



# In The Breeze



May 2024

Official Newsletter of the Bluebonnet Miata Club

Still Free!

## The Eclipse Was...meh

Well, okay...it wasn't ho-hum for many, but while we had the ideal setup for watching, the clouds pretty much made it...well, not the best, but still interesting. Thanks to Mark Hungerman for setting up the run to Vanderpool as we had plenty of parking space and even more space in which to watch the Eclipse. I think all the news warnings of so many folks coming out, well, they stayed at home! Good for us, however, as we had very few traffics jams! Good job, Mark!

Below are some photos from our location in Vanderpool.



We had quite the adventuresome group! Thanks to Mark Hungerman (below) for a great event and Brenya Buchalski pictured on left below with Betty Jackson and Marilyn McCullen, for all of these great photos!



More photos inside this issue of In The Breeze!

# 2023 Club Officers

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

# New Members

Jacl Zumwalt  
New Braunfels  
2006 Red?

## Total Membership

189

## Contributing Photographers

- Lisa Martin
- Brenya Buchalski
- Sylvia Ferrell
- Gwen Mitchell
- 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*

# *What's the Unknown Reason the British Drive on the Other Side of the Road?*

*by OpEd Polansky*



When Helenan and I visited England and we were young, we thought it would be fun to rent a car to cruise around the Island. We were given a stick-shift with the drivers' seat on the right side of the car. It was a major feat shifting left-handed, dealing with traffic approaching on the wrong side of the car, and handling omnipresent traffic circles that had a beaucoup of exits. I hit a few curbs, but luckily no pedestrians or other vehicles.

I've thought many times about why do the British drive on the wrong side of the road. Well, I finally did some research. It's not that just U.K. drivers drive on the left. Approximately 35 percent of the world's population does the same.

Originally, almost everybody traveled on the left side of the road, according to BBC America. However, their mode of transport was quite different from today. For Medieval swordsmen on horseback, it made sense to keep to the left to have their right arms and weapons closer to their opponents. Mounting and dismounting were also easier from the left side of the horse, and safer done by the side of the road than in the center.

Things changed when large wagons pulled by several pairs of horses were used to transport farm products in France and the United States. In the absence of a driver's seat inside the wagon, the driver sat on the rear left horse, with his right arm free to use his whip to keep the horses moving. Since he was sitting on the left, he wanted other wagons to pass on his left, so he kept to the right side of the road.

The British Government refused to change, and in 1773 introduced the General Highways Act, and later The Highway Act of 1835 to maintain the system. Meanwhile post-revolution France, under their left-handed ruler Napoleon, embraced a permanent move to the right side of the road. Amidst all this driving confusion, the British and the French were yielding their power across the globe, and as part of their rapid colonization, they insisted that the countries they occupied drive on the same side of the road. This explains why former British colonies such as Australia, New Zealand, and India drive on the left, while former French colonies like Algeria, Ivory Coast, and Senegal drive on the right.

When Henry Ford made his Model, the driver's seat was on the left, meaning that cars would have to drive on the right-hand side of the road to allow front and back passengers to exit the car onto the curb. According to National Geographic, this influenced a change in many countries: Canada, Italy, and Spain changed to right-side driving in the 1920s and most of Eastern Europe followed suit in the 1930s. As recently as 1967, Swedish drivers began driving on the right.

However British drivers are highly unlikely to change. It is another one of those things we don't have in common with the British...such as our language.

More Eclipse Photos submitted by Brenya Buchalski!



# WWW

## Wheels, Wildflowers, Wings Run

Hosted and led by Gwen Mitchell

Gwen Mitchell jumped into the run fray with her Wheels, Wildflowers and Wings Run. Gwen invited folks out for a ride in her plane after a short run through the wildflowers of South Bexar county. Windy weather allowed only one flight. They enjoyed lunch at Stinson Field Café.



# Sophie's Choice, aka Birthday Run

Led by Ceasar and Sophie Parazo



*Happy Birthday, Sophie!*

# Stivers Medina River Run

Led by Larry and Pamela Stivers

Starting off from the QT at the corner of Bandera Road and Scenic Loop Road, Pamela and I led about 15 Miatas through Scenic Loop to Whip O Will Way, arriving back to Bandera Rd. Then we climbed to a high stretch of Mountain Climb Rd, briefly enjoying the view. Back again to Bandera Rd we turned onto SR 211, following it through to Culebra Rd and then to CR 1283. This led us to PR 37, a curvy road, often travelled, but never one to disappoint. At its terminus we took SR 16 once again to a break next to the Barrel House Feed & Hardware.

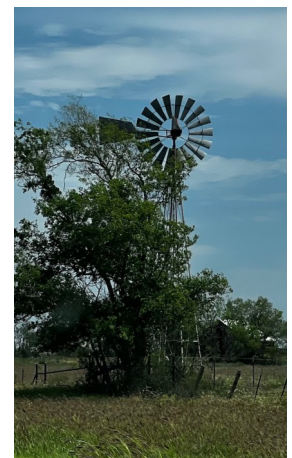
We then doubled back (NO, not a BBMC 'double back' --a planned maneuver) to Bump Gate Road, which took us to Hwy 1283. Turning south we passed PR 37 and proceeded to Red Wing Road (371), which took us to CR 2676 turning east to CR 271, a narrow and twisty road would have led us south, had the run lead not cruised right past the turn onto 271. A few miles past the intersection (and past a couple of grazing pronghorn antelopes) a U-turn (yep, a genuine BBMC 'youie') got us back on track for the final few miles to Dorn Michelle's for a good meal. Dorn Michelle's is next door to the Medina River Winery where some members of the group sampled a few glasses of wine.

The weather, the roads, the food and wine, and most of all the companionship made for a very rewarding day.



**Note:** Larry and Pam took us to a very unique restaurant in Castroville called **Dorn Michelle's**.

Look it up, you won't be disappointed *-Ed*





# Ladies, Ladies, Ladies



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

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

**MAY 10** -SA MISSIONS, Coordinator Sandy Phelps (Details on the Upcoming Events page.)

**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)!

# Upcoming Runs and Events

## May 2024

**Saturday, May 4th Dave Ogden's run** 8:45 AM - Meet at the Loves Travel Stop, corner of I-10 and US Hwy 87 (43 US-87, Comfort, TX 78013). 9:00 AM Departure. We will run through the back roads east and north of Comfort. We will have a pit stop at Luckenbach. The run ends in downtown Comfort. We will have lunch at High's Cafe & Store (726 High St, Comfort, TX 78013). I will have Bruce Mabrito, an old friend of George Briscoe, and local racing sports writer, as my navigator. I've located a couple of wine tasting rooms that are in the same city block as High's Cafe. Ursa Vineyards at Branch on High, 704 High Street, and Newsom Vineyards, 717 Front Street (behind High's Café). Ursa has indoor seating and will allow to-go food carried in. Newsom has outdoor picnic table seating, so the choice may be weather dependent. Ursa is more economical and serve's California wines. Newsom specializes in small-batch Texas wines. There is also a street taco food truck next to Newsom in case someone is looking for alternative choices or a faster lunch.

**Friday, May 10th, Men's Breakfast, Hosted by George Lucas.** Meet at the Whataburger at the corner of Loop 1604 at Nacogdoches Rd. (The same road to the Valero we meet before most runs. Breakfast at **9:00 a.m.** and free coffee! The best is the conversation with the guys!

**Friday, May 10th, Ladies Lunch, hosted by Sandy Phelps.** For our ladies day for the month of May we plan to visit the San Antonio mission trail.

We will start at San Jose visitor center.

6701 San Jose Drive. They offer a 45 minute tour of San Jose starting at 10:00.(No charge) Since that is the biggest mission I thought that would be nice.

Our itinerary for the day is as follows:

- meet at San Jose. Visitor center at 9:30. Since there isn't a scenic way to get there thought would just meet. If you can carpool that would probably be beneficial.
- Tour San Jose Mission - 45 minutes
- Tour San Juan - on our own
- Tour Mission Espada and Mission San Francisco ( they are at same site) on our own
- Tour Mission Concepcion on our own

Lunch at whatever time we finish - was there today. Do not need a reservation. They will put tables together. I will call her with how many and time before we go.

Blue Star Brewing company

1414 S Alamo #105

San Antonio 78210

It's less than 10 minutes from Mission Concepcion

They have a varied menu with lunch and drink specials from 11 - 3:00.

**Thursday, May 16th, Ladies Bunco-hosted by Marilyn Hamilton.** Meet at Big'z Burger Joint,

**Sunday, May 26th, Lunar Zoomer, hosted by George Lucas.** Let's try something different...we'll meet at **5:30 p.m. on Sunday, May 26th** to dine and watch this month's waning full "Flower" moon! Where, you ask? San Antonio's finest Chinese fare, Formosa Gardens! And, we'll qualify for their Early Bird specials!

**Tuesday, May 28th, Club Meeting , chaired by Sophie Parazo,** Dinner and Meet 'n Greet at 6:30 p.m., Meeting starts at 7:30 p.m. Big'z Burger Joint 2303 N. Loop 1604 West, SATX 78258

**And, in June...**

**Saturday, June 1st, Back to Basics Run, led by Dan and Betty Hicks.** Details will be on our website!

**Friday, June 14th, , Men's Breakfast, hosted by George Lucas.** Meet at Las Palapas, 1564 N Loop 1604 E, SATX 78232 at 9:00 a.m. Great tasty Mexican breakfast! Be there!

**Friday, June 14th, Ladies Lunch, hosted by Barbara Ahmed,** Movies and lunch. Watch for details on our website!

**Also, HEAD FOR THE OZARKS, led by George Lucas and Marilyn McCullen.** The Northwest Arkansas Miata club moved their 25th Anniversary event too close to Labor Day, so there won't be a Head for the Mountains, this year. But, a West Texas trip



# Lunar Zoomer

Fun at

**ACADIANA**  
cafe



*And...in May...*

Let's try something different...we'll meet at **5:30 p.m. on Sunday, May 26th** to dine and watch this month's waning full "Flower" moon! Where, you ask? San Antonio's finest Chinese fare, Formosa Gardens! And, we'll qualify for their Early Bird specials!

*Formosa Gardens*

*Restaurant*

1011 NE Interstate 410 Loop,  
San Antonio, TX 78209



Don't forget our Sponsors!



Our trash pick heroes enjoying breakfast at Grumpy's last weekend. Great job!

We need MORE of our members to come out and support our quarterly trash pickup!



## Remember When?



Hey, I'm not reaching in there for those eggs! (2008 at the Faulkner farm.)