

# Editor's Message



# Happy New Year!

It's that time of the year when many of us make some resolutions which we try to follow in the next year. If that is your tradition ... why not include some resolutions for the next year of the Miata Club! How about trying to attend more of the cruises in 2016? Why not try to participate in some more ice cream runs? What about volunteering to lead a cruise? Where could you contribute some of your skills and talents for the good of the group? Please consider the "Miatas of Muskoka" as you make your New Year's Resolutions this

As we reflect back on 2015, we are reminded of the numerous trips and activities that took place during the 'driving year'. A sincere "Thank You" to those folks who organized and led the trips, to those who acted as sweeps on year! the cruises, to those who are on the executive and spend hours quietly working on behalf of the membership. Kudos for a job well-done!

The compilation of the newsletter is certainly easier when folks write up summary articles, take photographs, find interesting articles online, discover funny jokes ... and then send them to me! Throughout the year, I have amassed some very interesting and informative material. Cal and I attempt to articles/photos/links/jokes that some (hopefully all) will find interesting. We include all of the activity of the club plus some other encourage all of you to send any of the above to us ... we would rather have too much than too little for future newsletters!

Cal Lander has been a tremendous help to me. My computer skills are very basic word-processing and photo-manipulation. Cal takes my basic raw material to a state of the terial to a whole new level! Thanks, Cal, for sharing your talent with the club. The newsletter is so visually appealing because of your hard work!

Just because your Miata may be 'sleeping for the winter' doesn't mean our club is also asleep. There is an executive meeting in mid-January and a "Mid-Winter Blahs" gathering in the planning stages. If you have any suggestions for cruises for next year, please contact any of the Miataville Council.

Doug Jackson



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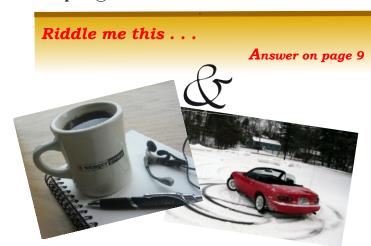
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**Show Me Your Curves** is a quarterly publication of a Miata enthusiasts group known as the **Miatas of Muskoka**... We are a small group that like to explore the twisty back roads and scenic lakes in Canada's

premier vacation playground ..... Muskoka.

Visit our Website at

URL:http://www.miatasofmuskoka.com/

Or

Check us out on Facebook: miatasofmuskoka.

Special Thanks to



For their ongoing support of our group

# Remembering Enno Hoekstra . . .

# "Farewell Party", Sunday, December 27, 2015

summary by Doug Jackson



Some of the members of the "Miatas of Muskoka" car club attended the memorial tribute held for the late Enno Hoekstra at the Terry Fox Hall at the Gravenhurst Community Centre. The size of the room and the number of attendees were a testament to the high

esteem in which Enno was held in the community.

Our club members will remember Enno as an enthusiastic and supportive participant in our activities and cruises. He volunteered to be "Membership Director" and served in that capacity last season. His willingness to



### Fall Colours Tour

By Michael Topping

California has the Pacific coast highway, Tennessee has the tail of the Dragon (GAP) but one has to go out of their way to travel these roads. However, if you live in Muskoka you just have to go out the front door to enjoy some of the best sporty driving roads anywhere. The local back roads have been a treat to enjoy for all of our club members and when the summer cools and we enter autumn, the enjoyment is enhanced by the explosion of colour in the area.

Only one cruise has been so popular it has been held every year since MoM's inception - The Fall Colours Cruise. Held the same weekend each year, it has grown from a quick tour of the three major lakes to an invitational, hosting neighbouring Miata Clubs such as Trillium, Niagara-On-The-Lake and this year the Ottawa Group (Underground Miata Network).



The pre-cruise dinner at Deerhurst for 23 UMNers and 10 MoMers was a lovely evening on Peninsula Lake overlooking the vast array of colour outside just to tease our guests a little. Well, except for the colour part, things were exactly as planned. It was just an informal welcoming event for the Ottawa group to

enjoy a nice dinner after their long trip to get here. They were excited and asked if they could expect to get a little top-down driving in. My response was it was generally cool but MOST years we did just that,



although the year the NOTL group was here, we almost drowned, so you never know, right!

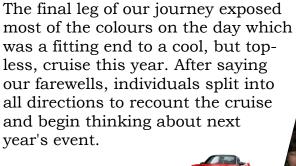
The only day it might rain ....Sat ????? C'mon...

Okay so the weather forecast said it would be a little cool but the sun would be shining, right? That's a little like saying Little Orphan Annie and Raquel Welsh are both girls, technically it's true but.......

So Saturday morning it was sunny, yet the wind was cold, particularly on the high-ways but these little beasts have great heaters, right, and we're a hearty group, so the entire group headed out on our adventure ... topless!

The first part of the cruise took us south and east of Huntsville, with a brief pit stop in Baysville, before making our way to the Wharf in Gravenhurst so our guests could enjoy lunch while looking out at the bay to view the Segwun & Wenonah II steam-

ships. It was also a time to warm up and get to know our guests a little better before heading north again. After lunch the entourage headed towards Rosseau and a couple of groups stopped off at Johnston's Cranberry Marsh for a quick walk about and purchase a few tasty souvenirs. Unfortunately for the groups that bypassed that opportunity, they were left waiting at the docks for everyone to catch up before heading east back to Huntsville.







# Year End Banquet at Pine Lodge Inn

By Bob Macauley and Doug Jackson

We did not get much snow during the months of November and December this year, but the day and evening of our annual Year-end Banquet was one of the blusteriest! The Miataville Council had booked the Pine Lodge Inn in Port Sydney for Saturday evening, November 21st. Until that week, we all could have driven our Miatas! The cold winter weather did not deter our MoMers, however, as 18 folks arrived to enjoy a terrific dinner. We had the entire dining room and adjoining lounge area to ourselves! We enjoyed liquid refreshments and friendly conversation in the lounge prior to dinner. Doug brought his computer and showed a collection of photos from the numerous events held this year. It ran as a loop, so people were able to gather around, view the show and reminisce about the pleasant Miata days while a winter snow storm developed outside. We had a delicious meal and it. was suggested that we consider returning here for lunch as part of one of our cruises! Following dinner, we reconvened in the lounge and then Gord and Laurel

presented each of the club members with logoed license plate frames. Imagine! A Christmas present



for a car! It was a great evening and we thank the co-ordinators for organizing it!







# <u>Miatas of Muskoka</u> 2015 Cruise Event Participation Summary

Date	<b>Event Type</b>	# of Participant Cars
May 15th	Day-trip	10
June 16th-17th	Overnight (1 nite)	3
June 27th	Day-trip	4
July 14th	Day-trip	
July 25th	Day-trip	12 (22 people)
Aug. 8th	Day-trip	1
Aug. 7th- 9th	Overnight (3 nites)	2
Aug. 15th	Day-trip	5
Sept 3rd	Day-trip	6
Sept. 18th-20th	Overnight (2 nites)	4
Oct. 3th-4th	Day-trip	10 ( <i>MoM</i> cars)
Average participation: 6 cars per cruise event	Editor's Comment: Bob's summary should stimulate some thoughtful reflection on this past year's events. Perhaps we should all resolve to attend more of the events planned for us by the coordinators. It would be nice to see the average attendance go up from 6 cars per event to a number closer to 9 or 10.  Thanks, Bob Macaulay for tracking these "statistics"!	
Every 2nd Weds. evg. from mid-May to end of September Total of 13 runs (incl. 1 "special" run per month) Average participation: 5.3 cars per ice cream		
	May 15th  June 16th-17th  June 27th  July 14th  July 25th  Aug. 8th  Aug. 7th- 9th  Aug. 15th  Sept 3rd  Sept. 18th-20th  Oct. 3th-4th  Average participation: 6 cars per cruise event  Every 2nd Weds. evg. from mid-May to end of September Total of 13 runs (incl. 1 "special" run per month) Average participation: 5.3 cars	May 15th  Day-trip  June 16th-17th  June 27th  Day-trip  July 14th  Day-trip  July 25th  Day-trip  Aug. 8th  Day-trip  Aug. 7th- 9th  Overnight (3 nites)  Aug. 15th  Day-trip  Sept 3rd  Day-trip  Sept 3rd  Day-trip  Sept. 18th-20th  Overnight (2 nites)  Oct. 3th-4th  Day-trip  Average participation: 6 cars per cruise event  Every 2nd Weds. evg. from mid-May to end of September Total of 13 runs (incl. 1 "special" run per month) Average participation: 5.3 cars  Day-trip  Editor's Compatted events. Perhaps attend more of the by the coordinate see the average cars per event to 10.  Thanks, Bob Mathese "statistics"

# Fiat 124 Update . . .

by Doug Jackson

In the July edition of the newsletter, we included an article about the new Fiat 124. Well, it was unveiled in Los Angeles recently. I don't know about you, but I like the looks of the Miata MX5 better! If you would like more information about the "new kid on the MX5 block", check online or follow the link:

info from "AutoExpress" (www.autoexpress.co.uk)



# Fiat 124 Spider revealed at 2015 LA Motor Show

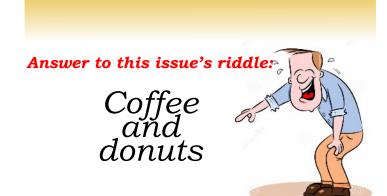
As part of the joint venture agreement with Mazda, both the Fiat 124 Spider and the Mazda MX-5 are to be made at Mazda's factory in Hiroshima, Japan. The agreement between Fiat and Mazda was that the MX-5 will launch first and take centre stage in 2015, with Fiat's alternative offering coming 12 months later in 2016 - that means we should see the Fiat launch in summer next year.

Being based on the MX-5, the new Fiat Spider will, of course, share certain key components such as the wheelbase and lightweight chassis with its Mazda stablemate

This means the new roadster will weigh in at less than 1,000kg, while for the Abarth version the 1.4-litre engine could be tuned to "200[bhp] without issue". On top of the additional power, expect the Abarth to get stiffer suspension, more aggressive styling and bigger brakes.

Given that the basic MX-5 has just 129bhp and does 0-62mph in 8.9 seconds, a 200bhp-plus version could offer genuine Porsche Boxster-rivalling performance.





# Miataland, in Piedicolle, Umbria, Italy

#### Summary by Doug Jackson

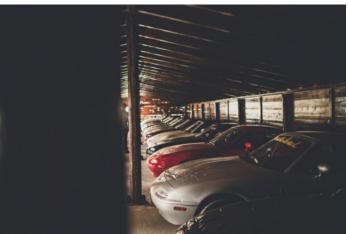


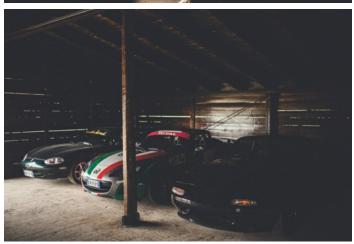
At the December Christmas Party, held at the Pine Lodge Inn, Cal and Bob distributed copies of the most recent "ZoomZoom" magazine. My copy is now rather dogeared because I have gone back to

look at some of the articles numerous times. I am particularly fascinated by three of the pieces: the cover-shot article about driving the mountain passes of Europe, the RX7 drive through our part of Ontario and the development of Miataland in Italy. Miataland! Who wouldn't want to go there! What a fabulous place to spend a few days! When, or if, I ever return to Italy, I will definitely try to locate this place! What could be better ... a gorgeous inn and your choice of over 30 Miatas to drive when you stay there!

I searched online for additional information and pictures of the place and the country-side and found a photographer, Amy Shore, who had spent three days exploring the region in different Miatas. She visited Miataland in November and took many, many photos. I found her pictures to be most interesting and I encourage you to both read the article on pages 30 to 37 in ZoomZoom and look at the photos from Amy by following the link:







http://amyshorephotography.com/2015/11/12/italian-miataland/



### December 2010 vs December 2015

By Michael Topping

### What global warming????

Xmas 2010 I dropped the top and drove around the block on Christmas Day just to be able to say I did it. It was very cold and, of course, lots of snow on the ground (See Vol.2 No.2 of the newsletter in the archives).



This year nothin', nodda, nyet, zero and as mild as you please. Again, I only drove around the block but could have easily driven all day!





# Musta Rally for Kids

Charity Event August 6, 2016

Update from Tim Sample, Event Coordinator

Due to some challenges, we have changed the date of this year's "Miata Rally for Kids" to August 6th from the 13th. We are working on all the details and hope to have everything finalized by mid-February. Please post in your calendar of events. Each car would be responsible to raise a minimum of \$200 through pledges or themselves with the money going to The Shriners Children's Hospital and Easter Seals. Details to follow.

#### New Michelin Tires

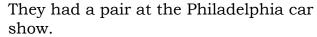
No more **Fix-a-flat**, no more **air compressors**, no more **spare tires**, no more **auto jacks**, no more **tools rattling** in the trunk. Will it reduce the price of cars? Will it reduce the cost of roadside service? Will some businesses go out of business? Coming soon!

They have been testing these for several years now. Resilient Tech was developing them for the military.

MICHELIN WILL PUT THEM ON ALL OUR CARS SOON



Amazing new tires...
Michelin Tires... Absolutely SCARY
looking... Look for 'em in August.
These tires are made in South Carolina, USA....



Yes, those are 'spoke' like connections to the inner part of the tire from the outside tread 'wrap!'

The next picture shows how odd it looks in motion...

Makes you wonder how the ride feels doesn't it?



These tires are airless and are scheduled to be out on the market very soon. The bad news for law enforcement is that spike strips will not work on these.

Just think of the impact on existing technology:

- A. No more air valves...
- B. No more air compressors at gas stations...
- C. No more repair kits..
- D. No more flats... These are actual pictures taken at the South Carolina plant of Michelin.



# THE FIRST MAJOR CHANGE IN TIRES SINCE BICYCLES





# Absolutely Incredible. . .

Anybody who has any sense of the dedication to a job done to the nearest level of perfection, who sees beauty in such purism of craftsmanship, who can appreciate the dedication and love of a person for such an impeccable job, who can relate to the ability of a single person to do what Lou has done with after years of dedication, all these people must applaud Mr. Louis Chenot for having accomplished such a task. A miniature functioning replica 1932 Duesenberg by Louis Chenot

No, it's not a real full-size Duesenberg, but rather a beautifully constructed 35" long working model made in 1/6 scale. Louis Chenot has spent the past ten years building this incredibly detailed 1932 SJ Duesenberg LaGrande dual-cowl phaeton. Not only does it look good, but the engine runs, the lights work,the top mechanism functions and the transmission and driveline are complete.

Lou started his research on this project over fifty years ago with the purchase of a book and through the following years collected many drawings and studied a number of Duesenbergs while they were being restored, taking photos and recording dimensions.

Here's a shot of the finished car from the side on its specially made display table. The model weighs about 60



pounds. Lou's 40 year career was spent as a mechanical engineer. In the 1960's he spent 7 years restoring a vintage 1930

Cadillac convertible that was on the show circuit for years, but now he prefers to work on smaller projects in the comfort of his



home shop.
The bodywork is all metal, not fibreglass. Here is the car in Lou's shop before the brass coachwork was primed or

painted.

Lou is not adverse to remaking a part that doesn't meet his standards. He started over on the especially difficult brass radiator



shell nine times. Here is the engine removed from the model and sitting on its test stand. The transmission is in the foreground. Most running models are built at larger scales like 1/3 or 1/4. Working in the smaller

1/6 scale magnifies the problems caused by miniaturizing certain parts. Remember that these scale parts are 1/6 as long, 1/6 as high and 1/6 as deep as real parts, making them  $1/6 \times 1/6 \times 1/6$  or 1/216th the volume of the original part. By comparison, a 1/3 scale model is 1/27th the volume and a 1/4 scale model is 1/64th the volume. Further complicating the prospect of building a running engine at that size is the fact that fuel molecules and electricity don't scale. It is very difficult to get tiny carburetors and little spark plugs to work like the big ones.

A video of Lou starting and running the engine for the first time can be seen at

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f6TetkMpFIc



Inside the straight eight engine are all the correct parts custom machined to scale from steel, cast iron and aluminum.

Here we see the block and crankshaft at the top. Arrayed below the block are the cast iron cylinder sleeves, pistons, wrist pins and assembled connecting rods. Even though there would be no way to tell once it is all assembled the cylinder head shows that Lou didn't cheat. The engine has 4 valves per cylinder--32 total--just like the real one.



Here is the head (before painting) with the camshafts in place— there are

16 lobes on each shaft. (The apparent curve of the upper shaft is caused by the camera's wide angle lens.)

The gears inside the differential will never be seen by anyone, but Lou cut them as actual hypoid gears like the real one rather than machining simpler bevel gears.



This is the dashboard and interior with the body primed but not yet painted. Note the detailed instruments and engine-turned finish on the dash.



The complicated convertible top mechanism is shown in the lowered position before the canvas top material was installed.

Louis Chenot (Left) and Joe Martin (Right) inspect progress on the chassis and engine at the NAMES show in Detroit in 2007. Lou was presented with a special Lifetime Achievement award by the



completion but the engine had not yet run.





Now that the engine runs and the model is completed, Lou has been selected as the foundation's "Metalworking Craftsman of the Year." The award includes an engraved award

medallion and a check for \$2000.00. Lou is the 15th person to receive this coveted annual award.

Because it is likely that this could well be the finest running model car ever built in this small a scale, Lou's award this year will be presented as the "Craftsman of the Decade."

More can be seen on this car and some of Lou's other projects at

http://www.craftsmanshipmuseum.com/chenot.htm



### Your Best Car Buys

If you're considering a new car purchase and plan on negotiating the deal on your own, there are a few facts you should know before you step foot into the dealer's showroom.

First, never let a salesperson pressure you into buying a vehicle, with comments such as, today is the last day for this sale or this is the last vehicle currently in stock.

Before you sign the purchase agreement, make sure you know exactly what you're paying for, many times after all your hard negotiating, the dealer then adds on their administration fees which can range from \$300 to \$800.

If you're financing the vehicle -What is the interest rate? What is the term ( number of months )? What is the payment schedule ( weekly, biweekly or monthly )

A true story, a customer came to me after purchasing his vehicle, his only require-

#### Reprinted from Car Choice Canada

ment at the time of purchase was that his bi-weekly payments must be less than \$200.

After the purchase, he had no idea of the term of financing (96 months), interest rate (3.99%), administration fee (\$723) or many extras, Rustproofing (\$699), Extended warranty (\$1,500), Armour Dent Protection (\$1,200), this person was truly taken advantage of by the salesperson.

Just make sure you know what you're buying, the salespeople are trained to sell and they are paid a commission for their sales. Remember, there is No cooling off period in auto sales, if you sign the Offer to Purchase, you own that vehicle, no cancellation.

Car Choice Canada only deals with reputable car dealers with a good past track record and that stand behind their vehicles.





# Miata With More Power Than A Veyron Drifts Around The Track

The NC Miata was built from 2006 to 2015 and came with a spunky, but not so fast 170 horsepower 2.0-liter four-cylinder engine. New Zealand drifter Mad Mike Whiddett figured that the Miata could do with a little more than 170 hp. After installing a four-rotor engine and twin Garrett turbochargers, the RADBUL Miata was set to make over 1,500 horsepower! The car was eventually detuned to 1,032 because the tires were smoked way too quickly. This Miata still has crazy horsepower and the noise from the four-rotor sounds like 1,000 bees







attacking.





### The Prettiest And Sportiest Roadster Has Just Arrived

But it's only for enthusiasts in the UK. The Mazda MX-5 Miata is arguably one of the best sports cars on the market today that every enthusiast can afford. While it's quite enjoyable in its stock form, Mazda has a history of creating special editions of the roadster for European markets and is con-



tinuing that tradition with a range-topping MX-5 Sport Recaro Limited Edition. The Recaro Limited Edition is limited to only 600 units and, as

of right now, just to the UK. As its name suggests, the special edition features a host of performance updates that make the sports car sharper.















For a more aggressive look, the MX-5 receives a Sports Aero kit that includes rear and side skirts, a front and rear spoiler, 17-inch alloy wheels and a set of black door mirrors that differentiate the special edition over the stock vehicle. Performance wise, the new model gets the larger 2.0-liter fourcylinder engine, but doesn't come with any power upgrades. However, the special edition gets Bilstein dampers, a strut tower bar and a limited-slip differential. On the inside, the MX-5 gets a set of leather and Alcantara Recaro seats with red stitching. The dashboard panel is also finished in Alcanatra, while alloy pedals and a numbered badge round out the upgrades.



# This Miata-Based Roadster Made Out Of Hemp Is Totally Dope



by Jay Traugott

Seriously, you can buy one right now. It's not the first time this has been thought of. Henry Ford had the same idea to utilize industrial hemp for the production of car parts, specifically body panels. Ford actually tried this in 1941 but nothing came of it, but this didn't stop designer and retired Hewlett-Packard employee Bruce Dietzen from trying again and succeeding. The result is the (first two gens) Mazda Miata based Canna 100 and 130, the Canna Turbo 265, and the Canna EV. Each variant has a body that's made of pure

hemp. The fibers are woven and hardened with resin and then



And, with the obvious exception of the Canna EV, the cars are gas-powered and can even run on ethanol. If hemp ethanol ever goes on sale, that'll work too. The base 100 and 130 models weigh about 2,200 lbs and produce 100 hp and 130 hp, respectively. The Canna Turbo 265 has – you guessed it – 265 hp and tips the scales at 2,400 lbs. That, according to its official specs, is a weight ratio comparable to the Porsche 911 Cabrio. The Denver Post recently reported that Dietzen drove one of his cars from his

home state of Florida to Denver, Colorado in the hopes of attracting investors. Starting price? \$42,000. And no, Dietzen doesn't smoke dope; he only drives it.







# The Top Cars Sold at Auction in 2015

Automobile magazine covered a huge amount of car auctions last year, and certain classic cars stood above the rest. After taking a look back at our picks for "Best Buy" and "Big Money," we assembled this list of the top cars sold at auction in 2015.

#### 1976 Jensen GT



Sold for: \$10,450 Barrett-Jackson Scottsdale sale, January 10-18, 2015

A sport wagon from the quirky British manufacturer, this particular Jensen has traversed just 8,000 miles since new.

#### 1968 Toyota Corona



Sold for: \$11,500 Bonhams, January 15-17, 2015

Once regarded as cheap and reliable

transportation, the increasing presence of vintage Japanese metal at car auctions signals the gradual market shift that is well underway.

#### 1968 Intermeccanica Italia Spyder



Sold for: \$181,500 RM Sotheby's, Amelia Island, March 12-14, 2015

Designed by our very own design editor Robert Cumberford, this might seem like a rather lofty price tag to be considered a "Best Buy." But considering

the current market, this might just be the perfect price for such a rare car.

#### 1987 Buick Grand National GNX



Sold for: \$165,000 Barrett-Jackson Palm Beach sale, April 17-19, 2015

If you still need proof that 1980s cars are finally getting their time in the limelight, look no further than this GNX, which sold for a price that would have been unheard of just five years ago.

#### 1988 Jeep Grand Wagoneer



Sold for: \$11,000 Barrett-Jackson Palm Beach sale, April 17-19, 2015

SUVs should come flooding into the collector market soon, including the rapidly appreciating Ford Broncos, Toyota FJ40s, and now Jeeps. The Grand Wagoneer has long been a sleeper in the collectible market, and has recently enjoyed a steady rise in valuation.

#### 1954 Allard K3



Sold for: \$88,000 Bonhams' Conneticutt sale, May 31, 2015

An early, built-to-order Corvette competitor with a Chrysler V-8 under the hood, only 62 K3s rolled out of the factory.

#### 1978 Triumph Spitfire



Sold for: \$7,560 Mecum Auctions Denver sale, June 26-27, 2015

Despite an ever-climbing classic market, Malaise-era British cars remain affordable. Suspect build quality aside, this pristine Spitfire just might be the best ticket into the collector car market.

#### 1929 Stutz Model M Four Passenger Speedster



Sold for: \$302,500 RM Sotheby's Auctions, Plymouth, 2015

Pre-war cars still command big dollars at auctions, and this 1929 Stutz was no exception. In perfect driving condition, this Stutz is ready to make the rounds of classic car shows around the country.

# 1953 Jaguar XK120 Fixed Head Coupe



Sold for: \$77,000 Monterey Auctions, August 13-16

An interesting paint scheme kept the price relatively low, allowing one lucky buyer to pick up a stellar car for pennies on the dollar.

#### 1985 Chrysler LeBaron Town Country Convertible



Sold for: \$13,200 Mecum Auctions Monterey Sale, August 13-16, 2015

Probably one of the most laughable cars to cross the auction block at Monterey, don't count out the fauxwoodie K-Car Cab just yet. Values remain steady, with very clean examples going for just above the \$10,000 mark.

Watch your e-mails for news of the Spring Meeting.

