

# The CAR Enthusiast

August, 2006

Volume 1, Number 3

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## Calendar of Events

July –

8 CAR Tech Day, Eric (blueroadster), Odenton.  
20 CAR Meeting, Rocky Run, Columbia.  
29 Scenic Drive, Linthicum to Ellicott City.

August –

5 CAR Tech Day, Lee Wood (Quiksilver), Annapolis.  
17 CAR Meeting, Rocky Run, Columbia.

September –

21 CAR Meeting, Greene Turtle, Laurel.

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## Miata of the Quarter by Lee “Quiksilver” Wood

Life starts at 50, doesn't it? For me, my second mid-life crisis was the Miata. After all, we all need a hobby, and my soccer, golf, and gambling addictions weren't enough for me now that my kids are grown. No more minivans for me; time for “wifey” and I to cruise around and find that retirement place we've always talked about. And what better way to do it than in a Miata?



My knowledge of Miatas was very limited, so my selection of this one was more chance

and impatience than careful research. I remember my first test drive – first time with a stick-shift in 25 years – I babied the clutch never revving above 3k. The salesman (all of 23 yrs old), ran up route 10 at about 95 miles an hour – rev limiter all the way. Not me, I wanted to cruise – after all, I was 50 yrs old and responsible – what a laugh!

So, of course, I purchased my Miata in February, and polished it and waited until the weather broke. Soon I found a whole world of Miatas, and I was hooked.

Miata.net got the juices flowing, but until I met the CAR folks in person, I didn't realize that I was now addicted to this car. I needed to do stuff to it. One year later, I went to my first autocross (with Peter), and “Oh my god”, I felt 25 again!



Now, I have a purpose in life – my car- My wife is a little jealous about my other “woman” but she handles it well and after 26 years, understands me. I am back getting grease all over the house and my clothes, and constantly talking to her about parts, and specs,

facility.

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and stats – I think all she hears is “Blah, Blah, Blah, Blah,....CARS”.

Ok, on to tech stuff. I’m trying to keep my car in stock class, so I’m limited in my modifications. I am trying to make a mod, see what it does, and then move on. So far, I have purchased a front sway bar from Darrell, and have now moved it to the stiff settings. Of course,



I have a K&N for the stock air box. And tires! I got lots of them – Blizzaks for winter, Falkens for summer, and Ecsta V700’s for autox. I’ve got a hardtop, and with my audio background, I have been tinkering with

the sound system and rear speakers and sub woofers. Only 2 things left to do for stock – shocks and exhaust. My Konis have been shipped and will go on ASAP, and I will now search for an exhaust.

I owe a lot to everyone at CAR, and am so thankful y’all took me in. I’ve got a lot to learn, and will probably never be that great an auto crosser, but just doing this stuff is great. I’m not sure where this will all end up, but it is certainly worth the drive to get there!

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## The Presidents Post by Christian LeHew

Ever since becoming a car guy, I’ve been a bit of a nut for automotive serial numbers.

I used to love deciphering serial numbers on cars and being able to rattle off the ones on the more interesting cars. I knew things like being able to use the chassis number of an early Ferrari to tell whether it was a road car or race car (road cars ended with odd numbers, race cars with even ones). Or when you called the Lamborghini factory for parts, they went by engine number, not chassis number. And that during the first few years of production, Saleen Mustangs were numbered with a decal on the left front bumper. It all drove me crazy, and I loved chasing the numbers.

To this day, I’m still a numbers fan. Whenever I see another 1991 Miata, I immediately check the VIN to see how close it is to my own car, as well as its relationship to car 209447, the first car with a long-nosed crankshaft. Unfortunately, Mazda never ran the Miata VINs sequentially, so while your Miata may be 000001, the vehicle with 000002 could have likely been a pickup, minivan, or some other model.

My own car, 234012, is nothing particularly special in the hierarchy of Miata history. It was merely the 34,012<sup>th</sup> Mazda built in 1991.

So imagine my surprise when, at a recent CAR Miata Club tech day, another member pulled up in a red/black 1991 with a VIN merely 11 cars different than mine! Suddenly, the two cars had a relevance to each other. And even more recently, I discovered one of our new members' cars was only 154 after mine.

Three cars, all from different backgrounds, and who probably shared a container ship across the Pacific, have found each other once again. And even their owners now share something as well.

So the next time you're at a CAR Miata Club event, or even if you see a Miata on the street, I encourage you to take a moment and see if your car is once again reunited with its production siblings.

And speaking of CAR Miata Club events, don't forget to make plans for the Scenic Drive on Saturday, July 29<sup>th</sup> running south of Baltimore and through historic Ellicott City. Plus, we'll have another of our now-famous Tech Days on Saturday, August 5<sup>th</sup> in Annapolis. And don't forget to mark the third Thursday of the month to come enjoy a night out with the other CAR Miata Club members.

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## Heritage Mazda Car Show by Sharon Leuschner

The weather on April 22<sup>nd</sup> wasn't very cooperative for a car show, but CAR members are tough! A little rain wouldn't dampen the fun of the CAR event that was held at Heritage Mazda in Owings Mills. The group assembled in Columbia and we twisted and turned our way up winding roads from Columbia to Owings Mills toward the dealership. When we arrived, CAR members parked their rides and then went into the dealership examined and test drove the all new 2006 Miata, comparing notes on what they thought about it, good and bad. Our good friends at Heritage Mazda gave us fun Mazda items and even fed us! Several new members showed up, showed off their rides and got to know older members of the group. Within a few hours, the group broke up and went our separate ways. As we were leaving, the rain finally stopped, but it didn't dampen the spirits of those of us who attended.

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## CAR night at the Bengies Drive In

There were four Miatae and one Mini in attendance for CAR night at the Bengies Drive In. We met up at the MARC train station which is very close to the theater to enjoy a gorgeous evening out watching a movie. If you don't know about the Bengies well, it's this great little gem of a drive in theater over on the eastern side of Baltimore County. It is also the last drive in theater in the State of Maryland.

The theater just celebrated its 50<sup>th</sup> birthday and other than not having the speakers on the poles that you would listen to the movie on years ago, the theater remains much the way that you would have found it when it opened. For eight dollars a head (it IS 2006 guys!), three first run movies were on the marquis even though most of us only made it through the first two. We saw "In The Wild", "Cars" and "X-Men 3". "Cars" was very cute. The "Miata Twins" Tia and Mia not surprisingly are girls, were cast as groupies of Lightning McQueen the hot new rookie race car, who is in contention for the Piston Cup. The movie seems to be trying to renew interest in

Route 66, also known as "The Mother Road", and it does a good job of it because our interest was sure peaked! The old ads that the Bengies runs during intermission were a lot of entertainment for those of us old enough to remember when drive ins were common place. While it wasn't a sell out night according to the owner D. Edward Vogel who keeps things lively when you are in attendance, it was a rather large crowd. Luckily though, we were able to park all together for the shows. Lines were everywhere, not JUST the ladies room for a change! We waited for our food and naturally the restroom, but all of us enjoyed the atmosphere and remembering simpler times in our lives when life wasn't a rat race!

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## The CAR Crab Feast by Sharon Leuschner

June 17<sup>th</sup> 2006!

It couldn't have been a more picture perfect day to spend frolicking on Maryland Eastern Shore.



It started off for some of us meeting up at Quiksilver's lovely home in Annapolis and having his lovely wife entertain us. We had hoped he would be able to meet up with us for the journey across the bridge, but due to a late start at the Autocross event at Ripken Stadium he was unable to accompany

us. While he was missed, it was decided that the group of us at his house would be on our way. With many looks from traffic heading to the ocean, the small caravan of Miatae made their way over the Bay Bridge toward our destination of Kent Island.



CAR member ZoomZoom Brad and family provided a most beautiful setting on the Wye River to fourteen Miatae and one long journey Passat. Members spent the day picking crabs, eating burgers and dogs, eating goodies and drinking tasty beverages!

entertained the members of or how to assemble the lays.....took a few tries and but when it was finally to get away from the rays of



to get away from the rays of the sun. They were glad it was put to good use!

As the day progressed, Brad took many members out on the Wye River for rides on or BEHIND the boat. A few members found out why Brad calls himself "ZOOM ZOOM" (and no, it ain't cause he owns a Miata!)

Jack provided much entertainment as he spent some of the afternoon attempting to catch Searsman's Nitro Powered Stadium Truck. Jack probably slept very well that night as the truck was a little faster than him.



As the sun began to set in the western sky, another fun event came to a close. Everyone went home with full bellies and lots of good memories of a beautiful day!

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## Upcoming Events

Below are the dates for the upcoming events this quarter.

September 9 – Club Drive, Miatamadman's Mad Miata Run

September 21 - Monthly meeting @ Green Turtle in Laurel

October 19 – Monthly meeting @ Green Turtle in Laurel

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

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## From the Editors

We take the newsletter very seriously, so we are hoping to appeal and enlist the help of you, the members of CAR. Because of our schedules, it isn't always possible for us to be at every event that CAR has, even though we might want to be. As with many of you out there, we too have a family, friends, busy careers, aging parents and commitments. Unfortunately, there have been many events that we have not been able to attend because of work travel....it always seems to be planned on or around a Tech Day. That is where YOU come in. We really want to publish a quality newsletter every quarter and ideally we have enough going on in the spring through fall months that we could actually get something out bi-monthly, but quarterly for now works. The main thing is we need some of you who autocross or those of you who don't see us at a Tech Day to write something up and drop it in your local e-mail

addressed to [newsletter@chesapeakeoadsters.com](mailto:newsletter@chesapeakeoadsters.com). Don't worry about the fact that you haven't written something since Ms. So and So's English class in 19-whatever! We will proofread and spell check, but for the most part, there is no real critiquing and we're gentle! So please (!) send us your articles and even items about cars you're interested in and we will work on getting them in. The newsletter is about what all of us are taking part in with our Miatae.....let's make it great!

Mike and Sharon Leuschner

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## Tech Day - 1 April 2006

Well the day was certainly blustery for the 1<sup>st</sup> official CAR tech day of the season. Jason (JH94) was kind enough to offer up his garage and parking pad for this opening event with a little prodding from his friend Eric (emsummer). At this tech day we had various changes going on, one transmission/clutch swap, 3 CAS o-ring swaps, 2 brake jobs (although one was scrapped due to the local parts store providing the wrong parts) and a heater



hose swap.

The primary job was to tackle the transmission/clutch swap on Jason's car. This event got started early around 8 AM and boy are they glad it did, the final bolt and firing up occurred around Midnight. Jason thanked all who were there in a post to the org at 12:09 AM.

Of the other jobs happening Ben (djarum69) was busy replacing the brakes on his '02. Things were going along smoothly right up until he discovered that leaky caliper in the rear. Luckily it was minor and he would order a new one a swap it out during the week. The other brake job was Eric (redhardtop95) he wanted to swap out the front rotor but alas the parts place gave him a rear rotor instead of a front. He did the brake pads and ordered the new rotor to be swapped out during the week also.



Jason (mistanfo) became the tranny. He swapped out the one on JH Peter's (thebeerbaron) then assisted with the heater hose swap. He then actually did his own o-ring. Jason was hoping to get do a clutch swap but didn't get the chance. He



actually did his own o-ring. Jason was hoping to get do a clutch swap but didn't get the chance. He prays it will last until the next tech day.

All in all the tech day was a success and none had to leave there car and return to finish the next day. Our next Tech Day will be 1 April at Bill Keksz home in Edgewater.

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## Tech Day - 3 June 2006 by Christian LeHew

June's Tech Day was once again held at Bill Carlson's house in Crofton. Now, if you've never been to Bill's, you should know that there's a large, magical Monolith (anyone seen *2001: A Space Odyssey*?) lurking on the property.

Don't ask it's a long story.

It's magic worked wonders that day, and the morning rains dried up, two suspensions were installed, the first set of chevron stripes on a NC Miata were put on, the grilling was excellent (mmm...bratwurst), and no fewer than 14 Miatas arrived. However, its magic was not powerful enough to finish up a clutch change (nor tune the piano). After all, it is now 2006, and the Monolith is probably out of warranty.

All in all, it was a great time with a lot of new members in attendance, and even a few long-haulers we haven't seen for a while. Thanks again to Bill for hosting, and keep your fingers crossed that his '97's height comes down. You can't be showing up Christian's car, you know....

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## We need your help!

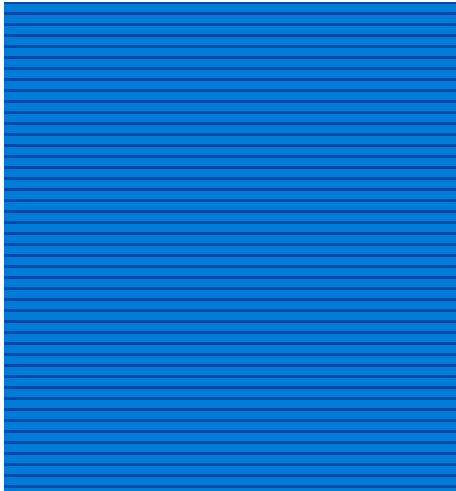
Send us pictures, suggestions, articles about events, rides you have taken and enjoyed, or just something that you learned mechanical/technical about your Miatae or any articles you might find interesting and would like to share with other CAR members to: [newsletter@chesapeakeroadsters.com](mailto:newsletter@chesapeakeroadsters.com).

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.

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## Autocrossing by Peter Kimball

Below is a rundown of the upcoming season. All dates are very tentative and the Philadelphia dates do not yet have location information available. CDC refers to The Capital Driving club, [Capital Driving Club](#). WDCR refers to the Washington DC Region chapter of the SCCA, [SCCA DC Region](#); Philly refers to the Philadelphia chapter of the SCCA, [SCCA Philadelphia Region](#).



4/2 Philly	7/29 CDC@Harry Grove
4/15 CDC@Manassas	7/30 Philly
4/22 Philly	7/30 WDCR@FedEx
4/23 WDCR@FedEx	8/5 CDC@Manassas
5/13 WDCR@FedEx	8/13 Philly
5/27 CDC@Harry Grove	8/13 WDCR@FedEx
5/21 Philly	8/19 CDC@Bowie Baysocks
6/11 Philly	9/3 WDCR@FedEx
6/11 WDC R@FedEx	9/9 CDC@Harry Grove
6/24 CDC@Manassas	9/10 Philly
7/1 CDC@Bowie Baysocks	10/8 Philly
7/9 Philly	10/8 WDCR@FedEx
7/16 Philly@Warminster	10/22 Philly
7/16 WDCR@FedEx	11/5 Philly