

# Cars & Places Magazine

## Cars & Places eNews

Volume 1, Number 24, September 9, 2005

Hello from Cars & Places! Welcome to eNews, our weekly update on the automotive world and area happenings. If you are a new reader, welcome! We hope you enjoy our tidbits of news as we ramp up our new magazine. Sorry for the slightly shorter version this week as we are preparing for a wedding in the family! Congratulations Ben & Jillian!



Many have been eagerly awaiting the new generation of the **Mazda MX-5 Miata** and we had our first opportunity behind the wheel this week. With the new Miata, Mazda has sought to attain what Mazda calls Jinba Ittai, which translated means "Rider and horse as one". This philosophy trickled down to every aspect of the new car's design in order to create a machine that is an extension of the driver. Given that we have only had a short drive, so far, Mazda has been quite successful. The new Miata is larger in almost every dimension, mainly to increase interior room. The engine is now a full 2 liter unit with 170 horsepower on tap. The trunk is larger, the wheels are bigger and a 6-speed manual transmission is available. All of this has been completed with only a 27 pound weight increase. With the extra grunt of the 2 liter engine, past complaints of insufficient power have been all but erased. Our demo ride was short but revealed the Miata we have liked so much in the past is still there with even more refinement that only 14 years of development can bring. Even the already excellent top mechanism has been improved and allows one-handed, from the driver's seat, operation. The top folds in a "Z-fashion" allowing it to fold flat, eliminating the need for a separate boot cover.

MX-5 Miata pricing begins at \$20,435 for the Club Spec version and climbs to \$24,435 for the nicely appointed 6-speed Grand Touring model. Collectors may want to check out the 3rd Generation Limited model which adds many details, such as a chromed windshield frame and special paint for \$28,700. The short option list includes suspension and performance upgrades such as Dynamic Stability Control and Limited Slip Differential. A 6-speed automatic is available for those who would rather let the car do the work, but even this includes paddle shifters for manual control when desired.



The new MX-5 Miata is available now at your local Mazda dealer. We will have a full road

test on the new Miata very soon. Until then, see [www.mazdausa.com](http://www.mazdausa.com) or [www.bethecar.com](http://www.bethecar.com) for full specifications and details.

## Places to Be!



The **Maryland Renaissance Festival** is in full swing each weekend from now until October 23. Open rain or

shine from 10 to 7. Set on a wooded 25 acres, the festival recreates a 16th century English village. And every day is Festival Day in honor of a visit by Henry VIII and his royal court! Inside the village, visitors will find food and craft booths, five pubs, ten major stages, a Jousting arena and lots of games. Check out demonstrations of glass blowing and jousting contests. Eat like Henry VII with a giant turkey leg. Then listen to performers from across North America entertain on the many stages. Admission cost about \$17 at the gate with discount to groups, seniors and children under 16. You may even rent period costumes just inside the front gate to fit in with the village crowd! The Maryland Renaissance Festival is in Crownsville, Maryland near Annapolis. Click on [www.rennfest.com](http://www.rennfest.com) for maps and a detailed list of events.

Hampton, Virginia is hosting their 23rd annual **Hampton Bay Days** this weekend. The celebration starts today (Friday) and runs through Sunday. With over 250,000 expected to attend, this is one of the largest family-oriented celebrations on the East Coast. There will be four stages hosting entertainment from national and local artists. Of course, there will be a car and motorcycle show, an indoor juried art show, over 100 merchandise and craft vendors, Chesapeake Bay Educational Exhibits and USO & military exhibits. This is but a small portion of what you can see and do, check out [www.baydays.com](http://www.baydays.com) for directions and schedules. Also see our eNews back issue, V 1, No. 22 [here](#), for places to stay and eat in nearby Smithfield, Virginia.

Thanks for reading this edition of eNews! Please forward this to your friends and car buddies! If this was sent to you by a friend, just go to [www.carsandplaces.com](http://www.carsandplaces.com) and sign up for your personal copy. Be sure to stop by the website often to check on the progress of our full-blown publication!

Until next time, enjoy your drive!

Rick Trawick  
Publisher

Any comments or questions you may have are welcome. Please email them to [info@carsandplaces.com](mailto:info@carsandplaces.com). If you would like to see your event mentioned, send it to the same address.

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