

Miata Fast Track



JANUARY 2007

Issue #156

Letter from the President

Beware of
Expensive
Imitations.

Get In.
Be Moved.

Get
involved.
Do
something
for your
club.

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

Welcome to
our Miata
Family!

Enjoy the
newsletter
and
contribute if
you can!

How many of you had a MX5 under the Christmas tree? Neither did I but oh well there is always next year. We started our Christmas season with a drive down Christmas Tree Lane. We met at the Gazebo's Garden parking lot to decorate our cars with light, presents, garland and other pretty decorations preparing for our journey. As our President Randy Ames led us through we experienced a great deal of joy from other drivers and the strollers. Even Santa said how pretty our cars were as he shook our hands and wished us a Merry Christmas. As we left Christmas Tree Lane we headed for Starbucks to enjoy a warm drink and the companionship of our fellow club members.

We continued to enjoy the season with our Christmas party hosted by Tom and Linda Hayward. As always Tom and Linda provided a wonderful setting for the evening. Good food, fun and a fast paced gift exchange. After the gift exchange some of the ladies suggested that next year we consider girl and boy gifts since most of the gifts this year were boy/Miata related. Good suggestion.

The new officers are in place and already making plans for 2007. It is shaping up to be an exciting year. I am looking forward to working with these experienced people. As a fairly new SJVMC member I will be drawing on their knowledge for advice and direction. I would like to encourage all members to make suggestions, this is your club help us make it fun.

Our VP Lisa Asperger will be posting all of the upcoming events and will be checking with the other clubs and selecting events that we could attend as a group. These will be

available on the web site and discussed at the monthly meetings.

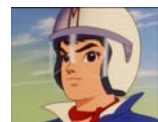
Lisa and Marna Wood are currently working on the Coastal Cruise. Information is on the web site. Motel reservations need to be in by Jan. 10th. Marna is putting together 2 routes, one for the driver who is looking for a lot of good twisty roads and one for the driver who is wanting a tamer experience. Both should be great.

The **Poker Run** Event is scheduled for March 30-April 1. Friday, March 30 is the hospitality/welcome at the Ramada Inn with snacks. I am looking forward to a lot of good conversation and renewing friendships. Saturday will be our Poker Run with the route designed by our own route master Bob Raus. Saturday evening will be the dinner and raffle. **Check the web site for more information and updates.**

I encourage all members to attend as many meetings as possible in the coming year. Bring your ideas and suggestions. Feel free to contact or any of the officers with your suggestions if you are unable to attend the meetings

I want to say thank you to the 2006 officers and all who helped out on the events. You did a great job. I am looking forward to a great year. Our first meeting is January 18, hope to see everyone there.

Tom Jarvis, President



General Meeting Minutes

DECEMBER 15th , 2006



Our last meeting of the year was a potluck Christmas dinner held at the home of Tom and Linda Hayward. We gathered at 6:00 pm and enjoyed a variety of delicious homemade dishes. After dinner we held a short business meeting.

7:40 President Randy Ames called the last meeting of the year to order.

The nominations for club officers for the New Year were read and elected:

President: Tom Jarvis
Vice President: Lisa Asperger
Secretary: Sharon Mack
Treasurer: Tom Hayward

Randy Ames volunteered to be the editor of the Fast Track for the New Year and Cindy Ames agreed to continue on as webmaster.

The Treasurer's report was read and approved.

Lisa Asperger reported on the Coastal Cruise. Dates are 2/10-11/07. Information will be on the web site next week. Reservations need to be in by 1/12/07.

Tom Jarvis reported on the Poker Run. Dinner will be held at Toledo's Mexican Restaurant. It was suggested that there be a car show held before the run. A design was suggested for the run shirt and approved. Bob is working on the route.

Lisa suggested that the club consider the Wildlife Refuge as a possible charity. Members were asked for ideas for charities and told to either e-mail to the president or bring them to the January meeting.

The next meeting will be held on January 18, 2007 at Perko's restaurant.

The meeting was adjourned and the evening continued with the always exciting gift exchange.

Respectfully submitted,

Marci Jarvis, Secretary

Cool Breeze Scoop

By Ron Branam

This is a product that came on the market last year. Black polycarbonate device that latches onto the header to direct airflow into the cockpit. The product is designed to channel/funnel air from the header into the notoriously hot foot wells of a Miata. Unfortunately, I bought mine last summer when we were having that long streak of 110+ days. This device will not cool the air, it simply takes whatever air is around you and direct it into the cockpit. Since it comes with a money back guarantee, I toiled the vendor I wouldn't try it until the temperature had cooled enough to give it a decent trial. that happened when Shirley and I took our road trip in August.

The first installation, done in the garage at home, requires placing the scoop in the correct position then applying two "Velcro-like" (the vendor insists it's not Velcro) pads to the header and to the scoop. When installed properly, these "Velcro-like" devices help hold the scoop in place. There is also a rod that slides into the rain channel in the rubber of the header to hold it in place. That stays with the scoop at all times. From that point, installation is a snap. Simply slide the rod into the rain channel at about a 30* angle, then lock the "Velcro-like" together. It's even to do than to describe.

On the road trip, even though it was August, we had a lot of pleasant days so I was really able to put it to the test. Basically, whenever the top was down, the scoop was installed. Like I said, it doesn't cool the air, it scoops the air into the cockpit. It creates a nice breeze into the cockpit where there was none before - in the center area and into the foot wells. As long as the weather doesn't get really hot, it works fine. I'd say it this way, it extends the amount of time before it got too hot and it was time to put up the top and turn on the AC.

Drawbacks? It has a few. For NC owners to put down the top, it's no longer just flip the lock and swing the top back. I have to get out the

scoop and attach it. For NA & NB owners, it adds another step to whatever process you do to lower the top. Ditto for purring the top up. You can not put the top up with the scoop installed, but with the scoop removed, there is no interferences with the top. another drawback is if there is a slight rain, but not enough to bother putting up the top, it will scoop in water as well as air. And then there's bugs. A common complaint among the early users - myself & Shirley included - is it will scoop bugs into the cockpit. In our case, it was a bee. The developer heard the need and designed a "bug screen" to help alleviate this. Another recent addition is a diverting wedge does a better job of diverting the air into the footwalls instead of just onto the center console.

all in all, it's a good device that does just what it's claimed to do. It's very well made and the vendor is very easy to work with and stands behind his product. It is available at

<http://www.coolbreezescoop.com/servlet/StoreFront>



Scribbling from the *Newbie* Editor:

Hello Everyone! As this is my first attempt at doing the newsletter please be patient as I work the process through a few times. I will do my best but my best will not be good enough unless I receive articles and pictures from all of you. This newsletter is only as good as the information received.

I hope you all have a wonderful new year ahead of you! Randy Ames

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

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Review of Headrest Speakers By Randy Ames

Lucky me! This year for Christmas I received a set of new headrest speakers to replace the oem ones in my 1996 Miata! They were purchased from Raven Wing Products and I must say from what Santa has told me they were very easy to deal with. The ones I received were the ones shown on their site as M-XX-35. See the picture this page.

Overall impressions are very positive. This was basically a plug and play type of set-up. While there were no instructions with the packaging they are very easy to do. The steps are:

1. unzip the headrest cover and carefully pull forward the top front portion of the headrest.
2. Gently pull the existing speakers out of the foam. Do not pull out too far as you may pull a wire out.
3. Pull the existing wires from the back of the oem speakers.
4. Connect the new speakers up with the spade connections from the wires to the back of each speaker. The Speaker blades are marked positive and negative but the easier way to go is that the spade size is different for the positive and negative terminal. Match up the correct size and push in gently until connected.
5. Put the new speaker in the same way as the oem ones were in. Be careful not to bend or twist the connection tabs.
6. On the new speakers there is a mounting bracket that I bent down a little bit to make sure it did not rub against the inside of the upholstery. You can bend with your fingers or cut it off if you wanted to.
7. Carefully re-zip the headrest portion and you are good to go!

So, the big question is, what about the sound? I can tell you it is far superior to what I had before and I am no audiophile

by any stretch. All I know is that it sounds a lot better and the volume can crank up a lot with no distortion that I could hear. A nice upgrade to my Miata and I will have to replace the door speaker soon.



Upcoming Events

WARNING: Dates in Calendar are closer than they appear. Check the website for the most current information.

Ante Up!

Now is the time to pay dues for the year! Mail your check to the PO box or bring to the January meeting!

Join Us At An Upcoming Club Meeting

Meet at Perko's Restaurant located at Bullard and Freeway 41 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!

Coastal Cruise, February 10-11, 2007

February 10&11 will be our annual Coastal Cruise! The 411 is as follows: (1) Departure from Denny's at 99 and Jensen (2) Departure time is 8:30am with Driver's meeting 8:15am (3) Hotel is the Motel 6 in San Simeon (4) Call 800.544.4866 between 6am and 3pm to book a room. (5) Rates are \$39.99 single and \$45.00 double- be sure to ID yourself as being there with the Fresno Miata Club (6) Dinner Saturday night at Brambles at 7pm with cost and menu options to follow in January (7) RSVP to Lisa Asperger at lasperger@sbcglobal.net by February 1st.

Poker Run, March 30-31, 2007

Now is the time to mark this on your 2007 calendar. The Event returns to Fresno after being in Oakhurst and Visalia the past couple of years. Now is also the time to be thinking of what you can volunteer for to help make this a success. See President Jarvis' comments in his letter to the club. Call Tom Jarvis, 559-645-1816.

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 Tom (president@sjvmc.net) or Cindy (webmaster@sjvmc.net) and it will be posted on the web site and e-mailed to all members with e-mail.



San Joaquin Valley Miata Club



Meetings are held the **3rd** Thursday of each month (Except July & December) at **Perko's Cafe**, 222 E Bullard Ave (at Freeway 41) at 6:30 P.M.
-> **Please note new Meeting place** <-

NEXT MEETING
January 18
SEE YOU THERE

Newsletter Online! - Final Notice!!!

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. *Effective with the January, 2007 issue, hard copies will only be mailed on a "by-request" basis. The on-line version will continue to be available.*

If you would prefer to continue to receive hard copy, you must send an e-mail to Editor@sjvmc.net stating your name and to please retain your name on the Fast Track mailing list. If you do not have e-mail, you can send a note (a postcard will suffice) to the club's PO box (see below), *Attn: Editor*. Either of these actions will be sufficient to continue receiving a hard copy in the mail.

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

Miata Fast Track

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inside...

Letter From the President	Page 1
General Meeting Minutes	Page 2
Cool Breeze Scoop	Page 3
Notes from the new Editor	Page 3
Headrest speakers	Page 4
Upcoming Events	Page 5
And More.....!	

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

Get In. Be Moved.

