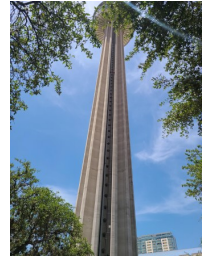




In The Breeze



August 2023

Official Newsletter of the Bluebonnet Miata Club

Still Free!

2026 Next-Gen Mazda MX-5 Miata: It Will Be Electrified



Mazda has confirmed the next-generation 2026 MX-5 Miata will be electrified. But the automaker stopped short of saying what form the electrification will take—fully EV, hybrid, or plug-in hybrid. Mazda's entire lineup is slated to go at least partially electric by 2030, which means if the next-gen Miata is to survive past then—and we certainly hope it does—this is a necessary step in the legendary sports car's evolution.

The Mazda Miata has a long, well-earned reputation as a fun, affordable roadster with fantastic driving dynamics, and an electrified model would keep it viable well into the future. With Mazda taking its time to develop EVs, the Japanese automaker will likely introduce a hybrid or plug-in hybrid Miata before developing an all-electric variant. Mazda's Vision Study Model, a stunning sports car shown at the end of last year, could be a preview to the electric Miata, though it's more likely to simply donate stylistic influences to the production car.

Mazda said it will work with Rohm Co. to develop electric powertrains, and it signed an agreement with Envision AESC to develop batteries. Although these contracts could impact the next-generation Miata, a hybrid version of the roadster makes more sense. The Miata's small footprint could make it difficult to package a battery with sufficient range, as the heavy battery pack would hurt performance, and pure EV hardware would likely mean a large hike in price. Mazda could also work with another automaker to develop the platform, splitting its costs to keep the car affordable à la BMW Z4 and Toyota Supra.

Mazda will attempt to hold the line on keeping the Miata from becoming too expensive, but given the advanced powertrain and other enhancements, a price in the neighborhood of \$33,000 seems reasonable.

We believe we'll see the next MX-5 in time for the summer of 2025 top-down driving season as a 2026 model year vehicle.

2023 Club Officers

President (New!)

Sophie Parazo

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Vice President (New!)

Dave Ogden

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Treasurer

Joe Knight

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Secretary

Stephanie Turner

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Membership*

Harry Maxwell

membership@bluebonnetmiata.org

Newsletter Editor*

George Lucas

newsletter@bluebonnetmiata.org

** Appointed positions*

Welcome, New Members!

Robert & Janet Kubesch

San Antonio

2006 True Red

Total Current Members: 207

Contributing Photographers

Cheryl Knight

Lisa Martin

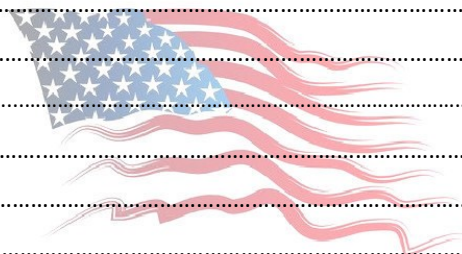
Sylvia Ferrell

Gayle Sandenaw

George Lucas

Inside this Issue:

Shocking News? Electrified MX-5?.....	Front Page
Officers and New Members.....	2
President’s Message & Editors Column.....	3
Will the Rotary Engine Return?.....	4
Trash Talkin’.....	5
Marilyn Hamilton is at it Again!.....	5
Ladies Lunch July and what’s next.....	6
BBMC Groups Reports.....	7
Upcoming Runs and Events.....	8
Going to the Gap?.....	9
Remember When?.....	10



ZOOM-ZOOM

President's Message

Hello everyone,

Half of the year is already gone and I can't believe it! It's been a fun year so far! The heat is still brutal with local news expecting triple digits for the next week or so still, but hopefully the weather will start cooling down soon because I'm excited to start runs again in September (OMG, I can't believe we'll be in September soon!).

I will be working with the Executive Committee to see what kind of things we can do or be part of before the end of the year. We also need help with the planning for our annual Christmas Party so please let me know if you're interested in helping in any way. If you can't help but have ideas or suggestions, that will help too.

Our group has more than 200 members and although I have only met a small bunch of you, I'm still working my way to meet all of you, so please say hi if I haven't met you yet.

Until next time...stay cool and enjoy the ride!



Sophie Parazo, president

From the Editor

As you all know, the weather and temps are dangerously high. I feel that is the reason we don't have folks jumping out and leading runs. It's just not fun in this heat. Many of us have runs in mind, but cooler heads prevail and yield to the heat.

Speaking of runs, I've been wondering and am asking for opinions from you all. We have many new members since some of my traditional runs have taken place. The first one that comes to mind is the Head for the Mountains event, usually taking place over the Labor Day weekend. I revived the Painted Churches Tour run and had a good turnout of many of you new members coming out and that's great. Is there any interest in reviving the Head for the Mountain event? That event includes touring parts of Big Bend park, Ft. Davis Mountains, a Star Party at the McDonald Observatory, visiting Terlingua near the Mexican Border and lots of other fun things to do. Let me know if any of you would be interested in such an adventure repeated.

As soon as the weather cools off just a bit, The Jacks have given me their blessing to run their popular Catfish Run, including a completely new and exciting route up to Georgetown to the Catfish Parlor.

Also, I'm up to hosting another Star Party of our own if I can find a venue that would work for that.

I have other runs in mind, and will visit with you all to see what kind of adventures on which you would be interested.

This is also a good time to say thanks to those of you that have kept up your traditional runs, they're much appreciated!

Hit me up with your ideas and we'll get together and, as they say, Just Do It!

Zoom Zoom!!!



George Lucas, Editor

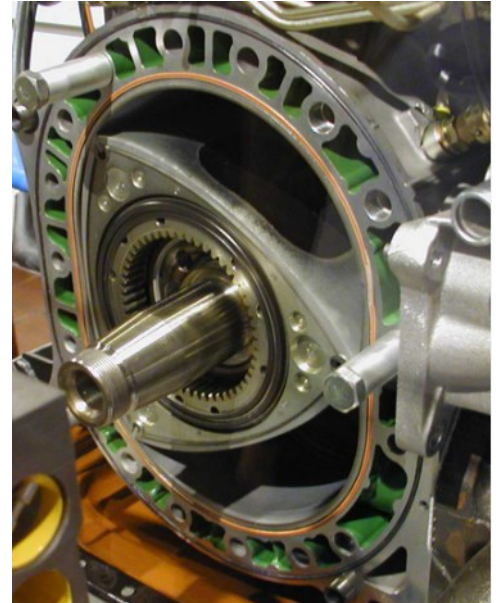
Will Miata ever have a Wankel rotary engine?

By OpEd Polansky



During my recent perusing of various car mag websites, I ran across this question: "Will Mazda ever make a MX-5 Miata with a rotary engine?" The responding answer to the question got me to do some looking back at Mazda's rotary's history.

I found that it is possible that without the rotary engine, there would probably be no Mazda. And without Mazda, the rotary engine may not have been in production for nearly 50 years. It was Mazda's engineers who took the German inventor Felix Wankel's unique engine design concept to fruition. The first rotary car for sale was the 1964 NSU Spider. Rotary engines were continuously fitted in cars until 2012 when Mazda discontinued its RX-8.



When Mazda unveiled the Cosmo (called the 110S for export) in 1967, it became the first company to sell a mass-produced car with a twin-rotor rotary engine. The highly lauded, rotary-powered Cosmo Sport not only cemented Mazda's reputation as an highly influential carmaker, but guaranteed the company a permanent place in the automotive world outside of Japan. The engine's small size allowed Cosmo a very aerodynamic design. By the way, today a decent Cosmo is highly sought-after, having reached prices near \$100,000. Starting with the Cosmo, Mazda has built more than two million rotary-powered cars.

Why is a rotary engine popular? A rotary engine is smaller and lighter than a conventional piston engine, with a superior power-to-weight ratio. As it has no reciprocating parts, just a three-sided rotor spinning in a housing, it is quieter and smoother running. Unlike Piston engines, rotaries are almost immune to catastrophic failure. In a piston motor, you can have a piston seize and cause all kinds of damage, but in a rotary motor, while the engine will lose power, it will continue to produce a limited amount of power until it finally dies.

Why has the rotary engine seen limited success? Despite its advantages, the drawbacks are that it burns oil, has low gas mileage, and emissions problems. Mazda's rotary engines have been known for needing frequent repairs. The seals responsible for maintaining compression in the combustion chamber tended to only last for 80,000 miles or so. And when they go bad, it will likely need an engine rebuild.

In conclusion, my personal answer to the above question is that since Mazda has a long history of using rotary engines in their vehicles, one should not rule out the possibility of Mazda putting a rotary engine in a future MX-5 Miata. For example, it's possible the rotary design being a range extender <https://www.insidemazda.co.uk/2018/10/03/mazda-rotary-engine-to-return-as-ev-range-extender/> for Mazda's future EV models of the MX-5.

Anyway, that's my opinion...I could be wrong!
Source: many!

A Big THANKS to all of you that came out to support
our clean up 2 miles of Hwy 1863! We hope to see YOU next time!



She's at it again!

Our very own artist, Marilyn Hamilton, is continuing to show her talent. This, taken from Facebook is an illustration of what she's been up to lately. Let's plan on taking a trip to New Braunfels and pay her a visit! *-Ed*

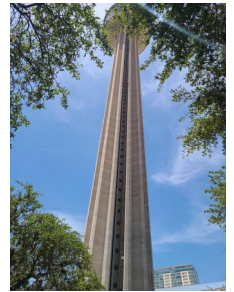
I entered my painting, "Past Verses Present" in the Love That Red Show at the New Braunfels Art League Gallery. If you love the color of red, this is the show for you. Of course I had to painting our red Miata! I hope you have a chance to view this show.



July Ladies Day



The Miata Ladies lunch destination was the Chart House restaurant, located at the historic Tower of the Americas. We enjoyed a delicious lunch and lots of fun conversations, all while watching the spectacular views of downtown San Antonio.



Did anyone
Get dizzy?



Cheryl Knight will host a movie outing on Friday, August 14th. The movie selection is yet to be named, but oboy, popcorn! Stay tuned, Cheryl will have more info soon!



Record breaking turnouts! WOW!



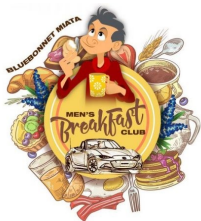
I was amazed and pleased to see 40, yes, forty members comeout for July's Lunar Zoomer dinner at Chris Madrids! We had our own private room and we took it to capacity!

Great burgers and as you can see, great folks! Thanks everyone for coming out!

Chris Madrids
HOLLYWOOD & BLANCO
SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS



Another record breaking number of folks for July's Ice Cream social. 29 came out and enjoyed a wonderful evening of laughter and love! Thanks, y'all!



Well, I overdid it for July's Men's breakfast venue. La Panaderia turned out to be a serious hoity '09 toity kind of place. Don't get me wrong, all of their fare was delicious but the prices didn't reflect the simplicity of their choices. Lots of flaky pastries and, well...I guess I can't get all of our breakfast places right. Sorry, guys and thanks for coming out. We had 10 stalwarts! Whataburger, anyone? :-)

Upcoming Runs and Events

Tuesday, August 1st, Lunar Zoomer Dinner, hosted by George Lucas. Let's go to a long time favorite in San Antonio, the 410 Diner, located at 8315 Broadway, San Antonio, 78209. They close at 8, so let's get there at **6:00 p.m.** Great menu items, check it out at 410diner.com.

Friday, August 11th, Men's Breakfast Club, hosted by George Lucas. Let's take a break from high cost eateries and go back to Whataburger located at Loop 410 at Broadway. 9:00 a.m. Free senior coffee and excellent breakfast items, we're sure to have a good time with good conversation and fellowship. C'mon out guys, see you there!

Friday, August 11th, The Ladies go to the movies! Cheryl Knight will host this event and she's going to announce the movie soon. Movie, good friends and popcorn, what could be better? Keep an eye on the website for upcoming details!

Thursday, August 17th, Ladies Bunco, 6:30 p.m. hosted by Marilyn Hamilton, Meet at Big'Z (our usual monthly meeting place) at 6:30 p.m. Lots of fun and you might get rich if you win! (Okay, you can win coffee money if you win.)

Tuesday, August 22nd, BBMC monthly meeting, Big'Z Burger Joint, 2303 N. Loop 410 W, SAT 78258 Meet at 6:30 for dinner and meeting starts promptly at 7:30 p.m. President Sophie Barazo will chair the meeting.

Wednesday, August 30th, Blue Moon Lunar Zoomer Dinner, hosted by George Lucas. "Once in a blue moon", let's go to the Alamo Café on IH10 at Wurzbach for great Mexican plates as well as a fantastic chicken fried steak. Meet at 6:30 p.m. Plenty of room for us, we'll have a great time on this special 2nd full moon of the month!

Coming in September...

Friday, September 8 th. Men's Breakfast Club, hosted by George Lucas. Details TBA on our website.

Friday, September 8th, Ladies Lunch,, Details TBA on our website soon!

Saturday, Jackson Honorary Catfish Run, led by George Lucas. Meet at the Valero in Blanco for a 9:00 departure. A new exciting route up to the Catfish Parlor in Georgetown including the thrilling Lime Creek Road! Don't miss this run!

Saturday, September 16th, TECH DAY RETURNS! Hosted by "Nugget" and Monica, they are opening up their facility in Spring Branch for the club to perform whatever you need to do to your Miata. Stay tuned to our website for further details!!!

zoom-zoom



Are YOU going to The GAP?

Miatas at the Gap starts next week and many of our club members are going! Stan and Betty Chambers, Mark Hungerman, Jimbo Treat and Wanda Benoche just to name a few.

Get in touch with one or all of them if you want to go to the premier event in everyone’s mind, if you own a Miata.

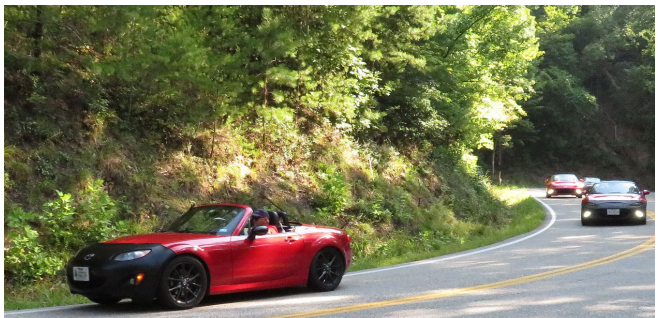
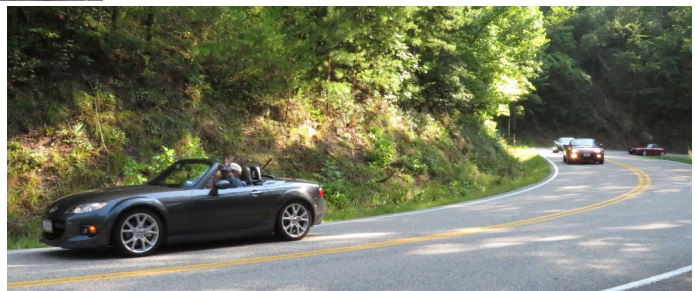
The Tail of the Dragon is the main event, a challenging road 11 miles long with over 300 curves, you’re sure to be excited. Be careful, I said it’s challenging!

You’ll meet hundreds of other Miata lovers and you can make memories you’ll never forget!

August 3-6th, Fontana Dam, NC 28733

Below are some happy members from past visits to Miatas at the Gap!

Zoom Zoom



Remember When?



Carol Vervack and Marilyn Hamilton, Wildseed Farm, 1981

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SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS**

And, of course, Our Meeting "Home"

