



Volume 14
Issue 10
October 2004

What's Inside

Page 2

Club events.
National, Regional
and other events.

Page 3

MMG 2004 report.
Late Summer Rally.

Page 4

How to pack your
Miata for a vacation.

Page 5

Huber Winery Tour.

Page 6

Fish Filet Finale.

Page 7

Classifieds.
Advertisers.



Around The Bend... by Jay Hofaker, President

Our top down days are getting shorter and cooler, but we've got some more events planned for everyone. We all know that the best way to look at the fall colors is with the top down!

The last event of the year has been scheduled. Reserve December 5th for this year's club Holiday Party. We're heading back downtown to the Old Spaghetti Factory as the food and service was excellent last year. It's sure to be another fun time, so sign up on the events page at the club web site. We'll hold officer elections and have our annual gift exchange (\$15 gift per couple).

Speaking of elections, now the time to thinking about nominations for club officers. If you're thinking that someone else will take care of things, think again. If only four or five people do everything, they'll get burned out and step away from the club. Then who will host a rally or be an officer? If you're interested in becoming a club officer, contact Ben Hermann (who will be next year's President). Also, the sign up form for events will be at the Holiday Party. Think about hosting a rally, tour or mingle in 2005. Please give this some serious thought.

Keep that top down and the heater on....

Happy Anniversary! It's Been 15 Years Of Fun!

To modify the line from the Grateful Dead song Truckin', "What a long, fun trip it's been!"

In 1989 the Mazda Miata was introduced to the world, a world where there were no small, two seater convertibles available. The MGB was gone, the Fiat (Fix It Again, Tony!) 124 was last sold in 1985, and well, there wasn't a sporty fun car to be had. Then Mazda stepped up to the plate and delivered the winning pitch.

The Miata was ten years in the making, as supposedly in 1979, automotive journalist Bob Hall was asked by a managing director of Mazda what type of car they should build. "A small open two seater" was his reply. Two years later, Hall was working for Mazda, and though often credited as "the Father of the Miata", all the passion that is infused into the car, came from everyone at Mazda who worked on this project. In 1989, the Mazda Miata was unveiled at the Chicago Auto Show and received acclaim from everyone.

The base edition of the 1990 Miata weighed only 2116 pounds, listed at \$13,800 and Mazda sold 35,944 of them in the United States. If they could have made 100,00 of them, they would have sold, and been sold at sticker price. Reports of Miata's being priced way over list were common. (Any

original owners of a 1990 willing to tell us what they paid?) The first three colors available for the Miata were Classic Red, Mariner Blue and Crystal White and all were only available with a black top and interior.

The first special edition was the British Racing Green in 1991 and Special Edition's or SE's were appearing on a yearly basis, and later were introduced as M-edition's.

In 1999, Mazda brought us the 10th Anniversary Special Edition, with a ton of features, including a six speed transmission. This past year, Mazda introduced the turbo MazdaSpeed Miata, but the base model still remains light weight and sporty. The Miata provides the most fun you can have with your clothes on.

Is fifteen years to long for a model run? Nah! Mazda doesn't think so, and neither do we! Speculation among Miata nuts is running wild about what the third generation is going to look like. One guess is the Miata will retain its svelte lines with a touch of the RX-8 front end and it will still be piston powered, no rotary for the Miata. But we've been wrong before!

As the Little River Band sang, "Happy anniversary, baby, got you on my mind!"