



In The Breeze



April 2009

Newsletter of the Bluebonnet MX-5 Miata Club

Still Free!

2009 Club Officers

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& Newsletter Editor**

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Secretary

Lynn Knapik

Treasurer

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Roving Reporter (Appointed)

Dave Hamilton

Welcome New Members

Out membership director reports that while we have no new members since the last newsletter when out, she wants all of you to know the members we have are wonderful and can't be beat!

Let me take a moment to say that Betty does an outstanding job, not only as membership director, but she is invaluable in so many other ways. Thanks, Betty!

-Editor

BBMC Standouts Outstanding

It's no secret that Pat and Leon Franklin are not only two of my favorites in our beloved club, but they're tireless in their efforts to keep our organization fun! Leon helps with stories and interesting articles for *In The Breeze*, offers help to others regarding all Miata aspects and has been a past newsletter editor himself.

Pat was the this club that pression on ber showing meeting and nervous, this group of would accept to speak (she president, I her enthusiasm of the me feeling joining. You enthusiasm in spades!



first person in made an im- me. I remem- up for my first was kind of wondering if Miata philes me. Pat got up was vice- believe), and asm and com- members left very good about all know I love and Pat has it

I'm pleased to put the Headlights On...Pat and Leon Franklin this month and they have honored us with their personal story inside this edition of *In The Breeze* on how their Miata life started. I know you'll enjoy it.

-Editor

From the President



Hello to all my fellow zoomers. It's been a while since I've seen many of you on a run. Unfortunately, my work schedule has been more than hectic of late. I do believe I'm going through Miata Run withdrawals. Sometimes that happens. Hopefully my schedule will lighten up soon and my weekends will become mine again. I have really missed everyone as well as the wonderful roads we like to travel. I am working hard towards easing things at work so I can spend more time with all of you.

Till next time, keep on zoomin'

Virginia Weaver

??? Monthly Meeting Place ???

As you hopefully know, our meeting place is still changing. This month's meeting will be held at Sam's Burger Joint at 331 E. Grayson. That's just off 281.. At last month's meeting, I asked for any last recommendations for a meeting place. I received one for Grady's BBQ (281 & Nakoma) and Rio's (I think that was the name). The second one has closed their doors. Another IHOP is also being considered at 281 and 1604. Therefore, the last "temporary" meeting place will be held on April 28th at Grady's BBQ on Nakoma. Their address is 327 E Nakoma, phone 210-343-8070, website www.gradysbbq.com. I believe we have given everyone plenty of opportunity to submit a request. It is now time to find a more permanent meeting place. We will vote on our new meeting place at the April 28th meeting. If you wish to have your vote counted, you need to be at our April meeting.

To recap, these are the places we have or will have been to by the time our April meeting gets here:

- EZ's Burgers located at 281 and Bitters
- Chacho's & Chalucci's located at Perrin Beitel & 410
- Joseph's Storehouse Restaurant & Bakery located at 281 & N St Mary's
- El Chaparral located at 1604 & Redland
- Hungry Horse located at West Ave & Rhapsody
- IHOP located on 281 (the old Mama's)
- IHOP located at 281 & 1604 (Has a nice private room)
- Grady's BBQ located on Nakoma off 281

I hope to see everyone at our meeting!

-Virginia

EZ Does It...

While in Austin recently, I had the opportunity to attend the Tejas Miata Club's monthly meeting, as a guest of my brother, Mike. They had a large turnout, larger than I had seen or heard of from Mike in recent months, in fact. A very spirited group and full of excitement regarding the upcoming spring weather, etc. In addition, they seemed very eager to join up with us on more runs and I voiced my enthusiastic agreement. They asked me about upcoming runs and my Painted Churches Tour really seemed to pique their interest and many of them want to join us! I think that's great as we're all so close together, it just makes sense to share in more runs and activities. I also met a couple that lives in Seguin and I joked with them that they belonged to us, not Austin! They said they would try to attend our next meeting and I said we'd welcome them with open arms.

On another note, when I queried as to whether or not they had a newsletter, you could have thought I asked if anyone in the room was an atheist! Gasps and stern looks came my way as they exclaimed that printing a newsletter is an enormous waste of paper! Ohmygosh, I almost forgot I was in Austin! The San Francisco of Texas! As I sunk down into my seat, wisely dropping the subject, they went on to tell me all that there is to know is on their website and a newsletter isn't necessary or wanted.

Now, you may wonder why I bring this up. Well, many of you know I love doing this little rag. However, should we think about scrapping it, the print edition, I mean? Or, maybe it would be a good idea to print 50 copies and only meeting attendees get the actual newsletter? It would still be laid out by me and then put on the website.

All good questions and I will be happy to open this up for discussion at our meeting!

-George

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Hawaiian Holiday

Have you ever been to Hawaii?

I recently had the opportunity to go to Waikiki on Oahu. Although it rained the whole time I was there, I sure saw some **AWSOME** Miata roads!!! I wish I had Paws with me. It was beautiful, even in the rain. After a very long flight, I arrived in Hawaii on March 5th. A light rain came and went while we made arrangements for the rental car (a jeep). We asked the rental place to show us how to take down the top and the guy looked at us like we were crazy. He said "Are you sure, it's raining". He must have asked 10 times before he finally gave in. Doesn't he know that it's perfectly OK to drive topless in a bit of rain (lol). Shoot, I do it all the time in Paws. We finally got the top down and headed on our way to the hotel.

Friday brought a little sun to explore the "International ping!!! Going to the market someone who loves to bargain. others as far as how low they'll them down on pricing. I also walking the beach. It sure was to dinner at a restaurant called sooo good, we went back again chocolate soufflé to die for. melted in my mouth.

Saturday, it rained all day. We island. I didn't really want to eas (not being a big crowd per-other areas of the island. Dur-some interesting history about the island. It was neat to learn that the native Hawaiians are very protective of various parts of the islands. Some of them don't like tourists much. I would have thought they would like us because we spend lots of money there. But as it turns out, some Hawaiians actually resent tourists for "invading" their homes.

Sunday, we actually got some sun in the morning. We took full advantage of it too. We drove out to Hanauma Bay. Oh my! What a beautiful place. We spent the morning snorkeling. Between the two of us, we took 54 pictures underwater. I've never seen so many pretty fish, not even on the cruise. Only one eluded me and that was the Hawaiian cleaner wrasse. I used to have one in a saltwater tank, so I wanted to see one in it's natural habitat. After snorkeling, we continued to travel around the island, to Pali's lookout and so much more. The afternoon provided a bit more rain, but that was OK. Even with the rain, Hawaii is a very beautiful place and well worth the trip.

After 12 hours of travel, we finally made it home on Monday. Then back to work on Tuesday. It was short, but sweet. We're looking forward to going back again. Hopefully for longer next time.



while I went off on my own Market". Wahoo!!! Shop-was a blast, especially for Some shops are better than go. Boy was it fun talking got to spend some time pretty. That night, we went "Roy's". Delicious! It was on Sunday. They have a And their rib eye steak

did get to drive around the go to all of the "tourist" ar-son), so I was escorted to ing our drive, I was given

Virginia



Tejas Wine Run

By

Dave Hamilton

On a cold, rainy Saturday morning 10 members of the Bluebonnet Miata Club participated in the Tejas Miata Club Wine Run led by Paul Begnoche. This run was actually known as the 2nd Annual "Paul's Out of Wine" Run.

Our first stop was the Becker Vineyards in Stonewall where we were treated to a private wine tasting on their heated, outdoor patio.

After sampling many different wines we headed off to the Mandola Winery in Driftwood. As soon as you drive up to this amazing winery you feel like you are in Italy. Here we received a private tour of the winery and participated in another private tasting in a beautiful, new party room. After the tour and tasting, we stumbled off to their magnificent Triattoria Lisina Restaurant which is right next door to the winery. Here we had a wonderful lunch, and a few more bottles of wine, in a private dining room. Following lunch we sampled a few of their terrific desserts and eventually everyone headed home. Actually, I think some people got lost going home but that is another story.

Paul Begnoche did a wonderful job of planning and leading this run and he took great care of us. The Tejas members are a friendly, fun group and a terrific time was had by all



Now this is a happy group! Was this picture taken before or after the wine tasting at Mandola Winery???

Tejas Wine Run

Photos



Paul Begnoche
Tejas Miata Club



GEORGE'S WHINE RUN

By Karen Theiryung

When I woke up in Floresville Saturday morning, it was cold and drizzling. I wondered if the Whine Run would be canceled. Of course, just because it's raining in Floresville doesn't mean it's raining in San Antonio. I decided to take a chance and drive up to Big's Valero. If nothing else, I would at least have a small run by myself.

I had not been on any runs since last year. My 21 year old niece, Jessica, had been diagnosed with Adrenal Cancer, a very rare cancer, at the end of June. After her surgery and recovery, weekends were devoted to spending time with family, especially since my niece wanted to experience everything she could with her eight month old son while she was still able (sadly, after a seven month battle, Jessica passed away the beginning of February).

I missed out on the RSVP for the "Wine Run" with the Tejas group, so I was glad George decided to have an impromptu run of his own. I pulled into the Valero station and there was George wiping down his "Red." George's brother, Mike, was also there, and a while later Mike and Betty Jackson pulled in. After talking and catching up we decided no one else was going to show and took off.

I enjoyed the run, mainly because we went through areas of Canyon Lake and Wimberley that I haven't seen in a couple of years. When my parents first moved to Texas, they rented a house in Wimberley, and later had one built in Canyon Lake.

It was nice to see the areas again and how much they have grown and changed. We made a stop at the Mandola Winery in Driftwood and took a quick look around. The restaurant there was beautiful inside. We chatted with the hostess and we were invited inside to sample their gelato (Italian ice cream) which was delicious. I hope to get back there one day and sample their Italian food.

Outside in the parking lot, George had a surprise for us. He whipped out his fancy towel table cloth, spread it out over his trunk, and broke out the wine, cheese, and crackers. Okay, so it was non-alcoholic Sangria soda, and Ritz crackers with string cheese, but we enjoyed it (even if the weather was a little cold). As we were finishing up, the Tejas Miata group showed up. They came over and said quick hello's before heading towards the winery for their tour.

From the winery, we headed to the Blanco Café and Bowling Alley for lunch. We ate some great food, and, of course, chatted about cars.

After we were finished, George's brother left our group to head back to Austin. We completed our run by taking some back roads towards San Antonio and ended up at the shopping center off of Boerne Stage Road. For me, it was a great and enjoyable run. It was great to be out with a group of people who enjoy their Miata's as much as I enjoy mine. I hope this becomes an annual run, George!



The Jackson's 'Hamburger Run'

Submitted by Betty Jackson

Wednesday, March 18, 2009, Mike & Betty Jackson took twenty hungry souls to dine in the country northeast of San Antonio. There was a great spread produced by

Goerke's Country Tavern

Their specialty is the homemade sausage. Our 'sauerkraut connoisseurs' at my end of the table, Mike Jackson & Scott Long, were quite pleased by its flavor. And the special tonight was the Cajun catfish – all you can eat for \$9.99 (*notice a trend here?*). Their menu runs the gamut from Tex-Mex, though no rice, barbecue, fried chicken with cream gravy, sausage, steak, and fish and appeared to do it all pretty well. It was cute, clean and hidden away in the middle of nowhere, about six-and-a-half miles from Betty & JC's Shady Oaks Ranch. We had three sets of new members in attendance. I do hope they were taking notes so they will be inspired to do their own runs.

We would like to thank our official photographer, Mr. George Lucas, vice president of the club, for always being there for us with his camera at the ready. He is much better at that than we. Besides, his camera cost more. For those of you who didn't make it, you were missed but we'll catch up with you again. You have the address above in case you'd like to try it on your own. For those of you wondering about the trend mentioned earlier... Mike and Betty Jackson have dibs on the annual Catfish Parlor Run to Austin, TX which happens this year on September 12th.





Headlights On...

Leon and Pat Franklin



This is a little story about two people with very different interests (at least for a while). Our Miata lives started in a strange way; our good friend's, Rohm & Barbara Thompson had gone off the deep end and bought a '94 black Miata. While visiting their house, there sat that little black car. Neither Pat nor I was very caught up with it; it just didn't look or seem right. Shortly thereafter, they cut some strange white shapes and the next thing we saw was a Miata dressed as a cow. I thought what the h---, have these two gone off the deep end? Sometime later, they grew tired of the "black" and lo and behold, they had bought another one, this time a 95M Merlot, M Edition (what ever that meant). I'm still not too turned on by all this stuff, but then they up and invite us to go on a run as they now have two of the little beasts. I can remember this first run, it was to Laredo, the weather was clear but cold as the dickens (in the 30's). Having lived in the cold country I still had a down jacket and a stocking cap which I brought with me. Well off we set, yes with the top down, Rohm driving the black, with me as passenger, Barbara driving and Pat riding heading to Laredo, the cold wind in our faces. Rohm & Barbara with grins as big as Texas, and us, well you can imagine, I was willing to go but not too enthused. However not to be a party pooper, I was not going to let anybody know my feelings. We made a pit stop somewhere along the line, not sure where, as I was too cold to care, I just wanted to get out of the cold wind. I had been scrunched down in the seat with my down jacket and stocking cap pulled down as low as it would go. It was during this stop that I think Rohm forgot to turn off the headlights and, yep the battery would not start the car. I thought, oh goodness what have we gotten into. A push start from the other club members and we were off to Laredo. Pat was appearing to be enjoying herself immensely. We had a great meal in Laredo and went shopping. Later that day and heading back to San Antonio on some unknown roads, Rohm said here you drive. Well that was it for me, this thing was a blast!!! And now I knew why Rohm had the grin on his face. Getting home, we did not talk much about the run, but I knew Pat was a lot more interested than I was about this Miata thing. The next event was probably a year later after Rohm & Barbara had sold the black.

I had a business trip to England and when I returned late at night and Pat had picked me up at the airport and being "jet lagged" as we neared home, Pat said I hope you won't be mad. I thought and then said, OK what did you hit or do? She said nothing but just opened the garage door as we drove in the driveway. What the heck was a Miata doing in my garage, with temporary plates on it, and with Pat's name on it. I just sighed and thought, what has this independent woman done now? I didn't give it much attention as I was just plain beat and I had told Pat I would not get mad. Getting up the next morning I looked out in the garage again and thought well here it is, so I decided to go and get the owners manual and just look through it. I discovered it was a 96M. A bit later we decided to go and get breakfast and to take the Miata, with Pat driving. I did notice that she parked a long way from other cars. After breakfast she said let's go by Rohm and Barbara's, I said no, I just wanted to go home. She insisted so off we went. As she pulled into Rohm and Barbara's drive way, there they stood with grins like a Cheshire cat on their faces as well as Pat's. I was just completely confused. Why all this, just because Pat had bought a car without us talking about it while I was out of the country. Wham, Pat said she did not buy it; it was Rohm & Barbara's. This still confused my brain. Why was their car in my garage with Pat's name on the temporary plate? ---- I had just had the really big britches put on me.

continued next page

This brings us to the next part of the story and when the love affair with the Miata really began. Yes, the Thompson's were going to sell the 95M and you know it, Pat was fully and firmly in love with the 95M. The pressure was really being put on me, but I'm still not totally sold. The pressure kept building and then one day, we did it, we purchased the 95M and we were now Miata owners (Pat's car). After it being around for a while I got kind of attached to it and wanted to do things to make it better and nicer. After doing considerable research I decided to start doing things. Since Pat had purchased this, I thought I deserved to expend a few MSU's (for those who do not know what a MSU is, it is a Miata Spending Unit, also known as dollars). Pat seemed OK with this and the UPS truck kept stopping more and more. The next development in this love affair was attending the Miata National Rally in the Pocono's with Rohm & Barbara. Pat will tell you that this is the time she lost ownership of the Miata as I had just plain lost my mind by having more goodies putt on it. Returning home things were good, we were involved in the Miata club with a bunch of wonderful and fun loving folks. We then attended Miata World 99 in Dallas taking the 95M. I had signed up to do hot laps in Pat's car. After tech inspection she came over to me and said "don't hurt my car", she didn't seem too worried about me, just her car. Well everything turned out fine and we returned home and continued to be active in the Miata club, with Pat serving as President through out the years. I served as vice president and newsletter editor. It was shortly after returning from Dallas that after a day of auto crossing Pat's car and while washing it, she noticed a mark on the front air dam. She said what is this? I meekly said, its cone juice and I will get it off. She gave me this "I don't like this" look and quietly said, "get your own d---- car". Ouch, I guess I reached her critical point and I stayed away from her car and kept a very low profile for a long time. As I had gotten really found of the little bugger, I started looking for "my car". In the mean time, Rohm & Barbara had sold their 96M and had bought a 99 10AE.

Later on I also bought a 9910AE, so now I had my own car and I would not mess with the 95M. A side note, the 95M is by far the most comfortable model of all the Miata's, as it had European seats in it. The 99 10AE seats were the seats from h---. I hated them and even resorted to removing the drivers seat from Pat's car and installing it in mine. I took it on a run and it was wonderful and I thought to myself, I wonder if people would notice, now think, a blue car with black and blue seats except for a tan drivers seat, duh. Well I re-installed Pat's seat and decided to have major surgery done to my 10AE seat and it is this way today. Well that's how we became a two Miata car family, but the story does not end here. We took both cars on many vacations through out the years and have had nothing but fond memories from those trips.

But our Miata story continues. One day Pat wanted to go drive a Mazdaspeed. She was hooked, and now the 95M was up for sale and away it went. Her new ride was a Titanium grey Mazdaspeed. All was good for a while until we were getting some warranty work done on the grey one, when she spotted a Lava Orange, I thought, oh this is not good and here we go again. She had that "I'm going to have this" look in her eyes. Yep we up and traded for the orange Mazdaspeed, having the modifications we had installed in the grey moved over to the orange and that folks is almost the end of our Miata story. I was quite taken with the extra power of Pat's car and my 99 felt like a real slug. Another one of my off the end moments hit; my car went to Corky Bell for a "big, bigger than hers" turbo. Well today that's where we stand, two Miata's, both turbocharged and requiring premium gas. Crazy you think, probably so.

We both have very fond memories and experiences with the Miata's and the Miata club. We have been privileged to get to know a lot of wonderful folks, to serve and hopefully get others involved in this wonderful little fraternity of Miata enthusiasts.

Thanks for letting us share our little story with you.

Leon & Pat Franklin

Authors disclaimer: If I missed a fact or two, just chalk it up to a senior moment(s).

P.S.-authored by Leon and telling his side of the story. The rest of the story will be written by me (Pat) at a later day.



Uh oh, this looks very suspicious. To find out what these three “M’s” (Marcia Carlow, Marilyn McCullen and Marilyn Hamilton) are up to, don’t miss their “Three Musketeers Run” coming up on the evening of April 1st. Something tells me they’re up to some “foolery”. To find out more see Upcoming Events on the back page!

Don't Miss Out!

Cruise with the Bluebonnet Gang

On

Royal Caribbean's Voyager of the Sea

January 31st, 2010!

Contact Marcia Carlow at

marcia@cruisevacationsintl.com

For more details look on our club site!



Mystery Quote of the Month

"Dave's performance was adequate, but with practice he may improve. Perhaps Marilyn could borrow my pearls."

Miata Club February Meeting Minutes

Provided by Lynn Knapik

IHOP – Highway 281

Introduction of New Members & Visitors: President Virginia Weaver recognized and welcomed guests Adrian Marquis, Santos Garcia, and Mike Lucas from the Tejas Club.

Reports

Treasurer's Report: Betty Jackson reported for Treasurer Marilyn McCullen that our balance is in the black..

Note: Balance can be obtained in person from the treasurer. I have decided it will not be published in The Breeze. -Ed.

Membership: Betty Jackson reported we have 99 current members.

Webmaster Report: Don Privett was not present to make a report.

Newsletter: George Lucas apologized that he did not have the newsletter ready for the meeting and said would be mailed to members soon.

Old Business

Discussion of new meeting site continued and the plan is to try one more place next month (Sam's Burger Joint at the suggestion of George Briscoe). A vote will hopefully then be taken to establish a new home for our meetings.

Club Pins available: free to all new members who have never received one; \$2 to members; \$5 to non-members. See Virginia Weaver.

Club Stickers: 2 for \$5. They are available from George Lucas.

Club business cards are also available for members to put on Miatas they see while out and about.

Name badges can be ordered through Betty Jackson for \$6.50.

A flyer was available with information on the upcoming Miata World celebration to be held in Dallas May 22-25, 2009.

New Business

An update was given on members who have recently had surgery. Pat Franklin was present at the meeting and said she is recovering nicely. She presented the Club with a card expressing her thanks for the cards, email, food and flowers.

It was also reported that Tim McCurdy is at home and on the road to recovery.

Past Runs & Activities

Past runs and activities were discussed and everyone expressed how much fun they had at all the activities. Stories on most runs were published in the newsletter.

Future Runs & Activities

Upcoming runs and activities as listed on the back of the newsletter were discussed. As usual, many activities are planned for the upcoming month.

New Miata Stuff & Door Prizes

A couple members bragged about their new toys for their cars!

A door prize drawing was held with Tom Payne winning an oil change from North Park Mazda.

Editor's note: Thanks, Lynn for such a concise report!!!

In The Breeze

Bluebonnet Miata Club
San Antonio, Texas

<http://www.bluebonnetmiata.org>



Printed by Prestige Printing, San Antonio, Texas



Check your mailing label for your renewal date. Please renew your membership promptly!

Upcoming Runs and Events

- **Saturday, March 28th, *Chicken Ranch Run***, led by Pat and Paula O'Docharty. Meet at Bigs Valero, time TBA, for the first Annual run to the Chicken Ranch in La Grange. Pat and Paula tell us the wildflowers are in abundance this year, so don't miss this one!
- **Wednesday, April 1st, *Three Musketeer's Run***, led by our own three M's, Marcia Carlow, Marilyn Hamilton, Marilyn McCullen. Meet at Bigs Valero at 6:00 p.m. sharp for a 6:15 departure to Cooper's BBQ in New Braunfels!
- **Saturday, April 4th, *Quarterly Trash Pickup*** on FM 1863, led by Jeff Holbrook. Meet at Bigs Valero at 8:00 a.m. Showtime, 8:15 Go Time. This is our own stretch of highway, so let's have a great turnout! Afterwards, breakfast at Grump's at about 10:00. You'll feel good doing our part and you'll enjoy a great breakfast, too!
- **Saturday, April 18th, *Third Annual Painted Churches Tour***, led by George Lucas. Meet at Bigs Valero at 8 a.m. for a departure at 8:30. Moved up this year to avoid the summer heat and enjoy the Southeast Texas wildflowers, you'll be enthralled by these historic churches. We'll end up in Schulenburg for lunch at the Smokehouse. Members of Austin's Tejas Club will be joining us in Sequin, so don't miss this one!
- **Saturday, April 25th, *Chicken Fried Steak Run***, led by Jim and Freda Treat. Details of this run are TBA, please check the website's Forum or Calendar for specifics.
- **Saturday, May 2nd, *Gimmick Run***, led by Paul and Judy Faulkner. Paul always puts together a fun-filled run. Surprises and games are always the fare, and of course, good food! Check the Forum or Calendar on our website for details to be announced later!