



The CAR Enthusiast

March 2004

The President's Post

By Mike Kline

With spring just around the corner, the weather is finally starting to take a turn for the better. The last couple of weekends have provided us with some great top down days! There's nothing better than feeling that early spring breeze through your hair as you drive.

We also had perfect weather for the second annual CAR Chili Cookoff. It's not often that chili and suntanning go hand in hand, but this year they did! We had some excellent exotic chili recipes to sample from club members, and the final decision was a draw. Thanks again to Brad for hosting another flawless event!

Got some car accessories sitting around that you would like to install on your car? Do you enjoy getting your hands dirty helping out with other peoples cars? Well, now's your chance. Come down to the year's first CAR Tech Day hosted at my house on March 27th. With mopeds, potato guns, and water balloon launchers, it promises to be a great time.

Last but not least, we have the SCCA Test & Tune Day at FedEx Field. It's the first SCCA event of the year, and as we plan to be active in all SCCA events this year, let's shoot for a great turnout!

As always, don't forget the monthly meeting. Thursday, March 18th at The Greene Turtle in Laurel for food, drinks and Miata conversation. See you then!

Crack the Code

By Christian LeHew

By now, many of you have probably already upgraded the stereo head unit in your Miata. If that's you, then feel free to skip this article and head straight for the next one. Nothing to see here. Let's keep it moving.

Whew, I thought they'd never leave.

If you haven't yet upgraded the head unit (aka receiver, radio, tape deck, etc.) in your '90-'97 and you're still using the OEM one, then keep this article handy because it's bound to be useful at some point during your ownership.

When you read your owner's manual, there's a page in there regarding security codes with your stereo. The point of this is that if someone should steal your stereo, they'll never be able to use it because once power is cut to the radio (removed from the car or the battery goes dead), the user's required to enter a 4-digit security code to get it to work. This 4-digit code was probably set by you the first day you owned the car, or like mine, was programmed by a previous owner who neglected (or forgot) to tell you what it was.

So sure, you could just sit there and enter a possible 9,999 codes until you find one that works, right? Wrong. The manual clearly indicates you only have 3 attempts, then the stereo goes into a "lock" mode, and you're required to have the radio replaced. However, I've heard that you can take it to a dealer who will kindly "unlock it" for around \$50, assuming they know how to do it.

Naturally, I read this tidbit about 8 years ago when I bought the car, and panicked. So I guessed. It turned out to be 1-2-3-4. What can I say? The previous owner was a genius.

In the ensuing years, I changed it to a better code and forgot about it. Until two weeks ago when I changed out my battery and alternator.

I jumped into the car, hit the "on" button on the radio and I was met with CODE. Oh great. What code had I assigned to it? I got lucky, and got it on the second try. But it made me go research to see if there was a better way.

Sure enough, I poked around Miata.net and discovered there was indeed a procedure for unlocking the radio if you're in just such a dilemma.

Simply go ahead and enter incorrect codes 3 times. This will lock the radio, and you'll get ERR displayed. Now you can go ahead and do the following:

1. Press the 1 button
2. Press Stop/Eject

3. Press AM/FM
 4. Press Clock Button
- Then "-- -- -- --" will appear on the display
5. Enter code 4 9 8 9
 6. Press F/Forward & Reverse at the same time and hold for a couple seconds. You should hear a beep.
 7. The code should now be removed. Follow the instructions in your manual to set a new code.

If you have a late '96 or '97 radio (it will have a number 1273 on it), you'll need to enter three incorrect codes then:

1. Press Scan
 2. Press AM/FM
 3. Press Prog/Auto M.
 4. Press FForward
- The radio will now display "- - - -"
5. Enter 4 9 8 9
 6. Press Prog/Auto M. first, then press Scan (Hold both buttons down at the same time and make sure to follow this order. If you reverse the order it will not work.)
 7. The display should now read "Good" The radio should now work again.

If you have the MSSS2 radio that was used in late '95 & '96 as an option on Leather package, or you have a '97 M Edition with MPSS (you can see a picture at: <http://www.miata.net/garage/msss.html>), you'll need to enter three incorrect codes, then you'll need to follow this procedure:

1. Press "Track/Tune/Rew/FF" Button (side with the symbol V)
 2. Press the "FM 1-2" button
 3. Press the "Auto Memo" button
 4. Press the "Tape" button
- Then you'll see the "- - - -" displayed
5. Using preset buttons (1-4) Enter the code "5011"
 6. Simultaneously press "Track/Tune/Rew/FF" Button (side with the symbol V) and the "Auto Memo" buttons and hold.
 7. The display should read "Good"

At this point, you should be able to press the knob and turn the radio on with no problems. You'll need to reset your station presets, but at least you'll have a fully functional radio back in your car.

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.

Pick up some CAR swag at the 'Parts Department'

In case you haven't noticed, 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. So if you're looking for some great new Miata club swag, check out the online store at <http://www.cafeshops.com/chesroadsters>.

Vie for a Pulitzer Prize!

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 February 26th. All submissions can be sent to Christian LeHew at info@phpwebhosting.blueroadster.com.

Keeping up with the Jones'

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

Past Events & Happenings

Thursday, February 9th – Monthly member meeting

As a change of venue, we went a little further south and ended up at The Greene Turtle in Laurel. And it seems to have been a good decision as the food was great and the weather made for a brisk top-down drive. It also brought out 26 people! There were Miata owners everywhere *inside* the restaurant, and Miatas everywhere *outside* too! Mark Clark brought a sample of the new CG Lock which seems to be a good addition for autocrossers and performance street applications as well. He also brought some gorgeous samples of magnetic autocross numbers, so it looks like the CAR club will be decked out in style for 2004.

Saturday, February 28th – 2nd Annual CAR Chili Cookoff

Last year's competition was hot – and so was the chili! This year, the ante was upped, and the resulting chili entries were amazing! Bill Kekszt brought his famous green chili, JD Veray made a more traditional chili (no beans!), and Larry and Susan Wright stepped up with some venison chili that seemed to be a crowd favorite. Elaine Farrell won Best Cornbread, and once again, Mike Kline took the Best Spinach Dip category in a landslide victory. There was also some wrenching done, and talk of some new fun inventions. Stay tuned....

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 info@phpwebhosting.blueroadster.com or call 410.377.8434.

Thursday, March 18th 2004 – Monthly membership meeting

This month's Third Thursday member meeting is once again scheduled for 7:30pm at The Greene Turtle in Laurel. As usual, bring any ideas you may have for the coming year, your enthusiasm, and any questions or concerns you may have. Plus, they're even giving us a private room, great drink prices, and great food. As usual, just ask the hostess for the Miata club table.

Normally, I'd give directions, but their site has much better directions than what I can give, so I'll just

direct you to there. It's not too far from 95 or 198, and I've been told it's pretty easy to get to. It's on Route 1 on the southbound side just in front of a Best Buy.

<http://thegreenturtle.com/laurel/>

Saturday, March 27th 2004 – Tech Day

The CAR Miata club's famous Tech Days are back for 2004! Assuming the weather's nice, we'll be holding the first official Tech Day of 2004 at Casa de Kline (Mike's place) in Crownsville, MD starting at 10am. As usual, nothing's particularly planned yet, so if there's something you'd like help with, put your dibs in now. Although I know of a Jackson Racing supercharger install and at least one suspension swap that are anxiously awaited...

As usual, feel free to bring any food, drinks, or fun motorized vehicles to share with the group. Directions to Mike's are below. His house is pretty easy to get to, just be careful about his driveway where it meets the road. You'll probably want to take it at a pretty good angle. The house is green, and has a red garage behind it. When you pull up the driveway, you can park your car on the left side on the grass. For you MapQuesters, his address is 1218 Generals Highway, Crownsville MD 21032.

Directions from 695:

- Take 97 south toward Annapolis (12 miles)
- Take MD-178 (Generals Hwy), exit #5, toward CROWNSVILLE
- After getting on the exit ramp my house is the first one on the right (about 1/2 - 3/4 mi). The driveway before the black mailbox.
- If you make it to the 1st traffic signal (Herald Harbor rd.) you went too far.

Directions from 495:

- Take 50 east toward Annapolis (10 miles)
- Take 3 north, exit #13, toward Baltimore / Crofton (9 miles)
- Take 97 south exit toward Annapolis (1 mile)
- Stay in the far right hand lane and take the 1st exit (MD-178 - Generals Hwy), exit #5, toward CROWNSVILLE
- After getting on the exit ramp my house is the first one on the right (about 1/2 - 3/4 mi). The driveway before the black mailbox.
- If you make it to the 1st traffic signal (Herald Harbor Rd.) you went too far.

Directions from the East (Annapolis Mall):

- Take West St. west toward the Annapolis Mall
- In front of the mall West St. turns into Generals Hwy.
- Stay straight on Generals Hwy. (178) for 5 miles
- My house is just past the Herold Harbor Rd. traffic light on the left (across from the Shell station)

Directions from the West (Columbia):

- Take 32 east (10-12 miles)

-When 32 east turns into 97 south, take the 1st exit (MD-178 - Generals Hwy), exit #5, toward CROWNSVILLE

-After getting on the exit ramp my house is the first one on the right (about 1/2 - 3/4 mi). The driveway before the black mailbox.

-If you make it to the 1st traffic signal (Herald Harbor Rd.) you went too far.

Sunday, March 28th 2004 – WDCR/SCCA test & tune

As you probably know by now, our club's presence on the autocross circuit is growing on a daily basis, and should be a serious force to reckon with this year. So if you're an SCCA member, mark your calendar and head to FedEx Field in Landover (outside DC) for the first test & tune session of the season. Or if you're not an SCCA, head over there anyway and cheer on your fellow club members and check out some cool cars. 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, April 4th 2004 – MWCSCC Autocross

This is tentatively scheduled to take place at Rosecroft Raceway. Look for more details in next month's newsletter or on the CAR club forum. If you're interested in participating in autocross this year or have any questions, please drop a line to our autocross committee of Jay DeLeyos (jaymond - treasurer@blueroadster.phpwebhosting.com) or Ben Harper (djarum69 - webmaster@blueroadster.phpwebhosting.com).

Saturday, April 10th 2004 – Spring Detail Day

By now all the salt should have washed off the roads, so we'll make it an easy day of car detailing. Bring your car wash, wax, and any other detailing items you may need. If there's enough interest, we may even have Dent Busters of Maryland come out and offer some painless dent removal at a discounted price. **If you'd be interested in hosting this event, please contact Christian.** Look for more details in next month's newsletter or on the CAR club forum.

Thursday, April 15th 2004 – Monthly Meeting

Monthly member meeting at 7:30pm. Get your taxes done early, and head out for a night of CAR-quality fun. Location TBD.

Saturday, April 17th 2004 – Road trip to PBC

Start saving your money, because we're heading down once again to Performance Buyers Club in Chantilly, VA! The PACE club from PA wants us to join them, and who are we to pass up an invitation like that? Look for more details in next month's newsletter.

Sunday, April 18th 2004 – WDCR/SCCA Autocross

Look for more details in next month's newsletter or on the CAR club forum. 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).

Saturday, May 1st 2004 – Mazda Rev It Up tour – Washington DC

We're working on plans for a club event of some sort. Details TBA. In the meantime, check out <http://www.mazdarevitup.com> for more details.

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. We're keeping our fingers crossed for this year. Look for more info in upcoming issues of *The CAR Enthusiast*.

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