



The Convertible Chronicles of the Utah Miata Club



From the Top Down

by Lou Vredeveld, President

Well, November is here, and along with that comes decision time. Do I put away the Miata for the winter? Do I put on snow tires and brave driving through the changing weather conditions this year? Do I hold out for those good days and leave it ready to go? I'm sure everyone is toying with the decision, not wanting to let go of the fun times that driving our Miatas allow.

Last month, the Club did many fun events, starting with our luncheon and drive. We had 35 members join us at Billy Blanco's Restaurant in Park City for the monthly meeting. Following lunch, 16 cars headed up to the Kamas Chevron Station to pick up the 3-pound (maybe a little less) Apple Fritters that Steve Beckstead called ahead the day before to have them ready for us. After getting our sugar rush, we went



up the Mirror Lake Highway, stopping at the Upper Provo River Falls, and then on to Mirror Lake. The weather could not have been any better. Several members took a walk around the lake and enjoyed the scenery. Since that was officially the end of the drive, we split up and went home in different directions. Some went on to Evanston,



Wyoming, then down the Freeway; others headed back through Midway and over Guardsman's Pass. We sure have some beautiful mountain roads close by that we can drive in our convertibles.



Next up was the Dinner and Play on the 14th where 26 of us with family and friends had a fun time at Joy Luck for a Chinese dinner, and after, watching the Adams Family Play on stage. Then, on the 28th is the annual club Halloween party. Thanks again to Ali and Shylo for hosting the event at their Condo Clubhouse. The party is always a fun event with lots of pot luck food and creative costumes.

November's luncheon will be on the 4th at 11:30 a.m. at the Harmons Grocery Store located at 125 East and 13800 South. This luncheon is hosted by Robert and Sharon Mechling, with help from Cheryl reserving the area at Harmons. After the lunch and meeting, there will be card games and socializing. This time of year, we

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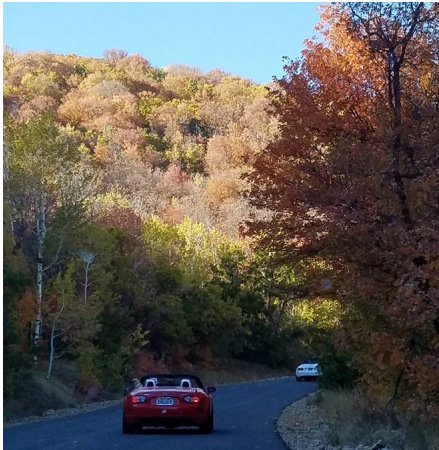
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do not know if a drive is doable ahead of time, so this makes a great option for the get together. I am pretty sure if weather permits, some will put together an impromptu drive.

As you can tell, we, as a Club, do a lot of fun events – ranging from short day drives, to get-together dinners and events; even longer overnight-stay-type drives and trips are available. There definitely is plenty to do for anyone that would like to

participate in an activity or outing. If you are not joining in the fun because you don't like the type of event, then please step up with recommendations and ideas so we can make them happen. Remember, this is your Club, and we need your input to make it succeed. Please check out our website (www.utahmiataclub.org) that is constantly being updated with our club events and information, thanks to Doyle Sturm. Also, my thanks go out to Teri Black for stepping up and taking on the Newsletter Editor position.



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.

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Lou Vredevel

Vice President:
Steve Beckstead

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Margie Newson

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Mike Bailey, Doyle Sturm,
Spence Wood
Honorary Director:
Gordy Nicholl

Newsletter Editor:
Teri Black

Webmaster:
Doyle Sturm

Zoom-Zoom
Zoom-Zoom



New Members

Richard & Charlene Gregor	2016 Soul Red
Suzane & Wayne Herget	Red (Year?)
Waylon & Valerie Goebel	2017 White

Expiring Soon

Leonard & Shauna Millgate	11/30/2017
James & Hillary Vredevel	11/30/2017

Removed From Roster

Jim & Marilyn Bickley	06/30/2017
Joye Carlson	06/30/2017
John Carpenter	

Membership Expired

Ali & Shylo Bazzaz	07/31/2017
Cal & Diane Black	09/30/2017
Dalin & Karen Christensen	08/31/2017
Robert Cunliffe	07/31/2017
Laurel & Thomas Drysdale	08/31/2017
Matthew & Charisse Harris	08/31/2017
Kay & Judy Hatch	08/31/2017
Craig & Candy Hendrix	07/31/2017
Kent & Dianne Housley	10/31/2017
William & Mary Kapschull	09/30/2017
Kelvin & Mary McKnight	07/31/2017
Cheryl Schaefer	10/31/2017
Shawn Sellers	08/31/2017
Robert Smith	07/31/2017
Kirk Tanner	07/31/2017
Gary Wilcox	07/31/2017



Steve Beckstead	November 2nd
Margie Newson	November 6th
Doyle Sturm	November 15th
Chuck Graham	November 25th
Jim Newson	November 25th
Janet Anderson	November 28th
Amy Christopher	November 29th
Robert Leonard	November 29th
Gaston Cizinski	November 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.

November Luncheon & Games



Come to Eat and Play
at the
November Luncheon
Saturday, November 4, 2017
11:30 a.m.
Harmons (Grocery Store)
125 East 13800 South
Draper, Utah

When you arrive at Harmons (in Draper), go to the deli. Select your lunch from Soups, Salads, Chicken, Pizza, Corn Dogs, prepared Sandwiches, Drinks, etc. Pay for your lunch at the cash register at the bottom of the mezzanine stairs, and then go up to the mezzanine for lunch.

After lunch, we will have our business meeting. Then we will stay and play card games (instead of a drive).

Thanks to Cheryl for reserving the room and Rexanne for the card game idea! It should be fun for all.



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 or something easy, as we have had the past couple of years. A pot luck dessert or treats from members will go along with this; more to follow on exactly what we will have will be forthcoming.

Please plan to attend this meeting and event, as this is when we elect new officers for the 2018 year. If there is anyone 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 Directors of the



Club. We will nominate a new President and Vice President. We assume that Jim and Margie Newson will want to 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.

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 can participate in the planning of it.

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.

Christmas Holiday Party

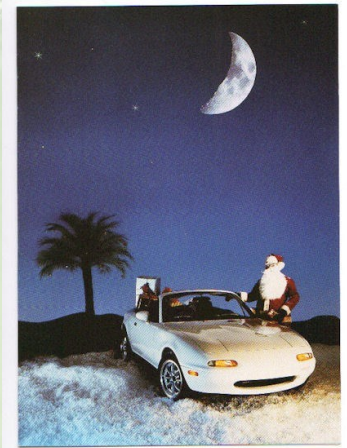
by Mike Bailey

The Utah Miata Club Christmas Holiday Party will be Saturday, December 9, 2017, starts at 5:00 p.m., and will run until about 10:00 pm. The main dish entree will be furnished by the Club.

This year, we will have a new location for the party which will be at the Condo Clubhouse at Ali and Shylo Bazzaz's, the same place as the Halloween Party. You are welcome to wear your favorite Christmas Holiday attire. Please bring a side dish, treat or dessert to accompany the meal. Also, please bring any beverage you wish to have with your meal. The Club will most likely furnish

some bottled water as well. Don't forget to bring a "White Elephant" gift (one per each person attending) for a Gift Exchange, as this is a highlight of the evening each year.

The address is 11239 River Heights Drive, South Jordan, UT, 84095 (just east of Bangerter Highway by the District Shopping Center). Parking on the main road and around by the clubhouse is available. Contact Ali if you get lost or need directions at 801-309-5514.



Be sure to come to one of the very best parties of the year, as we always have lots of fun.



Member Spotlight

Roger and Perly Heath

by Carol Lynn Vredeveld

This month's spotlight couple, Roger and Perly Heath, are brand new to the club as of September. We first met them when they drove up to Morgan to join us for our annual BBQ picnic luncheon in their beautiful 2016 Soul Red Miata. It seems like the new 2016 and 2017 body styles have appealed to a lot of people that have been considering buying a sports car – but just hadn't found the right one yet. I have to admit, I'm in love with the new body style as well.

I'm sure you'll enjoy reading Roger's story below as he tells you a little more about the two of them and how they became Miata owners.



I have a soul red 2016 ND Miata, Grand Touring trim. The car is running Yokohama S.drive tires mounted to black 949 Racing 6UL wheels. The stock muffler has been swapped out



with a Roadster Sport Race muffler, a Garage Vary rear spoiler was mounted on the trunk lid, and extended side skirts were added. I've considered personalized plates but just can't pull the trigger yet – maybe next spring.

This is my first Miata, and I bought it in August of this year,

2017. I was actually at a Chevy dealership looking at trucks and saw the Miata on the lot. It was actually a couple of days later that I thought about buying it, as I had been considering getting another Subaru. Though I've loved Miata's ever since they came out, I was always a truck person. In 2014, my wife and I really considered getting one, but the Outback won out, as I needed something more practical.

I found out about the Club by searching online. Several years ago, I saw three Miata's traveling together at Bryce Canyon and thought that would be cool. So after I bought mine, I looked online to see if there was a club, and my wife and I decided to join. We've been members a whopping month, since September, 2017.

Growing up, I lived in Utah, Missouri and Virginia. After I enlisted in the Air Force, I lived in Merced and Edwards AFB, California; Phoenix, Arizona; Hahn AB, Germany; Misawa, Japan; and Osan AB, Korea, before moving back to Utah.

I am retired from the Air Force – 20 years and 3 weeks. I currently work on Hill AFB in supply chain management. My plan is to retire again as soon as my youngest son graduates from high school, 5 more years.



I met my wife in the Philippines while I was stationed at Misawa AB, Japan. We've been married since February, 1989 – so 28 ½ years. We have 3 boys, Joshua (14), Zachary (13), and Jaime (12). We don't have pets; after our 2 Italian Greyhounds died, we decided no more, since we didn't have time to properly take care of them.

My favorite story since I've been married has to be when I found out my wife was pregnant with Joshua. For the first 13 years of our marriage, she couldn't get pregnant. She finally went to a gynecologist and found out she had endometriosis and subsequently had surgery in 2001. In the summer of 2002,

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while hiking up Pike's Peak, she was still having pain and eventually went to see a different doctor. He was a fertility specialist and thought we came to see him about different procedures; we said no, we came for her pain and told him we were at the point if she got pregnant, fine, but if not, we were fine with that. Anyway, we had planned to hike up Kings Peak in August, 2002, but due to the pain, she didn't go. While I was gone, she felt funny and took a home pregnancy test. On my ride home from Kings Peak, I called, and she said she had something special for me. I thought she bought something at a yard sale, but as soon as I got home, she had two baby bottles wrapped for me. After Joshua was born, Zachary came 10 ½ months later, followed by Jaime, 16 months after Zach.

As a family, we like to hike and camp – or more like RV-ing now. We enjoy going to different National Parks, Bryce Canyon being my favorite. I've backpacked to the bottom of the Grand Canyon three times – 2002 with my youngest brother, 2014 with my son Zachary, and 2015 with my kids, Zachary and Jaime. We've been on several cruises; my favorite was the Alaskan. But we actually prefer taking off in our trailer. Our kids got involved in soccer a few years ago, so now our springs, summers and falls are filled with soccer and tournaments. Our camping trips have been very sparse. Since I've bought the Miata, I'm looking forward to the time my wife and I can take multi-day road trips. Before we joined the Club, one trip I told my wife I want to do is a drive through the Black Hills. Then I see the Club went, and I was just a little bit jealous.

Since I've been a member for only a short time, I really enjoyed the October meeting and lunch, especially the drive through the Uintas.

That was the main reason we joined – road trips with other owners. Unfortunately, our participation in some events will be limited due to the kids and their soccer schedule, but we plan to do as much as we can for now.

One big benefit to owning the Miata – my kids will now go to the store with me to buy milk, but only if I'm taking the Miata!

It sounds like Roger and Perly are ready to take some road trips, and there is nothing we love more as a Club than driving scenic roads to a fun destination and spending time with good friends! They just barely missed our MATTSE trip, which also took us to the Black Hills area that Roger said he would like to drive through. There are always some really great road trips in the works; so hopefully, they can join us on a few of the longer drives in the future. Please be sure to introduce yourself to these two if you haven't already met them and make them feel welcome to our Utah Miata Club family.



October Luncheon & Drive Report

by Mike Bailey



October's luncheon was at Billy Blanco's Mexican Restaurant and Cantina in Park City. We had it there, because it was a good place to meet halfway between Salt Lake Valley, where most of us live, and Mirror Lake Highway, the

destination of our monthly drive to the Uintah Mountains. The day was quite warm and nice enough for "top down" driving. We had great Mexican food at a fun and vibrant place, and I think everyone liked it. The restaurant featured real cars and motorcycles as décor and had an automotive theme. Even the napkins were mechanic's auto rags for authenticity. We had a great turnout of over 35 people.



After lunch, we took a drive up to Kamas and stopped at the Chevron station for a quick bathroom break and to pick up some of their famous Apple Fritters. Steve Beckstead was nice enough to pre-order several dozen of the tasty treats for us to purchase, and they had them reserved for us, as they normally sell out early in the morning. They are huge, and usually one person cannot eat a whole one. The paying line was quite long, so Joe Leverich put out a \$50.00 dollar bill to pay the cashier for the box of them, and he was the last one to get



one! I hope Joe got all his money back from the members who wanted one. Thanks, Joe, for doing that. Just goes to

show you what remarkable people we have in our club, like Joe and his wife, JoAnn.

We then drove up to the Provo River Falls and parked in the parking lot for a quick stop and a short, 2-minute hike down to the falls for a group photo. We only got about half the group in the photo, as folks



were scattered about the area – some chatting in the parking lot and making use of the restrooms there. Lynn and I had to leave for a family reunion in Salt Lake, so Lou guided the group the rest of the way up the road, past Bald Mountain and on to Mirror Lake. I was told this was a lot of fun, and we have some great photos of the event. The fall leaves were spectacular, and the weather was perfect for us all day.



The Mazda Classic Automobile Museum Frey Augsburg, Germany

by Gordy Nicholl



In early August, I was asked if I would like to visit a Mazda Museum in Augsburg Germany. Upon our arrival, we found one of the most wonderful museums in Germany. A local Mazda dealer named Walter Frey has put together an amazing collection of Mazda cars, including several vintage Miatas.

One of the most interesting cars to me was an immaculately restored 1968 Mazda Cosmos. This car was incredible! After a couple of hours, we were informed by the host that a local Miata club would be having their monthly meeting the next day at the museum and that we were welcome to attend. Upon our arrival the next morning, we found several Miatas



parked in the lot and many more arriving. In just a few minutes, 38 Miatas had arrived from Stuttgart, the next city to the west. Walter Frey was there and introduced himself to me. He immediately saw my Utah Miata Club Hat and snatched it right off my head. He said,



"That hat is going into my personal collection." What a wonderful gentleman. Walter and I spent a great deal of time looking



over the collection and talking about the different Miatas. At the end of our discussion, he invited me to his private annual party at his personal residence. He informed me that I could visit his

personal garage and see the 140 cars stored there. Unfortunately, I was not in Augsburg for the party.

Upon my return home I was surprised to see the Summer 2017 issue of the Zoom Zoom Magazine, and right there on the front cover was a picture of the same museum I had just been in. You will see that picture



in one of the photos I am posting. You can go online and read about it in the magazine and also download a copy if you wish.

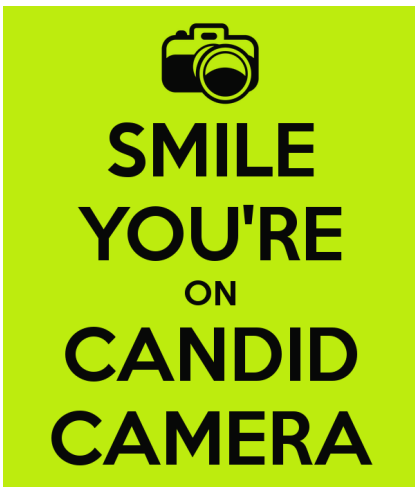
This was a wonderful experience, and I am very pleased to have these incredible memories. Long Live the Roadster!



Candid Camera

by Mike Bailey

This month's Candid Camera photos were taken at last month's luncheon and drive.



www.365greetings.com



2017 Calendar of Events

submitted and updated by Steve Beckstead



- October 28th** Halloween Party (6 to 10 p.m.) - Ali & Shylo's Condo Clubhouse
- November 4th** Monthly Meeting & Luncheon (11:30 a.m.) - Harmon's in Draper
- December 9th** Christmas Holiday Party (5 to 10 p.m.) - Ali and Shylo's Condo Clubhouse (catered)

2018 is here!

- January 6th** Monthly Meeting & Luncheon (11:30 a.m.) - Location TBD
- 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

Just for Fun...

That one friend with a Miata

