



## The Convertible Chronicles of the Utah Miata Club



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### From the Top Down By: Roger Heath

Spring is finally here but as is typical with Spring in Utah it can be in the 60's one day and snowing the next as is evident on the first day of Spring. However, as inconsistent as the weather is, Spring always brings out the optimism of warmer weather and shedding cabin fever for some of us. It also means driving weather is just about here.

One of things the Board has been working on the last month or so is a club email account. The intent is to better enable communication not only from the Board to you, but from you to the Board. Each Board member will have access to the account and able to see all incoming emails. If a reply is required, the Board member best capable of answering the email will reply directly back to you. You can use the email to send comments, questions, ideas, complaints, or whatever to the board. One example, if someone wants to plan an impromptu drive, the drive is usually posted on Facebook. The post may or may not be seen by everyone. Now, in addition to the Facebook post, you can send an email to the Board and one of us can shotgun the drive info out to everyone through email. Adding this email account did result in some added responsibilities to the club by-laws that apply to the Board members. Voting on this addition will take place at the April 2nd monthly club meeting. The email address is [utahmiataclub@yahoo.com](mailto:utahmiataclub@yahoo.com). Though the email will not be officially active until after April 2nd please feel free to test it now so if there are kinks we can have those worked out. Also, it will be imperative to notify Jim Newson of any changes to your current email address.

The proposed addition to the Bylaws we will be voting on is:

*“The Executive Board shall maintain a club email for occasional communications with club members. The Executive Board and applicable Appointed Positions shall follow the expectations and duties as outlined in “Exhibit A, Utah Miata Club Email Address Expectations and Duties”.*”

PayPal: there have been thoughts of doing away with PayPal and the ability to join or renew your membership and pay online. Recently a member paid using PayPal and noticed the name and email on his receipt was for someone who has long been gone as the treasurer and has actually moved out of state. After over an hour plus on the phone, Margie was finally able to get the account straightened out. She wants to continue allowing online paying so for now the PayPal account will remain. **Those that are paying online will need to adjust the amount they pay by \$2. Those paying via PayPal for a single membership will need to pay \$27. For a member plus one it's \$37.** The extra \$2 is to account for the fees imposed by PayPal. For those paying by check or cash it's still the low rate of \$25 and \$35.

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We are getting close to electing new board members and officers. The vote will take place in conjunction with the annual picnic in July. You can self-nominate for any position available. A box and paper will be available at the remaining monthly meetings for you to put your nominations and self-nominations in. Keep in mind if you nominate another person he or she will have the right to refuse. This is a great opportunity to serve the club and bring your ideas on the future of the club. And speaking of the future, board members do not need to come from a small pool of the same people. New people bring new ideas and those new ideas prevent stagnation. Think about getting involved. If you're comfortable staying on the sidelines that's fine, but if you want to make a difference throw your name into the hat. The more you become involved the more enjoyable you'll find the club to be.



## April Lunch Meeting & Drive

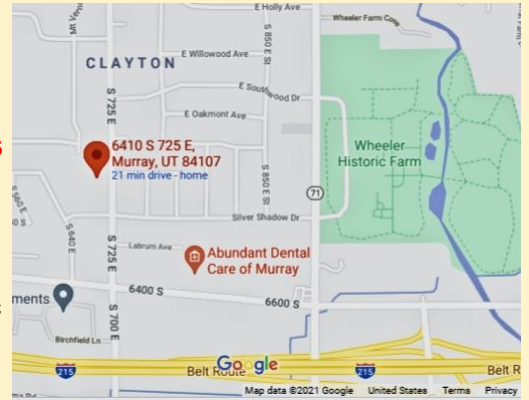
**Date & Time:** Saturday, April 2nd 11:30 AM

**Location:** Pavilion behind LDS church where last summers picnic was held

**Address:** 6410 South 725 East Murray 84107 (a couple blocks west of Wheeler Farm)

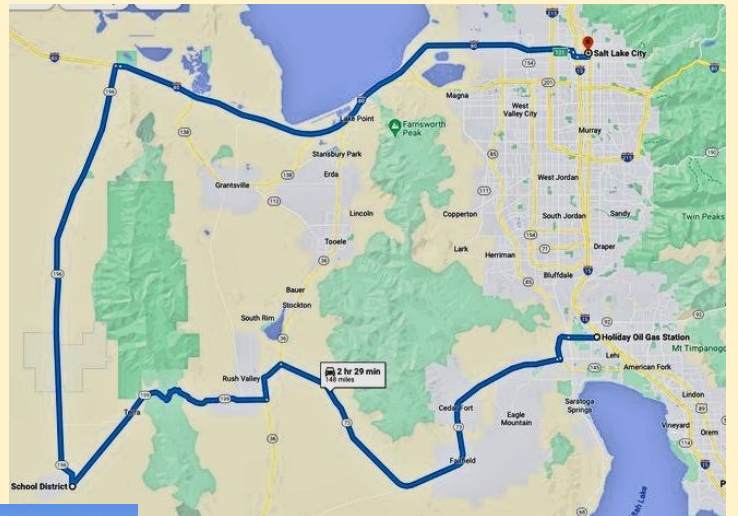
### Information:

We will meet at the pavilion behind the church where we held our picnic last July. It is reserved for just our group so no need to bring your camp chairs. However, do bring your own lunch... and your sunscreen.



### Drive Information:

After lunch and the meeting we will head west. Utah has such varied landscape and this month we will be driving into the more desert areas, which have their own beauty. Starting off we head north then west on I-80, so some freeway time. Then we head south into Skull Valley to Dugway Proving Ground. **But wait! There's more... we then head back east and over Johnson Pass, one of the funnest little twisty roads in Utah.** After the thrill of Johnson Pass, we reach Rush Valley. At this point, you can go home via Hwy 73 to Saratoga Springs area, or north through Tooele and I-80. Refer to the map for an idea of the route.



Stop at Dugway, spring drive 2018.



### 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. **A Dual Membership (for yourself and a spouse, sibling or significant other) is \$35, and \$25 for Single and includes the newsletter e-mailed to you, or \$45 if you would like a hard copy sent by standard mail. You can also pay your dues online with PayPal on our website; [www.utahmiataclub.org](http://www.utahmiataclub.org). This method is \$35 / \$25 (plus 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](mailto:sec.treasumc@icloud.com).

## Birthdays / Memberships

### Removed From Roster

NAME	EXPIRED
CALEB MASON	12/31/2021
TYLER & TIFFANY SHAW	12/31/2021

### New Members

NAME	YEAR	COLOR
JORDAN ELMER	2022	SOUL RED
COLLEEN REILLY	2021	SOUL RED



### Expiring Soon: \$35 Dual / \$25 Single Membership

NAME	EXPIRING
RON DISHAW	4/30/2022
LARRY & CHARLENE PETERSEN	4/30/2022
ANDREW WADE	4/30/2022

NAME	BIRTHDAY
LINDA GROSS	6 Apr
KATHY JO FACKRELL	7 Apr
DOUGLAS KLUENDER	8 Apr
CHARISSE FURGUSON	10 Apr
SUSAN VAUGHN	14 Apr
BENJAMIN BROWNLEE	15 Apr
JOE LEVERICH	16 Apr
ERLENE BROWN	17 Apr
MARK FURGUSON	19 Apr
GARY COLLINGS	21 Apr
ANNETTE NIELSEN	24 Apr
JOSEPH FOWLER	25 Apr
SHARON MECHLING	25 Apr
RON DISHAW	26 Apr
TERRY BLACK	27 Apr
KENNETH WAMSLEY	29 Apr

### Membership Expired: \$35 Dual / \$25 Single Membership

NAME	EXPIRED
BILL & JANET ANDERSON	3/31/2022
JIM & MARILYN BICKLEY	3/31/2022
TODD & AMY CHRISTOPHER	2/28/2022
MITCHELL & HANNAH CRANE	2/28/2022
SHAUNA EDSON	3/31/2022
PAUL HOUSE	3/31/2022
GAGE & ALYSSA LAMBERT	1/31/2022
SCOTTY MEDINE	1/31/2022

### Club Officers

President: Roger Heath

Vice President: Valerie Francis

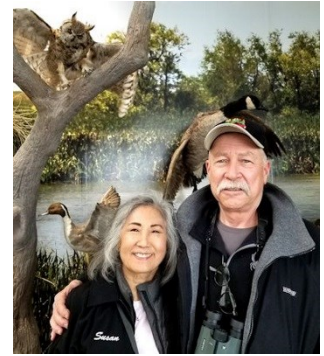
Secretary: Jim Newson

Treasurer: Margie Newson

Directors: Hank Pond, Steve Beckstead, Robert Mechling

# March Lunch Meeting and Drive Report By: Valerie Francis

Remember the saying about March "In like a lion, out like a lamb"? Well this seemed accurate with the cold rainy or snowy weather we had throughout March. In fact, we changed the lunch meeting location from a park to a restaurant just a few days before we met. A special thanks to Brian and Sue Christiansen for planning the March meeting and drive, and especially for coordinating the last minute change. And thanks to those that attended for "going with the flow".



About 30 members gathered at El Matador restaurant in Bountiful for a delicious lunch, thankfully out of the cold drizzly weather. We were seated in a separate area completely by ourselves where we covered the normal topics during the meeting like upcoming trips, birthdays, etc. A highlight was Mike and Lynn handing out anniversary pins to several members there. This is a nice gesture provided by the club and I am sure appreciated by the members.



After lunch, we drove through Bountiful and Centerville along Hwy 89, turning left just as we reached Farmington, heading west to the Eccles Wildlife Education Center at the Farmington Bay Waterfowl Area. I saw a couple of cars with their tops down even though we had a bit of drizzling rain on the drive. Once there, we viewed the wildlife

displays in the building, looked through a telescope they had set up, and enjoyed a great talk by Billy, the education center's coordinator. He told us about the waterfowl in the area, and water management. He even took us into their meeting hall with a "Nature in your Backyard" photo exhibit, and introduced us to a couple of volunteers. One of the volunteers, Jeff Strong, has a blog with lots of fun articles about the birds and animals in the area. If interested, you can find the blog at: <https://bearriverblogger.com/blog/>



As we started to break up, we gathered for a photo op, including Billy, in front of our cars (cover photo), then a few of us explored the walking trail at the site. Good for Hank and Rexanne walking the entire trail, while a few of us just ventured to the first pond... it was windy and cold.

Thanks again Brian and Sue for the awesome adventure and learning experience!

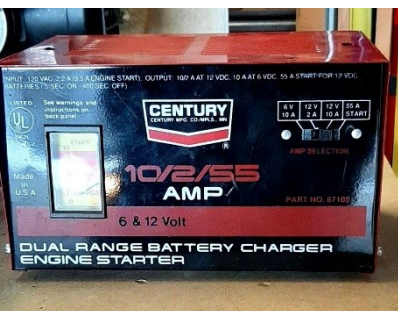


## Miata Tales By: Ken Jaworski

It looks like spring is just around the corner.....MAYBE?

Well, there are a few of us with our MIATA's still under wraps, just waiting for the sun to shine and the snow to disappear. If by chance you are one, like me, WHYGROWUP is still under her blankets staying warm and comfy. Did you remember to remove the battery and keep it charged up? If not, shame on you. Just a little trickle of electricity will help it jump back to life. Here's how my battery looks today.

What do ya know...it looks just like a battery! Last month, the info we received from Val and Doyle that if the battery does not provide power to the Miata's computer you might or might not have to reboot back to the real world. Obviously, with my battery on it's recharging stand, I will have to reboot its computer, but WHYGROWUP is an older Special Edition 2001 and the reboot procedure is a lot simpler. Just replace the battery and start the engine. I worry more about the lack of lubrication on the cylinders than the battery and computer at this point. It's amazing how just a little 1- or 2-amp trickle charger can maintain a battery.



Now if you did not trickle charge your Miata's battery during the cold spell called winter, you just might have to use a little more force to get it up to operational standards. This normally requires more amps into the battery in a shorter time. This is where a full-size charger is worth its weight in gold. Mine is just a 10-amp charger with a 2-amp maintainer and a 55-amp jump starter when needed.

If you have to jump start your Miata, please connect the POSITIVE battery post first, then connect the NEGATIVE to a good ground, not necessarily the NEGATIVE battery post. Connecting to the NEGATIVE post might cause a spark and explode the sulfating vapor of the bad battery. You should also connect the discharge battery before connecting to the jumping battery. After you have a good connection start running the charging car's engine at a moderate speed just above idle for a few minutes before trying to start the problem vehicle. Remember when disconnecting the batteries use the reverse action by disconnecting the NEGATIVE first then the POSITIVE. Again, we are just trying to prevent any spark near flammable/explosive vapors.

Please see Roger's article below on an optional way of helping start Miata's that have a dead battery. It sure beats jumper cables and sparks and procedures, etc.

BTW using the procedures above for winter storage, my first battery lasted 19 years before it finally went kaput.

***Remember to check your tire pressure because AIR is what you are really driving on.***



## Battery Jump Box By: Roger Heath

How many times have you gone out to start your car and the battery is dead? It worked just fine the day before but now you're in a parking lot somewhere and it's dead. Unfortunately you're alone, you have no jumper cables or, if you do, there's no one to give you a jump. And, with summer driving season coming up we do a lot of drives out in the boonies and the thought of being in the middle of nowhere with a dead battery is not a fun thought.

So I looked into small lithium battery jumpers and read numerous reviews. Almost all reviews I read the brand NOCO, and specifically model GB40, stood out as one of the favorites. There are also other brands just as worthy. What's nice about this type of jumper is they are small (remember small trunk), they will jump a dead battery numerous times before they need to be recharged, and best of all, another vehicle is not needed to help with the jump. Oh, they will also recharge your phone.

Following last month's article on the Airmoto tire inflator, this could be another handy item to keep in your trunk.

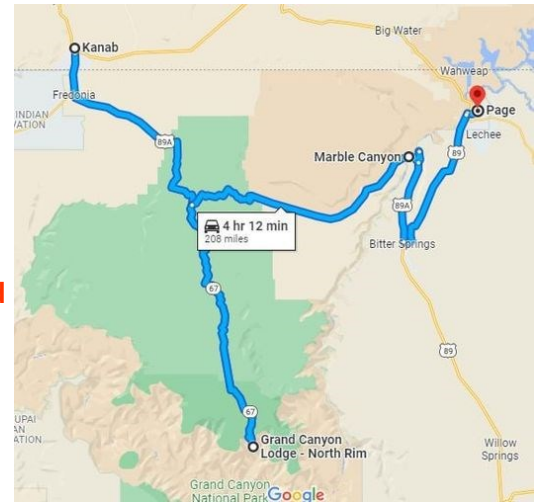


## Another Update: New Hotel Option for Grand Canyon Tour June 24th – 29th

Last month, we told you about an option for those going to the South Rim; instead of staying at a South Rim hotel, a couple of cars are traveling on to Williams then taking the train into the Grand Canyon. If interested in this option, see the information further below.

### Now there is another new option for both those going only to the North Rim and those going to the South Rim:

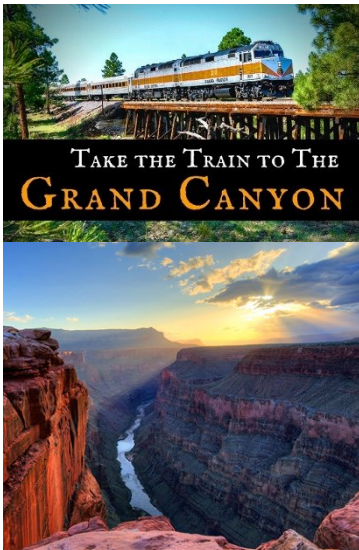
The original plan has been to stay two nights in Kanab, then the North Rim folks going home while the South Rim group heads to the South Rim. Instead of staying two nights in Kanab, some are now staying the second night in Page AZ. This way there won't be as much back tracking after visiting the Marble Canyon / Vermillion Cliffs area and Navajo Bridge. Sunday home will be across northern Highway 89 and follow it as desired north back to SLC. Map of Day 2 is shown here that ends in Page. For those going on to the South Rim, this puts you closer to your destination than driving from Kanab.



### Here is the hotel information if you are interested in changing the second night from Kanab to Page (and remember to cancel night 2 in Kanab):

**Saturday night, June 25th: Best Western View of Lake Powell Hotel, 716 Rimview Drive, Page Arizona, 928-645-8868.**

For the South Rim half of our Grand Canyon road trip, there are four couples (Nicholl, Klinshaw, Porter, and Mechling) who will be going to Williams, Az. for two nights (Jun 26th & 27th) and the train ride to and from the Grand Canyon.



The name of the package they have signed up for is the "Two Night Railway Getaway Package". This package gets you two nights, two dinners, two breakfasts, and a coach train ride to and from the Grand Canyon. Other packages are also available. **The website is [www.thetrain.com](http://www.thetrain.com). We booked our reservations on the phone at 1-800-843-8724 (1-800-THE- TRAIN).** Please ask any of us if you have any questions.

Here is the original information we have been posting in case this new option has persuaded anyone else to join this trip:

Plan is to leave Friday, June 24th and spend 2 nights in Kanab (or one night Kanab and one night Page). Recommended hotels in Kanab are the Best Western Red Hills or Comfort Suites. However you're free to stay wherever you want. The first part of the trip will be to the North Rim, spending part of the day in the park and for those that want head east along the Vermilion Cliffs to the Navajo Bridge spanning Marble Canyon.

For those that want to spend a couple of extra nights we'll head to the South Rim on Sunday, June 26th, spending 2 nights inside the park. If you intend to do this part lodging is filling up quickly so I suggest you reserve your rooms as soon as possible.

**Please see the Events tab in the Utah Miata Club Facebook group for more details on hotels and routes. Info also on our club website, or ask me, Roger Heath.**



## Stay Hydrated By Roger Heath

You may not be aware but Yeti Drinkware allows you to customize almost all of their drinkware from bottles, tumblers, mugs, etc. with a logo. I've had tumblers customized with the Utah Miata Club logo. Normally the cost for a custom logo is the price of the Yeti drinkware + \$6 design fee + \$10 setup fee per design. Yeti allows for a 20% military discount on the drinkware itself. This discount will pay for most or all of the \$6 design fee depending on the cost of the item being ordered. The Board has decided to do two orders per year for those interested and the club will pay for the \$10 setup fee. The cost of the item ordered will be on the member. If there's interest the first order will be taken at the annual picnic.



## Member Spotlight By: Carol Lynn Vredeveld

*This month's featured spotlight member is Joey Fowler who has now been with the club for a little over 6 months.*

*Although he is new to the club, he has admired Miata's for quite a long time and is now the proud owner of two. As my husband Lou and I were the owners of five Miata's until last year, I certainly understand the attraction and how easy it is to own more than one at a time. The main problem is finding a place to park them all without looking like a used car lot to your neighbors. I'm happy that Joey found the club and I know he will have fun enjoying the drives on the many day trips and even weeklong vacations that are being planned for the next few years. Welcome Joey and thanks for being willing to let us get to know you a little better in your article below:*



I was invited to be represented in the spotlight article and I was happy to do so. As some of you may already know, I am currently the owner of not one, but two Miata's; a 2021 Jet Black Mica Grand Touring 6MT and a 1999 Blue MX-5.

I bought my first Miata in August of 2018. Aside from having loved the Miata since the first one rolled off the line, I had just lost my wife to kidney and vascular disease in March of the same year. So, in an effort to put a bit of a smile on, I started looking around and found my Blue '99 MX-5.

I initially found the club online but didn't become a member until I bought my '21 Grand Touring from Bountiful Mazda in September of 2021.



I lived in Utah most of my life and grew up in the Glendale area. When I was thirty-three years old, I moved to Oregon for work and ended up staying there for thirteen years.



I am now working for Uber Eats and I'm semi-retired.

I met Sabrina, the special lady currently in my life when I was eighteen through a mutual friend, after a few years together, we went our separate ways. As luck would have it, twenty-five years later we reconnected when I moved back to Utah to take care of my Dad before he passed away.

One of my favorite stories with her when we were dating was every Sunday we would go to Trolley Square, and she would watch me juggle along with other people that were jugglers from around the valley. Now, twenty-five years later, we are making new memories with each other. I've been

taking her to many places she's never been before, and it's been great!

We have been together for six months this go round. We don't have any kids together, but I have two daughters and she has three of her own. We currently have five small dogs and two cats.



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I have a special memory of my Dad when he was ill and I was here taking care of him. A group of his friends decided to surprise him with a trip to the Nascar Races in Las Vegas for both of us where my dad got to mark off one of his bucket list items on his birthday, just two weeks before he passed away. That trip and the seven months I spent with him is time that I will always cherish!

Other things I enjoy doing are juggling, playing racquetball, rollerblading, camping, fishing, playing pool, virtual reality games, darts, and going on road trips.

One of my favorite Miata memories was when I bought my '99 and I was still living in Oregon. The next day was a beautiful Saturday, so I drove to Florence which was about 40 minutes west of where I lived and just cruised around the coast by myself enjoying my new "yata".

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY  
LARRY FOWLER**  
(a little EARLY)



**You're flying to Vegas BABY!!**

Next weekend you and Joey are going to saddle into a 600hp NASCAR where you're going to experience the ride of your life! 6 laps at 160 mph is sure to excite you to the MAX! (Might even wet your pants)



This is a gift from your many friends thanking you for your friendship over the years. We love and appreciate you and we want you to have this amazing experience with Joey.



*Hey Joey, at our next Miata Club party, maybe we will get a chance to see some of your juggling skills firsthand! Also, be sure and let us know if you have a particular Miata drive in mind that we might all enjoy...we're always up for new adventures!*



### May Drive Heads Up

The May drive will be in Summit County and planned to include driving by the Deer Valley Snow Park location and the Park City Mountain Ski Resort Parking areas that are scheduled for development in the coming years (moving parking underground). Drive planners are Ken and Jan Jaworski, our favorite Wasatch back drive leaders.

All the details on the lunch meeting location and route will be in the next newsletter.



### Memorial Day Drive By: Roger Heath

On Monday, May 30th come join us for a drive to Golden Spike National Historic Park and then to see the murals in Tremonton. It's been several years since we've seen the trains and most of us missed the opportunity when Jan and Ken Jaworski went to the murals last year. Additional details like meet-up location and time will be in next month's newsletter but announcing here so you can add this to your calendar.

As always, this drive will be weather permitting as Memorial Day weekend is notorious for lousy weather.





## Great Basin / Ely Labor Day Weekend By: Valerie Francis

New on the calendar is a trip to Great Basin National Park over Labor Day Weekend, September 3rd, 4th, and 5th.

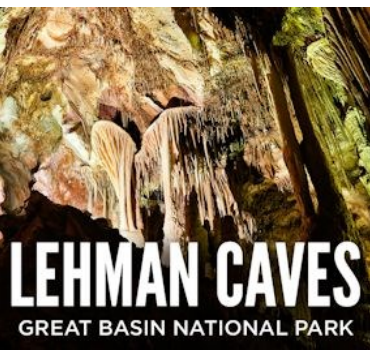
This will be a short 2 night trip over Labor Day weekend to Great Basin National Park in eastern Nevada.

Saturday, Sept 3rd, 9:30 AM - meet at Smith's Marketplace in Saratoga Springs. 689 North Redwood Road Saratoga Springs, UT, driving to Ely NV via Delta UT.

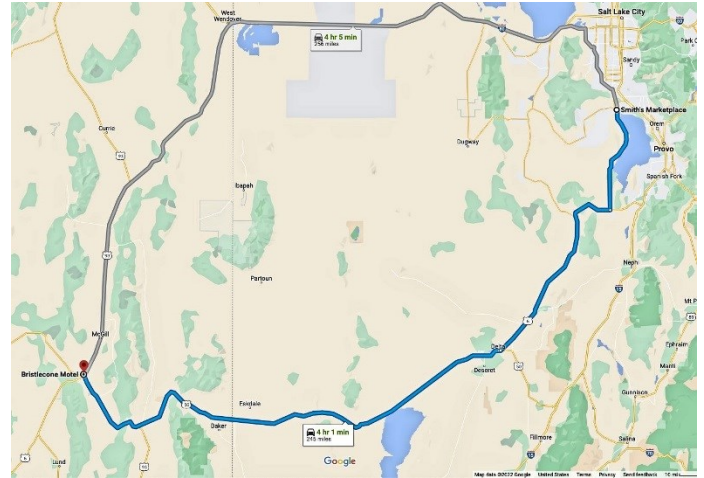
Sunday, Sept 4th - travel into the park and hopefully take a tour of Lehman Cave

Monday, Sept 5th - head back home, either backtrack the same route home or head north to Wendover and I-80

There are multiple hotels. For mid-priced and good reviews suggest the Bristlecone Motel. You can book now with a credit card to hold the room and cancel 24 hours prior to arrival date without penalty. <https://bristleconemotelnv.com>



See Facebook, our website for additional information, or ask Roger Heath.



# 2022 Calendar of Events

LONG LIVE THE ROADSTER

- April 2nd:** Monthly lunch and meeting (Murry to Dugway and Johnson Pass), refer to page 2, Mark Vaughn
- May 7th:** Monthly lunch and meeting (Summit County), refer to page 8, Jan and Ken Jaworski
- May 30th:** Memorial Day drive to Golden Spike & Tremonton Murals, refer to page 8, Roger Heath
- June 4th:** Monthly lunch and meeting (Bear Lake), Steve and Ronda Beckstead
- June 24– 26:** Kanab / North Rim of the Grand Canyon / Optional South Rim, refer to Page 6, Roger Heath
- July 7-10th:** Explore Oregon Adventure, Roger and Perly Heath
- July 16th:** Summer picnic, Elections & Planning Meeting
- July 30 –31st:** Flaming Gorge / Vernal Overnighter, Ken and Jan Jaworski
- August 20-21st:** Helper Arts Festival & Nine Mile Canyon, Roger and Perly Heath
- September 3—5th:** Great Basin / Ely, refer to page 9, Roger and Perly Heath
- October 6-9:** San Diego Club Surf 'N' Safari, <http://sandiegomiataclub.org/sns22/>



Photos this month are from the March lunch meeting and some April birthdays.

