



# In The Breeze



Tom Matano  
1947-2025

September– October 2025

Official Newsletter of the Bluebonnet Miata Club

Still Free!

## ***Oh Canada, We Mean You No Harm, Just Fun!***

The UMN of Ottawa gave a wonderful Miata event in August. This well planned, and coordinated

Happening was a main focus of the trip for several couples from the Bluebonnet Miata members. The runs and stops were fabulous. The Saturday banquet was a served, plated meal. We boogied to the sounds of all those be-bop tunes we loved in the 50's & 60's as teens. The dress fit the fun mood too.

Getting there was great fun too. Where can you have a road trip more fun? The plan was simple: drive as far as you can, then crash, then get up and go another day. There were stops along the way to see Mammoth Cave and the Corvette Museum in Bowling Green, Ky. You know what car people we are!

The scenery was green and lush compared to Texas. We drove through much agrarian country. There were huge barns. I was in a target-rich environment for that. Enlarging my phone data storage was a must at mid point.

Crossing the border was fun. Note to others: Don't mention the word gun.! In Canada you become accustomed to dual language signs French and English. People were very courteous. Bob & Mimi took us for an extra-special run for the last day.

After the event we four, red Miatas traveled toward the finger lakes region. We visited wineries and relaxed.

This is where we split and went separate ways because we each had a different direction on places we wanted to see. There was no time to do everything, so our group shrank.

Look elsewhere in the newsletter for more comments and lots of photos!.



Tom and Tracy Read, Judy and Paul Faulkner, and Lisa and Craig Martin started their long trip from, where else, Bucce's in New Braunfels!

## 2023 Club Officers

### President

**Sophie Parazo**

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### Immediate past President

**Craig Martin**

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### Newsletter Editor\*

**George Lucas**

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*\* Appointed positions*

## New Members—Total 186

### Deonta Ellis

Boerne

2018 Jet Black Mica

### Jennifer and Luis Luftop

Spring Branch

2024 Snowflake White Pearl

**WELCOME!!!**

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**Many thanks to the photo contributions in this month's newsletter including these fine folks below.**

Sean Bryan, and Elaine Smith, Lone Star Miata Club

Sylvia Carranza, Houston Miata Club

Carol Smith, Northwest Arkansas Miata Club

And our own

Silvia Ferrell, Judy Faulkner, Sophie Parazo, Lisa Martin. And  
yours truly, George Lucas

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# President's Message

Hello BBMC!

First, I wanted to say thanks to George and Marilyn for a great run to Big Bend. I can't believe how many people and cars we had, and what a great group! George really went all out and it turned out like a mini BBMC Roundup!

I also wanted to say thank you to Ed and Barbara for a great run this past Saturday. I think it was one of the biggest runs in town in a while with 28 cars!

The weather is going to start cooling down so there will be more runs coming out on the calendar so keep an eye on that, and don't forget, we have a run committee so if anyone would like help with leading a run, just let them know.

Well, it's that time of year folks, the "ber" months! Not only will the weather start getting better, but the time for Executive committee elections is coming and then our big Christmas party. So if anyone wants to run for a position, please see the Nominating committee and if you would like to help with the Christmas party, please let me know!

Till next time, drive safely and keep on zoomin!



*Sophie Parazo, President*

## From the Editor

Greetings Y'all!

We had some real travelers last month. Several of our members drove up to the Canadian Miata Gathering in Ottawa. What road warriors! I was glad to see them return and from the photos in this month's newsletter see photos and hopefully stories elsewhere in this month's newsletter. Many thanks to those that shared their photos and writings about that trip! If I were a bit younger, I would have signed up for this adventure!

In addition, a small but enthusiastic group returned from MATG (Miatas at the Gap). I have a few photos in this newsletter also. I'm glad they all made it back safely. Quick note, next year is the 75th anniversary of that event and accommodations go very quickly. Contact member Stan Chambers for the low down on how to get the best deals for that North Carolina gathering!

As I hinted elsewhere in this rag, this trip had some really sad breakdowns on member's Miatas. We had one's fuel pump stopped working, another had an AC failure, and when it's upwards to 100 degrees, that's a recipe for disaster. And another ran over an unknown object and obliterated the radiator thus making his Miata useless. And yet another's A/C was failing as well. I believe this is the first time of the many trips to west Texas we've had this much trouble.

All's well that ends well and I believe all of these are either fixed or being repaired. Oh, and one that failed, caused the member to say, "What the heck, I'll just buy a new one", and...well, he did!

I've said it before, but this HFTM was truly a memorable trip and I was thrilled it turned out well. Thanks again to all that attended.

Stay tuned and stay cool!



*George Lucas, Editor*





# O Canada! Our home and native land! We Texans hope you understand, we love you!



## Canada Trip Excursions

By Craig Martin

Lisa and I really enjoyed our trip to Canada for the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Underground Miata Network (UMN) in Ottawa. For those of you who might be wondering, no you don't drive on the other side of the road like you do in England. The hardest thing for me to get used to was the top speed you could drive, converting from kilometers per hour to miles per hour, was 60 mph! Many times, I felt like I could get out and walk faster!

Anyway, there were, give or take one or two, 14 runs each day (Friday and Saturday), all leaving from the parking lot of the local baseball team located right next door to the host hotel. We signed up for Brewery and Cheese on Friday and Upper Ottawa River on Saturday.

The UNM likes its ice cream. They also like their beer, so they combined the two, thus making the Brewery and Cheese run very Canadian. This tour took in two of their favorite stops: Beau's All-Natural Brewing Company and St. Albert Cheese Co-operative.



They chose some very winding, curvy roads for this tour, reminiscent of our own Hill Country roads that we love. The roads wound through many small villages that featured what the Canadians call popsilos – basically murals on farm silos.

Beau's All-Natural Brewing Company offered tours – explaining how they make beer, as well as tastings.

Next was our lunch stop at the St. Albert Cheese Cooperative, which has been operating since 1894. The coop offered a wide assortment of cheeses made on site. One of these dishes is cheese curd, made on-site. They gave us a tour of the factory, which was very interesting.

After the tour was lunch and they encouraged you to try poutine, which is an appetizer or dish of French-Canadian origin consisting of French fries topped with cheese curds and brown gravy.

On Saturday was the Upper Ottawa River tour through the rugged Ottawa Valley. Like the Canadian voyageur ancestors in search of beaver pelts, we drove up the Ottawa River (west) to Portage-du-Fort, taking both the North (Quebec) and South (Ontario) shores. While in Quebec, we passed Luskville, Norway Bay, Bristol and Quyon. On the Ontario side was Armprior (known formerly as "The Prior") and Brae-side. At the terminus was a spectacular view of the Ottawa Valley. Our lunch stop was in Galvan's Hotel – an old style hotel and tavern and "Gateway to the Pontiac," as this area of Quebec is known.



We missed you guys and were glad y'all had a great time! Thanks,  
Craig for this story!

*-Editor*





# Photos, photos



Two Old  
Hippies

<<<<<<

Hey, that's  
not Canada!

>>>>>>



(Left) Paul Faulkner being  
interviewed by Canadian me-



# Head <sup>for 2025</sup> the Mountains *Return to Alpine*

*...an unforgettable event, for sure!*

*By George Lucas*

I can't say enough praise for the incredible folks that gathered for this, my last (I promise) hosting this HFTM event. I won't go into too much detail, but there were considerations I had never faced before on prior trips out to West Texas. My amazement is how attendees were so grateful for this get together. And we had folks from Oklahoma, Arkansas and all the Texas Miata clubs as well. My heart was filled with joy as everyone was so friendly!

In the header up there, I say forgettable because one thing for me is that I suffered a bad episode of vertigo on Saturday morning and had to ask Mark Hungerman to lead the day's run! Good job, Mark!

And, while I'm at it, I'd like to thank Paul and Judy Faulkner, Ed and Helenan Polansky, Mark Hungerman and others that helped me prepare for this event. Marilyn McCullen gets more jewels in her heavenly crown for putting up with me and staying with me all day Saturday. I am truly blessed by having you all there.



*More photos next few pages !!!*

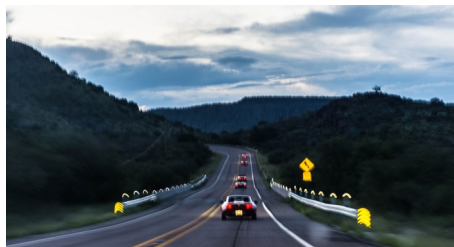
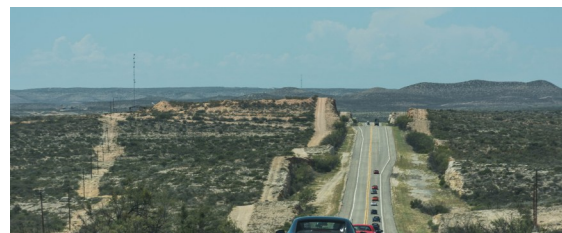
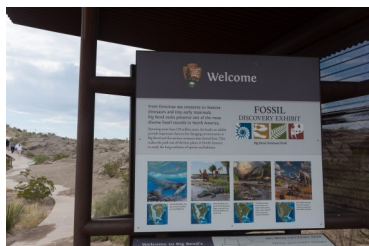
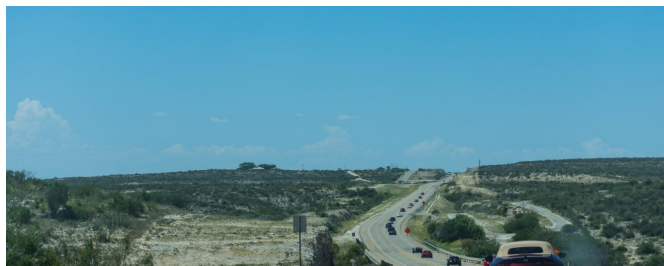


# Head *for 2025* the Mountains *Return to Alpine*



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Photos from  
Silva Ferrell,  
Judy Faulkner,  
Sophie Parazo and  
George Lucas





# Head *for* 2025 the Mountains *Return to Alpine*



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Photos from  
Silva Ferrell,  
Judy Faulkner,  
Sophie Parazo and  
George Lucas





# Head for 2025 the Mountains *Return to Alpine*

## Photos, photos

From Carol Smith



From Elaine Smith

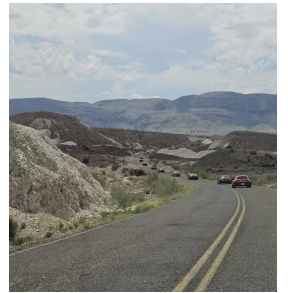




# Head for 2025 the Mountains *Return to Alpine*

*Photos, photos*

From Sylvia Carranza



From Sean Bryan







Jimbo's



Photos





# *Do you tailgate?*

By OpEd Polansky



Well....DO YOU tailgate?

One of the objectives of the new Run Committee is to provide information about safety issues when on a run. A critical one is to avoid tailgating and maintain a safe distance from any cars in front of you. In connection with that I received some interesting information from Ed Smith. Ed's a stickler for having safe, but fun, driving experiences. He sent me these observations on following distances.

*You should keep a safe 3-second gap between you and the car in front of you to give you adequate time to react and come to a safe stop. One way to determine that distance is to observe the car ahead of you as they pass by a stationary object, then count three seconds and see if you pass by the same object. Adjust your speed accordingly. If you are too close, your reaction time may be cut significantly. Also, if you are too far behind, OTMs (Other than Miatas) will break into the Miata run, causing you to drop further behind. The important safety factor is that, in 3 seconds at:*

60 MPH, you will travel 264 feet (equals 20 Miatas)  
 30 MPH, you will travel 132 feet (equals 10 Miatas)  
 15 MPH, you will travel 66 feet (equals 5 Miatas)



Are you a tailgater? Surely, you have driven too close to the vehicle in front of you at some point in time, especially if you drive an SUV or sports car. Per Safelite, studies have shown that family and economy cars tailgate less than sports cars and SUVs by a ratio of two to one.

In fact, the studies compared the amount of tailgating in various U.S. states and found that these five states exhibited the *worst* tailgating, i.e., finding it difficult to maintain a safe following distance:

1. Colorado (25%)
2. Georgia (20%)
3. Pennsylvania (20%)
4. Michigan (19%)
5. Texas (19%)

The truth is that tailgating is dangerous and causes thousands of vehicle accidents every year, as well as numerous fatalities. So don't be like the comic George Carlin when he once said, "Have you ever noticed that anybody driving slower than you is an idiot, and anyone going faster than you is a maniac?" Be safe, keep your distance.

*zoom-zoom*

# Radio Tutorial

by Ed Smith

*Please read this, very IMPORTANT*



*Editor's note: I often hear folks say, "Nah, we don't need a radio" Well, the key word in that comment is "need". Last weeks run had enough people attend, and the leaders, relay and sweep NEEDED their radio as 4 cars missed a turn. Before you say, "So, they found us, right?" If you ever lead a run or are an integral part of that run, you DO need a radio! Ed Smith has been a club member for longer than I can remember and unlike some veterans, Ed realizes how important radios are on runs. Thanks for this article, Ed!*

The Bluebonnet Miata Club uses two-way radios on all its runs to keep the members safe and informed of upcoming turns, hazards in the roadway, oncoming traffic and other safety issues. Typically, the only people transmitting are the Lead car, plus the Relay and Sweep cars. Others are free to comment whenever they wish but there is usually little of that.

Every car is asked to have a radio turned on to the channel the lead driver designates. That is usually channel 7 but can change. You can purchase a two-way radio at many retail stores such as Walmart, BassPro, Cabela's or online from Amazon and others. They are reasonably priced at about \$50, with many brands to choose from: Midland, Dewalt, Motorola, Baofeng, Cobra and almost all have rechargeable batteries. Be cautious of radios listed as "HAM" radio as they may receive on the FRS band but may not transmit on that band. Ask around to get feedback from other club members as to which radio they prefer.

When selecting a radio, be sure it can both transmit and receive on the FRS (Family Radio Service) and GRMS (General Mobil Radio Service) bands. FRS band and is limited to 2 watts transmit power on channels 1-7 and 15-22. GRMS band allows up to 50 watts of power on channels 15-22, but it requires an FCC license to transmit at those frequencies. Some radios will limit the power output based upon the channel you are using; other radios give you the opportunity to set the power output in the programing.

The FCC (Federal Communications Commission) license application process is simple. There are no tests, and a 10-year license costs about \$70 and is renewable for an additional fee. The official website for the **FCC Universal Licensing System (ULS)** is <https://wireless.fcc.gov/uls/>.

**Below is the Baofeng UV82 , found on Amazon,  
and probably the club's most used radio**





## Tom Matano, called the 'Father of the Mazda Miata,' has Died



Respected car designer Tsutomu “Tom” Matano has died at 76 years old on September 20, 2025.

Tom Matano held several design-related positions at General Motors and BMW early in his career, but he’s best remembered for designing Mazda sports cars in the 1980s, including the original MX-5 Miata.

Matano was born in Nagasaki, Japan, in 1947. He studied engineering in Japan and moved to the United States in late 1969. His trip across the Pacific was an unusual one: Instead of taking a plane, he traveled across the ocean on a freighter owned by his grandfather’s company. Matano enrolled in the Art Center College of Design in Pasadena, California, in 1971 and landed a job at General Motors in Detroit shortly after graduating. The sketch that got him hired was “a futuristic-looking rendering of a 1974 Pontiac.”

General Motors later transferred Matano to its Holden division in Melbourne, Australia. His next stop was Munich, Germany, where he worked for BMW and played a role in shaping Series the 3. He left because he didn’t like the cold weather in Munich.

Luckily, his next gig took him to a part of the world where the winters are much milder: Irvine, California, where Mazda’s North American arm operated a design studio. Armed with talent and a strong work ethic, Matano rose through the ranks in Mazda’s North American division. He started as Chief Designer, later became Vice President of Design and Executive Vice President of Western Operations, and ultimately moved up to Executive Designer and Director. He moved back to Japan in 1999 to work in Mazda’s headquarters and entered the new millennium as head of global design.

***Editors note.: In 2009, at the Miata World II gathering n Grapevine, many of our members had the pleasure of meeting and talking with Mr. Matano at the Texas World Speedway. Some even got his autograph inside their trunks! We all have a lot of reasons to appreciate this man’s life. RIP Matanosan***



# Upcoming Runs and Events

## September 2025

**Saturday, October 4th North by Northwest Run, led by Mark Hungerman.** Meet at the Stripes Exxon, just south of Blanco, (1138 US 281, Blanco, TX 78606. **Meet time is 9:30 a.m.**, depart time 10:00 a.m. Drive time is a little under 2:30, conditions being normal. We'll have two pit stops, and arrive in Llano at Coopers BBQ at about 1 PM. Not sure if it's the original location, but it's my favorite, and if they're running the smoked pork chop and baked potato special, it's yummy, and splitable for two people.

**Sunday, October 5th, Lunar Zoomer Dinner, hosted by George Lucas.** I'm feelin' fishy, so let's **meet at 6:00 p.m.** at Sea Island at the Forum. That's FORUM I-35, 8223 Agora Pkwy, Live Oak, TX 78154. They have many of your favorites on their senior items with a smaller portion. This is one of Marilyn's favorite places, mine too! Hope to see you all there!

**Friday, October 10th, men's breakfast, hosted by George Lucas.** By special request, we're going to have breakfast at Carlito's Mexican Taco House. I tried it and it's great, with great prices as well! Located at 11319 West Avenue, SATX 78213, C'mon out guys, we'll have a great time! When, you ask? **9:00 a.m.** of course!

**Friday, October 10th, Ladies Lunch, hosted by Monica Harrison.** Drive to Garrison Brothers Distillery in Hye, Texas for tour. Watch the club website for meetup time and further details.

**Saturday, October 11th, BBMC Trash Pickup, organized by Dave Ogden.** Meet at Big's Valero (aka "Miata Valero"), located 2.5 miles northeast of Rolling Oaks Mall on Nacogdoches Road. (18655 FM 2252) **Show time is 8:00 A.M.** Go time is 8:15 A.M. We should be back to Grumpy's for a great breakfast by 10:30 A.M. For any new folks, this is one of our community service projects. We pick up trash along a two mile section of FM1863 as part of the Texas Adopt-A-Highway program. We have this organized very well and we can have the whole section picked up in 90 minutes. You need to bring comfortable shoes, and long pants as you will walk a one mile section of roadside with a small group. We provide disposable gloves, but you can bring your own. I will also provide safety vests and water.

**Thursday, October 16th, Ladies Bunco, hosted by Marilyn Hamilton.** Big's Burger Joint, 2303 N. Loop 1604 W Access Rd, SATX 78258 **6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.**

**Saturday, October 25th, Tech Day, hosted by Monica and Nugget at the Ranch Hangar.** 9:00 a.m. (or earlier) all day. More details on food, etc, will be forthcoming.

**Sunday, October 26th, a run led by Gwen Mitchell,** whose details are not yet known.

**Tuesday, October 28th, BBMC monthly meeting, president Sophie Parazo presiding.** Meet and greet at **6:30 p.m.**, meeting starts at **7:00 p.m.**

## .....and in November

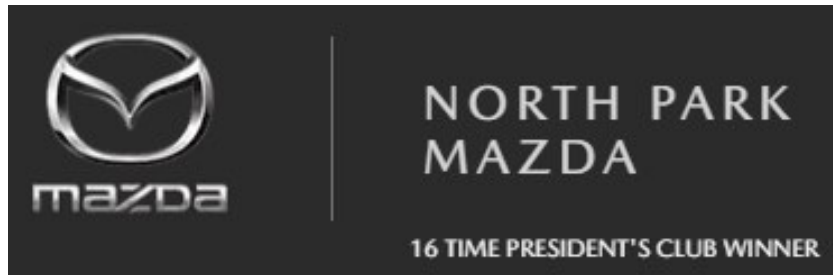
**Saturday, November 15th, BMC's 1st Annual FUNCANA! Organized by George Lucas and Paul Faulkner.** What is a Funcana, you ask? Well, it's a low speed, light-hearted, and creative driving competition for cars, like ours! It's a test of dexterity and teamwork rather than high speed driving ability. Make plans to attend and you don't have to have a partner, you can choose anyone~ You'll have fun and lots of laughs! **Starts at 10:30 a.m.** at the Nugget and Monica ranch hangar!

**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!





*Don't forget our Sponsors!*



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*Remember When?*



**Marilyn and David Hamilton, 2010**