



The Convertible Chronicles of the Utah Miata Club



From the Top Down

by Mike Thompson



We had a great turnout for our November luncheon. Afterwards, we drove the scenic route to Ophir, UT. Enroute we drove past Mercur. Well... We didn't drive past it, so much as (maybe) notice the sign to turn off SR 73. First mined in 1870, Mercur is on the southwest corner of the Oquirrh Mountain range, and today is derelict. It would have cost us five miles of dirt road had we wanted to see the abandoned mining pits.

The mine closed for the first time in 1879. In 1890 the land was bought by a group from the Midwest, and in 1891, Mercur became the site where the cyanide process was first used to extract gold from low-grade ore. Several of the investors became quite wealthy. One of their sons—George Dern by name—served as governor of Utah, and then as Secretary of War under Franklin D Roosevelt. George's grandson is actor Bruce Dern, whose daughter (George's great granddaughter) is actor Laura Dern. In its heyday, circa 1905, there were about 5,000 residents in Mercur. The mine petered out in 1913. As folks moved away they took everything with them. By 1916 there was but one building left standing. The mine reopened in 1985, with operations coming to an end for the third time in 1997.

Our destination for the drive was Ophir, named for the biblical place whence King Solomon brought gold to his kingdom. Ophir was also a mining town, though it never reached the productivity of Mercur. Unlike its neighbor, Ophir has survived to this day. According to the 2000 census the population was 23, down from 25 in 1990. The town was comprised of 6 families living in 10 households. We read on the plaque at the schoolhouse that up until 2016 Ophir was the smallest incorporated municipality in Utah. In that year the townspeople were unable to form a government. They disincorporated, becoming what is known as a census-designated place. That just means that the Census Bureau recognizes that there is a population concentration in a place, but there is no governing body.

From Ophir a handful of cars continued the drive to SR 36, followed by the twisties over Johnson Pass into Skull Valley via SR 199. With a turnaround we headed homeward making a second trip through the twisties. It was a lovely day for a drive, with good friends and sporty Miatas. We might have to hang up the keys for the winter. But we look forward to seeing you at the club's Christmas dinner. If you have not already, please make your reservations and come!

Happy Holidays, Mike

Inside This Issue

- From the Top Down Page 1
- December Christmas Party . Page 2
- Memberships-Birthdays . . . Page 3
- January Breakfast / Movie . . Page 4
- November Drive Report Page 5
- Fall Leaf Drive 2025. Page 6
- Anniversary Pins 2025 Page 7
- Road Trippin' 2025 Page 8
- December Birthdays Page 9
- Miata Wear / Swag. Page 10
- Calendar of Events Page 11
- Candid Camera Page 12



Christmas Party Details

By Michael Thompson

Date: Saturday, December 14, 2024 Time: 6:00 pm Edison Street Events

Location: 3331 E. Edison Street (145 E.) Salt Lake City (formally the Organ Loft)

Buffet Dinner provided. RESERVATIONS ARE NEEDED FOR THIS PARTY!

Please send your reservation and payment to Jim or Margie Newson today! Venmo, Check, Cash.

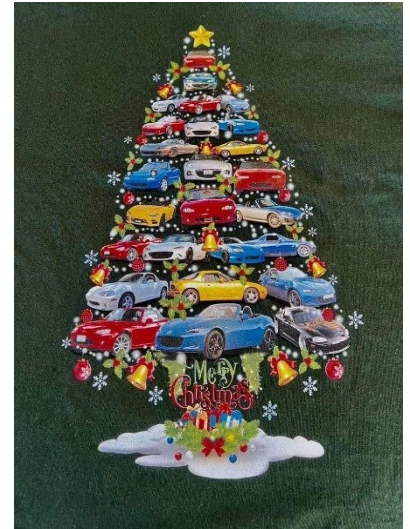
Cost for Member: \$30.00 per person, \$60.00 per couple. Price includes sales tax & gratuity.

The club pays a portion of the regular price for your dinner as the meal prices are higher than what you are paying.

Bring a White Elephant Gift / One per person attending.



Happy Holidays



Yankee Swap Game Rules for White Elephant Gift Exchange

by Steve Beckstead

To avoid confusion this is White Elephant gift exchange information:

Gifts should not be too expensive, about \$25 tops. Clever and funny gifts are popular! All Participants who bring a gift will be given a slot in the "Yankee Swap" If a couple wishes to play as 1, that's fine, they just get one pick.

1. Arrange chairs in a circle and move all the gifts to center of the circle.
2. Host will send groups to the gift pile to select a gift and return to their seat.
3. When instructed, everyone OPENS their gift, places it on floor in front of their chair, for all to see.
4. Host will go around and everyone will "Show & Tell" what they picked. He will try to be quick, but please LISTEN; this is your chance to really see what's there.
5. Time for the "Yankee Swap" (Gifts stay in plain view in front of each person).
 - A. Host will pull a ticket from the basket and call the number
 - B. That person may keep their gift, OR swap their gift with ANY OTHER GIFT (**Each gift may only be swapped twice to keep things moving**).
 1. The player has 1 minute to make the swap Tickets are called once.
 2. This round is over. The person whose gift was taken does NOT "re-swap" and keeps the gift they were given.
 3. Host calls the next number. (Repeated until all tickets drawn).
6. Once all the tickets have been drawn, the "Yankee Swap" is over, and you keep the gift you have! Yes—those that have their ticket drawn last will have an advantage for the best gift. But, we all had an equal chance of a later pick. This should keep the gift exchange relatively short. One minute (or less) per swap for each ticket/gift. That one special gift could be swapped all night. This was so fun last year!

Special thanks to Robert Mechling for this White Elephant variation!



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

NAME	YEAR	COLOR
BENJAMIN MCGEE	1995	MERLOT
RYAN MCGEE	2024	SOUL RED

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

NAME	EXPIRING SOON
JERRY & LINDA GROSS	12/31/2024
JOANN JACOBSON-WELLS	12/31/2024
JOE LEVERICH	12/31/2024

Memberships Expired / Please Renew Now

NAME	EXPIRED
SCOTT & CHERYL ATKINSON	8/31/2024
FREDERICK ECKSTEIN	10/31/2024
ROBERT & KATHI FACKRELL	9/30/2024
JOSEPH FOWLER	9/30/2024
SCOTT HADLEY	11/30/2024
SABRINA HANSEN	9/30/2024
KIRK & LUZ WARNER	8/31/2024



NAME	DATE
KATHY NIELSEN	2 Dec
MIKE BAILEY	6 Dec
DOROTHY BOWERS	6 Dec
HILLARY VREDEVELD	4 Dec
ALI BAZZAZ	11 Dec
ROBERT MECHLING	12 Dec
GORDY NICHOLL	15 Dec
DEB MOON	19 Dec
LUZ WARNER	20 Dec
DENISE WILLIAMS	21 Dec
KATHY KANKAINEN	27 Dec
DANETTE DAVIS	30 Dec



Removed From Roster

NAME	EXPIRED
TOM ARNETT	8/31/2024
JOSH & TANYA ASHMENT	8/31/2024

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



January Breakfast / Brunch & Club Meeting / Movie by Mike Bailey

When: Saturday, January 11, 2025 Time: 10:00 AM

Place: Golden Corral Buffet & Grill Phone: 801-562-4332

Address: 665 East 7200 South, Midvale, Utah 84047

To start off the new year we will have our monthly club meeting a little earlier than usual as it will be a breakfast or brunch at 10:00 am instead of our usual time.

This is so we can prepare for our Movie activity attending the movie "WICKED" after our meeting. Club business will be conducted and we will make our way to the Megaplex Theater for the movie.



Cost of the buffet is \$12.79 for adults and \$11.99 for seniors. You will pay when you enter.

New this year, we ask that everyone interested in the movie to purchase their own tickets. You can go online at www.megaplextheaters.com/jordanccommons. The time will be a Matinee or early to mid-afternoon showing. Details will be announced on movie time and theater number in the January newsletter and also on our club Facebook page so you can get your tickets in advance, as info is not available now.

You can also purchase any refreshments. We will make our way down the Larry Miller Megaplex Jordon Commons in Sandy at 9400 South State Street and meet in the theater. This will be a great winter activity for our group. The movie price is around \$10.50 per person for each ticket.

We hope to have a good turnout at this event. **ZOOM—ZOOM—MOVIE**



November Drive Report by Mike Bailey

We had a great turnout at our November luncheon at Jim’s Restaurant in Riverton. We filled the room to capacity and had a good meeting. We had a couple new people show up who have read about the club on our Miatas in Utah facebook page and decided to come up and see what the club is all about. Ben McGee and his father Ryan were there. Ben just purchased Eric and Kathy Kankainen’s 1995 ‘M’ Edition Merlot from Orem Mazda where Kankainens’ purchased their brand new beautiful 2024 Aero Gray ND with Tan



Nappa Leather interior. Needless to say after all these year’s the Kankainen’s deserved to get a brand new Miata! I also owned a ‘95 Merlot for 20 years and it was one of my favorite Miatas of all time. Ben and Ryan has joined the club and Ryan was so impressed with the Miata that he just went out and purchased is own new 2024 Soul Red Miata.



The “Miata” charm has once again rubbed off on other people like it did for me way back 28 years ago. We welcome Ben and Ryan to the club and hope to see them out this next year for more fun drives and events. They will be at the Christmas party so introduce yourselves to them.

After our luncheon the Nicholl’s led us on a drive to Ophir, an old Ghost town in Tooele County that’s been around since 1870 (read Mike’s Top Down article for information). Ophir has a population of 23 people and a few residents were outside welcoming up to their town as we drove through. We drove to the end of town and turned around and turned up a road to the old schoolhouse, built in 1899. We took some photos and just hung out for a bit to chat and look around. We then headed out on a drive further west in Tooele County to Johnson’s Pass, a favorite drive of ours on the west side of the valley. This was led by Eric and Kathy. There was hardly any traffic so we could drive as fast as we wanted on the twisty roads there. It was a very fun drive and a good way to end the driving year for our club as not it’s starting to get cold and Winter has starting to show up here in Utah. Thanks to Nicholl’s for planning this drive. I hope you enjoy some of the photos I took.



Fall Leaf Drive: 2025 by Roger Heath

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.

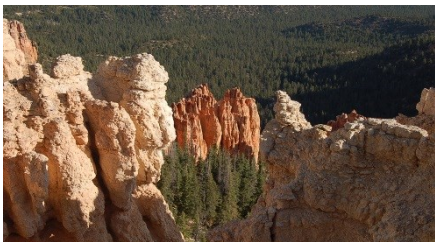
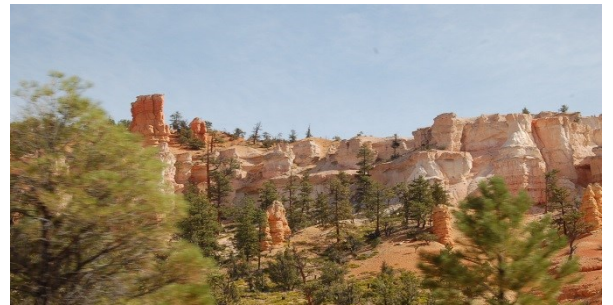
BRYCE

CANYON
 INN
 EST. 2006



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



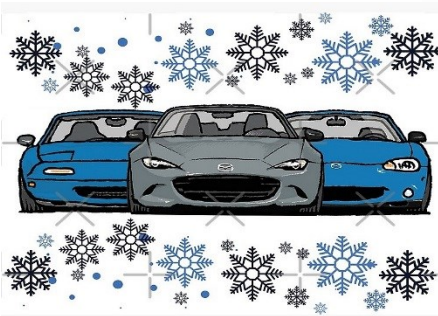
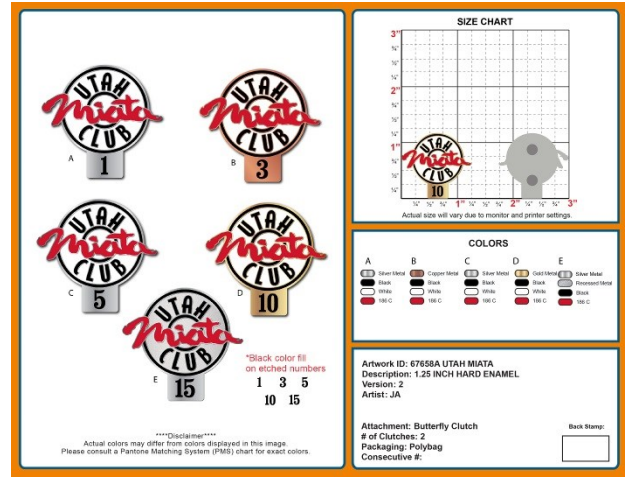
Anniversary Pins—2025

by Mike Bailey

As a reminder I will be passing out the Utah Miata Club’s Anniversary Pins to club members who have reached their anniversary of membership in the club. Anniversary pins are awarded on the following anniversary of when members joined the club for **3, 5, 10, 15** and at **20 years**. **A Lifetime Member Pin Award. It is made now on your 20th Year Anniversary.** We previously had a 20 year pin however discontinued those after the first set of pins were all distributed.

This is a program that was set up many years ago to award members for their club membership. The program started 5 years ago and to my knowledge is the only Miata club in the country who offers their members an Anniversary Pin. Also, Instead of receiving the pin on the month of year that a member joined, they are now awarded in January of that year and pins are also brought to each monthly meeting so if a member is not there, or misses a meeting they can receive their pin at another monthly meeting. Anniversary memberships will be mentioned in future monthly meetings and in the newsletter.

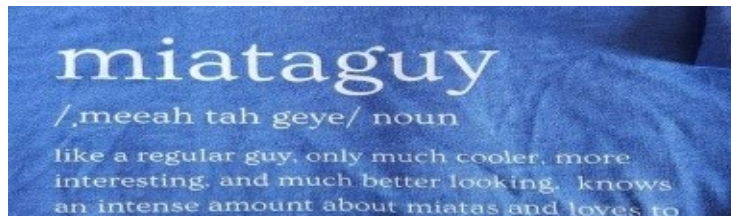
The pins are 1.25” size and made of hard enamel. Various years come in Copper, Silver, Gold, Nickel plated. The Official Club Logo is on each pin and printed in gloss black, white, and red for the “Miata” script type font. The different years are etched on the bottom of each pin. The Lifetime Pin is a unique all Gold Metal Pin. Pin trading is common among many Miata clubs however we do not trade our Anniversary Pins. Many friends in other clubs have asked to purchase one for their collection but they are not for sale. I know our members wear them proudly on their hats shirts and jackets and I’m glad to see members wearing them.



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Roadtrippin' Over Memorial Day by Roger Heath

May 24th – 26th, 2025

Two night, three day roadtrip the weekend after Memorial Day weekend traveling through the red rock area in south-eastern Utah. After meeting up at the Chevron Gas station, 3601 E Powerhouse Rd, Spanish Fork, we'll head out on Hwy 6 to the junction of Hwy 89. Turning south we stay on 89 until we get to Salina. Depending on the weather we can jump on I-70 and head east for a few miles and drive over Hwy 72 into Loa, otherwise we'll head to Torrey for the first night. Day 2 we go southeast out of Hanksville and through Hite then up to Blanding and Moab before stopping in Green River for the second night. Coming home on Monday 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.

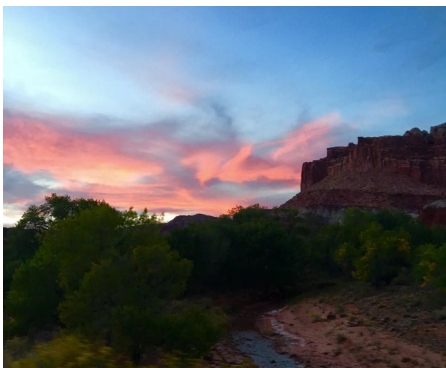
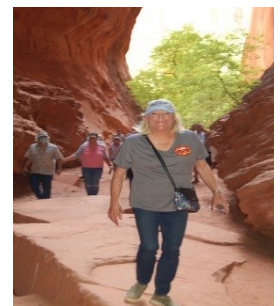


Possible side trip would be Goosenecks State Park on the way to Blanding. This would add about 50 miles to the drive from Hanksville to Green River.

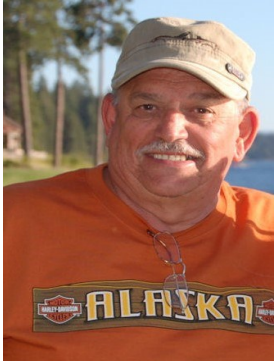


Suggested hotels: Torrey, Friday, May 30th, Broken Spur Inn – hotels.com or call the hotel direct. Green River, May 31st, River Terrace Inn - <https://river-terrace.com> *There is other lodging in Torrey and Green River if you wish to stay somewhere else.

Please check the event on the Utah Miata Club Facebook page for all details and updates.



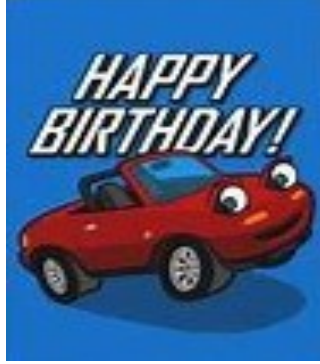
Enjoy these photos of Utah Miata Club's December Birthdays



MIKE BAILEY



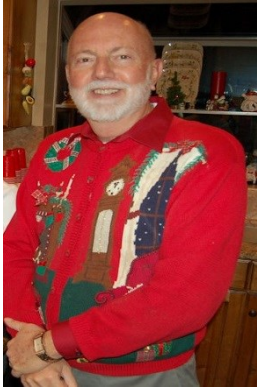
DOROTHY BOWERS



KATHY NIELSEN



ALI BAZZAZ



ROBERT MECHLING



GORDY NICHOLL



HILLARY VREDEVELD



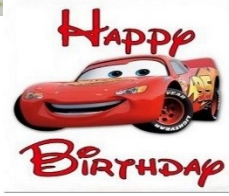
KATHY KANKAINEN



DEB MOON



DANETTE DAVIS DENISE WILLIAMS

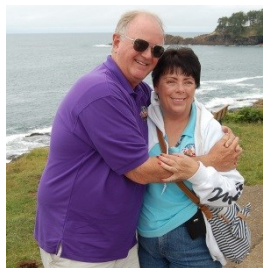
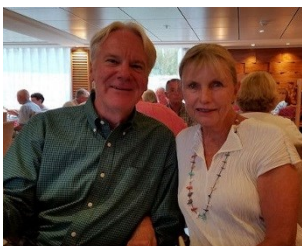


Photos not available for above

Photos below of Birthday Members



LUZ WARNER





Miata Swag —Apparel, Car Club Magnets

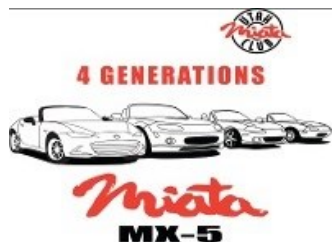
By MiataWear Man: Mike Bailey

End of the year close out on all Utah Miata Club Logo shirts and logo merchandise. In January all shirt and past event hats items will be reduced to low prices.

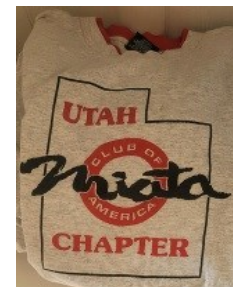


First come, first served basis. Get yours now for discounted prices. Prices starting at \$10.00.

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



“Long Live the Roadster” Logo



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.

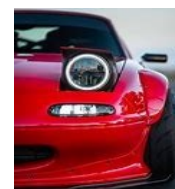


Club Magnets: Official Club Magnets or Mountains Logo Magnets with color of your Miata on them.



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 Shirts, Sweat-Shirts any style and several color options.





2024 Calendar of Events



Please Note: Our 2024-2025 year we will have our Monthly Luncheon, Meeting and Drive on the Second Saturday of each month which is a change from our previous calendar schedule. Some exceptions apply such as Holidays or other events that may affect this schedule.

December 14th: Christmas Party: 6:00 pm; Edison Events / Organ Loft; See Pg. 2 NL: Officers & Directors

PLEASE LET EDITOR KNOW OF ANY ITEMS THAT NEED TO BE ADDED TO THIS CALENDAR



2025 Calendar of Events



January 11th: Luncheon: 10:00 Golden Corral; "Wicked Movie" See Pg. 4 NL Megaplex Theater Sandy, Time (TBD). Purchase tickets in advance; Mike & Lynn Bailey

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

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

April 12th: Luncheon: 11:30 (TBD) Need Location & Member to Suggest or Plan

May 10th: Luncheon & Drive: Cycle Karts; Huntsville; Ken Jaworski -Time & Date (TBD)

May 24-25th: Roadtrippin' Over Memorial Day; Southern Utah: See Pg. 8 NL; Roger Heath

June 7th or 14th: Rat Fink Show-Manti: Need confirmation on date: Steve & Ronda Beckstead

July 5th: Impromptu Holiday W/E Drive & Luncheon (TBD): Mike & Lynn Bailey

July 19th: UMC Summer Picnic / Annual Elections-Planning Meeting (TBD); Board of Directors

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. 6 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; Location and time (TBD). Suggestions by Members



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

