

Enthusiastic Group of Miateers Attends February Dinner

For the first of our 2009 Friday the 13th dinners, nearly 30 club members and friends decided that it was time to check out the legendary nightlife of Wayne, Ohio. Armed with maps, Google instructions and GPS trackers, they came from such far flung locations as Napoleon, Lambertville, Findlay, Gibsonburg and Bowling Green.

Local residents Kathy and John Mills had arranged a gala reception at Wayne's premier eatery, The Country Farmhouse. True to its reputation, the food was varied and excellent and the service was top notch. The prime rib was featured, but a quick scan of the dining room revealed dinners of fish, pasta, BBQ ribs and a variety of

sandwiches. Homemade pies were touted for dessert, but a lot of the diners had to pass due to the copious quantities offered in the main courses.

The Millses had arrived first, the better to secure a parking place directly in front of the restaurant. That was important, since John had chosen to drive a just-off-the-truck 2009 Miata. It turns out that Wagner Mazda had received its first two '09 models about three o'clock that afternoon, and John had snagged one to show off to the group (one of the perks of being Service Manager). It was a liquid silver rag top, and it looked good, even with some of the wrapping and covers still on it. Recall that the front of the 2009 model is more aggressive, a la RX-8 styling.

(see **February Dinner**, page 2)

Friday the 13th Dinner Meeting

Date: Friday, March 13, 2009

Time: 7:00 pm

Place: La Scola Italian Grill, 5375 Airport Highway
(just west of Reynolds Road), Toledo

Friday the 13th superstitions have led to the following: *Some airplanes have no 13th row.

*More than 80 percent of high-rises lack a 13th floor. *Many airports skip the 13th gate.

*Hospitals and hotels regularly have no room number 13.

*Italians omit the number 13 from their national lottery.

*In Florence, Italy, houses between numbers 12 and 14 are addressed as 12 and a half.

*Many cities do not have a 13th Street or a 13th Avenue

*In France, socialites known as the quatorziens (fourteeners) once made themselves available as 14th guests to keep a dinner party from an unlucky fate.

But don't be afraid! Come enjoy dinner and share your own superstitions with your Miata friends.

Please contact Marv and Carol Himmelein at CarolHimm@hotmail.com or 419-873-8224 by Monday, March 9 to make a reservation.

(February Dinner, from page 1)

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Welcome to New Members

Larry and Jennifer Hupp
Swanton, Ohio
2003 Red
larryhupp@wellesbowen.com



Looking forward to seeing you
at our next event!

For Sale

1993 Miata, 5 speed, new black paint [done by a local guy who has an excellent professional reputation]. New top. First owner was a mechanic. Well maintained. 174,000 miles. Includes gray Enkei wheels and new tires or will separate for \$400. Price: Best Reasonable Offer - need college money. Call Nick at 419-575-3689.

So you can not only be the first on your block, but probably the first in your town, to own a 2009 Miata. And if the 2009 styling doesn't appeal to you, John reports that they still have some new 2008's at deep discount prices.

The evening ended by our club President outlining our 2009 event calendar and receiving commitments from several chairpersons. See his comments below.

View from the Driver's Seat

It looks like we are going to have a summer packed like a Miata on a weekend road trip! The schedule of events for the Meandering season is shaping up quickly. We have events for April, June, July, August and late September or early October. The events range from day trips to weekenders and several of our members are going to Dallas for the national Miata event in May, as well. That means that we are looking for events for May and September [depending on the date Sue Greeley picks]. The Riverun for May will need someone to act as coordinator since our usual run leader will be one of those in Dallas.

Once again the club is planning to do our part to give back to the twisties by cleaning our adopted road, starting in April. Hopefully, we can continue making our impact and friends along that stretch of the road. The call for volunteers will start at the March dinner. We will also be looking for event planners for the remaining months. I know that I'm very ready to put this winter in the memory books by letting the wind whip through the remainder of my hair! See everyone at dinner on the 13th.

Jerry Bish

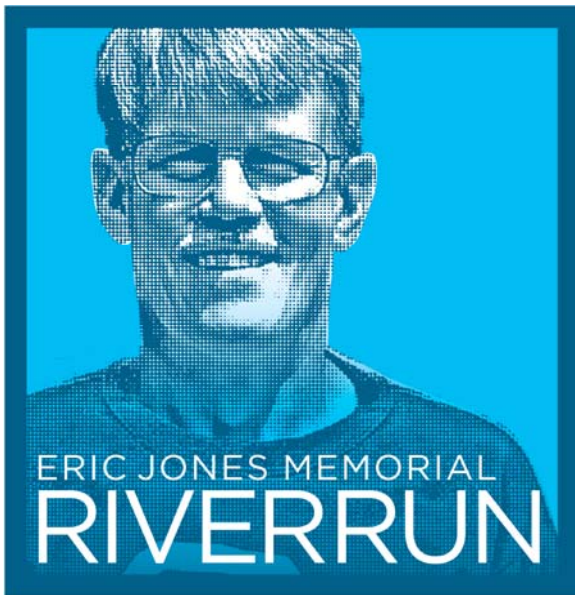
Mazda Miata MX-5 Celebrates 20th Birthday

February 9, 1989 was a significant date in automotive history, and clearly in the life of Mazda. That day, the MX-5 Miata was unveiled to the world. Since then, the MX-5 has become the world's best-selling two-seat sports car, listed in the *Guinness Book of World Records* as the most popular sports car ever built.

Mazda MX-5 offers roadster driving at its best. The MX-5's original concept has been so successful that Mazda has never changed it: affordable to buy, lightweight, precise handling, and classic roadster looks. The Miata is the jewel of "Kansei Engineering," a philosophy that every car that Mazda makes should be designed to provide strong emotional as well as functional satisfaction. For a sports car like Miata, whose sole purpose is pure driving fun, this objective is very important. Thus the Mazda Miata project team scorned "packaging" and "off-the-shelf" components, and instead began with a pure concept of "America's ideal sports car."

Two decades later, the MX-5 Miata is still a lightweight, balanced and responsive roadster that delivers the very best wind-in-the-hair driving at an affordable price. And because Mazda's engineers never lost sight of that "soul of a sports car" positioning for which the entire brand has become known, the Miata also is the world's most-raced nameplate. The MX-5 is currently in its third iteration. Read on for a summary of each generation:

(see **Miata Birthday**, page 4)



A SPORTS CAR DRIVING TOUR

Saturday, May 23, 2009

Eric's Riverrun is a 300+ mile, all-day driving tour using some of Ohio's most interesting and challenging roads. This year, the route will start east of Columbus and go southeast through Woodsfield and down SR 536 to Hannibal on the river. After a picnic on the riverbank, we'll loop over SR 255 and SR 26 back to the river, down through Marietta, north on SR 555 to Zanesville for a finish in Jacksontown at SR 13.

Cars leave the Bob Evans at SR 256 & I 70, between 8 and 9 am. We should be at the Ohio River around 12:30 pm and finish by 6 pm., depending on the time spent sightseeing. There is no fixed schedule nor any assigned speeds. This is a tour rather than a rally.

You may reserve your spot after April 1st. Contact Susan Logan at slogan.osu@gmail.com or (740) 363-2203 for more details and to reserve your spot. There is a \$5.00 fee to cover organizational expenses. All profit will be donated in Eric Jones' memory to The James Cancer Hospital for Mesothelioma Research Fund.

Editor's Note: We have had as many as 14 cars from our club enjoy this event - going to Columbus and having dinner on Friday night and coming back on Sunday. Linda and I will be in Texas at Miata World II that weekend, so we need someone to organize our group.

It's really just a matter of booking a motel and securing a restaurant for Friday night dinner. Contact me soon and I'll help with the arrangements.

Adopt-A-Highway Scheduled for 2009

We still need a volunteer to chair this program, but Mary Jo Bish has agreed to handle the coordination until our hero comes forward.

Tentatively, three Saturday dates have been established - **April 25, July 18 and October 17.**



Each session will start at 9 am and they generally take less than two hours. We traditionally do a little drive afterwards and have lunch, so it's not all work. The group meets at Nazareth Hall, on SR 65 about a mile south of SR 235.

This is our chance to provide a little community service and have some fun at the same time. The first session is coming up soon, so **please** contact Mary Jo **now** at 419-287-3278 or timoria@wcnnet.org so that we can be assured of a good turnout for the first session.

Wagner Mazda

1600 N. Countyline Street

Fostoria, Ohio 44830

419-435-8131

800-589-8111

Email: EmailWagner@aol.com



MX-5 Miata



Mazda3



Mazda6



CX-7

Call or stop in and talk to Jeff, Brett or Dave and check the NWOHio Miata Club web site for the latest special deals.

Tentative 2009 Miata Event Calendar

Friday	March 13	Miata Club Dinner at La Scola hosted by the Himmeleins
Saturday	April 18	Miata Meander by Potvin and Myers
Saturday	April 25	Adopt-A-Highway Cleanup Session
Tue - Sun	May 12-17	Miatas Do Deals Gap with the Sheridans
Saturday	May 16	Amazing Race for Literacy
Fri - Mon	May 22-25	Miata World II, Dallas, Texas
Saturday	May 23	Eric Jones Memorial Riverrun, Columbus
Saturday	June 13	Meander to Icky's by the Barkleys
Sunday	July 11	Meander to MIS with the MiMiata Club
Saturday	July 18	Adopt-A-Highway Cleanup Session
Sat - Sun	August 1-2	Meander to Meadowbrook Concours by the Bishes
Fri - Sat	September 11-13	Midwest Miata Gathering - Cincinnati
Saturday	October TBA	Miata Meander by Greeley and Guiberson

(Miata Birthday, from page 2)

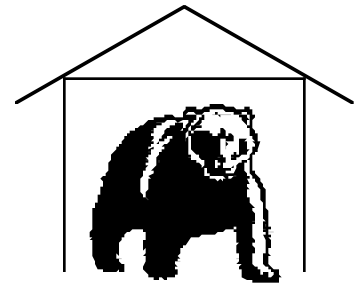
First Generation: A 1990 model launched in 1989, the original Miata featured a starting price of \$13,800 and went on sale in May in the United States. The first-generation Miata featured a 1.6-liter four-cylinder engine with 116 horsepower. A five-speed manual transmission was standard and City/Hwy fuel economy was 25/30 mpg. Suspension was by independent double wishbone on all four wheels, and braking consisted of four wheel-disc brakes. Wheels were 14x5.5" steel or 14x6" alloy, both with 185/60 R14 radial tires. The Miata featured an easy-to-operate soft top, with one-hand operation. The Miata weighed a low 2,116 lbs. and could reach 60 mph in less than nine seconds. When it was launched, the car created such excitement among buyers that demand exceeded production and became an instant success. The first change came in the 1994 model year. Miata was refreshed with a little more power through use of a 128-horsepower 1.8-liter engine.

Second Generation: The 1999 model offered a more powerful engine and new styling, including a new headlight design. The vehicle featured fixed headlights, as opposed to the first generation's retractables. Also, the plastic window in the soft top was replaced with a glass window. The 1.8-liter engine received several updates with power output at 140 bhp with EPA mileage of 24/29 mpg. The base model could reach 60 mph in 7.9 seconds, with a top speed of 122 mph. Weight of the second generation Miata was 2,200 pounds. A limited edition model was introduced in 1999 to celebrate Miata's 10th anniversary. This model used a six-speed transmission, limited-slip differential and sport-tuned suspension. A face-lifted second-generation MX-5 was launched as a 2001 model. Mazda added more horsepower, a more rigid chassis and larger brakes. In addition, 16-inch alloy wheels, a six-speed manual transmission, more aggressive styling and interior improvements were available. This Miata delivered 142 bhp with 23/28 mpg. This model weighed 2,387 pounds. In 2004, Mazda launched the turbocharged MAZDASPEED MX-5, with a 178 horsepower turbocharged and intercooled engine.

Third Generation: The third generation MX-5 went on sale as a 2006 model. Every component on the car was either all new or extensively revised. The exterior styling was freshened, with the most noticeable change in the front fenders. A new 16-valve, 2.0-liter engine was introduced, producing 170 horsepower, coupled to either a five- or a six-speed manual or a six-speed automatic transmission. The third generation Miata used a front wishbone/rear multilink suspension to increase ride quality and handling. Traction control and stability control were also added. In 2007, Mazda offered a new Power Retractable Hard Top (PRHT). Opening and closing in only 12 seconds, making it the fastest retractable hard top in the U.S., and the only retractable hardtop that doesn't compromise trunk space. Additionally, the PRHT adds only 77 pounds to the total weight of the car.

Griz's Garage - Falling Trunk Lids

by Keith Sommers



How many of you have been putting groceries or luggage into the trunk of your car and have had the unfortunate luck of being eaten by your closing trunk lid? I know that when it happened to me, all my wife heard was !#%&*!.. Once I freed myself from the rear end of my hungry little friend, it became apparent to me that I must find a way of curbing my trunk lid's biting tendencies.

I researched the Miata forum at www.miata.net and found that many owners have had this happen to them. Some of the fixes included:

- o Bending the torsion rods
- o Adding a rubber hose to the rods
- o Adding a screw to the rod bracket
- o Installing heavy duty rods
- o Installing a lift strut
- o Repositioning the tension rods

My choice was to reposition the tension rods. The question then became, how could I accomplish this? The forum didn't show clear pictures and the instructions were lacking detail. I next turned to the [Mazda Miata Enthusiast's Shop Manual](#), which is considered to be the Miata mechanics bible. The manual's excellent instructions and illustrations guided me through the adjustment process.

The trunk lid is held up with the help of two torsion or balance springs, which are attached to the hinges. There are position slots located in the left fixed spring mount that are used to increase or decrease the tension. It takes one large screwdriver covered with tape to protect the paint and about two minutes of your time to make the adjustment.

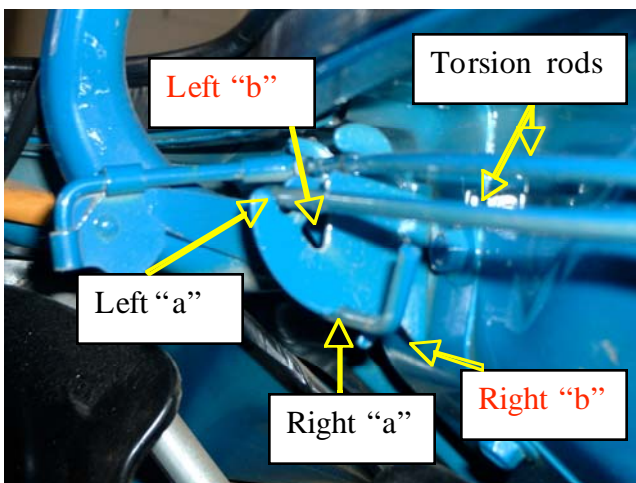


Figure 1. Torsion springs shown in the increased tension position

Figure 1 shows slotted position settings for the springs. My original spring locations were in the decrease position of left side b and right side b, as shown by the red labels.

Warning: the springs are under a lot of tension and can be very dangerous. Using the screwdriver as a lever (figure 2), I positioned the torsion spring into the left and right side "a" positions. The trunk lid has a lot more tension and hopefully will not try to eat me again.

X = Set Position

Tension	Hinge	a	b
Standard	Left Side		X
	Right Side	X	
Increase	Left Side	X	
	Right Side	X	
Decrease	Left Side		X
	Right Side		X

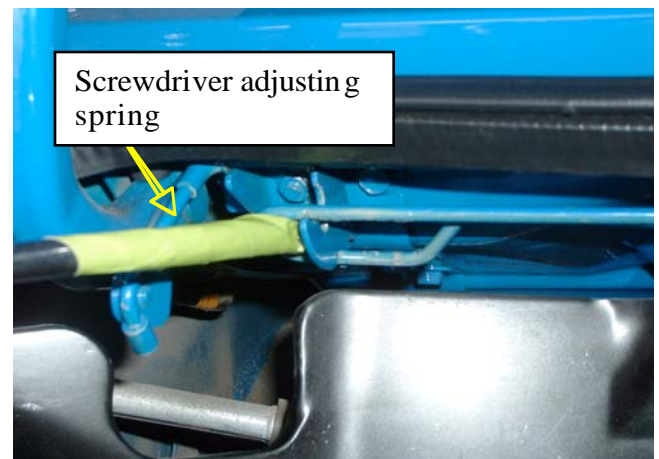


Figure 2.