



# The CAR Enthusiast

April 2004

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## *The President's Post*

By Mike Kline

Well spring is finally here!

And even though spring hasn't quite sprung yet, we're finally starting to get some decent top down days.

I'd really like to thank everyone who made it out to the tech day at my place. While the rain prevented us from getting to all of our scheduled projects, we got a lot of things done. And most importantly, everyone had fun! It was great to meet some of the new members and hear their Miata stories.

Grab your wash bucket and towels and shine up the Miata! It's time to head out to Wilmington, DE, for the Kruse Kahunaville car show on Sunday, April 11<sup>th</sup>. They will have a burn out contest for anyone who wants to show off their four cylinder power. And afterwards we'll grab some grub at a nearby restaurant.

The race season is finally under way, and what better way to safely learn the limits of your Miata than to participate in one of the local autocross events? With races scheduled almost every weekend, be sure to make it out to some events. Check out our Motorsports forum to stay up to date with the current events.

Last but not least, make sure you make it to this month's monthly meeting on the 15<sup>th</sup>. We're holding it a little further north this time so everyone gets a chance to make it. We had a great turnout at last month's meeting, and I'm looking forward to another.

## *JD's World*

*A semi-regular series on the joys of junkyards*

By JD Veray

I love junkyards. Can't get enough of 'em. Even been accused of having my own when the non-running cars outnumbered the running ones in my personal stable. Nothing's better than waking up early on a sunny Saturday morning to climb over rotting wrecks looking for "it". Unless it's raining. That's the best. It keeps the less hearty hunters at home and leaves more for me.

They must not like the mud. Actually "mud" isn't entirely accurate. "Industrial strength shoe-sucking sludge" is more like it. There's nothing quite so horrifying as hearing that "ssSSSLLLuuuuuurrrp" sound and realizing your foot is dangling mid-air with just a sock for protection from all that muck. If you're quick and agile enough you'll be able to pivot around ballet-like in your remaining shoe just in time to see your other one sink into the swampy goo like a mini Reebok-made Titanic.

There's no turning back now. Its time to sink or swim. Literally, since your one good foot is now covered up to your ankle and descending rapidly towards China. You can almost picture some Chinese man reaching down and picking up your missing shoe as it rises out of the muddy junkyard he's scouring for Hong Qi parts. If your balance is good, you can scoop up your shoe and put it on in one fell swoop and regain your dignity as well as your footwear. Or you could miss and do a full face plant into God-knows-what. I just step into the mud and calmly put on my sneaker again. If you're really lucky, someone saw you do this and had to drop their own precious finds to keep from doubling over in laughter.

That's okay. Pointing and laughing is part of the experience. There are plenty of sinkholes in even the best kept yard. When you come across a lone shoe covered in mud just remember that in a garage or backyard somewhere, a fellow hunter is retelling the story of "the one that got away".

## *Monthly Miata Meetings*

As many of you know, 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. **IF YOU HAVE A SUGGESTION FOR A PLACE TO HOLD THE MEETING, DROP A LINE TO ANY OF THE OFFICERS.**

## *Recent Sightings*

Found a Miata in a junkyard or under a tarp in somebody's back yard? Post it here!  
JD Veray recently came across this '92:

Baltimore Auto Recycling, Inc.  
T/A Crazy Ray's Auto Parts  
6201 Erdman Avenue  
Baltimore, MD 21205  
410-488-6650

92 Red-nose hit, light roll, no drivetrain, seats, console, wheels - pretty stripped over. Still has many small parts including a good rear bumper, trunklid, both outer vent eyeballs, interior trim, engine bay parts, and a useable top frame. Accurate as of 3/13/04

## *'The Parts Department' - your source for all your CAR club needs*

The "Parts Department" is back online, and open for business! We have T-shirts. We have sweatshirts. We have hats. We have clocks. We have oversized "holy-crap-that's-a-lot-of-coffee" coffee mugs. And they all come with the official CAR Miata club logo in full living color. So if you're looking for some great new Miata club swag, check out the online store at <http://www.cafeshops.com/chesroadsters>.

## *Become a famous, 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 April 26<sup>th</sup>. All submissions can be sent to Christian LeHew at [info@phpwebhosting.blueroadster.com](mailto:info@phpwebhosting.blueroadster.com).

## *Events with other 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.

## *It's not too late for a plate!*

If there was ever a reason to put a plate back on the front of your car, this is it. Through a special program with the Maryland MVA, we've been able to apply for special CAR Miata Club license plates! A sample plate is shown below, but if we get enough interest, you can order one of these for only \$25 per set. Heck, you can even put a set on your other non-Miata vehicles! We're currently taking names, so if you're interested, contact:

Mike Kline - [president@blueroadster.phpwebhosting.com](mailto:president@blueroadster.phpwebhosting.com)

Kirk Rambow - [vicepresident@blueroadster.phpwebhosting.com](mailto:vicepresident@blueroadster.phpwebhosting.com)



## *New CAR Club Members*

If you've been on the forums or been out to a recent club event, you've no doubt seen a bunch of new members and new cars. So if you see someone you don't know, make sure to go introduce yourself, whether it's your first event or you're a regular. After all, the CAR Club is already well known for our hospitality. So who's new this month?

Chris Mahood  
David Clark

Ziad Aunallah  
Ross Sober

Jim McGinn  
William Ghio

Craig Newcomb  
Gerald Burgess

Seth Wallace

## *Wanted: Race Space*

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 the officers know, and we'll have one of the local officials check it out.

If you're interested in participating in autocross this year or have any questions, please drop a line to Jay DeLeyos (jaymond - [treasurer@blueroadster.phpwebhosting.com](mailto:treasurer@blueroadster.phpwebhosting.com)) or Ben Harper (djarum69 - [webmaster@blueroadster.phpwebhosting.com](mailto:webmaster@blueroadster.phpwebhosting.com)).

## *Past Events & Happenings*

### **Thursday, March 18<sup>th</sup> – Monthly member meeting**

Once again, this month's meeting was held at The Greene Turtle in Laurel. It rained a bit, but the meeting went on in traditional CAR Club style! There were perhaps 18 members, along with many new faces, and some regulars still recovering from the previous night's St. Patty's day festivities. The guys from MiataDesign also came out to show off their new line of stainless steel gauge faces and to get ideas from everyone for future products. We also showed off the decals that are going on JB Babcock's Spec Miata race car, as well as discussing the possibility of getting CAR Club license plates for anyone who's interested.

### **Saturday, March 28<sup>th</sup> – Tech Day at Mike's**

As the day drew nearer, the project list got larger. But did it deter us? Nope. It was just another tech day for the CAR Club. The big project of the day was installing Kent Halac's Jackson Racing supercharger on his 2001 Miata, and with only one trip to the parts store. The car was finished by late afternoon, and I'm sure Kent still has that same grin on his face that he did when he left! Also on the list was a new top, CD changer and CB radio for Elaine Farrell, Kirk Rambow's air conditioning system was removed, Ian Trenbeath replaced his O2 sensor, and if it hadn't been raining, we'd have probably managed a clutch and at least one timing belt. And as if the food and Mike Kline's grilling couldn't get any better, new member Dave Clark brought some of the best barbecue outside of North Carolina. And when you get a chance, make sure you ask Mike about his pneumatic potato gun.... Pictures are posted up on the site, so go to the Club Announcements section in the forum, and check 'em out.

## *Upcoming Events*

*Please RSVP where indicated. For full details, check out the Events section of the CAR forum at <http://www.chesapeakeroadsters.com>. If you have an idea for a future event, please drop a line to Mike Kline at [president@blueroadster.phpwebhosting.com](mailto:president@blueroadster.phpwebhosting.com).*

### **Sunday, April 11<sup>th</sup> 2004 – Show & Shine**

Originally, this started out as a Spring Detail Day on April 10<sup>th</sup>. But when Mark Clark suggested we head up to Delaware for the Kruse Kahunaville show, how could we pass it up?

So mark your calendars for Sunday, April 11th, and join us for a trip up to Wilmington, DE for the show. Registration is free, and you get a 20% discount coupon. Simply go to the site ([http://www.kahunaville.com/kruise\\_club.htm](http://www.kahunaville.com/kruise_club.htm)) fill out the form and mail it in. (It looks like you can also complete one the day of the show. Just make sure you have your insurance card handy.)

Plus, the good folks at Kahunaville are also letting us use their water and electricity for cleaning the cars. We just need to provide a hose, power cords, buffers, and anything else we want to use.

Not only that, but there will be a burnout competition and TV coverage, so if you need an excuse to get some new tires, this is it.

Keep your fingers crossed for good weather, and this should be a great time. Hope to see you there!

#### DIRECTIONS:

There will be a group leaving from the McDonald's at the corner of White Marsh Blvd. (Rt. 43) and Honeygo Blvd. in White Marsh, and should be leaving promptly at 10:15am.

Also, since we'll be heading up 95, we'll encounter a couple tolls, so be prepared. We'll collect the toll money before we leave, so that we can get through the tolls in an efficient manner so no one gets left behind. The total tolls going north are \$7, and \$2 for the return trip.

### **Thursday, April 15<sup>th</sup> 2004 – Monthly membership meeting**

Get your taxes done, and get out to the meeting. We'll even let you pay the bill and use it as a deduction for next year! This month's Third Thursday member meeting is scheduled for 7:30pm at Tully's Restaurant near White Marsh. As usual, bring any ideas you may have for the coming year, your enthusiasm, and any questions or concerns you may have. As usual, just ask the hostess for the Miata club table. And rumor has it that Thursdays is Prime Rib night...

Last I checked, their website was down. For you MapQuesters, the address is 7934 Belair Rd., Nottingham, MD 21236.

#### DIRECTIONS:

Take 95 to 695 north of Baltimore. Take 695 west towards Towson. Take the first exit, which is #32B towards Bel Air (Route 1 North). Go about 1/2 mile, and Tully's is in the shopping center on the corner of Belair Road and Rossville Blvd. If you get lost, their number is 410.665.9100.

### **Saturday, April 17<sup>th</sup> 2004 – Road Trip to PBC**

We've been invited down to Performance Buyers Club ([www.performancebuyers.com](http://www.performancebuyers.com)) along with the PACE Miata club for their Spring open house. PBC will be providing some food, drinks and DOOR PRIZES, and it's also a great time to go pick up any Miata parts you might need. Just give Pete a call in advance just to make sure they'll have your order together.

And no, there won't be any crummy fake Mazda car shows like last year!

We'll be meeting at our usual spot at the upper rear parking lot of Savage Mills for a prompt 9:30am departure. Directions are below. Or if you live in that part of Northern Virginia and would like to meet us at PBC, you can get directions from their site. Everyone should be converging there between 10:30 and 11:00am.

Good directions can be found here at <http://www.ramsheadtavern.com/savage/directions.html>. We'll be parking in our usual spot in the upper parking lot. When you turn onto Fordham, go past the red barn, and make the 2nd left (it's a 180\* turn uphill) and follow that up the street. Go through the stone pillars at the top of the hill, and the lot is on your left.

### **Sunday, April 18<sup>th</sup> 2004 – WDCR/SCCA Autocross**

Look for more details on the CAR club forum, or just come out to FedEx Field and cheer on your fellow club members! If you're interested in participating in autocross this year or have any questions, please drop a line to: Jay DeLeyos (jaymond) - [treasurer@blueroadster.phpwebhosting.com](mailto:treasurer@blueroadster.phpwebhosting.com) or Ben Harper (djarum69) - [webmaster@blueroadster.phpwebhosting.com](mailto:webmaster@blueroadster.phpwebhosting.com)).

### **Saturday, May 1<sup>st</sup> 2004 – Mazda Rev It Up tour – Washington DC**

We're talking with the Rev It Up organizers and are working on plans for a club event of some sort. Details TBA. In the meantime, check out <http://www.mazdarevitup.com> for more details and keep an eye on the Events section of the forum.

### **Sunday, May 16<sup>th</sup> 2004 – WDCR/SCCA Championship #2 Autocross**

Look for more details on the CAR club forum, or just come out to Fed Ex Field and cheer on your fellow club members! If you're interested in participating in autocross this year or have any questions, please drop a line to: Jay DeLeyos (jaymond) - [treasurer@blueroadster.phpwebhosting.com](mailto:treasurer@blueroadster.phpwebhosting.com) or Ben Harper (djarum69) - [webmaster@blueroadster.phpwebhosting.com](mailto:webmaster@blueroadster.phpwebhosting.com)).

### **Thursday, May 20<sup>th</sup> 2004 – Monthly membership meeting**

Monthly member meeting, 7:30 as usual. Place TBD. Look for more info in next month's newsletter or in the Events section of the CAR forum.

### **Saturday, May 22<sup>nd</sup> 2004 – Tech Day**

April's calendar filled up pretty fast, but we're planning to have another of our famous Tech Days. Look for more info in next month's newsletter or in the Events section of the forum. IF YOU'D LIKE TO HOST A FUTURE TECH DAY, DROP A LINE TO MIKE KLINE at [president@blueroadster.phpwebhosting.com](mailto:president@blueroadster.phpwebhosting.com) and let him know.

## **June 2004 – Scenic Drive – Eldersburg, MD**

It's June, and that means that it's time once again for the annual Barbeque/Snowball run in Eldersburg. Of course, if you went last year, you missed out on barbeque. But we're keeping our fingers crossed for this year. Look for more info in upcoming issues of *The CAR Enthusiast*.

## **Sunday, June 13<sup>th</sup> 2004 – WDCR/SCCA Championship #3 Autocross**

Look for more details on the CAR club forum, or just come out to FedEx Field and cheer on your fellow club members! If you're interested in participating in autocross this year or have any questions, please drop a line to: Jay DeLeyos (jaymond) - [treasurer@blueroadster.phpwebhosting.com](mailto:treasurer@blueroadster.phpwebhosting.com) or Ben Harper (djarum69) - [webmaster@blueroadster.phpwebhosting.com](mailto:webmaster@blueroadster.phpwebhosting.com)).

## **Thursday, June 17<sup>th</sup> 2004 – Monthly membership meeting**

Monthly member meeting, 7:30 as usual. Place TBD. Look for more info in next month's newsletter or in the Events section of the CAR forum.

*Support your sponsors!*

### **CONGRESSIONAL MAZDA**

<http://www.congressionalmazda.com>

301-424-7800

- 15% discount on all parts

### **ENDLESS ROAD**

<http://www.endlessroad.com>

301-497-0369

- 10% off all in-stock items

\* Be sure to ask about available Miata memorabilia!

### **MIATANUTS**

<http://www.miatanuts.com>

866-642-8268.

- 10% off all Jackson Racing products

- 1/2 price shipping on Hard Dog Roll Bars (savings of between \$25 & \$32.50/ bar)

- 20% off all apparel (polo shirts, tees, fleece pullovers, vests, jackets)

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!

### **RICH MORTON MAZDA**

<http://www.richmorton.com>

866-260-6028

- Exclusive CAR member discounts on all parts and service