

The Reward

MAY 2018

Vol 29, No. 5

The Prez Sez

Mazda MX-5/Miata – My Indulgence

Posted on [March 25, 2018](#) (reprinted with permission)



Rona Dexler
SOCALM "Prez"

It's great for your health to eat lean chicken and sautéed vegetables every day. But sometimes you want a big, juicy hamburger. The [MX-5 Miata](#) is an automotive treat that I've loved for 26 years.

Over the last couple of years, I've been focusing my automotive attention on cars that are easier on the environment — hybrids, plug-in hybrids, and particularly, all-electric vehicles. I even ordered my own [Chevrolet Bolt EV](#), which has been my personal car for more

than 14 months. I believe that electric transportation is the future, and I'm eager to be part of it and promote its adoption.

Sometimes, however, a car has a special place in your heart, and even if it's powered by petroleum, you have to get some time behind the

wheel. The Mazda MX-5 Miata is mine. I've driven fourteen of them since I started testing cars as a journalist back in 1992. They are shown in chronological order in this post.



(Article was provided by Prez, Rona D)

...cont'd pgs 2-4

Looking Down The Road...

- MIATA SPRING BREAK
May 4-6, 2018
- SJVMC POKER RUN
May 12, 2018
- GO-KART SOCIAL
May 26, 2018
- MIATA CAR SHOW
May 26, 2018
- ROCKIES RENDEVOUS—
Cdn Rockies Miata Club
Sep 14-16, 2018
- HOT LAVA 2018—Mt Hood
Miata Club
Sep 20-23, 2018

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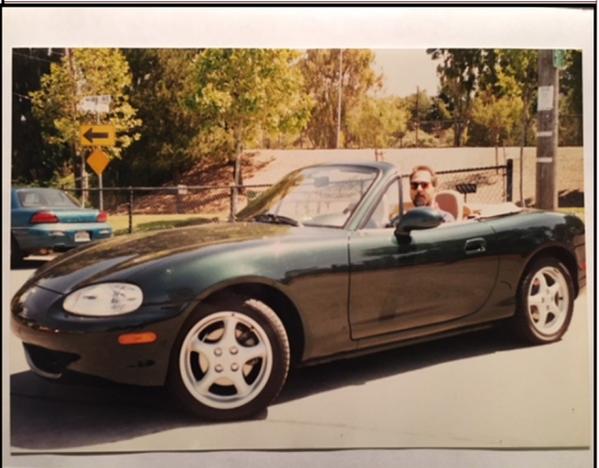
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My first Miata test car came, like the others, through the automotive press fleet. This was a revelation, because although the car had been out since 1990, I hadn't had any contact with one. The moment I sat in it and then took it out on the road, I remembered the wonderful British sports cars of my childhood. I was riding in my father's [Austin-Healey](#) again, on a warm summer evening with the sun still out, going to get some ice cream. Sigh.

When that first Miata arrived in my driveway, I had already started my habit of photographing myself with each of my test cars. My first test convertible, this is also the first car photo that showed me in the driver's seat—the best spot to be in. There's nothing quite like driving an open car, and in the Miata, all you do is drop the top and go. Ever since day one, you can unlatch the top and just flip it behind you. Although later models have introduced power tops and a couple styles of folding hard tops, you've always had the open air option. It's amazing how many things there are to smell as you drive—most of them interesting or pleasant. Yes, there are diesel buses, livestock, and trash fires, but I also remember food from restaurants, freshly baked bread, and newly-mown grass. You also get to sample every possible kind of music blaring out of fellow drivers' windows—or they may be driving topless, too.

Mazda's little million-selling sports car provides direct connection to the road, with steering, close-ratio manual shifting, and responsive braking. I've tested models with the manual six-speed and the automatic, and vastly prefer the former. With its short little lever and feeling of being connected to actual gears, you can't beat it. In my most recent week-long test car, I was stuck in a 2 hour and 10-minute traffic jam on the way home from work, and even in those conditions I'd rather sample the silky manual six than an automatic. It takes some dexterity to get yourself into the low driver's bucket seat, and some strength and care to extricate yourself. I can still maneuver OK, but at nearly 65, I take it easy. My wife has no love for these roadsters, but that's my fault. When I had test Miata number one, I insisted she climb into and out of it late in her pregnancy with our son. She's never forgotten it, and she was equally unimpressed with the 2018 model.

Miatas have their fans—lots of them. There are [race series for them](#), and I have spoken with many owners over the years. In fact, while testing this new model, I ran across a colleague with a green-and-white '91 that was still rolling along. Another colleague, who owns a nicely-preserved '94 in the limited-edition Laguna Blue, asked for a ride, and I was only too glad to oblige. He was impressed by the new car's acceleration from the little 155-horsepower 2.0-liter engine (with 148 lb.-ft. of torque). With the manual six, the soft-top Miata weighs in at just 2,332 pounds, so that's enough to generate excitement, if not speed records.



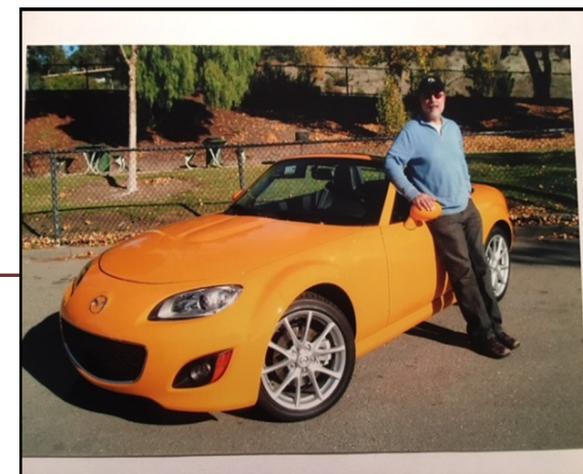
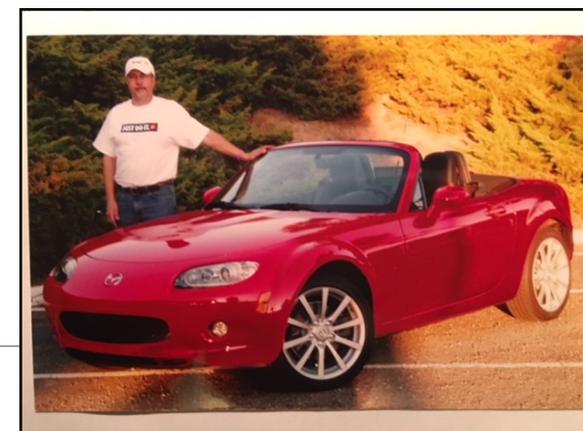
Riding low takes a little getting used to. Once you're inside, there feels like enough room, but when you look out either side window, it's likely directly at someone's wheel. When you look out the windshield, you'll see rakishly canted fenders, in the latest Kodo Design theme. The hood cut lines are cleverly hidden beyond the curve, so you don't notice them from the cabin. The hood gently rises at its center over the engine compartment.

The original Miata featured a simple, plain interior, with the right proportions but no attempt at luxury touches. Its black plastic was well crafted, but not fancy. There were silver rings around the gauges, though, a tip of the hat to the cars of yore. There was a tachometer in the middle of the instrument panel,

The car has grown more and more elegantly designed over the years, with sculpted door panels and the neatly trimmed interior fittings. Beautiful metallic accents on the steering wheel, transmission surround, air vents, and door handles lend an upscale air. The Kodo Design theme blends a flow of soft curves and edges across the doors and dash. The center console not only gives your arm a resting place but sits above the drive-shaft that conveys the engine's power to the rear wheels—just like in those old-fashioned MGs, Triumphs, and Austin-Healeys.

My 2018 test car, as mid-level Club model, had some significant extras. The Machine Gray paint, a serious shade, added \$300 to the tab. I personally would prefer red or blue. The car has come in a variety of colors over the years. One especially nice setup one combined British Racing green paint with a tan leather interior.

My tester flaunted a dark red cloth top—a no-cost option. The big upgrade, however, was the Brembo BBS Recaro package, at \$4,470. It transformed the car inside and out, with gripping Brembo disc brakes, black BBS custom wheels, and gorgeous and supportive Recaro racing seats in a soft alcantara suede. These buckets are heated, and feature speakers in the headrest, which aids hearing while on the road with the roof lowered. I took a phone call using Bluetooth and was a little surprised to hear my caller's voice behind me, but it was certainly easy to understand him.



The little roadster is economical, with EPA numbers of 26 City, 33 Highway, and 29 Combined. I averaged 31.4 mpg in a week that had much too much commuting and too little back road running. The EPA Green numbers are a disappointing 3 for Smog but a solid 6 for Greenhouse Gas.

You'd think a little car with a cloth top would be a drag in the rain, but I felt cozy and safe, and the raindrops on the insulated top created a great atmosphere. And, unlike its European forebears, the MX-5, assembled in Hiroshima, Japan since its birth, doesn't leak. In an era of basic cars starting close to \$20,000 and mid-level Toyota Camrys approaching \$30,000, the Miata's price doesn't seem out of line. My Club-level test car started at \$29,155, but with extras and delivery, hit \$35,240. A 2018 MX-5 Sport with no extras will set you back just \$26,185. The original car debuted at \$15,000, but had a lot fewer features, and that was 28 years ago! Interestingly, demand was so high at first that early adopters were paying \$5,000 or more above sticker to get the cars.

Consumer Reports has given the Miata high praise over the years and ranked the 2017 model at 79 – a fine score. Owners have reported better than average reliability, and with the amount of affection the little car generates, they care for their babies. You'll see plenty of all four generations on the road. The car magazines love it.

At the Western Automotive Journalists Media Days (photo below), I had the chance to drive my 14th MX-5 Miata. It was an '18 RF, with the folding hardtop. In my brief drive, I never dropped that top, but I enjoyed the same feeling of intimate control as I looped down from the starting point – Mazda Raceway Laguna Seca – and took the car up the Laureles Grade. Hard or soft top, top up or down, it's a joy to row through the manual six-speed's ratios. And this car flaunted the new Soul Red Crystal paint, which shows up on the inner door panels, too. Lovely.

So, while I happily focus my testing on cars with batteries and plugs and motor along in my smooth, silent, clean Chevrolet Bolt the rest of the time, the MX-5 Miata holds a special place in my heart. It has remained great—and even improved over the years, becoming (by far) the most popular sports car ever.



GO-KART SOCIAL—05/26/2018

WHEN: May 26, 2018

TIME: 12:00—4:00pm

WHERE: K1 SPEED TORRANCE
 19038 S Vermont Ave
 Gardena CA 90248 US



Hey! Budding race car drivers! This is your chance to let off some steam...

Our esteemed Motorsports Coordinator Omar Menchavez has graciously set this wonderful event for us!

****PLEASE RSVP AS SOON AS POSSIBLE****
WE NEED 9 PEOPLE TO MAKE THIS HAPPEN!!!

RSVP to Omar Menchavez, omenchav@yahoo.com

Contact: Omar Menchavez, Email: omenchav@yahoo.com
 More Info: <https://www.k1speed.com/torrance-location.html>

MIATA CAR SHOW—05/26/18

WHEN: May 26, 2018

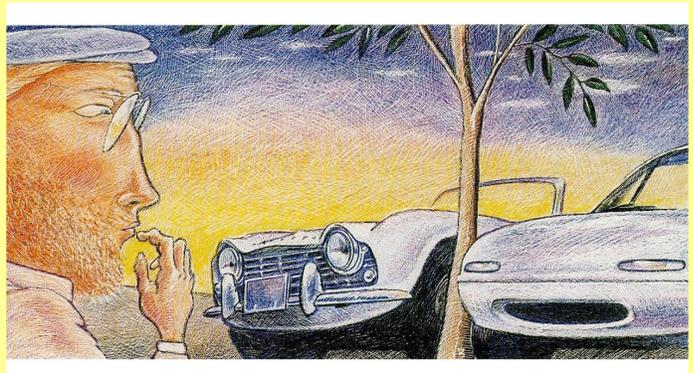
TIME: 10:00am—2:00pm

WHERE: Bridgecreek Retirement Community
 1601 E. Holt Ave
 West Covina

Come celebrate spring and "top down" weather in our beloved little cars with friends, family, and neighbors at Bridgecreek. There will be token ribbons and prizes for various categories (TBD later) as judged by Bridgecreek residents and attending Miataphiles. There'll be a BBQ with hamburgers, hot dogs, chips, watermelon, etc. provided by Bridgecreek. OTM's (other than Miata) are welcome too.

Please RSVP to Diana Davis at contact info below.

Contact: Diana Davis
 Email: DDavis@Fullerton.edu Phone: 626 / 826 - 4803



ROCKIES RENDEZVOUS—09-14/16, 2018

The Canadian Rockies Miata Club invites you to join us in beautiful Kananaskis Country for our first Rockies Rendezvous event on the weekend of September 14–16, 2018. Your registration includes a show and shine and a Barbecue in the courtyard on Friday afternoon, Saturday morning breakfast at the Delta/Marriott, a group excursion over the Highwood Pass (about a 4 hour drive) and other activities as our committee plans develop, with a wrap-up Banquet at the Delta/Marriott Saturday evening.

We're getting close to the time when we have to start financing numbers with the venue, so we'd encourage you to register in the next few weeks. **We are looking forward to sharing the weekend with you at our first Rockies Rendezvous.**

<https://www.rockiesrendezvous.ca/>

See you in September!

Fraser, Tom, Ward, Marshall, Ron
The Canadian Rockies Miata Club



HOT LAVA 2017 +1 — MT. HOOD MIATA CLUB

WGEB: Thu, Sep 20, 2018 | US/Pacific
Location: [Best Western Plus Hood River Inn](#)

Join us for a touring weekend with route options* to [Mt St Helens](#), Mt Adams, Mt Hood and other Columbia Gorge attractions. You may remember that [Mt St Helens](#) became famous when it erupted violently in 1980. Hot Lava has attracted many cars from across the US and Canada, so you may meet many old and new zoom-zoom friends.

HOT LAVA 2018 is \$90 for a single participant, and \$175 for a pair. The registration fee includes Thursday evening welcome social, entry to all activities/runs [including Saturday lunch], goodie bag, and the Saturday night closing banquet. There will also be an optional Sunday morning breakfast run.

Contact: Mike R Markowitz
Email: n6xrf@sbcglobal.net
Phone: 18186480933
More Info: <https://mthoodmiataclub.wildapricot.org/event-2682635>

Location Details
[Best Western Plus Hood River Inn](#)
Oregon



Welcome to the Mt. Hood Miata Club Website. We represent Miata owners in Oregon from Portland to Salem, Pendleton to the Coast, as well as Southwest Washington from Vancouver to Longview.

MIATA SPRING BREAK—05/04-06, 2018

After skipping 2017, Miata Spring Break will, once again, be held for the enjoyment of all Miataphiles!

This will be a 3 day weekend event (Friday, May 4th, thru Sunday, May 6th of 2018) and our base will again be the Embassy Suites in Lompoc. For those who wish to caravan to Lompoc on Friday, I will depart from the Old Spaghetti Factory in Duarte (Buena Vista exit off of I-210) at 9:30am. There is a gas station and a Carl's Jr. nearby for restrooms, gas, etc. Hopefully not all the twisties have been burned.

For those who would like to go on a drive on Saturday, I will lead a counter-clockwise route around Lompoc/Buellton, with a pit stop at the Fess Parker Winery (many drivers chose to spend the balance of their afternoon there last time) and returning to the Lompoc/Buellton area for a late lunch on your own and a relaxing afternoon by the pool. There will be a driver's meeting at 9:15am, in the front parking lot, and we'll depart at 9:30 am. I have, again, arranged for a group dinner on Saturday at AJ Spur's in Buellton (350 E. Hwy 246) at 5:30pm. I am assuming that everyone that's registered will attend, unless I receive an email (vp@socalm.org) telling me differently.

Afterwards, we'll gather again in the breakfast/meeting room area at the Embassy Suites for games, music, conversation, etc. There are no specific plans for Sunday, but we can discuss the options on Saturday evening.



For this event, the ONLY thing that you HAVE to do is ENJOY YOURSELF!!!

Contact: Bob & Juli Davis

Email: rmdavis2002@yahoo.com

Phone: 909/374-3998

MT BALDY RUN — 04/14/18—Photos



These are the photos taken by the young photographer (*Spencer Applegate*) at the intersection of Glendora Ridge Rd and Glendora Mountain Rd during our drive to Mt. Baldy.

MEMBERSHIP

NEW MEMBERS:

Kaitlyn Clare	Los Angeles	1993 Classic Red
Anne & Evan Gregory	Glendora	2013 White
Kevin Harrop	Burbank	2000 Mahogany Mica
Stephen Nicholls Green	Las Vegas	1991 British Racing



RENEWAL/ PREVIOUS MEMBERS:

Denise Jenkins	Huntington Beach	2003 Hunter Green
Bruce MacLaughlin & Linda Somdal	Simi Valley	2011 Silver

SOCALM's ANNUAL MEMBERSHIPS ARE DUE as of JUNE 1, 2018, unless you joined between December 1, 2017 through May 31, 2018 then your membership will expire June 1, 2019.

You may use PayPal via our web site at www.socalm.org. To renew hit the square Red Button (**RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP NOW!**) Please fill out the application and proceed to payment info and hit submit. To join and use PayPal, at the top of the site hit (Join our Club) then hit the round Red Button, or just send a check via snail mail with a club application to address below. Please either way it is important to fill out an application. For renewals if any of your info has changed; new car, address or email change, send a club application, which has more detail. If using PayPal to renew email me the application at membership@socalm.org or snail mail to address below.

SOCALM
23052-H Alicia Parkway #247
Mission Viejo, CA 92692



05/01 Juli Davis
05/01 Jeri Negru
05/01 Tony Sanelli
05/03 Carole Goldstein
05/04 Gina Seashore
05/07 Paul Thoren
05/07 James Hinton
05/07 Lisa Asperger
05/12 Daisy Apodaca
05/12 Keegan Heagerty
05/14 Seema Misser
05/14 Jess Perlman
05/15 Gary Nelson
05/17 Emily Fate
05/18 Lori Garratt



05/20 Bruce MacLaughlin
05/20 Michael Sleeman
05/22 Robbie Rosenberg
05/22 Hale Gammill
05/26 John Khouw
05/26 Teresa Clark
05/27 Pam Hamer
05/27 Denise Jenkins
05/30 Bill Fate
05/31 Tom Dolan

MEMBERSHIP STATISTICS



Membership

Memberships	152
Single	73
Dual	79
People	231
Cars	164

MONTH AT A GLANCE

May 2018						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29	30	1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31	1	2



MAY 2018 - MARK YOUR CALENDARS

- **May 4-6 MIATA SPRING BREAK**
- **May 7 I.E. Social**
- **May 10 SGV Social—Potluck**
- **May 11 Ventura Social**
- **May 12 SJVMC POKER RUN**
- **May 13 MOTHER'S DAY**
- **May 14 South Bay Social**
- **May 17 Orange County Social**
- **May 18 SF Valley Social**
- **May 21 Santa Clarita Social**
- **May 22 Long Beach Gathering**
- **May 26 GO-KART SOCIAL**
- **May 26 MIATA CAR SHOW**
- **May 28 MEMORIAL DAY**

Join us for good people, good food & good fun.

SPOTLIGHT— SGV Social @ Soto's Home

Date: Thu May 10, 2018
Time: 6:30—9:00 pm
Place: Soto's Home
 2333 Kwis Ave.
 Hacienda Hgts. Ca. 91745

Contact: Yvonne or Manuel (Manny)
Location Phone: (626) 333-2423

POTLUCK DINNER SOCIAL

Potluck (Make your own sandwich)

Yvonne will have ham, turkey, or beef. You bring your favorite chips, pickles, salad, or dessert.

Just bring yourself.

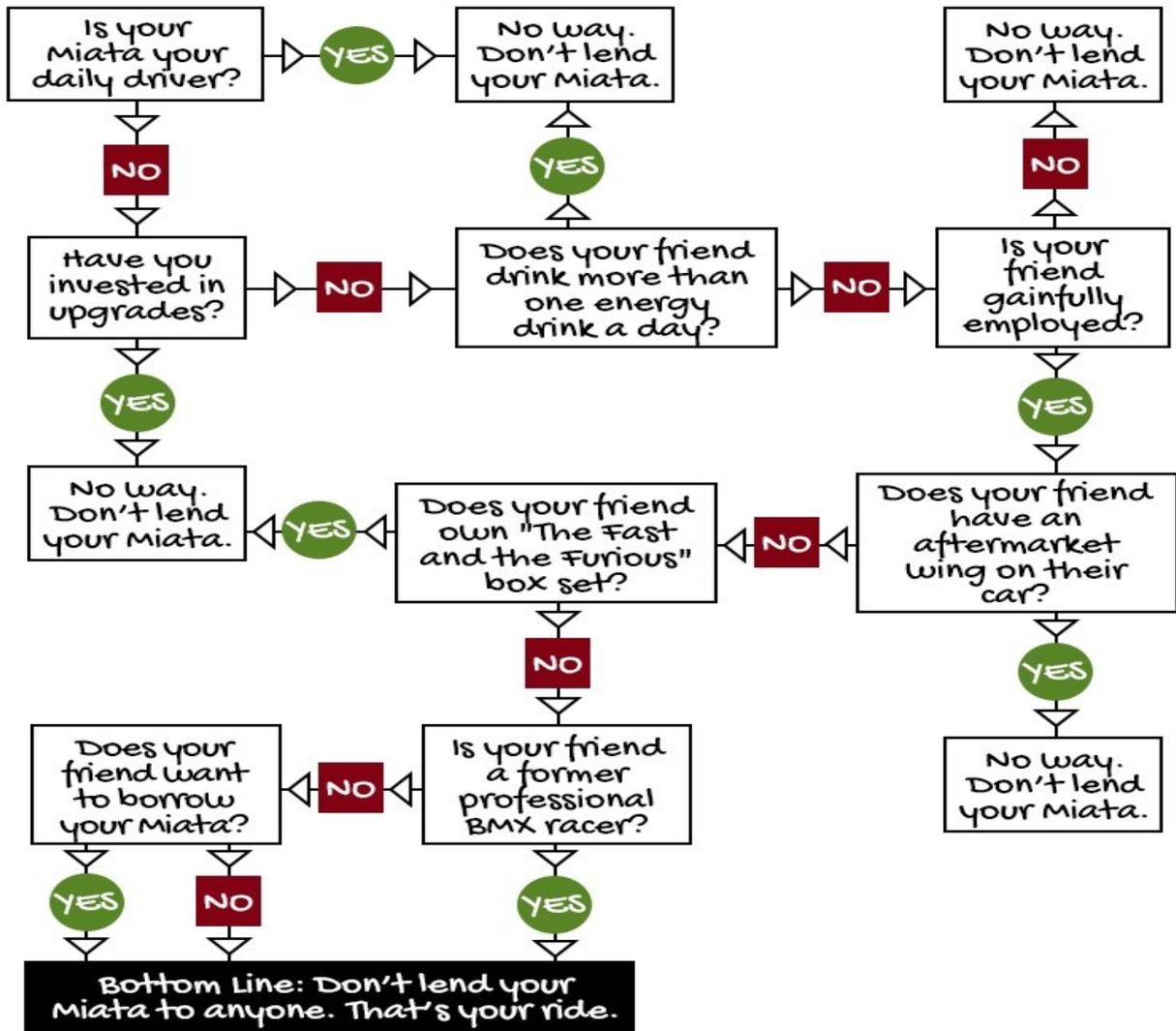
**R.S.V.P. (626) 333-2423 or
 Email: mycsoto@gmail.com**



Should you lend your Miata to a friend?



START



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MAY SOCIALS

Inland Empire Social

Date: Mon May 7, 2018
Time: 6:00—9:00 pm
Place: Steer "N Stein
 8348 Archibald Ave.
 Rancho Cucamonga

Description: Although Juli & I have met the Nelson's here on several occasions, for some unexplainable reason we've never held a social here until now. Join us if you can!

Contact: Bob & Juli Davis
Email: rmdavis2002@yahoo.com
Phone: 9093743998

SGV Social @ Soto's Home

Date: Thu May 10 2018
Time: 6:30—9:00 pm
Place: Soto's Home
 2333 Kwis Ave.
 Hacienda Hgts. Ca. 91745

Contact: Yvonne/Manny Soto
Email: mycsoto@gmail.com
Phone: 626 333-2423

Description: Potluck (Make your own sandwich) Yvonne will have ham, turkey, or beef. You bring your favorite chips, pickles, salad, or desert. Just bring yourself. R.S.V.P. (626) 333-2423 or
Email: mycsoto@gmail.com

****SEE SPOTLIGHT PG 9***

Ventura Social

Date: Fri May 11, 2018
Time: 6:30—9:30 pm
Place: Reds BBQ and Grill
 3090 Cochran St.
 Simi Valley CA 93065 USA

Hosts: Mike & Joanne Markowitz
 818-648-0933 C
Email: n6xf@sbcglobal.net

Description: Join us! You and your sports car should be there

RSVP is requested but not required, so we can save enough seats.

South Bay Social

Date: Mon May 14, 2018
Time: 6:30—9:30 pm
Place: Havana Mania
 3615 Inglewood Ave
 Redondo Beach CA 90278
Host: Mark Kozlevcar
 310-227-1064
Email: kozlevcar@earthlink.net

Description: Please join us for the South Bay Social at HavanaMania in Redondo Beach. Luis prides himself on serving Cuban food at its finest! Everything is very good, but the roast pork (lechon) is fantastic. Hope to see you there!

More Info: <http://www.havanamania.com/>



Orange County Social

Date: Thu May 17, 2018
Time: 6:30—9:30 pm
Place: Istanbul Grill
 18010 Newhope Street #D
 Fountain Valley CA 92708
Hosts: Bob & Jeri Negru
 714-692-1498

Description: This is an excellent Mediterranean restaurant. Jeri and I have been here many times and always enjoy it. For our members who have been to Turkey you are in for a treat. For the less adventurous they have pizza too I believe. See you there. Hosted by Bob and Jeri Negru (714)692-1498. Istanbul Grill (714) 430-1417.

SF Valley Social

Date: Fri May 18, 2018
Time: 6:00—9:00 pm
Place: La Paz Mexican Restaurant
 4505 Las Virgenes Rd.
 Calabasas ca 91302
Host: John Barreiro
Email: johnb@jbtails.com

Description: Back to Oscar's restaurant. A nice departure from the average Mexican food place, Oscar specializes in Veracruz and Caribbean style Mexican food with an emphasis on sea food based dishes as well as the usual fare.

Please RSVP so I can save enough seats.

Santa Clarita Social

Date: Mon May 21, 2018
Time: 6:30—9:00 pm
Place: Mom Can Cook Thai Kitchen
 18358 Soledad Canyon Rd,
 Santa Clarita, CA 91387
Host: Benny Goldstein
 661 993-3390 cell
 661 252-6941 tel

Email: santaclarita@socalm.org
bennygol@earthlink.net

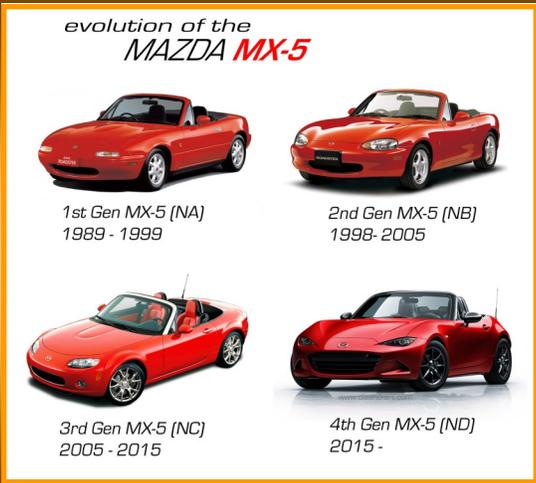
Description: Join us! Let us know (if you can) that you are coming, and we'll hold a place for you.

More Info: <http://www.momcancookscv.com/>

Long Beach Gathering

Date: Tue May 22, 2018
Time: 6:30—9:30 pm
Place: Belmont Brewing Company
 25 39th Pl
 Long Beach Ca 90803
Host: Bud Martin
Tel: 562.233.1272
Email: Glassrider2@yahoo.com
longbeach@socalm.org

Description: Join us!



SOCALM Financial Report	
Beginning Balance, as of March 1, 2018	\$3,311.52
Revenue / Deposits:	
Dues – Renewal	50.00
Dues – New	50.00

Total Revenue:	100.00
Expenses	
Postage	(71.00)
Membership Supplies	(82.11)
Cheque Order	(30.00)

Total Expenses	(183.11)
	=====
Ending Balance, as of MARCH 31, 2018	\$3,228.41



A place to find something to do with your Miata and Friends. Seek new adventures and places to Drive and Share.

Serving our Miata friends since 2/22/2002
<http://miatafun.net/>



SOCALM Merchandise

SOCALM Café Press Merchandise is available!!
Support your club and decorate you, your house and your car!

<http://cafepress.com/socalm>

2018 SOCALM OFFICERS

Executive Board

President
 Rona Dexler..... president@socalm.org 818.426.0193
Vice President
 Bob Davis..... vp@socalm.org 909.374.3998
Secretary
 Diana Davis secretary@socalm.org 626.826.4803
Treasurer
 Benny Goldsteintreasurer@socalm.org 661.252.6941

Regional Representatives

Greater Long Beach
 Bud Martin longbeach@socalm.org 562.233.1272
Inland Empire
 Juli Davis..... inlandempire@socalm.org 909.374.3998
Los Angeles
 Dan Schulzlosangeles@socalm.org 818.292.0069
San Fernando Valley
 John Barreiro..... sfvalley@socalm.org 818.368.0232
Orange County
 Bob Negrunorthoc@socalm.org 714.692.1498
San Gabriel Valley
 Yvonne Soto..... sgvalley@socalm.org
South Bay
 Mark Kozlevcarsouthbay@socalm.org 310.640.3196
Santa Clarita
 Benny Goldstein valley@socalm.org 661.993.3390
Ventura
 Mike Markowitzventura@socalm.org 818.991.8720
Central California
 Tom & Marna Wood

Appointed Officers & Committee Members

Activities Coordinator
 Lisa Martin activities@socalm.org
Membership Coordinator
 Bari Russell membership@socalm.org
Club Librarian
 Gary Nelson..... librarian@socalm.org
Vendor Coordinator
 Bud Martin vendors@socalm.org
Webmaster
 Lisa Martin webmaster@socalm.org
Newsletter
 Ingrid Gillespieeditor@socalm.org
ingrid.a.gillespie@gmail.com
Motorsports Coordinator
 Omar Menchavezmotorsports@socalm.org

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CLUB INFORMATION

SOCALM is a non-profit organization whose primary purpose is to gather for enthusiastic fun and to share information about the Mazda Miata MX-5.

Annual Dues: \$25.00 per year, due annually on June 1st. The membership of any new member(s) who join(s) during the 6 month period from June 1st through November 30th will expire as of the following June 1st. The membership of any new member(s) who join(s) during the 6 month period from December 1st through May 31st will expire as of June 1st of the subsequent year (12-18 months later).

Submissions to *The Reward* should be sent to the club address below. You can also send articles, pictures, and letters via e-mail to editor@socalm.org. Submissions may be edited for content or length. The standard deadline for submissions is the **20th** of the month, but you should always call the Editor to check on last minute submissions. *The Reward*, its contributors, and SOCALM assume no liability for the accuracy or legality of any information appearing herein.

Reprint permission: Use of articles or stories by other Miata clubs is hereby granted, provided proper credit to this publication and the author is given.

Articles are the opinions of their authors, not necessarily of the Editor or SOCALM.

Southern California Miata Club
 23052-H Alicia Parkway #247
 Mission Viejo, CA 92692

SOCALM Library

Some members may not be aware that Socalm has a small library, consisting of back issues of the Miata Magazine to Winter of 1992, and a full set of past issues of the Reward, thanks to Bill Strohm who donated his collection. If you wish to borrow any of these, please contact the club librarian, Gary Nelson, at either librarian@socalm.org or 909/935-6969. We ask only that you return any borrowed items promptly so that others may also borrow as needed.

CB radios are a great way to communicate during a run while enhancing the driving experience.

WARNING: A driver's use of a CB while driving most likely violates recently enacted CA DMV Code restricting the use of handheld electronics. **USE AT YOUR OWN RISK!**

Note to Run Leaders: It would be helpful if you would mention this information at each drivers' meeting.



www.socalm.org

Join the Fun!



Southern California Miata Club
 Check us out! socalm.org



SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA MIATA CLUB
23052-H Alicia Parkway #247
Mission Viejo, CA 92692

Driving the twisties since 1990!