



The Convertible Chronicles of the Utah Miata Club



Inside This Issue

- The Journey is the Destination..... Page 1
- December Party Info. .Page 2
- Birthdays & Member-ships Page 3
- Christmas in Color Info Page 4
- Member Spotlight . . . Page 5
- Moab Recon Trip . . . Page 8
- Miataland 2020.Page 10
- Evolution of the Miata Page 11
- Calendar of Events . Page 12
- Candid Camera Page 13

The Journey is the Destination

By: Mark Vaughn, President

Thanksgiving has now past us by and Christmas is upon us. To all the club members I wish you a Merry Christmas and Happy New year, may your holidays be joyful and blessed. Susan and I hope to see all of you at the club Christmas dinner on the evening of Saturday, December the 8th at the Benvegnu Center at the Saint Vincent de Paul Church and School, 1438 East 4915 South. If have not RSVP'd please contact Susan Vaughn (801-641-7213) or (susanevaughn@comcast.net). Please RSVP by December 1st!

This has been a good year of journeys of destinations, as club members have traveled to Canada, California, Texas, and the places in between. To all our travel companions, the journeys were fantastic with great adventures and memories.

With winter almost upon us, now is a good time to think about those things that need to be done to get the MX-5 MIATA ready for next year's journeys and adventures.

Just before Thanksgiving we made a journey to Moab to look for a host hotel for MIATAs in Moab 6. I would like to thank Lou and Carol Lynn Vredeveld, Steve and Ronda Beckstead, Mike and Lynn Bailey, and Gordy Nichols for joining Susan and I in Moab.

(continued on page2)

(continued from page 1)

The weather was cool but we did get in some top down time. We met with several organizations to understand our options and the potential of new facilities being built. We set the date for Moab 6 for Thursday, April 30 through Sunday, May 3rd of 2020. We are presently working with a host hotel to finalize contracts. When we have a signed contract we will provide more information. Club members will have a period of time to register for the event prior to the information being released to the general public.

As always, whether it is rain or shine, daylight or dark, top up or down, in a Miata MX-5 the journey is the destination.



December Holiday Social Information

Date & Time: Saturday, December 8, 2018
6:30 pm

Location: Benvegne Center
1438 East 4915 South, Holliday

Dinner will be provided by the club, but remember to please bring a "white elephant" gift and a dessert to share.



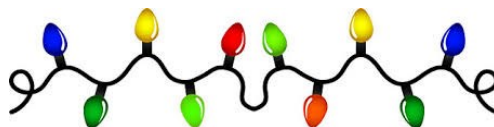
December Holiday Social

This year the Utah Miata Club will be visiting a new venue for the Christmas Social. We are going to the Benvegne Center at St Vincent de Paul Catholic Church. **The party will be Saturday December 8th, starting at 6:30 p.m.**

The Benvegne Center address 1438 East 4915 South, Holliday, and is just off 1300 East and just 2 blocks north of Van Winkle Parkway. Going north on 1300 East the second right is Kings Row. Turn right heading east. The parking lot is the first right on Kings Row. There will be plenty of parking for everyone.

The dinner will be provided by the club. Cheryl Schaefer will coordinate and prepare the dinner. You may bring a dessert to share. As always we will have our "white elephant" gift exchange. So, if you would like to take part in this exceptional exchange, don't forget your gift.

Please RSVP to Susan Vaughn by phone or text to 801-641-7213. We need this information by December 1st.



Birthdays & Memberships

New Members

NAME	YEAR	COLOR
JON & VICKIE DAY	2019	RED
ROBERT FRANSSSEN	2018	MACHINE GRAY

Expiring Soon

DAVE & BRENDA ENCHEFF	12/31/2018
JOANN JACOBSON - WELLS	12/31/2018
JOE LEVERICH	12/31/2018
DARWIN & LORI STEED	12/31/2018

Membership Expired

JOHN & CINDY COX	9/30/2018
JOSEPH & JENNIFER EAMES	7/31/2018
WAYLON & VALERIE GOEBEL	9/30/2018
RICHARD & CHARLENE GREGOR	9/30/2018
ROGER & PERLY HEATH	9/30/2018
WAYNE & SUZANE HERGET	9/30/2018
KENT & DIANE HOUSLEY	10/31/2018
MARK & SHAWNA MIDGLEY	9/30/2018
WILLIAM PAYNE	8/31/2018
JARED & KRISTI SMITH	7/31/2018
JAMES & HILLARY VREDEVELD	11/31/18

Removed From Roster

CHUCK & DIANE GRAHAM	6/30/2018
----------------------	-----------



KATHY NIELSEN	2 Dec
WAYLON GOEBEL	5 Dec
MIKE BAILEY	6 Dec
DOROTHY BOWERS	6 Dec
HILLARY VREDEVELD	7 Dec
PAUL ASHCRAFT	8 Dec
WOODY COLLETTE	8 Dec
ALI BAZZAZ	11 Dec
ROBERT MECHLING	12 Dec
JAMES BULLOUGH	15 Dec
GORDON NICHOLL	15 Dec
RICHARD DYSON	17DEC
DEB MOON	19 Dec
RONALD WARRINER	26 Dec
KATHY KANKAINEN	27 Dec
DAVE ENCHEFF	28 Dec
RICK KISER	29 Dec
DANETTE DAVIS	30 Dec

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 in Color Event

Last call to get your tickets for December 13th, at the 7pm time slot (or 7:30 if 7:00 is sold out) . **For those attending, let's meet at the Astro Burger parking lot at 10446 South Redwood Road. If you want to join us for a burger, be there at 6:00 pm or just arrive at 6:30 if you want to go as a group to the drive through, which is only a few minutes away. Address of Christmas in Color is Salt Lake Equestrian Park, 11161 S 2200 W, South Jordan, UT. Tickets available at www.christmasincolor.net**



Member Spotlight By Carol Lynn Vredelveld

Lou & Carol Lynn Vredelveld

This was a tough month to corner someone for the spotlight article...seems like November and December are really busy for most of us. In view of this I decided to last minute to throw Lou & me into the spotlight this month. We have loved being a part of the Utah Miata Club and making so many good friends, new and old since we joined the club in 2006.

Our Miata story began with our friendship with the Dysons. Judy and I had worked together for many years at NAC (Newspaper Agency). Since she was more like my sister than just my friend we spent lots of time together outside of work as well. Dick retired before Judy and decided to buy a beautiful little Crystal Blue Miata that he would pick her up from work in on many occasions. Lou and I had invited them to get together one weekend and the Dyson's turned us down because they were going on a Miata drive. I jokingly told Lou, "You know...if we had a Miata we could go on the drive with them".



Apparently that got Lou thinking because shortly after that he was working on his computer and told me to come over and look at something. He asked me how I liked the 1999 Classic Red Miata he had up on the monitor. I told him I thought it was really cute! Lou said, "That's good because it's yours"! He bought it off Ebay and that's how it all began. We now own three other Miata's after selling our Classic Red to our son James.

The one we drive the most is our 2006 Galaxy Gray Touring Edition that, long story short, my son Nick, the GM of a used car business picked up for us in Las Vegas at an auction. We originally saw the car at Dahles in Murray. We wanted something a little newer to take on longer trips and I fell in love with this one.



The price was a little higher than we planned on spending so Lou made them an offer via email to see if we could get the price down a little, but never heard back from the dealership. We had asked Nick to look it up and give us his opinion on the Miata, but it had disappeared from the lot. While Nick was at a car auction in Las Vegas, he called us and told us he thought he had found our Miata and asked if he should pick it up for us. We couldn't believe it..we got it for less than we had offered... and Nick and Steve, his boss, had it shinned up like it was brand new when we went to pick it at their lot.

(continued on page 6)

(continued from page 5)

We also have a Classic Black 1993 LE that Lou picked up again from Ebay when he was showing me how to bid on items online purely by chance. He'd been watching people bid furiously on a 1993, Limited Edition Black Miata with a red leather interior. He placed a bid only \$5 above the last bid, assuming it would instantly be bid above. We left on vacation and when we got home a few days later... guess who won the bid! Unfortunately, the car was in New York. Lou contacted the owner and since neither party was in a hurry Lou was able to get a courier service to bring the car out when they were in the area to pick it up.



Last, but not least, Dave and Anna Porter our good friends in the club were moving to Arizona and wanted to sell their beautiful little Sapphire Blue 1999 10 AE Miata because they had four other Miata's at the time and couldn't take them all with them. I swore I would never sell the Classic Red, but told Lou I would if we bought the Blue Miata. Talk about "Miata Lovers"! Yes, we got a little carried away, but we sold the red '99 to our son James and his wife Hillary so it went to some one that loved it as much as I did. James and Hillary are now members of the club and actually bought a beautiful new Crystal White Pearl Mica 2016 Grand Touring Miata last year right before we went on our "Solar

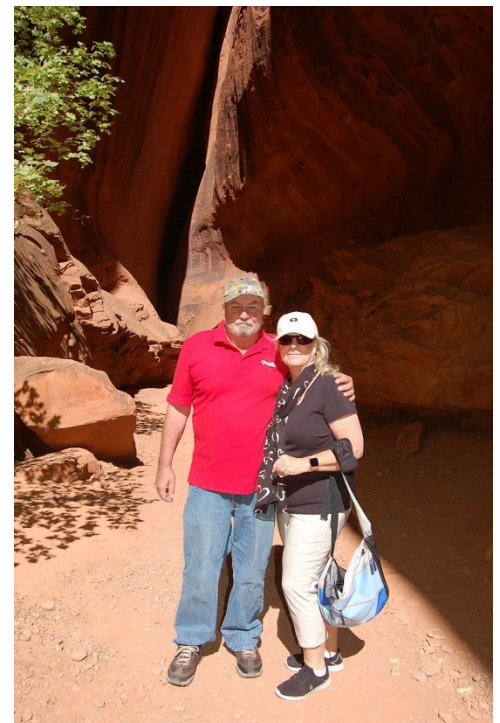
Eclipse" trip in August of 2017. It's really been fun to have them in the club!

Lou was born in Holland, coming to America at the age of 3 with his family by boat. He has lived here ever since. I'm a Native Utahan and have only lived out of the state for a few months when my father took a job in New York after retiring from Hill Air Force Base after 28 years.

We both graduated from South High School a year apart. Lou also received a degree in Automotive Mechanics from Salt Lake Community College, but ended up working in the housing industry building modular homes instead. After a few years he moved into the equipment maintenance management position of Utah Components that was later bought out by US Homes. He worked there for 15 years spending the last 2 years designing large facilities for the housing industry. He spent the last 25 years as Manager of the HESCO Equipment Maintenance Division of HOJ Engineering that specialized in Crane and Heavy Duty Equipment sales and maintenance until retiring in April of 2016.

After graduating from high school and living in NY for a while I worked in the retail sales industry until I got married. As we were raising our family I worked in personnel placement for ACME and Alta View Personnel for several years before going to work for the Newspaper Agency Corporation/ Media One News as an Account Executive. Because of my personnel and sales experience, I was offered a job in the classified employment division starting up a new department promoting new business development and publishing "Recruitment Special Editions" three times a year to bring in new revenue. I retired from there after 18 years and went to work part time for Utah Press so I could help with the care of my little 90 year old Mom. I was there for 6 years until industry downsizing eliminated my job.

(continued on page 7)



(continued from page 6)

Lou and I met in junior high and dated all through high school. He was the reason I came back from New York after just a few months...I already knew he was the guy I wanted to spend the rest of my life with and the rest is history! We were married a year later and we not only raised 4 beautiful children, 3 boys and a girl, but we now have 8 grandkids and 2 great-grandkids as well. We love spending time with our family!



We used to do a lot of camping and fishing when the kids were growing up. We owned a tent trailer, trailer, a couple of fifth wheels and a small boat over the years. We also enjoy cruising and have been on several with our kids, family and friends. Our son James and his wife Hillary actually got married in Ocho Rios, Jamaica on one of our cruises! We have also enjoyed San Diego, Disneyland and Universal Studios in California over the years. We bought a little A frame cabin and a couple of acres about 5 years ago in Fairview, UT. It needed some TLC so we have been working on it with the help of the kids and we all enjoy spending time there! It's close enough that the kids can use it on the weekends.

The kids are also happy to see us having so much fun with the Miata Club members. We have been on so many amazing trips over the years it would take forever to name them all. We have seen countryside's, National Parks, lakes, rivers and oceans in the Miata that take your breath away. One of our favorite trips if we had to name one was the Viking Cruise to Europe. We actually went to Holland and took a train to Almelo, the city that Lou was born in. It made it extra special because our oldest son Landon and Elisa his wife came with us on the Cruise to celebrate their 25th Anniversary.

Lou took his turn as President of the Miata Club in 2017 and has been a V.P. as well as a director a couple of times. He has really enjoyed planning some fun Miata trips for the club over the years with Steve, Mike and so many others that offered their assistance. I have really enjoyed putting together the spotlight articles since 2012. It has been a fun way to get to know more about our club members and how they came to enjoy these great little sports cars.

We sincerely love this club and its members and cherish the special friendships that we have made because of our involvement. It has certainly changed our lives for the better...a special "THANKS" to all of you for the wonderful times we've shared with the Utah Miata Club members!



Moab ReCon Trip

by Mike Bailey

Those that went on the November ReCon trip to Moab had a pretty good time. The weather was nice, which made up for the rainy and bad 'no-top-down' days on the Texas trip we went on a couple weeks previous to this trip. We actually had top down both days we were in Moab.!

Mark and Susan set up this trip to go down and speak with some of the venues. We hoped we could work out a deal on securing a venue for our Miatas in Moab VI event for May 2020.



On the first day we met with the HooDoo Hotel people that are building a brand new hotel next year in Moab, which will be a 4 Star quality place. They are also affiliated with the fairly new Hyatt Hotel downtown, among others. A meeting took place with the Hospitality Management Service director. She showed us some amazing mock-ups and photos of what it would look like. After quite a bit of discussion we knew the hotel rates for this hotel would be very high as it is very up-scale. After pressuring her for some costs she indicated our group rate would be at least \$300.00 per night, and a menu for our banquet would be in the \$80.00 or more range per plate. We also couldn't get an exact date of when we could start booking rooms, etc. We knew immediately this was too much for our group to pay. We left a little discouraged at that, figuring it would not be cheap if we went with them.

Moving on we had lunch at a nice burger place across from their office and then decided to take a drive. That day we took a top-down drive up Potash Road on the west side of Moab, one of our favorite short drives. Later after the meeting we went on to Wilson Arch just past the LaSalle Mountains turn-off south of Moab on Hwy 191. We just got there around sunset and the sun was beautifully reflecting off the sandstone arch.



(continued on page 9)

(continued from page 8)

We then headed back to Canyonlands Inn where we stayed the night, and having dinner at Pasta Jays. We sat on the outdoor area which was covered by big canvas tarps and heaters above. It was real hot in there so we covered our heads with the menus and took some goofy photos of ourselves.



The next day we went to up scenic Hwy 128 traveling the 14 miles to Red Cliffs Lodge. This was our next meeting that the Vaughn's had scheduled for us. We met with Judy Bane, the manager. I knew Judy from working with her on previous Miata and Harley (HOG) events. We had a great discussion with her which went very well. We worked out some good pricing on rooms, the banquet dinner, and other things, and set a date of April 30-May 3, 2020 for the event. This date was the best date they had on theirs (and our) calendar. Preparations were made to put together a contract that we would sign. Nothing is in stone yet until the contract agreement is signed but so far it looks good. We will have a meeting soon with the Moab Committee members and discuss all this and come to an agreement. After our meeting we headed up to Arches National Park to drive through and enjoy the rest of the day. The Vaughn's then headed back to town to do some more work they had planned to do. It was a nice couple days that we enjoyed and we feel we accomplished a lot. Thanks to Mark and Susan for putting this all together and making all the arrangements!



Miataland Italy 2020 By: Mike Bailey

As the word is starting to get out, we have had several people book their cabin on the Viking Ocean Cruise. The cruise and land tour trip to Miataland, Italy will certainly be a lot of fun, let alone driving a Miata in the mountain hills of Italy! This will certainly be a "Bucket List" item for many Miata people. After all, how often do you get to drive a Miata in Italy! Not only are there fantastic sights to see in Venice and Rome, but the **8-Day Italian Sojourn Viking Ocean Cruise** has many exciting ports of call that it will be a 'must-do' trip for travel and Miata enthusiasts. (Note; balloon on map-Miataland)



With Viking Cruises there is a **FREE** paid Shore Excursion included at each port of call. We have found that with the Viking River Cruise that it is a good value for your dollars spent as they include everything including all beverages and food. Karen, our club member and travel agent, will be providing us with more information soon on all the details and pricing on the land tours and Miataland costs. Already the V1 (Veranda) cabins have been sold out. Rooms will sell out quickly so you will need to book soon according to the Viking representative. We now have a "live" **Facebook Page** specifically for the cruise. Anyone interested can join this closed group by going on the FB page and asking to join or contact Donn Cichocki or myself. This is a link to the Facebook page and Miataland information:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/229126764449239/> **Date of this cruise is August 29, 2020.**



Karen Christiansen is our Morris Murdock Travel agent who will book your cruise and Miataland experience. Contact her by email or phone: **801-491-6917** or **email: kchristiansen@morrisurdock.com**. She also has a Flyer prepared that we are happy to send to anyone on some of the details. Watch for our new UMC Miataland website page on this as well that Doyle, our UMC Club Webmaster will be working on. For club members that went on the Viking River Cruise we will be getting a 'past cruiser' discount plus early bookings may receive a \$100.00 discount. Only a \$500.00 deposit per person is required to reserve your spot. It will also include 3-4

days at Miataland and we can drive the owners Miatas on Italian Country roads on organized drives. We will have Miataland land tours both before and after the cruise. You can also book pre and post hotel or travel packages with Karen. Be sure to check it out for **"The Trip of a Lifetime"**.



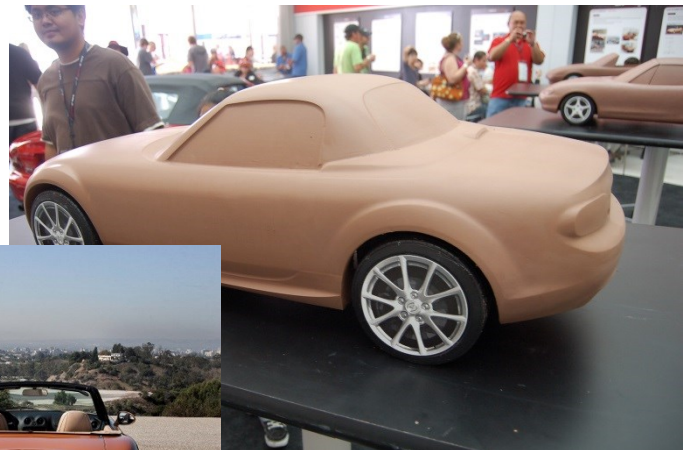
Evolution of the Miata By: Mike Bailey

Since the creation of the Miata in 1989 the MX-5 Miata has gone through various changes along the way. Tom Matano was the chief designer of the Miata along with several others on his team. The *First Generation*, also known as the "NA" was produced in 1990 through 1997. This version had pop-up headlights and had a plastic rear window. It was a true "Ragtop". It also had an optional hard top which was available for an extra charge. No model was produced in 1998.



Following that the *Second Generation*, "NB" was produced from 1999-2005 of which a MazdaSpeed version came out in 2004-2005. This generation had a soft top but with a glass rear window. The *Third Generation*, "NC", years 2006-2015, saw many other advances and changes to the body style and included a PRHT or power retractable hard top which attracted many enthusiasts to purchase because of the convenience of the simple 'push-button' to raise and lower the top. In 2016 to the present includes the *Fourth Generation*, "ND" Miata with more changes and advances and Sky-Active technology.

Mazda has a collection at it's North American Operations plant in southern California of all the varieties that Mazda developed during the early years. Many prototypes and one-off versions were created and remain in their collection. Photo at bottom is the 1 Millionth Miata (red one) and half-Millionth Miata produced (gold one).



(continued on page 12)

(continued from page 11)

The 25th Anniversary Edition was displayed in 2014 at the New York Auto Exposition and club members Donn and Janet Cichocki was in attendance at that event. Our club sponsor, Mike MacDonald of Bountiful Mazda has one in his collection that has hardly any miles on it. The Miata has truly remained the most popular sports car in America since it's beginning. Note below: MNAO Collection of Miatas.



Miata Spider (right)



2018 Calendar of Events
by Steve Beckstead



December 8th: Christmas Party with Utah Miata Club (Benvegne Center at St Vincent de Paul Catholic Church) - Susan Vaughn

December 13th: "Christmas In Color" drive through Christmas light show, 11161 S 2200 W, South Jordan - Steve Beckstead

2019 Calendar coming soon

January 5th: Monthly lunch and meeting (Location TBD - Date Tentative) – Mark Vaughn

January 19th: Planning and Election Meeting - BE THINKING! (Date Tentative) – Mark Vaughn



Candid Camera

by Mike Bailey

Guess where these photos were taken?

