

# Miata Fast Track



JULY 2006

Issue #150

Beware of  
Expensive  
Imitations.

Get In.  
Be Moved.

Get  
involved.  
Do  
something  
for your  
club.

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

## Letter from the President

Hello Miata Lovers Everywhere!

First of all thanks to Ron for keeping the newsletter going! It is appreciated and I know he is passionate about keeping us up and running. There is a lot going on and we will have our Birthday Party coming up soon so I hope many of you can make it there! Thanks to the Hayward's for once again allowing us to use their home for the party. Once again I am reminded why I sold my Datsun Roadster and bought a Miata... air conditioning. While the top may not go down on a day like today where it is supposed to be 105 degrees I can still enjoy driving the car around. Hopefully you are enjoying this time of year as well. Maybe a little hot but the mornings and evenings are not too bad. We have some people looking at a couple of activities in the near future and if interested please respond as directed.

I have mentioned a while ago that I was going to send out a survey to see what directional changes, if any, need to be made to make the club better for you. I thought I would put this as a part of my letter so I could get it out to everyone. This is really simple. What I would ask you to do is to send to me on a piece of paper your thoughts on two basic questions:

1. What is it that you would like to change about the club if you could to make it better in your mind?
2. What is it that must change to better meet your needs?

Please feel free to make any other comments. Do not sign the letter and no return address please. You may mail it to Randy Ames, 3297 West Fremont Avenue, Fresno, CA 93711. I will present the information at the July meeting so please respond as soon as possible.

As far as things I am doing for the car right now... not much. Have to save up some money to get a few goodies. Looking now at the suspension set up and see if I can tighten things up to make it handle better. There does not seem to be any problems with the body repair work that was done so I'm pleased about that. I have used the mask a few times and I like it and will use it for long trips. It takes about 5 minutes or less to put on once you have done it once and I have not noticed any scratching of the paint as long as you do it like the instructions say and put it on a clean surface.

Well, as you all know my now my motto is to keep it short. Hope you all have a great month or two and get a chance to enjoy your Miata by either driving it or working on it.

Randy Ames

**General Meeting Minutes**

**June 15, 2006**

6:35 Meeting was call to order by President Randy Ames. Randy welcomed everyone who had come.

Randy read two letters one from Hines Hospice and the other from Nancy Hines both thanking the club for the donation.

The minutes for the April meeting were approved.

**Old Business**

Newsletter: Still looking for an editor. Anyone interested in helping Ron place give him a call.

Web Site: Randy reported that the web site was moving along fine with new items being added all the time.

Club Goodies: Tom can now have the club logo put on the car covers. In order to keep the price reasonable we need to 4 at a time. You can call him for details.

Treasurer's report was read and approved.

There will be a committee looking into adding a section dealing with charitable donations to the club by-laws . More information to follow.

**Upcoming Events:**

June 24th Courtwright day trip rescheduled to July 17th

July 8th Birthday party

Aug. 5th Madera Drive in night

Aug. 17th next SJVMC meet, there will be no meeting in July

**New Business**

Suggestions were made for upcoming runs. Sheri Bond offered to gather information on the Mountain Rail Road and car night at the Foster Freeze. Other suggestions were a run to Superior Daily in Hanford, Sonic Drive-in Fresno

The raffle prize, a lighted key ring was won by Sheri Bond.

7:20 Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted

Marci Jarvis, Secretary

## Scribblings from the *Interim* Editor

If you are on Randy's e-mail list, you by now have received a few notices about a Miata Corral at the Monterey Historics. (See <http://forum.miata.net/vb/showthread.php?t=187723> and <http://www.laguna-seca.com/Events/index.cfm?EventID=14>). I've been to this event for seven years in a row, except for the year I had my eye problems and couldn't go. I LOVE this event!!!! It's a rolling museum of old race cars and you can actually touch them and stuff!! There's always a few famous drivers there, too. One year I was this close to Sir Sterling Moss. One year I almost bumped into Bobby Rahal. Unfortunately I won't be able to go this year. Shirley & I will be on a road trip in the MX-5 to the mid west.

Speaking of road trips. Be sure to read the article on page four about the excellent road traip taken by Tom & Marna Wood and Don & Lisa Asperger's. Bob & Lor-Rae, I'll be expecting a similar report when you return.

I was unable to attend the June meeting because I was on a road trip of a different sort. We were traveling with some friends in their crew-cab, diesel Ford F250 pulling a 32 foot fifth-wheel. We went as far north as Glacier National Park. One afternoon we even got into Canada to Waterton National Park to see The Prince of Wales Lodge. This type of "touring" (if you can call it that) is definitely different than in a Miata. So many times we'd be plugging along on an interstate and I'd see the original or pre-existing road alongside and dreamed about how nice it would be get off the interstate and follow that road. Being in Montana on an interstate is the pits! (Well, the interstate part is—being in Montana is not.) I sort of had a revelation: Locally, the interstates have done to the landscape what the hunters did to the buffalo—wiped them out! Sort of reminds of that scene in *Cars—TheMovie*.

Speaking of *Cars*. I highly suggest you see this movie. Understand I hate animation. The last time I went to an animated movie was probably 10 years ago with the grandkids. **I loved this movie!** It's a good movie on two levels. First, of course, it's a nice G-rated movie for the whole family. But second—and this is my favorite part—it's Car-Guy movie. It has a lot of stuff that only people who like cars and racing will understand. Even NASCAR types can get part of it. I'm not going to give away the secrets except Hudson really did win the "Piston Cup" (then it was called Grand Nationals) in 1951, 52 & 53.

As you know, I like to autocross and do track events. So far this year, I've been to six track events: Laguna Seca once, Buttonwillow four times, and Thunderhill twice. I've even received my "Instructor Wings" with some groups. That means that if you decide to go with this group, I can ride along with you and show you the line, and stuff. I'll be doing that on 6/30 with somebody in a Miata from Lodi. Anyway, back to autocross. I'd like to put together a SJVMC day at one of our SCCA events. I will probably be able to get all members a discount rate (\$30 instead of \$35). I'm planning on being event chair for one of the October events, so that would be a likely choice. It would be great to get a bunch of Miatas from our club there. No experience necessary. You're not going to tear up your car. Loaner helmets are available. Free rides will be given by me. There is no cost to ride along. . If you are at all interested, let me know.

### SCCA Autocross Schedule

Unless stated otherwise, all events are held at Castle Airport, Atwater.

If you need directions, call Ron at 323-5243.

Event # 5	July 9
Event # 6	August 6
Event # 7	September 9
Event # 8	September 10
Event # 9	September 24
Event # 10	October 8
Event # 11	October 22
Event # 12	November 4
Event # 13	November 5

### 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:

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## Miatas and Vacations

By Tom and Marna Wood

Now how does one take a vacation in a Miata? Tom and Marna have experience in just that. In planning for next years Moab III event they along with a couple from the SJVMC club, Don and Lisa Asperger, took on the challenge of 14 days. Together they loaded up their Miatas with all the necessities needed to support life as we know it!

They joined up in Beatty just East of Death Valley and started their journey that would take them through many National Parks, State Parks, and National Monuments. We started the trip by visiting Bryce and Zion Canyons National Parks. We stayed at a bed and breakfast in Escalante Arizona. The best part of the vacation is that the weather permitted a lot of shorts and t-shirts with the application of sunscreen!

We then ventured out to The Escalante Staircase with an awesome drive through valleys and mountains all with twisties and some of the best photo opportunities. We spent a couple days near each location to scout out places to go on next years Moab trip.

We visited "Arches National Park" and "Canyonlands National Park" in Moab. It is fascinating to see what wind and water can do to the landscape of our planet in millions of years. To see it in person is way better than looking at pictures. To stand there and see the grandeur of colors and vastness is breath taking.

We visited "Mesa Verde" in Arizona where Indians lived hundreds of years ago building houses and such beneath the overhanging cliffs. With a guided tour which cost a few dollars the rangers gave us quite a geography and history lesson on the life of the Indians and how they perceived their life hundreds of years ago.

We visited "Durango" Colorado and road the train to "Silverton". This is one of the narrow gauge trains and it is quite an adventure. If you would like to experience this you should call ahead and make your reservations at least by October or November as we did! The train trip is 3 hours up and 3 back with 2 hours in Silverton. (P.S. the Alligator Jerky is great! "But I don't think it tastes like chicken")

We visited "Sedona" a great tourist area and artist hideaway to pick up and have mailed back home things that do not fit in a Miata! Especially when filled with clothes etc.

We visited "Jerome", yes a town built on the side of a hill. There were of course great twisty roads to get there coming and going. We took a trip to Jerome to eat at the "Haunted Hamburger" how's that for a name for a restaurant? After lunch we headed further down the road enjoying the twisties then turned around and did them again going back to Sedona.

At "Four Corners" you can stand in four states at one time and have your picture taken. It had an entrance fee of only \$3.00 per person.

What extra things do you pack? Well most places provide shampoo, soap, towels, and all that hotel stuff that makes up 20% of your room rate (You paid for it!)

So pack a toothbrush, toothpaste, maybe some deodorant and sunscreen. Of course you will need a swim suit for places that have a pool or hot tub. We took our Notebook computers to keep up with our email while away from home when network service was available. We took several small insulated foldable coolers to hold sodas, water, lots of water, and some snacks like trail mix and jerky. We both had some of the luggage you can get from Geris-bazaar on the web (We have the "Deck bag" which gave us a place to keep our light jackets, and car cover close at hand.)



Miatas and Mesas—Whoo-Hoo!!

## Mazda to Exhibit New Mazda MX-5 Miata With Power Retractable Hard Top at the British International Motor Show

**Mazda Motor Corporation will make the global debut of the Mazda MX-5 Miata Power Retractable Hard Top at the 2006 British International Motor Show in London, England. Since its launch in 1990, and with subsequent generations launched in 1999 and 2006, MX-5 Miata has always been available with an optional removable hardtop, but this is the first time the car will be available with a power-operated retractable hard top. Mazda MX-5 Miata Power Retractable Hard Top (European Specification). (PRNewsFoto/Mazda Motor Corporation)**

IRVINE, Calif., June 20 /PRNewswire/ -- Mazda Motor Corporation will make the global debut of the Mazda MX-5 Miata Power Retractable Hard Top at the 2006 British International Motor Show in London, England. Since its launch in 1990, and with subsequent generations launched in 1999 and 2006, MX-5 Miata has always been available with an optional removable hardtop, but this is the first time the car will be available with a power-operated retractable hard top.



The British International Motor Show will be held in London from Tuesday, July 18, through Sunday, July 30, 2006.

Featuring a new, unique power retractable hard top roof, this is an all-new addition to the third-generation Mazda MX-5 which launched in late 2005 as a 2006 model. This new Mazda MX-5 provides a unified sense of driving exhilaration, ready to spread the fun of lightweight sports cars in diverse and distinct new ways, regardless of the weather.

"Jinba Ittai" -- or 'rider and horse as one' is the essence of Mazda MX-5, the expression reflecting the emotional connection between a horse and rider.

Along with the global debut of the MX-5 Power Retractable Hard Top, the Mazda Sassou and Kabura concept vehicles will also be shown. Mazda will hold a press conference on Tuesday, July 18, 2006 at 11:45 a.m. British Summer Time).

Mazda MX-5 with a power retractable hard top roof will be known by different names around the world:

North America: Mazda MX-5 Power Retractable Hard Top  
Europe: Mazda MX-5 Roadster Coupe  
Japan: Mazda Roadster Power Retractable Hard Top

Headquartered in Irvine, Calif., Mazda North American Operations oversees the sales, marketing, parts and customer service support of Mazda vehicles in the United States, Canada and Mexico through nearly 900 dealers. Operations in Canada are managed by Mazda Canada, Inc., located in Ontario, Canada, and in Mexico by Mazda Motor de Mexico in Mexico City.



SOURCE Mazda Motor Corporation

(Continued from page 7)

### **More upcoming events**

#### **MIATAPALOOZA - Saturday, August 26**

Plan to join the Bay Area Miata Association at Monster Park in San Francisco for a day of fun in the sun, a car show, tech seminars and other activities that all revolve around the mighty Miata. See BAMA's website for more details.

#### **Yosemite Run 2006—September 8-10**

Socalm, led by SJVMC members Tom & Marna Wood, will be making their third annual trek to Yosemite on these dates. The highlight of the trip will be on Saturday, when “We will enter Yosemite in the mid-afternoon, visit the Giant Sequoias in the Mariposa Grove, then proceed to the valley floor. We will find someplace to enjoy a picnic dinner before watching the colors change during sunset. Then we will cap the evening by going to glacier point for the full moon.” For more information see the Socalm web site (<http://www.socalm.org/>) or Tom and Marna’s web site ([miatafun.net](http://miatafun.net)) or contact them at [twood@socalm.org](mailto:twood@socalm.org), 909-864-0291.

#### **SAMOA Scrabble Scramble September 23-24**

Mark your calendar for the Scrabble Scramble 2006 in Folsom on September 23-24, 2006. A hospitality suite will be available on Friday evening for us to socialize with the out-of-towners. Details are being confirmed. We will have a 2007 from Folsom Mazda to play with again during the Saturday morning car show. The host hotel will be the Residence Inn where we will have our car show and begin the Saturday run. Please contact Denise Correia if you are able to volunteer for this event. If you wish to pre-register or have any questions, please contact Denise at [deni@samo.org](mailto:deni@samo.org) or call 916-806-8707. Registration information is posted on the SAMOA website.

The following events are planned but the dates have not yet been finalized...

#### **September or October run to the Sugar Pine Railroad for dinner.**

The "Moonlight special" which is the evening train operates in September on Saturday nights at 5:30; October on the 7th and 14th at 5:00 p.m. For \$44.00 (working on a discount) you get a BBQ steak dinner, entertainment at the BBQ, the train ride, a campfire experience with sing along. Sheri bond is working to put this together. Any interest and input you have would be appreciated by Sheri: [srmbond@aol.com](mailto:srmbond@aol.com), 559-683-7000.

#### **Sonic Drive-in; Fresno or Clovis**

A date and organizer is needed for this. **Could that be you?** It’s really easy to do. An evening after work when it’s cooler would be easy to put together. Who knows, maybe we could even get the tops down for a short run; say to Millerton via Auberry road, etc.

#### **Superior Dairy in Hanford**

A date and organizer is needed for this. **Could that be you?** It’s really easy to do. Hanford is a great meeting place for our members from Coalinga, Selma, Visalia, Woodlake, Lindsey, etc.

#### **What would you like to do?**

Tired of waiting for somebody to organize an event you’d really like to do? It’s really not hard to put an event together. The hardest part is just deciding to do it!! Then all you have to do is give the information to Randy ([president@sjvmc.net](mailto:president@sjvmc.net)) or Cindy ([webmaster@sjvmc.net](mailto:webmaster@sjvmc.net)) and it will be posted on the web site and e-mailed to all members with e-mail.

## Upcoming Events

WARNING: Dates in Calendar are closer than they appear.

### Join Us At An Upcoming Club Meeting

Meet at Marie Calendar's Restaurant and Bakery located at Cedar and Shaw in Fresno. We are in a banquet room located in the rear of the restaurant. The optional dinner is at 6:00 p.m. and the meeting begins at 6:30 p.m.. You are welcome to join us anytime!

### Annual SJVMC Birthday Party—July 8

What could be better than a pool party in the middle of July? Hey—maybe if it's not too hot, we could have a short run to the foothills or somewhere before the party begins. Be sure to check the web site and/or your e-mails for what may be a last-minute, impromptu run. Call Ron, 323-5243 Saturday morning to find out if it's a go. We will sell tickets for raffling off some of the great goodies Mazda sent us in the goodie box so bring some cash. Main course is provided by the club and you just need to bring your own drinks, swimsuit, and a salad or side dish to share. Dessert too is a nice choice!

Date: July 8

Time: 4pm till whatever

Address: 3027 E. Ellery Avenue, Clovis, CA 93710

Phone: 559.297.9612

What to bring: Choose from Salad, Side Dish, Dessert, or Appetizer.

Extras: BYOB and swimsuit

Directions: Located just east of Chestnut Avenue between Bullard and Sierra Avenues

Please RSVP Please to Linda Hayward at 297.9612

### Courtright Lake Tour - Saturday, July 15 **Reminder—the date has been changed!!**

This fun, day run to Courtright Lake will give you twisties and beautiful scenery. The perfect run for putting the top down. Please see flyer (<http://www.sjvmc.net/newevents/upcomingevents.htm>) for more details You owe it to yourself to join us on this run. Let's get out of the heat and into the mountains! You want fun? This will be fun!

### Madera Drive-In movie night - August 5

Randy and Cindy will be leading this again for the third year in a row. Details have not yet been finalized so be sure to check the web site and/or e-mail from Randy for the details. Wouldn't it be great if *Cars* is the featured movie on that date! **Be sure to reserve the date now!**

### Mazda Corral at the Monterey Historics - August 18-20

The Monterey Historic Races is honoring Cooper and I would hate to think that this is the first time since 1990 that there was not a Mazda/Miata Corral at the Monterey Historics August 18-20. In order to secure a Mazda Corral we must purchase at least 35 tickets, but the deadline is a little over a week away. The DEADLINE TO BUY TICKETS & CORRAL PASS IS JULY 5th, 2006! So I need to get confirmation from as many people by Thursday, 6/29 as is possible. If I cannot get close to 30 interested people I will refund all monies collected. I do not need to collect the money immediately, however your word is your bond, so if you commit to purchasing a ticket please do not back out because I may not be able to sell all 35 tickets and this is a large out of pocket expense. For your convenience you can order on-line by paying through PayPal to: mhagerla@comcast.net or you can send me a cashiers check, bank check, or money order to: Michael Hagerla, 523 A Webster St., Petaluma, CA. 94952

Ticket Packages & Prices:

3-Day Super Pass (Fri/Sat/Sun) + Mazda/Miata Corral Pass \$125 (compared to \$145 at the gate)

2-Day Weekend Pass (Sat/Sun) + Mazda/Miata Corral Pass \$95 (compared to \$115 at the gate)

Saturday Only + Mazda/Miata Corral Pass \$65 (compared to \$85 at the gate)

Sunday Only + General Corral Pass \$45 (compared to \$55 at the gate)



## San Joaquin Valley Miata Club



Meetings are held the **3rd** Thursday of each month (Except in December) at: **Marie Callender's**, 1781 E Shaw Ave (at Cedar) at 6:30 P.M.

**NEXT MEETING**  
*July 15, 2006*  
**SEE YOU THERE**

### Newsletter Online!

You are receiving the Miata Fast Track as a courtesy to other clubs or because you are a member of San Joaquin Valley Miata Club.

If you would prefer to read the newsletter on-line, in printable Adobe Reader format (.pdf), and would like to save the club the copying, labeling, postage costs necessary to mail it to you, please let the editor know. Send an e-mail to Editor@sjvmc.net stating your name and to please remove your name from the Fast Track mailing list. Every little bit helps!

Thanks for your consideration!

**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

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**Get In. Be Moved.**

