



The Convertible Chronicles of the Utah Miata Club

The Journey is the Destination

by Mark Vaughn, President

Well, winter finally decided to show up, complete with snow-blower activities. And we just thought we were going to get by without it.

Susan and I journeyed to Phoenix for an Emily Bear concert at the Musical Instrument Museum (MIM), escaping the snow for a couple of days. The journey by commercial aircraft to Phoenix was not quite the destination as travel by Miata, but it was fun, nonetheless. The MIM is a fascinating museum with a collection of over 16,000 instruments – with over 6,000 on display by their country of origination. The 300-seat concert hall is an acoustic work of art. If you have not heard of Emily

Bear, check her out on YouTube; she’s an amazingly talented 16 year old.

For most of us, the weather keeps the Miata in the garage – waiting for warmer and sunnier weather. However, now is a good time to think about what might need to be replaced, repaired, or added (e.g., battery, wiper blades, new GPS). A little bit of thought and time now will hopefully make the journeys of the upcoming year a lot of fun and hassle-free.

Having a place to visit, a thing to see, or an event to experience gives us an excuse to make the journey. The adventure of the journey makes it the destination – especially so in a Miata, whether the top is up or down.

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2018 Calendar of Events



by Steve Beckstead



- March 3rd** Monthly Meeting & Lunch (11:30 a.m.) - Red Robin, Murray - Mark Vaughn
- April 7th** Monthly Meeting & Brunch - Time & Location TBD - Kirkham Auto - Mike Bailey
- May 5th** Monthly Meeting & Lunch (11:30 a.m.) - Red Robin, Murray - Mark Vaughn
- June 2nd** Monthly Meeting & Lunch (11:30 a.m.) - Location TBD - Steve & Kathy Nielsen Drive
- June 22nd** The Great Canadian Adventure, Part 2 - Mark & Susan Vaughn (see article, Page 2)
- July 7th** Monthly Meeting & Lunch (11:30 a.m.) - Kaysville Location TBD - Bear Lake Raspberry Run - Steve Beckstead
- August 4th** Monthly Meeting & Luncheon (11:30 a.m.) - Location TBD - Mark Vaughn
- September 8th** Annual Picnic/Meeting - Morgan Park - Time & Food TBD - Mark Vaughn
- September 19th** Hot Lava Event - Hood River, OR - Mount Hood Miata Club (tentative)
- September 28th** Torrey Weekend Scenic Drive (3 Days) - Eric & Kathy Kankainen
- October 6th** Monthly Meeting & Luncheon (11:30 a.m.) - Location TBD - Mark Vaughn
- October 11th** 2018 Texas Miata Roundup - Bluebonnet Miata Club (see Mike Bailey for info.)
- November 3rd** Monthly Meeting & Luncheon (11:30 a.m.) - Location TBD - Mark Vaughn

The Great Canadian Adventure, Part 2

by Susan Vaughn

Exploring Far Western Canada...

...Taking your Miata on a Cruise

This Miata adventure explores western Canada via Mount Rainer National Park in the state of Washington. The United States will be left via ferry from Port Angeles, Washington, to Victoria, British Columbia. The adventure will continue to the northern end of Vancouver Island to Port Hardy, British Columbia. A second ferry ride of 318 miles will begin from Port Hardy through the inside passage to Prince Rupert, British Columbia. From Prince Rupert, the adventure will wind its way back to the United States at Grand Forks, British Columbia, at the Washington State border.

Total estimated driving miles: 3,276

Total ferryboat miles: 340

This trip does require a current passport.

Travel Dates: June 22nd through July 4th, 2018

If you are interested, please contact Mark and Susan Vaughn for further information.



Just
For Fun...



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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Mark Vaughn

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Zoom-Zoom
Zoom-Zoom



Birthdays & Memberships

Expiring Soon

Bill & Janet Anderson	03/31/2018
Gascon Cizinsky	03/31/2018
Frank & Vicky Houser	03/31/2018
Douglas Kluender	03/31/2018
Robert & Sharon Mechling	03/31/2018



Membership Expired

Dave & Lisa Arellano	01/31/2018
Don Blumenthal	02/28/2018
Karleen Callahan	02/28/2018
Sandra Christensen	02/28/2018
Todd & Amy Christopher	02/28/2018
Jean Glines	02/28/2018
Joann Jacobsen-Wells	12/31/2017
Robert & Sharon Leonard	01/31/2018
Joe Leverich	12/31/2017
Dale Rim	12/31/2017
Mark & Vicky Van Sickle	01/31/2018

Patty Chase	March 3rd
Dave Porter	March 3rd
William Payne	March 8th
Pat Achter	March 9th
Eric Kankainen	March 11th
Robert Klinshaw	March 22nd
Vicky Van Sickle	March 31st

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.



Kirkham Motorsports
by Mike Bailey

In April, we plan to visit Kirkham's Motorsports in Orem, Utah, after our breakfast or brunch on April 7, 2018. This is a company that specializes in building Cobra replications. They are famous for the stainless steel, aluminum-bodied or "chrome-looking" Cobras. They will custom-make any kind of Cobra that you want, and they are all high performance vehi-



cles. They specialize in the 427's and 289's. They have built over 800 replica Cobras since 1994. We went to visit their company 10 years ago – in March, 2008. It's been awhile since we did this activity – and we have lots of new members

since then who have not been there – so we thought it would be fun to go again. It is an interesting story on how they got in this business and how they fabricate and build these Cobras from the aluminum sheet metal pieces. This will be explained when we visit them. They also build custom classic cars, like



their Copper 1940 Ford replica.

We plan to have breakfast or brunch (instead of a luncheon) and an earlier meeting on Saturday, April 7th, at a location to be determined – probably somewhere in southern Salt Lake County or even northern Utah County. If anyone has any ideas, please let me know. We will then head to Orem by noon or early afternoon to see the Kirkham facility. It will be lots of fun, so please put it on your calendars. Bring your checkbook if you want to put a deposit down on one of these beauties; you will only need slightly under \$100,000!



Member Spotlight

Mike & Lynn Bailey

by Carol Lynn Vredevelde

Our Member Spotlight couple this month, Mike and Lynn Bailey, are long overdue for an article. Mike has always been so involved in the UMC as President, V.P., Director, and Newsletter Editor (just to name a few of his titles), that he and Lynn have never been featured before. These two awesome people were involved in the Club long before Lou and I came along, and I'm sure they will be in the future – as long as Mike has a breath in his body! He walks, talks and dreams Miatas, and as you read about their adventures and how they started their lives together, you will certainly understand why. I have never known a more dedicated person to Miatas and our Club than Mike, and I can't imagine where we would be without him. He has been President more times than I can remember, and he is always ready to host our "Main Miata Events" anytime, anyplace and anywhere – as well as welcoming us all in to their home for our annual Christmas Party. He has befriended Miata owners from all over the country, and he works tirelessly for our Club on behalf of its members. They are both very special to all of us, and I can truly say that no one is ever a stranger to Mike and Lynn. Enjoy reading how they fell in love with Miatas and each other in their story below...



Lynn and I have been members of the Utah Miata Club for 22 years. I bought my first Miata from Cline's Mazda in March, 1997 (now called Tim Dahle Nissan). It was a 1997 Red Miata (equivalent of today's Grand Touring model). It was the last year of the NA (First Generation). I leased it for one year for \$99.00 per month. I really loved my first Miata! I checked online and heard about the local Miata club and went to a breakfast at Marie Calendars (in those days, it was held at the same place each month). I liked the members so joined the

Club at that first meeting. I learned a lot about Miatas that first year and really liked the "M Edition" Miatas, as everyone in the club seemed to have a red, white, black or silver one. I wanted one that was different than everyone else's. The following March, I had to turn in my Miata. After having it in the garage all winter, I got "spring fever" and wanted another Miata for the up-coming summer. The day I turned in my red Miata, I saw a Mazda 626, with the brightest red color and shiniest chrome wheels I had ever seen on the showroom floor. I bought it before I left the dealership. The next day, I came to the dealer to get an accessory installed on the 626, and they were unloading a car hauler with several Miatas on it. A 1995 "M Edition" Merlot caught my eye. I had to drive it. During this time in my life, I was divorced and dating Lynn. I took it by her place to show it to her and see what she thought. She loved it and encouraged me to buy it. But I had just purchased a new 626 the day before! Well, I ended up with two new cars! We also joined the Miata Club of America (MCA), which was a popular national Miata club at the time. The rest is history, so to speak, about my love for Miatas.

We now have two Miatas – a 2005 MazdaSpeed SE (which is Lava Orange) and a 2002 SE MX-5 that is Blazing Yellow (Lynn's). (Note: Only 1,000 of this SE were made worldwide). When these were purchased, I still owned the Merlot. Lynn



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and I went to a Regional event in Monterrey, CA, at the Mazda Laguna Seca Motorway. This was in the fall of 2003, where we met all the head 'honchos' of Mazda North American and the MCA – including chief Miata designer, Tom Matano. We be-



came friends with them. It was at this event that I met Bob Retzer, the photographer for the national Miata Magazine. His car was the Blazing Yellow and was Lynn's favorite color. Little did I know it, but a few months later, I purchased his Blazing Yellow. When the MazdaSpeed came out in 2004, I loved that version after driving it and knew someday I would have one of those as well. A year later, a guy who came to our Club meetings a couple of times had one for sale. I loved the color – plus all the "Flyin' Miata" upgrades he put on it – so I drove it in December and bought it from him. It then became my new Christmas present to myself. I think Lynn was shocked when I purchased it. I had to get rid of one, so I eventually sold the Merlot to Patrick Harding in Tooele. Both our Miatas have personalized plates. The 2002 has ZOOMZMM, and the 2005 has BAD MX5. These two Miatas fulfilled my dream of being Special Editions and different than most of the Miatas that everyone else has.

Lynn and I met on a blind date. It was set up by a good friend of hers that was also a printing client of mine. We hit it off right away and got married in October of 2000. We have always had good times together in the Miata and on Miata trips – both when single and married. It was the perfect car for a date! When we got married, we had a "Miata" wedding, so to speak. We were married at Red Butte Gardens, and our Miata Wedding Party was, of course, the Utah Miata Club members – who assembled in a parking lot at the U of U Research Park

and then had a parade of Miatas with us in the lead, driving up to the Red Butte Gardens, where our families and other friends were waiting out front. Lynn looked so beautiful with her bridal veil flowing in the wind out the back of the car. It was quite the spectacle. It was the greatest day ever but with one snafu! I had forgotten my tuxedo pants! I had to drive home to Cottonwood Heights in the Miata in rush hour traffic to retrieve my pants, while everyone was patiently (or impatiently) waiting. It was a wonderful "Miata" wedding! Our Miata friends have always been there for us!



Now, a little about us...

Mike: I grew up in Provo, Utah, and went to Provo High School, Utah Trade Technical Institute, and also graduated from BYU in Advertising & Public Relations. I served an LDS Mission in England and was in the Army Reserves during the Viet Nam War for 6 years. I owned an advertising and publishing company for 12 years and purchased a printing company, which I also ran for a number of years, mostly to facilitate the publishing end of my other company. I also worked for a large Web Press printing company for 10 years before becoming a Print Broker. As of last month, I have 40 years in the printing, advertising and publishing business.

Lynn was born in Salt Lake, grew up in the Sugarhouse area and went to Highland High School. She attended the U of U and LDS Business College and graduated with a degree in Fashion Merchandising. She later became a school teacher for a private school (Challenger Schools) and was a teacher for almost 30 years. Lynn retired last year in June, 2017.

This year, Lynn and I will celebrate our 18th wedding anniversary. We have 9 kids between us (Lynn has 5 boys and Mike has 2 boys and 2 girls) and 30 grandchildren (Lynn's side has 17, and Mike's has 13). The kids and grandchildren are a great joy in our lives. We lived in Cottonwood Heights for the entire time we have been together until last September, when we downsized our home and moved to Riverton. We are closer

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to our family out here. We really enjoyed hosting the annual Miata Club Christmas Party at our home for the past eleven years and will miss that.

I used to raise Great Danes for 35 years and went to many dog shows – showing dogs (Danes and Afghans) for 15 years.

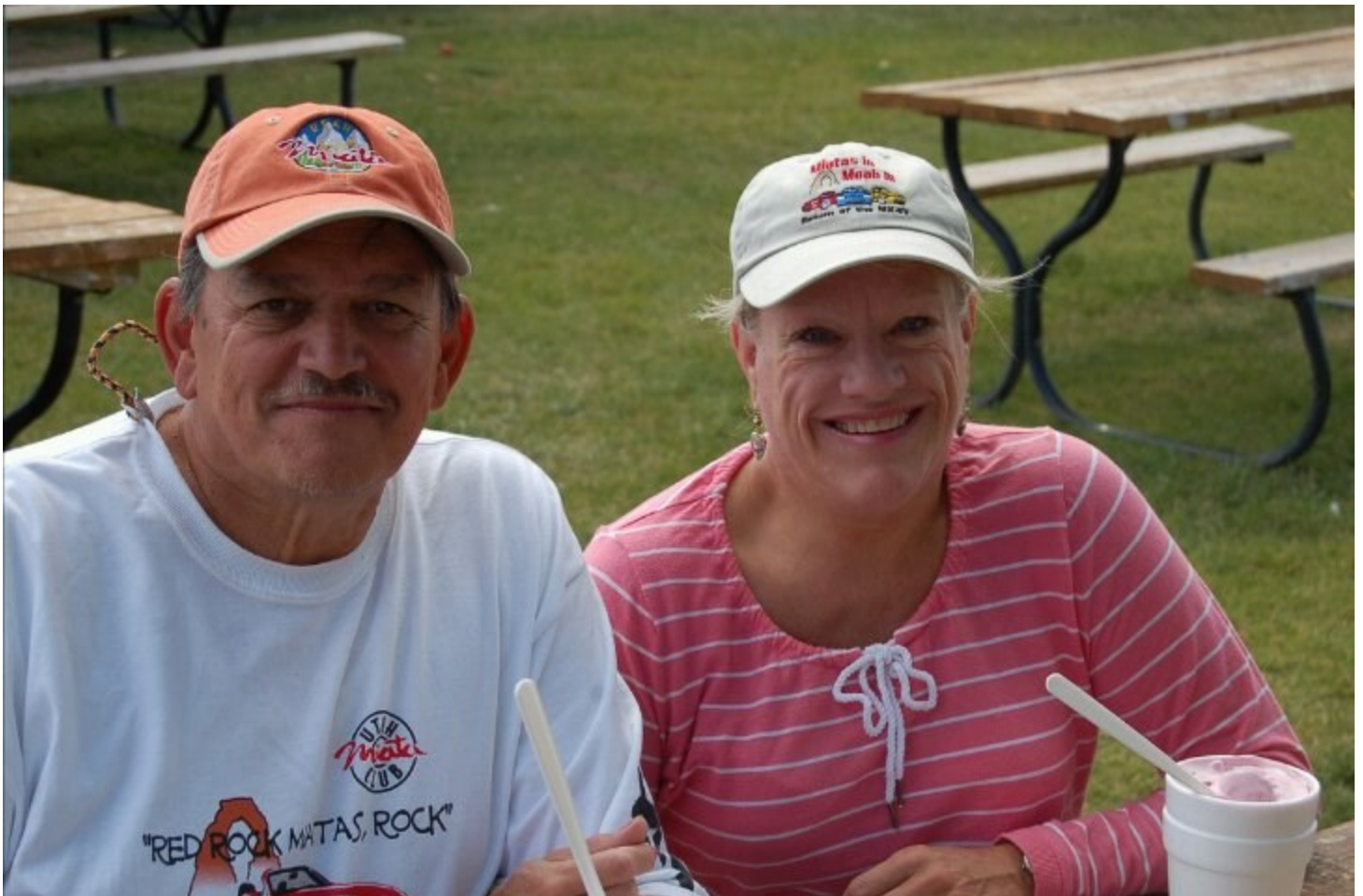


I also raised Iguanas and other reptiles. Lynn had a Beagle named Gomer. Our dogs did not get along, and my dog ate her couch. When our dogs passed away, we did not choose to get

any other pets – mainly because we liked to travel so much with the Miata Club, and it was hard to take care of them while

gone (and Lynn didn't like the reptiles). We used to SCUBA dive together and go on lots of diving trips. I have always had a passion for photography. I also enjoy my Harley Davidson Motorcycle and having the wind in my face and hair. As I've gotten older, I enjoy my gardening and flower gardens. Lynn is a good cook and loves to do things around the home to make our home nice and cozy. She loves doing things with her grandchildren and teaching them arts and crafts and other activities. She has been working on making me a king-sized quilt of all my Miata and Harley shirts. It may take her another year to finish it, as we are very busy with working on our new home. We love to travel and go on cruises and have been to many exotic places around the world. We have organized and enjoyed many cruises and travel through the USA, mostly with our Miata Club friends. A highlight was the Viking River Cruise to Europe and planning it with our good friends, Donn and Janet Cichocki. Most of our life is centered around the Miata Club and its activities. We enjoy going out to dinner and to plays and concerts with our friends as well.

We certainly want to thank both of you for everything you have done in the past and continue to do for our UMC – and for always making each and every one of us feel like family.



Candid Camera

by Mike Bailey

This month's Candid Camera pictures represent a few from last month's luncheon and some from a luncheon last October. Also included is one of Val when she got her new Miata, Zoombie. I've included a couple group photos – one from our hike to Provo Canyon Falls on the Mirror Lake drive last year, as well as the Miata Group at the Butlersville Days Parade on July 24, 2012 – when our Club participated in their parade through Cottonwood Heights. Also in 2012, we did a "Cancer Sucks" drive in conjunction with the Huntsman 140-bicycle ride, in which some members of Mike MacDonald's Bountiful Mazda Bicycle Team participated. Also, we can't forget the Corn Dog guys!

