



The Convertible Chronicles of the Utah Miata Club



From the Top Down by Mike Thompson

Gosh! The new year is here. It could turn out to be a beautiful thing. I wish for you and yours that 2025 will be the happiest of times. The Club's Christmas party at Edison Street Events was fabulous. There was plenty of good food for all who attended. The staff was attentive, making setup and clean-up by the Club (none) a breeze. We were entertained by continuous Christmas tunes played on the "Mighty Wurlitzer Pipe Organ." The gift exchange was delightful. Many thanks to Gordie and Jackie Nicholl for suggesting the venue, and to Steve and Amy Beckstead for emceeing the gift exchange.



The calendar for 2025 is shaping up. (see pg. 11 NL). We will attend a movie in January, see the Cycle Karts in May and visit the Rat Fink Show in June. Roger and Perly Heath have gone beyond the call by providing plans for two overnight adventures. 1) Southeast Utah over Memorial Day weekend. 2) Bryce Canyon and vicinity in late September to enjoy the fall colors. The details are elsewhere in this newsletter and on the Club's Facebook page. (see pgs. 5 and 7 in NL).

Mazda is still playing very close to the vest with respect to the next generation Miata (NE). "Sometime in 2026, as either a 2026 or 2027 model" is as close as they will commit. The Miata NE "will be electrified," but we do not know if it will be fully electric, or a gas-electric hybrid. The rumors are that a gasoline-only engine will also be available. About a year ago the industry started speculating (wildly) about Mazda keeping their rotary engine alive in the Miata, or perhaps even a rotary-electric hybrid (see above MX-5 image). See photo above of a rendition of the 2025 Miata.

Make your best guesses. Mine are: A) We won't see a fully electric Miata for many years, if ever. It would be so heavy and expensive as to destroy what the Miata is—a lightweight, excellent-handling sports car at an affordable price. B) We will see a gasoline engine as the base, with a hybrid available as an upgrade. The tradeoff will be more HP (gasoline plus electric combined) to offset the greater weight.

Think of past drives you have enjoyed, and meeting/eating venues that complement the drive. We accept ideas and leadership from all members. No need to worry about repeating past Club activities. We can enjoy ourselves, the company and our cars whenever and wherever we get together. Happy New Year! Mike

Inside This Issue

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



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



Note on Movie Ticket Purchase: The theater will not have information on the time for our movie until January 4th or one week before the event so I'll post info on the theater on our facebook page when I have info so you can go online to purchase your tickets.

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 a.m. 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 before leaving for the Megaplex Theater.

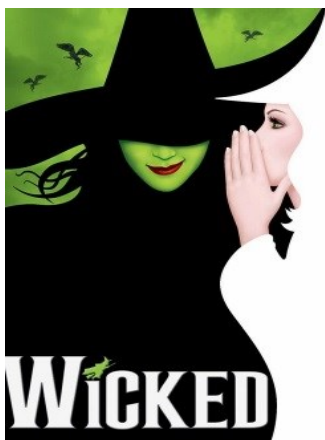


Cost of the buffet is \$12.79 for adults and \$11.99 for seniors. You will pay when you enter.

New this year, we ask that everyone interested in the movie to purchase their own tickets. **Note information in the yellow box above.** You can go online at www.megaplextheaters.com/jordancommons. The time will be a Matinee or early to mid-afternoon showing. Details will be mentioned on the movie at the January meeting and also in advance on our club Facebook page so you can get your tickets in advance. You can also purchase any refreshments. We will make our way down to the Larry Miller Megaplex Jordan 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



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
BRENT PALMER	2022	SNOWFLAKE WHITE

NAME	EXPIRING SOON
GEORGE & PATTY CHASE	1/31/2025
GARY & KATHY COLLINGS	1/31/2025
VAL FRANCIS	1/31/2025
KEN & JAN JAWORSKI	1/31/2025
ERIC & KATHY KANKAINEN	1/31/2025
LINDA & CHRIS LEWIS	1/31/2025
RICHARD PLUMB	1/31/2025
DOYLE STURM	1/31/2025



NAME	DATE
KAY SCHEURER	10 Jan
TIFFANY BIGELOW	28 Jan
ROGER HEATH	28 Jan
JACKIE NICHOLL	30 Jan



Removed From Roster

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

Memberships Expired / Please Renew Now

NAME	EXPIRED
FREDERICK ECKSTEIN	10/31/2024
JERRY & LINDA GROSS	12/31/2024
JOANN JACOBSON-WELLS	12/31/2024
JOE LEVERICH	12/31/2024

Club Officers (July 2024 -- July 2025)

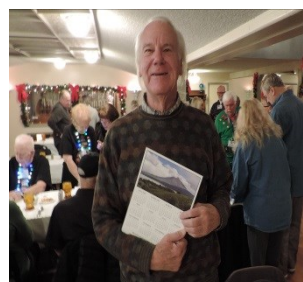
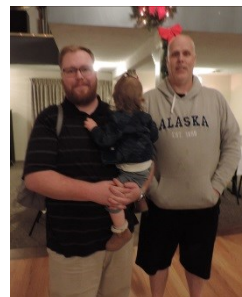
President: Michael Thompson Vice President: Ken Jaworski Secretary: Jim Newson Treasurer: Margie Newson
 Directors: Robert Mechling, Susan Christiansen, Carol Lynn Vredeveld Newsletter Editor: Michael Bailey



Christmas Party Report

by Mike Bailey

Our Annual Christmas Holiday party was held December 14th at Edison Events Center in Salt Lake City. We had a great turnout of around 50 members. The food was catered by the events center and featured a chicken breast and pork loin meats with baked potatoes and a variety of salads and chocolate eclairs for dessert. Soft drinks were also available. Our White Elephant Gift Exchange featured a 'Yankee Swap' version and was led by Steve Beckstead, who always does a fabulous job on this! 😊 I'm sure everyone got just what they wanted for a gift! Our thanks goes to Jackie Nicholl for making the arrangements and we hope everyone enjoyed each other's company. Some photos here on our fun times.



Roadtrippin' Over Memorial Day Weekend by Roger Heath

May 30th – June 1st, 2025

Two night, three day roadtrip the weekend after Memorial Day week, May 30th—June 1st, and traveling through the red rock area in southeastern 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.



A 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. Head home June 1st. Several options are available to travel home.

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



2025 Utah Miata Club Challenge by Mike Bailey

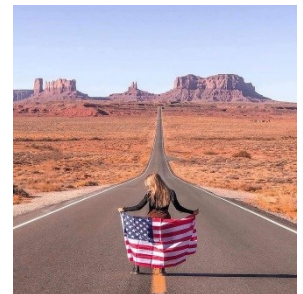
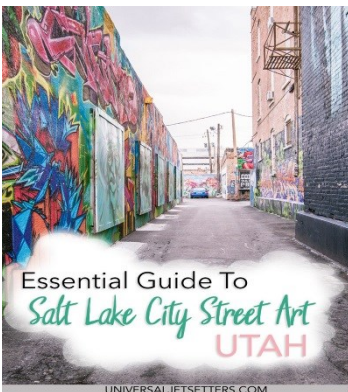
Since our "Ghosts & Legends" Miata Club Challenge of 2023 was such a great activity, I thought it would be a good idea to do another club challenge for 2025. This challenge will be fun just like the last one! This year's challenge will be to see whom in the club can visit and take photos of some amazing 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. See some photos here of them. 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-abouts 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!



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.



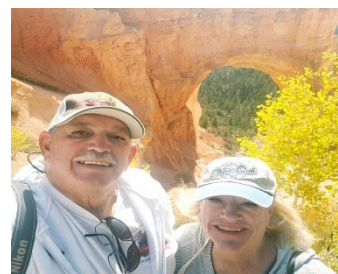
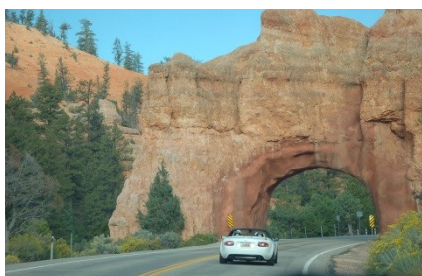
Friday, Sept 26th, 8:30 AM - Meet at Harmon's Bangerter Crossing, 125 E. 13800 S., Draper, Utah

Saturday, Sept 27th, free day

Sunday, Sept 28th, head home

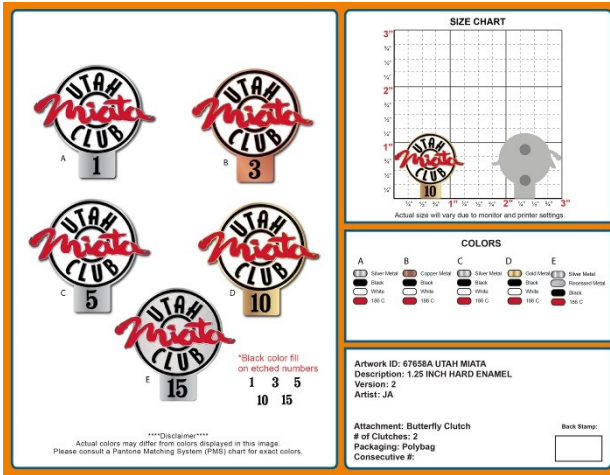
Suggested lodging - Bryce Canyon Inn brycecanyoninn.com

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



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.



Quarterly Board Meeting Announcement by Mike Bailey

The Board of Directors announces that we will have a quarterly Board Meeting of the Utah Miata Club on Thursday, January 9, 2025 at 6:00 pm at the Red Robin Restaurant in Murray, Utah located at 316 E. Winchester Ave. All Officers and Board of Directors of the club should be present at this meeting. Other members are also welcome to attend however cannot vote on any items of club business.



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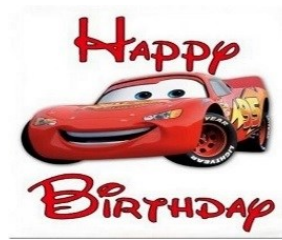
Enjoy these photos of Utah Miata Club's January Birthdays



ROGER HEATH



JACKIE NICHOLL



Photos not available for these members: KAY SCHEURER TIFFANY BIGELOW

Photos below of Birthday Members

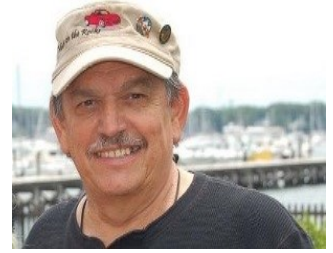




Miata Swag —Apparel, Car Club Magnets

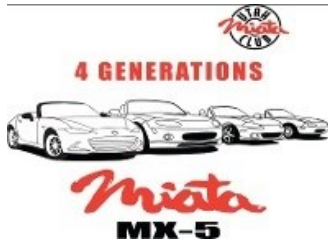
By MiataWear Man: Mike Bailey

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.

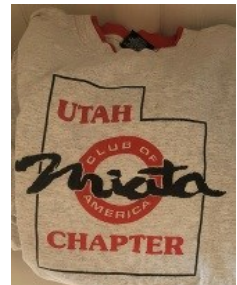


First come, first served basis. Get yours now for discounted prices. Prices starting at \$10.00.

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.



2025 Calendar of Events



HAPPY NEW YEAR 2025



- January 11th:** Luncheon: 10:00 Golden Corral; “Wicked Movie” See Pg. 2 NL Megaplex Theater Sandy, Time (TBD). Purchase tickets in advance; Mike & Lynn Bailey
- February 8th:** Breakfast 10:00 (TBD) Auto Addiction Car Show; Southtown Mall; Nicholl’s
- 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: 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’ Over Memorial Day; Southern Utah: See Pg. 5 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. 7 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

