



In The Breeze

HAPPY
New Year

January –February 2022

Official Newsletter of the Bluebonnet Miata Club

Still Free!

Even Miatas Aren't Cheap Anymore

Among the data points of the ongoing used car price boom lies an existential threat. The cheap Mazda MX-5 Miata, the bastion of accessible enthusiasm and budget racing, is going extinct.

It was bound to happen. E30 BMWs were cheap until they weren't. Same with old air-cooled Porsches. Muscle cars, too, back before the boom. The masses have a tendency to catch on to the good stuff and mess with affordable pricing. The internet is accelerating those trends, blowing our secrets and pushing us out of the market.



The sheer scale of the Miata experiment succeeded in suppressing prices for a while. Hemmings says 228,961 first-generation NA Miatas were sold in the U.S. Low maintenance costs and strong reliability helped most of them live a long life. NA Miatas were easy to work on, available everywhere, majority manual, and supported by a fanatical aftermarket. They became the natural choice for amateur racers, autocross fiends, weekend canyon bombers, or Sunday drivers. Miata was always the answer.

That very ubiquity may have gotten us here. The beauty of the Miata is that it isn't precious. Cheap and plentiful enough that you never really had to care about resale, NA Miatas were modified, converted to race cars, abused, or neglected. One by one, the seemingly endless supply of clean cars dwindled. Rust ate many. Cheap mods worsened thousands more. Slowly, the \$2500 Miata faded away.

Fate was already taking hold in the years leading up to today's unprecedented car market. Then a supply shortage of used cars and the thinning of the herd combined to kill the cheap, clean, unmodified NA. You can see it in Bring a Trailer data, where auction prices for NA Miatas—already on an upward trend—have spiked even further. Bring a Trailer had never sold an NA for over \$20,000 until November 2019. In the two years since, the auction site has had 12 examples cross the block above that mark. Meanwhile, the sub-\$5000 Miata has evaporated from the site, with even base model cars with around 40,000 miles edging closer to \$10,000 in recent months.



Long-time enthusiasts know this is no anomaly. Truly great cars often experience a similar depreciation curve, getting progressively cheaper until the supply is thin and everyone realizes prices won't ever be this cheap again.

For a while, the Miata market was blanketed with false security. Mazda continued to produce roadsters of the same formula with similar success. The NB, ND, and yes, even the NC are all brilliant sports cars that still embody what made the original such a success. It seemed safe to assume that the minting of more Miatas would stabilize the market.

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2020 Club Officers

President **

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Immediate past President **

Cheryl Knight

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Vice President **

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Secretary **

Stephanie Turner

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Joe Knight

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Membership*

Harry Maxwell

membership@bluebonnetmiata.org

Newsletter Editor*

George Lucas

** Board of Directors

* Appointed positions

Welcome Back Returning Member!

Janis Rosebush

Schertz, Tx.

Members: 195

Photo credits in this issue:

**Charles Mims, Lisa Martin, Judy
Faulkner and George Lucas**

Thanks!

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President's Message

Happy New Year everyone! Hard to believe 2022 is here, but I'm glad 2021 is over. I'm looking forward to a better year.

I have so many things to address this issue. First, thank you very much for your confidence in your board, and we look forward to serving you this year.

Secondly, we have another community service project – Wreathes Across America. This will be in December at the Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery. Keep watching the website and the newsletter for more information.

The new website is coming along. Stephanie Bell-Turner is doing an excellent job as webmaster. Speaking of the website, there'll be more changes and additions coming soon, so please check back frequently. Also, the calendar is filling up for 2022. If you have runs you'd like to get on the calendar, please let Stephanie know.

Once again I'd like to encourage club members to get onto the Google Groups mailing list. This way you will receive updates on runs a lot quicker than we can get the website updated. To sign up, email the club secretary at secretary@bluebonnetmiata.org.

This is the best way to be notified of any last-minute changes!

Thank you everyone. You'll be seeing more positive changes in the club this year! So, let's get out on those roads and ZOOM ZOOM safely!

Craig Martin, President



From the Editor

Are you like me, thinking 2022 just HAS to be better than 2021? Has the pandemic changed how you feel about joining in on activities? I know it has me. Even though news reports say things are getting better, I admit I'm still very cautious. To be honest, one doesn't know who or what to believe. We all would like to sigh a sigh of relief, but I wish I felt I could. Oh well, as the old saying goes, "We're all in this together".

Other than the usual monthly obligations I have regarding get togethers, I'm not yet ready to plan weekend outings. Oh, I want to, but I'm just not sure yet.

Now, don't let my wussy attitude sway any of you planning a run or any other outings! I'll go, I'll go!

Honestly, I miss every one and dangit, I miss hugs! Fist bumps just don't do it for me!

Let's all get in gear, pardon the pun, and get out there and zoom zoom like we mean it! There are lots of things to do, places to go, roads to roam and many runs from other sources as well.

Keep checking the website for those and other events. And don't forget, the Houston Miata Club is taking on this year's Texas Miata Round Up this fall! Watch for details in our website and here in the newsletter.

Last minute newsletter update:

North Park has decided publishing the newsletter in print and the subsequent mailing of said newsletter is too great of an expense. This isn't the first time they've asked to shut down the printed version, but I believe this will be the last time. I understand both the clubs view that we like having it in printed form, but I also understand NP's dilemma.

To that end, I'm not sure how much of a "Sponsor" they'll be moving forward. I would have thought our purchases of new cars, not just Miata's, would certainly be enough to warrant their continued support, including the newsletter.

But what do I know.

The newsletter will continue to be produced and sent to Stephanie for website perusal.

George Lucas, Editor




Even Miatas Aren't Cheap Anymore

continued from cover page


It's here, though, that the NA's success turns against us. Let's revisit the numbers: Mazda sold 228,961 NAs here. A full 170,666 left the line before the Miata's first mid-cycle update in 1994. That's a success story that Mazda hasn't repeated since. In the 16 years for which GoodCar-BadCar has sales data, the Miata has never surpassed the first four years of NA sales. Even when you put them together: From 2005 to the first three quarters of 2021, Mazda sold 154,889 MX-5s, not even surpassing the total number of 1.6-liter NAs built from 1989 to 1993.

The big worry is that enthusiasts are chewing through old Miatas faster than Mazda can replenish them. That's caused a shift in focus. NB prices are creeping up, and today, there's not all that much daylight between clean, well-maintained NA, NB, or NC MX-5s, with good examples often bunching in the \$8,000 to \$15,000 range.


The ND Miata, beloved by the community and the automotive press alike, has held its value shockingly well. Especially if you want a limited-slip differential—and you do—you'll find that pre-update Club-spec ND1s are still in the mid \$20,000 range, while ND2 Clubs and Grand Tourings with LSDs basically have not depreciated at all. Even finding a brand-new Miata Club was difficult this summer.




Used 2019 MAZDA MX-5 Miata Club
 Brembo/BBS Pkg • Interior Pkg (MT) • Weather Pkg
 13,896 miles
 \$30,499
 \$97/mo.
 See Details


Vroom - Get It Delivered Nationwide, Contact-Free
 (917) 512-5265 | Confirm Availability
 Delivery 
 Get Your Next Car Delivered

Sponsored




Used 2020 MAZDA MX-5 Miata Club
 15,166 miles
 \$32,000
 \$127/mo.
 See Details

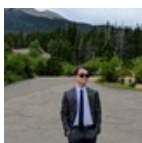
Priority Mazda Tysons (211.4 mi. away)
 KBB.com Rating ★ 4.6
 (571) 310-1491 | Confirm Availability
 Video Walkaround • Test Drive • Online Paperwork • Delivery 



Newly Listed
Used 2019 MAZDA MX-5 Miata Club
 14,766 miles
 \$30,999
 \$106/mo.
 See Details

Texas Direct Auto Stafford
 1 (888) 820-0591 | Confirm Availability
 Get AutoCheck Vehicle History 

In some ways that's a good thing. Strong demand for new Miatas will ensure a future for what is arguably the most important vehicle for automotive enthusiasm. That, in turn, inspires competition from the likes of the Toyota GR 86 and Subaru BR-Z, keeping a steady stream of great, reliable, rear-wheel-drive, manual enthusiast vehicles on the market. But while I wait for those to dip below \$10,000, forgive me for mourning the passing of the cheap Miata.



Story by Mack Hogan, NOV 24, 2021

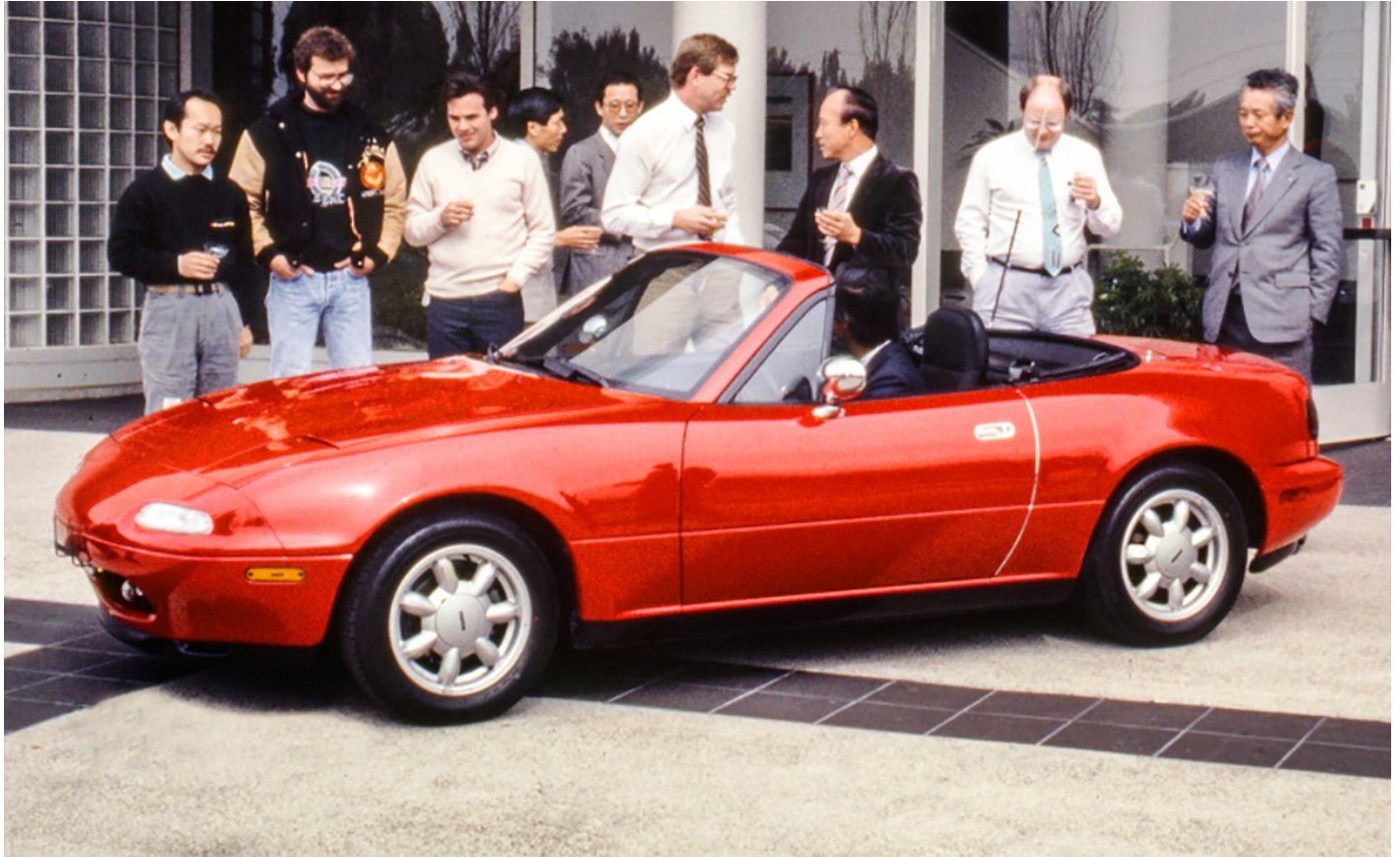


Mazda Miata designer Shunji Tanaka passed at 75

Tanaka helped hone Mazda's identity.

Automotive News

December 24, 2021 07:32 AM



Shunji Tanaka, a key designer of the iconic Mazda Miata, has died. He was 75.

Tanaka led the exterior and interior design of the **Mazda MX-5 Miata**, a lightweight Japanese roadster inspired by postwar-era British sports cars. The car went on sale in the U.S. in May 1989 with a starting price of \$13,800 and a 1.6-liter four-cylinder engine with 116 hp.

The roadster, which featured a lightweight aluminum hood, weighed a feathery 2,116 pounds and could hit 60 mph in less than nine seconds.

U.S. sales peaked in 1990, the car's second year on the market, at 35,944. The 1 millionth Miata rolled off the line in 2016.

Though annual U.S. sales have declined as convertibles have fallen out of favor with consumers, the car remains a key part of Mazda's identity. In 2019, Mazda celebrated the MX-5's heritage with a 30th anniversary special edition.

Following his stint at Mazda, Tanaka joined Kawasaki, where he designed motorcycles.

Long Live The Miata



Twenty folks turned out on a chilly evening for some great seafood at Sea Island on IH10.

Why not join us in February for another fun dining experience at Shake Shack.

See you there!





This past Saturday, this energetic group picked up trash along the area of our Adopted Highway on FM1863. Dave Ogden does a great job organizing our group! C'mon out next time we go in March! You'll feel great helping keeping Texas clean!

zoom-zoom



2021 Christmas Party



2021 Christmas Party



Please Support our Sponsors!



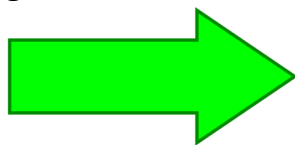
Chris Madrids

**HOLLYWOOD & BLANCO
SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS**



And, of course,

Our meeting "Home"



Upcoming Runs and Events

Saturday, January 29th, DeWitt County Run, led by the Faulkners! Meet at the QT on Hwy87, just outside IH 410. Meet time: 9:15 a.m., Go time is 9:45 a.m. George Lucas will lead a group to Yorktown via Hwy 87, then FB119 south to Yorktown at the 5D Restaurant. After lunch, the Faulkners will take us on some good roads covering parts of DeWitt, Goliad and Victoria counties arriving at the J4 ranch for dessert treats!

Friday, February 11, Ladies Group, led by Marilyn Hamilton. Let's Rodeo! Marilyn will host a rodeo grounds including various horse and cattle competitions and lots of shopping before lunch! Be sure to watch your email and website for meet time!

Friday, February 11th, Men's Breakfast Club, hosted by George Lucas. Meet at 9:00 a.m. at **WHATABURGER** 10011 San Pedro at W. Ramsey. Great food, free coffee, and great company. Join us at for breakfast!

Wednesday, February 16th, Lunar Zoomer Dinner, hosted by George Lucas. 6:30 p.m.. Let's meet at Shake Shack, 7427 San Pedro Ave, just south of Loop 410. Delicious burgers!

Thursday, February 17th, Ladies Bunco. Meet at BIG'z Burger Joint, 2303 N. Loop 1604 West, 5:00 p.m.—8:00 p.m., for zany fun and games!

Tuesday, February 22nd, Monthly meeting at BIG'z Burger Joint, 2303 N. Loop 1604 West. Dinner and meet and greet at 6:30 p.m., Meeting starts at 7:30 p.m.

NOTE: For more details, go to our website at bluebonnetmiata.org. Details in the newsletter are most often correct, but details may change.



Schedule resumes April 2022



BBMC Ladies Group

BBMC Ladies Bunco Group



Remember When?



2014 Summer Picnic



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

Just insert the below website on your browser:

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



Edit

Bluebonnet Miata Group

Public group · 488 members

Joined

+ Invite