

RAGTOPS TO RIDGES



MAY 2017

"THE CONVERTIBLE CHRONICLES OF THE UTAH MIATA CLUB"



From the Top Down

Presidents Message

Submitted by: Lou Vredeveld

Here we go Zooming into spring...not soon enough for me! I am sure that everyone is ready to enjoy top down adventures and activities that the warm weather allows. We had a super April luncheon/meeting at Granny Annie's in Kaysville. Over 40 members including the Porters our members from Arizona attended the meeting. Most of our members don't realize that we have members from all over the United States. This is a reflection of how accommodating our club is to

everyone everywhere. It was a beautiful day, so after our April meeting a group of 17 Miata's joined me on a drive to Antelope Island. The panoramic view of the mountains was pretty spectacular. We stopped at the Fielding Garr Ranch and roamed the grounds taking in the historical buildings and farm equipment that was used back then. We also stopped at the Park Visitor Center on the way out. On the 22nd of April we held the first Rally that the club has had for several years. This was a scavenger style rally starting from the Bailey's house and covering almost 50 miles in neighborhoods, and on the freeway to Thanksgiving Point and back to Marie



www.utahmiataclub.org

Inside This Issue:

From the Top Down	Pg 1- 2	Member Spotlight	Pg 7-8
Birthdays/New Members	Pg 3	Rally Report	Pg 9
Luncheon & Drive	Pg 4	Western Caribbean Cruise	Pg 10
Cinco de Mayo	Pg 5	Candid Camera	Pg 11
Calendar of Events	Pg 6	Just For Fun	Pg 12

Callender's where we met for lunch and to give out awards. We had a good turn out with more than 12 Miata's on the rally and a few more joining us for the lunch after. Like always Mike with Lynn's help did a great job planning the event. I am sure he will follow up with a report on the event. This month's meeting will be at Pins and Ales at the All Star Bowling facility in Tooele. This is a 21 year and older Restaurant/Lounge hosted by Steve and Kathy Neilson. During the meeting there will be a vote on the proposed changes to the Club Bylaws. These minor changes and modifications are needed to keep us up to date on the changing times and economy. Following the meeting we will be traveling through the Rush Valley and heading up to Johnson Pass. This is a fun and beautiful drive that the club has done in

the past and enjoyed. Our June 3rd breakfast/meeting will be hosted by Mark and Susan Vaughn at the Cracker Barrel in West Valley at 9:00 am. They have a great breakfast menu and we will be able to avoid the lunch crowd. Weather permitting we will have a drive after. Be sure to bring your walkie talkies on the drive! Again I would like to invite everyone the check out the club website (utahmiataclub.org). All the upcoming events and club information is listed along with a photo album. in the Gallery section, showing many past drives and events.



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 property of the Utah Miata Club.

President:
Lou Vredeveld

Vice President:
Steve Beckstead

Secretary:
Jim Newson

Treasurer:
Margie Newson

Directors:
Mike Bailey, Spence Wood, Doyle Sturm

Newsletter Editor:
Crystal Miller

Webmaster:
Doyle Sturm





NEW MEMBERS

WELCOME TO THE CLUB
VISIT: WWW.UTAHMIATACLUB.ORG
OR WWW.UTAHMIATACLUB.COM

NAME	DATE
ACHTER, ERIC	1 May
CHRISTOPHER, TODD	5 May
WIGHT, JEFF	5 May
BECKSTEAD, RONDA	6 May
TEASDALE, RICHARD	6 May
VAN SICKLE, MARK	6 May
LEONARD, SHARON	8 May
BOWERS, JIM	9 May
DYSON, JUDY	10 May
SCHAEFER, CHERYL	10 May
ARELLANO, LISA	14 May
TOBIASSON, STEVE	17 May
MEDINE, SCOTTY	22 May
MIDGLEY, SHAUNA	22 May
POND, REXANNE	28 May
COX, JOHN	30 May
MCKNIGHT, KELVIN	30 May

EXPIRING SOON

NAME	DATE
BLACK, TERI	5-31
COHEN, BEN	5-31
GERLACH, WILLY & LINDA	5-31
KISER, RICK & DAYNA	5-31
MITCHELL, DANIEL & JOY	5-31
OLSEN, ROBERT	5-31
WIGHT, JEFF	5-31
WOOD, SPENCE	5-31

REMOVED FROM ROSTER

VAUGHN, JIM & PAT	1/31/2017
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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 emailed to you or \$45 if you would like a hard copy sent by standard mail. You can also pay your dues online on our website: utahmiataclub.org with PayPal online. This method is \$27 (the extra covers PayPal fees.) If mailing a check, please send it to: 233 West 1550 North, Bountiful, Utah 84010 (Phone 801-295-4563) and make it out to Utah Miata Club. Margie can also be contacted at the following email address: sec.treasurmc@icloud.com



EXPIRING MEMBERSHIPS

NAME	DATE
BENTLEY, EARNEST & NANCY	4/30/2017
CORDILL, CATHY	4/30/2017
RICHARD DELAND	3/31/2017
LOWE, BRADLEY	4/30/2017
MAYFIELD, CHRIS & MICHELLE	2/28/2017
PETERSON, LARRY & KATHY	4/30/2017
PORTER, DAVE & ANA	4/30/2017
RICH & NANCY SINGER	3/31/2017
TEASDALE, RICHARD	4/30/2017
AARON & JALAE THOMPSON	2/28/2017





MAY 6TH LUNCHEON

Submitted by Steve and Kathy Nielsen

Our May Luncheon and Meeting will be held at: Pins and Ales in Tooele at 11:30 A.M.

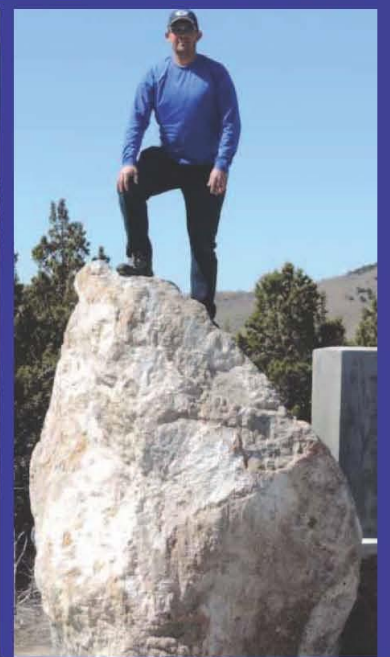
This is a 21 year and older venue

1111 North 200 West Tooele, Utah 84074



PINS & ALES

RESTAURANT NIGHTCLUB



AFTER LUNCH DRIVE TO JOHNSON PASS

This is a great canyon road drive on SR199 from the Rush Valley
Those interested can continue on to Dugway then North to I-80

Cinco de Mayo

This is a good excuse to have a Fiesta!

Come and celebrate Cinco de Mayo with friends at Harmon's Grocery store (Bangerter Crossing Store) in Draper off Bangerter Highway & I-15 with gourmet Mexican food of all sorts.

This is presented and taught by Chef Cheryl Schaefer.

Also included are margaritas and beer or other fun drinks without alcohol if you prefer.

The cost is \$30 per person and you must register online at harmonsgrocery.com.

This link will take you there: Scroll down online to the Event Photo above and Register for event ASAP. This will be a good time for all with excellent gourmet food. Limited seating available. Link is also available on our club website.

<https://www.harmonsgrocery.com/classes?expertId=40&storeId=5##results>

See the details and more information as well as the Menu on the link to this event. Harmon's Grocery will be closing off their upstairs Mezzanine for this Celebration. The Baileys, Nicholls, Vredevelts, and Becksteads have signed up so far. Obviously it is on May 5th, Friday (Cinco de Mayo).



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Cinco de Mayo - Party on the Mezzanine **\$ 30**

..... *54 Seats Available*

Taught By Chef Cheryl Schaefer

📍 Bangerter Crossing 📅 5.5.17 🕒 6:00 PM -9:00 PM



2017 Calendar of Events

(Submitted and updated by Steve Beckstead)

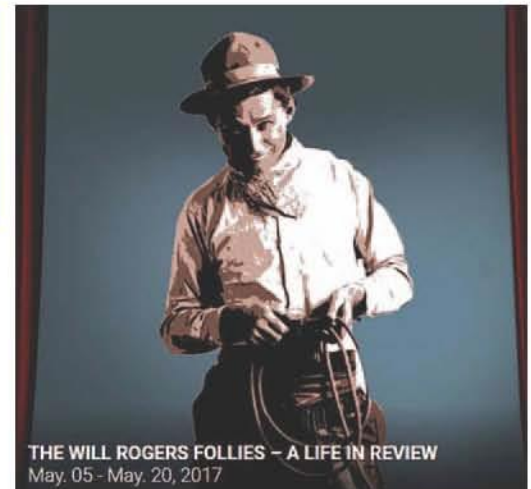
- May 6th:** 11:30 Meeting and Lunch at Pins and Ales – Steve and Kathy - Johnson Canyon Drive
May 20th: Pioneer Theater Will Rogers Play and Porcupine Dinner - Susan Vaughn
May 26th: Sacramento Music Festival non Miata trip – Lou Vredevel
June 3rd: 9:00 Breakfast and Meeting at Cracker Barrel – Susan Vaughn
July 1st: 11:30 Meeting and Lunch (TBD) – Steve Beckstead – Drive TBD
July 8th to 26th: (Dates Vary) Viking Grand European river cruise (Mike and Donn)
August 3rd: Tuacahn Weekend in St. George – Susan Vaughn
August 12th: 11:30 Meeting and BBQ (Mark and Susan's Patio). Monthly Meeting (Lou)
August 20th to 26th: Miatas at the Total Solar Eclipse (Lou Vredevel)
September 9th: Summer Picnic (Morgan Park) Monthly Meeting (Lou Vredevel)
October 7th: 11:30 Meeting and Lunch (TBD-Mike Bailey) - Monthly Meeting (Lou)
October 28th: Halloween Party (Details TBA)
November 4th: 11:30 Meeting and Lunch (TBD-Mechlings) – Monthly Meeting (Lou)
December 9th: Merry Christmas Party (Catered) - Mike and Lynn Bailey

"Will Rogers Follies" Matinee Play

May 20, 2017 at 2:00 p.m.



Join us for a fun play at a 2:00 p.m. Matinee on Saturday, May 20, 2017. "This will show you a time when Americans had heroes they truly loved, and entertainment that truly entertained." This is a glittering musical with tap dancing chorus girls and rope-twirling cowboys. It will be lots of fun. After the play we will have a dinner at Porcupine Grill



June Breakfast & Meeting by Mike Bailey

June's luncheon will actually be a Breakfast at Cracker Barrel Restaurant arranged by Susan Vaughn. We will meet at 9:30 a.m.

instead of our regular luncheon time at the Cracker Barrel in West Valley City at 2283 West City Center Court over by the Maverick Center. There is a lot of food options to choose from. After breakfast we will plan a drive to be determined by Mark and Susan.





Member Spotlight

by: Carol Lynn Vredevelde



This month's spotlight article featuring Ron Christensen is a continuation from last month's article on David Christensen. Ron is a racing enthusiast that has been in love with racing of all kinds from the time he was a very young boy. Although he doesn't currently own a Miata, he is an enthusiastic passenger and photographer while participating in our events with his brother David. He also helped David in the restoration of his 1993 British Racing Green Miata (the Lotus factory original racing team color, not the Miata BRG). Ron was an active member of the Miata Clubs long before most of us even knew about the club. His love of racing included Mazda's from 1979 when he drove and won a National Championship in a Mazda RX-3 to winning 8 of 11 events while driving a Miata in 1991. These are just a few of his accomplishments in the racing industry. His love of film and photography landed him a job on the film crew of one of my favorite movies, "The Worlds Fastest Indian" starring Anthony Hopkins. He is also a talented artist, which lead him to do commissioned work for automobile enthusiasts and racers including automotive art illustrations, drawings and cartoons that have appeared in Road and Track magazine, Auto week and SCCA club publications.

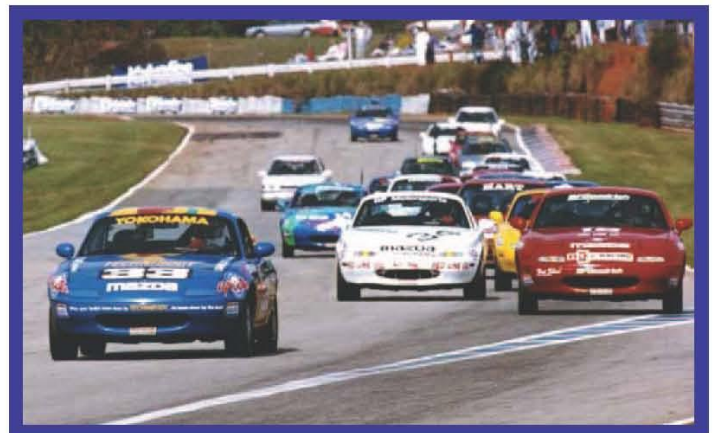
Ron gives us a little peek into his love of racing and how Miata's became part of his world in his own words below:

My Miata was a 1990 converted into an SCCA Class C Showroom Stock Racer. I bought my 1990 Miata at St. George Used Cars on south State Street in 1991 specifically to turn into a race car.

As a dedicated race car, my Miata was not registered and had no plates but I do have the personalized plate "RACER" which I have had since 1976 and have worn on many cars since then including Corvettes, a Lotus 7 and more recently a Cobra.

I was born in Salt Lake and spent my early school years in Wendover, Utah where my father's business was the "Wendover Flying A Service". I started working there when I was 11 years old. Growing up next to Bonneville and the racing on the salt flats nurtured my interest in racing. Speedweek was the highlight of the year for me and a time to collect T-shirts and decals and pester the hot-rodder's with questions about their race cars.

I was fortunate enough to have enjoyed the Golden Age of Bonneville starting with Mickey



Thompson's Challenger through Gary Gabelich's Blue Flame and Richard Noble's first efforts with the original Thrust jet car. I have also built dozens of plastic model cars, most of which were Bonneville race cars. For a Jr. High School Science Fair project my father and I built a working model of a jet car powered by a pulse jet engine. I continue building models to this day and it is an integral part of my career in exhibit construction for museums and visitors centers.

I attended the U of U and majored in graphic design. Worked at Adamson and Associates as Art Director from 1976 to 2012 and have since retired and currently enjoy pursuing my art interests.

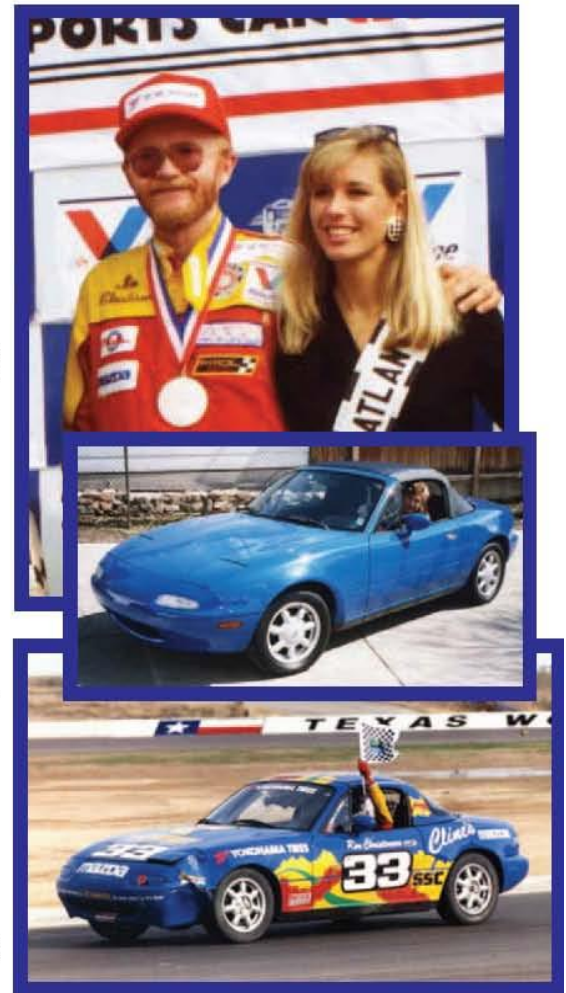
I lost my first wife, Ellen to cancer in 1998. She was the inspiration for my racing success. Ellen and I did not have time for children as our racing was all-consuming. Our other interests included flying (owned a Cessna 172), off road rallying (Jeep Cup North American Rally Series), skiing (competed in the Coca Cola Cup ski races), dirt bikes (camping and riding a pair of Yamahas in the West Desert near Wendover), hiking, camping and exploring 4WD roads and trails with a Jeep CJ5. Though not competing in any professional racing at the moment I am actively involved in racing as an instructor at Miller Motorsports Park (now Utah Motorsport Campus). I have always been involved in art doing mostly automotive subjects. I have been the announcer at the Bonneville Salt Flats at the annual Speedweek and World of Speed meets since 1992. I was also asked to serve as the Bonneville Technical Advisor for the Roger Donaldson film "World's Fastest Indian" which starred Anthony Hopkins.

I am currently married to my wife Miky since 2005 with four stepdaughters and 3 grandchildren. We travel to her home country, Ecuador often.

I have had a very extensive career in the racing profession. If you would be interested in knowing a little more about my adventures, you're welcome to view my racing and professional bio online at: https://1drv.ms/b/s!AgK7TsFerT_cjiJiYaneFy-jP_KG I was quite actively involved in the Miata Club during the early 90's and ran the Road Rally Events during the time when Dale Emery was the President of the club.

I look forward to enjoying club events in my brother's Miata and will become a bona fide member when I acquire another one myself.

Ron has already been providing us with some great photos of past club events and the current rides that he and David have been on. I'm sure Doyle, our awesome photographer and historian, will appreciate Ron's contributions! If you haven't had a chance to talk to Ron and David, be sure to introduce yourself. They are two of the nicest guys you will ever meet! I'm sure Ron could tell you many stories about his racing days, the awards and recognition he has received and the races he participated in. Welcome to both of you.. we're excited to have you in our Utah Miata Club family!





Rally Report by Mike Bailey

The rally was attended by 28 Members; 12 participating couples and 2 administrator couples. There was a tie for First and Second Place with the exact same scores on the Questions part and Scavenger Items collection part with 242 total points allowed for these two sections. The Tie breaker Extra Points allowed 6 points for Lowest Mileage and 4 points for Best Time. First place winner was Hank & Rexanne Pond as their mileage was 3 miles shorter than Second Place Winner; Cheryl Schaeffer and her friend, who actually got the points for best time edging the Pond's by just a few minutes. Third Place went to Hillary and Stephanie Vredeveld. Each sets of winners received Visa or a restaurant Gift Card. The Last Place Winner went to Joe & JoAnn Leverich who takes home the coveted "Red Lobster Award". They had to rush the Rally as they had another event to attend to so this probably resulted in their lower score. Thanks to all who participated including Mechlings, Ron Steckler & Steve Tobiasson, Lou & Carol Vredeveld, Housers, Sturms, Moons, Becksteads, and Arellano's. Also thanks to Gordy & Jackie Nicholl for being administrators. Thanks to Dysons and Kloers for joining us for lunch.





UTAH MIATA CLUB WESTERN CARIBBEAN CRUISE

8 Days: February 25 – March 4, 2018

Itinerary:

Day1: Galveston, Texas Port

Day2: Day at Sea Cruising



Day 3: Cozumel, Mexico

Day 5: Falmouth, Jamaica

Day 7: Day at Sea Cruising

Day 4: George Town, Grand Cayman

Day 6: Day at Sea Cruising

Day 8: Galveston, Texas

Join us for an exciting 8 Day Cruise to the Western Caribbean on the Liberty of the Seas.



Invite your Miata friends and family. Everyone is welcome. The cruise leaves from the port of Galveston, Texas. You will probably want to get into Galveston a day early to enjoy the city and exciting things to do and also in case of flight delays. This ship features 10 different Dining options, including "My Time Dining" where you can eat at different tables. We have some cabin blocks reserved for our group at discounted prices as follows:

Category N: Inside Cabins starting at \$349.00 per person. **Category PR:** Inside Cabins with view to the Promenade at \$419.00 per person. **Category I:** Outside Cabins with window starting at \$439.00 per person. **Category D3:** Outside Cabins with Balcony starting at \$679.00 per person. **Category D2:** Outside Cabins with Balcony starting at \$689.00 per person. **Category E1:** Deluxe Outside Cabins with Balcony at \$759.00 per person. Larger cabins are currently available and so are cabins with 3rd and 4th person in cabin. Price above do not include Port Fees of \$190.00 per person and taxes are \$81.70 per person. Prices subject to change, so please book early. Prices will increase over time. Check Royal Caribbean website for Deck Plan and details. Book this cruise through our Travel Group rep, Amber Lee Johanson at Morris Murdock Travel; 801-483-6314. Email: ajohanson@morrismurdock.com. **Deposit per person is \$250.00. Reserve NOW for \$50.00.** When you select your cabin you pay the rest of deposit. **Be sure to also email Mike Bailey so I can keep track of who is going.** Mike@mikebaileyprinting.com or phone with questions; 801-597-1456. Refundable deposit if canceled 90 days prior to sailing date. See Amber for details. Also you can get other discounts with your "Crown & Anchor" Membership, depending on the category you have.

Candid Camera

by Mike Bailey

"2017 Rally Photos"



JUST FOR FUN

Pick up your new "Tag Cards" so you can tag a Miata that you see on the street or parking lot. It is a good way to let people know about joining the club.



www.utahmiataclub.org

Jim/Margie Newson
Club Secretary/Treasurer
801-295-4563
sec.treasumc@icloud.com

Hey! Nice Car!

For the most fun you can have in a Miata, join the Utah Miata Club!
Call or email Club Secretary or Treasurer



Referred By: _____



Utah Miata Club
www.utahmiataclub.org



LONG LIVE THE ROADSTER

