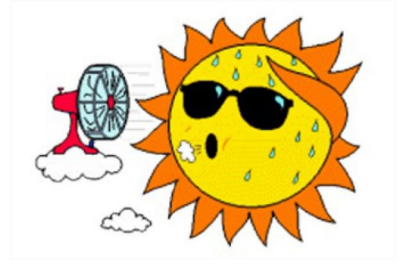




# *In The Breeze*



August 2022

Official Newsletter of the Bluebonnet Miata Club

Still Free!

## Next-Gen Mazda MX-5 in the Works, Won't Change That Much



If you like cars and Mazda in particular, you might be a little worried right about now.

The Mazda6 sedan is gone and the company is about to launch three new SUVs in Canada—the adventurous CX-50 arriving in dealerships next month, the CX-90 that's set to replace the CX-9, and a two-row variant that will ride on the same new large-vehicle platform called CX-70.

Rest assured, Mazda has no plans to drop the iconic MX-5. A fifth generation is already under development and it will retain all of the core attributes of its predecessors.

"It's our brand icon and it is always treated very specially," Joachim Kunz, head of product development and engineering at Mazda Europe, told *Autocar* magazine. "At the moment, it looks like we will have this car forever, with this size and concept and combustion engine. Of course, someday, we will have to electrify it, but we want to keep this pure concept."

He admitted that the MX-5 remains "the baby of headquarters" in Japan, suggesting that his team is not involved as much in the development, but the point is that the MX-5 has a future. In fact, it might be the last Mazda vehicle to go hybrid or electric. Whenever it does, the important thing will be to make sure that weight is not affected, as previously explained by Ichiro Hirose, head of engineering research and development at Mazda.

The MX-5 is by far one of the most fun vehicles on the market in any season. As our colleague Germain Goyer noted following his winter test drive, it's not ideal for every single day of the year, but unless you live way up north it can realistically be used about 300 days.

Okay, so a new MX-5 is coming using the same basic recipe. When will we see it? Don't hold your breath. Mazda doesn't mind long life cycles with this car. The current generation dates back to the 2016 model year, and the next one will probably launch around mid-decade.

THE CAR  
GUIDE

## 2022 Club Officers

President

*Craig Martin*

president@bluebonnetmiata.org

Vice President

*Jim "Jimbo" Treat*

vicepresident@bluebonnetmiata.org

Treasurer

*Joe Knight*

treasurer@bluebonnetmiata.org

Secretary

*Stephanie Turner*

secretary@bluebonnetmiata.org

Membership\*

*Harry Maxwell*

membership@bluebonnetmiata.org

Newsletter Editor\*

*George Lucas*

\* Appointed positions

## Welcome, New Members!

**Vernon & Mary Jackson**

Natalia, Texas

2006 Sunlight Silver

**Yana & James Fabia**

San Antonio, Texas

Snowflake White Pearl Mica

**Total Club Members: 198**

**Photo credits in this issue:**

**Very few.**

**Take your cameras, folks! :-)**

## Inside this Issue:

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# President's Message

Happy Red Hot Summer, Bluebonnet Club! Even though it's been sweltering hot, I hope you've been able to enjoy some top-down time!

The Texas Miata Roundup site should be up by the time you read this. The issue has been the Payment system through Chase Bank. Once that gets set up and verified, registration will be open. I will email everyone in Google Groups once the site is up. They are limiting registration to 150 cars, so the earlier you register, the better.

One of our club members, Brenya Buchalski, has been selected to receive the U.S. President's Lifetime Achievement award for her service to the San Antonio community and the Nation. Brenya is a lecturer in the Department of Psychology at the University of Texas at San Antonio. The award recognizes those who contribute more than 4,000 hours of service in their lifetime. Congratulations, Brenya!

Sadly, one of former members, Tim McCurdy, passed away July 7. Tim and his wife, Ennie, were members of the club for nearly two decades. Time also served 18 years in the military, including positions as a staff nurse at Brooke Army Medical Center in the operating room, and Wilford Hall Medical Center as a Circulating Nurse (Section A), which specialized in Open Heart, Vascular, Transplant and Trauma surgeries. He also served in Operation Desert Storm and Operation Gothic Serpent. He always planned good runs. He will be missed.

There are a number of vacant dates on the calendar. So if you have an urge to lead a run, see what dates are available and pick one!

*Craig Martin*



## From the Editor

Way back in May, 2009, then editor Tim McCurdy, asked if I could produce the newsletter for one month while he and his wife Ennie were to go on vacation. Since I had done several newsletters for various people, I said I'd be happy to do it. Upon his return, he asked me to take over the reins of the newsletter as he wanted to take a break from it. I think he planned that all along.

I make special mention of this because, after a long battle with various health issues, we lost Tim recently.

Tim and Ennie were very special to the club and Tim was a master at leading runs. In fact, I called him The Road Master. Tim and Ennie also hosted several runs, including The Flight Line Run, Bowling in Blanco and the yearly Dash & Splash run. Great hosts and great people. We miss you already, Tim.





## UTSA faculty member, and Bluebonnet Miata Club member to receive U.S. Presidential Lifetime Achievement Award

JULY 12, 2022 — **Brenya Twumasi (Buchalski)**, a lecturer in the Department of Psychology at the University of Texas at San Antonio, is set to receive the U.S. President's Lifetime Achievement award for her service to the San Antonio community and the nation.

The award recognizes those who contribute more than 4,000 hours of service in their lifetime.

"My dad and uncles are my heroes and modeled service work both nationally and internationally for me," Twumasi said. "Dean **Lynne Cossman** also supports us to be the best that we can be."



Twumasi joined the psychology department, which is housed in the UTSA College for Health, Community and Policy, in 2015.

*"In Ghana, my father would tell me to look at the queue of people behind me. He told me to learn and study so that I can open the door for that line—and they can come through the door behind me."*

In addition to being a lecturer, she serves as an Online Teaching Faculty Champion and faculty mentor in her department and is a co-founding member of the UTSA Community & Restorative Justice Office.

In 1998, Twumasi founded Tactical Ops. The company helps organizations create a culturally diverse and inclusive workplace—evaluating pre-existing programs and providing such resources as workshops, and train-the-trainer classes. The company also tracks the progress of these programs.

In addition to her work at UTSA, Twumasi has spent 11 years as a council member for the Bexar County Re-entry Center. The center provides services for formerly incarcerated individuals looking to re-enter the workforce and society. She also serves as a member on the following committees and organizations: National Association of Women in Business, San Antonio Criminal Justice Action Coalition, Texas Diversity Council, San Antonio Women in Technology and World Affairs Council – San Antonio.

Twumasi has been an expert speaker on several domestic and international radio and television shows. Her expertise ranges from human trafficking and serving the disadvantaged, to advocating and legal analyses for the cases of Trayvon Martin, Breonna Taylor and more.

Prior to her move to San Antonio, Twumasi served as the State of Maryland's child abuse and neglect specialist from 1998-1999. She worked with street gangs beginning in 1983 and up until her move. In 1994, she was part of the team that enacted the change in federal forms to include "Other" under submission of race.

Twumasi's service to her community began at 11 in her native Ghana, where she founded her first corporation, the Perfect Peace Club, which operates today as C4C: Kaleidoscope. This organization serves muted voices such as victims of sexual assault and human trafficking. C4C also advocates for equitable water access.

Twumasi credits her father for her devotion to service. "In Ghana, my father would tell me to look at the queue of people behind me," she said. "He told me to learn and study so that I can open the door for that line—and they can come through the door behind me."

Twumasi earned her bachelor of arts in political science from Johns Hopkins University in Maryland, and her master's in mental health, community counseling, from St. Mary's University in 1998. She earned her juris doctor from the University of Maryland School of Law in 1986.

Twumasi was nominated and vetted by The Caribbean and African Faith Based Leadership Conference for the award. She will receive the award at the organization's gala on September 30 in Maryland.

Along with the honor of presidential recognition, she will receive a personalized certificate, an official pin, medallion or coin and a congratulatory letter from the president of the United States.

— [Amanda Cerreto](#), UTSA TODAY

# What Does “Premium Fuel Recommended” Mean?

*By Op-Ed Polansky*

My 2017 Miata MX-5 manual says this about the use of fuel. “This vehicle will perform best with premium unleaded fuel...with Octane rating of 91 or above. Rating from 87 to 90 can be used, but this will reduce performance slightly.” So premium gas is a recommendation, not a requirement. So it sent me to do some research which option to take, and here’s what I found.

The short answer is that the engine’s sensors are set up so it can use either regular or premium – and your choice depends on how much power you want your engine to deliver. You’ll get a small bump in horsepower on premium fuel, but of course you’ll pay more at the pump.



The numbers on the gas pump indicate how much octane the fuel contains: 87-octane gas is considered regular-grade; 89-octane is mid-grade; and 91-octane and above is premium. Higher-octane fuel is less volatile than regular-grade, and that makes a difference in how it burns under specific conditions in the engine.

As a piston compresses the air–fuel mixture prior to the spark plug firing, it raises the temperature. This can potentially cause improper ignition, with various points of combustion igniting throughout the chamber. This creates shock waves, which you hear as a pinging or knocking sound. In extreme cases, this heat can cause the fuel to spontaneously combust before the spark plug fires, a condition known as pre-ignition. Higher-performance engines have higher compression ratios, which create more heat as the fuel and air are squeezed. This is why most of them require higher-octane fuel-

That variable-octane recommendation gives you the option of choosing lower pump prices or higher performance. You’ll get slightly worse fuel economy on regular grade, but that fuel’s lower price will likely make up the difference. It’s safe to switch grades at any time; you don’t have to pick one and then stick exclusively to it.

On any vehicle, choosing your fuel can depend on several factors. Here’s some general advice I found about it:

- If you hear your engine pinging or rattling, or if you’re not getting the power you usually do, try moving up to the next grade. Engines rated for 87-octane can become susceptible to these issues as they get older. This may be more evident in extreme conditions, such as if it’s very hot outside.
- If your engine is rated “Premium Required”, we recommend you use it. We’ve read all the online stories about how it isn’t *really* necessary, but consider it cheap insurance to use the right fuel – especially if, down the road, your engine needs repair and your warranty won’t cover it because you used lower-grade gas.
- Some drivers like to give their 87-octane engines an occasional tank of premium, but there’s no need to move up if you haven’t experienced any issues. By law, regular-grade fuel contains minimum-standard levels of detergents and additives. If you don’t think that’s enough, many major retailers sell Top Tier gas, a privately managed fuel program that adds higher amounts than the minimum standard. All Top Tier octane grades have the same additive levels. Follow the maintenance schedule in your owner’s manual, including servicing or replacing the spark plugs when recommended. They last a long time, but when a plug finally wears out or gets too dirty it won’t fire properly, and will affect your engine’s performance.

So there you have it. With a Miata, premium gas is recommended by Mazda, but it appears, per the experts, that using a lower grade gas - for us old and Sunday drivers - we probably will never notice the difference and likely our cars will not either. I welcome thoughts from you readers.

Sources: autotrader.ca; Car Tech



# *A Special Christmas Visit to the Camp Verde Store*

**Saturday, December 10th, 2022**

For the past 12 years, we have made a special visit to the Camp Verde store to enjoy their Christmas Open House.

Since COVID, as one might imagine, things changed. As of this writing, the Store is unsure of how they'll be celebrating Christmas this year at the store. Last year we had a small group go there to shop as the Store is always full of fabulous Christmas ideas and gifts, including household kitchen items, decorative items and of course excellent tasty treats.

I am optimistic they'll be having a celebration of some kind and I will plan a drive up to the Store to show our appreciation for all the years they've given folks special Christmas discounts on their entire inventory.

We'll take a drive through some great traditional backroads and culminate the drive with a lunch in the Camp Verde Store restaurant.

More details will follow in the subsequent months, but for now, circle Saturday, December 10th on your calendar for a festive drive to the Camp Verde Store for Christmas!

Cheers!

George Lucas, Editor

## **Don't forget, the 2022 Christmas Party**

The Bluebonnet Miata Club is having our Christmas Party this year in Kerrville, Texas at the famed YO Ranch Hotel and Conference Center. Ask some of the old timers in the club about past year parties.

But be sure to come to find out for yourself!

The YO Ranch Hotel and Conference Center has blocked 20 rooms at a rate of \$119 + tax and they are accepting reservations.

Please tell them you are booking under a group rate – Bluebonnet Miata Christmas.

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2022**

**YO RANCH HOTEL AND CONFERENCE**

**2033 SIDNEY BAKER STREET**

**KERRVILLE, TX 78028**

**830.257.4440 Reservations**

**Save the date and make your reservation!**

**We will have a dinner and gift exchange to include a gag gift exchange!**

The hotel currently does not have the Christmas menu set so we are not able to provide you with the options at this time. The per person cost for the dinner will be approximately \$45. Due to rising costs it could be a bit higher. Once the menu options and costs are available, they will be shared with the club.

So start your Christmas Party savings fund and mark your calendar for Saturday, December 3, 2022 for the Bluebonnet Miata Christmas party-an event you don't want to miss! Be watching for updated information.

**Organizers – Lisa Martin and Wanda Begnoche**



# BBMC Ladies Group



The Bluebonnet Ladies Group is going to meet on August 12th at 10:00 am at the San Antonio Aquarium, 6320 Bandera Rd, Leon Valley.

We will have lunch at Henry's Puffy Taco, 6030 Bandera Rd, at 12:30 pm. All club ladies are invited to join us.

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Wreaths Across America is a program that started at Arlington National Cemetery in 1992 by Morrill and Karen Worcester, from Harrington, Maine. Their mission is to lay a wreath on EVERY fallen HERO's headstone for the holidays. This year the Bluebonnet Miata Club will be one of the proud sponsors of Wreaths Across America in San Antonio. Rohm and Barbara Thompson are spear heading our efforts and are currently collecting money for the \$15 wreaths. Any amount you may wish to donate will be welcome.

Cash donations will be accepted at any club meeting and at most club events. Check donations may be made but you will need to contact Rohm or Barbara for details. We will be collecting donations from now until our club meeting in October. The second part of our efforts will be placing the wreaths on the graves at Fort Sam Houston, San Antonio, TX, on December 17<sup>th</sup> at 8 AM.

Please help us support this worthwhile effort in the name of the Bluebonnet Miata Club. Mark your calendars now and donate no later than the October club meeting!!!

Rohm 210-846-3137

Barbara 210-846-2736

*Please Support our Sponsors!*



*Chris Madrids*

**HOLLYWOOD & BLANCO  
SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS**

*And, of course,*

*Our meeting "Home"*



**August Caption This!**

Each Month, send a caption of the monthly "Caption This" photo and win a prize to be named later. Send your Caption to [newsletter@bluebonnetmiata.org](mailto:newsletter@bluebonnetmiata.org). Winner will be announced at the next meeting! C'mon, have some fun with it!

Previous winners on next page.



## "Caption This" previous winners



### JUNE ISSUE

*"Why is he taking a picture?" "Heck, I don't know!" "Ha! The lens cap is still on!"*

**Winner: Anonymous**



### JULY ISSUE

*"Now, take this thingamabob, glue it to the dongle, duck tape it to the dumaflache, then close the hood and sell the car"*

**Winner: Ed Polansky**

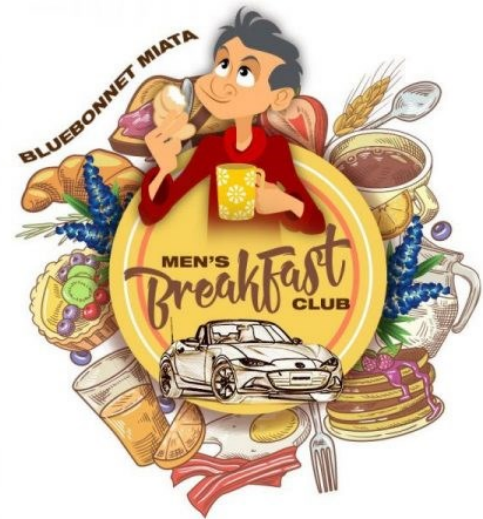
Okay, guys, it's that time again when we can meet and enjoy swapping stories about just about anything.

Let's meet at the Whataburger just north of North Park Mazda, at 10011 San Pedro Ave., 78216.

Always a favorite with great breakfast items at great prices! And, FREE coffee!

Meet time is 9:00 a.m. and stay as long as you like!

See you there!



**Saturday evening, August 13th**, let's meet at one of San Antonio's newer Burger place, Hat Creek Burger Company! Located at 7617 N. Loop 1604 East in Live Oak, TX 78233.

**Meet and Greet at 6:00 p.m., dine at 6:30 p.m.**



Hat Creek Burger Company is all about fellowship and cheeseburgers. We strive to cultivate a family-friendly environment that is built around community, gathering, and fun. Always-fresh, never-frozen all-natural burgers, fries, shakes and cold beer are staples of Hat Creek, with salad and gluten-free options also available. Our restaurants are built with families in mind, and each location features a unique playscape for children of all ages. We mean it when we say "Our backyard is your backyard."



# Texas Miata Roundup 2022

October 20th through 23rd in College Station

The Houston Miata Club is pleased to welcome everyone to the 2022 Texas Miata Roundup! I think we can all agree the last two years have been interesting to say the least. We had considered organizing this event sooner with various compromises but ultimately decided it would be best to wait and have a proper Roundup. We have organized an event to get people back together to enjoy the essentials: friends, fun roads, and Texas style food.

Due to COVID-19 the now-biennial Roundup was delayed for a year. The 2022 Texas Miata Roundup will be held October 20th through 23rd in College Station. Check-in will begin Thursday afternoon at 3:00 on the 20th, and conclude with the dinner party and live music on Saturday the 22nd at the Brazos Center. College Station has been chosen as this year's destination due to its proximity to Houston with a more rural feel. The roads in the area aren't bad either!

The reputation of the Texas Miata Round Up has spread throughout the USA and even into Canada as a result of the event's reputation. You will see license plates from most any state and all are welcome. You do not have to belong to one of the Texas Miata Clubs to participate; all you need is a Miata.

The Texas Miata Round Up began in the late 1990's with the intention of bringing Miata owners together for a long weekend filled with camaraderie and fun centered around Miatas. The strong friendships that have formed over the years were an added bonus. In past years it has been based in Galveston, Fredericksburg, Kerrville, Alpine, Denton, and Huntsville. We Texans are fortunate in that we can find scenery to please our mood. We have desert, forest, plains, lakes, and even the Gulf of Mexico. We may have to do some driving to see it all but driving a Miata makes it that much more fun.

Hope to see you in College Station this October!

**LOOK! >>> REGISTER by going to: <https://houstonmiataclub.com/>  
More details regarding runs and events that weekend!**

## **Friday**

Friday is an open day for attendees to choose their own activities as well as attend a few smaller fun runs. Take a peek inside of your goodie bag to find the local restaurant guide, DIY tours, and tourist attractions.

Details for organized fun runs will be available at check in.

## **Saturday**

Fill up your tanks and get ready for fun runs! There will be a planned lunch stop during the fun runs. Douglas Mazda will be hosting a party behind their new dealership from 3-4:30pm (located adjacent to the Hyatt House).

The Banquet Dinner will be held at the Brazos Center with catering by 1775 BBQ (Top 25 New BBQ Joints Texas Monthly Magazine 2019). There will be a cash bar for those looking for a beer or margarita. After dinner we will hand out door prizes and discuss the weekend's events. Doors open at 6pm, dinner starts at 6:30, the event will shut down by 11pm.



# Upcoming Runs and Events

**September 4th -7th, Miatas at the GAP, organized by Mark Hungerman** If you've never been to the GAP before, consider it for your bucket list. The drive out will be on your own or consider your own group. We'll gather on the front patio of the Wildwood Grill at 8 P.M. on the 5th for planning your weekend. Details regarding this event have been sent out to the Google Groups emails and also at the bottom of this page. Not signed up for Google Groups? Contact Stephanie, club secretary ASAP!

**Friday, August 12th, Men's Breakfast Club, hosted by George Lucas.** This month we'll meet at the Whataburger at 10011 San Pedro Ave at 9:00 a.m. for story swapping, etc.!

**Friday, August 12th, Ladies Group,** The Bluebonnet Ladies Group is going to meet on August 12th at 10:00 am at the San Antonio Aquarium, 6320 Bandera Rd, Leon Valley. Afterwards, we will have lunch at Henry's Puffy Taco, 6030 Bandera Rd, at 12:30 pm. All club ladies are invited to join us.

**Saturday, August 13th, Lunar Zoomer Dinner, hosted by George Lucas.** Viewing the Sturgeon Full Moon, we'll be meeting at HAT CREEK BURGERS, 7617 N. Loop East in Live Oak, 78233 Meet and greet at 6:00 p.m. and dine at 6:30 p.m. This is a new place for us, so, c'mon out!

**Sunday, August 14th, Sundaes on Sunday, 6:00 p.m., hosted by George Lucas.** We'll meet at a San Antonio locals favorite, Las Nieves Fruit Cups and more! Located at 1118 W. Hildebrand, they have every ice cream treat you can imagine! C'mon down and see for yourself!

**Thursday, August 18th, The Miata Ladies Bunco Group meets at Big'z Burger Joint, 2303 N Loop 1604 W. Access Rd** (same place where the BBMC monthly meetings are held). . 6:00 p.m.– 9:00 p.m. While the group currently has 12 regulars, subs are often needed.

**Tuesday, August 23rd, Club Meeting. Big'z Burger Joint, 2303 N. Loop 1604 W, 78258.** 6:30 p.m., Eat and Greet, 7:30 p.m., Meeting starts at 7:30 p.m.

**NOTE: For more details, go to our website at [bluebonnetmiata.org](http://bluebonnetmiata.org). Details in this "living" newsletter will be updated as information comes in. Keep watching the website and your email!**

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## MIATAS AT THE GAP, MARK HUNGERSMAN STYLE SEPTEMBER 4-7

We have our room block at the Fontana Village and Resort for 5 September check in, checking out 9 September. The rate is \$105 per night. The way to be sure to get the room block rate is to call 800-849-2258, and give them the code BATG (Bluebonnets At The Gap). We have the block for sure until 15 August. After that, they'll release any remaining block rooms, but you can get a reservation if they still have rooms available.

If you've never been to the Gap before, consider it for your bucket list, and come on along. We'll be on what I refer to as the Polansky Plan. Everyone can pick their own pace to drive out there, alone or in small groups, and we'll gather on the front patio of the Wildwood Grill at 8 PM on the 5th. I'll be doing a two day trip, but some folks prefer three days. I was at The Gap last year for the big national event, and the weather was mid 80s day time, 50s at night with some rain overnight. That was in August, a month earlier than we will be there. Expect a break from the heat.

I would ask that if you're coming, drop me an email, and I'll add you to an email list that I'm putting together to discuss the trip and for questions, so that we don't spam up the club list. My email is [mhungerman@gmail.com](mailto:mhungerman@gmail.com).

# Remember When?



Romp Through the Rockies, 2010



Don't forget to check out our FaceBook group page!

Just insert the below website on your browser:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/632533146799180>



We picked up trash Saturday morning, July 23rd. Where were YOU, hmmm???

