

# In The



Newsletter of the Bluebonnet Miata Club

DECEMBER 2005

# Breeze



## 2005 Club Officers

### President

*Pat O'Docharty:*

### Vice President

*Dave Hamilton*

### Secretary

*Neil Winslow*

### Treasurer

*Gene Carlow*

### Membership

*Leon Franklin*

### Newsletter

*Tim McCurdy*

### Webmasters

## Prez Speaks:

*By Pat O'Docharty*

Hope this letter finds everyone in good health and enjoying the Christmas Holiday with family and friends.

This year has gone so fast. I can't let it end, however, without some reflections.

First and foremost, I want thank my fellow officers, Dave Hamilton, Neil Winslow, Tim McCurdy, and Luther Ward for their wonderful support this past year. It was indeed a pleasure serving with you. I especially want to thank Rohm Thompson and Wally Peters, our outgoing Membership Director and Treasurer, respectively. They have volunteered, either willingly or not, to fill these positions for several years and have done an outstanding job. Their council and Bluebonnet experience was very personally valuable to me this year and I am hoping that they continue to remain very active.

I welcome our newest officers, Leon Franklin and Gene Carlow, and look forward to working with them in 2006.

Secondly, my sincerest thanks to all of you who have stepped forward to contribute your time and talent to our Club.

The many exciting runs followed by fantastic food, the outstanding effort that produced the best Roundup ever, and a wonderful Christmas party. These events don't just happen. They take time, and most importantly, an unselfish commitment. That is what makes the Bluebonnet Miata Club so special.

Speaking of that, I hope to see many of you at the 2006 Planning Meeting. Larry and Carol Vervack have graciously offered to host this upcoming event in January at their home. Please check the Events Calendar for details.

Until then, Paula and I wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a joyous New Year of Zoomin in '06.

Keep on Zoomin!

# KUDO'S

*A Final thank you to the excellent newsletter printed last month by Don and Judy Privett. Time, money, and logistics prevent a repeat every month. But sometime next year?....we'll see. Meanwhile, if the post office screwed up your copy, enjoy it at [Bluebonnetmiata.org](http://Bluebonnetmiata.org)*

## Welcome New Members

Beverly Sands—'02 Crystal Blue.  
Helotes

George Lucas, 95 Black,  
San Antonio

## Leakey Run, 27 Nov 05

Take a bright clear beautiful morning, perfect temperatures, add 13 Miata's, their drivers and passengers and what do you get? A recipe for a perfect run, especially at the end of November (this helps us to remember that's why we live here).

This was the date for our annual Leakey fall run. We were excited to have Marilyn McCullen join us for her first run and Dave & Pam Baer join us after a lengthy absence and sadly, Bill & Shawnda Buscher join us for their last run for a while, as Shawnda is in a motherly way and the Miata must go for a while.

Everyone was given a queue sheet and again, I had established re-grouping points so that if we got separated by traffic we would all rejoin at these points. Setting sail at a moderate pace, one of the first things I noticed was how light the traffic was and I thought, this is going to be a good day. Shortly after leaving Helotes we encountered the Harley Davidson Motorcycle club, who I had been advised was going to Leakey as well. Fortunately, the highway had areas where we could pass the scooters, which we did. Stopping at the Exxon station in Bandera, the scooters pulled in right behind us. Our planned route was to take 470 through Tarpley to Utopia and then to Vanderpool. Leakey and on. I located the motorcycle "Road Boss" and determined which route they would be taking. I was prepared to alter our route if they were going on 470. Luckily they were running behind and they were going directly through Medina and on to Leakey --- now everything was even better. Hitting 470 we were most fortunate not to encounter any significant rolling road blocks which allowed us to go at a moderate quick pace, especially through the turns and twisties. This also allowed us to stay ahead of the scooters as we did not want them ahead of us going from Vanderpool to Leakey. Making a quick stop to divide into a fast and moderate groups we set off. Not too far into the run, the fast group was

slowed by a slow mover and we were now all together again. Finally, the slow mover pulled over and we again set sail with the fast group pulling away, but still in sight. I think everyone enjoyed the quicker pace and I was very pleased that we all stayed together. Making our final pit stop and re-grouping in Leakey, we took a not often used route down the Frio River to hwy 350. Picking up this road we headed to Utopia. As this was a more frequently used road by the locals we did pick up some traffic which decreased the fun factor a bit. After seeing and going through Utopia we again headed for Vanderpool. This is a fun road, while flat it does have several curves on it which are enjoyable. Just before Vanderpool we turned off on 337 towards Medina and our desert stop at Love Creek Orchard for apple pie or all things apple before we headed for a late lunch in Bandera.

Hwy 16 from Medina to Bandera is a road much like the road from Utopia to Vanderpool, not hilly but several curves. Arriving in Bandera most everyone decided to eat at Billie Jeans café. The service and food was delicious. Following dinner everyone left for home and I think I speak for all who were there, it was a great and enjoyable day in our Miata's. Again I would like to commend the group as a whole; everyone stayed together and enjoyed this brisk run in a safe and fun manner.

Leon & Pat Franklin



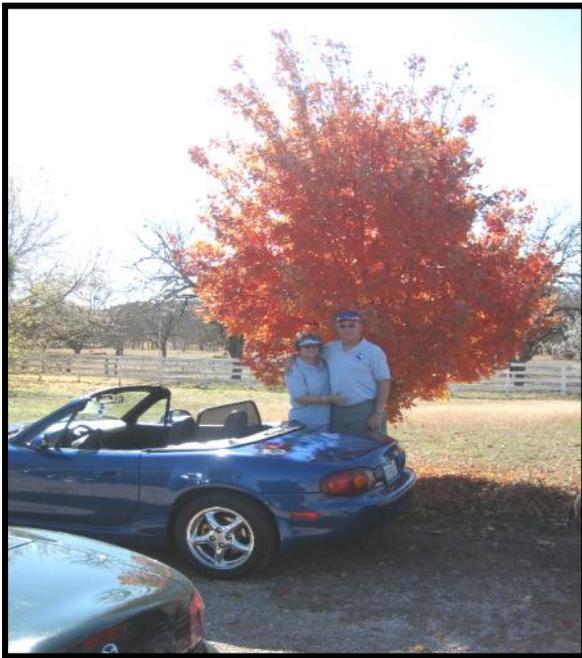
**Leon lays out the route and run instructions.**



Passing out the Bluebonnet Miata Club newsletter.



Our run leader getting directions?



Thanks for a great run Leon and Pat!!



What's a run

Without good food



At the end!

## ANNUAL PO-PO RUN

The annual PoPo Run, led by Rohm and Barbara Thompson, took place on 3 December. About 20 to 30 Miata's (whose counting) gathered at Rolling Oaks Mall at 1:30. Rohm told us that it would be a moderate run to PoPo's since his navigator was his grandson (what 3 or 4 years old?) I would have to say somewhere between moderate and spirited we had a enjoyable trip into the hill country and around to Welfare where our table was prepared and great food was enjoyed by all.

*(An interesting development occurred. A fellow, Tim Schofield, a wanna-be miataphyte met us at PoPo's. He had found the club on the web and the note from Rohm that we would arrive at PoPo's around 4pm. He had waited for us to arrive and after introductions he had supper with us. The only problem is that Tim does not own a Miata – yet. Pat was kind enough to let Tim know that Tim McCurdy was awaiting his 2006 Miata (copper red, is there any other color?) and is interested in possibly selling his 2001 SE. To make a short story short, a lot of talking, a lot of looking, and a short test drive, and Tim let on that dark green is his favorite color and the SE to boot...he wants to buy! But that was then and alas, no new Miata has turned up, so we are on a holding pattern. If it works out, great, but if not, I have a Good-Win Racing Roadster Sport 2 muffler, a Good-Win Racing polished aluminum Monster Flow exhaust w/cool box, and a chrome Frenzy Style bar with tan saddlebag and wind blocker for sale.)*

prepared by Tim McCurdy

### MORRIS RANCH

Location: To reach Morris

Ranch, drive westward on Farm to Market Road 2093 approx. 7.2 miles from its intersection with Texas Highway 16 about 2.2 miles west of Fredericksburg. Then turn south on the paved Morris-Tivydale Road and drive 1.9 miles to a four-way intersection at the center of the former Morris Ranch Community. This was the area where the "Meet the Faulkners" Gimmick Run was staged.

Morris Ranch is unique in Texas history as the

entire community was devoted to breeding and training thoroughbred racehorses. In 1856 Francis Morris purchased 23,000 acres some twelve miles southwest of Fredericksburg, Gillespie County. It was not until 1884 the transformation of the rangeland was converted to a center or horse raising and training. Upon the death of his father in 1886, the property came to John A. Morris, whom continues the project in progress.

Within ten years the complex came to be a focus of animal husbandry and contained many buildings to house the animals and workers. There was a large headquarters with home and office for the managers, a huge barn for the stallions, a two-story motel for single employees and visitors to the ranch. There was a two-story stone store building which had a recreation room on upper floor for dances and social gatherings. There was a small drug store building. Also on the ranch was a cotton gin and steam-powered roller mill. Cotton was processed from the ranch and surrounding communities. The mill chopped oats for the horses and produced three different types of commercial flour.

Northeast of the headquarters was the training center location. There was a one-mile racetrack, barns for mares, colts, and young horses training. A two-story jockey house was for the young men receiving training. There was a luxurious home built for the owners who came occasionally from the East to visit and observe progress.

The most recognizable building still standing is the stone schoolhouse with steeple and bell. The school served many years for the ranch and surrounding area. It was also used as a church by various denominations A graveyard was begun behind the school. At one time in the 1970's there appeared to be activity at the schoolhouse of a vineyard and wine production. Today the schoolhouse has been converted to a home and the immediate area is now a cattle ranch. It can still be seen from the road.

Morris Ranch reached peak of population and activity by late 1880's. In 1890 numerous states enacted laws to cease horse racing and thus curtailed the market for stock and training on the Texas ranch. The operation was ended in 1902 by the Morris family and a dispersal sale was held.

Land was gradually sold. The post office discontinued in 1954. Today many buildings remain to give a hint of the life that was once there. Today Morris Ranch is considered a ghost town as such but many rural landowners may not agree with that.

Information was gathered from: Baker, Lindsay, Ghost Towns of Texas, 1986.

Submitted by Judy Falkner

### Trash Pick Up—Sat 10

In what is getting to be the social event of the Miata Club a whole slew (near 20) of members came out for our quarterly scheduled highway clean up of our adopted highway. With the superb planning on the part of event leader Jeff Holbrook we knocked out our two miles of road in record time. Ready for Grumpy's a problem was discovered. George Lucas noticed that his cell phone had fallen off his belt. Not an ordinary cell phone, it was one of those fancy ones that control peoples lives, about \$400 worth!. So back to the road we went, dropping people off at the parts of the road that George had walked. Before 10 minutes passed Jeff laying sideways on the back of Virginia's miata told us it had been found. Everyone was picked up, scrambled into their ride and off to Grumpy's. At Grumpy's we met a man who had just bought a Miata, but he was kind of grumpy and I don't think he will join our club...but I could be wrong. The road was clean, and our bellies filled—life is good!

### A SHADY OAKS CHRISTMAS DINNER—2005

Sunday, 11 December, the club participated in a Shady Oaks Christmas Party at the Shady Oaks Ranch owned by JC and Betty Herrera. Previously our Christmas party was a progressive run where appetizers, meal and dessert were held at 3 different club members houses. At the planning meeting, JC and Betty graciously offered the use of the ranch, where dinner and drinks would be served at a minimal cost.

JC met the group at Rolling Oaks Mall, handed out Q-sheets, and briefed us on the trip to the Shady Oaks Ranch. After all were totally confused we set out and hoped for the best. Despite wet roads and night darkness, everybody made it (only had to make two corrective turn-arounds.) Jim and Freda were already there and a total count of 44 people attended the event.

Although other entertainments were available (pool, foosball, and ping pong), it was a cold and dreary night so most just enjoyed the fellowship, the fire, and the DVD Don and Judy Privett brought with scenes from the recent Miata Roundup in Kerrville – all set to appropriate or not so appropriate music! JC and Betty sweated in the kitchen preparing dinner while we laughed at the DVD or talked about whatever. The short wait was worth it! A buffet of chicken, veggies, bread, salad, all expertly prepared. (Not to forget the lavish dessert bar, that will leave many dieting for the next week.)

Following the meal we gathered around the Christmas tree and after drawing numbers started selecting Christmas gifts. All had to bring a unisex gift costing less than \$5. You know the rest...when your number comes up select a gift under the tree, or take a gift someone else selected. Not for the faint of heart!

The most popular gifts that made their way around the room were, lotto tickets, Santa Display, bottles of wine (2), wine holder (1), Jim's monkey – taken by JC, and Mike's book – Guide to Sex After 40 (blank pages) - no one took it from him. A very fun and humorous time for all!!

Don and Judy gave DVD's of the Roundup to all—a very nice gift indeed! As we have learned in the past, JC and Betty know how to party. It was a very successful and fun Christmas party for 2005. So Merry Christmas to all and to all a good night!

*(On a sad note, new member Beverly Sands had to leave early for a medical emergency at home. We hope and pray all turns out all right.)*

submitted by Tim McCurdy

# A Shady Oaks Christmas Party - 2005



## Minutes of Meeting, 22 Nov 05

1. **Open:** At 7:30 PM by Pat O'Docharty, President, at Mama's Cafe, 14424 N. Hwy 281, San Antonio.
2. **Welcoming of Visitors and Members:** The President welcomed new visitors Tony Abel ('96 Black) and Megan Schafer (enthusiastic Miata passenger and guest of Lee Bush). There were \_\_\_ members present.
3. **Reports of officers:**
  - a. **Treasurer, Wally Peters:** Reported a balance on hand of .
  - b. **Membership, Rohm Thompson:** Reported club holding at 85 members.
  - c. **Secretary, Neil Winslow:** Reported some Roundup run waivers not turned in yet.
  - d. **Newsletter, Tim McCurdy:** Reported delays in publication due to Newsletter being 22 pages long, with several color photos of the Roundup runs and activities
4. **Reports of Past Runs and Activities:**
  - a. **Lockhart Run:** Virginia Steiner reported it was a "spirited" run, that included 18 Miatas and ended with a barbeque and an open fire.
  - b. **Miata Roundup:** Pat Franklin reported having registered 103 participants, a club profit to date of \$360.00 and still has a few \$5.00 and \$10.00 tee-shirts left to be sold. Also, the YO Ranch Resort wants us to come back next year.
5. **Reports of Future Runs and Activities:**
  - a. **Leakey Run:** Leon Franklin reported that the run will be held on Sun-

day, Nov 27th, meeting a Blanco Road and Loop 1604 at the National Furniture Store. Participants are to start gathering at 8:30 A.M. for the run to depart an 9:00 A.M.

**b. Shady Oaks Christmas:** Betty Herrera reported that the event will start at the Rolling Oaks Mall Sears parking lot, departing at 6:00 P.M. for Shady Oaks. The cost will be \$6.00 per person for dinner, plus a wrapped (preferably unisex) gift not to exceed \$5.00. Of three menu options, members present voted for the Mexican dinner. BYOB alcohol.

### **c. Runs to be Detailed on emails and Club Website:**

- (1) Popo Run      Dec 3rd
- (2) Trash Pick Up   Dec 10th
- (3) Kick Off 2006 Run    Jan 7th
- (4) 2006 Planning Meeting   Jan 15
- (6) Flightline Café Run   Jan 22

### **6. New Business:**

**a. Host Club for the 2006 Texas Miata Roundup:** Members present voted to send letters to all Miata Clubs in Texas to determine if any would like to host next year's Roundup. If another club doesn't want to do it, the Bluebonnet Club will host the event and Pat Franklin agreed to be the General Chairperson again. There was also a large show of hands from members who will work on the various committees that will be needed.

### **b. Election of Officers for 2006:**

#### **(1) Reelected:**

President - Pat O'Docharty

Secretary - Neil Winslow,

Webmaster - Luther Ward

Newsletter - Tim McCurdy.

**(2) New Officers:**

Treasurer - Gene Carlow

Membership - Leon Franklin

**7. Close:** At 8:00 P.M.

Submitted by Neil Winslow, Secretary

**GEO METRO VS FORD FESTIVA**

author: unknown

I borrowed my wife's Geo Metro last night. One liter of raw power, three cylinders of asphalt-tearing terror on thirteen-inch rims. It's stock, alright, nothing done to it, but it pushes the barely 2000 pounds of Metro around with AUTHORITY. I'm always catching mopeds and 18-wheelers by surprise...

I was headed back from Baskin Robbins with my manly triple-latte cappuccino blast ("No Cinnamon, ma'am, I take it BLACK"), when I stopped at a streetlight. As the Metro throbbed its throaty idle around me, I sipped my bold beverage and wiped the white froth from my stiff upper lip. I was minding my own business, but then I heard a rev from the next lane. I turned, made eye contact, then let my eyes trace over the competition. Ford Festiva-a late model, could be trouble. Low profile tires, curb feelers, and school

bus-yellow paint. Yep, a hot rod, for sure. The howl of his motor snapped my reverie, and I looked back into the driver's eyes, nodded, then blipped my own throttle. As I tugged on my driving gloves and slipped on my sunglasses (gotta look cool to be fast, and I am \*damn\* cool, hence...), the night was split with the sound of seven screaming cylinders...

Then the light turned... I almost had him out of the hole, my three pounding cylinders thrusting me at least a millimeter back into my seat, as smoke pouring from my front right tire... my unlimited slip differential was letting me down! I saw in the corner of my eyes, a yellow snout gaining, and I heard the roar of his four cylinders. He slung by me, right front wheel juddering against the pavement, and he flashed me a smile as his .7 extra liters of motor stretched its legs. I kept my foot gamely in it, though, waiting for the CHECK ENGINE light to blink on in the one-gauge (no tachometer here!) instrument panel. I saw a glimpse of chrome under his bumper, and knew the ugly truth... He was running a custom exhaust-probably a 2-into-1 dual exhaust...maybe event cut-outs! Damn his hot-rod

soul! The old lady passing us on the crosswalk cast a dirty look in our boy-racer direction... Yet still I persisted, with my three pumping pistons singing a heady high-pitched song, wound fully out.

Though only a few handfuls of seconds had passed, we were nearing the crosswalk at the other side of the intersection, and I heard the note of his engine change as he made his shift to second, and I saw his grin in his rear-view mirror fade as he missed the shift! I rocketed by, shifting, and nursed the clutch gently in to keep from bogging, keeping my motor spinning hot and pulling me ahead, now trailing a cloud of stinking clutch smoke.

Not ready to give up so easily, he left his foot in it, revving, and I heard one wheel \*almost\* chirp as he finally found second and dropped the clutch. We careened over the crosswalk, now going at least 15 miles per hour. A bicyclist passed us, but intent on the race as we were, neither of us batted an eye.

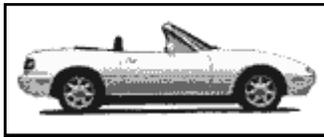
He pulled slowly abreast of me, and neck and neck, we made the shift to third, the scream of motors deafening all pedestrians within a five foot circle. He nosed ahead as we passed 30 miles an hour, then eased in front of me, taunting, as we shifted

into fourth. I was staring up the dual 6" chrome tips of his exhaust, snarling, my cappuccino forgotten, as he lifted a little to take the next corner.

I saw my opportunity, and counting on the innate agility of my trusty steed, I pulled wide into the number two lane and kept my foot buried in carpet. Slowly, I inched around him, feeling my Metro roll slowly to the left as I came abreast in the midst of this gradual sweeping turn. I felt the Geo ease onto its suspension stops, and felt the right rear wheel slowly leave the ground - no matter, though, because my drive wheels, up front, were pulling me through the corner, and around the Festiva ..

The Ford driver beat his wheel in rage as my wife's car eased past him on the outside, my P165/55R13's screaming in protest, as we raced to the next light. We coasted down, neck-and-neck, to the red light. I tightened my driving gloves, ready for another round, when this WIMP in the next car meekly flipped his turn signal and made a right. Chevy (Suzuki) superiority reigns!!! I drove off sipping my masculine drink, awash in my sheer virility, looking for other unwitting targets.... Perhaps a Yugo, or maybe even a Volkswagen Van!

Submitted by: George Briscoe

*In The Breeze*

NORTH PARK



MAZDA

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SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS 78216

Bluebonnet Miata Club  
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San Antonio, TX 78148

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## *Bluebonnet Miata Club Upcoming Events*

DECEMBER 2005

\*\*\*\*\***HAVE A MERRY CHRISTMAS**  
**AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR**\*\*\*\*\*

JANUARY 2006

**Sat, 7 January 2006** - Kick off 2006 Run. Led by Glenn and Liz Coker. Meet at Rolling Oaks Mall parking lot @ 1:45. Leave @ 2:00. Details TBA

**Sun, 15 January** - 2006 Event Planning Meeting. Want to lead a run? Want to see a run scheduled? Meet at Larry and Carol Vervack's house to get your two cents in. Starting @ 2:00 - Directions and details TBA.

**Sun, 22 January** - Flightline Café Run. Led by Tim and Ennie McCurdy. If you haven't eaten at the Flightline Café in Hondo you are in for a treat. A wonderful buffet complete with heavenly deserts is the menu. Following 'piggin out' we will work off those pounds with a visit to the hill country twisties. Meet at 0915 at Bandera Trails Shopping Center (corner of 1604 and Hwy 16/Bandera Road). Leave at 0930.