



In The Breeze



August 2011

Official Newsletter of the Bluebonnet MX-5 Miata Club

Still Free!

NORTHERN EXPOSURE

Paul and Judy Faulkner's Trek to Canada, by Judy Faulkner



For our 40th Anniversary we decided to go north and retrace some steps and take some new ones too. We went to Ottawa to visit Mimi and Bob Gauthier. Along the way we retraced some steps that were taken with the group of 2002, Pat and Leon Franklin and Rhom and Barbara Thompson. Gee we missed you guys and thought of you often. Here are **highlights** of the trip. All was going well and we were making good speed. We stopped in Berea, Ky. At the Appalachian Crafts College and viewed some of the students' work.

DAY 5 We left at 6:36 a.m. and were ready to hit the road. We were headed for the Finger Lakes region in upstate New York that we had seen before. It is a weekender place for many. The area boasts of large farms and large barns. At 9:56 we stopped for gas in Bath, NY, the village of Mobile Arrow Mart. Paul fell and hit his head but after time and an ice pack, off we go.



He was stunned and I was cautious of the knowledge that he could have a concussion. We drove through the Finger Lakes section and saw barns, small houses by lakes that go on for miles, wineries, great vacation area in summer. We stopped for the night at Watertown, NY and stayed in the Holiday Inn Express. It was booked but they offered

us a conversion room with a Murphy bed. It was also ADA approved. The stay in the Holiday Inn Express did not make me a doctor or a brain surgeon but I did determine that the fall did not change Paul's personality and therefore, he was cured. We still had bruises and scabs however. He sent pictures.

DAY 6 We would meet Bob at the border of Canada. Good timing; we met at the border crossing at same time. HE looked dashing with his titanium '03 Miata. I have a great picture of him. Good to see him after 6 months plus time. Bob consulted his Canadian Back Road Atlas and led us from the border via a very interesting route to his house. We went through the quaint village of Merrickville, Ontario and arrived at their house on Burgandy Lane, Ottawa. He went to work for the afternoon and we visited with daughter Danielle. We also enjoyed the cats Coco Channel and Tucson. When they returned from work they wowed us with Lebanese take-out. It was an extraordinary meal of savory flavors. It was wonderful to see them and to be still for longer than 20 minutes. We slept well!

DAY 7 Plans for the day were open so we quickly packed a sack lunch, blanket, drinks and left for the Royals, William and Kate, first visit to Canada. They were to arrive at the Premier's home and do a short walk about. They did. I got as close as 30 feet to William and Kate. It was a crowd and pictures when enlarged, do leave a bit for desired better results. But they were taken live. I was happy to have that treat of being that close and this was just an icing on the cake of our visit to see Bob and Mimi. This event and waiting period took a big part of the day but well worth it. We next wet to grocery store and

grilled quick hamburgers and off to a Miata run with the Ottawa group called UMN, Underground Miata Network. These are some of the people we met in 2002 Northern Exposure for the International event held there. Bob and Mimi did not even have a Miata at that time. Now they are not missing any of the Miata fun. This was the first ice cream run of their season. We did not catch up to them for the start but arrived just as the group pulled into the Downtown Ice Cream and Candy Shoppe in Merrickville, Ontario. We were cars 14 and 15 for the run. They have an Ice Cream Director, Pauline Coulombe. Our leader for the evening was Raleigh Beaujnes. (Sorry if I misspelled any names.)



For Pat Franklin I am listing the names of the ice cream because it was a thrill. Some of the all-homemade choices were: Rum Running Raisin, Canadian Maple Walnut, Hokey Pokey, McGrath Strawberry (local farm name), Plain Jane Vanilla, and Mint Oreo Cookie. It was so fun to meet another awesome fun group just like the Bluebonnet Miata gang. We were presented with a 20th anniversary pin of the Miata group, UMN, by the Ice Cream Director. Thank you!

(con't on page 3)

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Thank You



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EZ does it...



I guess it's pretty safe to say summer is upon us in a big way. Temps in the triple digits not only here but in places like New England! What's up with that!

Well, pardon the expression, but don't sweat it. We'll all be in the higher elevations of West Texas soon for some cooler rest and relaxation. I can hardly wait.

EZ is going to get new tires for the trip. It's hard to believe I've had the tires on it now for over THREE years! Where does the time go? It seems EZ and I have only been together for a couple of years! At any rate, if you need to get your ride ready for the now-big Alpine trip, I suggest you get those repairs or upgrades done soon. It's only six short weeks away!

The Alpine event...I feel funny calling it an event, but in truth, that's what it's turning out to be, continues to morph into a better and improved version of what I started it out to be. I recently called together a few of the participants to help me plan out some runs and really just iron out some of the details of the weekend so we can all enjoy it and have plenty of fun things to do and places to go. I've got notes from that meeting that I'll discuss at tonight's meeting in case you all are wondering what's going to happen.

That area has many things to do and event's going on that weekend that will make it difficult for all of us to participate in all of the events. Balloon Fest, Marfa Lights, Ft. Davis, McDonald Observatory are just some of the attractions we're going to offer during our stay in Alpine. Jimbo is even going to offer a side trip up to some hot springs in that area. Again, details will follow soon on the website as we finalize the events and runs. Incidentally, if you want to lead a run, just let me know and I'll certainly help you with that.

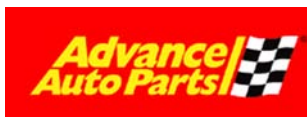
So, if you haven't signed up to go with us, this will be the biggest event of the year, sort of in lieu of a Statewide event. At press time, we have around 30 cars going including folks from Austin, Houston and Dallas!

Check out our home page at www.bluebonnetmiata.org and click on the Alpine picture for updated details as we post them.

Thanks so much to Don and Judi Privett for helping me make this thing come together in a fashion that you will all enjoy.

-Ed

Thank You



NORTHERN EXPOSURE *Paul and Judy Faulkner Trek to Canada**(con't from front page)*

DAY 9, 7-2-11 Happy Anniversary Dear! The trip was our gift to each other. All the adventures and fun meeting up with Bob and Mimi, explorations along the way to and from are icing on the cake of memories. They gave us a book and card for the anniversary. The book is William and Catherine. Paul and Bob went flying in a 1931 biplane while Mimi and I talked of all things. I am certain we solved several world problems, ha! It was a day to slow down and regroup. That evening they took us to a micro brewery, BDT, Les Brassieres du Temps for an anniversary celebratory dinner. It is located in Gatineau, formerly Hull and area of Quebec. They have many flavors and brew in the basement. The menu includes an opportunity to sample twelve 3oz glasses of assorted beer flavors. The glasses were arranged in a clock formation, l'horloge, on a round tray. You had instructions written in both French and English on sampling them in a given order. The directions read #1 is #3, #2 is #6, and so forth. The more you drink, the more confusing it gets. After the first three or four glasses . . . who cares what order and you find the one you like. We had a great evening celebration with friends. What a perfect day!

DAY 10 Will and Kate are gone from here. I didn't meet the people they met, but then, they didn't meet all the wonderful people I met.

DAY 13 We were up and eaten early and headed to Biltmore (built more) Estate at 9:30 a.m. I chose the basic tour plus the architectural tour for Paul. He was good enough to come here and I decided there needed to be something for him. He thought that was great. He did enjoy that part of the tour. Our group went through the attic and out on the front balcony. We were very close to the gargoyles. Vicki, I am thinking of you! We ate in the former horse stable and then were out of there. Since we toured the Louvre in two hours it was worthy to note, we stayed four hours at Biltmore. The special tour is what slowed us up. We have many more things to do before we go home. I did find the green tomato chutney at Biltmore gift area. Wahoo! It has been a six year search for that. At 2:30 p.m. we headed for the Deal's Gap Adven-

ture. Along the way to Fontana Village Resort, we encounter nice curves, canopy effect of the trees, cool breeze, smell of freshness and flowers, twists and turns as we zoomed. We arrived for the night at the Fontana Resort. It reminds me of the Y.O. Ranch as comfortable, earthy, and historically elegant. The décor mixes nature with comfort and convenience. We are in the Great Smokey Mountains near Fontana, N.C. and Fontana Dam. There is no phone service for AT&T here so we had no contact. We are anticipating the fun roads of tomorrow.

DAY 14 We left Fontana Resort and headed for our day adventure on the zooming turns of hwy 11. There was an immediate 9 percent grade on the road. Impressions were: cool, green, soft and tall trees with vine covers, soft intermittent light through the canopy, steep cliffs, much awe, kudzu draping, slick surface on the lakes, rivers that did a duet with the road. You just go with the flow – no rush – and enjoy the inertia that gracefully pivots you from side to side. This was a beautiful day and in the middle of the week. There was little traffic and we shared the road with three wheel motorcycle couples. It was a good day. Pictures taken of Paul as we rode on the twisties reminded us of the commercial and YES, he did have his pudding face on! We did stop for souvenirs at the Deal's Gap Motorcycle Resort and US 129 Dragon Store. I have a video of some of the curves as we drove along. I could not hold my finger down on the camera for eleven miles at this pace. We had to pick a route onward and leave these great fun roads. We went south in the direction of Georgia taking hwy 411 and scenic loop 360. We passed Etta Mae Rd. in the hollers of Tenn. It has been quite scenic with intermittent areas of tree lined two-lane, winding roads of 'redneck central'. It was a good paved road but we encountered dead cars by old barns, old broken barns as well as scenic meadows edged by tall tree motts. Then there was the small village of Greasy Creek (Unincorporated) as the sign said and another sign that said congested area. ?? We did not turn toward Ducktown, Ga. Outside Oakman, Ga. There was a beauty shop called Curl Up and Dye. We slept at Tifton, Ga. For the evening. We spent several days with

family and left Florida to return July 28 for the wedding.

DAY 17 Sunday 7-10-11, We left early at 6:11 a.m. and headed westward. It was 94% humidity, 90 degrees with 50% chance of rain and it was not even mid morning. At 9:51 we were past Tallahassee and 140 miles to Pensacola. We had a flat at 11:20 a.m. on I-10 and Paul changed the tire under an overpass. We limped along on the shoulder on the doughnut spare tire. We were in a mid section of space in Florida where the nearest city was De Funiack Springs and it was a Sunday. We made it to Crestview, Fl. When we found no one open, we took off for Pensacola. There we found Tires Plus, open on Sunday, close at 4:00 p.m., and they had one tire our size. We have low profile tires and they do not stock them just anywhere. We are out of there and rolling at 4:00 p.m. At 4:07 p.m. we are rolling but the tire just does to seem right as we exited onto I-10 again. We had reservations in Biloxi, Ms. But did not know if we would make it. Paul pulled off highway to check the tire. The new tire was flat and there was a split valve stem. We were now on the side of the road in hot sun and very precariously as far from the right lane as possible but still right on the highway. The tire shop did come, did take the tire and did return with a new tire. They credited us the amount of tire so it was free but it cost us 2 ½ hours delay on our trip. We were rolling again at 6:25 p.m. but with caution because we had no guarantee the other three tires would make it home. The roads had been extremely bad throughout the trip and we had hit many cracks and holes along the way. We did make it to Biloxi and were just glad to be cool and lay down to sleep.

DAY 18 We left Biloxi at 7:30 a.m. and an hour later we were eating in the Cruise In Café, former Waffle House at the Gulfport cut off. At this site, the flood waters of Hurricane Katrina (6 yrs ago) had reached the doorknob on the second floor of the motel next door. Note to self: The Cruise In Café had some neat T shirts. I will probably always regret I did not get one here. We made it home this day and Yes, Dorothy, there's no place like home.

The Women's Run

What a fabulous turn out for the Women's Run! The ladies arrived with smiling faces and the men with some trepidation. Many of them had not participated in our special run and had no idea what to expect. Upon gathering everybody together for event information, the ladies were all given a Bath and Body Works bag containing lotion and antibacterial hand sanitizer to ward off the cooties from the guys!). All women were encouraged to drive, but not pressured.

Men's Instructions:

1. Must open the car door for the lady and close it after she gets in the car.
2. Sorry guys, the lady gets to choose the radio stations or CD to listen to.
3. The man must carry on at least a 2 minute intelligent conversation with the lady.
4. The man must not scrutinize the lady's driving.
5. No screaming "look out" or "don't do that".
6. The men must offer the lady refreshment at the pit stop.
7. The man must buy lunch for the lady.

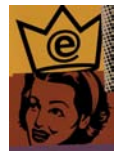
And with that our run was off like a herd of turtles in the hot Texas sun. As difficult as it was, I kept our drive at or below the speed limit. Everybody was able to stay together as we toured TPC Parkway to Smithson Valley Rd, winding our way to HWY 281. With the exception of some road construction on FM306, traffic was not a problem. A pit stop is always a welcomed sight after consuming our morning coffee. It is difficult to cross your legs and use the clutch in a Miata! Our travels took us out Cranes Mill Rd to RR32 and down Purgatory Rd with lots of dips and a few rolling road blocks. We doubled back to 306 then to Common St and right at Loop 337 in New Braunfels and a quick left into Cooper's BBQ. After enjoying much conversation and food, we celebrated Dave and Marilyn Hamilton's 100th anniversary (hahaha) with cake. A big thank you to Leon for helping me plan the route, Marilyn M. for encouraging me to get off my backside and plan it and to Super Dave for taking pictures.

Gotta Miata!!!!!!

Pat Franklin



The Women's Run Photos



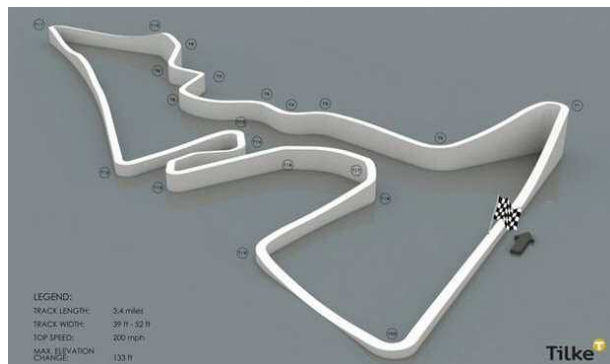


There were twenty proud trash collectors last Saturday morning to pick up our two mile stretch of Hwy. 1863. Afterwards, we all enjoyed breakfast at Grumpy's restaurant.

A Visit To The New Formula 1 Track in Austin

By Dave Hamilton

On a recent Thursday morning Marilyn and I woke up early and decided to take a trip to check out the construction on the new F1 track that they are building in Austin. It is about a 75 minute drive to the track site from the North San Antonio area. In order to reach the track just take I-35 North toward Austin. Just South of Austin go right onto the 45 / 130 Toll Road. Take the Highway 812 exit to the right. In a very short time you will see the construction ahead of you. The track will be called the Circuit of the Americas. It will be 3.4 miles in length with approximately 20 turns. There will be a total change in elevation of about 140 feet. It is estimated that the cars should be able to obtain a top speed of 200MPH and should sail by the grandstands at 180MPH. The state-of-the-art facility will seat around 120,000 fans. The F1 agreement is for 10 years and the first race is tentatively scheduled for 17 June 2012. In addition to F1 racing the MotoGP series will also start using the track in 2013. MotoGP is an 18 race series based out of Madrid, Spain. It is reported that over 2 million fans watched these races in person last year. It is anticipated that the motorcycles will be able to attain speeds near 200MPH on the 3.4 mile track. Eventually the Circuit of the Americas plans to have additional visitor attractions including a proposed driving / riding experience, motorsports driving club, kart track and Welcome Center. It is really exciting to have this world-class facility so close to us. Hopefully, one of these days, we will be able to drive our Miatas on it.



Bluebonnet Miata Club Meeting Minutes
June 28, 2011



Open Meeting

Introduction of new members: No new members
Visitors: No visitors.

Reports

Treasurer's Report: Marilyn McCullen reported that our current checking account balance was \$.
The savings account balance is \$.
Membership: Barbara Thompson reported that we have 84 members.
Webmaster: No new news
Newsletter: Send stories! Update runs info ASAP on website calendar.

Old Business

Club Pins are free to new members. \$2 for current/old members. See Barbara Thompson for more information.
Club Stickers are 2 for \$5.00. See Barbara Thompson for more information.
The Bluebonnet Miata Club Business cards are available for members to pass out.
Name Badges are available from Barbara Thompson upon request. They are \$6.50 and due when ordering one. There is a minimum of 5 when ordering.

New Business

Barbara Thompson has taken over as Membership Director for Betty Jackson. Many thanks to Barbara for volunteering.
Miata Website Contest Winners was Betty Herrera, but since she is club president and supposed to know all this stuff, the prize went to the 2nd place winner. There was a tie between Cindy Monroe and Cliff Thompson. Cliff won the prize.
Send email to Don Privett about adding runs to the calendar.
Check the website frequently for impromptu runs.
Miatas at Moab is scheduled at Arches National Park. May 2012. Judi Privett has an extra room available if needed.
Run Sheets and guidelines are available for print or download on the BBMC website.
Video of the chicken fried steak run in Lounge area of website.

Past Runs and Activities

June 4th - Hill Country Run – Led by Stephanie Bell-Turner. Lunch at Nutty Brown.
June 6th – Sundaes on Monday. Led by Dan and Betty Hicks.
June 7th – Carino's Italian Run – Led by Rohm and Barbara Thompson. Fundraiser for Habitat for humanity.
June 11th – Classic Car Show in New Braunfels. Led by Dan and Betty Hicks.
June 14th – Lunar Zoomers – Fralo's in Boerne Tx. Led by George Lucas.
June 18th – Chicken Fried Steak Run -Led by Jim Treat. Bandera Area Spanish Trail.
June 22nd – Lunar Zoomers. Led by George Lucas. Fralo's Pizza in Boerne, TX.
June 28th - Monthly Meeting. TGI Fridays.

New Runs and Activities

July 4th - Austin July 4th Parade in Round Rock, TX. Led by Paul and Wanda.
July 9th - Girls in Charge Run. Led by Pat Franklin and Marilyn McCullen. Men must be on their best behavior.
July 14th - Lunar Zoomers. Led by George Lucas. Details TBA.
July 23rd - Trash Pickup. Led by Jeff Holbrook.
July 26th - Monthly Meeting. Details TBA.

New Miata Stuff

Larry Bader – New intake manifold and dyno tuning. 270 whp Miata!

Yearly tally of Miata Event Attendees: 685 + Classic Car Show run participants.

The Meeting was adjourned. People went to the parking lot for more Miata talk

In The Breeze



Bluebonnet Miata Club

San Antonio, Texas

<http://www.bluebonnetmiata.org>



*Mazda MX-5 Karai: 165 built
for Germany Only*

Check your mailing label for your renewal date.

Please renew your membership promptly!

Upcoming Runs and Events

- **Thursday, August 11th, Lunar Zoomer Dinner** at an amazing outdoor patio restaurant yet to be named! Hosted by **George Lucas**, watch the website's forum for details to be revealed soon!
- **Sunday, August 14th, Hamburger Run, led by Stephanie Turner.** Details of this event were not known at press time. Watch the website's forum for details!
- **Saturday, August 20th, Bat Cave Run, led by George Briscoe.** Meet at 4:30 p.m. under the WalMart Super Center sign at 11210 Potranco Rd. just outside Loop 1604 for a 5 p.m. departure. No water or food on this run, so bring your own munchies! The Wildlife Tunnel is no longer a State facility, but it does have restrooms. Fun times at Luckenbach will follow the run. Don't miss it!
- **Tuesday, August 23rd. Monthly meeting at Bigz Burger Joint.** Eat and greet at 6:30 pm. and meeting starts sharply at 7:30 p.m.
- **Saturday, August 27th, Tim and Ennie's Dash and Splash!** Details will be on the website and in next month's *In The Breeze*.