



In The Breeze



November-December 2023

Official Newsletter of the Bluebonnet Miata Club

Still Free!

2024 MX-5 Miata Debuts With New Lights, Infotainment, LSD

This JDM model also gets a bit more power for the 1.5-liter engine.



Mazda has unveiled a thoroughly updated MX-5 Miata in Japan where the convertible sports car goes by the name of Roadster/Roadster RF. You can call it the "ND3" as it follows the 2019 update when the "ND2" was introduced with a more powerful variant of the 2.0-liter engine. The following revisions are likely to be applied to the global version in the coming months after the Japan market launch in mid-January 2024.

Already available to preorder in the Land of the Rising Sun, the 2024 Miata boasts new LED headlights that now integrate the daytime running lights. Previously, these had been installed in the bumper and consisted of multiple dots for a design that was beginning to show its age, having been around since the 2015 ND1. The taillights have also been discreetly updated and Mazda now uses LEDs everywhere, including the turn signals.

The left side of the front grille has been modified to accommodate a radar sensor for adaptive cruise control with Smart Brake Support. The latter automatically stops the car while reversing at speeds of up to 9 mph (15 km/h) when it detects an object. Rounding off the exterior changes are the Aero Gray Metallic paint and new wheel designs in 16- and 17-inch sizes.

The Miata ND3 gets a newly developed asymmetrical limited-slip differential bringing improved stability for the versions equipped with the six-speed manual gearbox. The engineers have also tweaked the electric power steering to reduce friction and deliver a "natural and clean feedback feel." Another change is the addition of a DSC-Track mode for the dynamic stability control system, which intervenes only when the driver is no longer able to control the car.

In addition, the 1.5-liter engine (not available in the United States) has gained four horsepower provided it runs on high-octane fuel. The bigger 2.0-liter unit with the manual promises to deliver better response both when accelerating and decelerating.

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2023 Club Officers

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** Appointed positions*

New Members

Steven and Franki Surratt
San Antonio
2006 Copper Red

Jerry and Shirley Smith
San Antonio
1992 Classic Red

Chance Estes
San Antonio
2001 British Racing Green

Thomas Dorsa
San Antonio
2022 Soul Red Chrystal Metallic

Contributing Photographers

Brenya Buchalski

Paul Wilson

Mark Hungerman

Ed Polansky

Lisa Martin

George Lucas

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ZOOM-ZOOM

President's Message

Hello everyone!

I can't believe we are almost at the end of the year! We've had lots of fun and I look forward to closing out the year with a bang! Our Christmas party is scheduled for 2 Dec 23 at 6pm at Scuzzi's Italian restaurant. The committee has been working hard to put together a great time. We would love to have everyone attend, even if we haven't seen you in a while. There will be a gift exchange (a little different from past years), some raffle prizes and some other surprises, so please join us! An email invite has gone out so please let me know if you would like to attend. We will also send out a reminder, so keep a look out for the invite!



As always, please let me or any of the Executive committee know if you and any questions, suggestion or comments. We would love to hear from you!

Until then, drive safe and keep on zoomin!

Sophie Parazo, president

From the Editor

The horribly hot weather has finally subsided and I'm stoked and ready to get out there and do some serious top down driving. Aren't you?

Looking at the calendar, I believe we've got some fun runs and events coming up and I'm looking forward to some new and some traditional runs as well.

I'm excited to see another Polansky offering, almost always new and also Jimbo's District Run. I didn't get enough of that the first time so I'm happy we're going back!

Another run to the Camp Verde store and restaurant always gives me that special Christmas spirit, even though the pandemic has kept them from their old Open House. But, come along for a fun drive and a wonderful lunch.

Of course, there will be our traditional offerings, and the last Sundaes on Sunday for the winter season. Be sure to come out and bid farewell to ice cream....until next spring.

Hope to see you all on the road!

Until next time, **Zoom Zoom!!!**

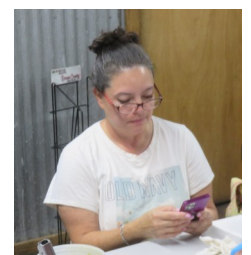
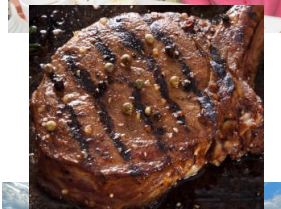


George Lucas, Editor

Joe and Cheryl's Hill Country Run to Cooper's in Llano

"A hearty well done to Joe and Cheryl for a fantastic run! A sizeable and friendly group, perfect weather, route provided entertaining with minimum traffic! Pace was terrific, radio communication was precise and NO wrong turns! And no one broke down or got lost!" - Paul Wilson

"It was an excellent day with friends, stellar weather, great roads! We are blessed. Thank you Cheryl for organizing the route and Joe, thanks for the pre-run work you did to ensure the roads were good! Thank you two for enriching our lives today getting us out of the house and driving our beautiful cars out on our hill country roads!" -Lisa and Craig Martin



Balloon Fiesta Eclipsed

An intrepid group of Bluebonnet members launched an Albuquerque Balloon Fiesta journey on October 11th. Mike and Myra Mathieu, Ed and Helenan Polansky, Tom and Tracy Read, and Paul Wilson were first led from Comfort or Junction on the lengthy drive toward Ruidoso, NM by fearless leader Mark Hungerman. A brief stop in Roswell resulted in a few alien sightings, but no one was abducted!

The Ruidoso accommodations were comfortable and greatly appreciated by all following the long “day in the saddle”, though we did have a lengthy wait for our “Not Fast Food” at a local restaurant.

A relaxed morning preceded leisurely drives to the Ski Apache entrance (closed) and the Smokey Bear Historical Park to learn more about the history of our intrepid fire safety legend.

Accommodations in Los Lunas, NM were ready when we arrived at about the same time as Jackie Lambert who flew in from Houston to join the group. Thanks to the hospitality of Ed and Helenan, we had a brief gathering in their room every night to share stories and unwind. Following a long drive from her home, Tom and Tracy’s daughter Sabrina arrived later Thursday evening.

The sleepy-eyed group gathered in the hotel parking lot early on Friday morning for the drive to a park-and-ride facility where volunteers efficiently completed their security screening and loaded us on a school bus ... which became trapped in traffic when we neared the balloon field! Fortunately, we still arrived in time to witness the massive field of balloons inflating and launching.

What can I say? This is always an impressive and awe-inspiring experience. We soon separated and went our own ways to explore the Fiesta; returning to the park-and-ride facility when desired. Each group explored Albuquerque attractions on their own before meeting for dinner and a relaxed evening.

Saturday morning was calm prior to decamping to a nearby public park to view the annular solar eclipse. We were the first to arrive and few others occupied the area. One group at the far end set up an impressive telescope and encouraged all of us to look during the eclipse progression. A camera adapter facilitated many pictures.

The drive to Sandia Peak was on the afternoon agenda ... a wonderful top-down drive culminating in spectacular views of the area below.

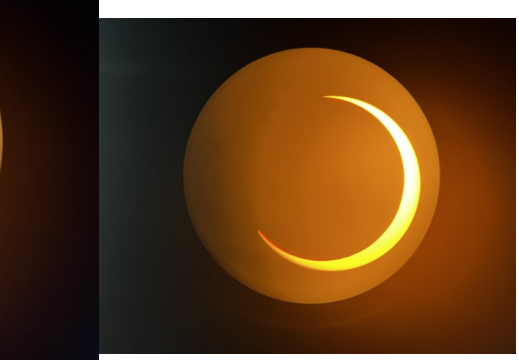
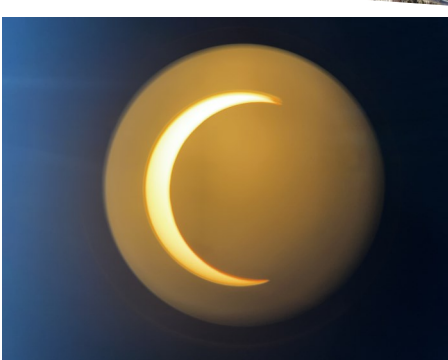
Jackie caught a ride share to the airport on Sunday morning and everyone else except for Tom, Tracy, and Sabrina mounted up around 6:30 for the lengthy one-day drive home. I think that all were ready to demount and climb in our own beds once home.

Thanks to Mark’s outstanding preparation, I’m still basking in the afterglow of a well-organized and relatively trouble-free sojourn.



More photos on next page!

Balloon Fiesta and Eclipse Photos



Why Has the Miata Remained So Popular?



by Op Ed Polansky

Last month I discussed how I converted from a Honda S-2000 owner to a Miata enthusiast. I also examined why the Honda sports car is no longer produced. It was a great sports car and was made from 1999-2009 with total number produced of approximately 110,000. The Miata is still in production after 30 years and has exceeded one million units. Why did the Miata survive so much longer than the S-2000? I've found that it is as much about the car itself as the culture surrounding it.

They're fun to drive

The Miata is such a popular car and loved by so many is because it is genuinely great to drive. The Miata has never been about raw power or even having the best handling in its class.

Behind the wheel of a Miata, you don't care that the guy next to you at the traffic light is driving a Ferrari - because you'll be having just as much fun as him, if not more. The Mazda's sports car is proof that you don't always need more power to have more fun.

Most people who drive a Miata fall in love with the car ... they are simply some of the best driving cars out there for the money.

They're affordable

Finding something interesting to drive that is both affordable to purchase and to run is not an easy task. That is where the Miata also shows its strength.

Although prices on "modern classics" like the Miata are definitely climbing, these are still affordable cars. Even a brand new one is quite affordable by modern performance car standards, and depending on where you live, you can pick up a used example from low four figures.

It's not just the purchase price of the Miata that makes it affordable, it's also an affordable option in terms of running costs. Miatas tend to be reliable cars with simple maintenance requirements, and parts are not particularly expensive.

They Have Fun Owners Clubs & Communities.

A big reason for the Miata's enduring popularity is that when you buy one of these great vehicles, you are not just buying a car but also joining a culture and a community.

Many cars and brands have owner clubs or meet up groups, but you'll find that the Miata community is one of the strongest and most active. Just about anywhere you go where the Miata is a common sight on the roads, you will find a community or group that you can join to connect and make friendships with other roadster enthusiasts. And the Bluebonnet Miata Club is one of the best!

The Miata community is also known for being welcoming and it's not hard to see why this is part of the reason for the popularity of these cars.

They Have Mod Potential

Whether you want to just tweak the brakes and suspension to improve handling, or if you want to do something crazy like drop a new engine in it, chances are someone has already done the modification you're thinking of and there will be a way to make it happen.

Mods aren't just limited to performance either; there's lots you can do in terms of improving the comfort and ambiance of the interior, making your headlights and brake lights better and more effective, installing additional safety equipment like roll bars etc.

You can see what's going on in the BBMC world if you just attend its tech days. The point here is that because the Miata provides such a superb platform for affordable modification, many people love the car for this reason alone. Their mod potential makes this a popular choice for anyone looking to make their mark on a car.

Conclusion:

The Miata is an enduring success story, and is the most popular and best-selling sports car in the history of cars.



2024 MX-5 (Continued from front page)

The Miata ND3 gets a newly developed asymmetrical limited-slip differential bringing improved stability for the versions equipped with the six-speed manual gearbox. The engineers have also tweaked the electric power steering to reduce friction and deliver a "natural and clean feedback feel." Another change is the addition of a DSC-Track mode for the dynamic stability control system, which intervenes only when the driver is no longer able to control the car.

The release of an ND3 automatically means the current-generation Miata is going to stick around for at least a couple of years. Purists will definitely appreciate this decision considering Mazda has already said it will have no other way but to electrify the next-gen model to meet increasingly stringent emissions regulations. Not Your Typical Miata:



Stepping inside, the ancient infotainment system has finally made way for a new 8.8-inch setup we recently saw on the JDM-spec 2024 Mazda2 and CX-3. It modernizes the dashboard thanks to thinner bezels but the real benefit should be its functionality since the old setup was laggy and had an outdated user interface. There's also a new tan interior with a beige top for a combination Mazda says takes after old-school roadsters.



Our organizer and leader, Dave Ogden (inset), with fantastic volunteers! Thanks!!!

October Ladies Day



On Friday, October 13, the ladies went to the Bandera Natural History Museum. It is an impressive museum housing the private collections of Juan and Mary Infante. We had the pleasure of meeting them and having our photo taken with them. Mr Infante was an avid hunter and wanted to share the beauty of these animals as found in their native habitats. He worked with two talented taxidermist, one in Mexico City and one in Ingram, TX.

Posed and placed in each diorama, the animals are showcased in their natural habitat, with brightly painted backgrounds in each diorama.

The museum has a New Spanish artwork exhibit, donated by the Infante's, with artwork circa the 1600 and 1700's. A must see when visiting the museum.

Bandera is a beautiful town and a fun drive. If you are in the area be sure to stop by the Bandera Natural History Museum. Retired military and seniors are \$10 admission.

There are fun photo ops with the life size dinosaurs that surround the museum parking lot.

We lunch

went to after the



....and NEXT MONTH...Friday, November 10th...

Betty Hicks will be hosting a luncheon at Rails, a Café Depot in Kerrville, followed by a visit to The Empty Cross. Meetup place time and more details to be announced soon!

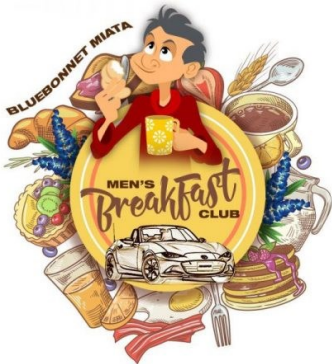


Saturday, October 28th, let's enjoy the full moon dining at La Hacienda de Los Barrios, located at 18747 Redland Road, SATX 78259.

This is a Tex-Mex eatery offering great Tex Mex fare! And if the weather is cooperative, we can eat outside and watch the moon!

Let's meet at 6:30 p.m. and have some fun! Hope to see you all there!

(Note, this date was changed from Sunday, October 29th.)



A place we all know about but rarely go there! Guys, let's meet **Friday, November 10th at 9:00 a.m.** at the Cracker Barrel on 410, 98 Northeast Dr #410, San Antonio, TX 78216. Their specialty is great breakfast items including their breakfast casseroles!

So, get up and c'mon out to Cracker Barrel for a great breakfast and fellowship!



Last Ice Cream meetup for 2023!

On **Sunday, November 12th** Don't miss it!

Let's meet at the Freddy's, 7707 Interstate 35 Access Rd, San Antonio, TX 78224. (Near the Forum) Come early and have a Freddy's Steakburger at **6:00 p.m.** and have ice cream after!



Upcoming Runs and Events

Saturday, October 28th, Lunar Zoomer Dinner, hosted by George Lucas. We'll meet at 6:30 p. m. for a full moon dinner at La Hacienda de Los Barrios, 18747 Redland Rd, SATX 78258. If weather permits we'll eat outdoors!

Friday, November 10th, Men's Breakfast, hosted by George Lucas. This month, we're going to a wonderful breakfast place, Cracker Barrel. Located at 98 Northeast Loop 410, (Near 281). Meet at 9:0 a.m. Hope to see all you guys!

Friday, November 10th, Ladies Lunch, hosted by Betty Hicks. A trip to Kerrville for lunch at Rails, a Café Depot. After lunch, Betty will lead to The Empty Cross. More meetup details coming!

Saturday, November 11th, It's Nuts! Run, led by Ed & Helenan Polansky. Meet behind the Whataburger at Loop 1604 at Bandera Rd, at 10:00 a.m., depart at 10:30 a.m. After a spirited run through the Hill Country, we'll have lunch at the Pecan Grove Store, outside of Fredericksburg.

Sunday, November 12th, the Last Sundaes on Sundays of the year! Hosted by George Lucas, let's gather at the Freddy's, 7707 IH35, SATX 78224 (Near the Forum)

Thursday, November 16th, Ladies Bunco, hosted by Marilyn Hamilton. Meet at Big's Burger Joint, 2303 N. Loop 410 W. Access Rd, SATX 78258.at 6:00 p.m..

Saturday, November 18th, District on 46 Run, led by Jimbo Treat. Details on meetup time and location TBA.

Monday, November 26th, Lunar Zoomer Dinner, hosted by George Lucas. We'll meet at Luby's, Fredericksburg at 410. Maybe you didn't get a Thanksgiving dinner? We'll relax and give thanks that we all have each other. I hope you all can come.

Tuesday, November 28th, BBMC meeting, president Sophie Parazo presiding. Meet at Big's Burger Joint at 6:30 p.m. to eat, 7:30 p.m. meeting starts

And, in December...

Saturday, December 2nd, Blue Santa, organized by Betty Jackson. Meet at 10:00 a.m. behind the Rosario's on San Pedro at McCarty.

BBMC Christmas Party. Our Christmas party is scheduled for 2 Dec 23 at 6pm at Scuzzi's Italian restaurant. The committee has been working hard to put together a great time. We would love to have everyone attend, even if we haven't seen you in a while. There will be a gift exchange (a little different from past years), some raffle prizes and some other surprises, so please join us! An email invite has gone out so please let me know if you would like to attend. We will also send out a reminder, so keep a look out for the invite!

Friday, December 8th, Men's Breakfast hosted by George Lucas.. Details TBA .

Friday, December 8th, Ladies Get lunch together, Details TBA

Saturday, December 9th. Camp Verde Run, led by George Lucas and Marilyn McCullen. Meet behind the Whataburger on 1604 at Bandera Rd. at 10:00 a.m., depart at 10:30 a.m. After a fun-filled run through the Hill Country, we'll have lunch at the Camp Verde Store restaurant. More later.

Saturday, December 16th, Christmas Lights Run. Details TBA

Remember When?



David and Marilyn Hamilton, Chicken Ranch Run, 2009

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