



The Convertible Chronicles of the Utah Miata Club



Inside This Issue

- From the Top Down Page 1
- January 2018 Luncheon Page 2
- Birthdays & Memberships Page 3
- Election & Planning Meeting Page 4
- Just For Fun . . . Pages 4 & 8
- Member Spotlight . . . Page 5
- Calendar of Events . . Page 6
- Christmas Holiday Party Report Page 7
- New Miata for 2018 . . Page 8
- Candid Camera Page 9

From the Top Down by Lou Vredeveld, President

Welcome to 2018! We made it another year. Last year was fantastic for the Club, with many activities and events; hopefully, you had a chance to join in some of them. Carol Lynn and I logged thousands of miles in our Miata and many more thousands of miles on Club-related trips – from our scheduled monthly after-luncheon drives, impromptu drives through the mountains of Northern Utah, and to many plays, dinners, car shows and fun gatherings. Several of us also cruised on the rivers in Europe, visiting many countries along the way. We

spent fun times driving in Southern Utah, visiting national parks and driving our favorite Highway 12. We also enjoyed road-tripping to Wyoming to see the total solar eclipse and traveling scenic roads in South Dakota, visiting Mount Rushmore. As you can see, we are always having fun in our Miata and with our Miata friends.

We finished 2017 with our annual Christmas party at Shylo and Ali’s clubhouse (many thanks to them for hosting). The party had a fantastic turnout with over 50 in attendance. Dinner was a hit, with smoked prime rib and ham furnished by the Club (catered by Moon Dogs) and side dishes and deserts

(Continued on Page 2)



(Continued from Page 1)

furnished by Club members. The White Elephant gift exchange was a hit, like always. Several of the members dressed in Christmas attire that likely would not be worn anywhere else in public.

This New Year starts off with our monthly luncheon on the 6th of January at Jim's Restaurant at 11:30 a.m. The address is 1728 West Park Avenue (12800 South) in Riverton, Utah. Next is the Election and Planning meeting on January the 20th at 5:00 p.m. This will be held upstairs at Bountiful Mazda (2815 South Main Street, Bountiful, Utah). We are thankful to have such a supportive Club sponsor. This meeting is when we elect the new Club officers and do much of the event-planning for the upcoming year. Hopefully, many of you will

attend this meeting, give input for nominees, vote for our Club officers and suggest activities that you would like to see this coming year. The Club will furnish pizza and bottled water for this meeting. Attendees are encouraged to bring a small desert for all to enjoy.

This is the place in the article that I say "thank you" to all that have helped me make this past year a success for our Club. We have accomplished a lot, had many fun times and created many memories together. Without the participation of all the members and those that volunteer to take on the administrative duties of the Club, it would not be as great as it is. Now it is time for me to pass the opportunity to lead the Club on to newly-elected Club officers. I look forward to contributing my thoughts and ideas as a Director this coming year.

January 2018 Luncheon

by Mike Bailey

Date & Time: January 6, 2018 - 11:30 a.m.
Where: Jim's Family Restaurant - 801-446-7670
Location: 1728 W. Park Ave., Riverton, UT
 (approximately 12700 S. & Redwood Rd.)

Our January Luncheon will be at Jim's Family Restaurant on Saturday, January 6, 2018, at 11:30 a.m. It will be in their private banquet room. It is a nice restaurant, and we can have either breakfast or lunch. Prices are very reasonable. Just go south of 12600 South on Redwood Road; in about a block or so, you'll see it on the west side of the street. (If coming from I-15, take 12300 South exit – westbound, which turns into 12600 South – and at Redwood Road, turn left/south.) We will be talking about Club activities for the new year and hope everyone can share their ideas at this time.



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.

President:
Lou Vredeveld

Directors:
Mike Bailey, Doyle Sturm,
Spence Wood

Honorary Director:
Gordy Nicholl

Vice President:
Steve Beckstead

Newsletter Editor:
Teri Black

Secretary:
Jim Newson

Webmaster:
Doyle Sturm

Treasurer:
Margie Newson

Zoom-Zoom
MOO-MOO



Birthdays & Memberships

Expiring Soon

Pat & Eric Achter	01/31/2018
Dave & Lisa Arellano	01/31/2018
Valerie Francis	01/31/2018
Eric & Kathy Kancainen	01/31/2018
Robert & Sharon Leonard	01/31/2018
Gordon & Jackie Nicholl	01/31/2018
Michael & Michele Riding	01/31/2018
Doyle Sturm	01/31/2018
Mark & Vicky Vansickle	01/31/2018

Removed From Roster

Dalin Christensen	08/31/2017
Thomas & Laurel Drysdale	08/31/2017
Matthew & Charisse Harris	08/31/2017
Kay & Judith Hatch	08/31/2017
Shawn Sellers	08/31/2017

Membership Expired

Cal & Diane Black	09/30/2017
Joann Jacobsen-Wells	12/31/2017
William & Mary Kapschull	09/30/2017
Joe Leverich	12/31/2017
Dale Rim	12/31/2017



David Arellano	January 6th
Jean Glines	January 8th
Paul Kloer	January 12th
Roger Heath	January 28th
Jackie Nicholl	January 30th

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.

Election & Planning Meeting by Mike Bailey

Our Annual Election and Planning Meeting will be held on Saturday, January 20, 2018, at 5:00 p.m. in the conference room upstairs at Bountiful Mazda. We plan to have a simple dinner, such as pizza with salad and breadsticks. Members are welcome to bring cookies or other desert items—or anything to go with this menu—but you're not required to bring anything, except yourself!

Please plan to attend this meeting and event, as this is when we elect new Officers for the 2018 year. If anyone is interested in running for Club Officer or Director positions, we will be taking nominations from now until the evening of the meeting, including during the meeting. New Officers will then be elected by ballot or show of hands by those in attendance.

The Club President will step down to be one of three Director positions for the Club. We will nominate a new President and Vice President. We assume that Jim and Margie Newson will continue being

Club Secretary and Treasurer, respectively, as they both have done a wonderful job the past several years. We will also be nominating two new Directors. Please let any of the current Club Officers or Directors know of your interest in any of these positions. There will be several positions appointed by the new President and voted on by the members in attendance.

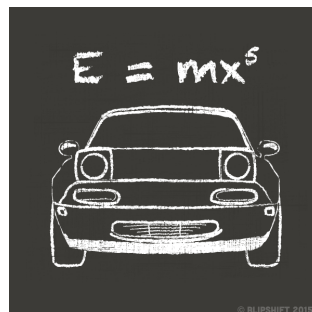
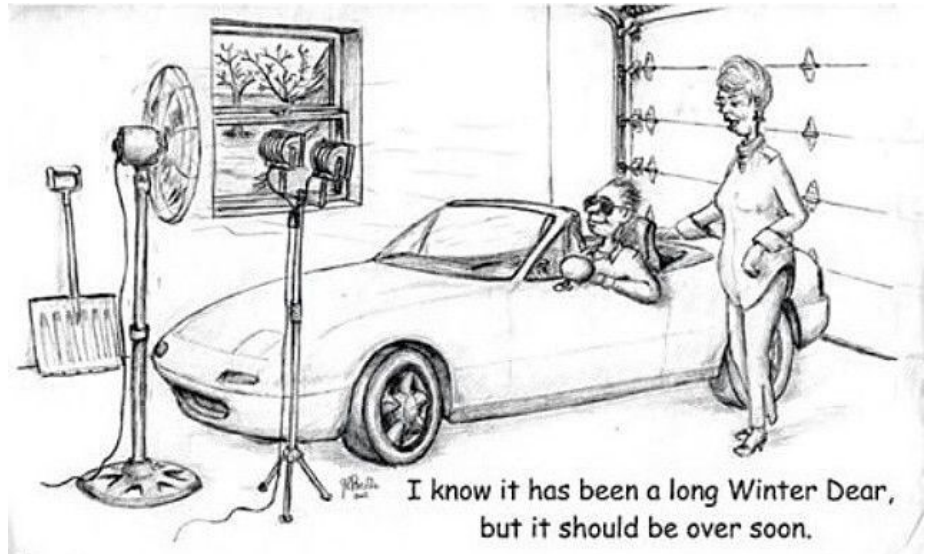


We also will have our Annual Event Planning Meeting following the elections. The new President will take over the meeting at this point. This is when we plan our major events for the year and schedule them on the calendar. We also plan each of the monthly luncheons and are looking for members to take responsibility for organizing the monthly meeting and location, as well as plan a drive. You don't have to lead the drive if you don't want to, but you can participate in its planning.



We hope that a lot of members, both old and new, will participate in these meetings. Please plan to attend, as this is always a fun event.

*Just
For Fun...*



Member Spotlight

Joe Feliz

by Carol Lynn Vredevel

This month, we are featuring Joe Feliz as our spotlight member. Joe is such a great guy and always has a great big smile on his face; he genuinely enjoys being involved in the UMC. Joe has been making an effort to have some new adventures and meet some new people in this last year, so I believe he has come to the right place! We had a Club drive after the luncheon in the fall of this year to Mirror Lake and stopped to enjoy the scenery by walking around by the lake. As we were getting ready to head down the mountain, we saw Joe driving through the parking lot, totally surprised to see his Miata friends there! He had decided to take an impromptu drive and ended up in the same place at the same time as we did. What are the odds?! He had missed the newsletter and had no idea we would be at the lake. Joe truly enjoys driving his Miata, and we are so happy to welcome him as one of our new members. Enjoy learning a little more about Joe and his family in the article written in his own words below.

I'm very happy to own the new MX-5 Miata RF Launch Edition. I purchased my Miata on December 31, 2016. I walked into the dealership, intending to buy a CX-9, and was met by a sales person outside. We started to talk about the MX-5 RF, because I had wanted one since September – but was told the RF wasn't going to be made until January, 2017. He surprised me by saying they had an RF – just what I had been thinking I wanted. It only took me about two hours to decide to buy it.

When I bought my Miata RF, I made a deal with the Mazda Dealer to keep my Miata on the showroom floor until April or May, since I had no room at home to store it over the winter. I drove the Miata home May 3, 2017. Later, I contacted Jim Newsom about joining the Utah Miata Club.

I heard about the Utah Miata Club in September, 2016, while I was at Bountiful Mazda talking to Scotty. He had mentioned the Club and asked if I was interested in meeting the

other Miata owners. Since I wanted to get out and meet new people, I thought it was a good place to start.

I've been in love with a roadster since 1975. When I was stationed in Okinawa, Japan, a friend of mine had a 1972 MG



roadster he needed to sell, so I bought it. It needed some mechanical work, and I was happy to do it. I brought the car back to the U.S. with me in 1976 to New Mexico and kept it there for three years. In 1979, I decided to get married and traded the MG in on a family car. My wife, Helen, and I were married for 34 years until she passed away in 2014. We have two children of our own, two adopted children, seven grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

I met my wife at Holloman Air Force Base in New Mexico. She was in the Air Force then, but got out when we were married in 1980. We transferred to Hill Air Force Base, Utah, in September, 1980. I retired from the Air Force in September, 1985, after serving 20-plus years as an aircraft mechanic. I worked for several contractors after that until 2000, when I had a medical issue come up that caused me to retire permanently. I've had 27 vehicles since I started driving, but only two have

(Continued on Page 6)



(Continued from Page 5)

ever touched my soul – my MG and my Miata.

In addition to sports cars, my wife and I both enjoyed bowling, which we had been into since 1976. In 2000, when my wife and I both developed some medical problems, we had to quit bowling. After she passed away, I thought I needed to get back into the main stream of life, so I started to bowl again. I



joined one league first, and the following year, I joined a second league.

I'd like to say, this year has been so special to me. My last name is

Feliz, which in Spanish means "happy", but up until this year, I've not known real happiness. In May, 2017, I started driving my Miata – and that has been special. Then, in August, 2017, I became baptized in the LDS Church – and that, too, was very special. Since the beginning of the year, I've met so many new people and experienced so many new activities, as in the Utah Miata Club, and I have felt so blessed.

By the time this newsletter comes out, I hope to have a new house... well, almost. We are having the living room, dining

room, kitchen and laundry room floors redone with hardwood in January and a new front door installed, as well as a new



rear sliding glass door and screen. I just put in a new rear deck and got a new shed, so it's almost like a new house. We've lived in Layton for the past 22 years.

Somebody asked me just the other day what I liked about the Club, and I replied; "The comradery of all the people when we go on the tour drives—the people are all so nice. We all have the same thing in common; we are all Miata owners, and that will never change."

We're so glad to welcome you to the Club, Joe! It's always fun to experience the enthusiasm of our new members and get some fresh ideas for drives and events. Everyone, please say "hi" to Joe, if you haven't already!

2018 Calendar of Events

submitted and updated by Steve Beckstead



- January 6th** **Monthly Meeting & Luncheon (11:30 a.m.) - Jim's Family Restaurant in Riverton**
- January 20th** **Election & Planning Meeting (5 p.m.) - Bountiful Mazda Conference Room**
- February 3rd** **Monthly Meeting & Luncheon (11:30 a.m.) - Location TBD**
- March 3rd** **Monthly Meeting & Luncheon (11:30 a.m.) - Location TBD**

Christmas Holiday Party Report

by Mike Bailey

Our Christmas Party was held at a different location this year than from the previous 12 years (when it was at our home). Lynn and I certainly enjoyed hosting this all these years, but it was time for a change – as we downsized our home and moved to Riverton. Initially, we were worried that the group would not fit in the clubhouse at Ali and Shylo's condo, but we did just fine – and there was plenty of room for us to sit and talk and plenty of tables and chairs to enjoy our holiday meal. It worked out perfectly, so thanks to Ali and Shylo for arranging it and for being our hosts this year!



Jim Newson brought (paid for by the Club) a smoked prime rib roast and ham – which were delicious – and he did all the carving.



Thank you, Jim, for all your hard work. We missed both Margie and Robert Mechling that evening, as they were both ill. As usual, we had lots of fun visiting with each other and celebrating the Christmas holiday together. Everyone brought such good food for the event – side dishes, treats and deserts – complete with a Christmas cake for all to enjoy. We had a bar set up with drinks as well. It was such a fun time for everyone who attended, and there were

close to 50 people per my count – maybe even a little more.

The White Elephant gift exchange was handled a little differently this year; Susan Vaughn was in charge of this. Members were called up by birth date (1st to 31st), regardless of birth month, instead of drawing numbers. Also, the gifts were not opened at the time of selecting them; instead, they were held until the end for everyone to open them together. This helped speed up the time it usually took to do this event. We still had the option of taking someone else's gift – but did not know what it was – so it was a complete surprise to all. A lot of gifts were still taken or traded; maybe it was just because someone had chosen the gift they liked! At the end, we opened all the gifts—then everyone started to clean up to get ready to leave. I think that Susan wanted everyone to show what gift they received to everyone else, but it got to be hectic and very noisy at that time – and the word did not get around to all. So as it ended, many of us didn't know what the others received. I heard some comments that if we do it this way again next year, we need to spend more time seeing what everyone received when the unwrapping begins, as this is the "fun" in doing the "white elephant".



All in all, it was lots of fun and a great party, with plenty of good food for everyone. Thanks to all the Club members who helped out and brought tables and chairs and all the wonderful food.



New Miata for 2018

by Mike Bailey

Mazda has come out with a new Miata for 2018 with a Dark Cherry soft top. There are new options on exterior paint. Note that the Soul Red paint is a little different than this color in 2016 and 2017, in that it has Crystal added to the name and is a slightly different hue (more "red", I am told). The Machine Gray exterior color is the same as the launch edition on the RF from 2017.

Here are the specs.:

- The 2018 Mazda MX-5 Miata Soft Top offers a variety of new color choices, with an available Dark Cherry soft top.
- Auburn Nappa leather interior is available; Soul Red Crystal and Machine Gray Metallic are the premium exterior paint options.
- The MX-5 Club with Brembo/BBS Package adds heated, black leather-trimmed seats.
- The new Brembo/BBS RECARO Package has heated, RECARO sport seats.
- The MAZDA CONNECT™ infotainment system is standard on 2018 MX-5 Sport model.
- The 2018 MX-5 Soft Top goes on sale nationwide beginning January, 2018, with a starting MSRP of \$25,295.

As in the past, there's an MX-5 for every kind of customer with three trim levels available. The entry-level MX-5 Sport represents the purest distillation of the MX-5 formula, while the MX-5 Club is harder-edged – and the MX-5 Grand Touring represents the most sophisticated option. The 2018 MX-5 offers two new available paint colors – Eternal Blue Mica and Snowflake White Pearl Mica – in addition to the colors mentioned above.

Order one from Bountiful Mazda, our dealer sponsor!



More Just
For Fun...



*Here's a photo of me driving my Miata.
Here's a photo of me washing my Miata.
Here's a photo of me waxing my Miata.
And here's a photo of me standing next to my Miata. Oh look, here's a photo of my Miata parked in my garage!*



Candid Camera

by Mike Bailey

This month's photos are taken from the Club's Christmas Holiday Party! Enjoy!

