

*The Official
Newsletter of*



Show me your Curves

*It's
Springtime!!*

**Volume 8 No. 2
April 2017**

Editor's Message

by Doug Jackson



The winter is winding down. Hurray! Now we can think about getting our cars out of storage and preparing for the upcoming driving season! Even though our cars may be dormant, the club members certainly are not! As you will see in the reports printed in this issue, several activities occurred for our members during the winter and some people took advantage of opportunities to holiday in far-away places. Thanks to those folks who picked up on the "Selfie Challenge" and sent me pictures of them in their holiday locale. Some journeyed to warmer destinations, while others travelled to other snowy places. Regardless, I hope that everyone is looking forward to "Miata Weather"!

I certainly hope that all of you are planning on attending the "Annual General Meeting" in April. Please be sure to mark Sunday April 23 on your calendar and come to the meeting. The Council met during the

winter to do some preliminary planning for club activities, but you need to be there to help finalize the plans.

Once again, I thank Cal Lander for his expertise in taking my regular documents, which are simply "sentences with pictures", and converting them into such a professional newsletter. His help is invaluable!

We'll see everyone on the 23rd !



About the cover art.



I just couldn't resist the temptation to have a little fun with the cover art. Just imagine our little wanderers sitting in their respective garages for the entire winter and just waiting for the good weather to hit the open road again. The anticipation of the sunshine and open air must be agonizing for these little ones. Be good to your little friends and go out and give them a well deserved service and a nice wash and wax. They will love it and serve you well for the coming season.

Cal Lander

Contact Council of Miataville

**Club Activities:**

Bob Macaulay
cmacaulay_8@sympatico.ca

**Newsletter Publisher:**

Doug Jackson
dwjackson88@hotmail.com

**Finance:**

Cathy Fedorowich
mcfed@sympatico.ca

**Social Events:**

Diane Phillips
ddkphil@vianet.ca

**Club Merchandise:**

Laurel Bauldry
lbauldry@surenet.net

**Honourary Member**

Gord Bauldry
gbauldry@surenet.net

**Membership/
Inter Club Liason:**

Cal Lander
Clander607@gmail.com

**Website:**

Michael Topping
mastopping@bell.net



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](https://www.facebook.com/miatasofmuskoka).

Special Thanks to



For their ongoing support of our group

Upcoming Events . . .

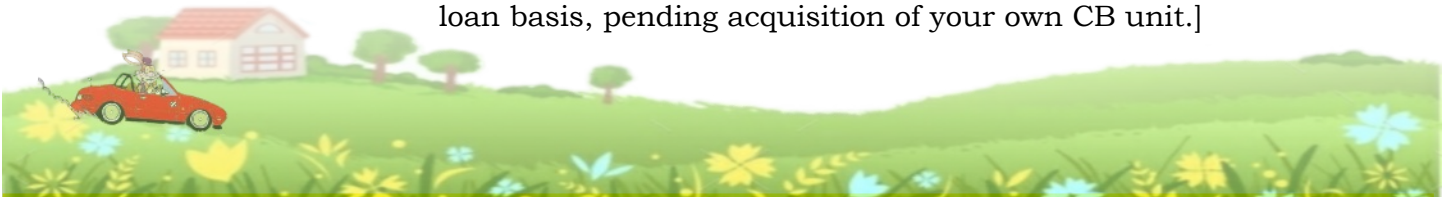
Miatas of Muskoka 2017 Cruise Event Schedule				2017
Cruise Event	Start Date	Event Type	Cruise Director(s)	Completed
Mid-Winter Blahs Brunch	Feb 19	Social	Diane Phillips	✓
Annual General Meeting	April 23	Business/planning	MoM Council	
Angevaare Mazda 2nd annual Miata Open House	June 4	BBQ/Cruise		
Miata Rally for Kids	Aug 12	Charity Cruise	Moffatt Mazda	
King's Wharf Theatre Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat	August 26	Cruise and Theatre	Doug and Sheila Jackson	

Ice cream runs Every 2nd and 4th Tues. evg. (starts May ??th) - meet at Bracebridge Y.I.G. @ 6:30 PM (unless advised otherwise via advance e-mail)

Note: 'special' ***Ice cream runs*** would be part of the regularly scheduled ones, depending on who was willing to lead and what the destination might be.

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.]



Upcoming Events . . .

AGM

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

***Sunday, April 23, at 1:30 p.m.
Bracebridge Memorial Arena***

Plan To Be there!!!!



Membership ????

Hello all Miatas of Muskoka members,

Many thanks to those of you who have already renewed your memberships for 2017. To avoid a crush at the door of our upcoming Spring planning meeting, we would very much appreciate your filling out the attached waiver and sending it along with a cheque made out to ***Miatas of Muskoka*** for \$35 to:

***Cal Lander
9 Cole Court,
Orillia, ON
L3V 8A5***

or

***Cathy Fedorowich
746 South Mary Lake Road
Port Sydney,
POB 1L0***

Thanks and let's keep thinking about the warmer days and happy cruises ahead.



Upcoming Events . . .



RELEASE STATEMENT

All members of Miatas of Muskoka AND/OR guests agree to the following Release Statement:

I agree to release the Miatas of Muskoka, its officers, members, organizers, sponsors and vendors from any and all liability for injury, damages or loss arising from my attendance and participation in any Miatas of Muskoka activity. My guest privileges are contingent upon compliance with all Motor Vehicle and insurance laws including maintaining a valid driver's license, automobile registration and auto insurance. Reckless driving during a club sponsored event may result in termination of my guest privileges.

Pilot's Signature _____ Date _____

Co-Pilot's Signature _____ Date _____

ALL applications *MUST be* signed by both the guest and anyone accompanying them.



Upcoming Events . . .



Now that April is here, we are beginning to ‘ramp-up’ our preparations for the upcoming production of “Joseph” We have had a very positive response to the announcement sent out in December. At this point, we have 27 people attending, with the possibility of gaining some more!

A block of tickets for our “Miatas of Muskoka” group has been held for the 2:00 pm production on **Saturday, August 26, 2017**. The ‘down payment’ has already been paid. For those attending, your payments of \$37.00 + HST (\$41.81) per person, or \$83.62 per car, can be paid in cheque or cash at the AGM on April 23rd. *Our records show responses, either attending or not, from: Bauldry, Dickson, Fedorowich, Gigg E&J, Gigg L, Gilbert, Hill, Holdsworth P&C, Jackson, Lander, Macaulay, Phillips, Rice, Topping, Towsley and Walker*

If you have not yet responded, please let Doug and Sheila know if you are interested in attending, by email at sjackson@csolve.net or by phone at 705-835-6900. We will wait until the AGM in April, in case we have some new members joining our group, before finalizing our attendance numbers. In fairness to the general public, unused tickets from our block should be released for sale by early May.



FYI 2016 Report

Miatas of Muskoka 2016 Cruise Event Attendance

Cruise Event	Date	# Cars	Cruise Director(s)
Spring Fling Cruise & Lunch <i>Trading Bay Restaurant, Dorset</i>	Sat. May 7 th	7	Gord & Laurel Bauldry
Angevaare Mazda Annual Miata Open House/BBQ/Cruise (Peterborough)	Sun. June 5 th	9	Michael & Sue Topping
Scavenger Hunt (details to be determined)	Sat. June 11 th	Cancelled until 2017	Bill & Cathy Gilbert
St Jacobs Farmers Market & Outlets	Fri.-Sat. June 24 th -25 th	8	Cal & Gail Lander
Manitoulin Island/Tobermory Cruise	Fri.-Sun. July 15 th -17 th	5	Bob & Carol Macaulay
King's Wharf Theatre "Mamma Mia" Matinee and BBQ (Penetang)	Sat. July 23 rd	13	Doug & Sheila Jackson
"Miata Rally for Kids" (sponsors <i>Moffat's Mazda</i> Barrie – details being finalized)	Sat. Aug. 6 th	5	No CD req'd – (Bob Macaulay is MoM's contact with event plnr.)
Camp Borden Military Museum Cruise (Angus area)	Sat. Aug. 20	10	Laurel Bauldry
'Round Algonquin Park (MoM charity cruise)	Mon.-Tues. Aug. 22 nd -23 rd	9	Ed & Judy Gigg
Muskoka Scenic Picnic Cruise	Sat. Sept. 24	6	Bob & Carol Macaulay
Fall Colours (Muskoka)	Sat. Oct. 1 st	13 --- Avg. 8.5 cars per event	Mike & Cathy Fedorowich
<u>Ice cream runs</u>	Avg. 8 cars per run for 8 total ice cream runs; 2 runs cancelled due to bad weather (7.2 cars avg. for 5 "regular" runs; 9.3 cars avg. for 3 "special" runs)		

Club Activities Director's Comments:

The red print above shows the actual number of cars participating in each event last year, with averages shown as well. I am pleased to report that the averages have improved from previous years! With the number of cars registered in our club, it would be nice to see even more participation in the upcoming year! *Bob Macaulay, Club Activities Director*



Happenings . . .

Miataville Council Meeting

January 21, 2017

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Council occurred on Saturday, January 21st in snowy Orillia. The plan to meet at Cal Lander's house was changed at the last minute, due to Gail's sudden, but not serious, illness. The group convened at The Salvation Army building and they spent several hours reviewing the 2016 cruising season and making preliminary plans for 2017. All of the Miatas of Muskoka members are encouraged to attend the AGM on Sunday, April 23rd to hear about these plans and help the Council finalize activities, dates and cruise directors as well as gauge the interest of the membership in activity participation. Everyone's input is important!

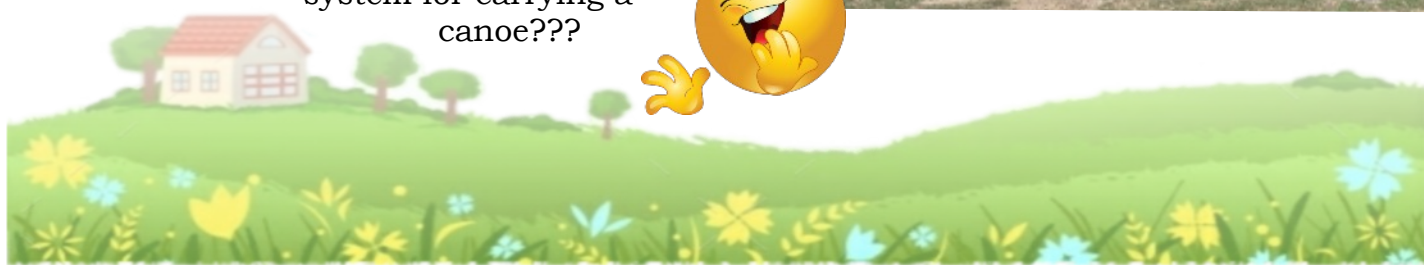


As you can see from the papers and files on the desk, it was a busy afternoon! When the group finished their lengthy agenda, they met up with their spouses, who had gone shopping in downtown Orillia, and reconvened at "Theo's Restaurant". It was a busy, but rewarding day!



The Ideal Summer Trip ... a Miata and a Canoe

Mike Fedorowich sent this picture ... and it looks like the ideal combination of activities for a Muskoka summer! A Miata for our awesome roads and a canoe for the beautiful waterways! Doesn't get any better than that! Do you suppose that Mike has been busy this winter actually manufacturing a system for carrying a canoe???



Happenings . . .

2017 MX5 RF Introduced at Orillia Mazda

January 28, 2017

All MoM Members were invited to a special open house at the dealership on Saturday January 28th, at 10:00 AM, for their official release of the new RF. The clear picture was taken by Barbara Dickson all others were taken by me and I guess I was so excited....my apologies.



Al Fitkin checks out the new RF



Larry & Barbara Dickson test fit the new RF



Soon to be Member (hopefully) and new RF owner Bharat Sharma checks out the floor model while waiting for delivery of his GT coming shortly.

by Michael Topping and reproduced from the MoM Website



Happenings . . .

Mid-Winter Blahs Brunch Patterson Kaye Resort February 19,

Diane Phillips, Director



Diane Phillips sent out an invitation, during the bleak weather in January, urging us to gather together to fight the mid-winter blahs. Who knew that the days before the luncheon would experience record breaking high temperatures, melting

the snow and bringing spring-like conditions! Twenty of our members enjoyed food and the fellowship at the "Patterson Kaye Resort" for their "Sunday Brunch". We were all very pleased that one of our new members, Al Fitkin, joined us for brunch. We welcome him, and his car, to our events this year!



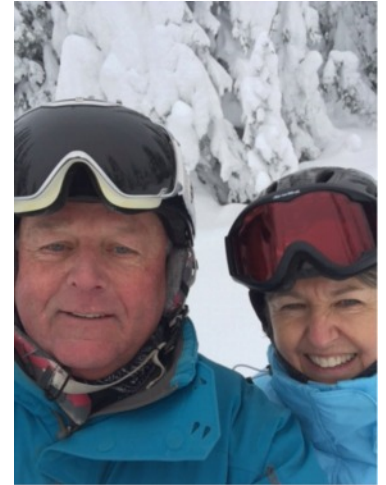
“Selfie Challenge” Submissions (or “Where Our Members Spent Part of the Winter”!)

Happy New Year!

Here are two pictures of Judy and me in our winter wonderland at Silverstar, B.C. We hope everyone is enjoying their winter wherever they are!



Judy and Ed Gigg



Hi, MoMers!

Here we are on the island of Guadeloupe, thoroughly enjoying the warm weather, the beautiful beaches, the clear-water snorkeling and excellent food.



• Doug and Sheila Jackson

Hi, Miata Club Members!



A note and picture from Myrtle Beach with my Miata shirt on and the beautiful Atlantic Ocean in the background.

•Laurel and Gordon



Gary and Patty Walker send their best wishes to club members from their vacation property in Mexico. Neither of them have any “Miata Club” logoed clothing (but we’re sure that can be fixed when they get back)! In case you’re wondering, that is NOT a Miata Gary is driving!

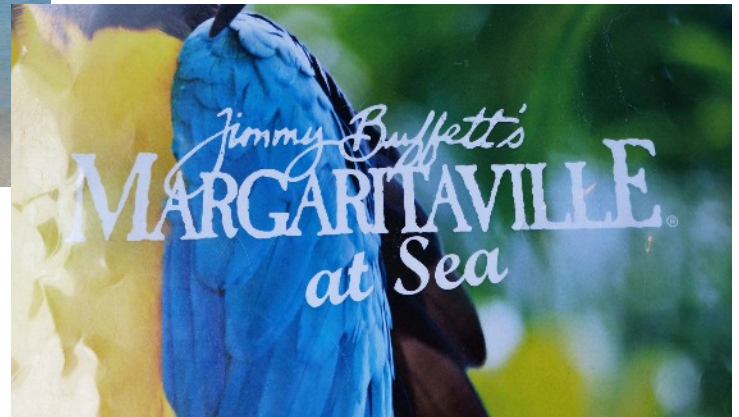


“Selfie Challenge” Submissions (or “Where Our Members Spent Part of the Winter”!)



Sue and Michael Topping

Hi, Fellow Miata Enthusiasts,
Here are some pics of our MoM shirts as requested. We took a cruise through the Caribbean in January. This picture is from Megan's Bay on the island of St. Thomas. Jimmy had a bar on the ship!



Bob and Carol Macaulay

Here is a digital picture of Carol and me in our *Miatas* of *Muskoka* t-shirts, while seated on our snowmobiles in northern Ontario (in front of our motel in Cochrane, taken Sunday, February 26th.



“Miata 5” is Still Upset and Annoyed!

Remember the January newsletter when I was complaining about Doug and Sheila’s treatment of me last summer? Well, I want you to know that the shoddy treatment is continuing, IN SPITE of the fact that some of the folks in the Miata Club spoke to my owners right after the newsletter came out, and one of them actually took the time to write. Carol Macaulay sent the following email to me and to my owners.



I had to write to tell you how much I enjoyed the article your Miata wrote about its summer vacation (or lack thereof). I want you to know that if this behaviour continues, I will invite Miata 5 to come stay with us here in Huntsville. Zumerang would really like someone to share experiences with and take some of the km off the old odometer that really jumped a lot this year. And, Miata 5 would get the best of both worlds when it comes to a garage – a carport! Protection from the sun yet on full display so as not to be left out of anything! What could be better???
So, Doug – shape up or ship out. Every Miata deserves to be treated like a star. And Bob & I are prepared to do that if you and Sheila won’t.

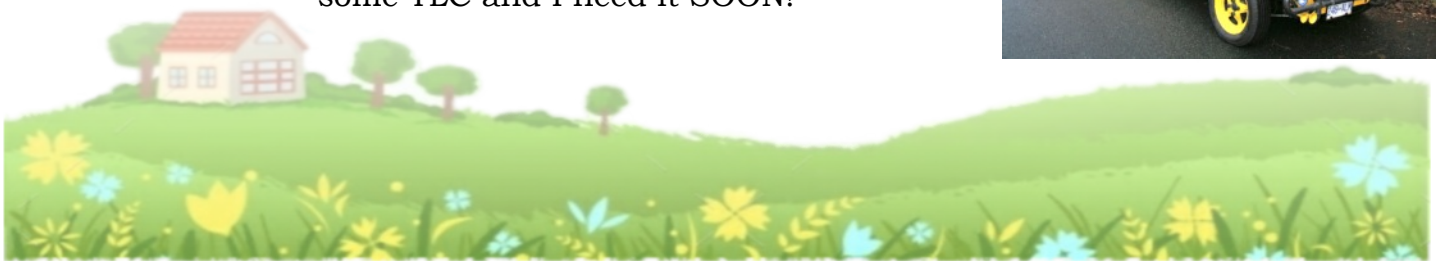
Carol



I keep a printed copy of this condemnation letter in the front seat, right beside the CB radio. There have been a couple of occasions this winter when I was tempted to get on the CB and call for help. Here’s what happened. They put me away as usual, but with no covering blanket or other protection except for a stupid LIFE PRESERVER! Worse, it’s an old, DISCARDED life jacket! Doug says it is to protect me from bumps from the Honda’s door, but I think it is humiliating. I’m sure that other Miatas in the

club are covered with fancy cloths and soft blankets. Not me. But that’s not all. I share the space with a snowblower and its stinky gas cans. Every time he moves the machine, he risks scratching me. I shudder every time he picks up the gas can, wondering if he is going to splash gas all over me. I continue to be really STRESSED OUT!

However, there could be a bright light. They are going on vacation this winter with a couple who have a REALLY COOL car. I’m showing you a picture of it. It’s a 1980 Australian Moke. Imagine! It’s ten years older than me and it looks fabulous. I hope Doug and Sheila learn some good tips about looking after cars when they become ‘senior citizens’. I need some TLC and I need it SOON!



Cup Runneth Over:

Mazda MX-5 Miata RF Kuro Is a Realistic Concept

Reprinted from :



November 1, 2016

By Tony Markovich | photography
by Alexander Stoklosa
and the manufacturer

The 2016 SEMA show floor is a fantasy world full of extravagant builds with tens (and sometimes hundreds) of thousands of dollars poured into every type of car you could dream of. But every now and then, you'll come across a more understated vehicle that's actually within the realms of possibility and affordability for the average driver. The MX-5 Global Cup inspired Mazda Miata RF Kuro concept is one of those rare machines.

Debuting alongside an ultra-lightweight, 1980-pound version of the MX-5 Speedster, the sinister-looking Kuro adopts some of the performance and attitude from the the Miata race car, but it does it using street-

legal parts that you can buy from Mazda's on-line motorsports parts store. The Kuro, which means "charcoal" in Japanese, wears semi-matte



black metallic paint. It gets its mean stance from 17-by-7.5-inch Rays forged wheels with 215/45R-17 BF-



Goodrich g-force Rival tires and the Cup car's adjustable suspension with Multimatic dampers and hypercoil springs. The only other upgrades Mazda lists for the concept are an OpenFlash Performance exhaust that gives a claimed 6-to-7-hp boost and the same Brembo dual-piston front brake calipers that you'd find on the Cup car. The RF starts at a little more than \$32,000, so it wouldn't be cheap to build a

concept exactly like this, but it's doable, which is something you can't say about most rides you see in Las Vegas.



When Bugatti Designed a Suzuki to Fight the Miata

Reprinted from;



BY [MÁTÉ PETRÁNY](#)
AUG 4, 2016

It might sound crazy, but Bugatti Automobili S.p.A.'s Romano Artioli was totally serious about his mid-engined MX-5 competitor.



Bugatti Automobili S.p.A. via Motor.es

Long before the idea to revive Bugatti came up, Italian entrepreneur Romano Artioli made his fortune by running a massive Ferrari dealership that sold cars to the wealthy of northern Italy and Germany. While dealing in Testarossas, he also became Italy's first Suzuki importer. Artioli spent some of the cash he earned on classic Bugattis before going one step further—setting up Bugatti International, a holding company that bought the Bugatti trademark in 1987.

The next thing you know, cars like this started popping up around Modena:

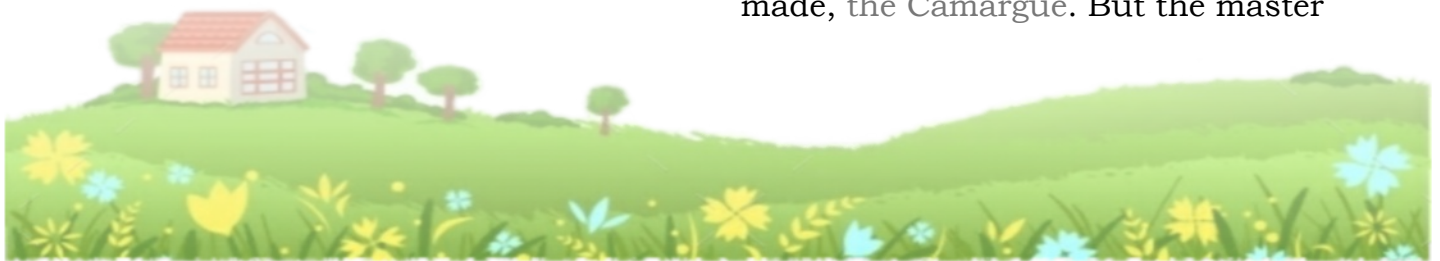


*The first Bugatti EB110 prototype, photographed by Peter Orosz in 2011 in Modena.
Peter Orosz*

The pre-VW Bugatti company only managed to produce two and a half models before it went bankrupt in 1995: The EB110, the EB110 Super Sport and the EB112 sedan, the last of which remained at the prototype stage with just three units built when everybody had to go home.

Today, Romano Artioli claims that his plan to build what would have been the world's most advanced supercar, and a Giugiaro-designed luxury sedan sharing its drivetrain, failed because his company was sabotaged by auto industry insiders. What he forgets to mention is that his bankruptcy also scuttled what could have been the Bugatti-designed Suzuki Espresso, a mid-engined lightweight sports car for the European market.

You might know Paolo Martin's name from his work at Pininfarina: The brilliant Ferrari Modulo concept and the Lancia Monte Carlo, the menacing Fiat 130 coupé or what is probably the weirdest Rolls-Royce ever made, the Camargue. But the master



..... a Suzuki to Fight the Miata

designer could also pen a compact, as evidenced by the versatile Peugeot 104 supermini.

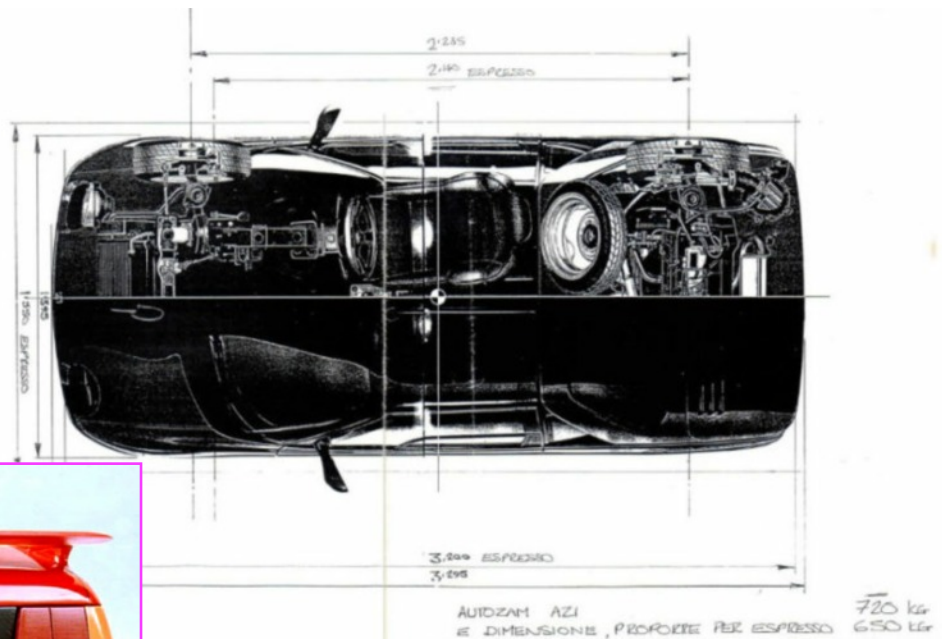
In 1990, he came up with the Bugatti 1300 Concept for Roman Artioli's viewing pleasure. His early sketches included butterfly doors, but by the time he produced an actual design study, the baby Bugatti got a lot simpler. In fact, it was absolutely down-to-earth compared to his EB110 concept, a single seater with a canopy door and a joystick for steering.

Paolo Martin via Cars That Never Made It



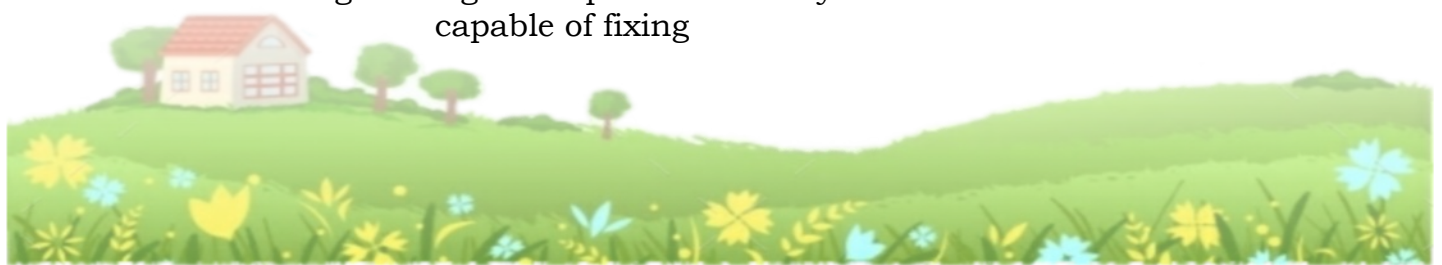
While it's highly unlikely that Artioli could have turned the Espresso concept into a budget Bugatti, he sure tried to find a way to build a Suzuki Cappuccino-based sports car for the growing European market. The problem was that the Cappuccino didn't comply with European regulations. Bugatti, of course, had an engineering team quite capable of fixing

this, and turning Suzuki's tiny wonder into a sporty T-top coupé, something like the Autozam AZ-1, Mazda's kei sport car that was also built by Suzuki—if the company didn't fall apart before those engineers had the chance.



Bugatti via Motor.es

Funny enough, while Bugatti was busy in 1992 preparing the 600-plus horsepower EB110 Super Sports so that the Sultan of Brunei could order four, Suzuki Great Britain and its parent company in Japan decided to make the Cappuccino Europe-legal after all. The factory sent 1182 cars to Suzuki GB, all painted silver or red. The introduction of tighter European emission standards ended that Cappuccino party in 1995. And Artioli's Bugatti famously ceased operations in September that year.



..... a Suzuki to Fight the Miata



*Michael Schumacher with his brand new
EB110 SS in 1994.*

Motors in 1993 and remained its chairman for three years, he could still enjoy the launch of the 1600 pound Lotus Elise in 1996, which he named after his granddaughter. That triumph didn't last long—he had to sell his stake in Lotus to Malaysian manufacturer Proton to pay for Bugatti's debts.

This is what's left of his factory today. As a matter of fact, quite a lot:

Click
Here

<https://www.youtube.com/embed/uQ7kTyC3p1g>

Bugatti

Artioli didn't have to give up on his dream of building a lightweight, mid-engined sports car. Since he bought Lotus from General



The “Fork in the Road” Caption Challenge

Well ... there were not many responses to the challenge, issued in the January newsletter, to come up with a caption for the accompanying photo. Thanks to the witty folks who said:

“I think I passed one of those on the way to Bob and Carol’s place!”

“I know the fork goes on the left, so turn the spoon way!”

“Are you forking kidding me?”



BBR unveils tuning packages for the Mazda MX-5 ND 2.0-litre

Reprint from:

SGCARMART.COM

Leading automotive performance specialist BBR is delighted to launch an exciting engine tuning package for the latest ND version of the 2.0-litre MX-5.

Designed to enhance the everyday driving experience for enthusiasts wanting the ultimate from their new Mazda MX-5, the upgrade represents the culmination of over two years of BBR's in-house mechanical and electronic development work on Mazda's advanced, direct injection 2.0-litre Skyactiv-G engine.

The power and torque output of the Super 200 equipped MX-5 exceeds that of the stock 2.0-litre Mazda

Despite producing 160bhp at 6,300rpm and 207Nm at 4,950rpm as standard (when measured on BBR's dyno), the stock engine is noted for being unwilling to rev.

BBR's Super 200 upgrade addresses this characteristic, significantly boosting peak power by 45bhp to a mighty 205bhp at 6,950rpm, allied with an impressive 243Nm at 4,950rpm (a gain of 35Nm).

Where the stock engine is reluctant to attain higher



revs, the BBR Super 200 equipped motor excels above 5,500rpm; offering intense, exhilarating performance and response all the way to the 7,150rpm limiter.

Initial performance testing indicates that, when fitted with the optional performance exhaust components, the 0-100km/h time is reduced from 7.3 seconds to a scorching 5.65. This means that whatever the challenge, the BBR Super 200 equipped Mazda MX-5 can really punch above its weight.

However, numbers only tell half of the story. Such is the quality of BBR's development work that the power and torque output of the Super 200 equipped MX-5 exceeds that of the stock 2.0-litre Mazda throughout the rev range, providing an additional 41Nm of torque at just 3,500rpm; making this a highly user-friendly conversion designed for everyday driving.

BBR's Super 200 upgrade consists of exclusive, top quality high-performance



BBR unveils tuning packages . . .

replacement billet steel intake and exhaust camshafts with upgraded valve springs and retainers, a bespoke four-into-one-tuned length stainless steel exhaust manifold, and

a specially developed cold air intake system.

Electronically, the Super 200 benefits from BBR's renowned StarChip Electronic Control Unit (ECU) software package, which includes revised fuel, ignition, and cam timing calibration designed to optimise driveability and performance across the rev range; whilst retaining all Mazda's Original Equipment Manufacturer (OEM) fail safes.



Hot or not? 2017 Mazda MX-5 Miata RF with rear window louvers

Reprinted from



February 2, 2017

We're pulling our denim jackets out of storage right now.

Rear window louvers might have fallen out of style, but they have not been forgotten. Designed to keep car interiors cool -- especially coupes with large, sloped rear windows -- the fad hasn't been hot since the 1980s.

Judging from the comments on this Reddit post, we're thinking louvers are due to make a comeback. Reddit user carnivalOfOz



PHOTO BY CARNVALOFOZ VIA RED-

posted a proof of concept for rear window louvers on the 2017 Mazda MX-5 Miata RF. They don't look bad, especially for a Photoshop job.

While we doubt Mazda would slap louvers on the svelte-looking Miata RF, we're pretty certain a company out there will offer them. Our fingers are crossed they look this good.

The Wacky Oddballs of SEMA 2016

Formula D MX-5



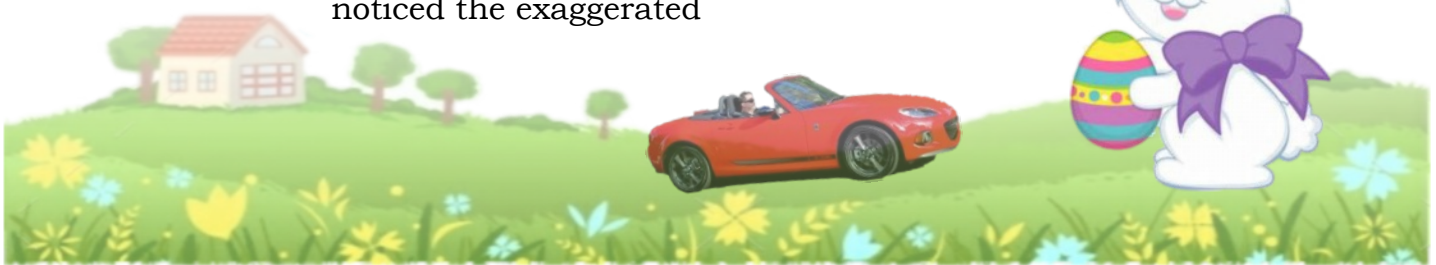
The MX-5 is loved for being a light, small and peppy two-seat, cheap thrills drop-top. With four cylinders and zero turbos, it's simple and keen to thump the rev-happy, naturally aspirated tub. This MX-5 though, didn't get the memo.

It's Kyle Mohan's Formula Drift MX-5, a KMR-built Mazda powered by a turbocharged, nitrous-fed, three-rotor engine developed by Mazdatrix. Pretty much the whole drivetrain is new and has resulted in excess of 1,000bhp. You also may have noticed the exaggerated

track widths and seemingly infinite amount of possible steering lock. Still think MX-5s are hairdressers cars?



Now that would make deliveries easier!!!



This Stunning 600-HP Mazda Race Car Was Built To Win In Style

Reprinted Feb. 20, 2017 from



by Adam Lynton



winged glory is evidence that it also works in top level motorsports. Set to make its racing debut at the 2017 Rolex 24 at Daytona early next year, the new prototype is made up of a radical, yet sleek body developed by Mazda designers.

The Mazda RT24-P racer will make its debut at the end of January at Daytona 24. We all know that Mazda's Kodo design language looks superb on a range of different body styles, with the all-new CX-5 the latest model to feature the Japanese brand's signature styling. The new Mazda RT24-P race car you see here in all its giant-

Kodo design cues include the five-point grille and sleek body contours, while the Prototype has also been aerodynamically honed by Multimatic who worked to ensure it slices through the air like a samurai's katana. Riley Technologies developed the new Riley Mk. 30 chassis, while power will come from Mazda's MZ-2.0T engine, a 2.0-

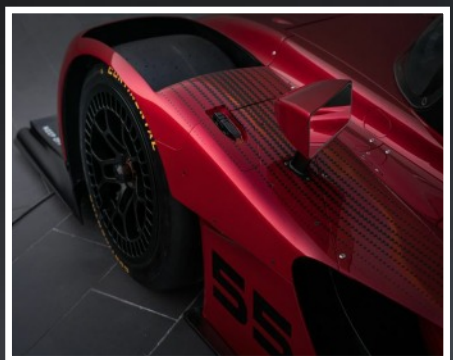


600-HP Mazda Race Car

liter turbocharged four-cylinder unit rated at around 600 horsepower. Put all that together and you can decipher the racecar's name – RT (Riley Technologies), 24 (2-liter 4-cylinder engine), P (prototype). "This is a huge moment for Mazda Motorsports and the entire Mazda family," said John Doonan, director of Mazda Motorsports North America.

"To have a car which features Mazda design language at the top level of our motorsports program is meaningful for us as a brand. We believe we have the right team, the right drivers and the right chassis to win races and championships." Florida-based

SpeedSource Race Engineering will manage two of these prototype racers when it makes its racing debut at Daytona at the end of January.



This Guy Emailed Mazda About Placing A Deposit For An RX-Vision

Reprinted Feb. 20, 2017 from



by Jay Traugott

And Mazda replied back.

In the RX-Vision, Mazda has created one of the most beautiful concept cars we've seen in years. Hypothetically, this concept, long hood and all, could wind up becoming a production car one day as a successor to the famed RX-7 and RX-8. One day. Or perhaps not at all. Mazda is still undecided and

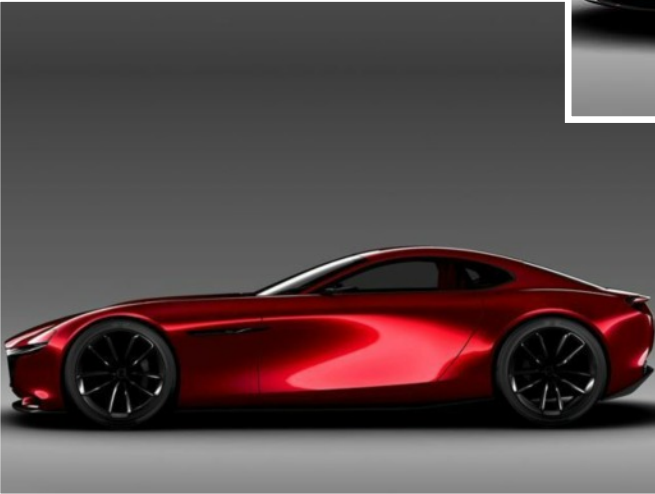


nothing has been ruled out. But that still didn't stop one Reddit user from emailing Mazda about putting down a deposit for an RX-Vision.

"Clusterkid29" even received a reply back from the Japanese automaker, stating (and we're paraphrasing here): We appreciate your interest in a future Mazda-RX model,

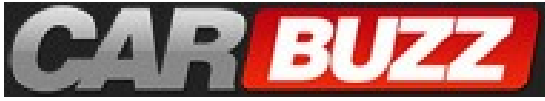


blah blah blah....we can confirm Mazda is working on new rotary engines, more blah blah blah...future models and specifications are not available at this time. Signed, Mazda PR. We're still waiting for the day when Mazda makes that RX-Vision official because, clearly, there is a market for a brand new rotary sports car.



We Were Wrong To Think The Fiat 124 Spider Could Outsell The Mazda MX-5

Reprinted from



March 2017
by Michael Hines

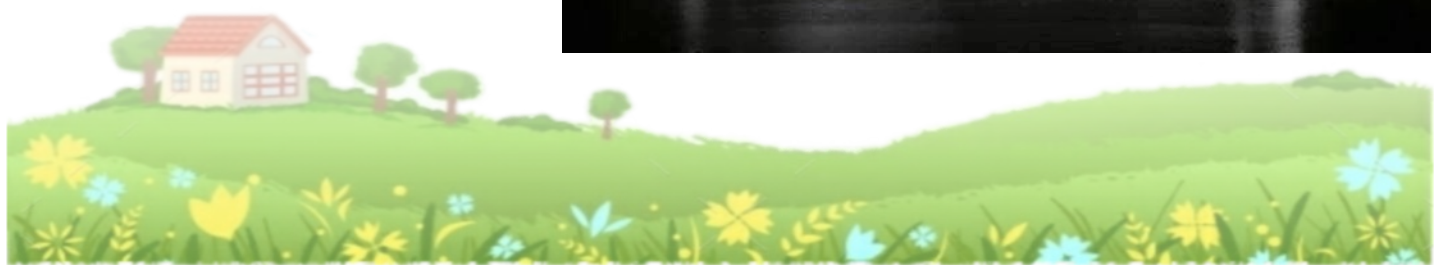
Mazda has absolutely thrashed Fiat in the sales race these past few months.

Back in November we wrote a piece about how the Fiat 124 Spider was on the verge of outselling the Mazda MX-5. We said the Italians needed to strike soon to achieve victory, with the reason being that the MX-5 RF was due to debut in a few months. Those few months—four of them to be exact—have come and gone. As it turns out the MX-5 thrashed the 124 Spider in sales during our self-proclaimed “window of opportunity.” From November 2016 through March 2017 a total of 3,157 MX-5s were sold. In that same time period Fiat moved only 1,582 124 Spiders.

The closest Fiat got to downing Mazda was in November when it sold 350 124 Spiders compared to Mazda’s 387 MX-5s. Now that winter is winding down (on paper anyway) and the MX-5 RF is here it looks like the 124 will never be able to outsell its Asian twin. February was a preview of things to come now that the targa Miata is here. Mazda posted its best MX-5 sales since February 2006 with 1,108 cars sold. Last month

just 302 124 Spiders were sold. The good news for the Italians is that, despite slow sales, their roadster has been well-received. It compares favorably to the legendary model on which it’s based, with slick styling helping it to stand out in its own right. The problem is that Fiat needs more than moral victories at this point.

As the months warm the 124 Spider should see an increase in sales. That’s good, as is the mini halo it casts over the brand. The bigger problem is that once consumers get to the Fiat lot there isn’t much to see aside from the stylish roadster and several variations of the same small car. FCA has a lot going on at the moment, and new product for Fiat doesn’t seem to be at the top of the to-do list. That makes us wonder...how hard is it to design a hardtop version of the 124? It seems like a quick and easy (relatively speaking) way to scoop up extra sales.



Mazda Adds A Hard Top Option To The MX-5 But You Probably Can't Have It

Reprint from



March 2017

If you want a solid roof over your head, you either need need to opt for the MX-5 RF or get into racing.



Miata called the MX-5 Global Cup race car. The only problem is that the race car only came in open-top roadster format.

That meant that racing series with regulations requiring hard tops, such as the Pirelli World Challenge series, were automatically off-limits for the MX-5 Global Cup car. Well, fear no longer

During our previous drive of the MX-5 RF, Mazda engineers were quick to point out what any self-respecting gearhead knows: that the Miata is a car intended to make the driver feel as if butterflies were fluttering in their stomach, not lap the Nurburgring more quickly. Still, that doesn't change the fact that Mazda sells a racing version of the

because Mazda has just introduced a hardtop conversion for the car. "While our first year was spent concentrating on the successful launch of the MX-5 Cup car in our Battery Tender Global Mazda MX-5 Cup presented by BFGoodrich Tires, we knew that was just one arena for customers. Now with an available hardtop, Mazda racers can compete in SCCA and



Mazda Adds A Hard Top Option

NASA Club Racing and in the Pirelli World Challenge TCA class,” said David Cook, business development manager, Mazda Motorsports.

In other words, that means there's once again a hardtop option for the Miata. Unfortunately, the new top won't be available for the standard soft-top Miata, Mazda wants buyers to gravitate towards the RF if that's a priority. For the MX-5 Global Cup race car owners and those who have committed to buying one, deliveries of

the new top will begin in April after a check for \$4420 is sent to Mazda HQ. What Mazda doesn't make clear is how the add-on will change the car's performance. We have no information regarding what the top is made of, how much weight it adds to the car, and whether or not it alters aerodynamics or structural integrity. These sorts of things matter when a car weighs only 2,100 pounds and makes 158 horsepower.



House in the country \$1,000,000.

Three luxury cars . . . \$150,000

Leaving town during a cold Michigan winter without turning off the water pipes in your garagePRICELESS!





Won't be long now!

*See you on April 23 for
the spring meeting.*