

Volume 6 No. 3

October 2015

Show me Your Curves

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The Official Newsletter of



What's Coming Up?????

Please remember that when an event notice is posted it is extremely helpful to the cruise directors to have a timely response from all members whether it be a **"Yes"** or **"No"** response.



Miatas of Muskoka 2015 Cruise Event Schedule [Final – May 17, 2015]

| | Cruise Event | Date | Event Type | Cruise Director(s) |
|-----------------------|---|--|-------------------------------|--|
| ✓ | Stratford Cruise & Theatre | Tues.-Weds. June 16 th -17 th | Overnight (1 nite) | Maureen Newton (Bob Macaulay to help) |
| ✓ | Scavenger Hunt | Sat. June 27 th | Day-trip | Lynn Bryan |
| | Peterborough Liftlocks Cruise & Lunch | Tues. July 14 th | Day-trip | Cal & Gail Lander |
| ✗ | Tobermory/Manitoulin Cruise **CANCELLED** | mid-July or mid-Aug. weekend | Overnight (2 nites) | CANCELLED DUE TO LACK OF CRUISE DIRECTOR |
| ✓ | MoM 5 th Anniversary Picnic [venue and details TBD] | Sat. July 25 th | Day-trip | All Councillors |
| ✓ | Joint Charity Cruise** (sponsors Orillia Mazda/Moffat's Mazda Barrie/New Roads Mazda Newmarket) [**joint with Trillium – details being planned] | Sat. Aug. 8 th | Day-trip | No CD req'd – (Bob Macaulay is MoM's contact with event planner) |
| ✓ | UMN (Ottawa club) 20 th Anniversary -- all MoMers invited [pre-reg'n req'd] | Fri.-Sun. Aug. 7 th - 9 th | Overnight (3 nites) | Contact Bob Charlton if interested |
| ✓ | Wasaga Beach Cruise/1812 Re-enactment | Sat. Aug. 15 th | Day-trip | Doug Jackson |
| ✓ | Toyota (Cambridge) Plant Tour [avail. Mon.-Thurs. only] | Thurs. Sept 3 rd | Day-trip | Bob & Carol Macaulay |
| ✓ | Frankenmuth (Michigan) Bavarian Village | Fri.-Sun. Sept. 18 th -20 th | Overnight (2 nites) | Dave & Diane Phillips |
| | Fall Colours (Muskoka)** [**hosting Ottawa club – UMN] | Sat-Sun. Oct. 3 th -4 th | Day-trip (+ other events?) | Michael Topping |
| <u>Ice cream runs</u> | | Every Weds. evg. (starts May 20 th) - meet at Bracebridge Y.I.G. @ 6:30 PM (unless advised otherwise via advance e-mail) [NOTE: "special" ice cream run once a month – advance notices will be provided.] | | |

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

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Editor's Message



What an incredibly busy summer! Since the July 1st edition of the newsletter, our club members have had the opportunity to participate in many different cruises, ice cream runs and an overnight excursion. Hopefully, all of you were able to get involved with at least a few of the activities. In this newsletter, you are challenged to read the articles to discover the answer to the question: "What Miata cruise did not involve driving a Miata?"

I want to say a sincere "Thank you" to all of you who wrote up summaries of events, took photos and then sent them to me. It certainly makes the compilation of the newsletter a whole lot easier when people

submit reports soon after the conclusion of the event!

Once again, I want to thank Cal Lander for sharing his computer wizardry. I simply took the raw material of text and photos and combined them into a story then Cal used his expertise to add all the elements that make the newsletter so visually attractive. Thanks, Cal!

We are now looking forward to the "Fall Colours Cruise" with the Miata Club from Ottawa. Stay tuned for information about a gathering of MoMers before Christmas!

Doug Jackson



Fiat 124 Spider (2016) scooped: meet the MX-5 from Italy

We've finally caught the new 2016 Fiat 124 Spider out on test with its roof down, providing our best look yet at the MX-5 based Italian roadster.

The Fiat group set chatrooms alight with its May 2012 announcement that it was developing an Alfa Romeo roadster in association with Mazda. But in late 2014 it became apparent that Milan was substituting in Fiat and Abarth convertibles instead of Alfa Romeos. Now we can see firm evidence of what we can expect from the Italian sports car - which is tipped to reuse the 124 Spider name from the history books.

Japanese heart, Italian wardrobe:

the Fiat 124 Spider

The global market for sports cars remains challenged - so it makes perfect sense for both Mazda and Fiat to collaborate on this project. The Japanese will build the soft-top in the regular MX-5 factory, but it will be rebodied and re-engineered to provide distinctive products, we hear.

CAR magazine's new spyshots suggest there's plenty of MX-5 in the Italian version, but insiders are adamant the front and rear ends will be markedly different. And is that bonnet venting on this prototype? If so, it would tally with our intelligence that the Italian 1.4-litre turbocharged petrol engines are destined to power the Fiat sports car twins, which are destined for global sale.



We hear that the fast Fiats will use the 1.4, which can be tuned for anything from 140-200bhp. Why not the larger 1750 engine from the Alfa Romeo 4C?



That's being reserved for Alfas, we understand. So Mazda is keeping its Sky-active non-turbo engines to itself, but much of the rear-wheel drive chassis will remain - which bodes well for handling, gearchange quality and more. We can also see that the MX-5's delightfully simple manual canvas hood will continue unchanged on the Fiat (see it in action in our spyshots gallery above).



Cruising Reports...

Peterborough Liftlocks Cruise & Lunch

Tues. July 14th Day-trip

Meeting at Hwy 169 & R.R. 46, groups of enthusiasts totalling 10 cars coming from the north and the south made their way through Kirkfield, the hamlet of Cambray, and Lindsay for a quick rest stop at Whitney Town Centre. We were met there by some new members from the Newmarket area who were able to rendezvous with us for the trip on to Peterborough in time for a great lunch at the Riverside Grill and Gazebo in downtown Peterborough right on the banks of the Otonabee River.

As many of you are aware the original plan was to have a river and lift lock boat cruise but that did not happen so an alternate plan was made to go on to the Lang Pioneer Village. It turned out to be a terrific venue and many thought it was well worth the trip in spite of the threat of and a short period of rain. We then returned north from Peterborough using picturesque



"Miata road" 507 through Buckhorn and on to Gooderham where the northern group broke off to head north while the Orillia contingent headed West into the sunset.

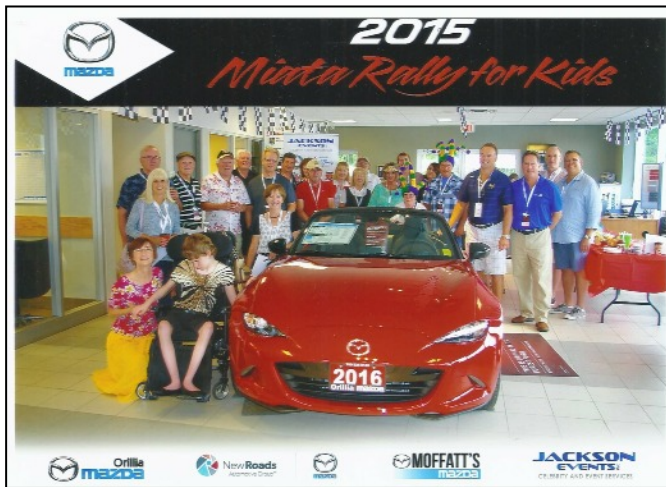
Cal & Gail Lander



Miata Rally for Kids

Saturday, August 8th

The Miata Rally for Kids had its share of controversy in the planning stages and as you know the delays in finalizing the event by the organizers played havoc with our members' schedules. Nevertheless, the club was represented and around \$300 was donated by members as their way of participating. The event was planned and routed so that the start was for breakfast at Orillia Mazda, lunch at New Roads Mazda in Newmarket and a barbecue with entertainment following the event at Moffatt Mazda in Barrie.



After being volunteered to lead a group, our rep was given completely unseen (to this point) route directions and was to lead 6 cars out of our total of 11 (I think). We made our way around the eastern shore of Lake Simcoe through Brechin, Beaverton, Sutton, Keswick and Newmarket before lunch. We made it on time by the way.

After a great lunch we proceeded through Newmarket, Holland Landing, Bradford, on to Gilford and Lefroy on the Western shore of the lake. Then more wanderings along the shore up to Innisfil. The route then went west to cross the 400 highway ending up in the town of Thornton for ice cream. From there it was a backroads tour back to Barrie and Moffatt Mazda. At the final stop we were greeted to a display of various MX-5 models owned by local enthusiasts and the arrival of the new 2016 MX-5. What followed was a fantastic barbecue and dance with a live band that was a credit to the organizers.



Cal Lander

Letter from the organizers;

Thank you so much for participating in the Miata Rally For Kids. We were very pleased with the first year turn out and are happy to announce that we raised \$7180 for the two charities. – The Shriners Children's Hospital and Easter Seals.

We hope you enjoyed your day of driving, seeing the new MX5, breakfast at Orillia Mazda, lunch at New Roads Mazda and having a good time at the BBQ and dance at Moffatts Mazda while meeting Hall of Famer Dale Hawerchuk.

We are working on next year's route and timing and hope you will be participating again for these 2 wonderful causes.



Miatas of Muskoka Fifth Anniversary Picnic

Saturday, July 25, 2015



What a fabulous day to be celebrating a milestone in our Club's history! What a terrific location for a reunion picnic! All of the attendees were thoroughly impressed by the preparations that had been made by our Club Executive to make the day a special one. The emphasis for the reunion was to encourage past and current members of the Club to gather together and share stories of previous cruises and reminisce about activities and events from the past five years. Judging from the laughter and 'kibitzing' from the group, the objective was achieved! The focus was to be on the reunion, not just on the food, but,

boy-oh-boy, did we eat well! The "pot luck" style picnic lunch had something for everyone, with plenty for all to enjoy.



It was enjoyable to sit in the pavilion at the Annie Williams Memorial Park in Bracebridge, right beside the Muskoka River, in the middle of the summer, looking out at a long line of Miatas parked on the grass. Quite a sight!

Fifth Anniversary Picnic



The highlight of the picnic lunch was the presentation, cutting and serving of the special “Fifth Anniversary Cake”. Laurel (along with some adlibbed additions from some of the group!) gave a brief history of the club, and then she and Gordon made the ceremonial ‘first cut’ of the beautifully decorated cake. Of course, with our group, the cake had to be served with ice cream.



After our picnic, there was still time for folks to socialize and reflect on past events and become enthused about future activities for our club. As you would expect, folks also congregated around our cars and had “Miata talk”. The final event of the day was the “raffle” of surplus club apparel. A number of hats and shirts went to lucky “MoMers”.



Fifth Anniversary Picnic



The event was a great success, largely due to the efforts of our Club Executive. The picnic needed to be held on, or near, the anniversary date, but that, of course, is right in the middle of the summer. We knew that a significant number of current and former members were unable to attend, due to other commitments, but we are certain that they were with us in spirit as we celebrated five enjoyable years as a club!



Cal's Drive in the 2016 MX5

Pictured here is one of the most recent immigrants to Canada. Poor little thing has only traveled 12 km. Someone had to give it a full tank of gas.

IT WAS ME!!!!!!!!!!!!



Wasaga Beach “Nancy Island” Cruise

Saturday, August 15, 2015



On a beautiful Saturday morning, five Miatas left the Home Depot parking lot in Orillia and drove through some of the back roads of Oro, Medonte and Springwater Townships enroute to Wasaga Beach. As those of you who have visited “The Beach” in mid-summer already know, the town is extraordinarily

busy, with bumper-to-bumper traffic crawling along the beachfront. To add to the congestion, the local Corvette Club had its 25th reunion, thus there were hundreds of Corvettes in the beach-area parking lots. By phoning ahead, we were able to get our Miatas parked together on the



Nancy Island Historic Site. Walking across the wooden bridge to the site was like going back in time to the early 1800's. Costumed re-enactors were everywhere, giving an excellent presentation of life during the War of 1812 time period. The five couples from our club decided to tour the site following their own interests, but we were all fascinated by the Naval Surgeon who had a display of “Doctor's Tools” for us to shudder at and be grateful for modern medicine!



Wasaga Beach “Nancy Island” Cruise

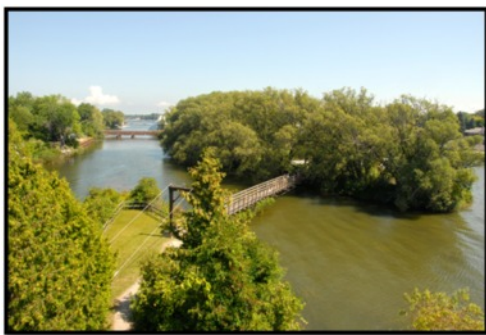
At scheduled intervals, there were noisy, but entertaining, musket and cannon-firing displays, giving insight into the need for strict military discipline and constant drill. There was a large number of tents set up, each with an interesting display of some aspect of life in the 1800's. Some folks were cooking over open fires and offering samples to the visitors. I'm sure that we were all



impressed by the great dedication and personal involvement of the re-enactors in trying to give us an impression of the life of the military and civilian population of this part of the country two hundred years ago.

Some of us walked across the rope bridge to the lighthouse at the tip of Nancy Island and turned to admire the view of the island where a very significant military event happened which had a profound effect on the War of 1812. We all enjoyed the movie which explained the shelling, burning

and sinking of the “Nancy” and the subsequent heroism of a small group of survivors who rowed their small bateaux from present-day Wasaga Beach to Fort Mackinac, a distance of 360 miles, where they captured the two American ships that had sunk the Nancy. After spending a few hours on the



Historic Site, we went for lunch at a local “Boston Pizza”, avoiding the congested roads of town. The group returned to Orillia via scenic back roads, eventually winding up at an old favourite haunt ... The Red Caboose ... for some ice cream! It was a great day with terrific people from the Miatas of Muskoka Car Club!



Thanks to all who participated in the first cruise that we have organized. We enjoyed the experience (and were grateful for outstanding weather)!

*Doug and Sheila Jackson,
Cruise Directors*

Cruise to Toyota Plant, Cambridge

September 3, 2015

by Bob Macauley



The day dawned warm and sunny for our *MoM* cruise to Cambridge for a group tour of the Toyota plant. It turned out to be a day with few dull moments and several notable challenges. Four cars initially departed south from Muskoka, joined by 2 more at Orillia, and we left there about 10:20 AM, with tops down but under heavy cloud and mist, unlike the sunny skies we had left behind in Muskoka. That was

when our group of 6 cars encountered the first detour of the day. Highway 11 further south in Oro-Medonte was apparently closed due to cattle loose on the highway (!) So, we headed off across Simcoe County on Old Barrie Road, a county road which more-or-less parallels Hwy. 11, all the way to Hwy. 400, then went south to Barrie and onward from there.

Our route took us off 400 just south of Barrie, following lots of interesting back roads “across country” to Cambridge, past the outskirts of Alliston, Orangeville and Fergus. It wasn’t long after we headed west from 400 that we encountered a road closure and construction detour (first of two) ... which meant some additional “ad-libbing” off of our planned route. The extra time involved required a couple of unscheduled pit-stops, on the edge of Beeton (to clarify our revised route) and in Loretto (comfort stop.) By this time, the sun was finally breaking through all of the heavy cloud. We carried on southwest through the beautiful Hockley Valley, unfortunately having to follow a dump truck the entire way to Orangeville ... just one of numerous slow dump trucks we had to follow on the way to our destination. We finally got into the outskirts of Cambridge quite a bit later than expected, around 1:15 PM, and, after temporarily losing one car at a roundabout, we hurriedly sought a local *Tim Hortons* (which we couldn’t find) in a large retail centre about 10 minutes from the Toyota plant. We had to settle for a quick muffin/cookies in a café nearby, and then had a quick ride over to the plant for the 1:45 check-in prior to our 2 PM reserved group tour.



After a brief safety lecture and orientation video, the tour itself was quite fascinating. That particular plant complex covers 3 million square feet, employs about 8,000 people, and produces 2 of Toyota’s best-selling models – the Corolla sedan, and the Lexus RX350 SUV. Each shift of 8 hours produces 1,150 Corollas and 200 RX 350s, in the north and south

Toyota Plant, Cambridge

plants which comprise the overall complex – our tour was in the Corolla plant, as the RX line was being re-tooled for an updated version of that model. The amount of automation in the plant was really quite staggering – not only the many robots doing basic repetitive jobs like lifting and welding body panels, but also the sophistication of the systems controlling everything from the arrival of sub-components and parts to the line, to the speed of the line itself and the ergonomics of the line workers' access to different aspects of each vehicle at different stages of the assembly process.

And the cleanliness of the plant floor was amazing!...it looked as though you could literally eat off it.

Afterwards, because we hadn't had time for a proper lunch before the tour, the group decided we should return to the same café and have something more substantial before heading for home.

Unfortunately, as we walked out of the Toyota visitor centre, the skies opened and it began to rain steadily, eventually becoming a hard downpour by the time we got back to the café. Once everyone had had a decent (very late) lunch, we departed and headed north...unfortunately, by then (4:15 PM), we were caught up in the combined

Kitchener/Cambridge rush hour, which included many heavy trucks in that industrial precinct. That also made it very difficult to keep the group together (thank God for CBs!), but after about 25 minutes, we eventually got ourselves back out into the country and headed northeast. By then, the unsettled weather had turned really stormy, and we had to cope with repeated torrential downpours as we made our way back toward Orangeville...at one point so heavy that we decided to pull off for a few minutes and wait it out. When it let up, we continued northeast, arriving in Orangeville for gas and a pit-stop shortly after 6 PM, under very threatening skies -- "*looks like something out of the Wizard of Oz*" was one of the remarks over the radio as we approached our Orangeville stop.

We carried on, ad-libbing away from our planned route again to stay away from Highway 400 until Barrie, since it was the Thursday evening before a long weekend. We eventually arrived back in Orillia and south Muskoka around 7:30-8 PM. All-in-all, despite being a longer day than expected, with several challenges along the way, it was another enjoyable and successful *MoM* cruise.

Bob & Carol Macaulay, Cruise Directors



Upcoming:
Fall Colour Tour on
October 3 with the
Underground Miata Network
from Ottawa.
Stories yet to be told!!!

Frankenmuth Overnight Cruise

By: Dianne Phillips, Cruise Director

On Friday, September 18th, 4 MoM couples (Phillipses, Macaulays, Bauldrys, Landers) set-off for a weekend visit/stay in and around Frankenmuth, Michigan. Because of the length of the drive (over 7 hours with stops along the way), the group decided to use only major highways for the planned route, so instead of the usual Miatas, we travelled in 2 regular "tin-tops", a Mazda CX-7, and a CX-5...at least we stayed true to Mazda!



After our long trip there, we arrived at our hotel, *Holiday Inn Express* in Birch Run, MI, which is about 1.5 hours from the border at Sarnia/Port Huron. Although it was later in the afternoon, there was time for an "outlet" shopping expedition at *Birch Run Premium Outlets* mall right across I-75 from our hotel. This was followed by an eventful dinner at a local restaurant called *Tony's*, where massive servings are the norm; for example, a BLT sandwich with one pound of bacon (!!!), or a banana split with a half gallon of ice cream (!!!) Our little group tried to be good about our orders, but there were still lots of left-overs. This place is definitely worth a visit.



Saturday morning, after a nice hot breakfast at the hotel, we made our way to the quaint Bavarian-themed village of Frankenmuth, about 7 miles



from the hotel, and filled our morning with a tour of *Bronner's Christmas Wonderland*, which is billed as the "World's

Largest Christmas Store." Needless to say, we all walked out with an assortment of new Christmas decorations and/or gifts. We then went up to the Frankenmuth main street for a walk-around (lots of interesting shops and restaurants) and a nice lunch at *Kaffee Haus*. After an afternoon return to the hotel for a well-deserved rest, we drove back up to Frankenmuth for dinner at the famous *Bavarian Inn Restaurant*, renowned for its Bavarian décor and German cuisine; we feasted on wonderful schnitzel dinners and some interesting starters/salads. We were glad to have made reservations well in advance, as the line-up to get in was very long, and we were ushered right to our reserved table with no delay, much to the dismay of the people waiting in line.



We could not leave on Sunday without another trip over to the outlet mall for a few final purchases. By 11:00 AM, we were on the highway again heading for home, when one of the couples in our group realized that their Canadian money was missing. Fortunately, after some frantic discussions and a call back to the hotel, they determined that one of the cleaning staff had found it in their room, and hotel management promised to

Frankenmuth

return the funds to them by mail. It's nice to know there are still honest people around. Our return to Canada through Customs at the Bluewater Bridge in Sarnia occurred



without incident or undue delay, and we were on our way home, arriving in the early evening.

Thanks to all who participated in a wonderful weekend adventure...and a special thanks to our two capable drivers, Bob & Cal.



Special Ice Cream runs . . .

Red Caboose Mini Golf

From Bob and Carol Macaulay

A **Special Ice Cream Run** was held on Wednesday, July 22. Bob and Carol suggested that instead of the usual meeting spot at the Bracebridge Y.I.G. at 6:30 PM after dinner, the group should organize and cruise before dinner. The destination was one of our favourite haunts, the **Red Caboose**, in Orillia. The participants ordered dinner from the (now black instead of red) cookhouse and then had dessert! What dessert? *Kawartha Dairy Ice Cream*, of course!



When everyone finished dinner and ice cream, the group went to the Miniature Golf course right on the site. As you can tell by looking at the photos, the "golfers" were extremely focused on their game and were obviously very competitive!

As you can see from the photos, the weather was awesome, the socialization was enjoyable and the activity was stimulating! It was a great outing for the second of the "Special Ice Cream Runs"



Special Ice Cream runs . . .

Special ICR to Camp Muskoka Coffeehouse

by Laurel Bauldry

We have found a new ice cream shop to visit! The ice creams are totally different from what we are used to, and the ice coffees there are to die for. What is the name and the location of this "New Discovery"? The **Muskoka Coffeehouse**, a subsidiary of Camp Muskoka in Bracebridge, has been

opened in the town of Port Carling. It is really worth the drive! Drivers and passengers in nine cars did a surprise run on Wednesday, August 5th and were given a special treat. The owner gave us coupons and everyone enjoyed a \$1.00 ice cream cone! Truly well worth the drive!

We don't have any photos to include with this report ... but we are certain that you can all visualize our club members enjoying the special treat!



Special ICR to Hammond Collection

by Laurel Bauldry



extraordinary garage and the superb collection housed within truly awed us! The walls and display cases showcased a vast array of the many mementos he has collected over the years! His collection of International Trucks is truly im-

The fourteen members of the "Miatas of Muskoka" Car Club who drove their cars on August 19th truly enjoyed viewing the astonishing private collection of International Trucks and specialized vehicles of Mr. Paul Hammond, the founder of Muskoka Transport in 1971. The museum-like setting of his ex-



pressive. He has detailed information about the backgrounds of each vehicle on display. Paul Hammond drives some of the trucks in his collection throughout Bracebridge on many occasions and you can often see him behind the wheel of one of his babies!



Later on we went to Momma Bear's for our ice cream treat.

Fun was the name of the run and we truly did have fun.



Special Ice Cream runs . . .

Featuring a Corn Roast

Hosted by Don and Maureen

Well, another fall corn roast has come and gone and this time we were not "holed up" in the garage. Actually, people wore shorts and flip flops! With

temperatures in the high 20's on September 2nd, we had very pleasant, but unusual, weather for our annual corn roast.

Twenty-two members of the club were expected and eighteen showed up, thus allowing us to have as much corn as we wanted!



We partook of nibblies, refreshments, corn, marshmallows, ice cream cones and good, lively conversation. Unfortunately, the sun descended behind clouds so the usual spectacular sunset of this time of year was missed.

A huge thank you to all who carried everything up from the back yard to the house, making the clean up crew's job so much easier!



News

Muskoka Life Article

In case you haven't yet seen it, the September-October Edition of *Muskoka Life* Magazine is now out on newsstands, and includes Kim Goggins' story on driving Muskoka's roads (and Miatas of Muskoka)...Bob and Carol Macaulay and Gordon and Laurel Bauldry are featured front and centre. Can I have your autographs the next time we cross paths?...

Here's a link to the online digital version...go to pgs. 24-25, which is where the story starts:

<http://edition.pagesuite-professional.co.uk/Launch.aspx?pbid=219ba-eea5-4e75-962e329640e7e>



Chuckle

I was driving my Miata, enjoying the top down' experience, when I saw the flash of a traffic camera. I figured that my picture had been taken for exceeding the limit even though I knew that I was not speeding. Just to be sure, I went around the block and passed the same spot, driving even more slowly but again the camera flashed. Now I began to think that this was quite funny, so I drove even slower as I passed the area once more, but the traffic camera again flashed. I tried a fourth and fifth time with the same results and was now laughing as the camera flashed while I rolled past at a snail's pace. Two weeks later, I got five damn tickets in the mail for driving without a seat belt!!

Hallowe'en



Who knows
what evil lurks
in the heart of
an MX-5

