



The Convertible Chronicles of the Utah Miata Club



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The Journey is the Destination

By: Mark Vaughn, President

Here it is the end of August, two thirds of the year gone by, and I hope we have seen the end of the very hot days. It was not too long ago, in May I think, we were wondering if it was going to warm up. August has been quiet; the family and I journeyed to Las Vegas and St. George to take in some shows, but the truth be told the journey of destination was to stay in air conditioning. It was 116 degrees in Las Vegas and 109 in St. George, but in spite of the heat we had fun.

Looking forward to September; we have a journey planned to the MIATA rally at Laguna Seca in Monterey, California, and finishing up the month with a club trip to Torrey, Utah. I would like to extend a special thanks to Eric and Kathy Kankainen for the planning of the Torrey, Utah journey. Last year was a great time and I am sure this year will be as much or more fun, and hopefully no snow.

Before I close would like to recognize Valerie Francis for taking on the club newsletter. Thank you very much for taking this on. Now that you are retired I am sure you are looking for things to fill your time, well maybe not.

As always, whether it is rain or shine, daylight or dark, top up or down, in a Miata MX-5 the journey is the destination.



Date & Time: September 8, 2018
 Noon to 4:00 pm
Where: Riverside Park
Location: 195 East 125 North, Morgan, UT



The September meeting of the Utah Miata Club will be held on Saturday, September 8th at the Riverside Park in Morgan Utah. Please make note of this date as it is the second Saturday of September (Labor Day weekend includes the first Saturday of September).

Due to circumstances beyond the Clubs control, the picnic in Morgan City park will be **“Bring Your Own” lunch**. If you can’t make a baloney sandwich worth a hoot, the following places in Morgan will be happy to take your money:

J’s: 50 North State St. (drive-in type food)

River Burgers: 256 North State St. (drive-in type food)

Subway: 381 North State St. (self explanatory)

Phillips Gas Station: 404 North State St. (drive-in type food, order at the main register)

Deb’s Spicy Pie: 10 North Commercial St. (Pizza, Subs, Soup & salads) If you want Pizza, I would call before you leave Salt Lake Phone # 801-845-1400

Drive Information: by Steve Beckstead

Please join us for a drive before the September meeting/lunch. We’ll meet at the Rotary Glen parking lot at the mouth of Emigration Canyon around 10:30 am. It is just east of Hogle Zoo and easy to find (approximately 2900 E. Sunnyside Ave). We’ll hit the road about 10:50 for a drive up the canyon, then through East Canyon ending up at Morgan Riverside Park for the annual fun. If you prefer to just meet there, we’ll see you at the park, but my way is a great twisty drive!

Don’t forget, we have the Park from Noon until 4:00 pm so bring your favorite card games, ball games, badminton games, etc., and enjoy the afternoon.



Birthdays & Memberships

Expiring Soon

JOHN & CINDY COX	9/30/2018
WAYLON & VALERIE GOEBEL	9/30/2018
RICHARD & CHARLENE GREGER	9/30/2018
ROGER & PERLY HEATH	9/30/2018
WAYNE & SUSAN HERGOT	9/30/2018
MARK & SHAWNA MIDGLEY	9/30/2018

New Members

TONYA & JOSH ASHMENT	2017RF	CERAMIC METALLIC
BRIAN CHRISTIANSEN	2018	GRAY

Membership Expired

KAREN CHRISTENSEN	8/31/2018
DONN & JANET CICHOCKI	7/31/2018
THOMAS & LAUREL DRYSDALE	7/31/2018
JOSEPH & JENNIFER EAMES	7/31/2018
CHUCK & DIANE GRAHAM	6/30/2018
MICHAEL & FRANCIS HUTTON	4/30/2018
SPENCER MANN	5/31/2018
WILLIAM PAYNE	8/31/2018
MARK & DEBBIE SHACKELFORD	4/30/2018
JARED & KRISTI SMITH	7/31/2018

Removed From Roster

None	
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JAMES VREDEVELD	4 Sep
JOY MASTERS	13 Sep
CHRISTA JACKSON	15 Sep
FRANK HOUSER	22 Sep
KAREN CHRISTENSEN	23 Sep
ANA PORTER	29 Sep

Membership Dues Reminder

If you wish to renew your membership, and we hope you will, please give or send a check to Club Treasurer, Margie Newson, for the appropriate amount. It is \$25 if you have the newsletter e-mailed to you or \$45 if you would like a hard copy sent by standard mail. A Dual Membership (for yourself *and* a spouse, sibling or significant other) is \$35. You can also pay your dues online with PayPal on our website; www.utahmiataclub.org. This method is \$27 (to cover PayPal fees). If mailing a check, please send to: 233 West 1550 North, Bountiful, Utah 84010. Make your check payable to the Utah Miata Club. Margie can also be contacted by phone at 801-295-4563 or by e-mail at sec.treasumc@icloud.com.

September in Torrey, Utah

By Eric & Kathy Kankainen

Please join us for weekend trip to Torrey, Utah. If you don't already have your hotel reservations, you should get them as soon as possible. Most are staying at Days Inn or Noor Hotel.

Itinerary for Sept 28-30, 2018: Target - Peak Fall Foliage for Aspens.

Friday leave SLC at 9 am from Harmon's in Draper – take I-15 to Payson. Pit stop at McDonalds then Mt Nebo Loop to Manti to Salina for lunch at Mom's Café. Then Gooseberry to Fremont to Torrey (approx. 5.5 hrs + lunch (240 mi)). Check in to Motels then early (5 pm) dinner at Rim Rock, then optional Scenic Park Drive #1 (1.5 hrs).

Saturday – Meet 9 am at Junction of State Road 12 & 24. South on State Road 12 to Boulder then Burr Trail to end of pavement at Capitol Reef Park boundary and back to Boulder for lunch (TBD) then (or not) to Escalante (optional Hole in the Rock Exhibit and/or Grand Staircase Visitor Center) and back to Torrey (approx. 5 hrs + lunch); siesta then early dinner at Café Diablo then optional Scenic Park Drive #2 for 1.5 hrs.

Sunday – Meet at Junction of State Road 12 & 24 take State Road #24 west to State Road #72 thru Fremont to Fremont Junction on I-70 then up State Road 10 to scenic, fun drive side trip to & back Sufco Mine then to Ferron for lunch at Millsite Golf Course, then Huntington Canyon to Fairview, then State Road 89 to Thistle State Road 6 and I-15 to SLC (approx. 5.5 hrs + lunch (260 mi)).

Sunset Drives out of Torrey

1. Sunset Drive #1 – East on State Road 24 to Capitol Reef's Scenic Drive then back to Torrey (1.5 hrs + stops).
2. Sunset Drive #2 - East on State Road 24 thru Capitol Reef Park to Notom turn off then back to Torrey (1.5 hrs + stops)



Vaughn BBQ / August Meeting Report

For a second year Mark and Susan Vaughn hosted a BBQ lunch at their home, in their lovely shaded backyard. They served up hamburgers and brats, salads, drinks, and all the fixings needed for a delicious BBQ. As always, visiting with our Utah Miata Club friends made for an enjoyable afternoon. Mark conducted the monthly meeting where we discussed several upcoming exciting adventures; the Torrey Utah three day weekend, Texas Miata Roundup, Miatas in Moab VI, and new possible adventures to Miataland in Italy, and a return trip to Canada, that could be in our future. The club members really appreciate Mark and Susan hosting this fun gathering! Great food and fun were had by all who attended.

Thanks Mark and Susan!





Member Spotlight

Marilyn and Jim Bickley

By: *Carol Lynn Vredevelde*



Marilyn and Jim Bickley are our spotlight couple for September. I met these two at Susan & Mark Vaughn's house for the annual BBQ in their backyard. They had recently joined the club and went with some of the club members on the Canada Adventure that Mark had organized. I know everyone that went on this trip said they had a wonderful time enjoying the fun roads, the ferry ride and the beautiful scenery that they all experienced while on this great adventure that included Marilyn & Jim! It sounds like this was perfect timing for them... what a great way to experience how much fun you can have driving these sporty little cars through the beautiful countryside with your friends in the Utah Miata Club.

Marilyn will tell you all about their motivation to buy a Miata and become members of the UMC in her article below:

Our Miata is a Black 2016 Club Edition and is the first Miata we have ever owned. Jim had sports cars when he was much younger and wanted another one. He picked a Miata because of the way it handles and how fun it is to drive. The Miata reminded him of his old MG.

The dealer where we bought the Miata got us signed up with the Miata Club and we started receiving e-mails regarding activities. We didn't make any moves to join until we saw the announcement for the Canada trip this year. That sounded like the perfect trip for Jim to celebrate his 75th birthday, so we signed up and joined the Miata Club.

I grew up in Salt Lake, but lived for a year or two in Montana as a kid. Jim moved all over the place while he was growing up and also as an adult. He has lived in twelve different states, three other countries, and the District of Columbia. He grew up primarily in South Dakota and Montana. He never lived in a house more than 3 years in his whole life until we lived in our house in Park City for 13 years. That was a record breaker!

After we got married, we lived in Augsburg, Germany for three years and traveled extensively in Europe. I went to mortgage banking school and became a mortgage loan officer with Valley Bank in Salt Lake. This bank no longer exists. Jim has a degree in Zoology, which fit perfectly with his job in human resources for the Department of Defense. We are now both retired. YAY!!

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Jim and I met when we both signed up for a trip to China to ride bicycles and ended up riding together. Our meal time discussions centered on, "What do you think that is?" type of questions. Jim also knew how to eat with chop sticks so he showed me how to do that. He said he would come over to my place two weeks after that trip for a date. I thought he probably wouldn't show up, but he did and it just went from there.

We have been married 29 years, which seems amazing! We don't have any kids or grandkids. We have two cats, that are spoiled rotten, but they are very sweet and lovable.

When we met, Jim had been single for about 8 years and so had I. Jim hates telephones so he didn't have a home phone. (Of course, this was in the olden days before cell phones. He doesn't have a cell phone now either, but that is another story.) If he wanted to talk to me, he would call from work so I never got any evening calls to just chat about the day, etc. Since he lived on Dugway Proving Grounds in bachelor quarters, his address was a P. O. Box. Now you tell me. Doesn't that sound suspicious? –a P. O. Box for an address and no home phone, like maybe he is a married guy trying to hook up with someone on the sly??

I have spent my life involved in outdoor sports. When I was about 25, I joined the Wasatch Mountain Club and have been a member ever since. I have been on many wonderful trips with this group of people over the years. We would go back-country skiing, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, and downhill skiing in the winter. In the summers, we would go hiking, backpacking, river running, camping, and especially bicycle riding. We have done several long bike rides across the country covering thousands of miles, two weeks at a time for three consecutive years. As an example, during the celebration of the Lewis and Clark Centennial, we followed their route from St. Louis to the west coast and back. We have ridden extensively in Summit County here in Utah as well as Salt Lake County.

I have always loved horses and got my first horse when I was in my early 20s. I did many long rides, camping trips, and even herding cattle on horses. After moving to Park City, I got involved in Ride and Tie Racing and Endurance Racing, which I did for many years. I have to say those were the best times. I was in 7th heaven riding my horse and running in the races. I must say that Jim was a good sport about these events and very supportive. He helped with driving the truck and trailer, setting up camp, hauling 15 gallons of water for the horses, and various other duties like standing in an open field on Bonanza Flats, pretending he was a tree so we could hand off the horse reins to him. My riding partner and I affectionately called him our "Camp Slave."

I've also been an avid runner and did my one and only marathon in Munich, Germany, when we lived there, as well as several half marathons in Moab, Utah. Unfortunately, in my old age, I have had to curtail some of these activities, but the memories will live forever!

Jim plays classical guitar and I have a beautiful grand piano that I hardly ever play but love dearly.

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We have only been on one Miata Club trip so far, and it was a winner! Go Canada! We have enjoyed meeting some of the members of the Club and look forward to getting to know you more in the future as we get more trips under our belts.

We have done extensive traveling (some bike riding trips) in Europe, the Middle East, northern Africa, South America, Mexico, Canada, and, of course, in China, where it all began!

I love the fact that Jim graduated with a degree in Zoology and ended up working for the government...how appropriate! Sounds like these two have been very busy throughout their lives doing what they love and making the most of every day. We're glad they are including the Miata Club in this next adventurous stage of their lives. Hopefully now they can trade in a few of their bike riding trips for driving some fun windy roads in their new Miata with their friends in the UMC. Maybe we can even talk Jim and Marilyn in to sharing their musical talent with us at one of our parties. That would be awesome!



LONG LIVE THE ROADSTER

2018 Calendar of Events

by Steve Beckstead



LONG LIVE THE ROADSTER

- September 8th:** Annual Picnic/Meeting (Morgan Park) – BBQ Food (Bring your own lunch)
- September 20th:** Hot Lava Event (Hood River, OR) – Mount Hood Miata Club
- September 28th:** Eric and Kathy's Torrey Weekend Scenic Drive (3 Days) – Kankainens
- October 6th:** Monthly lunch and meeting (Location TBD) – Mark Vaughn
- October 11th:** 2018 Texas Miata roundup (Lone Star Miata Club) – Mike Bailey Info
- November 3rd:** Monthly lunch and meeting (Location TBD) – Mark Vaughn
- December 8th:** Christmas Party with Utah Miata Club (Location and Date Tentative)

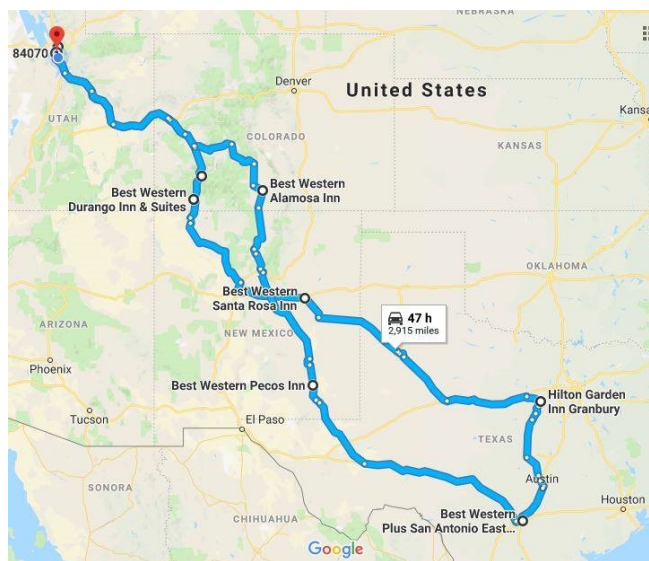
Utah Miata Club Road Trip to "Texas Miata Roundup" by: Mike Bailey

Get ready for another **Utah Miata Club Roadtrip!** In October quite a few members of our club will be traveling to Granbury, Texas, which is the destination for our road trip titled "**Texas Miata Roundup**". We have been planning this trip for over a year now, which is sponsored and put on by the Lone Star Miata Club of Dallas - Ft. Worth, Texas area. I am told Granbury is a historic quaint town just outside of the Dallas area. Most of us are headed down to Farmington, New Mexico and then on to Albuquerque, New Mexico to spend a few days at the *Albuquerque Hot Air Balloon Festival*, an exciting event in and of itself. There we will meet our dear east coast friends Donn and Janet Cichocki, and renew our acquaintances for the first time since we were together on the Viking River Cruise to Europe.



Our group will then travel to Lubbock, Texas, spend the night there before heading to Granbury the next day. Others will go by way of Durango, Colorado and down to New Mexico from there. The event in Granbury will last four days with lots of rides, fun times, and good eats planned by the Lone Star Club. We can even take in a track day at the MotorSport Ranch in Cresson. I'd personally like to do that but don't have any takers on that from our club to go with. I had so much fun with Donn, Robert Klinshaw, Bill Anderson and Gary Collings, and their spouses at the Bristol Motor Speedway when we went 'Zoomin' the Mountains of East Tennessee a few years back. A race track experience is always an exhilarating experience!

After the event ends on Sunday we will be driving through Austin, Texas and on to San Antonio for a couple nights on our way home. I hoped to stop in Austin to see our old friends Dan and Julie Tolley, former longtime members of the Utah club, but I haven't been able to catch up with them yet. It will be a fun trip back home as Steve and Ronda seem to have a good plan to get us back to Utah, with several good stops on the way back home. There will be a couple groups going down, some with different stops along the way. I know that Vredevelds and Mechlings have kids they want to see in Texas during the trip. All in all, the Google Map say this trip is 2,915 miles. I'm sure will put on over 3,000 miles on our Miatas before we all get home. This will be another adventure for our club members and will be a great way to cap off the 2018 year. I'm getting real excited for this trip and the fun and adventures we will all share.



Texas Miata Roundup Event Shirts

by Mike Bailey

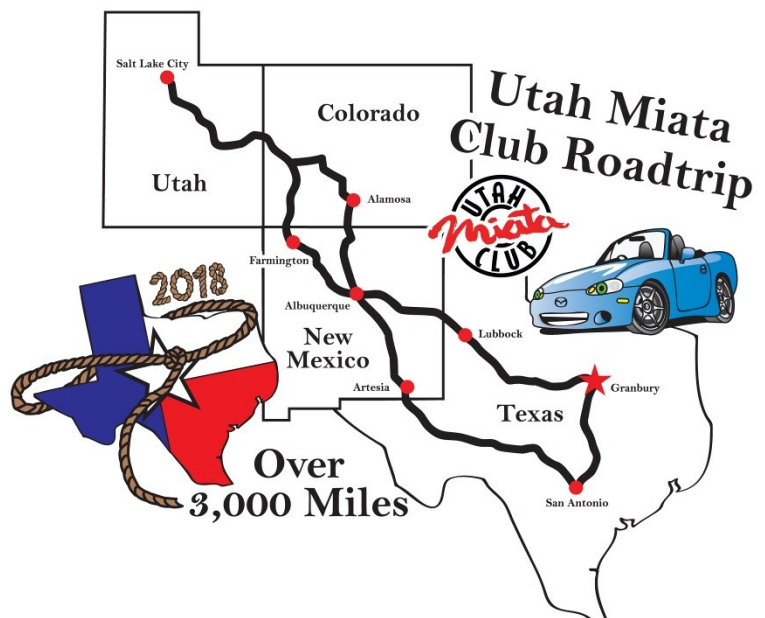
The **Texas Miata Roundup** is next month! The date is from **October 7 - 17th** for most of us. Some will be leaving a different day and also a slightly different route. It will be a very fun trip for those that are going. Featured is the new logo I have come up for this event trip. It is a whimsical Miata with a lot of character and a grin on it's face. It portrays how much fun and excitement we will have on this trip, which is the last major road trip for 2018. I hope you like it. I will be making up some event shirts for this event as we normally do. **Polo shirts and T-Shirts** will be available and also if anyone wants a long-sleeve T-shirt or a Sweat Shirt, we can do those as well. The I'm looking at possibly a Yellow or Texas Orange color for the shirts. The Polo shirt will screen print with the full color logo on the front left chest in 6 colors + screen tints. The T-Shirts and any other Shirts will have the same logo on left front chest and a Map of our main route also with the event logo on the back. The shirts will be at our regular price of \$35.00 for a Polo and \$15.00 each for a regular T-shirt. For Long Sleeve T's they will be the standard \$20.00 each. If you want the "Miata" script type-font running down the sleeve it is an extra \$6.00 for that. I will have a pass-around sign up sheet at the September luncheon for the shirts. **Hats:** If enough people want a hat, I will do an embroidered hat. I need at least 6 hats to pay for the cost of the digitizing and sew-out on them. They will be \$16.00 each for the ball caps. If you want a floppy, wide brim hat, I can do those also. They are about \$20.00 - \$25.00 each, depending on hat style and cost. In addition to the shirts we will do **Event Logo Car Magnets**. They will be at the normal cost of 2 for \$12.00.

Please email or call me if you want a shirt, hat, magnet or anything else or sign up at the September luncheon. I need to get these ordered right away to have them in time for the trip. My email is; mike@mikebaileyprinting.com. Phone; **801-597-1456**. Thanks, Mike

Front of shirt



Back of shirt



Miataland Italy for 2020

by Mike Bailey

I announced at last month's BBQ luncheon and meeting, about planning a week long **Viking Ocean Cruise to Italy** and also a **3-day visit to Miataland in Central Italy**. We have mentioned this before, last year, and even ran an article in one of our newsletters about this. So it should be no secret that interest is high for this trip. Karen and Dalin Christiansen, our club's Morris Murdock Travel agent visited there last year and took some wonderful photos that she shared with some of us. She met personally with Andrea, the owner of Miataland, and discussed having our group come there. I have been conversing with her on planning this trip for several months. Karen has come up with a cruise that will 'fit the bill' on this. It is called the **Italian Sojourn 8-day cruise to Italy**. The price will be about \$3,500 or less per person for the cruise portion. We will also get discounts for being past cruisers and a "group" discount with Viking and other specials such as discounted air fare. Karen also has contacts for transportation, tours or anything else we want to do.

The Itinerary stops on this cruise are leaving from Venice, then Sibenik Croatia, Bari, the coastal quaint town on the top of Italy's boot heal, sailing around the bottom of Italy to Crotona, another coastal town on the bottom of the front of the boot. From there we sail to Messina, on the island of Sicily, and up to Naples (remember Pompeii) and visiting the beautiful and scenic Amalfi Coast (in my opinion one of the most beautiful places in the world), and then to Civitavecchia or Rome. This cruise may go in reverse order depending on booking date. Many of us club members will remember a lot of these places that some have been to before such as Rome, Naples, Messina and Venice. Some have been to beautiful Croatia, but this is a new port city for us along with all the stops on the eastern side and bottom of Italy. We will be sending you a link to videos of all the port cities as well as Miataland. There are only 7 Rooms at Miataland, which will be reserved on first come, first served basis. There are also other accommodations around Miataland in quaint towns where others can stay. The owner of Miataland has 35 Miatas (at last count) so there will be plenty of Miatas for our group to drive and enjoy on this adventure. We currently are planning at least 3 days in Miataland, but still need to work out the arrangements.

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We are thinking of doing this trip around the Fall season, the end of August 2020. I know we have Miatas in Moab VI early in the year but this will be another "trip of a lifetime" and one that is on several member's 'bucket list'. Donn Cichocki and I have been talking about this for a year now and checking out videos and information on this, and with Karen's expertise and help it is sure to be one of the best trips the club has ever done. It is 2 year's away but you know how we like to plan things like this early. **Let me know if you want to be considered for this trip.** 🌀



Ragtops to Ridges is the Convertible Chronicles of the Utah Miata Club and is the Club's official newsletter. It is published monthly and presents information on Club news, activities and events. All information and photos are the property of the Utah Miata Club.

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Media Coordinator: Mike Bailey Scribe: Sharon Mechiling

Candid Camera

by Mike Bailey

Recent photos of club members at Vaughn's Summer BBQ and "Blasts from the Past" at Miata Events. Can you guess when/where these were taken?



It's the friends you meet on your path that make the journey worthwhile.

