



In The Breeze



Oh, Fall....Where are you???

October 2022

Official Newsletter of the Bluebonnet Miata Club

Still Free!

Cheapest Mazda Miatas Virtually Sold Out

The cheapest versions of the Mazda Miata are virtually sold out at dealerships across the country. Based on national inventory listing data, our analysis found less than twenty Mazda MX-5 Miata Sports still left in stock. In addition, Mazda is now telling buyers that the Miata Club Edition has completely sold out.

In base form, the 2022 Mazda Miata Sport has a list price of \$28,665 including destination, \$3,500 cheaper than the Club Edition, and \$5,000 less than the Grand Touring trim. Available only as a soft-top convertible with a manual gearbox, the Sport's MSRP is \$7,700 less than the cheapest Miata RF hardtop.

However, your odds of being able to buy the cheapest Miata are pretty bad right now. We're only seeing less than 20 listings for the Miata Sport at the moment, though Mazda is still letting buyers build & price the car online. Curiously, Club Editions can still be found but are marked "Sold Out" on Mazda's website.

Even if you can find a Club Edition in stock, dealer markups could make them more expensive than you think. For example, one dealer in Vienna, Virginia with a Club Edition available is advertising a \$10,000 markup as shown above. At just over \$50,000, that's roughly the cost of a stock 2022 BMW Z4 roadster.

While it's no secret that a chip shortage has resulted in fewer cars for sale and high prices, buying a Miata could be exceptionally difficult. This could be disappointing for shoppers given the Miata's reputation as a fun, relatively affordable car choice. Unfortunately, used car prices may not offer any relief.

At CarMax, the nation's largest used car retailer, we're seeing just 6 Miatas listed online. The cheapest Miata Sport is a 2020 model advertised at \$28,998 with 17,000 miles at a location in Florida. That's more than the MSRP of a brand-new Miata Sport and doesn't reflect a CarMax shipping fee of up to \$2,000



While this is only an illustration, I believe I could get on board with this one...perhaps an NF? Beautiful!

-Ed

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!

Ray Schrunk

Boerne, Texas

2002 Highlight Silver Metallic

John & Theresa Kent

San Antonio, Texas 2022 Machine Gray
Metallic

Ryan Hinds

San Antonio, Texas

2006 Dolphin Gray

Thomas & Ecaterina DeBoer

San Antonio, Texas

2022 Soul Red Metallic

Total Current Members 196

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President's Message

Here we are in September already. Temperatures are starting to cool down, and before you know it, December will be here!

The Statewide roundup is Oct. 20-23 in College Station. The Houston club is hosting the event at the Hyatt House. If you plan to go, you need to get registered. You can navigate to our calendar post and click on the link to register.

If you are going to the Christmas party and have not yet registered, please let us know if you will be attending as soon as possible so we can get a preliminary count. Payment will not be due right away. However, payment will need to be made by Oct. 15. We have minimum numbers we need to meet. Marilyn Hamilton will be collecting the payments at club meetings or mail a check. Make check payable to BLUEBONNET MIATA CLUB- reference Christmas party in memo. Mail checks to: 25138 Flying Arrow, San Antonio 78258.

October through December are busy months for a lot of people. We have a number of events happening, so keep checking the Google email groups and the website for updates.

There are still a few dates open, so if you want to schedule a run, pick a date!

Let's stay safe out there, and keep on ZOOMING!!

Craig Martin



From the Editor

Gosh, we just had the first day of FALL this past week, can you believe it? It was so chilly out, I donned a long sleeve shirt, took a jacket when I went out and could feel a nip in the air! Okay, all that is a lie...well, not the first day of Fall, but I still felt like celebrating! It'll be here soon and we'll be keeping our tops up because it's too cold, not because the sun is beating down on us with 96 degree temp, like this past week! I know I'm ready for cooler weather, aren't you?

While it wasn't cooler these past few weekends, it didn't deter the Knights or Jimbo for leading their respective runs the last two weekends. By the huge turnouts for both runs, it became pretty obvious folks were ready to zoom! Almost 20 Miatas for each run emphatically proved that. Photos for each of those runs are found inside this issue of *In The Breeze*.

Also inside this issue see some members show off their photographic skills taking the ever popular sunsets at the old Barbed Wire Burger site. Since they moved, there was plenty of parking for several of us enjoy those gorgeous sunsets. Thanks to all that took these shots.

I've spoken in the past about the upcoming Texas Miata Statewide event, hosted by the Houston Miata Club. In the past, we've been fortunate to have generous and amazing support from other clubs from near and far showing up for our Round Ups. I can't emphasize enough how important it is for our membership to display in kind that support for Houston's event.

Not everyone has the Hill Country to drive, but I assure you, Houston has some great drives for us to enjoy. So, please sign up for their upcoming statewide event. Hope to see you all there! Zoom Zoom!

George Lucas



Why You Should Keep an Ear Out for Motor Noises

By Op-Ed Polansky

On a Miata Club run this summer, I thought I heard a strange tapping noise coming from under the hood of my 2017 Miata ND. I only noticed the noise when running with my top down and passing along fences or walls along the roadway that created a return echo. I disregarded the sound for a while, thinking I was just imagining it because it was so faint.

When I heard it again on another run, I had Mark Hungerman ride with me to determine if he could hear the tapping noises. On the open road with top down, the noise was imperceptible, but when we passed rock wall formations along the side of the road, he too heard the noise. Then I knew that I wasn't imagining it. Neither of us could determine where it came from, but I made a mental note to mention it the next time my ND as in for routine maintenance.

About 3 weeks ago, I took it to NP Mazda for the 40,000-mile maintenance and asked them to investigate the noise. Agreeing that the noise was for real, they first thought the tapping noise was coming from a worn fan belt. After replacing the belt, they still heard the sound and started looking deeper into the engine. Once they took the oil pan off and inspected, they found a connecting rod #4 failure and on further review found the other three rods were scored and worn. It was clear if I had run too much longer without dealing with the issue, I would have experienced a major engine failure.

The Service Department's recommendation was to replace the engine, and because I was still under a 60,000- mile drive train warranty (and had followed all the maintenance requirements), Mazda agreed to cover the cost of total replacement of the engine. Per Shawn Anton, the Service Advisor, I found that it was probably an \$8,000 project. The NP Mazda service personnel were very diligent in their review and worked hard to make sure the work was covered by the warranty. I was very pleased with their efforts.

As I drove away from the dealership, after picking up the car, I was thrilled that the noise problem was gone (and I had a brand-new engine), but I was keenly aware that I had dodged a bullet. So the lesson of the day is that one should listen and follow up with professionals on any odd sounds coming from the engine, even on a fourth generation Miata.

Doesn't it sound great?

What?

Exactly, it's no longer making any strange noises!



Editor's note: Thanks, Ed, glad it all worked out for you!



The Knight's Anniversary Run



Jimbo and Wanda's Barbed Wire Burger Run

September 24, 2022

For our yearly run to Barbed Wire Burgers, we had a big change ahead of us. With 20 cars at our drivers meeting I told everyone that I had Good News, Bad News, and Middle of the Road News. The bad news was that Barbed Wire Burgers was closed. The good news was that Barbed Wire Burgers was closed at their old location. The middle of the road news was found when Wanda and I did our pre-run, the restaurant was pretty packed, and it was taking a while to get the food. They had only been open a week at that time.

Luckily, when we arrived from the first leg of the run, the place wasn't too busy. They did a great job of getting our food out to us as quickly as possible. With this run always ending at the old location, we always had a great seat to beautiful sunsets. With that in mind, I told the group that if anyone wanted to, we would finish the normal run to the old location, and wait for the sun to do its thing. Six cars followed us there. Boy, we weren't disappointed!! The clouds helped to create some gorgeous oranges, beautiful pinks, and deep purples. We also got some great pics on the way out there with sunbeams bursting through the clouds, and flaming white edges around them as well.

All in all, the run went well, everyone had a great time, and we got some awesome pictures. Glad everyone came out!!

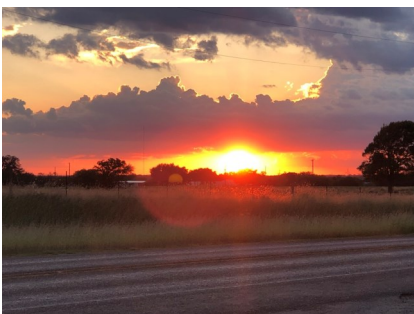


Jimbo and Wanda's Barbed Wire Burger Run Bonus Photos!

Some of us went to the old Barbed Wire location for some fabulous sunset shots!

Thanks to Wanda, Jimbo and Ski for these shots!

Rainbow photo by George Lucas



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

Fall is upon us and the Bluebonnet Christmas Party is Saturday, December 3, 2022, 5 pm

Please let us know if you will be attending as soon as possible so we can get a preliminary count. Payment will not be due right away - please see deadlines below.

We need a total of 50 for the buffet that was voted on. Please see the menu attached.

Where: Y. O. Conference and Resort

2033 Sidney Baker, Kerrville TX

1-830-257-4440

Room block: Bluebonnet Miata Christmas- \$119

Payment Due: October 15th

\$39 individual / \$78 couple

Marilyn Hamilton will be collecting the payments at club meetings or mail a check.

Make check payable to BLUEBONNET MIATA CLUB- reference Christmas party in memo

Mail checks to: 25138 Flying Arrow, San Antonio 78258.

PAYMENT DUE: October 15, 2022

MENU SELECTION: October 21, 2022

So let us know if you are coming!

email President@bluebonnetmiata.org

For more information, contact Lisa Martin, redrider508@gmail.com.

Lisa



Okay, guys, it's that time again when we can meet and enjoy swapping stories about just about anything. I survived my Covid episode and after isolation, I'm ready to roll again!

Always a favorite with great breakfast items at great prices! And, FREE coffee!

When? Friday, October 7th

Where: Where else? Whataburger, this time, 4502 Fredericksburg Rd., just inside loop 410. Meet time is 9:00 a.m. and stay as long as you like!

See you there!



Sunday evening, October 9th, let's meet at one of San Antonio's best Pollo Asados, affectionally called "Smokey Chicken".

"This place deserves 6 out of 5 stars! We couldn't get into another restaurant and chose this one on the fly but it was an AWESOME CHOICE!"

Located at 547 Culebra, San Antonio, 78201

Meet and Greet at 5:30 p.m., dine at 6:00 p.m.

Bluebonnet Ladies Group



The BBMC ladies got together and did something with pumpkins. What they're doing, I have no idea. But I heard that Marlene McPeck taught them how to Zentangle their faux pumpkins. I still don't know, haha! They had fun and had lunch later at Stone Works in The Vineyard. -Ed



Up Next...

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

Ladies Bunco, Bigz Burger Joint, Thursday, October 27th. 6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.



Texas Miata Roundup 2022

October 20th through 23rd in College Station

The Houston Miata Club is pleased to welcome everyone to the 2022 Texas Miata Roundup! I think we can all agree the last two years have been interesting to say the least. We had considered organizing this event sooner with various compromises but ultimately decided it would be best to wait and have a proper Roundup. We have organized an event to get people back together to enjoy the essentials: friends, fun roads, and Texas style food.

Due to COVID-19 the now-biennial Roundup was delayed for a year. The 2022 Texas Miata Roundup will be held October 20th through 23rd in College Station. Check-in will begin Thursday afternoon at 3:00 on the 20th, and conclude with the dinner party and live music on Saturday the 22nd at the Brazos Center. College Station has been chosen as this year's destination due to its proximity to Houston with a more rural feel. The roads in the area aren't bad either!

The reputation of the Texas Miata Round Up has spread throughout the USA and even into Canada as a result of the event's reputation. You will see license plates from most any state and all are welcome. You do not have to belong to one of the Texas Miata Clubs to participate; all you need is a Miata.

The Texas Miata Round Up began in the late 1990's with the intention of bringing Miata owners together for a long weekend filled with camaraderie and fun centered around Miatas. The strong friendships that have formed over the years were an added bonus. In past years it has been based in Galveston, Fredericksburg, Kerrville, Alpine, Denton, and Huntsville. We Texans are fortunate in that we can find scenery to please our mood. We have desert, forest, plains, lakes, and even the Gulf of Mexico. We may have to do some driving to see it all but driving a Miata makes it that much more fun.

Hope to see you in College Station this October!

**LOOK! >>> REGISTER by going to: <https://houstonmiataclub.com/>
More details regarding runs and events that weekend!**

Friday

Friday is an open day for attendees to choose their own activities as well as attend a few smaller fun runs. Take a peek inside of your goodie bag to find the local restaurant guide, DIY tours, and tourist attractions.

Details for organized fun runs will be available at check in.

Saturday

Fill up your tanks and get ready for fun runs! There will be a planned lunch stop during the fun runs. Douglas Mazda will be hosting a party behind their new dealership from 3-4:30pm (located adjacent to the Hyatt House).

The Banquet Dinner will be held at the Brazos Center with catering by 1775 BBQ (Top 25 New BBQ Joints Texas Monthly Magazine 2019). There will be a cash bar for those looking for a beer or margarita. After dinner we will hand out door prizes and discuss the weekend's events. Doors open at 6pm, dinner starts at 6:30, the event will shut down by 11pm.

Please Support our Sponsors!



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



Chris Madrids

**HOLLYWOOD & BLANCO
SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS**



October 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

Saturday, October 1st, BBMC Trash Pick Up, organized by Dave Ogden.

Meet at the “Miata Valero”, (Big’s Valero), 2.5 miles NE of Rolling Oaks Mall on Nacogdoches Rd. After pick up, we’ll have breakfast at Grumpy’s, also on Nacogdoches Rd. C’mon out and help your fellow club members!

REWIND, Again! - Friday, October 7th, 9:00 a.m., Men’s breakfast, hosted by George Lucas at...you guessed it, Whataburger., 4502 Fredericksburg Rd in Balcones Hts, just inside Loop 410. Good food, affordable and best of all FREE coffee! Sorry I couldn’t make it in August (surgery), September (Covid). C’mon out guys and visit with your fellow club members!

Saturday, October 8th, BYOL (Bring your own Lunch) to Hill Country Pottery, led by Ed and Helenan Polansky. Run begins at the Ralph Fair exit EXX-ON (includes a McDonald’s) on IH10 West. Meet at 9:00 a.m. and depart at 9:30 for some winding roads through our own Hill Country! More details are on our website at bluebonnetmiata.org.

REWIND, Again, Again! - Sunday evening, October 9th, Lunar Zoomer dinner, hosted by George Lucas. 5:30 p.m. meet time, 6:00 dinner time. A real San Antonio treat, we’ll meet at the Pollos Asados Al Carbon . “Smokey Chicken” (That’s what I call it), 547 Culebra off of IH10, San Antonio, 78201

Friday, October 14th, Ladies Group, hosted by Gayle Sandenaw. Gayle is organizing a hike in Phil Hardberger Park. Afterwards, lunch will be at the Olive Garden. Time and other details will appear on our website at bluebonnetmiata.org.

Thursday, Oct 20th -Sunday, October 23rd, TEXAS MIATA ROUNDUP, hosted by the Houston Miata Club. Details in this issue, check it out!

Tuesday, October 25th, Club Meeting. Big’z Burger Joint, 2303 N. Loop 1604 W, 78258. 6:30 p.m., Eat and Greet, 7:30 p.m., Meeting starts at 7:30 p.m.

NOTE: For more details, go to our website at bluebonnetmiata.org. More details are on our website.

Remember When?



Refreshments at the Faulkner's after the Wildflower Run, 2008



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!

