

Show me Your Curves Muskoka and more . . . Ours for the taking!!!!

*The Official
Newsletter of*



*Volume 7 No.3
July 2016*

Editor's Message

by Doug Jackson



Happy Canada Day!

(or Canada Day Week!) Isn't it great to be a Miata enthusiast when the weather is fantastic! The last few weeks have been ideal for top-down driving. It won't be long, however, before the summer tourists start congesting our cruising roads! The image on the cover of this edition of the newsletter entices not only fellow MoMers, but plenty of other drivers as well, to explore our scenic Muskoka roads!

The July edition of our newsletter contains summaries of the cruise events that have happened since our AGM on April 24th. Hopefully, you participated in some of them and are looking forward to the six remaining events. Four of them are day cruises and

two are overnight activities. All of us should be grateful to the Cruise Directors for their willingness to co-ordinate and lead such interesting outings.

I appreciate the way cruise write-ups, photographs, Miata-related articles and other items of interest are sent to me. Once again, I am grateful to Cal for his expertise in assembling a hodge-podge of material into a colourful and interesting presentation. I hope you are as pleased as I am with the results of his labours!



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Just saying

If It's Called Tourist Season, Why Can't We Hunt Them?

He who hesitates is not only lost but several miles from the next freeway exit.

I chose the road less traveled--now where the heck am I?

Show Me Your Curves is a quarterly publication of a Miata enthusiasts group known as the ***Miatas of Muskoka***... We are a small group that like to explore the twisty back roads and scenic lakes in Canada's premier vacation playground Muskoka.

Visit our Website at

[URL:http://www.miatasofmuskoka.com/](http://www.miatasofmuskoka.com/)

Or

Check us out on Facebook: [miatasofmuskoka](https://www.facebook.com/miatasofmuskoka).






Special Thanks to



For their ongoing support of our group

Events . . .

Miatas of Muskoka 2016 Cruise Event Schedule [Final – May12, 2016]

Cruise Event	Date	Event Type	Cruise Director(s)	
Spring Fling Cruise & Lunch <i>Trading Bay Restaurant, Dorset</i>	Sat. May 7 th	Day-trip	Gord & Laurel Bauldry	
Angevaare Mazda Annual Miata Open House/BBQ/Cruise (Peterborough)	Sun. June 5 th	Day-trip	Michael & Sue Topping	
Scavenger Hunt (details to be determined)	Sat. June 11 th	Day-trip	Bill & Cathy Gilbert	
St Jacobs Farmers Market & Outlets	Fri.-Sat. June 24 th -25 th	Overnight (1 nite)	Cal & Gail Lander	
Manitoulin Island/Tobermory Cruise	Fri.-Sun. July 15 th -17 th	Overnight (2 nites)	Bob & Carol Macaulay	
King's Wharf Theatre "Mamma Mia" Matinee and BBQ (Penetang)	Sat. July 23 rd	Day-trip	Doug & Sheila Jackson	
"Miata Rally for Kids" (sponsors <i>Moffat's Mazda</i> Barrie – details being finalized)	Sat. Aug. 6 th	Day-trip	No CD req'd – (Bob Macaulay is <i>MoM's</i> contact with event plnr.)	
Camp Borden Military Museum Cruise (Angus area)	Sat. Aug. 20	Day-trip	Dick Smyth CD required	
'Round Algonquin Park (<i>MoM</i> charity cruise)	Tues-Wed. Aug 23, 24	Overnight (1 nite)	Ed & Judy Gigg	
Fall Colours (Muskoka) (details to be determined)	Sat. Oct. 1 st	Day-trip	Mike & Cathy Fedorowich	
<u>Ice cream runs</u>	Every 2 nd Tues. evg. (starts May 24 th) - meet at Bracebridge Y.I.G. @ 6:30 PM (unless advised otherwise via advance e-mail) [NOTE: " <i>special</i> " ice cream run once a month – Tues. June 21 st , Tues. July 19 th , Tues. Aug. 16, Sat. Sept. 10 th - advance email notices will be provided.]			

REMINDERS:

- Before each cruise, an Event Notice with all details will be circulated to all members, both for your information and to obtain an RSVP response, to assist the Cruise Directors(s) with final planning and arrangements for the event. **Please respect the requested response deadline and provide a timely response by return e-mail, regardless of whether you will be attending or not.**
- To ensure the safety of all cruise participants, CB radios are now required for participation in all *MoM* cruise events, except for the weekly ice cream runs every second Tuesday evening; please remember to bring and use your CB. [NOTE: if you don't already own a CB, *MoM* now has 2 portable (hand-held) CB units available for temporary use on a one-time only loan basis, pending acquisition of your own CB unit.]

What's Coming Up?????

"Mamma Mia!"



***King's Wharf
Theatre
July 23, 2016***

*Doug and Sheila Jackson
Cruise Directors*

We will cruise from Bracebridge to Penetang, with a lunch stop along the way, and will arrive in time for the 2:00 pm matinee at the theatre. Following the production, we will continue the cruise to Doug and Sheila's house, located in the countryside south of Midland, for a BBQ. Following the evening festivities, we will journey back home via Orillia.

Featuring the chart-topping hits of Swedish super-group ABBA, Mamma Mia! is the musical phenomenon that has entertained 54 million people around the world.

In addition to the iconic title song, the infectious score features ABBA's hits "Dancing Queen," "The Winner Takes It All," "Lay All Your Love on Me," "Money, Money, Money," "Knowing Me, Knowing You," "SOS," "Take a Chance on Me" and more.

Don't miss this joyful celebration of mothers, daughters, old friends, and new family.



Manitoulin Island Tobermory Cruise

Friday to Sunday July 15 - 17

*Bob and Carol Macaulay
Cruise Directors*



Friday July 15th – depart from Muskoka in good time in the morning (rendez-vous in Orillia)..through Bruce Peninsula to Tobermory, where we will be staying Friday night.

The sailing we have booked leaves Tobermory at 11:20 AM, lands on the island in South Baymouth at 1:05 PM (we'll get lunch on board while crossing), then take back roads west and north to Gore Bay, arriving late afternoon at Queens Inn

Sunday July 17th – after a nice "country breakfast" at the inn, we'll depart Gore Bay and make our way back to Muskoka via Little Current, Espanola, Sudbury and Parry Sound...lunch will be somewhere en-route.

Pease note that the above cruise is fully booked and is included expressly for informational purposes only. We hope that in the future, you may wish to be included in this type of cruise. If so, it is important to book early to make sure you have a place.



What's Coming Up?????

2016 "Miata Rally for Kids"

by Tim Sample via Bob Macaulay

Last August 8th marked the inaugural running of the "Miata Rally for Kids" event. Cal and Gail Lander very capably represented our club. They collected some sponsorship money and added it to their personal donation and had a very good time at the event. Cal wrote an article about his adventures in the newsletter (see 2015 #3, page 6). This year's rally promises to be bigger and better than before. We have received some recent announcements from the organizers and they are reprinted below:

The 2016 Moffatt Rally for Kids on August 6th is fast approaching. We have finally been able to establish an exciting route that will start at Orillia Mazda, winding our way up through Woodland Beach and Wasaga Beach, heading for our destination, Thornbury. From there, (after lunch), we will proceed on our way to Maxwell, Terra Nova, Mansfield, Everett, Baxter, Ivy and back into Barrie to Moffatt's Mazda.

As was the case last year, the object is to raise a minimum of \$200 per car with proceeds going to The Shriner's and Easter Seals. Last year, as you may recall, we raised \$7200, which was divided equally between the two benefitting groups. In order to enter, you can either gather pledges, or pay the \$200 yourself.

The schedule will be as follows:

- 9am Registration and light breakfast at Orillia Mazda
- 10am Depart Orillia
- 12:30/1pm Light lunch in the Park in Thornbury
- 2 -2:30pm Depart Thornbury
- 5pm Arrive at Moffatts Mazda in Barrie for a BBQ

We hope you can join us on this fun day and drive with our celebrity Brad May, Stanley Cup Champion and broadcaster for the Buffalo Sabres.



Moffatt's Rally for Kids
in support of
Easter Seals Kids and Shriners Children Hospital

AUGUST 6TH, 2016 AT 9:00 AM
RAISE \$200 PER CAR
MEET NHL STANLEY CUP CHAMPION BRAD MAY

Car rally to start and finish at the Moffatt's Mazda Dealership in Barrie
Prizes for best funky t-shirt, and other surprises.
Register online at www.miatarallyforkids.com or at Moffatt's Mazda
www.moffattsmazda.com

MAZDA UNLIMITED WARRANTY Drive as much as you want, as far as you want.

Logan's Supermarkets, Easter Seals, Shriners Children Hospital, Moffatt's Mazda, Jackson Events, and others.

For more information, contact Tim from Jackson Events at 705-984-3683 or tsample@jacksonevents.ca • www.jacksonevents.ca

2016 "Miata Rally for Kids" (continued)

Please register at *Moffatt's Mazda, Orillia Mazda*, www.miatarallyforkids.com, or through *Jackson Events* at www.jacksonevents.ca
We look forward to seeing you.

Regards

Tim Sample

The most recent update clarifies some of the ways of registering for the event and reads as follows:

The options for registration are threefold: You can either phone Jackson Events, OR download the online registration form from www.miatarallyforkids.com, fill it out and mail it to us, OR drop off the completed registration form at either Orillia Mazda or

Moffatt's Mazda. The pledge form and monies can be brought with you to Orillia Mazda on the day of the event. We would like as much as possible to know ahead of time that you are registered for food planning and logistics reasons; HOWEVER, we do not want to discourage walk-ups.

Bob Macaulay and the other members of the Miataville Council want to remind you that, as a financial incentive to help defray the cost of participating, MoM will provide a subsidy of \$100 (per car) for any members who decide to participate in this fun and worthwhile event. You are also reminded that the starting point will be at Orillia Mazda after all...NOT Moffatt's Mazda of Barrie, as originally indicated some weeks ago on the event poster. We hope to see lots of interest in this worthwhile fund-raising event!



What's Coming Up?????

ALGONQUIN ADVENTURE

WHEN: Tuesday and Wednesday,
August 23 & August 24

This is an overnight cruise. Rooms have been set aside at Best Western Pembroke Inn and Conference Centre (special MOM rate.....\$119 plus tax....breakfast included). Those wishing to participate must reserve their own rooms.

1-613-735-0131 or 1-800-567-2378.....

Ask for Brandy Brown

WHO's INVITED?

All members and their guests



ROUTE and DETAILS:

Leaving Huntsville 9am....Hwy. 11 and Hwy 60...Exit 223 Mark's Work Wearhouse Parking Lot

Day 1 - Cruising through Algonquin Park, Barry's Bay, Pembroke

Day 2 - Departing Pembroke, followed by Eganville, Foymont, Maymooth, Bancroft, Haliburton

TOUR will include:

2 stops in Algonquin Park @ the Art gallery as well as the Interpretive Centre with a Picnic Lunch in Barry's Bay (rain plan organized)

Appetizer party hosted by the Giggs in the hotel lobby...(byob)

Dinner @ Westwinds Family Restaurant IN the hotel....excellent

menu.....info@WestwindsRestaurant.ca

Possibility of attending the Starlight Drive In.....10 minute drive (depends on appropriateness of movie to be determined by August 1st)

Historic viewpoint on return trip followed by a stop in Maymooth....."shopping ladies!!!!!"

Lunch in Bancroft (senior discount on Wednesday)

REASONS for Participating in this Cruise:

The Giggs have ordered excellent weather for August 23 & 24th

There will be NO bug invasion during the picnic as they are long gone by this date

Kawartha Dairy Ice Cream is sold throughout the tour area

Can you picture our 'car parade' lined up in a row (as promised) at one of the last remaining Drive Ins.....and when was the last time YOU attended an outdoor show.....?????....special MOM price

Think of the FUN, FELLOWSHIP & FANTASTIC MEMORIES you will have!!!!

Hope you will join us!

Judy & Ed Gigg

**Hopefully everyone received Notice #1.
Here is a further note:**

****This 'Around Algonquin Park Cruise' is MOM's designated charity cruise for the season, in honour of Enno Hoekstra. Please be generous in making a \$20 donation in Enno's honour. Donations should be forwarded to the cruise directors, Ed or Judy, at some point during the cruise. The collective proceeds will be forwarded to the Rotary Club of Gravenhurst, Enno's favourite charity.

*Thanking you in advance for your consideration...*****

Please respond to Ed and Judy Gigg (egigg72@gmail.com) as soon as you have booked your accommodation for the tour no later than July 31st. If you are unable to attend, please forward your regrets.

The Giggs

Recent happenings

Annual General Meeting, April 24, 2016



by Doug Jackson

A bright, sunny day was the setting for our Annual General Meeting, and that was in stark contrast to some previous years when there has been snow and slush on the roads. Some years, no Miatas make the trek ... this year there were six of us! Lots of members chose to leave their 'summer car' in the garage for a little while longer, but still made the journey in their 'tin-tops' to the Gravenhurst Arena for the AGM. It was good to see everyone again and share in the excitement of planning another year of cruising activities. Obviously, the Miataville Council had met during the winter months to prepare preliminary suggestions that were shared with the members. That aided our discussions and decision-making immensely! A tentative list of cruises and dates was prepared and the finalized list was

emailed to all of the members. The "Cruise Events Schedule" also appears at the beginning of this newsletter **(See page 4)* and you are encouraged to mark the dates on your calendars. Some "lucky draws" were held during the 'coffee and muffins' social time ... Ed and Judy Gigg were the winners of the major prize!



Recent happenings

Spring Fling Cruise and Lunch in Dorset, 2016

by Laurel Bauldry



We had seven cars in the group, 12 members, and headed off for Dorset (the long way around!). It was a pleasant, warm day and everyone enjoyed the ride. We stopped at the Trading Bay Restaurant in Dorset and had a menu of wonderful things to choose from, at a very reasonable price. Several members went to see the Dorset General Store after lunch. We received good reviews, of both the cruise and the lunch, from all who attended. Thanks are extended to Michael and Cal for taking and sharing the photographs!



Angeverra Mazda Miata Open House and Cruise

by Michael Topping



It was a rainy day in Miataville

It was a rainy day in Miataville as our group gathered in the LCBO parking lot to mingle before departing on our “Kruise through the Kawarthas”. The thunderstorms from the previous evening had cleared up enough and, although overcast, our hearty crew would still make its way to Peterborough. Special kudos must go to Ed & Judy Gigg for being the only owner’s car to make the entire trip topless!

The trip to the dealership was problem free (translation = no rain) and upon our arrival, we were greeted by a parking lot full of Mia-

tas. See, the weather doesn't deter a Miata driver at all. The next couple of hours were spent checking out the various Miatas (over 50!) on the lot that ranged from a super low 1990 NA to the brand new 2016's and everything in between.

Some new friends were made, some old acquaintances renewed, and some lies told (don't believe that story about the CB antenna). Our host, Rob Angevarre, was most gracious and had coffee and goodie bags waiting for us when we arrived. They also invited the local radio station who provided music and freebies to attendees. Later in the show, a BBQ was set up and hot dogs and hamburgers were made available to everyone before our group picture from the top of the Dealership.

After lunch it was time to go cruising, so, with the help of the local police, the 50+ Miatas were paraded out of the Dealership, merging with local traffic and eventually ending up at the lift locks for a group



Angeverra Mazda Miata Open House and Cruise

continued



photo. Stephen Wambolt and Jay Sherren from Mazda Canada were on hand to provide support and hinted there may be an article in a future edition of Zoom Zoom magazine.

Leaving the lift locks, we made our way through some of the best

twisties in the area before peeling away from the group and stopping to re-organize ourselves. The Toppings headed off to visit friends in the area and Bob & Carol Macaulay continued the cruise north with some exciting new routes.

It was an interesting day to say the least and I only wish we had more time at the Dealership to talk to everyone. Rob has informed me he intends to host an Open House again next year and with this year's success and great weather, it could be an excellent adventure!



“Momma Bear’s” Ice Cream Run

by Doug, with Photos from Bob

Five cars participated in the second ICR of the season on Tuesday, June 7th. By studying the clothing worn by the participants, you’ll soon realize that it was cold outside ... but ... look at the cars! Do you know what couple drove with the top down for the scenic drive around Bracebridge? Yup ... the Bauldry’s! Those of us who cruised with the heater on appreciated the ice cream served at “Momma Bear’s Ice Cream and Sweets” afterwards!



**Red Caboose Special Ice Cream Run.
Tuesday, June 21, 2016.**

*Cal and Gail Lander
Cruise Directors*



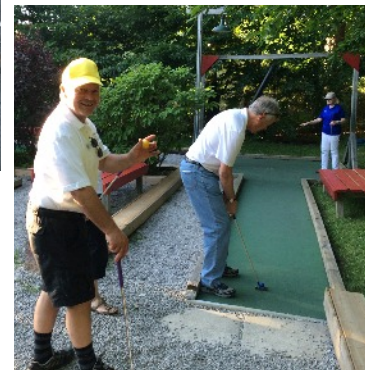
This run was very well attended with a total of nine cars involved. The northern group started out from Huntsville and made their way down to the village of Washago where they were met by the southern group. From there they made their way down through the Rama First Nations Reserve and on into



Orillia via Couchiching Beach Park to finally arrive at The Red Caboose where we had "Pre ordered" our food. This worked well as we had very little wait to eat and were extremely well taken care of by the owner, Nick, and his staff.

Following our meal we all split into four-somes being careful NOT to pair up husbands and wives and all enjoyed a round of mini golf.

Afterwards, of course, the obligatory ice cream was ordered and participants didn't seem in any hurry to leave. The



evening was abruptly ended as the warning horn of one of our Miatas signalled a sudden rain storm causing a mad rush to put the tops up on our cars. (The PRHTs of course had no worries).

The response to the run was quite positive and it seems that this is becoming a popular recurring annual event.



St. Jacob's Farmers' Market and Cruise

June 24 and 25, 2016.



*Cal and Gail Lander
Cruise Directors*

Our intrepid group of 6 cars (12 people) met in Orillia in the parking lot of Home Depot for departure at 9:30 a.m. Two more of our cars would be leaving later from Huntsville to meet us at the hotel in St. Jacob's. Our cruise took us through Midhurst and on to the town of Angus where we took a coffee/whatever break. We continued southeast through rural Ontario passing through the Beautiful Hockley Valley enjoying fantastic vistas on the way and also going through the villages of Arthur (with an unplanned off route excursion on the way), Elmira (entering Mennonite country) and arrived for lunch and an overnight stay in St. Jacob's Holiday Inn Express. In the afternoon some of the group enjoyed the delights of the St. Jacobs outlet mall while others took time to rest up for dinner, while others spent their time in the hotel pool. See the attached pics of our very own swim team. On Friday evening we made our way to the town of Millbank, now with 8 cars having picked up our 2 late arrivals, for a 6 o'clock supper at Anna Mae's Bakery and Restaurant. Unfortunately, construction had closed the direct route to the venue but an afternoon solo reconnaissance run revealed the detour that got us there safely if a little later than planned. Check out the restaurant website [here](http://www.annamaes.ca/) <http://www.annamaes.ca/>. It was well worth the trip.

Saturday included exploring the famous farmers market right next door while some made their way into St. Jacob's village for a look round while others took in a horse drawn wagon ride and enjoyed a local farm tour.

Our return on Saturday was via a different route passing near Elora and Fergus where (full disclosure here) along the way the writer took another off route excursion and for a few minutes we misplaced one of our flock. I think they found us. The route continued on past Orangeville, Violet Hill, and towards Sunnidale Corners on highway 26. Horse-shoe Valley Road was our last main stop where on the way we stopped at a nicely shaded rest stop to say our goodbyes and proceed each on their own towards home. The one thing that was not planned was the group discussion to leave St. Jacob's with the tops up on the cars due to the strong sun and the oppressive heat. Once on the way, though, those tops started going down one at a time.



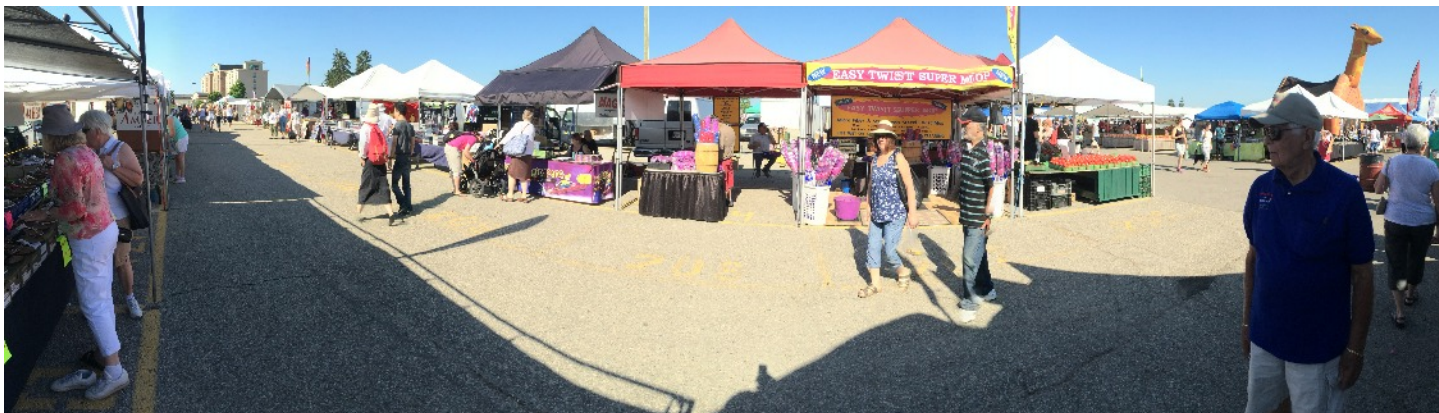
The hotel lobby was a great spot to meet and socialize. Coffee was available 24/7 as well.



Continued

St. Jacob's Farmers' Market and Cruise

June 24 and 25, 2016.



Total of 8 cars (16 people) went, and we had lots of fun on some interesting roads, but boy, was it hot!



The six "Early arrivals" at the hotel.



Meet Miata of Muskoka's St. Jacob's renowned Synchronized Swim team.

Continued

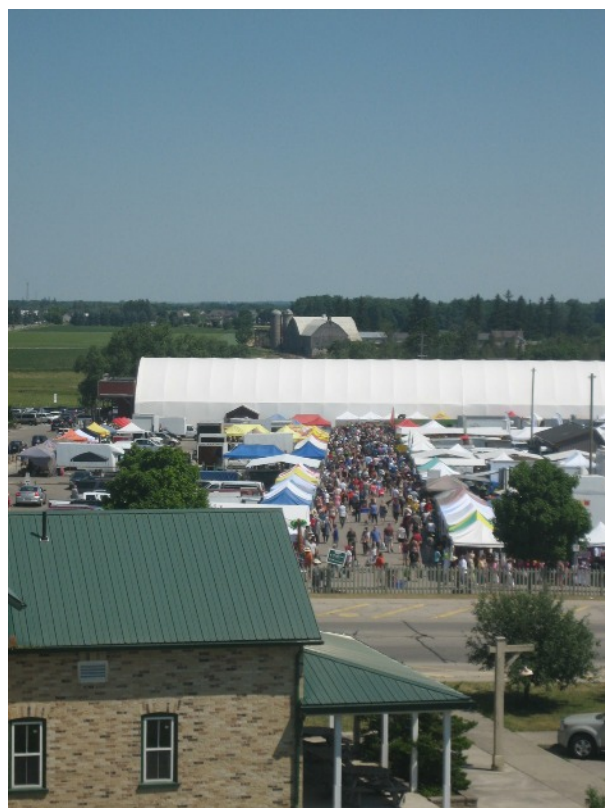


St. Jacob's Farmers' Market and Cruise

June 24 and 25, 2016.



The farmers market as seen from the end of the hall in our hotel....it was quite busy, even though it's early in produce season



Many thanks to Bob Macaulay for the photos submitted to add to my own.

What may just be the world's largest coil of sausage, at one of the indoor meat vendors)

Continued



St. Jacob's Farmers' Market and Cruise

June 24 and 25, 2016.



Some pics of our short ride to the Friday dinner venue at Anna Mae's Bakery & Restaurant in the hamlet of Millbank...the first one taken on the scenic "back roads" detour we took getting there, and the others showing the group at our long dinner table.



How many miles/kilometers has your MX-5 traveled?

Reprinted from *Miata.net*



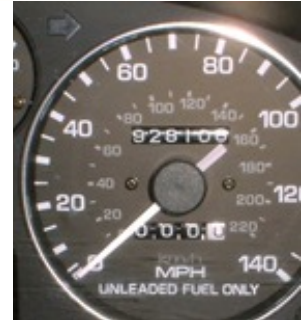
Ralph sent us this photo of his **1990 Miata** with 468,920 miles on the odometer! We're not all that surprised - MX-5 Miatas are incredibly reliable.

I bought in new in 1990. Since then I have changed the clutch 3 times (I will be proactively changing it again in a few months) All the wheel bearings once, one timing belt change, twice replaced the starter, three alternator changes shortly after changing the stereo, changed all the incandecent lights to LED's and that stopped. No work has been done on the engine and drive train except what I've stated and a "temporary" repair I did to the lower timing belt sprocket keyway and ~230,000 miles. I've since outfitted the machine with a dash-cam and replaced the rear overload bumpers with air bags to assist in towing (for about four years I routinely used the MX-5 to tow a half ton of batteries about three times a week to and from jobs, hint: My clutch lasted less than 100,000 miles during that time) I've done all the work myself and have extensive records showing the parts I've purchased from time to time with the occasional trip to a dealer or shop to have the injectors cleaned, etc. It still surprises me every time I put the key in the ignition and it runs. Anyway, I'm committed now. Have to see it through to half a mil just for the bragging rights before I move on.



Honorable Mention?

Why is a Million Mile Miata an Honorable Mention and not the lead story? Frankly, its because we're having such a hard time believing its real.



Dan Masterson's red 1992 Miata has been through the hands of 9 different owners, as well as being used by teenagers and for a courier delivery job. It is literally almost never in the driveway. One of the previous owners also made regular trips from coast to coast in the United States.

This car has had 12 timing belt changes over two engines. It is also on the third transmission.

When asked about the authenticity, Dan responded:

It is for real, no Photoshop. I think it is absolutely amazing, but most of the service records have gone with the owners, there is not a consistent log.

I have done all of the service myself except for the transmission replacement in the nearly 2 years since I bought it with 750,000+ miles. That has also included 3 timing belt replacements and quite a bit of replacing parts. Twelve timing belt replacements total may be a high estimate, but it has probably had it done at least 8 or 9 times.

We were still wondering if it wasn't a photo of a speedo that was removed from the car, with someone having used a drill to fast-forward the digits. Not wanting to be victims of a clever ruse, we asked Dan if he could supply some proof in the form of service records.

Dan hasn't replied yet.

Here Are All the Features Exclusive to the 2017 Mazda MX-5 Miata RF

Reprinted from:

Automobile

By: Jake Holmes March 28, 2016

The 2017 Mazda MX-5 Miata RF is not simply a hardtop version of the AUTOMOBILE All-Star-winning roadster. It's intended to be a slightly more premium option, too, which means Mazda says the Miata RF will offer several pieces of exclusive content you won't find on any Miata soft-top.

For starters, the 2017 Mazda MX-5 Miata RF gets a unique special color TFT display at the left of its instrument cluster.



Where the soft-top model has only a simple, low-res black-and-white display for the trip computer, fuel level, and temperature gauge, the RF's display shows off more information with bright, crisp details.



The available Nappa leather interior of the RF also won't be offered on the soft-top car, further contributing to the premium feel of the Retractable

Fastback. That's not to say soft-top lovers are left out, as the regular Miata does still offer leather seating on its fully loaded Grand Touring trim level.

Another RF exclusive is the fabulous Machine Gray paint color seen here (and the forthcoming CX-9): No matter how hard you beg, that color will remain exclusive to the RF version of Mazda's roadster.



In addition, Mazda says that the Miata RF will come standard with blind-spot monitoring and rear cross-traffic alert on all trim levels. On the normal roadster, Mazda offers BSM and RCTA as standard on the Grand Touring trim level.

Of course, there are a few other tweaks involved in adding a power-folding roof to the Miata. Mazda tells us that the 2017 Miata RF also gets unique sound-system tuning, extra sound deadening with acoustic glass, and different suspension tuning compared to the soft-top.

There's still no official pricing or weight information for the 2017 Mazda MX-5 Miata RF, but we can expect those figures over the coming months.

The first deliveries of the 2017 Mazda MX-5 Miata RF to the U.S. should happen in early 2017.



Route 66 could become a giant solar panel

Reprinted from:

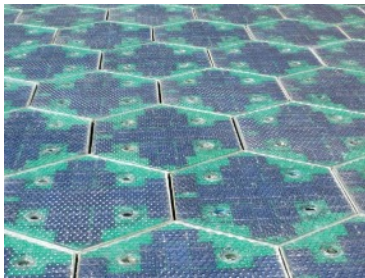
MOTOR AUTHORITY
The Luxury and Performance Leader

By Andrew Ganz

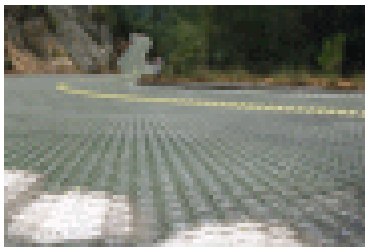
A stretch of Route 66 in Missouri will step well into the 21st century soon when it becomes the first stretch of road in the United States to be covered with pavers that double as solar panels.



The Missouri Department of Transportation applied recently for a grant that would allow



it to test new solar panel "smart pavement" that feeds into the electrical grid and offers a number of other benefits over conventional asphalt and concrete, according to The Kansas City Star. Officials said that they hope to pave a section of road around the Route 66 Welcome Center in



Conway, located in the southwestern corner of the state, by the end of this year.

The result of a crowd-funding initiative a couple of years ago, the pavers that Missouri will use are the creation of inventors Scott and Julie Brusaw. Their firm, Solar Roadways, raised more than \$2 million in

2014 by creating thick tempered glass paving panels that capture the sun's energy.



The panels themselves are designed to be able to deliver the same traction characteristics of pavement, but they contain LED

lights that would eliminate the need for painting road stripes and they also have integrated heating elements capable of melting snow and ice.

It remains to be seen how these pavers will withstand thousands of cars using it daily, the expansion and compression of the earth due to heat and precipitation, or the long-term effects of the sun.



It may, in fact, be better to use these pavers on parking lots first. However, if it works, it's a great energy solution. Here's hoping.

Truth in Advertising??



Mazda MX-5 Miata Features New Bose Sound

Reprinted from:



Bose has announced a new sound system for Mazda's fourth-generation MX-5 Miata roadster.

Redesigned and updated with newly engineered speakers and proprietary technologies, the Bose system in the 2016 MX-5 delivers improved audio performance — optimized for driving with the top down.

Cabin acoustics in the MX-5 differ significantly depending on roof position.



When the top is down, reproducing lifelike sound with a conventional approach compromises clarity and musical detail — vocals and instruments

can be lost when competing with ambient noise.

Bose tuned the system with two separate equalization (EQ) settings – one for top-down driving and one for top-up.

The EQ settings, combined with Bose AudioPilot 2 noise compensation technology, adjust automatically depending on roof position, wind noise and road noise.

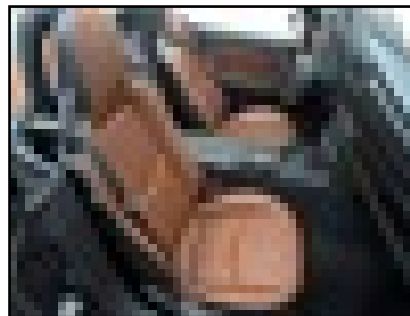
Bose also added new speakers to the driver and passenger seat headrests.



Debuting in the 2016 Mazda MX-5, each pair of 2-inch (50mm) Bose UltraNearfield speakers were developed specifically for headrest

placement and performance rather than simply placing conventional speakers in a headrest to add a feature.

The new Bose UltraNearfield speakers work with proprietary Bose TrueSpace digital signal processing technology — and it's this combination that delivers on the promise of headrest speakers.



TrueSpace technology creates a wide sound stage, even though the speakers are just inches away from the listener.

The music envelops the driver and passenger, it's spacious and natural, and remarkably, it doesn't fade in the breeze.



Fiat Spider's Italian flare

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DAN ILIKA AUTOGUIDE.COM

*Mazda's Miata has been the king of the roadster for 30 years.
How does Fiat's fun new offering compare?*



ready to take another shot at droptop dominance with the 2017 Fiat 124 Spider. And in the ultimate “if-you-can’t-beat-’em-join-’em” fashion, the 124 Spider is based on the very car it hopes to challenge in the sales race. More than a re-badged Miata Three-and-a-half years were spent designing and refining what

The 124 Spider may ride on the same architecture as the fourth-generation Miata, but every bit of bodywork and drivetrain has been swapped out to help set it apart.

If the Mazda MX-5 Miata taught us anything, it's that fun cars don't have to be expensive, complicated or unreliable.

It's been almost 30 years since that car was introduced, and almost 30 years since it forever altered the perception of what a roadster should be. Sure, others came before it — the MGs, Triumphs and Lotuses from Britain; the Alfa Romeos and Fiats from Italy — but Mazda single-handedly resurrected the segment from the ashes in the late 1980s by bringing something those cars didn't: Japanese reliability.

Tired of its roadsters being remembered as little more than relics of bygone days, Fiat is

brand executives hope will be a true halo car for Fiat, and it shows.

The 124 Spider may ride on the fourth generation Miata's architecture, but every bit of bodywork and drivetrain has been swapped out to set it apart from its platform mate.

Like its Mazda sibling, this new Fiat is made from a monocoque unibody with suspension subframes bolted to the front and rear. The two ride on the same 90.9inch wheelbase, though the 124 Spider measures more than five inches longer than the Miata, giving it a decidedly different silhouette hearkening to the Fiat 124 Sport Spider of the 1960s. The overall design follows the course mapped out some 50 years ago, with classic looks that are reserved where the MX-5 is aggressive. If you're looking for a companion

Continued



Fiat Spider's Italian flare . . .continued

for those new perforated leather driving gloves, the 124 Spider would be it.

Italian escargot

Regardless of trim, all cars come with a 1.4-litre Multi-Air turbo four cylinder under the hood. This powerplant sports forced induction, but it's not the turbocharged Miata that fans have been asking for.

With 160 hp (164 hp in Abarth guise) and 184 lb-ft. of torque, it makes more power than the Miata's 2.0 litre, but not enough to wow. Turbo lag is minute, with the full monty of torque on tap from as low as 2,500 r.p.m.

The standard transmission is a six speed manual, boasting short throws and a friendly clutch. It definitely feels different from the Miata, but not better or worse. Low gears are a touch on the short side but make a nice companion to the 1.4-litre when you feel like banging through the gears.

The available six-speed auto is a bit of a mixed bag: great on the highway, but a touch out of its element when the twisties beckon. Putting it in manual mode helped, forcing the Aisin unit to hold the gears a little longer. However, the steering wheel mounted paddles are only available on automatic Abarths. The transmission could also benefit from a sport setting.

The suspension setup, double wishbone up front and multi-link around back, is soft in the right places and at the right times.

Retuned shocks and springs provide a firm yet comfortable ride, making the 124 Spider equally happy carving up corners as cruising the highway. I found the 124's suspension to be more comfortable than the Miata, but still capable in the corners.

Steering, too, is weighted to allow the car to pull double duty. It is not an adjustable setup, but the electrically power-assisted rack and pinion system is equally light and tight depending on the situation.

Stuck in the comfort zone

The exterior of the 124 Spider stands in stark contrast to Mazda's roadster, but not the interior.

The door panels, to the dashboard and centre stack feel too familiar, down to the infotainment system taken straight from the Mazda and dropped into the Fiat, including console-mounted media controls. This is actually kind of a shame, because FCA's Uconnect is more user-friendly.

The cabin, however, feels a touch tighter than the Miata. An aluminum header in the soft top, designed to reduce wind flutter, does taller drivers no favours for headroom. The verdict: 2017 Fiat 124 Spider If the MX-5 Miata is the standard by which all roadsters are measured, where does that leave this new Fiat?

Everything that makes the Miata so lovable — its light weight, great balance and near-impeccable handling — carries over to the Fiat, making it a viable alternative to a car that has dominated the segment for close to 30 years.

So which one is better? It all boils down to taste.

The Fiat brings the same level of enthusiasm and performance as the Mazda, but in a distinctly Italian package that comes across as slightly more modest. It's unlikely the 124 Spider can overtake the Miata as the king of compact roadsters, but it's certainly a worthy contender in affordable, topless fun.



