



The Convertible Chronicles of the Utah Miata Club

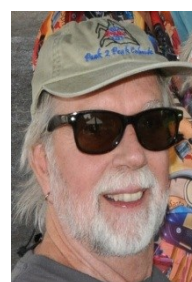
From the Top Down by Mike Bailey

At our annual Elections & Planning Meeting held on July 18, 2026 we elected our new Utah Miata Club officers and board directors for the 2026-2027 year. The results are indicated at the bottom of this page with accompanying photos of the new club officers. We had about 54 members attend the summer picnic which was catered by Larry's Spring Chicken Inn of Morgan, Utah. We had a great time at the luncheon and visited with each other for several hours. After the elections we had our annual Planning Meeting to list a general outline of events and drives for this next year. We had some good suggestions on what members wanted to do. We do not have a full calendar of events for next year currently however we will fill the open spots after the first of the new year as we continue to plan events for the 2027 year. Thanks to all the members who contributed to this meeting as it was a huge success!

I'd like to thank Robert Olsen for his role as President of the club for this year. He has done a good job of leading the club and taking charge particularly at the monthly luncheons and meetings. I also want to thank Michael and Kelly Thompson for their roles as Treasurer and Secretary of the club. They assumed this responsibility from Margie and Jim Newson who had these positions for many years. It has been a sad month this past month as Margie passed away and we truly miss her wit and charm in the club. Our condolences go out to Jim. She will surely be missed by everyone who knew her.

Summer is almost at an end with only one more month left, then we head into our Fall and Winter months. We have a strong club with a lot of great members and will be looking forward to having more fun each month. Just a reminder to check the calendar usually at the end of the newsletter each month for coming activities and the monthly luncheons and drives that we have planned. Our club is only as good as it's members! We also love to do a few overnights; 2-3 day trips during the year, so please think along these lines. We list them on our UMC Member Facebook page: [\(20+\) Utah Miata Club | Facebook](#) and our Miatas in Utah Facebook page that any Miata enthusiast can join: [\(20+\) MIATA'S IN UTAH - Events/Activities | Facebook](#). Check out our Facebook pages as well as our club's Website: www.utahmiataclub.org.

New 2026-2027 Officers and Directors: President: Michael Bailey, Vice President: Dave Scheurer, Secretary: Kelly Thompson, Treasurer: Mike Thompson, Board of Directors: Robert Olsen, Jackie Nicholl, Ron Steckler.



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Mt. Nebo Loop August Drive & Luncheon by Mike Thompson

When: Saturday, August 8, 2026 Time: 8:30 AM. Meet: Maverik Store #589 at 2023 Redwood Road, Saratoga Springs, UT. 84045

We will meet early in Saratoga Springs, have a short driver's meeting and get on the road. We will drive south on SR 68 the road west of Utah Lake to Elberta then left at stop sign where the 'old Sinclair' gas station is. Maybe we'll stop this year for a group photo with our Miatas in front of the 'Old Sinclair'. We'll then go east to Goshen and take a right hand turn to drive through Goshen Canyon (our usual way) past the town of Mona to the Nebo Market in Nephi where we will take a break (bathroom or pick up snacks, etc.) Then we'll get back on the road and drive east out of town on SR 132 to get to the south end of the Nebo Loop National Scenic Byway. We'll probably



take a short break and walk the trail for a group photo at Devil's Kitchen, the overlook where the red rocks are! Our drive will end at Payson Memorial Park after driving the Nebo Loop. We will eat lunch and hold our monthly business meeting in the covered picnic area on the east side of the park. There are some fast food places in Payson or bring your own picnic basket.



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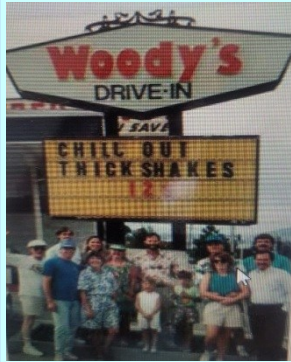
www.utahmiataclub.org



Burger Day at Woody's Drive Inn by Mike Bailey

Optional Drive after up Big Cottonwood Canyon and over Guardsman's Pass onto turnoff to Wasatch Mountain State Park to Midway and home south either past Deer Creek Reservoir and down Provo Canyon to Orem and back to SLC over Sun-crest or northerners' can go to Heber and home from there. (See page 4 this NL).

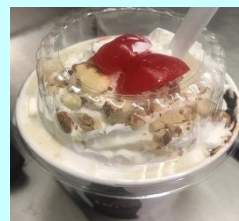
When: Saturday, August 15, 2026 Where: Woody's Drive Inn in Murray Address: 6172 South 1300 East, Murray, Utah 84107 Time: 1:00 PM



Woody's Drive Inn was the first and original fast food restaurant that the Utah Miata Club used to go to back when the club was first formed back in the Spring of 1991. It has been closed for a couple of years for remodeling and has recently reopened for business. It has a 1950's -60's nostalgic look and theme. Our UMC's first meetings and luncheons were at this place. Photo of Bowers below. I thought it would be fun to go

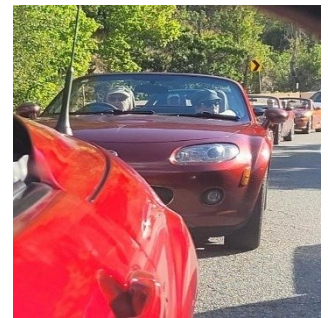
there and experience this restaurant. They have 'Dine-In' service as well as outside 'Car-Service.' Fabulous burgers & fries, sandwiches, onion rings, and fried pickles as well as chocolate dipped ice cream and awesome shakes and malts. Juke Box music and nostalgic interior. Just like the old drive-ins that some of us went to back in the 60's & 70's. See a couple photos taken in the Summer of 1990 just after the club was formed. Photo to the left is a group of the

1990 Utah Miata Club outside in front of the old 'Woody's' sign and also a photo to left of Jim and Dorothy Bowers having lunch. with a club member.



GUARDSMAN'S PASS DRIVE: July 15, 2026 by Mike Bailey

This drive will take place after our luncheon at Woody's Drive Inn on Saturday, July 15th after our lunch if the group wants to do this. I know Nicholl's took some members there after the June luncheon at Leatherby's however not sure how many participated in this drive. Guardsman's Pass is a favorite local drive which goes up Big Cottonwood Canyon and just before entrance into Brighton Ski Resort and also where Silver Lake is, we take the turnoff to the left on the sharp curve at the top of the canyon. It is a nice scenic Miata drive and is another way to get to Park City however we usually take the turnoff to the right at the fork in the road to Wasatch Mountain State Park and Midway. We can also take a bathroom break at the restrooms at the Wasatch Mountain State Park. Then we will drive through Midway and take the right turn in town to Charleston and past Deer Creek Reservoir and down to Provo Canyon and home via north Orem and to I-15 to Salt Lake. Lynn and I usually take the turn-off up and over Suncrest as it's more fun and scenic than driving up I-15. Northerner's can go into Heber City or take the north Midway turnoff to I-40 and go home that way. This is always a fun little drive and only takes up to two hours. Photos below of drives over Guradsman's Pass.



Attention: New 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 and participate on the club's Facebook Page. Please note that Expiring Soon column now shows your date "Paid Thru". A single membership is \$30.00 for the year, and a dual membership is \$40.00. If your name is among the personalized reminders below, at our next activity please hand a check—payable to the **Utah Miata Club**—to Mike or Kelly Thompson. If you prefer you may mail a check to 2468 E. 1950 N. Layton, UT. 84040. If you have questions Mike may be contacted at 530-521-6675, or by email at utahmiataclub@yahoo.com. Payment types accepted for your dues are cash, check, money order or Venmo: username @UMCTreas. **Please Renew your Membership on the Month its Due!**

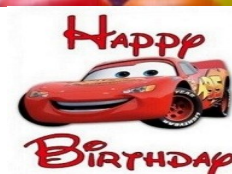
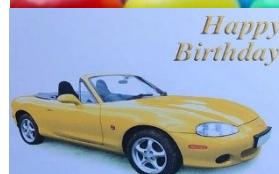
Birthdays / Memberships

NAME	YEAR	COLOR
PERRY BRULOTTE	2023	SOUL RED CRYSTAL
RACHEL TAYLOR	2026	AERO GRAY
LANCE TOPHAM	2026	SNOWFLAKE WHITE
LARRY KNIGHT	2016	RED

Expiring Soon: \$40. Dual- \$30 Single / Renew Now

NAME	PAID THRU
STEVE & RONDA BECKSTEAD	31 AUG 2026
BRIAN & SUSAN CHRISTIANSEN	30 AUG 2026
RICK & DANETTE DAVIS	31 AUG 2026
BUD GOFF & DENISE WILLIAMS	31 AUG 2026
SCOTT & CALLIE HARRINGTON	31 AUG 2026
JAROM PEGRAM & SARIAH PASKETT	31 AUG 2026
OWEN SPENCER	31 AUG 2026
CAROL LYNN VREDEVELD	31 AUG 2026
GREG & LANETTE WILSON	31 AUG 2026
RICHARD & PATTY ADAMS	30 SEP 2026
MARK & CHARRISE FERGUSON	30 SEPT 2026
ANDREA LOPEZ	30 SEPT 2026
MARK MIDGLEY	30 SEPT 2026
LEON & STEPHANIE VISNAW	30 SEPT 2026

KEN JAWORSKI	01 AUG
ANDREW VANTIEM	08 AUG
KATHY COLLINGS	12 AUG
JAGJIT LIDDER	14 AUG
CAROL LYNN VREDEVELD	24 AUG
STEVE NIELSEN	26 AUG
AMY BECKSTEAD	27 AUG
CHRIS MARKARIAN	27 AUG
RANDALL SMITH	29 AUG
CHRISTENA GATES	30 AUG

**Memberships Expired / Renew Now**

NAME	EXPIRED
SARAH BURNINGHAM	30 JUN 2026
RANDALL SMITH	30 JUN 2026
LETHO & DANA BASSETT	31 JUL 2026
ALI BAZZAZ	31 JUL 2026
RULON JENSON & JAGJIT LIDDER	31 JUL 2026
RACHEL & JASON WOODS	31 JUL 2026
TIMOTHY & LISA KING	31 JUL 2026

Removed From Roster

REMOVED FROM ROSTER	EXP.
ALEX & SONYA JOHNSON	MAY 2026

Club Officers July 2025—2026

President: Michael Bailey - Vice President: Dave Scheurer - Secretary: Kelly Thompson - Treasurer: Michael Thompson - Directors: Robert Olsen, Jackie Nicholl, Ron Steckler. Web Master: Doyle Sturm Newsletter Editor: Mike Bailey, Membership Director: Jackie Nicholl—Scribe: Sharon Mechling.



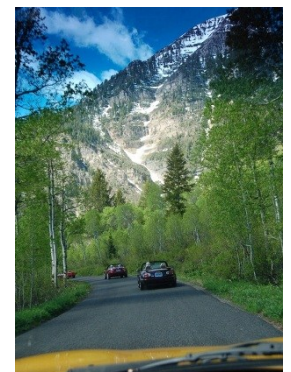


September Luncheon & Alpine Loop Drive by Mike Bailey

When: Saturday, September 12, 2026 Time: 10:00 AM Where to Meet: Draper Harmon's Grocery Store: 13800 S. Bangerter Hwy. and East of I-15 Parking Lot

Picnic in the Park: Creekside Park, 100 S. 600 East, Alpine, Utah

We will have a short driver's meeting at the Harmon's grocery store in Draper. You can bring a picnic lunch basket or get something to eat either before you leave home or at Harmons or you can purchase fast food like at Subway or another place in Alpine. We'll drive up east Draper and over to Suncrest and to Alpine and go to the park for lunch and a club meeting. The name and address to the park is above. There are a couple park pavilions there but if occupied we'll have to sit on lawn or you may want to bring your camp chairs. After the lunch we'll head up American Fork Canyon via Mt. Timpanogos Highway and take the Alpine Loop Drive Road. We'll drive thru to Sundance and take a break there and can use rest rooms. Drive will end there. I'll be driving down Provo Canyon Road south to 800 N. Orem and home via I-15 or those who live north can go north on Provo Canyon Road to Heber and home.



30 Years of Miata Memories by Mike Bailey

I'd like to thank everyone who voted for me to be the next years' President of this club. I'm pretty sure by the way the elections went that no one wanted to take on this responsibility or position, however, I think that we have many awesome members of the club who would handle this position just fine and do an excellent job at it! The position or job is not as scary as you think, and can be fun! Writing the monthly "Top Down" article is not that much work at all but I don't think my articles will be as good as Robert Olsen's articles or other previous club presidents. This month, I mainly wanted to introduce the new club officers and directors, whom most of you know pretty well. These members keep the club growing strong and keep the club viable. I will repeat, which I've mentioned before, that it's the Members that make the club what it is and they make this club "FUN" to be a member of. We appreciate and want to hear all your suggestions of planning a fun drive or going to a new place for lunch or trying a new activity!



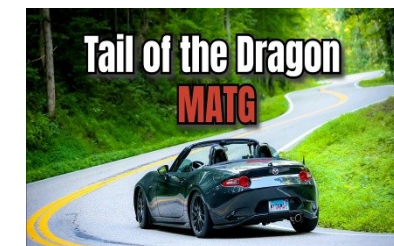
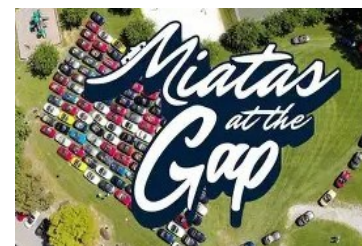
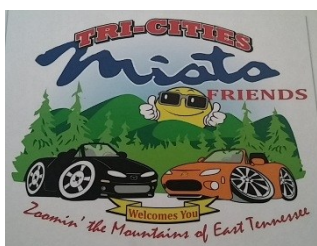
I'm going on 30 years of being a part of this club. It has been a 'fun ride', so to speak. The club has always planned fun events like our 'Miatas in Utah' events that we did every other year, or biennial, for 17 consecutive periods. Our last one in 2020 was sold out within a month but we had to cancel it because of the Covid outbreak. Our club is well known across the country as well as internationally for these events. They were always tons of fun and attracted so many 'Miata' people. Some events had almost 600 people and over 300-350 Miatas! We have had the chance



to travel to many wonderful places throughout the United States and enjoy 'Miata life' with hundreds of people at regional and other club's events such as Mazda's Laguna Raceway, Sonoma Miata Reunion in California, and at the Bristol Motor Speedway at the Zoomin' the Mountains of East Tennessee. We have also been to many other Mazda and Miata events held by other Miata clubs. Mazda Miata Weekend on the Coast, Explore Oregon events, Surfin' Safari in San Diego, Back to Bavaria in Leavenworth, Washington and many others such as Fall For New England in Massachusetts, and



the Texas Miata Roundup in South Texas. From California to Vancouver, Canada to Mt. Rushmore, Montana to Arizona and Colorado and New Hampshire and New York and Niagara Falls we've seen it all in our Miatas. (continued)



30 Years of Miata Memories (continued) by Mike Bailey

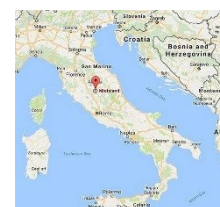
One thing that is so amazing, especially since I am getting much older and with my health issues as they are, it seems harder to get around and do things like I used to. After I got home from Covid and had a hard time walking we traveled to the Explore Oregon event that we'd been to as a club several times. On one day we took a Hellgate speed boat tour and I was able to get lots of help getting in and out of the boat, mainly by Hank Pond and by our other Utah Miata Club friends. The girls



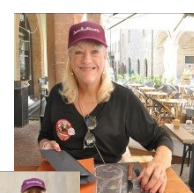
had fun swimming in the ocean and we took many fun group photos as I love to document all our trips and events with photos! Our travels have been far and wide and we have loved all the wonderful trips we've taken.



On our Miata trip to Miataland last October, we (Lynn and I) were so fortunate to have the help of the Ponds, Becksteads, Carol Lynn, the Cichockis' and Dave & Lori Ortiz to give us a hand with our bags, etc. as we went from place to place on tours in Italy and Iceland. Our Miata friends are like our family and have always helped us out wherever we go. We had a very fun trip planned by our club travel agent, Karen Christiansen who is an expert for making our trips very fun and exciting. Be sure to call her if you want or need a trip to anywhere. She is planning another trip to Miataland this fall and let her know if you'd like to go on this one! Karen can be reached at 801- 735-4700 or at her Draper office for Morris-Murdock Travel.



Photos of our trip to Italy and Miataland and also to Iceland. We are always having fun drives in our Miatas and going to fun places to eat. I don't know what I'd do if I didn't have my Miatas and Miata friends!



Fall Event Drive with Texas Miata Club In Southern Utah

by Mike Bailey



I want to make a list of those who want to go on the trip to Moab and some of the state and national parks end of September to join up with the Texas Bluebonnet Club when they come to visit Utah. I have a schedule below of the dates they will be here and places we want to visit with them. This will be a fun event and the chance to see some of our national wonders by visiting these parks and some state and national monuments.

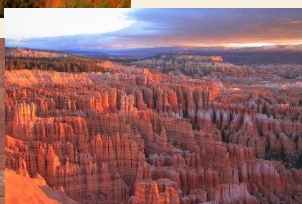
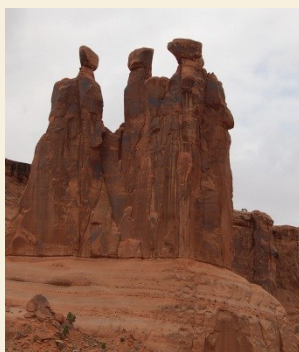
It will be similar to what we did year's ago with our Miatas in Utah events only without all the organization and planning we had to do for those events. Let's show the Texans what a beautiful state we have and what we can offer them during their vacation here! This will be our annual Fall Drive for this year!

Their dates to be in Utah are from **September 18-24th** with about four days around the Moab area and then to Capitol Reef and then on to Bryce Canyon and also a drive through Zion before they head back home. **This is the Itinerary of the Texas Club's trip and where they will be on the following days: Friday-Monday, Sept. 18-21: Moab. Tuesday Sept. 24: Capitol Reef NP. Wednesday, Sept. 2: Bryce. National Park. Thursday, Sept. 26: Zion NP. Please let me know if you want to do this event?**

I am working on accommodations for this event, however you can make your own accommodations if you wish. Any suggestions from Utah members are appreciated.



This is the schedule from the Texas Club: Fri. Sept. 18: Arrive in Moab evening. **Sat. Sept. 19:** Free day in Moab. **Sun. Sept. 20:** Either Arches NP, Wilson Arch, Newspaper Rock, Dead Horse Point, Potash Road. **Mon. Sept. 21: Moab:** Any above or Hwy. 128, Canyonlands, or Natural Bridges NP. Note: These days in Moab we can mix and match any of the above for time spent there. **Tue. Sept. 22:** Capitol Reef NP and depart to Escalante. **Wed. Sept. 23:** Mt. Carmel or Bryce Canyon. **Thur. Sept. 24:** Page Az via Zion NP. **Fri. Sept. 25:** to Antelope Canyon Tour. On **Sat. Sept. 26** Texas group heads to Farmington, NM via Monument Valley / Mexican Hat/Four Corners. This schedule is subject to change.





MIATA TIDBITS

by Mike Bailey

Newsorthy Items from UMC Members



USA 250 Plates for Utah now available for your Miata

Personalized or Regular Utah America 250 license plates are available for a limited time as I mentioned them in the newsletter last month about different Utah license plates that are now available for your vehicles if you are interested in that. I received my personalized USA 250 plate quickly within a month of or-



dering them. They even print the annual sticker on them for the year. My plate says **MB ZOOM**. You can put up to six letters or numbers on them if you have them personalized. They are very nice with white letters / numbers that are reflective on a black background and feature the America 250 logo with



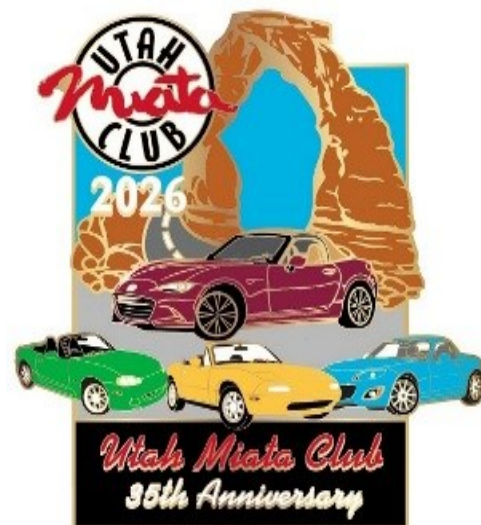
the 13 stars on the 1776 flag. They are also a standard issue plate for no extra charge like other standard Utah plates. For personalized plates they have a cost of \$95.00 and you can order just one plate or two plates for the same cost. Utah, as you may know that they have changed the law that we only need to have one plate on our vehicle. In fact soon they will only make one plate when you purchase a



a new vehicle or change your plates. I hope others in the club will be interested in the new plate! I took a poll many years ago on how many members in our Utah club had personalized Vanity plates and 85% of members had them in our club. This is also very com-



mon in most Miata clubs across the country and I've noticed the personalized plates at Miata events that I've attended over the years. At times I have featured a page in our newsletter of the Vanity or personalized plates that members have.



Enjoy these photos of Utah Miata Club's August Birthdays



AMY BECKSTEAD



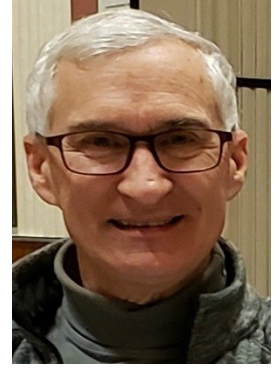
CAROL LYNN VREDEVELD



GARY COLLINGS



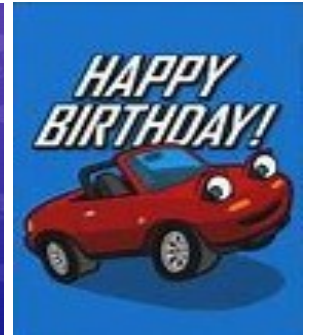
KEN JAWORSKI



STEVE NIELSEN



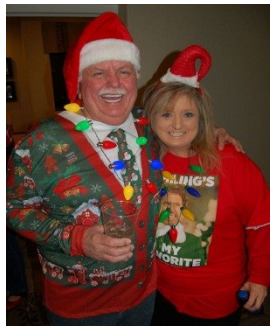
DALIN CHRISTIANSEN



Monthly Birthday Celebrations at UMC Luncheons

Monthly Door Prize Give-Aways

Photos of Birthday Members at UMC Events:



New Utah Miata Club Logo Apparel & Merchandise by Mike Bailey



MIATA SWAG AND ANY OTHER CLOTHING ITEMS YOU'D LIKE CAN BE ORDERED

Windbreaker Jackets or the Official Utah Miata Club Jackets that you've seen some members wear. Official logo or the Mountains Logo with the color of your Miata on it. Or the Utah Miata Club Un-Official logo the red Miata with star in background. We used to use this logo in early days of the club especially on apparel. Windbreakers are \$25.-\$30. Club official jackets are \$70.00 to include most logos.



First Original UMC Logo: Star with the Miata Club Logo (created in 1997). Miata Flag Script type font. "Miataitude" font Hats. \$20.00-\$30.00 depending on logo. Official Logo & Mountains Logo. Denim Vests or Jackets-supplied by you or I can get them from my apparel provider!

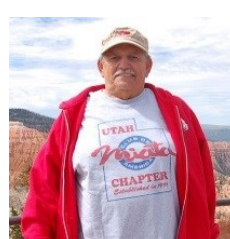
Club Logo Miata Car Magnets: Official or Mountains Logo with color of your Miata! \$25./set of 2. Miata Support Vehicle Magnets.



Ball Caps all club logos and other designs. \$20- \$25. & \$30. depending on logo. Also 2-tone hats and mesh hats.



Hawaiian Style Miata shirts with Utah Miata Club Miatas and UMC logos on them. Also T-Shirts with logos and many designs: Long Live the Roadster, Neon Miata, Ask for details. Specify size and color.





2026 Calendar of Events



August 8th: Mt. Nebo Loop Drive; Luncheon Payson Park (BYOL); See Pg. 2 NL: Mike & Kelly Thompson.

August 15th: Burger Day at Woody's Drive Inn; Lunch 1:00 PM, Murray; See Pg. 3 NL: Drive after lunch over Guardsman's Pass. See Pg. 5 NL: Mike & Lynn Bailey

September 12th: Lunch-Park in Alpine; 10 AM; Alpine Loop Dr. Pg. 6 NL: Mike Bailey

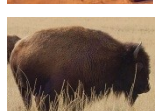
September 18th-24th: Fall Drive with Texas Miata Club, Moab/Bryce: See Pg. 9 NL-Baileys

October 10th: Antelope Island Drive-Visitor's Center, Lunch (TBD): Robert Mechling

October 30th: Possible Halloween Party: Need someone to suggest and plan.

November 14th: Need Location & Member to Suggest and/or Plan.

December 12th: Annual Christmas Party: Edison Events; 6:00 PM: UMC Board



January 9th: Movie: Title TBD; Lunch or Food: TBD; Mike & Lynn Bailey

February 13th: Play: TBD; Luncheon or Food: TBD; Robert Olsen

March 13th: Polard Bear Drive: Luncheon: Pat's BBQ; Utah Museum of Natural History or ? TBD: Hank & Rexanne Pond

April 10th: Need Location & Member to Suggest and / or Plan.

May 8th: Luncheon: 11:30 Place TBD; Drive: Johnson's Pass Tooele Co. Ty Kissel

May ?: Cycle Karts: Date and Time: TBD; Ken Jarworski

June 12th: Bear Lake Drive: Luncheon / Raspberry Shakes: TBD; Need Drive Leader

July 10th: Annual Summer Picnic: Place TBD: Elections & Planning Mtg. Board of Directors

PLEASE LET US KNOW IF YOU WANT TO PLAN OR LEAD A DRIVE OR ACTIVITY



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 2027 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 plan.**



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, IF NOT MENTIONED.



VAL & DOYLE—BEAR LAKE-2008



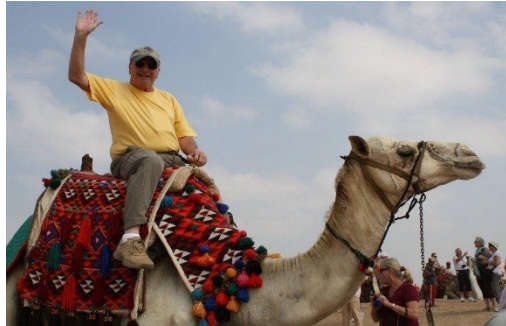
NICHOLLS & MECHLINGS - FRUITA, CO. 2024



VAL & STEVE—CAROL LYNN'S B-DAY



MIKE & LYNN—CABO MEXICO-2014



DONN CICHOCKI ON CAMEL-EGYPT 2010



BAILEY'S & WOODS-ITALY 2010



PERLY, ROGER HEATH-CYCLE KARTS 2024



BAILEY'S IN EGYPT-2010 MIATA TRIP



GROUP AT TORREY, CANYONLANDS PARK—2018



GROUP AT MESA VERDE NATIONAL PARK VISITOR'S CENTER-JULY 2019