

# Miata Fast Track



MAY 2005

Issue # 136

**Beware of  
Expensive  
Imitations**

**Get In.  
Be Moved.**

**Get  
involved.  
Do  
something  
for your  
club.**

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

## AROUND THE BEND

We're lucky to live in this great valley, and lucky to have the perfect cars for enjoying it.

The Boss and I have enjoyed three great runs in two weeks, and each was markedly different. We joined SOCALM for its Three Rivers Adventure, and had a wonderful time exploring our backyard with new friends. Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks were as beautiful as always, and we got to see them with the fresh eyes of first-time visitors. Thanks to Bill and Doreen Bryant for putting it all together, and to everyone who attended and made us welcome.

Ron and Katherine Carrillo organized a splendid dinner run to Harris Ranch. The rain stayed away, so we enjoyed a lovely drive through the countryside as we inspected the growing crops. Thanks, Ron and Katherine.

Our May Day impromptu run was also fun. Things are starting to dry out near the valley floor, but wildflowers are still rioting in the moister areas. We think we identified seven species of wildflowers we'd been wondering about, and are still guessing about others.

Other than our regular meeting, SJVMC has no official activities until the Kingsburg Parade and BBQ with the Carrillos on May 21. Look for details below. On Friday, May 27, we're planning to dine with Tom and Marna Woods' Oregon group as it passes through Fresno, and it would be nice to have a good turnout. Please plan to meet us at George's Shish Kabob (the Bullard and Marks location) at 6:00 p.m. that evening. Please also let Marna know (miatafun@miatafun.net) if you'll be able to attend, so we can make reservations. Of course, you're welcome to join them for as much driving as you'd like, as they'll be heading north after dinner.

Have a great month, and drive safely.

We'll see you on the road.

*Don*

# SJVMC

## GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

April 21, 2005

### **Attendees**

Members: Don & Lisa Asperger, Roy Arnold, Ron Branam, Bob & Lor-Rae Raus, Tom & Linda Hayward, Ron & Katherine Carrillo, Greg & Ro Almeida, Cindy Ames, Ralph & Kathryn Weber, Kurt Wong, Van & Hertha Van Oos-bree, Mike Derr, and Ray Johnson

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

### **Old business**

April 30 run to Coalinga – Katherine Carrillo has organized a dinner run to the Harris Ranch. Participants will meet at the Carrillos' house at 4:30 p.m.

Kingsburg parade on May 21– The \$25 entry fee has been paid. Participants will meet at Ron & Katherine Carrillos' house before the parade. The Carrillos will also host a barbecue at their home after the parade.

September Sonora Pass run has been cancelled.

Club pins – Still pending.

Door magnets – Gear mistress Katherine Carrillo has them in stock for \$30/pair.

### **New business**

May 27 – We discussed SOCALM's invitation to join Tom & Marna and company for dinner in Oakhurst and driving on Saturday. **[Secretary's update: As of April 23, we're invited to have dinner in Fresno Friday night, rather than Oakhurst.]**

August ? – Cindy Ames volunteered to organize a Madera drive-in movie event.

September 10-11 – Mammoth Lakes run has been resurrected. More information to follow.

### **Committee reports**

Club historian – Linda Hayward would like more pictures from the Poker Run.

Web site – Roy Arnold announced that Cindy Ames will succeed him as webmaster. The club thanked Roy for his efforts, which included rescuing the club from a website in disarray. The club also thanked Cindy for taking on this critical task.

Club goodies – Besides having magnets, Katherine Carrillo has some name tags in hand for their owners to collect.

### **Past Events**

Poker Run – Ron Branam presented his chairman's report. We discussed the income and expenses, and agreed that the proceeds justified a \$1,600 charitable contribution, divided equally between the Holy Cross Center for Women and the Spirit of Women. The general reaction to the Poker Run was favorable. Chairman Ron and "salesperson extraordinaire" Cindy Ames were thanked for their heroic and successful efforts. When the members were asked how to improve the event, Greg Almeida suggested that we find smoother roads next year. Routemaster Don ob-

*(Continued on page 3)*

(Continued from page 2)

served that, if we need smoother roads, Oakhurst will not be a suitable base. He suggested that we consider Visalia for next year.

Tech Day – Lisa Asperger reported that three projects were undertaken: installation of an air horn; installation of a cruise control; and stone chip repair. Those who attended had fun and met a potential new member.

### Upcoming events

April 30 – Dinner run to Coalinga (Katherine Carrillo)

May 7-9 – SDMC Search for Madonna Run

May 21 – Kingsburg Swedish Festival parade (Katherine Carrillo)

May 27 – Dinner with Tom & Marna Wood and company in Fresno. (Contact Lisa Asperger for details.)

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.

August ? – Madera Drive In movie night (Cindy Ames)

September 10-11 – Mammoth Lakes run (Scott & Nancy Moore)

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

### Other Business

Ron Branam reported on his trip to Europe for Zuyderzee. Ron distributed surplus Poker Run t-shirts to other participants – 1 from Russia, 3 from Germany, and 1 from England.

### Door Prizes

We had an expanded raffle due to the generosity of Bob & Lor-Rae Raus. Greg Almeida won an NA trunk guard. Ralph Weber won an NB arm rest, Cindy Ames won a can of tire dressing, and Kurt Wong won the pie.

Lisa Asperger, secretary

### Spring Blessing Of The Miata.

By Fran Armentano, Nutmeg Miata Club

May your top remain down with the skies always blue,  
May the roads all have curves and may your wheels stick like glue.

May slower vehicles never block your way,  
Nor excessive traffic cause you a delay.

May beautiful women stop and ask for a ride,  
And if married like me, may they all be denied.

In your Miata be safe and remain free from harm,  
Buy another Miata, but don't buy the farm.

May your oil be clean and your fluids stay clear,  
And may the roadways be free of those stupid deer.

May the wind blow gently through your hair,  
Or, if bald, in your hat, may you be debonair.

May you always be safe and out of harms way,  
And may all 18 wheelers remain far away.

May you pass a Ferrari on a back winding road,  
And see SUV's out of gas, being towed.

May the season be long and may the days pass by slow,  
Until the winter returns and we again curse the snow.

### 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  
PO Box 27395  
Fresno, Ca. 93729-7395

### CLUB OFFICERS:

#### President:

Don Asperger  
559-431-2208  
President@sjvmc.net

#### Vice President:

Van Van Osbree  
559-255-7113  
Vicepresident@sjvmc.net

#### Secretary:

Lisa Asperger  
559-431-2208  
Secretary@sjvmc.net

#### Treasurer:

Bob Raus  
559-299-0942

Treasurer@sjvmc.net

#### Activity Coordinator:

Open

#### Newsletter Editor:

Jim Barker  
559-275-1512  
Editor@sjvmc.net

#### Internet Contact:

Cindy Ames  
559-431-0311  
Webmaster@sjvmc.net

## Poker Run – Another Success

By Ron Branam

Well, we did it. For the eleventh year in a row, the poker run was an outstanding success. Sure, we had a little rain, but that didn't seem to dampen the spirits any. Sure, some of the roads were a little rough, but that's how it is in the foothills of Madera and Mariposa counties.

We had 47 cars registered this year, with about five no-shows. Again we were approaching the 50 car mark, but didn't quite get there. Who knows, maybe next year we will hit that mark.

I want to personally thank all the people who volunteered and worked so hard to make this a success. The list is long, probably at least half our membership. Don and Lisa Asperger for setting up the route, lunch stop, and dinner location. Randy and Cindy Ames for handling registration and raffle ticket sales. Those who worked the card stops: Dennis and Lena Stump, Ron and Katherine Carrillo and Jim Barker and Denise Correia. (I hope the rain didn't get too bad while you were out there.) Ro Almeida, Sheri Bond and Linda Hayward for decorations at the dinner; Greg and Ro Almeida for being sweep car. (Gotcha!); and last, but certainly not least, Dale and Sheri bond for opening their house and providing all the finger-lickin' good stuff for the dinner Friday night.

The donations for the raffle prizes were, to say the least, overflowing. We had to have a second table to hold them all. Shirley and I tried to keep track of who donated, but I'm sure we missed some who anonymously brought in prizes and put them on the tables. To those of you who did so, thank you! We were, however, able to record the following as having made donations: Dale and Sheri Bond, Van and Hertha Van Oosbree, Cheryl and Ray Johnson, Greg and Ro Almeida, Ron and Katherine Carrillo, Denise Correia, Jim Barker, Med and Pam Garcia, Ralph and Kathryn Weber, Tom and Marna Woods, Ric and Debbie Beaudion, Bob and Lor-Rae Raus, Bill and Gaye Koepp, and, of course, Mr. and Mrs. Anonymous. **Thank you all!**

More thank yous to all of you who participated in the event. Your participation went a long way in making it a success. By my count, SJVMC accounted for 22 cars which I believe is a record! If you couldn't make it this year, well – there's always next year!

Congratulations to Bob Raus for winning the raffle grand prize – four highly-polished and painted wheels, color of his choice!

Lastly, thank you to Shirley for being so patient during the evenings I spent at the computer making up the mailing list, sending e-mails, and such, and for all your help on the day of the event.

### Harris Ranch

Lisa Asperger

On Saturday afternoon we met at Ron and Katherine Carrillos' elegant Kingsburg home. At the appointed time, Ron and Katherine led Ralph and Kathryn Weber, Sharon Mack and Tom Wade, and Don and me through the country to the Harris Ranch. Tops down, we passed orchards and vineyards, freshly turned fields, sprouting cotton, and cabbage ready to harvest. We also passed the occasional dairy (such interesting smells). The drive was beautiful and educational. We saw at least five different irrigation techniques and a broad sampling of crops.

We dined in a classic hacienda courtyard. It was a lovely. The fountains gurgled, the birds serenaded, and citrus scented the air. Of course, we all ordered beef. The service was (by and large) efficient, the food excellent, and the company second to none.

Thank you Ron and Katherine Carrillo for organizing such a wonderful evening.

## Zuyderzee Run

By Ron and Shirley Branam

We arrived at the Cologne Train Station about 20 hours after we left Fresno. Tired but undaunted by the fact that we still had to keep awake for at least another 12 hours. We were spurred on by the anticipation of our great adventure.

We had prearranged for two rental Miatas, or as they are called, MX5's, in Gummersbach and right on time, the owner of the agency and his helper arrived at the McDonald's in Cologne to give us a short walking tour of Cologne and take us to his agency to pick up the cars. From Gummersbach we headed for the Netherlands and our first encounter with the autobahn.

We arrived at the Hotel Mecure in Lelystad a few hours later and were greeted by several members of the MX-5 Owners club of the Netherlands plus the owners of about 60 cars who had arrived from all parts of Europe. We received all kinds of registration materials and our group assignment. We were divided into groups of 20 cars and were given our Official Zuyderzee Run Roadbook, which explained each tour we would be on and detailed driving maps. On display in the lobby of the hotel was a special MX5: a 1988 (yes, 1988) Mariner blue which was a pre-production show car. Our adventure had begun.

Day one found our group (each group did separate tours) exploring the shores of the old Zuyderzee and through the eastern inland. The highlight of that day was a boat tour of Giethoorn, the "Little Venice of the North", which is a lovely village accessible only by boat and built on many small canals. The homes had thatched roofs and many high wooden bridges. Back in the cars we drove through a couple of beautiful and old harbor cities followed by a ferry ride across het Zwarte Water (The Black Water) finally enjoying a cup of coffee in the old Hanseatic city of Elburg. Old is not quite an expressive enough word for the cities. Elburg got its city privileges in 1392, others we visited were from 1590.

Day two began with a visit to the construction site, and a tour of, a full-scale replica of the merchant ship De Batavia. The original ship was built in 1629 and sunk on its maiden voyage. We enjoyed a visit to a pumping station, the city of Muiden (became a city in 1122 – can you imagine), a drive along Holland's famous dikes, ending with a walking tour, led by a very knowledgeable and charming guide, of the wonderful city of Edam (yep, like the cheese).

Day three took us back to the dikes and a stop at a steam driven pumping station and museum, which is the oldest pumping station in working condition in Europe. Next was a visit to the Jopie Huisman museum. Jopie was a house painter who taught himself how to paint pictures in the same way as the 17<sup>th</sup> century Dutch masters; quite a talented gentleman. We ended the day with a visit to the old city of Sloten and a tour of a real 250 year old working windmill. Then it was back to the hotel through a pounding rain storm.

The folks of the MX-5 Owners should have been given a standing ovation for the wonderful time they planned for us all. Not only did they map out all the runs with perfection, but they arranged for a charming hotel and three grand meals a day, all included in the entry fee.

It was just a perfect time, wish you all could have been there, you would have loved it. If you would like to see more, photos are on-line at:

<http://mx5.webalistic.com/zr2k5/index.html>,

<http://www.kodakgallery.com/I.jsp?c=5ns6rxb.89r45gwr&x=0&y=nbttyt>,

[http://home.versatel.nl/mitch\\_vanmeerendonk](http://home.versatel.nl/mitch_vanmeerendonk), and <http://i3.photobucket.com/albums/y77/makein/HollandDave00040.jpg>.



## Valkommen till...

If you feel like soaking up a little Scandinavia come to Kingsburg for the Swedish festival on May 21. There are pancake breakfasts, parades and the coronation of the Festival Queen and dance around the Maypole. The festivities have become more and more authentically Swedish. . The Dala horse and other Swedish decor adorn storefronts and light poles in the business district, and murals created from original Swedish architecture



We will be meeting at the home of Ronald and Katherine Carrillo at 8:30 AM. Available there will be coffee and rolls. We will gather at our home after the Parade for a barbecue lunch. I would like you to bring a salad or dessert.

Date: **May 21st**  
Meeting Time: **8:30 AM - Enter Parade route at 9:00 AM**  
Parade begins **10:00AM**

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

Phone: **(559)-897-8854**  
Cell: **(559)-940-2971**  
E-Mail Address **mopar935@cs.com**



Please RSVP to either phone or e-mail.

The directions to our home:

From the South take Hwy 99 to the Mendecino (also known at 18<sup>th</sup>) Exit and turn right onto Mendecino. Take Mendecino to Kamm and turn left, we are the first home on the right.

From the North take Hwy 99 to the Kamm Exit, turn left onto Kamm, you will cross over Hwy 99 and the old 99. Then continue on Kamm, we are on the left just before you come to Mendecino (also known at 18<sup>th</sup>), the last home on the left.

There is also a map on the SJVMC website. *Ed.*

## Upcoming Events for SJVMC & Other Clubs

**May 7-9** SDMC Search for Madonna Run

**May 21** – Kingsburg Swedish Festival Parade (Katherine Carrillo)

Meeting Time: **8:30 AM - Enter Parade route at 9:00 AM**  
Parade begins **10:00AM**

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

Phone: **(559)-897-8854**  
Cell: **(559)-940-2971**  
E-Mail Address **mopar935@cs.com**

**May 27** - Diner with Tom and Marna Woods' Oregon group as it passes through Fresno. Please plan to meet us at George's Shish Kabob (the Bullard and Marks location) at 6:00 p.m. that evening. Please also let Marna know (miatafun@miatafun.net) if you'll be able to attend, so we can make reservations

## Kernville Redux; June 11-12

By popular demand, we'll run to Kernville again this year. We're changing the route, so don't fear to come if you want your afternoon free to relax or shop. We plan to cruise the flatlands to Porterville, then climb to Lake Isabella over those delightfully twisty roads. At Lake Isabella we'll lunch at Nelda's, which features great food, '50's ambiance, and real old fashioned milkshakes. After lunch, you can relax in Kernville or at the lodge or, if you're up for the driving, follow Don over spectacular Miata roads. We'll dine Saturday night at McNally's Resort, then enjoy a potluck Sunday breakfast at the lodge before driving home via the Western Divide Highway. (Folks on tight schedules can save time going home, while others can take longer routes.) If you'd like to join us, please call Alice at the Kern River Golden Trout Resort, (760) 376-6033, to make your reservations. The reservation deadline is May 11.

Please, if you'll attend, let Lisa Asperger know 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

**August ?** – Madera Drive In movie night (Cindy Ames)

**August 20th MARK YOUR CALENDARS!** Scott & Nancy Moore are planning a Bass Lake Dinner Cruise on Saturday, August 20th. We will meet at their house and travel fun roads to Bass Lake where we will board party barges for a barbecue and cruise of the lake. Details to follow.

**September 10-11**– Mammoth Lakes run (Scott & Nancy Moore)

**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  
SEE YOU THERE  
MAY 19, 2005**

**WARNING:  
Dates in Calendar are closer than they appear.**

**May 7-9** SDMC Search for Madonna Run

**May 21 – 8:30 AM** Kingsburg Swedish Festival Parade and barbecue (Hosts: Katherine and Ron Carrillo)

**May 27** - Diner with Tom and Marna Woods' Oregon group as it passes through Fresno. Please plan to meet us at George's Shish Kabob (the Bullard and Marks location) at 6:00 p.m. that evening. Please also let Marna know (miatafun@miatafun.net) if you'll be able to attend, so we can make reservations

**VISIT THE SJVMC WEB PAGE AT  
<http://www.sjvmc.net/>**

## Miata Fast Track

San Joaquin Valley Miata Club  
PO Box 27395  
Fresno, Ca. 93729-7395

**Get In. Be Moved.**



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



**inside...**

President's Message	Page 1
Minutes & Upcoming Events	Page 2 & 3
Poker Run Article/Harris Ranch Article	Page 4
Zuyderzee Run Article	Page 5
Swedish Festival/Barbecue info	Page 6
Upcoming events	Page 7