



November-December 2022

Official Newsletter of the Bluebonnet Miata Club

Still Free!

Houston's Miata Club Statewide a Big Hit!

The Houston Miata Club had a big task in front of them. Hosting a Texas Statewide for the first time in several years and with a new president forging ahead, they did a very commendable job.

Very interesting runs, each having a theme, capable leaders and sweeps, they had us really into enjoying the rides. Participants from several surrounding states gave this Statewide the stature a Statewide deserves.

Houston's new president, Freddy Riggs, gave us a Round Up that had it all. As stated, great runs, very accommodating club members and excellent stops including great food as well as interesting shopping stops! All reports I got said the runs were fun and exciting!

The banquet dinner was also better than average with delicious BBQ with all the trimmings and amazing deserts as well.

Prizes were plentiful and our club made out like bandits! I believe a majority of our members collected some nice prizes!

Saturday evening, after dinner, they had a Motown style band that provided great music with the dance floor pretty full most of the evening.

Sunday came too fast as we all headed home with great memories and the anticipation of the next Miata Statewide Round up!



Houston Miata Club president Freddy Riggs

We Had So Much Fun!
Thank You
Houston Miata Club!

2022 Club Officers

President

Craig Martin

president@bluebonnetmiata.org

Vice President

Jim "Jimbo" Treat

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

*** Appointed positions**

Welcome, New Members!

Dawn Warren

San Antonio

2021 Soul Red

Jerry Akin

San Antonio

2008 Brilliant Black

Total Current Members 196



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President's Message



My how time flies. It's been a great month!

The Statewide Roundup hosted by the Houston Club was fabulous! Great roads. Great dinners. Great banquet with a live band! Great time! If you see anyone from the Houston Club, please thank them!

We will be electing new officers at our November meeting. Our club bylaws state that the club officers will be elected by a majority vote of those members present at the meeting. Each member receives one (1) vote. If you want to vote for the officers, you'll need to be at the meeting.

The annual Christmas Party is coming up Dec. 3. We have a lot of fun things planned, so keep watching the website and Google Groups email list for updates.

There are a number of runs and events coming up the remainder of the year. If you want to lead a run, pick a date and let's go!

Let's stay safe out there on the roads. Keep on ZOOMING!!

From the Editor

While I have never claimed to be punctual, I confess this is the latest, beyond the deadline, what the heck happened, issue...ever! At least since I took over way back when. My sincerest apologies and I'll try harder to be on time with the next issue of *In The Breeze*. If I may offer some excuses, there is always excuses, right? Right??? I'll sum it up in one sentence and won't bother you all with details. I've had some sibling family health issues, and, closer to home, I got covid last month. I'll leave it at that. I'm all healthy again, yea!



In October, the Houston Club hosted a fantastic Statewide event held in the Bryan/College Station area. Considering a new president, Freddy Riggs, taking on what we all know is a monumental task to host almost any event much less a Statewide, he and his staff are to be congratulated on a fabulous weekend! All the comment I have heard were nothing less than amazing! And I concur! I had a great time on the well planned runs and the entire weekend! There are photos inside this issue of the newsletter. If you didn't' make it, you missed a LOT of fun!

George Lucas, Editor

Happy Holidays!

Bluebonnet Miata Club Monthly Meeting Agenda

Tuesday, Nov. 22, 2022

Open Meeting

- ☐ Welcome

Recognize all officers

- VP Jim Treat
- Secretary Stephanie Bell-Turner
- Treasurer Joe Knight
- Past President Cheryl Knight

Appointed Position

- Ambassador of Membership Jim Treat
- Newsletter Editor George Lucas
- Membership Harry Maxwell
- Webmaster: Stephanie Bell-Turner

Reports & Old Business

Joe Knight TREASURER REPORT

- ☐ Club pins are free to new members and \$2.00 to current members.
 - ☐ Club window stickers are 2 for \$5.00.
 - ☐ Name badges – Available upon request. \$6.50 due at time of order –
 - ☐ Bluebonnet Club Cards for putting on windshields.
- BRING A CHECK TO PAY FOR ITEMS ON RUNS

Harry Maxwell MEMBERSHIP REPORT

See me for the following:

- ☐ Dues payment or new membership – PAY ONLINE

NEW BUSINESS

- ☐ Visitors
- ☐ Recognize new members
- ☐ Christmas Party Update – Lisa Martin
- ☐ Wreaths Across America – Barb Thompson
- ☐ Coat Drive – Betty Jackson
- ☐ Christmas Party Update – Lisa Martin
- ☐ Election of Officers
 - Sophie Parazo, President
 - Dave Ogden, Vice President
 - Stephanie Bell-Turner, Secretary
 - Joe Knight, Treasurer

Past Runs or Events

Oct. 27 – Ladies Bunco
 Nov. 5 – Martin Fall Fest
 Nov. 11 – Men's Breakfast Club
 Nov. 13 – Lunar Zoomers
 Nov. 17 – Ladies Bunco

Upcoming Runs or Events

Dec. 3 – Coat Drive
 Dec. 3 - Christmas Party

2022 Events

- ☐

Other

- ☐ Tip our server:

WRAP UP

- ☐ New Miata's, Toys, Stuff for your Miata?

2023 Mazda MX-5 Miata gets new sandy paint option, higher price



LOS ANGELES — Information is out for the 2023 Mazda MX-5 Miata, and there isn't much to it. A new color is added for the new model year called Zircon Sand Metallic. It's pictured above, and "sand" being in the name is an apt descriptor. The shade is more Wrangler-like than sports car-like, but it's an undeniably intriguing option. You'll be able to spec it on any Miata except for the Sport model.

The other notable change is in pricing. A base Sport will now run you \$29,325, which is \$1,010 more than the 2022 model went for. That price increase is spread to other trims, too. Our favorite, the Club, is up the same amount to \$32,825. Add the Brembo, BBS and Recaro package, and the sticker soars to \$37,325. If you'd rather an automatic transmission, the Grand Touring trim continues as the only option (now at a higher price) at \$34,325, a \$510 increase.

The cheapest RF is also the Grand Touring model at \$36,625. And if you were curious what the most expensive Miata is for 2023, it's the RF Club with the Brembo, BBS and Recaro package equipped — this starts at \$39,825. Add an optional paint to this base price, and you'll easily have yourself a \$40,000+ Miata. The new paint (Zircon Sand Metallic) is a \$395 option if you choose to go that route.

There are no other changes for the 2023 Miata. Its still-fresh Kinematic Posture Control system carries over — you can read our thoughts about that here — and all other vitals do, too. Mazda says the 2023 Miata will be rolling into dealerships this winter.

What is a diminished value insurance claim?

From OpEd Polansky

During breakfast with Rich Sandenaw and Rohm Thompson recently, Rich and I engaged in a discussion regarding his particular experience with an insurance claim following an accident. Rohm added to the discussion from his experience. Below are some questions Rich answered:

What do you remember about your accident?

You're driving along one day, top down, enjoying the sun, minding your own business when suddenly a car comes into your field of vision and straight at you out of nowhere. Slam! You come to an abrupt screeching stop. Your Miata has been wrecked through no fault of your own. You've been hit and the inconvenience of car repair is about to begin.

What did you do then?

You know some of what's in store from a prior unlucky event or from a friend who has been through it. First, you wait until the policeman summons a wrecker and then you decide where you want your Miata towed. Next you call your spouse or a friend for a ride, and then you call your insurance agent with the news. The waiting begins.

What takes so long?

The paint and body shop will make a repair estimate for approval by your insurance company and the insurance company of the at-fault party (if you're lucky). Usually, one of the insurance companies will have their own rep who will view the damage in-person or by video connection. Once the repair estimate is approved, the body shop can order parts and the repair work will begin. More waiting.

What is not so clear about what is lost in an accident?

You should look into "diminished value" reimbursement for your damaged Miata. You may know that once your car is repaired, it will have notations on the Carfax report indicating the type and location of the damage. Your car will be worth less, even if it is repaired well. Let's say your Miata is worth \$5,000 to \$10,000 less. That loss is yours tomorrow or in the future when you sell it or trade it in.

What can you do about a loss of value?

You can request reimbursement now for that future loss from the at-fault party's insurance company. First you will need to find a third-party appraiser who specializes in this type of claim. They will look at the approved bill of materials for the repairs and estimate your diminished value. To be successful with your claim, you must establish the value of the car after the repairs are made. Usually, and for a fee, the third-party will use a computer algorithm to calculate their estimate. Some third-party appraisers will complete their estimate by contacting a number of new and used car dealers to establish a value given the extent of the repairs.

How did the insurance company respond to your request?

When your third-party appraiser has their best estimate, they'll send you a report to include with your demand letter to the at-fault party's insurance company. The insurance company won't be surprised. Even though no one offered diminished value compensation to you, it's fairly common. Be prepared to negotiate to get a fair and acceptable payment.

To be honest, I wasn't aware of a claim for diminished value. I hope this has made sure that you don't overlook this important aspect of any insurance claim. Thanks, Rich!

TEXAS MIATA

► ROUND-UP ◀

OCT 20 - 23, 2022

photos

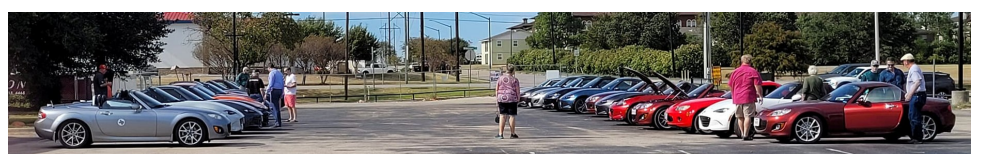
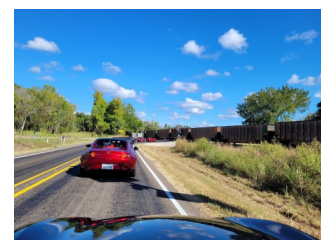
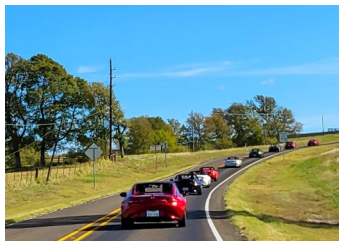


**We Had So Much Fun!
Thank You
Houston Miata Club!**



TEXAS MIATA ► ROUND-UP ◀ OCT 20 - 23, 2022

photos



BYOL Run to Hill Country Pottery

By Ed Polansky

14 Miatas (*and a Mini in the back*) set out on a beautiful Saturday morning on October 8th for a roughly 80-mile, tops down, traverse of some really interesting Hill Country roads...thanks to some excellent road selection by Mark Hungerman. Everyone was in a good mood to be finally getting out and experiencing pleasantly cool weather.

The run featured all the points of the compass, heading north after leaving Ralph Fair Road Shell (*recently changed from an Exxon, which caused a little confusion about the starting point*), east on Ammon Road, then north again on Bulverde Road through Spring Branch to Hwy 46, west through Kendalia (*where we had a leisurely pit stop*), south to Boerne, then back north to Sisterdale, and finally west to Hill Country Pottery store.

The Pottery Store was a delightful venue for our BYOL (*i.e., bring you own lunch*) with a cool overlook onto hill country terrain, and shade trees to eat under. The store exhibited fine hand-crafted pottery, all made in the Texas Hill County, by master potter, Brian Burchhardt, who is the proprietor of the store. After our picnic lunch, Brian demonstrated pottery-making by starting with simple clump of clay and a turn table. It was amazing how he formed and created a vase with so little apparent effort.

He was also very gracious in his presentation and willingly answered all our questions, although, I think, he avoided Mike Jackson's question asking "shouldn't you be playing Unchained Melody?" (*Remember the famous pottery episode with Patrick Swazy and Demi Moore in Ghost Story?*)"

I recommend a stop by anyone in the vicinity of the Hill Country Pottery store, it's only 4 miles outside of Sisterdale on the way to Comfort. The website is www.HilCountryPottery.com.





Run Todd's Going In Circles



MARTIN FALL FEST

Lisa and I would like to thank everyone who came to our Martin Fall Fest and Camelot Run. It was fun having people come out and enjoy our home and back yard with us this year.

We had 14 cars for the run through our neck of the woods. We don't have anything near the Hill Country, but we do have some beautiful, winding country roads.

Our "Camelot" run had a movie/pop culture theme to it. We drove through Adkins, St. Hedwig, China Grove, La Vernia, Schertz, Kicaster and Elmendorf. Many people spotted the pop culture references along the way, and we ended up back at our house for dinner.

We had about 35 club members at the house, and we ended up going until 11:30. We had a great time and we enjoy opening up our home to the club.

Next year's Martin Fall Fest will be at the South Texas Maze for a bonfire and weenie roast. Date to be announced!

Now, for the pop culture references:

Metal Dinosaur: Jurassic Park or T. Rex for the 70s band.

Goat Farm: Tom Brady (Greatest of All Time)

Pittman Road: Dexter Pittman (basketball reference from Rosenberg, TX. Played for Miami and Atlanta.
(I know, that's reaching)

Eden Crossing: the movie East of Eden

Taylor Road: Taylor Swift (another reach)

Corner of Arbor View and Whispering Oaks: The Camel Lot... hence the name of the run.

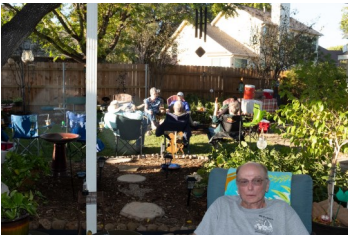
St. Hedwig: The book Hedwig the Angry Inch

Copperfield (Our Subdivision): David Copperfield



more photos on next page!

MARTIN FALL FEST PHOTOS



... the Morning after

Rohm and Barbara Thompson, co-founders of the club and long since unofficially retired from organizing runs, did just that! To their delight, 14 cars and no photographers to prove it, they ran some roads which most of us are familiar with and lo and behold, Rohm hasn't lost his touch!

This photo was at the Luckenbach pit stop, they had met this couple from Houston at last month's Round Up and they wanted to go on a run with us soon! To Rohm and Barbara's surprise, they showed up for this run! Regrettably, Peter Evans and Julianna Lange won't be around to join us again as they're moving to California! Too bad! After Luckenbach, the group drove on to Blanco for lunch at the Red Bud café.

And, I'll caption this photo with "The Pros and the Rookies",.

Many thanks to Rohm and Barbara for hosting a great run and hope you all catch their next adventure. You will not be disappointed!



A Special Christmas Visit to the Camp Verde Store

Saturday, December 10th, 2022

For the past 12 years, we have made a special visit to the Camp Verde store to enjoy their Christmas Open House.

Since COVID, as one might imagine, things changed. As of this writing, the Store is unsure of how they'll be celebrating Christmas this year at the store. Last year we had a small group go there to shop as the Store is always full of fabulous Christmas ideas and gifts, including household kitchen items, decorative items and of course excellent tasty treats.

I am optimistic they'll be having a celebration of some kind and I will plan a drive up to the Store to show our appreciation for all the years they've given folks special Christmas discounts on their entire inventory.

We'll take a drive through some great traditional backroads and culminate the drive with a lunch in the Camp Verde Store restaurant.

More details will follow in the subsequent months, but for now, circle Saturday, December 10th on your calendar for a festive drive to the Camp Verde Store for Christmas!

Cheers!

George Lucas



Wreaths Across America is a program that started at Arlington National Cemetery in 1992 by Morrill and Karen Worcester, from Harrington, Maine. Their mission is to lay a wreath on EVERY fallen HERO's headstone for the holidays. This year the Bluebonnet Miata Club will be one of the proud sponsors of Wreaths Across America in San Antonio. Rohm and Barbara Thompson are spear heading our efforts and are currently collecting money for the \$15 wreaths. Any amount you may wish to donate will be welcome.

Cash donations will be accepted at any club meeting and at most club events. Check donations may be made but you will need to contact Rohm or Barbara for details. We will be collecting donations from now until our club meeting in October. The second part of our efforts will be placing the wreaths on the graves at Fort Sam Houston, San Antonio, TX, on December 17th at 8 AM.

Please help us support this worthwhile effort in the name of the Bluebonnet Miata Club. Mark your calendars now and donate no later than the October club meeting!!!

Rohm 210-846-3137

Barbara 210-846-2736



The Menu Results are in!

***Winners**

Entrees (3)

1. 31 votes **Chicken Cardon Bleu ***
2. 27 votes **Sirloin Steak w/demi sauce ***
3. 25 votes **Salmon al Fresca ***
4. 15 votes Brisket
5. 16 votes Fried Shrimp
6. 15 votes St. Louis spare ribs

Starches (2)

1. 21 votes **Herb roasted potatoes ***
2. 18 votes **Sweet potatoes w/pecan topping ***
3. 16 votes YO cornbread w/stuffing and gravy
4. 12 votes Mashed potatoes
5. 10 votes Rice pilaf
6. 9 votes Wild rice w/mushrooms

Salads (2)

1. 26 votes **Tossed green salad ***
2. 16 votes **Waldorf Salad ***
3. 15 votes Pasta salad
4. 14 votes Crab salad
5. 10 votes Ambrosia salad
6. 1 vote Cavier salad

Desserts (2)

1. 29 votes **Bourbon Pecan Pie ***
2. 25 votes **NY style cheese cake***
3. 13 votes Pumpkin swirl cheesecake

Thanks for voting! Let me know if you have any questions!

Lisa Martin



Guys, earlier this month we had a great turnout at a new breakfast venue, Joe's Pancake House. You can see we were pretty happy! Great conversation and fellowship! Let's return to Whataburger for December. Meet at Whataburger at the San Pedro at Ramsey location, 10011 San Pedro, 9:00 a.m., Friday, December 9th.



Wednesday evening, December 7th, let's meet at one of San Antonio's best burger joints, Chester's Burgers. Baby it's cold outside and Chester's has chili by the bowl to warm us up! Let's meet at the Chester's in Universal City (easy to get to) at 621 Pat Booker Road at 6:30 p.m. The full moon, called the "Cold Moon" should be out and beautiful! Yummm, hot chili on a cold night! Don't want chili? Well, their burgers are thick and juicy! Hope to see you all there!



Bluebonnet Ladies Group



Gayle Sandenaw organized a hike on October 14th for the group at the Phil Hardberger Park with lunch afterwards at Olive Garden.



Ladies had lunch at Tong's Thai restaurant on Austin Hwy, then created art for our homes at the Board & Brush on Broadway. Hosted by Cheryl Knight.



Please Support our Sponsors!



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



Chris Madrids

**HOLLYWOOD & BLANCO
SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS**



Holiday Caption This!

Each Month, send a caption of the monthly "Caption This" photo and win a prize to be named later. Send your Caption to newsletter@bluebonnetmiata.org. Winner will be announced at the next meeting! C'mon, have some fun with it! Send me, George Lucas, editor, your captions and I'll post them! Thanks!

Upcoming Runs and Events

Tuesday, November 22nd, BBMC Coat Drive, organized by Betty Jackson. We support North Park Mazda's efforts to help those in need of warm coats each winter. We donate coats for men, women and children. Big'z Burger Joint, 2303 N. Loop 1604 W. Access Rd., San Antonio, TX 78258, 6:30 p.m. during our monthly meeting. **LAST CHANCE TO DONATE BEFORE THE MEETING!**

Tuesday, November 22nd, BBMC Club Meeting, chaired by Craig Martin, president. Big'z Burger Joint, (address above). Dine and greet at 6:30 p.m., meeting starts at 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, December 3rd, Blue Santa Toys and Coats Drive (In case you couldn't bring coats to the Meeting), Organized by Betty Jackson, We'll meet at the Rosario's Restaurant parking lot (9715 McCarty at San Pedro) Then we'll caravan to North Park Mazda. Meet at 9:15 a.m., depart at 9:30 a.m. See you there!

Saturday, December 3rd, BBMC Christmas Party, Y. O. Ranch Hotel and Conference Center. 5:00 p.m.—9:00 p.m. Be sure to attend for fun and a wonderful banquet! Y. O. Ranch Hotel and Conference Center, Kerrville, TX, 78028 Ask some of the old timers in the club to find out how much fun it'll be! And please come and find out!

Wednesday, December 7th, Lunar Zoomer dinner, hosted by George Lucas. Baby it's cold outside, so lets warm up to a hot bowl of chili or a sizzling hot burger at one of San Antonio's popular Chester's Burgers! We'll meet at **6:30 p.m.** at Chester's at 621 Pat Booker Rd. in Universal City. There will be a full moon (The Cold Moon). C'mon out for the last Lunar Zoomer of 2022!

Friday, December 9th, BBMC Ladies Group. Details TBA

Friday, December 9th, BBMC Men's Breakfast, hosted by George Lucas, 9:00 a.m. Whataburger, 10011 San Pedro at Ramsey. Great breakfast and free coffee! Let's come out for our final 2022 Men's breakfast!

Saturday, December 10th, Camp Verde Christmas Run, led by George Lucas. For the past 12 years, we have made a special visit to the Camp Verde store to enjoy their Christmas Open House Party. While Covid put a stop to the traditional Christmas Party, the store will be open with Christmas specials storewide. We'll meet **at 9:30 a.m.** in the Bill Miller BBQ parking lot at 1604 and Babcock Road for a **10:00 a.m.** departure through some really fun roads and the run will culminate at the Camp Verde Store for lunch. Come on out for this special occasion!

Thursday, December 15th, BBMC Ladies Bunco, Big'z Burger Joint, 2303 N. Loop 1604 W, SAT 78258. 6:00 p.m.—9:00 p.m.

Saturday, December 17th, Wreaths Across America, led by Barbara Thompson, Ft. Sam Houston National Cemetery, 1520 Harry Wurzbach, SAT 78209. Come help decorate the headstones of our fallen military. **8:00 a.m.—12:00 p.m.**



Remember When?



2009 BBMC Christmas Party



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

Just insert the below website on your browser:

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



Remember When? Again!



2012 Camp Verde Christmas Party