

# Minnetonka

## May-Jun 2024

### Miata Club of Minnesota sponsored by Morrie's Mazda

#### Board Members:

**President:**

Dan Ward

952-456-2730

[presidentmiataclubmn@gmail.com](mailto:presidentmiataclubmn@gmail.com)

**Vice President:**

Mark Parrish

612-839-0396

[vicepresidentmiataclubmn@gmail.com](mailto:vicepresidentmiataclubmn@gmail.com)

**Treasurer:**

Rick Fenoglio

952-388-8454

[treasurer@miataclubmn.com](mailto:treasurer@miataclubmn.com)

**Secretary/Memberships:**

Vaughn Lambert

612-210-1418

[secretary@miataclubmn.com](mailto:secretary@miataclubmn.com)

**Past President Consultant:**

Bryan Alpaugh

651-442-2860

[consultant@miataclubmn.com](mailto:consultant@miataclubmn.com)

**Merchandise Directors:**

John & Kelly Schumacher

651-472-3289

[merchandise@miataclubmn.com](mailto:merchandise@miataclubmn.com)

**Newsletter Editor:**

Bryan Alpaugh

651-442-2860

[newsletter@miataclubmn.com](mailto:newsletter@miataclubmn.com)

**Webmaster:**

Zac Zaffke

763-242-5147

[webmaster@miataclubmn.com](mailto:webmaster@miataclubmn.com)

**Web Site:** [MiataClubMN.com](http://MiataClubMN.com)

Email notifications are sent to club members as a reminder of upcoming events. If you are not on the distribution list and would like to receive these notifications, send an email with your name and email address to Mark Parrish at [vicepresident@miataclubmn.com](mailto:vicepresident@miataclubmn.com) requesting your email address be added to the distribution list.

#### Spring Membership Meeting - by Dan Ward

The 2024 Spring Membership Meeting was held on Sunday, April 21st at the Chanhassen AutoPlex Club House. It was a great turnout with 70 people registered to attend the meeting.

The club house space proved large enough to handle our group with the balcony area used for overflow seating. It was a beautiful day and the parking lot around the club house was filled with Miatas! Thank you to Steve and Pam Flaten for reserving the club house once again for our meeting space.

It was announced that snacks would be provided at the meeting, but we were all pleasantly surprised to be treated to homemade cookies, lemon bars, banana bread and Special K bars from the kitchen of club member LuAnn Parrish. We all appreciate the extra time she spent preparing those delicious treats for us! Miata Club merchandise was available for purchase before and after the meeting. John and Kelly Schumacher brought a nice selection to choose from as well as helped members order items directly from our clothing vendor. It's nice to know that with direct ordering that's now available, John and Kelly don't need to haul as much around for these events as they did previously.

Our dealer sponsor representative, Laura Nees, from Morrie's Minnetonka Mazda was at the meeting and let us know the 2024 Miatas are currently available by pre-order only. She let us know that customers who have pre-ordered

the 2024 model are starting to see them arrive. Club members Brian and Carla Blow and new member Bob Messier had their newly arrived 2024's in the parking lot for us to take look at.

After club business was attended to, we enjoyed the time to socialize. It was great to get together before the summer drive season starts!





**Dan Ward**  
President

## Ramblings From the President

By the time you read this, the 2024 drive season will be underway! I'm pleased to announce that all the drive dates on our event calendar for this year are spoken for! The Hope It Doesn't Snow drive kicks it all off the first weekend of May on some of our favorite roads near the Mississippi River and lunch at Kings Place in Miesville with some of the best burgers in Minnesota. Right after that, the Spring Rally takes place, starting in Woodbury and taking us to Tomah, WI with some great roads through that part of Wisconsin. Throughout the summer and into the fall we have two drives per month scheduled. Thank you to everyone who is planning the drive routes and finding good lunch venues for all of our planned events!

I encourage anyone new to the club who is interested in being involved with a drive to let me know. The club has experienced drive organizers who'd love to show you what they do to organize their event and work with you. A great way to start out is by being a tail gunner for a group and seeing first-hand what takes place. Participation in planning drives is key to the success of the club and members helping with the drives is what keeps our club going!

Club participation in our events so far this year has been fantastic. It was great seeing everyone who could make it to the winter brunches. Our Spring membership meeting had 70 members registered. The Spring Rally has 44 cars and 84 people registered to attend that three-day event. As of this writing, the Hope It Doesn't Snow Ride has 37 cars and 67 people registered for the ride and lunch. This indicates a healthy club thanks to all of you. I look forward to seeing you soon at an upcoming club event! Zoom-Zoom!

**MAZDA** **MX-5**  
EVOLUTION



## March Brunch - by Butch Rogers

For the brunch at Lucky's 13 in Roseville on Sunday March 3rd we had 50 people sign up and 49 people show up for an abundance of conversation and some mighty good food. Butch & Barb Rogers arranged for the private room which was the perfect size for that number. Show up time was set for 10:00 AM and by 10:15 the room was filled with chit chat and many of us enjoying a Bloody Mary or Mimosa. The wait staff commented about how friendly these people were and how so many ordered something besides the free coffee, water or orange juice. They did have a hard time getting everyone to sit down because this group loves to visit.

Among the people attending were three new couples, all of whom were attending their first event. They were introduced and everyone made them feel welcome. All 3 couples said they were looking forward to the Spring Rally. So nice to see new (and old) faces at these events.

At about 10:45 the food was delivered and a buffet style brunch was served. The caramel rolls seemed to be a big hit. The staff kept bringing refills of all items and by the time everyone was filled up, there was still food left over. They brought in "to go" boxes and encouraged people to take some items home. Many did. Such a large turnout made it that much more fun and the Rogers' thank you all for showing up. Brunches are such a great way to get together during the non-driving months.



**From our sponsor, Morrie's Mazda:** Any Club Member or immediate family member will qualify for Invoice Pricing on any New Mazda as well as receive a complimentary 3yr. Maintenance Package (includes 6 oil changes/2 per year) for 2024! Contact either Brian Blow (our club liaison with Morrie's) or Laura Nees (Morrie's Minnetonka Mazda) for details.



## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Hope It Doesn't Snow Drive

**When:** May 4, 2024

**Where:** Hastings Holiday Station  
12370 Point Douglas Dr S, Hastings, MN

**Hosted by:** Adrian, Bretzke, Delperdang

### Spring Rally (3 days)

**When:** May 17-19, 2024

**Where:** Tomah WI

**Hosted by:** Bever, Blow, Mathews, Ward

## Morrie's Sales Team



Please contact me with any needs or questions for your next new or used Mazda!

Laura along with the Morrie's Mazda Crew

**Laura Nees**

Laura.Nees@morries.com  
Minnetonka

## 2024 - 2025 COMING EVENTS CALENDAR

Saturday "Hope it Doesn't Snow" Drive	May 4, 2024	Adrian, Bretzke, Delperdang
Spring Rally (3 days)	May 17-19, 2024	Bever, Blow, Mathews, Ward
Saturday Drive and Lunch	June 8, 2024	Brinkman, Everson, Rogers
Saturday Drive and Lunch	June 22, 2024	Bretzke, Ward
Saturday Drive & Lunch	July 13, 2024	Alpaugh, Delperdang
Saturday "Vino in the Valley" Drive	July 27, 2024	Everson
Saturday "St. Cloud" Drive	August 10, 2024	Brinkman, Everson
Saturday Drive & Lunch	August 24, 2024	Kolke, Miller
Fall Rally (3 days)	September 6-8	Everson, Parrish, Polke, Lang
Saturday Drive & Lunch - Lakes & Rivers	September 21	Blows, Wards and Woodward
Up North - (Color Run) - Color Run	October 5-6	Brinkman, Everson
Fall Membership Meeting	October 13, 2024	Board of Directors
November Brunch	November 3, 24	*** Open ***
Holiday Brunch	December 8, 24	Board of Directors
Sunday Brunch	January 8, 2025	*** Open ***

# MORRIE'S



INVER GROVE MAZDA | MINNETONKA MAZDA

THE MAZDA TEST DRIVE EXPERIENCE  
**DRIVE IT. FEEL IT. OWN IT.**

Charles.Mann@Morries.com

INVER GROVE MAZDA

10 Mendota Road  
Inver Grove Heights, MN 55077  
651-691-4802  
MorriesInverGroveMazda.com

Laura.Nees@Morries.com

MINNETONKA MAZDA

13700 Wayzata Boulevard  
Minnetonka, MN 55305  
952-544-1999  
MorriesMazda.com

## Member Spotlight - by Joni Spaeth

### Mike & Katie Everson

Written by Katie (could not have done a better job-Joni)

It's all about the moments shared and the memories made....

Just as the song says.."Love is lovelier the second time around... it certainly is for them.

On July 14, 2001, Mike walked into Design Modern Interiors looking for something to sit on and eventually ended up with someone to sit with....Katie!

She was working with a couple who were sitting on a very large sectional. She could feel someone looking at her. She turned around and there was Michael (that's what his business card said). She told him he was welcome to sit down if he liked to join them. He said, "No, I'll wait for you." And he has been waiting ever since!

After that initial meeting, Katie did something she had never done before, she copied the catalog page of that sectional and put his name on it. She still has that page. He came back several times and ordered furniture for his living room and bedroom. After ordering his furniture, Mike then asked Katie out. He didn't want her to think he asked her out just so he could get a better discount price.

Their first date was on a Saturday which was always a very busy day. Katie's last customer walked in 10 minutes before closing and that made her 45 minutes late leaving work! She was so late that he had given up their table at The Porter House. She arrived to find Mike patiently waiting for her.....Once again!

Six years to the date of their first date they were married, and the reception was at the same restaurant. The wedding cake was served from the table where they sat on their first date!

Between the two of them they have 7 kids and 8 grandchildren from the ages of 2-21.

From April until October, you will find Mike at the Bald Eagle Sportsmen Association rifle and pistol range in Hugo. He is a DNR certified Firearms Safety Instructor (it helps that he can set the dates for classes to not interfere with Miata drives). He is also a certified NRA Instructor licensed to teach classes about pistol safety and operation. Mike is an NRA Chief Range Safety Officer, one of only two in a club of over 850 members. He took these firearms safety classes as a kid and likes to see the next generation of young hunters being well educated about safety.

Katie likes to garden and photograph the little green frogs hiding in the day lilies, that is the ones the deer don't eat. She dabbles in sewing, acrylic paints, and journaling.

As you well now know, her degree was interior design and worked with Scandinavian furniture. Her dad was a cabinetmaker, so she grew up helping him and loving beautiful woodworking and superior craftsmanship. For Katie it was a dream job designing the interior of homes with pieces that last a lifetime. She also had a women's clothing shop in Stillwater for about 20 years. Her shop sold a lot of Norwegian sweaters which won her and her daughter a trip to Norway for the Oleana Sweater anniversary event.

**Continued on Page 5**



## 2024 Mazda MX-5 Miata gets a ton of significant updates

**It should drive better, look fresh and finally has Mazda's latest infotainment**

- by Zac Palmer / AutoBlog

The 2024 Mazda MX-5 Miata is officially here, and the updates previewed by the JDM model are thankfully being carried over into the U.S. spec car today. As we suspected, the update is thorough enough to perhaps call it the "ND3," making it the third significant version of this generation.

Mechanically, Mazda says it's installed a new steering rack with internal revisions for less friction and then updated the electric assist calibration through software. This results in "smoother steering action with a more defined 'on-center' feeling for relaxed freeway cruising, yet greater precision as the front tires are loaded up under hard cornering," per Mazda. We'll be excited to try it out.



Manual transmission Club and Grand Touring trims (read: not the base Sport trim) add a new asymmetric limited-slip differential that features a new cam mechanism for different ramp angles on acceleration and deceleration. Mazda says "a stronger lockup under engine braking improves stability at corner entry, resisting unwanted oversteer," and "reduced lockup during acceleration reduces unwanted understeer."

A new "DSC Track" mode's been added to the stability control system and is designed to give you more leeway for track driving without completely losing stability control aid, which, again, is only on the Club and Grand Touring models.

As we expected, the powertrain options remain the same, meaning your only engine choice is a 2.0-liter naturally aspirated four-cylinder - 181 horsepower and 151 pound-feet of torque - paired with either a six-speed manual or six-speed automatic w/paddle shifters.

The aesthetic changes for the 2024 Miata are subtle, but look closely and you'll notice new LED headlights, new LED taillights and new wheel designs. There's also a new color (pictured first in the gallery at the top of this post) called Aero Gray that comes with a \$450 upcharge.



**Miata Club of Minnesota**  
**3164 Jurdy Court N**  
**Eagan, MN 55121**

## Member Spotlight - Continued from Page 4

Mike worked for UPS for a number of years, until one morning he woke up and said, "That's enough". He started a company developing software for shipping small packages which is now 33 years old. In his spare time, he started another shipping software company which has expanded into utilizing self-service kiosk machines for shipping packages. This makes it possible for you to ship packages in convenient places like a grocery store, drug store, hardware store or even in an apartment complex where you live. His business wheels for design and expansion are always turning.

Talking about wheels turning, Mike's first Miata was a 1996 M Edition, Starlight Blue Mica. He joined the club in 1998 through early 2001. His second Miata was a 1999 Anniversary Edition in Sapphire Blue Mica. For their second date, he picked her up in that car. It was a leased car and had to be returned so she never got to ride in it again. But that one drive was a really important item on Mike's dating check list, unbeknownst to Katie if she was bothered by her hair getting blown all about, there may not have been a second date!!

In March of 2001 at the Mpls. Car show, they sat in a copper red Miata with tan leather and saddle stitching interior. It would have made a wonderful honeymoon car but with three girls in college and one of them getting married in August, so it was not to be. Seven years later on July 7th, 2014, Mike found it at German Auto Works in St. Louis Park. They traded their German VW for a 2007 Miata and there were smiles all around. They drove away in a car just like the one they wanted years earlier.

Mike was looking to upgrade to a 2015 Miata and on Katie's birthday, he was online surfing the car websites and found a 2015 Anniversary Edition in Oklahoma. It had only 909 miles on it, a great price, and was exactly what he wanted, Katie could not figure out why he was hesitating to buy it. She said to herself, "If he doesn't buy it, I'm going to buy it for my birthday!" Guess what, he negotiated a better price and had the dealer transport it in a covered trailer right to their door. Mike is having fun customizing it (bling) and driving it to the max.

Mike and Katie have been part of the Fall Rally committee since 2018. Mike likes to negotiate the hotel accommodations and Katie has been coordinating the dining options for the Friday night dinners. This year there are two new couples on the fall committee, and everyone now has different responsibilities. The last two summers they have hosted a number of short drives (St. Croix Valley Drive and St. Cloud Drive with Brinkmans) and Mike is always open to being a tail gunner. Last fall they hosted the Up North Drive with Alpaugh and Delperdings. Be it a long rally trip or a short drive, there is always work involved, but the real joy for them is getting to know the people on the drives.

Best Ride???...Tough question. ALL THE RIDES ARE GREAT....be it snow, rain, warm days, winding roads, clouds skipping across the brilliant blue sky, or slippery colorful leaves which cover the roads in the fall, because it's the wonderful friends in the club. It's all about the moments shared and the memories made. (Mike says the best ride is the last mile off the freeway to home after a 3-day weekend of driving.)

## 2024 Mazda MX-5 Miata Detailed, Including Pricing and New Colors - by Joey Capparella/Road & Track

**The subtly revised roadster, starting at \$30,150, features a new look and changes to the steering and optional limited-slip differential.**

- Mazda announced pricing and more details for the revised 2024 MX-5 Miata.
- Changes include tweaked headlights and taillights, a new steering rack, a new "asymmetric" limited-slip differential, and newly available exterior and interior colors.
- The MX-5 Miata will start at \$30,150 for the Sport roadster and \$38,115 for the RF retractable-hardtop model.

The endearingly persistent Mazda MX-5 Miata keeps chugging along, and 2024 brings several notable changes to the diminutive droptop. We had previously seen the updates applied to the Japan-spec model, but we now have details on the U.S.-spec 2024 MX-5 Miata, including pricing information and key changes that include revisions both visually and under the skin.

New LED headlights and taillights freshen up the Miata's look somewhat, and there are also new wheel designs and a newly available color called Aero Gray that costs \$450 extra. A tan Nappa leather upholstery option is now a \$300 option on the Grand Touring trim level, and the interior also receives a more clearly marked gauge cluster and a larger 8.8-inch infotainment screen. Mazda also says it added padding on the center console.

Mechanically, there's a new steering rack and revised software calibration for the steering's electric assist. For models equipped with the limited-slip differential, there's a new unit that Mazda calls an "Asymmetric LSD" that promises improved stability and sharper cornering with less unwanted oversteer and understeer. There's a new setting for the stability control called "DSC-Track" that raises the intervention threshold for the system. We look forward to trying these new features out ourselves to see how they perform.



The powertrain is unchanged and remains a 181-hp 2.0-liter inline-four combined with rear-wheel drive and a six-speed manual transmission. There's still a six-speed automatic available on the Grand Touring trim, but we're not sure why anyone would want to pay extra for that.

Pricing is up slightly, with the base Sport softtop model rising \$935 to a new starting price of \$30,150. The Club softtop starts at \$33,650 and the Grand Touring is \$35,450. The RF retractable-hardtop version is more expensive, starting at \$38,115 and only available in the upper trims. A Brembo/BBS/Recaro package with upgraded brakes, wheels, and seats, is available for \$4800 on the Club softtop and comes standard on the Club RF. Mazda says the revised Miata will go on sale in the U.S. before spring has sprung.