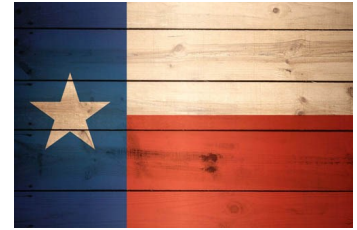




# In The Breeze



January, February 2021

Official Newsletter of the Bluebonnet Miata Club

Still Free!

## Why Nobody Has Caught the Mazda Miata, Even After 30 Years of Trying

To those of us who had seen the 1990 Mazda Miata at the Chicago Auto Show the previous year, we knew what was coming, but when the little car hit the showroom few knew what to make of it. Wasn't the market for little roadsters dead? Didn't people want bigger and faster?

Not necessarily, Mazda and the rest of the automotive world learned quickly. One Mazda dealer told me, "I don't know what sells better than hotcakes, but that's what's happening here." Available initially in red, white or blue, and lightly optioned, the Miata's appeal came down to one joke at the expense of England.

"It's like a British sports car that starts every time, and doesn't leak oil!

Yes, well, it was. The Miata was a hit, and immediately other manufacturers decided they'd get a piece of the Miata's action. They tried. They failed.

The Miata has stretched out its product cycle since day one. Gen 2 didn't come until 1998; gen 3 was 2005, and generation 4 didn't show up until 2015. Though sales have wavered, the Miata is still an important flagship for Mazda—the automaker will tell you that every Mazda 3 and Mazda 6 has a little Miata in there.

**Mercury Capri:** One of the earliest and most direct competitors was the 1991 Mercury Capri, a rather lumpy little car from Australia that did, at least, have a small rear seat, and a convertible top that stowed under a hatch. One person could lower it, but he or she had to walk around the car to get it done. The little Mazda four-cylinder purred, but was hardly sporting, and nor was the balky manual transmission. Mercury dealers had no more idea what to do with the Capri than they did the Merkur XR4Ti. Build quality was spotty, but I put 40,000 miles on one with no problems. Resale value then and now is dismal.

**Toyota MR2, Generations 1, 2 and 3.** Three strikes and you're out. Toyota tried hard with three very different cars, all mid-engine. The first MR2 was a tiny two-seater, and it did and does have its fans, but it never really threatened the Miata. It actually preceded the Miata (as did a few other cars, like the Pontiac Fiero, that really wasn't in the running), and while it was a fun little car, it was polarizing.

But the car never caught on, a big reason being one of the smallest trunks in all of the automotive world: 1.9 cubic feet, and due to the shape, even a small rollaboard suitcase wouldn't fit, front or rear. How this made it through the product people is a mystery. But while the third-gen car was fun to drive, again, it wasn't as much fun as a Miata.

Oh, and there more, The Lotus Elan M100, Honda S2000, Honda Del Sol, BMWZ3 and even the Porsche Boxter.

The bottom line is that the Miata is one of the only cars made where every model year is good, from 1989 up. And everywhere in between, there is a Miata in your price range, as a daily driver a weekend warrior at the autocross track or a Sunday afternoon in the country car.

"I want a fun car, but I can't spend a fortune. What should I get?"

The answer is always Miata.

*Steve Cole Smith, December, 2020*

## 2020 Club Officers

### President

***Craig Martin***

president@bluebonnetmiata.org

### Vice President

***Jimbo Treat***

vicepresident@bluebonnetmiata.org

### Secretary

***Stephanie Turner***

secretary@bluebonnetmiata.org

### Treasurer

***Joe Knight***

treasurer@bluebonnetmiata.org

### Membership\*

***Harry Maxwell***

membership@bluebonnetmiata.org

### Newsletter Editor\*

***George Lucas***

newsletter@bluebonnetmiata.org

### Webmaster

***Judi Privett***

webmaster@bluebonnetmiata.org

## New Members

***Steven Girko***

San Antonio  
1994 Classic Red

***Welcome Back!***

***Michael & Myra Matthieu***

San Antonio  
2008 Icy Blue Metallic

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***zoom-zoom***

## President's Message

WHEW! 2020 is finally over! What an interesting year we just survived. 2020 was the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our club, and despite (or to spite) COVID, we celebrated and zoomed throughout the year! Zoomed both in our cars and due to circumstances used ZOOM, the virtual program for our meetings!

I miss seeing all of you! Thank you for your confidence in me to be your president. I'm sure I'm not the only one who misses the camaraderie of in-person meetings. We have a lot of plans this year, and as soon as it's safe, we will resume having our meetings back at Big'z. They miss us, and we surely miss them!

We have an exciting year to look forward to as a club. Your Board of Directors is off to a full-throttle start. We met Jan. 10<sup>th</sup> and reappointed Harry Maxwell as the membership director, Judi Privett as our webmaster, Vice President Jimbo Treat as our Ambassador of Membership, and appointed George Lucas as the newsletter editor.

We had our annual planning meeting earlier this month too. While the calendar isn't as populated as it normally would be, we still have a lot of events to look forward to! We have weekend overnight trips planned this year (some are already on the calendar). Miata's at the Gap Aug 5-8, and Mark Hungerman is planning a trip through Arizona Sept 4-12! There are also events on the calendar sponsored by other clubs, so check the website calendar regularly.

Thank you again everyone! Let's keep our club going strong! Encourage club members you know – or even ones you don't know – to attend the meetings and runs. If you don't see someone for a while, call them. Tell them you miss them. Our encouragement of one another during this time will uplift us all and encourage the club to grow!

Thank you everyone and keep on Zoomin'!

*Craig Martin, President*



## From the Editor



Yeah, yeah, I'm back. Thought you could get rid of me, right? Well, now that I've more time on my hands, I agreed to resume the duties of editor of In The Breeze. I hope you all will allow me to bring you the latest Mazda news as well as our club's updates on activities and runs. And thanks to our new president, it looks like he'll be busy coming up with lots of fun things to do and see.

While we navigate our time with the constraints of the current pandemic, runs and other activities will be more difficult. I'm sure we can get together in smaller numbers with social distancing following local protocols. Our last meeting involved filling the calendar with future runs and other fun ways to have safe gatherings.

Speaking of meetings, while we're using the ZOOM meeting program, I'd like to invite you all to take greater interest in our meetings. Participation by coming online to our ZOOM meetings will provide us all with updates to the club's activities. And, we all want to see you, even if it is virtually!

You'll note the flag up there. It'll be ever present throughout our newsletter. It was before and it will be again. It's just my own way to show my patriotism.

Please notify me when you plan a run or any other activity you want to initiate. I'll update the calendar! We want everyone to take part in our events and are always looking for newer members to step up and lead a run, small or large. You'll be proud to see folks come out for your offering!

Stay safe and I'll do my best to provide you with a newsletter of which you'll be proud....while getting caught up!

*George Lucas, Editor*



# Egads, what the...??? **SNOW** In San Antonio???

My favorite quote online: *"Hey, you northerner's, your weather is down here and it's drunk, come and take it home!"* Below are some of our members snow photos!



G. Lucas Home



Dave & Marilyn  
Hamilton's Patio



Ron Kipp



Faulkner Ranch



Carlos ' driveway

Craig & Lisa's driveway



Ed & Barbara Smith Ranch



# **CarThroHe** *10 Reasons Why You Should Never Buy A Mazda MX-5*

*By Darren Cassey*

**"I know everyone says the MX-5 is always the answer, but I reckon that's complete and utter garbage. I'm here to explain why I think the MX-5 is the most over-rated car in history"**

**[And I'm here to answer why you *SHOULD* buy a Mazda MX-5]**

**-Editor**

I comb the internet about Mazda news, particularly MX-5 Miata articles. This one was just too tantalizing to pass on putting my 2 cents worth in. I certainly don't know Mr. Cassey, but I know he's a young'n and as I've said many times, has no clue to whom MX-5's appeal to and who buys them. I'll answer all 10 of his claims, albeit pretty silly.

## **1. They're not fast.**

Well, Mr. Cassey, they're fast enough to win dozens of racing titles. And if you compare them to what you drive , a '94 Nissan 200SX, and you compare the MX-5 to a Toyota GT86....I think you have very little room to talk. Besides, grown ups don't live for speed, we drive for handling.

## **2. It's got a stupid face.**

Mr. Cassey finds it annoying that MX-5 has a happy face! You think they're faces are happy, look at the drivers faces! They're even more annoyingly happy! I know mine is!

## **3. Your friends will laugh at you**

No, Mr. Cassey, our friends laugh WITH us! And, I guess that's another reason our MX-5 are smiling. Anyone that laughs AT me, hasn't driven a Miata. 'Nuff said.

## **4. You'll spend your whole life explaining why you bought it.**

Yes, and we'll have fun pointing out all the examples of fun of driving the world's best selling roadster!

## **5. If you have to explain why something is cool, it's not cool.**

That's funny, I spend all my time answering the question, "Wow, that's a really cool car!"

## **6. Hairdresser jokes will follow you around wherever you go.**

Well, I've heard that ever since I bought my first MX-5 in 2005, but I haven't heard a single joke regarding hairdressers. Come to think of it, most jokes are my lack of hair, not the style of it. ;-)

## **7. They're rust buckets.**

I live in Texas and unlike where you live (England), we rarely hear about MX-5's rusting.

## **8. They're impractical.**

Okay, I'm going to give you that one, but I'll also refer you to #4 and #5. I already have a practical 2nd car, the MX-5 is for FUN!

## **9. They're only worshipped because it's cool to do so.**

Well, I don't worship my MX-5, but many others do. \*smile\*

## **10. My office friend Alex owns one!**

Mr. Cassey, spend more time doing what Alex does.



# *Love is in the Air for Carlos and Mackenzie!*

*Congratulations to Carlos and Mackenzie, they're engaged!*





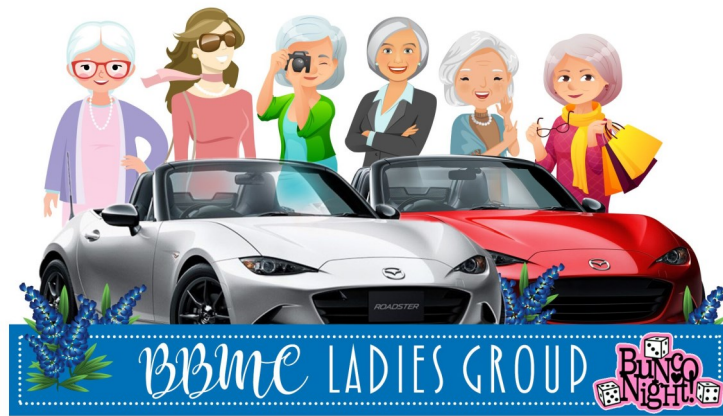
# *Stan and Betty Chamber's*

## *Impromptu Run 3-06-2021*

Itchy britches Stan Chambers and his wife Betty, pulled off a fun run over the first weekend of March. An impromptu run for sure, they had 7 eager members to get out and zoom! Only Stan can come up with a fun route at the drop of a hat and he didn't disappoint as they ran hill country roads up to Kerrville to a new restaurant adjacent to the Stonehenge replica. Southern Sky was a hit and after lunch, they drove over to Street Dreams, a classic car shop. As they say, a fun time was had by all. See the photos below. Thanks Stan and Betty!



# BBMC Ladies Events



*The Ladies visited and hiked at Phil Hardberger Park!*





# *Remember When?*



Watch this space for pictures from Miata Club shots from yesteryear!

YOU may be in one or more!

# Upcoming Runs and Events

## MARCH 2021

**Saturday, March 13<sup>th</sup>** – Jimbo's Barbed Wire Burgers – Meet at Big's Valero (Miata Valero), 18657 FM 2252, San Antonio, 78266. Meet: 4:00 p.m., Depart: 4:30 p.m. After a spirited run through east Bexar country, we'll head on over to the Barbed Wire Café. Formerly NASCAR Café, new owners are serving up delicious burgers and don't forget to get a Moon Pie! After we eat, we'll go outside for normally a stunning sunset!

**Monday, March 15<sup>th</sup>** – Sundaes on Monday, 7:00 p.m., Paciugo's Gelato Café, 340 East Basse Rd. – Return to a favorite in their NEW location!

**Thursday, March 18<sup>th</sup>** – Ladies Group – Bunco – Organized by Beverly Turner - Details TBA

**Friday, March 19<sup>th</sup>**, - Men's Breakfast Club, 9:00 a.m. – Tommy's Restaurant, 8823 Wurzbach, 78240 – VERY popular breakfast place!

**Tuesday, March 23<sup>rd</sup>**, – Monthly Meeting, Virtual ZOOM meeting, Starts 6:30 p.m. for socializing, Meeting starts at 7:00 sharp! Presented by Craig Martin, president.

### COMING IN APRIL

**Tech Day, Saturday, April 17<sup>th</sup> β Location and more details to come soon!!! Hosted by Jeff Holbrook!**

### Notable March Events from our Texas Miata neighbors

#### **March Miata Madness** in Marion County, Jefferson, Texas

Mar 27 – Mar 28, 2021

Hosted by Craig Woolheater and Lone Star Miata Club

March Miata Madness in Marion County. An annual event open to Mazda Miatas to be held in the 100 block of E Austin St in Jefferson, TX. The block in front of the Jefferson General Store will be blocked off for a Show n' Shine. Limit of 40 cars.

Registration \$50 per car package includes:

\$10 additional BBQ dinner Saturday night for passenger

- Registration for the Show n' Shine (one car)
- Event logo sticker
- Event logo ceramic pin
- Guided runs Saturday afternoon
- BBQ dinner Saturday night at Riverport BBQ for driver,\$10 additional for passenger
- Guided run to Caddo Lake
- Lunch Sunday at Big Pines Lodge (price not included in registration)

Private guided tour of private car museum, Garage Mahal <https://youtu.be/pWdtGy0DAKk>

Registration mailed to:  
March Miata Madness  
c/o Craig Woolheater  
PO Box 210912  
Bedford, TX 76095