

Miata Fast Track



NOVEMBER 2005

Issue # 142

**Beware of
Expensive
Imitations**

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**Get In.
Be Moved.**

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

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

AROUND THE BEND

Leaves are falling. Back roads are calling. Rain's going to start closing in.

But we should have a few nice weekends left, as we head into the holiday season. We're particularly looking for a nice day on Nov. 12, as Randy and Cindy Ames lead us on a casual, back road lunch run to Bass Lake. Watch for details on the web site.

Sheri and Dale Bond led a wonderful run to the Gold Country last month, and we thank them. Sheri has a real gift for hospitality and organization, and it was a treat to attend.

We also thank Ralph Weber, who has volunteered to serve as club Treasurer for 2006. That's one slot (practically) filled, with just four to go. We'll have nominations at the November meeting, and it would be great if folks would come prepared to volunteer. The duties aren't burdensome, and serving this club can be a pleasure.

We'll slow things down some this month, to give members time to focus on families, friends and being thankful for the all the wonderful things life has to offer. We're lucky to meet such good friends through these little cars, and to have the leisure time to enjoy them.

We'll see you on the road.

Don

SJVMC

GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

October 20, 2005

Attendees

Members: Don & Lisa Asperger, Tom & Linda Hayward, Ralph Weber, Tom & Marci Jarvis, Bob Raus, Sal & Marie Carmona, Randy & Cindy Ames, Van Van Oosbree

Guests: Dale & Debbie Evans, Myron Ybarra, Brian Ponce

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

Old business

2006 Poker Run – Cindy Ames reported on her meeting with the Holiday Inn in Visalia. The hotel will provide, at no charge, the San Luis Room for Friday night hospitality. There will be games and a no host bar. The club can purchase snacks from the hotel. 35 rooms will be held until March 15. The rates are \$74 for a standard room and \$94 for a suite. Registration Saturday morning will be held inside the hotel. The Saturday night dinner will be at the hotel in the Redwood Room.

Bob Raus and Ralph Weber reported that the route has been finalized. Lunch will be at the Orange Blossom Junction.

The suggestion was made to set an early deadline for registration with a financial incentive for meeting that deadline.

November activities – Randy Ames volunteered to lead a lunch run on November 12. See the web site for details.

Christmas Tree Lane – The date is December 15. We will meet at 6:00 p.m. at Gazebo Gardens to decorate our cars. Lisa Asperger volunteered to organize the after-run dinner for this event.

Christmas Party – The party will be Friday, December 16, at Tom & Linda Hayward's house. Bring your own drinks, an appetizer or desert to share, and a \$20 gift per person to exchange. The gift should be something that you would like to take home. RSVP to Linda Hayward.

2006 Coastal Cruise – The date is February 11-12, 2006. Bob Raus volunteered to map the route. Bob suggested doing the run backwards and spending Saturday night in either Salinas or Seaside. Other volunteers are needed to lead the run, find a hotel, and make lunch and dinner reservations.

2006 Officers – Ralph Weber volunteered to be nominated as treasurer. All other positions are open.

January activities – A superbowl party was suggested. A host is needed.

New business

National Miata Club – President Don received an inquiry regarding interest in a national club. Members questioned the benefit of such a club. President Don suggested one possible benefit. A national club might be able to compile a list of vendors who can produce products using the name "Miata." Any further thoughts should be relayed to Don via e-mail.

Committee reports

Newsletter – A replacement for Jim Barker is still needed.

(Continued on page 3)

(Continued from page 2)

Club Goodies – Pins are selling well. Almost one-half of our investment has been recouped.

Past Events

Gold Country trip – A wonderful event.

English MX-5 Club – Ron Branam met the English visitors in Mariposa for dinner. He presented them with SJVMC pins.

Door Prize

Ralph Weber won the pie.

Lisa Asperger, secretary

Another National Miata Club?

Wanda Bates, the tireless organizer of “Miatas in Moab,” is exploring the idea of organizing another national Miata club. She has already spent many hours looking into it and lining up companies who would be willing to support such an endeavor. For example, she says the Liberty Mutual Insurance Company is willing to offer group insurance rates on personal auto insurance to any member of a national club.

Wanda is now requesting input from enthusiasts around the nation. She wants to know if you would be interested in a new National Club. Do you think there is a need for one? If a new club were to form, what would members want and/or expect from it?

Wanda says Mazda would love to see a national club again. She knows what they want from a national club, and is asking what the Enthusiasts want.

If you have any comments, please send them to Don or Lisa Asperger, who will forward them to Wanda.

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
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The Run to the Diggin's

By Ron Branam

Our fun day started at the old KK Corral where we met "Jake 'Snakeman' Waller", the owner of the Sutton Hotel, and his wife "Poppy", "Wilma Wilson", a bag lady, and "Mike Sheedy", an Irish miner. Promptly at the appointed time, we mounted our trusted, multi-colored steeds and headed up the old 41 trail to Fresno Flats to the home of "Dulcie Rashford" and "Alec Rashford" where "Dulcie" had a delightful breakfast ready for us. Here we were joined by "George Simpson", the former mill manager, and "Clementina Jones" who ran the Sleepy Hollow boarding house. In addition to breakfast, a highlight of the stop was a tour of the homestead to see the latest additions to the "Rashford's" stock – some fine-looking chickens and a few sheep.

At the call to "mount-up" we headed up the trail to the County seat (Mariposa) where we stopped to allow our steeds a drink of fresh water and to allow us to relieve ourselves of some. The next stop was Coulterville where we repeated the process. From then it was press on (via some little-known trails that our steeds and riders seemed to really enjoy) to our final destination, Jamestown. A few moments rest and we were off again in search of a winery, which we never did find. Seems the people of Jamestown are rather vague in their directions.

Just outside of Jamestown we found some real "diggings", where we were given a short geology lesson on how gold is formed and why there is so much in the area, a history lesson on what went on when the miners were searching for it, and a demonstration on how they panned for gold in this very stream. Then to the real excitement – we were each handed our own pan and, with encouragement and "hands-on" training from our guides, we began our quest for our own gold. Soon we all discovered that this is hard, back-breaking work! But then – Eureka – gold! Hertha came up with a nugget! It made the little flakes the rest of us found look like grains of sand. I heard the guide offered her \$50 for it. Naturally she declined. It was a beauty! After that, our backs weren't as tired as we thought – gold fever had struck!

Returning to Jamestown we were met by the rest of the party, "Dave Cole", the warden of the mine, and "Harriet Simpson", wife of George. We had the rest of the afternoon to visit, shop, and prepare for the evening – and what an evening it was!

It started on the veranda of The Royal Carriage Hotel where we snacked on some fine fixin's prepared by our hostess "Dulcie" and got down to the matter at hand. Seems somebody had done in "Alec Rashford" and our task was to figure out who did it. Being the Falcon Ridge Police Sergeant, my task was to interrogate the suspects and get them to tell us all they know, hoping they may reveal some clues as to who did the dirty deed. Seems all the "suspects" had good reason for wanting old Alec dead. Their tales were so complicated, we had to continue the affair at the National Hotel while we enjoyed some fine dinners. The plot thickened way into the evening. Finally the truth came out; Polly Waller killed Alec while defending her "honor." Being the police inspector, I ruled it was self-defense.

An amazing thing happened the next morning; the "suspects" were no were to be found! In their place were their real-life counterparts: Don and Lisa Asperger, Van and Hertha VanOosbree, Mike and Jeanette Derr, Dale and Sheri Bond, Scott and Nancy Moore, Graeme Kinsey and Sharon Howe. As to who was who, I'll leave that as a mystery for you to solve. (I left some clues for you)

After a light breakfast (who could eat after the feast and revelry of the night before), we split off into small groups to make our way back to home. Some of us followed Graeme and Sharon on some really lesser-known back trails in the area. Some we got to know quite well as we back-tracked a few times on trails that seemed to go nowhere. Who was reading that map, anyway?

Thank you, thank you Dale and Sheri for another find "Run to the Diggin's." It was fabulous!



Miata Performance Driving School Celebrates Ten Years

Now is your chance to be one of the nearly 1,000 Miata owners who have attended the Miata Performance Driving School by registering for the 2006 class. The 2006 Miata Performance Driving School will again bring Miata owners from all over the country to Thunderhill Sports Park to learn how to get the most from their Miata and you can be one of them.

The 2006 school will be held March 24, 25 and 26 at the Sport Car Club of America's Thunderhill track in Willows just off Highway 5, about an hour's drive north of Sacramento, Calif. The track has been the filming site for many car commercials, so you've probably seen it on TV. It's wide track with spacious grassy runoff zones make it ideal for hosting activities like the school.

This course teaches Miata owners the basics of high speed driving, equipment, human limitations, proper steering techniques and many other skills necessary for safe performance driving.

"One of the biggest attractions of the school is that it is geared towards beginners who want to see what their Miata is really capable of doing," said event organizer Ken Freeze. "And since it is geared towards beginners, we have worked closely with the SCCA to allow this group to use the track and not require roll bars. Although roll bars are recommended, I recognize the expense of adding a roll bar to a Miata and have always felt that keeping this event affordable is key to allowing as many Miata owners as possible the thrill to experiencing the full scope of what a Miata is capable of. However it is amazing how many people decide that adding a roll bar to their Miata is a worthwhile expense after they had a weekend of our school"

Packed with activities, the weekend kicks off Friday evening with a dinner, followed by classroom style lectures and training from SCCA instructors. Saturday morning the action turns to the track with more instruction, both in and out of the Miata. Spend most of Saturday and Sunday on the track with time while in between sessions talk to fellow Miata owners and see some on the latest Miata accessories. Saturday night features a BBQ at the track that gives students and instructors the opportunity to talk over the day's activities. "The entire goal of the weekend is to enable Miata owners to become better, more skillful drivers both on and off the track," said Freeze.

The class is limited to 80 students with from 40 to 45 instructors, making for a 2-to-1-instructor ratio, a ratio higher than driving schools costing thousands of dollars.

There's nothing quite like having a Sport Car Club of America instructor right next to you as you drive lap after lap on a race course, helping you to learn just what you and your Miata are really capable of.

You can register via the Internet by going to the Miata Performance Driving School Web Site at www.teammiata.com/thunderhill/school.htm. Fill out the online form, or download the PDF file and print it out and send it in with your check. If you don't have Internet access, send a self addressed, stamped envelope to: Ken Freeze, Miata School, 1521 Ridgewood Dr., Martinez, CA., 94553 and a complete packet will be sent to you. But hurry – in past years the class was full by the first of December so don't wait until it's too late.

Come join us for a weekend of learning, while having a lot of fun, as you drive on the Thunderhill track with SCCA instructors and fellow Miata enthusiasts. At \$400 - it's the best accessory you can add to your Miata and have fun while doing it! See you on the Track!

Upcoming Events for SJVMC & Other Clubs

November activities – Randy Ames volunteered to lead a lunch run on November 12. See the web site for details.

The SJVMC Annual Christmas Tree Lane Run – The date is December 15. We will meet at 6:00 p.m. at Gazebo Gardens to decorate our cars. Lisa Asperger volunteered to organize the after-run dinner for this event.

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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**
- **NOVEMBER 17, 2005**

WARNING:
Dates in Calendar are closer than they appear.

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The SJVMC Christmas Party – The party will be **Friday, December 16**,

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

Miata Fast Track

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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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