



# Wheels in Motion



**Dana Breda's driveway:  
The silver NC has been in the family for a long time.  
But the NB was bought to be some kind of project car  
Story starts on page 7**

**July 2022**



# Wheels in Motion

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**Facebook:**

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1221394091665789>

# Upcoming Events

## Track Days at Talladega Speedway

August 13th  
Details on page 11

## Miata Reunion at Barber Motorsports Park

July 30th & 31st (Saturday & Sunday)  
Details on page 11  
or contact Ron at [mrhandyrsl@hotmail.com](mailto:mrhandyrsl@hotmail.com)

## Miatas at the Gap

August 4th thru 7th at Fontana, NC  
Details on page 12

## Miata Cruze-In

October 22nd (Saturday)  
Details on page 13

## Key West "Hometown Holiday Parade"

December 3rd (Saturday) 7:00pm  
Details on page 14

## Christmas Dinner & Party

December 15th, (Thursday)  
Olde World Restaurant  
Details when available

## Monthly Meeting Thurs, July 14th

Olde World Restaurant, 14415 Tamiami Trail #2728  
North Port, FL 34287

Monthly meetings are the 2nd Thursday of the month

Dinner at 5pm and meeting at 6pm.

Please RSVP to Kathy Engler by July 8th at [kathy.engler@gmail.com](mailto:kathy.engler@gmail.com)

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## Board of Directors Meeting

Tuesday, July 12th

Olympia Restaurant, 3245 Tamiami Trail, Port Charlotte, FL 33952

Lunch at noon and official meeting starts at 1pm

All interested members are invited to attend!

## Cover Photo & 'THE END' Back Cover Photo:

Thanks to Dana Breda for his front and back photos.  
The silver NC has been in the family for a long time.  
But the NB was bought to be some kind of project car  
And Dana is still working on exactly what he wants to do with it.

## **JUST FOR FUN**

**Breakfast Socializer July 26th**

**Metro Dinner, 1720 Tamiami Trail Suite 100,  
Port Charlotte, FL 33948.**

**RSVP to Judy at [memmx5swf@yahoo.com](mailto:memmx5swf@yahoo.com) by July 22nd**

# From the Editor's Desk

By Ron Lindensmith

Welcome to the July edition of the Miata Club of Southwest Florida newsletter. Here's wishing everybody a wonderful 4th of July holiday! I don't have a lot to say this month.

Thanks to Dana Breda for this month's front and back cover photos... we should all be so lucky as to own 2 Miatas! LOL! But inside this issue, you'll find Dana wants to sell his really clean, low mileage NB. I have front and back photos for August already. And I fully expect that I'll be the front and back covers for September. With any luck it will be photo of me on track at Barber Motorsports Park or during Miatas at the Gap. Of course, if anybody sends in better photos than what I have in the works, I'll be more than happy to change the schedule! Let's call it the 'Front & Back Cover Challenge'. Even if you just go someplace near or far and get a cool photo with your Miata, I'd like to see it and try to use it! (you can be in the photo too)

I have to admit, I've been kind of distracted the last few months. I've had lots of things going on in my life, from my health issues (prostrate cancer) two vacations, first to the Grand Canyon and second to the Florida Keys. And the lack of events locally with the Club hasn't helped with keeping my interest focused. I had to miss the 're-scheduled' ice cream social because we already had reservations made for the Keys snorkel trip and my new little 16 gallon 'all in one' aquarium needed some clean up crew, which is what I collect when we go snorkeling.



But now my focus is switching to the Miata Reunion and Miatas at the Gap coming up the end of July and first weekend in August. Oh, and like right now, I have a Miata Club newsletter to get moving on so it's ready by the end on June.

## Miata Quiz

by Dennis Laslo

- How many times has the Miata been honored with Car and Driver's annual 10 best award?  
Once. The first year the Miata was introduced  
Four times  
Ten times  
Fifteen times  
More than fifteen times
- How many horsepower did the debut Miata have at launch in 1989?  
95  
102.9  
116  
144  
200
- What color in the 1992 Miata was used on only 1500 cars making it a very rare find?  
Red-Black  
Sunburst Yellow  
British Racing Green  
White with green racing stripes  
Sky Blue
- What was the first year Mazda added an option for an automatic transmission?  
1989  
1990  
1991  
1995  
1999
- Where is Mazda USA located?  
Orlando, FL  
Seattle, WA  
Irvine, CA  
New York City  
San Francisco, CA
- In a process called, Takuminuri, which translates to English as "artisan coloring," painting robots were effectively taught to duplicate the techniques of Mazda's best craftsmen. In addition to a high chroma pigment and light absorbing flakes, what metal is added to the Soul Red Crystal Takuminuri process?  
Titanium  
Lithium  
Aluminum  
Beryllium  
Mercury

**ANSWERS ON PAGE 14**

# Everyone Needs a Little Sunshine

By Sandy Cole

Hi to ALL you special Miata Fans:

If you happen to be in Florida, despite the fact this is the rainy season, there are lots of opportunities to have your top down and enjoy the good life. Although, you might check to be sure your AC is working! There seems to be several interesting events scheduled for July and August. I remember a very special trip to experience the TAIL OF THE DRAGON. It was a fun and exciting challenge. I strongly encourage you to look into it.

The only person who needed extra sunshine this month is Don Cole, my husband, who had a fall and fractured his hip. This required surgery and will be followed up by time in a rehab program, to which he is less than excited. We can't thank you enough for the many calls, emails, texts and cards we received. It is comforting to know we have such support.

This is the month when we are pleased and proud to celebrate our Nation's birthday in addition to those members born in July. Please join me in wishing the following a VERY HAPPY AND HEALTHY BIRTHDAY: Ron Basil, Dan Bierbrauer, Tom Burich, Donald Carey, Lisa Hammond, Charlene Hayman, John Henry, Steven Kindelan, Nancy Lopez, Walter Munoz, Cindy Obergefell, Knute O'Connor, Janet Oleksyszyn, John Plontkowski, Doreen Reed, Muriel Watts, Dick Yando and, Carl Yost. We hope you all have a safe and festive celebration.

Please take care. We look forward to seeing you all soon.

Sunshine Sandy



**BUT I'M NOT GROWING UP!**

# Membership Notes

By Judy Western

Good day Miata friends....

The beginning of our 2022 year has started.

We had our membership drive that just ended. Of course, it's never too late to join us again. We had a few people who did not re-new due to age, moving, or sickness. We wish everyone well in this 2022.

If you still want to renew, please drop me a note.

Looking forward to our outings coming up.. stay tuned for more info...

## Ed Howard Mazda Status

**Some of you asked me about what's going on at Ed Howard Mazda?**

**Well, they're getting a new building.**

**Completion is estimated this summer.**

**If you want service, they are temporarily doing business in the Lincoln dealership next door.**

**Mazda Parts is in the existing Mazda building on the left side**

**Sales is also in the Lincoln Dealership**

**and clearly marked to the right of the service drive through.**

**And an added benefit of your Miata Club of Southwest Florida membership is you get 10% discounts on service and parts at Ed Howard.**

**Just show your card.**

**Dennis Laslo (Ed Howard Liaison)**

# Ice Cream Social

By Rayanna Edwards

After having to postpone the Ice Cream Social drive due to weather, we were finally able to meet on Saturday, June 18<sup>th</sup> at Cracker Barrel in Fort Myers. 14 Miatas departed for a little over an hour drive through Alva, Buckingham and Lehigh Acres. We ended at Rick and Rayanna Edward's home in Lehigh for an Ice Cream Social in our garage. Plenty of ice cream, both Vanilla and Chocolate, with lots of topping for everyone's taste. We visited with each other for a while and then went on our way. It was a great event and the weather cooperated.



*A new project (almost)*



# A new project (almost)

By Dana Breda

I've been itching for a new project for some time now. I've always liked to have a big project to work on; something to look forward to, even if I don't actually work on it every day. I've always enjoyed building and fixing things and have built houses, airplanes (put 4000 man-hours into one of them), boats, motorcycles and the like, but never a car. I've wanted to build a car since I was about 14 when I watched a guy who lived up the street build a car with a fiberglass sports car body from Devin. That was a ton of work but boy, did he have a cool car!

I've always loved things that were noisy and fast, but cars were getting me into trouble for some reason so I got more into motorcycles, boats and airplanes. Fast forward to today... Sold my airplane in 2014 and decided to buy a sports car with the money that was burning a hole in my pocket. Thought hard about a Lotus Elise (I'd been hot for an Elan since the 60's) but bought a new Miata Club instead with the intention of modifying it for more power and handling since I wanted to do the work myself.

Found our Miata club along about here, loved it and here I am!

Well, the Miata got pretty much done and in 2020 I spent 8 months building a strip canoe while laying low from COVID. I've been doing odd woodworking stuff since then but nothing major sooooo.....

A couple months ago I got me a "new" 2004 Miata NB. It's bone stock with no rust, has a 5-speed gearbox and the handling package with Bilstein shocks, shock tower brace and lim-

ited slip differential. And it has under 37K miles on it. I was gonna take this thing apart, keep the running gear, sell the rest for parts and build me a car!

Time has marched on and I've been doing more thinking and research. I finally realized I didn't want to spend so much time on disassembly and re-habbing old parts on my nice painted garage floor sooooo...

Now the plan is to sell the NB. It didn't need much in the line of repair; the power mirrors didn't work so with the help of Youtube I took the switch apart and fixed that issue. I also pulled the wheels off to check the brakes and shocks then spent a little time polishing the paint and getting it waxed up.

Next, I'll figure out how best to advertise it. We're off to Philly, Boston and Cape Cod for the last couple weeks of June so I'll work on that when we get back. Could possibly make a bit on it but just want it gone now, because I have plans...

Tune in next month; I've got something in the works and maybe I'll have news to share!



**Instead of a sign  
that says “Do not  
disturb”, I need  
one that says  
“Already  
disturbed, proceed  
with caution.”**

**Every family has  
one weird relative.**

**If you don't know  
who it is, then it's  
probably you.**

## **TWELVE COMMANDMENTS FOR SENIORS**

# 1 - Talk to yourself. There are times you need expert advice

# 2 - In Style are the clothes that still fit.

# 3 - You don't need anger management. You need people to stop making you mad.

# 4 - Your people skills are just fine. It's your tolerance for idiots that needs work.

# 5 - The biggest lie you tell yourself is, I don't need to write that down. I'll remember it. "

# 6 -On time is when you get there.

# 7 - Even duct tape can't fix stupid - but it sure does muffle the sound.

# 8 - It would be wonderful if we could put ourselves in the dryer for ten minutes, then come out wrinkle-free and three sizes smaller?

# 9 - Lately, You've noticed people your age are so much older than you.

# 10 - Growing old should have taken longer.

# 11 - Aging has slowed you down, but it hasn't shut you up.

# 12 - You still haven't learned to act your age, and hope you never will??

And one more:

"One for the road" means going to the bathroom before you leave the house.



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2022 MX-5

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# TRACK DAYS AT TALLADEGA SPEEDWAY

by Donna Noyes

Here is what I know so far -

Dates: August 13th

The event organizer says that Track days will include:

- Two laps around Talladega Superspeedway
- Opening up the garage area to have a large show 'n shine event, open to any makes and models
- We will have food and drink available to purchase
- Photo in victory lane
- Photo of each car before they roll out and do their laps (still working on the details of this)
- Initial plan is to create a folder that we can send to all attendees so they can go in and find their car and other photos that they want to keep
- Dash plaque
- This event is meant to be an all-day event

Also included is a race ticket to either the GEICO 500 on April 24th, 2022 or the YellaWood 500 on October 2nd, 2022. All attendees will sit together for the race, Sections have already been blocked off to keep everyone as close as possible.

Cost is \$35 per person + \$25 per car for the track days. The \$25 will support local charities in East Alabama.

Once we get final details and the actual date, we can find out if we have any interested members that would like to attend. We can caravan to the area - probably this will be a 3- or 4-night trip - and we might find other places to visit on the way or in the area. So, keep this in mind - it could be pretty incredible, I think. Imagine driving your beloved Miata on the Talladega Super Speedway, with a photo to prove it! In the meantime, if you are a fan of Will Ferrell, maybe check out the movie "Talladega Nights: The Ballad of Ricky Bobby".

# Miata Reunion

[www.miatareunion.com](http://www.miatareunion.com)

**Flyin' Miata G-Force Challenge** all day Saturday to test both your driving skills AND your Miata's grip on the Barber Skid Pad.

**No roll bars are required.**

**Car Control Clinic by Jzilla Track Days** all day Saturday, offering professional instruction to improve those driving skills.

**No roll bars are required.**

**Moss Miata Car Show** on Saturday afternoon.

**Miata Reunion Formal Banquet** Saturday evening inside the Museum, with **special guest speakers: Tom Matano and Norman Garrett.**  
(Space limited to 400 people).

**Vendor Alley** – the only time each year where all the top Miata parts and service folks are at the same event.

**Saturday Parade Laps** on track, including Group Photo and aerial drone video. At our last event, we had 644 Miatas in the Parade Laps.

**Moss Miata Sunday Cruise.** Limited to 50 cars, touring a pre-planned fun route through beautiful (and twisty) Alabama country roads.

**Registration is open**

Saturday and Sunday, July  
30-31, 2022

Barber Motorsports Parks,  
Leeds, Alabama

On-site registration: Fri-  
day, July 29, 2022,

at Hampton Inn & Suites,  
Leeds (official Event Hotel).





## **What is Miatas at the Gap? <https://www.gapmiatas.com/>**

Simply put, MATG is THE longest running Miata gathering in the country. Located in the midst of some of the greatest driving roads in the country. We are one of the largest gatherings of Miatas and owners in the US.

### **Who?**

Attendees range from Miata newbie to 20+ year veteran and their vehicles from stock to Excocet/track rat and all forms in between. They come from all walks of life and some even come from other countries to attend each year. The cars were meant for these roads and the area doesn't disappoint.

### **Where?**

Ground Zero for the event is the Fontana Village Resort (link, map) located in the middle of Miata driving paradise. The main attraction for the Miata enthusiast is the legendary Tail of the Dragon. Being in close proximity to other options like Wayah Road, the Cherohala Skyway, Moonshiner 28, Devil's Triangle TN, Six Gap in Georgia, and Diamondback 226A means endless hours and days of driving bliss.

### **Why?**

Miata, MX-5, Eunos Roadster, whatever you call it, the Mazda Miata is the most popular sports car ever made. With more than 1,000,000 built since 1989 and fans and enthusiasts the world over love to come together to enjoy great driving roads, make lasting friendships, and enjoy being a part of the greatest group of car enthusiasts around.

### **Other Details**

We have vendors for all types of Miata upgrades, a tent with event t-shirts and commemorative dash plaques, a schedule of organized drives, and the infamous beer and wine swap on Saturday night. There is also a General Store nearby to keep you fed and hydrated for your driving adventures while providing a great meeting point.

Details have now been finalized for our annual Florida Roadsters Meet, The Miata Cruise In to Summer Crush Winery - 2022. It will take place on Saturday, October 22nd, at Summer Crush Winery in Fort Pierce from 12-4pm.

For those of you planning to attend and have your car parked in the festival parking area in front of the pavilion for the car show, you should plan on arriving between 10:30 and 11:30am so cars can be parked in plenty of time before the public arrives at noon. Do not arrive at the winery before 10am.

I have chosen the No Name Car Club to co-host and handle the parking duties plus vehicle registration and popular voting tabulation for the trophies to be awarded for each generation of Miata's at the show. Peoples choice voting winners will be announced at 3pm and trophies handed out thereafter.

There is a \$20 fee per car to enter the winery which includes the gate fees for driver and passenger and parking privilege's in the car show area. It is highly recommended to bring beach chairs to sit in front of the pavilion and around the car show area to better enhance the comradery for the event. If you choose to sit under the pavilion, you will have to reserve a table once the event is posted on the Summer Crush website which is a separate fee from the \$20 gate passes.

The Beatles Guys Tribute Band will perform live music and there will be 2 food trucks that will supply the food for the day. **NO COOLERS OR OFF PREMISE FOOD OR BEVERAGES, INCLUDING WATER ARE ALLOWED TO BE BROUGHT INTO THE VENUE.** Food, beverages, both alcoholic and regular, can be purchased at Summer Crush.

For those planning to arrive Friday evening and stay overnight before the event or stay overnight Saturday, Holiday Inn Express Ft Pierce FL 772 464 5000 is the host hotel. Mention Summer Crush and get 20% off on your stay!

**Looking forward to a great day with our Miata club friends. See you on October 22nd.**



# Key West

## "Hometown Holiday Parade"

By Dana Breda

Hi all,

I'm getting an early start organizing a trip to Key West for the 2022 Christmas parade!

The Miata Club has been participating in the Key West Christmas Parade for 26 years (they cancelled the parade in 2020) and it has always been a fun time! We drive to Key West together on Friday morning, stop several places along our way for sightseeing and lunch, and arrive about 4:00 pm. Saturday is yours to explore the area, and there are many fun ways to spend your day. We usually meet for an early dinner on Saturday before we decorate our Miatas for the 7 pm parade. After the parade, you can do the Duval crawl, or head out for cocktails and conversation. Sunday, most of us head for home.

If you haven't seen them, check out the videos of the parade on the gallery page of our website at [miataclubofsouthwestflorida.com](http://miataclubofsouthwestflorida.com).

I've been leading the parade weekend for the last few years and we've typically had between 8 and 12 Cars. In 2019 several members of the Music City (Nashville) Miata Club joined us and they had 3 cars attending last year. I've sent them an invitation for this year also but don't know if any will attend.

**I need to know if you are interested in going!** I know it's very early, but please let me know if you think you can make it. I also need to know if you would make your own room reservation or if I should try to find a hotel for the group. Room rates went high after Covid and have not come down. Average room rates at the time of this writing are around \$300 per night. Hotels fill up fast for the parade weekend. Those with a military ID card are eligible to stay at the Navy MWR facilities in Key West.

**Call, text or email me if you have any questions!**

Dana Breda

[dbreda@earthlink.net](mailto:dbreda@earthlink.net)

336-416-7464

## UNDERSTANDING ENGINEERS

**PERCUSSIVE MAINTENANCE** I hit it and it started working

**CYCLE POWER TO THE PANEL** Turn it off and on again

**HIGH IMPEDANCE AIR-GAP** I forgot to plug it in

**ORGANIC GROUNDING** I got electrocuted

**THERMALLY RECONFIGURED** It melted

**KINETIC DISASSEMBLY** It blew up

**THERMAL SHOCK** It burned

### Answers to Puzzle

Answers: 1) E – Miata won 19 times, 2) C, 3) B, 4) C, 5) C, 6) C

*Editor's note: BTW, I did terrible at this puzzle!*



# 2022 Mazda MX-5 Miata RF Club

## First Test:

### Still Squatty and Fun

From June 2022 MOTORTREND : [Erick Ayapana](#), Writer; [Brandon Lim](#), Photographer

**The new Kinematic Posture Control system doesn't erase the Miata's body motions—and we're OK with that.**

We'll take any excuse to get behind the wheel of the Mazda MX-5 Miata. Very few cars provide an instant jolt of joy like the Miata can, so when Mazda claimed it somehow im-



proved the sports car's cornering abilities for model year 2022, that was a more than good enough reason to get one in for another round of testing. Other changes for 2022 include a new interior and exterior color, plus standard wireless Apple CarPlay and Android Auto for the mid-level Club trim. Additionally, the six-speed automatic transmission option is now exclusive to the top-of-the-line MX-5 Grand Touring, which means the Sport and Club are only offered with six-speed manuals.

#### Why It's Important

The fourth-generation "ND" Miata hasn't veered away from the formula that made the two-door roadster an instant hit when it made its debut more than three decades ago. Relatively affordable with a starting price under \$30,000, the lightweight, no-frills Miata continues to stand out thanks to its unmatched fun behind the wheel (and that it exists at this point essentially in a class of one). The 2022 Mazda Miata attempts to retain its fun-to-drive nature while sharpening its cornering abilities thanks to its new Kinematic Posture Control (KPC) system that aims to

reduce body roll by applying the brake to the inside rear wheel while cornering. KPC is standard on all trim levels including our test vehicle, an MX-5 Club RF featuring other performance-enhancing upgrades like Bilstein dampers, a limited-slip differential, and Brembo brakes.

The 2.0-liter inline-four carries over unchanged, and that's OK. Power is more than adequate and enough to propel our test car to 60 mph in 5.9 seconds and through the quarter mile in 14.5, times on par with those of the last couple ND Miatas we've tested. The manual gearbox is simply a joy to row thanks to short, precise throws, and the brake and gas pedal placement is ideal for heel-and-toe shifting.

"It's been a while since I've driven a Miata, and I had forgotten what a good instructor it is," road test editor Chris Walton said. "Everything you do has an immediate impact on what the car does. Throttle application, brake application, steering—every response is always on display."

So how about that KPC? In an ideal world we would've had a non-KPC example on hand and driven the two back to back. That said, if KPC was indeed doing its thing, we couldn't tell. There's still a considerable amount of body roll and rear-end squat even driving at about 80 percent of the car's cornering limits. And that's OK in our book—the motions only add to the Miata's playful nature, one that very few sports cars can match. The softly sprung suspension also ensures the Miata's ride quality is comfy enough that it can serve as a daily driver.

#### Cons: What We Don't Like

It was business as usual on the figure-eight course, where body roll can degrade the performance if you aren't smooth with your steering, brake, and throttle inputs. We typically turn off traction and stability control systems during instrumented testing, which in the case of the updated Miata, also deactivates KPC. That said, this test car's figure-eight time of 26.8 seconds trails the 2022 Toyota GR86's 24.7-second performance. It's also slower than a 2021 MX-5 RF Grand Touring (by 0.7 second) and a 2019 MX-5 Club roadster (by 1.6 seconds) we previously tested. So while the Miata remains fun as ever on a canyon road, it's also still not a big numbers car.

#### The Bottom Line

We certainly appreciate Mazda's efforts to improve on the already great Miata, but we're still left to wonder if the new KPC system is change for change's sake or a real benefit.



**THE END**