

The 2016 Texas Miata Challenge

For 2016, it's time to take your Miata to the weird side. Weird Texas, that is. All of the challenge sites were inspired by (and some were featured in) "Weird Texas: Your Travel Guide to Texas' Local Legends and Best Kept Secrets" by Wesley Treat, Heather Shade, and Rob Riggs. Descriptions and addresses came from RoadsideAmerica.com. The goal is to take a picture of yourself with your car at each location. Participation is NOT LIMITED to Lone Star Miata Club members! So without further ado, here are next year's challenge destinations:



1. Prada Marfa, [US Hwy 90, Valentine, TX](#). The work will be located on the outskirts of Valentine, Texas near Marfa on desolate ranching land with no other visible trace of civilization. As one drives toward the artwork it will appear to be a large minimalist sculpture, as one gets closer it will look like a luxury boutique where a display of Fall 2005 high-heel Prada shoes and bags will be seen through the store front windows. Yet, one cannot open the door, it is a sealed time capsule and will never function as a place of commerce.

2. Stonehenge II and Easter Island Heads, [120 Point Theatre Rd S., Ingram, TX](#). Stonehenge II was erected as an amusing art project by the late Al Shepperd and his friend and neighbor, Doug Hill. Hill had offered a limestone slab to Shepperd in 1989, unused in his recently completed back patio. Shepperd stood the rock up, monolith-style, and then odd thoughts started to seep into his head. He was gripped by what we've observed as a rare but not unknown malady -- Stonehenge Fever. Shepperd added two 13-ft. tall Easter Island heads a year and a half later, after visiting Easter Island. The heads stand away a respectful distance on either side of the 'Henge.



3. Car buying statue, [4006 Weber, Corpus Christi, TX](#). It's a couple (not two men) and they're checking it out as if to buy it. He's kicking the tires. She's peering into the windshield. Does it look like a Miata to you?

4. Bob's Oil Well, [Bailey Ave., Matador, TX](#). Built by Texan Luther Bedford "Bob" Robertson in 1939 atop his gas station. The

steel derrick is 84 feet tall, and was outfitted with lights. Bob was so successful at attracting customers that his station eventually boasted a zoo with lions, monkeys, and a cage of rattlesnakes, but he died unexpectedly in 1947. His widow, Olga, kept the Oil Well going (she



even installed bigger lights), but it closed in the 1950s.



5. Giant fork, [4206 Duval St., Austin, TX](#). A giant fork stands outside Hyde Park Bar & Grill, there since 1982. It is regularly "updated" with different art pieces on top -- holiday, seasonal and current event items -- wrapped around or otherwise attached. Stop for a delicious meal when you visit.

6. This Land is Your Land musical fence, [1101 N. Hobart St.,](#)

[Pampa, TX](#). A 150-foot-long steel musical staff displays the notes for Woody Guthrie's "This Land Is Your Land." Welder Rusty Neef created this work of art to honor his father and Woody Guthrie (Guthrie lived in Pampa in the 1930s and 1940s). This destination hearkens back to the 2015 challenge, which featured many Texas music references.



7. Huge pair of legs, [Sundown Ln., Amarillo, TX](#). Huge Pair of Legs in the middle of nowhere! Meant to evoke the sonnet "Ozymandias" by Percy Bysshe Shelley. Artist "Lightnin McDuff" created the sculpture. Currently fenced off to prevent visitor interaction.



8. Eiffel Tower, [2025 Jefferson Rd, Paris, TX](#). Not just an Eiffel Tower replica in a town named Paris. It's an Eiffel Tower replica topped with a big cowboy hat in a town named Paris.



9. Lady Bug VWs, [Hwy 677, Saint Jo, TX](#). The VW Bugs are surrounded by irrigation pipe cactus, flowers, and other art in the middle of a quiet little German area of Texas.



[TX](#). John Milkovisch drank 39,000 cans of beer, then decorated his house with the flattened empties.

10. Beer Can House, [222 Malone, Houston,](#)



Please send completed entries to: Bruce Gibson, 1020 Mesa Court, Shady Shores TX 76208. Or email JPG pictures to brucegibson5@gmail.com.

Deadline is Oct. 1, 2016!! Prizes for completion will be awarded at the 2016 Miata Roundup in Huntsville.