

# PACESETTER

Created for PACE Miata Club members and Miata MX-5 fans



## FROM THE PRESIDENT

Happy New Year everyone! Well, who is going to come clean and tell us about that Miata YOU received for Christmas?

Although we hope a few of you had that experience, just the fact that we all get to realize "2020" should be cause for each of us to be grateful for our lives, loved ones, and yet another year to share time with fellow Club members and the joy of driving our peppy little roadsters.

Reflecting on 2020 and December, please see inside for highlights from our holiday luncheon and news about other events from 2019. No snow for the Annual Polar Bear event, but many folks joined together for the Cabin Fever luncheon at Nick's Bistro. We look forward to seeing you at many of our Cabin Fever events throughout the winter and spring! See inside for details.



Happy New Year, **JOE & SANDY**

Hi, and "HAPPY NEW YEAR"  
to everyone from Membership

So far a good "winter," is not too much snow for those of us that don't want it. For our members that are in Florida.. and points in between, safe travels on your return in April.

For those of us that are still here, we have "Cabin Fever" events scheduled. Sign-up, come out, and have a good time. Since I last talked to you membership has grown by 5.



We welcome **John & Judy Enders**. The Enders drive a 2014 white Miata and reside in York.; **Jennifer Piersol & Barbara Emmerich**. They drive a burgundy 2003 Miata and live in Lititz: **Kathleen Seder**, also from Lititz and drive a green 1997 SE. Next we have **Neil & Candace Hurley**. The Hurley's live in Annville and drive a gray 2012 Miata. Rounding out our newest member is **Gail Harrison** who lives in Zionsville and drives a meteor gray 2014 Miata.

Welcome again to all our new members. Our membership is now at 96  
That's all for this month... and don't forget,

"Fly Miata," **ROD & NINA**

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Back by Popular Demand by Mike Cory

"Original style"  
PACE Miata Club magnets are back in stock and still priced at only \$5 each. Beautifully die cut, these magnets require no trimming and are ready for immediate use. Get yours now and be ready for spring and summer Miata drives.

Mike Cory will have the magnets at PACE events or you may contact him at [717-203-2971](tel:717-203-2971) or [michaelcory@epix.net](mailto:michaelcory@epix.net).



## Tech Talk by Bill Latsha

### MIATA COMPUTER (ECU) PERFORMANCE TUNING for 2006 to 2018 Models

Do you have a 2006 to 2018 Mazda Miata and wish you could have more pep without spending a fortune? If so, you may want to read this article.

Some people think about increasing performance by using hardware like an aftermarket muffler, mid-pipe, headers or a turbo or supercharger. These will certainly increase the output, horsepower and torque, but doing so

can cost a lot of money, especially if you can't do the installation yourself. An aftermarket muffler is good for a couple horsepower but it can cost up to \$600. A good header muffler is around \$600+. A forced-induction unit can cost up to \$5,000... plus



installation. This article is for those folks who want a noticeable increase in pep, but don't want to spend a lot of money.

Today's car engines are controlled by a Computer/ECU (Engine Control Unit.) In most modern cars the ECU controls about everything that happens in the engine. Some examples are the fuel to air mixture, ignition timing, camshaft timing and the fuel injection. There are companies out there

that can help you get into your car's computer and "fine tune" its commands to the engine. This will give you more power without hurting gas mileage, normal driving, or creating a problem during annual emission testing.

The ECU in your car is structured like a computer on your desk. Think of it as a file cabinet with different drawers (files) for different aspects of your engine's operation. One file might be for cold start, one file for highway cruising, one for running errands, and one for acceleration from a stop sign or onto a four-lane highway. This ECU performance tuning only makes changes in the "acceleration file," so no other functions of the engine are affected. Up until when you put your foot down a little aggressively, the car drives like it always did.



From the factory, the Miata's ECU is a compromise between fuel economy, emissions, and performance. "Performance Tuning Companies" only adjust the acceleration file of the ECU. You may ask "how do they do it?" It's a trade secret, but I know they fine tune



things like the ignition timing and fuel mixture. Instead of a performance compromise, it is performance-specific-tuning just for the acceleration part of your driving experience.

There are several “tuners” who will help you with this. A few are Dynotronics, Xero-Limit, Open Flash Tablet, and Fab9 Tuning. And, there are also several tuning formats and several “tuners” who will help you with this. A few are Dynotronics, Xero-Limit, Open Flash Tablet, and Fab9 Tuning. As mentioned, there are several tuning formats. One is ECUTEK. With ECUTEK, you buy the software and the connecting cable for between your laptop and car. This is about \$350. Then you buy the tuning license for another \$300. Tuning is then about \$80 to \$90 an hour for the tuner company to work up a “tune” for you. This product has optional features that may come in handy if you like to race or autocross. But too expensive (to me) for the street driver who just wants a little more pep. I can’t tell you much about the other “formats” in the mid-price range, so I will go next to **Versatune**.

“**Fab9 Tuning**” offers a package that I believe is super for the sporty street driver who may do an occasional autocross or track day. But, they can also do high performance tuning for a supercharger or turbo. They offer “**Versatune**” software, a connection cable, a tune, AND the license for a **Total of \$349.00**, and sometimes offer a sale price. This is a complete total cost for a Performance Tune. They had a deal at the end of 2019 for a \$299.00. This was too good to pass up! I met “Master Tuner” Bryan at Miatas at the Gap, and was impressed with him.

OK, so how do I do this? If you are comfortable working a computer, you can do it. First you need a laptop computer you can take to your car. Then go to the “Fab9 Tuning” web page and order a tuning kit. One kit is for the **NC**, which are 2006 to 2015 models, and the other kit is for the first three years of the **ND**, 2016 to 2018. The Tuners haven’t perfected tuning the 2019+ yet as Mazda changed the program in the ECU. But they are working on it.

**FAB9 Tuning** will send to you a link and a password to download the “Versatune” software and install it in your laptop computer. Be sure to check the block for them to send the data cable to you, as this connects the laptop to your Miata’s OBDII port under the dash.

Now hook the data cable and laptop to your car and let it recognize your Miata’s ECU. It will then show a screen with info to indicate the ECU and your laptop are properly connected. Next do a screenshot and email this screen to **Fab9 Tuning**. From this they will send you the tune to start tuning your Miata’s ECU.

There are several premade generic tunes included with the Versatune software. You can install one of them for practice or to get a little more pep while Bryan at Fab9 is working up your specific tune. This initial step takes about 30 minutes. It downloads a copy of the OEM Acceleration Tune from your ECU into the laptop and installs the Miata’s portion of the Versatune software into the Miata’s ECU. After this first step it only takes about 3-4 minutes to “Flash” a new tune into your Miata. Again, this does not affect your emissions testing.

To start, Bryan will send to you a tune that will make your Miata feel like it just got a new engine. In most cases, once you install this tune you will be done. But as I have an

automatic transmission, mid-range torque is more important to me than High RPM horsepower. Always remember the old drag racing saying of: **“torque gives you acceleration, and horsepower gives you speed”**. I am not interested high speed driving, but I love having a little extra pep when pulling out into a busy four-lane highway or away from a stop sign!

I flashed my new tune into my Miata and drove the car for 100+ miles to let the ECU and engine learn the new parameters. I then connected my laptop to my Miata’s ECU and drove it while connected. This is called getting a “Data Log” of what the ECU is telling the engine to do and how it responds. I had to do some normal driving, and a couple of full throttle runs from a dead stop. Then I emailed the Data Log to Bryan at Fab9 for him to review. He made a few changes in the tune and sent a new tune back to me. After I installed it in my Miata I went on another test drive. To get a tune best suited for my Miata I went thru several revisions and long runs. This is the fun part!

Overall this total tune made a very noticeable improvement in torque as I accelerate from a stop, or when passing another car on the highway--a great improvement from the original performance of the Miata (which I thought was pretty good to begin with!)

In conclusions, there are many options to get a little more pep from your Miata. ECU Performance Tuning seems worth the cost to me. And once you get the initial tune finalized, you can later have the tune upgraded if you add some new performance-related hardware. I am impressed and I think you may be also if you try this. Feel free to contact me if you have questions, or if you want to try it and need some help. Always glad to help.

*Zoom-Zoom, **BILL LATSHA***

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## Events in review

### DECEMBER HOLIDAY LUNCHEON

Since I’ve been, well, sort of out of commission for the past several weeks, most of you have put Christmas and holiday spirit in the past. And, I’m just catching up.

However, I didn’t forget to share that the holiday luncheon, brought to you by Fred and Sue Stauffer was a hit again this year. With a change in celebration time from the typical dinner event to a luncheon, we were concerned that there may be less enthusiasm. But, we were pleased to find that the luncheon was well





attended and not lacking in fun and the typical PACE Miata Club spirit. In fact several of the attendees were new members and what a better way to welcome new folks to our outstanding Club. Enjoy the photos.

**RICK**



### **ANNUAL POLAR BEAR RUN**

Many of you braved the cold and joined us for the annual Polar Bear Run. Although a cloudy and rainy day, we dodged a bullet and guess what? No snow!

We all joined together at Nick's Bistro for our typical food, fun and fellowship.

Please make plans to join us for as many scheduled Cabin Fever events as you can. Check Carol's weekly emails as often as possible.





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## COMING UP... by Carol Piersol



*Buggies & Bridges III* will be here before we know it. First and foremost, we need the support of as many *PACE* members as possible to make this event as successful as our past two *B&B* events.

**We also respectfully ask that you send your event registration and fees as soon as possible. Space is limited.**

For more event information, contact Sandy or Joe by dialing 717-795-4468, or by email [j\\_sgolesh@hotmail.com](mailto:j_sgolesh@hotmail.com)

*ZoomZoom, JOE & SANDY*

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### Any day you can make it **IMPROMPTU DRIVES**

Would you like some friends to join you for an Impromptu Drive? Send an email, preferably one-day in advance to Carol Piersol who will notify all *Club* members. Please make sure to include the meeting place and time. [pacerevents@gmail.com](mailto:pacerevents@gmail.com)

### **NON-PACE EVENTS**

#### **2020 Miataland & Viking Ocean Cruise to Italy**

Look for more information about this exciting 2020 opportunity in Carol Piersol's online *Weekly Update*.

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### **DON'T FORGET... about our Leader Incentive!**

*Wikipedia* defines **INCENTIVE** as something that motivates an individual to perform an activity. As a reminder, and for those who may be new to the *Club*, any member can plan and lead an event. And, any day of the week can be an "event" day.



**Now for the INCENTIVE: Plan and lead your first event and receive a \$25.00 Visa Gift Card** (even if it's last minute) and shop or treat yourself to lunch! Yes, it's real. Here's new member Harold Hyer accepting his gift card after signing up to lead a run in 2020. Thanks Harold, and enjoy your shopping!

## PACE INFORMATION

Website: [pacemiataclub.org](http://pacemiataclub.org)

Facebook: [facebook.com/PACEMiataClub](https://facebook.com/PACEMiataClub)

Membership: \$30/year Rod Slenker, 717-755-9805 [rslenker43@outlook.com](mailto:rslenker43@outlook.com)

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## PACE STORE

Official provider: **PACE Miata Club Embroidered Clothing:** Hersh Wellman  
[hwaprods@aol.com](mailto:hwaprods@aol.com)

**PACE Logo Clothing:** Elizabethtown Sporting Goods, 59 College Avenue,  
Elizabethtown, PA, 717-367-6633

B&T Sportswear, 240 Locust St., Columbia, PA, 717-684-5191

**PACE Lapel Pins:** \$3ea/2-\$5 and Magnetic Decals, 717-203-2971  
[michaelcory@epix.net](mailto:michaelcory@epix.net)

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## PACE OFFICERS

**President:** Joe & Sandy Golesh, 717-795-4468, [j\\_sgolesh@hotmail.com](mailto:j_sgolesh@hotmail.com)

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[mmyanch5515@gmail.com](mailto:mmyanch5515@gmail.com)

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## MAZDA DEALER DISCOUNTS

**Champion Mazda,** 765 Carlisle Street, Hanover, PA 17331, 717-637-6655

**Faulkner Mazda,** 5945 Grayson Road, Harrisburg, PA 17111, 717-901-3200

**Freysinger Mazda,** 6115 Carlisle Pike, Mechanicsburg, PA 17055, 717-697-8899

**Jack Giambalvo Mazda,** 2425 Industrial Highway, York, PA 17402, 717-755-2944

**Masano Mazda,** 3728 Pottsville Pike, Reading, PA, 19605, 610-921-1500

**Xero Limit ECU Performance Tuning,** 484-272-5169 [sales@xero-limit.com](mailto:sales@xero-limit.com)

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## ABOUT PACE

**Our Mission:** To unite Central Pennsylvania Mazda Miata enthusiasts in a spirit of friendship and to enhance their enjoyment and knowledge of the Miata.

**Our History:** Back in 1992, Miatas were becoming numerous in the central PA area but there was no Miata club since the short-lived Keystone Club had disbanded.

Our founder, Dave Allen, decided to remedy that sad situation by traveling to the Miatas at Indy event in the summer of 1992 to obtain a charter for a new club from Miata Club of America.

Also at that Indy event were Bob and Jo Bookwalter along with Julie Swope and three Miatas (**one red, one white, one blue**) that formed the nucleus of the new club. That summer, more Miata-crazed individuals joined the club and after a few local drives—in October of that year—*PACE* took its first run to the Skyline Drive in Shenandoah National Park, VA. *PACE* membership has continued to grow through the years from this small group to almost one hundred Miatas—and their occupants.

Since then, *PACE* has explored most of the great and many twisty country roads in our area and has run trips to various other parts of the country from Ocean City, MD, west to Utah, and from Charleston, SC, north to Nova Scotia. Our events have ranged from scenic drives, picnics and dinners to autocross and performance driving schools.



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Please visit [pacemiataclub.org](http://pacemiataclub.org) to see what's new!