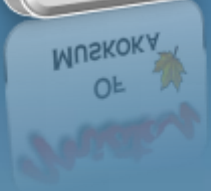


NEWSLETTER OF



Show Me Your Curves

VOLUME 2, NO. 12

Merry Christmas



*SPOTLIGHT ON
MX5 SPYDER*



Plus...

Treasurer's Report

Miata Xmas Decorations

And more....



Can you imagine waking up on Christmas Day to see this in your driveway?

On the Cover



"RoobyDoo" based in Iowa, who owns this 2006 Red had a little difficulty shovelling his driveway last Xmas.

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

Thank you



[Feedback Link](#)

You Gotta Read This!

MX-5 Spyder Concept Car
As seen at SEMA 2011.



See Page 11

Topping's Tidbits

Some miscellaneous ramblings and musings from the Mayor of Miataville.

Jeremy Clarkson, perhaps the most widely recognized automotive journalist/personality in the world due to his role on Britain's *Top Gear* TV show loves the Miata and has featured it on several episodes of the program has this to say about **real** British sports cars.

"I love TVRs, absolutely love them. If one of these things came into the room and patted you on the back all your teeth would fly out!.. The only problem is that really they're just too fast to be proper British Sports Cars. I mean, with the roof down 50 feels like 150, so what's the point of actually doing 150?"

The MG-F is much slower but I like it a lot. The only problem is that it's a bit 'limp of wrist'. I think that if it were a person, it would be called... Julian!

So what about the Elise... the thing is, that Lotus had remembered what I'd forgotten, that the British like a bit of discomfort. Our plumbing is not bad by accident, we like it that way; we could get our trains to run on time, but we choose not to, because we enjoy standing around on the platform moaning. Britain is the S&M capital of the world. We're known everywhere for being kinky, fond of pain, and the Elise delivers in spades. There are no carpets, and if you get caught in a rainstorm keep going; don't bother getting out and trying to put the roof on because, by the time you've done it, it'll be summer! The Elise concentrates on just one thing - being fun in an anodyne world



But the Elise is not the best British sports car... because the Mazda MX-5 is! Yes, yes I admit it; it's not entirely British. In fact it could be argued that it's sort of completely... Japanese! But you see, the thing is, if you go to Tokyo and order bacon, eggs, mushrooms, and so-on-and-so-forth, even though they're in Japan they'll still call it 'a full English Breakfast'. Ideas travel, so I don't care where this car was designed, or where it was made, it's still a full English Sports Car!

The MX-5 kicked off the sports car renaissance, and ever since it came along in 1989 everyone else has been trying to beat it with more power, more-wheel drive, more whizz-bangs, and more fancy gearboxes. But you can't beat the original recipe, a recipe that was written more than sixty years ago - keep it simple! The Mazda has a not-very-powerful 1.8 litre engine at the front, where it belongs, not in the middle. And drive goes to the back, like it should. It's as complicated as wood!... So who cares if it doesn't have an electric hood and climate control. A bit chilly? Well you're British for heavens sake - wear a hat!"

Our own Jim Kenzie, considered Canada's foremost automotive journalist, and Miata owner had this to say in his 25 unforgettable cars article recently in the Toronto Star.

If you have ever driven one, you'll know what I'm talking about. Sure, the original design, sketched on a cocktail napkin in a bar in Irvine California by an American Mazda designer and a motor-ing journalist, was a dead-nuts copy of the original Lotus Elan. But it handles as if you were the best driver ever. The top flicks up and down in seconds. And it doesn't leak oil on your driveway. Has there ever been a better affordable sports car? I won't leave that as a rhetorical question. The answer is, "No!"



Jim Kenzie's Miata

Some more comments from Jim, as one of his choices for the Best 10 Sports Cars.


"For fun in the sun at a friendly price, the Miata was near-perfect out of the box 18 years ago. It was a dead-nuts copy of the mid-1960s Lotus Elan, except it didn't leave puddles of oil standing in your driveway, or worse, leave you standing at the side of the road when one part or another grenaded."



In our Vol. 2 # 9 issue of the Newsletter we outlined an event called *Miatas at the Gap*, the annual pilgrimage to Deal Gap, North Carolina. Here is a video one participant, John Semenek Jr of Batavia, Illinois took to share.


<https://www.facebook.com/photo.php?v=2452226153426>

Having recently enjoyed the Thanksgiving season we thought we'd present this brief *thank you* from Sympatico.ca Autos Section.



Cars we're thankful for

With turkey day coming up fast, we thought it would be the perfect time to reflect on the cars we're thankful for. There's a lot of new stuff in here this year, as well as some of our all-time favourites:



Mazda MX-5
For continuing to carry the flag for classic sports cars. It's a pity nobody else comes close.

And Finally....



Yes Virginia you really CAN order a Miata Christmas Stocking as well as a Xmas tree decorations, for this and more visit <http://stupidfunnytshirtgifts.com/>





Treasurer's Report

The Miatas of Muskoka has a full disclosure policy and as promised in the March newsletter will be publishing a Treasurer's Report on a regular basis (quarterly) to outline the handling of funds collected. This report covers the period from May 1, 2011 to Nov 30, 2011.

Cash on Hand Aug 21, 2011 \$ 236.69

Receipts:

Membership dues	(3 X \$35)	\$ 105.00
Merchandise Sales		
Golf Shirts	(6 X \$25)	\$ 150.00
Ball Caps	(0X \$18)	\$ 000.00
Interest		\$ 000.07
Total Receipts:		\$ 491.76

Disbursements:

Miscellaneous Expenses		
Meeting expenses e.g. coffee/food	\$	24.41
Gift Certificate	\$	25.00
Total Disbursements:		\$ 49.41

Cash on Hand Nov 30, 2011 \$ 442.35

And Another Thing.....

Here is an interesting idea for a Xmas present, a personalized caricature of your car. An On- Line company CarArtz, based in Glasgow Scotland, was formed in October 2000 after a bet.

All of the CarArtz caricature style artwork is a hand drawn original by world famous car caricature artist Dave Scott. It is then scanned into a computer, where all the colouring and shading is done. This means that they can be customized to add the personal touches which makes the image a one off just for you!

Reasonably priced and quite unique we invite you to check out their web site at <http://carartz.com/>



Here are
some
examples of
Dave's work





Lookin' Down the Road

This concept vehicle, called *TAKERI*, was officially displayed at the recent Tokyo Motor Show and is supposedly a thinly veiled rendition of the new Mazda6. This vehicle was produced under Mazda's KODO – (Japanese for Soul of Motion) design theme.

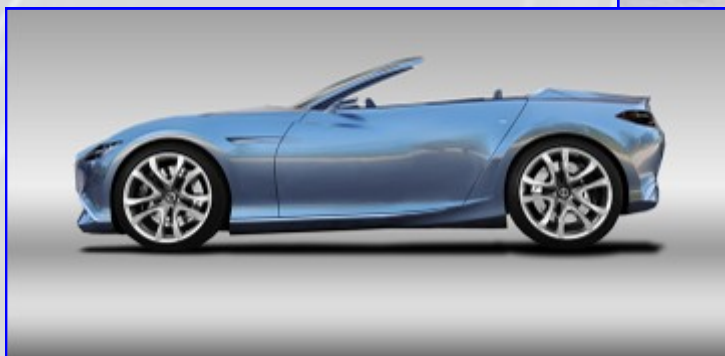
Ikuo Maeda, the head of Mazda's Design Division, explains the new design theme in this way: "In our work to further evolve the expression of motion, Mazda Design has focused on the strength, beauty and tension found in the instantaneous movement seen in animals. This motion that is so full of vitality that it stirs the emotions of those who see it. We have named it 'KODO - Soul of Motion', and our aim is to express movement with forceful vitality and speed as the design theme for Mazda's upcoming models."

So we imagined how this design would translate to the Miata.....



The *TAKERI* four door concept vehicle

A Photoshop version of what the New Miata could look like under this design.



Sweet !!

Helpful Hints - Miscellaneous Items

Save the Environment (not your brain cells!)

Submitted by the Gang at Raven Wing Performance

(that figures! ;-)

- This popular 1.75 litre adult-beverage bottle makes a handy oil filler funnel that threads right into your Miata MX-5's cam cover!
- Just cut the bottom off of the plastic bottle and you can impress your friends with how environmentally conscious you are.
- How you dispose of the contents of the bottle is up to you!

NOTE: Raven Wing Performance does not support or encourage driving under the influence of intoxicating beverages



Ahh winter driving a Miata, refreshing...

Did you Know ?

Can a Miata carry a Christmas Tree?

For those of you who have been dying to know and couldn't help but ask the question.....
Can a Miata carry a Christmas Tree?

Joe Wall, the VP of the Nutmeg Miata Club based in Connecticut experienced that very opportunity three years ago and had this to say about it.

"Today my daughter and I left the house at noon...to get the Christmas Tree...in my '94 Miata. OK..not the best vehicle to be getting a tree with, but my wife had the SanteFe at work. The weather guessers had predicted snow to start falling sometime early afternoon. When we left the house, nothing was happening. Nary a flake..."

2 1/2 hours later....

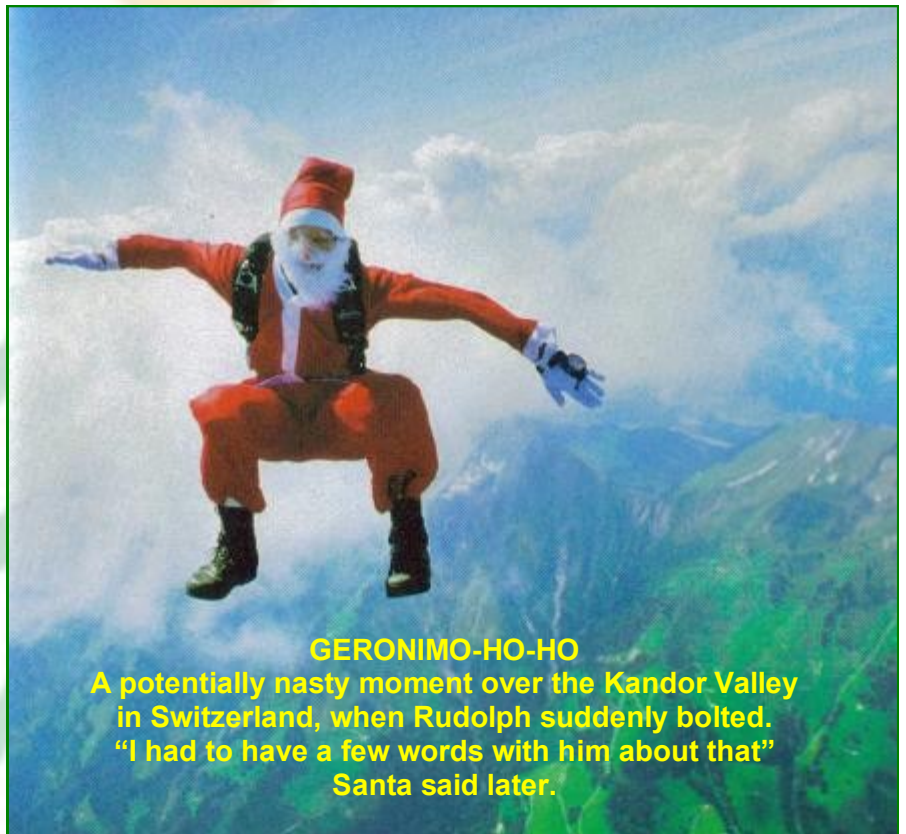
See attached picture...and we had NO PROBLEMS on the road..unlike some other drivers."



Miata Fun - Xmas Edition



It's the time of year that makes everyone smile.



GERONIMO-HO-HO

A potentially nasty moment over the Kandor Valley in Switzerland, when Rudolph suddenly bolted. "I had to have a few words with him about that" Santa said later.

Q. How many reindeers does it take to change a light bulb?

A: Seven, one to screw it in and six to hold down Rudolph during the process.

And so does his little Helper...



This spy photo proves Santa drives a Miata!!

Miatas around the World

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

Christmas in Miataville

We all have our little babies tucked away for a long winter's nap but in the warmer climates they still not only enjoy their cars but the season as well in a somewhat different manner. Here are a few examples of the sights and sounds of the season:



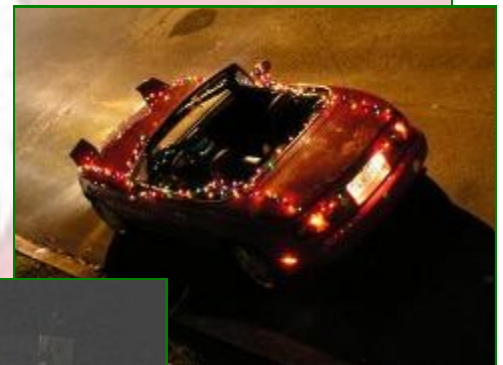
Spectators at a Key West Christmas Parade enjoyed this parade float. The reindeer was animated (the head swings left & right).



The North Charleston Christmas Festival



This Grinch wasn't stealing anybody's Christmas



Peachtree Miata Club's annual Christmas drive members decorate their cars



Spotlight On

MX5 Spyder

Introduced at this year's Specialty Equipment Market Association (SEMA) show the MX-5 Miata Spyder Concept displayed a number of interesting innovations for our beloved Miata roadster.



It begins with doing away with the standard car's folding soft top or retractable hard top mechanism in favour of a lightweight grenadine-red canvas covering à la Porsche's Boxster Spyder. This look when combined with the 17-inch Advan wheels painted gun metal metallic and shod with Yokohama AO48 performance tires gives the roadster a slick, slim appearance. Mazda has also rolled in quite a few excellent details, including etched brushed stainless Spyder badging on the front fenders. The interior features black "Stallion Saddle" leather seats with suede inserts in a coal ash colour with white accents, unique Spyder Edition floor mats, brushed metal accents and a clean MX-5 Spyder logo on the dash.



While the 2.0-liter MZR four-cylinder under the hood looks familiar, Mazda says the MX-5 Spyder runs on isobutanol. Mazda quotes "Although similar to how ethanol is produced from agricultural feedstock, isobutanol does not compromise vehicle performance for fuel economy, and it can use the current fuel distribution infrastructure, making it a significant step toward meeting the demand in renewable fuels for transportation."

MX – 5 Spyder



So does the MX-5 Spyder have a chance at production?

Well, probably not the isobutanol powertrain, but a lighter model with a similar top configuration might have a shot. Derek Jenkins, Director, Mazda North American Operations Design, notes "...because the stock models are extraordinarily versatile, who's to say some elements of these SEMA concepts can't be ready for public consumption?"

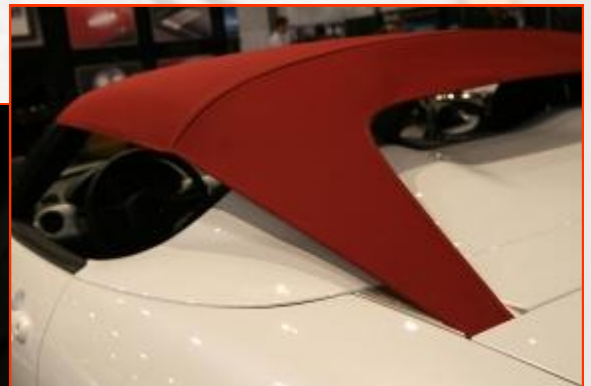


The MX-5 Spyder on display at the SEMA show

MX – 5 Spyder



The MX-5 Spyder folding soft top detail



MX – 5 Spyder



Other features of the MX-5 Spyder



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

to You and Your Families

We look forward to Cruisin' in 2012.