



In The Breeze

The "Zoom Zoom" logo in a bold, red, italicized font, set against a white background with a light gray gradient.

March 2024

Official Newsletter of the Bluebonnet Miata Club

Still Free!

Mazda Just Gave the 2024 MX-5 Miata A Ton Of Useful Updates



We'll deal with the mechanical changes first, because frankly, that's what's most fun. All 2024 MX-5 Miata models get a new steering rack with reduced internal friction and a new tune for the power steering system. Mazda says the changes result in "smoother steering action with a more defined 'on-center' feeling for relaxed freeway cruising, yet greater precision as the front tires are loaded up under hard cornering." All sounds good to us.

For the Club and Grand Touring models, the limited-slip differential is now an asymmetric unit that has different lockup settings under braking and acceleration. Under braking, there's more differential lockup to provide stability on corner entry; with acceleration, there's now less lockup to reduce understeer on corner entry. The Club model also gets a new "Track" mode for the stability-control system that raises the threshold of intervention without disabling the system completely.

It's a little harder to spot the changes for the exterior of the 2024 MX-5 Miata, but new LED headlights and taillights plus new multi-spoke wheel designs are the distinguishing features. A new color is on the palette, too, Aero Gray, a \$450 option. The interior should feel pretty different to those familiar with the ND Miata. Most notable is a larger infotainment screen running Mazda's latest system, and for the first time in one of the brand's cars, Amazon Alexa integration.

As before, the Club and Grand Touring are the same mechanically, but the GT doesn't get the new Track DSC mode. A \$4,800 option on the Club Soft Top and standard on the RF is the BBS/Brembo/Recaro package, which pairs forged 17-inch BBS wheels, upgraded Brembo-branded brakes with fixed-piston calipers up front, and Recaro seats. It's an option you want, if you can swing it.

The GT also gets a new tan Napa leather interior option for \$300. And as has been the case for a few years now, the only way to get an automatic Miata is to order the GT. It's a \$920 option. But, if you're able to drive stick, skip the auto because Mazda's manual is the finest on the market, bar none.

On their own, none of these updates are huge, but they promise to add up to make a nicely improved Miata. But what's important is that it appears Mazda hasn't compromised the brilliance of the ND – after all, the quoted curb weight for the soft-top is 2,368 pounds.

2023 Club Officers

- President**
Sophie Parazo
bbmcpresident@gmail.com
 - Vice President**
Dave Ogden
bbmcvicepresident@gmail.com
 - Treasurer**
Joe Knight
bbmctreasurer@gmail.com
 - Secretary**
Stephanie Turner
bbmcsecretary@gmail.com
 - Membership***
Harry Maxwell
bbmcmembership@gmail.com
 - Newsletter Editor***
George Lucas
bbmcnewsletter@gmail.com
- * Appointed positions*

New Members

- Bob and Marilyn Parker**
Spring Branch, TX
2023 Soul Red Metallic
- Mike and Laurie Mitchie**
San Antonio, TX
2022 Deep Crystal Blue

Total Membership

190

Contributing Photographers

- Stan Chambers
- Wanda Benoche
- George Lucas

Inside this Issue:

- Mazda's improvements for the new 2024 Miata!.....Cover
- Officers and New Members..... 2
- President's Message..... 3
- From the Editor..... 3
- Ladies Events.....4
- Photos from the Ladies visit to the Hopscotch Museum.....5
- What Features are Not on today's Cars.....6
- Street Dreams Run.....7
- Jimbo's Chicken Fried Steak Run.....8
- Lunar Zoomer.....9
- Men's Breakfast..... 9
- Upcoming Runs and Events.....10
- Lunar Zoomer Fun.....11
- Sponsors and Remember When?12

ZOOM-ZOOM

President's Message

Hello Everyone,

The beginning of the year is off to a great start. The weather has been beautiful and we've started our runs again. I especially love how cool it has been in the morning and nice and breezy in the afternoon, making driving anytime of the day wonderful.

As we start getting out again, remember to do those important checks on your car. According to Bridgestonetire.com, some of the short-term checks should include fluid levels, tire air and tread, oil and filter, and rotate tires if needed. Long-term checks should include transmission fluid, shocks and struts, coolant, and spark plugs...but as always, be sure to follow your vehicle's maintenance schedule and service interval record.

The Executive Committee has also taken a look at the guidance for runs and made any necessary updates. We also want to remind everyone that there is a lot of great information on our webpage Blubonnetmiata.org under Info.

I look forward to our runs this year and to see all of you at our different gatherings. As always, if you have any questions or suggestions, or if you need anything, please do not hesitate to reach out to the Executive Committee or me.

Until next time, drive safely and keep on zoomin!



Sophie Parazo, president

From the Editor

Do you hear what I hear?

Miata engines starting up in the morn,

Do you see what I see?

Miatas everywhere reborn,

Do you feel what I feel?

The sun finally warming up for real,

Do you see what I see?

Miatas lined up in rows as far as we can see...

Yes, your newsletter editor is happy and I hope Bing Crosby isn't listening from above, but I'm so excited I'm singing!

I'm thrilled to see so many of us turning out for runs, events and it's exhilarating! We have lots of folks coming out to join many of us club vets and it warms my heart to see you all!

Stan Chambers had 50 members in 30 Miatas on his Street Dreams run!!! I had 32 members joining in for our latest Lunar Zoomer dinner with 21 Miatas! Each and every time reservations are made, we have to recount our members showing up! It's a great problem to have!

I can't thank you all enough for coming out. If you're hesitating joining us on our runs, don't! C'mon out, you'll be amazed at our wonderful members friendliness!

Okay, let's keep on keeping on Zooming!



George Lucas, Editor

Ladies, Ladies, Ladies



Hopscotch is an immersive and experiential brand that brings together artists in collaborative environments to create unique, impactful, and distinct shared experiences. We believe art can be a vessel to tell stories and illuminate important messages of the past, present, and future. Hopscotch allows artists to showcase their works in sustainable and creative ways, encourages them to be inspired by new mediums, and empowers them to reach new audiences. We strongly believe in cultivating lasting relationships and a synergy with our staff, artists and the local communities we are in.

Editors note: Kudos to Lisa Martin for coming up with, and I can't even explain this event, something new! Thanks, Lisa!



More photos on next page or our website!

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**

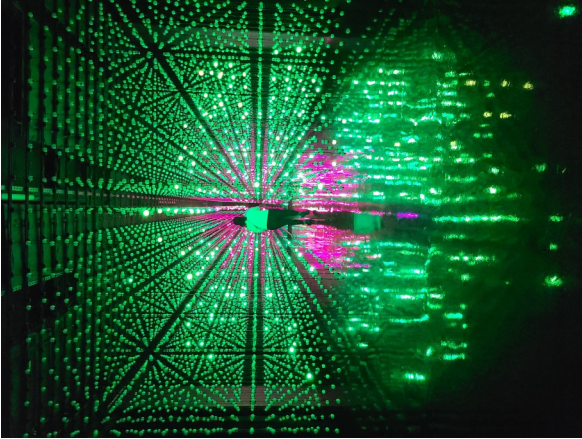
AUG 9 - NATURAL BRIDGE CAVERNS - new cavern area, Coordinator Cheryl Knight

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 Features are Not on Cars Today?

By OpEd Polansky



For better or worse, many features on classic and antique cars are no longer seen on modern vehicles - some of which we miss and others that are welcome to stay in the dustbin of history. Regardless of why these things have been discontinued, these features below will not be making a comeback anytime soon.

Foot operated high beams: In the category of features that have gone away but maybe should not have is the foot-operated high beam, or dip beam, switch. The foot switch disappeared in most cars by the 1980s.

Carburetors: For internal combustion engines to run, they require fuel and air. However, liquid fuel does not burn easily, so a device to mix it with air is required. The first device created to accomplish the task is the carburetor, which metered fuel into gasoline-powered engines in the first century of the automobile.

Fuel injection came along in the 1950s with a way of metering the fuel directly into the engine by injecting pressurized fuel through a nozzle directly into the engine. It allowed fuel delivery to be more precisely controlled and computerized operation has made it highly reliable. The last car sold with a carburetor in the U.S. being the 1990 Subaru Justy.

Window cranks: Some younger folks may have never ridden in a car with a short arm with a knob on the end sticking out of the door panels. This arm is to be rotated to roll the window up or down, and it was commonplace on all cars until power windows became more common during in the late '80s.

At first, power windows were reserved only for luxury cars like Cadillacs and slowly became options for higher trim levels of mid-range models. With power windows being so common today, not having them seems more like a mild form of archaic torture.

Bench seats: By the time the automobile industry was fully mature, most passenger cars were fitted with bench seating front and rear, with the exception being sports cars and race cars. Starting in the '60s and gaining steam through the '70s and '80s, front bench seating started to give way to bucket seats separated by a center console, often equipped with a gear selector and various switches. Today, front bench seats are almost fully extinct as no company offers them on any new passenger cars. This is a result of changing preferences as well as safety regulations making it difficult to fully protect passengers in the middle of the front seats.

T-tops: For anyone unfamiliar with this feature, it is one in which a section of roof above the passenger and driver can be removed in two sections meeting at a bar down the middle of the roof. These were common in many sports cars of the '70s and '80s but fell out of favor soon after. The T-top's history can be traced to a patent filed in the late '40s, but it was the 1968 Corvette that saw them put into full production for the first time.

This option was slowly removed from most purchase orders through the '90s, leaving the Trans Am and Camaro the last models to offer this feature in 2002.

Keys: The earliest cars did not have keys probably because nobody had ever thought to have them. After all, horses never came with keys. However, in 1910 keys started to be added to cars, although they did not yet start the car. The first keys only operated a switch to keep a car from running -- starting the car still had to be done with a crank by hand.

Still, keys are not yet entirely obsolete. At least eight models offered in the U.S. can be purchased with a traditional key, but only in the base models. With the way the technology is advancing, it is almost guaranteed that even these will be phased out within a few years and car keys will be a thing of the past.

Wing windows: In the days before air conditioning, automakers had to find inventive ways of keeping passengers cool. One of them was the wing window, also known as a vent window. This was a small triangular piece of glass that could be rotated to provide a shot of air delivered directly inside the cabin.

The wing window is an inventive piece of engineering that first appeared in the '30s to help cool passengers. These windows would be a fixture on every car going forward until 1966, when the Buick Riviera first came out without them. By the '60s, air conditioning started to become more standardized on new cars and continued to grow in popularity as an option.

CD, cassette, and 8-track players: Ever since Motorola figured out how to make a radio fit inside of a car, it has become a staple of the automotive industry. AM radio ruled the automobile for years until FM was introduced and technology has continued to move forward every decade since then.

First, the 8-track tape player hit the shelves of the auto parts stores in the '70s before being integrated into factory stereos, only to be replaced by cassette players a few years later. The '80s brought about CD players, which became the standard in every car until the new millennium brought the digital age to fruition.

Although the technology progressed rapidly since the '70s, some may be surprised to know that the last car to sport a cassette player from the factory was the 2010 Lexus SC 430 - which may be saying something about its target market.

That's just a few of the features that can't be found on modern vehicles. I'll look at some more next month. What features do you miss?

Source: <https://www.slashgear.com>

Street Dreams Run

Led by Stan & Betty Chambers

Wow, what a great turn out we had for the run on February 3rd to Street Dreams Texas on Hwy 16 in Fredericksburg. 30 Miatas and over 50 people took a chance on the rain clearing up and met up at the Valero station on 281 in Spring Branch. We even had one couple join us all the way from Mineola, in the upper east side of Texas. Folks started gathering at the Valero station an hour before departure and I was getting a little concerned about enough parking space but everything worked out ok.

Thanks to Mark Hungerman for running sweep and to the folks that relayed radio messages back and forth. Betty C. and Mark also had an extra job of opening and closing the two gates on Acker Road. Acker road is one of those county roads that only has right of way for the paved area going through private property. Thats why we had all those "No Trespassing" and "Private Property" signs. Also in Texas if you have to stop and open a gate to travel on a public road you have to also close the gate behind you. It's good manners but also a state law.

45 minutes into the run we stopped for lunch at a new to the club BBQ joint called Blackboard BBQ in Sisterdale. Food was fantastic and they did a great job of quickly serving everyone. Our 50 Miatas pretty much filled their parking lot, which they thought was great.

After lunch we drove through Sisterdale then past The Cartoon Saloon on FM473 to Old No.9 road which is also part of the old road between Fredericksburg and San Antonio. After a few left and right turns on Grape Creek road, Bear Creek road and Center Point road we landed on Hwy 16 just south of Fredericksburg and over to Street Dreams Texas. They had 2 buildings full of classic cars and trucks for us to enjoy looking over and dreaming about buying one. My favorite was a Dodge Prowler, but Miss Betty said no, I couldn't bring it home. Maybe next time...



Chicken Fried Steak OOPS! Back to Bricks

On a nice 30 to 40 degree morning, 19 brave cars and their people met INSIDE the Whataburger before heading out Tops Up for our CFS Run to Bandera. This included a couple of new cars, Mike in his Deep Crystal Blue Mica RF and Buck and Melissa in their Copper Red NC Hardtop.

We wound our way out to the Rio Medina Country Store for our first stop, including the rustic facilities (OUTHOUSE!), and then took the back way to Medina Lake (still not back to being a lake yet)! Taking Park Road 37 up to the lake is one of my favorite roads to drive, especially the section that looks like some of the road courses around the country.

Leaving Lake Hills, we turned onto English Crossing, where we found out that a new bridge is being built over the Medina River, so we had to wait for an automatic red light out in the middle of nowhere. Once through that, we twisted our way to Bandera, where the Old Spanish Trail had an hour long wait! So the group headed over to Bricks River Cafe for some great food.

After that, the remaining cars headed out 173 to Elm Pass Road for our dessert twisties, past the Hilltop Mansion, down Holiday Road, and back to Comfort for our last stop, relief, and refuel. The sun finally came out for most of our trip, and so it was a great day.

My favorite part of the trip is when Mike got out of his car at Bricks and fists in the air, quoted "AWESOME!!!"

We hope everyone had a good time, and we look forward to the next run.

Jim & Wanda





By special request, for our March 2024 Lunar Zoomer we'll be headed down to near The Pearl for a moonlit evening at...wait for it.....

THE COVE!

Having dined there only once, I can tell you little about The Cove except it's has won numerous accolades from Texas Monthly, San Antonio magazine, Best of SA 2016, the New York Times and even the Food Network with Guy Fieri!



SO...we'll meet at **6:30 p.m.** on **Sunday, March 24** downtown near the Pearl at 606 W. Cypress, SATX 78212, 210-227-2683.



Guys, what can I say, First Watch is very good at breakfast, there is no denying that! So, on **Friday, March 8th**, let's return to First Watch at 16668 San Pedro Avenue at Thousand Oaks.

Great food, great prices and a bunch of great fellas, 'nuff said!

I hope to see y'all there at **9:00 a.m.**, that's Friday, March 8th!

Cheers!!!

Upcoming Runs and Events

March 2024

Saturday, March 2nd, Double Crab Apple Run, led by Mark Hungerman. Meet at the Valero at the corner of Hwy 46 and FM3351 (Ralph Fair Rd.) at **10:00 a.m.**, departing at 10:30 a.m. After a titillating drive through the Hill Country, we'll have lunch at The Pecan Grove Store at about 1:00 p.m. to avoid the lunch rush crowd. About a 2 hour drive with one pit stop.

Friday, March 8th, Men's Breakfast, hosted by George Lucas. A favorite, we'll meet at First Watch at 16668 San Pedro at Thousand Oaks at **9:00 a.m.** We've gone there before and honestly, it's worth another visit! C'mon out, guys!

Friday, March 8th, Ladies Luncheon, hosted by Sophie Parazo. A visit to the Botanical Gardens is the plan. Check our website for further details.

Saturday, March 9th, Spring Break Tech Day hosted by Monica and Nugget! They say, "we'd love to see everyone whether you have work to do or not. Even if you'd just like some space to wash a car, come out and give your car a bath!" Come out as early as **8:00 a.m.** to 3050 Spring Branch Road, Spring Branch, 78070. Bring your own tools and get 'er done!

Thursday, March 21st, Ladies BUNCO, hosted by Marilyn Hamilton. 6:30 p.m. at Big'z Burger Joint, 2303 N. Loop 1604 W, Access Rd

Friday–Sunday, March 22–24, March Miata Madness, hosted by Craig Woolheater. Jefferson, TX. See details on our website.

Sunday, March 24th, Lunar Zoomer dinner, hosted by George Lucas. Requested by one of our members, we'll be meeting at The Cove, 606 W. Cypress, 8212.

Tuesday, March 26th, Monthly Meeting at Big'z Burger Joint. Sophie Parazo presiding. Dinner starts at 6:30, Meeting starts promptly at 7:30.

Saturday, March 30th, Faulkner Run, led by Paul and Judy Faulkner. Details to come, check our website.

....and, in April

Saturday, April 6th, Sophie's Birthday Run, hosted by, you guessed it, Sophie! Watch our website for details of this, her inaugural run!

Monday, April 8th, Eclipse Run, led by Mark Hungerman. Details for this run will be posted soon on our website.

Friday, April 12th, Men's Breakfast, hosted by George Lucas. Watch for details on our website!

Friday, April 12, Ladies Luncheon Run to the Kerrville Cross. Hosted by Betty Hicks, watch our website for more details.

Saturday, April 13th, Stivers Medina River Run, led by Larry and Pamela Stivers. Details soon on our website!

Check our website for more April events and runs!!!

ZOOM-ZOOM



Lunar Zoomer

Fun



Don't forget our Sponsors!



Remember When?



Marilyn McCullen and Marilyn Hamilton, 2008