

NEWSLETTER OF



# Show Me Your Curves

VOLUME 3, NO. 5

## Lookin' Down the Road

### *2012 Cruising Schedule*



*Plus...  
MoM's Web Site Stats  
Scratch Built Miata  
The Colour Cars  
And more....*



The Teal Metallic "Colour Car", one of six unique test cars, read more on page 13.

**On the Cover**



This month's cover is from the web site of a recent MoM Facebook visitor Randy George of Japan.

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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!**

*An Amazing Miata Model built from scratch!!*



See Page 8

We are now on Facebook, click the icon to check us out





## In the Rear View Mirror

### Annual General Meeting Recap—April 15

On April 15th Miatas of Muskoka held the Annual General Meeting to discuss issues within the club and determine our cruising schedule for the year. It was a terrific turn out as we enjoyed an attendance rate of approximately 65% (wow!).

Paul Bennett distributed the CD of pictures taken by the Muskoka Camera Club at last year's Photo Shoot to Participants.

We distributed the CB radios purchased by Don Dawe while in Florida and Don provided a few tips on the proper set-up and installation of same.

Door prizes of MoM golf shirts, hat and thanks to Terese Mac Davis, a couple of copies of her book *Just Miatas How I Buy, Restore & Sell*.

One copy went to new member Carol Macaulay who drew her own number (*We'll have to keep an I on this one - Ed*), and the other to Susanne Dawe.

The hat was scooped up by Bill Glassford and Heather Fraser got herself a new golf shirt. The 50/50 draw for \$31.50 was won by Joy Elliott.

We had many a discussion around cruising sights this year adding some new sites and revisiting favourites. The dates this year will be on different days of the week to provide a more flexible schedule to all members. To see this year's schedule (see Lookin' Down The Road page 4).





## Lookin' Down the Road

Here's a look at a few of the events we are looking at *Down the Road*.

### **Ice Cream Runs**

By far the most popular event held last year the Ice cream runs will begin on Wednesday May 30th and run until mid to late September (weather dependant). Each Wednesday we will gather in the parking lot of the Independent Grocer in Bracebridge at 6:45 p.m. and determine our route and destination for the evening ride at that time.

### **Spring Fling - May 26 (Cruise Director - Gord Bauldry)**

Our first cruise of the year will be our **Spring Fling Cruise** which is a month later this year hopefully to guarantee better weather. We will again circle the three major lakes with a stop for lunch at Lakers in Bala. A separate communication with trip details will be communicated to you shortly.

### **Parry Sound - June 23 (CD - Bill Glassford)**

Bill Glassford has volunteered to direct our first cruise up to Parry Sound with a stop on the waterfront area for lunch.

### **Manitoulin Island Parry Sound - July 14/15 (CD - TBD)**

We are going to attempt another overnight cruise this year travelling to Manitoulin Island via Tobermory and onto Killarney & back home. This will be our longest cruise of the season.

### **Ladies Only Cruise - July 22 (CD - Heather Frazer)**

The second Ladies cruise last year was a huge success on this weekend so they wanted to do it again. Heather tells me she has something special planned for the ladies. I wonder if ice cream is involved?

### **Hurononia - Aug 12 (CD - Courtney/Giggs)**

The Courtneys and the Giggs have graciously offered to recreate the excellent cruise through Huronia and BBQ at the Log Mansion. I've been told the route will be quite different this year but just as interesting as last year. If so, we're in for a treat.

### **Midland Wasaga Beach - Aug 25 (CD - Richard Byron)**

One of our new members has eagerly volunteered to direct this cruise through the Midland area down the coast of Georgian Bay to Wasaga Beach.

### **Haliburton Meet Me at the Park - Sept 9 (CD - Bob Macaulay)**

For a new initiative this year we are preparing a type of Meet & Greet at Skyline Park Lookout. Members will find there own way to the predetermined location and meet up with everyone else for a picnic lunch. This type of event saves some travel time for some members not located in Bracebridge. If successful we could rotate the location of this event each year throughout the region.



## Lookin' Down the Road

### **Fall Colours Cruise - Sept 30**

MoM's signature cruise is our final run of the season we will try to relive the great cruises we've at this time of year to enjoy the fall colours with a surprise thrown in. Details will be communicated to all closer to the cruise date

### **Trillium Muskoka Cruise - Oct. 21**

Doug Lippay will again lead the Trillium group up to Muskoka to view the colours and enjoy the twisty roads of our region. Doug graciously welcomes us to join them every year.

## **Also.....**

The following events are above and beyond our events but are definitely worth investigating. Additionally we will be contacting other local clubs in Ontario for possible combination runs.

### **Mosport VARAC Annual Vintage Racing Festival - June 17**

If you like old cars and old car racing this is the place to be on Father's Day. It's Canada's version of the Monterey Historic Car races.

### **Huntsville Car Show - Sept 9**

Every year the Huntsville Business Improvement Association holds it's *Shades of Autumn Antique, Classic and Custom Car Show*. It is an all day event that closes down the main street and fills it with antique and classic cars. This year we would like to have a few members participate and help promote MoM in the Huntsville area. We intend to sponsor the "Best Sports Car" Award and wouldn't it be nice if a Miata won?

### **Dave's Garage Open House - Sunday September 16 (TBD)**

Each Spring and Fall Dave Biagioni, owner of Dave's Garage in Oakville, hosts an Open House and BBQ. This year unfortunately the Spring event was the same day as our AGM and although it rained there were over 70 Miatas that attended. It's definitely worth the trip to Oakville to see one of the premier Miata Garages in the country .

## **Welcome to Our New Members**

Our Membership has grown quite a bit from our initial group of ten. Naturally we have lost some members who have since sold their Miata but have taken on more members nearly every month since. Currently our Membership is based primarily in Bracebridge so we will be actively recruiting new members from other areas of Muskoka such as Gravenhurst , Huntsville and even Parry Sound.

We would like to welcome the following new members:

Bob & Carol Macaulay

Huntsville

Silver

2010



# SCRATCH BUILT *Miata*

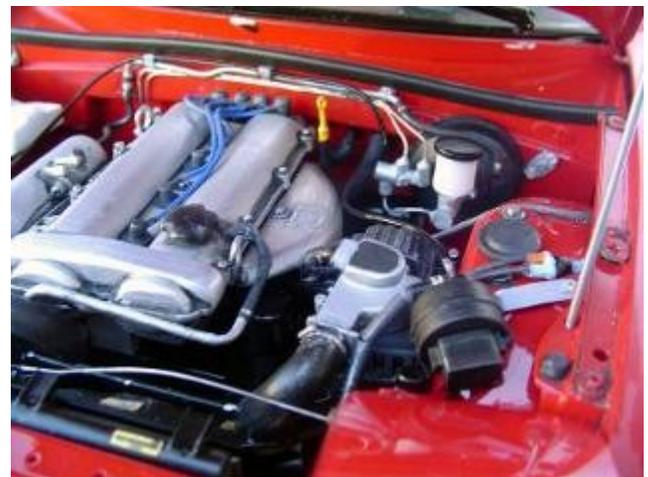
Congratulations must go out to Mike Villena of Peoria, Illinois who without a doubt, completed the most incredible feat of model-making I've ever seen. Mike started with a plastic bodied remote control car, and built it into a highly detailed *running* Miata model including engine, interior, opening doors, trunk, hood, entirely built from scratch!! The detail in the 1/4 scale model is absolutely amazing.



For his driver he converted a James Bond action figure (Ursula Andress ?) which should explain the rather generous cleavage. Mike actually took a dremel and gave her a "breast reduction" (oh really?). He documented every step, otherwise you wouldn't have believed it.

You've got to check it out here [1/4 Scale Miata](#) Lots of pictures, so it takes a while to load, but it's well worth the look.

This is all he started with; pictures & a plan



Detailed engine bay looks incredibly real

Dash board scratch built



Ursula before her surgery



Scratch built headlight covers



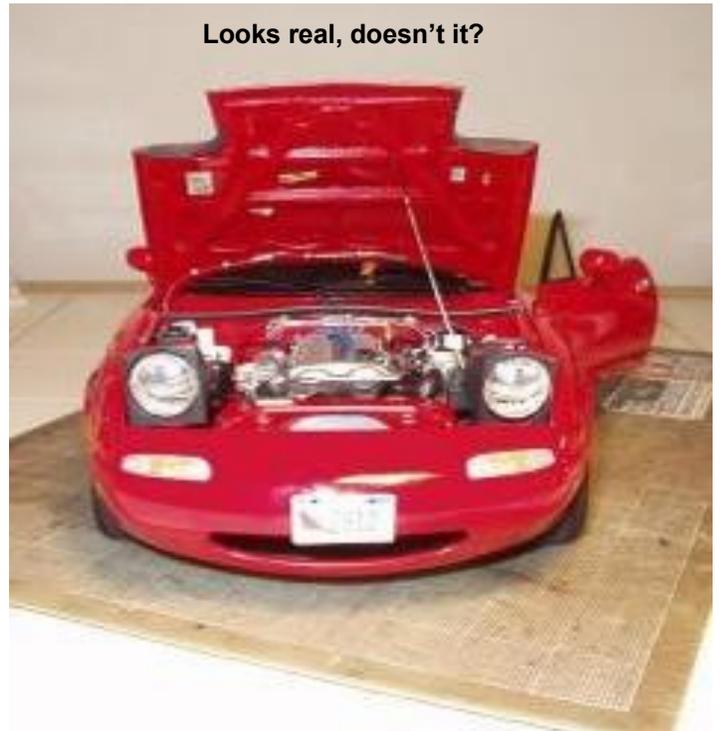
Finished product



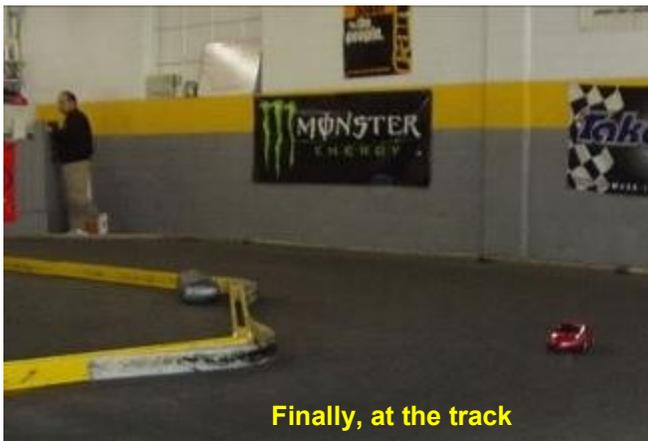
The finished Ursula



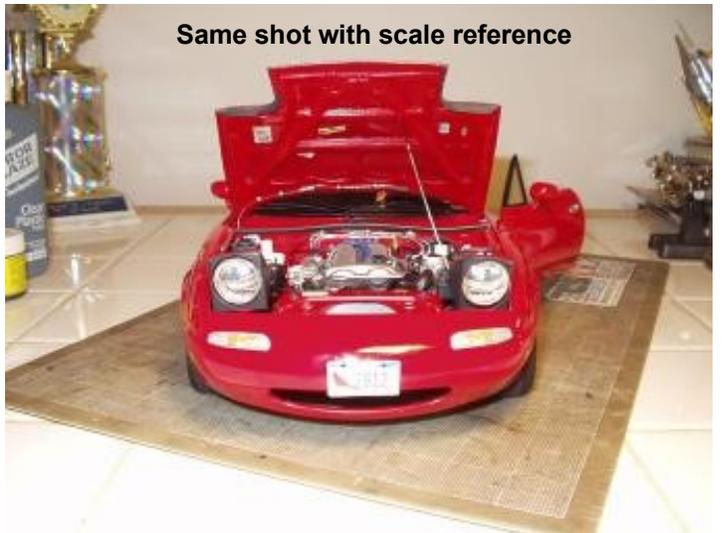
The door being detailed



Looks real, doesn't it?



Finally, at the track



Same shot with scale reference

## Did you Know

### *The MoM Web Site has fascinating stats?*

It has been almost a full year the MoM has been running it's web site and the Web Site Statistics generated provided us with an interesting and surprising analysis.

#### **# of Hits**

We have received over 100,00 hits to the site in the past year from 5,000 in the first month to about double that for the current average.

#### **# of Visitors**

We have had over 6,200 visitors with 23% having viewed a minimum of two 2 pages and 8% of all visitors have viewed five or more pages and the average number of pages viewed is increasing monthly. Approximately 87% of our monthly visitors are first time visitors.

#### **# of Countries**

At last count we have received visits from over 25 different countries. The USA (over 25 states) , Canada, and surprisingly China, Russia, and Japan are listed as the top 5. However, we have also had visitors from such countries as Cayman Islands, The Ivory Coast and the Philippines.

#### **# of Cities**

We've received visitors from over a 150 cities with our most common visitors from

Northern California (2 cities)

Sudbury

Beijing

Toronto

Moscow

(Note: Bracebridge, home to most of our members, is 12th on the list trailing Timmins!!)

#### **Pages most often visited**

Images & Videos 6%

Our Newsletter 5%

Club History 4%

Guest Book 2%

This figure is based on the past twelve months year but is changing in the past several weeks as the Events page is moving up the list as is the Guest Book page.

All in all some interesting statistics that were quite unexpected don't you think? The site has generated a great deal of interest for Members and non-Members alike.

Coupled with our Facebook page and Kijiji ads we have increased our exposure exponentially.

The posting of our Events Calendar for the upcoming cruising season should also help drive traffic as well as generate some new members.

## Helpful Hints - Camera Mount for your Style Bar

This tip is for all the Videographers / Photographers in the group. A number of Members have recently installed or purchased a Miata with Style Bars. This not only provides a neat look to the roaster but generally is used to accommodate some type of wind deflector as well. Now there is another use you can utilize for these bars, at a cost under \$5.<sup>00</sup>.

An easily removed Camera Mount for your style bar will allow you to record pictures and video while driving your Miata.



Materials required:

- (1) - 2.5" exhaust clamp - <\$3.00
- (2) - 1/4 x 20 nuts - from your parts bin or chump change
- (1) - 1/4 x 20 x 1 1/2 bolt - from your parts bin or some more chump change
- (1) - about 12" of silver duct tape (you HAVE to use duct tape in all projects, right?)

Simply tape the exhaust clamp with the duct tape to save any scratching of your Style Bars. The Camera screws onto the 1/4 x 20 bolt sticking up. The second nut tightens it so it doesn't swivel. With this set-up you can point your camera in any direction. You can watch your gauges, aim at your feet, the road forward or backward. Put it high on the hoop or low (as shown) on the cross brace. Clamp can be easily installed/removed as required.



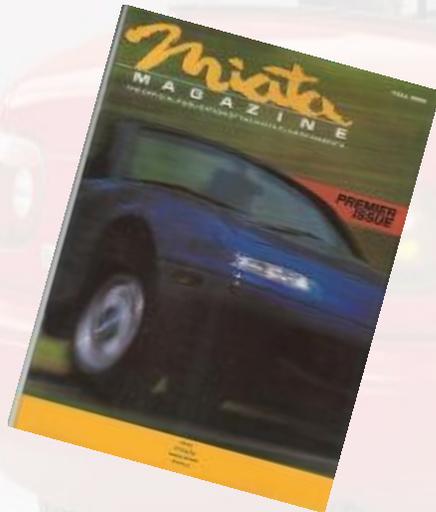
# Blast from the Past

# Old Miata "Stuff"

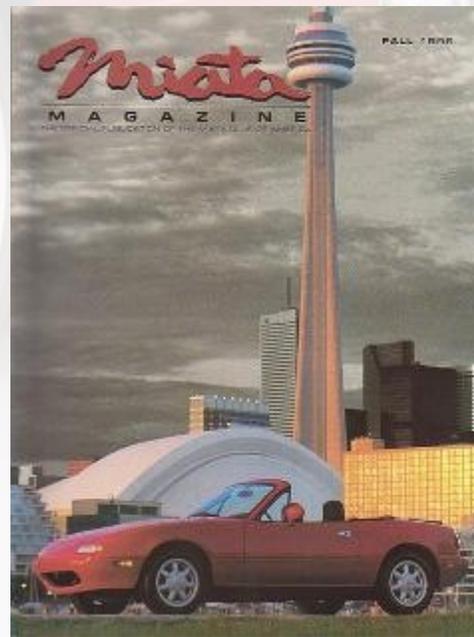
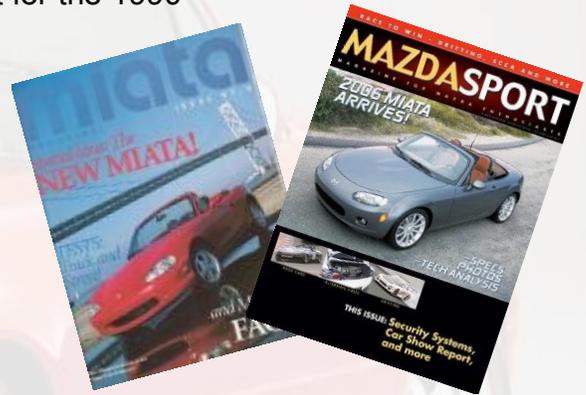
The Miata Club of America was a national club that started in 1989 and went out of business in 2000 (more on the club in a later newsletter). The MCA created the Miata Magazine and through its long time Editor, Barbara Beach, developed a product that could be considered to still be the premier publication dedicated to Mazda's 2-passenger convertible-roadster known in the USA as the Miata, in Japan originally as the Eunos, later as the Roadster and the rest of the world as the MX-5.

Barbara, who ultimately bought the magazine from the MCA made a valiant attempt to keep it going as a single marque premiere glossy magazine, but times change, and the Miata community alone wasn't enough to keep it viable as-is, so it mutated into MazdaSport Magazine. However there are many back issues available out there, and these back issues are loaded with features, articles and stories that are still relevant and entertaining today.

The debut magazine dedicated to the car that changed everything, contained the following: The Miata Story, Rod Bymaster (Mazda Product Manager) Interview, The Perpetual Austin Healey Part 1, Oil Basics, First Models and Concept Art for the 1990 Miata, Birth of a Club, Norm Garrett III, Vince Tidwell, News, Classic Ads and more!



The debut edition



Cover of Fall 1996 magazine, look familiar? The Trillium Miata Club hosted the National Convention that year in Toronto.





## Spotlight On

## The Colour Cars



In past issues we have discussed the rarity of different models and colours none which are as rare as the "Colour Cars". There were only six produced and each is unique onto itself, this is a brief history.

Early in 1990, six unpainted body shells were removed from the Ujina process after they were rustproofed and primed but before they were sent into the final colour coat line and taken to the prototype shop. Once there, they had the black painted for sills, top bay and quarter window frames and were then given their final colour coats. The cars were painted completely so that the colour is under the hood, inside the trunk and under the carpets. They were not painted some other colour first as was initially believed.

Upon completion they were then shipped to the Mazda design studio in Irvine, California. There were also eight 323 hatchbacks produced in a similar fashion. The Irvine Design Centre used them to evaluate new colours for future Mazda MX-3s. They were never considered for use on the Miata.

There were six Miata "colour" cars produced; three were A package cars and three had B packages, all with air conditioning. Although at the time the factory did not assign formal names they have been historically referred to as:

- Raspberry Metallic
- Electric Blue Metallic
- Pastel Yellow Metallic
- Teal Green Metallic
- Ice Green Metallic
- Orange ("Sunkist")

When they were finished with the cars, the Design Centre offered them for sale to employees, and most were bought by employees or their friends.

# The Colour Cars

## Two details exclusive to the Colour Cars



On the window sticker, all six of the colour cars share the same *Body Colour Code* of **X1**.

Radiator Support was left unpainted.



The purpose, as mentioned previously, was to determine which colours would eventually be used on the future Mazda MX3s.

The Pastel Yellow had a number of problems - such as rapidly discolouring bumperskins which had to be repainted four times between the time the car was built and when the colour clinic was held about seven weeks later. The Yellow was the only one to manifest its lack of production status in this manner. The Pastel Yellow Mica eventually was split two ways. A less intense version was used on MX-3s bound for Europe under the name Passion Yellow Mica (see pic next page). A more intense shade of the Mica Yellow was the 'image' colour for the Eunos Cosmo rotary-powered GT coupe, sold only in a Japan.



Pastel Yellow car as seen at Laguna Seca at the 1991 Historic Car Races

The Teal Green served as the base for two colours. A slightly greener version was offered on the MX-3 (see pic next page) and B-Series truck as Tropical Emerald., while a bluer version was used for the Protégé.

The Raspberry Metallic made it into production in a lighter form as the colour for a limited edition version of the MX-3 sold in in Canada during 1993 (see pic next page) as well as on the Eunos Presso (a version of MX-3 sold in Japan) in 1993/4.

The Electric Blue was 'recycled' by Mazda's Colour Designers and a second go at a similar colour with a different formula was proposed - and accepted - for the Japanese home market Capella, sold elsewhere in the world - except North America - as the 626.

The Ice Green and Orange options went nowhere in the system, though a metallic pale green - with a different pigment base - was adopted a few years later.



Ice Green car as seen in the Spring 1992 issue of Miata Magazine

The current whereabouts is known for four of these vehicles. To view a video made of the Orange car click [here](#).

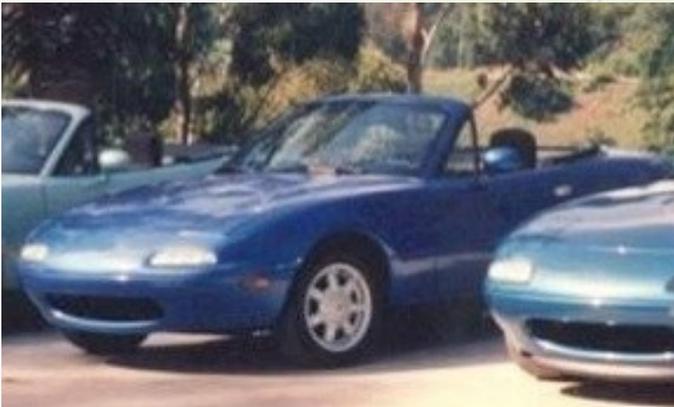
# The Colour Cars



**Orange (Sunkist)**



**Ice Green**



**Electric Blue**



**Teal Green**



**Pastel Yellow**



**Raspberry**



**The cars the paint colour was designed for**