



The Convertible Chronicles of the Utah Miata Club



From the Top Down by Mike Thompson

To borrow a title, the Brave New [Automotive] World includes a variety of electronics on your car. Here is a tale about what such features could mean.

Our son lives on the east coast, and came to visit for Christmas. Events transpired at his work such that he extended to three weeks with us.

He drives a high-performance German sedan. The day after his return home, he walked up to his car, which is supposed to recognize the approaching key fob, and unlock. Nothing. Push the unlock button. Nothing. There is an emergency key in the fob, so he was able to open the door and attempt to re-connect the fob to the car. Nothing.

Now what? The battery has gone flat, there is no key-operated ignition switch, and everything is electric. There are jump-start terminals under the hood. The battery itself is in the trunk, under the floor, under the spare, under components of the air suspension system. Probably shouldn't jump start without at least putting eyes on the battery. In fact, it's probably easier to just purchase a new one. Can't open the trunk without electricity.

Try to enter the trunk by folding down the rear seat. Thanks to where he parked, the rear door on the driver's side is too close to a pillar. It can't be opened. Reach over and manually unlock the passenger doors. Cannot fold the rear seat on the passenger side all the way down because the front seat is too far back. Slide over, fold down the driver's side rear seat, shimmy through the opening, locate and pull the emergency inside trunk release. Whew! The trunk is open.

Must match the exact specs to replace the battery: voltage, cold cranking amps, amp hour capacity, and, most important of all, the physical dimensions to fit a very tight spot. Result: none of the chain auto parts stores have batteries that match. The dealer will have to replace the battery. But the car is not drivable. Bought a trickle charger. The only reachable outlet in the parking garage turns out to be dead. Bought a portable jump starter. Hallelujah!

The replacement battery from the dealer was \$800, the price of high performance German engineering.

Two lessons: 1. Today's many electronic features mean that something is always drawing current. If you will be away for more than two weeks, connect a trickle charger. 2. There are portable jump starters that fit easily in the glove box and start at around \$100. Every member of the Utah Miata Club might want to have one in their emergency kit. Be sure to spec it correctly.

Happy Zooming! Mike

www.utahmiataclub.org

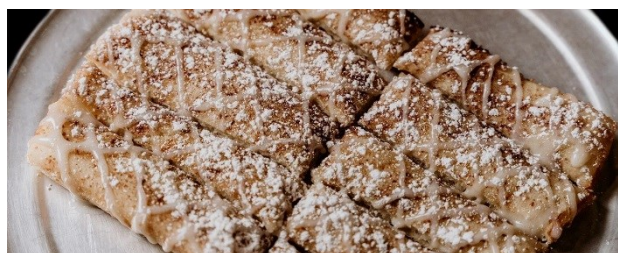


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February 2025 Luncheon and Activity

by Jackie Nicholl

Where: VIA 313 Pizza Time: 11:00 a.m. (half hour less than our usual regular meeting time). Address: 150 West 10600 South Sandy, Utah 84070. Southend of Southtowne Mall. Enter from 10600 South off I-15. Phone: 385-446-4313. Next to Starbucks building.

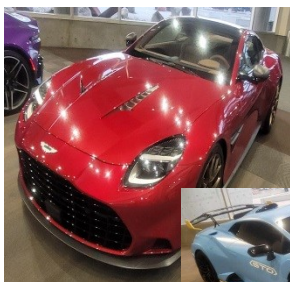


VIA313 features authentic Detroit, Michigan pizza. Also salads and other specialty items. Cheese Bread and Cinnamon Sticks. Hub Cap Deserts and Faggo Detroit style Sodas.

After Lunch Activity: Automotive Addiction Private Club Car Show

Where: Automotive Addiction Location: North end of Southtowne Mall.

Drive from VIA313 Pizza to north end of mall and park in north parking lot on north side by Bowling Lanes. Enter in doors next to bowling alley. Entrance price is \$7.00 which is half the regular price for admission. This is for an all afternoon pass. You will see an awesome collection of exotic sports cars from around the world! You can stay as long as you wish to enjoy these vehicles. Thanks to Gordy and Jackie Nicholl for making the arrangements for the lunch and activity. This is a nice Winter activity for the club out of the cold weather.



Membership Dues Reminder

The Utah Miata Club is a group of friends who promote our common interest in the Mazda MX-5 Miata, by joining in safe, recreational, and social activities. Your dues permit you to participate in club activities, and to receive the newsletter by email. A single membership is \$25 for the year, and a dual membership is \$35. If your name is among the personalized reminders below, at our next activity please hand a check—payable to the Utah Miata Club—to Margie Newson, Club Treasurer. If you prefer you may mail a check to 233 W 1550 N, Bountiful, UT 84010. If you have questions Margie may be contacted at 801-295-4563, or by email at sec.treasumc@icloud.com. You may also submit payment by cash, money order or Venmo @ utahmiataclub. It will show Marjorie Newson@utahmiataclub. If prompted for confirmation, last 4 digits of phone # are 1596. [Please Renew your Membership on month it is due!](#)

Birthdays / Memberships



New Members

NEW MEMBER	YEAR	COLOR
BEN & RYAN McGEE	1995	MERLOT
TREVOR LEE	2025	MACHINE GREY
MIGUEL MALDONADO	2024	SNOWFLAKE WHITE

NOTE: RYAN McGEE has a 2024 SOUL RED CRYSTAL

Expiring Soon: \$35 Dual -\$25 Single /Renew Now

NAME	EXPIRED
NONE	



Memberships Expired / Please Renew Now

NAME	EXPIRED
FREDERICK ECKSTEIN	10/31/2024
ERIC & KATHY KANKAINAN	1/31/2025
RICHARD PLUMB	1/31/2025
CHRIS & LINDA LEWIS	1/31/2025



NAME	DATE
KAY BARRELL	4 Feb
TREVOR LEE	7 Feb
MIGUEL MALDONADO	10 Feb
JoANN JACOBSON-WELLS	13 Feb
CHARLENE PETERSEN	21 Feb
LYNN BAILEY	25 Feb
AINSLEY HEADEY	26 Feb
FREDERICK ECKSTEIN	28 Feb
MARK VAUGHN	28 Feb



Removed From Roster

NAME	EXPIRED
NONE	

Club Officers (July 2024 -- July 2025)

President: Michael Thompson Vice President: Ken Jaworski Secretary: Jim Newson Treasurer: Margie Newson
Directors: Robert Mechling, Susan Christiansen, Carol Lynn Vredeveld Newsletter Editor: Michael Bailey



WICKED Movie Report by Mike Bailey



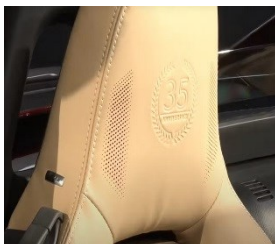
We had a fun time at the "WICKED" movie at the Sandy Jordan Commons Megaplex Theater in January. I also heard the lunch went well at the Golden Corral and sorry I could not attend the lunch. We had about 20 members come to the movie and had some great luxury seats to enjoy the movie. There were not more than about 20 other people in the theater along with our group. Thanks to those who came.

WICKED



35th Anniversary MX-5 Miata by Mike Bailey

I went to the Salt Lake New Car Auto Expo at the Mountain America Expo Center a few weeks ago. I was interested in seeing how much new cars have risen in price since I purchased my two new SUV's a year and a half ago. Lynn really loves her Mazda CX-5. Mazda makes such good cars! The 35th Anniversary Miata is supposed to be coming out sometime this year but a date has not yet been announced. I was able to talk with a Mazda rep at the car show and they couldn't give me a date on this. I also talked to Lindsey Lawrence, a sales rep from Bountiful Mazda at the show and previously last month to MJ McDonald while I was visiting Bountiful Mazda. Both MJ and Lindsey did not have much information except about the color and interior. **The special edition color will be Artisan Red Metallic with Light Tan Nappa Leather Interior and Seats.** The 35th AE logo will be on the headrests and 35 AE Badges on the rear fenders and include a back rear spoiler in same color. This Special Edition is fully loaded and has every additional add-ons. It also has unique special wheels, with upgraded brakes and a revised suspension.



The 35th AE will also have the same 181 HP 2.0 liter 4 cylinder engine. Articles on it state that they may only come with a 6-speed and no automatics will be available. I'm not sure if this is true or just auto magazine talk! Price is listed at \$37,435.00. Talk is that they may only allocate 300 to the USA. A special model of the 35th AE will also be given to owners. Will keep you posted on this but if you want one contact Bountiful Mazda and get on a list to order one!



Another 2025 Special Edition Aero Spirit Racing Roadster will be coming out with an Aero Grey Paint scheme and will have all the upgrades, bells and whistles and have supposedly 197 HP.

Price not yet determined!



Roadtrippin' After Memorial Day 2025 – by Roger Heath

When: Friday, May 30, 2025—Sunday, June 1, 2025

Two night, 3 day roadtrip after Memorial Day weekend, May 30th - June 1st, 2025, traveling through the red rock area in southeastern Utah. After meeting up at the Harmon's Bangerter Crossing store in Draper we'll head out on Hwy 6 to Price, Utah. From Price we'll turn south on Hwy 10 until we reach I-70. We'll drive under the freeway and join Hwy 72 into Loa, finally stopping in Torrey for the night.

Day 2 we head to Hanksville and through Hite then up to Blanding, Moab before stopping in Green River for the night. Day 3: Coming home on Sunday there are various routes you can take, quickest is Hwy 6 back to Spanish Fork. Or, I-70 to Salina then north to Nephi and I-15. Another possibility is Hwy 6 to Price, then over to Duchesne towards Beaver or Kamas and home.

May 30th: Meet at the Harmon's Bangerter Crossing store, 125 13800 S, Draper, at 9:00 AM and travel to Torrey. (220 miles)

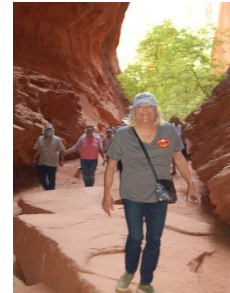
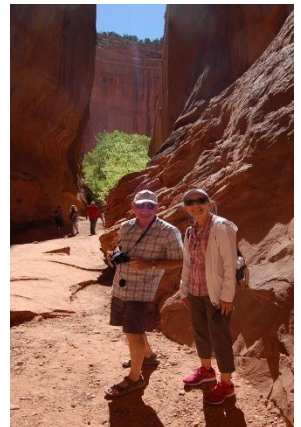
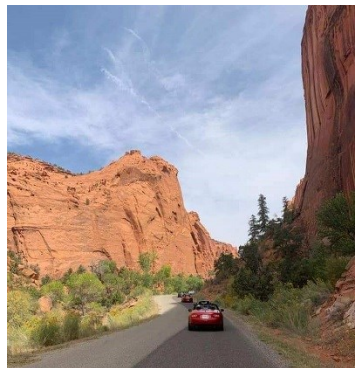
May 31st: Drive from Torrey to Green River (298 Miles). **June 1st:** Drive home after breakfast. Maybe over to Huntington or Farview Canyons or alternate routes around the area.

Suggested Hotels: Please Book Rooms NOW for this trip as rooms fill up quickly!

May 30th Torrey - Broken Spur Inn and Steakhouse, <https://brokenspurinn.com>

May 31st Green River - River Terrace Inn, <https://river-terrace.com>

Editor's Note: We always have tons of *FUN* on our overnighiter trips like this! Check out photos of the roads we drive and scenery we drive past. Lunches and dinners are fun with our group! Book your rooms NOW for best selection. Roger has planned three overnighiters featured in this newsletter with all the details.





2025 Utah Miata Club Challenge

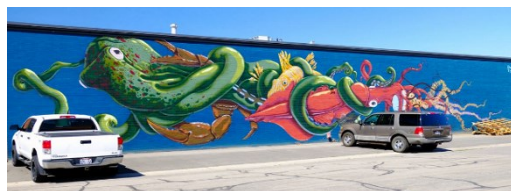
by Mike Bailey



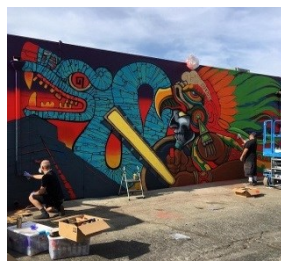
This challenge will be fun just like the last Ghost's & Legends one! You can travel all over our beautiful state and find some amazing art work painted on buildings or statues or objects with custom designed art work painted on them!

This year's challenge will be to see whom in the club can visit and take photos of some amazing artwork around the state. This will include the "Life Elevated" signs or billboards created by the

state of Utah. You've seen these giant billboard signs at all the major entrances to our state. Also included in this challenge would be visiting and taking photos of artwork around the state featured in almost any city or towns, both large and small. You've seen artwork painted by local artists on the sides of many buildings. These artworks can also include any interesting or amazing sculptures which can be seen on round-about or in cities or towns. This will also give each of us an opportunity to get out on the road and have some fun 'top down' adventures!



The Challenge will last until September 30, 2025 and need to be submitted by October 11th. Awards will be given in October or November of the year based on the total number of places visited and documented by furnishing a photo of yourself or couple in front of the sign, painting or sculpture. Also photos of your Miata in front of them are fine. We plan to award the three top winners of this challenge. Hopefully (if the club budget permits) we will have a nice gift like perhaps a Miata themed drinkware of something like this. Start scoping out places to visit and be sure to take your camera along. Utah has many scenic sites to photograph! I'm hoping that many UMC members will join in this year's Challenge and have some fun finding places all over Utah that has some awesome displays of "Street Art".



Idaho Summer '25 Trip by Roger Heath

July 9th—July 13th 2025

A 4 night / 5 day midsummer cruise through central Idaho's National Forests. Taking a clockwise route we'll stop in Challis, McCall, Missoula and Idaho Falls. Daily drives are 300 miles or less so we should have time to sightsee or wander around the towns we're staying in. On Saturday, July 12th, those that wish can take a detour out to visit Big Hole National Battlefield on the way to Idaho Falls.

The Particulars:

July 9th - 9:00 AM, meet at Beez Cafe in Roy, 5410 S 1900 W, Roy, UT. Drive to Challis 293 miles

July 10th - 9:00 AM, drive from Challis to McCall 213 miles

July 11th - 9:00 AM, drive from McCall to Missoula 263 miles

July 12th - 9:00 AM, drive from Missoula to Idaho Falls 300 miles

July 13th - Leave at your leisure as this is the day to drive home



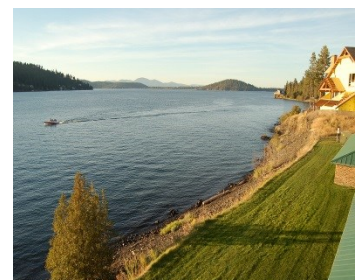
Suggested Lodging:

July 9th Challis - Red Rock Lodge <https://rrlodge.net>, hotels.com, [Expedia.com](https://expedia.com) 208-879-4936

July 10th McCall - Super 8 by Wyndham McCall

<https://www.wyndhamhotels.com/super-8/mccall-idaho/super-8-mccall/overview> 800-454-3213

July 11th Missoula - Super 8 by Wyndham Missoula/Reserve Street <https://www.wyndhamhotels.com/super-8/missoula-montana/super-8-missoula-reserve-st/overview> 800-454-3213



Fall Leaf Drive: 2025 by Roger Heath September 26-28, 2025 2 Nights/3 days



After skipping a year it's time for another fall overnighter to check out the changing colors of central Utah. Once again we'll spend two nights in Tropic. Saturday will be a free day to check out the local attractions - Bryce Canyon NP, Kodachrome State Park or Cedar Breaks.

For those that have gone in the past the route will be familiar. A change to this year's drive will be the choice of an alternate route home. We can choose between what has been done previously - driving to Fish Lake then taking Gooseberry Road to Salina and north on Hwy 89 to Nephi. Or, we can take a backroad to Cedar Breaks, head through Brian Head ski area and into Parowan then I-15 home.

Itinerary:

Friday, Sept 26th, 8:30 AM - Meet at Harmon's Bangerter Crossing, 125 E. 13800 S., Draper, Utah

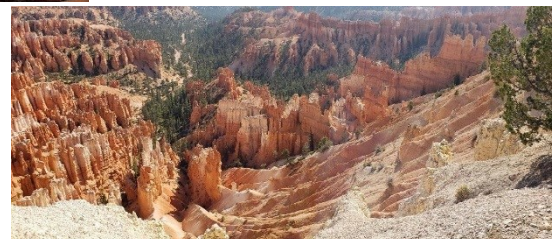
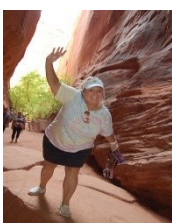
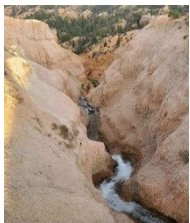
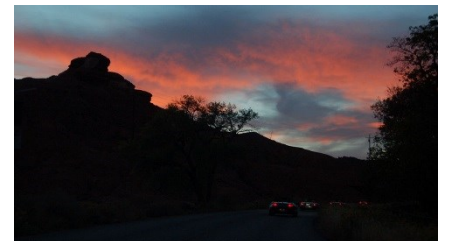
Saturday, Sept 27th, free day

Sunday, Sept 28th, head home

Suggested lodging - Bryce Canyon Inn brycecanyoninn.com



Photos below of previous trips on the Fall Leaf Drive, Central and Southern Utah and Bryce Canyon and Canyonlands National Park.



Enjoy these photos of Utah Miata Club's February Birthdays



JOANN JACOBSEN WELLS



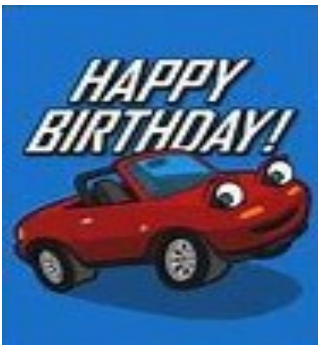
CHARLENE PETERSEN



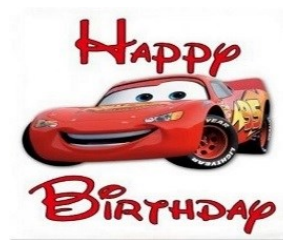
LYNN BAILEY



AINSLEY HEADEY

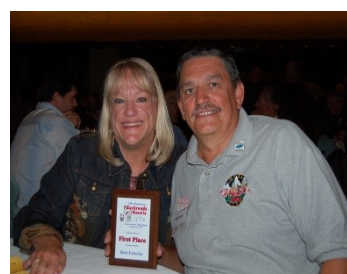
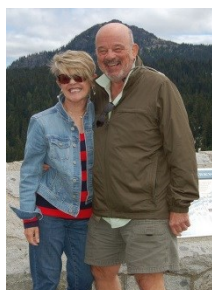


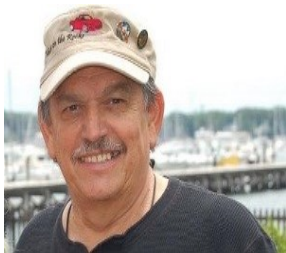
MARK VAUGHN



Photos not available for these members: KAY BARRELL, TREVOR LEE, MIGUEL MALDONADO, FREDRICK ECKSTEIN

Photos below of Birthday Members





Miata Swag —Apparel, Car Club Magnets

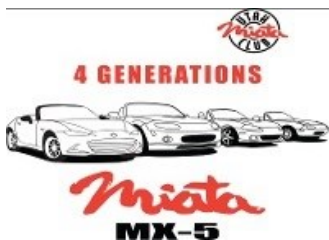
By MiataWear Man: Mike Bailey

Close out on all Utah Miata Club Logo shirts and logo merchandise. All shirts and past event hats items will be reduced to low prices during first few months in 2025.



First come, first served basis. Get yours now for discounted prices. Prices starting at \$10.00.

The T-Shirt designs on the items below are included.



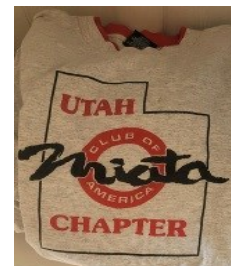
“Long Live the Roadster” Logo on some Black Mazda Shirts: Limited Sizes available.



LLTR logo above on any color Tee's!



Original Miata Club Of America Logo / Utah Edition Tee Shirts: \$15.00 Above



Club Jackets: Wind Breakers or Jackets or buy your own and I'll put any UMC Logo on it for you. Prices depend on Jacket. Many colors to choose from. Lightweight and fits behind your seats. Great for cooler mornings and evenings.

Beanie Knit Hats: Many colors and styles to choose from with MX-5 or logo on them. Great for Winter!

Club Magnets: Official Club Magnets or Mountains Logo Magnets with color of your Miata on them.

UMC CAR MAGNETS: \$25.00 / PAIR.



Ball Caps: Standard Structured or Soft Caps for ladies & men.

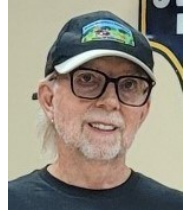
Any colors to choose from: \$20.00 Each.

UMC Mountains Logo with almost 30,000 embroidered stitches: \$25.00, Regularly \$30.00. Official Logo: or Long Live the Roadster Logo: \$20.00 each!



April 2025 Drive and Luncheon by Robert Olsen

Time: 9:15 AM; Meet for drive at Wheeler Farm, 6351 S. 900 E., Murray. Drive departs at 9:30. We will go on I-215 E. to I-84 W. to I-15 N. Exit 362 to Hwy. 89 to Maddox Restaurant in Perry, UT. Lunch and meeting is 11:30-12:30. Make your own way home after. **Note time difference from our usual monthly luncheon and drive.**



2025 Calendar of Events

February 8th: Breakfast 10:00 VIA313 Pizza, Auto Addiction Car Show; Southtowne Mall; Nicholl's

March 8th: Luncheon: 11:30 (TBD) Need Location & Member to Suggest or Plan

April 12th: Drive to Maddox Rest. Lunch- Meet at 9:15 AM. See info above on this page; Robert Olsen

May 10th: Luncheon: 11:30 (TBD) Need Location & Member to Suggest or Plan

May 30-31: Cycle Karts; Huntsville; Drive, time (TBD): Ken Jaworski

May 30-Jun 1st: Roadtrippin' After Memorial Day; Southern Utah: See Pg. 5 NL; Roger Heath

June 7th: Rat Fink Show-Manti: Details coming: Steve & Ronda Beckstead

July 5th: Impromptu Holiday Canyon Drive (TBD): Mike & Lynn Bailey

July 9-13th: Idaho Summer Trip; Idaho Scenery: See Pg. 7 NL; Roger Heath

July 19th: UMC Summer Picnic / Annual Elections-Planning Meeting; Park City; Jaworski's

August 9th: Luncheon: 11:30 (TBD) Need Location & Member to Suggest or Plan

September 13th: Luncheon: 11:30 (TBD) Need Location & Member to Suggest or Plan

September 26 - 28th: Fall Leaf Drive: Tropic / Bryce Canyon, Ut.; See Pg. 8 NL; Roger Heath

October 11th: Luncheon: 11:30 (TBD) Need Location & Member to Suggest or Plan

November 8th: Luncheon: 11:30 (TBD) Need Location & Member to Suggest or Plan

December 13th: Christmas Party; Edison Events, time (TBD); UMC Board of Directors



PLEASE SIGN UP WITH EDITOR TO SUGGEST, PLAN OR LEAD A DRIVE FOR 2025



Editor's Message;



We'd like to have UMC members come up with some ideas for possible places for monthly luncheons and drives for our 2025 Calendar. Refer to open spots on above calendar. You can just suggest, plan it and/or lead it. On lunch places we prefer somewhere with a private room or area so we can conduct our monthly meeting. Also we need to be able to pay for lunch by couples instead of a group. Also please let us know of some local drives or places you'd like to see or visit. We also like to do a few 'overnighters' or weekend trips. Please send your ideas to either the President or another officer or director or to me, the Newsletter Editor. We hope that all members will be active in club activities. **This is YOUR CLUB so please help us with planning events!**

CANDID CAMERA PHOTOS OF THE UTAH MIATA CLUB MEMBERS. SEND ME YOUR FAVORITE PHOTOS OF ANY MEMBERS TO INCLUDE HERE. THANK YOU FOR LETTING US TAKE YOUR PHOTO!
TRY TO GUESS WHEN AND WHERE THESE PHOTOS WERE TAKEN

