



The Convertible Chronicles of the Utah Miata Club



From the Top Down

by Lou Vredeveld, President

Here we go – *Zooming* to the end of 2017. What a busy time of year it is. Seems like the retailers are telling us we need to start Christmas shopping in early October. Christmas trees, displays and sales promotions two months before the holiday season is really kind of annoying. My least favorite words this time of year are: Year End Sale, Black Friday and Cyber Monday! We see people putting up lights and decorations two months early – really! I guess that’s better than the ones that leave them up year round. Anyway, enough of that rant. This, in fact, is one of my favorite times of the year. We get to enjoy time with family and friends, rekindle old friendships and make new ones.

We sure did a lot as a Club this past year, from our monthly

luncheons and drives, to our impromptu short road trips and our planned events, including many fun adventures both national and international. We have certainly offered some unique experiences to our Club members. We made some changes to our UMC Bylaws to keep them up to date, and we also made a small increase to the Club’s dues and acquired a new computer for our newsletter editor. All of these changes were designed to make our Club more member-friendly and remain financially solvent for the future.

We are coming up on our annual Christmas get-together. Mike and Lynn have graciously hosted this event for the past 10 years or more, but they recently decided it was time to “downsize”, sold their home and moved into a new – but slightly smaller – home. Last time we spoke, they were still living out of packing boxes and thought that trying to put 40 plus members in the garage for dinner might not be convenient.

The Christmas Party this year will be on December 9th at Ali & Shylo Bazazz’s Club House at: 11239 South River Heights Drive, South Jordan, Utah, 84095. River Heights Drive is just East of Bangerter Highway on 11400 South. As in previous years, the Club will have two different kinds of meat dishes
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catered. Additional side dishes and desserts will be furnished by the members. Please let Jim Newson know if you are planning on attending, if you haven't done so already; we just want to make sure that we have plenty of food to go around. Also, don't forget your White Elephant gifts (1 per person) for the gift exchange. This has always been one of the highlights of the get-together.

Next up, in January 2018, our monthly luncheon will be on

the 6th at 11:30 a.m. The Election and Planning meeting will be on January the 20th at 5:00 p.m. at Bountiful Mazda. This is an important meeting, and hopefully, you can all attend and help select "YOUR" club officers as well as the events and activities that you would like to see happen this coming year.

As always, please take time to check out our web page at: utahmiataclub.org. There you will find all the information about our Club, including future and past events. I want to thank all the members for helping to make this Club possible and one of the best.



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 Vredevelde

Vice President:
Steve Beckstead

Secretary:
Jim Newson

Treasurer:
Margie Newson

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

Newsletter Editor:
Teri Black

Webmaster:
Doyle Sturm

Zoom-Zoom
MOOS-MOOS



Birthdays & Memberships

Expiring Soon

Joann Jacobsen-Wells	12/31/2017
Joe Leverich	12/31/2017
Dale Rim	12/31/2017

Membership Expired

Cal & Diane Black	09/30/2017
Dalin Christensen	08/31/2017
Laurel & Thomas Drysdale	08/31/2017
Matthew & Charisse Harris	08/31/2017
Kay & Judy Hatch	08/31/2017
William & Mary Kapschull	09/30/2017
Leonard & Shawna Millgate	11/31/2017
Shawn Sellers	08/31/2017

Removed From Roster

Robert Cunliffe	07/31/2017
Craig & Candy Hendrix	07/31/2017
Kelvin & Mary McKnight	07/31/2017
Robert Smith	07/31/2017
Kirk Tanner	07/31/2017
Gary Wilcox	07/31/2017



Kathy Nielsen	December 2nd
Waylon Goebel	December 5th
Mike Bailey	December 6th
Cal Black	December 6th
Dorothy Bowers	December 6th
Hillary Vredevelde	December 7th
Ali Bazzaz	December 11th
Robert Mechling	December 12th
Gordon Nicholl	December 15th
Richard Dyson	December 17th
Debbie Moon	December 19th
Kathy Kankainen	December 27th
Dave Encheff	December 28th
Rick Kiser	December 29th
Danette Davis	December 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.

Christmas Holiday Party

by Mike Bailey

The Utah Miata Club Christmas Holiday Party will be on Saturday, December 9, 2017, and runs from 5:00 p.m. until about 10:00 pm. The main dish entree for the food 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 (Christmas sweater, pajamas, hat, socks, etc.) 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. ***If you have not made your reservation for the party yet, please contact Jim or***

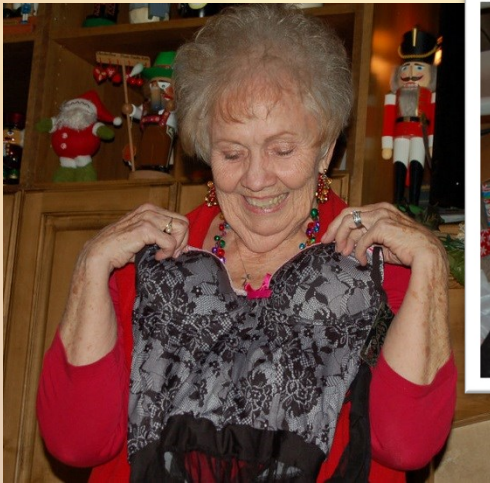


Margie Newson, as they will need a head count to prepare in advance for the meal. Phone 801-295-4563 or e-mail inoose@icloud.com. **Don't forget to bring a "White Elephant" gift (one per each person attending) for a Gift Exchange, as this is a highlight of the evening each year.**

The address is 11239 River Heights Drive, South Jordan, UT, 84095 (just east of Bangerter Highway by the District Shopping Center). Parking on main road and around and 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.



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 wonder-



ful 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.



Member Spotlight

Bob & Gale Klinshaw

by Carol Lynn Vredevelde

Our Spotlight couple for December is Bob and Gale Klinshaw. We had the pleasure of getting to know these two on our great MATTSE trip to see the eclipse. I had approached them about doing the Spotlight article on this trip. I hadn't heard back from them in a while ... and found out the reason why from Bob last month. He is a member of the Red Cross and had been busy helping with disaster relief in Houston, as well as Florida, after the terrible damage caused by the hurricanes. I was so humbled and grateful to know there are so many selfless people like Bob and Gale that are willing to help in times of crisis ... so please accept our personal "Thanks" for your efforts. Our son, Landon, lives in Tomball near Houston. Luckily, they were in the 25% of people in their area that didn't have their homes flooded, but their power was out for days – and all the stores, of course, were closed.

We're always excited to expand our membership, and it's great to know that even our out-of-state friends value the Utah Miata Club enough to become members. I know you will enjoy getting to know the Klinshaw's through Bob's own words below.

Our current Miata is a 2013 Bright Metallic Black, GT RTHT. We do have personalized plates, which are a special Watkins Glen edition NASCAR plate with the number IB2MX5 – referring to the philosophy of being (I exist to MX5). Both Gale and I minored in philosophy in college.

We had planned on getting a roadster, so the great reliability and social aspects of the Miata drew us like a magnet. We first bought a Miata in 2010. Loving the west, one of our first western events was Miata's at Bryce Canyon. There we met and bonded with Jackie and Gordy Nicholl. We instantly became friends for life, so they recruited us – and we have been in the Club ever since.

Gale and I both grew up in the Buffalo, NY, area – yes, in the Lake Erie snow belts. Our summers were short, and shoveling seasons were long. After our marriage in 1976 (Niagara University Chapel, where we both went to university), we

moved to Niagara Falls, NY. When I was appointed to the Niagara County Sheriff's Department, we moved to Lockport, NY



– a small town on the Erie Canal. Here we have stayed ever since 1978. We have raised 4 kids in our little town. Rob and Jon now live in Denver, and Abby is in Webster, NY – a town



in the Lake Ontario Snow Belt. (Abby and Gary have two of our grandkids – Addison, 9, and Carter, 6.) Our younger daughter, Amanda, lives here in town (Lockport). She and Rob

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have a daughter (Isabella) and are expecting RJ (Robert Jonathan) very soon.

I graduated with a business degree in Accounting. Gale graduated with a BSN (Nursing Degree). Later, Gale – after many years of working as a Visiting Nurse – decided to return for her masters in nursing education. She now works at Erie Community College in downtown Buffalo as a Nursing Professor.

Gale and I first met at a small local restaurant; she would give me free French fries... We first went out in February of 1976 and were married in September. We have been married for 41+ years – the best of my life.

We have very much lived by the motto, “Not all that wander are lost” (J.R.R Tolkien). We had a pop-up camper and a minivan that carried the six of us and our two dogs to 38 states while the kids were growing up. Now, the travels take place in our Miata in the summer and our SUV in the winter. We also have a place in Clearwater, FL. It is very much our second home.

Some other things we enjoy are wood working, Ham Radio, “grandpa-ing”, bicycles and Red Cross Disaster Services for me. Gale’s things are quilting, baking, bicycling and “grandma-ing”. Of course, we both enjoy travel and Miata road trips.

We are members of several Clubs and enjoy any event with the Niagara Miata Club, Niagara Peninsula Miata Club (our Canadian Club just west of us – yes, we are members) and

especially when we can make a Utah Miata Club event.

We have enjoyed our adventures with the Utah Miata Club members, and we really miss all of you and hope that if you come to western NY, you will allow us to share a day or two showing you around.



I know we won't be seeing Bob and Gale at our monthly meetings – it's a bit of a trek to get to here from NY – but we will certainly look forward to seeing them on one of our destination adventures in 2018! Thanks, Jackie and Gordy, for welcoming them into our Utah Miata Club. Who knows ... maybe we'll show up on their doorstep in the near future!



Halloween Party Report

by Mike Bailey

The Club Halloween Party was a good one again this year. It was held at Ali and Shylo's Condo Clubhouse. We had a pot luck dinner with an array of different items, including chips,

dips, meatballs and other dishes. We had a pretty good turnout with about 25 members. Most all were dressed up in some very creative costumes. The food was excellent, and those attending had a good time. We want to thank Ali and Shylo for hosting this event again this year and for everyone who brought such good food to enjoy. Enjoy these photos of the party.



Candid Camera

by Mike Bailey

This month's photos highlight some of the events we have enjoyed as a Club this year. These include the Club Car Rally, in which Joe and JoAnn Leverich won the coveted "Red Lobster" award for taking last place in the competition. They have

a reason why they were last place, so just ask them about it! Hank and Rexann Pond also won an award for high place results for the Rally. Also, April included our drive out to Antelope Island, which was a lot of fun. Just check out Steve Beckstead as a cowboy roper and the Dyson's being themselves. In July, we had a great luncheon and fun drive (photos of Susan and JoAnn). In August, we did the Solar Eclipse of the sun, which was a great week long trip. Robert Mechling, Gordy and Mike got new Club jackets at the first of the year. They are the new Three Amigos!




2017 Calendar of Events


submitted and updated by Steve Beckstead

- December 9th** **Christmas Holiday Party (5 to 10 p.m.) - Ali and Shylo's Condo Clubhouse (catered)**
- 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**

Utah Club



Vanity Plates

by Mike Bailey

Most of the Utah Miata Club members have personalized vanity plates on their Miata. I would guess at least 85% of our

members do. The plate name usually is a favorite saying or thing about their car or something catchy for them to personalize their Miata. Personalized plates are a lot of fun. Most of the Miata clubs in the country sport personalized vanity plates on their cars. It is just something that Miata people do! See if you can match the plate on this page with the Utah member and owner. Some are plates of Utah members that are not in the club currently, but have since moved away and still have their Miatas. How many can you match up to their owners?



Just for fun...



THE VIEW OF THAT MORNING DOUBLE SHOT LATTE THAT ONLY A MIATA DRIVER COULD UNDERSTAND...

We do not remember days, we remember moments.