



In The Breeze



September 2012

Official Newsletter of the Bluebonnet MX-5 Miata Club

Still Free!

Mazda Reveals the Refreshed 2013 MX-5 Miata

The Mazda Roadster (better known here in the states as the MX-5 Miata) gets one more refresh before the automaker completely redesigns the platform.



Mazda has officially pulled the wraps off of the 2013 model year update to its Japanese market Mazda Roadster, known elsewhere in the world as the MX-5 Miata.

The new Roadster gets a revised front end that further evolves the Nagare design language's trademark grin into something both that's more in line with the current generation of the Mazda3, but also less obviously a big happy face. A new front spoiler frames the Roadster's chin. It's a subtle change, as mid-cycle refreshes are wont to be. The rear end of the car appears to be completely unchanged.

Underneath the sheet metal, revisions have been made to the throttle management program of models with the manual transmission and to the brake assist in all models to improve control. Pedestrian safety is enhanced with a new "Active Bonnet" that pops up during frontal collisions to absorb energy and cushion against head trauma. Additionally, Mazda has shaved a mass here and there with new lighter parts in the front bumper, the active bonnet, the new 17-inch aluminum wheels, and even the internal wiring. Every gram counts, right?

The Power Retractable Hard Top (PRHT) and soft top Roadster models are distinguished by silver and black trim and detailing, respectively. This is most obvious when looking at the wheels; the soft top's rolling stock is obviously darker. Finally, the cabin gets a few new trim colors and materials.

This 2013 model (which still hasn't officially been announced for the U.S. market) should be the last revision that the Miata gets before getting the big overhaul we're expecting in 2014.

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Travelocity Read

No particular message was contemplated this month. Look else where in this paper for insufferable comments by me.

-Ed



President's Message

Our president has been busy with life and was not able to offer any information for this month's newsletter.

New Members

Paul Shoecraft
San Marcos, TX
2001 Forest Green

Sylvia Ferrell
Universal City, TX
2012 Copper Red

Rob and Ruth Abbotts
Spring Branch, TX
2006 Sunlight Silver

Welcome to the Club!

Dog Days Here, But Hopefully Not There

There, of course, being Alpine. While this summer may not be setting the records of last year's temperatures, it's pretty stifling none the less. Keeping cool is the order of the day recently and the upcoming trip to Alpine and the higher altitudes will be welcome, indeed. Last year was almost all that was promised as cool evenings prevailed. We even had to have jackets! On Sunday, a cool front blew through and we all enjoyed perfect top down weather, albeit with warm clothing!

Last year, special pins were given out to all that attended. While I thought they were pretty cool, we've taken it to a new high with special commemorative t-shirts! Thought up by me and designed by Judi, I don't mind telling you we're very proud of the shirts! If you're going to Alpine with us, the shirts will be passed out at tonight's meeting! Otherwise, the shirts can be picked up in Alpine on Friday night.

There are lots of things to do in West Texas and I'm sure many of you have ideas of what you want to do, maybe even on your own. I want everyone to know that while this so-called event has been carefully planned with plenty of thing on our schedule, please don't hesitate to "do your own thing" if you so desire. I want you guys to have fun, no matter what you do.

I would be remiss if I didn't again thank Don Privett and Dave Hamilton for supporting me in this effort by literally making a pre-trip out to Alpine. We were able to get many of the details ironed out while having fun in the process! Also, Judi Privett spent some of her own valuable time helping me design and she even placed the order for our tshirts. Thanks, you guys.

Look on page 6 and 7 for photos of last years gathering!

Okay, I think I've rambled on enough here...I hope you're going with us and if not, we'll miss you!



"Quickly, Robin... to the BAT CAVE!"

August 4th saw the club's 17th Annual Bat Cave Run. 15 Miatas gathered at the McDonald's at IH-10 & Ralph Fair Road. We cruised on out Ralph Fair past Camp Stanley, through Bergheim, across the Guadalupe River & into Kendallia for our rest stop at the old general store. From there, we continued north on Crabapple Road, a narrow, winding and hilly little country lane. Along the way, the lead cars encountered a group of seven adolescent wild turkeys crossing the road. They had to have been from the same brood this spring and they were still inexperienced at crossing barbed wire fences. The last one gave up and flew back across the road right between two Miatas!

After crossing the Blanco River, we went west on FM 1888, then northwest on 1376 past Luckenbach. The group then took the Grapetown Road and hung a left on the No. 9 (a.k.a. Old San Antonio) Road and arrived at the Old Tunnel State Wildlife Management Area (The BAT CAVE!!!) at 7:10.

Walking up to the viewing deck, we were informed that the first group of bats had already emerged extra early, as they had done the day before. They did say that the second group had emerged just before sunset the day before, so we decided to hang around and see what happened.

We all had a nice visit with each other, enjoying the view, the nice breeze coming up the valley and discussing the drive. After a while, a few people decided to head on back home (including our one driver from Austin). The rest of us stuck around. Just after 8:00, more people decided to leave. Just as they reached the parking lot, bats began emerging, so I trotted to the parking lot and got our folks back.

Boy, it was worth the wait! The second emergence was the main population of mature bats (a couple of MILLION of them) and we got quite a show! The swarm of circling bats coming out of the tunnel was as thick as I've ever seen in twenty years of visiting there. There weren't any red tail hawks this year, but that allowed the bats to climb up higher above the trees and we really had a great view. The first-time visitors seemed to be amazed by this spectacle of nature.

"Good things come to those who wait," as the old proverb says.

After the emergence, we took advantage of the remaining twilight to continue south on the Old San Antonio Road (crossing the 2/10ths of a mile of caliche dust where they're straightening out the road and bypassing some of my favorite curves). From Comfort, we zipped down I-10 to north San Antonio.

A few of us stopped off at "The Center of the Universe", Hills & Dales, to hang out in the air conditioning, listen to a great acoustic blues duo (Rusty Martin & Doctor G.) and enjoy the extensive beer selection. Joe Steiner dropped by after work to join us.

Thank you to all who attended. I had a wonderful day and I hope that all of you did as well. I hope that this won't be my last Bat Cave Run, but we'll just have to see what happens next year. They're changing the road and that guy who bought Bankersmith (1.5 miles north of the tunnel) plans to develop it into a big tourist venue. I'll have to decide sometime next year. Whatever the case, save the first Saturday of August for me on the calendar & I'll have some kind of run.

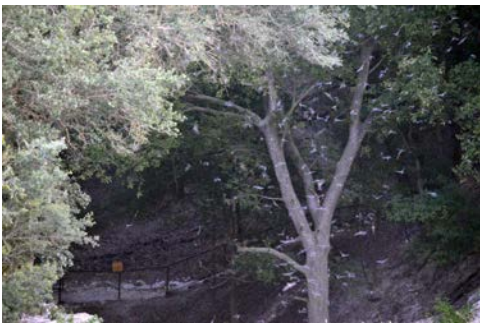
If you still want to see a bat emergence without driving all the way out there, check out the Camden Street bridge over the museum reach of the San Antonio Riverwalk (park under 281 by the Pearl Brewery complex and walk), or park at the Starbucks near the I-10 bridge over Vance Jackson just before sunset. Tens of thousands of bats live under those bridges until the October migration to central Mexico.

And don't worry... they won't get caught in your hair!

-George Briscoe



BAT CAVE RUN PHOTOS



Head for the Mountains I Photos



Bluebonnet Miata Club Meeting Minutes June 26, 2012

Open Meeting

Introduction of new members: Joe Knight's brother, Patrick and Mary Brown '05 Silver, Larry and Cecila Taylor '12 True Red, Paul and Emily McReynolds '02 Classic Red, Paul Schucraft.

Visitors: Ed Polansky crashed the meeting with his S2000, but admits to shopping for a new MX-5.

Reports

Treasurer's Report: Marilyn McCullen reported that our current checking account balance was \$. The savings account balance is \$. Insurance premium paid.

Membership: Barbara Thompson reported that we have 96 members. Working on the Directory. Send in photos if you would like them included in the directory.

Webmaster: No new updates.

Newsletter: George requests no last minutes articles or info. Please send by the deadline, one week in advance of the next club meeting.

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

Check website and yahoo groups for impromptu runs.

August 11th, 18th, 25th, and all Sundays are open for runs or events.

Miata Round Up 2012. Register now!

Past Runs and Activities

July 2nd – Sundaes on Monday. Hosted by Rohm & Barb Thompson.

July 4th – Lunar Zoomers. Hosted by George Lucas.

July 4th – Round Rock 4th of July Parade. Led by Paul Begnoche.

July 7th – Summer Picnic. Hosted by Betty and Ronnie Fields.

July 14th – Trash Pick Up. Led by Jeff Holbrook.

July 14th – Dyno Day. Hosted by Stephanie Bell-Turner

July 15th – Chicken Fried Steak Run. Led by Jim Treat

July 21st – Photo Safari. Led by Pat Franklin. Bring your own digital camera.

July 24th – Monthly Meeting.

New Runs and Activities

July 28th - Older than dirt run. Led by Mike Jackson.

July 28th – Miatas at the Gap.

August 1st – Lunar Zoomers. Hosted by George Lucas.

August 4th - Bat Cave Run. Led by George Briscoe.

August 6th – Sundaes on Monday. Hosted by Craig and Lisa Martin.

August 28th – Monthly Meeting

August 31st – Head for the Mountains II. Led by George Lucas.

New Miata Stuff

Paul Wilson – '99 10th AE Miata.

Yearly tally of Miata Event Attendees: 1138 on July 24th, 2012.

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>

To join club or renew dues, open the above web site and click on the membership tab



Check your mailing label for your renewal date.

Please renew your membership promptly!

Upcoming Runs and Events

- **Friday, August 31st. Head For The Mountains 2, hosted and led by George Lucas.** Meet at Haby's Alsatian Bakery on the eastern edge of Castroville at 8:00 a.m. for an 8:30 a.m. departure. If you didn't get this newsletter at the meeting, you'll be reading this too late to attend this event. See you next year, perhaps???
- **Saturday, September 8th, The first "Fly A Kite Run", hosted and led by Dave and Marilyn Hamilton.** Meet at Big's Miata Valero (18655 Nacogdoches Rd.) at 3 p.m. The run will depart at 3:15. There will be an early dinner at Rudy's BBQ in New Braunfels. Following dinner, the group will make a short drive to a semi-private area for kite flying. Bring your own kite. If you don't have one, several will be available. There will also be bocce ball and Frisbee. This run seemed like a great idea when conceived late at night over a glass of wine. Be adventuresome and join us!
- **Monday, September 10th, Sundae on Monday gathering, hosted this month by Dave and Marilyn Hamilton.** Plans at press time are to meet at the Orange Leaf Yogurt shop at the Aldaco's shopping center in Stone Oak. Watch your email via Yahoo Groups for more upcoming details.
- **Bass Pro Challenge run, led by Dan and Betty Hicks.** Meet at the Shell station on IH10 and Ralph Fair Road at 9:15 a.m. and depart at 9:45. The run will take you through some new and old roads ending at the Bass Pro Shop Restaurant for lunch. After lunch, for those enthusiasts of the shooting sports, Dan has arranged for a brief competition at the Bass Pro Gun Range. There are six shooting lanes reserved for 1:30 p.m. A prize will be awarded for the Bluebonnet "Top Shot"
- **Saturday, September 22nd, Bubba's Nascar Café Run. Led by Jimbo and Freda Treat.** Always a fun run with the prettiest sunset ever! Watch the website or your Yahoo Groups for further details!
- **Tuesday, September 25th, Monthly meeting at Bigz Burger Joint.** Eat at 6:30, meet at 7:30. Be there, this is YOUR club!!!