



Volume 27 Issue 4

April 2016



***2017 Mazda MX-5 Miata RF:  
The Fastback You've Been Waiting For,  
Only Better***

Mazda pulls a page from Porsche's book—seriously.

Mar 2016

By JOSEPH CAPPARELLA

Ever since the fourth-generation Mazda MX-5 Miata debuted last year, our imagination has run wild concocting new body styles like a Miata coupe, a Miata retractable hardtop, and even a Miata shooting brake. But we didn't predict the 2017 Mazda MX-5 Miata Retractable Fastback (RF), which combines a power-retractable targa top with a gorgeous fastback roofline. In other words, it's the Miata coupe you've been waiting for, only better.

The Miata RF's power-folding targa top operates like the Porsche 911 Targa's intricate roof in concept, although it's somewhat simpler in practice. The 12-second roof-opening process can be performed at speeds up to 6 mph and works thusly: The two roof panels over the occupants' heads fold while the rear window lowers itself behind the seats and the two flying-buttress supports lift up to accommodate the folded top. Those sail panels, by the way, are a visual trick, wrapping around a conventional trunklid that opens to a cubby with the same 4.6 cubic feet of cargo space as in the Miata softtop.

Retractable Hardtop is Dead, Long Live the Retractable Fastback

Why did Mazda abandon the previous generation's more conventional folding hardtop that brought so many buyers into the Miata camp? According to Mazda's North American president Masahiro Moro, the fourth-generation ND Miata's shorter overall length doesn't leave enough space to accommodate a full retractable hardtop like that on the third-gen NC Miata. The RF's slightly smaller foldable roof fits in the same cubby space that the regular Miata's softtop folds into behind the seats, keeping the car's weight balance and interior space uncompromised. That the design allowed Mazda to craft this wonderful roofline that has already won us over is purely a bonus.

*retractable fastback continued.....*

With the top up, the Miata RF looks like a true Miata fastback coupe, with those gently sloping flying buttresses giving the car a vague resemblance to the Jaguar F-type coupe. We love it, although from the rear, the visual trick is revealed, as the back window stands flat like that on early C3 Corvettes. With the roof down, the RF reminds us of the 1990s Honda Civic del Sol—although Mazda surely would rather we compare it with the 911 Targa. Our only real complaint about the new roofline is the addition of strange rear-three-quarter windows that are actually blacked-out trim pieces made to look like windows. We expect the thriving Miata aftermarket will devise a half-dozen alternatives in no time.

#### Uncompromised Mechanicals

Mazda isn't yet talking specific weight figures, but we're told that the mass difference shouldn't vary far from that between the previous retractable hardtop and its softtop sibling. That suggests the RF will carry 130 to 150 extra pounds, which we're hoping is nominal enough to keep the 10Best Cars–winning Miata's wonderfully nimble driving dynamics intact. The only other significant difference is that the RF's roofline is 0.2 inch higher than the softtop's, not that you'd be able to tell by looking at it.

The drivetrain is unchanged from the Miata we know and love, with a 1.5-liter four-cylinder available in other markets and a 2.0-liter Skyactiv four-cylinder as standard equipment in the United States. Six-speed manual and six-speed automatic variants remain on the menu. The preproduction car Mazda is showing at the 2016 New York auto show has an automatic and is trimmed in Machine Gray paint with red nappa leather inside. The colors, inside and out, are new to the Miata, with the gray paint sourced from the 2016 CX-9 crossover and the interior being the first red Miata cabin we can remember since the 1993 LE special-edition model. Look for more information to come on the Miata RF's trim-level structure later this year. We predict it'll be available in the Miata's top Grand Touring trim at first, with other variants possible to follow.

As for pricing, the 2017 Mazda MX-5 Miata RF should add about \$2000 to the MX-5's bottom line if the previous retractable hardtop is any indication. Now excuse us, because we're off to fantasize about the next Miata variant—MX-5 pickup, anyone?



*BMC members at Shank's Racing open house*



#### **2016 Buckeye Miata Club Officers**

<b>President:</b>	Linda Johnson
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Bob Kincer
<b>Secretary:</b>	Pam Billow
<b>Competition Director:</b>	Brian Claus
<b>Social Director:</b>	Bill Koch
<b>Newsletter Editor:</b>	Chris Riner
<b>Historian:</b>	Kate Koch
<b>Membership Director</b>	Mike & Brenda Fisher
<b>Webmaster:</b>	Jim Hayter
<b>Insurance Coordinator:</b>	Kevin Claus
<b>Photographer:</b>	John Ness

## All-New Mazda MX-5 Named 2016 World Car of the Year

The second Mazda to win the award following Mazda2 in 2008



**MARCH 24, 2016**

HIROSHIMA, Japan, March 24, 2016 /PRNewswire/ — The fourth-generation Mazda MX-5 (known as Mazda Roadster in Japan) has been named the 2016 World Car of the Year. It is the second Mazda to win the award, following the Mazda2 (known as Mazda Demio) in 2008. The third generation MX-5 was one of three finalists for the same award in 2006, as was the Mazda3 in 2014.

World Car of the Year was established in 2004 by an international group of automotive journalists and the judging panel this year consisted of 73 journalists from 23 different countries. The MX-5 was announced victorious over other finalists Audi A4 Sedan/Audi A4 Avant and Mercedes-Benz GLC at the New York International Auto Show on March 24.

“What a wonderful honor, to have the Mazda MX-5 named World Car of the Year,” said Masahiro Moro, President and CEO, Mazda North American Operations, and Managing Executive Officer, Mazda Motor Corporation. “As our iconic MX-5 roadster approaches one-million units of production, this award is proof

that it is as young, vibrant, fun and relevant as ever. While I accept this award on behalf of the company, I do so representing every Mazda employee, retail partner and customer around the world who has ever felt the joy of driving a pure roadster. We say ‘Driving Matters’ in our advertising,\* and we prove it in our cars.”

The fourth-generation MX-5 is the sixth model in Mazda’s new-generation lineup of vehicles featuring the full range of SKYACTIV TECHNOLOGY and KODO—Soul of Motion design. Launched globally in 2015, the model has found favor with customers thanks to its vastly reduced curb weight, human-centered design and “Jinba-ittai” fun-to-drive feel. The new MX-5 has won over 30 awards so far, including 2015-2016 Car of the Year Japan and 2016 UK Car of the Year. The retractable hardtop version of the model, Mazda MX-5 RF, made its world premiere at this year’s New York International Auto Show.

Mazda will continue making cars that are fun to drive, aiming to become a “one-and-only” brand customers will choose again and again.

\* The “Driving Matters” slogan is used in North America only.

## Buckeye Miata Club Monthly Meeting Minutes March 03, 2016

Buckeye Miata Club Monthly Meeting  
April 7, 2016  
45 Members Attending

Meeting called to order by Linda Johnson – Club President

Guests: Barbie & John Lindt (now members ~ joined tonight)

New Members: Doug Ruth and Tom & Cindy Brown (have been members, attending 1<sup>st</sup> meeting)

Tonight's Dinner: Lazy Chameleon

Treasurer's Report: Bob Kincer – no report (Bob was unavailable due to a family emergency)

Special Presentation: Frank Todaro Spec Miata Racer

### Old Business:

- 3-5-16 BMC Car Talk La Chatelaine ~ special "thank-you" to Kevin Rhodes for planning this off-season gathering!
- 3-5-16 Michael Shank Racing Shop Tour & Open House
- 3-10-16 DOTM Taranto's Pizza (Rhodes)

### New Business:

- Discussion regarding the decision to rename the "Rob Young Memorial Run". After a lengthy discussion it was decided that at this time we would not revisit the decision.

### Sponsorship Opportunities:

- 2017 Valentine's Day Party
- "Tulip Run" update – Dave Edwards
- Autocross May 1 update – Brian Claus
- "Bourbon Run" update – George Payton
- "Nashville #3" Jerry Neuman reminded members of upcoming event. If interested, contact Jerry.

- ZTMOET "Zoomin' the Mountains of East Tennessee" – Jerry Gill is coordinating ordering shirts.

### Upcoming Events:

- April 19 DOTM – "Time & Change" 6:30pm (Gill)
- April 23 BMC Memorial Run (Cooper)
- May 1 Autocross Points Event #1 (Claus)
- May 7 "Tulip Run" Kingswood Gardens – Mansfield and Brown Derby for lunch (Edwards)
- May 21 Carillon Historic Park – Dayton and possible trip to Springfield for visit to Frank Lloyd Wright House (Kahle)
- June 9-12 ZTMOET "Zoomin' the Mountains of East Tennessee" sponsored by: Tri-Cities Miata Club (Koch)
- June 12 BMC Picnic **CANCELLED**
- July? American Celebration – date TBD (Bardon)
- July 15-16 Bourbon Run – Kentucky (McAlister/Peyton)

50/50 Raffle: George Snyder - \$37.50

Meeting Adjourned

Next meeting: May 5, 2016  
Dinner: Chili's

Respectfully submitted,  
Pamela Billow  
Buckeye Miata Club Secretary

## BMC 2016 Calendar of Events

### April:

**23<sup>rd</sup>** BMC Memorial Drive (Cooper)

### May:

**1<sup>st</sup>** (Sun) – Autocross Points Event #1 (B. Claus)

**5<sup>th</sup>** (Thurs) - Monthly meeting at Byers Mazda/Subaru.

**7<sup>th</sup>** (Sat) –Kingswood Gardens Mansfield (Edwards).

**17<sup>th</sup>** (Tue) DOTM - Signatures - (Riner/Lester)

**20<sup>th</sup> -22<sup>nd</sup>** (Fri-Sun) – Buckeye Miata Club Cruise the Hocking & Evening BMC Event (K.Claus)

**21<sup>st</sup>** Carillon Historic Park (Kahle)

**21<sup>st</sup>** (Sun) – Autocross Special Event (B. Claus)

**28<sup>th</sup>** (Sat) – Eric Jones Memorial RiverRun (Koch).

**29<sup>th</sup>** (Sun) - Indy 500 Party (Johnson).

### June:

**2<sup>nd</sup>** (Thurs) - Monthly meeting at Byers Mazda/Subaru.

**5<sup>th</sup>** (Sun) – BMC Autocross School & Evening Test & Tune

**9<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup>** (Sun) – ZTMOET (Kate Koch)

**18<sup>th</sup>** (Sat) - Millie's Pie Run (Fisher)

**19<sup>th</sup>** (Sun) Autocross Points Event #2 (B. Claus)

**21<sup>st</sup>** (Tues) – DOTM - Gatsby's – (Riner/Lester)

**24<sup>th</sup>** (Fri) BMC The Cobra Club Autocross (B. Claus)

**25<sup>rd</sup>** (Sat) The Cobras in London

**24<sup>th</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup>** (Fri - Sun) - Vintage Grand Prix of Mid-Ohio.

### July:

**TBA** - America Celebration in ~ Upper Sandusky , OH (Cal and Pat Bardon).

**7<sup>th</sup>** (Thurs) - Monthly meeting at Byers Mazda/Subaru.

**8<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup>** (Fri - Sat) - Arthritis Car Show and Cruise In

**15<sup>th</sup> -16<sup>th</sup>** Bourbon Trail (Peytons)

**16<sup>th</sup> - 17<sup>th</sup>** (Sat - Sun) - Pittsburg Vintage Grand Prix at Schenley Park

### *July continued*

**21<sup>st</sup>** (Thurs) DOTM- Bennies Pizza (Peyton).

**30<sup>th</sup>** (Sat) – Pool Party- (Bob Kincer)

**31<sup>st</sup>** (Sun) – Autocross Points Event #3

**TBA** (Sat) West Liberty Ice Cream Run (Cooper)

### August:

**TBA** - Corn Picking in London (Nancy Clemons)

**4<sup>th</sup>** (Thurs) - Monthly meeting at Byers Mazda/Subaru

**7<sup>th</sup>** (Sun) – Autocross Points Event #4

**8<sup>th</sup>** (Mon) DOTM G&R (Koch)

**28<sup>th</sup>** (Sun) Meet in the Middle Mohican State Park (joint event with North Coast Miata) (Rhodes)

**TBA** Soine Vineyards Night (Peyton)

**TBA** Stockport Drive?? (Clemmons)

**TBA** Canton Trip - Hall of Fame/ Winery - overnight

### September:

**1<sup>st</sup>** (Thurs) - Monthly meeting at Byers Mazda/Subaru.

**4<sup>th</sup>** (Sun) – Autocross Points Event #5 at Carfest

**11<sup>th</sup>** (Sun) All Horse Parade and Cook Out at the Billow's

**14<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup>** (Wed - Sun) "Miatas Play Music City" regional event, Nashville, TN.

**20<sup>th</sup>** (Tues) DOTM - Flanagans – (Riner/Lester)

**25<sup>th</sup>** (Sun) – Autocross Points Event #6

**TBA** – The Wilds – Drive and Visit (Rhodes)

### October:

**6<sup>th</sup>** (Thurs) - Monthly meeting at Byers Mazda/Subaru

**TBA** - Byers Appreciation Lunch (Johnson)

**TBA** – (Sat) Road Apple Tour to Amish (Kahle).

**TBA**- DOTM (Doug Henderson).

**TBA** - BMC Autocross Awards Dinner

**23<sup>rd</sup>** Fall Road Rally (Johnson)

**November:**

**3<sup>rd</sup>** (Thurs) - Monthly meeting at Byers Mazda/Subaru

**12<sup>th</sup>** (Sat) Car Talk (Rhodes)

**26<sup>th</sup>** (Sat) - BMC Squared Party (Johnson)

**TBA**- DOTM (Billow).

**December:**

**1<sup>st</sup>** (Thurs) - Annual Christmas Party (no monthly meeting) TBA

**TBA** Caroling Party (Nieman).

### **Miata Services by Scott**

- **30K Tune-Up Service (\$325)** new plugs, timing & synth. fluids
- **Basic timing belt Service (\$325)** incl. new Mazda belt & spring
- **60K Full Service (\$675)** incl. 30K service + Std. Timing Belt Service PLUS
- all drivetrain fluids, brake and clutch fluids, filters, gaskets, checks and lubrications called for by Mazda
- **Add Water Pump Replacement** to any timing belt service (\$150) new pump, gaskets and coolant
- **Other mechanical work and Accessory Installation** – call for quote (\$35 per hr.)
- **Detailing by Appt**, call for details - can include:
  - Exterior - Paint polishing, swirl removal, touch-ups, wax and more
  - Interiors – carpets steamed, seats cleaned, leather & vinyl treated and more

I'd be glad to discuss any work you may want or need. If you have questions about what I can provide or just about your Miata in general, I'll be glad to help!

**(614) 633-7419**

### ***Detailing . . . . .***

Many of you know that I offer paint polishing, interior cleaning, tops, engine bay detailing and more, using the same processes and many of the same products as seen in the demo at Performance Auto Spa.

I've been detailing Miatas for many years and can handle clear coat and single-stage paints as well as repaints. I can bring new life to your car by removing oxidation, eliminating swirls and more.

Now's a great time to schedule a Detail. give me a call anytime - 614-633-7419. If I can't pick up, please leave a message.

Happy Motoring!  
- Scott Langley

## Zoomin' the Mountains of East Tennessee X

Thanks to all those who attended the 2015 ZTMOET, we were able to donate \$ to Speedway Children's Charities! This is the most Zoomin' has ever been able to share with more than 80 individual deserving causes in the Speedway's regional area. Thanks again for making a difference. You're the BEST! We look forward to welcoming you back for 2016!

2016 Zoomin' is scheduled for June 9-12, 2016!



\*\*\*\*\*

Please see Kate Koch to join the members of the BMC heading south!

8081 Bowfin Road  
Blacklick, Ohio 43004