

Miata Fast Track



DECEMBER 2005

Issue # 143

AROUND THE BEND

**Beware of
Expensive
Imitations**

'Tis the season to be jolly, and we've got a lot to be jolly about.

First, this is the last of my monthly columns. (I trust you're celebrating that as joyfully as I am.)

**Get In.
Be Moved.**

Second, we've got a great slate of officers lined up for 2006. Thanks to all who volunteered to serve. Please give them the support they'll need to help keep your club on track. (There's still time to volunteer -- we need a Secretary and a Newsletter Editor, as well as a goodie Czar.)

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

Anticipating Janus, I'm looking both forward and back this month. It's been a fun year, thanks to all of those who have stepped forward to make the fun happen. Jim Barker hosted the playoff party in January, and did a fine job with the newsletter all year long. Scott & Nancy Moore helped out with the Coastal Cruise, then went on to spearhead runs to Bass Lake and Mammoth Lakes. Among other projects, Ron Branam did a great job organizing the Poker Run, helped by a cast of dozens. He also contributed mightily to securing a very generous Mazda sponsorship, which helped the club avoid bank fees for the entire year -- I think that's a first. Dale and Sheri Bond opened their home for a pre-Poker Run celebration, and later organized a grand expedition to the gold country. Ron and Katherine Carrillo helped out with many events, and organized both a Harris Ranch dinner run and our participation in the Kingsburg parade. (We'll miss them.) Tom and Linda Hayward graciously hosted the club birthday party, and will again lead the festivities at our Christmas party and gift exchange. Randy and Cindy Ames led runs to Madera and Bass Lake, in addition to keeping our website up and running and helping out just about everywhere anyone looked. Vice President Van Van Oosbree, Treasurer Bob Raus and Secretary Lisa Asperger all did their parts, as did everyone who made the events fun by attending. Thank you to all (including anyone I inadvertently missed).

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

The Boss and I enhanced our enjoyment by attending several other clubs' events this year. We had a great time on the Search for Madonna, the Three Rivers Run, the Infineon expedition and several other trips. If you have the time, I encourage you to try some of these runs on for size. It's fun to get a different perspective and enjoy new traditions.

With that, I'll wish you a very happy holiday season, and another year of fun in 2006. It's been a pleasure serving you this year.

We'll see you on the road.

Don

SJVMC

GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

November 17, 2005

Attendees

Members: Don & Lisa Asperger, Ralph & Kathryn Weber, Tom Jarvis, Bob Raus, Sal & Marie Carmona, Randy & Cindy Ames, Van & Hertha Van Oosbree, Jim Barker, Greg & Ro Almeida

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

Old business

2006 Poker Run – The deposit for the Holiday Inn in Visalia has been sent. A motion was made, seconded and passed to send a \$500 deposit to the restaurant handling Saturday's lunch.

Ralph Weber is working on obtaining donations for the raffle through vendors. He proposed that the club also try to find sponsors for the event. For example, there could be a sponsor for each card stop. If higher end items are obtained, we might want to include a silent auction. In order to get sponsors and donations, Ralph Weber and Cindy Ames need the charities to be selected before the end of the year. **NOTE: The decision on Poker Run charities will be made at the Christmas Party on December 16.** The proposed charities are: Nancy Hinds Hospice, The Sanctuary, Fresno Youth Symphony, and the local Red Cross. [Following the meeting, Ralph Weber withdrew The Sanctuary as a proposed charity and suggested: Boys & Girls Clubs of Fresno Country (serving at-risk youth), Boys & Girls Club of Tulare County (since we will be in Tulare County for the event), Imagine U of Visalia - a new 501(c) 3 museum for youth - similar to a Discovery Center – that is in need of funds to build or purchase science and educational exhibits]

Christmas Tree Lane – The date is December 15. We will meet at 6:00 p.m. at Gazebo Gardens to decorate our cars. A motion was made and passed to forego having an organized after run dinner.

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 has been working on a route doing the run backwards. Lisa Asperger volunteered to explore hotel accommodations in and around Monterey. Other volunteers are needed to lead the run.

January activities – Jim Barker volunteered to host a football playoff party.

Knobmeister update – Following an email campaign, an accord was reached between the Knobmeister and Mazda. The Knobmeister can sell Miata items to Miata club members.

New business

Miata calendars – Tom & Marna Wood have put together a great Miata calendar for 2006, one of which was passed around at the meeting. Calendars can be purchased at www.cafepress.com/miatafun.

Kathryn Weber reported that one of her friends is selling a red '99 with camel interior for \$9500.

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Nomination of 2006 officers, etc.

President – Randy Ames
 Vice President – Tom Jarvis
 Treasurer – Ralph Weber
 Secretary – open
 Webmaster – Cindy Ames
 Newsletter editor – open
 Historian – open
 Goody manager – open

Past Events

Bass Lake Lunch Cruise – A great run (see article)

Door Prize

Kathryn Weber won the pie.

Lisa Asperger, secretary

FROM YOUR EDITOR:

As I come to the end of my 2 years as Editor of the Miata Fast Track, I would like to thank all of you that have written articles, sent pictures and offered suggestions and encouragement.

It has been an eventful two years and I have enjoyed putting together the newsletter, being on the runs and at the parties, being a part of the SJVMC and mostly the people associated with this fun little car.

But, alas, after two years I would like to pass on this important position to another club member to carry on. Please consider volunteering.

Thanks
 Jim Barker

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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BACK ROADS TO BASS LAKE: NOVEMBER 12, 2005

By Randy Ames

On a bright, crisp Saturday morning in early November, four intrepid cars met in front of Barnes and Noble bookstore to take some back roads to Bass Lake and enjoy lunch at Ducey's restaurant. Those who enjoyed the drive were Randy and Connor Ames, Sal and Marie Carmona, Bob Raus and our fearless leaders Don and Lisa Asperger.

The route through the back roads on the way to North Fork was fantastic. The curves were sweet and the sky was bright blue. We paused at Manzanita Lake, a nice little jewel just outside of North Fork where we took photos of the cars in a beautiful setting. It would be a great place to go to in the spring and have a nice picnic. The only challenge of the day occurred at the stop when we tried to get our digital cameras to work without the timer!

Continuing the run to the lake, we drove under the flume and by the powerhouse. The temperature started to drop just a tad and it felt good to own a sports car that has a heater that actually works. We arrived at the restaurant around 12:30 p.m. and everyone was ready to eat lunch. Because it was such a beautiful day we ate outside on the deck and chatted about everything big and small. One such conversation centered on who could be coerced (or is it nominated?) to be the next 'El Presidente' of the Club.

Finally, it was time to head down the hill. We took a different route back to North Fork with Sal and Don peeling off to Millerton and Bob and I heading toward 41. Bob demonstrated the grip and handling superiority of his car by barely missing a pile of trash and debris that appeared after a quick curve in the road. His new wheels and tires came in handy! I just tried to avoid hitting Bob. Ah, the smell of burning rubber and the appreciation for anti-lock brakes. Fortunately, I missed Bob and the semi coming in the other direction.

All in all, it was a nice day with perfect weather and good company. The run demonstrated how privileged we are to live in an area with such nice roads. Here's to future runs!



2005 IN PICTURES



CHRISTMAS TREE LANE (2004)



COASTAL CRUISE OPEN ROAD



HARRIS RANCH DINNER RUN



KINGSBURG PARADE PARTICIPANTS



ENJOYING THE BIRTHDAY PARTY



OUR HOSTS FOR THE BASS LAKE RUN



RUN TO MAMMOTH LAKES

Upcoming Events for SJVMC & Other Clubs

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.

The SJVMC 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 Events

Championship Play-off Party (football); January 22, 2006

Jim Barker has agreed to open his home – and **wide-screen TV** – to all who would like to join him to watch the game. Just bring some appropriate football championship snacks and enjoy the game! Who knows, you may win the pool. 5922 W. Alluvial (Just West of Spruce, North of Herndon). Specific directions—Take Herndon towards 99, go up over the overpass and take a RIGHT on SPRUCE. Stay on Spruce for just 1/2 mile and take a RIGHT on GREGORY. Go up Gregory about 3 blocks and it will turn to the left becoming ALLUVIAL. It is the 4th house on the RIGHT.

Contact: Jim Barker, 559-275-1512, worf13@hotmail.com

The SJVMC 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.

SJVMC 2006 Poker Run – The date is April 1st Holiday Inn in Visalia 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.



San Joaquin Valley Miata Club



NOTICE:
THE DECEMBER MEETING WILL
BE HELD DURING THE
CHRISTMAS PARTY AT TOM AND
LINDA HAWYARD'S HOME

**NEXT MEETING
SEE YOU THERE
DECEMBER 16, 2005**

WARNING:
Dates in Calendar
are closer
than they appear.

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

Miata Fast Track

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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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