

Miata Fast Track



JUNE 2005

Issue #137

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

The sun is shining, the snow is melting, and it's time to start taking some drives.

We had a great time with Ron and Katherine Carrillo last month, as we attended the Kingsburg parade ("Mommy, look at the race cars!"), then enjoyed a gourmet feast in their beautiful backyard. Thank you, Ron, Katherine, and everyone who attended.

We also had fun socializing at George's Friday night, as Marna's California-Oregon Run passed through the area. We realized that, of the fifteen people at dinner, more than a third were current or past Miata club presidents. I'm not sure what that means, other than that, the more you get involved, the more rewarding your club experience will be. (Subtle, aren't I?)

Speaking of rewards, we learned late that Mazda was making a very generous contribution to our club's coffers. Ron Branam and Lisa A. filled out the application, then followed it through to a successful completion. Thank you, Ron, Lisa and Mazda.

Other good things are in the works. There's still time to make reservations for our June 11-12 Kernville adventure. We're doing this because the club requested it, and it may be the last time for us, so don't miss out. Randy and Cindy Ames have really stepped up to the plate, volunteering to organize several fun day trips in addition to Cindy's great work on the web site. Scott and Nancy Moore are also organizing trips for later this year, and we appreciate their efforts.

We also have a very special opportunity ahead. Ron Petrich is organizing a Miata special for the August 28 IRL race at Sears Point/Infineon. For the discounted price of \$44 per person, we'll be able to park in a Miata-only corral close to our seats, enjoy reserved seating in the Earnhardt Terrace at turn 2, have access to the paddock area, and watch the first-ever IRL race on a closed road course. (The others have been on city streets.) Lisa and I will be staying in Petaluma (12 miles from the track) on Saturday and Sunday, and expect to have a wonderful weekend. We may even have to explore some of the beautiful roads in that area Saturday afternoon. Contact Ron Branam or me for more information.

We'll see you on the road.

Don

SJVMC

GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

May 19, 2005

Attendees

Members: Don & Lisa Asperger, Ron Branam, Bob Raus, Tom & Linda Hayward, Ron & Katherine Carrillo, Randy & Cindy Ames, Ralph & Kathryn Weber, Remy DuCote, Jim Barker, Ken & Tina Axe

Guests: Stacy Dunn from Spirit of Women and Sister Mary from the Holy Cross Center for Women

The April 2005 minutes were approved.

Presentation of Poker Run donations

Stacy Dunn accepted an \$800 check on behalf of the Spirit of Women. The Spirit of Women provides a year long residential substance abuse program for women and their children under 12. This program has a 65-80% success rate. Anyone interested in a tour can contact Stacy at 233-4353. Also, the Spirit of Women is in need of twin bedding. Contact Ron Branam or Sheri Bond to make a donation.

Sister Mary accepted an \$800 check on behalf of the Holy Cross Center for Women. The center serves 100 to 125 poor and homeless women and children each day. It provides medical care, counseling and various educational classes.

The treasurer's report was presented and approved. One item of special interest being that the club received a very generous donation from Mazda, which will help keep us financially sound.

Old business

Kingsburg parade on May 21– Participants will meet at Ron & Katherine Carrillos' house at 8:30 a.m. The Carrillos will also host a barbecue at their home after the parade.

Club pins – Still pending.

May 27 – We will meet Tom & Marna Wood for dinner at George's at Marks & Bullard at 6:00.

Miatas at the Movies – Randy Ames reported that a listing of the movies to be shown at the Madera Drive In will be available by Memorial Day. He will let us know the schedule so a date can be selected.

Scott & Nancy Moore have organized a dinner cruise on Bass Lake for August 20.

Mammoth Lakes Run – A block of rooms will be held for us at the Sierra Lodge in Mammoth Lakes for September 10. The more rooms we book, the lower the rate, \$99 for 8 or more rooms and \$109 for 6 to 7.

New business

Miatas at Infineon Raceway (Sears Point) on August 28 – Ron Branam reported that an IRL race on a closed track will be held for the first time. Miatas are being offered a group package – tickets discounted to \$44/person with parking in a corral and access to the paddock.

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President Don reported that he received a pair of chrome strikers and a pair of chrome door cups from AeorDramatics. This donation is worth approximately \$200. A motion was made and passed to hold these items for next year's Poker Run raffle. Ron Branam volunteered to store these items.

Randy Ames proposed two "food" runs, a run to Mammoth Orange before it closes and a run to the Dairy _____ in Parlier or Sanger for a Boston shake.

Committee reports

Newsletter – Ralph & Kathryn Weber agreed to write article on the Kingsburg Parade.

Club historian – Please send Linda Hayward printed pictures instead of disks. Tom Hayward will share his collage software. President Don requested members to please take pictures of our events.

Ron Branam has flyers from past Poker Runs to place in the history binder. He has '95, '96, '97, '98, '02, '03, and '05. If there are others out there, he would like to have them.

Web site – Please send Cindy Ames updates. The web site was discussed and it was agreed that it would be best to slim it down. Cindy will be taking classes in Dreamweaver and Flash this fall and will try to develop a simpler web site for a class project.

Past Events

Reports were given on the Harris Ranch dinner cruise, the SOCALM Three Rivers Run, and the Search for Madonna.

Upcoming events

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 (Randy & Cindy Ames)

August 20 – Dinner Cruise on Bass Lake (Scott & Nancy Moore)

August 28 – Miatas at Infineon (Ron Branam)

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

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

Door Prize

New member Ken Axe won the pie. (Welcome to the club Ken & Tina)

Lisa Asperger, secretary

Publication Information

The first issue of the Miata Fast Track is free. Membership entitles you to participate in all events, including drives, assembles, 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.

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Miata Club Turns Swedish For A Day

Ralph Weber

On Saturday, May 21st six cars ventured to the Swedish Festival in Kingsburg. Katherine and Ron Carrillo were our fantastic hosts for the day. They organized our entry into the Swedish Festival parade and then hosted us for a great BBQ. Ron sure can cook and Katherine made the best cookies (even the surprise one, know one knew the secret ingredient).

Joining the Carrillo's were Lisa and Don Asperger (each drove a car), Shirley and Ron Branam, Nancy and Scott Moore, and Kathryn and Ralph Weber. We met at the Carrillo's for early morning refreshments before heading off to the parade staging area at 9am.

At the staging area we had plenty of time to dust off the cars, walk around, and visit with each other and with the VIP bear and dog in our area. The Tulare County Fire Department had Smokey the Bear and Sparky the fire dog in our group.

The parade started at 10am, but we didn't move into place until about 11:00. We were the 61st entry out of about 66 total. Smokey and Sparky brought up the rear, with sirens sounding the end of the parade.

We were able to also be patriotic with a lead red car, then white, then blue. The rest of us fell in line and we were off. The parade was fun filled. It was interesting seeing so many of the Kingsburg residents dressed in Swedish outfits. This really added to the atmosphere.

Kathryn and Ralph got a surprise about half-way through the parade. Some friends were in attendance and when our lead car started to go by they commented that the Weber's have a Miata just like those in the parade. When the Weber's got to the spot of their friends, they were greeted with cheers from the crowd and the friends ran out to shake hands. You meet the funniest people in a Miata.

At the judging stand, we were introduced and mention was made of our fund-raising efforts for non-profits. Very nice touch.

After our short spot of frame, we all returned to Katherine and Ron's for a great BBQ. Did I say that Ron can really cook?

We discussed what we can do for next year's parade, such as adding our flags to the cars, and maybe changing positions as we drive down the street, or drive in formation.

It is also great to just visit with friends. Did you know that Katherine Carrillo is a motorcycle momma? She has a big hog in the garage. And, Shirley and Ron had a dragon living in their garage for awhile.

Boy, you don't get news like that at a club meeting.

Upcoming Events for SJVMC & Other Clubs

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 North Coast of California.

July 16 - Club Birthday Party at Tom and Linda Haywards' home.

August ? – Madera Drive In movie night (Randy and 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.

August 28 – Miatas at Infineon (Ron Branam)

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

October 1-2 – Gold Country Trip. (Sherri Bond)



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**
- **JUNE 16, 2005**

WARNING:
Dates in Calendar are closer than they appear.

Kernville Redux; June 11-12

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

Miata Fast Track

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



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