

Miata Fast Track



APRIL 2005

Issue #135

AROUND THE BEND

Beware of Expensive Imitations

It's great to be part of SJVMC. Everyone pitched in to support another spectacular Poker Run, which showed why this is one of the longest running Miata events in the country. It just keeps getting better.

Get In. Be Moved.

Chairman Ron deserves a lot of credit for keeping things organized. Our special thanks go to Dale and Sheri Bond, who graciously opened their home to our voracious Miataphiles, and made sure nobody left hungry. Randy and Cindy Ames ran the best-organized registration desk I can remember, then Cindy went on to make the most successful raffle sales pitch in the club's history. Dennis and Lena Stumpp and Ron and Katherine Carrillo cheerfully braved the storms to staff our remote card stops. It's impossible for me to list everyone who pitched in, but we all should be proud.

Get involved. Do something for your club.

Papa Bob should reveal the financial results at the April meeting. Meanwhile, I'm betting we hit another record.

Join for the car... Stay for the people.

This beautiful spring weather means the back roads are calling. If you have a project you've been putting off, want some help getting the Miata in top condition, or just want to hang with the gang, please mark April 16 on your calendar. We'll be hosting a tech day at our place, and Lisa says she'll reserve spots by the pool for anyone more interested in basking. Please let her know if you plan to attend.

Don't forget to mark April 30, as well. Katherine Carrillo is organizing a casual lunch run to Coalinga. We're expecting a riot of wildflowers, as if we needed another excuse to enjoy a beautiful day.

Impromptu runs can be great. If you've got an idea on short notice, e-mail can be a great way to invite friends along for the trip.

We'll see you on the road.

Don

From your Editor...

Another Poker Run under our belts. Like Don says "It just keeps getting better." -rain or shine.

Thanks to Mike and Jeanette Derr, Bill & Gaye Koepp, Tom Wood and Cheron Rojo for their articles on the Poker Run.

Had a some different comments (both yea and nay) on the new NC (3rd generation) Mazda MX-5. Found a pretty cool website with great pictures and at least one pretty good article from AutoWeek magazine on the site. Check it out on page 3, if interested....

SJVMC

GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

March 17, 2005

Attendees

Members: Don & Lisa Asperger, Dennis Stumpp, Roy Arnold, Ron Branam, Jim Barker, Bob & Lor-Rae Raus, Tom & Linda Hayward, Ron & Katherine Carrillo, Greg & Ro Almeida, Tom Wade, Randy & Cindy Ames, Ralph & Kathryn Weber, Kurt Wong, and new member Remy DuCote

The February 2005 minutes were approved as was the treasurer's report.

Old business

Poker Run 2005 – Ron Branam reviewed assignments and equipment needs. Ron reported that his stepson has put a database together for keeping track of registration. This year there will be an award for the hottest Miata in the valley --only SJVMC members will vote and can only vote for "foreign" cars. By motion the membership approved adopting the policy that the last club member to register is the sweep car. Greg & Ro Almeida are sweep for this year.

April run to Coalinga – Katherine Carrillo will organize a lunch trip to Harris Ranch on April 30.

Concours d'elegance – This year there will be a \$10 charge/car in the corral. The membership decided that SJVMC will not participate.

Kingsburg parade on May 21– Ron & Katherine Carrillo will fill out the application. The Carrillos will also host a barbecue at their home after the parade. By motion the membership approved spending \$25 for the entry fee.

September Sonora Pass run – Bob Raus reported that we will drive 230 miles on Saturday and 210 miles on Sunday. We will stay in Independence. The date will be some time in mid-September but is still tentative.

Club pins – Dennis Stumpp reported that pins can be purchased in 100 pin lots for under \$2 each, the exact amount depending on pin size. No set up fee is required. The membership agreed that the next step is to send artwork to the company and get a proof.

Rollout event for nc – Ron Branam reported that Lithia is not interested.

Door magnets – Tom Hayward has colored door magnets available for \$30/pair.

New business

Don Asperger reported that CollectorCarTraderOnline.com wants us to post their link on our web site. The membership decided to not do so.

Monterey Historic in August – email Ron Branam for information on the Miata corral.

Committee reports

Newsletter – Jim Barker requested that members take their cameras to the Poker Run.

(Continued on page 3)

(Continued from page 2)

Club historian – Linda Hayward still needs pictures from last year starting with September's Kernville run. Jpg files can be sent to Tom Hayward but please contact him first.

Web site – Roy Arnold reported that he is moving to Sacramento in May or June. He is willing to maintain the web site but suggested that it be taken over by someone else. Cindy Ames volunteered to meet with Roy and explore becoming the club web master.

Club goodies – Katherine Carrillo reported that the price on the nametags will go up \$1 each because of shipping costs.

Upcoming events

April 16 – Tech Day at the Asperger pad. RSVP lasperger@sbcglobal.net

April 22-24 SOCALM Three Rivers Run (Contact Bill Bryant bbryant@tvrc.com for information)

April 30 – Lunch run to Coalinga (Katherine Carrillo)

May 7-9 – SDMC Search for Madonna Run

May 21 – Kingsburg Swedish Festival parade (Katherine Carrillo)

May 27-June 6 – Tom & Marna Woods' California-Oregon trip.

June 11-12 – Kernville redux; Contact Alice at the Kern River Golden Trout Resort, (760) 376-6033, for reservations.

July 16 – Club birthday party at Tom & Linda Haywards' place.

September ? – Sonora Pass Run (Bob Raus)

October 1-2 – Gold Country Trip (Sheri Bond)

Dennis Stumpp won the pie.

Lisa Asperger, secretary

I found this website on the new MX-5 and thought some of you might be interested. *Ed.*

[javascript:ol\('http://www.panix.com/~jaimev/miata/'\)](http://www.panix.com/~jaimev/miata/)



Publication Information

The first issue of the Miata Fast Track is free. Membership entitles you to participate in all events, including drives, assemblies, meetings, parties, gatherings, conventions, technical sessions, etc., newsletters, and allows you the opportunity to meet some nifty people.

This newsletter is a monthly publication of the San Joaquin Valley Miata Club (SJVMC). The information presented represents the opinions of the individual contributors. No representation is made regarding the accuracy or reliability of any information contained on any of these pages. Neither the Mazda Corporation, the Miata Owners Club, the San Joaquin Valley Miata Club, the editor, or any of the individual contributors accept any liability for the consequences of using the information presented in this newsletter.

USE THE INFORMATION IN THIS NEWSLETTER AT YOUR OWN RISK

MEMBERSHIP:
Send \$25 with your full name and address, phone number, year & color Miata to: San Joaquin Valley Miata Club
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Fresno, Ca. 93729-7395

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Some views on the Poker Run

Little did we know that when we bought a car, we got a family along with it. But that's exactly what has happened since we got our 2004 MAZDASPEED. Along with the car we got a brochure about the Miata Club. After a phone call or two, we sent in our application and money and away we went.

This weekend's Poker Run was our first run and what a great time we had. Starting with dinner at Sherry & Dales with an intimate gathering of 50 or so everyone seemed willing to share about themselves and their wheels. This group can really eat and other than chicken for 400 we ate almost everything in sight.

Off to the Shilo Inn for night. A good value in lodging and again full of nice people. Next morning we went downstairs to get a continental breakfast, register and socialize. This was the first time we have ever gone on a run, and you couldn't have asked for a better first experience. Even with the rain the route was beautiful (Although I didn't see the buffalo) what with the wild flowers, and the many shades of green we had to fight the urge just to pull off and enjoy the view.

This won't be our last run. As novices we will learn that 3 aces aren't worth much in the big picture. Thanks to all of you who went out of your way to make us feel welcome.

Mike & Jeanette Derr.

The SJVMC Poker Run was fun; it rained all weekend so no top down stuff for us. We took our '97 Red and as usual we ended up out of the money with a pair of 9's but we won some good car care stuff in the evening raffle. The countryside was beautiful and green with some wildflowers showing. Rex Hoffman was there from San Miguel, Jon Martinez from Cambria and Misty & John Whitely from Paso Robles so we had a few local VROOMers there. All of the Miata clubs in California were represented I think plus Bob from Las Vegas. There were 47 Miatas in all.

Thanks to the hard work of the SJVMC members the entire event ran very smoothly. The Oakhurst Shiloh Inn was quite fancy but only \$ 57.00 a night (I recommend it!) and a good Italian restaurant was next door! Club members Sheri and Dale Bond hosted a wonderful dinner Friday night at their mountain home. So it was drive, eat, drive, eat, drive, eat. Sound familiar?

- Bill & Gaye Koepp

'01 Emerald Mica
'97 Classic Red
SJVMC
VROOM

I have been a member of SJVMC for about a year now and this was my first Poker Run. I had been looking forward to the Run for a while and when I found out it was going to rain I was disappointed but not enough to not go. When I first drove up to the Shilo Inn and saw all the people there and excited at that, I changed my mood! Everyone looked ready to go like it was a nice Spring day.

I got to meet a lot more people this time than any other run. Everyone was in very good spirits.

The Run had beautiful scenery and great wildlife. The roads were nice and curvy like we like them. Only hydro-planed twice, LOL!. "The Old Highway" - that one I could have done without. Every time I talked to my passenger on that road it was like talking into a fan. He He!

The lunch and dinner were very good. The awards dinner was great with great food and wonderful Miata people. I was amazed at all the gifts donated by the members, way to go!

The trip kicked off my second year in the club fun and am now looking forward towards this years other events.

Thank you everyone who put in the hard work in organizing a fun and memorable run.

Thank You

Cheron Rojo— '90 Silver

SJVMC Poker Run 2005

By: Tom Wood

How do you start after having such a great time with your Miata Friends from so many clubs that have come together to do some driving, eating, and socializing? This year's poker run was special for me as it was the first year it actually fell on my Birthday!

Arriving early on Friday and enjoying the fine welcome that the SJVMC members had for us at Sheri and Dale Bonds beautiful "Party" home. The food and company was great. We had people from all over and lots of Miata talk was passed around. As desert time came about I was stopped in my tracks, a candle was popped into my piece of cake and everyone broke out and sang "Happy Birthday" to me. Now if that does not make you feel older or younger at the same time I don't know what does. Thank you all for the fine rendition, I know it sort of left me speechless! I was luck enough to muster up enough wind to blow out the single candle (They did not want to start a forest fire I guess!).

The next morning we got up and some of us had the free continental breakfast at the hotel (which the club got a great rate at) and some of us meandered over to the Kettle restaurant next door.

As the day started we all signed in at the registration desk and received our "goodie bags" with our numbers, t-shirts, and other assorted goodies. After the drivers meeting out front of the hotel we all lined up by number (sort of) and headed out into the beautiful hills around Oakland and surrounding towns.

At lunch we were arriving just as it started to rain a bit. The food was not only fantastic; it was served in a timely manner. Which in a group of "70 Miataphiles", can sometimes be a task in itself.

I guess poker this year was not my best, with only a pair of fours! The best hand was from Bob and July Davis of SOCALM 3 Kings and 2 tens.

The evening banquet was a huge success; I believe they raised over \$1200.00 for their charity. We came home with a lot of fun stuff from the raffle, I just might have to buy a NA though to use some of it 8^).

Make sure you stop by <http://miatafun.net> and look at the events pictures.

Thanks again to the SJVMC members for the fun and camaraderie you shared with the other clubs and Miataphiles that enjoyed this wonderful event.

See you next year, rain or shine; it's always a great time.



HARRIS RANCH INN & RESTAURANT

Come and join us for a truly unique evening on Saturday, April 30th, we will wind along the gently rolling countryside, to an intriguing place, the Harris Ranch Inn & Restaurant. This has been a San Joaquin Valley landmark for over half a century, this legendary Ranch proudly features the finest beef on the West coast as well as a wide variety of fruits, vegetables and nut crops from its very own 18,000 acre farm. Harris Ranch fills the walls with decorations, memories, and even antique signs illustrating all the different products farmed.

The menu for the Steak House changes often to accommodate the season's freshest produce in new and creative dishes. Meals are at their best featuring Harris Ranch Restaurant Reserve USDA Choice Beef, local produce, fruits, fresh breads, pastries, and desserts all made from scratch each day. Let's just say your options are vast at the Harris Ranch Kitchen.

Date: April 30th

Meeting Time: 4:30 PM

Home of: Ron and Katherine Carrillo
Meeting Location: 1731 E. Kamm
Kingsburg, CA 93631

Phone: (559)-897-8854
Cell: (559)-940-2971

Please RSVP to either number listed above. We will make the reservations. THANKS

Upcoming Events for SJVMC & Other Clubs

Tech Day; April 16

Don & Lisa will host a tech day at their house, 1214 W. Stuart, Fresno (2 blocks north of Bullard, east of Fruit). If you have any projects in mind, or just want to hang with the gang, please plan to attend. We're planning to start work around 10:00. When the projects are complete, we'll relax and socialize. (Feel free to bring swimsuits, but we don't promise warm water.) We will provide the main dish for lunch. Please bring your own beverages and perhaps a side dish to share. RSVP Lisa at 431-2208 or lasperger@sbcglobal.net.

April 22-24 - SOCALM Three Rivers Run (Contact Bill Bryant bbryant@tvrc.com for information)

April 30 – Run to Harris Ranch in Coalinga (Katherine Carrillo) Please see page 6 for all the information.

May 7-9 SDMC Search for Madonna Run

May 21 – Kingsburg Swedish Festival Parade (Katherine Carrillo)

Kernville Redux; June 11-12

Due to popular demand, we'll be running to Kernville again. However, the route will be modified to accommodate more casual participants. We'll reach Lake Isabella in time to lunch at Nelda's, which is a 50's-style diner with great food and nostalgic milkshakes. After lunch, those who want to relax can explore Kernville and the surrounding area, while Don leads the hardcore drivers on a spectacular route. Our group will dine Friday night at McNally's Resort, then enjoy a potluck Sunday breakfast at the lodge before returning home via the Western Divide Highway. Please call Alice at the Kern River Golden Trout Resort, (760) 376-3548, to make your reservations. RSVP Lisa Asperger at (559) 431-2208 or lasperger@sbcglobal.net.

June 25-26 Cool Weekend on the Coast- Redwood Coast Miata Club

The Redwood Coast Miata Club is proud to present the 2005 Cool Weekend event. Beat the heat and get to the coast...The Northcoast of California.

July 16 - Club Birthday Party at the Haywards' house.

September Sonora Pass run – Bob Raus reported that we will drive 230 miles on Saturday and 210 miles on Sunday. We will stay in Independence. The date will be some time in mid-September but is still tentative.

October 1-2 – Gold Country Trip.



San Joaquin Valley Miata Club

Meetings are held the **3rd** Thursday of each month at:

Marie Callender's, 1781 E Shaw Ave (at Cedar) at 6:30 P.M.

Win a free pie!



NEXT MEETING
APRIL 21, 2005
SEE YOU THERE

WARNING:
Dates in Calendar are closer than they appear.

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Don & Lisa will host a tech day at their house, 1214 W. Stuart, Fresno (2 blocks north of Bulard, east of Fruit). If you have any projects in mind, or just want to hang with the gang, please plan to attend. We're planning to start work around 10:00. When the projects are complete, we'll relax and socialize. (Feel free to bring swimsuits, but we don't promise warm water.) We will provide the main dish for lunch. Please bring your own beverages and perhaps a side dish to share. RSVP Lisa at 431-2208 or lasperger@sbcglobal.net.

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VISIT THE SJVMC WEB PAGE AT

Miata Fast Track

San Joaquin Valley Miata Club
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Get In. Be Moved.



The first issue of the Miata Fast Track is complimentary.
To continue receiving this newsletter contact the treasurer.



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