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Top 10 Best Mazda MX-5 Miata Models of All Time

Hard to believe that 26 years ago, no one really knew what a Miata was.

With its immense success over the past two and a half decades, it's hard to remember a world PM (pre-Miata). With lightweight, lightning reflexes and a fun factor that can't be measured in this or most worlds, the [Mazda MX-5 Miata](#) redefined what an affordable sports car should be.

Lasting 26 years a low volume sports car is no small feat. To keep the thrill alive, many great Miatas have rolled out of the factory during its history. Here is our list of the top 10 best Mazda MX-5 Miata models of all time.

10. 2007 Mazda MX-5 Miata PRHT

In 2007 the third generation MX-5 Miata received a new feature not offered on any previous version of the car. A three-piece, power folding retractable hard top convertible roof could now be ordered from the factory. Although it did add weight to the car, it also added a new level of all-weather capability and practicality that couldn't be matched by the older car's one piece removable hardtop that required two people to remove and couldn't be brought along for a drive.

9. 1996 Mazda MX-5 Miata

In 1996 the most powerful version of the first generation MX-5 Miata was introduced. The 1.8-liter four cylinder engine that had been installed in the car two years earlier now received OBD-II engine management system software. This helped bump power up from 128 HP to 133 HP.

8. 1999 Mazda MX-5 Miata

In 1998, the second generation MX-5 Miata burst onto the scene as a 1999 model. Gone were the pop-up headlights, replaced by more modern looking fixed lights. The 1.8-liter engine remained, but power was up once again to now total 140 HP.

7. 2013 Mazda MX-5 Miata Club

Although the end of the third generation MX-5 Miata was near, that didn't stop Mazda from giving it a bit more performance. Called the Club, the new MX-5 trim included all sorts of good go-fast bits like Bilstein dampers, a limited-slip differential and larger front and rear splitters. As well, some of the interior trim was body colored and MX-5 decals ran down the side of the car.

6. 2001 Mazda MX-5 Miata

In 2001, the second generation Mazda MX-5 Miata received a mid-cycle refresh that gave the car a more aggressive appearance. Many consider this sub-generation the best looking Miata of all time. Available in the 2001 model was a six-speed manual transmission and limited-slip differential.

Power was once again up for the 1.8-liter engine, now making 143 HP total for North America. Unfortunately, Mazda quoted the overseas power output of 155 HP initially which led to a lot of apologies and an offer to buy the car back off of customers.

5. 1999 Mazda MX-5 Miata 10th Anniversary Edition

Anniversary editions for a lot of cars are little more than a few graphics and new badges. The 10th anniversary MX-5 Miata was a lot more than that. In 1999, it was the only way to get the six-speed manual transmission instead of the regular five-speed. The car also came with other unique features like Bilstein shocks and two tone seats with Alcantara inserts.

4. 1994 Mazda MX-5 Miata R Package

In 1994 the MX-5 Miata received its first substantial upgrade. The 1.6-liter engine was replaced a larger 1.8-liter engine that upped power by 15 HP to a total of 131 HP.

Weighing nearly the same as the original 1990 Miata, the 1994 model was significantly faster.

To complement the new power plant, the R Package was available that include Bilstein shocks, under-body aerodynamics and the removal of the power steering system.

3. 1990 Mazda MX-5 Miata

We'd be re-missed to not include the car that started it all on this list. In 1990 the Mazda MX-5 Miata burst on the scene as a two seat roadster weighing just over 2,000 lbs. Even if the small 1.6-liter engine only made 116 HP, the car's chassis was designed to exploit every last pony.

Responsive and properly balanced, a novice driver could easily drive the MX-5 near its limit. With weight so low, the suspension didn't have to be overly stiff either which had a side benefit of a comfortable ride.

2. 2016 Mazda MX-5 Miata

Although we've only driven the new MX-5 Miata briefly, our initial impressions are that it's fantastic. Weighing 2,332 lbs. the new MX-5 continues the Miata tradition of exploiting every one of its 155 HP from the 2.0-liter engine. Early instrument tests have the 2016 MX-5 Miata as the faster Miata every produced – even faster than the car residing in the number one position on the list.

Great steering, amazing grip and the best transmission yet in any MX-5, the new "ND" MX-5 delivers. So why is it only in second place? Well, we've spent so little time in the car that it's hard to declare it the best MX-5 ever without a few more drives. Chances are though, after some more time with the 2016 Miata, it will become our favorite.

1. 2004 Mazdaspeed MX-5 Miata

With a 1.8-liter turbocharged four-cylinder engine making 178 HP and 166 lb-ft. of torque, the 2004-2005 Mazdaspeed MX-5 Miata is the

most powerful Miata ever produced. But claiming the Mazdaspeed as the best Miata of all time based on power alone wouldn't make much sense as the MX-5 has never been about outright power.

What made the Mazdaspeed so special was that it's a complete package. It came with a whack of chassis and suspension upgrades that included Bilstein shocks, beefier springs, wider tires, thicker anti-roll bars and a strut tower brace. To let passersby know this car was something special, the exterior also received upgrades include a tasteful skirt package, 17-inch wheels and a rear spoiler.

Although the new 2016 MX-5 Miata may be faster, there's something undeniably cool about a second generation Miata with a factory turbo engine and all the upgrades to match. Over ten years later, it's still the coolest MX-5 Miata ever produced.

The time is almost here for us to begin our trip to the beautiful mountains of North Carolina. If you are still interested in going, be sure to contact Jerry and Jane Nieman right away.

Presently we have five cars which are making the trip. For those of you are going, the following information is provided:

We depart on Wednesday, September 23.

We will meet at the BP station on Route 23, just South of Interstate 270 on the South side of Columbus (just North of Scioto Downs). We are planning to be on the road with full tanks and empty bladders at 8:30. It should be a beautiful ride right down Route 23.

If you have a CB, please bring it, but it is not necessary. It is important, however, to bring a family friendly two way radio so that we can communicate with one another on the way down.

For those of you are going, please e-mail Jerry Nieman (jnienmanjanen@gmail.com) an accurate cell phone number that we can use. We will provide a list of all cell phone numbers, in the event that we need them on the way down.

If you have any questions, give Jerry or Jane a call. We are looking forward to a great trip. See you all on the 23.

Jerry and Jane Nieman

Fall Fling Buckeye Miata Club September 23, 24, 25 and 26 Asheville, N.C.

Enjoy the beautiful mountains of N.C. with the BMC.

15 rooms have been blocked at the Mountain Inn and Suites, 447 Naples Road in Hendersonville, N.C. (this is the hotel where we stayed in 2013). The telephone number is 828-684-0040. To make your room reservation, please phone the hotel and the rooms are blocked under "Fall Fling". Four rooms are king and 10 are queen. (I know this only adds up to 14 – Jerry and I have already made our reservation.) Make your reservation before August 23, 2015, to get the rate of \$89.00 for Wednesday and Thursday and \$109.00 for Friday and Saturday. After that date the block will be removed.

The plan is to leave early on Wed., September 23 and arrive in late afternoon. We are in the process of making plans with the Ridgerunner Club to lead us on a drive on Friday. More info on that will follow. The Ridgerunners are very excited about showing us more N.C. roads.

We ask that you let us know when you make your hotel reservations. That will keep us in the loop as to who is going to join us on this weekend adventure.

If you have any questions, please call Jerry and Jane Nieman at 614-794-9605 or send us an email. Any suggestions you may have for this trip will be greatly appreciated!

Let us put our tops down and enjoy the ride!!!

Buckeye Miata Club Monthly Meeting Minutes September 3, 2015 6:30 PM

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| <p>I. Guests or New Members Introduction – Ben Eckerson – 2002 white</p> <p>II. New Paid Members Since Last Meeting – Mike or Brenda Fisher – 40 members in attendance – Chris Owens – 1999 10th anniversary addition Blue</p> <p>III. Miata Quiz</p> <p>IV. After Meeting Dinner Tonight - Whitecastle/Ruby Tuesday/ Steak and Shake - Route 23 & Powell Road</p> <p>V. Treasurer's Report – Kincer – Report read and approved by membership – See secure website for details</p> <p>VI. 2016 Miata Road Test Video's - MotorWeek / AutoGuide</p> <p>VII. Old Business and Events</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">a. Soine Vineyards Night music with Annie Hawe – Sat Aug 8 – Peyton – 14 attendees – good evening</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">b. AutoCross Circleville – Sun Aug 16 - Claus</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">c. DOTM – Pioneer Mill Sun Aug 16 – LeBlanc – 16 attendees</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">d. Meet in the Middle (with Northcoast Miata Club) - Mohican State Park – Sun Aug 30 – Rhodes – 23 cars from our club – 50 miatas total – very nice outing – plan to do it again next year</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">e. AutoCross Circleville – Sun Aug 30 – Claus</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">f. Put-In-Bay Vintage Road Race Reunion – Aug 31-Sept 2 – Informational</p> <p>VIII. New Business and Upcoming Events</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">a. BMC Picnic – Blendon Woods Metro Park (evening) – Sat Sept 5 – Calhoun</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">b. Italian Car Gathering Dublin – Sun Sept 6 – Informational</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">c. Autocross – Circleville – Sun Sept 6 - Claus</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">d. Millie's Pie Run (date change) – Sat. Sept. 12th – Fisher</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">e. All Horse Parade and Cook Out at the Billow's – Sun – Sept 13th - Billow</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">f. Autocross – Make Up or Fun Run – Sun Sept 13 - Claus</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">g. BMC Fall Getaway to NC – Sept 23-26 – Nieman</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">h. Road Apple Tour (Charm Days) – Oct 10th – Kahle</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">i. Autocross Awards Banquet – Hocking - Oct 18th – Claus</p> | <p>IX. Byers Mazda as meeting place</p> <p>X. Officers Nominations Next Meeting</p> <p>XI. Autocross Update - Claus</p> <p>XII. Next Meeting Date – Thurs. October 1, 2015</p> <p>XIII. Restaurant Selection Next Meeting – Tommy's Pizza on Rt. 161 in Dublin</p> <p>XIV. Open Discussion</p> <p>XV. 50/50 Drawing -- \$58.00 Total -- \$29.00 to Dale Strickland</p> |
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2015 Buckeye Miata Club Officers

<i>President:</i>	Kevin Rhodes
<i>Treasurer:</i>	Bob Kincer
<i>Secretary:</i>	Dusty Rhoades
<i>Social Chairperson:</i>	Bill Koch
<i>Membership:</i>	Mike & Brenda Fisher
<i>Historian:</i>	Kate Koch
<i>Newsletter Editor:</i>	Chris Riner
<i>Competition:</i>	Brian Claus
<i>Insurance:</i>	Kevin Claus
<i>Webmaster:</i>	Jim Hayter
<i>Photographer:</i>	John Ness

BMC 2015 Calendar of Events

September

24 th -27 th	Thur- Sun	Fall Getaway NC Trip	Nieman
27 th	Sun	Makeup or Fun Event	Claus
TBD		DOTM	Gill

October

1 st	Thurs	Monthly Meeting	
10 th	Sat	Road Apple Tour (Charm Day)	Kahle
17 th		Marblehead Lighthouse Festival	OPEN
? 25 th	Sun	Autocross Awards Dinner Hocking Hills	Claus
TBD		Byers Appreciation Lunch/Dinner	Rhodes
TBD		DOTM	Cooper

November

5 th	Thurs	Monthly Meeting	
14 th	Sat	Car Talk	Rhodes
26 th	Thur	<i>Thanksgiving</i>	
TBD		DOTM	Billow

December

2 nd	Weds	Christmas Party	Peyton
5 th	Sat	Big 10 Championship Party	Johnson
8 th	Mon	BMC 2016 Planning Meeting	New President
19 th	Sat	Caroling Party	Nieman
25 th	Fri	<i>Christmas Day</i>	

Please Note: Events in italics are for your information
Names in bold are the individuals who are taking the
lead in the event!

2016 Mazda MX-5 Miata — fun trumps practical.

By Michael Taylor on September 14, 2015 4:00 AM

Let's face it: this is a car built purely for fun, purely for escape. It only holds two people, and its trunk has only 4.6 cubic feet of cargo room. It's not practical.

Did I say anything about practical?

The 2016 Mazda MX-5, what we really know as the Miata, is the kind of car you look at from your living room window, on a sunny Saturday morning, and think, now where am I going to take this car today?

First, a bit of history. The Miata, now in its recently introduced fourth generation, was launched here as a 1990 model. The conceit of the Mazda – its inherent brilliance – was that it sprang to life as a virtually unbreakable Japanese version of the storied sports cars of half a century ago. Think Lotus Elan, MG, Austin-Healey, Triumph. The Miata was kind of an amalgam of all of them, with a clear emphasis on Lotus bloodlines.

Its genesis was the result of a meeting nearly 40 years ago between American auto writer Bob Hall and some of the top guys at Mazda. Hall mused aloud about what a wonderful boon for car junkies it would be if Mazda could channel all those old sports cars into a modern version that would appeal to all those drivers who wanted something like a Healey or an MG. But the point was that you would have a car that wouldn't leave you stranded by the roadside wondering what it was about Lucas electrical wiring.

By the early Eighties, Hall had joined Mazda and was assigned to the Miata project. In the fall of 1989, the car was introduced to the public, which started snapping up the snappy roadster. By the summer of last year, it had sold nearly 1 million copies, a world record for a car of its type.



The 2016 Mazda MX-5 Miata Club series. Price, including \$3,400 Brembo brakes and alloy wheel package, is \$32,820. (Photos by Michael Taylor)

Miata Services by Scott

- **30K Tune-Up Service (\$325)** new plugs, timing & synth. fluids
- **Basic timing belt Service (\$325)** incl. new Mazda belt & spring
- **60K Full Service (\$675)** incl. 30K service + Std. Timing Belt Service PLUS
- all drivetrain fluids, brake and clutch fluids, filters, gaskets, checks and lubrications called for by Mazda
- Add **Water Pump Replacement** to any timing belt service (\$150) new pump, gaskets and coolant
- **Other mechanical work and Accessory Installation** – call for quote (\$35 per hr.)
- **Detailing by Appt**, call for details - can include:
 - Exterior - Paint polishing, swirl removal, touch-ups, wax and more
 - Interiors – carpets steamed, seats cleaned, leather & vinyl treated and more

I'd be glad to discuss any work you may want or need. If you have questions about what I can provide or just about your Miata in general, I'll be glad to help!

(614) 633-7419

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