



## The Convertible Chronicles of the Utah Miata Club



### From the Top Down

by Mike Thompson

Our state of Utah is fantastic, with a variety of experiences that is tough to match. I am not going to say that Utah is the best, though I think it is. I will leave you to your own rankings.

I was in 6<sup>th</sup> grade (1966) when the papers reported the arrival of "Mr. Million," the first time the population topped 1,000,000. By the time I graduated university and Kelly and I moved out of state, to pursue a career, the population had grown to 1.5M. That's 50% growth and 500,000 people in just 15 years. Since 1981 we have added the entire population of the state a second time, plus another half a million people. That adds up to the latest (2024) population estimate for Utah at 3.5M, growth of 2.0M citizens (+233%). From 2023 to 2024 Utah was the 4<sup>th</sup> fastest growing state in percentage terms. The numbers show why many of us look around and (at least sometimes) lament that things have changed so much since our youth. The changes have come about because all those people must live somewhere.



You will have your own ideas about why Utah attracts such growth. The jobs situation is great. It's an upward spiral where the economy brings people, who then drive increased economic activity. Education is valued and opportunities are abundant, as shown by Utah leading the country with the highest percentage of the population (6.8%) enrolled in college. Until Covid messed up so many things, the cost of maintaining a nice standard of living in Utah was quite favorable, especially compared to the west coast urban centers.

With respect to outdoor activities, what can I say... When I was an undergraduate I personally knew many students who chose the U or the Y specifically because the skiing was fabulous and close-by. I am led to think about the places we travel and the sights we see when zooming around in our Miatas. We have months that are not suitable for top-down driving. But when the time is right we can be on beautiful, twisting canyon roads within minutes of the Salt Lake Valley. Think about the overnight drives that are on the club's calendar. After Memorial Day we will enjoy the red-rock deserts of southeast Utah. In July it's the forested mountains of Idaho and Montana. (Okay, not Utah. But kindred country.) In late September we will have the chance to enjoy Bryce Canyon National Park, Kodachrome Basin or Cedar Breaks National Monument. Such beauty. Such fun! Looking forward to a great year! Mike

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### March Luncheon & Drive

by Michael Thompson

**When: Saturday 08 March 2025**

**10:00AM** Brunch-Bufferet / Club Meeting

**Where: Golden Corral Buffet Restaurant**

1624 Heritage Park Blvd

Layton UT 84041 801-775-9535



### Activity: Hill Aerospace Museum at Hill Air Force Base Ogden, Utah 84056:

After we eat and conduct our business we will take the quick jaunt north on I -15 to the Hill Aerospace Museum (7961 Cottonwood Street, Building 1955, Hill AFB, 84056).

More than 90 aircraft, missiles and aerospace vehicles are on display.

Admission is free. Additional aeronautical experiences may be purchased inside. The all-new L.S. Skaggs gallery opened last year. Even if you have been to the museum before, there will be much that is new.



### 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
RYAN & EMMA RICHMAN	2025	SNOWFLAKE WHITE

### Expiring Soon: \$35 Dual -\$25 Single /Renew Now

NAME	EXPIRING SOON
JIM & MARILYN BICKLEY	31 Mar 25
DOUGLAS KLUENDER	31 Mar 25
ROBERT & SHARON MECHLING	31 Mar 25
BOB & KIM RICHARDS	31MAR 25

### Memberships Expired / Please Renew Now

NAME	EXPIRED
JORDON BIGELOW	2/28/2025
RICK & DANETTE DAVIS	2/28/2025
ERIC & KATHY KANKAINAN	1/31/2025
RICHARD LANE	2/28/2025
CHRIS & LINDA LEWIS	2/28/2025
PHILLIP & NICOLE LIFSEY	2/28/2025
STEVE & KATHY NIELSEN	2/28/2025
RICHARD PLUMB	1/31/2025



NAME	DATE
PATTY CHASE	3 Mar
ROGER NEWTON	3 Mar
DAVE PORTER	3 Mar
ERIC KANKAINEN	11 Mar
NICOLE LIFSEY	12 Mar
DAVID ORTIZ	15 Mar
ROBERT KLINSHAW	22 Mar



### Removed From Roster

NAME	EXPIRED
FREDERICK ECKSTEIN	

### 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

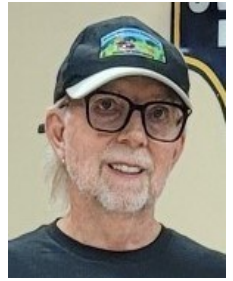


# April Drive & Luncheon by Robert Olsen

**When: Saturday, April 12, 2025 Time: 9:15 AM.**

**Where: Wheeler Farm** 6351 South 900 East, Murray, Utah 84107

**Destination: Maddox Ranch House Family Restaurant** in Perry, Utah 84032  
1900 South Hwy. 89. Exit 362 off I-15 North.



This month we will do a reverse to our regular schedule and meet in Salt Lake Valley in Murray as a group and then drive to Perry, Utah south of Brigham City for lunch at the Maddox Ranch House Family Restaurant.



We will all meet at Wheeler Farm. Please get there on time as we will leave for a drive at 9:30 a.m. to our destination in Brigham City, Utah which will be Maddox Family Restaurant. The drive will end at Maddox. We should arrive approximately 11:30-12:00. We'll go into restaurant for lunch and have our monthly meeting probably after we order our meals. After lunch you are welcome to find your own route home or explore other places up there like Sardine Canyon, Mantua, etc.



# Roadtrippin' After Memorial Day 2025 – by Roger Heath

**When: Friday, May 30, 2025—Sunday, June 1, 2025**

Two night, 3 day roadtrip after Memorial Day weekend, May 30th - June 1st, 2025, traveling through the red rock area in southeastern Utah. After meeting up at the Harmon's Bangerter Crossing store in Draper we'll head out on Hwy 6 to Price, Utah. From Price we'll turn south on Hwy 10 until we reach I-70. We'll drive under the freeway and join Hwy 72 into Loa, finally stopping in Torrey for the night.



Day 2 we head to Hanksville and through Hite then up to Blanding, Moab before stopping in Green River for the night. Day 3: Coming home on Sunday 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.



**May 30th:** Meet at the Harmon's Bangerter Crossing store, 125 13800 S, Draper, at 9:00 AM and travel to Torrey. (220 miles)

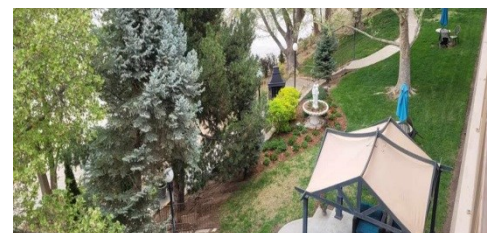
**May 31st:** Drive from Torrey to Green River (298 Miles). **June 1st:** Drive home after breakfast. Maybe over to Huntington or Farview Canyons or alternate routes around the area.

**Suggested Hotels:** Please Book Rooms NOW for this trip as rooms fill up quickly!

**May 30<sup>th</sup> Torrey - Broken Spur Inn and Steakhouse, <https://brokenspurinn.com>**



**May 31<sup>st</sup> Green River - River Terrace Inn, <https://river-terrace.com>**



**Editor's Note:** We always have tons of *FUN* on our overnighiter trips like this! Check out photos of the roads we drive and scenery we drive past. Lunches and dinners are fun with our group! Book your rooms NOW for best selection. Roger has planned three overnighiter featured in this newsletter with all the details.



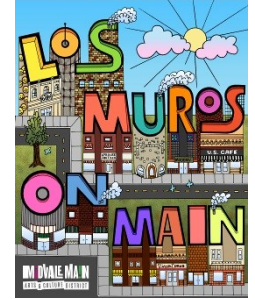
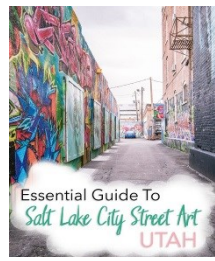
# 2025 Utah Miata Club Challenge

by Mike Bailey

Start now to plan the places you'd like to visit in this great state of ours this year and participate in the 2025 Utah Miata Club Challenge. There are lots of places throughout the entire state to travel to. Make it a day trip or take several days to do this. It will be lots of FUN! 😊 [Read details on information below!](#)



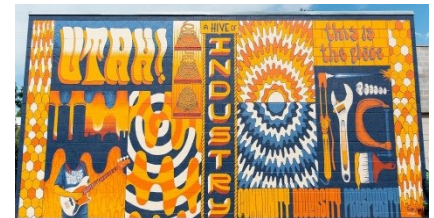
You can travel all over our beautiful state and find some amazing art work painted on buildings or statues or objects with custom designed art work painted on them! **This year's challenge will be to see whom in the club can visit and take photos of some amazing artwork around the state.** This will 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. 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-about 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! This challenge will be fun just like the last Ghost's & Legends one!



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 (see items below). Start scoping out places to visit and be sure to take your camera along. Utah has many scenic sites to photograph! I'm hoping that many UMC members will join in this year's Challenge and have some fun finding places all over Utah that has some awesome displays of "Street Art". This art is Everywhere!



Miata Drinkware Gifts Possible



# Idaho Summer '25 Trip by Roger Heath

## July 9th—July 13th 2025

A 4 night / 5 day midsummer cruise through central Idaho's National Forests. Taking a clockwise route we'll stop in Challis, McCall, Missoula and Idaho Falls. Daily drives are 300 miles or less so we should have time to sightsee or wander around the towns we're staying in. On Saturday, July 12<sup>th</sup>, those that wish can take a detour out to visit Big Hole National Battlefield on the way to Idaho Falls.



### The Particulars:

July 9th - 9:00 AM, meet at Beez Cafe in Roy, 5410 S 1900 W, Roy, UT. Drive to Challis 293 miles

July 10th - 9:00 AM, drive from Challis to McCall 213 miles

July 11th - 9:00 AM, drive from McCall to Missoula 263 miles

July 12th - 9:00 AM, drive from Missoula to Idaho Falls 300 miles

July 13th - Leave at your leisure as this is the day to drive home



### Suggested Lodging:

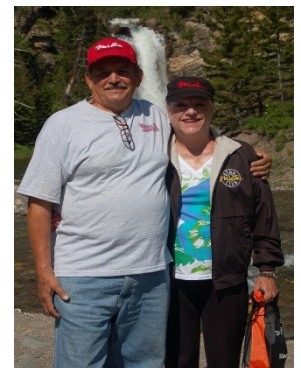
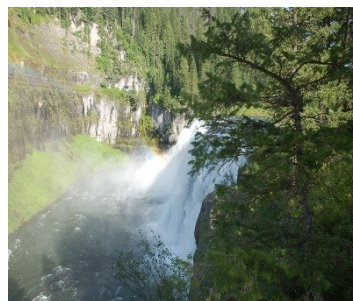
July 9th Challis - Red Rock Lodge <https://rrlodge.net>, [hotels.com](https://hotels.com), [Expedia.com](https://Expedia.com) 208-879-4936

July 10th McCall - Super 8 by Wyndham McCall

<https://www.wyndhamhotels.com/super-8/mccall-idaho/super-8-mccall/overview> 800-454-3213

July 11th Missoula - Super 8 by Wyndham Missoula/Reserve Street <https://www.wyndhamhotels.com/super-8/missoula-montana/super-8-missoula-reserve-st/overview> 800-454-3213

July 12th Idaho Falls - Best Western Driftwood Inn [https://www.bestwestern.com/en\\_US/book/hotels-in-idaho-falls/best-western-driftwood-inn/propertyCode.13005.html](https://www.bestwestern.com/en_US/book/hotels-in-idaho-falls/best-western-driftwood-inn/propertyCode.13005.html) Direct: 208-523-2242 Toll Free: 800-780-7234





# Member Spotlight

By Carol Lynn Vredeveld



*This month's spotlight article features two of our newest members: Ben McGee and his father Ryan McGee. When you have a passion for something it can be infectious...and it certainly was in their case. When Ben by chance found and bought the sports car he'd always loved, his Miata of course, and introduced his dad to the car and the club...we gained two new Miata enthusiasts! Ben bought Eric and Kathy Kankainens' sweet 1995 Merlot M-Edition that they had recently traded in at an Orem dealership for a brand-new Arrow Gray with tan interior.... so actually when Ben became a new member of UMC the '95 Merlot had already been in the club for over 10 years. It's always fun to have previously owned Miata's come back with new owners that love their cars and are excited to experience top-down drives with new friends.*



*Sounds like Ben and Ryan are both very caring and compassionate guys that enjoy helping others and it's great to have them in our club. It's always good to hear how our new members found out about the Utah Miata Club, and it's nice to know new Miata enthusiasts can easily find our information on facebook.*

*Here is their story per Ben;*



My Father, Ryan, and I both have Miata's. I own a 1995 M-edition Merlot Miata. Ryan owns a 2024 Soul Red Crystal Miata.

I found out about the club on Facebook. I have always loved the Miata ever since I was a kid. When my MG (British sports car) broke down I was looking for another fun car and I saw the 95 M-edition at the Orem dealer as I was getting my CX9 serviced. The second I saw it and the price they were asking I gave them my card and signed the papers (to the dismay of my wife).

Once I bought my Miata, I was looking on Facebook and happened to find the Utah Miata Club group. I decided to attend a meeting that included a drive, and I brought my father, Ryan along with me. As soon as we were done with the drive, he took his CX5 into the dealer and bought himself a new Miata because he loved it and the group so much.

Ryan and I both grew up in Orem, Utah. We have lived in Utah our whole lives except for our missions. Ryan served in Detroit, and I served in Alaska.

I run a special needs company, an excavation company, and do some real estate investing. My wife and I also take care of 2 special needs individuals in our home. I have an Associate's in Business.



Ryan has a Bachelor of Project Management. He worked as an auto mechanic for 20 years and owned his own shop. He switched careers 10 years ago and is the director of our special need's day program in American fork and does mechanic jobs on the side.

My wife and I met in Alaska on our missions. We have been married for 5 years and have one child, Charlotte, and another due in March 2025, and we take care of 2 special needs adults.







### Member Spotlight Continued from Page 8



Ryan met his wife (My mother) in his singles ward in Orem. They have been married for 30 years and have 3 children and soon to be 3 grandchildren. They also take care of a special needs adult.

My special interests are Music, cars, and financial planning. I play the upright bass and bass guitar. I love to drive my Miata and MGB (With a ford Boss 302 swap). And I love to look at spreadsheets and plan budgets and investments (As weird as that sounds)



Ryan's special interests are woodworking and cars. He has a shop where he makes tables, sculptures, and other things. He also does a lot of mechanical work on a lot of different cars.



We love being a part of this group. It is a highlight of our month to meet up, talk, and enjoy our cars. We would love to drive the mirror lake highway one of these days once it warms up.

*So great to have you two as members and I'm pretty sure that the Mirror Lake Highway drive would be a popular one in the spring for many of the members. We have done it almost every year and it continues to be one of the most beautiful drives that you can easily do in a day. Welcome to both of you...we'll look forward to sharing great conversations and beautiful drives with you throughout the coming year.*

Editor's Note: I met Ben on our Miatas' In Utah Facebook group and recognized that he purchased Eric and Kathy's beautiful 1995 Merlot. I was excited because I had a '95 Merlot like this for over 20 years and it was one of my most favorite Miatas! I'm also happy that this Miata has gone to a good home and will be driven and cherished for many years to come. Ben and Ryan came to our November meeting and drive to Ophir. Welcome to the club! 😊 We will definitely be going to Mirror Lake this year!



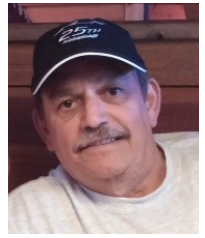
## Utah Miata Club Is Officially Incorporated

The Utah Miata Club is now officially Incorporated in the State of Utah as of the first quarter of 2025. The efforts to make our club an official corporation in the State of Utah was possible due to all the hard work by our President, Michael Thompson for taking the time and effort to do this. On behalf of the Utah Miata Club members we would like to thank Mike for the work he has done on doing this. We appreciate his service to the Utah Miata Club and now in his 2nd year of being our club President.



# Blast from the Past: Miata Club Memories

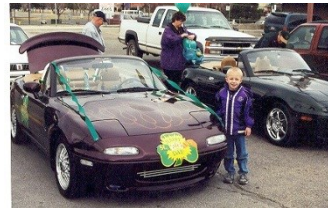
by Mike Bailey



Celebrating St. Patrick's Day Miata Style reminds me of when I first joined the Utah Miata Club one of our annual traditions was to attend the St. Patrick's Day Parade held annually in downtown Salt Lake City. For several years our club participated in this parade, and back then it was 'Free' to participate for groups like ours. We always dressed up our Miatas in green and St. Patrick's Day colors and decorations and made our Miatas look nice. The first parade I remember being in was in 1998 when I had just purchased my 1995 M-Edition Merlot Miata. I took my grandson Jacob with me who was about 5 years old, which was 27 years ago! He's all grown up and married now. Wow, how time has flyed by since then!



We also attended the same parade for several continuous years and the two photos on the front page are from the early 2000's with Mike and Deb Foster and their Crystal Blue Miata and also Deb Moon with their 1991 British Racing Green Miata. We had some great times at the parades back then. I have other photos of the Porters and other early members like the Bowers and the Ferguson's and other members.



We have also been in other parades like Cottonwood Heights 'Butlersville Days' parade (Cottonwood Heights used to be named Butlersville back in pioneer days). Our last parade was several years ago in Riverton. Enjoy some photos of some of our parades. One of the photos was from a luncheon we did after the parade at what used to be one of our favorite places to eat and have our monthly meetings at the Greek Market & Deli in S. SLC.



# Fall Leaf Drive: 2025 September 26-28 2025

## 3 Days / 2 Nights

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.**



# BRYCE CANYON INN

EST. 2006

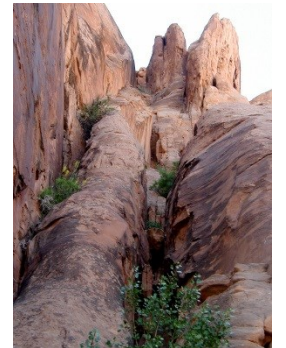


**Friday, Sept 26th, 8:30 AM - Meet at Harmon's Grocery Store at Bangerter Crossing, 125 E. 13800 S, off I-15 in Draper**

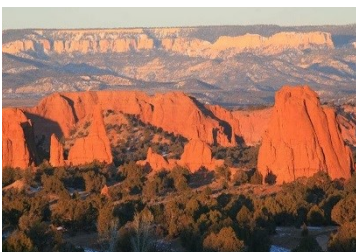
**Saturday, Sept 27th, free day *Book Rooms Now!***

**Sunday, Sept 28th, head home See details on [Club Facebook Events Page](#)**

**Suggested lodging - Bryce Canyon Inn [brycecanyoninn.com](http://brycecanyoninn.com) Phone: (435) 679-8502**



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.



Enjoy these photos of Utah Miata Club's March Birthdays



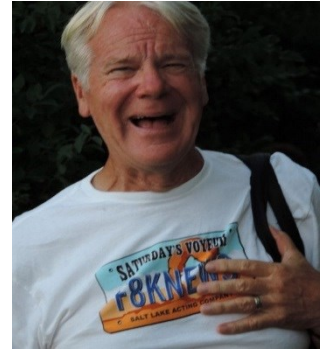
PATTY CHASE



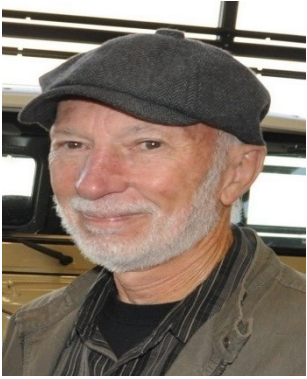
ROGER NEWTON



DAVID PORTER



ERIC KANKAINEN



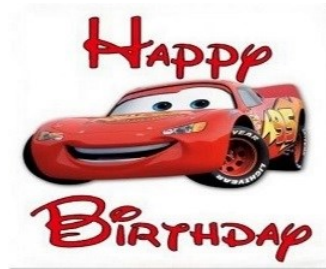
DAVID ORTIZ



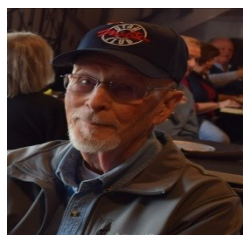
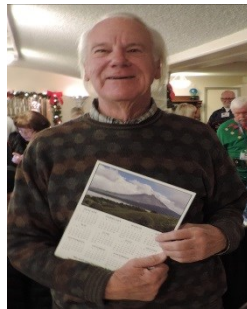
Photos not available for Nicole Lifsey

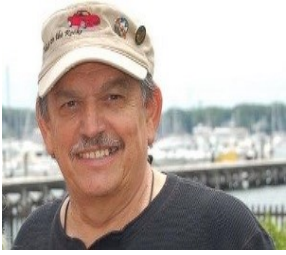


ROBERT KLINSHAW



Photos below of Birthday Members at Miata Events





# Miata Swag —Apparel, Car Club Magnets

By MiataWear Man: Mike Bailey



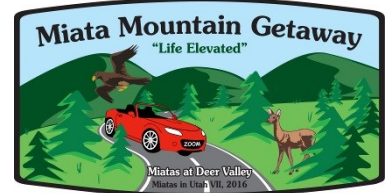
Close out on all Utah Miata Club Logo shirts and logo merchandise. All shirts and past event hats items will be reduced to low prices during first few months in 2025.

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

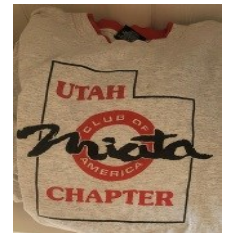
The T-Shirt designs on the items below are included. Some Miatas at Deer Valley apparel available!



“Long Live the Roadster” Logo on some Black Mazda Shirts: Limited Sizes available or any other shirts!



LLTR logo above on any color Tee's



Recreated 'Original Miata Club Of America Logo' Utah Edition Tee Shirts: \$15.00. See logo at right.

**Club Jackets: Wind Breakers or Jackets or buy your own and I'll put any UMC Logo on it for you.** Original shirt above. Prices depend on Jacket. Many colors to choose from. Lightweight and fits behind your seats. Great for cooler mornings and evenings. and on all our drives and over-nighters!

**Beanie Knit Hats:** Many colors and styles to choose from with MX-5 or logo on them. Great for Winter!

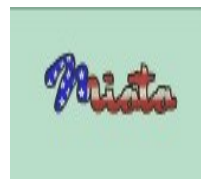
**Club Magnets:** Official Club Magnets or Mountains Logo Magnets with color of your Miata on them.

**UMC CAR MAGNETS: \$25.00 / PAIR.**



**Ball Caps:** Standard Structured or Soft Caps for ladies & men. Many colors to choose from: \$20.00 Each.

UMC Mountains Logo with 30,000 embroidered stitches: \$25.00, Regularly \$30.00. Official Logo: or Long Live the Roadster Logo: \$20.00 each! Close-Out Hats: \$15.00



# 2025 Calendar of Events



- March 8th:** Drive & Luncheon: 10:00 Golden Corral, Hill AFB Museum, Layton; Mike, Kelly Thompson
- April 12th:** Drive to Maddox Rest. Lunch- Meet at 9:15 AM. See info on Pg. 4 N; Robert Olsen
- 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' After Memorial Day; Southern Utah: See Pg. 5 NL; Roger Heath
- June 7th:** Rat Fink Show-Manti: Details coming: Steve & Ronda Beckstead
- July 5th:** Impromptu Holiday Canyon Drive (TBD): Mike & Lynn Bailey
- July 9-13th:** Idaho Summer Trip; Idaho Scenery: See Pg. 7 NL; Roger Heath
- July 19th:** UMC Summer Picnic / Annual Elections-Planning Meeting; Park City; Jaworski's
- 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. 8 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; Edison Events, time (TBD); UMC Board of Directors

HUNTSVILLE GRAND PRIX



Be sure to support our local Mazda Dealership , **BOUNTIFUL MAZDA** for a new or used car and for your Service and Parts.  
 Miata of the Month: 2022 RF Platinum Quartz with Terra Cotta Interior. 18,500 miles, Awesome price! Call: 801-397-2277



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bmazda.com



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

