

The CAR Enthusiast

December 2003

The President's Post

By Christian LeHew

Wow. I can't believe December is here already! Well, it's cold outside, and my mailbox is overflowing with "Pre-Christmas Sale" flyers, but in my mind, it should only be September.

But with the arrival of December, it also means that my term as President of the CAR Miata club is running out. And again, I can't believe how quickly it has all happened.

I remember being invited to a meeting at Don Pablo's in White Marsh back in November, 2001. That's where I met Elaine Farrell, Eric Grimes, Mike Klein and a few others for the first time. Little did I know then that we'd all still be together over two years later, and we'd all still be friends and all in a great Miata club. It seems like only a few weeks ago that TJ Kirschner and I parked illegally and sat next to "Sir Smellslikepoo" in an IRS office in Baltimore trying to get the club's tax ID number and filing for the club's license.

I laughed while looking through old posts the other day, and I came across one that said, "Does anyone know who ZoomZoomBrad is?" Little did we know in January 2002 that Brad Albert would become the club's treasurer and host some of the more memorable tech days. I remember once e-mailing Jay DeLeyos with, "there's not too many of us, but we're a lot of fun." And I remember breaking in Ben Harper with a roll bar installation and a drive through flooded roads. "He'll *never* be back," I thought at the time. Little did I expect he'd become our Webmaster!

One of our newest members, Joey Gonzales, stopped me at a recent Third Thursday meeting, and told me what a great group we seem to be. And after thinking about, it occurred to me that we're not really a group of people who own Miatas and happen to be friends, we've become friends who just happen to own Miatas.

I'm so excited to see the enthusiasm and friendship that started the club is still there. It's been great to see it through to fruition.

And I know that whoever fills the President position is going to be great. My only request is that you give them as much support as you've all given me. It's been a great couple of years, and I thank you all.

Stop the buzzing in your ears

This month's tech article is one that you'll thank me for. Especially you newer Miata owners. Why?

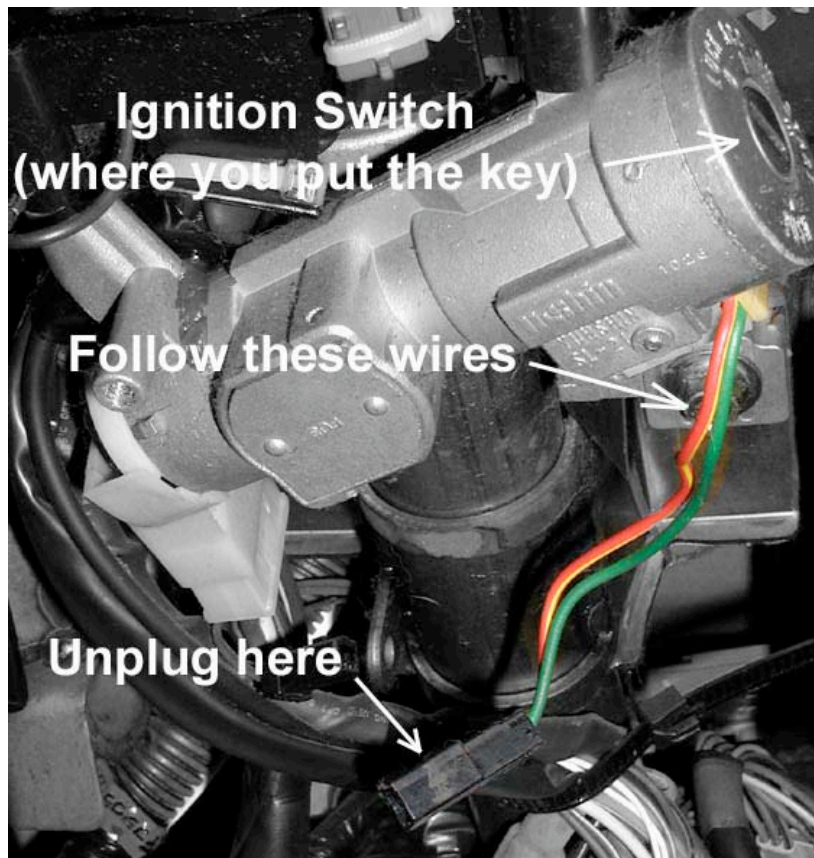
Because I'm going to explain how to get rid of that annoying buzzer that goes off while the door's open, and your key's in the ignition.

Yes, I know it's one of those convenience things, and yes, even I'm guilty of locking my keys in the car once. Just this week, actually. But like me, many other Miata owners are willing to risk it, and get rid of that annoying sound.

All you'll need is a medium-sized Phillips head screwdriver. Sit in the driver's seat, and take a look at the steering wheel. Between it and the gauge pod, there's a square plastic box that fits between the two, and goes around the ignition switch. If you feel under this box, you'll find four screw holes. Three are fairly shallow, and the fourth is somewhat deep. Keep track of which screws come out of which holes, because one of the shallow ones is a machine screw.

Once you've removed those screws, grasp the plastic box, and pull it apart vertically (it'll snap apart in two pieces). Don't worry, you're not going to break it.

Once you've done that, crouch down and find the ignition switch wiring. You'll see a set of green and red wires that go down to a black wiring harness that snaps together. Simply press the sides of the black harness, and the two parts will unclip.



Then simply fit the plastic box halves back together, screw them in, and you're done. Now go enjoy the silence!

Annual Meeting / Holiday Party

As you know, the Annual Membership Meeting is scheduled for Saturday, December 13th. However, since the last issue of *The CAR Enthusiast*, there's been a great deal of interest in making this into a Holiday Party for CAR club members and spouses, friends, etc.

The meeting time has been changed to 5pm, which not only frees up your Saturday, but also means that the meeting will be short, and the party can begin that much sooner!

The club is providing food and drinks, but as always, if there's anything in particular you'd like to bring (food, beverages, etc.), then you're more than welcome to. We've also received a box full of stuff from MiataNuts, so there will even be some cool door prizes to be won!

We'll also have a gift exchange/pollyanna. If you'd like to participate, simply bring a unisex gift costing \$10 or less, and bring it wrapped. It doesn't even have to be Miata-related!

So while only registered club members can vote in the meeting, the party is open to everyone, so be sure to bring your spouse, friend, etc.

And rumor has it The Christmas Car will be parked on the lawn, all decked out for the holidays....

Officer Nominations

With the elections just a few weeks away, we've received some great nominations for individuals to fill the vacant officer positions. If you'd like to nominate yourself, or someone else that you think would be a great addition to a specific officer position, you still have time.

Nominations are being accepted through Midnight, Friday December 5th. After that, nominations will be closed, and ballots will be made up.

To nominate someone, simply go online and look for the post in the Members Announcements section of the forum. You may also drop a line to Christian LeHew, and he'll make sure your nomination is accounted for.

For your reference, below is a list of the officer positions and their functions. If you have any specific questions, please feel free to contact any of the current officers listed below.

OFFICER DUTIES:

1. *The President shall preside at all Executive Board meetings, shall enforce these bylaws, shall sign and enforce contracts, shall sign checks (co-signed with Treasurer), shall appoint committees, shall assign duties to members, shall vote in the event of a tie and shall be responsible for carrying out the decisions of the membership. Upon completion of term of office, the Past President shall remain a member of the Executive Board for one year.*

2. *The Vice President shall preside and perform all duties of the President in his/her absence, shall have check-signing authority in the absence of the President and must co-sign all contracts. In the event of an absence of any elected officer, the Vice President assumes the duties of that officer until the absent officer resumes their duties or until a new officer is appointed for that office and confirmed by the Executive Board.*

3. *The Secretary shall keep minutes of the General Membership and Executive Board meetings, shall keep records of the membership, shall maintain a record of attendance for all meetings, shall be responsible for the preparation and mailing of all meeting notices and other club literature, shall furnish each*

member with a copy of these bylaws and their amendments are they occur, and shall maintain a file of minutes and records of past years. At the last meeting of his or her term, shall turn over to the new Secretary all minutes and records for club files.

4. The Treasurer shall issue and sign checks. Pay approved bills, collect all dues and other monies from any and all sources and issue receipts, shall keep books of accounts and make a financial report at all club meetings, shall further make an annual financial report showing all income and disbursements at the last meeting of his or her term. At the last meeting of his or her term, shall turn over the records of the past year for the club files.

Positions such as **NEWSLETTER EDITOR** and **EVENTS COORDINATOR** are appointed positions, so if you think you'd be interested in either one of those, then please talk to any one of the officers.

Elections will be held at the Annual Membership Meeting held on December 13th, so please feel free to drop any of us a line or ask questions, and please consider running for office.

Monthly Miata Meetings

We're holding monthly meetings every third Thursday at 7:30pm to not only grab something to eat, but to discuss everything from club business to Formula One racing to whatever. This is a great opportunity for anyone who would like to come out and meet some of the members in a casual environment, and you don't even need to wash the car. Plus, it'll give you a chance to talk directly to the club administrators with your input or questions. So bring a friend, a family member, or a new Miata owner, but most importantly, bring yourself out to one of our monthly membership meetings! See the upcoming events section below for this month's location. NOTE: Due to the Annual Meeting on December 13th, this month's Third Thursday meeting has been cancelled.

'Parts Department' temporarily closed

Due to a recent policy change at our supplier, we've been forced to temporarily close the Parts Department. We're currently talking to a few vendors to help supply all your CAR-logo'd goods, so once we find one that will give us great quality at an even better price, we'll be sure to let everyone know.

Become a published author!

Have you just completed a cool project on your Miata that you want to share with other club members? Did you attend an event that was so cool you want to write an article about it? Find a new road that seems like it was designed *just for* Miatas? Got an idea for a future event or article? Then drop us a line and we'll put it in next month's issue. Deadline for submissions is December 27th. All submissions can be sent to Christian LeHew at hotroddesigner@hotmail.com.

Cool cars, cool clubs

The idea has been brought up to see about doing an event or two with another car club. Not necessarily another Miata club, but perhaps a Triumph club, Jaguar club, etc. As you can probably assume, there are quite a few car clubs in the area, so if you're a member of one, know someone who is, or just think of one

that would be cool to spend the day with (I'm leaning towards Ferrari, myself!), then feel free to drop us a line with the contact info, and we'll take it from there.

A place to race

If you've gone to any autocrossing events this past year, you've probably heard one of us (or someone else) griping about the lack of racing sites in the area. "So what can I do?" Glad you asked.

The autocross community is always on the lookout for new venues where we can race. In a perfect world, they'd be smooth, flat, free of traffic islands, and about 20 miles away from a residential area. Event organizers realize not all these parameters can always be met, but there's been a plea to the community to help find some new sites where we can go racing. Maybe it's the parking lot at work. Or a big school parking lot. Or your friend's airfield.

So if you know of an area that you think might be a possibility, PLEASE let one of us know, and we'll have one of the local officials check it out.

Past Events & Happenings

Saturday, November 8th – Tech Day - Bowie, MD

Once again, Brad & Kristy Albert put on one of their famous tech days, complete with chilly weather, and chili on the stove. A total of 23 Miatas took over Heatherstone Drive for the day. I think we even parked one or two on the patio! It was great to see a lot of our new members again, as well as getting to meet some even newer ones for the first time. Among the completed projects were the complete tear-down of Brad's '96 M-Edition, a Momo wheel and various body panels on Special K's car, a new roll bar for Ian's '95, a stereo install in JD's '90, a new brace in Elaine's '90, brakes for Mark's '91, an exhaust for Tony's '02, power windows for Sunhak's '99, and a host of other mods. Thanks again to Brad & Kristy for providing the space. When's the pool open?

Thursday, November 20th – Monthly membership meeting

It's pretty cool when you pull into Rocky Run in Columbia and you see a Miata. Then another. Then *three more* parked next to each other. Well, by the time we all sat down, the wait staff was coughing up enough chairs for 15 people, and three others came by to say hello, but couldn't stay. We also got to meet a few of our new members, and I think one even joined that night. Among the things discussed (other than the beer and the market price of crab cakes) is the upcoming autocross season with the MWCSCC, including the possibility of not only fielding a team from CAR, but also having the CAR club sponsor an upcoming autocross. If you're interested in helping out the cause, talk to Jay DeLeyos (jaymond), Ben Harper (djarum69) or Mike Klein (GoKart) and they'll be happy to catch you up to speed and point you in the right direction.

Sunday, November 23rd - Scenic drive - Mt. Airy, MD

We took a rare Sunday drive via the scenic route through what was left of the fall colors to the Linganore Winery in Mt. Airy. We were expecting 12, but as the departure time grew near, a quick head count came up with 17 Miatas from four states! Going at an easy pace, we headed out through the country roads of Carroll and Frederick County to the Linganore Winery outside of Mount Airy. After getting a tour of the facility, and an explanation of the wine making process (and Brad nearly falling into the blender...), we spent some time sampling a good number of Linganore's wines (I ended up 3 under par...). Afterwards, we headed back towards historic Sykesville for lunch at E.W. Beck's Pub where we feasted like kings. Or Miata owners, as the case may be. A future scouting mission may be in order for some new roads, so keep your eyes open for another winery run for 2004.

Upcoming Events

Please RSVP where indicated. For full details, check out the Events section of the CAR forum at <http://www.chesapeakeoadsters.com>. If you have an idea for a future event, please drop a line to our Events Coordinator, Christian LeHew, at hotroddesigner@hotmail.com or call 410.377.8434.

Monthly membership meeting – December

Just as note to the membership, due to the annual meeting scheduled for December 13th, there is no Third Thursday monthly meeting scheduled for December. We'll resume the monthly meetings in January.

Saturday, December 6th 2003 – Scenic drive – Frederick County

We've been invited to join the Mason-Dixon Miata Club and the PACE Miata club for a drive out to Antietam Battlefield (near Hagerstown) for the annual Antietam Battlefield Illumination. This is supposed to be a very moving, yet beautiful, experience. We've also been invited to enjoy some chili at the home of Bob & Patty Eckels (of the Mason-Dixon club) before heading over. We'll be meeting at the Park & Ride at Rt. 32 and Rt. 70 in Sykesville for a 2pm departure. It will probably be mostly highway driving, so if you want to bring your OTM, we'll understand. **NOTE: RSVP's have been sent, but there should be room for one or two more. If you'd still like to go, drop a line to Christian.**

Saturday, December 13th 2003 – Annual Membership Meeting/Holiday Party

Make sure to mark this date on your calendar and come out for our Annual Membership Meeting and Holiday Party. This is your chance to not only elect next year's officers, but also to make suggestions, ask questions, and meet the great group of Miata enthusiasts that make up the club. PLUS, we've received a box of goodies from our friends at MIATANUTS, so there will be some cool door prizes too! We'll be meeting at Kirk Rambow's house (Special K) near Arbutus around 5:00pm, and we'll have plenty of food and drinks available. As always, if there's anything in particular you'd like to bring to share with the group (food, drinks, etc.), then please feel free to bring it. There are a few different ways to get to Kirk's, but if you want to check your online maps, the address is 1001 Plover Drive, Arbutus, MD 21227.

DIRECTIONS TO KIRK'S:

Take 195 North to the end (towards Catonsville – the opposite end of 195 from BWI Airport)

When you get to the end, this is S. Rolling Road. (route 166)

Make a left onto Rolling Road – this turns into Selford Road

Go about 1.5 miles. You'll go through a stop sign and you'll see a school on your left.

Just after the school, make a left onto Oakland Road

Make the first left onto Meadow Lark Drive

Make the first left onto Plover Drive

Look for all the Miatas in front of 1001 Plover Drive.

Saturday, December 20th 2003 - Scenic drive (kinda) - Baltimore

With the holidays near, I'm feeling the need to make a run over to Hampden (north Baltimore) to check out the famous "Lights on 34th Street". You may remember seeing these on a Maryland Lottery commercial a couple years ago, but for anyone who's not familiar with them, it's an entire neighborhood block that completely decorates the outside of their houses in lights, figurines, model trains, hubcap trees, and music. But it's to the point of needing sunglasses. At night. It's really incredible, and quite a sight to behold if not for it's holiday spirit, then for the sheer amazing absurdity. We'll meet at Beth & Christian LeHew's in Towson around 5:00pm, take a short drive over to check out the lights, and afterwards, you're all invited

back for some food and holiday cheer. I believe Lasagna is on the menu, but if you'd like to bring anything else, you're more than welcome. Plus, the apartment is a bit small, but the fridge is not, so feel free to bring your spiked Egg Nog, beer, or whatever spirits you'd like. As always, there are a few different ways to get to Christian's, but if you want to check your online maps, the address is 208 Rodgers Forge Road, Baltimore MD 21212. Or if you get lost, call 410.377.8434.

DIRECTIONS:

From Baltimore City:

Take 83 North to the Northern Parkway EAST exit.

Go through 2 lights, and the third is Charles Street.

Make a left onto Charles Street, and go to the 4th light (Bellona Avenue)

Make a right onto Bellona, go straight through the first light (Stevenson Lane).

Turn at the first left onto Rodgers Forge Road, and make a left into the first driveway.

Park anywhere. We're at the bottom of the hill on the left, building 208, apartment #D.

From the Baltimore Beltway – 695 coming from the East

Take exit #25 for Charles Street

At the top of the ramp, make a left, go 3/4 of the way around the circle, and take Charles Street south

Go through 4 lights (GBMC hospital is on your left)

At the 5th light (Bellona Avenue), make a left

Go straight through the first light (Stevenson Lane)

Turn at the first left onto Rodgers Forge Road, and make a left into the first driveway

Park anywhere. We're at the bottom of the hill on the left, building 208, apartment #D

From the Baltimore Beltway – 695 coming from the West

Take exit #25 for Charles Street

Merge to your right, and take Charles Street south

Go through 3 lights (GBMC hospital is on your left)

At the 4th light (Bellona Avenue), make a left

Go straight through the first light (Stevenson Lane)

Turn at the first left onto Rodgers Forge Road, and make a left into the first driveway

Park anywhere. We're at the bottom of the hill on the left, building 208, apartment #D

January 15th 2004 - Monthly membership meeting

Monthly member meeting. Check the website or next month's newsletter for location.

January 24th 2004 – Go Kart Racing – Dulles, VA

If you went to the Mazda Rev It Up event in July, you've probably heard about the hotly-contested CAR Go Kart racing. Well, it's been six months, and it's time to get back in the karts and settle the score. So assuming there's no snow, we'll head down to Allsports Grand Prix (allsportsgp.com) and hit the track. We'll grab some lunch beforehand just to make it interesting (and because they don't open until noon). Look for more details in next month's newsletter.

February 19th 2004 – Monthly membership meeting

Monthly member meeting. Location TBD.

February 2004 – 2nd Annual CAR Chili Cookoff

Last year's competition was hot – and so was the chili! This year, defending champions Christian LeHew

and Kirk Rambow will be out to settle the score, and see if the chili from the new members can really stand up to the hype. The rules are simple: make your best chili, and bring it. Gas-X and Beano are also welcome, so you can bring that too. Also, if you're interested in hosting this event, please let Christian know.

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If there is something else that you may be interested in, contact them about that specific item and they'll work with you the best they can. They even sell BMW and MINI parts too!

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