



The CAR Enthusiast

January, 2006

Volume 1, Number 1

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Calendar of Events

January –
19 CAR Meeting, Greene Turtle,
Laurel

February –
16 CAR Meeting, Greene Turtle,
Laurel.
26 Scenic Drive/Karting,
Delaware (tentative date)

March –
11 Tech Day, Place TBD
(tentative date)
16 CAR Meeting, Laurel Lanes,
Laurel

April –
1 Tech Day, Bill Keksz's House,
Edgewater

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members receive a discount on
parts and service.**

The Presidents Post

As I'm sitting here writing this, it's a bitterly cold, windy January day. The Miata's doors are frozen shut yet again, and the ice scraper is mocking me through the window from its spot on the passenger seat.

When I finally get into the car, it takes an attempt or two to get the car started, and while I wait for the heat to appear, I can feel the cold wind blowing into the car past the weather stripping and the worn-through holes in the top.

I hate winter. I always have. But after I bought the Miata, I hated it even more because it meant I couldn't just drop the top any time I wanted to. I'd get road salt all over the Classic Red paint. And the seats weren't as comfy when I'd wear the heavy winter jacket.

But what keeps me going during these dreary months are the memories of great times spent with the Miata, with the top down, and usually with the CAR Miata club.

As most of you probably know by now, I've been elected the CAR Miata club's President 2006. And while it means I get a cool title next to my name, it also means that I get to help plan out a whole year of great new Miata memories for myself and for you too.

Since we started the club in 2001, every year has gotten even better than before, and 2006 will be no exception! We've already compiled a list of events for the coming year, which will include some old favorites as well as some new adventures. We'll also continue to have our now-famous Tech Days (we actually replaced a club member's engine once), and our monthly Third Thursday meetings will continue to provide a night out for great times with great people.

As club members, you'll be part of one of the largest Miata clubs on the East Coast, and you'll continue to receive great benefits including the re-release of the club's newsletter, *The CAR Enthusiast*. Plus, you'll also want to have your name on the list for Maryland-issued CAR Miata club license plates to be released soon. And make sure to keep your membership card handy, as we're in negotiations with several vendors that will be happy to provide a great service to you. And we'll soon be on a first-name basis with our local Mazda dealers.

Just remember, it's your club. If you have an idea for an event, a contribution to the newsletter, or a comment or suggestion about the club, then feel free to let any of the club's officers know. All of our e-mail addresses are listed on the club's home page.

Links



Contact Us

www.chesapeakeroadsters.com

Newsletter Editors

And as the President, I invite you to contact me personally with any club issues or just to talk Miatas. My number's even listed in the Members section.

So clear out your calendars, gas up the car, and keep an eye out because 2006 is going to be a great ride!

CAR License Plates

If the Maryland MVA can give us a straight answer on what we need to finalize this process, we should be in the very final stages of taking orders for and getting the new plates. And 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. Pricing should be around \$25 per set, and you can

even put a set on your OTM (other than 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:

Christian LeHew - [President](#) Ben Harper - [Vice President](#)

Meet the Officers

In this first issue we will meet the President of CAR for 2006, Christian LeHew. Christian bought his Classic Red 1991 Miata A-package in March 1996. The car was a garage queen, and didn't get any mods for three months until he installed an electric trunk release kit. He happily drove the car for a few more months until he found out about Miata clubs from a friend whose parents owned a Miata. Within a week, Christian had joined the Delaware Valley Miata Club, and became an active member and newsletter contributor. Upon moving to Maryland in 1997, he immediately joined the now-defunct CAM Miata club, and continued to be an active member and pseudo-officer until the club dissolved in 2000.

In November 2001, he got an e-mail that would alter his love of the Miata forever. The e-mail spoke of a group of Miata folks who were meeting at Don Pablo's in White Marsh to make a go at a Miata club. There, he met several other Miata owners who shared the same interests, including Mike Kline, past-President and current Treasurer for the CAR Miata club.

After a year of organizational work, Christian helped found the CAR Miata club in January 2003 and became its first President. After his term, he stayed on as a club consultant but has recently been elected as CAR's first two-term President for 2006.

Christian's Miata has been his daily driver for nearly ten years and has accumulated over 182,000 miles. It is currently undergoing restoration work as time (and budget) permits, and he dreams of some day to not only have matching paint again, but also to no longer have the car referred to as "the world's tallest Miata."

Upcoming Events

Now that the holidays are over, it's time once again to start up the Third Thursday monthly meetings for the CAR Miata Club!

Whether you're a new club member or a long hauler, join us Thursday, January 19th at The Greene Turtle in Laurel, MD. Things will get underway around 7pm, and will last until we've consumed all their food and beverages, or they eject us from the establishment.

Nonetheless, just ask the hostess for the Miata club table.

Plus, with it being the first meeting of the year, you'll get to meet the new CAR Club officers and get a sneak peek at all the great things coming your way for 2006.

So bring the Miata, bring your OTM, bring a friend, and just make sure you bring yourself down to The Greene Turtle in Laurel for another great night with the CAR club.

For more info, be sure to check out the Events section of the club forum at: <http://www.chesapeakeroadsters.com>.

Hope to see you there!

- Christian LeHew

President, Chesapeake Area Roadsters

president@chesapeakeroadsters.com

From the Editors

Our fearless leaders have another fantastic year planned for us! How involved are you with CAR? Would you like to be more involved? Do you have any suggestions of activities that you would like to do? There are already some great activities on the roster. In addition to the club renowned Tech Days, there are a number of drives and events planned for 2006. It would be great to see all the old faces of the group and it would be really nice to get some new faces (especially the ladies!) involved in the group. Do you know someone with a Miata? Take a look at the CAR calendar and welcome a friend to come and join the group for a group ride and some good times! Let's make 2006 a year to grow!

We need your help!

Send us pictures, suggestions, articles about events, rides you have taken and enjoyed, or just something that you learned mechanical/technical about your Miatae or any articles you might

find interesting and would like to share with other CAR members to: newsletter@chesapeakeroadsters.com.

As most of you know Miata Net has a car of the month feature, the newsletter would like to select a CAR of the Month/Quarter, since most of us will never be selected over there. This would be a good opportunity to get to know the members here and some things about their ride. So write up your articles and send us your photo's so we can start selecting and hooking up in the next version of the newsletter.

Jazz and Juice Scenic Drive

What a lovely day for the ride to the Linganore Winery and the Jazz and Juice Scenic drive that CAR took back in on Saturday the 15th of October turned out to be! Quite a number of the "Roadsters"



turned out at the Park and Ride at Routes 32 and 70. This is one of the clubs more "scenic" rides and was the epitome of an autumn day! This is one of the more popular drives through the rolling hills of Maryland and the twists and turns were a lot of fun! Upon arriving at the winery, we sampled quite a few of the wines with a

number of the group taking home bottles for "sampling" at a later date. Later on in the day, the group traveled to E. J. Becks Pub in Sykesville for some great grub, brews and to compare notes, share laughs and good times about the drive. It was a wonderful way to end an Indian summer day and another full season with CAR. Be sure to get involved with some of the great events that are planned for the group this year. For a few more photos from the ride go to: [Jazz & Juice Drive](#)

