

# In The



Newsletter of the Bluebonnet Miata Club

OCTOBER 2005

## 2005 Club Officers

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*Neil Winslow*

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### Membership

*Rohm Thompson:*

### Newsletter

*Tim McCurdy*

### Webmasters

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## Welcome New Members

Phil & Janelle Lambert, '93 Red  
San Antonio  
Howard & Sandra Collier,  
2006 Copper Red, New Braunfels

**Membership Labels:** *Please check your membership label on the last page. If circled, your membership is or soon will be expired. Renewal is \$30.00. Don't miss out on the benefits of club membership.*

## Prez Speaks:

*by Pat O'Docharty*

The excitement grows as we approach the kick off date of this years' Miata Roundup. Have you sent in your registration yet? There is still time but you need to get off the fence, download the form and get it in the mail. Hurricane "Rita" insured that we will have cooler weather for the event and the Hill Country should be beautiful. This will be your very best opportunity to meet new friends and rekindle those old "Miata" friendships from past years.

As of this writing, a total of eight 2006 Miatas have been delivered by North Park to their new owners. According to Tim Kelley, each drove away "grinning from ear to ear". In today's market of cookie cutter cars, there aren't too many that will give you that feeling.

If you haven't had the opportunity to see or drive one, call Tim today and make an appointment. He can be reached at 253-3300. I feel certain that you will agree that Mazda has done it right, again.

I had the opportunity recently to visit with Bobby Sanchez, Parts Manager at North Park Mazda. (See a picture of him and his staff later in this newsletter) Bobby is originally from

# Breeze



San Antonio but has spent time in Austin working for a Nissan dealer. I am excited about his outlook for the future at North Park and his commitment to Miata owners. He has been on-board for a short three months and is focused on making positive changes to provide the best in parts support for the Bluebonnet Club... and those other Mazda owners as well. Welcome home Bobby.

Keep on Zoomin...

## Statewide Miata Roundup

Come join miata owners from all over Texas as we meet at the Y.O. Resort in Kerrville. The Houston club hosted the roundup for the past two years. So it was our turn this year. Hurricane Rita forced us to reschedule to Nov. 11-13. Check your calendars and save that weekend for a fun time. Go to [miataroundup.com](http://miataroundup.com), print out the registration form and send it in. It's not too late and don't forget to call the Y.O. Resort for your hotel reservations. The Bluebonnet Statewide Committee has worked very hard to put on a great miata weekend. \$60 per person includes 3 meals, a t-shirt, a decal. After Nov. 6<sup>th</sup> it's \$75.00 late registration fee per person. For more information call Pat Franklin at \_\_\_\_\_ or email \_\_\_\_\_

**MIATAS ON PARADE AT TURKEYFEST**

Yes those candy colored Miatas were strutting their stuff down Esplanade to Broadway and down to the Cuero Fairgrounds for display. It was another successful parade with all sunshine and mild weather. The lead car carried the 2005 Homecoming Queen, Glennis Massey. Others carried the JV Cheerleaders. With some corn on the cob and ribs and beans, what more could you ask for? Well we, Freddy, Lee Ann, Pat F., Judy and Paul, lucked into a rib eating/ judging contest around by the cooking lane. Some were good, some were better and a few were better left uneaten. Nonetheless, it was nice to be asked to participate.

There was a short, maybe semi-long run after that and we ended up at the J4 Ranch for sugar-full cheesecake and/or sugar-free angel food cake topped with cherry pie filling.

There is no guilt here because we earned it!

We did miss Marilyn and Dave, unlike the big truck whom did not miss Dave in the Miata. Film at eleven. I am certain there will be another article about that so I will let them tell all. Welcome to Phil and Janelle Lambert, new members on their first run.

Thank you all for coming and to do this again. There is just something about a small-town parade. Hope to see you next year on the second weekend in October for Turkeyfest 2006.

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- 1. Tim & Ennie
  - 2. Phil and Janelle
  - 3. Rohm and Barbara
  - 4. Pat and Paula
  - 5. Mike and Betty
  - 6. Robert (Skeeter)
  - 7. Leon and Pat
  - 8. Jim and Freda
  - 9. Homecoming Queen
  - 10. Paul, Angelica and Cuero Cheerleaders
- WHERE'S JUDY!

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***Sept '05 Miata State Roundup (not!)***

It began with the nightmare of being in the path of a category 5 hurricane RITA and we were trying not to be anxious and trying not to advance to sheer panic. We managed to stay calm, be prepared and make all the necessary instinctive preparations for the WORST POSSIBLE DISASTER IN OUR AREA in years.

After batting down the doors, boarding up windows, securing all outside furniture and plants, and feeding animals, we were ready to leave for the evacuation orders. Our hearts were sad to leave behind cows that would surely survive, somehow. Actually, I had real visions of flying black cows but I was willing to pray for the positive side.

We saw the traffic; we felt their uncertainty. We traveled on the roads less traveled to get to Austin and stay with relatives for Thursday night. Paul's old oilfield routes and South Texas Miata roads

served us well. We had never seen that many cars come through Cuero at one time. On Friday we left for Kerrville and the YO Ranch. It just was not the same without all the other Miata-phytes. There were no friends of Miatas. There were no anticipated rally routes. We missed you! The other bad thing is that we came in the CRV Honda and could not even let the top down! What was wrong with this picture? The weather had played an unfortunate hand on everyone. I am feeling fortunate we have the danger gone but I know that many will have heartache and loss from these series of unfortunate events. Our hearts go out to all who have been displaced, all who have had loss of property and loss of life. Texas did meet the call valiantly but we all have more room to grow in readiness. Hope this will be rescheduled and hope all return and more join us for fun and fellowship.

Contribution by Judy and Paul Faulkner

**JOHN FAULKNER UPDATE**

'97 "M Edition", Green with tan top

SN Faulkner, John A. is now in sub school in Groton, Ct. and bracing for his first winter with a lot of real snow. He is missing his Miata and may get to come home and visit it at Christmas. Meanwhile it is in storage at Mom and Dad's in "special-built Miata storage shed," Yorktown. He is scheduled to be a computer-communications radioman and he is very "pumped". His A school is 27 weeks long and he will be in Groton until about June of '06. We wish him well and are very proud.

Contributed by Mom & Dad,  
ie: Judy and Paul Falkner

*Being an understanding newsletter editor, I have to be, on occasion, willing to take those submissions that don't specifically speak of our beloved Miatas. Beside we all love Judy!*

**THE PERFECT MIATA HAIR**

I have been observing the different hairdos that work on the Miata circuit. Some gals have long hair and do it up just great. Others have shorter hair and fasten it with hairpins or bands or such. I have even experimented with different "dos" that sometime work. I have decided that if I had a "do" like Pat Franklins or Marilyn Hamilton, I would never be at worry. Somehow my "do" gets the frizzles or just won't do anything when I want it to. Now Ennie McCurdy has a good solution also. She keeps her hair cut shorter now and it looks great. But I have decided, if it does have some curl and it is short enough to stay out of my face and eyes, I have a good run on the rally. "Right, Liz and Glen Coker?"

Submitted by Judy Falkner

**A perfect Solution in the pursuance of Miata satisfaction!** As Glen and Liz did the unthinkable and gave up their '90 Red & aftermarket wonder for a 2006 (copper red of course), they and Brian Collie were both advertising on the internet. Brian's dream car was a '90 Red which he planned to turbocharge. Wolla! A trade was made, Brian had his dream car and Glen and Liz traded Brian's 2001 on the deal for their new 2006.

**LEON'S PAGE****MAZDA HISTORY 101**

Speaking of brand names . . . where did the name Mazda come from? I remember that it was used by Edison Lamp Company for their bulbs.

This was in the '20s or '30s in the US. I remember seeing Edison Mazda automotive lamps in small blue tins. Maybe GE (?) owns the rights to the name Mazda!

The name Mazda stems from Ahura Mazda, the highest Zoroastrian God of reason who granted wisdom and united man, nature and the other gods. It also closely resembles the sound of the company founder's name, Mr. Jujiro Matsuda. He started the company in 1920 as Toyo Cork Kogyo Co., Ltd.

Manufacture of machine tools started in 1929, shortly followed by a three-wheel truck, the Mazdago, in 1931. The first car, the Mazda R360 Coupe two-door passenger vehicle, came out in 1960, with the four-door

Mazda Carol appearing in 1962. The next year cumulative automobile production topped one million.

Mazda was probably the brand name for all the products made by Toyo Cork Kogyo Co. and if they made bulbs for Edison, it makes sense the bulbs would be branded as the Edison Mazda. It would definitely be in line with what the company made before they got into making the entire automobile.

--  
David - 1993 LE "Max"

Submitted by Leon Franklin

**BONEHEAD MANEUVER**

While this may not seem to be a Miata related article, rest assured it does involve a Miata and a real stupid move. How many of you have ever done anything that you can really call dumb? I try not to do too many of

these but on Saturday getting ready to go to Cuero for the parade and turkey races, was one of those mornings. Have you ever had one of those “head up and locked”, I mean, really up and locked --- a real bonehead --- knucklehead --- I must be taking stupid pills --- using your head for a hat rack --- I should have stayed in bed --- not the brightest Billy goat in the yard --- sense to pour (you know what) out of a boot. These, combined with being in a bit of a hurry, can make one do really, really dumb, stupid things.

Being drivers of a small car we all are concerned about things bigger than us that we sometimes call “Miata killers”, things like “Bubba” trucks that are raised so high off the ground that they could just roll over us, big SUV’s with those massive front cow catchers, pickups and SUV’s with very little rear vision that can back over us in parking lots etc. One would think that the Miata might be harmless or very much so; not the case. By being extremely stupid and probably lazy or putting something off to do later revealed the truth, a Miata is very capable of killing or doing extensive damage.

As I said being stupid, being in a hurry, putting off doing something at the moment caused me to be really bummed out during the Cuero parade just because of something I didn’t do and then did do. Thinking back over this incident and discussing it with my good friend Rohm, who pointed out that this could have been avoided if I had just had the top down --- he is right on and I guess the moral out of this is never to put your top up on a Miata. If it had been down it would have prevented this incident. While this hurt me a lot, and really bummed me out I can tell you that no one was hurt or injured other than my own self esteem.

Getting everything ready to go to Cuero, decorations, radio’s, camera, Pat’s purse etc, I carried the camera bag out to Pat’s new car, sat it down behind the car, proceeded to check the tire pressure, etc. Finding the pressure a bit low I decided to go to the service station. Remember the top was up at this time. Well what happened next was a sound to behold, as I was backing out I heard a not too loud crunching sound. I stopped, backed up a bit more and some more

crunching noise. I thought, do I have a flat tire? By then the “stupid” had departed and I realized I had run over something. Going forward just enough and getting out of the car, what did I find - nothing other than the camera bag with a bit of dirt on it. Now, you do need to know that I had babied this camera and bag for 6 weeks as we took our trip to Alaska. 6 weeks versus a few seconds of pure stupidity can make a world of difference.

Opening the camera bag very carefully and removing the camera, things did not look too bad; some clear crystals fell out, which I identified as silica gel. Further examination revealed that the camera would not turn on, however the lenses looked OK. Being stunned for a few minutes I decided to look closer --- well the camera body was distorted and a couple of cracks were found. The Miata had killed our digital SLR camera (extent of damage is yet to be determined). We all know that our Miata’s are tough little buggers and this was no match, the camera did not stand up to the Miata, and it won out with no visible damage. You might be wondering what the top up had to do with this story? If it had been down, I would have put the camera bag on the back package shelf. Lessons from this incident: 1. never put your top up; 2. never put things behind your Miata without opening your trunk or better yet, put stuff that is going in the trunk, in the trunk. 3. being in a hurry can amplify other stupid moves.

Camera is being sent to Cannon for estimates, lenses and flash survived without any damage.

Leon

Editor’s note: lesson # 2, can negate the problems on # 1 and can even keep you dry in a rain storm. By the way Leon, what is different in the photo below?



## PONDERISMS

(or things to contemplate while waiting  
for the light to change)

I used to eat a lot of natural foods until I learned that most people die of natural causes.

Gardening Rule: When weeding, the best way to make sure you are removing a weed and not a valuable plant is to pull on it. If it comes out of the ground easily, it is a valuable plant.

The easiest way to find something lost around the house is to buy a replacement.

Never take life seriously. Nobody gets out alive anyway.

There are two kinds of pedestrians: the quick and the dead.

Life is sexually transmitted.

Health is merely the slowest possible rate at which one can die.

The only difference between a rut and a grave is the depth.

Some people are like Slinkys. Not really good for anything, but you still can't help but smile when you see one tumble down the stairs.

Health nuts are going to feel stupid someday, lying in hospitals dying of nothing.

Have you noticed since everyone has a camcorder these days no one talks about seeing UFOs like they used to?

Whenever I feel blue, I start breathing again.

All of us could take a lesson from the weather. It pays no attention to criticism.

In the 60's, people took acid to make the world weird. Now the world is weird and people take Prozac to make it normal.

Politics is supposed to be the second oldest profession. I have come to realize that it bears a very close resemblance to the first.

How is it one careless match can start a forest fire, but it takes a whole box to start a campfire?

Who was the first person to look at a cow and say, "I think I'll squeeze these dangly things here, and drink whatever comes out?"

Who was the first person to say, "See that chicken there? I'm gonna eat the next thing that comes outta it's butt."

Why is there a light in the fridge and not in the freezer?

If Jimmy cracks corn and no one cares, why is there a song about him?

Why do people point to their wrist when asking for the time, but don't point to their crotch when they ask where the bathroom is?

Why does your OB-GYN doctor leave the room when you undress if they are going to look up there anyway?

Why does Goofy stand erect while Pluto remains on all fours? They're both dogs!

If Wile E. Coyote had enough money to buy all that Acme crap,

why didn't he just buy dinner?

If quizzes are quizzical, what are tests?

If corn oil is made from corn, and vegetable oil is made from vegetables, then what is baby oil made from?

If electricity comes from electrons, does morality come from morons?

Why do the Alphabet song and Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star have the same tune?

Do illiterate people get the full effect of Alphabet Soup?

Did you ever notice that when you blow in a dog's face, he gets mad at you, but when you take him on a car ride, he sticks his head out the window?

Does pushing the elevator button more than once make it arrive faster?

Why doesn't glue stick to the inside of the bottle?

Do you ever wonder why you gave me your email address?

## EVACUATION

Have you ever wondered if your beloved little machine is made for evacuation? I hadn't ever thought of that concept, however, it was thrust upon me as I sat at my station at work, wondering if they were ever going to let me leave. Yes, even though my home is in San Antonio, I was not selected to go there early and set up the disaster recovery station. That might have been too easy, if you know what I mean. So, after everyone in the company had been released to evacuate from Houston (or not), I was still here with my 2 compadres to

switch all of the monitoring equipment to our backup center in San Antonio.

We didn't just sit and twiddle our thumbs, we were doing our job and watching a catastrophe unfold on the TV. Yes, knowing that I was going to eventually join all those poor souls on the highway, I was not looking forward to the disaster I was getting myself into. The only good point of the situation was that I was going to go on vacation for 12 days and, as a result of staying to transfer the control center I was going to get an additional 2 days off for free. I just didn't know how much of the 2 days I would have to spend on the road.

On the TV, traffic was at a standstill on all major thoroughfares leaving the city. People were running out of gas sitting still or they were purposely pushing their cars to keep from running out of gas while sitting still. Since they were only moving 4 or 5 feet every 15 minutes or so, there were even people leaving their cars and going shopping for those last minute survival items they could get from Wal-Mart. It was bad just watching the news reporters interview person after person running out of gas and water and seeing their car overheat or seeing their family overheat, since the temperatures were over 100 degrees and you couldn't run your air conditioner for fear of running out of gas. That was a legitimate fear since there weren't any gas stations that had any left. In a stroke of genius (that rarely occurs for me), I had been able to fill up the day before, only having to wait in a 5 car line for 30 minutes. But, Seymour was filled to the brim and ready to leave town.

Finally, at 7:00 PM on Thursday night, we got everything switched over to San Antonio and were able to head off and become one of the millions of evacuees on the road. I headed back to my apartment and put all of my clothes in the custom suitcases that strap to the trunk of "Seymour", grabbed my guitar and amp, made sure that I got my wife's favorite handmade copper lamp and my George Foreman grill. Yes, all of this stuff, plus my tools, fit into the car. At exactly 8:00 PM, I left the parking lot at my apartment complex and headed out to see if I could make it home down I-10.

I jumped on to loop 610 and headed off to I-10 and when I got on to I-10, I couldn't believe my eyes! There was nothing but empty roadway ahead of me and only about 3 or 4 cars behind and beside me. This is not what I expected! I quickly picked up my phone and got hold of Melissa and told her that I was on my way home and for some strange reason all of the traffic was gone. She was glad that I was headed that way and was grateful that there wasn't any traffic, but she also said that every station she was watching still showed a whole lot of traffic, at least until the town of Columbus. I continued to whistle a happy tune and thank the Lord for the lack of traffic. I could only assume it had something to do with the opening of the "contra-lanes". This was the process of turning the east bound lanes into alternative west bound lanes (which should have been done sooner, but that's another story). The information sign said that to get into these lanes you would be able to enter from the HOV lane. So, as I was driving by myself in the HOV lane, I looked for the way to get into the "contra-lanes". Never found a way.

After driving about 8 miles, I ran smack dab into reality. Yeah, this is where all the traffic had congregated. I called Melissa back and told her I had found all of the other cars. She told me once again that it was clear after Columbus. This began the slow process of moving just fast enough to keep you from getting out of the car and walking. There was a way to get over to the "contra-lanes", but it required exiting the highway, going down to the next large intersection, coming back down the access road and then u-turning up the exit ramp to get on. Unfortunately, by following the instructions on the sign, I was stuck next to the wall in the sometimes HOV lane, with no way to get across the 4 lanes of cars and get off. I remained in this lane for the duration.

It took me 9 hours to get the 70 miles from Houston to Columbus. Seymour ran fine, although the lifters started giving me a little tapping about 6 hours into the trip. There were almost as many cars that were pulled off the side of the highway as there were on the road itself. Any place that looked like it had gasoline or (especially) a rest room was surrounded by at least 300 vehicles. Every roadside park was packed. There was trash everywhere, mostly dumped out by people sporting the

"Don't Mess With Texas" tag on their bumpers. I am glad that I was traveling at night as that was warm enough for me. I don't know how the people that traveled in the daylight made it. My clutch leg was wearing out during the 9 hour debacle and my eyes were starting to turn amber (if you know what I mean).

Since I have to be at work at 5 AM, I get up at 4. So, by the time I arrived at the first exit for Columbus, I had been up 25 hours. The traffic was still moving slowly (despite what Melissa kept telling me) and so I decided that this would be where I would pull off. Since there really was no way to get to a rest room, I was lucky that I had an old Pepsi bottle and that I was a guy. Once that process was taken care of, I then opened the hood and poured in the quart of oil that I always carry. Then I moved my guitar over to the driver's side, sat down in the passenger seat and drifted off to sleep amidst about 6,000 of my fellow travelers doing whatever they needed to do. This was at 5 AM. For some reason, (I like to think of it as my internal clock, you know like Kramer tried to set on Seinfeld) I woke up exactly 2 hours later as I had wanted to. Time to get back on the road.

I put the guitar back in the passenger seat, put down the hood, started it up and pulled out into the barely moving traffic. In the dim, foggy morning light, I could see that they were handing out gasoline along the side of the road. So, people were pulling over to get their 5 gallons of rationed TXDOT gas. I still had a half tank and so I kept moving. I had to wiggle through a few small holes, but I got around everyone and, the next thing you know, I was free and clear. Now I had run into 3 situations like this last night and was able to get up to about 50 MPH and think that it was over when I would run smack dab into the next traffic tie-up. So, this time, I didn't get all giddy until I went about 10 miles and was doing 75 MPH and could still only see about 5 cars in front of me. With the sun coming up behind me I could see all the way down the highway and it was clear! The last 130 miles to home only took me 2 hours.

And what a relief it was. So, it took me 13 hours to get from Houston to San Antonio, and I did it all on one tank of gas, thank goodness! I don't know what I would have done if I had had to find gas on the way. This was a logistical nightmare for most people. Some of my fellow workers had gone different directions to San Antonio and it had taken them 19 or 20 hours. They even had to pilfer gas along the way from some abandoned tanks.

The conclusion of this story is this. In August of '69 I had the privilege of riding out the biggest hurricane to ever hit the ol' USA, named Camille. I was at Biloxi in the Air Force and that's where she came ashore. I was witness to the damage that can happen. I didn't want to face that again, especially after witnessing the fiasco of Katrina. However, in the aftermath of this evacuation, the sudden

weakening and the fact that it turned East away from Houston, I should have stayed. Of course these facts are not known beforehand and are easy to look back on. I have decided that the next time a big storm is bearing down on Houston, I will stay put. The only way I will leave is if I am the one that is to set up the disaster recovery station in San Antonio. Maybe by then my company will have learned a lesson and provide air transport. I do endorse the Miata as an extremely efficient evacuation machine. It can't hold much, but it did hold the important things, mainly me. Besides, Seymour and I are making this trip back and forth to Houston every 4 days, so the car knows the way. I just put him on cruise control and give him his head. By the way, I pity any organization who has their 2 mile clean up section on any part of I-10, and I am glad ours is on an obscure little road in the hills.

John Butts and "Seymour"



**The North Park Mazda Parts Staff.**

*From left to right: Harvey Quintero, Victor Magallanes, Jimmie Fielder, Ruben Garcia, John Prosser, Mike Ramos, and Parts Manager-Bobby Sanchez*

OCTOBER 2005

*In The Breeze*

Bluebonnet Miata Club  
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San Antonio, TX 78148

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## *Bluebonnet Miata Club Upcoming Events*

### **OCTOBER 2005**

**Tues 25 Oct**— Monthly meeting at Mama's Café at 14424 San Pedro Ave. Eat: 6:30, Meeting: 7:30pm.

### **NOVEMBER 2005**

**Sat, 5 November** — Lockhart Run. Run Leaders Luther and Rose Ward. Meet at Rolling Oaks Mall by Sears at 8:45 and roll out at 9:00. It's about a two hour run with one pit stop on the way. Arrive at Kreuz's for BBQ around 11:30 depending on speeds.

**Nov, 11-13** — Statewide Miata Roundup-Kerrville. Registration is from 1:00-9:00 on Friday. Onsite registration is \$75.00 at the Y.O. Resort. Don't miss this fun filled weekend in the hill country. Contact Pat Franklin

**Tues, 22 Nov**— Monthly meeting at Mama's Café at 14424 San Pedro Ave. Eat: 6:30, Meeting: 7:30pm.

**Tues, 27 November** — Leakey Run. Meet at 0900 by the National Furniture Store at Loop 1604 and Blanco (the old Albertson's.) Will depart at 0920. Have a full tank of gas. Run will go out thru Bandera, Utopia, Leakey, Vanderpool & Medina before heading back to SA. Run Leaders are Leon & Pat Franklin.