

Miata Fast Track



OCTOBER 2005

Issue # 141

**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 seasons are turning.

Days are shorter, the weather's cooler, a few leaves are starting to turn. It's a great time to be out on the country roads.

The Mammoth Lakes run was great! Thanks to Scott and Nancy for organizing it, to new members Sal and Marie Carmona for being brave enough to let the trip be their first SJVMC experience, and to our friends from SOCALM who rounded out the roster. The weather was gorgeous, the scenery spectacular and the company delightful. Check out the pictures on both the SJVMC and the Miatafun web sites.

As this is written, we're packing for Sheri's Gold Country adventure. Should be a perfect end to a great summer of driving.

We'll see you on the road.

Don

SJVMC

GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

September 15, 2005

Attendees

Members: Don & Lisa Asperger, Tom & Linda Hayward, Ralph Weber, Jim Barker, Greg & Ro Almeida, Remy DuCote, Andrew Weber, Tom & Marci Jarvis, Bob Raus, Ron Branam, Sal & Marie Carmona

The August 2005 minutes and treasurer's report were approved.

Old business

Gold Country Trip (October 1-2) – The trip is on. The trip information has been forwarded to BAMA. BAMA is now interlinked with our activities.

2006 Poker Run – A hotel has been found. Ralph Weber is checking on restaurants for the lunch stop. Marie Carmona donated 4 massage gift certificates for raffle prizes.

November activities – Marie Carmona volunteered to look into organizing a November event.

Christmas Tree Lane – The date is December 15. A volunteer is needed to organize this event.

Christmas Party – The date has been changed to Friday, December 16.

New business

2006 Coastal Cruise – The date is February 11-12, 2006. Volunteers are needed to organize the event.

2006 Officers – President Don asked for volunteers for all positions.

Committee reports

Newsletter – A replacement for Jim Barker is needed. Jim suggested a month for the transition. The club owns the software. Ron Branam volunteered to write the article on the Mammoth Lakes run.

Club Goodies – 20 pins have already been sold. President Don reported that the Knobmeister is not able to make name tags for the time being. Mazda is enforcing the Miata trademark.

General discussion

Ron Branam and Remy DuCote discussed autocross. (Remy is regularly taking first place in his class.) Ron can arrange for a ride on the course for anyone who is interested.

Past Events

Bass Lake Cruise – It was fun. We should do it again.

Mammoth Lakes run – All agreed it was a great trip.

Door Prize

Andrew Weber won the pie.

Lisa Asperger, secretary

SAMOA SCRABBLE SCRAMBLE
A Perfect Day, A Perfect Run
by Sharon Mack

Tom and I attended the SAMOA Scrabble Scramble again this year, the second for Tom, the third for me. It was just a year ago at this very event that Tom found his beloved 01 Red.

Let me start by saying a big THANK YOU to our very own Denise Correia for putting together another wonderful, successful run.

The day started off with a bang. SAMOA had arranged to have a new MX-5 there for our viewing. Viewing my Aunt Fannie. The wonderful salesman (yes, an oxymoron) left the keys and told us to enjoy. Can you imagine? I don't know how many of the 55 or so Miataphiles there actually drove it, but I can say it was the majority, Tom and I included. If I had to describe it in one word it would have to be SWEET! There were a couple of minor items I personally would change to suit my own taste, but, overall, I give it a big A+.

We started the run at 9:30ish. The weather was, and remained, absolutely perfect, topping out at maybe 82, if that. The route was lively and the instructions easy to follow. One thing I've liked about this run each time I've gone on it is the way they have us "zero out" our odometers after each "tile" stop. It sure helps keep everyone on the same pace. Lunch, as last year, was at the 50 Grand Steak House in Pollock Pines. It was buffet style, ribs, chicken, baked beans, salad, all you want to drink, and ice cream for desert. In, out, food fast, lingering conversations with friends seen only on special Miata events. A nice relaxing, refreshing rest in the middle of the day. The afternoon session of the run offered a choice of two routes to follow, one shorter, one about 30 minutes longer, designed to satisfy all levels of driving desire.

And, I have a Graeme story. It seems he and his co-pilot Sharon were admiring a deer on the side of the roadway as they drove past when it suddenly "disappeared". Totally. Right before their eyes. Luckily, not from the eyes of the Miata behind them. It seems the deer "pogo- sticked" right over their car! This could happen to only Graeme. I remember a few years back when a bear crossed the road between his car and mine. Only our dear Graeme.

Tom and I spent the break between the run and dinner visiting with Denise Correia and others in the hospitality suite at the event hotel. Dinner was at the same restaurant as last year, a good thing. The food was plentiful, the service excellent. The dinner was a choice of three meat dishes, ribs, chicken or fish, with all the accrements.

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.

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@comcast.net

I guess what impresses me the most about this event is the fact that the club puts it on for \$60 a couple, total cost. That included the lunch with all you can eat ribs and dinner that includes meat dishes.

The usual awards were given out. Winners of the farthestmost distance traveled were Tom and Marna Woods. Winners of the coolest car, Tom and Marna Woods. Winners of the "scrabble word", sorry, I don't remember. I can tell you, it WASN'T Tom and I. :))

This is an annual run for Tom and I and I sure would like to share this wonderful event with more SJVMC members next year.

Thank You

By Ron Branam

Thank you to Van VanOosbree and Andrew Weber for helping to set up the autocross course on Saturday. Without your help, and that from the SCCA members, I doubt I would have it done in time for the event. Thanks also to Andrew for giving me a ride home and sticking around waiting for my "buddy" with the flat tire.

On the topic of autocross – Congratulations to member Remy Ducote for taking second place in his class, C Stock (CS) and to Andrew Weber for second place in his class, E Stock (ES). This was Andrew's first autocross so way to go Andrew! I owe you a bottle of wine and some cheese. Yours truly got really, really lucky this week and won first place in my class, C Street Prepared (CSP_. None of the good guys showed up.

The Run to Mammoth Lakes

By Ron Branam

Once in a while something special happens. This run was one of those things. The weather was perfect – although some thought that it was a little nippy. After weeks of 100+ temps, it finally decided to cool. Finally we could have the tops down without continuous sweat!

Shirley and I arrived at Scott and Nancy's about 8:15, 30 minutes before our scheduled departure time. Tom and Linda and Don and Lisa were there already, enjoying the sunshine and a quick cup of coffee. While we were waiting, Nancy gave us a tour of their home and their wonderful, imaginative paint schemes, being sure to give Sharon Mack credit. Nice work, Sharon! Shortly, our "guests," **Sal and Marie Carmona** arrived. Sal and Marie learned of our club through our web site, saw we were having this run, and asked if they could come along. (Actually, they wanted to check us out.)

We all mounted up in our five cars and headed to Oakhurst, where we were met by three more cars from SoCalm; the Woods, the Davises, and the Ridenhours. So, after greetings and "how have you been?" all around, we headed towards Yosemite where we made our first stop (other than the usual delay at the gate) at Wawona. Our next stop, of course, was at the tunnel overlook. I don't think it's possible to enter Yosemite via 41 without stopping there; it's one of the "rules of travel" in the Michelin guide or Fodors, maybe. As usual, there was a gaggle of tourists. They enjoyed admiring our cars as much as the view, but alas, we had to travel on and the view stayed. We decided to forego any stops in the valley floor and pressed on to Lake Tenaya where we stopped for the picnic lunches we had prepared. We found some available tables and had a great view of the lake! Unfortunately, there was a cold wind blowing in off the lake so some were, shall we say, slightly uncomfortable. Myself, I was quite comfortable, although I did make it a point to stay in the sun.

Post-lunch, it was just on through Tioga pass and down to 395 where we made a diversion on the June Lake Loop where we had another bio stop, and photo op, at Silver Lake. Did I mention the wind was blowing at Tenaya Lake? Forget it – the wind was really blowing at Silver Lake! That was just a breeze at Tenaya. But the sun was shining so it was still comfortable. From there it was only a short drive to our destination, the village of Mammoth Lakes. The check-in process can best be described as "interesting." (Too much to explain, you had to be there.) The rest of the afternoon we had free time so a certain faction of our group felt it was mandatory to visit the "outlets."

Since the dinner place (Whiskey Creek Brewhouse & Restaurant) was just about ¼ mile from the motel, most of us decided to "hoof it" and let the Miatas enjoy the covered parking. Unfortunately, it was ¼ mile uphill, against the wind, which by this time was blowing harder and was getting cold. There was only one solution: walk faster! Dinner was superb! They arranged for us to have our own room in the wine cellar with our own wait persons. It was great! Dinner also gave us a chance to visit with Sal and Marie, some really nice people.

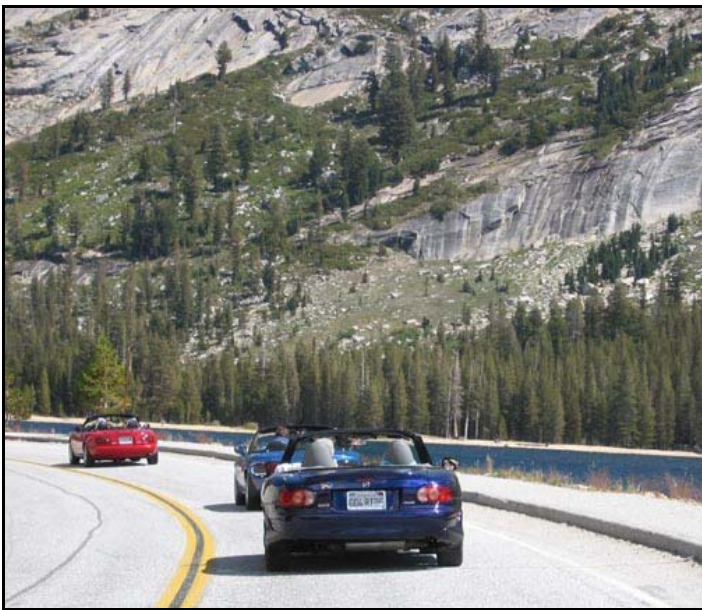
The decision to walk really paid off after dinner. The walk back, although downhill and without the wind, was invigorating and just what we needed after a great meal. Since Mammoth is at 8000', we were able to see stars! Billions and billions of them! Scott and Nancy arranged for a fire in the fireplace of the "parlor", and we all settled in to some Bingo with fun little prizes.

The next morning the SoCalm group headed off down 395 towards the south-land. We, on the other hand, being fortunate to live here in the valley, had the pleasure of re-doing Tioga Pass! I know, it's a tough life, but somebody has to live it. We stopped at a deli at the 395/120 intersection for sandwiches, then started up the hill. By vote of those members present, we decided not to go back through the valley but come out 140 instead. We found a nice place to pull off and had lunch by the Merced River.

After lunch, people sort of went their own way, with their own agendas. We tagged along with Tom and Linda (who had a very close call with Bambi) and on a whim we took Triangle Road, bypassing Mariposa. Another new adventure!

Believe it or not, even after spending the weekend with us (and not winning a Bingo prize, if I remember correctly) Sal and Marie came to the meeting and joined up! We must be doing something right.

Thank you Scott and Nancy for putting this special event together. It was wonderful!



Upcoming Events for SJVMC & Other Clubs

The SJVMC Annual Christmas Tree Lane Run – The date is Thursday, December 15.

The SJVMC Christmas Party – December 16, Friday evening. At Tom & Linda Hayward's house .

2006 Events

SJVMC 2006 Coastal Cruise – The date is February 11-12, 2006. Volunteers are needed to organize the event.

SJVMC 2006 Poker Run – The date is April 1st The route in Visalia has been determined. Hotel and other details will follow.

FOR THOSE OF YOU PLANNING TO BE ON THE EAST COAST

West Penn Miata Club is hosting a regional event next year. Date is June 15 - 18, 2006. I'm asking your help in getting the word out about our event. If you could please include it on your calendar of event & place it in your newsletter I would appreciate it.

We have a new web site www.westpenmiataclub.com.



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**
- **OCTOBER 20, 2005**

The SJVMC Annual Christmas Tree Lane Run – The date is December 15.

The SJVMC Christmas Party – December 15. At Tom & Linda Hayward's house

WARNING:
Dates in Calendar are closer than they appear.

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
SAMOA Scrabble Scramble article	Page 3,4
Manmoth Lakes article	Page 5,6
Upcoming events	Page 7