



## The Convertible Chronicles of the Utah Miata Club



Looking forward to lots of warm weather Top Down driving adventures in 2023... like GSWA 2014!

### From the Top Down By: Robert Mechling

Thank You, Thank You Thank You - to all those who helped with our club's Christmas Party. I know, I worried more than I should have, from the kitchen, the tables, the entertainment, the white elephant gift swap, through cleanup. Every time I turned around someone was helping. What a way to start the holiday season. Thanks!

Now that the winter solstice is over, winter is officially here. I'm looking forward to our January Luncheon and the time at the Hill Aerospace Museum. It's a premier Ogden attraction, and home of the SR-71 Blackbird. If you haven't been, it's a must see for U.S. military history. Remember - The museum runs on volunteers and donations - it's what keeps it going and growing. See page 2 for all the details.

I hope all were able to relish the holiday season, with all the recitals, plays, concerts, cookies, cakes, sweets, not to mention friends and family, but that's what makes the Holiday season special. Thanks again, my best wishes to all for a happy and prosperous new year.

*Stay warm. Robert*

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## January Meeting & Destination Drive (Hill Aerospace Museum)

**Date & Time:** Saturday, January 7th, 11:30 AM

**Location:** Star Café,

**Address:** 1540 State St, Clearfield, UT 84015

**DIRECTIONS TO STAR CAFÉ:** TRAVEL NORTH ON I-15 TO ANTELOPE DRIVE (EXIT 332). TURN LEFT AND MOVE TO THE OUTSIDE LANE, TURN RIGHT ON MAIN STREET (US-89). MOVE TO THE INSIDE LANE: THE STAR CAFE IS APPROX 1 AND 1/2 BLOCKS ON THE LEFT SIDE OF THE ROAD (WEST).



**DIRECTIONS TO HILL AFB AEROSPACE MUSEUM:** AFTER THE LUNCH/MEETING RETURN TO ANTELOPE DRIVE AND TURN LEFT TO I-15. TRAVEL NORTH I-15 AND TAKE THE 5600 SO. (EXIT 338) OFF RAMP. TURN RIGHT AT THE LIGHT AND ENTER THE MUSEUM PARKING

**Address for Hill Air Museum:** 7961 Cottonwood St Building 1955, Hill AFB, UT 84056

### Information:

We will order off the menu at the Star Café and hold our meeting before heading out to the Hill Air Museum. At the museum, we have our own docent scheduled who will give us a tour. Thanks to Ken Jaworski for setting up the tour. It will be a really great tour as here is a little background on our docent "Rick":



#### USAF 1973-1997

- F-111 Avionics Technician 1973-1985
- F-16 Aircraft Maintenance Manager 1985-1989
- F-15 Aircraft Maintenance Manager 1989-1994
- F-16 Aircraft Maintenance Manager 1994-1997

#### BOEING 1997-2002

F-22 Avionics Maintenance Training Courseware Developer / Instructor

#### LOCKHEED MARTIN 2002-2018

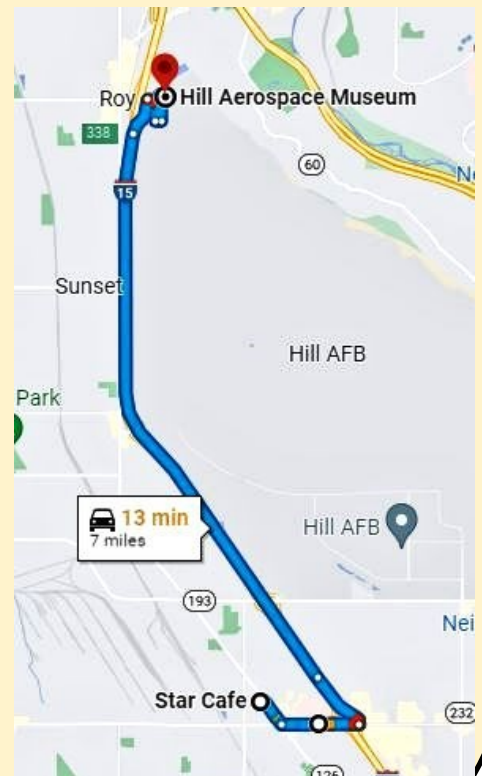
- F-22 Customer Service/Quality Engineer Avionics Systems 2002
- F-22 Manufacturing Engineer Final Assembly 2003-2010
- F-35 Manufacturing Engineer Center Wing 2008-2013
- C-5M Quality Analyst 2013-2015
- F-35 Quality Engineer 2015-2018

#### HILL AEROSPACE MUSEUM

Volunteer/Docent 2018-Present

#### UTAH MILITARY ACADEMY

Aircraft General/Electrical/Avionics Teaching Assistant 2022



**Hope to see you there!**



## 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, and includes the newsletter e-mailed to you, or \$45 if you would like a hard copy sent by standard mail.** 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.

## Birthdays / Memberships

### New Members

NAME	YEAR	COLOR
SAMUEL & KIMBERLY McBRIDE	2022	RED

### Removed From Roster

NAME	EXPIRED
DICK & JUDY DYSON	8/31/2022
DARIN & ELAIN GRABER	9/30/2022
KRISTI SMITH	8/31/2022
TOM & PAMELA WHARRAM	9/30/2022
TYSON & TRACY YOUNG	8/31/2022

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

NAME	EXPIRED
JERRY BILIANZICH	10/31/2022
CHASE & BRITTNEY CHARLESWORTH	11/31/22
JALAAL DIRBAS	12/31/2022
JOANN JACOBSON-WELLS	12/31/2022
JOE LEVERICH	12/31/2022
KENNETH WHAMSLEY	10/31/2022
ROSEANN WHITAKER	10/31/2022



NAME	BIRTHDAY
JOSH ASHMENT	3 Jan
TYLER BECKSTEAD	4 Jan
SCOTT ATKINSON	14 Jan
ROGER HEATH	28 Jan
JACKIE NICHOLL	30 Jan

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

NAME	EXPIRING
GEORGE & PATTY CHASE	1/31/2023
VAL FRANCIS	1/31/2023
KEN & JAN JAWORSKI	1/31/2023
ERIC & KATHY KANCAINEN	1/31/2023
CHRIS & LINDA LEWIS	1/31/2023
SCOTTY MEDINE	1/31/2023
GORDON & JACKIE NICHOLL	1/31/2023
DOYLE STURM	1/31/2023

### Club Officers (July 2022-July 2023)

President: Robert Mechling  
Treasurer: Margie Newson

Vice President: Joey Fowler

Secretary: Jim Newson

Directors: Roger Heath, Ronda Beckstead, Susan Christiansen

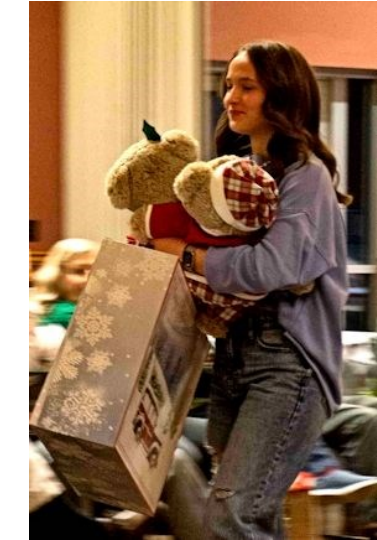
# Holiday Party Report By: Mike Bailey

Our annual Christmas party was very nice, as it usually is, with lots of delicious food and treats, and awesome friends to share it with. We had a great turnout of over 60 members that I counted.



The White Elephant gift exchange was a little different this year than in the past, but it worked out very well. There were several favorite gifts that were exchanged several times, like the cute little teddy bears (now who would want to take them away from Ainsley?). Speaking about Ainsley, it's been a long time since we've seen her and she has grown up a lot, is quite tall and very beautiful. I was happy to give her a hug and see her and Cristy! Other popular gifts were the battery tender (car charger) and the Christmas gnome that Lynn wanted so much, that was taken away from her at the very end, but ended up in good hands with Jim (he probably gave it to Margie). Also the bottle of Vodka and Kahlua were passed around a lot. What does that say about our members!

We had lots of fun visiting with our club member friends, and the party is always a good way to end the year.



Thanks to the Officers & Directors for planning another successful and fun event, for all those who brought food and drinks, and those who set up everything and cleaned up afterwards. Thanks to Robert Mechling, our President for directing the party and for Steve Beckstead being the MC.



We also had a special treat of a performance by Elvis impersonator, our dear Cameron Vredevel, and enjoyed his singing and dancing. Thanks for putting on the great show! Enjoy the photos on this page and the next, and thanks to everyone who came and participated. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all as it has been a very fun year. Here's looking forward to a great New Year!

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# Miata Tales By: Ken Jaworski



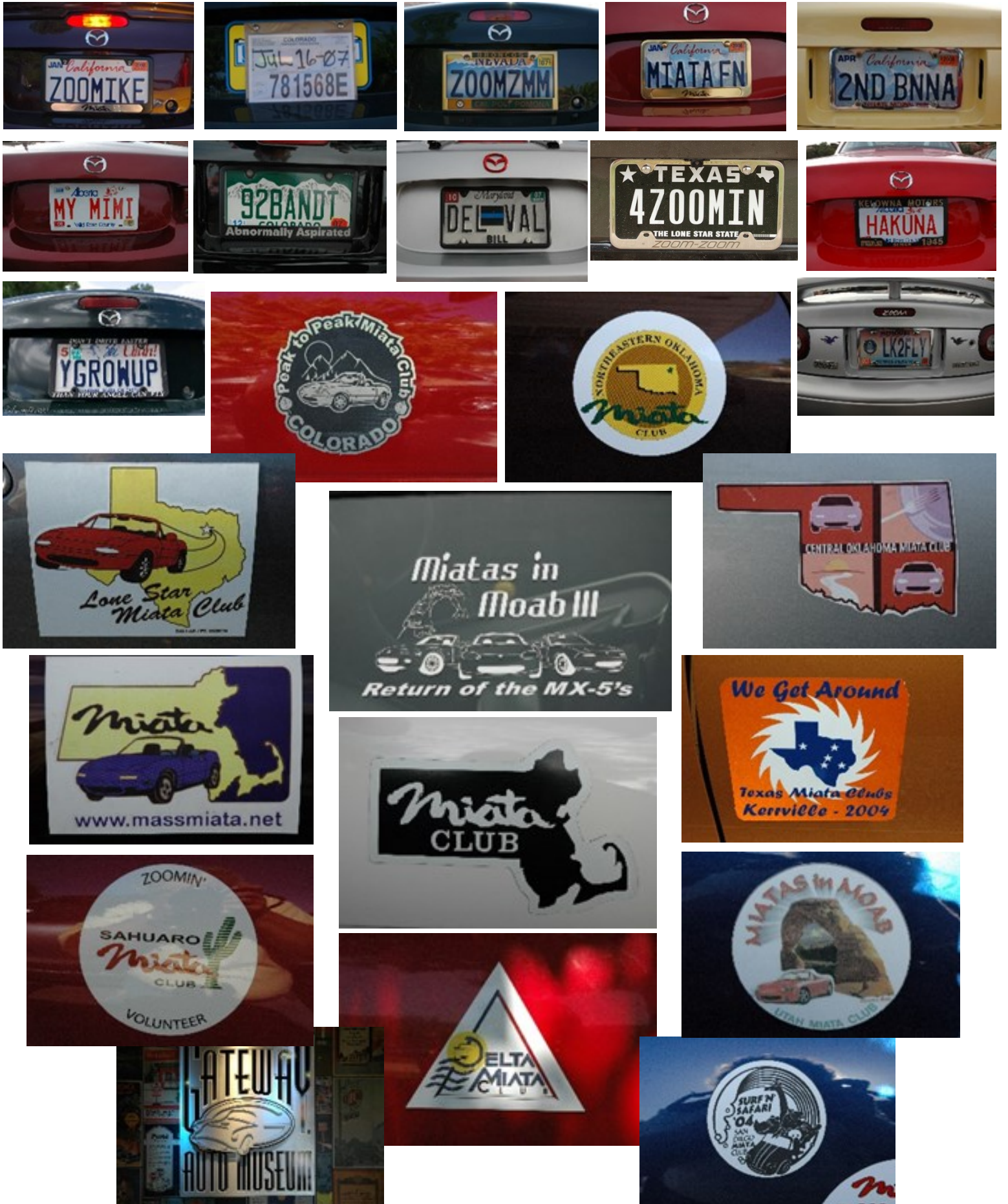
Okay! Now everyone look very carefully and you will see allllll the license plates of these Miata's.....

Oh! Maybe if you can see around corners and those great Moab cliffs. So, here's a closer look at some "out of state" plates and banners. Can you guess which "Miatas in Moab" this was? There's a couple of clues in the photos below.



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# “Five Carols” Play Report

By: Valerie Francis

On Wednesday, December 21st, twenty four Miata Club members adventured out to dinner and a play. We enjoyed each others company while we had a delicious dinner at the New Golden Dragon.



Then we attended a cute play “Five Carols” at the Grand Theatre just a couple of blocks from the restaurant. The music was really fun, the singing and choreography delightful, and there were plenty of hilarious moments too; I will never be able to listen to “Ding Dong Merrily On High” without seeing and hearing a spatula, washboard, bike horn, etc. as unfortunate replacement instruments for the bells.



There was a moral to the story too: we can count on our friends being there for us in good times and bad, which I know is especially true with our Miata Club friends.

We were really fortunate that the predicted 5:00 pm snow storm delayed a few hours. We had actually just exited the play when some snow and sleet started. It was a wonderful evening spending some time visiting at the restaurant and enjoying the play together. So much so, we are looking into a possible repeat dinner and play soon. More information will be forth coming at our upcoming meetings and future newsletters.





## New Miata Shirt Ideas By Mike Bailey

First off, I'd like to thank those members of the club who have liked and purchased the new Utah Miata Club Hawaiian style Miata shirts in 2022. I think they turned out real great and with the three different options on the backgrounds, they offer a different look. I spent a couple years trying to find the right apparel supplier for these that would be most of all cost effective and feature excellent quality.



I have a couple of new inexpensive Miata Shirt ideas and have made up a few of them so you may see them on me or in my bag at club events and meetings. A few of the Miata image designs are older designs I have used on club shirts, such as for Moab or other activities, and some of you will recognize the line art Miata images. Some were put on T-shirts or apparel bags, etc. for our major events, and are still popular.



I do have a limited supply of various sizes (all men's sizing) of black T-Shirts. These are cotton Tees. They feature the Mazda logo with 'MX-5 Miata Club Member' type in white on front left chest and on center on front of shirt either the 2-color (red & white) 'Long Live the Roadster' logo or a white outline image of the Miata with the Official UMC logo in white also on them. If ordering, please mention which logo you prefer. There is a limited selection of them is sizes 3XL (1), XL (6), MED (6), SM (2) and maybe other sizes. Price is \$10.00 each printed. Other T-shirts such as one with the red custom Miata or other Miata images are \$15.00 - \$18.00. Contact Mike Bailey if you are interested.



4 GENERATIONS



Miata  
MX-5



## Ghosts & Legends Miata Challenge Reminder By: Mike Bailey

As a reminder: the Ghosts & Legends Challenge starts January 1st. Please either text or email me if you are thinking of participating. My contact info is at bottom of this article. I will also have a sign up list at the meetings in 2023. It will run from January through the middle of October.



The "challenge" is to drive your Miata to any old 'ghost towns' in Utah, or surrounding states if you wish, and take a photo of you in front of any sign, like town name, street sign, or landmark like a mine shaft or noteworthy thing in the town to show you were there. If you plan to go where roads are bad, or dirt roads, you can use an OTM (other than Miata vehicle), but still take your photo.



The person or couple who visits the most towns or landmarks during this time period will be the winners. We plan to have a 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place winners and possibly consolation prizes.

Event T-shirts and possibly an event pin will be available to participants. This is intended to be a fun event that everyone can participate in. If anyone wants to lead a group drive to any place, please let me or a club officer know and we can put it on the calendar for a group drive.

More details will follow in the coming months. Thanks to all those willing to participate in this. Contact Mike at 801-597-1456 or [mike@mikebaileyprinting.com](mailto:mike@mikebaileyprinting.com). **ZOOM - ZOOM**



## Letter From the Editor “It Has Been Enjoyable” By: Valerie Francis

What an enjoyable time I have had the last 4 1/2 years as the UMC Newsletter Editor! I really learned a lot about the club and the fantastic club members through the process of editing the newsletter each month. But as I announced at the summer picnic, it was time to give someone else the opportunity to produce this so eloquently written literary publication (LOL).

Thankfully, Mike Bailey stepped up and volunteered, so for the last two months he has watched over my shoulder as I showed him how to use the Publisher and Corel Paintshop apps and how to put the newsletter together. Thanks to Lynn Bailey too for supporting Mike on this new adventure and even sitting through the training sessions.



I will be transitioning the newsletter over to Mike in the next month or two and will help him until he becomes comfortable with the process. Don't be surprised though if the February newsletter comes from Mike instead of me. He is going to do a great job especially since he always has such fun and exciting ideas.

I also want to thank any and all who have contributed articles and photos to the newsletter while I have been editor... to name just a few: Jim Newson for Memberships and Birthdays, Carol Lynn Vredeveld for Member Spotlights, Ken Jaworski for Miata Tales, each year's President for the Top Down articles, Mike Bailey for lots and lots of content, and all the various members for monthly drive information or reports, and photos, etc. etc. etc. I appreciate you all!

Again, it has been a wonderful and gratifying experience putting the newsletter together for the club, and I'm looking forward to seeing you all at future club events and adventures...Zoom Zoom, Valerie

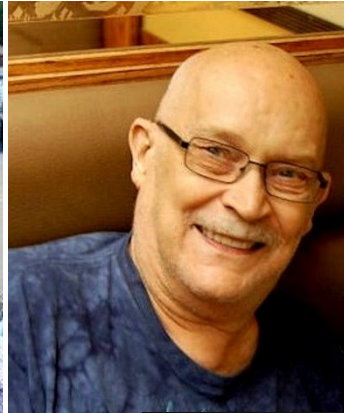



## 2023 Calendar of Events

- January 7th:** Hill Air Museum (Star Café, 11:30 am, Hill Aerospace Museum) refer to page 2
- February 4th:** Farmington Wildlife Center, (Time and location TBD), Brian & Sue Christiansen
- March 4th:** This is the Place State Park (Time and location TBD) - need volunteer drive leader
- April 1st:** Kennecott mine tour (Time and location TBD), Mike & Lynn Bailey
- May 6th:** Preston / Bear Lake Loop (Time and location TBD), Roger & Perly Heath
- June 3rd:** (Drive, time location TBD) - need volunteer drive leader
- July 8th:** Picnic / Elections & Planning (Time and location TBD), Executive Board
- July 13—16th:** Willamette Valley Miata Club Explore Oregon, details on <http://www.oregonmx5.com/>
- September 22-24:** Fall Leaf Tour (meetup Time and location TBD), see details on UMC website, Roger & Perly



Photos this month are some January birthdays, and a couple of photos from the December Holiday party!



  
**SMILE  
YOU'RE  
ON  
CANDID  
CAMERA**

