

NEWSLETTER OF



Show Me Your Curves

VOLUME 3, NO. 12

Merry Christmas



Plus...

Cruises for the New Year

The Le Mans Miatas

Recondition those Wheels

And more....



1991 Le Mans 24 Hours Race

One of the Mazda Team Cars attracted a lot of attention on Race Day.
This (ahem) was the only picture I could find!

On the Cover



This month's cover is an lovely chalet in the Swiss Alps.

Fun driving..... in the summer!

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We want to here from you about this newsletter. Please use the Feedback Link to submit any comments, concerns or questions.

Thank you



[Feedback Link](#)

You Gotta Read This!

Mazda celebrates its 1991 Le Mans victory with a special model.



See Page 12

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In the Rear View Mirror

**Welcome to
Miataville**

Annual General Meeting & Dinner - Nov 18

Our (Semi ?) Annual General Meeting took place on November 18th at R&L Bistro and the group was able to secure volunteers for various roles on the Town Council of Miataville.

Here are their introductions:

Mayor - Michael Topping

Deputy Mayor - Heather Frazer

Our Councillor - Club Merchandise is Laurel Bauldry who has handled many tasks in the past and has chosen to handle the design, procurement and sales of all club merchandise to keep us all looking "spiffy" in our club gear when out on our cruises.

Our Councillor - Finance is Maureen Newton who will pay approved bills, collect all dues and other monies from all sources and issue receipts, shall keep books of accounts and make financial reports as required.

Our Councillor - Membership services is the husband and wife team of Ted & Lynn Bryan who will maintain our Membership database stats, administration process for new Members, renewals, name tags as well as issuing waiver forms to all non-member participants.

Our Councillor - Public Relations/Marketing is Michael Topping who is responsible for the Newsletter and web site content via Paul Bennett.

Our Councillor - Club Activities is Bob Macaulay who will coordinate the schedule for all activities and maintain the Event Schedule for the year. Each cruise will still have its own Cruise Director to arrange things for a particular cruise.



**Town Council: (L. to R) Lynn Bryan, Ted Bryan, Laurel Bauldry, Michael Topping, Bob Macaulay
Sitting: Heather Frazer, Maureen Newton**



In the Rear View Mirror

AGM II - Pictorial





Lookin' Down the Road

We had an enjoyable meeting/dinner at the R&L Bistro and have fleshed out next year's cruises somewhat. The dates are set, some Cruise Directors to be appointed but we have a basic structure as we begin *Lookin' Down the Road*.

Town Council Meeting - Jan 19th

Our first council meeting will be hosted by Bob & Carol Macaulay in Huntsville

Spring meeting April 14th

We will have another General Meeting in the Spring to kick off the cruising' season.

Spring Fling - May 5th (CD ???????)

For our Spring Fling in 2013 we are going to return to the Swiss Country Restaurant on Old Mill Bay of Ahmic Lake for brunch and cruise the back roads near Magnetawan & Burk's Falls

Niagara on the Lake - May 25th (CD Michael Topping)

We will join up with the Niagara group for an "Overnighter" to partake in a little cruise, a little wine tasting, a little.....well you get the picture.

Scenic Picnic - June 15th (CD Tom & Katie Courtney)

This year's destination cruise until we arrive at Tom & Katie's for a picnic lunch.

Scavenger Hunt - June 23rd (CD Ted & Lynn Bryan)

The Bryans have promised us an interesting cruise looking for interesting "stuff" which always adds to the pleasure of a cruise.

Ladies Cruise - July 21st (CD Heather Frazer)

Back by popular demand, Heather will provide the ladies with some cruising, dining, shopping and more (ice cream?).

Huronian Cruise - July 27th (CD the Landers & the Giggs)

Our third trip to the land of Samuel de Champlain as the Landers will provide the cruise and the Giggs will host a BBQ afterwards.

Ottawa Cruise - August - TBD (CD the Macaulays & the Bauldrys)

Another Overnighter to the Nation's Capital and possible hook up with the Ottawa group.

Port McNichol Cruise - August (CD Dick Smyth)

Dick has agreed to blow the dust off his Mazdaspeed and lead us on a cruise around Port Nichol.

St. Jacobs Cruise - Sept. 14th (CD TBD)

How does a day cruising down to St. Jacobs for a lovely lunch and a little shopping sound?

Fall Colours Cruise - Oct 6th (CD Michael Topping)

Our Fourth Annual Fall Colours Cruise will again include guests from the Trillium club.

Ice Cream Cruises - May 29th

Our weekly Ice Cream Runs will commence on May 29th and run through to late September depending on the weather.

Miatas around the World

A look at what's happening in the world of Miata



*Available from a cake store in Germany
Now you can have your Miata and eat it too!*



??



*Okay so it's snowing just a little,
doesn't mean we can't go topless, right?*



*Liz Veal's husband Peter bought her a Mazda
MX5 as a surprise for Christmas.
She lives in New Zealand
Just balmy on Christmas Day!!*



*Miata snowmobile in Redmond, WA
His summer car is in storage
and this one doesn't rust*



Closer to Home

Canadian Sites with a Miata flavour

This month's picture is of the historical Clova Theatre in Surrey, British Columbia an old style single screen movie theatre originally opened in the late 1940s ([link](#)).

The car, another 2007 GT PRHT. This one in True Red, is owned by the "soupnazi" (see pic) from Vancouver, B.C.



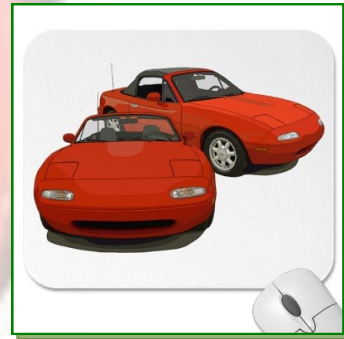
Did you Know ?

Christmas Gifts for the Miata Lover

Christmas shopping has never been easier, just sit at home check out what's available on-line and few clicks later, you're done!



Here are a couple of web sites you could check out this year. The first site is www.zazzle.ca in California and among their offerings us a card or hanging ornament of a first generation Miata made to resemble Rudolph the Red Nose Reindeer Or you could go for Bob Macaulay's favourite, a coffee mug with a 2010 NC emblazoned on the side. They also have such things as caps, bumper stickers, key chains etc. with your favourite car. I'm kinda partial to the mouse pad



Or how about some License plate frames, T-Shirts, pet bowl (?) or maybe a wall clock from www.cafepress.ca a company out of Louisville, KY .



Both of these vendors have several Miata items that would make a great gift for the Miata lover in your life. Simply go to the search box on each site and type in "Miata".

Have Fun.

....time for a little laughter



Three men died on Christmas Eve and were met by Saint Peter at the pearly gates.

'In honour of this holy season' Saint Peter said, 'You must each possess something that symbolizes Christmas to get into heaven.'

The Englishman fumbled through his pockets and pulled out a lighter. He flicked it on. 'It's a candle', he said.

'You may pass through the pearly gates' Saint Peter said.

The Scotsman reached into his pocket and pulled out a set of keys. He shook them and said, 'They're bells.'

Saint Peter said 'You may pass through the pearly gates'.

The Irishman started searching desperately through his pockets and finally pulled out a pair of women's panties.

St. Peter looked at the man with a raised eyebrow and asked, 'And just what do those symbolize?'

Paddy replied,
'These are Carols.'

*And So The Christmas Season
Begins.....*



My neighbours have moved to Florida for the winter and as a special favour I agreed to put up Xmas lights for them.

The other neighbours are talking about it already!

Helpful Hints - Refinishing Alloy Wheels

My last year's winter project was to dye the leather seats and dash in my Miata and I was quite pleased with the results giving the interior a much cleaner look. This year for my winter project, I have decided to refinish some "Daisy" wheels to brighten the appearance of the Miata on the outside.

After doing a little research on line I figured it was worth the try but in order not to ruin my existing wheels which would have necessitated removing them from the car. (I mean how would I drive her on Xmas day???) I purchased a well used set and began my adventure.

I initially took the worst looking wheel of the bunch figuring if that could be saved the rest of them would be easy. Figure A shows my starting point with a wheel demonstrating some rather severe curb rash as well as marks from the balancing weights and a rather sick looking centre cap.

Figure A



Curb Rash



Close up of Curb Rash

The first thing was to scrub the wheel with dish detergent and a stiff-bristled brush, rinsing thoroughly. I made sure to clean enough of the backside so you as not to drag dirt on to the front., when finished there was no debris or dirt anywhere on the wheel.



*Spot putty
applied*



I then proceeded to fill in any shallow scratches and curb rash with spot putty making sure to lather on more putty than required and feathering the putty into the nearby surfaces for a uniform appearance. It was necessary to wait about an hour minimum for the putty to dry. The putty does not dry well if it is cool and damp so you working area should be dry & warm, preferably with a drink nearby.

Helpful Hints - Refinishing Alloy Wheels



*Curb Rash
cleaned, filled, sanded, ready for primer*

After drying, I was then able to wet sand it with a 240-grit sandpaper, followed by a 400 grit until the surface looked and felt flush. I sanded the rest of the wheel.

I then cleaned the wheel thoroughly with paint thinner and a lint-free cloth. Be sure and clean the wheel very well. Preparing the wheel for paint is one of the most crucial steps in getting a great looking surface.

To promote adhesion, I sprayed a coat of primer onto parts of the wheel containing the Spot putty. After sanding the primer after it cured with 400- and then 600-grit wet sandpaper I was finally ready to paint the wheel.

I sprayed on the colour coat and allowed the colour coat dry thoroughly, you can even wait overnight to make sure. The colour coat was followed by spraying two to three coats of clear, waiting at least 30 minutes or so between coats.

The wheel centre cap looked horrible with flaking paint and a large discoloured area. After lightly sanding the cap I prepped it for paint by masking off the Mazda script in the centre of the cap and filling the black letters with Vaseline. I then removed the masking tape leaving on the Vaseline filling the indented lettering. After a light coat of primer to remove the discoloured area it was followed by a colour coat. After the paint dried I simply washed the cap in hot water to remove the Vaseline.



Cap looked like this



Logo masked & filled with Vaseline



Finished cap on left vs non finished cap



*Appearance after painting but before Clear coat.
Slight Improvement, wouldn't you say*



We begin with a picture of the car and crew that won the 1991 24 Hours of Le Mans for Mazda; the Rotary engine 787B, the **only** car manufactured by a Japanese auto maker to ever win this coveted race. This car led to a very special edition of the Miata. First, a little history of that special day.

Mazdaspeed entered three cars and a spare, one of them was a 787 from the previous year, numbered #56 and two brand new 787B's. One of them was numbered #18 (see page 2) and the #55 car of Weidler, Herbert and Gachot making its only appearance in its only race.

Unlike the other two cars which were painted in their standard blue stripes on white, the #55 car had an outrageous bright orange and green paint scheme in honour of a main sponsor, Renown, a Japanese clothing manufacturer who had been supporting the team since 1988 by providing all their clothing for the events.

Mazda was a definite long shot to win, the Mazdas had reliability which allowed them to contend for their respective championships but the three Mazdas started on the grid in positions 19th (#55), 23rd (#18) and 30th (#56). On the day before the race, team manager Ohashi decided to drop his usual conservative strategy and instructed the drivers of the #55 car to drive as if it were a short sprint race. The strategy worked to perfection as the favourites (Mercedes) all eventually dropped out with various malfunctions and the superior reliability of the Mazda had bested outright speed to win the race.



The celebrate such a monumental achievement Mazda decided to produce a limited edition MX 5; very limited, with just one car for each of the 24 hours raced by the 787B all of which were sold in the UK. These 24 Le Mans units were manufactured between August and December 1991 and priced at £20,499, a substantial hike over the £15,581 of a standard MX 5 but, quoting contemporary marketing director David Palmer, "these particular cars have been designed specifically as collectors' items and reflect the livery of our successful Mazda 787B sports racing cars."

The Le Mans was only available in the same colours as the original 787B though it's known that several vehicles were later returned to Mazda UK to be repainted a single standard colour.

Standard vehicle specification included central locking, electric windows, power steering, security alarm, scuff plates, alloy wheels and a full body kit.



Under those outlandish team colours was a BBR turbo kit, a low-pressure installation running just 5-6psi of boost. The BBR kit took the MX-5's 1.6-litre engine from 115bhp to around 150bhp, torque climbing from 100lb ft to a chunky 154lb ft. Top speed went from 121mph to 130mph and 0-60mph from 8.7sec to just 6.8. the BBR turbo kit adds a bit of substance to the style. These kits were a popular upgrade for MX-5s in the U.K. at the time

The MX 5 Le Mans also sported Tokico springs and dampers, OZ wheels and a host of other detail trim upgrades. These tweaks to the suspension sharpened handling. Each car also came with a black leather wallet for the documents and a handbook also containing a certificate of authenticity signed by 787B Le Mans winning driver Johnny Herbert.

Note: For the 2011 model year a Le Mans 20th Anniversary model was offered exclusively in Switzerland based on the 160HP 2.0-liter model with the 6-speed manual gearbox. It was equipped with a limited slip differential (LSD), a Bilstein sports suspension, a front strut bar and 10-spoke alloy wheels. It was available in four exterior colours with contrasting profile stripes that extend to the bumpers. The '55 Le Mans' logos with numbered plaque in the interior round off the limited changes over the standard model.





Interior shot shows some neat details (note vents, steering wheel).



MX 5 Le Mans edition had exclusive "Tupperware" with split grill, unique rockers, spoiler and side scoops.



No trouble finding this baby in the parking lot.



Only 24 produced and 4 of them at one event, how neat is that?



***Merry Christmas
& Happy New Year***

to You and Your Families

We look forward to Cruisin' in 2013.