

Two Miatas Make For One Happy Home

by John Schaub

As I was helping my niece purchase her first car I came across an interesting ad: "1990 Miata 5-Spd 93K great condition \$3,000.00". Unfortunately for her, my niece was adamant that she needed an automatic. Seeing how we already had 3 cars, a van and a motorcycle, we didn't need another car at all. Of course, we did the prudent thing and ran right out to look at it.

The seller thought we were crazy as I put the top down on that cold November evening for the initial test drive. Having owned MG's in what now seems like a previous life, I knew it was the only way to truly appreciate this car. \$2,800.00 later and we were the proud new owners, with numerous door dings at no extra charge.

A few weeks later we were at a party of a friend. As I told him we were now Miata owners like him, he said, "I may have something you want. I was cleaning out my office and was going to throw these out, but just couldn't bring myself to do it." He handed me a large stack of magazines. I couldn't believe my eyes. I was holding ten years of Miata magazines. I didn't even know there was a Miata magazine!

Over the next few months I devoured the magazines, soaking up all that information like a sponge. One thing of particular interest was the fact that Mazda made limited numbered special editions starting in just the second model year. The one that really caught my eye was the 1993 LE (limited edition) black with red leather interior, very retro, reminiscent of old Porsches and Austin Healy's. I said to Marsha "If we ever see one for sale maybe we should upgrade?" Like music to my ears, she said "Sure, why not?" It was like the spotlight had just turned from red to green, the accelerator was mashed to the floor, the search for a 1993LE was in high gear!

After a few misfires and "Sorry, just sold it", I found an ad on Autotrader.com at a Lexus dealer for a one-owner trade in, with the only option available for the LE, a hard top. The best part? Only 15,800 original miles!

My usual low ball offers fell on deaf ears. We finally came to a price the dealer would sell for. I came away feeling like I needed to have my head examined for spending so much on a ten year old car. After a white knuckle drive through rush hour, toll road traffic in Chicago, I pulled into my driveway with a smile so big I must have looked like I had a coat hanger in my mouth. I've never regretted buying it since Number 214 of 1500 is ours. Unfortunately, the '90 Mariner blue had to go to justify the purchase of the '93LE.

Fast forward one year to this spring, as I looked out in the driveway, I thought we don't need two four door sedans, what we really need is two Miatas. Marsha really liked that idea, so it was green light, pedal to the metal, off we go again.

After looking at three junkers that were advertised as "excellent condition",

I came across an ad for a 1992 Sunburst Yellow in our price range. The only problem, it was in Virginia. One might think, why in the world would anyone travel 550 miles to get a high mileage 1992 Miata? Well, like I said earlier, I think I have a screw loose and I haven't had it tightened yet. (That might cause premature adulthood.) But for those who know, the 1992 Sunburst Yellows have become quite desirable as they only made 1519 of them.

A quick flight to Virginia and 400 of the 550 miles with the top down through some of the prettiest countryside in the east (I know, it was a tough assignment, but somebody had to do it) and Marsha is now the proud new owner of number 1219. We have a garage queen and a road king. I think a major road trip is in order for this summer. There's just nothing like eating fresh seafood at a restaurant when you're sitting right at the dock. Now the only question is which coast to choose.

Isn't it funny how one little ad in the North-side Topics can change your life?

Tell us your "How I Got My Miata" story. We know everyone has one! Send your love story to Sara J at 4249 Springwood Ct., Indpls., IN 46228 or email her at miata@2cat.com

