



# *In The Breeze*



May 2022

Official Newsletter of the Bluebonnet Miata Club

Still Free!

## *Mazda Pledges To Keep MX-5 On RWD Platform With Gasoline Engine* by Adrian Padeanu



While virtually all automakers are downsizing on the road to embracing EVs, Mazda is doing the exact opposite. It recently announced a new rear-wheel-drive platform ushering in a pair of inline-six gasoline and diesel engines. In addition, it's among the last car manufacturers to still sell cars with naturally aspirated powertrains. Not only that, but it still sees a future for the oil-burner in some parts of the world.

In the roadster world, the [MX-5](#) is alive and well despite constant pressures from regulators to cut fleet emissions. *Autocar* spoke with Mazda's head of product development and engineering in Europe, and he reassured fans the Miata will remain a Miata: "It's our brand icon and it is always treated very specially. At the moment, it looks like we will have this car forever, with this size and concept and combustion engine."

He admitted there will come a day when "we will have to electrify it, but we want to keep this pure concept." Joachim Kunz pointed out the MX-5 will not switch to an existing platform used by the other cars and SUVs since that would mean the loss of RWD. He went on to say most of the development work is done at home in Japan as the sporty roadster "is the baby of the headquarters."

While an exact date as to when the ND generation will be replaced was not provided, Kunz suggested it won't happen in the near future: "Having one generation for 10 years is not a problem for us." That's because the MX-5 has a special place in the company's lineup, separate from its mainstream vehicles. His statement indicates the NE model is highly unlikely to come out before 2024 considering the current car was launched in 2014.

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# 2022 Club Officers

President \*\*

*Craig Martin*

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Immediate past President \*\*

*Cheryl Knight*

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Membership\*

*Harry Maxwell*

membership@bluebonnetmiata.org

Newsletter Editor\*

*George Lucas*

\*\* Board of Directors

\* Appointed positions

# Welcome, New Members!

**Tammie & Mike Hagerud**

Fisher, TX

2022 Soul Red Metallic

**Sue & Kevin Osteowski**

Cibolo, TX

2015 Copper Red

**Janet & Larry Muzny**

Spring Branch, TX

2020 Soul Red Crystal

**Total Members: 196**

**Photo credits in this issue:**

**George Lucas, Lisa Martin and**

**Craig Martin Thanks!**

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# President's Message

Hello fellow Zoomers!!

This month I wanted to bring you up-to-date on a few of our events coming up.

The Polansky Picnic Pursuit will be May 14 at LBJ State Park. In addition to the picnic, we will have an Arts & Crafts "show and tell" inside the hall. There are tables available for displays. It's not too late to sign up if you have a talent you'd like to display, whether it be embroidering, painting, crafting or just about anything. If you haven't yet signed up to display or show off your art, please let Ed and Helenan Polansky know. Details are on the calendar.

This year the Houston club is planning the Statewide Miata Roundup. They anticipate having costs and details finalized in May. The website is scheduled to be up in June so you'll be able to sign up. For those of you who are not familiar with the roundup, this is a biennial event for all the Texas Miata Clubs to meet and have fun Zoming around various roads in the state. Each of the clubs in Texas takes turns as sponsors. Zoom Zoom

Finally, we are finalizing plans for the annual BBMC Christmas Party. We have Dec. 3 at the Y.O. Ranch in Kerrville. As we get more details, we will let you know.

There still are a lot of dates available for runs. Check out the calendar and let Stephanie know when you'd like to schedule a run.

Let's stay safe out there, and keep ZOOMING along...

*Craig Martin, President*




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# From the Editor

I love flowers. I love ALL plants, but I especially love flowers, and the bluebonnets here in south Texas have been practically non-existent. Rain, rain...where are you??? I've seen bluebonnet reports from the Lone Star Miata Club and north Texas was resplendent with them. And I recently traveled to Houston and IH10 east of Luling provided an abundance of all of the spring wildflowers. Not only Bluebonnets, but Wine cups, Evening primrose, Firewheels and even Indian Paintbrush! But here in south Texas? Zilch! And a very hopeful trip to the Willow City Loop was pitifully bare of ANY flowers!!! Even my Easter Lillie's haven't begun to bloom yet! Well, maybe next year.

We have more runs coming up and I hope YOU are going to attend! Meet people you don't see often and you'll have lots of fun and isn't that what we all strive for...FUN? Check out the Upcoming Events page elsewhere in this issue!

Until next month,

*George Lucas, Editor*



## 2022 Picnic Pursuit Update

### “Bluebonnet Miata Club Country Arts & Crafts Fair”



Remember this year’s Picnic Pursuit is on May 14, 2022 at the LBJ State Park Group Dining Hall alongside the Pedernales River. Bring your games, drones, chairs, balls, etc. along with your picnic baskets (food and drink for yourselves) and desserts to share and to enter into the contest for the “Fair’s” best homemade dessert.

The Arts/Crafts exhibits are to be set up when the picnic begins at noon with no end time (we have reservations for the day). Here are the exhibitors/tables:

1. Pamela Strivers
2. Judy Faulkner
3. Carol Vervack
4. Betty Jackson
5. Sophie Parazo
6. Ed Halley
7. Dave Ogden
8. Marilyn Hamilton
9. Helenan and Ed Polansky
10. Dessert table (donations accepted)

In the parking lot by the Hall, George Lucas will hold a “Miata Show and Shine.” So, clean up your Miata and come show it off, listen to George’s detailing tips, and ask fellow enthusiasts for advice about their Miatas.

For those who want a run, Mark Hungerman will lead a loop trip at about 2 pm for an hour that will start and return to Dining Hall. If there is interest, he will conduct a second run that will be the reverse of the first run.

Outside you can spread your blanket or use the picnic tables, and restrooms are inside the Hall. Prizes will be given for best table display, most interesting table, best homemade dessert, and best show and shine.

If there is bad weather, we will move activities indoors. If you have any questions, please contact Ed at [edward@polanskyinc.com](mailto:edward@polanskyinc.com) or call cell #210-602-1042.

# *What's Happening to the Art of Driving a Stick Shift?*

By Op Ed Polansky



Only around 18% of American drivers can handle a manual transmission, according to U.S. News and World Report.

In 1980, some 35% of cars produced in the U.S. were manuals. Today that figure is closer to 1%—shockingly low considering that 80% of cars sold in Europe have manual transmissions. Some car makers, including Audi, no longer offer manual transmissions in the U.S. market at all.

Mazda doesn't actually share information on how many people are buying automatic transmissions over manuals. They have indicated that 24 percent of recent buyers were opting for the automatic with the soft top. For the Miata RF, it was a closer split of **48 percent** for the automatic. So, it certainly looks like buyers that go with the hardtop Miata are more likely to go with the automatic.

So why would anyone want a manual? Here are some things I've found in my search:

Your car is less likely to get stolen. Thieves prove as incapable of using a clutch as any other American.

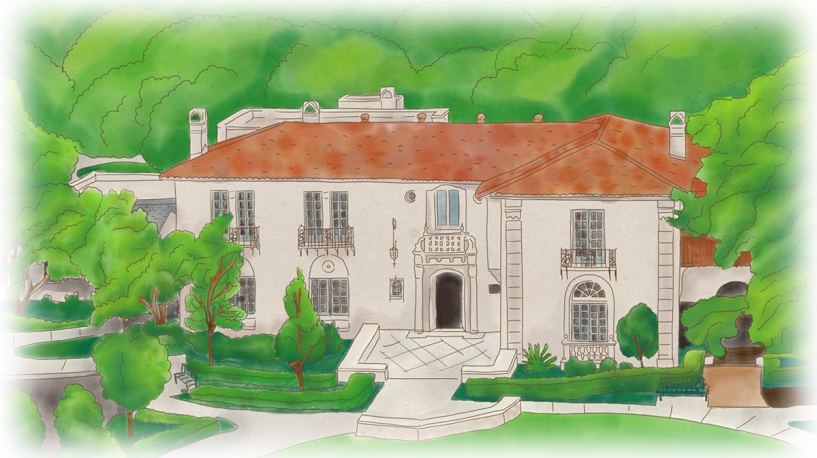
There have been multiple reports of carjackers unable to drive away.

Using a manual transmission might even make you a safer driver. A study from the National Institutes for Health found that manual transmissions enhance the attention and driving performance of adolescent males with ADHD. The study concluded that “objectively, participants drive safer in the manual transmission mode.”

Manual-transmission cars are also easier and cheaper to repair. Although the latest automatic transmissions are more fuel-efficient than older versions, Consumer Reports suggests that manual transmissions can improve gas mileage by 2 to 5 miles a gallon, partly from the decreased weight of the car. The purchase price of a new car often runs \$800 to \$1,000 lower.

All of these are selling points, I suppose, but only if one can actually drive a car with a stick shift.

# BBMC Ladies Group



On Friday, April 22, the Ladies Group visited the historic Hannah Landa Memorial Branch Library. I heard great comments regarding this beautiful home turned library, but no story was available from the Ladies group...ahem. Find out more about this amazing San Antonio historic site at: <https://guides.mysapl.org/Landa75>

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## **Next up for the Ladies Group:**

The Bluebonnet Ladies group will meet on May 13 at the San Antonio Botanical Center at 9:30 am with lunch following.

The address is 555 Funston Place.

Contact Marilyn McCullen if you need more information and to RSVP. [mccullen516@aol.com](mailto:mccullen516@aol.com), or respond to [bluebonnet-miata-ladies@googlegroups.com](mailto:bluebonnet-miata-ladies@googlegroups.com)

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## ***Ladies, you're invited!***

*The bluebonnet ladies club meets the second Friday of each month.*

*In 2016 the ladies club was started to get the ladies together to take a drive, go to a restaurant, visit a museum - just to name a few of the many things to do in the San Antonio and surrounding areas.*

*Every lady is invited to join any of the activities and the only requirement to join is if it fits in your schedule and it is something you want to do.*

*At the yearly planning meeting ideas are discussed and generally the one who brings the idea coordinates the event; where to meet, what time, the cost involved and notifies the ladies via the group email.*

*This information also gets sent to the club secretary to post on the website at [secretary@bluebonnetmiata.org](mailto:secretary@bluebonnetmiata.org) and the newsletter editor at [newsletter@bluebonnetmiata.org](mailto:newsletter@bluebonnetmiata.org) to post in the newsletter.*

*If you would like to be notified when events are happening, contact the club secretary and ask her to add your email to our Bluebonnet Miata ladies group. You can also request to be added to the club's google group email to be notified of club events.*

*Please join us and we welcome your ideas and participation.*

***Lisa Martin***

# Miata Run of Fun

Judy & Paul Faulkner, George Lucas

Hope you enjoyed the Miata run the Saturday before Easter. It was a great romp with many friends. We had 24 cars show on a somewhat dismal, cloudy, dank morning but it became a beautiful day for a Hill Country run.

We ate at Woerner's in Fredericksburg for a different twist. Food was good and it was crowded.

Our afternoon was complimented by a Willow City Loop run led by George Lucas. We were there but the many bluebonnets of yore were hiding. Nonetheless, it was a great additional run and more fun to behold. Thank you George for the completion of an awesome day. It was great to see everyone and enjoyment was had by all.



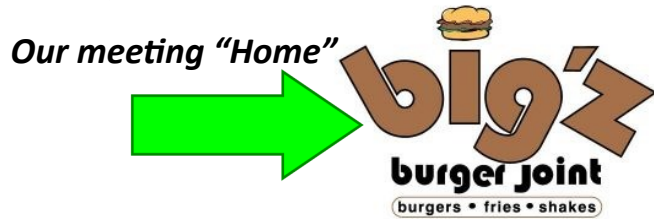
# Please Support our Sponsors!



*Chris Madrids*

**HOLLYWOOD & BLANCO  
SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS**

And, of course,



## Don't Mess with Texas!

### A Goat Story...



Free Willy...

You never know what you're going to run across when you're doing our quarterly trash pickup. We've come across blankets, mattresses, and yes the occasional blow-up dolls. But this past Saturday was a first for me.

I was on patrol checking on each of the groups. Dave Ogden and Joe and Cheryl Knight were in one group. As I passed them, Dave motioned me over. Dave reached into his tool bag looking for his wire cutters. "Why," I asked. "Do you know how to control a goat? He said. "Why, yes, I do."

Dave said they had come across a goat that was trapped in a fence. The goat, that I affectionately named William E Goat, stuck his head through one of the 4X4 spaces in the fence, and in panic, he turned his head back through another 4X4 space.

Since I was the "experienced" of the two, my job was to grab the goat's horns, and Dave's job was clipping the wire fence. We approached the goat (that was clearly in a panic), I grabbed his horns. I asked the goat how he felt. "Meh," he bleated. After a couple of clips, the goat was freed.

As the goat was trotting away, I yelled and asked how he felt. "Meh" was his reply

And thus, another Trash Pickup story is born.



-Craig Martin



# Upcoming Runs and Events

**Saturday, May 7th, Knight's Run**, Check our website for details.

**Friday, May 13th, Men's Breakfast Club**, hosted by **George Lucas**, **9:00 a.m.**, Whataburger , Brookhol-low at 281 North. Delicious breakfast , free coffee and good fellowship! See you there!

**Friday, May 13th, Bluebonnet Ladies Group** will meet at 9:30 at the San Antonio Botanical Garden, 555 Funston Place, 78209. Lunch will follow. **Organized by Marilyn McCullen.**

**Sunday, May 15th, Lunar Zoomer Dinner**, hosted by **George Lucas**. Let's meet at the famous Clear Springs Restaurant in New Braunfels. Let's meet at 5:30 p.m. Wonderful seafood and steaks and those mile-high onion rings!

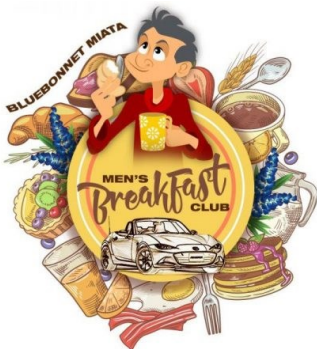
**Thursday, May 19th, Ladies Bunco at Big'z Burger Joint**. 6:00 p.m. Organized by Beverly Turner.

**Saturday, May 21st, Chicken Fried Steak Run**, led by **Jim Treat**. Always a favorite, we'll meet at 9:00 a.m. and Jimbo will take us on a fun run up to the OST (Old Spanish Trail) restaurant in Bandera. Don't miss it!

**Tuesday, May 24th, Club Meeting**, presided by **Craig Martin**, president. Big'Z Burger Joint, Dinner and socializing at **6:30 p.m.** , meeting starts at **7:30 p.m.**

**Saturday, May 28th, TECH DAY**. Hosted by **Jeff Holbrook**, 9:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m.—???. 8707 Converse Business Circle, Converse, TX 78109.

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



**BBMC Ladies Group**



**BBMC Ladies Bunco Group**

# TECH DAY IS COMING!

**That's right, Tech Day is coming on Saturday, May 28th!** If you have a project in mind for your Miata, order your parts, bring your tools and Git'r Done! We'll start at 9:00 a.m.!

There will be many folks there to help, assist, get in the way, whatever, you won't be alone! Our club has many members that have lots of experience on many Miata projects!

Jeff Holbrook is opening up his personal garage for us and Ed Polansky is providing donuts! C'mon out, join in! You don't have to have a project for your Miata, just come on out, visit and you may even learn something about your Miata you didn't know! See you all there!

Below are some photos from past Tech Days!



2008



2008



2009



2009



2009



2010



2012



2014



2018



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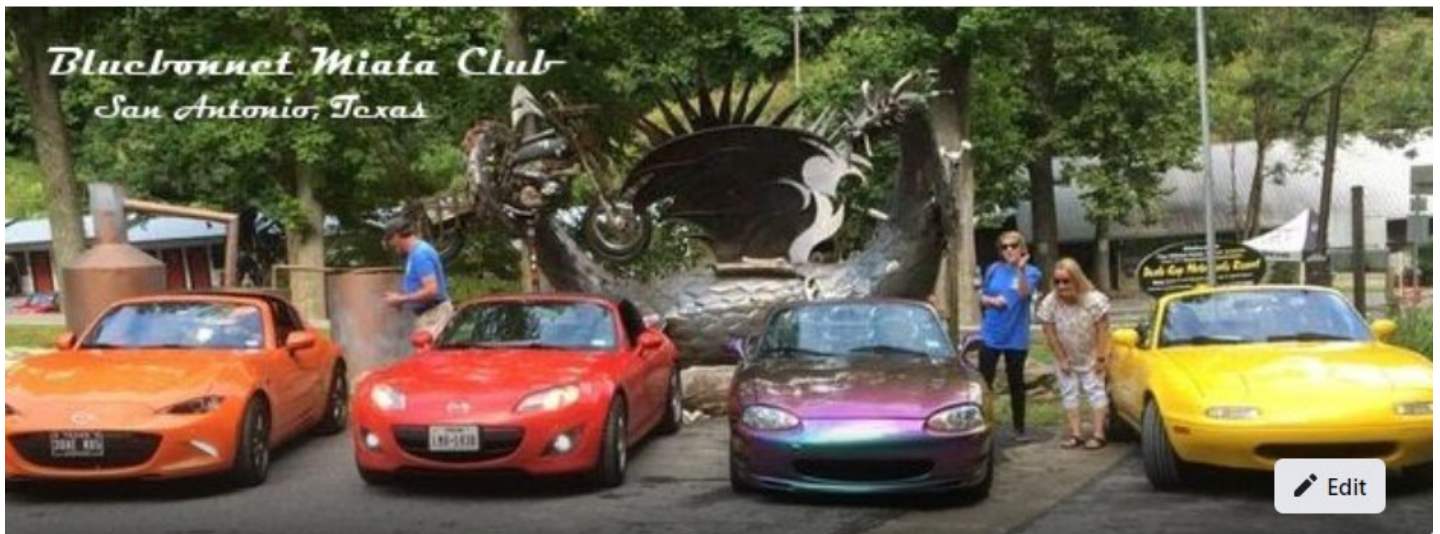
## 2008 Faulkner Gimmick Run



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

Just insert the below website on your browser:

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



## Bluebonnet Miata Group

Public group · 488 members

Joined ▾ + Invite