



In The Breeze



November—December 2025

Official Newsletter of the Bluebonnet Miata Club

Still Free!

Proof that Mazda Listens!

Recently, Mazda North America corporate regional manager Vince Cerza hosted a group of Mazda product development team members from the Hiroshima plant, along with the National regional from California, Scott Yogi, accompanying them around the US. James Felps, president of the Tejas Miata Club in Austin, invited members of our club to join in on this informative meeting. While it was limited to a small number so as not to overwhelm these folks from Mazda, it was very enlightening.

I, along with Dan Egan, Jim Treat and Steven Kosman trekked up to Driftwood for this meeting of the minds. We were able to ask questions, but mostly the MX-5 employees were curious about how MX-5 owners here in the US drive our beloved Miatas. James led this small group through some very challenging roads in and around Dripping Springs and Driftwood. I was honored to have one of the guys ride with me. He was amazed at our spirited drive was. (I guess they don't have hill country roads in Japan, lol) Yrugo grabbed the door handle many times when he wasn't taking photos.

I think most of us were able to provide information what should be on the next versions of the MX-5 for the US market. And, of course, a glovebox was mentioned.

After the drive, we all gathered at the Salt Lick BBQ for some great Texas BBQ. The burnt ends fascinated the folks from Japan as they eagerly enjoyed them! They also gifted us with some Mazda swag.

Thanks to James Felps for allowing us from BBMC to join in on this interesting event.

-George Lucas, editor



*The Mazda Group, Vince Cerza is our regional rep, the others are folks from the Hiroshima plant. They're all development folks!
(More photos on page 7)*

2025 Club Officers

President

Sophie Parazo

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Immediate past President

Craig Martin

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Vice President

Dave Ogden

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Treasurer

Gwen Mitchell

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Secretary

Pam Stivers

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Membership*

Gwen Mitchell (temporary)

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Newsletter Editor*

George Lucas

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** Appointed positions*

New Members—Total 186

Alex Marrone

Seguin, TX

2023 ND GT

Deep Chrystal Blue

Craig & Iris Wiener

San Antonio

2015 NC GT PRHT

Meteor Gray

Joel and Becky Moore

Jacksonville, TX

1999 NB White

2019 ND Racing Orange 30th Anniversary

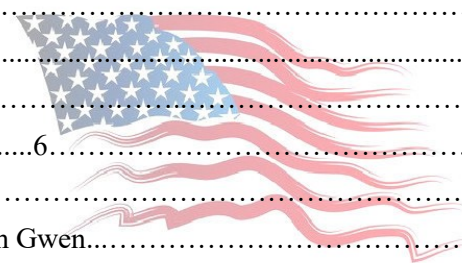
Michael & Pamela Humphrey

San Antonio

2003 Strato Blue Mica

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President's Message

Hello BBMC!

Hello Bluebonnet Miata Club!

Well I can't believe we are about to be in November! This year has gone by so fast. I know I have been out of town for almost a month but this is the first time I've seen a lot of you on our All Saints Day run by Ellie and Gwen and it was great! The views and the weather were beautiful! Thanks ladies!

We only have 1 meeting left for the year, which is when we will hold elections so please come to vote for your Executive Committee, then our next big event is our Christmas Party! I hope to see you all there... 12 Dec at 6pm at Paesano's on 1604. Keep an eye out for an email with all the details on dinner options! Well, I hope everyone is doing well and as always, please let me know if there is anything I can do for you!

Till next time, drive safe and keep on zoomin!



Sophie Parazo, President

From the Editor

Greetings Y'all!

Well, it's still pretty warm out there but I'll say I think I feel the weather making some changes for the cooler climes were all waiting for, right?

Let me say I hope you checked out the last newsletter as it was chock full of stories and photos from past runs and events. It was so large, I wasn't able to send it out regular email and my sever won't allow 8 megabytes or larger and the newsletter was 12! That's why it took so long to compile. Well, okay, there was some procrastination involved as well, but we won't talk about that..

That trip out to Big Bend area was quite challenging because since covid the restaurants and other venues haven't seemed to have caught up to staffing and everyone has had large increases in accommodations and food choices! I hope you all had a good time, but, and I know I've said this before, but I won't be planning another Head for the Mountains as we have known is for the last 10 to 12 years. Yours truly has reached Octogenarian territory and I think it's time for new ideas on that event! I'll be happy to guide you and tell you the ins and outs regarding special pricing on lodging and dining choices as well. Think about it, won't you? Thanks!

We'll have a pretty full November, and of course December as well. It started out with Ellie Bump's run this past chilly Saturday, the first of November, and she was happy to see 18 Miatas full of smiling faces! Photos inside!

And finally cooler weather! Lunar Zoomers Dinner on the 5th of November, a special run called the Polansky Texas Independence History Run ((I'm excited about that one!). For these and other runs and events, check our website bluebonnetmiata.org for details.

I may have a special Christmas newsletter this year with more run details and photos. I don't usually do one in December, but I'm feeling all holiday-ish, hahaha.

Until then, I hope to see LOTS of you folks on our upcoming runs!

George Lucas, Editor

SPECIAL NOTICE Below are the names up for election for offices by the nominating committee:

President—Dave Ogden

Vice President—Danielle Van

Secretary—Pam Stivers

Treasurer—Gwen Mitchell

What is a Run Leader Saying on the Radio?

by EdOp Polansky



For those of you who are new members in the club, or an older member who has some memory issues, the Run Committee wants to make sure that you are fully informed when you participate in a BBMC run. Therefore, I am listing below the usual Run terms with explanation.

- “Lead”** – The Miata at the front of the line. The Lead has planned the run and will explain its elements in a Drivers Meeting. Usually, but not always, the Lead will provide a run sheet to outline the route of the run, and issue directions by radio during the run. If there is no run sheet, then it will be a “follow my lights run.”
- “Sweep”** – The Miata at the rear of the line. The purpose of the “Sweep” to keep the line intact and inform the Lead where the back of the Line is. The “Sweep” will remain to help any Miata that is forced to drop out of the line. The “Sweep” will run with headlights on.
- “Relay”** – A designated Miata near the middle of the Line who repeats Radio messages from the Lead. A Relay is usually designated when the Lead feels that there are so many Miatas on the Run that communications can be affected.
- “Line”** – All of the Miatas that are in between the Lead and the Sweep. Occasionally, the Line may spread due to delays and may require those in the Line to help with keep Miatas from missing turns on the run route.
- “Gap”** – The space between Miatas in the Line. Each Miata is expected to maintain a safe distance between cars. The recommendation is a 3-second distance. No one is expected to exceed the speed limit to close any gaps.
- “OTM”** – This is an abbreviation for “Other than Miata” and is any non-Miata vehicle that has entered the Line. This is the BBMC term. We’ve learned that another club calls OTMs “Trash.”
- “Oncoming”** – Any vehicle coming in the opposite direction to the Line on narrow or unstriped roads. Usually, they are not announced on wide, well striped roadways.
- “Side Traffic”** – Any vehicle entering the Line from a side road. It is preferable to maintain the Gap to preclude OTM’s from entering the Line.
- “Jogger, runner, biker”** – A simple alert to warn the Line. It is important to give the individuals on the road plenty of room for safety reasons.
- “Debris in Road”** – A warning of a pothole, roadkill, hazard, tire fragment (also called “Alligator”), or other debris on roadway. Since Miatas are built low to the ground, obstacles and debris can easily damage the undercarriage.
- “2 X 2”** – Normally the Line is intended to stay in a single file with no passing. Occasionally, cars are instructed by the Lead to drive side-by-side in areas of congestion, stop signs and lights, or Side Traffic.
- “Radio”** – Any two-way radio operating on a prescribed frequency as determined by the Lead. Each Miata should have a radio to receive instructions from the Lead.
- “Drivers Meeting”** – A discussion prior to the Run conducted by the Run Lead. Normally, this is held at least 15 minutes prior to the start of the Run. It is advised that all should be early to the Run by 30 minutes.

I hope this information is helpful to all BBMC members. The Run Committee has as its goal to educate and encourage new Run Leaders to participate in the fun of organizing and leading runs. Beginning in 2026, the Committee will award anyone who leads a run a special pin with the designation as being a member of the BBMC Roadrunner Club

Head for 2025 the Mountains Return to Alpine



Head for the Mountains 2025- One for the Books!

Ask any Miata enthusiast what the word “Miata” means, and you are likely to get the following response: “Miata is always the answer.” However, another popular theory is that the name is derived from an old German word meaning “reward.” After our most recent long-haul run to Alpine, TX, I’m inclined to believe the latter.

As several of us found out on the way to Alpine, Miata is not only the answer, but also the problem! Murphy’s Law was in full effect—what *could* go wrong, *did* go wrong. From the moment we got on the road, we were blighted with misfortune. Lynne and Fred were pulled over almost immediately for a lack of front plates on their NB. At the big Walmart stop in Del Rio, several of us including Ed in his ND experienced malfunctioning air conditioning and bought rescue cans of Freon in an attempt to combat the oppressive heat. After putting a can in their NB, Stephen and Calvin popped a hose and lost AC entirely. Then, our air conditioning in our NA cut out after a border patrol checkpoint, came back on for a moment, died again, and then began overheating the car around Sanderson. The car finally shut completely off while cruising down Highway 90 about 15 minutes outside Alpine. Saturday night, one of our Houston friends found out just how low the clearance is on his ND when they drove over some radiator-destroying roadkill coming down from the observatory. Several tow trucks later, we all made it back to the Hampton Inn to regroup. Another car was pulled over for speeding on the way home.

This sounds like a pain, right? A disaster from beginning to end? If you’re reading this and thinking, “This trip sounds absolutely awful!” Then I challenge you to look deeper and find the reward. Instead of focusing on the problems, as we tend to do, refocus and seek the answers.

When Carlos’s air conditioning died and I was struggling with the heat, several of our friends offered their passenger seat to me. I eventually did double up with Sophie to get some relief. When the fuel pump finally fully overheated and shut him down on the side of the road, Sophie and Cesar stopped to help and took us into town (and back into cell service) to begin strategizing a tow truck and recovery plan. The plan was this: rent a car in Alpine and drive back to San Antonio. Grab the Raptor and rent a U-Haul trailer, tow the rental back with the Raptor on the U-haul, drop off the rental in Alpine, and then tow the Miata home with the Raptor. This would have been a plan if 1) Alpine had rental cars and 2) there had been any U-Haul trailers available in San Antonio on Labor Day weekend. Spoiler alert: none of those necessary components were available. However, there was a Jeep rental company operating out of Big Bend that would rent us a Jeep, but only for 250 miles. We needed about 400 miles one way! Needless to say, we were in a pickle. But remember, Miata is always the answer and the reward! As word spread throughout the group that our car was down and we would possibly miss out on the weekend, our friends began formulating plans of their own, the most generous of all being Marilyn McCullen loaning us her car for the remainder of the weekend. We were not only able to participate in all planned activities without missing a single event, but we also were saved at least \$1k by this incredibly generous act.

The generosity did not stop here, nor was it limited to just us. When George’s vertigo flared up, Marilyn was there without hesitation to stay behind with him and make sure he was okay. Mark stepped up to the plate and lead George’s planned run that day. When dinner was going to be a 2 hour wait, our Arkansas friends asked us to join their table that was ready almost immediately. Stephen and Calvin struggled without air conditioning when the heat topped out at 109 degrees on River Road. Wanda selflessly traded her seat in Jimbo’s air conditioned car for Calvin’s hot seat, as she noticed the poor pup was drooping almost to the point of no return. The next day, Lisa doubled up with Craig and loaned her car to Stephen and Calvin. Our friends were willing to trade solo driver thrills for passenger seat chills so that we could continue to experience the weekend. Miata was the answer and the reward.

As the dust has settled (thanks, road to Bad Rabbit!) and we look back on Head for the Mountains 2025, it is easy to see that this trip was hard on our cars, and we certainly experienced our fair share of misfortune and downright bad luck. But I’ll be honest with you—I had to consult Carlos several times to refresh my memory on whose car experienced what misfortune and at what juncture of the trip. What I needed no reminder for was the fact that what we also experienced was a weekend full of the most incredible generosity and camaraderie I have experienced in a very long time. Friends took care of each other like family, and the giving nature of our club members became the true shining star of the trip (sorry, McDonald Observatory!). The fact is that life is full of ups and downs, and bad things are going to come our way. But it sure does help to look in your rearview mirror and see a line of friends weathering the storm with you.

With love and zoom zooms,

Danielle Van

Editor’s note: While Danielle’s story was only one day before the special HFTM issue of the newsletter, I was very thankful for her effort so much I am happy I can get it in this newsletter! Thanks Danielle!

How well does your Miata stop?



New brake fluid is as clear as water. If there is any color at all (typically light brownish) it is contaminated.

I use Amsoil brake fluid. But then I use Amsoil engine oil, transmission fluid, and differential oil. It is a synthetic oil and fluid that far exceeds all others in my opinion. DOT3 is for average use, DOT4 would be used for heavy duty braking and racing.

This is definitely a Tech Day project. I have changed mine and others during past tech days. Takes an hour at most when you have a lift.

Ed Smith

Thanks, Ed, very informative! -Editor

From Amsoil's website:

The unique chemistry behind AMSOIL synthetic brake fluids increases boiling points well beyond DOT standards, even when contaminated with 3.7% water. AMSOIL brake fluids maintain a stable viscosity over a wide temperature range and flow easily at the high pressures generated in today's automotive brake systems to deliver solid, reliable braking. A nitrogen blanket is added to each bottle during manufacturing to purge moisture and ensure the maximum level of performance.

[AMSOIL DOT 3 & 4 Synthetic Brake Fluid](#) is overbuilt for extra safety and performance. With a wet boiling point of 368°F (187°C), it far exceeds the minimum requirements of 284°F (140°C) for DOT 3 fluid and 311°F (155°C) for DOT 4 fluid.

In addition, its low-viscosity formula ensures excellent responsiveness in modern ABS and traction-control systems. AMSOIL DOT 3 & 4 Synthetic Brake Fluid maintains low compressibility under severe heat, delivering a steady and firm pedal feel. It protects calipers, lines and seals, helping extend the life of key brake system components.

zoom-zoom

MAZDA



Ellie's Run, Gwen driving

Ellie's Miata is in the shop, Gwen volunteered to drive for her!



MX-5



Upcoming Runs and Events

November , December 2025

Saturday, November 8th, Polansky Texas Independence History Run, led by Ed and Helenan Polansky. Gather at the QT in Cibolo at TX 78 and TX 1103. Plan to arrive at 8:30 a.m. and we'll depart at 9:00 a.m. First stop will be the Comanche Country store for a PIT stop to get rid of our QT coffee, whatever. Then, on to Goazales to museum that has the famous "Come and Take It" cannon. Much of this run is new and not often traveled by the club. It'll be educational and fun! The run will end in Sequin at Kirby's Korner Burgers. Don't miss this fun run!

Friday, November 14th, Men's Breakfast, hosted by George Lucas. Oboy, a new place! We'll meet at the Maple Street Biscuit Company, 290 E. Basse Rd, 78209. This location is across the street from the Quarry Market, at the Quarry Village.

The menu seems amazing so don't mss this one! We'll have breakfast at **9:00 a.m.**

Thursday, November 20, Ladies Bunco, hosted by Marilyn Hamilton. Start the fun at Big'z Burger joint that evening at 6:30 p.m. Location is 2303W, 1604 Access Road, 78258

Friday, November 21st, Ladies Lunch, hosted by Barbara Thompson. Christmas Market at the Civic Center in New Braunfels, Meet at 9:30 a.m. at the Civic Center, 375 S. Castell Ave. New Braunfels. Season

Saturday, November 22, Thanksgiving Run, hosted by George Lucas. Let's meet at 10:30 a.m. at the QT on Bandera Road at Scenic Loop Rd. We'll have a short run to the hill country and have lunch at the Café at the Ridge in Harper, Texas! We have lots of things about our club and it's members to be thankful for. So C'mon out for this first-time holiday event!

Tuesday, November 25th, BBMC monthly meeting, president Sophie Parazo presiding. Dinner and Meet and Greet at 6:30 p.m. Meeting starts at 7:00 p.m.. Where, you ask? Well, as usual, Big'z Burger Joint, 2303 N. at Loop 1604, 78258. Very important meeting as new officers are going to be nominated and voting procedures will be announced. Be sure to make this meeting!

...and, in December,

Friday, December 12th, Men's breakfast, hosted by George Lucas, at the Whataburger on Broadway and Loop 410. Yes, with all the events in December, let's keep this simple! Good food, good prices and free coffee, what else is there? See y'all thereat **9:00 a.m.**

Friday, December 12th. Ladies Luncheon, hosted by Wanda Begnoche, at the Gruene River Grill in Gruene, Texas! Be there at 9:30 a.m. for the festivities !

Friday, BBMC Christmas Party, hosted by our officers. We'll be going back to Paesanos, 1604, Paesanos Parkway, 78231. More details to come. Watch the website!

Saturday, December 13th, the Annual Christmas run to the Camp Verde Store, and Restaurant. Run led by George Lucas Meet at the QT at Bandera Road at Scenic Loop at **9:30 a.m.** with a **10:00 a.m.** departure. Wear your favorit Christmas gear for this one and let's have fun!



Don't forget our Sponsors!



*Remember
When?*



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