

Miatas in Moab—A Funny Thing Happened on RTE 128 by Cat Anderson



See Tom. See Tom with Pat. Pat owns Arches Repair Service in Moab, Utah. Pat is the mechanic who replaced our alternator after the silver land shark died on RTE 128 while attempting to overtake a slower moving vehicle. Ordinarily, I would probably end this by saying we wish we had not met Pat the friendly mechanic, EXCEPT:

Within a minute after pulling to the side of RTE 128 heading toward Red Cliffs Lodge, the event headquarters, and popping the hood, three cars from the Denver Miata Club stopped to offer assistance. After we confirmed that none of us had cell phone reception in the canyon, they took our AAA card and drove to the lodge to call a tow truck for us.

No sooner had they left when a lone Miata driver from New York stopped, then a Miata from Utah, then Miatas from Michigan, and then more and more Miatas from all over the country stopped and offered companionship and kind words as we waited for our tow. Dan and Laura from the Northwest Miata Club even offered to go into Moab and find an alternator for us (!), the Denver Club came

back with water and our AAA card. A Utah club car came back with more water and an offer to sign us up for drives in case we didn't get back in time for the welcome event. By the time we arrived at the welcome event (being supplied by the ever helpful Pat the mechanic with a prototype 4-door Miata, cleverly disguised as a Honda), word of our plight had spread and we were welcomed with pats on the back and sympathetic words of encouragement from clubs from around the country.

The next day, Tom and I took advantage of Dave Bonfield and Brian Carney's wifeless (temporary) states, and enjoyed being their passengers on a new-to-the Moab-event drive through some beautiful curvy roads led by Doyle Strom of the Utah Club. The following day, when our car was still not back, Doyle and his wife, Val, kindly loaned us one of their two Miatas so we could visit Arches National Park.

That afternoon our Miata was FINALLY returned to us, giving us some time to drive RTE 128 in our own Miata, as this gorgeous road should be driven, and to drive to the fabulous Canyonlands National Park on our way out of town the next day.

Our car difficulty illustrates one of the main reasons we have enjoyed being Miata owners since 1989—Miata owners are the friendliest folks on the road. We met more people from more clubs at this event than we have at any other regional or national event that we have attended over the past 23 years. For sure, we will never forget the Miatas in Moab Event of 2012!