



# In The Breeze

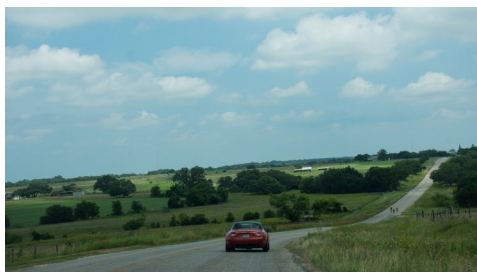
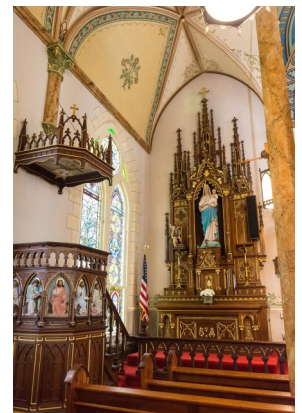
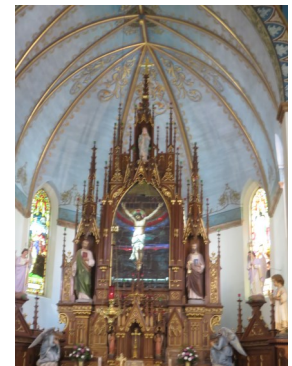


July 2023

Official Newsletter of the Bluebonnet Miata Club

Still Free!

## The Painted Churches of Texas: Echoes of the Homeland



Many thanks to these stalwarts that endured the heat for the Painted Churches Tour. While the run is long, the reward of the Piano Bridge and the magnificent churches made it worth it.

Left to right are Mark Hungerman (seated), Eric and Blanca Williams, Ed and Helenan Polansky, Marilyn McCullen and George Lucas, Paul Wilson and Jacquie Lambert, Mike and Betty Jackson, Rohm Thompson and Karin Kreuzel, guest of our photographer, Sylvia Ferdl.

# 2023 Club Officers

**President (New!)**

*Sophie Parazo*

president@bluebonnetmiata.org

**Vice President (New!)**

*Dave Ogden*

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*

newsletter@bluebonnetmiata.org

*\* Appointed positions*

# Welcome, New Members!

**Jeffrey Brennan**

*New Braunfels*

*2017 Artic White*

**Ron Schraer**

*San Antonio*

*2019 Soul Red Metallic*

**Total Current Members: 207**

## Contributing Photographers

*Cheryl Knight*

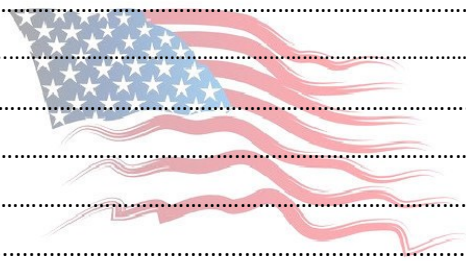
*Lisa Martin*

*Sylvia Ferrell*

*George Lucas*

## Inside this Issue:

Painted Churches of Texas.....	Front Page
Officers and New Members.....	2
President’s Message & Editors Column.....	3
The Knight’s Big Galavant.....	4
Craig and Lisa Flip the Panhandle.....	5
Lazy Bones Run.....	6
BBMC Groups News.....	7
Miata Trivia.....	8
Upcoming Regular Events.....	9
Remember When?.....	10



**ZOOM-ZOOM**

# President's Message

Hello everyone,

It's been pretty hot these past few days and a little hard to go out and enjoy our MX-5s. With the weather being as hot as it has been, it's important to think about the needs of our cars and how to stay safe ourselves.

According to MotorBiscuit, this is what high heat can do to our cars if we don't take the proper precautions:

- Extremely hot temperature can damage the rubber of tires, especially if they are improperly inflated. Heat causes them to dry out and can cause a blowout. If your tire is over-inflated, the center of your tire will wear faster than the outer edges and vice versa. Check your tire pressure to make sure they are riding on a more even surface area.
- The battery of our car is composed of both water and acid. When temps start to heat up, the water in the battery evaporates faster, leaving the lead plates exposed. When the weather turns cold again, your battery will no longer have the amperage to start the car. Make sure to keep your car in the shade as much as you can.
- A hot engine needs all the lubrication it can get, so making sure you change the oil when necessary is important in the summer months. If you are taking more road trips in the summer, more frequent changes may be necessary.
- Low coolant levels in high heat can kill your engine. Also be aware that if you have a damaged radiator or hoses, coolant may leak causing your engine temp to rise even more. Always keep an eye on the vehicle's temperature gage.
- Gas evaporates quicker in a hot vehicle than it does in a cold one. Keeping your car in a garage or shade as much as possible will improve your fuel economy.
- It's also a good idea to keep a summer emergency kit in your car. Water is a must to stay hydrated until you can get to a safe place. Sunscreen, a first-aid kit, a flashlight, a blanket for shade, flares, hazard signs, tire sealant cans, jumper cables and non-perishable snacks are also good to have.

Headaches, dizziness, feeling nauseated and feeling confused are signs of overheating. Please pay attention to what your body and your car is telling you and get help when you need it.

Until next time...enjoy the drive!



*Sophie Parazo, president*

# From the Editor

Yes, I know, it's hot. I don't want to hear it. But, admittedly, this hot isn't top down hot. Well, okay, it is for Sophie, but she's still an enthusiastic newbie, haha! I'll give her credit, keep on keeping on, Sophie! But, after almost 50 years owning convertible, I'm keeping my top closed! I want to thank all that went on the Painted Churches Tour. The Churches were magnificent, the run was kind of long, but the Piano Bridge made it worth it! Again, thanks to you all that came out!



You might be asking yourself, "Hmmm...wasn't a new directory in the works?" And the answer is yes, it is. I have sent our last directory to a printer for pricing. To pay for such a new directory will be done by soliciting advertisers to put an ad in the directory. I have several folks lined up, like Nunzy the pin striper, an auto repair shop that several folk use, Chris Madrids, and some other businesses as well. So, yes, it's in the works and soon I'll be calling everyone to get permission to publish their club pertinent information. A photo will hopefully be in the directory as well. This will be our first directory in several years and I hope you all will help me with the information you'd like to share with our other members. We have lots of new folks in the club so the directory will be up to date!

Stay hydrated while out in your convertible, this heat is unbearable, keep those tops up! (Except Sophie, she won't listen!)

*George Lucas, editor*

## ON THE ROAD AGAIN, aka "Where the heck are Joe and Cheryl?"

By Cheryl Knight

Joe and I spent 38 days and 6,700 miles on a road trip to Oregon and back. For that long of a trip we didn't take the Miata, we rented a nice comfy sedan. We enjoyed the mountains of New Mexico and Arizona, visited Red Rocks Canyon National Conservation Area outside of Las Vegas, Death Valley National Park, Yosemite National Park, Lake Tahoe, Redwood National Park and Cape Disappointment State Park in Washington. We spent two weeks in Oregon enjoying the entire coast line as well as many wineries in the Willamette Valley ("it's Willamette dammit" is their slogan). Coming home we drove along the Columbia River and through Idaho, where we visited Shoshone Falls Park *AND* the spot where Evel Knievel attempted his 1974 jump of the Snake River, both in the Twin Falls area. In southern Utah, we visited Goosenecks State Park and Natural Bridges National Monument. Our last major stop was Monument Valley at the Utah/Arizona border. While I took a lot of scenic photos, here are four of my favorite "road trip" pics.

### Moki Dugway

The breathtaking Moki Dugway winds 1,200 feet from the top of a mesa to the valley below, on three miles of graded gravel at an 11% grade. Constructed in 1958 as a route for transporting mined materials from Fry Canyon to a processing mill in Mexican Hat, Utah. This unique stretch of road, which has literally been carved from the face of the cliff, connects Utah Highway 95 with US Highway 163. Along the dugway route is a place to pull out and get a fantastic view of Valley of the Gods.



### Forrest Gump scenic view

This spot on Hwy 163 heading toward Monument Valley is from the scene in the movie where Forrest decides to stop running across America and go home.



### UT-95

This view is driving west on the way to Natural Bridges National Monument from US Hwy 191.



### Death Valley

This road is known as Artists Drive in Death Valley NP. We were most surprised at how beautiful this park is and while there in early May it was only 81 degrees.



# Martin Panhandle Tour

By Craig and Lisa Martin

We were planning a vacation to Northern Texas last month. While we were at March Miata Madness in Jefferson, TX, we were fortunate enough to spend some time getting to know new club members Dan and Denise Arras, who are also members of the Lone Star Club.



We were planning a trip to Caprock Canyon, Palo Duro Canyon, Cadillac Ranch and the Buddy Holly Center. Dan and Denise were doing the Mural Challenge and they had one mural left – Quit quay, TX. Since we were traveling the same way, we decided to travel together.

We started off on historic 6<sup>th</sup> Street on Route 66 in Amarillo. The historic area is filled with shops, record stores, and of course restaurants.

Next up was Cadillac Ranch, a quirky art “sculpture” installation outside of Amarillo. Created in 1964, the installation consists of 10 Cadillacs buried nose first in the ground, and visitors can spray-paint art of your choice on any of the Caddys.



Next up was Bill’s Backyard Classics, also in Amarillo. This place will take you back in time. Bill’s Backyard Classics is a museum dedicated to vintage cars dating from the 1920s to present. Displayed are street rods, military jeeps, power wagons, smart cars and Corvettes (not ONE Miata). Overall, a great attraction!

Caprock Canyon State Park and Trailway were our next stops. Bison were roaming the plains in the front of the park. We drove through and headed toward Bison roam the plains of the park. There are a number of places to pull off and enjoy the canyon.



Next, the second largest canyon in the country lies in the heart of the Texas Panhandle: Palo Duro Canyon State Park. With a descent of some 800 feet to the canyon floor and more than 16 miles of paved road, Palo Duro Canyon State Park offers fantastic scenic views, historical sites and markers, miles and miles of trails and the obligatory gift shop. Due to heavy rains part of the park road and trails were closed the day we went, though we did find places to get out of our cars and venture out to.



Our last stop was the Buddy Holly Center in Lubbock. Filled with Buddy Holly memorabilia, and large oversized Buddy Holly glasses located on the front lawn of the museum, we took the photo op sitting inside the lenses.

Also located on the grounds of the center is Jerry Allison’s original home. Jerry Allison is best known as the drummer for the Crickets, Buddy Holly’s band, and co-writer of their hits “That’ll Be the Day” and “Peggy Sue.” Although not at it’s original location, Alison supervised the reproduction of any interior items that were on display in the house to make sure they were placed just like they were when he and Buddy were kids practicing in his bedroom.



**Editor’s note:** Craig and Lisa had more photos that just the ones you see here. Go to our website where they will be posted soon! Thanks to Craig and Lisa for taking us on your fun journey!

# Lazy Bones Run

By Dan And Betty Hicks



Betty and I were pleasantly surprised to find a large contingent already waiting as we pulled into the Valero station on Hwy 46 on June 17<sup>th</sup> to lead our run. With the temperatures running over one hundred degrees we expected there would only be a small group. Were we surprised! Nineteen cars and thirty-one people showed up. Our departure was a bit later than most runs, but we had to arrive at our chosen eatery after the lunch crowd so they could accommodate us. This opened us up to potentially higher temperatures, but we were blessed with a slightly cloudy overcast that kept them down. For such a large group we needed not only a sweep but also a relay. I had the best with Stan and Betty Chambers as sweep and Joe and Cheryl Knight as relay.

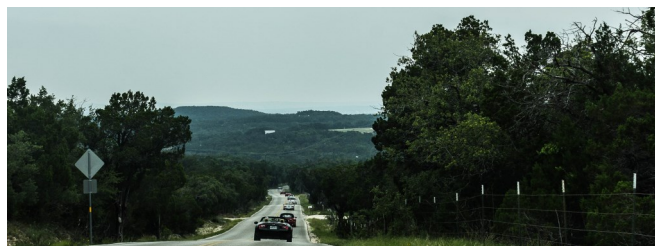
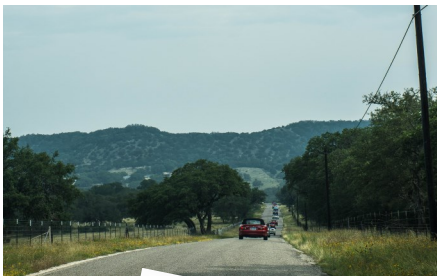
Our route took us on some great roads including Edge Falls, Crabapple and Old Blanco Road going into Blanco where we made our first pit stop without any difficulty.

On our second leg we had great fun on Chimney Valley Road, but we missed our turn on to Fisher Store Road. Oh well that made it an official Miata run! Our last pit stop was without major problems but our exit from there onto 281 was a problem. We had a large group of people trapped between two different lights. I won't do that next year.

Our last leg included Rebecca Creek Road and that is always major fun. We encountered a few rolling roadblocks but had no major difficulties with traffic.

We arrived at our lunch destination, El Jalisco Mexican Restaurant, at around 1:00 pm. They were ready for us with two large tables set up in a separate area from the other diners. The service was great and our food was served very promptly for such a large group. The majority of our group enjoyed the food and said they planned to dine there again.

This is an annual event for Betty and me, so we look forward to leading it again next year.



*zoom-zoom*

## June Ladies Day

On June 9<sup>th</sup>, Barbara Thompson hosted a lovely Ladies Day. We started by meeting at Barb's house for pastries, coffee, and mimosas. Next we went to downtown New Braunfels for shopping and browsing in the various boutiques and art galleries. The highlight of the art galleries was seeing Marilyn Hamilton's paintings. What a TALENT! I am always amazed at the creativity of artists in the use of colors and textures in the various mediums. Pictured below she receives 1st place at a recent competition.

After browsing for a few hours, it was time for lunch. We ate at The Gruene Door Restaurant for upscale American cuisine. For those of you who "enjoy the grape", they have an extensive wine list. (Something to keep in mind when looking for a new place to go.) The ladies enjoyed one another's company as much as the food.

After lunch, some of the ladies enjoyed more shopping in Gruene. Thanks, Barb, for a wonderful day.

Hope to see you ladies for another enjoyable day in July.



***This, from Gayle Sandenaw:***

***The Miata Ladies Group will get together on July 14th. I will send out more information as soon as I finalize plans.***

**Men's Breakfast at Hearthstone Bakery & Cafe**



**June Lunar Zoomer Dinner at 2 Brothers BBQ**



**June Sundaes on Sunday at Freddy's**

# Miata Trivia

By OpEd Polansky



Recently, I decided to research some Miata Trivia. Here are a few of the morsels of the endeavor. Make sure you have this information handy for the when the edition of Trivia Pursuit - Miata Game comes out!

First, I provide a practice question to get you prepared: What's the difference between a Ferrari and a Miata? Answer: I don't have a Ferrari in my garage.

Now for the real questions.

1. How did the Miata get its name?

The Miata name came from a German word meaning "reward." Only a few components were recycled from existing models. The body was tidy and the chassis featured front and rear independent control arm suspensions, a first for Mazda.

2. What does MX-5 Stand for?

MX-5 stands for Mazda Experiment and project number 5.

3. What is the rarest Miata in the world?

The Club Sport is the rarest Miata ever made, with less examples built than McLaren F1s or Pagani Zondas.

4. Why is the Miata considered a girls' car?

The Miata's styling, up until the current (fourth) generation, was very rounded, soft, and "cute" compared to more "manly" cars like the Corvette and the Mustang.

5. What does the Miata logo mean?

The symbol stands for Mazda's determination to "pursue ongoing improvements to drive powerful, continuous growth", expressed by a pair of wings shaped like a letter M in an oval. The V-shaped wings are also suggestive of Mazda's flexible thinking, creativity, vitality, kindness and resilience.

6. What is the rarest Miata color?

It's Laser Blue. It's the rarest color that Mazda ever built. There's not many of those out there! "

7. Is the Miata a classic car?

The original Mazda Miata is now old enough to be considered a classic car. FYI, usually, the classic car designation applies to vehicles over 20 years old. Antique cars are over 45 years old, and vintage cars are built between 1919 and 1930.

8. Why did Miata replace its pop-up headlights?

The first-generation MX-5 was the only model to feature pop-up headlights, from the second-generation on Mazda removed them for pedestrian safety concerns.

9. When did Miata reach 1 million units sold worldwide?

The Miata MX-5 equaled 1 million units sold in 2016. In Miata's over-30 year existence, it has become the world's best-selling sports car.

How many answers did you know? If you knew 5, you are above average Miata-smart. If you knew 7, you are Miata-excellent. If you answered 8, you are Miata-outstanding. If you knew 9, you are the next Paul Wilson.

The trivia game made me think of a saying that goes something like this: "Money can't buy me happiness, but I'd rather cry in a Miata!"





# Upcoming Runs and Events

**Monday, July 3rd, Lunar Zoomer Dinner, hosted by George Lucas.** YES, we will be having dinner at our own Chris Madrids! One of San Antonio's most celebrated burger joints, Chris Madrids has the cheesiest burgers anywhere! Can YOU eat the Macho? Let's meet at **6:30 p.m.** Address is 1900 Blanco Rd. at West Hollywood, in the heart of Beacon Hill. Seating shouldn't be a problem as they are going to let us use their party room! Y'all come to our prize sponsor for 10 years +!

**Tuesday, July 4th, Mark Hungerman 4th of July run.** Meet at the Miata Valero, 18657 FM 2252 (Nacogdoches Rd.) at **8:30 a.m.** with a 9:00 a.m. departure, hopefully beating this heat! Mark's going to lead us up to Kerrville for lunch at Culver's, home of great burgers and delicious concretes for dessert! C'mon out and show your red white and blue!

**Friday, July 14th, Gayle Sandenaw is organizing something fun for the BBMC Ladies Group.** Details will be on our website soon!

**Friday, July 14th, Men's Breakfast, hosted by George Lucas.** Let's try another new-to-me place, but rated one of San Antonio's best breakfast places, La Panaderia, 8305 Broadway, 78209. Let's meet at **9:00 a.m.** for good food and good fellowship! See you there!

**Saturday, July 15th, BBMC Trash Pickup. Organized by David Ogden,** why not c'mon out and show your dedication to keeping Texas' highways clean! We'll meet at **8:00 a.m.** at the Miata Valero, 18657 FM 2252, (Nacogdoches Rd.) This event will make you feel good about yourself, honestly! After we pick up, we'll head on over to Grumpy's Café for a wonderful breakfast! See y'all there!

**Thursday, July 20th, Ladies Bunco, hosted by Marilyn Hamilton.** Meet at our own Big'z Burger Joint at **6:30 p.m.** for zany fun with the ladies! Address is 2303 N. Loop 1604 West, SA TX 78258

**Tuesday, July 25th, BBMC monthly meeting, presided by Sophie Parazo, president,** at Big'z Burger Joint, located at 2303 N. Loop 1604 West, SA TX 78258. **Eat at 6:30 p.m., Meeting starts at 7:30 p.m.**

## And...in August...

**Tuesday, August 1st, Lunar Zoomer Dinner, hosted by George Lucas,** at a location yet to be named. Details will be announced soon!

**August 3rd-6th, Miatas at the Gap,** one of the most exciting events of each year! Travel to North Carolina, Fontana Dam to drive the infamous Tail of the Dragon! BBMC members Stan and Betty Chambers, Mark Hungerman, Jimbo Treat and Wanda will be going. Check with them on further details!

*zoom-zoom*

# Remember When?



Judy and Paul Faulkner, 2006 Texas Miata Round Up. Can you guess what Judy is thinking?

---

*Please Support our Sponsors!*



**HOLLYWOOD & BLANCO  
SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS**

*And, of course, Our Meeting "Home"*

