad. Contact Shay at 619.286.7377.

Dent Time. fast reasonable paintless dent removal. 800.420.DENT 93368). They come to your door, provide quick and professional service.

Express Tire. Auto repair, tires. 12619 Poway Rd., Poway. 858.748.6330. Manager Dick Dolan. Discount 10% on parts & labor incl. tires.

Good-Win Racing LLC. Miata intakes, exhausts, shocks, springs & goodies from Racing Beat, Moss & more. Special club pricing on RoadsterSports Items only. 858.775.2810. sales@good-win-racing.com

Hawthorne Wholesale Tire. Tires, wheels, brakes & suspension. 877 Rancheros Dr, San Marcos. Discount. 10% 760.746.6980.

Knobmeister Quality Images. 3595 Gray Cir. Elbert CO 80106-9652. Joe Portas, joe@knobmeister.com . 303.730.6060.

Langka Corp. Guaranteed paint chip and restoration products. 800.945.4532. www.langka.com Discount. 30%.

Rocky's MiataMotive 696 Naples St. Chula Vista 91911 858.273.2547. Discount: 10% on labor.

Lutz Tire & Service Alignment specialist, tires. 2853 Market St San Diego 619.234.3535. Ask for Mike. Discount. 10% on parts (tires not included).

Pitstop Autoglass. Rock chip repairs free to SDMC members. Must show membership card. In-shop only. 858.675.GLASS (4527)

Porterfield Enterprises Brake pads, r

rotors. 1767 Placentia Ave Costa Mesa 949.548.4470. Discount: 15% on Porterfield & Hawke brake pads, \$10 off rotors, \$9.25 per pt of Motul 600 brake fluid.

Smart Car Care Store—SDMC members received 10% discount. 2260 Main St., Suite 3, Chula Vista 91911 619.575.9274 or 1217 Simpson Way, Escondido, 92029 760.871.8000 smartcarcareproducts.com

Stuart Terry Auto. Specializing in Miata A/C problems, recommended by Rocky's MiataMotive. 4858 El Cajon Blvd. SD 92115. 6129.287.9626. Ask for Stuart, 10% discount on parts & labor to \$50

Thompson Automotive. Cool Miata accessories, oil filter relocation kits, gauge kits, air horns, brakes, Voodoo knobs & MORE Discount. 10% 949.366.0322. www.thompson-automotive.com

TJM Enterprises (formerly Magnolia Auto body) Restorations, Body Work. 10027 Prospect Ave. Santee. 619.562.7861 Ask for TJ. Discount: 10% on parts and labor.

Tri-City Paint. Professional detailing, products, paint, airbrushes, car covers. West Miramar:858.909.2100, Santee: 619.448.9140. Discount: body shop price #CM6660.

Mazda Dealerships

Mazda of El Cajon. 619.590.3700. Discount 10% on parts & labor. VIP Membership: 3 oil changes for \$19.95 with \$5 going to Rady's Childrens Hospital.

Mazda of Escondido. 760.755.5901 Discount: 20% on most parts; 15% on labor (except smog, oil changes, and tire rotation). For purchase, ask for **Patrick Howard**.

Team Kia Mazda, 541 N. Johnson Ave., El Cajon, CA 92020; 619-444-7200, DISCOUNTS: 20% off parts and 15% off service at Team KIA Mazda for SDMC members.

Other Services

David Bryan, your friendly neighborhood REALTOR; Coldwell Banker West Realty. I sell garages with homes! SDMC members who buy or sell a home through me receive a 1 year free home warranty. 619.672.0493. DavidBreator@cox.net. DRE#01009295.



**SAN DIEGO MIATA
CLUB**

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Postage

Address

