



The Convertible Chronicles of the Utah Miata Club



From the Top Down

by Mike Thompson



If you remember the movie Parenthood—1989, Director Ron Howard, with Steve Martin (Gil) and Mary Steenburgen (Karen) as principals)—there is a scene in which Gil frets at great length. Karen has told him that she is expecting their fourth child, and Gil is flustered at the thought of bringing another child into the family when life is full of so much uncertainty. At the same time he is on an incredible high—he called it “demented”—because his son had caught a flyball that afternoon in Little League. “Life is messy” observes Karen.

Enter Grandma, with a seemingly random story about the first time she ever rode a rollercoaster, with Grandpa. “Up, down, up, down... Oh what a ride! I always wanted to go again. You know, it was just interesting to me that a ride, could make me so... so frightened, so scared, so sick, so... so excited and... and so thrilled all together. Some didn't like it. They went on a merry-go-round... I like the rollercoaster. You get more out of it.”

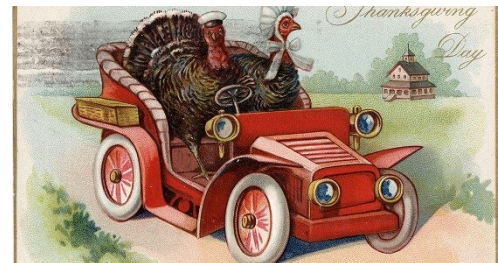
The scene ended with a touch of comedy. Grandma announced that she would be waiting in the car. With great sarcasm Gil says, because of Grandma “everything is great again.” Karen wheels around and throws something (soft) at him. “I happen to like the rollercoaster, okay? As far as I'm concerned your grandmother is brilliant.” Gil ponders for a few seconds before saying, “Yeah? if she's so brilliant, how come she's sitting in our neighbor's car?” (You can easily find this clip on YouTube.)

I believe members of the Utah Miata Club are people who like rollercoasters. At the simplest level, the Miata is just plain fun to drive. I quote Road & Track, because they are autophiles, who have literally driven every type of car there is. “With the top down... the Miata is a car built for fun and driving enthusiasm... It has a strong following for good reason...”

Ups *and* downs. The Miata has obvious compromises: the tiny cabin, small trunk, how difficult it is to enter and exit. You wouldn't call it a family car, and that's a real-world limitation. J.D. Power says the median age of Miata owners is 62. Our club skews even older. I leave you this month with two questions: Is it possible to make the Utah Miata Club more appealing to the under-60 demographic? How?

Inside This Issue

- From the Top Down Page 1
- November Lunch / Drive . . . Page 2
- Memberships-Birthdays . . . Page 3
- Christmas Party Details . . . Page 4
- January Lunch, MoviePage 5
- Anniversary Pins 2025 Page 5
- Miata Life / Miata Friends. . . Page 6
- Miata Life ContinuedPage 7
- Road Trippin' 2025 Page 8
- November Birthdays Page 9
- Miata Wear / Swag. Page 10
- Calendar of Events Page 11
- Candid Camera Page 12





JIM'S Family Restaurant

When: Saturday, November 9, 2024
Time / Place: 11:30 am Private Room
Address: 12750 S. Redwood Road, Riverton, Utah 84065 801-446-7670

Monthly UMC business meeting conducted by President Michael Thompson. Final details on club Christmas Holiday Party to be discussed. Please sign up and pay fee for dinner as this day is deadline for reservations for the party. After club meeting Gordy & Jackie Nicholl will lead drive to Ophir, Ghost Town off State Hwy. 73. A short visit to tour this old Pioneer town. Last major drive of year! We will line up Miatas outside of restaurant on the west side. Travel down Hwy. 68 Redwood Road. This drive will end once we arrive in Ophir after visiting historic buildings.



PLEASE SUPPORT OUR DEALER SPONSOR BOUNTIFUL MAZDA



Do you want or need a gift for your significant other for Christmas or their birthday? Let me suggest a set of Utah Car Club Magnets. They come in the Official Logo or the Mountains Logo with color of your Miata on them. Price per set of two is only \$25.00. Or see MiataWear Apparel page in this newsletter for clothing ideas for any season. If you do not have a 30th UMC Anniversary static cling (removable) decal for your Miata get one FREE from Mike Bailey at any club meeting. Also Anniversary Pins will be distributed starting in January 2025.



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
JAMES & LAUREN JOLLY	2004	RED

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

NAME	EXPIRING SOON
SCOTT HADLEY	11/30/2024
JAMES & HILLARY VREDEVELD	11/30/2024

Memberships Expired / Please Renew Now

NAME	EXPIRED
TOM ARNETT	7/31/2024
JOSH & TANYA ASHMENT	7/31/2024
SCOTT & CHERYL ATKINSON	8/31/2024
FREDERICK ECKSTEIN	10/31/2024
ROBERT & KATHI FACKRELL	9/30/2024
JOSEPH FOWLER	9/30/2024
SABRINA HANSEN	9/30/2024
MARK & SHAUNA MIDGLEY	9/30/2024
CAROL LYNN VREDEVELD	8/31/2024
KIRK & LUZ WARNER	8/31/2024

NAME	DATE
JAN JAWORSKI	1 Nov
STEVE BECKSTEAD	2 Nov
MARGIE NEWSON	6 Nov
BUD GOFF	13 Nov
RICHARD PLUMB	15 Nov
DOYLE STURM	15 Nov
GEORGE CHASE	17 Nov
BOB RICHARDS	20 Nov
JIM NEWSON	25 Nov
JOY CARLSON	30 Nov



Removed From Roster

NAME	EXPIRED
RICHARD & MELISSA CHESTER	6/30/2024
LUKE & CHEVONNE DAWSON	6/30/2024

Club Officers (July 2023 - July 2024)

President: Michael Thompson Vice President: Ken Jaworski Secretary: Jim Newson Treasurer: Margie Newson
 Directors: Robert Mechling, Susan Christiansen, Carol Lynn Vredevelde Newsletter Editor: Michael Bailey



Christmas Party Details

By Michael Thompson

Date: Saturday, December 14, 2024 Time: 6:00 pm Edison Street Events Location: 3331 E. Edison Street (145 E.) Salt Lake City (formally the Organ Loft) Buffet Dinner provided.

RESERVATIONS ARE NEEDED FOR THIS PARTY!



We will have our buffet dinner catered professionally. Currently we have 40 + members signed up who have paid for their meal. We need at least 50 members as the club has paid a deposit for this many. Please send your reservation and payment to Jim or Margie Newson today!

Cost for Member: \$30.00 per person, \$60.00 per couple. Price includes sales tax & gratuity. The club pays a portion of the regular price for your dinner as the meal prices are higher than what you are paying.

Please send reservation to Jim / Margie Newson with pre-payment: Cash or check or Venmo account: *If paying by Venmo type in utahmiataclub.* It will show **Marjorie Newson@utahmiataclub.** Or you can pay at next club meeting or mail to 233 W. 1550 N. Bountiful, UT. 84010. Put 'Christmas Party' on your payment if Venmo.



We will have our "White Elephant" Gift Exchange so please bring one gift per person for exchange.



January Luncheon & Movie Event

by Mike Bailey

Saturday, January 12th will be the scheduled date of the first club luncheon for the new year. The luncheon & meeting will be at Red Robin in Murray, our regular place at 11:30.



The movie will be the highly acclaimed "Wicked". We will plan to attend a Matinee or a mid-afternoon movie after the luncheon. The movie will be at Jordan Commons in Sandy, Utah at the Larry Miller Megaplex Theater. Address is 9335 South State Street, Sandy. Cost is be the normal admission price of around \$10.50 per ticket. We ask that each person wanting to attend to purchase their ticket in advance online at www.megaplextheatres.com/jordancommons. We will let you know the theater number and time before the event and hopefully in the December newsletter if this information is available. You can select any seats you prefer, including luxury seats if available in the theater. You can also decide to purchase any food or drink items that you wish to have. After trying to schedule a group showing of the movie, it was decided that it was going to be too expensive to do this as a group like we've done in the past as the theater wanted us to rent the entire theater for our group. This will be a great Winter activity for our group and hopefully well attended.



Anniversary Pins—2025

by Mike Bailey

As a reminder I will be passing out the Utah Miata Club's Anniversary Pins to club members who have reached their anniversary of membership in the club.



Anniversary pins are awarded on the

following anniversary of when members joined the club for **3, 5, 10, 15 and at 20 years.** A Lifetime Member Pin

Award is made now on your 20th Year Anniversary. We previously had a 20 year pin however discontinued those after the first set of pins were all distributed. This is a program that was set up many years ago to award members for their club membership. The program started 5 years ago and to my knowledge is the only Miata club in the country who offers their members an Anniversary Pin. Also, Instead of receiving the pin on the month of year that a member joined, they are now awarded in January of that year and pins are also brought to each monthly meeting so if a member is not there, or misses a meeting they can receive their pin at another monthly meeting. Anniversary memberships will be mentioned in future monthly meetings and in the newsletter.



The pins are 1.25" size and made of hard enamel. Various years come in Copper, Silver, Gold, Nickel plated. The Official Club Logo is on each pin and printed in gloss black, white, and red for the "Miata" script type font. The different years are etched on the bottom of each pin. The Lifetime Pin is a unique all Gold Metal Pin. Pin trading is common among many Miata clubs however we do not trade our Anniversary Pins. Many friends in other clubs have asked to purchase one for their collection but they are not for sale. I know our members wear them proudly on their hats shirts and jackets and I'm glad to see members wearing them.



Miata Life: Miata Friends by Mike Bailey



This month's Miata Life article is about 'Miata Friends' which is an important subject to me as I sure most of you. I hope members are reading this article that I've been putting in our newsletter the past couple months. I'm trying to highlight what the 'Miata Experience' is all about at least to me for going on the past 28 years that I've owned Miatas. I've made a whole lot of friends with people in the Utah Miata Club as well as in Miata clubs all around the country. I cherish all the great friendships I have made over the years and are still making with new members joining the club all the time!

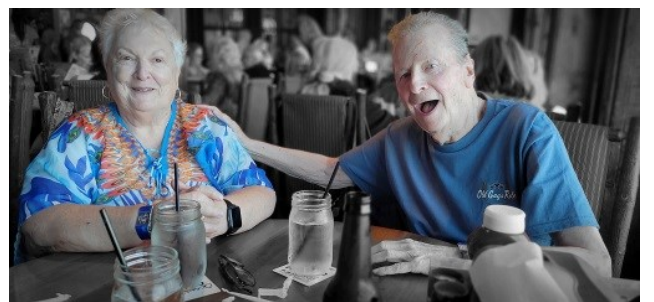
In October Lynn and I traveled to Florida for vacation and hooked up with our dear UMC friends, Donn and Janet Cichocki who came down from New Hampshire and spent the week with them at our condo hotel in Daytona Beach. It was tons of fun just hanging out around the pool and beach and going on



coastal drives along the east coast to various light houses and points of interest.



We also hooked up with club members Gary and Kathy Collings for a great lunch and to reminisce about old time. We met other Miata people Art and Priscilla Cairra from the MASS Club who own a home in Florida who was with us on the Viking River Cruise in 2017 and they also came to various Miatas in Utah events through the years, like the Collings' did.



Miata Life Continued from page 6: Miata Friends!

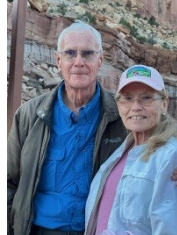
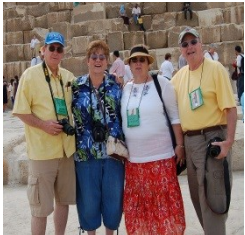


We have many of our east coast friends, which we refer to each other as our **“Miata Cousins”**, who always ask us to tell all of the UMC members that they know *“Say hi to our western cousins.”* Many of you know them; George & Patty Chase, Bob & Gale Klinshaw, Bill & Janet Anderson and others. I don’t feature many photos of all these Miata people so want other UMC members to get to know them and who they are. Some photos here of our “Miata Cousins” on various Miata trips.

We have members (past and present) whom live in other states like Hawaii, with Jim and Dorothy Bowers and Richard and Gail Kelly. Kelly’s met us in Hawaii and planned a luncheon for our



group of 13. Dave and Ana Porter and Joye Carlson who live in Arizona and we’ve had so many good times with them. Rick and Dayna Kiser in California who met us last year at the Miatas at Sonoma event. There are just too many to mention here.

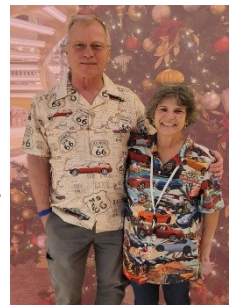


My (our) friends in San Diego and other California, Oregon and Washington clubs are always reaching out to me for things and Miata type information. I’ve personally, in my business designed Miata club logos and made promotional items for their events. I’m always talking to friends in the



Texas Bluebonnet and Lone Star Clubs as well as exchanging newsletters as they like to know what we here in Utah are doing as many of them came here for our Miatas in Utah events through the years.

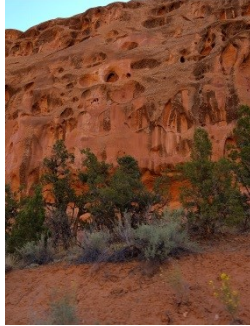
Yes, it’s great to have Miata friends. Our trip in September to Colorado for the Peak to Peak event was awesome and I was able to connect there with friends. Sadly, a couple of my old Colorado Miata Club friends now have poor health and one of them, Joe Portas, affectionally known as “The Knobmeister” as he made Miata club badges and also gear shift knobs, passed away the week we were there. I certainly miss all the past Miata events that I used to attend mainly to renew acquaintances. ***Miatas Friend are the best!***



Roadtrippin' Over Memorial Day by Roger Heath

May 24th – 26th, 2025

Two night, three day roadtrip over Memorial Day weekend traveling through the red rock area in southeastern Utah. After meeting up at the Chevron Gas station, 3601 E Powerhouse Rd, Spanish Fork, we'll head out on Hwy 6 to the junction of Hwy 89. Turning south we stay on 89 until we get to Salina. Depending on the weather we can jump on I-70 and head east for a few miles and drive over Hwy 72 into Loa, otherwise we'll head to Torrey and then to Hanksville for the first night. Day 2 we go southeast out of Hanksville and through Hite then up to Blanding and Moab before stopping in Green River for the second night. Coming home on Monday 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.



Possible side trip would be Goosenecks State Park on the way to Blanding. This would add about 50 miles to the drive from Hanksville to Green River.



Suggested hotels:

Hanksville, May 24th, Whispering Sands Motel – hotels.com (you can book directly on the hotel website however you will be charged for the night's stay as a deposit and 10% penalty if you cancel. If you book on hotels.com there is no upfront payment nor penalty if you cancel)

Green River, May 25th, River Terrace Inn - <https://river-terrace.com>

*There is other lodging in Hanksville however they are more expensive and are cabins.

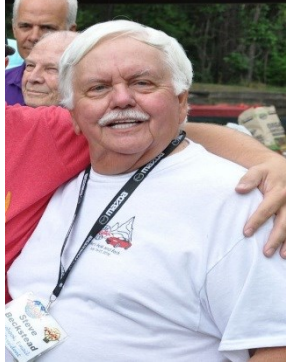
Please check the event on the Utah Miata Club Facebook page for all details and updates.



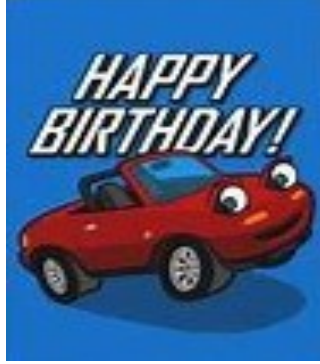
Enjoy these photos of Utah Miata Club's November Birthdays



JAN JAWORSKI



STEVE BECKSTEAD



MARGIE NEWSON



DOYLE STURM



STEVE OLSEN



GEORGE CHASE



AMY CHRISTOPHER



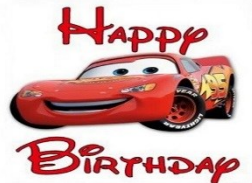
JIM NEWSON



BOB RICHARDS



BUD GOFF RICHARD PLUMB



JOYE CARLSON

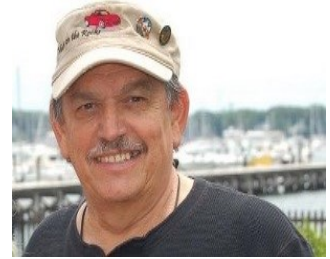
Photos not available for above

Photos below of Birthday members





Miata Swag —Apparel, Car Club Magnets By MiataWear Man: Mike Bailey



Club Jackets: Wind Breakers or Jackets or buy your own and I'll put any UMC Logo on it for you. Prices depend on Jacket. Many colors to choose from. Lightweight and fits behind your seats. Great for cooler mornings and evenings.



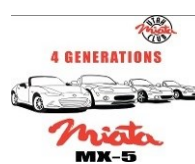
Roadster
Miataitude
Miata

Beanie Knit Hats: Many colors and styles to choose from with MX-5 or logo on them. **Club Magnets:** Official Club Magnets or Mountains Logo Magnets with color of your Miata on them. Cost is still \$25.00 per pair of two. **Hats:** All kinds of Miata type Logos: Ladies Hats also.



Ball Caps: Standard Structured or Soft Caps for ladies & men.

UMC CAR MAGNETS: \$25.00 / PAIR. OFFICIAL OR MOUNTAINS LOGO





2024 Calendar of Events



Please Note: Our 2024-2025 year we will have our Monthly Luncheon, Meeting and Drive on the Second Saturday of each month which is a change from our previous calendar schedule. Some exceptions apply such as Holidays or other events that may affect this schedule.

November 9th: Luncheon & Drive: Jim’s Restaurant; Drive to Ophir; See Pg. 2 NL: Gordy & Jackie Nicholl

December 14th: Christmas Party: 6:00 pm; Edison Events / Organ Loft; See Pg. 4 NL: Officers & Directors

PLEASE LET EDITOR KNOW OF ANY ITEMS THAT NEED TO BE ADDED TO THIS CALENDAR

2025 Calendar of Events



January 12th: Luncheon: 11:30 Red Robin Murray; “Wicked Movie” Megaplex Jordan Commons, Sandy, Time (TBD). Purchase tickets in advance; See Pg. 5 NL; Mike & Lynn Bailey

February 8th: Luncheon: 11:30 (TBD) Need Location & Member to Suggest or Plan

March 8th: Luncheon: 11:30 (TBD) Need Location & Member to Suggest or Plan

April 12th: Luncheon: 11:30 (TBD) Need Location & Member to Suggest or Plan

May 10th: Luncheon & Drive: Cycle Karts; Huntsville; Ken Jaworski -Time & Date (TBD)

May 24-25th: Roadtrippin’ Over Memorial Day; Southern Utah: See Pg. 8 NL; Roger Heath

June 7th or 14th: Rat Fink Show-Manti: Need confirmation on date: Steve & Ronda Beckstead

July 5th: Impromptu Holiday W/E Drive & Luncheon (TBD): Mike & Lynn Bailey

July 19th: UMC Summer Picnic / Annual Elections-Planning Meeting (TBD); Board of Directors

August 10th: Luncheon: 11:30 (TBD) Need Location & Member to Suggest or Plan

September 14th: Luncheon: 11:30 (TBD) Need Location & Member to Suggest or Plan

October 12th: Luncheon: 11:30 (TBD) Need Location & Member to Suggest or Plan

PLEASE SIGN UP WITH EDITOR TO SUGGEST, PLAN OR LEAD A DRIVE FOR 2025



HUNTSVILLE GRAND PRIX



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

