



The CAR Enthusiast

June 2004

The President's Post

By Mike Kline

Scrape those cicadas off your windshield and get ready for another great couple of months with CAR.

It's June again and that can only mean one thing. It's time for the annual BBQ/Snowball run to Smokey's BBQ in Eldersburg. We'll meet up at Smokey's for lunch, fill our bellies, and then take a leisurely trip through some scenic twisties and have dessert at The Original Hawaiian Island Snowball Stand. So prepare your appetite and be sure to mark your calendars for Saturday, June 5th. For more info, look in the events section of the forum.

Since the last couple of meetings have been up north, we've decided to move things a little further south for a change. This month's meeting will be held at Dave & Buster's in Bethesda at White Flint Mall. Not only do they have great food, they also have a huge selection of games, simulators, and billiards. And oh yeah, they also have two bars! So make sure to come on out to Dave & Buster's on Thursday, June 17th. Check the forum for details and directions. It's sure to be a great time.

It's Tech Day time again! Wally has offered to host a Tech Day at his place in Owings, MD once again. He has a huge two car garage and air tools for any project as well as a long driveway with plenty of parking. Last year we installed a turbo, rollbar, chassis braces, and brake fluid changes for everyone. I'm sure we'll have just as much on the to-do list this year. So come on down to Wally and Dina's place on Saturday, the 26th. I'm keeping my fingers crossed for some of Dina's famous enchiladas!

With the autocross season in full swing, we have a few upcoming events for this month. All you need is a driver's license and about \$25 to safely test the limits of your car. It's guaranteed to be the most fun you've ever had on four wheels...legally. Check the Motorsports section of the forum for event dates and details.

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! Here are some of our newest members:

Ken Pearce
Chris Mahood
John Frye
Jim Becker

Recent Sightings

Found a Miata in a junkyard or under a tarp in somebody's back yard? Post it here!

JD Veray found this one up in Connecticut this weekend with NO PHONE NUMBER! He says he'll be going back in two weeks if anyone wants him to check it out. He can't vouch for this car but just wanted to show that there ARE good ones out there if you're willing to travel and be patient.

1996 Montego blue/black. Nice top, good body. 179,000 miles with all maintenance records. \$4900 o.b.o(faded sign=I'd bet they would take less)

JD also recently came across this 1992:

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

1992 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

California Dreamin'

By Christian LeHew

I recently made a trip up to Atlantic City with some friends. As we drove over the bridges connecting the mainland to the island, it suddenly dawned on me that the last time I had seen an ocean, I was driving along Orange Avenue in Coronado, California in a rented 1999 Miata. And for a few minutes, I was smiling. I was thinking back on all the great drives around southern California. But then a bit of sadness set in, as I longed to be back there, if nothing more than for the automotive memories.

If I close my eyes, I can still smell the salty air that envelops the coastline. In the background, I once again hear the yellow Ferrari 550 at full song, passing me on Interstate 5 just outside of LaJolla. I can see the red Lotus Esprit pull up outside the donut shop in San Diego where we're eating breakfast. I see the blue Lamborghini Diablo sitting next to me at the traffic light in Newport Beach. And that vintage Aston Martin DB5 in West Hollywood is still the most beautiful shade of British Racing Green I've ever seen.

Seeing cars like these are an everyday occurrence in southern California. They don't stop traffic like they do here. I actually counted 15 Ferraris one day. They're commonplace there. But the roads are not.

During the winter months when it's icy cold, I often think back to the sunny Sunday afternoon when my wife and I drove around northwest Los Angeles. We took a right on Topanga Canyon Road, and then another right onto the famed Mulholland Drive, which twists its way for miles through the Hollywood Hills, several thousand feet above the city.

But what I remember most was the drive west on Sunset Boulevard. Past Spago's. Past The Viper Room. Past The Whisky. Once you start driving away from the Sunset Strip, the street turns into a twisty 4-lane which writhes its way through Hollywood, Brentwood, and Beverly Hills. Traffic flows at a brisk pace, but everyone seems to enjoy every elevation-change sweeper on the road.

The road turns into a 2-lane mountain road, carved into the hills. At speed, simple guardrails and the proper gear are all that keep you from meeting the canyon floor hundreds of feet below. As you drive, you notice the subtle temperature changes on your bare arms. The ocean is near.

A quick left, a quick right, another left, and you're ears suddenly pop from the elevation drop. Then with a final right hand turn past the foot of another mountain, you are blinded by the sun on your face and the glistening waves of the Pacific. A lone traffic light greets you at Pacific Coast Highway. A left takes you to Santa Monica. A right takes you past Malibu.

With the top down, the perfect weather, a great driving companion, and miles of wonderful road, nothing can quite compare.

And I miss it. Every time I drop the top on a muggy Maryland day. Or when I'm digging out the Miata in the middle of January.

It's 2709 miles away. But in my mind, I'm still there driving on Sunset. My wife is beside me, it's a beautiful 74 degrees, the top's down, and my imagination is on full blast.

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.**

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.

'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. The submission deadline for the July newsletter is June 26th. All submissions can be sent to Christian LeHew at info@phpwebhosting.blueroadster.com.

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! Also, if you've just renewed your registration, the MVA tells us they'll issue you another inspection decal for the new plate. We're currently taking names, so if you're interested, contact:

Mike Kline - president@blueroadster.phpwebhosting.com

Kirk Rambow - vicepresident@blueroadster.phpwebhosting.com



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), Ben Harper (djarum69 - webmaster@blueroadster.phpwebhosting.com), or Mike Kline (GoKart - president@blueroadster.phpwebhosting.com).

Past Events & Happenings

Sunday, May 16th – Show and Shine/Car Show

A group of CAR members rolled into the Kruise Kahunaville car show at Kahunaville in Wilmington, Delaware for a full day of fun. Not only did the Kahunaville staff provide us with some great amenities, but the CAR club got GREAT parking to boot. This definitely seemed to be a great time, so look forward to us doing this again!

Thursday, May 20th – Monthly member meeting

This month's meeting was held once again at Tulley's Restaurant near White Marsh. And while we all love Prime Rib Night there, it was once again all the new faces and great food that made the night! Nearly 20 came out for a night of the usual brand of CAR Club livery. Look for next month's meeting to be further south.

Saturday, May 22nd – Tech Day

When Kevin Riley offered up his well-equipped garage, and a promise to help break in his new grill with some fine food, how could we resist? The project list included such classics as a clutch install, brakes, sway bars, an intake, shocks & springs, stereos, and engine timing. Maybe next time, we'll be able to get Kevin to fire up the Harley! Thanks again to the Riley's for hosting such a great event.

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.

Saturday, June 5th 2004 – Scenic Drive – Eldersburg, MD

What goes better in summer than some great barbeque, some tasty snowballs, and a top-down drive through the country? That's right, doing it with the CAR Miata club.

It's June, and that means 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.

So mark your calendars for Saturday, June 5th when we meet at Smokey's BBQ in Eldersburg, MD at 11:30am for some great Carolina-style BBQ, then head off for a slow-paced scenic drive on some nice roads through Howard and Carroll counties, and ending the ride at The Original Hawaiian Island Snoball Stand for some of the best snoballs (and other dessert treats) that you've had since, well, last year's trip!

What are you waiting for? Cancel plans. Pretend your sick. Do whatever you have to do to make sure your plans include coming on the BBQ/Snoball run on June 5th!

Christian will be leading a group from Timonium through Hunt Valley to Smokey's BBQ if any of you northerners want to have a pre-lunch drive. We'll be meeting at 10:15am (for a 10:30 departure) in the parking lot at Baja Fresh on the corner of Timonium Road and York Road in Timonium.

Otherwise, you can just meet us at the restaurant:

DIRECTIONS TO SMOKEY'S BBQ:

From I-70:

Take the exit for Route 32 North. Follow 32 for about 5 miles (watch out for police in Sykesville) to Liberty Road (Route 32). Make a right onto Liberty Road (32 East) and go through about 5 lights. At the 5th light, you'll see a Food Lion and Dairy Queen on your left. Make a left into this shopping center, turn right at the Food Lion, and you'll see Smokey's BBQ in the smaller shopping center across the parking lot.

From points North and East

There's a few ways you can go via Owings Mills, but the easiest is just to take 695 to Liberty Road (Route 32 West). Stay on 32 for about 8 miles (it'll turn from an urban area to very rural), go through the light at Ward's Chapel Road, cross over Liberty Reservoir, go through another light, cross over the reservoir again, and go up the hill. The road will turn into 4 lanes, and you'll see the Dairy Queen and Food Lion on your right just before a traffic light. Turn into this shopping center, turn right at the Food Lion, and you'll see Smokey's BBQ in the smaller shopping center across the parking lot.

Sunday, June 13th 2004 – WDCR/SCCA Championship #3 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) or Ben Harper (djarum69) - webmaster@blueroadster.phpwebhosting.com).

Thursday, June 17th 2004 – Monthly membership meeting

We're heading down south this month to Dave & Busters in Rockville. As usual, the reservations will be for 7:30, and just ask the hostess for the Miata club table.

DIRECTIONS:

From Points East:

- Take the I-495 W (Washington DC Beltway) towards US-1/COLLEGE PARK/SILVER SPRING. (8.3 miles)
- Take the MD-355 exit, exit number 34, towards BETHESDA/ROCKVILLE/WISCONSIN AVE. (0.2 miles)
- Merge onto ROCKVILLE PIKE/MD-355 N. (1.9 miles)
- White Flint Mall will be on your right. D&B is on the back side of the mall. Park on the top of the parking structure for easiest access.

Or check here for online directions: <http://www.daveandbusters.com/locations/>

Saturday, June 26th 2004 – Tech Day

Wally and Dina Simpkins have once again invited the CAR Miata club to the homestead for a tech day! If you went last October, you no doubt remember Dina's AMAZING Mexican food! Oh yeah, and the turbo install, roll bar install, brake bleedings, yada yada....

But if you didn't, you should know that a tech day at Wally & Dina's is not one to be missed, so be sure to mark you calendars and make plans to attend. As always, bring your favorite food and beverages, and maybe if we ask REALLY nicely, they'll even let us swim in the pool.

DIRECTIONS TO 9185 NANA RUSSELL RD, OWINGS, MD 20736:

From the Annapolis area:

South on Rt.2 heading toward Prince Frederick in Calvert Co.

Right at the Calvert/Ann Arundel Co border is Rt 260. Take a left at the light heading east toward Chesapeake Beach. About 8/10th of a mile on the left you'll see Nana Russell RD...turn left and go straight down the hill. At the bottom of the hill you'll see 3 parallel driveways...mine is the one on the right.

From the Beltway:

Take Rt 4 (Pennsylvania Ave) south toward Prince Frederick in Calvert Co. Continue south until you see the exit for Rt. 260 toward Chesapeake Beach. Continue east crossing Rt 2 (light). About 8/10th of a mile past the Rt 2/260 intersection on the left you'll see Nana Russell Rd....turn left and go straight down the hill. At the bottom of the hill you'll see 3 parallel driveways...mine is the one on the right.

If you end up in the Bay you've gone too far

Any questions, give me a call (301) 812-1452.

Sunday, June 27th 2004 – MWCSCC Autocross at Rosecroft Raceway

Look for more details on the CAR club forum, or just come out to Rosecroft Raceway and cheer on your fellow CAR Miata 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)

or Ben Harper (djarum69) - webmaster@blueroadster.phpwebhosting.com).

Sunday, July 11th 2004 – WDCR/SCCA Championship #4 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)

or Ben Harper (djarum69) - webmaster@blueroadster.phpwebhosting.com).

Thursday, July 15th 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.

Friday, Saturday & Sunday – July 23-25 –Northeast Divisional Championships

Look for more details on the CAR club forum, or just come out to Ripkin Stadium in Aberdeen and cheer on your fellow club members as they vie for the Northeast Divisional title! 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)

or Ben Harper (djarum69) - webmaster@blueroadster.phpwebhosting.com).

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