



## The Convertible Chronicles of the Utah Miata Club



5th Generation NE Miata MX-5? See Inside

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### From The Top Down by Robert Mechling

With the spring equinox (March 20th) behind us, spring is officially here - But - who would know? Utah's snow-pack/water equivalent broke a record March 15 (National Weather Service in Salt Lake City). With the expected runoff/flooding we could fill that lake with a year's supply of water. If we get a few more winters like this one, we could even turn that pump on. Right now Saturday April 1st prediction is, 52 degrees and showers, I'm just hoping for a spring day, for our Luncheon/Kennecott Mine drive.

Our planning and election meeting is just 3 months away (Yes, I'm counting)! Sounds like summer is half over and we haven't even been on our Bear Lake loop drive. But there are two items I'd like to see on our calendar for 2023/2024 . 1) A Miata Total Solar Eclipse drive/trip, April 8th, 2024. That's just one year from now. Probably Texas. - FYI - December 2019 marked the beginning of Solar Cycle 25. We're only 3 years 4 months into an 11 year solar cycle, with Solar Max expected to peak July 2025 (2023 to 2026). But with the recent Solar Mass Ejections, Solar Winds (space weather), Aurora Borealis activity, and our western snowpack, all exceeding predictions (<https://blogs.nasa.gov/solarcycle25/>), a 2024 total eclipse should be quite the show. 2) There's also an annular (not total) eclipse, this fall, Saturday October 14th, 2023 that will cross southern Utah. Any interest? Remember when we went to the Total Eclipse of the Sun trip back in August 2017. That was a very fun trip! Hope to see all at the April meeting. Robert



# April Luncheon & Drive: Chubby's Café & Kennecott Mine Tour

**Chubby's Neighborhood Café** 1276 W. 12600 S. Riverton, Utah 84065

Our Luncheon will be at Chubby's Café in Riverton where we have been before. We will meet in the same room as last time, in north part of building by the rest rooms. Order your lunch at the counter. We will have our monthly meeting here. Please let Robert know if there is anything that needs to be brought up at the meeting.



## Drive: Kennecott Open Pit Copper Mine 'Visitor's Experience' for their Mine tour.

**Tickets: \$6.00 each person.** Tickets need to be paid by credit card as they do not accept cash.

Ticket fees are donated to the Kennecott Charitable Foundation. Destination address is: **12732 Bacchus Highway, Herriman, UT. 84096** Included on journey is the famous *Disney "UP House"*.

After lunch we will line up our Miatas on the street on north side of the restaurant. Hopefully the weather will be nice for this weekend! Lynn and I will be leading the drive. It is about a 20 minute drive from Chubby's. We will drive west on 12600 South. After we pass Mountain View Corridor we will turn left on Herriman Main Street. (A Maverick on the corner). We will drive to the real *UP HOUSE*, Disney's only authorized replica. It is a private residence (but open for tours) by the family that lives here! It is at 13218 S. Herriman Rose Blvd. We will just drive by and not stop but make a U-turn just up the street. Take a photo if you like! Then we turn left at the stop sign and follow Main Street to about 13100 South which gently turns right going west. Main Street is also called Herriman Highway (13055 S.)

We continue west to Bacchus Highway, which is 8400 West. The street turns right here and we follow the road to the left hand turn off to Rio Tinto Kennecott Visitor's Center. The gate is to the right. We will park in the parking lot as we have to take a little trolley bus up to the mine entrance as they do not allow vehicles beyond this point. The Visitor Experience is an outside self-guided tour with many exhibits to see about the Bingham Canyon Mine, its history and operations. The entire experience takes approximately one hour depending on how long you visit the Mine overlook. Be sure to bring a jacket or coat as the Experience is mostly outdoors and be prepared for any inclement weather. Photos below taken at our last Mine tour in May 2011. This day is first day of opening this year, so I have been told. I cannot seem to contact them to confirm our group. If they happen to be closed, we will make alternate plans and take a drive to a couple local Ghost towns to check off the list for the Utah Miata Challenge. Photos below taken at the mine from May 2012.



### 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



New Members Are Joining

NAME	YEAR	COLOR
TRAVIS LAMBERT & LIBBY MOYER	2022	TRIPPLE BLACK

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

NAME	EXPIRED
JIM & MARILYN BICKLEY	3/31/2023
TOM BRACKEN	2/28/2023
ELMER JORDAN	3/31/2023
DOUGLAS KLUENDER	3/31/2023
ROBERT & SHARON MECHLING	3/31/2023
BOB & KIM RICHARDS	3/31/2023
ZAKE SNOUNOU	3/31/2023

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

KAY BARRELL	4/31/23
LARRY & CHARLENE PETERSEN	4/31/23

#### Removed From Roster

NAME	EXPIRED
JALAAL DIRBUS	12/31/2022



NAME	DATE
LINDA GROSS	6 Apr
KATHY JO FACKRELL	7 Apr
DOUGLAS KLUENDER	8 Apr
CHARRISE FERGUSON	10 Apr
SUSAN VAUGHN	14 Apr
JOE LEVERICH	16 Apr
ERLINE BROWN	17 Apr
KEN FIERRO	18 Apr
MARK FERGUSON	19 Apr
GARY COLLINS	21 Apr
ANNETTE NIELSEN	24 Apr
JOESH FOWLER	25 Apr
SHARON MECHLING	25 Apr
TERI BLACK	27 Apr

### Club Officers (July 2022-July 2023)

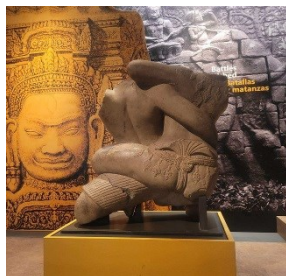
President: Robert Mechling Vice President: Joey Fowler Secretary: Jim Newson Treasurer: Margie Newson  
 Directors: Roger Heath, Ronda Beckstead, Susan Christiansen Newsletter Editor: Mike Bailey

### March Meeting & Drive Report By: Mike Bailey

The luncheon and meeting for March was excellent as usual with a real good turnout of members. We went back to one of our favorite luncheon place, the Red Robin Restaurant in Murray. We had the private room for our meal and meeting so that was real nice and we could discuss our business without disturbing any other customers. Keep in mind for any member planning the monthly luncheon that we prefer to have either a private or semi-private room or area so we can conduct our monthly business meeting and discussion. We were able to distribute some Anniversary Pins to many members and were happy to see Jeff & Debbie Moon and Annette Nielsen (lifetime members). Also Doug Kluender, a 10-year member who has had some medical issues. After the luncheon we headed up to the Museum of Natural History up at the U of U Research



Park. I'm sorry I or we didn't plan better like meeting in the back parking lot at Red Robin to drive up together, like we usually do. However, those that attended made their own way up there and we had an awesome time at the Angkor, Cambodia exhibit as well as seeing other exhibits like the American Indian displays and of course the Dinosaurs, which is always a highlight to me! Thanks to everyone who came out and participated in the meeting and event at the museum. Photos below at the Natural History Museum exhibits.



## Miata Reunion — 2023

by Mike Bailey

The National Miata event called **Miata Reunion 2023** will be held **October 20-22, 2023** in Sonoma, California. Sonoma is located just northeast of San Francisco and southwest of Sacramento. It is basically a two day Saturday thru Sunday event, but it is advised that you arrive Friday, October 20th and check into the hotel as it is also advised that you check in for your event registration on Friday because of how busy it will be on Saturday.

**Registration for the event is \$25.00 per person** and includes admission to the **events which include the following on Saturday and Sunday:**

Admission to the Sonoma HPDE Track to drive Parade Laps at slow speeds in your Miata around the track. Admission to the Vendor Alley, which is open from 8 am-4pm both days. Moss Motors Car Show will be held Friday from 3:30-7pm. You can enter your car in the show, or just view the Miatas at the show. There will be Group Photos and Videos of you and your Miata driving the Parade Laps! Photos and videos will be taken by Botbluemilk.com Motorsports Photography and photos will be for sale of you and your Miata if you wish to purchase them. On Sunday, the BAMA (Bay Area Miata Club) will sponsor a cruise and drive through Marin County to many scenic places around the area. This is limited to 50 Miatas and you must sign up to do the drive. I will probably do this as we've done it before.

**Registration opens on May 29, 2023 at 9:00 a.m.** for the event and Bama Drive, etc. You are welcome to also participate in Track Racing, which runs both days. The cost is \$340.00 per driver and includes admission and a T-Shirt. This is for any novice to experienced drivers. Track rules apply to all participants and information and rules and regulations can be found online on the Miata Reunion website: [www.Miatareunion.com](http://www.Miatareunion.com). I personally will not be doing this, but it is open to everyone if they'd like to participate in this. Also there's the Flyin' Miata Auto-X Challenge, which is an autocross event sponsored by Flyin' Miata. Awards and trophies will be given to participants. Cost for this is \$80.00 per day and includes 10-15 runs. There will also be Car Autographs signed both days; lunch time on Friday and 9-10 am Saturday by Tom Matano, Norm Garrett, and Ken Saward. Also hourly seminars by MX-5 executives.

Hotel Reservations are at Four Points Sheraton in San Rafael. Pricing per room is \$179.00 per night. Phone is 415-479-8800. All these details can be found on the website including all the detailed information about each day's events. Events for Saturday and Sunday are pretty much duplicated so you can decide what you'd like to do each day. I would suggest making reservations for the hotel room right away before they are sold out. This event is guaranteed to sell out quickly! There is also an alternate hotel at Wyndham Days Inn in Navato several miles away at \$100.00 per night. I will post information on our club Facebook page on this. You can find all the information online on the Reunion website. I'd like to plan a drive to this event. Please let me know if you are wanting to go and we can plan a short trip to this event. If you have not been to a National event, This is the event to be at!



# Beartooth Highway Miata Trip: July 20– 23, 2023 by Roger Heath

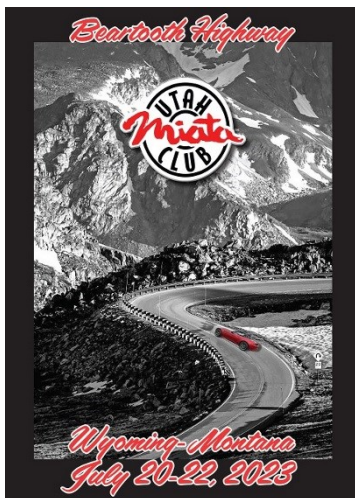


Come along for an exciting 3 day long weekend trip the middle of July 2023. We will cruise along the Teton Mountain Range in Wyoming and twice through Yellowstone National Park. The main drive will be on one of America’s most famous scenic drives—the Beartooth Highway. We will stay over night in Afton, WY., Red Lodge, MT., and Yellowstone, MT. with an afternoon in Yellowstone National Park. See our club website or FB for details. Come part way if you don’t have time for the 3.5 full days. **ZOOM ZOOM**



## Miata Shirts for Beartooth Highway Trip

I will be making up some event T-shirts for this trip. They will be like the other shirts we have made for club events. The Beartooth Shield logo will be on the left front chest and Beartooth Highway Photo with red Miata large on the back of shirt. Shirt cost is \$16.00 for Tees SM –XL and \$18.00 for 2XL and larger. The Car Event Magnets will be similar size 5.5” as other event magnets and cost 2 for \$12.00 or 1 for \$8.00, same cost as always. Contact Mike Bailey for the order and I will have a pass-around list at monthly club meetings. Be sure to get your rooms if you don’t have them yet. Details on UMC Facebook Events page. Thank you for your support! **Zoom - Zoom**





## Member Spotlight by Carol Lynn Vredeveld

Featuring: Steven & Kathy Nielsen



*This month's spotlight couple, **Steve and Kathy Nielsen** are two of our long-time members and have been in the club now for 11 years. Kathy is a sweetheart and Steve is very adventurous and lots of fun, but he about gave us a heart attack on one of our Miata trips by doing a handstand on a railing at the edge of a steep drop off at the Black Canyon! I'm not surprised to find out he was a gymnast in high school and college. He also ended up at an Insta-care after being a little too rambunctious on a water slide at a hotel we stayed at on one of our Miata trips. It's a good thing Kathy can settle him down a little and can also drive the Miata or who knows what might happen to Steve! These two will always be young at heart and ready for new adventures especially now that Steve is retired. We can all get some ideas on places to go and things to see on our UMC drives from their great story below:*

We bought our first Miata in August of 2011. I wanted a rear-wheel-drive sports car. The Miata was in my price range and a Porsche 924 and Kathy said we are not getting a Porsche as it



sounds like we are rich. I did some research on the Miata and it had very good reviews. Unfortunately, the one we purchased was from a small used car lot and it drove great but when I brought it home, I found out, not long after getting it, it had a blown head gasket. We had that replaced and have driven it about 90,000 miles since then with no engine problems and only routine maintenance.



**We now have 2 Miata's, our 1996 Red Miata and recently we purchased a 2011 Black one with PRHT.** Our personalized plate for our 1996 Miata is RLILRV meaning Our Little Recreation Vehicle. Kathy came up with it as it is economical, and we can afford to stay in hotels and eat out on trips, so she doesn't have to cook or clean. We don't have a personalized plate for the 2011 Miata currently. I did a search after buying the Miata and found and joined the Utah Miata club in March of 2012. We went on our first club trip in the fall of 2012 and we were hooked on the club.



We have some fun memories of trips we've been on. My favorite Miata story is when we went to Canada with the club and on our 2nd night, I broke my toe on my left foot, that wasn't favorite, but Kathy ended up having to drive the rest of the trip. She knew how to drive a manual but hadn't driven the Miata before. On one really tight turn, she gave it some gas and it went a little sideways and squealed the tires and Hank Pond said over the radio, "Way to Go Kathy".



Kathy's favorite Miata story was on our first trip with the club, and we were at the Mammoth museum in South Dakota. I had been growing a beard since retiring from the Navy and the tour guide had me hold the jaw of the Mammoth and Steve Beckstead asked if he could touch it and the guide said yes, and he rubbed my beard.



Kathy and I were both born and raised in Iowa and in fact were born in the same hospital, 5 years plus apart. Since we were married in 1982, we have lived in Wisconsin, Illinois, Michigan and now Utah. We met when I was working part time as a mechanic at Goodyear while finishing my college degree. For that reason, we mainly buy Goodyear tires. She brought her Chevette in for brake problems and I fixed her car. The service manager knew that I liked her, so he went up to her and grabbed her left hand and said, you don't have a ring, do you have a boyfriend?

Kathy lived on a farm and they had chickens and her step dad used to bring eggs in and employees would buy them and put that on his bill. After the service manager asked her boyfriend status, she started bringing the eggs in. The assistant manager invited him and I over to her apartment to watch "And Justice For All" as she had just got cable hooked up. (cont. next page)



( Member Spotlight; Continued from pg.8)

We have been married for 41 years and have 4 children and 11 grandchildren. You can actually blame the reason we are keeping our 1996 on our oldest grandson. I had agreed to sell it if we bought a newer one, I really didn't want to, and our grandson found out and took it very hard, he has grown up with that car and just turned 16. Last fall when I couldn't drive, I let him and his mom put it in a car show at UMC in Tooele and he got to drive it on the track, following a pace car.

Kathy has been a stay-at-home Mom and now Grandmother most of our married lives. I graduated from the University of Northern Iowa just before we were married and have worked mainly as a Project Manager and retired at the end of 2020 from IRH as a Senior Project Manager. I also retired from the United States Navy Seabees in 2012 after 22 years of combined active duty and active reserve service.

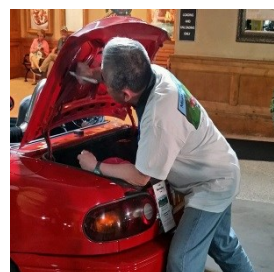


Kathy likes to do puzzles and plays the piano and organ for Church. I am a gearhead and have been that way most of my life. I built a car for drag racing in the early 70's. I was a Gymnast in high school and college and Kathy ran track in High school. I now have my dream garage complete with a car hoist and our 1996 is hibernating on the hoist right now and our 2011 is parked under it. We sold our house in 2020 and built an addition on our daughter's house making an apartment and built my dream garage so I could retire. Kathy got all new kitchen cabinets and appliances.

The Miata club taught us how to take vacations when we became empty nesters. Since we never lived near our families, 95% of our vacations were going back to Iowa to see family.

Our biggest Miata vacation started at the end of April of 2021. We drove our Miata from Utah to Key West, Florida, then up to Niagara Falls, over to Southwest Michigan up through the UP to Minnesota, to Iowa across South Dakota, Wyoming, Montana, Washington to Oregon and home. It was a 6 1/2 week trip driving 10,908 miles through 27 states. Our only car problem was one flat tire. A testimony of the reliability of the Miata is our car has 239,000 miles on it and had about 225,000 miles when we left on our trip. I just hope our 2011 is as reliable as our 1996 has been.

*Wow, what a fun way to see this beautiful country we live in. You two are true Miata enthusiasts! Thanks for sharing your adventures with us... Editor's Note: I have been on many trips back east and they have some awesome Miata roads, especially fun is at Deal's Gap and doing the "Tail of the Dragon" and "The Snake" Hwy. 421.*





# Remember When by Mike Bailey

This month's Remember When article is on our UMC California trip in Aug. 2002 to Laguna Seca Motorway and in 2010 to Mazda Fest. It was quite an important national event held at and sponsored by Mazda North American Operations (MNAO). We didn't have to many club members attend, as at the 2002 event it was us and David & Ana Porter. In 2010 I think it was Gordy & Jacky Nicholl, Kent & Joye Carlson, and Lynn and I. I think maybe a few other Miata friends such as Sam Liu from the Reno Club (we had the same ZOOM ZMM plates on our Miatas) and a few others who have come to many of our Miatas in Utah events (Moab, Bryce, Deer Valley) attended as well. Miata Fest is where I got to meet and mingle with many Mazda executives such Tom Matano and Bob Hall, designers of the Miata.



Going back eight years previous, at Laguna Seca, I started developing my relationship with Mazda Corporation and met Tom Matano. Many executives and designers of the Miata were present there. I got valuable contacts from Mike Macdonald, our dealer sponsor. Several of our club members such as Newsoms and Vaughns have been to future Laguna Seca events as well. At Laguna Seca in 2002 we hung out with Barbara Beach & Bob Retzer who were executives of the original *Miata Club of America*, the original first Miata club in the USA and publishers of the original *Miata Magazine* for MCA members. This was of interest to me as I was in the publishing business. I purchased my 2002 Blazing Yellow SE from Bob six months later! Photos below at Laguna Seca with Porters and Barbara and Bob.



Mazda Fest is where I got to meet and mingle with many Mazda executives such as Tom Matano and Bob Hall and others. In fact this is where I built my good relationship with Mazda Corporation, who have really helped us out through the years with financial and Miata products with our Miatas in Utah events by being one of our main sponsors. Mazda also had many of their track and race cars on display. The clay model exhibits were exceptionally nice I thought. I even entered my 2005 Lava Orange in the car show. There were so many very nice custom Miatas on display owned by many people from around the country and MX-5 special editions, called "M" Editions back in the NA days. For example we saw the 1996 Miata Yellow Coupe and the 1999 Red Mono, which didn't make it into production. These were Concept vehicles! It was indeed, one of my favorite events, and Lynn loved going to the ocean and putting her feet in the water!



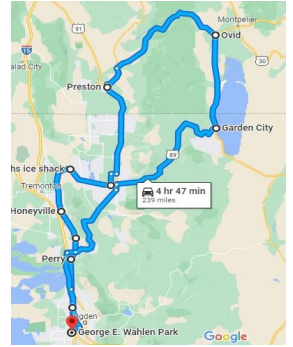
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## May 6th Drive & Luncheon by Steve Beckstead

The May 6 drive to Bear Lake (Garden City) and up to Southeast Idaho will be a long day. **We will meet at Wahlen Park in Roy, Utah at 10:00 a.m.** sharp and have our monthly meeting. You can either eat breakfast before meeting or bring a breakfast sandwich. We will get an early start, meeting earlier than we usually do.

For those living in Sandy or nearby, this drive is 6.5 hours long and with a monthly meeting, it will be a very long day. Starting and ending from the Waylen Park it is 2 hours shorter, at about 4 hrs. 22 mins. That being said, we are probably ready to get in the Sun and drive. The approximate route is on map. I don't even know if all of the route will be open, but I think so. If there is still snow on the mountain roads, a different route may be planned. A lunch stop of some kind is likely in Preston. We will likely stop at Garden City for a potty stop and maybe pick up a Raspberry Shake for the road! More details to come in next newsletter.



**George E. Wahlen Park**  
**4200 South 2175**  
**West**  
**Roy, Utah 84067**



## “MX-5 Big Update” / Letter From the Editor By: Mike Bailey

This isn't such a big deal as we have heard and seen before about when the next generation, the 5th Generation or NE Miata MX-5 will come out.. Some say in 2024 or 2025, and some say the new NE will be out in 2026. It's about time the new generation should come out, based on the history of the different generations of the Miata MX-5. Sources say it will have a 2.0 liter Sky-Active-X engine with a newer look to the front and stylized rear, with lots of carbon fiber, to cut down on the weight. But as we all know, carbon fiber is expensive, adding to the cost of the car. It is possible for the NE to be an EV or Plug-In Hybred. Mazda definitely says the EV or Hybred will be out by 2030. There is a lot to look forward to for the new MX-5. A new KAI Concept Coupe is has also been produced and may be in the works!



# 2023 Calendar of Events

- April 1st:** Kennecott Mine Tour 11:30 luncheon Chubby; Riverton, Mike & Lynn Bailey
- May 6th:** Preston / Bear Lake Loop; 10:00 Wahlen Park, Roy, Ut. Steve & Ronda Beckstead
- May 20th:** Huntsville Grand Prix, 11:30 Luncheon; Bountiful Park, Val & Doyle Sturm
- June 3rd:** Ice Cream Luncheon, 11:30 Leatherby's Creamery, Taylorsville - Mike & Lynn Bailey
- July 8th:** Picnic / Elections & Planning (Time and location TBD), Executive Board
- July 20 - 23:** Beartooth Hwy Trip (Info this NL, refer to website, Facebook page) Roger & Perly Heath
- September 22-24:** Fall Leaf Tour (meetup Time and location TBD), see details on UMC website, Roger & Perly
- October:** Luncheon / Drive TBA: Complete Ghosts and Legends Challenge (details to come), Mike Bailey
- November 4th:** Luncheon & Drive: TBA (Need planner & leader)



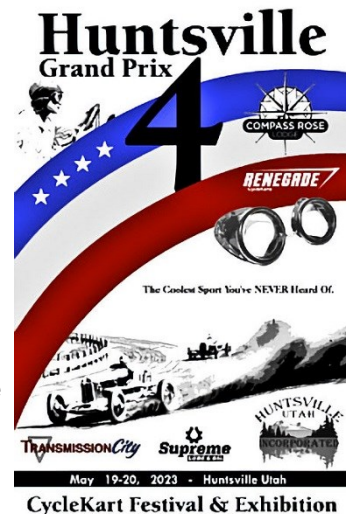
## Huntsville Grand Prix 4 Races by Valerie Francis

Some time ago I happened across a website about this fun looking event in Huntsville. A Grand Prix in Huntsville you ask??? Well yes, a grand prix for CycleKarts! I bet your next question is “what is a CycleKart?” Here is a quick definition:

“Cyclekart is a type of gokart racing where competitors drive single-seat cars styled to resemble race cars from the 1920s and 1930s. Cyclekarts are compact, lightweight, sports machines, hand made by their drivers for the pursuit of classic motoring sporting excitement.”

“The mechanical design is a simplified version of a cyclecar. The formula specifies that a cyclekart is a one-seat car using 17 x 1.75 or 2 inch rims, 2.50 x 17 tires, a 38-inch track, wheelbase as close to 66 inches as the aesthetics of the car will allow, weight no more than 250 lbs., and powered by a 200 cc, single cylinder, 6.5 hp Honda OHV engine. The driver is required to build his own car. Power is transmitted via a Comet TAV-30 unit to one wheel only. Braking is also on this same rear wheel by mechanical Comet disc.”

**This year will be their fourth event with currently 47 CycleKarts registered, so Doyle and I are going to go check it out.** Countries represented include the US, Italy, France, Germany, Great Britain, Ireland and Austria. We don't know if this is going to be an amazing time or a flop but, in any event, it will be fun driving up to Huntsville. Everyone is invited to tag along!



**Details on the meet up location and plan:**

**Saturday, May 20<sup>th</sup>, 11:30 AM**

**West Bountiful Park: 550 W 1600 N, West Bountiful** (we have had meetings here before)

Bring your own lunch, and camp chairs (chairs for lunch in case the park pavilion is in use, and for watching the races in Huntsville). There are lots of fast-food restaurants in Centerville and Bountiful or bring from home. After lunch, we will head up Legacy Highway and Hwy 89 to Weber Canyon, exiting at Mountain Green, and then over Trappers Loop to Huntsville.

Once in Huntsville, everyone can explore the event at your own pace, heading home whenever you want. You can watch the CycleKarts race and/or walk around the pits and talk to the drivers at your leisure.

For lots more information on the event (racecourse, Karts registered, photo galleries, etc.) here is the Huntsville Grand Prix website (just click the tabs at the top for all the info): <http://huntsvillegp.cottp:ww.huntsvillegp.com/>



HUNTSVILLE GRAND PRIX



Photos of April Member's Birthdays. See Birthdays on Page 3 for their Date. Some photos from Natural History Museum and other Miata Events! Enjoy!

