



The Convertible Chronicles of the Utah Miata Club



From the Top Down By: Robert Mechling

Is Black Friday over yet? If so, I hope all had a good Thanksgiving. Yes - tis the season for partying with friends and family, including our Miata Christmas Party (details below and on page two). The board is bringing the food (we shouldn't run out this time). Steve Beckstead will be our MC (thank you Steve) and I'll take some liberties with the White Elephant gift exchange rules. I'm calling it a "Yankee Swap ". It's simple and should go fast, under a minute per swap, giving all a fun chance for that special white elephant.

I'm adding the Winter Solstice, Wednesday Dec 21st, to my list of celebrations, along with the spring equinox on Monday March 20th 2023; any excuse to celebrate. Remember to check out our newsletter calendar for January to July 2023 activities. Yes, 2023 is coming, right on schedule.

Christmas Party details - It's at Sandy's Lone Peak Park, indoor Pavilion (same place as last year). On the west side of 700 East, south of the skate park. Plenty of parking in front of the pavilion at 10140 S. 700 E. Sandy 84070, at 6:00pm.

Planning to see all Dec. 3rd. Robert

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December Holiday Party

Date & Time: December 3rd, 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm

Location: Lone Peak Park Pavilion

Address: 10140 South 700 East, Sandy
(Enter off 700 East for parking in front of the venue).



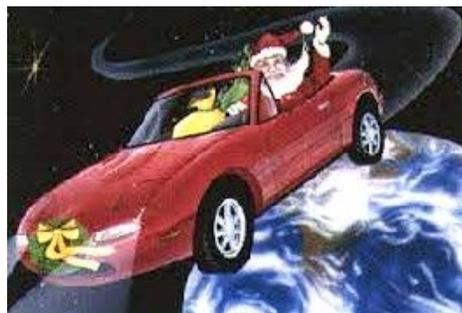
Information: *If you haven't already, PLEASE RSVP by Monday, November 28th!!!*

Please *RSVP* to Margie or Jim Newson at: 801 295-4563
or email jnoose@icloud.com



(We will need a head count to order the food).

Dinner will be provided by the club and will be similar to last year; appetizers, turkey, ham, scallop potatoes, baked beans, rolls, soft drinks and water (no alcohol allowed), etc., and cake for dessert. As always, we will have a "White Elephant" gift exchange. Please bring a gift for each person that would like to participate. This can be a funny gift, a recycled gift, or something you purchase. (\$30 or less per person).



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.** 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.

Birthdays / Memberships

New Members

NAME	YEAR	COLOR
NONE		



NAME	BIRTHDAY
DOMINIC OLIVER	1 Dec
KATHY NIELSEN	2 Dec
MIKE BAILEY	6 Dec
DOROTHY BOWERS	6 Dec
HILLARY VREDEVELD	7 Dec
ALI BAZAZ	11 Dec
ROBERT MECHLING	12 Dec
GORDON NICHOLL	15 Dec
RICHARD DYSON	17 Dec
DEB MOON	19 Dec
LUZ WARNER	20 Dec
KATHY KANKAINEN	27 Dec
RICK KIZER	29 Dec
DANETTE DAVIS	30 Dec
TERRY OLSEN	31 Dec

Removed From Roster

NAME	EXPIRED
NONE	

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

NAME	EXPIRING
JALAAL DIRBAS	12/31/2022
JERRY & LINDA GROSS	12/31/2022
JOANN JACOBSON-WELLS	12/31/2022
JOE LEVERICH	12/31/2022
JAMES & HILLARY VREDEVELD	12/31/2022

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

NAME	EXPIRED
JERRY BILIANZICH	10/31/2022
CHASE & BRITTNEY CHARLESWORTH	11/31/22
DICK & JUDY DYSON	8/31/2022
KRISTI SMITH	8/31/2022
KENNETH WHAMSLEY	10/31/2022
TOM & PAMELA WHARRAM	9/30/2022
ROSEANN WHITAKER	10/31/2022
TYSON & TRACY YOUNG	8/31/2022

Club Officers (July 2022-July 2023)

President: Robert Mechling
Treasurer: Margie Newson

Vice President: Joey Fowler

Secretary: Jim Newson

Directors: Roger Heath, Ronda Beckstead, Susan Christiansen

November Meeting & Drive Report By: Mike Bailey



We had a great luncheon for November's monthly meeting at Chubby's Cafe, a fairly new restaurant in Riverton. They have several locations but mainly in Utah County. We had a spacious room all to ourselves and the food was excellent. We were able to conduct our monthly meeting in a fairly private section. I passed out several of member's Hawaiian style Miata shirts to some who had ordered them. Robert conducted the meeting and discussed the Christmas party and other upcoming events for the new year.



After our meeting we lined up and headed down the backroads to the Vanderhall Motor Works place located in the Timpanogos Harley Davidson Shop in Lindon. It was great that everyone was caught up with the group as there were many street lights and a lot of traffic along the way through Lehi, American Fork and Pleasant Grove. We got a chance to see the 3-Wheeled motor cars and Chris, who is a specialist and happens to own one himself, described to us about the difference between the several models. Many got to sit in one and check it out closely.

We also got the opportunity to drive one out in the parking lot, for those who wanted to do that. Hank, Joey and Sabrina, Karen, and Doyle and Val were able to drive one. It was drizzly wet weather but that was ok. The Vanderhall's run from about \$35,000 to \$50,000.00 for the deluxe models. After viewing the cars and motorcycles at the dealership we headed back home our own way.

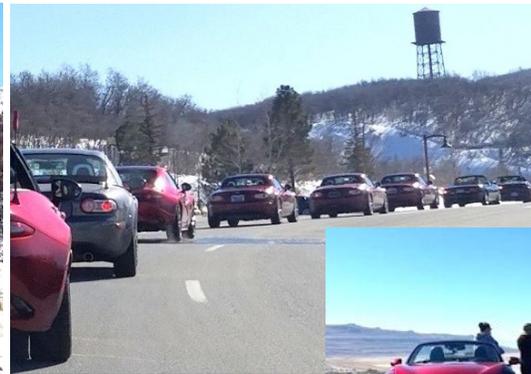
Thanks for those who came on the drive as it was lots of fun.



2022 Adventures Retrospect By: Valerie Francis

Another year of amazing adventures is coming to an end so I thought it would be fun to take a quick look back at some of the great events, get-togethers and drives we had in 2022.

January: The monthly meeting was cancelled due to inclement weather and not meeting in restaurants yet, but a few brave souls still got together for a quick drive or headed out on a more sunny day.



February: We held the monthly meeting in Gordy & Jackie's large heated garage, then cruised through Draper and over Traverse Mountain into American Fork.



Roger posted an impromptu drive to Antelope island for Saturday, February 19th, and four Miatas made the trip.

March: After lunch at el Matador in Bountiful, we drove north to the Eccles Wildlife Education Center at the Farmington Bay Waterfowl Area. We enjoyed a lecture by the Education Coordinator and looking through the scopes they had set up.



April: We met at our "summer picnic Pavilion" then 18 Miatas headed south to Saratoga Springs, west to Rush Valley and up over "Johnson Pass".



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May: We met for lunch at Midway Park and even though it was a cold day, we enjoyed a great drive through the Wasatch Back, including a stop to view at the buffalo in Woodland.



June: Bear Lake Raspberry Shake run! Do I need to say anything more than 22 Miatas, East Canyon, Trappers Loop, Monte Cristo Canyon, Bear Lake, Garden City shakes, Logan Canyon, home!



The Grand Canyon in two parts: A group went to the North Rim after a night in Kanab, then some headed home via Page while a few continued on to the South Rim. At the south rim, two couples stayed in the lodge there while two couples rode the train in and back from Williams AZ.



July: First up was a fun trip to Explore Oregon with lots of side adventures for the seven Miatas that went.



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July continued: We held the July picnic and elections, then planned the year, Lunch was catered by South of the Border food truck.



July / August: Seven Miatas went on a weekend adventure to Flaming Gorge and Dinosaur National Park spending the night in Vernal.



August: The monthly lunch meeting was held at a park in Kamas then a large group of Miatas headed up Mirror Lake Highway. After a quick stop at the lake everyone headed home several different ways.



Later in August, we journeyed down to the Helper Arts Festival and a scary rainstorm jaunt into and out of Nine Mile Canyon, staying the night in Price.



September: Over Labor Day weekend several Miatas completed a road trip to Great Basin National Park including a tour through Lehman Cave, with museum stops in Delta (Topaz Internment Camp) and Wendover (WWII Army Air Corps).

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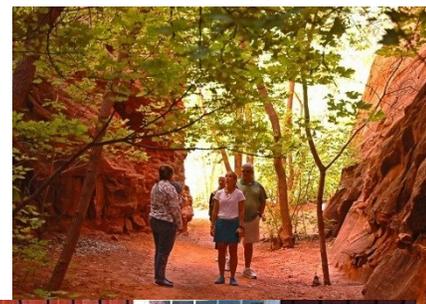
September continued:

The monthly meeting was held on a weekday evening so we could drive Alpine loop with minimal traffic and ride the Full Moon ski lift at Sundance Ski Resort.



Thirteen Miatas explored Bryce, Capitol Reef, and several canyons in between in search of fall leaf colors, and were not disappointed.

October: We met in Payson for the monthly meeting then drove over Nebo Loop, cruised back roads, ending in Santaquin for ice cream treats.



November: After the monthly lunch meeting we braved street traffic to Timpanogos Harley Davidson Shop in Lindon to look and test drive Vanderhall 3 wheeled vehicles. See photos on page 4.

With the Holiday Party coming up on **December 3rd**, I think we can say that we have had a fun, adventurous, and exciting year. There was lots of beautiful scenery, great roads to drive, and best of all to enjoy the company of our Miata Club friends. I am looking forward to seeing you all on more great adventures in 2023!



Ghosts & Legends Miata Challenge By: Mike Bailey



As mentioned in last month's newsletter the **2023 Utah Miata Club Challenge** event will start January 1, 2023. It will be called "**Ghosts & Legends**". I'd like to get a list of who will want to participate on this challenge. Once you decide, please either text or email me if you are thinking of participating. My contact info is at bottom of this article. I will also have a sign up list at the meetings in 2023. As mentioned it will run from January through the middle of October. Refer to the article in last month's newsletter.

The "**challenge**" is to drive your Miata to any old 'ghost towns' in Utah, or surrounding states if you wish, and take a photo of you in front of any sign, like town name, street sign, or landmark like a mine shaft or noteworthy thing in the town to show you were there. If you plan to go where roads are bad, or dirt roads, you can use an OTM (other than Miata vehicle), but still take your photo.

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The person or couple who visits the most towns or landmarks during this time period will be the winners. We plan to have a 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place winners and possibly consolation prizes.

Event T-shirts and possibly an event pin will be available to participants. This is intended to be a fun event that everyone can participate in. If anyone wants to lead a group drive to any place, please let me or a club officer know and we can put it on the calendar for a group drive.

More details will follow in the coming months. Thanks to all those willing to participate in this. Contact Mike at 801-597-1456 or mike@mikebaileyprinting.com. **ZOOM - ZOOM**



Miata Tales Sponsored by: Ken Jaworski Ghosted by: Doyle Sturm

Today, we may need to jack up our car for various reasons. If the procedure is not performed properly the pinch welds on your unibody auto can end up looking like the photo on the right. To avoid this rusty trashed mess, appropriate methods and tools can prevent your auto from looking like this.

The method to be used is described in the operations manual in your glove box. For the Miata the appropriate place to jack up the corner of the car is between the two dimples and notch on the pinch weld shown below (the pinch weld is where the floor and the sides of the car are welded together) They are located in front and behind the door for each corner. It may be noted that on the other side of this weld is the floor and can be bent upward if a jack is placed there.



The tools are your jack and a jacking puck/ pad available at a cost of \$10 to \$20. To the right is a picture of the models available. The one on the left is more universal while the center is metal with a delron plastic strip on the jack point surface. The metal version has two magnets to adhere to the jack point surface. The one on the right is also multipurpose and is the least expensive.



The use of these devices is one of safety. As shown in the photo on the right, two of the models can be attached to the jack point while the third cannot. While using the jack, the two that are attached to the jack point do not require the use of the hand to position the puck. The puck on the ground requires the use of the hand. This procedure can be considered a safety hazard where the user has to operate and position the jack with one hand while other hand can get pinched while positioning the puck.



Just like picking up a gun one should always consider it loaded. The same goes for jacks; they do slip or fail. If you are under the car and this happens you most likely will be injured. Other than when changing a wheel with a jack, a jack stand or cribbing should be used. Jack stands are metal that also can damage the pinch weld. They also make a rubber jack pad for your jack stand as shown on the left.



Be safe out there!



Christmas Play “Five Carols” By: Valerie Francis

As I mentioned at the November meeting and posted on the Utah Miata Club private Facebook page, Doyle and I have tickets to the Christmas play “Five Carols” at the Grand Theatre. All are welcome to join us—it’s get your own tickets so here are the details if you want to join us:

Date and Time : Wednesday, December 21st, 7:30pm

Location: The Grand Theatre, 1575 S State St, Salt Lake City, (in the Salt Lake Community College building)

Pricing: Adult \$30, Senior (60 and over) \$24. I understand there is also a Veterans discount (\$15) but could not see it online so you may have to call the Box Office for this discount at 801-957-3322.

<http://grandtheatrecompany.com/five-carols-2022/>

Doyle and I are in Row H seats 113 & 114.

Play synopsis: In 1954 suburbia, five best friends (all named Carol) set out to present a Christmas program that people “will remember for the rest of their lives” at the local high school. Unfortunately, egos, miscommunication and an unexpected power outage turn their quest for perfection into a madcap misadventure. Bursting with wonderful new songs and lush arrangements of Christmas classics, this riotous romp is destined to become a yuletide favorite.

Additionally, for those interested in meeting up for dinner before the play, I will be making reservations for a quick dinner beforehand at New Golden Dragon restaurant. I will need a head count on the dinner so please RSVP to me at 801-949-9570, or email at valerief Francis714@gmail.com I will also ask for RSVP’s at the Holiday party on December 3rd.

Dinner details: New Golden Dragon, 1716 South State Street, Salt Lake City, UT (west side of street)

Time: 5:30 – so we are hopefully seated by 5:45 and not be rushed.

If we’re not in the Christmas Spirit by this play, attending this should seal the deal!



2022 Calendar of Events



December 3rd: Holiday Party (Sandy Lone Peak Park Pavilion, Time 6:00 PM) refer to page 2 ,Executive Board



2023 Calendar of Events



January 7th: Hill Air Museum (Time and location TBD) - need volunteer drive leader

February 4th: Farmington Wildlife Center, (Time and location TBD), Brian & Sue Christiansen

March 4th: This is the Place State Park (Time and location TBD) - need volunteer drive leader

April 1st: Kennecott mine tour (Time and location TBD), Mike & Lynn Bailey

May 6th: Preston / Bear Lake Loop (Time and location TBD), Roger & Perly Heath

June 3rd: (Drive, time location TBD) - need volunteer drive leader

July 8th: Picnic / Elections & Planning (Time and location TBD), Executive Board

July 13—16th: Willamette Valley Miata Club Explore Oregon, details on <http://www.oregonmx5.com/>

July 21-23 CANCELLED: ~~Panguitch / Cedar Breaks, (Time and location TBD), Roger & Perly Heath~~

September 22-24: Fall Leaf Tour (meetup Time and location TBD), see details on UMC website, Roger & Perly



Photos this month are some December birthdays, and a couple of photos from the November drive destination.

