



# *In The Breeze*

April 2024

Official Newsletter of the Bluebonnet Miata Club

Still Free!

## *Spring Has Sprung, y'all !!!*



Everywhere you look, wild flowers have sprung up, including our beloved bluebonnets! Travel south, but hurry, they won't last long! Travel north and you will experience a virtual palette of color of wonderful wild flowers! We're very fortunate to have such an abundance of wildflowers along our Texas highways

Lady Bird Johnson, former first lady of the United States, was ahead of her time in understanding the reparative and regenerative qualities of native plants and beautiful landscapes.

"Beautification is far more than a matter of cosmetics," she said in 1968. "For me, it describes the whole effort to bring the natural world and the man-made world into harmony; to bring order, usefulness — delight — to our whole environment, and that of course only begins with trees and flowers and landscaping."

In 1982, Mrs. Johnson wrote that she was full of excitement about finally "daring to try to establish a National Wildflower Research Center." In that year, she and actress Helen Hayes decided to do just that, creating a center in East Austin focused on native wildflowers intended to help preserve and restore that beauty and the biological richness of North America.

Public demand to view native gardens and learn more about native plants soon overwhelmed the original 60-acre site in East Austin, and led the Center's Board of Directors to build a larger campus to accommodate public interest.

The current campus, renamed the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center in 1997, opened in 1995 on a 42-acre site in Southwest Austin, nine miles from downtown. Do yourself a favor and go up and visit the Center.

—Editor

# 2023 Club Officers

**President**

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**Membership\***

*Harry Maxwell*

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**Newsletter Editor\***

*George Lucas*

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*\* Appointed positions*

# New Members

**Jim Aycock**

Schertz, Texas

2015 Jet Black

**Andy & Shannon Adkins**

San Antonio

2023 Snowflake White Pearl Mica

# Total Membership

182

# Contributing Photographers

Brenya Buchalsi

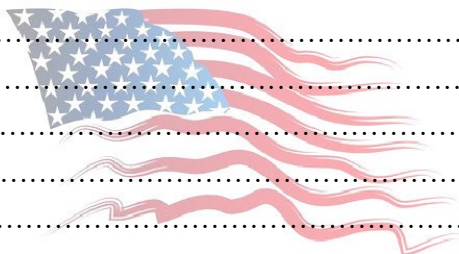
Lisa Martin

Judy Faulkner

George Lucas

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**ZOOM-ZOOM**

# President's Message

Hello Bluebonnet Miata Club!

This year is off to a slow start as far as runs go, but the weather has been great for top-down driving and I have been enjoying it, especially with the blue bonnets blooming all over town! We've also had some on and off rain and the occasional severe weather so keeping our Miata's in good condition is crucial. Checking tires, replacing worn wiper blades and inspecting brakes are just a few things we can do for driving in not-so-safe weather. Construction has also been an issue in our growing area, and I've had my windshield repaired to prove it! Even so, driving my Miata is still the most fun part of my day.



The Executive Committee has made updates to our webpage so please take a look. Check out the calendar as there are great runs coming up, in and out of state! I'm looking forward to our first run to the Dragon this year!!! We are also working on a new directory so if you would like to be included, please look for the email to include your information.

It's wonderful to see that we've had a lot of new and renewed memberships! It's nice to know that we have a lot of members and most have been in the club more than 10 years!

Remember we are here for you and please do not hesitate to let us know if you need anything...and until next time, drive safe and keep on zoomin!

*Sophie Parazo, president*

## From the Editor

Anyone out there remember the movie and phrase "Back to the Future"?

Well, that's what's happened to me. I've always, well, most often, been emotionally attached to the car I drive. And this is especially true with my Miatas. Oh, I've loved each Miata I've owned. Remember Pokey, my black '95 NA? Yeah, I know, it deserved that name because as a new member, I was quite...um...conservative in my driving on runs. Then, there was EZ Does It, my Classic Red SE NB. Now a bit more spirited in my NB, I enjoyed that Miata but someone, who shall remain nameless, convinced me I needed a newer Miata, the NC. Well, the seed was planted and I found a Velocity Red NC LTD in Colorado that I just had to have! What a trip, I felt like I floated home in that car, affectionately called VeeLo. I truly love that car, gleaming with chrome all over...just gorgeous. Several years later, another nameless member told me I could step up my game with a newer Velocity Red NC, a 2012 PRHT SE in Austin. So, I went to Austin and looked it over and, with much convincing from that member, I traded in VeeLo and proudly drove home in my new Miata! I wasn't crazy about the black wheels, but when I rolled up to Marilyn's house, she exclaimed, "Wow, black wheels, those ae bad a\*\*!" To which I replied, "Yeah, aren't they?" (Okay, okay, I'm easy.)



Well, as it turned out, I still had VeeLo in my fond memories. I didn't really reveal that to most because, well, admittedly, I'm a bit wish washy about my love for my Miatas. Several months ago, after finding out another member bought VeeLo from the dealer that took it in trade, I decided to call and ask how he like it and has he ever thought about selling it. He replied, "Oh now, we love that little car!" I shrugged my shoulders and moved on.

Until lately. Looking at my past photos of VeeLo, my heart was wanting that car back! So, I called the owner and asked again. And he said no, they're still enjoying it. \*Sigh\*

Well, I got a call from him a few weeks ago and he asked if I was still interested. I said emphatically, "Yes!" That's all it took. I put Red Raider (my latest NC) up for sale and sold it and for me, it's now Back to the Future! VeeLo and I have been reunited!!! Can you tell I'm happy? (Sorry for the long story....nah, not sorry!)

*George Lucas, Editor*



# Ladies, Ladies, Ladies



The Ladies lunching at Jardin's after visiting the Botanical Gardens!

Here is a quick run down of events for the ladies group. Please note that JULY and SEPTEMBER have adjusted calendar dates other than the normal 2nd Friday of the month.

Please let me know if you have any questions. Lisa Martin 210-391-7875

**MAR 4 - BOTANICAL GARDENS**, Coordinator Sophie Parazo

**APR 12 - KERRVILLE CROSS**, Coordinator Betty Hicks

**MAY 10 -SA MISSIONS**, Coordinator Sandy Phelps

**JUN 14 - MOVIES AND LUNCH**, Coordinator Barb Ahmed

**JUL 11 - OLD ENGLISH TEA (and dress up!).** NOTE: this event will be on Thursday  
Coordinator Marilyn Hamilton

**AUG 9 - NATURAL BRIDGE CAVERNS** - new cavern area, Coordinator Cheryl Knight

**SEP 6 - POOL PARTY**, Coordinator Monica Harrison NOTE ADJUSTED DATE

**OCT 11 - LADIES ONLY TRACK DAY**, Coordinator Monica Harrison

**NOV 8 - KRIS KRINGLE CHRISTMAS FAIR**, Coordinator Barb Thompson

**DEC 13 - MUSEUM** - New Braunfels, Coordinator Wanda Begnoche (and Barb Thompson)!

# *What are your pet peeves about other drivers?*

by *OpEd Polansky*



I have my own pet peeves about bad drivers, but I thought I'd do a little research and see what complaints others have about the dumb, dangerous, and rude things that drive us nuts.

Here are some of the pet peeves of bad driving I found from other drivers:

- \* People who take up two parking spaces (Usually BMWs).
- \* Double parkers who block your car in (I feel the pain, I once waited 4 hours for someone to show up so I could get out of a parking lot at the fiesta parade).
- \* Phone users and texters (while you're at it, drop the hairbrush, and the mascara wand, too).
- \* Not using turn signal (my biggest pet peeve, see below).
- \* Leaving turn signal on (what are they asleep?).
- \* Impatient drivers who pass on the right (don't they know, it's human nature only watch for cars on the left?).
- \* Territorial drivers who speed up when you're trying to pass them (to them, it's a race out there).
- \* Left lane hogs who deputize themselves as lane cops because they're driving at the posted speed limit (even if it's 35 miles an hour).
- \* Merge deniers who won't let people in (those inconsiderate creeps).
- \* Punitive horn-blowing (the horn is for emergencies, not for throwing a temper tantrum).
- \* Careening across several lanes of traffic to avoid missing an exit (and without using their turn signals).
- \* Pulling into the rightmost lane at a stoplight (and keeping me from being able to turn right on red, a bummer).
- \* Not pulling over for an emergency police vehicle (cops don't like that a lot).
- \* Tailgaters (get off my bumper, please).
- \* Constant lane changers (I cheer when I catch up with them at the next light).
- \* Rubberneckers slowing down at accidents (haven't they ever seen a fender bender?).
- \* Abled bodied individuals using handicapped parking (makes you want to disable them).

Personally, my biggest personal driving pet peeve involves drivers that fail to use turn signals while driving. According to the Society of Automotive Engineers, nearly two million car accidents are caused every year by drivers failing to use their turn signal. When you cannot tell what others intend to do, an accident can and does happen. Incidentally, George Lucas thinks the name "turn signals" should be changed to "intention signals"!

Make sure to use your turn signals even if you are, for example, in a lane that requires exiting, let those behind you know that your intention is to really exit. How often have you seen a driver realize, at the last instant, that their lane is an exit lane that they didn't want to take and suddenly swerve back into a lane in front of you? An accident waiting to happen! Well, I've got that off my chest now!

By the way, feel free to share any driver pet peeves you have with me, and maybe they will show up in a future column.



# SPRING TECH DAY

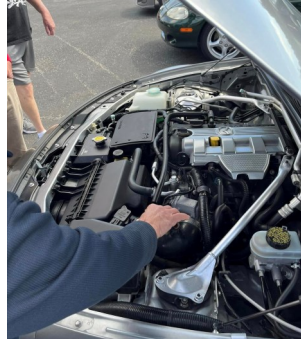
Our first Tech day was a hit! Many members came out to the Nugget/Monica ranch to work on their Miatas, exchange ideas and helping others in need.

Again we kept the Paintless Dent Repair guy busy. No pinstriping required this time, but maybe at our Fall Tech Day. That's right, two Tech Days this year! So, if you missed your chance to make this one, think about what you would like to do this fall!

A huge thanks to Nugget and Monica for their hospitality and generosity! And thanks to their do it all guy, Dan for grilling some great burgers and hot dogs!



LR, Monica (host), Bren, Nugget (host), and Ron



Rohm, George and Nugget



Mark, Monica, Helenan and Ed



One of our talented photographers, Brenya!



Jimbo working hard while Mark supervises



"I know it fit last time!"



Innocent bystanders



Jimbo still working hard while Dan supervises





# ACADIANA cafe

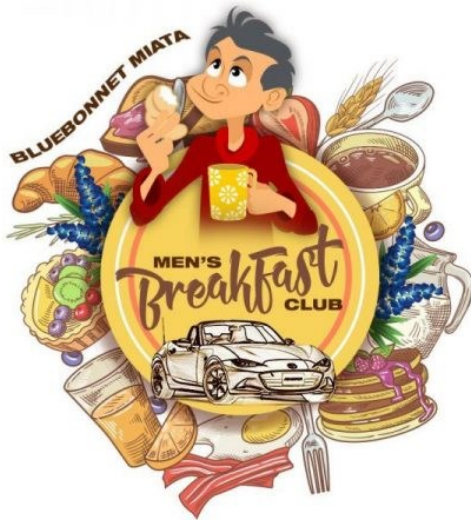
Seafood • Catfish • Cajun • Southern Cookin'  
1289 SW Loop 410 San Antonio, TX

Another requested venue for our monthly Lunar Zoomer dinner, the Acadiana Café offers up authentic Cajun dishes and this is something we have yet to try!

So, on Sunday, April 21's, the evening of the waxing Pink full moon, let's meet at the Acadiana Café!

Go to their website and check out there menu! I'm hungry already, y'all!

**Recap, Sunday, April 21st, 6:30 p.m., Acadiana Café, 1289 SW Loop 410. Be there!**



Tried, Tested and True, that's the Magnolia Pancake House. Let's meet there at **9:00 a.m.**,

On Friday morning, April 12th. Formerly off Bitters now at 2070 N Loop 1604E.

Great food, great fellowship!

See you guys tere!





Very recently we lost one of our dearest members, Kay Todd. While our loss is great, we pray that her husband Jerry will get comfort knowing we all share his loss.

Kay and Jerry were married for sixty years. She and Jerry met at Ohio State University. They went on to higher education together and very successful careers.

They moved to San Antonio in 1984. Kay and Jerry loved to travel and were worldwide travelers. Both were dedicated to our club and she will be sorely missed. Please keep Jerry in your thoughts and prayers during this difficult time.



# Upcoming Runs and Events

## March—April 2024

**Saturday, March 30th, Faulkner's Gimmick Run, led by Paul and Judy Faulkner.** Meet at Love's Trvel Stop, IH10 West at Hwy 87, Comfort, TX at 10:00 a.m. Shotgun starts at 10:30 a.m. After we travel the back roads, we'll finish near Fredericksburg where we'll have lunch in Fredericksburg at Rathskeller's. Join in this fun event!

**Saturday, April 6th, Sophie's Birthday Run, hosted by, you guessed it, Sophie! Meet at 9:00 a.m.** the Spring Branch Store and Café on Hwy 281 N. **Depart at 9:30 a.m.** for some fun Hill Country roads after which we'll return to Leon Springs for lunch at the Original Rudy's BBQ! Yum!

**Monday, April 8th, Eclipse Run, led by Mark Hungerman.** We don't want to keep you in the dark, but here are the details. Meet at the QT at the corner of Hwy 16 (Bandera Rd.) and Scenic Loop at 9:00 a.m. We'll arrive at the Lost Maples Country Store in Vanderpool at 11 a.m. with one pit stop. More details are on our website, Check it out and join us for this historic occasion!!!

**Wednesday, April 10th, Wildflowers, Wheels 'n Wings Run, led by Gwen Mitchell.** Meet at the Shell station at 1604 and Autumn Run in Converse. Meet at 9:30 for a departure at 10:00 a.m. After a short run, we'll end up at Stinson Field to visit the museum, hike, eat lunch or, you will be given the opportunity to fly in an airplane!

**Friday, April 12th Men's Breakfast, hosted by George Lucas.** Let's go back to the Magnolia Pancake Haus, 9:00 p.m., Acadiana Café, 1289 SW Loop 410. Be there!

**Saturday, April 13th, Stivers Medina River Run, led by Larry and Pamela Stivers.** Meet at 9:30 a.m. at the QT, corner of Bandera Rd. and Scenic Loop. Depart at 10:00 a.m. After running some familiar and new roads, we will arrive at the Medina River Winery around noon for a BBQ lunch. Please RSVP the Stivers for planning on food. Sounds like fun!!!

**Thursday, April 18th, Ladies Bunco, hosted by Marilyn Hamilton.** Meet at Bigz Burger Joint, 2303 N. Loop 1604 W. access road at 6:30 p.m.

**Saturday, April 20th, Polansky Picnic Pursuit, led by Ed and Helenan Polansky.** Gather at 9:30 a.m. at the new Shell Station (Fischer's Market) at the intersection of Blanco Road and West Oaks Drive, north of 1604. We should arrive around noon for a fun picnic and games at Nugget and Monica's Ranch. Nugget and Monica are hosting this event. Wear hiking shoes as we can tour the livestock including horses and longhorn steers! Yahooo! What fun! (The destination has plenty of covered area in case of inclement weather!)

**Tuesday, April 23rd, Monthly Meeting, chaired by president Sophie Parazo.** Bigz Burger Joint. 2303 N. Loop 1604 W. access road at 6:30 p.m., Meeting starts promptly at 7:30 p.m.

**Friday, April 26, Ladies Luncheon Run to the Kerrville Cross. Hosted by Betty Hicks,** Let's meet at the Valero at 913 Hwy 46 at 3351 at 9:30 a.m. Depart at 10:00. After the run to Kerrville and the Cross, lunch will be at Rails Restaurant. Watch our website for more details.

**Saturday, April 27th, BBMC Trash Pick Up, organized by VP Dave Ogden.** Meet at Big's Valero (aka "Miata Valero") located 2.5 miles Northeast of Rolling Oaks Mall on Nacogdoches Road. The Physical Address is: Big's Valero #346, 18657 FM 2252, San Antonio, TX 78266. Show time is 8:00 A.M. Go time is 8:15 A.M. We should be back to Grumpy's for a great breakfast by 10:30 A.M

**Saturday-Sunday, April 27-28, Judge Texas Best Meet.** No details have been submitted. Watch our website!

**And...in May...**

**Saturday, May 4th Dave Ogden's run** -Details are on the website!

**Friday, May 10th, Men's Breakfast,** TBA soon!

**Friday, May 10th, Ladies Lunch,** San Antonio Missions—TBA soon!

**Thursday, May 16th, Ladies Bunco-**

**Thursday, May 23rd, Lunar Zoomer,** details to follow

**Tuesday, May 28th, Club Meeting**



# *Lunar Zoomer*

*Fun*

While we didn't have a large turnout, we had a great time at The Cove, a quirky far out kind of eatery. They were having a band festival of sorts and most of the bands were, um....shall we say, very experienced?

Food was organic (I'm being nice, I had to order my burger in detail, haha)

This was a special night for someone special.





# Don't forget our Sponsors!



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## Remember When?



Low Tech in action

“No, Paul, I’m pretty sure it’s THIS button!”