



In The Breeze



October—November 2021

Official Newsletter of the Bluebonnet Miata Club

Still Free!

Standin' on the corner in Winslow, Arizona...

aka, Mark's Big Adventure! Story by Mark Hungerman



On or around the 4th of September, one car, and two groups set out on a journey. We all met in Las Cruces, NM on the evening of the 4th, and promptly split into two groups for supper, one New Mex and one Mediterranean.

We set out the next morning for our drive to Eagar AZ. We had a fun drive through the Gila National Forest on NM 152, and stopped for lunch in Silver City. After lunch, we ran into the only appreciable rain on the trip while driving north on US180. Unfortunately for us, it was practically tropical in nature, like driving through a car wash for 20 minutes. We all eventually pulled over and waited it out. After the rain, the drive was beautiful, and uneventful as we started our climb to Eagar, which sits at about 7000 feet, or, approximately the same altitude as the McDonald observatory in Ft. Davis TX, one of our old stomping grounds. US180 meandered through western NM until just about an hour short of Eagar. We arrived at 5:30, checked in, and had happy hour before walking to a nearby restaurant for dinner.

Monday morning, we gathered in the parking lot for the push off to the Petrified Forest. About an hour and a quarter had us at the souvenir shops just outside of the park. We shopped for 15 minutes or so, and then proceeded to the park entrance and visitor center. There was a nice group of petrified trees along a walk of optional length. We strolled around and took some pictures for about a half an hour before regrouping at the cars. We left the visitor center and proceeded along the park road, heading for the painted desert visitor's center, and lunch. We made it there after a couple of stops for photos at scenic overlooks. After lunch, and gift shop purchases, we made our way back to the hotel and dinner.

Tuesday, we set out a little earlier for our trip to the Canyon de Chelly National Monument, about a 3 hour drive away. We had lunch in Chinle, and proceeded to the visitor center and gift shop. After souvenir hunting, we departed to make the southern scenic drive. There were four scenic overlooks to stop, admire the view, and take pictures. We went back to the visitor center for a pit stop, and then left to drive the northern scenic drive, and it's three overlooks. We changed plans because of the time, and had dinner in Chinle, too. It was dusk when we set out, and quite late when we got back to Eagar.

Wednesday was repositioning day, with a couple of stops. We set out on our well worn route up US180 to Holbrook AZ, and after a pit stop, we got on I40 west to Winslow. We made a stop there to the Standing on a Corner area, made famous in the Eagles song, Take it Easy. There's even a flatbed Ford parked there. We took photos, hit two souvenir shops and an ice cream parlor, and we were on our way west again. About a half an hour later, we exited I40 and proceeded to Meteor crater. Once inside the center, we agreed on a meetup time and split up to view, shop, and eat lunch at the cafe. We departed about an hour after the meetup time, and went west on I40 again. Just a little bit short of Flagstaff, we exited, and took a route that put us on US89 heading towards Page. The first part of the route was a climb through a sort of alpine frost area, and then we drove through a section of the painted desert. We made it into Page, checked in, and went to have some Italian food. It was dark when we finished, and we kind of split up, with some of us getting gas at various stations. After I gassed up, I drove back down the hill to the hotel. After I crossed the highway, my headlights picked up something blowing in the road, and it looked like money. I turned around, and found that it was money. The Faulkners drove past, and turned around, thinking I was having car problems. Paul found the wallet, and helped me gather up the cash and contents. The license was for a young man from Ohio. Losing your wallet on vacation is very bad, so we decided to check each of the four hotels on our little loop. When we got to the 3rd one, Judy called us back to our hotel. The young man was there, and we reunited him with his belongings and cash.

Thursday, we set out for the North rim of the Grand Canyon. It took about two and a half hours to get there, with varied scenery from the Painted desert to the climb to almost 9000 feet and large pine tree/ aspen forests. We parked, and agreed on meetup times, and then set off for Angel Fire and other trails, lunch, gift shop, and then the scenic drive on to Point Royal. We had agreed to meet in the main parking lot at 3 PM, so of course it was 3:30. No one wanted to drive after dark again, after Tuesday. We made our way back to Page, and had dinner at a gastropub with a TV so big, we could have seen it across the Grand Canyon. The Cowboys were on, and of course the lost. Dinner was consumed and hugs and handshakes were given since we were all scattering on different routes home the next day.

(More photos of the trip on pages 9, 10)

2020 Club Officers

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New Members

Members: 196

Judith & Greg Allan

San Antonio, Tx

2012 Liquid Silver Metallic

***Don't forget to drop by our Sponsor's new
digs for your new Miata!***



Photo credits in this issue:

Charles Mims, Lisa Martin, Paul and Judy Faulkner, Larry Stivers and Jim and Delia Voss

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President's Message

Greetings fellow ZOOMERS.

There are a couple things I'd like to address this month.

First, it's time for the annual election of officers. The Nominating Committee is Ed Smith (chair), Paul Wilson and Larry Stivers. The Nominating Committee shall present its recommendations at the Club meeting in October at the monthly meeting. Election of officers will be at the November meeting. 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 are interested in being an officer or if you want to nominate someone, contact one of the committee members.



Secondly, as a reminder, our Christmas Party this year is set for Saturday, Dec. 4, at Melanie's Bar and Grill in La Ver-
nia, from 5 to 9 pm. There will be a cash bar outside starting at 5 pm, and we will move into the dining room at 6. We are looking at being able to order food in advance so there won't be a long wait to be served. There also will be some fun time during the evening. There's a link to the restaurant on the website if you want to check out the menu. Again, keep checking our website for more information and updates.

The ladies in the club get together twice a month for fun, runs, and fellowship. Ladies, if you're interested in participating and would like to be on the BBMC ladies group list, please email the club secretary at secretary@bluebonnetmiata.org.

Lastly, given our membership is almost 200, there are still very few members signed up for the google groups email. Google Groups keeps members informed about events, run cancellations and updates a lot quicker than we can get the website updated. To sign up, email the club secretary at secretary@bluebonnetmiata.org.

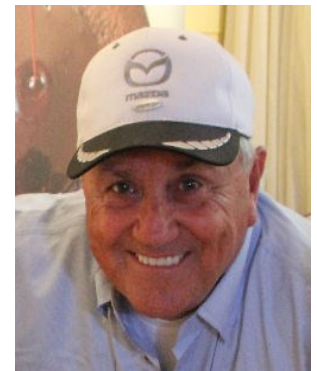
Thanks everyone for all that you do in the club. We've had great weather! Let's get out on those roads and **ZOOM ZOOM** safely.

Craig Martin, President

From the Editor

It seems much less than a month since I sat down to pen this column. It certainly isn't because of club activity, but more probably because I've spent most of the time between meetings recovering from yet another knee surgery. I'm hearing lots of "bionic" man these days. Well, although my knee is recovering nicely, I don't feel special powers!

Because of the above mentioned situation, I've pretty much missed what runs and even my own men's breakfast! But, thankfully, this month's was well attended. Thanks, guys for being such good troopers! And, I cancelled the Lunar Zoomer dinner. I believe that's the first time for that.



One more thing regarding my surgery, or, I should say recovery period. You know who not only attended to almost my every need, she was spectacular being there for me. Thanks, MM.

Have you all heard the rumor about the 2022 MX-5? Rumors are pretty much the order of the day regarding the next year's MX-5 offering, but while I'm still disappointed they added a pseudo convertible for the ND years, get this: They're going to have a MX-5 2+2! Say it ain't so! Word has it that Mazda wants to compete with the Toyota and Subaru sports cars. Does this mean they'll have aI almost can't say it...a COUPE in 2022? Tom Matano, speak up man! One doesn't have to think back very far to remember the very sporty 240Z by Datsun (Nissan now) and then with the 260Z model they offered a 2+2! I mean, even the current Z cars went back to a two seater! Mazda, are you listening??? More on this later.

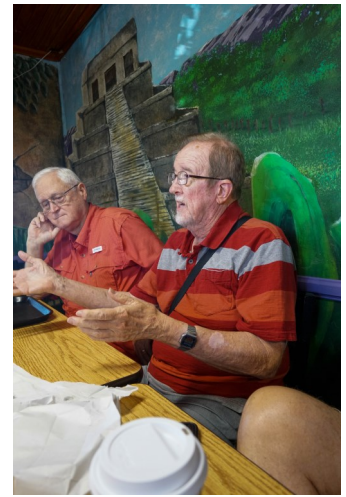
Have a great fall, y'all!

ZOOM ZOOM

George Lucas, Editor



Originally called Hot Donuts when it opened in 1954, The Original Donut Shop has been a mainstay in San Antonio for 54 years! The guys loved it too!



BBMC Ladies Group



Ladies Run Dripping Springs, Texas September 24, 2021

It stated a perfect, top down, weather day!

10 ladies met at the Valero gas station on FM 3159 in New Braunfels and drive to Camp Lucy

In Dripping Springs to have lunch at a Tillie's restaurant. Part of the experience of dining at Tillie's is the exquisite beauty of a repurposed town hall building brought from the Ninh Binh region in Vietnam.

After feeding ourselves we grabbed several packets of feed provided by the resort and we headed off to feed the donkeys and alpacas, which obliged and amused us, scarfing up the food. One alpaca was so charmed with Marilyn McCullen, he looked as though he was going to jump the fence after her.

Camp Lucy, a hill country ranch luxury get away at the start of the Texas Wine trail, and is a premier wedding venue

Our next stop was for dessert at the Crazy Crepe Café also in Dripping Spring.

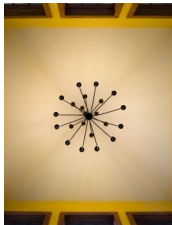
The ladies strive to meet once a month, the 2nd Friday of every month; however the schedule does change and we encourage ladies who like to participate as their schedules permit, to contact the club secretary, Stephanie Bell-Turner, at secretary@bluebonnetmiata.org, and she will add you to the group email list. You will be able to stay up to date on events and schedule changes.

Join us when you can and you don't have to to drive your Miata, but it is encouraged!

We are asking for suggestions from the ladies for future events, and look forward to hearing from you ladies.

Look for our October event online or in the Upcoming Events here is the newsletter

Lisa Martin



CAR AND DRIVER

2022 Subaru BRZ vs. 2020 Mazda MX-5 Miata: How the Sports Cars Stack Up



Building a car specifically for driving enthusiasts isn't exactly a smart business plan. The real money is in crossovers, a.k.a. small SUVs, a.k.a. really tall hatchbacks. Fortunately for fans of rear-wheel drive, manual transmissions, and fun that won't require you to dip into your 401(k), Subaru and Mazda have built such cars: the [BRZ](#) and the iconic [MX-5 Miata](#).

These natural rivals both have naturally aspirated four-cylinder engines, six-speed manual transmissions (automatic transmissions are available, too), and rear-wheel drive. These features come together in both cars to create a driving experience that makes every corner a delight. That's tough to come by for less than \$35,000. The question is, which to choose? Here's how they match

Neither vehicle can be described as necessarily fast. But the new 2022 BRZ does widen the horsepower gap between the two vehicles. The current Miata uses Mazda's 2.0-liter Skyactiv four-cylinder engine, which pushes 181 horsepower and 151 lb-ft of torque. That'll soon come up against the 2022 BRZ's 228 horsepower and 184 lb-ft of torque from the larger 2.4-liter four-cylinder boxer engine. The 2020 BRZ's current 2.0-liter, 205-hp engine is offset by its 2815-pound curb weight up 474 pounds over the Miata's 2341 pounds of fun. But Subaru promises more power without more heft with the 2022 BRZ; it will likely stay the same weight, an estimated 2815 pounds for the Premium model or 2835 pounds in Limited trim, Subaru says. Advantage: BRZ.

The Fun Factor

Let's face it, both of these vehicles are a blast on any road with curves. Neither vehicle is necessarily fast when compared to offerings from BMW, Audi, or some of the American muscle that's been revived in the past decade. Instead, the joy is derived from suspension and weight distribution that make every time you downshift and launch out of a turn a delight. But which is more fun? While it'll be a while before we get our hands on the 2022 BRZ, it still won't offer the top-down fun of the Miata. If you love the feeling of the wind in your hair and the sun on your face, you can't beat a roadster. **Advantage: Miata.**

The Price

The [2020 Miata](#) starts at \$27,525, which is frankly still an incredible deal for a rear-wheel-drive roadster. The [2021 MX-5 Miata](#) is expected to start around \$28,000. Subaru hasn't shared the price of the 2022 BRZ quite yet, but we're estimating that it'll start around \$31,000. **The Miata wins this round.**

The Winner Is You

The Subaru has more power, but the Mazda is a convertible. Both will put smiles on the faces of enthusiasts who would rather shift gears than sit above everyone else on the road. Mazda and Subaru don't *have* to build these cars; the real money is in SUVs. But whichever one you pick, BRZ or Miata, you'll be thankful that both companies still value fun that's a value.



What is the M Edition of the Miata?

by Op-Ed Polansky

While searching Miata.net for information on Miata color schemes over the years, I ran across information on a special edition of the NA Miatas with which I was unfamiliar. On further reading, I found out the following interesting tidbits.

The Miata M Edition series was issued exclusively for the US market. This series was produced during the NA model years 1994, 1995, 1996 and 1997. Each M Edition was produced in limited numbers with special paint colors and other exclusive features.

Mazda decided to produce a special series of Miatas in limited numbers calling the series M Editions. Each M Edition was produced in special colors and with special features unique to each year and not available in the regular line up of offerings. The M Edition series continued just prior to the second-generation NB introduction.

The M Edition series was developed by Mazda USA's marketing department for those interested in a special Miata only available in limited production numbers made during the regular production run for a limited time. The series consisted mostly in the application of exclusive special paint colors, luxury interior features, special wheels and M Edition badges/logos throughout the interior and exterior of each car. The M Edition series did not offer any engine or suspension performance enhancements over the regular series Miata nor were they sequentially numbered.

The Edition series of vehicles are very desirable and sought after. Searching for a low mileage clean M Edition and finding one is like finding the ultimate Miata. Fairly expensive when first introduced, they can now be found priced as a regular used car, particularly if the seller has no idea what an M Edition is. A total of 12,470 M Editions were manufactured throughout the 4-year run. The colors and features will make any M Edition stand out at a gathering of Miatas and the clean low mileage ones are harder and harder to find.

Below is some characteristics of the various model years:

The **1994 M Edition** was produced in Montego Blue Mica with tan leather interior, tan boot, and tan top.

The **1995 M Edition** was produced in Merlot Mica with tan leather interior, low-back seats, tan boot and top.

The **1996 M Edition** was produced in Starlight Blue Mica with tan leather interior, tan boot and top.

The **1997 M Edition** was produced in Marina Green Mica with tan leather interior, tan boot and top.

How many M Edition Miatas are in the Bluebonnet Miata Club? I'd like to know.



1994 Montego



1995 Merlot



1996 Starlight



1997 Marina

"M"
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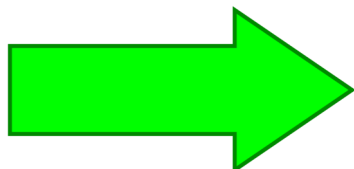


Chris Madrida

**HOLLYWOOD & BLANCO
SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS**

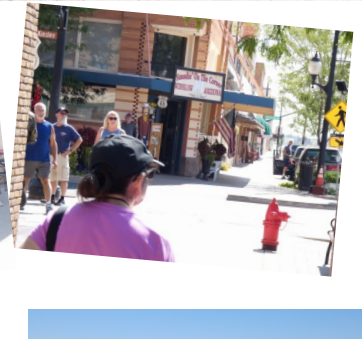
And, of course,

Our meeting "Home"





On the Corner of Winslow, Arizona...



Upcoming Runs and Events

Monday, October 4th, Sundaes on Monday, hosted by George Lucas. One more time at Paciugo's Gelato Café, 340 E. Basse Rd, Quarry Village. Let's meet at 7 p.m. for tasty treats! Suggestions: Before hand, there is a Five Guys Burgers across the street and a Freddy's Burgers in the Quarry Shopping Center.

Saturday, October 16th, Not yet announced Run, hosted by Joe and Cheryl Knight, Details to come, check our website at www.bluebonnetmiata.org

Wednesday, October 20th, Lunar Zoomer Dinner, hosted by George Lucas. Hacienda De Los Barrios, 18747 Redland Road, 78259. Meet and greet at 6:30 p.m. This is the make up for last month's cancellation.

Thursday, October 21st, Ladies Bunco. No details on this event have been announced.

Friday, October 22nd, Men's Breakfast Club., hosted by George Lucas. This month, let's try Tommy's Restaurant, 6510 San Pedro Ave., 78216. 9:00 a.m.. According to their website, masks are still required.

Friday, October 22nd, BBMC Miata Ladies Event, hosted by Betty Hicks, We will be going to the Meadows Center in San Marcos, TX for a Glass-Bottom Boat Tour. Cost of tickets is less than \$10 each. Look for more details on the Bluebonnet Miata Ladies Google Group. This represents a change in venue. We will plan the Kerrville trip for next Spring. Meeting time not yet presented at press time.

Friday, November 12 –14, MATS (Miata at the Sisters). This event was started last year and it's purpose was to give ALL Miata lovers a chance to have an exciting State Wide event when a Texas Club either can't host one or one isn't scheduled for the year. AND, this event is free! This is NOT a substitute for a Texas Miata Club's organized Statewide event. Having said that, this is your chance to gather and run some of Texas' best twisties over a weekend in Kerrville. Host hotel is the Y.O. hotel in Kerrville. **Call them direct at (830) 257-4440. We have booked rooms there at only \$99! Mention either Bluebonnet Miata Club or George Lucas! More details to follow SOON!**

Notice from the Editor:

Please, if you are in charge of a run or Event, PLEASE give ME the details, i.e. What, When, Where to meet and any other details of your run or event.

Many upcoming weekends are available for runs or events of your choosing! Plan something, it's fun!

Lead a run, organize an event, we'll follow you anywhere!

Please contact George Lucas, your newsletter editor, with details of your run or event so that it will be entered into the Newsletter! Thanks!

ZOOM-ZOOM

Remember When?



"Smile, I think you're going to like this picture!"



Painted Churches Tour, Summer 2009

In The Breeze

Bluebonnet Miata Club

San Antonio, Texas

<http://www.bluebonnetmiata.org>



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