

## New Miata Making Waves And Raves

The new MX-5 Miata has been seen on the covers of a couple of automotive magazines lately and that may be the only place you'll see them for a while. No word as to when the new model (known to most as the NC) will arrive in Indy.

Those going to the "Unofficial Miatas At The Gap" gathering the last weekend of July will have a chance to see the new car. The president of the Carolina Miata Club has obtained permission to borrow a new 2006 MX-5 from Mazda. No test drives for anyone as one of the stipulations from Mazda is that he is the only one allowed to drive the car.

Reviews of the new model are appearing in newspapers, magazines and of course, all over the internet. Most reviewers love the car, one review had a banner headline reading "Half the price of a Porsche Boxster. Twice the fun. The MX-5 is one of the most desirable cars on the planet".

We've found a lot of odd bits of information about the car gleaned from reading the reviews. According to Joe Bakaj, Head of Worldwide Product Development for Mazda, the only part carried over is a side marker reflector. Considering American spec cars didn't get this piece, all-new means All-New for those who salute the stars and stripes. Mazda relocated the battery from the trunk to the engine bay, making it 10.4 inches closer to the center of gravity and the fuel tank sits 4.3 inches more forward and 4.7 inches lower than the previous model. The engine is farther back also. Overall, Mazda managed to lower the Miata's center of gravity by 0.71 inch. The five-speed remains the smoothest of the two transmissions. The six-speed has been improved for '06, though it's still not as silky smooth as the base gearbox. The torsional stiffness has been increased 47 percent. A lower-slung seat makes it easier for taller drivers to get comfortable. The soft-top locks flat when folded. Suspension is now RX-8 stuff, mostly alloy to cut weight, and there has been an effort to shave weight.

Here's a short list of reviews of the new model:

*Autoweek* - July 25 issue (on the cover!)

<http://autoweek.com/toc.cms>

*Road & Track* - August issue. "Driving the Perfect Miata"

<http://www.roadandtrack.com/>

Starting August 21, Mazda is holding "Zoom-zoom Live" in ten cities across the U.S. The closest one to us is Chicago on October 29-30. You must register to participate, so head on over to the web site <http://zoomzoomlive.com/> for more information.

## Looking For A Drive On Aug. 7th?

The Gateway Miata Club from St. Louis will be in the Bedford area and have invited any IMC member to join them.

They are having dinner at the Springmill Inn Saturday evening at 6:00pm and on Sunday, will leave the Holiday Inn Express in Bedford at 10:00am and drive great roads up to Nashville.

If you have any questions, you can call Larry Rector on his cell phone: 618-960-4767.

## Club Classifieds

### *For Sale: 1991 Miata*

It's a '91 Red with only 89K miles that has never seen snow! Just had service - timing belt, water pump, clutch, rear and main seals, A/C refit, new rotors. Plus factory BBS wheels, new top and leather seats! (Also a Jimmy Buff-It detail job!) Contact Jim Schliebner at 514-2659 or email him at jimmybuffit1@comcast.net

### *For Sale: Falken Tires*

Four 195/60-R14. 50% tread, I changed them because they are noisy on the street, but they are very grippy and might be good for the track. \$50 for all four. Greg at gwaltz1@juno.com

*For Sale: Montego Blue Hardtop* Repainted from its original white color, good job but not perfect, use as is or repaint to your color. Interior headliner is perfect and has the defroster in back window. \$750.00. Call John Schaub at 317-841-7671 or email him at schaubco@netzero.net

### *For Sale: 1992 Sunburst Yellow*

64,000 miles, it's a show stopper. Has numerous extras, including hard top. Two sets of wheels and tires, one chrome. Full history of car and aftermarket parts receipts included. Photos available. \$18,000 firm. Contact Conrad Serwatka at c.serwatka@att.net

# 2005

## 6th Annual Midwest Miata Gathering

September 9th-11th, 2005

Steamboat Bend Shelter, Woodland Mounds Park

Hamilton County Park District - Cincinnati, OH

Event open to all Mazda Vehicles!

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

- Friday: Evening drive with a destination choice of a classic Drive-In Theatre or the Sky Galley Restaurant @ Lunken Airport.
- Saturday: Includes a light breakfast, morning technical sessions, lunchtime grill-out, car show, afternoon drive, scenic scored rally, swap meet, group photo, door prizes, themed New Orleans dinner courtesy of Mazda®, and singing and dancing at a local hotspot.
- Sunday: Morning gymkhana followed by lunch at the Hofbrau House restaurant and final farewells.

Registration forms can be found at [www.cincimiata.com](http://www.cincimiata.com)  
\$30/Driver, \$20/Passenger. Pre-registration closes Aug. 1  
Weekend of event: \$35/driver, \$25/passenger.