

How We Got Our Three Miatas!

By Conrad & Judy Serwatka

In 1995, I leased my 1995 Black with Tan leather and gold trim, fully loaded Miata. In 1996, I had put an article in a local newspaper looking for a single "NO Kids and loves a convertible and the outdoors" lady. I got a response and I had called this lady who answered my ad while I was traveling in Colorado Springs, Colorado. (I was on an business trip doing an inspection job out there.)

At first she thought it was a joke and then I told her to call me back after I gave her my number where I was staying in Colorado and see if I was joking. Well, we met and had lunch and afterwards, we walked out to the parking lot. She looked at my Miata and said "Do you want to put that in my trunk and I'll take you home?" She (now my wife Judy) was driving a land barge, a Buick Roadmaster. Heck, that car really did have a trunk large enough to put my Miata in it and then some!

In 1997, we got married. I had introduced Judy to the members the Lake Effect Club after we started to date and Judy volunteered to be the web mistress. She started our home page for our club and she still does our club's web work. In one issue of Miata Magazine, the Lake Effect Club had a write up as being one of the first clubs worldwide to have a website, thanks to Judy.

In 1999, the 10th Anniversary Edition was introduced by Mazda and our local dealership had one, number 774 of 7,500. Our club had our annual "Get Acquainted" afternoon at the dealership to meet Miata owners and new members, and all really liked the special edition that was there for us to see. After the event was over and we got home, Judy said to me "I want that car!" Well, as we all know, any husband who has a wife tell you she wants a car, will not say "OK, we'll go tomorrow" or "OK, we'll go back in a few days" to look at that car. We became a two Miata Family. We drove the 10th AE to one of Indy's road rallies and it made a hit and was printed in one of the Indy newsletters, thanks to Gary and Kathy Collings.

Judy and I had a very close friend, Joe Menigoz, who was a gear head and knew Miatas inside and out. We met Joe and his wife Michelle, at a Lighthouse tour sponsored by the Windy City Miata Club. (Judy and I are members in three car Miata clubs.) Joe and I were always talking to each other and we constantly talked about our cars. Joe had purchased a 1992 Sunburst Yellow, number 77 of 1,519, on E-Bay and had it shipped from California to his house in Oconomowoc, Wisconsin. He totally rebuilt it in a little over a year. Joe took first place at the Daytona Miata National event in 2000 with his Yellow for having the cleanest original Miata out

of 350 Miatas attending the event. Joe was the one who talked me into buying a 1992 Yellow. (Sadly, after retiring in 2001, Joe passed away from cancer before he got his first retirement check.)

An Indy Miata member had a 92 Yellow with a hard top for sale. I called Jim Nutt and asked him if he would call this member and find out what was wrong with it. Jim called me back and said "It sounds like was kept up and was a nice car" and told me to "Go for it!". Later that evening, returning from Louisville, KY (another inspection job), Judy and I stopped and looked at this Yellow. We became a Three Miata family. We met Jim and Martha for dinner and showed off our new addition to our family.

Yellow number 111 of 1,519 has been totally rebuilt by me and it is a real eye catcher. The only thing I did not do was repaint it, I left that up to our local dealership to do that. In 1992, the Sunburst Yellow color was an option for \$250.00. The car was totally taken apart and 25 coats of yellow paint and three coats of clear coat were applied. All of the VIN number tags on the fenders, hood, trunk lid, doors, and rear panels were covered to show it has the same VIN number on all parts of this car and is an original.

Today, our Yellow beauty is our show car. We recently took the "Best Import" award with the Yellow at a local car show where 116 cars entered.

By now, you have found out that Miatas do not have a very big trunk! If you plan to take an extended vacation or a long trip using your Miata, you use every square inch of room in your trunk. We bought a Bushtec motorcycle trailer and have a trailer hitch on our '95 Black and '92 Yellow. Mail Boxes Etc. came in handy several times before we bought the trailer.

What's the story about your Miata? We know you have one, and we'd love to hear it, so send it to the editor!



The Serwatka's pride and joys! L to R: 1995 black and Tan, 1992 Sunburst Yellow and the 1999 10th Anniversary Edition.