



The Convertible Chronicles of the Utah Miata Club



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From the Top Down “Celebrating 30 Years of the Miata” By: Mike Bailey, President

It is now the first of May and it has been a very crazy couple of months with the Coronavirus going around, and all the restrictions in place in our local cities, counties, state, country, and the world! It has been a real hard couple of months for all of us, including the Utah Miata Club members. First off, it was not enough that we had to cancel Miatas in Moab VI, an event we had been planning for two years or more, but now having to cancel our Miataland Trip to Italy which was scheduled for August 2020 (only two-and-a-half months away). Lots of planning, meetings, arrangements made, etc. went into these two events, and cancelling them causes a lump in my throat. But, it is better to be safe than take a chance to get this deadly virus.

In the meantime, several of us in the club have been on a few short drives, either by ourselves as couples, or just a few Miatas going on short jaunts around the valley. For Lynn and I we have gone mostly to desert areas where there is very fresh air, sunshine, and not many people around. I have a couple of short articles on what has been going on with that for the past month or so. I want to encourage all of you to send in photos on what you have been doing, Miata wise, to me or Val, our NL editor, to post in upcoming newsletters! All of us who have been out for drives are practicing social distancing safe-guards by wearing masks and taking along disinfectant wipes wherever we go. This is a good thing to remember to do.

I know some people in our club, like Michelle Anderson, work in the medical field and have been very busy taking care of people, administering tests, etc. to those in need. We commend Michelle and all our club members who are associated with and work in the healthcare profession. Our club VP Hank Pond has had his dental office practice shut down for weeks now, which is hurting his business and income. But don't neglect your dental needs or don't go into the ER with a dental problem as emergency rooms are overwhelmed. Most all dentists are and can still provide emergency treatment right now!

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Needless to say, most of us have "cabin fever" and have been in our homes way too long. Many club members have been hunkered down at home and not going out, except for essentials like groceries or to fill prescriptions, etc. Hopefully the "curve" is starting to flatten in our state and elsewhere across the country. Many businesses are hopeful to soon open up again and get back to work. For many of us club members who are retired, it is staying home and being safe. If you are like me, you have plenty of things to do at home and in your yard, or work on our Miatas.

We are still not sure about doing some of our summer meetings or events, but I can say that we will definitely be doing drives whenever possible. On May 2nd, the day we were supposed to be having our Miatas in Moab VI rally, we will be going on an afternoon drive around the west side of Utah Lake and to a pasture to see 35-40 foals prance around, and a late lunch, (or early dinner) in our Miatas. Information about that and other drives are in this newsletter. Don't forget to also check out the 'Calendar of Events' page for what's happening this year with the club. We will have to see how it all pans out with the pandemic but meanwhile we are here to support each other. In the meantime, please everyone, be safe and take care of yourselves as we don't want anyone getting sick or worse, coming down with this dreaded virus.



May Luncheon & Drive Information

Date & Time: Saturday, 9th, 11:30AM

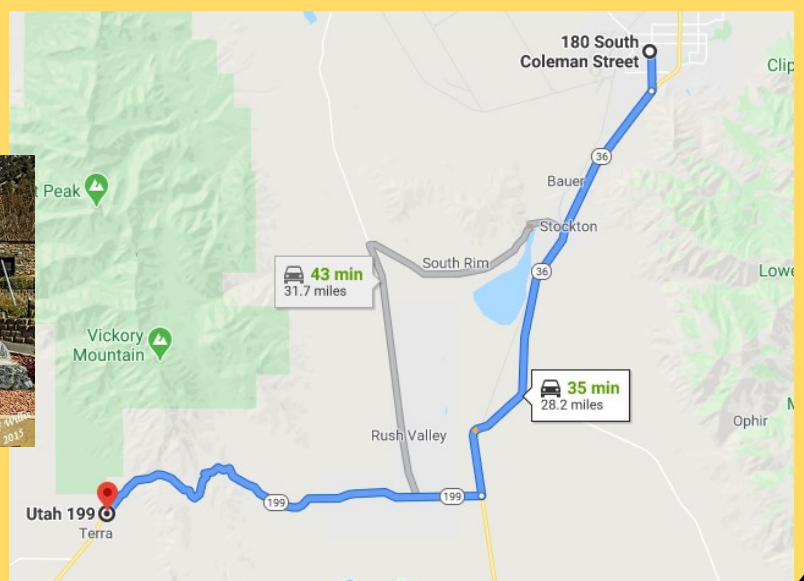
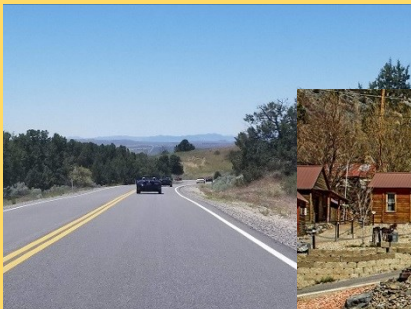
Location: Tooele, LDS Church Bowery

Address: 180 S. Coleman (Street coordinates are 200 South 600 West, Tooele UT 84074)

This is a bring your own sack lunch to eat outside at the bowery, on the lawn, or in your car, with a drive to follow. There are several take-out fast food restaurants in Tooele or bring your lunch from home. If the Bowery is closed we will go somewhere else close by to eat.

After Meeting Drive Information:

After meeting up we will drive to Johnson's Pass to enjoy one of the best twisty roads in northern Utah. After driving Johnson's Pass both directions, you may want to consider a side trip to the old mining town of Ophir Utah. Ophir has a small historical district with antique buildings to walk among.



Birthdays & Memberships

NEW MEMBERS

NAME	YEAR	COLOR
SONNY & CORA LEE JCKOWSKI	1999	HUNTER GREEN

Expiring Soon: \$35 Dual / \$25 Single

NAME	EXPIRING
DAVID & MICHELLE ANDERSON	5/31/2020
TERRY BLACK	5/31/2020
DAVE ENCHEFF	5/31/2020
RICK & DAYNA KISER	5/31/2020
JEFF & ANDIE WIGHT	5/31/2020

Membership Expired: \$35 Dual / \$25 Single Membership

NAME	EXPIRED
BILAL AIJAZ	2/28/2020
BILL & JANET ANDERSON	3/31/2020
KAY BARRELL	4/30/2020
ERNEST & NANCY BENTLEY	4/30/2020
RYAN BETZ	2/28/2020
GARY CHOU	3/31/2020
BRIAN & ABBIE GERLACH	4/30/2020
MERLIN JUDKINS	3/31/2020
MICHAEL RHODES	4/30/2020

REMOVED FROM ROSTER

NAME	EXPIRED
NONE	



NAME	BIRTHDAY
ERIC ACHTER	1 May
TODD CHRISTOPHER	5 May
JEFF WIGHT	5 May
RONDA BECKSTEAD	6 May
JIM BOWERS	9 May
JUDY DYSON	10 May
STEVE TOBIASSON	17 May
MARILYN BICKLEY	20 May
SCOTTY MEDINE	22 May
REXANNE POND	28 May
ROBERT FRANSSSEN	29 May
GARY LAMBERT	29 May

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. **A Dual Membership (for yourself and a spouse, sibling or significant other) is \$35, and \$25 for Single. It is \$35 dual/\$25 single if you have the newsletter e-mailed to you, or \$45 if you would like a hard copy sent by standard mail.** You can also pay your dues online with PayPal on our website; www.utahmiataclub.org. This method is \$35 / \$25 (plus 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.

Club Officers

President: Mike Bailey
Vice President: Hank Pond

Board Members: Valerie Francis, Brian Christiansen, Ken Jaworski

Secretary: Jim Newson
Treasurer: Margie Newson



May 2nd Impromptu Drive and Picnic Dinner By: Mike Bailey

When: Saturday, May 2, 2020

Time: 3:00 p.m.

Meetup Location: Riverton City Park (same place that was in April NL for the April drive). It is by the Old Dome Meeting Hall at 1452 W. 12600 South.

The first Saturday of May we were supposed to be in Moab with our Miatas in Moab VI event, but due to it's cancellation we shall take a fun drive along Hwy 68 (Redwood Road) along the west side of Utah Lake. This will be a "picnic dinner" event. Our destination will be on the east side of Utah Lake around the town of Genola, which is close to Santaquin after we turn onto Hwy 6 at Elberta and drive past Goshen. We will head north to and alongside a pasture to see about 30-40 young foals or horses in the pasture to watch them play before we head to a small park close to the Lincoln Beach Road. This is where we will have our picnic dinner.



We will meet at 3:00 p.m. at the Riverton City Park (same place that was in April NL for the April drive). It is by the Old Dome Meeting Hall at 1452 W. 12600 South. Turn into park in front of the Old Dome (south side of street) and turn right. You will see the Miatas in the parking lot on the west side. Please feel free to bring a picnic dinner with you for this event. You can bring something from home or stop by on your way to get something at any restaurant offering drive thru, or curb side service. There are many places in Riverton to do this if you like.

Be sure to bring these items with you: Picnic basket or containers for your dinner and a cooler for drinks and perishable items to keep cool. Also a couple of camp chairs to sit on or a blanket if you wish. Your Utah Miata Club Blanket will be handy for this event if you have one.

Bring your 2-way FRS radios for communication, and a camera and/or binoculars. Also insect repellent may be a good idea since we will be close to the lake and they start coming out in late spring. We will use social distancing for setting up our chairs for eating our dinners and I will have my megaphone for making announcements to the group.

Bob and Kim Richards, new members of the club, will be leading this dinner drive. They are good leaders as was shown on the Lehi drive this past week, and know how to keep our group together. This drive and event has been organized by them and will be a little different that what we have done in the past, so it should be fun for all of us. They tell me the young horses are quite something to see as we can watch them from our parked Miatas, and the drive will be leisurely with our picnic dinner to highlight the end of our drive. After dinner we will make our way home over to I-15 unless Bob has a better route. Thanks goes to Bob and Kim for planning this.



April (Social Distance) Drive Report By: Mike Bailey

As you know we cancelled our April monthly meeting and Crazy Hat drive because of the coronavirus, and the mandate to not gather in large groups. Instead Lynn and I did a drive out to the west desert, and we had four Miatas show up for that. We had a great time as it was a nice warm sunny day with the temperatures in the 60's. It was 'Top Down' all the way! There was a nice breeze and not many people on the roads other than quite a few motorcyclists.



We drove down Hwy 68 on the west side of Utah Lake and was going to stop at the historic Sinclair Station in Elberta for our 'usual photo op', but there were too many motorcycles spread out to do that, so just continued on to Eureka. I always remember the "S" curves coming into Eureka. They still make me a little nervous as this is where I crashed my Harley Davidson motorcycle on these curves, on April Fool's Day 2001, just 3 months after I got it for Christmas.



As we drove through Eureka it was like a Ghost Town with only a couple places open, like one gas station and that seemed to be it. Other than that, I noticed a very small wedding going on at an antique building on Main Street with a few people there. It was interesting to see a new bride dressed in her beautiful white wedding dress in that old mining town! We then turned to head north on Hwy 36 towards Vernon. After passing Vernon and reaching Rush Valley turnoff, we turned east onto Hwy 73 past Ophir and Mercur to Fairfield and Cedar Fort, then on to Eagle Mountain and back home.



Kristi Durrant, the Nicholl's daughter took a nice little video on her dash mounted cell phone of the drive which she posted on the club's Facebook page. Hope you had a chance to view it. It was a fun drive with fun Miata people and a nice get away from being cooped up in the house for days. Thanks to those who came.



Lehi (Social Distance) Impromptu Drive Report By: Mike Bailey



New club members, Bob and Kim Richards put together a mid-week impromptu drive which was on Wednesday, April 22nd. We met at 5:30 pm at the Harmon's off Bangerter Hwy in Draper. We had seven Miatas show up for this, which is pretty good turnout. Most of us donned our face masks and managed social distancing standards for the drive. Bob and Kim, who are from Lehi, led the drive and took us to a very interesting place (garage) in Lehi which had lots of antique vehicles, mostly trucks, and many vintage old automotive signs. It was our second trip this year to a place that featured nostalgic signs and memorabilia. Since I am a 'car guy' I like this sort of stuff.



We took backroads down there from the point of the mountain, which was better than the freeway traffic. We arrived at the destination and drove through the lot past lots of antique signs and old trucks. They had an old "duce and a half" which was a very large military vehicle I drove when I was in the army during the early 1970's -



1976. That brought back memories for me! Around the corner was a very large garage with tons of neon signs, in it which many were lighted up and on display.

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Even the old Ford Model T's and A's had their dimly lit lights on. A guy named Josh owns this place. It was very interesting to talk to him about his collection of old things. He was happy to show us around as we parked our Miatas out front and got out to check everything out. There were literally thousands of things to see from old signs, auto parts, old oil cans of various sizes, to photos and pin-up girl calendars from the 60's and earlier. He had an old cannon ball safe, something I had never seen before. The door was at least 24" thick. All kinds of stuff that would boggle your mind! I could write 3 pages of information about what I saw at this place.



After we were done looking at everything we drove back roads to American Fork where there was an old gas station, that is now turned into another business. The old antique autos were gone from what I remembered in going by there years ago on some of our drives. The old refurbished Sinclair gas pumps were still there, when gasoline was 42 cents a gallon. We took a few photos and said our good-byes and headed home as the sun was setting. Thanks to Bob and Kim for a nice evening of top down driving. There is a short video of this place on our club FB page and I think many members have viewed it prior to doing this drive.



Valley of Fire Road Trip Report By: Pam Wharram

A beautiful spring day for a top down road trip through a fascinating landscape of gorgeous red rock in the middle of nowhere.



Waking Sleeping Beauty

By: Ken Jaworski

I'm sure many, if not all of you, have got your Miata's on the road. Here in Park City we are kind of hopeful that the snow is now gone. So "YGROWUP" is being prepared for awakening. Here's how I do it, if you have suggestions please submit and we can build an opening checklist.

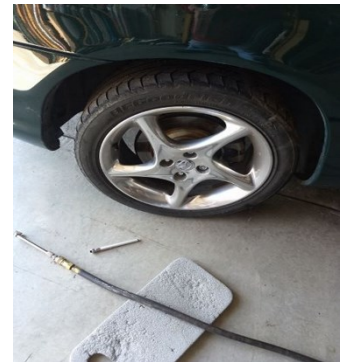
1. Find Miata in stored area and remove her blankets/car cover.
2. Removed the 1 amp trickle charger from the battery (which was removed from your Miata before storage inside the non-freezing storage area or garage).
3. Install fully charged battery into the battery compartment. Remember that battery compartment is in the trunk.
4. Connect the battery vents to the vent line.
5. Connect the battery cables. Remember the plastic covered connector is the + (positive) post and the non-covered connector is the - (negative) post. Always connect the positive post first before you connect the negative (ground) post. Tighten securely with a 10mm wrench.



6. Place battery hold down bracket over battery. Secure using a 12mm wrench or socket.
7. Place the composite trunk cover over the secured battery and replace the trunk carpet to complete the battery installation.



8. I would like to remove the wheels and store the tires and rims in the garage, but I have no room, therefore, check the inflations of all tires to include your spare.



9. Use a good torque wrench to check your lug nuts.

VEHICLE CAPACITY WEIGHT		(NC74)
CAPACITÉ PORTEUSE DU VÉHICULE		154kg (340lbs)
FRONT SEAT		2
SEATING CAPACITY		2
NOMBRE DE PLACES		2
REAR SEAT		0
TOTAL		2
TIRE INFLATION PRESSURE	FRONT/AV.	REAR/AR.
PRESSION DE GONFLAGE DES PNEUS	180	180
kPa(kgf/cm ²) (p.s.i./psi)	(1.8)(26)	(1.8)(26)
TIRE SIZE	205/45R16 83W	
TAILLE DES PNEUS	205/45R16 83W	

10. Remember the correct tire pressure is located on a placard on the left door panel as well as in your Miata's owner's manual. Probably located in that junk box on the right side of the dash.

11. The next most import step in reawakening your Miata is to check all the fluid levels. Oil, antifreeze, brake fluid, and windshield washing fluid.

12. Once all this is done you can start the engine. Your Miata should start within 3 - 5 seconds of cranking. Make sure you have oil pressure. You did remember to use stabilizer when you topped off the gas tank for the winter.

13. You have to remember that the computer in your Miata has been in hibernation, too. It will require several days of starting, stopping, and driving to reset your computer.

14. Take it for a quick trip around the block.

15. My brake disks were a little rusty, therefore, I pressed my brakes several times to make sure the rust was removed and the disks would provide sure stopping power.

16. Wash it, wax it, and now the best part is DRIVE IT.



Remember When? By: Mike Bailey

I thought I would go back a few years to highlight a couple trips that we did around the time of 9-11 and just thereafter, that we had lots of fun on. These were two of the best trips we have ever done in the club and were mainly organized and led by Lou Vredeveld and Steve Beckstead. Those that went will remember these trips well.

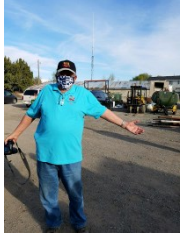
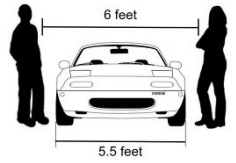
I have tons of photos of both these trips so it was hard selecting some of the precious moments. 2011 and 2013 were the years for Explore Oregon and the Great Western Adventure. Photos at Leavenworth, Washington (one of our favorite places to travel to) was what Steve's hair looked like 9 years ago. We have all changed a little, but we are still very 'fun' people! I also have a photo going all the way back to 2003 at the St. Patrick's Day Parade the club used to participate in. And don't forget one of the earlier Moab events. Enjoy the memories.



Social Distancing By: Mike Bailey

This information will point out how the Utah Miata Club is maintaining "social distancing" while enjoying drives and activities with the club. We believe in keeping everyone healthy and safe, and follow the CDC recommendations of keeping appropriate distance from each other. We have stopped hugging each other as well as handshakes, and closeness that we usually share. We stay in our Miatas more while out on drives, wear our face masks, and keep disinfectant wipes in our cars. We want to be able to enjoy each other's company but do so in a safe manner.

Social Distancing Guidelines Translated for Miata People



We are looking forward to our cities and towns opening up a little more in the near future and we also want to be able to enjoy the nice weather and drives in our Miatas. We ask that our members follow these procedures when we get together for our activities and drives. I will be using my megaphone for conducting any group meetings but we will space ourselves apart from each other while doing so. I know that may of you prefer to be alone and not in groups of any kind, which is Ok and we are fine with this, and whatever you are comfortable with.

Please know that we love and appreciate all our members here in Utah as well as our out of state members. If you don't already have a mask, a couple photos are attached showing how "car guys" deal with the Covid-19 pandemic featuring some 'air cleaner' masks you can make for yourself. If nothing else they will be great 'White Elephant' gifts at our next Christmas party.



Remembering Sir Stirling Moss By: Mike Bailey



Sir Stirling Moss, a British Race Car Driver, just passed away at 90 years old. He is the namesake for MOSS Motors, one of most Mazda Miata owners favorite places to purchase Miata parts and accessories. Moss Motors also sells parts for British cars like MG's, Triumph's, Jaguars, Mini's, and Austin Healey's.

Stirling Moss was born to the world of racing and was one of the greatest auto racers of all time. His career in racing was from 1948-1962. He held the English record for the most Formula One victories up until 1991. His father was not a fan of his passion as he wanted Stirling to be a dentist. During his career he drove mostly British racing cars such as Jaguars and Aston Martins among many others. Early in his racing career he drove Jaguar XK120's and Maserati 250F's. He won more races in C-Type Jaguars. In 1962 he had a terrible accident and was in a coma for 6 months. He is a legend in the sport of Racing and will be remembered for his many achievements.





2020 Calendar of Events



By: Steve Beckstead

- May 9th:** Monthly lunch and meeting (11:30 am, Tooele Bowery, Johnson's Pass) - Steve & Kathy Nielson
- Jun 6th:** **TENTATIVE** Monthly lunch and meeting (11:30 am, Granny Annie's, HAFB museum) – Jim Newson
- July 11th:** Monthly lunch and meeting (11:30 am, Midway, Wasatch Back Drive) – Jan and Ken Jaworski
- July 12-23rd:** Great Western Adventure II (combined with Explore Oregon)
- July 16-19th:** Explore Oregon 2020 (combined with GWA II) --- Willamette Valley Miata Club
- Aug 1st:** Monthly breakfast and meeting (TBD, Bear Lake Raspberry Run) – Steve & Ronda
- Aug 15th:** Annual Picnic and meeting (Western Springs Park Riverton, South of the Border Food Truck) – Mike Bailey
- Aug 17th:** **CANCELLED** Miataland Italy (August 17 – Sept 7) - Mike Bailey
- Sep 12th:** Monthly lunch and meeting (11:30 am, Lunch TBD, Eden Drive) – Amy Beckstead
- Sep 24-27th:** Buggies & Bridges III (Sept 24 - 27, 2020) - Refer to UMC website
- Sep 25-27th:** Torrey Weekend Trip (Details TBD) – Eric and Kathy
- Oct 3rd:** Monthly lunch and meeting (11:30 am, Location & drive TBD) – Val & Doyle
- Oct 8-11th:** Surf 'N' Safari, San Diego Club, See UMC website or link below for information:
<http://www.sandiegomiataclub.org/sns20/index.html>
- Oct 24th:** Halloween Party (Details TBD) – Ken and Jan
- Nov 7th:** Monthly lunch and meeting (11:30 am, Lunch TBD) – Mike Bailey
- Dec 5th:** Annual Christmas Party (Details & Location TBD) – Mike Bailey



Candid Camera

By Mike Bailey

Candid Camera shots are from this year of 2020. Can you guess when and where?

