



The Convertible Chronicles of the Utah Miata Club



From the Top Down by Mike Thompson

From Somewhere Below the Top, Down –

It has been my pleasure to serve as an Officer for these past couple of years. I am grateful for the support of those I served with. I am excited about the new Officers and Directors, who were elected for the 2025-2026 term during our annual meeting. There is significant Miata Club depth to the group. Several have served previously as President and/or Vice President. The Park City venue for our meeting was beautiful. Many thanks to Ken and Jan Jaworski for their hard work, and to the Shepherd of the Mountains Lutheran Church for letting us use their meetinghouse.

There are few in our Club that use the Miata as a daily driver. Partly it's because many members have retired. No more daily commute. We know the Miata has certain "design features" that narrow the market. It has limited load- and passenger-carrying capacity, and requires a medium-difficulty mount and dismount routine. (I have never scored better than a 7.5.) But how often do random folks walk up to admire and chat about your SUV or family sedan?

I have been pondering what, exactly, the Utah Miata Club is. I would venture that none of our members owns a Miata because of the club. We drive a Miata as a lifestyle choice, because it makes a statement. And when it comes to good companions and stylish, fun driving, the Utah Miata Club can't be beat.

It seemed to me that responsiveness was low during the planning portion of our annual meeting. A monthly luncheon and drive do not spring to life spontaneously, neither do they take hours and hours to organize. For planning we had 10 of the next 12 monthly meetings open, needing a member to take the lead. It means arranging a venue for lunch and planning a route for a drive. (The club engages in other types of activities too.) By the end of the planning, we had exactly one couple who had not previously led an activity that was willing to volunteer (thank you Kiisels). Otherwise, the usual small handful of members volunteered again, to ensure we continue to have nice activities.

To all, my plea is that you step forward and contribute to one of our monthly activities during the coming year. There are a couple of months that are still open. Where a month already has a leader, you can volunteer to help, to take on part of the work. You have nothing to lose, really, and the Club will gain from your efforts.

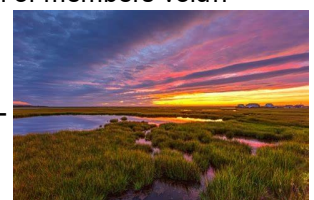
Mike

www.utahmiataclub.org



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August Luncheon & Drive by Mike Thompson / Mike Bailey

When: Saturday, August 9, 2025 Time: 8:45 a.m. On the road at 9:00 a.m.

Where: Meet at the Saratoga Springs Maverik Gas Station Address: 2023 Redwood Road, Saratoga Springs, Utah 84045

Destination: Mt. Nebo Loop: Up canyon by Nephi, Utah Note: Be gassed up and ready to hit the road. Bring your FRS Radios for communication!



Drive Leaders: Michael & Kelly Thompson.

Because August can be hot, we are going to head for the hills, and drive the Mt. Nebo Loop. We will meet at the Saratoga Springs Maverik Station at above address. Be sure to bring some treats, snacks and cold drinks with you as it may be quite hot.

Route: Utah State Road SR68 to Elberta, on the west side of Utah Lake. We've driven this many times! Then we'll take US Hwy. 6 to Goshen and turn down Goshen Canyon Road to Mona. Take the old highway south to our first stop at the Nebo Market in Nephi. Address is 965 N. Main Street. You can pick up snacks or something for the road if you wish.



We will then head to SR132, then east. We will transit the entire Nebo Loop Scenic Byway. When we arrive in Payson we will enjoy a picnic lunch at the Payson Memorial Park where there is plenty of shade! Bring your folding chairs and your picnic. There are many fast food places near by if you prefer, or bring a picnic lunch!



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 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 530-5216675, or by email at utahmiataclub@yahoo.com. You may also submit payment by cash, money order or Venmo.

[Please Renew your Membership on month it is due!](#)

Birthdays / Memberships



New Members

NAME	YEAR	COLOR
RULON JENSON & JAGIT LIDDER	2025	SOUL RED
TIMOTHY & LISA KING	2012	COPPER RED
MIKE & GLENDA JOHNSON	2017	MACHINE GREY

KEN JAWORSKI	1 AUG
KATHY COLLINGS	12 AUG
CAROL LYNN VREDEVELD	24 AUG
STEVE NIELSEN	26 AUG
AMY BECKSTEAD	27 AUG

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

NAME	EXPIRING SOON
STEVE & RONDA BECKSTEAD	8/31/2025
DALIN & KAREN CHRISTIANSEN	8/31/2025
BRYAN & SUSAN CHRISTIANSEN	8/31/2025
MICHAEL FLEMING	8/31/2025
BUD GOFF & DENISE WILLIAMS	8/31/2025
CAROL LYNN VREDEVELD	8/31/2025
KIRT & LUZ WARNER	8/31/2025



Memberships Expired / Renew Now

NAME	EXPIRED
CARLOS APONTE	31 JULY
BRET & ROXANNE BAGLEY	31 JULY
ALI BAZZAZ	31 JULY
JIM & DOROTHY BOWERS	31 JULY
DONN & JANET CICHOCKI	31 JULY
DAVE & LORI ORTIZ	31 JULY
RICHARD SORENSON	31 JULY
SPENCE WOOD	31 JULY
JASON & RACHEL WOOD	31 JULY



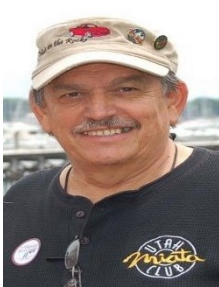
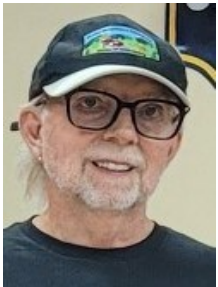
Club Officers July 2025—2026

President: Robert Olsen Vice President: Michael Bailey Secretary: Kelly Thompson Treasurer: Michael Thompson
Directors: Gordon Nicholl, Valerie Francis, David Scheurer Newsletter Editor: Michael Bailey



Utah Miata Club Elections for 2025-2026 Year by Mike Bailey

Another successful year has now passed for the Utah Miata Club. As you know for the past few years we changed from a January to December calendar year for our year, as far as elections for club officers now takes place from July to July to coincide with our annual summer picnic. This year we asked for nominations early to see who would be interested in being a club officer or on the board of directors to help run the club. Potential officers and board members were selected and most positions were agreed to at our quarterly board meeting in June. These candidates were mentioned at the summer picnic and a vote was taken and approved by members. Our 2025-2026 Officers, Directors & Board Members are as follows:



ROBERT OLSEN

MIKE BAILEY

KELLY & MICHAEL THOMPSON

VALERIE FRANCIS GORDY NICHOLL



DAVE SCHEURER

DOYLE STURM

DENISE WILLIAMS

JACKY NICHOLL

SHARON MECHLING

Club members elected are: Robert Olsen; President, Mike Bailey; Vice President, Secretary; Kelly Thompson, Treasurer; Michael Thompson, Board of Directors: Valerie Francis, Gordy Nicholl, Dave Scheurer. Appointed positions as follows: Doyle Sturm; Webmaster, DeNise Williams; Birthday Coordinator, Jacky Nicholl; Membership Director, Scribe; Sharon Mechling, Mike Bailey; Newsletter Editor, Historian, MiataWear.



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bmazda.com

Be sure to support our local Mazda Dealership
BOUNTIFUL MAZDA for a New or Used Car
and for your Service and Parts.



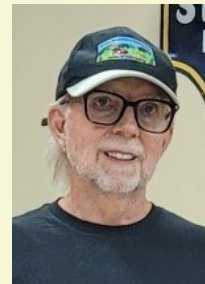
September Luncheon & Drive

by Robert Olsen

When: Saturday, September 13, 2025 Meet at 9:15 am at Wheeler Farm in Murray 6351 S. 900 E., Murray, Utah 84107

Where: Drive destination is to Bear Lake in Garden City, Utah

Lunch: The Beehive Pub & Grill; 255 S. Main, Logan, Utah 84321



For Salt Lake members we will meet at the Wheeler Farm in Murray at 9:15 am and receive driving instructions and leave at 9:30 a.m. It will probably be a similar drive as we did in April. The first rest stop will be in Brigham City and then a drive up

Sardine Canyon to the Beehive Pub & Grill in Logan.

Enter from back side off 100 West. A room by the bar

will be reserved for our group. There will be a choice of 3 pre-selected

menus: Menu 1: BBQ Pork Sandwich \$10.59, Chicken Chop Salad

\$12.79, Fish & Chips \$14.49, BBQ Smokehouse Burger \$13.79. Menu 2:

Steak /Wedge Salad \$16.29, Chicken Broccoli Alfredo \$16.79, Memphis

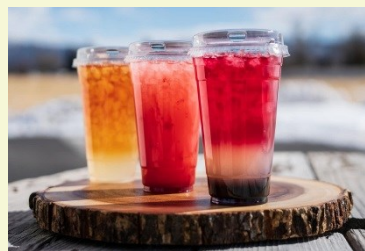
BBQ Chicken \$17.29, Country Fried Steak \$16.99. Menu 3: Asian Chicken

\$17.29, Asiago/Garlic Ravioli \$15.29, Asian Glazed Salmon \$20.99, Rib-

eye Steak \$30.99. Some gluten free meals available. Our monthly meeting will be conducted here.



After lunch we will head out to Preston, Idaho to the Stokes Market store for a break or rest stop or to pick up drinks or snacks. Location is 217 S. State. Then we will head down to Bear Lake in Garden City. You can get a raspberry shake if you wish. The drive will officially end here and you can go your own way home.



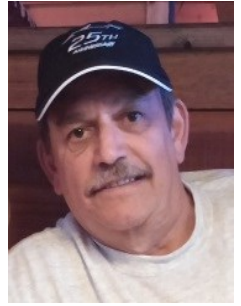


History of the Utah Miata Club; Part 2

by Mike Bailey

Information provided by Jim Bowers, longest continuous member of the Utah Miata Club

Very First Year of the Club after being Organized!



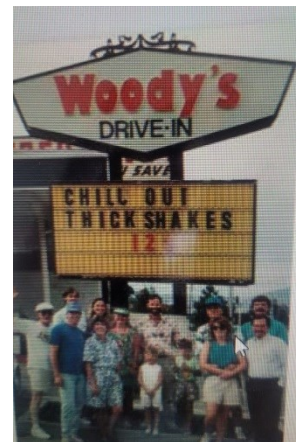
Aloha from Jim and Dorothy Bowers who live in Kailua-Kona, Hawaii. Jim and Dorothy as mentioned are the longest continuous members of the Utah Miata Club having joined in June 1991. Last month I touched on some information that I had concerning the club however I was not around until a few years later. The club in the early days, according to Jim, was very informal about having or electing officers. Beyond the office of President, people volunteered to perform specific tasks but without formal titles. Jim does not remember any formal elections. Rather, the President tended to be whoever the members could persuade to take on the responsibility. Does that sound familiar like it is today, as we haven't had many people stepping up or volunteering for any officers positions!

The club was founded by David Brewer in June 1991. David had to sell his first Miata the following spring after going through an ugly divorce. He gave the club files to Dale Emery who took over as president. Jim says he has an old UMC Christmas card that identifies Dale as President. Dale resigned shortly after he married a girl name Lisa. Annie & Paul Kloer at that time was in charge of membership and dues, and Cheryl & Bob Harris were responsible for the newsletters. When Dale resigned, he was replaced as president by Cheryl Harris. When Cheryl and Bob moved out of state, Carmen Hendrickson took over as president. Carmen was replaced by Sheridan Nelson, who initiated the monthly club breakfasts. The breakfasts were held at Marie Calendars on 3900 S. and 1100 E. By then I had joined the club as I knew Sheridan and met him at a breakfast. He has since passed away several years ago. I also met Wanda and Bill Bates from Mapleton who were very active in the club. Wanda later became president and was also club secretary. During this time, according to Jim, the UM Club attained critical mass and really took off, gaining many members. This is the time when I first met Jim and Dorothy at breakfast (as he mentioned).

According to Jim's records, the dinner at Woody's restaurant was in July 1991, making it the second ever club event! (refer to photos in July's NL article and at right). Photos were made available the following month in August as you know how film processing was back then (for the older folks!). Woody's was and still is a recreation of a 1960's style or era drive-in with an auto theme. Back then it had a large jukebox filled with 60's hits. The owners of Woody's were so impressed with our Miatas that for over 25 years Jim remembers the car photos on the walls including ones of our Miatas parked in front of the restaurant. Dale Emery (last month's photo, and one below) was sitting next to Dorothy and Jim. Photo below of original UMC members.

More on David: He owned a Classic Red Miata (of course there were only the NA's back then!). Later Dave got a new Miata and we became friends and he came to many of the annual Christmas parties that were held each year, particularly at the ones up at our home in Cottonwood Heights. I knew David quite well. He never told me that he founded or organized the club. I think Dave is still around...I plan to look him up or see if he has moved away! The Official

Logo and Mountains Logos were designed by me in 1997 as the club was still using the Miata Club of America logo with 'Utah Miata Club' under logo.



Fall Leaf Drive: 2025 by Roger Heath
September 26-28, 2025 2 Nights / 3 days

Book Now if you have not got a Room. Go to [Tripadvisor.com](https://www.tripadvisor.com) and book a room in Tropic starting at \$63.00 / night. Or other options close to Bryce Canyon, Tropic, and the immediate area.

BRYCE CANYON INN EST. 2006



Once again we'll spend two nights in Tropic located in Southern Utah. Saturday will be a free day to check out the local attractions - Bryce Canyon NP, Kodachrome State Park or Cedar Breaks. Go on your own or with several others in the group! For those that have gone in the past, the route will be familiar. A change to this year's drive will be the choice of an alternate route home. We can choose between what has been done previously - driving to Fish Lake then taking Gooseberry Road to Salina and north on Hwy 89 to Nephi. Or, we can take a backroad Cedar Breaks, or head through Brian Head ski area and into Parowan then I-15 home.

Itinerary: Friday, Sept 26th, 8:30 AM - Meet at Harmon's Bangerter Store 125 E. 13800 S. Draper. Drive to Tropic **Saturday, Sept 27th, free day** - Do what you like and drive to several options of places or points of interest around the area that you'd like to see! **Sunday, Sept 28th, head home** - Several options for the drive home.

Suggested lodging - Bryce Canyon Inn brycecanyoninn.com

Phone: 435-679-8502 or Toll Free: 1-800-592-1468. Some large double room cabins available, or check for cancellations. Destination

Address: 21 North Main St., Tropic, Utah 84776 **Book NOW: Accommodations fill up fast.**

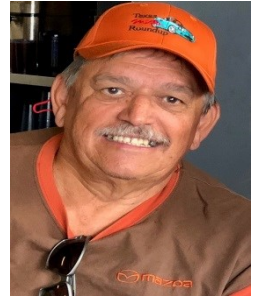
Other lodging in Bryce Canyon City and cities around there.



Potential Miata Owner: Surprise on his Birthday

by Mike Bailey

I'd like to introduce the Kipp Family from Orem, Utah. Don and Jenn and their 19-year old son Sam. Sam is a Miata enthusiast, even though he has never owned a Miata. The Kipps' posted a message on our Miatas in Utah' Facebook page about surprising their son on his 19th birthday which was Saturday, July 26, 2025. They wanted a group of us to drive to their home and show up with several Miatas. They had a breakfast for him before in their back yard. At 11:00 am nine Miatas from our club were there in front of their home in our Miatas! He was overjoyed by our group. Check out the expressions on his face. Sam also got a cool Miata T-Shirt for his birthday. He also loved the Bagley's Miata, his favorite generation.



DeNise Williams and Bud Goff agreed to take him on a short Miata drive I think to Geneva Road by Utah Lake and DeNise let him drive their Miata. He was able to put the *'pedal to the metal'* and drive a little fast. DeNise mentioned she was surprised by his enthusiasm! I put together a little goody bag with a black Miata Member T-shirt, hat, a club pin and decal and lanyard along with a **'ZOOM-ZOOM'** sticker. All Sam's friends and family members were present to witness his joy. No doubt, according to his mother Jenn, that he will be a Miata Owner. He is going on a Mission for the LDS Church and I'm sure he will be getting a Miata when he returns, according to his parents. Thanks to everyone who showed up to support this cause. After all, the Utah Miata Club is a very service oriented club and we love to do this type of activity. We have supported many causes like 'Cancer Sucks' and things like this in past years.



Enjoy these photos of Utah Miata Club's August Birthdays



KEN JAWORSKI



KATHY COLLINGS



CAROL LYNN VREDEVELD



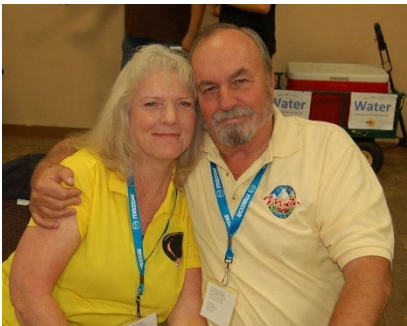
STEVE NIELSEN



Photos below of Birthday Members



AMY BECKSTEAD





Miata Swag / Apparel, Car Club Magnets

By MiataWear Man: Mike Bailey



NEW !!

MIATA SUPPORT VEHICLE CAR MAGNETS

New Magnets feature the Official Utah Miata Club Logo on them. Same 6.5" Round Size \$25.00 / Set of 2



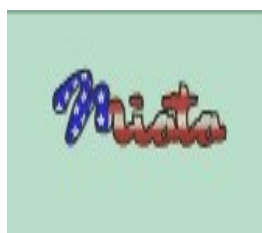
Apparel for Trip to *Miataland*



I'm making up some new apparel for our Miataland trip and it will be available to all club members. Please me know if you are interested in any items, whether you are participating in this event or not! Please get on the Sign-Up List for any items that you want.

Items available include the following: Polo Shirts (event logo on front only). T-Shirts or Sweat-Shirts or a light-weight Wind Breaker Jacket; Event logo on front and back to include Map. Ball Caps with Event Logo. Artwork is in the works and will be out soon. Please get on the monthly list passed around at meetings or contact me by preferably email mike@mikebaileyprinting.com or by text at 801-597-1456.

Close Out on all Miata Shirts in stock with Miata designs. Most are LG and XL sizes. \$10.00



Ball Caps: Standard Structured or Soft Caps for ladies & men. Many colors to choose from: \$20.00 Each. **NEW!** UMC Mountains Logo with 30,000 embroidered stitches: \$25.00, Regularly \$30.00. Official Logo: or Long Live the Roadster Logo: \$20.00 each! Ladies "Miata Hair" soft Caps. \$20.00. Close out Hats: \$15.00



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





2025 Calendar of Events



- August 9th:** Mt. Nebo Loop; 8:45 AM: Lunch in Payson; See Pg. 2 NL; Mike, Kelly Thompson
- September 13th:** Bear Lake Drive; 9:15 AM: Meet at Wheeler Farm, Murray; Beehive Pub & Grill Logan; See Pg. 5 NL; Robert Olsen
- September 26 - 28th:** Fall Leaf Drive: Bryce Canyon, Utah; See Pg. 9 NL; Roger & Perly Heath
- October 11th:** Luncheon: 11:30 (TBD): Drive (TBD); Val Francis & Doyle Sturm
- October 25th:** Possible Halloween Party (TBD): [Need Location & Member to suggest/plan.](#)
- November 8th:** Luncheon: 11:30 (TBD): [Need Location & Member to Suggest or Plan](#)
- December 13th:** Christmas Party: Edison Events, Time 6:00 PM; UMC Board



2026 Calendar of Events



- January 10th:** Movie: Time & Movie (TBD): Mike & Lynn Bailey
- February 7th:** Play: Time & Play (TBD): Robert Olsen
- March 14th:** Antelope Island Drive: Luncheon Place, Time (TBD): Gordy & Jackie Nicholl
- April 11th:** Luncheon & Drive (TBD): 11:30; Ty & Sue Kiisel
- May 9th:** Luncheon (TBD) 11:30; Drive Alpine Loop Drive: Mike & Lynn Bailey
- June 13th:** Luncheon & Drive (TBD): 11:30; Steve & Ronda Beckstead
- June ?:** End of June 2026: Dark Sky Observation / Photography: Ken Jaworski & Robert Mechling
- July 18th:** Annual Picnic & Business Meeting: Tim & Place (TBD): UMC Board
- August 9th:** Mt. Nebo Loop Drive: Luncheon (TBD): Mike & Kelly Thompson
- September 12th:** [Need Location & Member to Suggest and/or Plan.](#)
- October 10th:** [Need Location & Member to Suggest and/or Plan.](#)

PLEASE SIGN UP WITH EDITOR TO SUGGEST, PLAN OR LEAD A DRIVE FOR 2026



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 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

