

Tag! You're it!

The Tag Article - A New Tradition!

by John Schaub

This article is the first in an ongoing monthly article that you fellow members will write. For those of you who didn't read my front page article I will explain how this is going to work. I will start the ball rolling with the first article. At the end of this article, I will tag a fellow Indy Miata club member who has to write next month's tag article. At the end of that tag article, they will tag another club member to write the next tag article and so on. What you write about is up to you. Tell us about a favorite trip you took in your Miata or maybe all the accessories that you have added to make your Miata your car. Use your imagination, but if you are tagged, please follow through and write an article.

Everyone has a story on how they bought their first Miata, here's ours. As I was helping my niece purchase her first car I came across an interesting ad in the NorthSide Topics: "1990 Miata 5-Spd 93K great condition \$3,000.00". Unfortunately for her, she was adamant that she needed an automatic. Seeing how we already had three cars, a van and a motorcycle and didn't need another car at all, we did the prudent thing, we 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 MGs 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 them, 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 stoplight had just turned from red to green, the accelerator was mashed to the floor, and the search for a 1993 LE was in high gear!

After a few misfires and "sorry, just sold it", I found an ad on Autotrader.com at a Lexus dealership, a one owner trade in with the only option available for the LE, a hard top, and 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 and 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, 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 the next spring, as I looked out in the driveway, I thought we don't need two four door sedans, what we really need are 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 as that might cause premature adulthood. But for those who know, the 1992 Sunburst Yellows are 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. So now we have a garage queen and a road king. We have since driven the Yellow 92 to Annapolis, MD and to the beach at Surf Side, SC. The 1993 LE has also gone to the beach in South Carolina as well. It's amazing how much you can stuff into these little roadsters for a trip. On our last trip back from the beach we had not only what you need for a weeks worth of fun in the sun but we also brought back two three foot banana trees! Isn't funny how one little ad in the Northside Topics can change your life.

Now for the tag part, I have chosen to tag my good friend and fellow Miata lover Bill Best to write next month's tag article. I can't wait to read it, Bill.