

Don Gervais

Badgerland Miata Club V.P. Southeast / Tech Advisor

June 16,2001 Fond du Lac, WI

I woke up and thought “hum,,, here I am, 50 years old. Man this just bites.” I wandered into the kitchen to get some coffee, said morning to my wife Gloria and went and sat down at the table with my coffee. Gloria looked at me and asked, “What’s wrong?” I replied “Well today I turn 50 so I may as well just go lay down in the middle of the road.” She laughed and said, “That’s all? You know, I read about this Mazda gathering today at Holiday Mazda in the paper. After breakfast why don’t you jump in the Miata and go check it out? You always feel better when you are driving that car.” “I suppose I will do that after I eat. I’ll call you and let you know what I find out. I bet I am the oldest one there.” (For some odd reason turning 50 bothered me) So, after breakfast off I went to check out the first Holiday Mazda drive. The first person I met was someone called “M.J.” who checked me in and told me, “Park your car with the other Miatas and come back and see me. There is someone I want you to meet who will tell you more about what is going on here.” I went and parked my car, looked around at all the other Miatas, saw that most of the people were around the same age as me and thought, “*This may turn out to be alright.*” I went back and found this M.J. person who took me and introduced me to

Lynn Carlson who explained to me what was going on and about this organization called the “Badgerland Miata Club.” Shortly after talking to her and Ron I ended up with an application to join the club. I walked back to my car and called home. I said to Gloria “I think I am going to like this and these people. Holiday is going to



feed us lunch and then we are going for a drive to Sturgeon Bay. I will give you a call later to let you know about when I should be getting home.” Gloria said, “Great. Have fun.” While looking around at all the different Miatas I ran into a former co-worker of mine and said to him “Have you heard about this Badgerland Miata Club?” He replied, “Yes I have, but I also heard that they like to drive fast.” I replied, “Yea, isn’t it great!”

Present Day

That was how I was introduced to the Badgerland Miata Club. We still have the “93” we purchased for Gloria’s 40<sup>th</sup> birthday. However, there have been more than a few modifications done to the car so I can “drive fast.” I do enjoy track days, the occasional autocross, and the club drives. I have been a club tech advisor for 5 years and am starting my 3<sup>rd</sup> year as a club officer. I have hosted a number of events both on track and on the many twisty roads around our area and will continue to do

so. This is just my way of giving back to help the club moving forward into the future.

Speaking of the future. I will be the host driver for the Holiday Mazda Drive on June 17,2017 and can promise a nice drive on some good twisty roads.

Saturday August 7, 2017 I will be leading a group from Menomonee Falls on an hour and a half drive on twisty roads up to the Continental Tire Sports Car Challenge and "Mazda Fest" at Road America where we will park in the Mazda corral and enjoy the days festivities along with some great sports car racing.

I have a few more things in the works including but not limited to:

- The Hyper-drive / H.P.D.E. 101 with The National Auto Sport Association on Saturday September 9, 2017 at the Chicago Autobahn track in Joliet Il.
- A Possible Lapping / practice session at the U.S.A.I.R. track in Shawano, WI.
- Free concert in the park at the Menomonee Falls Memorial Park.

Look for more details on these events in the club newsletter or website as details come available.