



In The Breeze



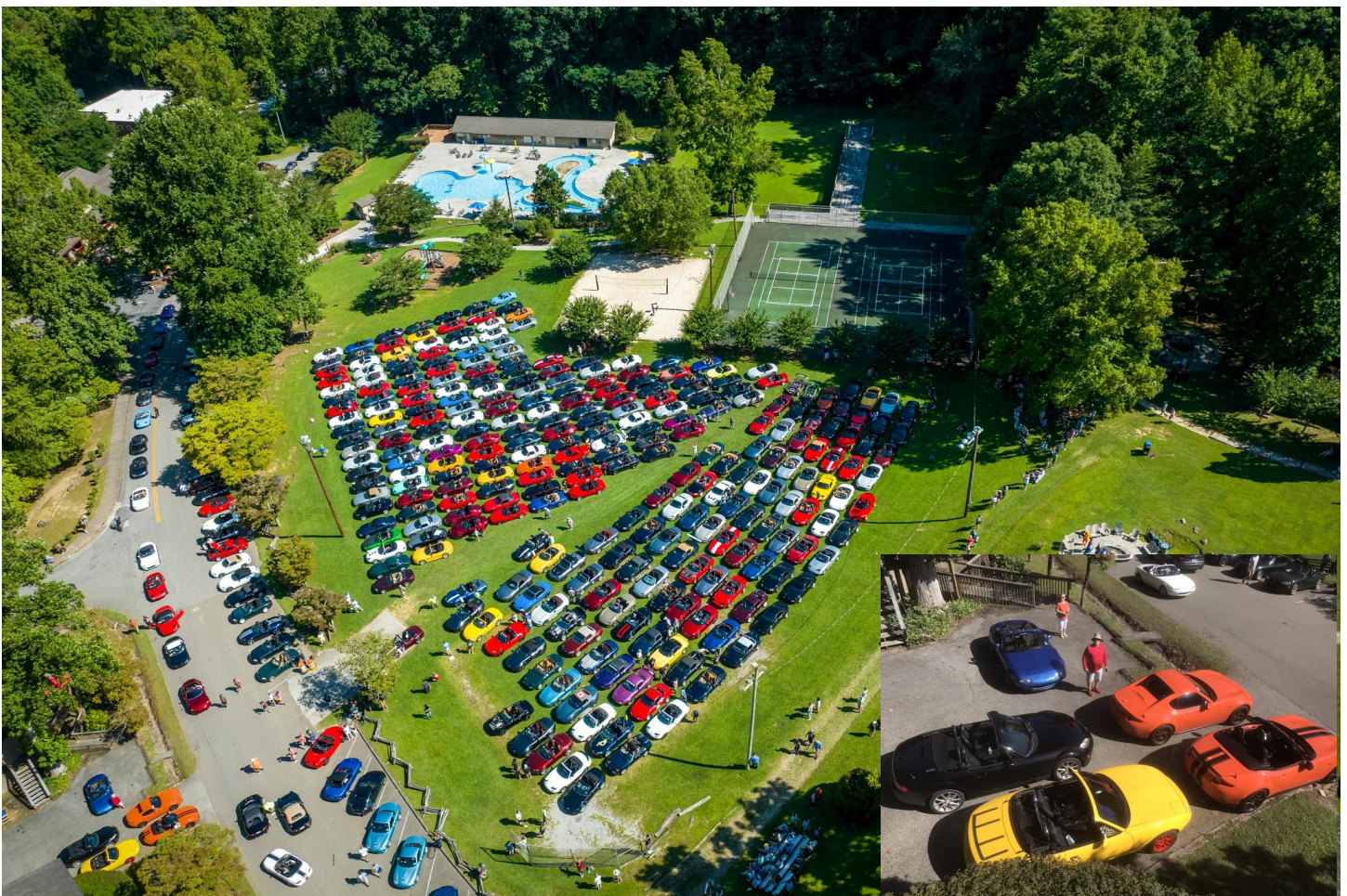
*Miatas
at the
Gap*
Recap inside!

September 2023

Official Newsletter of the Bluebonnet Miata Club

Still Free!

Miatas at the GAP 2023



Pretty impressive, isn't it? Thanks to Stan Chambers for this overview, literally, taken from he and Betty's hotel room. Stan and Betty were joined by Paul Wilson and Mark Hungerman as the official Bluebonnet Miata Club entourage to take in the 2023 MATG this year.

An amazing road with over 300 turns in 11 miles, our group ran that about 5 times over the long weekend! They eagerly ran at 6:30 a.m. each day! Missing most of the traffic that early, I'm told they enjoyed themselves immensely!

We're glad to have you guys back safe and sound and ready to share some stories with us!

This photo and other photos inside this issue of In The Breeze courtesy of Stan Chambers, Paul Wilson and Mark Hungerman.

2023 Club Officers

President (New!)

Sophie Parazo

president@bluebonnetmiata.org

Vice President (New!)

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!

No new members, too dang hot!

Total Current Members: 202

Contributing Photographers

Paul Wilson

Stan Chambers

David "Nugget" McNett

Lisa Martin

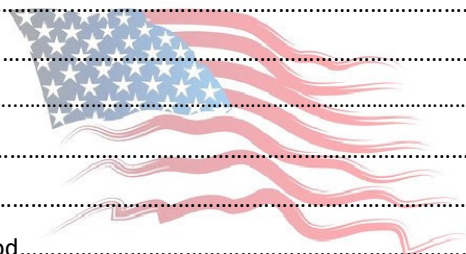
Sophie Parazo

Mark Hungerman

George Lucas

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ZOOM-ZOOM

President's Message

Hello everyone,

Boy, I can't believe we've gone a few weeks without an official run! I think I'm having withdrawals! Well, September will start off with a few runs so we'll get back to it fast enough!

I'm excited for what is planned for the next few weeks and hope to see a lot of you there. I have even met quite a few MX-5 owner's on the road and so excited every time I see someone new that is not part of the club. It's great to see how enthusiastic people are about their MX-5s and I always encourage them to attend one of our meetings to meet more MX-5 enthusiasts.

Don't forget, if you need cards to hand out, please see Joe! We are also starting to prepare for the different end-of-year events that we attend or participate in as a group. If there is something you think would be good for the group, please let us know!

Until next time...stay cool, safe, and enjoy the ride!



Sophie Parazo, president

From the Editor

Greetings, y'all!

How is this hot weather affecting you? Personally, it reminds me of the time we were battling the Covid scare. Not going outside, too hot to plan outdoor activities and generally puts one in a foul mood, right? Well, let's hope we all snap out of it and get together again for some serious zooming!

I'd like to take a minute to thank those of you that have helped me by giving me good content for our newsletter. You know who you are. Hey, 10 pages of interesting content is certainly difficult for me and I truly appreciate what you all send me. I am only a reflection of you guys' activities. So, thanks!

As you all know, or should know by now, we have a Tech Day coming up soon! I recently sent out a pretty good idea of what we have coming up regarding the where and when, albeit my mistakenly sending out the wrong date! Now, now, I quickly sent out another update with the correct date, so back off, haha. This old head has a lot of things rattling around up there and sometimes errors show up here and, well, lots of places in my mind!

So, with that in mind, let me reiterate about getting your parts together for that job you want to perform on your Miata. Or, maybe you just want to spiff it up a bit, heck, bring it on, I'll even help you!

If you have any questions, ask myself, Lisa Martin or Dave Ogden and we'll fill you in!

Until then, please enjoy the newsletter!

Get out there and don't forget to drink a lot of water!

Zoom Zoom!!!



George Lucas, Editor

What are some special scenic drives near San Antonio?



By OpEd Polansky



Ralph Waldo Emerson once said, "It's not the destination, it's the journey." And, in my opinion, the best way to go on a journey is in a Miata. We don't really need a destination, but we need a journey. That made me think it might be worthwhile to point out some of the special scenic journeys that can be found within a short distance from San Antonio. Here are a few suggested journeys.

Marble Falls to Inks Lake

It's a 25-mile paved route passing by several Colorado River lakes and the Longhorn Cavern. Beginning in Marble Falls junction of 281 and RM 1431, go north on 281. After about 8 miles, turn left onto Park Road 4. The road travels west onto Backbone Ridge with view of the river valley and leads up to Inks Lake State Park. Per Mark Hungerman, you might want to continue past Inks Lake, staying on PR 4 up to 29 for a "killer drive" as he puts it.

Willow City Loop

A 22-mile paved route through a rugged area of the Hill Country noted for its spring wildflowers. By the way, George Lucas leads an annual bluebonnet run on the Loop. Start the drive heading north from Fredericksburg on TX 16 about 14 miles to RM1323. It makes a full loop and returns to RM 1323.

Comfort to Luckenbach

A 23-mile paved drive from the town of Comfort (supposedly named because it was the first comfortable place after a difficult trip from New Braunfels) to country music fame village of Luckenbach. The drive begins in Comfort and heads east on RM 473, then turns onto Old No. 9 Highway and passes by the Old Tunnel Wildlife Management Area and home of the famous bat cave. Then you turn right on Grapetown Road which leads to a right turn on RM 1376, a short distance from Luckenbach.

San Marcos to Guadalupe River State Park

A 53-mile road from springs of San Marcos to the white water of the Guadalupe River. Beginning in San Marcos, you travel west on RM 12, which turns into RM 32 (called the Devil's Backbone), a left on FM 3424, and right on FM 306 (passed Canyon Lake), left on US 281, right on 46, and finally a right on PR 31 to the State Park (and Honey Creek State Natural Area).

Kerrville to Lost Maples State Natural Area

A 49-mile drive along upper Guadalupe River. Leaving Kerrville on 27, turn left on 39 at Ingram and you will pass through Hunt on way to a left turn on RM 187 that takes your to Lost Maples. The name of the park comes from the maples having retreated due to climate changes to only isolated pockets where they have extra shade and moisture.

These are just a few of nearby journeys to go on in your Miata. Despite the heat and the resulting paucity of BBMC runs at this time of year, don't let that keep you from getting "on the road again" (as Willie sings). Get out and enjoy the Hill Country with your own DIY run.

Source: Scenic Driving Texas by Laurance Parent

zoom-zoom

MATG # 27, August, 2023

By Paul Wilson



Stan and Betty Chambers, Mark Hungerman, and Paul Wilson joined 1,113 registered Miatas and 1,670 registered enthusiasts who attended the 27th Miata's at the Gap [MATG] gathering between August 3rd and 6th. Many non-registrants also joined in the festivities for all or part of the event.

For those who are unfamiliar, *MATG* is an annual event that centers around Hwy 129, aptly nicknamed the *Tail of the Dragon*. The *Dragon* writhes over 11 miles and 318 curves between South Carolina and into Tennessee. Numerous challenging and entertaining nearby roads easily accommodate the assembled Miatafiles.

Miata's from across the United States gather at the *MATG* base of operations, the Fontana Village Resort. Those who attended the *Dark Dragon* event to witness the 2017 total eclipse will recall that we stayed at Fontana Village.

Multiple vendors have a strong presence with Miata merchandise to satisfy most any need or want. Enthusiasts of all car and human generations mingle and share with an infectious camaraderie. The baseball field used for the Saturday group photo filled after accepting a mere 20% of the cars that were in attendance.

Stan, Mark, and I mustered at the *Deal's Gap Motorcycle Resort* before dawn each morning. The Motorcycle Resort is less than a mile from the beginning of the *Dragon*. As soon as the sun edged over the horizon, off we scurried between trees, sheer drop-offs, and rocky soil walls. Never encountering traffic ahead of us, we zoomed through the numerous hairpins, switchbacks, and challenging off-camber curves. Our grins were permanently plastered on our faces as we concentrated on the road ahead.

Following a brief break at the large turn-out just across the Tennessee border, we drove the 11-mile return through the *Dragon* to the Motorcycle Resort. Breakfast at *The Dragon's Den* followed. I can highly recommend the *Dragon Slayer* as a tasty and filling reward for successfully remaining on the black stuff between the trees, walls, and drop-offs.

Stan found and adapted a *technical run* prepared for sport motorcycles that we enjoyed for the remainder of the day on Friday. The Saturday afternoon run was marred by an accident on the *Dragon* that slowed our drive to another area. We managed to have a Pineapple Whip [think *Dole Whip*] just outside of Robbinsville, NC on both afternoons; a cool treat that can't be missed.

If you've never been to *MATG*, it's loads of fun; especially when you attend with fellow Bluebonnet members. Next year's event is scheduled for August 1 – 4. Mark your calendar and begin planning now!

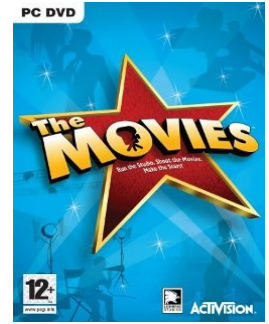
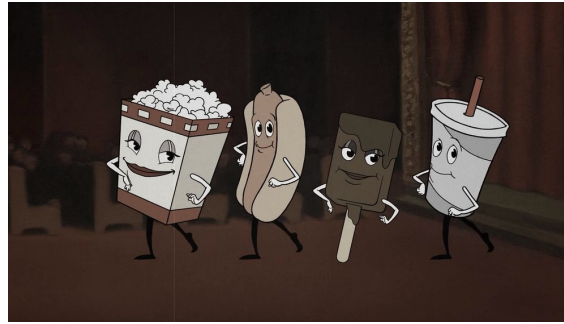
Miatas at the Gap

PHOTOS



Editors Note: Honestly, while I appreciate the photos offered to me from Stan Chambers, Paul Wilson and Mark Hungerman, I think they'll agree they simply can't properly justify what you will see if you attend Miatas at the Gap. I strongly encourage going there, you'll be amazed!

August Ladies Day



..... Oh, Oh, Ohhhooo, Girls just wanna have fun

And it looks like they did!!!

And, coming up...

Red & Hot Miata Ladies Event

Ladies, please join us for a red, hot August event in New Braunfels, Texas

Friday, August 25th, Lunch promptly at 11:00 a.m. at the Huisache Grill, 303 W. San Antonio St in New Braunfels.

Then, we will visit the New Braunfels Art League Gallery, 239 W. San Antonio St., after lunch.

Hosted by Betty Hicks. Contact me or Marilyn Hamilton if you have any questions.

PLEASE RSVP VIA EMAIL OR TEXT BETTY HICKS.



"Twice in a Blue Moon"

That's right, another Lunar Zoomer Dinner in August! August 30th, exact!

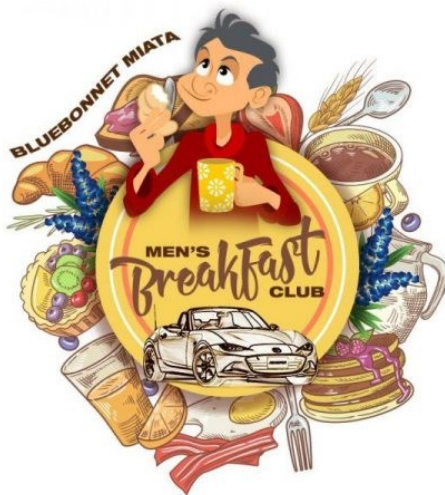


Wednesday evening, 6:30 p.m., we'll have dinner at Parry's Pizzeria & Tap House. C'mon out and enjoy pizza and other Italian favorites to 5311 N Loop 1604 W, Suite 114 S.A. Tx 78249 at the South Rim!

Talk about fun, after we eat, we can stroll on down the sidewalk to Handel's Homemade Ice Cream for some delicious ice cream treats!



That's right, another Lunar Zoomer dinner AND Sundaes on ...um...Wednesday evening!



Last time we took a break from the upscale breakfast places and went back to reliable Whataburger. With 10 men attending, we enjoyed swapping lie....er...stories about our Miata adventures.

Coming up next, Friday, September 8th, we'll meet at First Watch, 700 E Sonterra Blvd Ste. 314, San Antonio, TX 78258. **9:00 a.m.** We've never been to this location!

Upcoming Runs and Events

Wednesday, August 30th, Twice in a Blue Moon month! Hosted by George Lucas. Another new place, join us at Parry's Pizzeria at the South Rim, 5311 N Loop 1604 W, Suite 114 S.A. Tx 78249! After dinner we'll take a stroll down the walk for some delicious ice cream delights! Yes, another Sundaes on Monday in August!

Friday, September 8th, Men's Breakfast, hosted by George Lucas. Let's try First Watch, 700 E Sonterra Blvd Ste. 314, San Antonio, TX 78258. **9:00 a.m.** We've never been to this location!

Saturday, September 9th, Honorary Jackson Catfish Run. Led by George Lucas, we'll meet at the Valero at the south end of Blanco, Texas at 10:00 a.m. We have an exciting new route including Lime Creek Road up to the Catfish Parlor in Georgetown, Texas! Y'all come!

Saturday, September 16th, TECH DAY RETURNS! Hosted by "Nugget" and Monica and are opening up their fantastic location in Spring Branch. 8:00 a.m.—??? Full details are on our website, bluebonnetmiata.org.

Thursday, September 21st, Ladies Bunco, hosted by Marilyn Hamilton. 6:30 p.m., Big'z Burger Joint, 2303 N. Loop 1604 W, 78258

Saturday, September 23rd, Barbed Wire Burger Run, led by Jim Treat. 10:00 a.m. Details TBA soon!

Tuesday, September 26th, Club Meeting, Big'Z Burger Joint, 2303 N. Loop 410 W, SAT 78258 Meet at 6:30 for dinner and meeting starts promptly at 7:30 p.m. President Sophie Barazo will chair the meeting.

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.

Coming in October...

Saturday, October 7th. Knight's Run, led by Joe and Cheryl Knight.. Details on our website soon!

zoom-zoom

Paul Faulkner

He is a man of many talents. Most of you know him for his love of Miatas. He also dabbles in woodworking and design.

His background is a degree in Industrial Arts from what used to be North Texas State University. Later, during his teaching career teaching CAD drafting and wood shop he immersed his students in handicrafts. One of these skills was making cutting boards using a variety of woods. Every mom was delighted with the one they received from their son or daughter. Paul enjoys making these cutting boards almost as much as he enjoys giving them away. He always made sure at the faculty Christmas breakfast there was a drawing for a cutting board each year.

With retirement came the chance to build his own shop and furnish with wood working tools. He enjoys the challenge of each block made. His designs have gone from simple stripes to more complex color mixes creating very beautiful creations.

He delights in making these exotic looking cutting boards and bringing them to our monthly Miata meetings. You must have “the luck of the draw” to land one of Paul’s beauties! Enjoy his gifts; they’re made and given from the heart.

-Judy Faulkner



Remember When?



Diane and Jeff Holbrook, 2010, Romp Thru the Rockies!

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