



In The Breeze



October 2023

Official Newsletter of the Bluebonnet Miata Club

Still Free!



Pictured at left are David “Nugget” McNett, Monica Harrison and Dan Egan. Nugget and Monica hosted this year’s Tech Day and what a day it was. Your eyes don’t deceive you, that’s a helicopter hanger. With all the space we needed as well as help from Dan, the day was a soaring success! Dan helped almost everyone while Nugget and Monica watched over us with amazing care.

All kinds of baked goods and breakfast tacos were offered and we also had Leo from Dents & Dings there as well as Nunzy the pinstriper. Leo stayed busy all day taking care of at least 10 cars! Nunzy came only to find out no one needed his handywork.

Our sincerest thanks to the gang of Nugget, Monica and Dan for all the help and most of all, graciously letting us use their very cool facility!

Lots of photos are on our website, check ‘em out!

-Ed



2023 Club Officers

- President**
Sophie Parazo
president@bluebonnetmiata.org
 - Vice President**
Dave Ogden
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
newsletter@bluebonnetmiata.org
- * Appointed positions*

New Members!

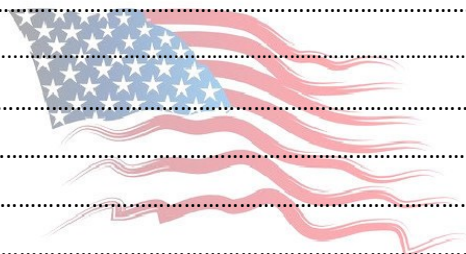
- David Anderson*
Bandera, TX
2011 True Red
- Alan Bourg*
San Antonio
2005 Black Cherry Mica
- Mark and Debra Rue*
San Antonio, TX
1994 M Edition, Montego Blue

Contributing Photographers

- Monica Harrison
- Lisa Martin
- Brenya Buchalski
- George Lucas

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ZOOM-ZOOM

President's Message

Hello Everyone!

Well, today was one of our first runs since our hot summer break and it was great! Last weekends Tech day was great too! Thanks again to Monica and Nugget for sharing their wonderful space. It was great seeing everyone that we haven't seen in a while and it just showed me how much I miss our get-togethers. As we start getting out again, we hope to start seeing some of you we haven't seen in a while. The "ber" months bring on cooler weather and start the prep for the holiday season which leads to the planning of our holiday party which is planned for Dec 2. We also have some community events we like to participate in around the holiday season like Wreaths Across America, the North Park Mazda coat drive, and Blue Santa donations. If there are some other events that you think would be good for our club to participate in, we have some time to plan, so please let anyone on the Executive Committee know. Also, if you are interested in hosting a run or learning how to host a run, please let us know. We would love to have some "new blood" join the list of hosts and will be happy to teach some tricks of the trade. Can't wait to see you on the next run! Until then, drive safe and keep on zoomin!



Sophie Parazo, president

From the Editor

Ever since my first Miata, aka Pokey, I've been intrigued about the entire Miata comraderie. I had great mentors, George Briscoe, Rohm Thompson, Leon Franklin, and too many others to mention here.

On the other hand I've also wondered why many of the Miata owner traditions have faded over time., even though I knew to some degree it was bound to happen. Now, it seems a large percentage of Miata owners never experienced the rich history of this, our beloved Miatas.

I go on about this My ownerships and other Miata lore in a story called NA, B, C and D Miatas elsewhere in this issue of *In The Breeze*.

We're being teased by a slow decline in temperatures and it shows as we have large participation in recent events and runs. That's great to see! Now is a good time to lead a run. You? Yes, you! I'm sure each and every one of you has a special place, a winery, a restaurant, or just plain of burger joint we can follow you to! Let me tell you, you will feel exhilaration and empowerment you've never dreamed of driving your Miata with a dozen or more just like you following your every turn! Doesn't that sound fun? You can do it, and as Nike used to say, "Just Do It!"

There are lots of plans for events coming up this fall and through Christmas. The color of trees changing colors, cooler climates...AND...our Christmas party is being planned as well! Oh, and Blue Santa (more about that in this issue of *ITB*).

And, of course, my Christmas run up to the Camp Verde Store, you won't want to miss that!

Until next time, *Zoom Zoom!!!*



George Lucas, Editor

How did I go from a Honda S-2000 to a Mazda Miata?



By OpEd Polansky

My first entrance into the sports car ownership world was a 2003 Honda S-2000. My first Honda vehicle was a Honda 360 purchased when I was relatively newly-married. It was a fun vehicle to drive and endeared me to the marvel of Honda creations, and I've owned a number of Hondas over the years.

My ownership of the motorcycle ended abruptly one day, when I returned home after a Sunday ride and parked in the driveway. Just then, Helenan was returning from a neighborhood bike ride with our 10-month-old-son Charles on the back. Well Charles was a walker and immediately toddled over to my Honda 360 and put his hand on the shiny (very hot) tail pipe. We spent the rest of the day time in the emergency ward with him, and realizing he would have a scar that will be a lasting memory of the event for his whole life (he is 50 now).

The motorcycle was sold within a few weeks and I didn't think about it again until the millennia came. I thought, now that the kids are grown and on their own, I mentioned to Helenan that I was thinking about getting a motorcycle. She must have been prepared for that moment, because she said responded quickly with something like "Ed, did you know that Honda was coming out with a sports car? I'll never ride on the back of your motorcycle, but I'd ride in a sports car!" That's all it took, I immediately ran to the nearest Honda Dealership (which happened to be one of my clients), and within a few days, I was a Honda sports car owner. I loved the car and drove it as my only vehicle for years. Then George Lucas introduced me to the Miata Club, invited me to a Roundup, and ultimately converted me into a Miata (2012 NC) enthusiast.

But I have to admit I missed the S-2000 styling, and when the Miata ND model was released, I was taken in by the mimicking of the styling of the S-2000. I had to get a 2017 Miata ND, a "marriage" of the S-2000 and Miata MX-5 hoods. I couldn't have been happier.

I've been a little sad that Honda ceased making the car, and I did a little research to find out why the S-2000 was retired:

- * A big factor was the increasingly stringent emission regulations implemented globally.
- * Honda shifted its focus towards developing more environmentally friendly technologies to meet the demands of a changing automotive landscape.
- * As the automotive market evolved, Honda moved toward a growing demand for vehicles with enhanced comfort, advanced technology features, and broader practicality.
- * A major reason was that very little of the S-2000 vehicle is shared with other Honda models and this increased its manufacturing costs and it never sold in large enough numbers globally to be profitable.

Many would say the Honda S-2000 is a more impressive car than the Miata from a technical and performance perspective. Next month, however, I'll focus on why Miata has been so successful and is one of the best driving cars in the world.

zoom-zoom

The A, B, C, D's of Miatas, as I see it.

By George Lucas



While I certainly don't have the experience or the expertise about the ins and outs of Miata's, I do have some insight about owning them.

Let me start by saying I don't have a concrete obsession about any era of the MX-5, mostly because I've observed the best Miata is the one you own. It's inherently un-Miata like to slam others for not having what you drive.

Ever since the release of the ND model (2016-????), I've noticed some key facts. If you're a first-time owner of an MX-5 with an ND, my observations may help you understand the rest of this story.

I'm proud to say I started with an NA first generation Miata. And as many have said, it has changed my life dramatically, especially since I've never considered myself a car guy. Oh, I've loved and lost many, but I never owned the attitude that my car is the best, you know, better than everything out there. And I'm sure enough not a gear head. I just did an oil change on my Miata last weekend and it's only the second time I've done that chore. (Actually, someone else took over and I watched.)

Okay, back to my story and my NA first Miata. It was a black beauty, 95 model. A B package with remote mirrors and power windows. I quickly learned about my Miata from the many nice people in our club. Since the NA had been out for over 6 years, I had lots to learn about this cool roadster. But my story, being about what makes a Miata owner special, is about what it's like to own the first gen model. Flip up lights. Yep, those flip up lights. I learned about making them "wink" and even do other things, sometimes by accident. But the main thing is if you see another Miata, it's cool to wink your headlights and wave. Cool, man, cool.

Happy as can be with my NA, I got a call from a buddy of mine, telling me that he saw a red Miata for sale in a yard somewhere on the northwest side of San Antonio. Thinking I might help someone in need of a Miata, I asked Mike Jackson if he'd go with me to see it. We drove up and this red 2001 SE B model was sitting in the front yard. We couldn't get close to it because the yard was fenced in. Soon, someone came out and allowed us inside to get a closer look. Now, let me interject here that I was certainly no expert on any model of a Miata, including this one. But one thing that struck me was that it was red. I mean, really red. With sun damaged dull paint, I wondered if it was a car I could recommend to others. As I walked around it, I noticed it was full of features the NA didn't have. I wondered...could this be a car I would want? I rubbed the hood with my finger and noticed that the finish was still good. Hmm...I thought about it and asked Mike, "So, what do you think about this Miata?" He replied, "If you don't buy it, I will!" Wow...Mike knew more than me about Miatas and his enthusiasm struck me hard! I asked the owner the price and told him I'd let club members know about it. . Okay, even though I hadn't been looking for me, I bought it. I went home, put my NA on Craigslist. In less than an hour, I got a call from a fellow in Dallas, "I want that car". He hadn't even seen it in person! Long story short here, he came down the next day, met me at the bank, gave me the money and I bought the red NB! Wow, I never thought I'd get rid of Pokey, but I realized that I just moved up in the world!

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Let me stop here because the whole point of this story is Miata tradition. I mean, those NA owners I was so close with gave me fits for letting go of my NA. Told that the NB didn't have flip up lights and it strayed away from the things that made the Miata special...that is to say, an NA!

Now, after owning my 2001 SE for a while, I realized that it had many creature comforts the NA simply didn't have. So now, I'm in with the NB owners of our club. Learning about it's features, this and that, you know, the things NM owners say the things that make the NB the best! Well, hold your horses buddy, the NA still was king at that time. I mean, no flip up headlights, no winking at other Miatas, this was a serious thing!

Well, after a while, others who had NB's embraced me and all was well. EZ Does It, as I named it, was now my new thing and I enjoyed it for several years.

At the 2005 Statewide in Dallas, North Park Mazda brought an NC to Kerrville for all to see. I shrugged it off, it wasn't sleek, it seemed too big, and I thought, "I have the best Miata made". Again...it's what you have at the time that makes YOUR Miata the best out there.

Three years later, at a Lunar Zoomer dinner, Don Privett asked me, "George are you ever going to get a new Miata?" I replied, "Why would I, I have the best-looking NB there is!" Knowing how much I love red, he answered, "Have you seen that special limited edition Velocity Red NC?" I replied "No, I haven't".

A seed was planted. About 2 weeks later, Don sent me an email with about eight 2006 LTD's for sale across the country. I chuckled to myself and thought, Don's a funny guy. I thought I would humor him and take a look at the list he sent me. Hmm...here is one in Denver, only 8 thousand miles. Oh, goodness...that red...that Velocity Red! Okay, I had some soul searching to do, I mean, I guess it's not that bulky looking and look at that gleaming chrome surround on the windshield. Okay, I'm hooked. What am I thinking??? After several phone conversations with the owners in Denver, I'm on a plane with cashiers check in hand. Okay, if you've read this far, you see I'm pretty weak when it comes to being sold on something.

VeeLo was amazing, folks in the club teased me mercilessly for accepting the NC and all it's things I made fun of before. I showed up at the next club meeting and folks made me proud. Well, all but one, but that's another story. So, now, I have the best Miata ever! Right?

I put a lot of miles on VeeLo and, if you know the first year of the NC1's, particularly the rag tops, didn't have all the features added the subsequent years. I mean, there were three generations of the NC's with the NC2 and NC3 having things like the power retractable hard top, etc.

After about 5 years of owning VeeLo, Paul Wilson calls me and tells me about an NC2 for sale in Austin. And, yep, it's Velocity Red! Hmm...power retractable hard top, heated seats, better stereo with satellite radio, yada, yada, yada. So, I go to Austin to look at it...and yes, I decided to buy it. It didn't take long for me to find a buyer for VeeLo, and admittedly I'm still saddened I sold it.

So, now I have a beautiful Velocity Red with a power retractable top and black wheels! I am not a fan of black wheels! But, I now have the best Miata ever! Right?

As I said earlier, I'm pretty easy (best sales people are.) When I drove over to Marilyn's to show her my new ride, she said, "Wow, those black wheels at bad a**!" I replied, "Oh yeah, they are, aren't they?" I still have Red Rider, by the way.

Finally, my point is to say, respect what folks have, those of you that haven't had an NA with those lovable flip up lights, or a sleek looking NB, or maybe your first isn't an NC, either, what others drive is what they love and they deserve adulation from us all.

Who knows, if an ND 100 year edition becomes available....Nahhhhh.



The Honorary Jackson Catfish Run 2023

A run that took 3 practice run, we had a good turnout and while we didn't go to the Catfish Parlor, a new to us place called Razoo's Cajun Grill more than made up for the last minute change. In fact, I believe it's going to be our future location for this run!

Admittedly, it was a long run and it was hot. But we got no complaints regarding our route to Lime Creek Road near Dripping Springs. The adjacent Farm Road to Lime Creek made this run as exciting as any of the Three Sisters! Very challenging but we did it!

Thanks to you all that came out and made the run a huge success!



Jimbo's



Burger Run



Hopefully, more photos to come!

September Ladies Day



Recently, Marilyn Hamilton hosted the ladies at the New Braunfels Art League Gallery and afterwards they had lunch at the Huisache Grill there in New Braunfels. Marilyn Hamilton just continues to shine! We're very proud of her!



It seems the Ladies also visited Top Golf this month as well. For some odd reason, photos of the gals hitting golf balls have not been forthcoming, Could it be they're not...um...golfers???





Well, after last month's great turnout at Parry's Pizzeria, I hope you all will come to the Alamo Café for this month's Lunar Zoomer dinner with a Harvest Full Moon.

We'll meet **next Thursday evening, the 28th of September** at the Alamo Café at 10060 I-10, San Antonio, TX 78230 **Meet at 6:30 p.m.**

Y'all come!!!



We all loved First Watch this month and we'll do it again soon, but coming up next, Friday, October 13th, we'll meet at Whataburger, IH410 at 4502 Fredericksburg Rd, San Antonio, TX 78201 at **9:00 a.m.** C'mon out for great food and greater fellowship !

WHATABURGER.



Let's meet at the Freddy's, 16522 San Pedro Ave #281, San Antonio, TX 78232, **Sunday, October 15th** at one of our favorites for frozen treats.

Come early and have a Freddy's Steakburger at **6:00 p.m.** and have ice cream after!



Upcoming Runs and Events

Thursday, September 28th, Lunar Zoomer Dinner, hosted by George Lucas .

Alamo Café on IH10 at Wurzbach for great Mex and other comfort dinners. 6:30 p.m.

Saturday, October 7th. Knight's Run, led by Joe and Cheryl Knight.. Meet at

10:00 a.m. Details on our website soon!

Wednesday, October 11th—15th, Balloon Fiesta Run, led by Mark Hungerman.

Event details are on our club website.

Friday, October 13th, Men's Breakfast at Whataburger, hosted by George Lucas.

Meet at 9:00 a.m. for coffee and breakfast!

Friday, October 13th, Run up to the Natural History Museum in Bandera. Host-

ed and led by Lisa Martin. Afterwards, Lunch at the OST (Old Spanish Trail)

Meet at the Whataburger, 1604 at Bandera Rad and 9:00 a.m., depart soon after.

Sunday, October 15th, Sundaes on Sundays, hosted by George Lucas. Meet at

Freddy's, 16522 San Pedro, Come early at 6:00 p.m., have a great Steakburger, then ice cream after!

Thursday, October 19th, Ladies BUNCO, hosted by Marilyn Hamilton at Big'z

Burger Joint, 2303 N. Loop 1604 West, 78258

Tuesday, October 24th, BBMC meeting, president Sophie Parazo presiding.

Meet at Big'z Burger Joint at 6:30 p.m. to eat, 7:30 p.m. meeting starts

zoom-zoom

Remember When?



Judy and Paul Faulkner, 2006 Statewide

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